

LWVNEW JUNE 2024 NEWSLETTER

THE ANNUAL MEETING

IN THE BOOKS

LWVNEW's 2024 Annual Meeting was well-attended and very productive. We voted on the budget, programming, bylaw changes, and slate for the coming year; all of the proposals passed and have been adopted.

The library space was very nice and lent itself to conducting business, mingling, and snacking! Anice Mills was our raffle winner, going home with a basket of Suffrage-themed goodies. President Susan Ferris Rights gave out yellow roses (another Suffrage theme) to departing Board members Del Bashkow and Peter Parsons, both of whom were stepping down from director positions, and to Lynne Landau, who will remain on the Board but is stepping down as Treasurer. Del, who will mark 50 years as a League member next year, was presented with a *Votes for Women* museum reproduction pin. She will serve on the next Nominating Committee. While last year's Annual Meeting was followed by a luncheon and attended by many elected officials (our invited guests), we opted for something different this year: just "us." Everyone

wore nametags and it was a great opportunity to meet face-to-face and get to know each other a bit better. We also hoped that by holding the meeting in the evening, we'd offer a viable option to those who are unable to attend a meeting or event on a weekday afternoon. We had a great turnout and more than enough members in attendance to constitute a quorum; thank you again to those of you who came out and helped set us up for success in the coming League year, which officially begins July 1.

The Annual Meeting packets that were given out to everyone in attendance were mailed to the rest of our membership and we hope you will look through yours, if you have not already done so. It really gives you a sense of everything that our group accomplished in 2023-2024.

Let's keep building on this!

VOTER SERVICE

NEW YORK STATE PRIMARY JUNE 25

In our districts, there are no primaries for Congress, State Senate, State Assembly, or local offices.

There is a Democratic party primary for Westchester County District Attorney; if you are a registered Democrat, you are eligible to vote in this primary. You may also want to watch the League of Women Voters of Westchester's candidate forum, which was held on June 4. The link is here:

[LWVW Westchester County District Attorney Democratic Primary Candidate Forum - YouTube](#)

The Early Voting period will run from Saturday, June 15 to Sunday, June 23.

More information about dates and deadlines will be posted on the [Elections & Voting](#) page of our website, LWVNEW.org/elections-voting.

SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATE FORUMS

>Somers Central School District

Our first foray into school board candidate forums in Somers was well-attended and well-received. The live stream on the Somers school district's YouTube channel had approximately 400 views! The recording was also made available for viewing on-demand in the lead-up to the election.

Thank you to Myra Hopper for being our timekeeper and to Bruce Rights & Susan Ferris Rights for attending in support.



The Somers school board candidates participate in a forum moderated by LWVW President Kathy Meany. (photo credit: LWVNEW)

>North Salem Central School District Monday, May 13

This forum was not well-attended. However, it *did* stream live and the recording was made available for viewing on-demand afterwards. A local media outlet also covered the event. Thank you to Nzingha Milanes for doing the timekeeping and to Susan Ferris Rights for acting as our moderator.



North Salem candidates (photo credit: LWVNEW)

>Katonah-Lewisboro School District

KLSD handled its own forum, organized by the district's Parent Council. We publicized the event and made the link available on our website and Facebook page.

>Bedford School District

We set aside a date with the Bedford school district clerk but then the election was uncontested, so no candidate forum was held.

These virtual and in-person programs provide voters with valuable, important opportunities to learn about their candidates. *We can only put them on when members volunteer to help.*

Consider offering to help organize a future candidate forum!

STUDENT VOTER REGISTRATION

Student voter registration was held at **Fox Lane High School** on May 3. Our Table was staffed by Anice Mills and Janet Gaffey. (Thank you!) Anice & Janet registered 22 new voters.

