

## LWVNEW MARCH 2024 NEWSLETTER

### THE ANNUAL MEETING

Toward the end of each league year we hold our Annual Meeting, at which time we vote on the proposed budget, slate, and programs for the next league year.

***In addition to the business at hand is the opportunity to mingle and get to know each other a little better.*** Please mark your calendar and set aside the evening of Wednesday, May 22. We'll be at the Pound Ridge Library at 7 pm for coffee, desserts, and conversation. (Oh, yeah, and some business, too!)

### VOTER SERVICE

#### **NEW! EARLY MAIL BALLOT**

The newly-enacted New York Early Mail Voter Act took effect on January 1 and applies to all elections moving forward. *There is now an additional way to vote.* Early Mail is available to any registered voter in New York State. Unlike Absentee Voting, which has certain criteria that must be met (being out of the area on Election Day, illness, etc.), Early Mail poses no restrictions on registered voters.

### **THERE ARE NOW 4 WAYS TO VOTE!**

- >Early Mail Voting
- >Absentee Voting
- >Early Voting
- >Election Day Voting

Information about all of these options is available on the Elections & Voting page of our website,

[www.LWVNEW.org/elections-voting](http://www.LWVNEW.org/elections-voting).



#### **PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY TUESDAY, APRIL 2**

**EARLY VOTING DAYS MARCH 23-30**

**REGISTER IN PERSON BY MARCH 23**

- REGISTER BY MAIL - MUST BE RECEIVED BY BOE BY MARCH 23
- APPLY FOR ABSENTEE OR EARLY VOTE BY MAIL BALLOT IN PERSON BY APRIL 1
- APPLY FOR ABSENTEE OR EARLY VOTE BY MAIL BALLOT BY MAIL/ONLINE
- MUST BE RECEIVED BY BOE BY MARCH 23
- DELIVER BALLOT IN PERSON BY CLOSE OF POLLS APRIL 2 TO POLL SITE OR BOE
- DELIVER BALLOT BY MAIL - MUST BE POSTMARKED BY APRIL 2 AND MUST BE RECEIVED BY APRIL 9

**DATES, DEADLINES & LINKS RELATED TO APRIL'S PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY**

>**Saturday, March 23:** Last day [voter registration form](#) must be received by the Board of Election by mail or in person. Those with a NY.Gov ID may register using the new [NYS Board of Elections Online Voter Registration portal](#). Check your voter registration status at the [NYS Voter Registration Database Search](#). Last day for an application for a mailed absentee ballot to be received by the Board of Elections. Applications may be made via email, fax, or electronically through the [New York State Absentee Ballot Application Portal](#). See the [New York State Board of Elections website](#) or the [Westchester Board of Elections website](#) for additional details.

>**Monday, April 1:** Last day to apply in person at the Westchester Board of Elections (25 Quarropas Street, White Plains, NY 10601) for an absentee ballot.

>**Tuesday, April 2:** Last day to postmark a completed absentee ballot (must be received by Tuesday April 9, 2024) or to submit an absentee ballot in person to the Westchester Board of Elections or any polling site throughout Westchester County by the close of the polls.

*The other primary election date in New York State is June 25. That primary includes congressional and state senate & assembly seats.*

**REDISTRICTING**

Last winter, New York State was ordered to redraw its congressional district map and the New York State Independent Redistricting Committee (IRC) approved a new map, with a 9-1 vote. The proposal went to the NYS legislature, where the IRC map was voted down and a new map was voted in. This map was signed by the governor.

During this process, the League of Women Voters of New York State had voiced concerns that the IRC was not formally taking public comments before drawing a new map. Once the IRC map was released, LWVNYS released a statement critical of the state legislature for overruling the IRC. [League of Women Voters of NYS Statement on New Congressional Districts Adopted by NYS Legislature | League of Women Voters New York \(lwnyny.org\)](#)

As far as our area is concerned, nothing has changed. All five of the towns that we cover remain in CD-17.

More information is available below. [NY Democrats pass modestly altered congressional maps - City & State New York \(cityandstateny.com\)](#)

**VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVE**

Many thanks to members Anice Mills and Mary Pat Campbell for staffing a voter registration table at the Keeler Library in North Salem on February 24. Thanks also to member Nzingha Milanese and Voter Registration Chair Allison Chernow for helping to organize it. Our next voter registration efforts will likely be our spring session at area high schools.

**VOTER REGISTRATION OF STUDENTS AND THE FORMERLY INCARCERATED**

Susan Ferris Rights, Allison Chernow, and Lisa Pizzurro met via Zoom with our NYS Assemblymember, Chris Burdick, to discuss two new laws enacted this year. One law mandates that schools offer voter registration to students; the other mandates that people being released from prison are provided with voter information and the opportunity to register to vote. Since we have experience in both spaces – and with two prisons in our coverage area – we wanted to talk to our state rep about his understanding of these laws. A staffer is looking into the language of the student voter law. Our hope is that, since we already have relationships with area schools and conduct student registration and pre-registration each spring and fall, we can continue to do so and that our

efforts will assist the schools with compliance with the new law. As for the prison exit voter registration law, we've put together a proposal that Assemblymember Burdick will forward on to the Department of Corrections and Community Service Commissioner. We have proposed that LWVNEW volunteers assist people being released with voter registration in a personalized, one-on-one manner. The thought is that our efforts could serve as a potential pilot program, which could eventually involve local leagues all around the state assisting with voter registration at prison releases.

