



The Voter

April
2017

Published by the [League of Women Voters of Rensselaer County](#), NY

MAKE YOUR RESERVATION FOR LWVRC'S ANNUAL MEETING with Susan Arbetter!

The 2017 annual meeting of the League of Women Voters of Rensselaer County will be held on Thursday, June 1st, at Moscatiello's Restaurant, 99 North Greenbush Road (route 4) in North Greenbush. The evening will begin with a social time at 5:30 pm (cash bar), followed by dinner at 6 pm. At 7 pm, our featured speaker, Susan Arbetter, will talk about the importance of civic engagement, which will be followed by a question and answer session. The League's annual business meeting will conclude the evening.

Susan Arbetter is the Albany-based Capital Correspondent and News and Public Affairs Director for NPR/PBS affiliate WCNY in Syracuse. She hosts the daily radio show, The Capitol Pressroom, heard locally at 5 pm on the Siena College radio station WVCR-FM (88.3 FM). Prior to the Capitol Pressroom, she created and produced the award-winning shows New York Now on WMHT-TV and The Roundtable on WAMC-FM.

The sit-down dinner will offer a choice of eggplant rollantina or chicken limone, and includes house salad, homemade Italian bread, choice of beverage, penne with marinara or meat sauce, entrée, vegetable, Italian style potatoes, and dessert table. Cost per person is \$30.

Reservations must be made by May 25th. You will receive a reservation form in the mail within the next week. Please indicate your menu choice and make checks payable to the League of Women Voters of Rensselaer County. Send your reservation to Chris Salmon, 190 North Lake Avenue, Troy, NY 12180. If you have any questions, you can email her at csalmon@nycap.rr.com or call 272-6587.

This promises to be a lively and entertaining evening. Don't miss it!

Presidents Message

It has been a busy time . We have launched several new committees to channel the upsurge in interest in civic engagement - monthly Meet Ups for Civic Activism, an Environmental Committee, a Troy Observer Corp. And these activities are in addition to our traditional role in voters services - registering Voters at the Farmers Market, and hosting candidates forums in preparation for the May 16th School Board elections. Rex Smith of the Times Union detailed the challenges of Fake News and we Marched for Science as it too is challenged in these times. We hope to pull all threads together during our upcoming Annual Meeting. And then we join together with other Leagues from around the State in the biennial State Convention in June. We look forward to seeing you all somewhere along the way.

Judy Meyer, President
jdymyr@yahoo.com

LOCAL NEWS

Meet Ups for Civic Activism-

The next Meet Up for Civic Activism will be held Thursday April 27, 6:30pm at Congregation Berith Sholom at 167 Third St. Troy - this is between Liberty St and Division St. We have been hosting these open general gatherings for both LWVRC members and others interested in learning to be an effective activist. Each month we have written postcards to our government representatives about issues of concern to us as individuals. Last month we also spoke briefly about meeting with our representatives in person distinguishing personal from group lobbying. This month we will briefly describe the League of Women Voters' tradition of acting as an Observer Corp in public meetings - watching our representatives in action. All in the service of learning to be effective activists. For further information or to help with future gatherings, please email JudyMeyer@gmail.com

Voter Registration Table at the Troy Waterfront Farmers Market

We now have dates for the League of Women Voters of Rensselaer County to present a table to do voter registration at the summer market, which will be outdoors on River St. The summer market begins on Saturday May 6, and our community table will be available to us on the 4th Saturday of each month.

The Saturdays are: May 27, June 24, July 22, August 26, September 23, and October 28.

At the table we also give out literature, have displays and answer questions from visitors to our table. Recently we've had an added feature-our new member Emily has agreed to come as a

suffragette, dressed in period clothing. She knows many of the folks that visit the Market and helps us to get support for our League!!

