

LWVNEW JANUARY 2023 NEWSLETTER

FROM YOUR CO-PRESIDENTS

Happy New Year! We are using these winter months to plan for both a busy spring and a successful future for our league.

*Many thanks to those of you have volunteered to represent us at the county and state league levels. Here on the local level, we are hoping to establish **Voter Empowerment Teams**. Holding local candidate forums is one of the most important voter services we provide and we'd like to establish teams to facilitate this on a town-by-town basis.*

On the topic of Voter Service, we're pleased to announce that we've received a grant from LWVUS. Our voter registration dynamo, Allison Chernow, applied for a grant to facilitate voter registration among the formerly incarcerated and she will be spearheading these efforts.

*We also have a Life Member, someone who has been a part of the League for **FIFTY** years! Congratulations to Peter Rose for reaching this milestone.*

*Last but not least, we encourage you to register for the virtual program we are offering next month, **Songs of the Suffragists**.*

-- Read on! Susan & Lisa

NEXT MONTH'S PROGRAM!

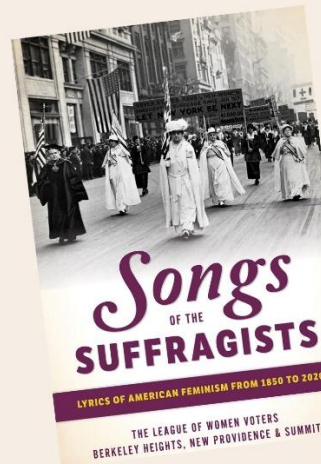
Songs of the Suffragists Wed. February 8

Register now for this interesting and informative program. It's virtual, so you can "attend" even it's snowy or icy. Register today – and share the info with friends & family, whether they live near or far!

Register to attend via ZOOM:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_kOlquS6EQKOrTHN3yI61sQ

Songs of the Suffragists: **Lyrics of American Feminism 1850-2020**



**February 8, 2023
7PM**

Register to attend
via ZOOM:

https://us02web.zoom.us/join/joinMeeting?meetingRef=WN_kOlquS6EQKOrTHN3yI61sQ

**Learn about the history of
American feminism
through suffragist
song lyrics!**

From the right to vote to the right to be free from violence, American women have campaigned for equality. But the women's movement is more than a mere political fight, it's a cultural battle for American hearts and minds. This **free, virtual** program includes a 25-minute documentary focusing the intersection of music and politics in the Women's Movement, which will be followed by an author-led conversation based on the book and film, "Songs of the Suffragists."

VOTER SERVICE

VOTER EMPOWERMENT TEAMS

Holding candidate forums is one of the most important things that we as an organization do and you can see why: candidates should be held accountable to the voters and voters should be as informed and educated as possible heading into an election. Each year we manage to put together candidate forums for contested local races; what we are now looking to do is set up Voter Empowerment Teams (VETs) on a town-by-town basis, to facilitate the planning of these forums and allow interested LWVNEW members to help the voters in their own communities.

We'd like to start with the three towns where the majority of our members reside: Bedford, Lewisboro & Mount Kisco. You would be part of a team that would determine the races in your area, work on scheduling the event's dates and formats, and contact the candidates about participating in the forum.

Team members would be trained, mentored, and set up for success. Contact

Susan or Lisa if you are interested:

Susan Ferris Rights:

susanferris123@gmail.com 908.568.1884

Lisa Pizzurro:

lcp328@gmail.com 646.341.3332

*To our North Salem members: We continue our commitment to holding candidate forums in your town. Should there be a contested race or races in North Salem, we would organize a candidate forum – just without the formalized structure of a Voter Empowerment Team in place. We are starting with the towns of Mount Kisco, Lewisboro & Bedford, as that is where we have the most members and most interest. The eventual goal is a Team for each town.

GRANT APPLICATION APPROVED: REGISTERING THE FORMERLY INCARCERATED

In New York State, incarcerated people are not eligible to vote – but formerly incarcerated people are, receiving this right about 18 months ago.

LWVNEW has received grant money from LWVUS and will partner with *Rehabilitation Through the Arts (RTA)* to reach formerly incarcerated men and women via phone, email, and in-person registration drives at two probation offices.

Allison Chernow, who does such a great job with our student voter registration efforts, applied for this grant and is spearheading the project. Many thanks to Allison for taking the initiative on all of this!

IMPACT

Your local league's activities resulted in:

>148 people watching the State Senate District 40 virtual candidate forum

>168 people watching the State Assembly District 93 candidate forum

>\$2689 in donations from our October fundraising letter

>228 local high school students registering to vote in 2022

FYI: LWV'S IMPACT FALL 2022

Vote411.org

From LWVUS, we received the following data on Vote 411 usage from January through November.

