ANNUAL REPORT 2018-2019

Redistricting Victory

“Suffragents” Program

Ken Screven Program

Voting Reform Victory

Capital District Latino Family Wellness Community Event

Women’s March
# Table of Contents

President’s Report for 2018-2019 ................................................................. 3  
Officers and Directors 2018-2019 ................................................................. 4  
Committees 2018-2019 ............................................................................. 5  
Awards ........................................................................................................ 6  
  Inez Milholland Women’s History Award .................................................. 6  
  Susan B. Anthony Making Democracy Work Award .................................. 6  
  Harriet Tubman Off The Beaten Path Award ........................................... 7  
  Carrie Chapman Catt Visibility and Leadership Award ......................... 8  
  Victoria Woodhull Get Out The Vote Award .......................................... 9  
  Eleanor Roosevelt Youth Program Award .............................................. 9  
Committee Reports .................................................................................... 10  
  Action and Advocacy ............................................................................ 10  
  Albany County Observer Corps ............................................................. 13  
  Civics Education .................................................................................. 14  
  Communications .................................................................................. 16  
  Great Decisions Discussion Group ......................................................... 18  
  Humanities New York Book Discussion .............................................. 19  
  Long Term Care .................................................................................. 19  
  Membership ......................................................................................... 20  
  New Citizen Voter Registration ............................................................. 21  
  Poll Reporting ...................................................................................... 23  
  Programs ............................................................................................... 23  
  Students Inside Albany (SIA) ................................................................. 24  
  Treasurer’s Report ............................................................................... 25  
  Voter Services ..................................................................................... 25  
  Candidate Forums .............................................................................. 26  
  Vote411 ................................................................................................. 27  
  High School Voter Registration ............................................................ 27  
Appendix A: LWVAC Local Program 2018-2019 ..................................... 30  
Appendix B: LWVUS 2018-2020 Summary of Public Policy Positions .... 31  
Appendix C: LWVNYS 2018 Summary of Public Policy Positions .......... 34
Greetings to all,

Please take a few minutes to at least leaf through (if not read!) this annual report because it’s chock full of all the good work our local chapter has done this year - and it’s impressive!

Besides winning three awards at the State League Convention for our work this year and being the recipient of two grants from National, I’m also incredibly proud of the growth we’ve had that you won’t find in this report. We started building partnership with other community organizations and began collaborating more with the Schenectady, Rensselaer and Saratoga Leagues. We’ve also made advances in strengthening our administrative tools and processes and increased our visibility in the community and the press. It’s been an exciting year in so many ways!

But none of this was possible without our members who are the heart and soul of this organization, who give their time as volunteers because they care and want to make an impact. My thanks go out to all of you!

There’s still much more on our wish list of what we want to do, so let’s keep forging ahead into the big 2020 year!

Yours in League,
Patricia
Officers and Directors 2018-2019

Bylaws state:

- Board of Directors consists of all officers and no more than 10 other elected Directors
- Elected Directors and Officers serve a term of two years
- Board of Directors may appoint, but appointed directors serve a one year term which ends with Annual Meeting following the appointment.
- President, First Vice President, Secretary are elected in even numbered years.
- Second Vice President, Treasurer are elected in odd numbered years.
- Nominating Committee has 5 members. The Chair and two members shall not be Board members. They shall be nominated by the Nominating Committee and be presented at the Annual Meeting for election.

OFFICERS

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<tr>
<th>Position</th>
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<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Patricia Sibilia</td>
<td>2018-2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>1st Vice President (Administration)</td>
<td>Regina Tillman</td>
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<td>2nd Vice President (Advocacy)</td>
<td>Mary Beilby</td>
<td>2017-2019</td>
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<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Britt Westergard</td>
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<td>Treasurer</td>
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DIRECTORS

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<td>Communications</td>
<td>Aimee Allaud</td>
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<td>Voter Service</td>
<td>Andrea Lee</td>
<td>2018-2020</td>
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<td>At Large</td>
<td>Susanna Martin</td>
<td>2017-2019</td>
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<td>At Large</td>
<td>Stephen Winters</td>
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<tr>
<td>At Large</td>
<td>Virginia Gutman</td>
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NOMINATING COMMITTEE

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<td>Mary Berry, Chair</td>
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<td>Rema Goldstein</td>
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<td>Judith Wing</td>
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<td>Marggie Skinner</td>
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<td>Britt Westergard</td>
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Below is the listing of our 2018-2019 Committees and their chairs or leaders. We want to thank those who have put forth the effort to lead and participate in them. As we begin our planning for the upcoming year, we ask all members to consider joining a committee to make our organization stronger.

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<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
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<tr>
<td>Action and Advocacy</td>
<td>Aimee Allaud and Mary Beilby</td>
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<td>Albany County Observer Corps</td>
<td>Patricia Sibilia</td>
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<td>Aimee Allaud and Mary Berry</td>
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<td>Long Term Care</td>
<td>Arleen Stein</td>
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<td>Membership Committee</td>
<td>Regina Tillman</td>
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<td>New Citizen Voter Registration</td>
<td>Julie Elson and Janet Reilly</td>
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<td>Poll Reporting</td>
<td>Marggie Skinner</td>
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<td>Program Committee</td>
<td>Patricia Sibilia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Students Inside Albany</td>
<td>Rema Goldstein</td>
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<td>Voter Services</td>
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Awards

The following awards were submitted by LWVAC for consideration at the NYS LWV Convention in June. The first three awards listed here were winners in their category and the second three received honorable mention. Congratulations to all who contributed to these important committees and initiatives.

Inez Milholland Women’s History Award

The LWVAC was asked by USCRI (US Committee for Refugees and Immigrants) to assist in educating new Senior immigrants about American civics, especially the Suffrage movement since many of the immigrants have come from countries where women’s rights are severely limited. Andy Lee, LWVAC Voter Services Director, rose to this challenge by combining curriculum materials from newly developed Civics materials (formulated by LWVNYS, BOCES, and volunteer teachers) with information gathered from Suffrage presentations provided by Aimee Allaud, a longtime League member. She also worked with the USCRI Program Coordinator to better understand the audience’s background, interests and best approaches learned from prior training of the diverse group.