Come and join us at the table from 9 am until 2 pm. You may sign up to be there either all or part of the time. We'd like to have at least 2 people definitely signed up to cover the table - from 9 am until 11:30 and from 11:30 until closing. This is such a good opportunity for new members of the League to join us by doing community service! We welcome you. Please pick some dates & times and please let us know by e-mail to anneburton10@gmail.com Thank you, and John Sniezyk and I look forward to a great summer Market season. Anne Burton

Notes from the Environmental Committee meeting of 4/11/17

The committee reviewed a list of EPA announcements calling for a review of several rules governing air quality regulations. The list also includes some regulations withdrawn by Presidential executive order. The committee views these actions as undermining years of work to improve our air quality. The question arose "What can the League do?" This led to a brief review of a just received Legislative Packet from State League which included a Memo in support of a resolution proposed in the both the NYS Assembly and Senate proposing "an amendment to article 1 of the constitution in relation to the right to clean air and water and a healthful environment." The committee agreed to gather details about the NYS proposal and about how this legislation has already worked in several other states.

Next meeting: Tuesday May 16, 6:30, Psychedelicatessen

Lobby Day

The League of Women Voters of NYS held lobby day on April 24 in Room 101A (the 3rd room of the day!) by beginning with a short announcement that there would be a press conference on the million dollar staircase concerning early voting! Jennifer Wilson then began the specialist portion of the program with the election reform items - early voting, paperless voter registration, no-excuse absentee voting, better ballot design, a single June primary, and electronic poll books. Aimee Allaud was there who provided more depth to that discussion.

Attending from our League were Judy Meyer, President, and Anne Burton, co-chair NYS healthcare committee, and Vice-President LWVRC.

We raced over to the staircase only to get bumped yet again but did the conference in the hallway. It was energizing and exciting! Assemblymember Pat Fahy, Assemblymember Kavanaugh and Senator Andrea Stuart-Cousins spoke, among others, and our own Jennifer Wilson said the time is now for election reforms to take place and New York State doesn't have to be #40 out of 50 states for voter turnout because of our legal obstacles to voting!

Healthcare was represented by Anne Burton (the NY Health Act and the Safe-Staffing for Quality Care Act) and Barbara Thomas, Women's Issues Specialist who spoke on the Comprehensive Contraception and the Reproductive Health Act. Jennifer Wilson then presented the constitutional amendment on clean air and water. Lunch, and then we all left to lobby our legislators. The schedule with legislators that we visited is attached! Anne Burton

School District Vote May 16, 2017

Public schools in New York State will conduct voting for the budget for the next school year and candidates for their Board of Education on May 16.

Some districts will hold public meetings to present the proposed budget and School Board candidates prior to the vote. This is a good Observer Corps activity.

The League of Women Voters of Rensselaer County has been asked by the City of Troy School District to conduct a Board of Education Candidate Forum on May 9 at 6:30 PM. The forum will be held in the Troy Room in the Troy Middle School. The Budget presentation will follow at 7:15 PM. We need League members to help with timing and taking questions. Jill Nagy will be moderator.

The League has also been asked to conduct a Candidate Forum for the East Greenbush School District on May 10 at Goff Middle School at 7:00PM. Lorrie Smith will be the moderator. Can you help with timing or taking questions?

If you can help with the candidate forums please contact Margaret Story at MrgStry@aol.com or 518-272-1566.

Check your school web site for polling places and voting hours on May 16 and VOTE!

2017 VOTE 411

Primary election - Sept. 12

General election - Nov. 7

Timeline for setting up races in vote 411: March thru May

June 6 - petitions become available

July 13 - deadline for all primary races, Troy mayor & city council to file

July 17 - League should obtain list of candidates for above from BOE.

Get e-mail addresses for campaigns. Begin publicity.

July 18 - Aug 18 - Compose and send letters to candidates with questions for posting answers on vote 411. Reminder calls to candidates who have not yet replied.

Aug 12 - Post primary races online. Obtain list of town candidates when available from BOE, get phone numbers, e-mail addresses and send on-line questions to candidates.

Sept 18 - Obtain final list of candidates for towns for general election. Candidates for town supervisors will be named by party caucus with the exception of town of N. Greenbush - may be available after Aug 10, whenever they caucus.

