

LWVNEW MAY 2024 NEWSLETTER

THE ANNUAL MEETING

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 22
POUND RIDGE LIBRARY, 7 PM**

Please RSVP if you have not already done so!

This should be a nice evening, with coffee & goodies and a (free) raffle.



There is no charge – just bring yourself! Let's take care of the required League business and then get to know each other better. **A reminder that we need a quorum in order to vote, so your attendance is important.**

The library is located at 271 Westchester Ave in Pound Ridge. While it will still be light out at the start of the evening, it will be dark when we're done; anyone uncomfortable with night driving should include that in their RSVP.

RSVP to Susan at 908-568-1884 or susanferris123@gmail.com.

VOTER SERVICE

**SCHOOL BOARD & BUDGET VOTES
Tuesday, May 21**

Bedford Central, Katonah-Lewisboro, and North Salem Central school district voters are to vote at the elementary school serving their respective attendance areas. Somers Central voters vote in gymnasium of the Somers Middle School.

If you have **any** questions, there is more information available on our website's *Elections & Voting* page, including phone numbers for the school district clerks. www.LWVNEW.org/elections-voting



The deadline to register in time for this year's school elections is May 16. You may register at your school district's business office, with some districts holding special evening and Saturday registrations. All of the pertinent info can be found on the website page mentioned above.

SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATE FORUMS

>Bedford Central School District

Two candidates are running for two seats, so there is no forum.

>Somers Central School District

**Somers Middle School Library
Street Address Route 202, Somers
Thursday, May 9, 7:30 pm**

This is a co-sponsorship with the Somers PTA Council. Four candidates are running for two seats. School district residents may submit questions in advance to

somers.ptacouncil@gmail.com. For a submission to be considered, it must include the questioner's name & address; this will not be read aloud at the forum but instead used to verify school district residency. The submission deadline is Sunday, May 5.

This forum is free and open to the public.

If anyone would like to volunteer to do the timekeeping that night, please let us know at LWVNEW@gmail.com.

**>North Salem Central School District
North Salem Middle/High School
Library**

**230 June Road, North Salem
Monday, May 13 at 7 pm**

There are three candidates running for two seats. School district residents are encouraged to attend and come with

questions for the candidates, which will be asked from the floor at the forum. Questioners must state their name and affirm that they live in the North Salem school district before asking a question that is respectful and ends with a question mark!

This forum is free and open to the public. It will be livestreamed on the North Salem school district's website.

>Katonah-Lewisboro School District

KLSD handles its own forum, organized by the district's Parent Council. That event will be virtual and is being held on May 7 at 7pm. You can get to the Zoom link from our website.

Information about **all four** school districts' budgets and school board candidates, including links to recordings of any candidate forums, can be found on the Elections & Voting page of our website: www.LWVNEW.org/elections-voting.

If you've never attended a League of Women Voters candidate forum, we highly recommend it! Come see democracy in action.

And consider volunteering to help plan future forums! These virtual and in-person programs give voters a valuable and important opportunity to ask questions and learn about their candidates.

STUDENT VOTER REGISTRATION

Student voter registration was held at **John Jay High School** on the last Friday in April. We registered and pre-registered 20 students.



LWVNEW volunteer Allison Chernow

Next up is Fox Lane High School, May 3. Thank you to volunteers Anice Mills, Janet Gaffey, and to the indefatigable Allison Chernow, who made all of the arrangements.

VOTER REGISTRATION PLANS EXPAND

LWVNEW continues to expand its voter registration outreach. We have established a partnership with the Community Center of Northern Westchester (CCNW). Susan Ferris

Rights will be training some CCNW volunteers to register people to vote.

MEMBERSHIP



Welcome to our newest member, Nancy Miringoff

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

NOT FOR PROFIT MEETING

Susan Ferris Rights has attended some of Bedford's NFP Coffee & Conversation meetings. When the need for a community not-for-profit calendar came up, Susan reached out to a contact of hers and connected Bedford folks with the Girls Who Code club at Fordham University, resulting in a pilot calendar. We look forward to posting our events and opportunities.

STUDENTS INSIDE ALBANY

GETTING TO KNOW THE SIA STUDENTS

Alice and Aya leave in a few weeks for the SIA conference. Let's learn more about them from their applications.

Alice Cai

Hi, my name is Alice Cai and I'm a senior at John Jay High School in Cross River

NY. I'm passionate about advocacy and education, which I've pursued through my research project on treatments for endometriosis-related infertility as part of the Science Research Program at JJHS. I am volunteering on my local hospital's high school public health board and created a sustainable fashion club, whose mission is to educate members of the community about sustainable ethical fashion. I hope to tie these interests and cement advocacy through policy and government action. I also enjoy sewing, listening to music, and drinking bubble tea.

Alice is also the John Jay Valedictorian, a National Merit Scholar semifinalist, Student Council President and a Campus Congress Representative.

Aya Schwartz

Hello, my name is Aya Schwartz, and I am a senior at JJCR High School in New York. I am a Japanese-American who has attended both public schools in Japan as well as attended and graduated from Japanese Weekend school in the States. I have grown up being taught the importance of being an open-minded and thoughtful learner: both formally through my participation in IB and Montessori curriculums in Elementary and Middle school and informally through the relationships I have built

with the members of my community. I have been an active part of both my school and local communities in multiple ways. These include taking on leadership roles in clubs such as Mock Trial and Yearbook, competing on the varsity track team for four years, and being an ambassador for the school Music Technology program, I have also accumulated over 350 hours of community service hours over the last four years through a local community service and leadership program with the Danbury Police Department. I have also participated in my school's honors Humanities research program, where I researched the American food system and gained a passion for understanding how our governments interact with both consumers and corporations. I hope to continue my academic career at a liberal arts college where I plan to study either behavioral decision science or political science while taking part in a ROTC program.

OTHER**LWVUS CONVENTION**

The League of Women Voters is holding its National Convention June 27-30. The biennial event is being held in DC and LWVNEW is allotted two voting delegates, who may attend in-person or virtually. Many thanks to Nzingha

Milanes for agreeing to be a virtual delegate. Anyone else interested? If so, contact Susan Ferris Rights at susanferris123@gmail.com.

NEW YORK'S ERA

The League of Women Voters of New York and, therefore, all local leagues in the state, support the NY-ERA. This amendment passed in two separate legislatures and now goes before the voters; if it passes in November, it becomes a part of the state constitution. If you want to learn more, a recording of the March 9 program with LWVNY Deputy Director Erica Smitka is available on our *News & Events* page: www.LWVNEW.org/events-1.

LWVNEW BOARD MEETINGS 2023-24

Here's the remaining schedule:

>***WEDNESDAY, MAY 22**

ANNUAL MEETING

7 pm at the Pound Ridge Library

>**TUES JUN 11** Board & Committee Chairs
7 pm on ZOOM

ANY MEMBER is welcome to attend our monthly Board meetings and

****ALL MEMBERS are encouraged to attend the Annual Meeting***



TO DO LIST

- ✓ RSVP to the Annual Meeting Invitation
- ✓ Volunteer to act as a timekeeper for the May 9 Somers school board candidate forum
- ✓ Attend *your* school district's candidate forum
- ✓ Read up on your school district's budget and propositions (if any)
- ✓ Let your friends & neighbors know about our *Elections & Voting* page, which has info and links to info
- ✓ Vote on Tuesday, May 21!

Remember... Democracy is not a spectator sport!

The next primary election in New York State is June 25. This will include any primaries for U.S. Congress, NYS Senate & NYS Assembly.

