

## LWVNEW SUMMER 2023 NEWSLETTER

### VOTER SERVICE



#### **CONTESTED LOCAL ELECTIONS IN ALL FIVE TOWNS**

The fall election season looks to be a busy one! In order to provide candidate forums to all five of our towns, we are going to need volunteers. Work has begun on Mount Kisco, North Salem, and Bedford. **YOU DO NOT NEED TO RESIDE IN A TOWN TO BE INVOLVED IN PLANNING ITS CANDIDATE FORUM!** For instance, while we don't currently have any members in Pound Ridge, we *do* serve the voters there.

The forums in Pound Ridge and Lewisboro would be virtual. This has several benefits, including the fact that all of the technical "stuff" is built in and handled by the community media center we work with. You would handle the participant outreach and organization. **THIS IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT VOTER SERVICES THAT WE OFFER. LET'S STEP UP AND MAKE IT HAPPEN IN ALL FIVE OF THE TOWNS THAT WE COVER!**

Contact Susan:

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or Lisa: [LCP328@gmail.com](mailto:LCP328@gmail.com);  
646-341-3332; [LWVNEW@gmail.com](mailto:LWVNEW@gmail.com)

As of right now, the date of the Mount Kisco forum is Wednesday, October 3. The North Salem forum is scheduled for October 11. Bedford is TBD. Rest assured we will keep you in the loop on all of the pertinent details as things progress.

Here are the contested races for the fall elections:

#### Bedford Town Council

(4 candidates for 2 seats)

Bobbi Bittker

Tom Catoliato

Mike Palladino

Don Scott

#### Lewisboro Supervisor (2 candidates)

Tony Goncalves

Mary Ann Loustaunau

#### Lewisboro Town Council

(4 candidates for 2 seats)

Alison Biddle

Stephen Lennox

Richard Sklarin

Dan Welsh

#### Mount Kisco Mayor (2 candidates)

Lisa Abzun

Michael Cindrich

Mount Kisco Town-Village Trustee

(4 candidates for 2 seats)

Jean Farber

Angie Garcia-Guerra

Theresa Mazzaro-Flora

Karine Patino

North Salem Town Council

(3 candidates for 2 seats)

Elizabeth Almeyda

Katherine Daniels

Brent Golisano

Pound Ridge Supervisor (2 candidates)

Kevin Hansan

John McCown

Pound Ridge Town Council

(5 candidates for 2 seats)

Alison Boak

Christopher Boey

Susan Lee

Namasha Schelling

Cynthia Shereda

Again, we hope to **hold candidate forums for all contested races...BUT we can only do this if we have volunteers who are willing to help.** Don't be intimidated or afraid! Take a look at the other attachment being sent with this newsletter, which explains the process for planning a virtual candidate forum. **You may be surprised to see how much of the work is done by the media center we partner with.**

**➡ This is a high-impact endeavor. You would be helping fellow voters learn**

*about the people running for office. An informed electorate is so important!*

**NO MORE PRINTED VOTERS GUIDE; FULL PIVOT TO VOTE411.ORG**

This fall's election season will be a little different for our members and donors, as the LWV of Westchester County will no longer be printing the Voters Guide and, subsequently, we will no longer be mailing them. With the advent of Early Voting, the publishing deadline got very early -- as did the deadline for candidate submissions. Less and less candidates were fully participating.

*NEVER FEAR: THE LEAGUE STILL HAS YOUR BACK!* The League website [Vote411.org](http://Vote411.org) is a *great* resource. One of the many things you can do at [Vote411.org](http://Vote411.org) is duplicate the printed Voters Guide experience: find out who will be on your ballot and read the information submitted by the candidates. Many of you may have been utilizing [Vote411.org](http://Vote411.org) for a few years now. For those of you who relied solely on the printed Guide, we know change can be difficult but trust us: [Vote411.org](http://Vote411.org) is terrific!

**MOUNT KISCO DEMOCRATIC MAYORAL PRIMARY**

Our candidate forum was well-attended by residents and covered by local media outlets. The Village of Mount Kisco streamed the forum on Facebook Live

and made it available afterwards for viewing-on-demand, in both English and Spanish.

In addition, both candidates submitted information to [Vote411.org](http://Vote411.org).