Oct. 2- All races go live on vote 411. Publicity for all races & candidates to go live.

City and town races total 50! Please volunteer for vote 411! anneburton10@gmail.com if you can help! Thanks! Anne & Lorrie

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF RENSSELAER COUNTY
 BUDGET INFORMATION FOR 2017 ANNUAL MEETING

	Budget <u>2016-2017</u>	Current <u>4/13/2017</u>	Proposed <u>2017-2018</u>
<u>INCOME</u>			
Dues	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 3,875.00	\$ 3,200.00
Contr. - Members (Cash)	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,125.00	\$ 1,000.00
Contr. Donation-in-Kind			
Contr. - Non-Members		\$ 75.00	
Contr. -Tax Ded. (Ed.Found)	\$ 300.00	\$ 75.00	\$ 100.00
Election Night Reporting	\$ 1,250.00	\$ 1,304.00	\$ 1,304.00
Election Monitoring	\$ 850.00	\$ 920.00	\$ 920.00
Annual Meeting	\$ 1,000.00		\$ 1,000.00
General Meetings	\$ 350.00		
Interest	\$ 1.50	\$ 1.04	\$ 1.50
From Reserves (Savings)	\$ 1,559.38		\$ 2,625.38
TOTAL - INCOME	\$ 10,310.88	\$ 7,375.04	\$ 10,150.88
<u>EXPENSES</u>			
Board & Administration	\$ 350.00	\$ 437.50	\$ 500.00
Annual Meeting	\$ 1,000.00		\$ 1,250.00
General Meetings	\$ 500.00	\$ 61.94	\$ 500.00
Rent (The Arts Center)	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00
Scholarship (Member dues)	\$ 100.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 100.00
Mary C. Stierer Annual Award	\$ 200.00		\$ 200.00
<u>Delegates/Travel</u>			
National Convention			\$ 2,500.00
NYS Convention	\$ 3,000.00		
Conferences/Meetings	\$ 100.00		\$ 100.00
<u>Financial Support - LWV</u>			
PMP - National	\$ 2,320.00	\$ 1,740.00	\$ 2,100.00
PMP - NYS	\$ 1,450.00	\$ 1,450.00	\$ 1,250.00
Contribution - LWV NYS	\$ 100.00		
<u>Bulletin - "Voter"</u>			
Printing		\$ 20.29	\$ 50.00
Postage	\$ 5.00	\$ 9.40	\$ 10.00
<u>Educational Activity</u>			
Programs	\$ 50.00		\$ 50.00
Students Inside Albany	\$ 75.00	\$ 650.00	\$ 725.00
Web Site	\$ 155.88		\$ 155.88
<u>Voter Service</u>			
Candidate Forum (multi-LWV)	\$ 200.00	\$ 118.75	
They Represent You...	\$ 50.00		\$ 125.00
NYS Voter Guides	\$ 280.00	\$ 160.00	\$ 160.00
Local Voter Guides (inc 411)	\$ 100.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 100.00
<u>Action/Lobbying</u>			
	\$ 25.00		\$ 25.00
TOTAL - EXPENSES	\$ 10,310.88	\$ 4,972.88	\$ 10,150.88

LWV RENSSELAER COUNTY LOCAL PROGRAM POLICY POSITIONS - 2017-18
FOR APPROVAL AT ANNUAL MEETING – 6/1/17

1. WE WILL SUPPORT AND ADVOCATE FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT - COUNTY, CITY, TOWN, VILLAGE - OPERATIONS, AND COUNTY AND CITY CHARTERS THAT CONFORM TO THE FOLLOWING PRINCIPLES:

- A. Government, policies, programs and performance should provide for:
- Competent personnel with clear lines of responsibility,
 - Coordination among various agencies and levels of government,
 - Adequate financing,
 - Effective enforcement, and
 - Well-defined channels for citizen input.
- B. Charter amendments should provide for:
- Independent Charter Revision Commissions that are representative of the community and do not include any elected or political party official at the local level.
 - A Districting Plan following each decennial census, after meaningful community participation.
 - The Districting Plan shall be guided by criteria in NYS Election Law which requires that districts be as compact, contiguous and convenient as possible. Also the plan as far as practical shall follow the principle of equal representation both numerically and by number of legislators from each district.

