



**EMPOWERING VOTERS.  
DEFENDING DEMOCRACY.**

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**NOTE FROM THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**

*Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it." - William Arthur Ward*



Dear LWV of Saratoga County Members:

In the spirit of the holiday season, we'd like to take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude for your membership. Your participation enables our League to fulfill its commitment to helping every citizen in our community have a voice in government.

We would like to thank both our new members and those who have renewed their membership. We are grateful to all our members who have been able to offer their time and talents to help fulfill our mission to empower voters and defend democracy. Together, we are making our corner of the world a better place. We can't do it without you!

By being a member in the League of Women Voters, one of the most respected and effective grassroots organizations in the county, you are adding your voice to a powerful force of members from all 50 states, Washington DC, the Virgin Islands, and Hong Kong. As a member you:

- Promote voter education by organizing voter registration events, distributing voter guides, offering the online voter guide [VOTE411.org](http://VOTE411.org), and conducting virtual candidate forums for local, state, and national offices.
- Gain knowledge and experience through the study and discussion of timely topics that are offered through our meetups.
- Discover new interests, develop new skills, and learn about important issues in your community.
- Make professional contacts and lasting friendships as you meet other League members who share your interests.

Let us be thankful this holiday season for all that's been accomplished and grateful to our members who worked hard to make it happen. Take time to enjoy the holidays with family and friends, for when the clock strikes midnight on January 1, 2023, our work begins again. There are so many issues to monitor and address!

Happy Holidays to all!

Pam King-Hall and Pat Partello  
Co-Chairs, Membership Committee

# CONTACT US

## League of Women Voters of Saratoga County (NY-639)

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Follow us on Facebook, Twitter @LWV\_SC, Instagram @lwvsaratoga

### Steering Committee:

September, October, November, December:

**Monica Seebode**

January, February, March:

**Ann Marie Pendergast**

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**

### Board of Directors

June 2022–June 2023

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

### 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](mailto:president@lwvsaratoga.org) to receive the Zoom link.

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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### League of Women Voters of the United States

[www.lwv.org](http://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.*

### Issue #1 Jan/Feb/Mar 2023

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## LWV MEMBER HOLIDAY PARTY

Join us to celebrate the holidays with fellow League members at a holiday potluck party on Thursday, December 8th, starting at 6:00 pm. The gathering will be held at the home of Chris Alexander and Peter Martin, 101 Bryan Street, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866.

Please RSVP if you plan to attend to: [RSVPtoLWVSaratoga@gmail.com](mailto:RSVPtoLWVSaratoga@gmail.com)

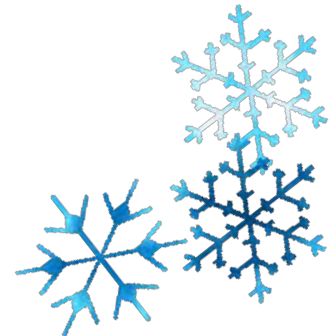
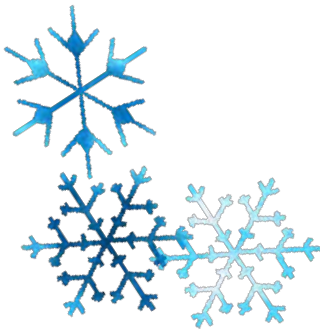
Our hosts will provide turkey breast, rolls, beer, wine, and soda. To complete our bountiful feast, we request the following: If your last name begins with:

- A-G, please bring a side dish
- H-M, please bring an appetizer
- N-Z, please bring a dessert.

If this is a problem, in any way, please let Chris Alexander or Carol Glansberg know so that we can make an adjustment.

The gathering provides an opportunity to bring together old friends and help us make new ones.

Looking forward to seeing you there!



## VOTER SERVICES NEWS

### An Exceptionally Busy Election Season

By Susan Hamlin

The 2022 Election season was exceptionally busy for our League's Voter Services. Thanks to the work of our brilliant volunteer team, voters had multiple opportunities to learn about the candidates and their positions on the issues.

Our League hosted and co-hosted six candidate events this fall: US Congress District 20, NY State Supreme Court Justices 4<sup>th</sup> District, NY State Senate District 44, NY Assembly District 113, NY Assembly District 112, and the City of Saratoga Springs Commissioner of Public Works.