The most critical issues in formulating the talk were remembering that most attendees have had very little or no US history; everything had to be translated in multiple (seven!) languages, and that although the concepts and language had to be kept simple, we were working with complicated topics and an adult audience. All the attendees were keen and sharp minded, and in spite of the distraction of multiple languages, kept up well with the information.

Attendees found the history of limited suffrage and rights for women and people of color in the USA fascinating! Many were surprised that the ERA has still not passed in Congress. In all about 35 immigrants (all over age 60) attended and enjoyed gathering to learn about US Suffrage. The presentation, including question and answer time, took about two and a half hours and was held on March 20, 2019. LWVAC hopes that there will be opportunities in the future to present this again.

Susan B. Anthony Making Democracy Work Award

For the last three decades Albany County has been sued in Federal Court for how they drew district lines. And they lost all three lawsuits, with the last one costing the taxpayers $1.7 million dollars. The LWV of Albany County has been working since 2016 in both an Observer Corps and Advocacy capacity to ensure that proposed redistricting legislation proposed by the Albany County legislature (Local Law O for 2018) is equitable and strong legislation in the best interest of our Democracy. Extensive research was done on best components and approaches for redistricting legislation, which was then shared with the sponsors. Initially there were two
competing proposals, one from a Democrat and one from a Republican. After working with the different sponsors and giving public testimony on why the legislation should be bi-partisan, the two sponsors united behind a single proposed local law, which went through multiple iterations and public hearings with the League pushing each time for greater improvements. After Public Testimony the League gave on February 26th 2019 at the Public Hearing on the redistricting (Local Law O for 2018) legislation, it was modified by the Sponsors to address a large number of our concerns.

Public Testimony on April 23, 2019 by LWVAC President Patricia Sibilia applauded the revisions and requested additional work in support of an equitable redistricting effort. Not only have we made significant progress in steering Albany County's proposed redistricting legislation in the right direction, but in the process we've formed a coalition with other like-minded groups. LWVAC is a founding member of the recently (March 2019) formed "One Person, One Vote" coalition; an April 1, 2019 press release calls attention to the coalition’s work with respect to this redistricting legislation as well as future work to ensure a complete and accurate count in the 2020 Census, which is the foundation on which redistricting is built. The LWVAC is planning a key public event in May on the census, led by Christine Primomo who has done extensive research on the process and the challenges. Ms. Primomo worked with our Federal Census representatives and the NYCounts2020 Coalition in order to bring focus to this important decennial process.

Harriet Tubman Off The Beaten Path Award

LWVAC participated in the New Community Coalition for Voter Registration in Capital District Jails. The coalition consisted of community, civic and college organizations. The mission was to re-engage 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 is a significant decrease in rates of recidivism when they become registered voters.

There was also an educational component, giving information not usually associated with “registration” events. The one-on-one voter registration process was standardized with a brief presentation on the history of voting rights in this country.

Between the two sessions completed, 45 volunteers had registered a total of 33 eligible men and women at the Albany Correctional Facility. “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, coordinator and LWVAC Vice President (Administrative).

Routine voter registration sessions at the Albany Correctional Facility will restart in May 2019 with scheduling of volunteer opportunities twice each month.
This project allowed League members to work with diverse groups and individuals that we don’t usually work with. It provided League visibility to county officials, residents and groups that may have never heard of the League of Women Voters. Even if there was little formal publicity, the associations formed with members of the partnering organizations, incarcerated individuals and their families, can only enhance the significance of the League within our community.


Carrie Chapman Catt Visibility and Leadership Award

On March 26th, 2019, a well-attended 2nd Annual Orientation Meeting was held in conjunction with the LWVAC Membership Committee, Board of Directors, and chairs of various committees. The goal for this meeting was to introduce attendees to the wide assortment of volunteer opportunities that currently exist within the LWVAC. An innovative "Passport" approach encouraged attendees to visit each of the informational tables to speak to board members and committee chairs about the volunteer and committee opportunities available in their areas of responsibility. The League gained six new members and all attendees, League members new and old, left with concrete ways they could get involved because board members and committee chairs had prepared “position description” handouts to clearly communicate what volunteer jobs they were looking to fill. New and current members were also invited to fill out the paper or online Member Interest Form to be contacted for targeted volunteer opportunities in the future.

The immediate feedback heard at the end of the program was that many attendees thought that the event was well worth attending and had exceeded their expectations. The runaway favorite segment was the remarks offered by past and present leadership including our featured guest speaker and past president of LWV Broome and Albany Counties, Lois Griffin.

“Passport” holders who visited all info tables and stayed to the end of the meeting were entered to win a Grand Prize, a paid year 2020 LWVAC membership, provided in celebration of the 100 Year Anniversary of the League of Women Voters.
Victoria Woodhull Get Out The Vote Award

In advance of the 2018 midterm election, LWVAC volunteers brought astounding energy to this election season with their efforts to register, educate and engage voters. 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 joining a coalition to register folks in the jails, and getting out into new locations like barbershops, food pantries and the bus station. Finally, a new approach to Get Out The Vote for voter engagement included having newly registered voters fill out a postcard to themselves; this was later mailed by LWVAC as a timely reminder for new voters to go vote in the midterm election.

Eleanor Roosevelt Youth Program Award

In the Fall of 2018, LWVAC Treasurer Marggie Skinner organized an adopt-a-high school team of voter registration liaisons for each of the 21 high schools in Albany County, which included public schools, charter schools and private schools. The team was provided voter registration training and packets of voter registration and education materials for distribution in their assigned high schools. The volunteers worked with the Social Studies PIG teachers to determine the best way to conduct the registrations in their schools. In some cases, this meant the volunteer coming into the classroom, in others it meant volunteers tabling in the school, and in other cases the volunteers provided materials to the teacher to integrate into their lesson plans. Thus far over 700 high school students in Albany County have been registered as a result of these efforts.
Committee Reports

Action and Advocacy – Aimee Allaud & Mary Beilby

Advocacy is based on the local program adopted at the annual meeting as well as positions/program adopted by LWVUS and LWVNY (see Appendices to this report).

