"The Times They Are a-Changin"  
(in) The New York State Legislature  
Help identify the new opportunities to achieve League goals & the action steps to get there!  
Saturday, December 8, 2018, 10 AM - Noon  
Come at 9:30 for holiday fare and get acquainted time  
Location: Calvary United Methodist Church,  
15 Ridge Place, Latham (east of Latham traffic circle, off Rte. 9N),  
"Gathering Place" room  
Open to Members and the Public  

The League of Women Voters of Albany County, Rensselaer County, Saratoga County and Schenectady County jointly offer this program in collaboration with the NYS League of Women Voters.  

LWVNYS Program and Policy Director, Jennifer Wilson, will present background and guide discussion on:  
A “big picture” overview of the NYS Legislature and the changes as a result of the 2018 election  
- The NYS Senate “flipped” and a new dynamic will now exist with the Governor  

A look at the League’s 2018 NYS legislative agenda and defining the prospects for what can be achieved in the 2019 agenda  
- Election Law, Healthcare, Government Reform, Women's Issues, Natural Resources and more!  
- The opportunity for members to provide educated input into 2019’s agenda priorities  

How-to's of taking action to the next level of advocating for League goals.
We recognize that diverse perspectives are important and necessary for responsible and representative decision making;

We believe inclusiveness enhances our organization's ability to respond effectively to changing conditions and needs;

We affirm our commitment to reflecting the diversity of Albany County; and

There shall be no barriers to participation in any activity of the League on the basis of economic position, gender, race, ability, age, sexual orientation, creed or national origin.

**Officers**

President, Patricia Sibilia, patriciasibiliany@gmail.com

1st V-P Admin., Regina Tillman, rmt370@gmail.com

2nd V-P Advocacy, Mary Beilby, mary.beilby@gmail.com

Secretary, Britt Westergard, BrittLWV@gmail.com

Treasurer, Marggie Skinner, mpskinner3@yahoo.com

**Directors**

Communications, Aimee Allaud, 85aimee@nycap.rr.com

Voter Service,

- Walk away understanding the different methods of advocating and with a take home set of tools to put it into action!

Get a head start on the discussion by reviewing the 2017-18 LWVNYS Legislative Agenda (click here)

Contact: Aimee Allaud, 85aimee@nycap.rr.com, 518-482-2617, for more information.

**President's Message**

Hello Fellow Leaguers,

The mid-term elections are now behind us, and what an experience it has been!

As Leaguers, we stood in solidarity with the challenges being faced on the national level with voter suppression, often in absolute shock that citizens’ right to vote are so blatantly being denied. Restrictive voter id laws, purging of voters, abominable polling place practices - these and any other suppressions have to change! We had some wins, such as Florida voting to restore the privileges to citizens who served their sentences for certain felonies. But we need to continue to fight those fights, both nationally and in our own backyard by pushing NY to finally address its voting issues. Did you know that voting in Brooklyn was so problematic that there’s a call for the Board of Elections Executive Director to resign?

The real win with this year's election nationally was participation - both with record voter turnout and with all the civic involvement in efforts to register, educate and engage voters. We saw this locally where our volunteers brought astounding energy to this election season with their efforts! We registered approximately 350 people, in addition to approximately another 240 new citizens via our naturalization ceremony efforts. And we introduced some new, innovative approaches this year like follow-up reminder postcards, registering folks in the jails, and getting out into new locations like barbershops and the bus station. Amazingly, we had 100% participation effort in covering 192 polling locations and earned close to $2000 for our League
Did You Miss It?

LWVAC Annual Potluck and Membership Meeting

Members of our League came together on October 3rd for our Annual Potluck and Membership Meeting, having been invited to bring... a Friend, and Dish, and their Thoughts! Approximately 45 showed up, including current members and prospective ones... and within a week, if not that evening, 9 new members joined! We welcome them and chalked that up to a success for the meeting! We still have to perfect our "Zero Waste" approach to meetings but we hardly had any trash... so we call that a success, too. The food was great and the conversations stimulating! We note another success here... the most significant one of all...that we came out of the membership meeting with not one but TWO Priority Lists! One for Programs and one for Fundraising, both to be followed up on by their respective committees.

See the two priority lists - developed with the inputs of your fellow league members in attendance - at our LWVAC Facebook page along with photographs by the League member and professional photographer, Cindy Schultz! Visit us (and like our page so that you can receive our feeds): https://www.facebook.com/LWVACNY. Our heartfelt thanks to those who came and expressed themselves, and to those joining us for 2018-19!

