Mission
The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Policy on Inclusiveness
The League of Women Voters in both its values and practice is committed to inclusion and diversity. This means:

- We recognize that diverse perspectives are important and necessary for responsible and representative decision making;
- We believe inclusiveness enhances our organization’s ability to respond effectively to changing conditions and needs;
- We affirm our commitment to reflecting the diversity of Albany County; and
- There shall be no barriers to participation in any activity of the League on the basis of economic position, gender, race, ability, age, sexual orientation, creed or national origin.

LWVAC BOARD
Officers
President: Patricia Sibilia
1st V-P Admin: Regina Tillman
2nd V-P Program: Gail Volk
Secretary: Britt Westergard
Treasurer: Marggie Skinner

Directors
Advocacy: Mary Beilby
Communications: Chris Deyss
Voter Service: Andrea Lee
At Large: Stephen Winters

Contact Board Members via: lwvac@lwvalbany.org

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Annual Harvest Potluck & Membership Meeting
A LWVAC Member and Friends Event
Thursday, October 3, 2019
5:30 pm to 8:30 pm
Hannaford Supermarket Community Room
Central Avenue, Albany

- Bring Your Own Place Setting and a Dish -- Seasonal Soup, Salad, Casserole or Dessert!
- Bring Your Thoughts & Bring a Friend!
- Free for Members with a dish. $10 donation for guests and members without a dish.
- RSVP by Oct. 1 to Pat Maxon, maxdanys@aol.com. Please include what kind of dish you're bringing.

With the bounty of a Fall Harvest upon us, what better time to prepare and share a seasonal dish with fellow Leaguers as we discuss matters of critical importance. It’s a time for networking and eating... time for getting information from league leadership... and time for providing your input!

5:30 Doors Open! Bring Dish to the Kitchen;
Network in Community Room
6:00 Dinner Using Your Own Place Setting
6:30 Program including Consensus Discussion
8:00 Announcements, General Information and Free Raffle

The evening will include a consensus discussion about revising our position on Albany County Legislature redistricting and downsizing, led by our President, Patricia Sibilia. In addition, the new LWVAC “Tabling” concept will be introduced, giving members more information about volunteering at future events.

Questions? Contact Membership Chairperson, VP Regina Tillman, at 518-229-1548 or rmt370@gmail.com.
Member Engagement Opportunities
League volunteers keep LWVAC a strong, vital organization. Here are new and renewed opportunities for your involvement.

**Election Night Reporting: Help LWVAC cover the polls and raise funds for our work**

Every year we are fortunate to be hired by CDES, the service that provides results to the media on Election Night for all wards in Albany, and all of Guilderland, Bethlehem, Green Island, Watervliet, and Cohoes. If you have helped out in the past, are you available again? Same place as last year? Want a new place? We will try to accommodate. We’re always looking for new people, if you have a friend, colleague neighbor, who also is interested in helping out.

Even if you haven’t done poll reporting before, you can help. The time commitment is not burdensome. Arrive at your assigned polling place at 8:45 or so. When the polls close and the results are available, write the numbers on the forms you have received and call the number on your instruction sheet.

If there is only one voting machine it is pretty easy, numbers by 9:20 or so, and call in the results. Often the most difficult part is getting through on the phone, lines are busy. Be persistent, if you have a redial feature on your phone, use it. You will get through. If there are two machines, you should have a partner. If you want to bring your own partner, let us know. Usually people can be paired up. Each of you takes the results from one machine and combine the results before you call them in. Instructions will cover those situations.

The list must be submitted by mid-October so please get in touch with Marggie Skinner as soon as possible about your availability. Email mpskinner3@yahoo.com.

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**Help with One of League’s Key Services: Candidate Forums**

Simple but essential jobs, Greeters and Timers are needed for upcoming candidate forums: **Bethlehem**, October 22, 7 pm, at the Town Hall. **Colonie**, October 29, 7 pm, at the Red Lion Hotel on Wolf Road. **Coeymans**, date still to be determined, at the Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk Highschool. If you can help, please contact Patricia Sibilia, 518-221-6460 or patriasibilianv@gmail.com.

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**Seeking Members with Communications Expertise**

Several of LWVAC’s dedicated communications team members are moving on to other responsibilities, so we’re seeking people who can help in two key areas: **Website Management**: Responsible for production and maintenance of the website. **Public Relations**: Preparing news releases, assisting with media lists and contacts.