The Environment:

1) County Styrofoam ban
The County Legislature re-introduced legislation to extend the county ban on Styrofoam food service ware to all restaurants and agencies with significant food service operations (Local Law L). A public legislative hearing was scheduled for July 24th and Mary Beilby delivered testimony outlining LWVAC position on solid waste and natural resources and our support for a similar bill the previous year. We also created Constant Contact (CC) alerts to league contacts to ask people to attend the hearing and to write their own support of LL “L”.

Local Law “L” was then scheduled for the July 13th Legislative Session. A second CC was drafted to contact their legislators and attend the session in support of LL “L”. Aimee Allaud prepared and presented the LWVAC position at the session. The law passed the Legislature by a vote of 23 to 11 which then required the county executive’s signature. LWVAC sent a letter of support to the County Executive’s office on Aug. 28. A third CC was drafted and approved by the LWVAC board to ask our contacts to contact the county executive in support of final approval of LL “L” as well as attend the executive’s public hearing on August 30th. Aimee prepared and presented a statement in support of LL “L” on behalf of LWVAC at the August 30th public hearing. County Executive Dan McCoy ultimately signed the styrofoam ban and extended it beyond restaurants to county operated food services. Mary Beilby attended the official press conference where this was announced. Two LWVAC members contributed to the creation and distribution of educational materials on implementing the styrofoam ban and proper recycling and composting.

LWVAC’s participation in advocating for this important legislation was facilitated by collaboration with a coalition of local and regional environmental and grassroots groups. These organizations contributed technical research, membership clout and contacts with decision makers to move this legislation forward. We benefited from this collaboration in providing information in our e-mail blasts on timing, contact information, inside information on who to contact on what issues and generating talking points for our members to use in their advocacy. Participation in the coalition also provided LWVAC with inside access to strategy. We plan to stay involved with this coalition of groups as additional environmental legislation is proposed and to help steer the agenda.

2) Zero Waste
Aimee Allaud and Mary Beilby worked with the Zero-Waste Capitol District Coalition that
emerged from PAUSE under Tina Lieberman’s leadership. On a related matter, Aimee and Mary have been working with another PAUSE off-shoot to collaborate with the city of Albany on making the Sept. 8th Jazz-Fest a “Zero Waste” event. LWVAC donated $100 for consultants to help in planning. We recruited at least 6 volunteers from 2 CC’s to help educate visitors at the waste stations, to divert recyclable and compostable materials, and to distribute educational materials on recycling, composting and voting. This event helped to sensitize city leaders on the possibility of diverting materials from the landfill to more sustainable solutions. This event and the relationships established led to a collaboration with the city on a grant application to expand recycling and composting education and practice in the city.

LWVAC has adopted a policy of zero-waste at our meetings wherever food is served. People are urged to bring re-usable containers and utensils and recycle and compost as much as possible.

3) **Coeymans Clean Air Legislation**
Christine Primomo is a leader in the issue of clean air in Coeymans as the LaFarge/Holcim cement plant explored a number of options to import and incinerate municipal waste and then used tires as fuel in their cement plant. Local citizens became concerned about air quality and the need for a DEC permit. The town board was ready to adopt a clean air law that would prohibit the incineration of used tires. The *Albany Times Union* published several articles indicating that the company presented misleading information about the safety of burning tires and had hidden their plans from the community and fabricated the DEC permits that had actually expired. LWVAC wrote a letter to the Coeymans town board supporting the passage of the Clean Air Act based on our Four County Solid Waste Position. The Coeymans town board ultimately passed the Clean Air law but the issue has become the target of candidates seeking to unseat board members who supported the law. The LWVAC BOD also supported advocating similar Clean Air Acts in the four Capital Region Counties in conjunction with the four county LWV’s solid waste position. This will require organizing and buy-in from the leagues.

4) **Sheridan Hollow Microgrid**
The NY Power Authority and Office of General Services is promoting the installation of two large fracked gas turbines in the old ANSWERS plant on Sheridan Avenue to power the Empire State Plaza and other downtown government facilities. Members participated in a large demonstration protesting this plan as targeting an environmental justice community for continued expansion of fossil fuel use and pollution. Continuing advocacy resulted in changes in the 2019-20 state budget indicating renewable fuels were an option to fossil fuels for this generating plant. Aimee Allaud and Mary Beilby attended a conference on Environmental Justice at the Latinos center in April, 2019. It was an opportunity to learn what is happening in Puerto Rico and in Albany including an ongoing epidemiological study of air pollution in South Albany and its health effects on residents, especially children.

**Let NY Vote (LWVNY election reform coalition)**
After the November, 2018 election and support from Governor Cuomo, there was optimism about the passage of many of the election reforms that the league has advocated for many
years. Several members participated in various lobby days at the Capitol organized by LNYV as well as contacting representatives by phone, and media. Some reforms were included in the Governor’s budget and quickly approved but intensive lobbying was needed to include money to support early voting and electronic poll books in both single house budgets. County boards are working with reduced and uncertain funds to implement early voting and other reforms. LWVAC is working with the Albany County BOE to understand and assist in educating voters on new election laws. Automatic voter registration is still being debated and advocated by LNYV at the end of session.

**LWVAC Educational Programs on Advocacy topics**

1) *Down to Earth; What you can do to save the Planet*
   
   This was planned with the cooperation of the Zero-Waste Capital District Coalition and had speakers on Reducing Wasted Food-DEC, Renewable Energy-Solarize Albany and Composting. We also had about 30 co-sponsors/exhibitors with information on various sustainability topics. The total attendance was about 75 with fewer than 15 LWVAC members including volunteers which was disappointing considering all of the effort consumed in planning and executing the program.

2) *Shape your Future; The 2020 Census and You*

   Also had low member attendance despite a stellar panel of government and organizational experts. LWV is committed to a complete count at national, state and local levels since the census affects Congressional representation, federal aid and other critical programs. We urge everyone to get involved in advocating for Census participation in their neighborhoods, organizations and local government bodies.

