

LWVNEW MARCH 2025 NEWSLETTER

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Well, this newsletter looks quite different from the draft I started a few weeks ago. By now, all members should have received the notification about LWVNEW's future. I'm including it again in this mailing, just in case.

Regardless of what happens next, LWVNEW carries on for the rest of the 2024-25 year. We intend to honor our current commitments and have several springtime activities on the horizon.

If you've ever given even a little bit of thought to joining the LWVNEW Board, now is the time to explore that inclination! *Demonstrating interest does not commit you to anything.* You are free to learn more but ultimately decide that you don't wish to pursue the opportunity.

Speaking of the Board, please make sure to read about former LWVNEW Board member Claudia Dovman and her 50-plus years of continuous League membership. I first met Claudia when I joined the

Board of LWVNEW (which was then the LWV of Bedford-Lewisboro-North Salem) around 2008. In fact, that's when I met all three of the women who went on to become Life Members: Claudia, Peter, and Del. (Lucky me!)

Continued thanks for bearing with us as we simultaneously navigate the planning of our spring activities and the sorting out of our league's future. Regardless of what 2025-26 looks like, it is necessary to tackle the remaining items on LWVNEW's calendar between now and June. We look forward to members volunteering to help us fulfill these commitments.

Okay, in the spirit of "Spring Forward," on we go...

-- Lisa

VOTER SERVICE SCHOOL BOARD & BUDGET VOTES

The 2025 school board elections and budget votes will be held on Tuesday, May 20.

If you are interested in running for a seat on your district's school board, information about how to obtain a prospective candidate packet is available on the various school district websites. The deadline to file as a candidate is Monday, April 21.

Click on the link to your school district for more information.

Bedford Central Schools:
[2025 Budget Vote and Trustee District](#)

Katonah-Lewisboro Schools:
[Annual Budget Vote and Election Information | Katonah-Lewisboro School District](#)

North Salem Central Schools:
[Annual Budget](#)

Somers Central Schools:
[BOE Home - Somers Central School District](#)

SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATE FORUM

A school board candidate forum for the Bedford Central School District is on the books for Thursday May 1, and a moderator is assigned.

After the April 21 candidate filing deadline, we'll know if there is a contested election; if there is, the forum is a "go."

If you are interested in helping with the BCSD forum, please let us know: LWVNEW@gmail.com.

STUDENT VOTER REGISTRATION

Our longtime Voter Registration Chair, Allison Chernow, is moving on to other things.

Through Allison's work over the years, LWVNEW has established relationships at our local high schools and she leaves us in great shape to continue without her. This is not the time to try to fill her position; rather, we will make the arrangements on a school-by-school basis, with a point person for each location.

Springtime student registrations typically take place in late-April/early-May; academic calendars can be especially busy that time of year, but the contact at each school will provide us with the best dates for their school community.

We have a list of members who in the past have indicated an interest in voter registration and/or have staffed a table. If you would like to be added to that list, please let us know as soon as possible:

LWVNEW@gmail.com

STUDENT OUTREACH

STUDENTS INSIDE ALBANY

LWVNEW's student representative for SIA 2025 is Caitlin O'Connor, a junior at Fox Lane High School. We're excited for Caitlin to attend the Albany conference in May!

Many thanks to SIA Chair Tracy Fulop for facilitating this process and making SIA 2025 happen -- for both Caitlin and LWVNEW.

MEMBERS & MEMBERSHIP WELCOME

A warm welcome to our newest members, Maura Fadden Rosenthal and Diane Weingarten, who joined us last month (before the recent change in our situation).

MEMBER STATUS

A league year runs from July 1 to June 30. In the event that our league is unable to continue beyond the current league year, members in good standing on July 1 would be entitled to serve out the remaining time left on their memberships as members-at-large of LWVNYS. Please be assured that more details will be provided should it be necessary. We will keep members apprised of all developments.

