

LWVNEW JANUARY 2025 NEWSLETTER

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Happy New Year! I hope everyone enjoyed/survived the holidays.

This newsletter deals mainly with membership, which is top of mind for me right now with implementation of the new dues payment system now scheduled for February 3rd. If you recently received a membership renewal reminder and wish to renew, but have not yet done so, please take care of that as soon as possible. LWVUS will take a snapshot of our league's membership roster on January 31, so we need to have everyone current by then. (If we haven't sent you a reminder, you are up-to-date.)

We also have a newly-minted Lifetime Member, Del Bashkow, as well as a new Board Director, Gail Pantezzi. As we honor Del's 50 years of League membership, we also look ahead to Gail's stated desire to lead LWVNEW.

The start of a new calendar year marks the beginning of the second half of the League year. We are looking ahead with optimism.

Read on...

Lisa Pizzurro

MEMBERS & MEMBERSHIP

DEL BASHKOW: 50 YEARS

Please join me in congratulating Del Bashkow on becoming a **50-year** member of the League of Women Voters! Del is now a "Life Member" and will no longer pay dues.

Del is a former Broadway performer, appearing in *The Unsinkable Molly Brown*, *Carnival*, and *Fade Out – Fade In* with Carol Burnett. She spent four years on Broadway with *Man of La Mancha*, starting in two small parts and ending in a lead role in New York and on tour. She also did television back when shows aired live in New York and taught singing until the pandemic.

Del has been a vital part of this league, serving many Board roles over the years, including President. Del has also been actively involved with the League's Naturalization Court program, something near and dear to her as a naturalized citizen herself; she came here from England (and was born in Paris).

We are so fortunate to have *two* Life Members on our roster! Del joins her friend Peter Rose, who became a Life Member in 2023.

NEW BOARD MEMBER

Gail Pantezzi of North Salem has been appointed to the LWVNEW Board as a Director. Gail is a new member who wants to dive right in and get involved. She brings with her many years of Board experience and a firm belief in the importance of an informed electorate. And Gail doesn't just want to get involved – she wants to *lead*.

Many thanks to Nominating Committee member Nzingha Milanes for bringing Gail to our attention. Gail also comes personally recommended by Del, who is also a member of the Nominating Committee.

Gail attended her first Board meeting this week and jumped right in. We look forward to showing Gail the proverbial ropes and benefitting from her ideas and experience.

Welcome, Gail!

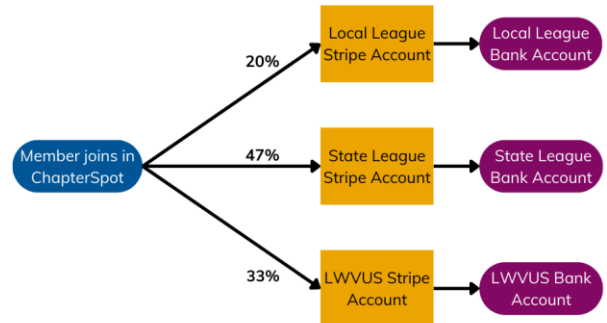
NEW DUES COLLECTION SYSTEM

The League of Women Voters of the U.S. is on track to implement ChapterSpot on February 3. We've had to do a lot of preparation behind the scenes to get ready for this new, standardized system.

Dues have long been collected at the local level, with local leagues then making per member payments (PMPs) to the state and national

Leagues. Starting in February, dues payments will be collected via ChapterSpot and immediately divided between local, state, and national levels of the League.

LWV Membership Dues Flow



Members who wish to renew -- and people who wish to join -- will still be able to do so on the *Membership* page of our website. From there, users will be linked to our ChapterSpot page and *this* is where renewals and sign-ups will occur. (LWVUS would prefer that everyone pay online but realizes some members will still want to pay by check. This option will still be available and information on how to do that will be listed on our website.)

Obviously, we at the local level will try to make this transition as seamless as possible. LWVUS has provided training and has been

walking us through the process. ***That being said, there are sure to be hiccups. Change can be hard!***

We ask for your patience as we transition over to the new system. We also encourage you to reach out with any questions, either before your own renewal or as you renew.

As a result of this new payment system, most local leagues nationwide should end up keeping more money per member. The New York State League has projected the financial impacts for each local league in the state and we are one of many who are projected to benefit, keeping more money per member at the local level. Fingers crossed!

