

LWVNEW APRIL 2021 NEWSLETTER

LWVNEW

STUDENTS INSIDE ALBANY

Due to pandemic restrictions in 2020, the League of Women Voters of New York State determined that the *Students Inside Albany* Conference (SIA) should not be held. Our selected students were poised to travel to Albany to participate in the program with all expenses paid including transportation, meals and hotel accommodations and to meet their state legislators, attend meetings of the Assembly, tour the Capitol and share the camaraderie of their experience with some 50 other students from all over New York State. Our local League decided to suspend competition for a possible 2021 program and offer our 2020 students the opportunity to attend as our 2021 selectees.

We are pleased to report that a modified virtual 2021 SIA Conference will happen. Our students have accepted and will attend on Friday, May 21st from 4 to 6 pm, and on Saturday, May 22nd from 10 to 4:30. The LWVNEW SIA students for 2021 are Emely Aguilar, a resident of Mount Kisco and senior at Fox Lane High School and Alex Goldman, a resident of Bedford and a senior at Hackley School.



(Photo credit Barbara Dodds)

The students will still learn about state government and how to influence public policy decision-making and still meet and talk legislators about issues—all from the comfort of their own homes!

They will hear presentations on a youth civics initiative, NYS government, why Voting Matters, a panel discussion on how the media influences public policy, and discussions on current issues with their local legislators in break out rooms. Even with the necessary distances, we believe high school students will benefit and enjoy interacting with other students, senior League officers and Assembly legislators. *(SIA content provided by Barbara Arrington Dodds, LWVNEW Youth Coordinator. Many thanks.)*

ANNUAL MEETING

The 2021 Annual Meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 22.

In the “Before Times,” Annual Meeting was typically held at a local restaurant. It would begin with a business meeting, at which members would vote on the budget, slate, and programs for the next League year (which runs from July 1st to June 30th). We would then enjoy lunch, catch up with other members, meet new ones, and hear from a speaker.

Due to the pandemic, this year’s Annual Meeting will be similar to last year’s: conducted virtually, via Zoom. Fingers crossed, this will be our last pandemic Annual Meeting. Two is enough! That being

said, LWVNEW hopes that many members will participate. It is still good to “see” people over Zoom – and the action items that need to be voted on are important. For those of you new to the League – or for those of you who would like a quick refresher – Annual Meeting marks the end of one League year and the promise of the next one. Each year, there are several items which require input and approval from members: the budget, the slate, and the Outlook for Work. Members are sent these items no later than 30 days prior to the date of Annual Meeting, so everyone has time to review them. At the meeting, these items are voted on. This is how we keep the League operating year after year.

In the spirit of the League, which stresses the importance of voting in elections, let’s get as many participants as possible for Annual Meeting 2021; it would be great to wrap things up and then roll into the 2021-2022 year with a good turnout and many votes cast.

More details to come in the next newsletter and via email. Stay tuned!

WELCOME TO THE BOARD!

Leah Pizer, from Goldens Bridge, has joined the LWVNEW board. Welcome, Leah! Board meetings will be conducted over Zoom for the foreseeable future. Meetings take place once a month.

Interested in joining the Board? Contact Eileen Nadelson:
judgenadelson@gmail.com



*A warm welcome to our newest members:
Cheryl Card Lampke &
Peter Lampke,
Stephanie McCaine, and
the aforementioned
Leah Pizer.*

NATIONAL LEAGUE NEWS (LWVUS)

S.1. FOR THE PEOPLE ACT

On behalf of the League, LWVUS CEO Virginia Kase submitted testimony to the Senate in support of the *For the People Act (S.1)*.

>Read the testimony here: [Virginia Kase Statement for Senate Rule Committee Hearing on S1, the "For the People Act" | League of Women Voters \(lww.org\)](#)

One of the lesser-known aspects of the *For the People Act* is how it addresses the important topics of redistricting and gerrymandering.

>Read the League blog on the topic: [Redistricting Watch: What the For the People Act Means for Redistricting | League of Women Voters \(lww.org\)](#)

>If you have not already done so, why not contact your senators through the Capitol switchboard at (202) 224-3121 and tell them to Vote Yes on the *For the People Act*? Put control of our government back where it belongs—into the hands of the people.

FILIBUSTER REFORM

The League believes that reforming the filibuster is essential to the health of our democracy and would ensure that senators can do what their constituents elected them to do.

>Read the LWVUS statement here: [LWV Supports Senate Filibuster Reform for a Healthy Democracy | League of Women Voters](#)

>Read the latest LWVUS blog post here: [Complexities of the Filibuster: The Accidental Rule That Is Interrupting the Democracy We All Deserve | League of Women Voters \(lww.org\)](#)

DC STATEHOOD

Among the key bills making their way through Congress right now is H.R.51, the *Washington D.C. Admission Act*. The League of Women Voters supports this bill.

Read the blogpost: [Redistricting Watch: I Fight For Fair Maps Because I Care About D.C. Statehood | League of Women Voters \(lww.org\)](#)

Sign the petition in support of DC statehood: [League of Women Voters \(lww.org\)](#)

VIRTUAL CIVIC HEALTH CONFERENCE

Civic engagement isn't just our democratic duty – it's also a major determinant of community health. Join medical leaders, social workers, academics, healthcare students, and many more people invested in healthcare for the Civic Health Conference next week.

Dr. Deborah Turner, LWVUS President and OB-GYN, will serve as one of the keynote speakers.

Register here: <https://bit.ly/3fX1GZL>

PEOPLE-POWERED DAY OF ACTION

On April 29, the League is hosting a People Powered Day of Action as an opportunity for state and local Leagues and partners across the country to come together to shine a light on the redistricting process and demand fair maps. The New York State League's virtual event is detailed in the next section of this newsletter.