**Advocacy Committee**

Mary Beilby, V.P. for Advocacy, has been encouraged to form an advocacy committee to be a group to respond to calls for advocacy and to select and work on additional advocacy programs. There has been a slow start to this as Beilby has experienced medical issues this year and because it seems that few people join the league to specifically engage in advocacy. People tend to respond to issues that directly affect them and may lead to greater involvement with LWV issues. At least 6 members have demonstrated outstanding commitment to advocacy and either seek out issues or respond to calls for advocacy. Thanks go to Aimee Allaud, Mary Beilby, Christine Primomo, Regina Tillman, Patricia Sibilia (Observer Corp), and Gail Volk. Lois Gundrum has recently asked to receive information on climate change and participated in a climate change lobby day at the Capitol.

This year, we have increased use of our Facebook page to promote advocacy opportunities. The Advocacy Blog ([http://www.lwvalbany.org/advocacy-blog.html](http://www.lwvalbany.org/advocacy-blog.html)) also helps users connect with topics addressed by LWV national, state and local positions. Opt to receive e-mail notifications of additions by clicking on the “follow” button at the bottom of the page.
Redistricting: For the last decades Albany County has been sued in Federal Court under the Voting Rights Act for how it drew the legislative district lines. All three times the County lost, and the last lawsuit cost the taxpayers $1.75 million. But finally in May of this year legislation was approved that will hopefully prevent this from happening again in the future. It will go before the voters for approval in the general election in November. Below is the statement the League made as part of a joint press conference before the legislature vote:

This local law being voted on tonight started its journey in the summer of 2016 with research by the league, conversations with key policy makers, and then multiple public hearings. Along the way two partisan drafts became one bi-partisan proposal, and all throughout there was dialogue - legislators taking input and responding and putting in the time to strive for the best they can achieve. The League will always want perfection - the best possible solution for the citizens of Albany County. But we also recognize that perfection isn’t always obtainable. Local Law O has a lot of the key tenets of good redistricting practices: it attempts to filter out candidates who may want to unfairly influence the maps; it calls for diversity amongst the Commissioners; it includes transparency in the process and it addresses the basic criteria in drawing equitable district maps. However, it has some drawbacks to it. We were asking to have political data completely removed from the process, and the choosing of Commissioners require a unanimous vote by those appointed. Regardless, we all should take a moment now to recognize the accomplishment of being able to present tonight legislation that could majorly improve what has been a very broken process in our County.

We will have a member meeting in September where we will review the consensus position that we adopted on redistricting and other County Charter issues in February 2014 and determine our course of action for the general election.

Styrofoam Ban: Through the help of the League’s advocacy and many other environmental advocates the Legislature passed in September the expansion of their ban of single use styrofoam disposable containers in all restaurants in Albany County. The law went into effect in March of this year. Way to go Advocacy Team!

Paid Sick Leave: Over the last year there have been two public hearings and numerous hours of public comment before the monthly legislative sessions on the legislation for paid sick leave. The chambers were packed the night of the vote in June, with almost equal numbers of public comments made in favor of and against it. The legislation was defeated 21-17, but the legislature commented that discussions on the topic will continue - a subtask force is to be convened.

Pollinator Friendly: In May the legislature passed Resolution 123 to make Albany County a pollinator friendly municipality. The County will establish host and nectar plants along all
County properties and parks, conduct an inventory of all pesticides being used by the County and make efforts to phase out usage of those harmful, and they will publish guides for gardeners and encourage local education on the subject. The Rusty Patched Bumblebee, a native to Albany County, is one of 8 endangered species in the country.

Other items:

- After much debate and press coverage, it was decided in the February legislative session to go forward with the move of the Board of Elections to 260 South Pearl Street. They amended the proposition to have it take place after the Primary elections in June, but before the start of the new Early Voting period.

- In December, the Legislature adopted the county’s 2019 budget with a tax levy of just under $92,700,000. As a result, the new tax rate per $1,000 equalized assessed value will be a decrease of 4.3% from 2018.

- $83 million in improvements was approved by the Legislature for the Albany County Nursing Home and the project is underway and expected to be completed in 2020.

- Legislation passed in 2018 to modernize and make more transparent legislative operations, allowing for more remote access, a public and searchable legislative database and electronic voting. Unfortunately they are still in the process of implementing and don’t have a projected date for completion - one for us to keep an eye on!

- Introduced but no significant movement: reducing the number of legislators, nepotism, term limits.

All 39 Legislative seats are up for election in the fall. County Legislators are elected for a 4 year term. Each legislator represents approximately 7,550 County residents. The current salary for their position is $22,187 per year.

Civics Education

Aimee Allaud, Mary Berry, co-chairs; section III submitted by Chris Deyss

The LWVAC Civics Committee presented a general meeting to the membership and community on January 5, 2019. The topic was the LWVNYS TEACHING HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS HOW TO ENGAGE IN POLITICS project, a collaboration of LWVNYS and the NYS Social Studies Supervisory Association (NYS4A). The collaboration resulted in the publication of seven lesson plans on state and local government for teachers of the New York Grade 12 Participation in Government course.

I. LWVAC General Meeting, January 5, 2019: Presenters were Laura Bierman, Exec. Director of LWVNYS, and Lisa Kissinger, Shenendehowa Central Schools Social Studies Administrator and President of the NYS Social Studies Supervisory Association. Laura explained the background of the LWVNYS project begun summer 2018 and completed Participation In Government (PIG) curriculum lesson plans in September 2018.
LWVNYS (Laura and Marion Bott, LWVNYS education specialist) sit on the “Democracy Ready Task Force,” a coalition of nonpartisan groups that meet periodically. The Task Force goal is to define what constitutes civic readiness and brings together stakeholders to advocate for NYS schools.

- Task Force is chaired by Michael Rebell; as well as a second task force of the NYS Ed Dept on Civics; Laura sits on both. Rebell is the author of “Flunking Democracy: Schools, Courts, and Civic Participation” (2018) and was lead attorney on the CFE school funding case in the 2000’s, and is currently lead attorney against the state of RI on civics education provision.
- The Federal ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act) signed by President Obama 12/10/16 governs US K-12 public education policy modified but did not eliminate provisions relating to standardized tests. Every state submitted a plan to the feds. Testing requirements for grades 5-8 remain in place in NYS. “Civic readiness” goal remains in ESSA but the NYS Task Force has to define how. TF is considering a “seal of civic readiness”. Their report will have to be accepted by the NYS Regents.
- Now that the League’s Civics lesson plans project is completed, Leagues will need to “shop” it to the local school districts who have received the information. 