#### A Season of Firsts

Fall 2022 was the season of firsts:

- first election with new redistricted lines.
- first season Saratoga LWV offered candidate events livestreamed via Zoom.

- first judicial candidate forum for the NY State Supreme Court 4<sup>th</sup> District.

Our League's first Judicial Forum had a replay audience of over 800 views! For a full overview of the Supreme Court forum, be sure to read *Our League Hosts Its First Supreme Court Justice Forum*, by Charlotte Druschel.

#### A Season of Partnering with Other Area Leagues

For the first time, our League, together with Albany, Schenectady, and Rensselaer County Leagues, teamed up with WMHT TV, WAMC Northeast Public Radio, and *The Times Union* for the US Congress District 20 Debate, with candidates Paul Tonko and Liz Joy. Dan Clark, host of New York NOW, was the moderator of this live event. Panelists were Lucas Willard, WAMC, Joshua Solomon, *The Times Union*, and Alexis Young, New York NOW.

*Continued on page 4*

# VOTER SERVICES NEWS

Continued from page 3

Elizabeth Rossi, Secretary of Saratoga LWV, represented the four Capital Area Leagues by holding the coin toss with the candidates before the debate. The four Capital Area Leagues vetted candidate questions submitted by the public, and questions written by the panelists. The debate was broadcast live from WMHT-TV Studio A. Replay at <https://nynow.wmht.org/debate/>

We wish to thank Dan Clark and Will Pedigo from WMHT-TV for their creative collaboration and support leading up to the debate. An extraordinary event!

In addition to the four League partnership with WMHT, our League along with Schenectady County League collaborated to host the candidate forum for NY Assembly 112 (Andrew McAdoo, Mary Beth Walsh) and NY Senate District 44 (Michelle Ostrelich, James N Tedisco).

## A Season to Sharpen our Zoom Skills

This fall, we introduced the use of Zoom Webinar live stream for some events. Response has been positive and we are reaching a larger, more diverse audience than in-person events.

This year's US Congress District 20 Democratic primary (Tonko, Rar) was held in August due to redistricting. Even with the summer timing, this Zoom event has over 1,300 views—significantly more than in-person events in the past. Another positive for Zoom: The Congress District 20 primary event was originally set for the day before early voting. Congress was called to vote remotely on the Inflation bill, and Congressman Tonko was no longer available. The virtual format allowed us to reschedule easily. Had we been renting a public venue, we may not have been able to find in-person space on such short notice.

## Help Us Educate Our Community

Our Leagues provides an integrative choice of services for voters:

- Vote411 for personalized voting information
- meet the candidate events before every election
- voter registration throughout the year
- public communication via news outlets, web, and social media
- advocacy for election protection and other rights under the law.

We invite voters to reach out with questions, participate in candidate events by sending questions, and check our website for outreach and social programs throughout the year.

If you want to help us, please join us! Feel free to either reach out to me personally or contact our membership team.

## We Reached a Lot of People This Election Season

- Many people saw us at the Saratoga Springs Farmers Markets and on National Voter Registration Day.
- We had 1,964 views on our Candidate Forums and over 2,000 more viewed the 20th Congressional Debate online, which is over and above those who watched it on WMHT1
- Our website had 1,264 people go to the candidate's page to check out who was running and see their responses to our questions.

Locally, all the candidates running participated in Vote411, a new record for us. We have not yet received the numbers from Vote411, but they will add to the thousands who looked to the LWV for election information.

## Our League Hosts Its First Supreme Court Justice Forum

By Charlotte Druschel

Our League has not routinely held events for judicial elections. For Town Justice elections, we have generally had candidates speak for several minutes but not asked questions. Judicial candidates are not prohibited from participating in candidate events, but must adhere to the Rules Governing Judicial Conduct. This includes not making promises other than faithful performance of the duties of the office and not committing with respect to cases, controversies, or issues likely to come before the court. Any questions must adhere to these guidelines.

