



**EMPOWERING VOTERS.
DEFENDING DEMOCRACY.**

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NOTE FROM THE STEERING COMMITTEE

Dear LWV Members:



This is a somber moment in our organization’s history, a somber moment in women’s history, a somber moment in our nation’s history. The League has been working to support all reproductive rights for close to 40 years. We’ve marched, protested, educated, lobbied, and sued, first to secure the right to safe and legal terminations, and then to ensure access to reproductive services. That commitment was reaffirmed at our national convention this summer. But the recent Supreme Court decision reversing *Roe v. Wade* now endangers American women and all people who can bear children.

It seems bleak; oppression of rights is always terrifying. But we want you to know that your League will not give up. For over 200 years, activists have persisted. Your League is over 200 people strong, and we will continue to be visible and vocal whenever and wherever human rights are violated.

Kansas voters showed us how it’s done – they showed up at the polls in big numbers to oppose an abortion ban on the state ballot. KANSAS! But still...there are only four clinics in that whole state. And many more states are expected to propose similar amendments to be voted on. There is much to be done to protect reproductive rights, and we hope you’ll join us in raising our voices for those threatened by persecution and injustice.

Our League will be conducting a Women’s Rights Awareness Campaign (WRAC) over the course of this program year, educating ourselves and then our communities. The more we know, the more we’re prepared to counter forces that oppose equality of rights under the law for all. If you’re interested in getting more involved in the WRAC, please contact Pat Nugent at keepmakingwaves@gmail.com. As labor activist Joe Hill said in 1915, “Don’t mourn. Organize!”

In service of democracy,
Susan, Ann Marie, and Monica

CONTACT US

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Steering Committee:

September, October, November:

Monica Seebode

December, January, February:

Ann Marie Pendergast

March, April, May, June:

Susan Hamlin

Although individuals on the steering committee are responsible for certain months, they work as a team, together. Please include all members of the Steering Committee when sending your emails so they are up to date on issues.

Secretary: **Elizabeth Rossi**

Treasurer: **Mandy Herrington, Vote411**

Board of Directors

June 2022–June 2023

Chris Alexander	Patricia Partello
Charlotte Druschel	Deb Peck Kelleher
Carol Glansberg	Quency Rene
Pamela King-Hall	Almeda Riley
Joanna Lasher	

Off Board Nominating Committee Members

Lori Dawson (Chair), Susan Ransom,
Stacey Lamodi

League of Women Voters of Saratoga County Board Meetings 2022–2023

Board Meetings are held at 7pm on the first Wednesday of each month from September through May. They are open to all members.

Currently meetings are virtual via Zoom.

Email president@lwvsaratoga.org to receive the Zoom link.

September 7, 2022

October 5, 2022

November 2, 2022

December 7, 2022

January 4, 2023

February 1, 2023

March 1, 2023

April 5, 2023

May 3, 2023

LWV of New York Staff Contacts:

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Erica Smitka, Deputy Director

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League of Women Voters of the United States

www.lwv.org

The League of Women Voters of Saratoga County is an organization fully committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion in principle and in practice. The LWV of Saratoga County does not support or oppose any candidate or political party. We take positions on issues. This has been the League's policy since our founding in 1920.

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Some feminist groups are hijacking America's suffragist, Susan B. Anthony, claiming she was opposed to legalizing abortion. We felt the need to address this misrepresentation.

*Susan B Anthony and Abortion – excerpt from the recent blog **Misrepresenting Susan B. Anthony on Abortion** that appears on the LWV Saratoga website.*

Some anti-abortion activists are misrepresenting Susan B. Anthony. They are claiming that Miss Anthony would support making abortions illegal if she were alive today. They are making conjectures that are not true.

While Miss Anthony used the word abortion in one of her speeches, she did not say that she supported making it illegal. She listed seeking an abortion as one of the possible consequences of being the wife of an alcoholic husband, who may impregnate his wife and then leave her with no means to support the child. Miss Anthony mentioned abortion again later in the same speech, this time only in the context of the injustice of laws that intimately affect women but are made and enforced by men.