### **REGISTERING THE FORMERLY INCARCERATED**

Our Voter Registration Chair, Allison Chernow, has provided an update and it's an exciting one!

As you know from reading these newsletters, Allison had applied for and received grant money from the League of Women Voters of the United States to work on voter registration of formerly incarcerated people. She partnered with Rehabilitation Through the Arts (RTA); Charles Moore, a formerly incarcerated RTA alum, was going to join her at parole offices and serve as a "credible messenger" as they offered voter registration.

Allison's plan has changed – and grown! Long story short, she and RTA will be partnering with other social justice groups to hold one big voter registration event that also has a civics component. The event may also feature elected officials who were once incarcerated, providing more "credible messengers." The League of Women Voters of the US grant liaison enthusiastically signed off on the plan and suggested that Allison contact people at the League of Women

Voters of New York City, who also received a grant to register the formerly incarcerated.

The hope is that by collaborating with other organizations, the event will be higher profile and allow for more voter registration. Watch this space!

### **VOTER REGISTRATION AND NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION DAY**

NVRD is Tuesday, September 19, and it would be fitting to offer some voter registration opportunities on that day. We usually go into local high schools a bit later on the school calendar, based on dates that work for the various schools. We'll see if we can make NVRD work. Regardless, there *will* be student voter registration this fall; once dates are set, we will reach out for volunteers.

### **MEMBERSHIP**

#### **WE RECEIVED A MEMBERSHIP AWARD!**

At the State League Convention in June, LWVNEW was the recipient of the Anna Lord Strauss Membership Award for Outstanding Growth in Leagues with Membership Between 50 and 150.

#### **DUES**

We've had a small flurry of membership renewals recently – thank you! You will receive a renewal notice when your one-year membership is expiring. If you *have* received a renewal notice but have not

yet paid, please do so as soon as possible. You can pay at the website or mail a check to the PO box.

>Pay by mail:

PO Box 385, Cross River NY 10518

>Pay online:

[www.LWVNEW.org/membership](http://www.LWVNEW.org/membership)

>Questions? Contact Membership Chair Lisa Pizzurro at [LWVNEW@gmail.com](mailto:LWVNEW@gmail.com)

### STUDENT MEMBERSHIPS

A reminder that students may join LWVNEW free of charge! A student membership is available to those enrolled full or part time with an accredited institution. We currently have 5 student members, some in high school, some in college.

[www.LWVNEW.org/membership](http://www.LWVNEW.org/membership) or by contacting Membership Liaison Lisa Pizzurro at [LWVNEW@gmail.com](mailto:LWVNEW@gmail.com).

*Speaking of student members...  
A warm welcome to our newest student members,  
Andea Sarno  
and  
Marcus Sarno!*

### STUDENT OUTREACH

#### STUDENTS INSIDE ALBANY

Pierce & Jesse attended the first in-person SIA conference since 2019. Here was some feedback from Pierce about his experience:

*"It was absolutely wonderful as a networking and learning experience! I loved touring the Court of Appeals, Capitol, attending a State Senate and Assembly session, and more. I shadowed the staff of Senator Pete Harckham due to the fact he was absent for his daughter's wedding in England. I also shadowed the staff and Assemblymember Burdick himself...I learned a lot about advocacy groups, interest groups, lobbyists, how they all interact, and policymaking."*

We are so happy – and relieved – that SIA 2023 went off without a hitch. The pandemic really hit that program hard over the past few years.

### OTHER

#### LWVNYS CONVENTION

Last month, LWVNEW President Susan Ferris Rights and Secretary Bruce Rights attended the League of Women Voters of New York State's Convention in Albany, acting as our voting delegates. At the LWVNY convention two new studies were adopted.

1. New Study on the use of Ranked Choice Voting and alternatives to party primaries for state, congressional and local offices.

2. New Study on the process used by the state Board of Elections to approve voting systems with the purpose of seeing if the process can be improved to be more effective in ensuring that approved voting systems meet a balance of the SARAT (“secure, accurate, recountable, accessible and transparent”) criteria.

Members of local leagues were invited to join the two state committees to research, collect, and review available material about the pros and cons of these issues, including current usage and practices.