This meeting was produced by the following members of the LWVAC Membership Committee: Paula Philo (past Chair), Kitt Jackson, Regina Tillman (current Chair), with the aid of our newest member, Pat Maxon! Joining us also for 2018-19 is new member Natalie Criscione and returning is Marggie Skinner. If you need any help finding a League committee or project to work on, please do not hesitate to email the Membership Chair at rmt370@gmail.com.

LWVAC Participates in New Community Coalition for Voter Registration in Capital District Jails

The weeks prior to the National Voter Registration Day of September 25th bore witness to the development of a new coalition of community, civic and college organizations. Their primary purpose was to enter into the capital area jails to register voters. Since voting is foundational to good citizenship, the mission was to reengage those in the county jails by making them aware of their right to vote and their responsibility to do so as citizens of this country. Studies have shown...
that there are several pluses for this action including a significant decrease in rates of recidivism for those incarcerated when they became registered voters.

Another feature of this effort was that there was an educational component, giving information not usually associated with "registration" events. The one-on-one voter registration process was standardized so that it could be augmented by a 10-15 minute presentation on the history of voting rights in this country. This was developed and presented by Jacqui Williams (CAAMI/Capital Area Against Mass Incarceration) and Barbara Smith (NY Poor People's Campaign), both notable educators in the Albany area and beyond.

Over the course of development, more organizations joined this Coalition. The myriad of details for meeting the coalition objective were worked out amongst members upon approval for the activity being conveyed to Regina Tillman, LWVAC Vice President, from the Office of the Albany County Sheriff. Ms. Tillman continued to act as coordinator, setting up the logistics of the planning meetings, the trainings, and the registration activity in the jail, and pulling in inputs as needed from Corrections Staff. Current LWVAC Voter Services Co-Chair, Andrea Lee, accepted the invitation to provide the voter registration training to approximately 60 volunteers. Two orientation and training sessions were conducted at the Albany Law School building as secured by yet another coalition organization, Albany Law Prisoners' Rights Pro Bono. Additionally, the Capital Area Urban League generously provided supportive funding to secure LWV handout materials and postage for mailings as needed.

Between the two occasions thus far scheduled - September 25th and October 11th - up to 45 volunteers had registered a total of 33 eligible men and women at the Albany Correctional Facility. "Although this effort began with National Voter Registration Day, the positive comments that came from both inmates, and volunteers, have convinced us that this coalition's mission is definitely worth continuing into the future", explained Regina Tillman.

Barbara Smith, a past two term Albany Common Council member, also stated that, "a national call for moral revival has prioritized registering people to vote whose voices are often ignored and who are disenfranchised because of voter suppression, gerrymandering, and other tactics. The NYS Poor People's Campaign is pleased to work with the Coalition for Voter Registration in County Jails to ensure that everyone can exercise their voting rights." Volunteer Mark Emanatian, renowned local musician, representative for the Poor People's Campaign, and local labor activist, noted that his time on this project was positive beyond just a registration; it was a "sharing of our humanity". Albany County Sheriff Craig D. Apple, Sr. expressed the opinion that, "the right to vote is a fundamental right protected under our constitution. If we are brave enough to listen to these individuals express their opinions, they might just help us to solve some of the serious issues facing our nation today. I believe a person who takes the initiative to register to vote is much more likely to get involved with their community in a positive way."

Thanks go to all of the volunteers that joined us with the support of their organizations. It is the hope that most will continue when the Coalition restarts its efforts in 2019, and even expands to the neighboring counties that comprise the NY Capital District. In particular, hats-off to the following members for doing a great job in representing the Albany County League in this initiative: Barbara Bailey, Colleen Luther, Christine Primomo, Barbara Quackenbush, Nell Stokes, and Gail Volk.

Anyone interested in becoming a trained coalition volunteer for 2019 (and is over the age of 19) may contact Regina Tillman, LWVAC Vice President/Membership Chair/Development Chair at rmt370@gmail.com.

**Members of the Coalition for Voter Registration in NY Capital District Jails**

Welcome to the following new members in 2018

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Teaching High School Students About NYS Government

**What:** LWVNYS and the NYS Social Studies Supervisory Association have prepared seven lesson plans for teachers of the New York Grade 12 Participation in Government course. The lesson plans are designed to provide teachers and students with information specific to New York State, including how to engage in politics. Portions of the lesson plans can also be put to use for educating the public.

