Directions to the Board:  

June 9, 2019

#1 Reference  Brent Staples column and LWVUS response/apology published in the LWVNYS Voter, July 2019. In addition, the state board is committed to our Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) policies and will work with LL’s to adopt and embrace DEI policies. DEI information and training webinars are available on the LWVUS website.  

Suzanne Stassevitch, President

Local League- Scarsdale, Rivertowns, Port Washington & Manhasset

Names: Julie Meer-Harnick, Jodie Reaver, Leah Dembitzer, Michele Lamberti, Judy Esterquest

Motion:

As we celebrate the centennial of our organization, passage of the 19th Amendment, along with the courage, persistence and vision of our founding members, we find it essential to apologize for our overt racism-explicit and implicit, in word and deed, that betrayed suffragists of color and our own best selves. This enabled subsequent, entrenched racism in our country and communities. Going forward, in our next 100 years, it is essential for us to be thoughtful, transparent, consistent and constant, as we acknowledge past mis-steps and betrayals—and do better in the future. We seek to direct the New York State League of Women Voters Board to issue a public apology and acknowledgment- and to recommend local leagues to open dialogues with our membership, organizations focused on people of color, and our broader communities. Finally, we respectfully request the board to now ask these delegates for a voice of support or no support.

#2 Issues and Advocacy- Health Care Financing was adopted as a part of program planning for 2019-2021 at convention. Contact the state office to participate in the study committee.

Local League- Southwest Nassau

Names: Jane Thomas

Motion:  Direction regarding Recommended Motion #2. Now that the NY Health Act has passed the NY Assembly multiple times and has 31 co-sponsors (of 63 senators), the Board recommends studying the many public financing options being proposed. The objective would be to develop a general framework for evaluating public financing at the level of magnitude required for full – access health care—and to apply it to the bill we have supported for a decade.

#3 Issues and Advocacy -LWVNYS sent a letter (August 1, 2019) to the Governor urging him to sign the Maternal Mortality Review Board bill (A 3276 Joyner/S 1819 Rivera).

Local League- Saratoga

Names: Pattie Garrett

Motion:  I urge the LWV to give attention to maternal mortality in NYS. Women are dying and its preventable. The rate of maternal mortality is increasing esp among women of color. We rank 30th among the states for maternal mortality. Mothers are dying needlessly. Let us support legislation that will change this trend, let us urge the government and legislators to enact the recommendations from the Governor’s task force on maternal mortality. Let us give a voice to the women who can no longer be heard. This is important.
#4 **Issues and Advocacy** - LWVUS, in a pilot project, has posted information for a concurrence on Electoral Systems, for all League members to consider. Supporting materials are available on the LWVUS website for Leagues to review before convention June 2020 when the concurrence will be put to a vote of the delegates.

LWVNY public policy positions on Elections are part of the update/review approved as part of the program for 2019-2021.

**Local League**-Albany  
**Names:** Mary Beilby  
**Motion:** Board should address election process and voting methods in their review of election law. Consider positions of other state leagues and build on their research and evaluation of voting methods.

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#5 **Voter Services** - LWVUS has redesigned VOTE411 this year and improved the user flow on both desktop and mobile. VOTE 411 has been completely overhauled making it easier for voters to view and interact with the information on the website. LWVNY will be checking the information to make sure that it accurately reflects the laws and regulations for our state. We strongly recommend that all our local leagues promote VOTE 411. We have earned the reputation of having the gold standard when it comes to voting and believe that voters should be directed to our own voters' guide. Judie Gorenstein, First VP LWVNY

**Local League**-Albany  
**Names:** Patricia Sibilia  
**Motion:** That we partner with VoteSmart as it is a complementary product that informs voters in a way that Vote411 does not, and that it would be reinventing the wheel to enhance Vote411 to include what it contains.

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#6 **Voter Services** - While LWVNY board appreciates all the LWV of Huntington has accomplished in creating and disseminating Public Service Announcements to Get Out the Vote in not only Huntington but in all of Suffolk County and on Long Island and while the board also realizes that PSAs could certainly help increase educate and increase voter turnout throughout the state if done statewide, at this time LWVNY is not able to take action for a statewide law to produce and disseminate an audio and graphic PSA to help GOTV. Your idea for a statewide law will be brought up to the board in the future. However, we are including your write up of your PSA project in our new Get Out the Vote Toolkit which will be sent to all voter service chairs and on our webpage in September in order that leagues can learn from one another. We are hopeful other leagues will create and disseminate their own PSAs.

**Local League**-Huntington  
**Names:** Mary Speed-Perri (cell-516,343,5182)  
**Motion:** We are requesting that the LWVNY take action to ask for a Statewide law to produce and disseminate an audio and graphic PSA (public service announcement) during every election season to help Get Out the Vote (GOTV). To include: Broadcast, on NY Public Transportation, (ie MTA, LIRR, BusCo’s, Colleges, DMVs, Govt Offices, T.V, and various Social Media, Digital Highway signs...etc....

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#7 YES, will do. See answer to #8.

**Local League**-Saratoga  
**Names:** Lori Dawson  
**Motion:**  
I don't know how to do this, but can we look at educating the delegates about Robert’s Rules, AND can the State Board have a “SCRIPT” to use while running convention? We use one at Saratoga Annual Mtgs—it is very helpful—You can leave space for possible scenarios that may arise.