**PROGRAMS OF INTEREST**

 **COMING UP!**

**PASSING THE NEW YORK STATE  
EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT  
MARCH 9TH, 10:30 AM**

This **hybrid** program is being presented by the AAUW (American Association of University Women) and the speaker is Erica Smitka, Deputy Director of the League of Women Voters of New York State.

The NY ERA will be on our ballots this fall. The comprehensive language of the proposed amendment is as follows:  
*No person shall be denied the equal protection of the laws of this state; No person shall, because of race, color,*

*ethnicity, national origin, age, disability, creed, religion, or sex, including sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, pregnancy, pregnancy outcomes, reproductive healthcare and autonomy, be subjected to any discrimination in their civil rights by any other person or by any firm, corporation, or institution, or by the state or any agency or subdivision of the state.*

LWVNYS supports its passage and we have a few members working toward that outcome.

Learn more about NY's ERA!

**Registration is required for both in-person and online attendance:** [AAUW - Passing the NYS Equal Rights Amendment - League of Women Voters - Greenburgh Public Library Libcal - Greenburgh Public Library](#)

### **LWVNY'S MARCH REGIONAL TRAINING WORKSHOPS**

LWVNY Regional Trainings are scheduled for Saturdays of this month throughout the state. All Board members, chairs of committees, and any and all members are encouraged to attend one of the remaining workshops.

**SOON! Mar 9** Port Washington

**Mar 16** Cortland

**Mar 23** Albany

League members will gather to discuss a variety of topics: DEI, Get-Out-The-Vote,

building leadership and membership, determining mis- and dis-information, and advocacy.

Staff and state board members will travel the state to highlight information on how best to navigate these next important and very crucial months for our democracy. Please sign up and come for a very engaging day.

Register online here: [League of Women Voters of New York State · Regional Trainings 2024 \(lglforms.com\)](#)

Or download, print and mail this form: [b3543622-bbe7-4bff-92a9-d1259b347d22.pdf \(constantcontact.com\)](#)

### **STUDENT OUTREACH**

#### **STUDENTS INSIDE ALBANY**

Watch this space in the April newsletter for an update on our selected students!

### **OTHER**

#### **LOCAL NOT-FOR-PROFIT MEETING**

Susan Ferris Rights and Allison Chernow attended a meeting of Bedford not-for-profit organization leaders and Bedford Supervisor Ellen Calves. The group met at the Katonah Museum of Art "with the objective of enhancing communication and collaboration between the Town and the organizations, as well as amongst the organizations themselves. The concept for a town-wide local event

calendar is being explored and an event for sharing best practices and socializing will be planned for July.”



Photo credit: Town of Bedford weekly newsletter 2/16/24

### **INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY**

March is International Women’s Month. Are you a knitter? Here’s a fun way to mark International Women’s Day on March 8, from the League of Women Voters of St. Lawrence County in upstate New York:

*LWV SLC would like to invite the knitters in your Leagues to join the campaign described in the press release below which will launch on March 8, International Women’s Day. It’s the brain child of one of our members, Larissa Fawkner, and we’ve also had input from Janet Forbes of AAUW Jamestown. Janet typed up the attached pattern...and made the sample below. We intend to post pictures of ourselves sporting our yellow roses on our*

*personal social media and on the LWVSLC Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/LWVSLC>, and we’ll tag LWV NY and LWV US. We invite you to do the same. In solidarity,  
Kathy, LWV SLC and NYS Rural Caucus*



### **Equal Rights Amendment-NYS Promotion - Yellow Rose Knitting Pattern**

Pattern by Kristen McDonnell from Studio Knit  
Materials - 42 yards Worsted Weight yarn  
Knitting Needles - Size 7 US straight  
needles, tapestry needle, scissors  
Cast on 6 stitches

Row 1 - Knit all stitches

Row 2 - K1, YO, \*K1 (11 stitches)

Row 3 - Knit all stitches

Row 4 - K1, YO, \*K1 (21 stitches)

Row 5 - Knit all stitches

Row 6 - K1, YO, \*K1 (41 stitches)

Row 7 - Knit all stitches

Row 8 - K1, YO, \*K1 (81 stitches)

Row 9 - Knit all stitches Bind off.

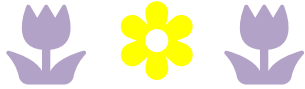
As you bind off, you will see your rose start to take shape by curling in as you are binding off.

Take one end and curl it into a rose shape.

Tack it securely together using your yarn tail & a tapestry needle.

Attach a 1-1/2” safety pin through the back.

**MEMBERSHIP**



*A warm welcome to  
our newest members,  
Mary Pat Campbell  
& Barbara Gerlach.  
And welcome back to  
returning member  
Karen Conti.*

**WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA**

We continue to update the *Elections & Voting* page of our website with primary election information.

Check out the relevant dates and deadlines:

[www.LWVNEW.org/elections-voting](http://www.LWVNEW.org/elections-voting)

The site also has information about membership, as well as links to previous monthly newsletters. Send the link to friends who might be interested in joining!

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

We're also on social media. Find and follow us!

Facebook: LWVNEW

Twitter/X: @LWVNEW

**MONTHLY MEETINGS**

**LWVNEW BOARD MEETINGS 2023-24**

Here's the remaining schedule:

>**TUES MAR 12** Board & Committee Chairs  
7 pm on ZOOM

>**DATE CHANGE! TUES APR 2**  
12:30 pm at 10 Deer Ridge Rd

>**\*WED 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.*



**Democracy is not a  
spectator sport!**