**Program:** The program will present an overview of the different lessons plans

**Goal:** Become familiar with course so LWVAC can assist Albany County high schools to utilize the lessons plans and explore leveraging them for use with the public

**When:** Saturday, January 5, 10:30 -12:00 Noon

**Where:** Guilderland Public Library, 2228 Western Ave., Guilderland, Normanskill Room

**Presenters:**

- Lisa Kissinger, Social Studies Academic Administrator, Shenendehowa Central Schools, and President of the New York State Social Studies Supervisory Association;
- Laura Ladd Bierman, Executive Director of the League of Women Voters New York

Are you looking for ways to improve basic knowledge of NYS government for present and future voters? Many of you were actively engaged in the LWVAC’s voter registration projects in fall 2018. Take it to the next level as we reach out to high school Participation in Government teachers and to other groups in Albany County by offering this course.
NEWS FROM THE INSIDE --- INSIDE LWVAC THAT IS!

Election Night Poll Reporting
Kudos to all 78 League members and friends who put us over the top for 100% coverage of 192 poll reporting sites on Election Night 2018. Some of us had no trouble; everything worked and we had a great experience. Some of us experienced scanners that would not print the results, some reported uncooperative election inspectors, and endless redialing until the phone was answered, BUT everyone overcame those obstacles and brought in the results. That effort means more than $1,932 revenue we can use to continue our Voter Service projects as well other programs. (Marggie Skinner)

Students Inside Albany (SIA)
Once again, the LWVAC will sponsor two Albany County high school sophomores or juniors at the LWVNYS SIA Conference, May 2019 in Albany. Do you know of a 10th or 11th grade student who would be a good candidate? Letters have gone to the social studies department at all Albany County High Schools. The nomination must come from the school, so the student should ask his/her social studies teacher for an application. If you have any questions, contact Rema Goldstein, LWVAC SIA chair, at remagolds@aol.com.

The LWVAC Needs You-
To help develop interesting programs for League members and the public. Help promote the League’s diverse positions and provide a forum for civil discussions on topics of local, state and national concern. Contact Patricia Sibilia, President, PatriciaSibiliaNY@gmail.com.

To clean out your closets/file cabinets, boxes of those old League materials that have been cluttering up your house! The LWVAC’s History committee is getting down to work on updating our “75 Years of a Great Idea” (1997) and anything you have to contribute will help to provide a complete picture. Contact Aimee Allaud, 85aimee@nycap.rr.com. We can pick up your contributions, too!

First-ever Zero Waste Fest-- Albany Riverfront Jazz Festival
LWVAC members and friends participated in raising public consciousness about the 3R’s (reduce, reuse, recycle) at the City’s first low-to-no waste City of Albany event on September 8, at the Riverfront showing how zero waste can be incorporated into public events. The Zero Waste Capital District coalition set up several “Zero Waste Stations” at the festival and trained volunteers to be “Zero Waste Ambassadors.” Ambassadors helped attendees sort their Festival waste into compost and recycling bins first, and then put what’s left into the landfill basket. Volunteers provided helpful tips to festival attendees on how to compost and recycle at home.

A big success: We saved 13 bags of recycling from going into the Landfill… plus 150 lbs of compost that went to Radix (the chickens loved the rice, beans and plaintain skins)... plus 7 bags of compost (including paper plates/bowls) that went with FoodScraps 360 to the commercial composter at the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency in Kingston. See the League’s FB page for great pix https://www.facebook.com/LWVACNY/

How’s Your Civility Quotient?
We all can use some pointers in reaching out while we are engaging civic-ally! A local chapter of Better Angels, www.better-angels.org, is organizing. From their website, “Launched in 2016, Better Angels is a bipartisan citizen’s movement to unify our divided nation. By bringing red and blue Americans together into a working alliance, we’re building new ways to talk to one another, participate together in public life, and influence the direction of the nation.” While LWVAC is not a co-sponsor, the workshops could be a way to follow up on our May 2018 program on “How to Talk. How to Listen: Fractured Conversations in a Polarized Society.” Watch the calendar for meeting announcements.

We Did It Together!
Albany County has a styrofoam ban now!
We helped pass a styrofoam ban in Albany County in August 2018 and County Executive Dan McCoy signed the bill on Sept. 12, 2018; It will take effect 6 months after it’s sent to the Secretary of State and is currently in the County Executive’s office for implementation and development of regulations. See: https://www.timesunion.com/news/article/Albany-executive-signs-foam-product-ban-13224607.php. The bill will prohibit the use of styrofoam food packaging for all restaurants and food service organizations in Albany County, completing the partial ban on those with 15 or more locations enacted in 2014. Food service businesses, plus vendors who supply food to county institutions such as the jail and nursing home, will have to switch to recyclable or compostable food packaging, however a waiver process will be available via the Albany County Health Department for hardship claims.