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#8 Robert’s Rules is a democratic process. We will endeavor to explain more carefully as the meeting progresses, with visuals (perhaps a third screen, where we can keep track of where we are in the process). We do provide delegates with information and training sessions with the Parliamentarian. We can consider keeping track of who is a first-time delegate and schedule a caucus for first time attendees. Suzanne Stassevitch, President

**Local League**-Port Washington-Manhasset  
**Names:** Michele Lamberti  
**Motion:**  
In light of the continuing issues arising as we attempt to conduct our plenary sessions in a fair, clear, concise and democratic fashion and the confusion that arises even among our most seasoned delegates, I direct the LWVNYS board to seriously consider studying amending the LWVNYS board by-laws to consider a process other than Robert’s Rules of Order as our process for conducting plenary sessions the Board should consider a process that encourages and allows for easy, clear delegate participation and a more democratic process.

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#9 Voter Service – The Empty Chair workshop engaged the attendees and led to a meaningful discussion. The follow up directions to the board also led to a meaningful discussion on our Empty Chair Policy. Although the requirements for this policy remain the same, there is flexibility on what this policy may be called.

**Empty Chair Policy:** Two or More Candidates for Each Race Must Be Present

Requirements for any candidate event:  
- includes two or more candidates for each race  
- is staged in a way that is fair to all participating candidates, i.e. the format does not promote or give an advantage to one candidate over the other(s)

Leagues can call this policy  
- Empty Chair  
- Empty Chair: Two or More Candidates for Each Race Must Be Present  
- or just say Candidate Event policy

(Leagues who have been successfully using the title Empty Chair or those wanting to use other title can do so. Those just wanting to give requirements do not need to use title.)

**Local League**-Rochester Metro Area  
**Names:** Judy Weinstein  
**Motion:**
This is the consensus of the caucus on the “No Empty Chair” policy.

1) The policy name should be changed to reflect the definition of the policy, for example, “No event with only 1 candidate for each race”

2) Consider adding to the policy that each local league can decide on its own policy for multi-seat races.

#10 Go for it!!! LWVNYS does not have the bandwidth to lead such an effort.

Local League - East Nassau
Names: Barbara Epstein
Motion: NYS leagues plan for a major event for 100th anniversary of 19th Amendment, such as a parade in NYC or other cities and states throughout the US.

#11 Issues and Advocacy - We will take a look at this in the Fall. We have always supported GENDA legislation including the NYS legislation that was passed and signed last winter in Albany. VP Issues and Advocacy, Sally Robinson

Local League - Saratoga
Names: Lori Dawson
Motion: I ask the State Board to request that the regional league support H.R 5/S788 known as the “Equality Act” - which will amend existing civil rights law to explicitly include sexual orientation and gender identity as protected characteristics. (The full bill is available by searching H.R 5 & Senate 788)
Article XIV
Amendments

These bylaws may be amended at any biennial convention by a two-thirds vote of the delegates present and voting. Changes proposed by local leagues and ILO’s shall be submitted to the board at least three months prior to a convention. All such proposed amendments and shall be sent by the board to the president of each local League and ILO, and to the chair of each MAL unit, at least six weeks prior to the convention, together with the recommendations of the board. The presidents of all local Leagues shall notify the members of their respective Leagues of the proposed amendments. The failure of a local president to give such notice or failure of any member to receive such notice shall not invalidate amendments to the bylaws adopted at any convention.

If necessary to comply with any law or regulation governing the LWVNYS, bylaws may be adopted, amended or repealed by the board of directors. Any bylaw adopted by the board may be amended or repealed by the members in conformity with the procedure hereinabove described for the adoption, amendment or repeal of bylaws by the members.

Local League-Saratoga

Names: Lori Dawson

Motion: I ask the Board to make Board procedures readily available to the members so that we are better able to understand how board members may impact the bylaws. This information is helpful when preparing for convention.

Local League-Saratoga

Names: Linda Gush

Motion: I encourage the BOD to make development of a plan for long term financial stability a priority and seek assistance from local leagues.

Local League-Rochester Metro Area

Names: Judy Weinstein

Motion: There was ample and appropriate notice for the budget discussions in the pre - convention materials. The recommendation for an increase in PMP is part of the budget process which begins in January preceding the convention in June.
**Motion:** It seems like a recommended increase in PMP deserves highlighting, not buried in dense text on p27 (or wherever it was) in the Pre-Convention kit. I think there would have been less hostility if there were better notice.

#15 I have reviewed the materials provided by LWV Cortland and followed some of the suggested links to clarify what Plain Writing principles and practices are for the League. What is considered plain language is what is appropriate "Best Practices" for different industries or purposes. That said, what are the official documents? Legal, they are, what they are because the language is given to us to follow. We must follow New York State Non-Profit laws, the IRS and the Nation LWV.

Financial/Budget- plain English, pretty straight forward.

Governing documents; We are planning to review and update many of our organization documents
- Policies and Procedures; Up for review for Clarity
- Bylaws are reviewed for clarity and relevance bi-annually.

We are in the process of updating our public policy positions as they are in the Impact on Issues publication for clarity and relevance. This will be a multi-year process.

Best Practices for our 'industry', Voter information, can be found at the Center for Civic Design. The manuals and guides are in downloadable pdf format. These are great tools for clear presentation of materials for voters which we will add to the website resources along with short guides on power-points and other speaker’s tools. Suzanne Stassevitch, President

**Local League-**Cortland

**Names:** Alison King

**Motion:**
(See attachment,)

We ask that the principles and practices of the Plan Writing Act be applied to all official documents connected to the LWV.