Anthony's long career of public speaking provided many occasions for her to speak about abortion if she'd chosen to do so. The plain fact, however, is that Susan B. Anthony almost never referred to abortion, and when she did, she said nothing to indicate that she wanted it banned by law.

To read the blog post in its entirety, visit <https://www.lwvsaratoga.org/blog>.

OUR LEAGUE IN ACTION

Highlights from the Annual Meeting

At the annual meeting held in June, five new Board Members were elected to serve as of July 1: Christine Alexander, Mandy Herrington, Patricia Partello, Quency Rene, and Almeda Riley. They will join the Board of nine others whose terms continue until 2023. Current Board member Susan Hamlin joined the Steering Committee to serve with Monica Seebode and Ann Marie Pendergast.

The following include our Leagues past year's accomplishments:

- We provided testimony to the Independent Redistricting Commission, advocating that community input be considered in the drawing of district lines.
- We coordinated candidate forums for the general election, village elections, and school board elections. There were 3,600 online views of these forums.
- We created an online voter guide for 103 local and county races, serving over 5,500 users.
- We advocated for the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Act of New York, which is now the strongest voting rights act in the country.
- We registered voters at 13 locations on National Voter Registration Day as well as at various events throughout the county throughout the year.
- We created a "Teach Me to Vote" video for students, available to teachers throughout New York State.
- We sponsored speakers on racism in America, the Equal Rights Amendment, voter suppression, climate challenges, plastics and solid waste, the census and redistricting.
- We met with local leaders on issues related to criminal justice and more open public meetings, including remote access.

(cont'd on p4)

Carrie Chapman Catt Award

Congratulations to *Charlotte Druschel*, this year's recipient of the Carrie Chapman Catt Award!

In the time Charlotte has been with the League, she has given dedicated service, particularly in the very essential Voter Services Committee. In her position as Chairperson, Charlotte has taken on probably the most sensitive role in the League, communicating tactfully with candidates, party leaders, the Board of Elections, the press, venues, and volunteers. She has done this high wire act with calm poise relaying the League's positions and boundaries clearly even when it wasn't what others wanted to hear. The difficulty we are having replacing Charlotte is a great tribute to her leadership.



Charlotte (right) is presented with the Carrie Chapman Catt by last year's recipient Linda McKenney.

The Youth are Our Future

The Youth Services Committee would like to thank *Suzanne Bishop* for Chairing the Take Me to Vote program. Suzanne kept the program running through the pandemic and created two wonderful videos on the importance of voting. These videos were shared with Leagues and schools across the State. Thank you so much Suzanne!

—Deb Peck Kelleher, Youth Program Chair

Famous Person Fundraiser

I want to sincerely thank everyone who supported our annual fundraiser by either attending this year's Famous Person Fundraiser event or sending along a contribution. The Saratoga National Golf Club was a beautiful venue, and the weather cooperated so that we could enjoy the lovely setting.

This year's performance of the *Remarkable Women of the Adirondacks* was thanks to Sandra Weber and David Hodges, who afforded us a glimpse into the lives of these heroic women.



Not only was the event memorable and educational, but we also raised approximately \$5,000 plus any contributions that will be coming in from those not attending. The raffle alone netted us \$755—our highest earning raffle to date! (Sidenote: due to a subpar breakfast, the Saratoga National Golf Club has graciously apologized by removing the \$2,000 venue rental from our bill.)

A huge thank you to our fundraising committee: Pat Partello, Pam King-Hall, Maryanne Kocon, and Sue Bobley.

We hope that all who attended enjoyed themselves, and plan to attend next year's famous person fundraiser.

