

LWVNEW MAY 2022 NEWSLETTER

FROM YOUR CO-PRESIDENTS

There is a lot going on in our little corner of the world! We are in the thick of our spring voter service activities. We just moderated the Bedford Central School Board candidate forum and school board elections & budget votes are fast approaching. We've held student voter registrations at area high schools and have a few more coming up. Our Students Inside Albany students, Kaeleigh & Pierce, are less than two weeks away from their trip. We've had an influx of new members. And we've secured a venue and delicious menu for our June 14 luncheon with our county legislator, Erika Pierce. (Please see the Annual Meeting & Luncheon section of this newsletter for details.)

During all of this, the New York State redistricting saga continues. The details appear later in this newsletter (and on our website) but, as of this writing, things are in flux. The congressional & state senate maps have been deemed unconstitutional. Will there be 2 primary dates instead of one? Stay tuned...

--Katherine & Lisa

COMING UP!

ANNUAL MEETING & LUNCHEON

Our luncheon will be held on June 14 at Lexington Square Café. By now, you should have received an invitation with all of the information, including the delicious menu and how to register & pay. We look forward to hearing from our county legislator, Erika Pierce, who will talk about what's going on in our district and then take questions from luncheon attendees.

While the luncheon portion of the Annual Meeting looks and sounds fabulous, there is another important component to Annual Meeting: the business meeting at 11 am. While the noon luncheon is open to all, the business meeting beforehand is for LWVNEW members only and we need as many of you as possible to attend. A League year runs from July 1 to June 30 and it is at this annual business meeting that the budget, slate, and programs for the next year are voted on. All members will soon receive the 2022-2023 proposals. **A quorum at the meeting is required in order to move forward with a vote. Help shape the direction of your league. Please come to Lexington Square Café at 11 am!** Once business is out of the way, we can relax, enjoy lunch, our speaker, and each other!

VOTER SERVICE **SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS &** **BUDGET VOTES**

The school board and budget votes are **Tuesday, May 17**. Polls are open 6 am to 9 pm in the Katonah-Lewisboro school district and 7 am to 9 pm in the Bedford Central and North Salem Central school districts. Vote at the elementary school serving your attendance area.

We've made it easy to stay updated on school board and budget info. Nearly all of your questions can be answered by visiting our website.

Information and links for all three of the school districts in our area can be found on the *Elections & Voting* page of our website, www.LWVNEW.org/elections-voting.

CANDIDATE FORUMS **Bedford Central Schools**

The League moderated BCSD's school board candidate forum the evening of Wednesday, May 11, in the Fox Lane Middle School Little Theater. All 5 candidates running for three seats participated: Gilian Goldman-Klein; Chris Kramer; Blakeley Lowry; Roger Nadel; and Amal Shady. The three-year school board terms begin July 1, 2022 and expire on June 30, 2025.

Bedford School District residents submitted questions for the candidates via our email address, LWVNEW@gmail.com. We had a robust response! Many thanks to the volunteers who met over Zoom to go through the submissions, combine similar questions, and select which questions would be asked.

The moderator was Doug French from the Rye, Rye Brook & Port Chester League. Kay Tyler and Kimberly Morella acted as timekeepers and the event was planned by Katherine Dering, in conjunction with the Bedford School District. The forum was

aired live on local cable and streamed on the BCSD website. It can be watched between now and the election in several ways:

Watch a rebroadcast on cable access:

>The program schedule can be found here: <http://tvschedule.bcsdny.org:50001/webshed.php?channel=0&mode=week&day=fri&headers=0&secs=0>

Watch on-demand:

>In the days following the forum, the recording will also be posted to the district's video-on-demand page, <https://www.bcsdny.org/Page/277>
>It will be posted on the Elections & Voting page of our website, www.LWVNEW.org/elections-voting

Katonah-Lewisboro:

Candidate Forum: The Parents Council held a (virtual) school board candidate forum on Monday, May 2. There are six candidates running for three seats on the board: Marc Abrams; Rory Burke; Elizabeth Gereghy; Erika Glick; Matthew Goglia; Julia Hadlock. The three-year school board terms begin July 1, 2022 and expire on June 30, 2025. The Katonah-Lewisboro School District has shared its video of the event with us. Watch it here: www.LWVNEW.org/elections-voting.

