

LWVNEW JULY/AUGUST 2021 NEWSLETTER

FROM KATHERINE & LISA

Greetings from your new co-presidents!

Due to the loss of a quorum, the 2021 Annual Meeting on June 29th concluded before all of the agenda items could be addressed. While both the 2021-2022 Budget and Outlook for Work were adopted, the proposed Bylaw Changes and the 2021-2022 Slate were never called for a vote.

A special meeting was held on July 20. At that time, the bylaw changes were voted down and a new slate was approved. The slate needed to be revised due in part to the resignation of Eileen Nadelson, who was initially going to seek a second two-year term as LWVNEW president. We thank Eileen for her commitment to the League these last two years.

Many thanks to those of you who joined one or both Zoom calls. With your help, we were able to conduct all of our necessary end-of-year business and officially kick off the new League year.

We want to thank everyone on the board for stepping up. We had our first organizational meeting and felt so fortunate to be surrounded by such capable people. A list of the new board can be found on the last page of this newsletter.

Although it is the middle of summer, fall comes quickly and, with

*it, election season. September and October are going to be all about the “V” in LWV: **Voter** registration. **Voter** education. **Voter** engagement. **There is nothing our group does that is more important than voter service.** We know that many of you feel the same way and we look forward to working as a group to get this vital work done. A few hours of your time this fall will make a real difference to the local electorate. It’s really that simple. Please think about how you’d like to help.*

-Katherine Dering & Lisa Pizzurro

Did you know...

>...that two of our five towns will have contested races this fall (Bedford and Lewisboro)?

>...that National Voter Registration Day is Tuesday, September 28th?

>...that there will be several proposals on all New York State ballots this fall?

VOTER SERVICE

Nancy Gould Ralphs is taking the lead on the Lewisboro candidate forum. She is experienced in this department, having put together the 2019 forum at the Lewisboro Library, but needs a couple of volunteers. On the Bedford side, Jean Farber and Katherine Dering are leading our efforts. Katherine has organized (and moderated) many League forums and Jean has experienced the other side of things as a candidate (she is a former village trustee in Mount Kisco), but they need a few volunteers. Please consider helping with one – or both! – events. *And don't be intimidated if you've never done something like this before; these are ideal volunteer opportunities because the members you'll be working with are experienced.* Our forums provide the invaluable service of connecting voters with their candidates. You will feel so good knowing that you had a direct impact on local voter education.

If you'd like to help, contact

Nancy: nancygr.223@gmail.com

Jean: trusteefarber@gmail.com

Katherine: dering.katherine@gmail.com

Our voter service chair, Bob Boffa, is already assisting the County League with candidate outreach for the League's online Voters Guide at Vote411.org.

We hope to mark National Voter Registration Day by holding a multi-site registration drive. We have also ordered materials that list and explain the ballot proposals we will all have on our ballots this fall.

COMMITTEES

LWVNEW has two existing committees, *Voter Service* and *Youth Outreach*. Bob Boffa, our 1st VP, heads up *Voter Service*;

Youth is co-chaired by Barbara Dodds and Susan Polos.

We are looking to form two *new* committees: *Membership* and *Fundraising*. 2nd VP Kay Tyler brings her experience and administrative skills to the table to help with *Membership* and longtime (now former) LWVNEW treasurer Barbara Kravitz has agreed to chair *Fundraising*. Think about where you see yourself. Do you have skills or interests that would dovetail nicely with one or more of these committees? We will reach back out to discuss these groups in more detail...but with fall looming, **Voter Service is our current priority**. As mentioned earlier in this newsletter, please consider helping out on that front. Many hands really do make light work! And the work is rewarding.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Just a reminder that we have an online presence and encourage members to visit our social media pages periodically. If you see something you like on Facebook, why not "share" it with your Facebook friends?




Find us on
Facebook

at *League of Women Voters of North
East Westchester*

follow us on
twitter

at *LWVNEW*

OUR WEBSITE

In the lead-up to every election, the *Elections & Voting* page of our site is populated with links and information regarding voter registration, early voting, absentee ballots, etc. We also post videos of pertinent candidate forums. If we don't have the information you are looking for, we provide a link to a site which does. Be sure to check it out as we get closer to fall.

www.LWVNEW.org

IN THE REAR VIEW

Ahead of the June primary, LWVNEW hosted a virtual candidate forum featuring the two Bedford Democrats running in the primary for Town Supervisor. We solicited questions for the candidates via the LWVNEW email address and, as with the Bedford School Board candidate forum, received many submissions.

We also kept voters apprised of election-related information via our social media accounts and our website. Voters in our area had two potential primaries: a countywide Democratic primary for County Clerk and a Bedford Democratic primary for Town Supervisor.

In the County Clerk contest, incumbent Tim Idoni defeated challenger Shanae Williams; in the Bedford primary, the current deputy supervisor, Ellen Calves, defeated the current supervisor, MaryAnn Carr.

OTHER

>Focus: LWVNEW will be narrowing its focus to concentrate time and energy on local elections and voting rights. While we will bring items of interest to your attention (the redistricting committee hearing that

we emailed you about, for instance), there will likely be less county, state, and national LWV content in our newsletters. As a member of our local League, you are automatically a member of the Leagues of Westchester County, New York State, and the United States; as such, you should also be receiving communications from these organizations. (If not, please let us know at LWVNEW@gmail.com.) Between those emails and the League's national, state, and county websites and social media accounts, you will be able to stay up-to-date with all things LWV. The website addresses for these Leagues are listed on the last page of this newsletter.

>Bylaws: When LWVUS updates its bylaws, all state and local Leagues are required to incorporate those changes into their own bylaws. Unlike changes to LWVNEW bylaws, which require a vote by members at the Annual Meeting, changes at the national level are incorporated by state and local Leagues at board meetings. Our new board just did this. We are in the process of making the mandated updates to our bylaws and will make this version available to members as soon as possible.

>Non-partisanship: The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan organization. While the League takes positions on *issues*, it never endorses or opposes political candidates. It is this non-partisanship that establishes the trust and credibility required to organize and host candidate forums and to publish the Voters Guide. You can find LWVNEW's Non-Partisan Policy on our website.

LWVNEW

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The LWVNEW Board 2021-2022

Co-Presidents:

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1st VP & Voter Service:

Bob Boffa rscb35@msn.com

2nd VP & Membership:

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Treasurer:

Del Bashkow delkatonah@gmail.com

Secretary: TBD

Directors

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Nancy Gould Ralphs nancygr.223@gmail.com

Jean Farber trusteefarber@gmail.com

LWVUS

Website: www.lwv.org Twitter: @LWV

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

LWVNY

Website: www.lwvny.org Twitter: @LWVNYS

Facebook: League of Women Voters of NYS

LWV Westchester

Website: www.lwvw.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)

~ WELCOME NEW MEMBERS! ~

*We wish to extend a warm
(and somewhat belated!)
welcome to Ellen Calves,
Stephanie McCaine
& Michael Milanes*