To offer your services, or to learn more, please contact Communications Director Chris Deyss, chrisdeyss@gmail.com or 518-221-9943.

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**Successful Program on New Voting Laws**

About 40 community members joined the LWVAC and colleagues from co-sponsor B’nai Sholom Reform Congregation to learn about New York State’s new voting laws.

LWVAC presenters for "Everything You Wanted to Know about Voting" included Andy Lee, Stephen Winters and Patricia Sibilia. One of the attendees was Assemblywoman Pat Fahy who graciously thanked the LWV for the presentation. Plans to present the information to new audiences are underway.
National Voter Registration Day(s)

Albany League volunteers and partners register more than 300 new voters!!!

This year LWVAC registered voters for four days, including a booth and walkers at LarkFest, a strong presence at the five biggest public libraries across the Capital District, and all of the College and University campuses in Albany County. More than 35 volunteers came out to help register voters, update addresses, distribute information and swag. We were able to collaborate with public librarians, university and college groups, and a wide swath of public volunteers who were instrumental in reaching out into the public. We registered more than 200 citizens new and old, distributed over 100 absentee ballots, and engaged at least 1,000 people in learning about new state voting laws.

O the College of St. Rose Campus, Voter Services Director Andy Lee worked with faculty member Ryane Straus to train 70 students to register voters, who went on to register 103 new voters!


Great Decisions Reading and Discussion Group

Open to all League members! New members welcome!
Mondays - October 21, November 4, November 18 - 9:30 a.m.

What It’s About: What are today’s BIG concerns? The future? How can international policies be evaluated? The Global Issues/Great Decisions Reading & Discussion Group meets January to May, to discuss the Briefing Book of the Foreign Policy Association (FPA, fpa.org).

In addition, each fall the group also chooses a book to review with international concerns. The Water Will Come: Rising Seas, Sinking Cities, and the Remaking of the Civilized World by Jeff Goodell (2017) is this year’s choice. Meetings are held in the community room of Berkshire Bank, Vista Blvd., Slingerlands. ADA accessible, plenty of parking. Coffee and refreshments provided.

A moderator is chosen for each discussion. Participants bring their questions, knowledge, and personal insights for our intense and often impassioned discussions. The professional and travel experiences of the members of the group enhance these discussions.

New members are welcome! Contact Sue Cypert at gardency@yahoo.com, 315-386-8659.
We’re excited to announce the relaunch of the VOTE411, the League’s nationwide election information website. You will find all the election information you need -- registering to vote, what’s on your ballot, what candidates have to say about the issues, where your polling place is, and more. We are glad to be back with VOTE411.

The Albany County team has expanded its efforts and is reaching out to all 174 candidates in the 97 races in the county, cities and towns, to remind them to submit information. We plan to go live on October 7. At that time, be sure to check out http://www.vote411.org. If candidates have not submitted information, remind them to do so. Spread the word to your friends and family that this is THE source to get accurate, unbiased information about the candidates across the nation.

Sincere thanks to Joanne Shawhan, Melissa Baer Bourgeois, Laura Brignull, Rebecca Myers, Marggie Skinner and Patricia Sibilia, who have worked diligently on VOTE411.

Spread the word and be an informed voter on November 5!

Early Voting is Coming to New York State!
A new League of Women Voters of New York State (LWVNY) website on early voting is live. On www.nyearlyvoting.org, voters can click on their county and find the early voting poll site locations and hours, as well as if they must go to an assigned poll site or can go to any poll site in the county.

Voters also can see details of early voting including:
- What does early voting do?
- What can I expect at the early voting poll site?
- Do I need to be registered to vote early or can I register at an early voting poll site?
- How will every polling site have the pollbooks with a list of registered voters?
- Will the ballot look the same at early voting poll sites and general election day poll sites?
- When will my vote be counted if I vote early?
- Can I change my vote if I vote early?
- What if my name is not in the paper poll book or electronic poll book?
- What if I moved or am moving during the early voting period?

Other voting reforms passed by the Legislature in 2019 are described through a link on the website. The new webpage can be accessed at www.lwvny.org.