Many voters are confused by judicial races. Our League has received several requests to include judicial races in our candidate forums. We were approached this summer about having a forum for the race for Supreme Court Justice of the 4th District. This is an important race as justices serve 14-year terms. The Supreme Court of New York State is the trial court of general jurisdiction. Candidates are selected by judicial

conventions and run on partisan lines. The 4th Judicial District is the largest geographically that includes Fulton, Montgomery, Schenectady, Saratoga, Washington, Hamilton, Warren, Essex, St Lawrence, Franklin, and Clinton Counties.

There were six candidates running for three seats. Three Republicans, Allison McGahay, Chris Obstarczyk, and Robert J Kupferman and three Democrats, Teneka Frost, Robert Muller, and Vincent Versaci. Five candidates agreed to participate in our forum. Judge Kupferman felt more comfortable running on his record.

This event was co-sponsored by the Adirondack Women's Bar Association and Board member Douglas Gerhardt reviewed questions and provided background on the Supreme Court. The event was held over Zoom on October 18th. Questions were solicited from the community as well as gathered from questions used successfully in judicial events by other Leagues.

Currently there are over 800 views of this recorded event. Although we all know the outcome of this event, you may want to view this forum – as it is a first for our League!! The link is on our Leagues YouTube Channel.

## Making an Investment in Young Voters

According to an early estimate from the Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement (CIRCLE) at Tufts University, about 27% of voters between the ages of 18–29 cast a ballot in this mid-term election. This is the second highest voter turnout among voters under 30 in the past three decades. The highest turnout was in 2018 when approximately 31% of young people voted in the mid-term elections.

Why the slight drop in engagement? In an article reported by NPR, Ruby Belle Booth, CIRCLE's elections coordinator, stated that investments by organizations that mobilize young people year-round are key to improving voter turnout. Booth further explained, "We saw in registration numbers that 18–19 year olds were not being engaged as much as they were in 2018. And that's a red flag that there isn't as much work happening to register new voters."



*Our volunteers at the Wilton ACC campus, Nancy Fairbanks, Silvia Carli, and Jenny Mirling, enjoyed connecting with the students during NVRD 22. In addition to registering voters, they also explained to the 16- and 17-year-old students that they too can register early. Nancy Fairbanks mentioned the best story of the day was the professor who tied into his lecture the importance of voting and even offered extra credit for those students we registered!*

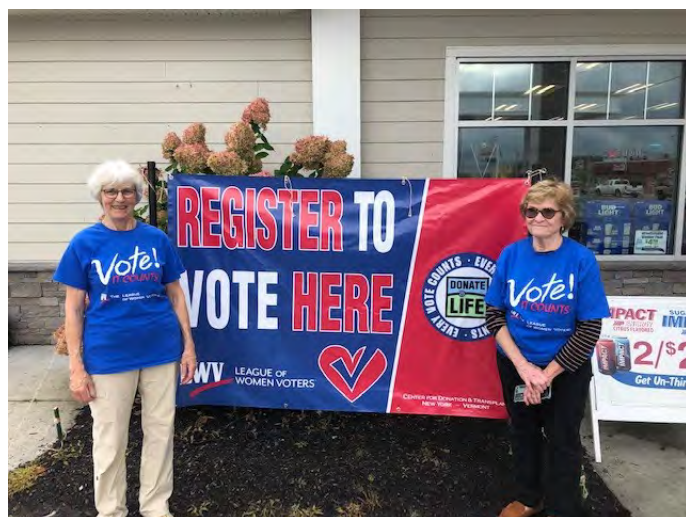
# Another Successful National Voters Registration Day

By Pam King-Hall, Chair, NVRD

On September 20th, volunteers from our League joined with other community groups to register voters and educate them during National Voter Registration Day (NVRD). Our League had a presence at 15 venues and registered 56 people, many of them were students at the Wilton Campus of Adirondack Community College. We also had a strong presence at Fingerpaint on Broadway where 10 of their employees helped us register voters.

Throughout the day, members of our League addressed questions about redistricting and how it affected them. We were able to show them our user-friendly maps created by Francine Rodgers. Ann Kril did an outstanding job of informing voters about the Clean Air, Clean Water, and Green Jobs Bond Act that was on this year's ballot.