Total Users: 285,359

New Users: 262,494

Returning Users: 22,865

Total Number of Sessions: 339,163

During the 2022 election season, New Yorkers visited Vote411.org 339,163 times.

The “New Users” amount indicates the number of people who hadn’t used Vote411 previously during the 2022 election season. The “Returning Users” amount indicates the number of people who had used Vote411 previously during the 2022 election season.

Voter Registration & Get Out The Vote

While some increase in local League activities might be expected on a year over year basis, the increase seems to have been exceptional in 2022, especially in voter registration and GOTV areas.

Some of the more astonishing results from the 31 responses included:

- Almost 73,000 GOTV materials were distributed, including over 54,000 postcards, and almost 7,000 Palm Cards
- Social Media usage, barely registering last year, included 119 website posts, 297 Instagram posts, 497 Face Book posts and even 22 Twitter posts. Likes were numerous!
- 26 Leagues participated in Vote411, posting 112 races
- Leagues conducted 420 registration drives, registered over 3,500 new voters, and distributed 4,900 forms
- 13 Leagues conducted registration drives at 53 schools, resulting in 2,102 new voter registrations. **Our Fall 2022 voter registration efforts resulted in 78 student registrations – meaning we were responsible for almost 4% of the League total for the state! And if you factor in the student voters we registered back in the spring, our total for the year of 228 accounts for about 10% of the League total for New York State!*

 **LET’S BUILD ON THIS IN 2023!**

MEMBERSHIP

A MEMBER MILESTONE

Peter Rose has been designated a League *Life Member*, someone who has belonged to the League for at least 50 years. Incredible!



Peter is a past president and currently serves on our Nominating Committee. She has served on the Board *many* times over the years and was the

hospitality person for past in-person events, supplying baked goods and refreshments. Peter is a prolific published author and food historian; perhaps you have been fortunate enough to attend one of her lectures or sample some of her treats. **She will be giving a talk at the Katonah Library on Saturday, February 4 at 2 pm: *The History of Chocolate in the Hudson Valley.***

Peter first joined the League in Raleigh, North Carolina in 1971, then moved to Des Plaines, Illinois, a suburb of Chicago. Said Peter, “I thought that the League years in Illinois were interesting in that we were at the time fighting for the ratification of the ERA and marched on various occasions. Also, we were able to start a dental clinic for Cook County as part of a health program item for the County League.” This clinic is still in operation.

“When I was in Illinois members (me included) attended the legislature specifically to lobby and see them vote in favor of proclaiming Martin Luther King Day as a holiday. I was very active there and became active here immediately. When I came here it was just the Bedford-Lewisboro LWV. When I became president

in 1976, we added North Salem after much discussion and investigation.”

“I also in our moves found that attending LWV meetings was a way to make interesting friends.”

We agree. *Congratulations, Peter!*

DUES

****If you've received a renewal notice and have not yet re-upped, please do so ASAP.***

New and current members alike can pay their annual dues at the *Membership* page of our website:

www.LWVNEW.org/membership

If you prefer to pay by check, send your payment to:

LWVNEW, PO Box 385, Cross River 10518.

Many thanks to those of you who have renewed.

Questions? Contact Lisa Pizzurro

lcp328@gmail.com; 646-341-3332.

SPREAD THE WORD

Think of ONE person you know who might be interested in joining LWVNEW. We are always looking for new and active members. Share our website address or let them know we're on Facebook.

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

COLLEGE CAMPUS PROGRAM

The Westchester County League is looking to establish a College Campus Program to engage voters 18-24. College students would be trained in Voter Registration and Advocacy & Lobbying and would, in turn, train other students. LWVW Program Chair Michele Shivers was looking for volunteers from each of Westchester's local leagues. Many thanks to LWVNEW members Anice Mills, Pierce Berke & Nzingha Milanes for expressing interest; we have forwarded their names and contact information to LWVW.

ADVOCACY

LWVNYS TASK FORCE

The New York State League is creating the Equal Rights Amendment Advocacy Task Force and is looking for one person from each local league to join monthly meetings and be kept in the loop on the ERA.

While just over half of the states in America have a state-level ERA, New York does not.

The statewide ERA constitutional amendment that LWVNYS worked on last legislative session passed. It would need to pass again in this separately-elected legislature and then put on the ballot for public vote.

LWVNEW co-president Susan Ferris Rights is our current point person with the LWVNYS Task Force and member Tara Finneran has agreed to join soon. Thank you, Tara!

OTHER

SOCIAL MEDIA

If you are on Facebook, please like and follow your league: *League of Women Voters of North East Westchester*.

(Thanks to those of you who already do this!)

We're on Twitter, too: @LWVNEW

WEBSITE

Please get in the habit of visiting the website regularly. Register for the February 8th *Songs of the Suffragists* virtual program or pay your membership dues. Read past newsletters or check out the photo gallery.

Check it out! www.LWVNEW.org



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