—Carol Glansberg,
Fundraising
Chair



National Votes for Women Trail Markers Celebrate Saratoga's Pivotal Role in Women's Suffrage



One July 13, two historical markers were unveiled in Saratoga Springs to celebrate the lives and hard work of Kathryn Starbuck and Matilda Gage. Both markers were funded by the William C. Pomeroy Foundation, which provides grants for markers and plaques to “celebrate community history” and identify locations of significant interest. They are part of the National Votes for Women Trail, which aims to “tell the untold story of suffrage for all women, of all ethnicities, which extends well past the passage of the 19th amendment.”

Led by a broom brigade, members from our League held a suffrage-style march from the first location to the second marker at the Broadway entrance to Congress Park. “Broom brigades were popular in the 1880s,” explained local author and suffrage activist Sandra Weber. “This was a time when only men were allowed to join the military and exercise using their rifle drills. Women began using brooms to go through those same drills, to show they too could exercise and show skill and agility without a man’s help.”

To show parallels with the historical suffragists, almost every guest at the event wore white. Members of the League also wore yellow sashes

with purple printing, carried yellow, purple, and white flags, and wore black bands on their right arms. The black armbands represented the LWV’s disapproval of the recent SCOTUS decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, the work still to be done in the ongoing struggle for women’s rights, and the ongoing fight for the Equal Rights Amendment to be passed in the federal government.

Saratoga Springs Mayor Ron Kim read a proclamation declaring the day to be “Women’s Suffrage Day” in the city. Susan B. Anthony, portrayed by League member Linda McKenney, gave a speech about the importance of perseverance, just as she had worked hard and persevered during her time as a suffragist. “Today we’re here to honor the women who paved the way, but markers are not enough,” she declared. “There is still work to be done.”

- Linda McKenney, Diversity, Inclusion, Equity Chair



Thank You to our Generous Donors

General Fund

Pamela King-Hall
Ann Marie Pendergast
Joseph Russo
Monica Seebode
Barbara Thomas



Education Fund

Mandy Herrington

VOTER SERVICES NEWS

Voter Services Leadership Grows!

Susan Hamlin and Ann Marie Pendergast have stepped in as Interim Co-Chairs of the Voter Services Committee this year. We are deeply grateful to Charlotte Druschel and Mary-Sue D’Orazio, outgoing co-chairs, for their years of leadership in creating opportunities to inform voters.

We also welcome Susan Ransom, Staffing; Elizabeth Rossi, Contacts; and Ginny Fletcher, Correspondence.

The 2022 fall candidate event season is underway! On August 15, our League partnered with the Albany and Schenectady Leagues to produce a candidate forum for the New York 20th Congressional District, providing a resource for our community in advance of the Democratic primary. Candidates Paul Tonko and Rostislav Rar participated. Zoom format is working, as we were able to reschedule quickly when members of Congress had to be available to vote on the Inflation Reduction Act.

Like many of our candidate forums, the recording can be found on our League’s YouTube channel. Zoom is growing our reach, with over 1,000 views and growing!!

The St. Lawrence and Northern Leagues coordinated a parallel event for the 21st Congressional District, which aired on Mountain Lake PBS.

—Susan Hamlin and Ann Marie Pendergast,
Voter Services Interim Co-Chairs

Election Inspectors are Vital to Fair Elections!

If you are interested in becoming an election inspector, please contact the Saratoga Country Board of Elections at (518) 885-2249 or send them an [email](#) through their website for more information. For every election, each party must have up to two inspectors assigned to each election district. Inspectors for both parties must

also be present for a Primary Election, regardless of the party holding the election. Registered voters who are not members of any party are still eligible to be election inspectors.



Changes in our Districts for 2022

As a result of the 2020 Census, there are major changes in our Congressional Districts and State Senate Districts for Saratoga County. When heading to the polls, take note that all of Saratoga County will now be in the new 20th Congressional District. Also, all of Saratoga County will now be in the new 44th State Senate District. The only change in Assembly Districts affecting Saratoga County is the town of Greenfield, which will be part of the 114th Assembly District, joining Day, Edinburg, Hadley, and Corinth.