As we look ahead to NVRD 2023, we hope to have a smaller but more centralized event and use other events throughout the year to access more diverse and underserved groups that need to have access to our services. We would also like to engage the younger voters in our community. If you would like to help us with our efforts to educate our community and ensure everyone is registered, please reach out! Throughout the year we have registration tables available at many community events. We are interested in hearing ideas you may have in expanding our efforts.



**RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!**

Join the movement and become a part of history. Members make our organization come alive!

# OUR LEAGUE IN ACTION

## Members Enjoy Ice Cream and Conversation

In September, a New Member and Ice Cream Social was held in person at the Adirondack Trust Community Room. The membership co-chairs, Pamela King-Hall and Patricia Partello welcomed everyone and



encouraged members new and old to eat lots of ice cream. Kathy Koebrich was introduced as the volunteer coordinator for all events and programs associated with League of Women Voters of Saratoga County. Programs and events were discussed, and chairs of those

committees introduced.

Our October Meetup speaker was introduced by member Pat Nugent. Chris Mann, a Skidmore professor, spoke about the elections past and future and the data concerning how secure voting is in the US Election officials across the states mutter, "Lord, please let it not be close." If you missed the October Meetup, please feel free to view it on our League's YouTube Channel, a link is found on our website.



Linda McKenney, Janice Burns, and Barb Thomas attended Saratoga Black Lives Matter's Second Annual Trunk or Treat on October 29. They enjoyed handing out voter guides as well as candy and bracelets to the kids in attendance. Other local organizations that participated in this event included MLK Saratoga, Saratoga Youth Space, and The People's Voice Saratoga.

## The Last Song for the 100th Anniversaries Committee

Earlier this year, the Champlain Valley Suffrage Centennial Motorcade was held to commemorate and celebrate the passing of the 19th Amendment in 1920.



This event recognized and demonstrated the many ways women fought for the right to vote prior to 1920. This event included pageants, olde time rallies, broom brigades, and suffrage exhibits. Antique automobiles were also featured to create the auto tour atmosphere. Opening event of the Champlain Valley Suffrage Auto tour included speeches by Susan B Anthony (aka, Linda McKenney) as well as three Clinton County suffragists, Marian Inman Parkhurst, Hannah Straight Lansing, and Harriet Dudley Bell, who made their mark on their community and New York State with their commitment to woman suffrage.

In November, our League—as one of the partners of the Celebrating Suffrage in Greater Glens Falls committee—was presented with the 2022 Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership Director's Award, which honored the Champlain Valley Suffrage Centennial Motorcade and Booklet. To learn more about the scope and participants in this event, visit the Champlain Valley Women website at [www.champlainvalleywomen.com](http://www.champlainvalleywomen.com).

## LWV Sponsors Banned Book Readings and Music at Caffe Lena

Our League was one of eight sponsors for a banned book reading at Caffe Lena on August 24. Our statement of support read, "We strive to ensure and expand on individual rights as guaranteed by the Constitution, essential to an inclusive democracy. We challenge any attempts to suppress civil liberties and work to safeguard them through our education, advocacy, and lobbying efforts."



The event introduced a Little Liberty Library designed exclusively to circulate banned books, which is now housed in Caffe Lena's courtyard. Local authors were featured, reading not from their own work but from excerpts of a banned book of their choice. Our member, Patricia Nugent, was one of the organizers and featured readers.

The aim of the library and the evening program was to recognize the value of all literature, increase public awareness of the censorship occurring today, and encourage action to preserve access to so-called controversial books.

We filled Caffe Lena and turned 30 people away! Another 40 watched remotely. This clearly is an issue that is of concern to those who feel it is important to protect free speech.

Other sponsors included Caffe Lena, the New York State Writers Institute, the Saratoga Springs Public Library, Skidmore College, Temple Sinai, the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Saratoga Springs, and Yaddo.



*Our League participated in the Women's Equality Day event at Crandall Library sponsored by the AAUW. Janice Burns, Pamela King-Hall, and Patricia Nugent represented the League's interests in advancing women's rights.*

*Photo credit: Mary Enhorning*

## Charge to the Women's Rights Awareness Campaign

By Pat Nugent

As we witness the continued erosion of civil liberties across our nation, we recognize that women are among those most disproportionately affected. The League of Women Voters of Saratoga County is initiating a Women's Rights Awareness Campaign (WRAC) to better educate a core group of people (The Alice Brigade) about past and current conditions affecting American women's lives. And then we will work to educate/inform others in enclaves throughout the region.