Our final student voter registration of the spring occurred at **Somers High School** on May 20. Many thanks to volunteers Myra Hopper and Barbara Berger. 8 students registered. Adding this to the 20 John Jay students who registered in April, that's **a total of 50 for the spring and nearly 100 (99, to be exact!) for 2023-2024.**



Barbara & Myra at Somers High School
(Photo credit: LWVNEW)

As always, many thanks to Allison Chernow for making all of the arrangements with the school districts and volunteers.

CCNW REGISTRATION TRAINING

Our new partnership with the Community Center of Northern Westchester (CCNW) continues with the training of Spanish-speaking voter registration volunteers by LWVNEW's Susan Ferris Rights. Susan conducted the training in mid-May.

LWVNYS TEXT MESSAGING SERVICE

Want to receive reminders about elections and voting? Text VOTENY to 474747 to start receiving reminders from the League of Women Voters of New York State.

MEMBERSHIP**RENEWALS**

If you recently received a notice about renewing your membership, please make your payment as soon as possible.

As stated in the notice, membership payments can be made by mail to LWVNEW, PO Box 385, Cross River, NY 10518 or online at www.LWVNEW.org/membership.



Welcome to
our newest member,
David Hopper

STUDENTS INSIDE ALBANY**LATE DEVELOPMENTS**

At the beginning of May, we heard from Aya Schwartz that she was going to have to miss the SIA trip due to an injury requiring surgery. The following week, Alice Cai dropped out, citing schedule conflicts.

So, after selecting two students, we ended up sending *zero* students to SIA. Needless to say, this was a huge disappointment. Our SIA Liaison, Tracy Fulop, quickly notified the State League both times, as there was a waiting list of students from other local leagues around the state. LWVNY was able to

host fifty-nine students at the conference which, by all accounts, went very well.

We had a brief discussion at the Annual Meeting and agreed that perhaps offering the SIA program to high school juniors would help prevent a last-minute cancellation from happening again. A junior could include SIA in their college application materials, providing extra incentive to attend.

OTHER**LWVUS CONVENTION**

Based on our membership numbers, we are allotted two delegates for the LWVUS National Convention. The biennial event takes place this year June 27-30.

Nzingha Milanes has agreed to attend as a virtual delegate.

If you are interested in serving as our second delegate, please contact Susan as soon as possible:

susanferris123@gmail.com or 908-568-1884.

LWVNYS COUNCIL

In the years when LWVUS holds its convention, LWVNYS holds Council. This year's State Council is on June 11; next year, LWVNYS will hold a convention in Albany.

We are allotted two voting delegates at the state level. President Susan Ferris Rights will attend Council virtually on June 11 and cast our two ballots.

LWVW CONVENTION

This year’s League of Women Voters of Westchester (LWVW) Convention will be held in person on June 6. LWVNEW members Nancy Miringoff and Kimberly Morella will join Susan Ferris Rights as attendees.

NEW YORK’S ERA

As of this writing, the New York State Equal Rights Amendment will not appear on the ballot in November. A judge has ruled that the State Senate made a procedural error in approving the amendment and this ruling removes the ERA from statewide ballots.

The League of Women Voters of New York fully expects this situation to change and is confident that, upon appeal, the NY-ERA will be restored to the ballot.

LEVELS OF LEAGUE

A reminder that, while the League never supports or opposes candidates, it *does* hold positions on issues. LWVUS & LWVNYS provide advocacy opportunities for League members to get further involved if they so choose.

LWVNEW is overwhelmingly focused on local voter service and voter education.

LWVNEW BOARD MEETINGS 2023-24

Here’s the remaining schedule:

NEW DATE! >TUES JUN 18

Board & Committee Chairs

7 pm on ZOOM

ANY MEMBER is welcome to attend our monthly Board meetings.



TO DO LIST

- ✓ Read through the Annual Meeting Packet (handed out at the meeting or mailed to you)
- ✓ Think about how YOU can help out this fall
- ✓ If your party is holding a primary, VOTE early or on June 25
- ✓ Make a dues payment (if you’ve received a renewal reminder)