In Other County News...
The Albany County Legislature passed Local Law E in July with a 37-1 vote which prohibits the use of conversion therapy for minors in Albany County. Pending legislation on paid sick time, Local Law C, is expected to come to a vote in December, along with redistricting (Local Law O, pending changes resulting from the Public Hearing in October) as well as other key issues (immigration, nepotism, term limits, downsizing). They currently have pending legislation on paid sick time (Local Law C, expected to come to vote in December session), redistricting (Local Law O, pending changes post Public Hearing in October) and other key issues (immigration, nepotism, term limits, downsizing). For more info or to get involved, contact Patricia Sibilia, PatriciaSibiliaNY@gmail.com.

**Voters Services Meeting -- The Future**

Andy Lee, Voters Services Chair, is convening a meeting to prepare for 2019 (right around the corner). Meetings for those interested in learning what LWVAC has in store for 2019 elections, reaching out to student populations and general public, come to a meeting on Sunday, Dec 2, 1-3:30 pm Community Room (2nd floor) Albany Public Library Washington Ave Branch, 161 Washington Ave., contact Andy at newandytree@gmail.com.

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**Calendar**

**Nov. 29, 7:00-8:30 PM** "Better Angels" in the Capital District, Informational Meeting and "Mini" Skills Workshop, Guilderland Public Library, Western Ave., Guilderland, contact Christine Primomo, via betterangelscapregion@gmail.com

**Dec 1, 11 am - 5 PM** New York Statewide Grassroots Gathering for Our Democracy By Let NY Vote Coalition. First Presbyterian Church of Albany, 362 State Street. Sign up via Eventbrite at https://bit.ly/2DjI6Te

**Dec 2, 1-3:30 PM** Voter Services Meeting, Albany Public Library, Community Room (2nd floor) Washington Ave Branch, 161 Washington Ave., Albany, contact Andy Lee, newandytree@gmail.com.

**Dec. 3, 6:30-8:30 PM** LWVAC Board Meeting, Bach Library, 455 N.Scotland Ave. Albany, members welcome, contact Patricia Sibilia, PatriciaSibiliaNY@gmail.com

**Dec. 8, 9:30-12N** Joint Leagues of Capital District Meeting to discuss LWVNYS Legislative Agenda 2019, contact Aimee Allaud, 85aimee@nycap.rr.com. See front page.

**Dec. 9, 2:30-4:30 PM** "Better Angels" in the Capital District, Full Skills Workshop, Albany Public Library, contact Christine Primomo, via betterangelscapregion@gmail.com

**Dec. 18, 7:00-8:30 PM** "Votes for Women" monthly book discussions, co-sponsored by LWVAC/The Woman's Club of Albany, The Woman's Club, 725 Madison Ave., contact Susanna Martin, susannamartin@gmail.com. Open to LWVAC members.

**Jan. 5, 10:30 am - 12 noon** Teaching High School Students about NYS Government, Guilderland Public Library, 2228 Western Ave., Guilderland, Normanskill Room, contact Aimee Allaud, 85aimee@nycap.rr.com.

**Jan. 7, 6:30-8:30 PM** LWVAC Board Meeting, Bach Library,, 455 N. Scotland Ave, Albany, members welcome, contact Patricia Sibilia, PatriciaSibiliaNY@gmail.com.

**Jan. 12, 10AM - 7PM** Women's Empowerment Conference, Empire State Plaza : Guest & Keynote speakers, Workshops. Pre-registration is required and lunch served to those staying thru the day; https://www.weconferenceandmarch.com/events

**Jan. 19, 12noon - 3PM** Women's Empowerment March, March route TBD, followed by speakers. Updates available at: https://www.weconferenceandmarch.com/events Details on League participation will be announced.
Membership 2018-19 - Join & Make a Difference

Name: ____________________________________________

Tel: ___________ Address,City, Zip: ____________________________________________

Email: __________________________________________________

___ Individual Membership $60/year       ___ Send me newsletters by mail

___ Household Membership $90/year         ___ Just use my email for newsletters

___ Student Membership $25/year           ___ Contribution in support of my local League

____ I’d like to join; this is the best I can do  ___ Please send me more information

____ tax deductible contribution to LWVNYS Education Fund

Mail to: League of Women Voters of Albany County, PO Box 611, Slingerlands, NY 12159
Or join online at http://www.lwvalbany.org/join-renew.html