There was a June 2019 LWVNYS convention workshop on the topic.

Lisa Kissinger suggested investigating Project Look Sharp, a media literacy project for students. Also Lisa promised the following information to the committee on the Social Studies curriculum on civics practices:

http://www.nysed.gov/curriculum-instruction/k-12-social-studies-framework

1. From this web page, read “The NYS K-12 Social Studies Framework Introduction.” It is a good overview of how NYSED is trying to change Social Studies instruction in New York’s public schools.
2. The Framework is divided into two documents – K-8 and 9-12. The Social Studies Practices are at the beginning of each document.
   a. In the K-8 document, grades K-4 start on page 4. They have created a chart which shows them for each grade. In the same document, grades 6-8 start on page 62.
   b. In the 9-12 document, they’re the same for grades 9-12 (they didn’t break them down by grade level) and they start on page 2 of that document.

Laura/Lisa presented a PowerPoint that showed sample pages from the lesson plans and provided print copies of sample pages for the audience.

II. Civics Committee Meeting of January 28, 2019: Attending: Aimee Allaud, Mary Berry, Mary Beilby, Regina Tillman, Chris Deyss, Andy Lee, and Tom Ellis. Discussion of what next steps the committee should initiate after learning about the project on January 5.

- Suggestion that some training on the curriculum might be useful for the volunteers who agree to be liaisons to the schools; perhaps Lisa or another SS could give a 1 hr. Training session to our LWVAC school liaisons
- Committee agreed that a 1-page form letter to the schools/SS teachers/admins should be sent in August to introduce them to the 3 LWVAC high school voter service projects: SIA/Voter Registration/Civics Curriculum.
• Letter should have a personalized element (handwritten envelope) that would get attention.

Next steps include arranging a training for volunteers in June or July with an instructor, drafting a letter to schools in July, attending the LWVNYS convention workshop on the curriculum in June, exchanging information with other Leagues on how they are implementing the Civics project including connecting with LWVNYS Voter Services chair, Judy Gorenstein, and identifying and correcting the printed materials cited in the lesson plans so that they are consistent with the new NYS elections laws passed in January 2019.

Thank you to the following LWVAC members who have participated in the committee during 2018-2019: Mary Beilby, Regina Tillman, Lois Gundrum, Chris Deyss, Anita Behn, Andy Lee, Patricia Sibilia.

III. **A subcommittee of the Civics Committee convened in February 2019**, under the project name of “Civics Empowerment.” The group included Civics Committee Co-chair Mary Berry, Lois Gundrum, Patricia Sibilia and Christine Deyss. The focus of the project is on engaging and educating community people about their elected officials, from local through federal levels, with a particular emphasis on understanding and involvement on the local -- city and town -- level. Through in-person and on-line avenues, we hope to educate audiences about who represents them and the responsibilities services of the various levels of government. The group decided to pilot the idea in the city of Watervliet. To date, the group has produced a printable pocket folder illustrating who represents Watervliet at city, county, state and federal levels, which will be updated after this year’s elections. The group has also begun to draft a powerpoint presentation that can be presented to community groups or viewed as a slide show online. Feedback from one of Watervliet’s councilpersons indicates participation in community groups has significantly shrunk and online presentations are more likely to reach people.

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Communications – **Aimee Allaud, Director**

The 2019 report marks the end of my tenure as Communications Director for LWVAC. Believing that the League of Women Voters mission was still relevant in 2013 (and in 2019 more so now than ever), I agreed to become Communications Director. What I didn’t foresee was the speed of change of communications techniques! Those changes have been challenging, but with the help of many hands we have been able to provide members and the public with digital information and a published bulletin over the 2013-2019 period.

The Communications portfolio is comprised of the following areas: LWVAC bulletin, website, Facebook, Twitter, press/media distribution of our programs and events, and providing direct communication to our members and non-members through “Constant Contact” messaging.

The following members have contributed to effective communications during 2018-19: **Bulletin** (Marian Schwager—co-editor, Laura Bierman — formatting, Marggie Skinner—mailing), **Website** (Linda Brown—webmaster, Mary Beilby—website calendar, LWVAC Advocacy Blog on website, Marggie Skinner—PayPal), **Facebook** (Marggie Skinner, Regina Tillman, Mary Beilby) **Twitter**--
Linda Brown, Press/Media Notices—Aimee Allaud. Cindy Schultz also provided photography expertise at many League events and posted photos to the League’s FB and website pages.

The bulletin masthead and web banner reflect the LWVUS visioning statement “Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.” Five issues of the bulletin were produced and distributed to our electronic mail list (about 500) and to the “request print copy” list (about 50). If you would like to help reduce paper and printing/mailing costs that the League incurs, let us know. An advantage of the electronic list is that you will receive the bulletin about 10 days earlier than the USPS list!

Regular contributors to the bulletin who keep you up to speed (thank you!) on issues of concern locally, state, nationally are Patricia Sibilia, president, Mary Beilby, vice-president/action, Regina Tillman, Vice-president/membership. Patricia’s vigilance and reporting on the Albany County Legislature has been a highlight of the bulletin.

Mary Beilby is the editor of the LWVAC’s Advocacy Topics Blog. The Blog is a tool for the LWV Albany County to organize information on issues that fall within the league’s advocacy interests. LWV Members and the public are encouraged to follow this blog at http://www.lwvalbany.org/advocacy-blog.html to inform themselves on these issues and learn of actions they can take to promote LWV values and positions. One may receive notification of new items added to the blog by clicking the “follow” button at the bottom of the blog homepage.

Members are encouraged to sign up for digital communication services and sites in order to take full advantage of the League’s efforts to keep people informed about our events, advocacy activities, issues and opportunities to participate. You may find that e-mail, internet, Facebook, Twitter will serve you well in other aspects of your life like communicating with family, friends and sharing information with them. Many libraries and organizations offer free instruction in digital communication if interested.