The Vote411.org site has been updated to reflect these redistricting boundaries in New York State. The State League is managing the information for the general election.

Our League website’s Candidate page (<https://www.lwvsaratoga.org/candidates>) has information on registration deadlines, absentee and early voting information, details on the races in the county, and a direct link to the Vote411.org.

Big thanks to Chris Alexander and Francine Rodger for staying on top of this information and making sure our site contains the most up to date information.

WAYS TO VOLUNTEER

Get Out the Vote!

Help us register voters and increase voter turnout for the upcoming General Election. Our League has various ways you can help, from educating the youth, to registering voters, to organizing a candidate forum. Most importantly, talk to your friends, neighbors, and co-workers to encourage voter turnout. You can even encourage them to vote by helping them to sign up for the LWVNY's Voter Info Texting Service. All they have to do is text VoteNY to 474747.

Educating our Next Generation of Voters

Wondering how we can get our youth more interested in voting and participating in our civic life? Join the **Youth Services Committee!** The Youth Services Committee coordinates our voting and civics programs for the youth of the county. We are looking for members to help with our Take Me to Vote program for 5th graders, our First Vote program for high school seniors, and our Students Inside Albany for high school juniors.

For more information and to find out how you can get involved in preparing our youth to vote, please contact Deb Peck Kelleher (lazykatespins@outlook.com).

Candidate Forums

The upcoming November 8th General Election will involve a handful of candidate forums all taking place in the weeks before early voting begins on October 29th. US Congress, NY State Senate, three NY State Assembly districts, Saratoga County District Attorney, and Supreme Court are all races we want to cover. Can you join us?

To learn about new volunteer opportunities with the League's Voter Services projects, please contact VoterServicesLWVSaratoga@gmail.com.

Staff a Voter Registration Table

We're back at the Saratoga Springs Farmers Market located at 112 High Rock Avenue in Saratoga Springs through the fall. If you're a new League member, this is a wonderful way to familiarize yourself with the League and meet other members.

We'll be sharing information on the new voting districts for Saratoga and surrounding counties; Early Voting dates and places; Vote411, our online guide for candidate information; and local polling places. **Newbies do not fear...you will be paired with an experienced League member!**

We'll be staffing a table on the following Saturdays from 9 am to 1:00 pm:

September 17 and 24
October 1, 15, and 22

To volunteer or learn more about this volunteer opportunity, please contact: Janice Burns (jburns14@nycap.rr.com); Donna Dardaris (dcdardaris@gmail.com); or Mary Lou Classen (mlc12@localnet.com).

National Voter Registration Day, September 20

If you have a couple of hours to spare on September 20, the League will be at various venues throughout Saratoga County to help register voters, educate voters on redistricting, assist in questions they may have regarding their polling place, as well as promote Vote411 and our League. Training is available for all volunteers on September 13 located at the United Methodist Church in Saratoga Springs at 1pm and 6pm, attend either session.

If you are interested, reach out to Pam King-Hall (pkinghall@yahoo.com).

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

We Have New Membership Co-Chairs Volunteer Coordinator Position

My name is Pat Partello, and I will be serving as Co-Chair of the Membership Committee along with Pam King-Hall. Pam has invaluable knowledge on the work of the League and currently serves as Chair of the National Voter Registration Day Committee. I could not ask for a better Co-Chair.



Pat Partello



Pam King-Hall

Our primary goal for the upcoming year is to GROW OUR LEAGUE! It is the Committee's intention to provide a timely response to all inquiries regarding the LWVSC. We will be developing a standard contact process and a prompt follow-up with all interested persons. We hope

to encourage membership by answering questions and providing League information with the assistance of the newly established volunteer coordinator position. All new members will receive a welcome e-mail or a call. Based on their interest response that we plan to include on a revised membership application, we hope to connect new members with other members of common interest. It is our goal to maintain contact with new members to assist their integration into the League.