Some of the changes under the new system

>Individual Memberships will no longer be \$60 per year. The new system is pay-what-you-can, with a recommended amount of \$75.

>The *Household Membership* and free *Student Membership* categories are being eliminated.

> ChapterSpot will send out automated renewal reminders 60 days and 30 days prior to your anniversary date.


>An auto-renewal option will be available to any members who want to *set-it-and-forget-it*.

>Members will be able to go into ChapterSpot to update their own personal information, such as address changes.

What won't change

>Membership renewals will continue on a rolling basis, depending on your anniversary date. So, for example, if you joined in the month of March and have always renewed in March, you will continue to do so.

>LWVNEW will still have its own Membership Chair, who will continue to be available to all members and to anyone interested in joining (available, as always, at LWVNEW@gmail.com or via the contact page on our website, LWVNEW.org). The Membership Chair will monitor member status and reach out to our members to make sure they are understanding the renewal process.

 LWVUS has prepared a video demonstrating step-by-step the process of joining or renewing online.

Watch that here:

<https://vimeo.com/1046821379/ac6c340f06?share=copy>

 **Here's what to expect before and after your anniversary date:**

- All members will receive a renewal reminder email 60 days before their anniversary date.
- Members who do not renew in response to the first email will receive a second reminder email 30 days before their anniversary date.
- After that second email, the member may receive a reminder directly from LWVNEW.
- Members not renewing before their anniversary date will receive another reminder email *on* that date.
- Members who still haven't renewed will receive a reminder directly from LWVNEW.
- Unrenewed members will receive a final reminder email 45 days after their anniversary date.
- There is a 60-day grace period after a person's expiration date when they are still considered an active member of the League. After 60 days, they will be considered inactive.

We realize that people may be hesitant to open emails from unfamiliar addresses. The aforementioned renewal reminders will come from membership@lww.org.

ChapterSpot is not being implemented until February 3. *If you were recently sent a renewal reminder, or if your anniversary date is in January, you will*

still renew the 'usual' way and your renewal reminder will reflect that.

LWVUS will be sending members an email this month as part of the onboarding process. Members will be asked to sign into the portal, confirm information that is already entered, and answer a few more questions. *There won't be another password to remember.* You will receive a verification code after you enter your email address.

In addition to dues collection, ChapterSpot will be where league rosters are maintained and updated. The portal will be available to all members; for instance, you will be able to enter information yourself at ChapterSpot (like a change of mailing or email address, phone number, etc.). Vote411 will also be accessible there.

This streamlined system should ultimately benefit our league. By next February, we will all have had a turn with ChapterSpot; again, we are here to help!

FYI

Breakdown of Dues

Under Current System:

National 51%, State 37%, Local 12%

Under ChapterSpot System

National 33%, State 47%, Local 20%

(These percentages are averages)

VOTER SERVICE

SPRING SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS

School board elections and budget votes don't take place until May but, believe it or not, we were just contacted by the Bedford Central Schools about possible dates for a spring school board candidate forum. These forums take place in April or May, at the behest of local school districts. The schools typically book a date before the candidate filing deadline, which is not until mid-April, to ensure there is a date in place in the event of a contested election (more candidates than open seats). If the election is not contested, the forum is canceled. This happened last year with the Bedford Schools: a date was set but then it turned out there were two people running for two seats, so the forum was not necessary.

SPECIAL ELECTION

With George Latimer's official resignation as County Executive, County Emergency Services Commissioner Richard Wishnie was appointed Acting County Executive. This was a temporary position lasting until January 6, at which time the Board of Legislators appointed Deputy County Executive Ken Jenkins as County Executive. There will be a special election on Tuesday, February 11 to determine who will complete the

time left on Latimer's term, which runs through December 31, 2025. Jenkins will be running in the special election and his opponent will be Deputy BOE Commissioner Christine Sculti. Another election will then be held in November for a full, four-year term.

WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA ONLINE? CHECK US OUT!

Website: www.LWVNEW.org.

>Social media:

Facebook: LWVNEW; X: @LWVNEW

OTHER

While the League never supports or opposes candidates, 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 so choose. Information will be sent from LWVNYS regarding two voting studies. While we as a local league will not be addressing those as a group, there *will* be an opportunity for individual members to participate if interested. Keep an eye out for that information which, again, will come from LWVNYS.

Here at the local level, LWVNEW is overwhelmingly focused on local voter service and voter education.