Other Communications Outreach:

In 2018, for the 3rd year, the LWVAC celebrated Women’s Equality Day, August 26, with information table displays at 17 libraries (and the Colonie Town Hall) in Albany County. Women’s Equality Day recognizes the anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and since 1971 has been celebrated annually by Congressional Resolution. The displays provided information about Women’s Equality Day obtained from the National Women’s History Project, voter registration applications and general voter service materials, and information about the League. Displays were held in libraries for a 10-day period and monitored during that time by the League volunteer in charge of the table. The displays are “self-serve” and therefore it is not possible to accurately determine the number of materials that are taken however we are able to guess-estimate the numbers based on what are removed from the supplies provided. If you are interested in helping with this annual project (August 2019), please contact Aimee, 518-482-2617, 85aimee@nycap.rr.com.
Thank you to the following volunteers who made the project possible: Alissa Maynard, Ginny Gutman, Regina Tillman, Pat Maxon, Lynn McGowan, Steve Winters, Mary McCarthy, Erin Lasky, Susan Ball, Anita Behn, Barbara Quackenbush, Susanna Martin.

Great Decisions Discussion Group – Sue Cypert

The Global Issues / Great Decisions Discussion Group is open to all members of the LWV. Discussion of the Briefing Book of the Foreign Policy Association (FPA, see below) is the core of the program. The group discusses the Briefing Book each year from January to May. The group chooses a nonfiction book for discussion in the fall. All meetings are on Mondays 9:30 – 11:30 am at the Berkshire Bank’s Community Room in Slingerlands.

In October and November 2018 the Great Decisions discussion group scheduled three meetings at the Berkshire Bank, Slingerlands, to discuss *The Death and Life of the Great Lakes* by Dan Egan.

In spring 2019 the group gathered biweekly from February to May to discuss a chapter in the 2019 Briefing Book of the FPA, with a member of the group serving as facilitator. Facilitators provide supplemental information and guidance for the discussion, and bring the ever-appreciated refreshments. The 2019 topics were: Refugees and global migration; The Middle East: regional disorder; Nuclear negotiations: back to the future?; The rise of populism in Europe; Decoding U.S.-China trade; Cyber conflicts and geopolitics; The U.S. & Mexico: partnership tested; State of the State Dept. and diplomacy.

Discussions are challenging. Members bring supplemental information and news about national and international events, policies, pronouncements, and decisions from Washington. Participants enhance these discussions from their extensive professional and personal reading, experience and travel. The FPA produces documentaries matched to each chapter, and several were used in our meetings.

From member recommendations *The Water Will Come: Rising Seas, Sinking Cities, and the Remaking of the Civilized World* by Jeff Goodell was selected as our book for discussion in October and November 2019. Discussion will resume in late January 2020 with the 2020 FPA Briefing Book. New members are welcome. Anyone interested in participating is encouraged to contact Sue Cypert at gardency@yahoo.com.

We are grateful to Berkshire Bank, Vista Blvd, Slingerlands (fully accessible with good parking), and its employees for the gracious use of its comfortable Community Room. And coffee!

From the FPA website, FPA.org

*The mission of the Foreign Policy Association [established in 1918] ... is to serve as a catalyst for developing awareness, understanding, and informed opinion on U.S. foreign policy and global*
issues. Through its balanced, nonpartisan programs and publications, the FPA encourages citizens to participate in the foreign policy process.

Humanities New York Book Discussion – Susanna Martin

Together with The Woman's Club and The Women's Press Club we participated in a reading and discussion program with Humanities, New York. The program, Votes for Women, covered the woman's suffrage movement in the United States from the early 19th century to the passage of the 19th Amendment. The sessions were conducted at the Woman's Club on Madison Avenue in Albany monthly from October through March.

Humanities, New York provided the books and a stipend of $900 to the facilitator which was donated by the facilitator to LWVNY and LWVAC equally. The books we read and discussed were:

Votes for Women – Jean Baker
Seneca Falls and the Origins of the Women's Rights Movement – Sally McMillen
Elizabeth Cady Stanton – Lori Ginzberg
African American Women in the Struggle for the Vote – Rosalyn Terborg
A Woman's Crusade – Mary Walton
Sex Wars – Marge Piercy

Special thanks to the Woman's Club for their gracious hospitality and to Jennifer Wilson who was instrumental in getting the grant.

Long Term Care – Arleen Stein

The Albany County Long Term Care Council is a partnership between the County Office for Aging and the Department Social Services. Members are service providers and policy people from throughout the area. The focus is to provide and coordinate services to keep people in need of LTC services in the community as long as possible.

In the fall, Deb Riitano, new Commissioner of Albany County Department of Aging, conducted a listening program at Bethlehem Library to get the public's perspective on service gaps and issues. While the committee's focus has been updating a "rebalancing plan" to increase, improve and coordinate services, several subcommittees have been established to flesh out solutions on home care, transportation and care coordination. I have been an active participant with the home care group.
Membership – Regina Tillman - Chairperson, Paula Philo, Kitt Jackson, Marggie Skinner, Pat Maxon, Natalie Criscione

The goals and accomplishments of the Membership Committee are as follows:

- **To attract new members in order to maintain a healthy, viable chapter and to establish a younger, more diversified membership representative of the community at large.**

Showing up in print and social media lets the community know that we are relevant to the times and communicates across many segments of the population. Extra efforts were again exerted this year for notifying the public of our general membership meetings. Members were the focus in our use of postcard mailings for the second year, and continue to be well received such that budgeting has been increased to allow for a more uniform mailing to all members for each of our signature membership events. The Fall Potluck and the Spring Orientation Meetings, both reinstated by this Committee in the 2017-18 membership year, have become gatherings that are dependable in their capacity to bring in new recruits and in giving us added visibility in local media.

One of the tasks that the Membership Committee will undertake in the coming year is the development of an “Action Plan” in order that this local League can more actively adopt the concepts of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. Although all League chapters have a policy that speaks to these principles, strategies are not uniformly tackled that would bring these principles to life in terms of who is represented within our League membership. The LWVUS made it clear that there needs to be more effort placed in “walking the talk” and locally we are preparing to meet that challenge.

- **To retain our established members.**

If members are active, attending meetings and volunteering, it can be pretty much assured that they will not drop out. We need to nurture our members and encourage them to participate. As a Committee, we have stepped up our “calling campaigns” for meetings and member retention purposes. Plus, all Board Members and committee chairs were again encouraged during the 2018-2019 period to show appreciation to our volunteers. Variations continue to exist in how it is demonstrated from committee to committee and at the end of year, however, it does now come up more routinely in BOD discussions as something that needs to be addressed.