But, the best recruitment tool we have is our members talking up the value of League membership. Please feel free to reach out to Pat Partello (thurman1@nycap.rr.com) or Pam King-Hall (pkinghall@yahoo.com)

Hello everyone! My name is Kathy Koebrich and I've been a member of the Saratoga County LWV since 2012. I've decided to step forward to help members get more involved in League programs. Our League is one of the most active in the state and we need your help! Opportunities on how you can volunteer are located on our website. If you've recently joined the League or just want to get a bit more involved, please contact me at k718malta@hotmail.com. I can help you find your niche.



Kathy Koebrich

LWV Screams for Voter Rights and Ice Cream

All members are welcomed to join us for some ice cream on September 21, 6pm to 7pm. This will be an in-person event. We will meet at the Adirondack Trust Mabee Office Building, Community Room, which is located at 37 Walton Street, Saratoga Springs. Enter through the top floor of the parking garage on Woodlawn and Church Streets.



This is a great opportunity to introduce our friends and associates to our League and the extraordinary things we do! Masks are optional, but strongly recommended.

For additional information, contact Pat Partello (thurman1@nycap.rr.com) or Pam King-Hall (pkinghall@yahoo.com)

Welcome New Members!

Andrea Barry
Lisa Buglione
Silvia Carli
Rachel Contizano
Sandra Cross

Giovanna De Filippi
Mary Enhorning
Patricia Laffert
Linda LeTendre
Gina Marozzi

Christine Matthews
John and Linda McDermott
Joann Quinlivan
Anna Stanko
Marcia Williams

Climate Change Emergency: What Can We Do?

Climate Change is here! It is pretty much in the headlines every single day. Today we are in the midst of floods in Kentucky which have killed 37 people. In the west, wildfires are burning with thousands displaced from their homes. Recent heat waves around the world, with many days in the triple digits, have been responsible for hundreds or even thousands of deaths among those without air conditioning. The Platte River is dry and the Colorado River which provides water for people and agriculture for multiple states in the southwest is drying up. Island countries and coastal areas are scheduled to disappear under water in the near future, triggering mass migrations.

Vice President Harris just reported that in the 1990s the country spent approximately a billion dollars each for six climate disasters a year. In 2021 there were 20 climate disasters that cost one billion dollars each. Disasters are accelerating and our country is paying for them, but we are not doing anywhere near enough to slow down or reverse the trend!

What can we do to reverse or at least slow down this rapidly accelerating pattern? We all feel helpless and respond by withdrawing into coping with our everyday lives or at least attempting to solve the many worthy problems where we feel we can have more of an impact.

However, we are no longer alone. In New York State, we have passed the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act. The leaders in the Climate Leadership Council have been working for two years to find a way forward. We need our members of the state legislature to pass bills to implement plans for the future. There are many nonprofit organizations in this state, some of which are branches of national and world organizations looking at a bigger picture.

When bills are introduced either at the national or state level, big corporations that have made fortunes polluting our air and water and driving climate change (including producers of coal, oil, natural gas, plastics etc.) use those fortunes to convince politicians and the general public that we must continue with the status quo. At the national level, there are bills in the legislature that could have a far larger impact, such as the **Inflation Reduction Act**.

Our job is to learn as much as we can about recommendations for ameliorating the impacts of climate change and which recommendations will lead us toward a greener, more sustainable economy without using “bridge” solutions. These solutions may look like a good compromise in the near future (often suggested by fossil fuel companies), but ultimately will encourage more drilling and more inappropriate infrastructure which will slow down the process. We no longer have time for those kinds of compromises!

Goals at the state level include:

Passing **The Clean Water, Clean Air and Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act**, which will be on the November Election Ballot.

Supporting Bills with the goals of:

- ⇒ Fully electrifying the transportation sector.
- ⇒ Electrifying buildings and household appliances, beginning with new construction.
- ⇒ Reducing systemic fossil fuel reliance.