CHAPTERSPOT

We have no control over the renewal reminders sent out by LWVUS. If you receive a renewal email (or emails), we suggest that you not take any immediate action; should our league continue, there will be time to renew. (Members are afforded a 60-day grace period beyond their anniversary date.)

MANY THANKS

Many thanks to Allison Chernow for everything she's done to establish LWVNEW's voter registration presence in our local high schools. Her dedication to student registration has resulted in countless new voters. And her post-registration trips down to the Board of Elections to deliver completed forms always provided everyone involved with the knowledge and security that the registrations would be processed. *Sincere thanks, Allison, for all that you've done.*

(ANOTHER) LIFE MEMBER

Longtime member Claudia Dovman is a Life Member of the League of Women Voters. If you recall, Life Members are members who have 50+ years with the League. Claudia has been a continuous member of

the organization for about 54 years, joining the League in Manhattan in 1971. She joined the Rye league in 1977, and in the course of her time there ran program, membership, and served as co-president. In 1986, she joined the Bedford League, where she served as both an active member and a Board member in the group that eventually became LWVNEW.

Our local organization has THREE Life Members: Claudia, Peter Rose, and Del Bashkow. Incredible.

OTHER

NATURALIZATION COURT

Local leagues in Westchester County take turns welcoming our newest citizens at monthly Naturalization ceremonies in White Plains.

LWVNEW has its turn on Wednesday, April 9. It is such a privilege to witness this moving ceremony and to be a welcoming face for our newest Americans.

If you interested in participating, please reach out to Kimberly khmorella@netscape.net no later than March 31.

VIRTUAL LWVNYS STUDY DISCUSSIONS

There are opportunities available for LWVNEW members who wish to

participate in State League discussions about the *Rank Choice Voting Non-Partisan Primary* and/or *Voting Approval Process* studies. LWVNYS will be holding two virtual discussions and Q&A sessions. Individual members may complete an individual response form if they participate in one of these sessions. The first will be held this Thursday, March 27, at 10 a.m.; the second session will be Wednesday, April 30 at 7 p.m.

Registration Links:

March 27 at 10 am:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/DUX8-W3LRqm_L_N7y6pf8Q

April 30 at 7pm:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/mi3gmOMKS0Kwk3oKCDZArw>

VOLUNTEERS

Many thanks to members Kimberly Morella and Joan Damiani, who will be assisting the County League in compiling the *2025 Directory of Officials*. (And thanks to Gail Pantezzi and Janet Gaffey, who had also offered to help.)

Member Susan Ferris Rights continues to act as our liaison to the town of Bedford's Non For Profit group (NFP) and attended the February 27 meeting on our behalf.

ANNUAL MEETING

Annual Meeting 2025 is, unfortunately, up in the air. If we can't field a slate of board candidates, our organization can't continue -- and if we can't continue, there is no need to hold the Annual Meeting, where we vote on a budget, slate, programming, and bylaw changes for the next league year. For now, we kindly ask that you keep Tuesday, June 10 open. This would likely be the date of the Annual Meeting, should we hold one.

REMINDER

While the League never supports or opposes candidates or political parties, it *does* hold positions on issues and advocates for legislation in support of those positions. LWVUS, LWVNYS, and LWV of Westchester County all provide opportunities for members to get further involved if they choose. (The LWVNYS studies mentioned on the previous page of this newsletter are an example of this.) If you are a member who likes this aspect of League membership and/or wants to keep up with the activities and opportunities at the higher levels

of the League, make sure you read the emails from the national, state, and county levels of the organization. There are a LOT of emails! (If you are not receiving them, check your spam folder.)

MEMBER TO-DO LIST

Read/re-read the letter about LWVNEW's future and consider board service for 2025-26.

Contact us by March 31!

LWVNEW@gmail.com or

LCP328@gmail.com

Consider helping with student voter registration or a school board candidate forum – or start by learning more about what's involved. If you want more information or wish to jump in and help, let us know:

LWVNEW@gmail.com.

Consider welcoming new citizens at Naturalization Court next month. **If interested, contact Kimberly Morella by March 31:** kmorella@netscape.net