Also, a reminder that the League has officially launched the [People Powered Fair Maps \(PPFM\) landing page](#). This is a public-facing page where anyone can learn more about PPFM and get a glimpse into the work that is being done across our nation to ensure a fair and transparent redistricting process.

>Check it out: [People Powered Fair Maps | League of Women Voters \(lww.org\)](#)

IMPACT ON ISSUES 2020

Impact on Issues is designed to help League members understand LWV public policy positions and use them effectively. It's well worth the few minutes it takes to look over the six-page summary, which begins on page 11.

Check it out: [LWV-impact-2020.pdf](#)

STATE LEAGUE NEWS (LWVNY)**VIRTUAL PEOPLE'S HEARING ON NEW YORK STATE REDISTRICTING**

Thursday, April 29th 6:30-8 pm

The League of Women Voters is holding its first ever virtual People's Hearing on New York State Redistricting! This hearing will allow New Yorkers from around the state to present testimony on why redistricting matters to them and their community of interest.

>Read more about it here: [Redistricting 2021 – League of Women Voters NYS \(lwny.org\)](#)

>Click here to register via Zoom:
https://us02web.zoom.us/.../reg.../WN_SA_AgQj4oSvynFjTLVfx6Hg

LWVNY 59TH BIENNIAL CONVENTION



This year's convention is being held virtually from June 7 to June 12.

On Monday through Thursday evenings that week, LWVNY will offer a number of workshops and caucuses – topics, times and days still TBD. On Friday at 5:30 pm, plenary will open and then Dr. Turner, LWVUS President, will address the group at 6:00, with delegates returning to plenary after that. On Saturday morning, there will be some more workshops, primarily on the items to be voted on during plenary (such as the budget). Plenary will continue and finish on Saturday afternoon.

All members are welcome at any of the workshops and caucuses, and can observe plenary sessions. The registration fee is \$75 per person for delegate or visitor (\$50 if paid before May 1). For \$100, a member will be registered and LWVNY will mail them copies of the two history books on the state and local Leagues.

>Questions about Convention participation? Contact LWVNEW president Eileen Nadelson: judgenadelson@gmail.com.

>Want to register? Here's the link: [League of Women Voters of New York State · Convention 2021 \(lgforms.com\)](#)

THE STATE BUDGET: GOOD NEWS

The League of Women Voters of New York State, along with other organizations and individuals, pushed hard for budget items in support of our democracy. The hard work paid off! Here are some exciting inclusions in the New York State budget:

- \$4 million for the Independent Redistricting Commission
- \$2 million for early voting expansions
- \$5 million for the State Board of Elections to implement new election programs.
- \$20 million for county board of elections to reimburse the cost of technology and equipment upgrades.

Thank you to any of our LWVNEW members who contacted the governor and state reps!

NYREDISTRICTING.ORG

The League has added new resources to its [NYRedistricting.org](#) page.

These new resources include the archived webcast of LWVUS's training on creating and presenting testimonies on redistricting.

Check it out: [NYRedistricting.org](#)

COUNTY LEAGUE NEWS (LWVW)

WATCH VIRTUAL CLIMATE CONFERENCE

On April 7, the LWVW Environment Committee hosted a virtual Climate Smart Communities Conference. It focused on showing municipalities how to find money to boost municipal climate projects. It was co-hosted by Westchester County, Sustainable Westchester, FCWC and the Environmental Leaders Learning Alliance (ELLA).

[LWVW Climate Smart Workshop - YouTube](#)

LWVNEW

PO Box 385, Cross River, NY 10518

 www.LWVNEW.org

Email: LWVNEW@gmail.com

LWVNEW President

Eileen Nadelson judgenadelson@gmail.com

VP & Voter Service

Katherine Dering dering.katherine@gmail.com

VP & Membership

Kay Tyler kaytyler34@gmail.com

Treasurer

Barbara Kravitz stanley.barbara@gmail.com

Voter Service

-Candidate Forums:

Katherine Dering dering.katherine@gmail.com

-Voter Registration:

Allison Chernow alchernow@gmail.com

Youth Committee Co-Chairs

Barbara Dodds badodds@optonline.net

Susan Polos suz.polos@gmail.com

Website, Social Media, Comms & Newsletter

Lisa Pizzurro lp328@gmail.com

LWVUS

Website: www.lwv.org Twitter: @LWV

Facebook: League of Women Voters of the U.S.

LWVNY

Website: www.lwvny.org Twitter: @LWVNY

Facebook: League of Women Voters of NYS

LWV Westchester

Website: www.lwww.org

Email: WestchesterLWV@gmail.com

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Our Voting Districts

Bedford

US Congressional: 18 (Maloney-D)

State Senate: 37 (Mayer-D)

State Assembly: 93 (Burdick-D)

County Legislative: 2 (Covill-D)

Lewisboro

US Congressional: 18 (Maloney-D)

State Senate: 40 (Harckham-D)

State Assembly: 93 (Burdick-D)

County Legislative: 2 (Covill-D)

Mount Kisco

US Congressional: 17 (Jones-D)

State Senate: 40 (Harckham-D)

State Assembly: 93 (Burdick-D)

County Legislative: 2 (Covill-D)

North Salem

US Congressional: 18 (Maloney-D)

State Senate: 40 (Harckham-D)

State Assembly: 93 (Burdick-D)

County Legislative: 2 (Covill-D)

Pound Ridge

US Congressional: 18 (Maloney-D)

State Senate: 40 (Harckham-D)

State Assembly: 93 (Burdick-D)

County Legislative: 2 (Covill-D)



at *League of Women Voters of North East Westchester*



at **LWVNEW**