With our new knowledge, we need to advocate for legislation and VOTE for legislators who will provide leadership in this area.

—Joanna Lasher, Chair LWV Environment Committee

BOOK CLUB

We invite you to join us at our monthly Book Club gatherings that are held on the second Thursday of the month at 1:30pm. Everyone is welcome to join our discussions, even if you have not read or finished reading the book.

We are happy to note that we will return to meeting in person this fall! It will be so great to see everyone face to face. Masks are optional, but strongly recommended.

If you are not on our book club mailing list, please check in with Francine Rodger (aerodger@aol.com) to see if we are meeting in person or virtually because conditions continue to evolve.

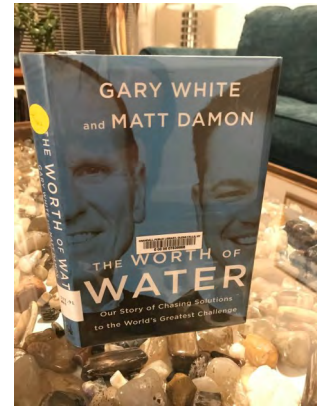
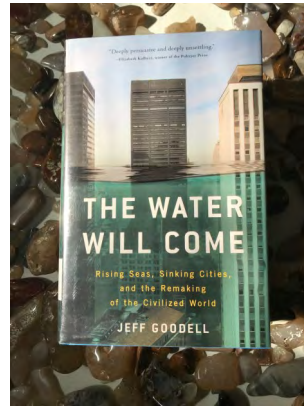
Thursday, September 8
1:30pm to 3:30pm
Clifton Park – Halfmoon Public Library



We have chosen three books on the same topic to discuss:

- *The 1619 Project: A New Origin Story*, by Nikole Hannah-Jones
- *The Sum of Us: What Racism Costs Everyone and How We Can Prosper Together*, by Heather McGhee
- *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents*, by Isabel Wilkerson.

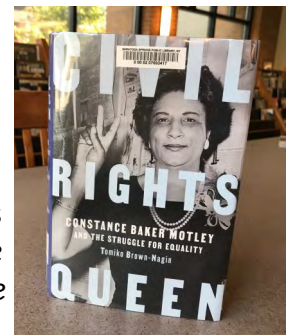
Thursday, October 13
1:30pm to 3:30pm
Saratoga Springs Public Library



- *The Worth of Water: Our Story of Chasing Solutions to the World's Greatest Challenge*, by Gary White and Matt Damon
- *The Water Will Come: Rising Seas, Sinking Cities, and the Remaking of the Civilized World*, by Jeff Goodall.

Thursday, November 10
1:30pm to 3:30pm
Saratoga Springs Public Library

In November we will discuss *Civil Rights Queen: Constance Baker Motley and the Struggle for Equality*, by Tomiko Brown-Nagin.



UPCOMING MEETUPS

October 19: Ensuring Election Integrity

November 16: Bail Reform and Racial Disparities in the Criminal Justice System

More information regarding both upcoming Meetups will be posted to our League's website and social media pages.

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

September

- 9/7 Board Meeting, 7pm via Zoom
- 9/8 Book Club, 1:30–3:30pm; Clifton Park–Halfmoon Public Library
- 9/20 National Voter Registration Day
- 9/21 Ice Cream Social, 6–7:30pm Adirondack Trust Mabee Office Building

October

- 10/5 Board Meeting, 7pm via Zoom
- 10/13 Book Club, 1:30–3:30pm; Saratoga Springs Public Library
- 10/14 Last Day to Register to Vote for the General Election
- 10/19 Meetup: Ensuring Election Integrity
- 10/29–11/6 Early Voting for the General Election

November

- 11/2 Board Meeting, 7pm via Zoom
- 11/8 General Election, 6am–9pm
- 11/10 Book Club, 1:30–3:30pm; Saratoga Springs Public Library
- 11/16 Meetup: Bail Reform and Racial Disparities in the Criminal Justice System