The Alice Brigade (12-15 people) will spend the first few months studying and learning to establish common understandings and language about women's history and current status. We'll read materials and invite guest speakers. We will then break into smaller groups (and invite others to join these groups) to become more knowledgeable about specific disparities in such areas as:

- Voter suppression/intimidation
- Employment and education opportunities
- Pay equity
- Legislative representation
- Reproductive services/health care
- Equal Rights Amendment
- Violence against women (sex trafficking/ domestic violence/harassment)

If you are interested in joining the Alice Brigade, or want more information, please contact Patricia Nugent at [keepmakingwaves@gmail.com](mailto:keepmakingwaves@gmail.com).



# BOOK CLUB



We invite you to join us for our upcoming monthly Book Club gatherings on the second Thursday of each month at 1:30pm. Everyone is welcome to join our

discussions, even if you have not read or finished reading the book. We usually talk about the topic that the month's book addresses, as well as the book. Please contact Francine Rodger at [lwvsaratoga@aol.com](mailto:lwvsaratoga@aol.com) to receive your invitation and a link to join these Zoom discussions:

Thursday, January 12

**Madam Speaker: Nancy Pelosi and the Lessons of Power** by Susan Paige

Thursday, February 9

**Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teaching of Plants** by Robin Wall Kimmerer

Thursday, March 9

**The Three Mothers: How the Mothers of Martin Luther King Jr., Malcolm X, and James Baldwin Shaped a Nation** by Anna Malaika Tubbs  
(This gathering may be in person at the Clifton Park Library. Please check our League's website as the date approaches.)

## MEMBERSHIP CORNER

### Welcome New Members!

Jennifer Anderson  
Stacie Agostino  
Abigael Burke (student member)  
Sharon Finch  
Cheri Garcia

Kimberley Harvish  
Cathy Lawrenz  
Linda Leone  
Elaine McCann  
Kathleen Naftaly  
Mary Peryea

Kathlyn Rooney  
Kate Roos  
Christine Root  
Sue Ellen Schlitzer  
Angela Thompson

### Thank you to our Generous Donors

#### Famous Person Fundraiser Donors

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Doris Stoll  
Nan Sullivan  
Barbara Thomas  
Susan Van Raalte

# MEETUPS

## Religious Medical Systems and Bodily Autonomy: A Community Conversation

Thursday, January 12, 2023  
7pm–8:30pm, via zoom

Join us for this virtual event featuring a panel discussion with experts who will speak about the impact of religious directives that dictate the kinds of care that healthcare facilities that are owned or affiliated with religious institutions can and cannot deliver to their patients. With the rise in mergers between secular community hospitals and religious hospitals, more and more people are being denied the care that they are otherwise lawfully able to obtain. State legislation that is currently pending would mandate that these institutions make existing and prospective patients aware of what kind of care they can and cannot receive at these healthcare facilities so that they can plan their care, but too often, there are no alternative healthcare facilities they can easily access nearby.

Come hear experts discuss the impact of these religious exclusions on reproductive healthcare, end-of-life care, care for transgender individuals, and more at this important event, including actions you can take to impact these issues.

Registration required for this event. The registration link will be available by mid-December. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the Zoom meeting.

Co-sponsored by the Leagues of Women Voters of Albany, Rensselaer, Saratoga, and Schenectady Counties, and [Compassion & Choices](#).

## The History of White Nationalism in America

Wednesday, February 15, 2023  
7pm–8:30pm, via zoom

Please save the date. Details will be available on our League's website as the date gets closer.

## How to Fight Disinformation

Wednesday, March 15, 2023  
7pm–8:30pm, via zoom

The Union of Concerned Scientists has conducted research that shows it is effective to combat disinformation with stories that humanize the issue and produce an emotional response, not with statistics, and never by repeating the disinformation. Learn more at this Meetup.