2. WE WILL ADVOCATE FOR CHANGING THE PRESENT METHOD OF RE-DISTRICTING THE RENSSELAER COUNTY LEGISLATURE TO A PLAN THAT SHALL:

- Provide for equal representation for citizens both numerically and by number of elected representatives from each district, with preference for single-member districts as the system most prevalent and familiar to citizens and most likely to represent constituencies of similar interests and concerns.
- Be prepared by an Independent Districting Commission with meaningful public participation that is representative of the community and does not include any elected County / political party official.

3. WE WILL SUPPORT AND ADVOCATE FOR THE LEAGUE'S CAPITAL REGION SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT CONSENSUS THAT INCLUDES:

- Waste and toxicity reduction, and
- Environmentally sound methods of recycling and reuse as primary forms of solid waste manageme

Calendar

April 25 LWVNY Lobby Day

April 28 Arbor Day

May 2017

May 5 Cinco de Mayo

May 9 **Troy School Board Candidates Forum**
Troy Middle School

May 14 Mothers Day

May 16 **School Districts Vote**

May 18 **Board Meeting, 7-9 p.m., Krause Center**

May 26 Ramadan begins this evening, ends June 26

May 29 Memorial Day

June 2017

June 1 **Annual Meeting** Moscatiello's Restaurant 5:30 pm

June 9-11 **LWV State Convention, Liverpool NY**

June 14 Flag Day

June 18 Fathers Day

NATIONAL NEWS

BYLAWS

Last June at the National Convention of the LWVUS the bylaws were changed as follows:

Article III - Membership

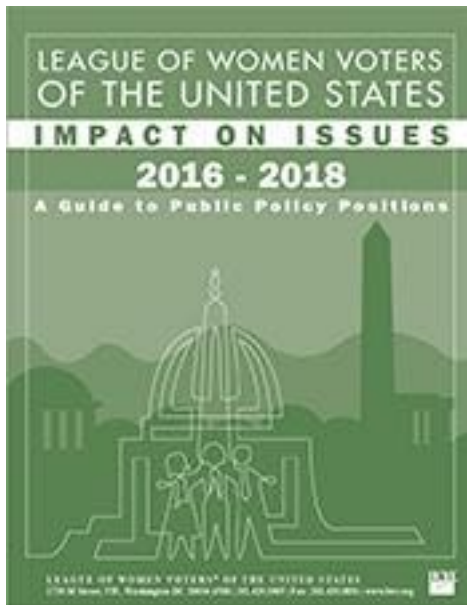
Section 2. Types of Membership. The Membership of the League of Women Voters of Rensselaer County shall be composed of Voting members and associate members.

- a. Voting members shall be [citizens of voting age] **persons at least 16 years of age**.
- b. Associate member shall be all other members.

The old language is in brackets [] and the new language is underlined and in **bold**. Since we are required to match the Membership requirements of the organization, your board made these changes at the September 15, 2016 meeting.

However, as I prepared to make this report to you, I noticed that our bylaws have not been fully examined in several years, and there may be changes that would benefit the functioning of our organization. I am looking for a few members who would be willing to work with me to review the bylaws and discuss a possible update to be presented to our next annual meeting. If you are one of those people, please speak to me at the annual meeting or send me an email at lorrie.smith24@gmail.com. We may want to meet face to face, but I envision most of this work to be done by email, allowing for you to do this at a time convenient to your schedule.

Impact On Issues



Includes the official statements of position for each program area, briefly traces significant past actions and achievements, and indicates links among positions. The LWVUS public policy positions reflect the 2016-2018 program adopted by the 2016 convention of the League of Women Voters of the United States; the "positions in brief" listed there summarize the official statements of position included in this guide. Updated following biennial convention.

Read the [online version](#) or use the links below to download it. Printed copies are also available for purchase on Amazon.