LWVUS Launches People Powered Fair Maps Campaign
The LWV unveiled its People Powered Fair Maps Campaign, an effort across the country to create fair and transparent district maps nationwide. The campaign kicked off with a half-million-dollar investment from the LWVUS to support advocacy, education, organizing and mobilization, partnerships, litigation, and protection around redistricting processes.

As an organization born out of the women’s suffrage movement, the League of Women Voters is no stranger to ambitious campaigns that fight to extend democracy. “Because we have a presence in more than 750 communities, in all 50 states, we are well positioned to lead this national conversation and seek to establish fair processes across the country.” said Chris Carson, president of the LWVUS board of directors. In New York, our focus will be on State Legislative Fixes: pass or protect state laws implementing a fair redistricting process, looking for opportunities to improve public input and to move forward laws that increase transparency. For more information, see LWV.org/redistricting
Environmental Concerns: National Expert to Present in Albany

We are pleased to announce that the LWVAC is joining other concerned organizations to bring a distinguished expert in recycling and waste reduction for two evenings, October 14 and 15, 2019 at the Albany Public Library on Washington Avenue. Both evenings are free and open to the public.

In 1991, the Albany, Schenectady, Rensselaer, and Saratoga Leagues adopted a position on solid waste management. (See summary below.) Since then, the solid waste problem has gotten worse and action on that position has even more relevance.

Dr. Neil Seldman is a nationally renowned expert on recycling and waste reduction and co-founder of the Washington, D.C. Institute for Local Self-Reliance. Active in the U.S. and international recycling and zero-waste movements, he also is a founding member of the National Recycling Coalition and the Grass Roots Recycling Network. (More about Dr. Seldman on the Institute for Local Self-Reliance Website.)

Monday the 14th, at 6:30 pm, he will present a History of U.S. Waste and Recycling: new federal and local laws, introduction to grass roots recycling, current events - restructuring of recycling, localization of solid waste management system, and challenges from Big Waste and Big Soda. Finally, he will look at the question of what to do now - state level, local level, private sector, what about zero waste?

Tuesday, the 15th, at 6:30, he will present a workshop on key issues to address in the region: incineration, landfilling, mixed waste processing, anaerobic digestion, distributed composting, unit pricing/Pay As You Throw, and more.

Dr. Seldman’s message is relevant to government officials and decision makers who must address our regional crises in solid waste and recycling as well as to local scientists, economic development experts, environmentalists, students and the general public.

For more information contact Mary Beilby, mary.beilby@gmail.com.

Highlights of the 4-County Solid Waste Position:

We support waste and toxicity reduction and environmentally sound methods of recycling and reuse as the primary forms of solid waste management.

The four Leagues support solid waste policies that:

- protect human health and safety
- promote the wise management of natural resources, including land, wildlife and habitat, water; air and arid atmosphere, energy and materials;
- promote the conservation of primary materials such as timber, minerals, ores and energy;
- promote the extensive reuse and recycling of secondary materials;
- minimize the presence effects of hazardous materials in the waste stream;
- make it as easy as possible for people to use legal and responsible waste disposal methods by providing education and guidance;
- and encourage communities to take responsibility for recycling and waste disposal by locating needed facilities within their boundaries and by cooperating with other communities in the management of solid waste.

Solid waste management methods should be determined by town, city, or county governments, or by a regional or inter-municipal authority.
New York State Political Parties at a Glance*

Parties are listed in the order they appear on the voter registration form and ballot. Information was provided by each political party.

Democratic (https://nydems.org) Established in 1792, the NYS Democratic Party is proud to be part of the oldest political party in the US. Its core values align with liberal ideology: ensuring economic opportunities for all, affordable education, criminal justice reform, quality and accessible healthcare, environmental leadership, and guaranteeing LGBTQ and Women’s Rights. NYS is the birthplace of the women’s rights movement and we continue to lead the fight today.

Republican (https://nygop.org) We are the party of taxpayers and individual liberty. We believe in American exceptionalism, the promise of the American dream and in the Constitution as our enduring covenant. We believe that all are created equal, endowed by their Creator with inalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. We believe in limited, effective, efficient government that respects taxpayers.

Conservative (https://www.cpnys.org) The NYS Conservative Party, founded in 1962 is dedicated to individual freedom, personal responsibility, the protection of traditional American values of capitalism and the rights that we are all guaranteed under our constitution. To that end, we support lower taxes, smaller government, pro-growth economic policies focused on job creation, a strong national defense and support for law enforcement.