## Effect of Electrification of Buildings

Wednesday, April 12, 2023  
7pm–8:30pm, via zoom

We are excited to announce that Dr. Anshul Gupta of the Climate Reality Project will be presenting the status of current legislation of building electrification in New York State. Please save the date. Details will be available on our League's website as the date gets closer.

*Meetups are a way for us to come together to explore, understand, and advocate for issues that matter to us. They are focused on our members and their interests. Meetups for the following dates will be held on zoom from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. Please see the website for more details and to register.*

## Meetup Rewinds

If you miss any of our Meetups, our recordings are always available on demand via our League's YouTube Channel. With the long, cold winter ahead, you can create your own playlist to include a number of our sponsored events. No subscription fees! Explore our many offerings at: [LWV of Saratoga County - YouTube](#)

## Overview on How to Become an Indigenous Peoples Ally

By Linda McKenney, Chair, DEI Committee

*The most American thing about America is American Indians. —Paul Chaat Smith (Comanche)*

As a member of the steering committee for the State League DEI Task Force, I was assigned the task of writing a guide for the Acknowledgement of Indigenous Land and People and information on How to Become an Indigenous Peoples Ally. The intention of this document is to assist us in better understanding the culture of our Indigenous neighbors and to aid us in becoming an ally by:

- Learning How to Help Reclaim Native Truth
- Learning More About Native Social Justice

The following is a brief overview of the document.

### Introduction

In the United States, there are 574 federally recognized tribes. The following tribes in New York State include:

- Cayuga Nation
- Oneida Nation of New York
- Onondaga Nation
- Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe (formerly the St. Regis Band of Mohawk Indians of New York)
- Seneca Nation of Indians
- Shinnecock Indian Nation
- Tonawanda Band of Seneca
- Tuscarora Nation of New York

### Reclaim Native Truth

Reclaiming Native Truth is a national effort to move hearts and minds toward greater respect, inclusion, and social justice for Native Americans and foster cultural, social, and policy change by empowering Native Americans to counter:

- Discrimination
- Invisibility
- Dominant narratives that limit Native opportunity, access to justice, health, and self-determination

### Native Social Justice

Social justice can include, but is not limited to:

- Healing Justice: Providing a safe space for healing to occur in Native communities, which can address racism, sexism, addiction, abuse, gender violence, and historical trauma.
- Racial Justice: Native American people are often left out of anti-racism initiatives in racial justice and equity work. Current traumas, disparities, historical and generational trauma are important.
- Restorative Justice: Emphasizes healing the harm done by the offense and rehabilitating the offender to avoid future harm.

### How To Become an Ally

Consider these questions in your communication and events.

- How can I use my platform to give voice to others?
- Am I inadvertently contributing to a false or negative narrative by not considering or including contemporary Native peoples in my work?
- Am I using one Native spokesperson as the representative of all Native Americans?
- Why and how is it important to my work to advance new narratives about Native Americans as part of building respect across society?
- How can I ensure that what I am communicating or creating is advancing this new narrative rather than working against it?
- How can I swiftly and strongly correct false narratives when I see them?

### You can also:

- Contact government leaders to raise awareness on key issues
- Educate yourself and others regarding Indigenous histories, traditions and cultures
- Lend your support to an organization that represent tribes at local, state or national level

For more information here: <https://www.ncai.org/about-ncai>

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## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### December

- 12/7 Board Meeting, 7pm via zoom
- 12/8 LWV Member Holiday Party, 6pm

### January

- 1/4 Board Meeting, 7pm via zoom
- 1/12 Book Club, 1:30-3:15pm via zoom
- 1/12 Meetup, Religious Medical Systems and Bodily Autonomy: A Community Conversation 7pm-8:30pm via zoom

### February

- 2/1 Board Meeting, 7pm via zoom
- 2/9 Book Club, 1:30-3:15pm via zoom
- 2/15 Meetup: The History of White Nationalism in American, 7pm-8:30pm via zoom

### March

- 3/1 Board Meeting, 7pm via zoom
- 3/9 Book Club, 1:30-3:15pm (location to be announced)
- 3/15 Meetup: How to Fight Disinformation, 7pm-8:30pm via zoom

### April

- 4/12 Meetup: Effect of Electrification of Buildings, 7pm-8:30pm via zoom