As a committee member, you develop questions to guide local leagues’ studies and select materials for them to review order for them to agree or disagree with the position.

If consensus is reached by the local leagues and the Board approves, it becomes a state position and all leagues may advocate for its adoption - including at the state level.

### THE NEW YORK STATE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

One of the nice things about joining LWVNEW – or any local League – is that you automatically become a member of the County, State, and National Leagues. LWVNEW focuses *overwhelmingly* on local issues...but for members who wish to get involved on a larger level, those opportunities exist.

As many of you know, the New York State Equal Rights Amendment (NOT the ERA from many years ago) is a proposed amendment to the *New York State*

Constitution that adds explicit protections for people who experience discrimination.

Because the constitutional amendment passed twice in two separate NYS legislatures (2022 & 2023), the public will have the opportunity to vote on the measure in 2024.

LWVNEW members Katherine Daniels and Susan Ferris Rights serve on the League of Women Voter’s State Taskforce and are working on this measure to get it passed.

The election, in 2024, will be the final step to having this amendment in place. The League feels that a constitutional amendment such as this needs to be in place to permanently protect our rights in the state constitution. The New York State Equal Rights Amendment would enshrine these rights, ensuring that they are protected no matter who is in office.



Read more at the State League website: [The New York State Equal Rights Amendment | League of Women Voters NYS \(lwvny.org\)](https://www.lwvny.org)

**LWVNEW BOARD MEETINGS 2023-24**

This League year, we plan for both the LWVNEW Board and LWVNEW Committee Chairs to attend monthly Board meetings on an alternating basis. The meetings with both the Board and Committee Chairs will be held at NIGHT via ZOOM; meetings of the Board only will be held in the afternoon at Susan’s house, 10 Deer Ridge Road, Mount Kisco.

Here’s the schedule going forward:

- TUES AUG 8** LWVNEW Board only  
12:30 pm at 10 Deer Ridge Rd
- TUES SEPT 12** Board & Committee Chairs  
7 pm on ZOOM
- TUES OCT 17** (LWVNEW Board only)  
12:30 pm at 10 Deer Ridge Rd
- TUES NOV 14** Board & Committee Chairs  
7 pm on ZOOM
- TUES DEC 12** (LWVNEW Board only)  
12:30 pm at 10 Deer Ridge Rd
- TUES JAN 9** Board & Committee Chairs  
7 pm on ZOOM
- TUES FEB 13** (LWVNEW Board only)  
12:30 pm at 10 Deer Ridge Rd
- TUES MAR 12** Board & Committee Chairs  
7 pm on ZOOM
- TUES APR 9** (LWVNEW Board only)  
12:30 pm at 10 Deer Ridge Rd
- MAY TBD**  
ANNUAL MEETING
- TUES JUN 11** Board & Committee Chairs  
7 pm on ZOOM

*ANY MEMBER is welcome to attend our monthly Board meetings.*

**SOCIAL MEDIA**

A reminder that LWVNEW is pretty active on Facebook. We really encourage those of you who use social media to 1) like and follow LWVNEW and 2) share our posts. (Some of you already do this. We see you! Thank you!)

Facebook: League of Women Voters of North East Westchester

Twitter: @LWVNEW

**QUICK RECAP OF 2022-2023**

This was in the last newsletter but is worth repeating. **THIS** is LWVNEW!

**LWVNEW’S IMPACT 2022-2023**

**>5 CANDIDATE FORUMS:**

**Fall: (2)** - State Assembly and State Senate

**Spring: (3)** -Two School Boards  
-Mt Kisco Democratic Mayoral Primary

**Fall & Spring:** Several members moderated forums throughout Westchester

**>7 STUDENT VOTER REGISTRATIONS:**

**Fall:** 4 Schools, 78 Completed Forms

**Spring:** 3 Schools, 82 Completed Forms

**>VOTERS GUIDE/VOTE 411:**

-Gathered information for print & online  
-Mailed Guides to our members & donors

**>STUDENTS INSIDE ALBANY:**

-Sent two students

**>PROGRAMS:**

-Songs of the Suffragists  
-NYS Housing Compact w/Chris Burdick

**OTHER:**

-Members volunteered their time at the County, State & National League levels