North Salem:

The school board election in North Salem is uncontested. The candidates are Brandy Keenan, Frances Havard, and Deborah D'Agostino. The three-year school board terms begin July 1, 2022 and expire June 30, 2025.

Got questions? Need more information?
Contact your district's clerk.

Bedford: Sandra Speyer 914-241-6000
 Katonah-Lewisboro:
 Kimberly Monzon 914-763-7020
 North Salem:
 Mary Rhuda 914-669-5414 x 1011

STUDENT VOTER REGISTRATION

We were at John Jay High School and Fox Lane High School the last week of April and have registration drives scheduled for The Harvey School and Somers High School next week.

The day of our lone outdoor registration (John Jay) was, of course, chilly and damp! Many thanks to Allison Chernow, Katherine Dering, and Beth Falk for volunteering. They collected 30 completed registration forms.

The next day, Allison, Kay Tyler, and Sy Lynch were at Fox Lane, where 54 new voters were registered. Thank you Kay, Sy, and Allison.

The completed registration forms were collected by Allison and she drove them down to the Board of Elections in White Plains.

We dropped off blank registration forms at The Karafin School in Mount Kisco, as there are students there who want to take the lead and set-up voter registration. We will return to collect completed forms once they've held their drive.

MODERATOR TRAINING

Sunday, May 22 at 2 pm. Are you interested in becoming a League moderator? Our own Susan Ferris Rights recently became the new LWV Moderator Coordinator for Westchester County and will be offering training at her home. Learn a skill that facilitates voter education and can serve you in other areas of your life!

Contact Susan if interested: 908-568-1884;
susanferris123@gmail.com.

REDISTRICTING

On Wednesday, April 27, New York's highest court ruled that Democratic leaders had violated the State Constitution when drawing new congressional and State Senate districts, ordering a court-appointed special master to draw replacement lines for this year's critical midterm elections.

The League has been clear all the way through this saga that the way the Independent Redistricting Committee and then the NY State Legislature handled this process has been a slap in the face to New Yorkers, who voted in 2014 for an independent, bi-partisan redistricting process.

This latest decision validates the League's position and, most importantly, validates the will of the voters. However, it throws the election calendar into question and adds another layer of uncertainty to an already confusing story. The League can't help but point out that all of this turmoil was avoidable had the bi-partisan Independent Redistricting Commission done its job in the first place.

To read an article about the ruling and its impact, as well as the LWVNY statement, go to the News & Events page of our website: www.LWVNEW.org/events-1.

2022 ELECTION DATES

Tues May 17:

School Board Elections & Budget Votes.

AS OF RIGHT NOW, IT LOOKS LIKE THERE WILL BE TWO PRIMARY DATES THIS SUMMER! Be advised that the following information is currently tentative:

Tuesday, June 28: NYS Primary

This was the original NYS date and may still well be the date for any primaries involving areas unaffected by the redistricting issues (Governor, Lt. Governor, Attorney General, Comptroller)

Tuesday, August 23: NYS Primary
This would be the date for any primaries involving areas impacted by the redistricting issues (Congressional, State Senate)

We will keep members updated on redistricting developments via email and keep voters updated via our website and social media.

MEMBERSHIP **NEW MEMBERS**

A small group of our newest members joined Membership Chair Kay Tyler, Director Susan Ferris Rights, and Co-president Lisa Pizzurro at Susan's home for coffee, cookies & conversation. It was great to meet and to put faces with names!

ONLINE DUES PAYMENT

We now offer an online payment option if you'd prefer to pay your dues electronically. New and current members alike can pay their annual dues at the *Membership* page of our website:

www.LWVNEW.org/membership



*A warm welcome to
our newest members:
Lynne Landau,
Virginia Lanigan,
Nzingha Milanes*

YOUTH **SIA 2022**



Kaeleigh Picco, Somers High School, and
Pierce Berke, John Jay High School
(photo credit: Barbara Dodds)

The May 22-25 SIA Conference is *still* a go!
We look forward to hearing from Kaeleigh
and Pierce upon their return.

OUR WEBSITE

We populate and update the *Elections & Voting* page like crazy in the lead-up to elections. Right now, we've got a lot of school board and budget vote information posted. Our *News & Events* page has all the latest on state & congressional redistricting, as well as a calendar listing events as they are scheduled. We highly recommend that you regularly visit the site. Make it a habit!

www.LWVNEW.org



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Westchester

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