Working Families (https://workingfamilies.org) We elect leaders who put workers over bosses and people over the powerful. We want to build a New York for the many, not the few. One where everyone can thrive, no matter what you look like, where you were born, who you love, or how much money is in your pocket. Where we can all be free.

Green (www.gpny.org) The Green Party of New York stands on four pillars - ecology, peace, social justice and participatory democracy. The 10 key values place people and planet above profit. The Green Party is both financially and politically independent. The party runs only its own candidates for office and no candidate is allowed to accept corporate donations. For more information visit our website.

Libertarian (https://lpny.org) The fast-growing national party. In NY State, it is dedicated to solutions with limited or no government involvement. Focusing on constitutional principles and a deep respect for the Bill of Rights, the LP is a champion of civil rights, free markets, and self-determination. A principled alternative to the existing two-party system.

Independence (www.independencepartyny.org) The Independence Party believes America needs to establish a “third major party.” This new entity would take no stance on polarizing social issues and, unlike the two major parties, would allow candidates to speak directly to the electorate without changing their personal beliefs in return for an endorsement. It would answer the question: what about the rest of us?

SAM - Serve America Movement (https://joinsam.org) The SAM Party of NY is dedicated to electing responsible government leaders who will advance our state and create an inclusive, thriving economy for all New Yorkers. SAM Party candidates will move beyond divisive partisanship to create a high-performing, innovative government that gets results for residents. We advocate for good government policy, competitive elections, and putting people before politics.

*Thank you to the League of Women Voter of NYS for providing this information, and to LWV Albany County’s own Christine Primomo for taking the initiative to get it done.
CALENDAR

October 3, 5:30-8:30 pm. LWVAC Membership Potluck, Consensus on Albany Co. Ballot Initiatives. Hannaford Store Community Room, 900 Central Avenue, Albany. Contact Pat Maxon maxdanys@aol.com or Regina Tillman rmt370@gmail.com.

October 7 LWVAC VOTE411 goes live.


October 15, 6:00-7:30 pm. Waste Reduction Strategies Workshop, Key issues to address in Albany-Rensselaer-Schenectady Counties. Neil Seldman, Institute for Local Self Reliance. Albany Public Library, 161 Washington Ave, Albany. Contact Mary Beilby, mary.beilby@gmail.com.

October date to be determined. Coeymans Candidates Forum: Town Council, Supervisor, County Legislature. Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk Highschool. Contact contact Patricia Sibilia, patriciasibiliany@gmail.com or 518-221-6460.

October 21, 6:30 pm. LWVAC Board of Directors meeting, Location to be announced. Contact Regina Tillman, rmt370@gmail.com.

October 22, 7:00 pm, Bethlehem Candidates Forum: Town Council and Highway Superintendent, Bethlehem Town Hall. Co-sponsored by Spotlight News. Contact contact Patricia Sibilia, patriciasibiliany@gmail.com or 518-221-6460.

October 26-November 23 Early Voting. For locations, check Albany County Board of Elections. (Or your own county of residence board of elections.)

October 29, 7:00 pm, Colonie Candidates Forum: Town Council and Supervisor, Red Lion Hotel, 205 Wolf Road. Co-sponsored by Spotlight News. Contact contact Patricia Sibilia, patriciasibiliany@gmail.com or 518-221-6460.

November 5 GENERAL ELECTION, polls are open 6 am to 9 pm. Find your polling place and candidate information at VOTE411.

November 18, 6:30 pm LWVAC Board of Directors meeting, location to be announced. Contact Regina Tillman, rmt370@gmail.com.
League of Women Voters of Albany County
PO Box 611
Slingerlands, NY 12159

Membership 2019-20 - Join & Make a Difference

Name: _____________________________________________________________
Address, City, Zip: __________________________________________________

Phone: __________________________ Email: ____________________________

___ Individual Membership$60/year  ___ Send me newsletters by mail

___ Household Membership$90/year  ___ Just use my email for newsletters

___ Student Membership$25/year  ___ Contribution in support of my local League

___ I’d like to join, this is the best I can do  ___ Please send me more information

___ tax deductible contribution to LWVNYS Education Fund

Mail to: League of Women Voters of Albany County, PO Box 611, Slingerlands, NY 12159
Or join online at lwvalbany.org/join-renew.html.