- **To encourage our members to participate and volunteer.**

In 2018, we had made our interest sheet simpler (and combined it with the membership application). However, we also added a more varied list of “interest” options to be considered and checked off. As planned for 2018-19, and with the assistance of one of our League’s technology experts, Britt Westergard (LWVAC Secretary), we achieved the ability for members to complete the form online and paperless. The goal for the online interest sheet is to automatically populate a volunteer database for ease of reference. The database is accessible to committee chairs and Board members only. They are able to solicit participation from members found in the database from those having noted their interest in particular areas or
topics. This volunteer database allows Board members and committee chairs more easily access the help they need for the many League functions we have while allowing League members to more easily identify a good fit for themselves within the League.

These changes were initiated originally in conjunction with a “Volunteer Management” dinner meeting and training session which was designed for board members and committee chairs by the Membership Chair, Regina Tillman, and conducted in April 2018. At that point, the first round of “Position Descriptions” for volunteers was developed. This year, we successfully engaged the BOD in revising, updating and creating new ones. We shared them with attendees of the second Annual Orientation Meeting, held on March 16, 2019. Adjusting the format of the Orientation Meeting once again, due in part to the use of a different meeting space, member evaluations showed that the Orientation was, as before, very well received! 90% gave a rating of “Just Right” for the meeting duration and 90% gave a rating of “Very Much” to “Good” when asked if the information presented was helpful in their understanding of the LWV mission and history. Favorite aspects of the program included the remarks made to the group by current and past leadership, followed by the “Passport” themed check off card. Besides having up to 8 new members enroll, comments offered were extremely gratifying. It seems we have found a staple in our spring lineup of meetings!

All of the volunteer-related concepts and actions taken this year can be traced to the adoption of the ISOTURE Model for Volunteer Management, taken from the USDA. This model was approved for use by the LWVAC Board, as presented to them in 2017, and entails 7 steps for organizations to take to help their volunteers become more involved and more effective. This allows an organization reliant upon volunteers such as the LWV, to increase its impact, expand its outreach, and better retain its volunteers. We hope to explore another aspect of the aforementioned ISOTURE Model in the 2019 -20 membership year!

Anyone wishing to join the Membership Committee for the 2019-2021 appointment time frame is welcomed and may email the Chair at: rmt370@gmail.com, using subject heading: LWVAC Membership Committee.

**LWVAC Membership Data**

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<tr>
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**New Citizen Voter Registration – Julie Elson and Janet Reilly**

During the period July 2018-June 2019 the League of Women Voters of Albany County provided voter registration assistance at twenty naturalization ceremonies. Thirteen of the ceremonies took place at the Federal Courthouse and 7 took place at the Albany County Supreme Courthouse. The number of new citizens naturalized varies at each ceremony from a low number of twenty three to fifty five, the average is forty five. We will have registered
approximately 780 new citizens and their friends and families during this period. At the Federal Courthouse, due to enhanced security, the start time for the naturalization ceremonies was changed from 9:30 to 10:30. We now try to arrive at 8:45 am to open the courtroom doors, set up the tables and signage and unpack our registration forms and brochures. New citizens and their families begin arriving by 9 am, we greet them, explain who we are, provide league brochures, registration forms, clipboards and pens, answer questions and encourage them to find seats in the courtroom. Homeland Security arrives around 9:45 and asks the new citizens to form a line to submit their paperwork. New citizens, family and friends continue to arrive and we direct them appropriately. Based on crack-downs on "illegal" voter registration in other parts of the country, we instituted a new policy, we now distribute the registration forms as the soon to-be new citizens arrive, but collect them only after the ceremony. We also direct people to the bathrooms and provide children with stickers, crayons and coloring sheets. The actual ceremony starts at 10:30 am and lasts approximately 45 minutes. If there is room, some of us slip in the courtroom to enjoy the joyful vibes, the judge's talk and any guest speakers or musical entertainment. The Federal Court provides dozens of donuts and juice after the ceremony, we serve the donuts and beverages while also assisting with picture taking and most importantly, checking and collecting registration forms, we then pack up and deliver the registration forms collected to the Albany County Board of Elections.

The timeline for ceremonies at the Albany County Supreme Courthouse is more fast-paced: we arrive at 8:30am when the building opens and the ceremony begins at 9:30. There are often new citizens and guests already in the courtroom when we make it through security and are setting up. LWVAC member and volunteer has arranged for a table to be made available for us to set up our materials but most of our work is in the courtroom as we give out brochures and registration forms. The rest of the morning is similar to the Federal courthouse except, no refreshments.

Having received a grant from the National LWV, we are also asking the new citizens to self-address a postcard reminding themselves to vote November 5, we will be stamping and mailing these reminders in October. In accordance with the grant and our preference, we take responsibility for the many out of county registration forms. However, our handling of this is in flux at this point. We take the Albany County residents’ forms to the Albany County Board of Elections. Unfortunately, we are getting push back from the staff at the Albany County Board of Elections when we ask for the correctly sized, county pre-addressed envelopes for the out-of-county registration forms, which we mail later that day. The Albany BoE suggested we hand all the registration forms to the State Board of Elections where the staff were not pleased to take them.

Although it can be a slog to get to a courthouse downtown early in the morning, especially in winter, the naturalization ceremonies are happy events and it is a pleasure to help the new citizens access a privilege of citizenship – voting. Thanks for all your work and for providing a friendly and welcoming face for the League: Alissa Maynard, Andrea Lee, Britt Westergard, Christine Doran, Cindy Schultz, Colleen Maloney, Emily Stewart, Gail Volk, Linda Bernardi, Lisa
Poll Reporting – **Marggie Skinner**

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.

We contract with CDES Capital District Election Services to report the results of the general election in November, and with the Associated Press on the September primary election.

This fall we added the first six wards in the City of Albany, bringing our coverage to 204 voting districts at 73 different polling sites- 14 with 2 machines, 59 with one machine. The sites with 2 machines need 2 poll reporters, thus we need at least 87 reporters.

- City of Albany wards 1-15 (126 districts)
- Bethlehem Districts 1-31
- Guilderland Districts 1-30
- Green Island Wards 1-4
- Watervliet Wards 1-4 (13 districts)

In addition, after I covered one of the polling sites, I reported on all of the 53 races, using the numbers from the board of elections website and calling from home. Britt Westergard reported on the Primary results.

We received a total of $2,557 this year and $2,367 last year for performing this service.

I think it gives people a sense of participating in the League a useful and non-partisan way. Most people return year after year unless health or travel plans get in the way. From time to time, the workers at the polls give the reporters a hard time, and we lose a reporter. Every year we need between 10 and 15 new reporters. Some years it is easier than others. The reporters are about 60-70% current or former members, but I do pull in friends to plug in some holes and it usually works. My most valuable volunteer is Melanie Trimble, former LWVAC president and current head of NYCLU. She and her husband and their daughter cover Watervliet, part of Green Island, and one very difficult location in Albany with several districts and 2 machines.

New volunteers are always welcome and appreciated.

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**Programs** – **Patricia Sibilia**

You may have already found evidence of the Program’s Committee’s work in different parts of this annual report since we often schedule and plan events on topics aligned with our
passions. This year in addition to hosting six events, we worked on sharpening our planning skills. For each event there was an assigned leader(s) and the rest of the committee supported them as needed. We created a planning template to help with the process, and did post event reviews to learn what worked and where we could improve. Based on some or our post event reviews, we are now working on defining the criteria of success for our events as we recognized there are different perspectives on it. We struggled with attendance at a number of our events, and are looking at whether it’s the topic, the day/time of the event, and/or our PR on the events.

The programs we held were:

- **Saturday, December 8th:** The Times They Are A Changin’: NYS Legislative Program Planning. The event was co-hosted with the Rensselaer County League and included attendance by all four Capital District League members.
- **Saturday, January 5th:** Civics and the LWVNYS and NYS Social Studies Supervisory Association’s Lesson Plans
- **Monday, February 18th:** A Conversation with Ken Screven (& LWVUS 99th Birthday Celebration). The event was co-hosted with Howe Public Library
- **Sunday, March 24th:** Brooke Kroeger, author of *The Suffragents*. Done in partnership with the Bethlehem Public Library and with SUNY Press attending.
- **Tuesday, April 30:** Down To Earth: Practical Actions You Can Take To Heal Our Planet. The event was done in partnership with multiple like-minded groups, including Zero Waste Capitol Region, Albany Sustainability Advisory Committee, FUUSA, and Green Sanctuary
- **Monday, May 20th:** Shape Your Future - The 2020 Census And You!, a panel presentation in partnership with Albany Public Library

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**Students Inside Albany (SIA) – Rema Goldstein**

Our committee consisted of me, Paula Philo, Stephen Winters, Marggie Skinner. We met at my house twice: In the fall, we stuffed envelopes to 20 high schools in Albany County. In early 2019 we met again, this time to read the essays and decide which students would represent Albany County at the May conference. Out of 5 applicants, we selected Felix Streznewski and Vaughn Albert, both seniors from Albany High School.

The conference was held May 19th to May 22nd and I am sure that the students had a very positive experience and that they did an excellent job representing our county.
### Treasurer’s Report – Marggie Skinner

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### Voter Services – Andy Lee

This year saw terrific work from the Voter Services team. The first two programs received grants from LWVUS that covered the cost of most of the supplies that were needed. The Urban League contributed money that was used for supplies for the County Jail project.

- Julie Elson and the New Citizens brigade (approx. 800-1,000 new voters)
- Marggie Skinner and the High School contingent (approx. 800-1,000 new voters)
- Regina Tillman and the County Jail coalition (approx. 40 new voters)
- Stephen Winters and the Tabling team (approx. 200 new voters)
• Individuals (Christine Primomo) took voter registration to all corners of the County (approx. 25 new voters)

We attended four volunteer fairs (one we sponsored), and two City of Albany events that resulted in more than a dozen new voters and many who required assistance with change of address or change of party designations. We visited churches, barbershops, bus stations, WIC waiting rooms, DSS, DMV, and many events that resulted in new registrations, increasing awareness of LWVAC, and of the importance of voting in upcoming races.

We developed a new tri-fold called Why Vote that helped link the public with information and websites to access issues, candidates, registration, polling information, and other educational material. We assisted in disseminating the civics materials that were developed in association with LWVNY and BOCES in high schools, County Jail, and through USCRl to recent immigrants.

2,500-3,000 is a conservative estimate of the number of people LWVAC helped to register as new voters this past year. As we continue to develop and use tracking information to collect data, I hope these numbers will firm up over the coming year.

Candidate Forums

In the fall we held one candidate forum for a critical local primary election in Watervliet for City Councilman. It was held in the Senior Center with Nell Stokes as moderator. It was not only well attended, but also got coverage by both the Times Union and the Troy Record.

Unfortunately we lost our lead volunteer for candidate forums shortly after that, so our ability to take a lead in holding forums was hampered. Still we managed to hold a forum for the Bethlehem School Board elections thanks to Marggie Skinner stepping up (as she usually does!), with Nell again moderating.

We knocked the ball out of the park under Susanna Martin’s leadership for the Cohoes Mayoral Primary forum. The Cohoes Mayoral was jointly held with the Cohoes High School and the students played a large part in the process. Mary Berry trained the students, and she had two of them as co-moderators with her. Stephen Winters worked with two students who were the timers, and many other students acted as ushers/question gatherers. The students also prepared questions in advance for the candidates and overall showed tremendous civic participation through their work on the event. We received coverage from the Times Union and WAMC and it was noted by many that the quality of the forum was starkly different from an earlier one the candidates participated in a few weeks earlier. We’ll look to repeat this approach in future forums as the involvement of the students was inspiring to all.
Vote411

For the 2018 Election season, the State League made a decision to use a different product for our online voter guide called Ballot Ready (VotingNewYork.org). The software mined data from public sites and social media rather than the candidates engaging with it. As our first usage was for the national and state mid-term elections, it proved adequate for most races and candidates, but it did not serve the purpose for candidates that didn’t have a large public internet presence. After feedback received from the local leagues and with the national league investing more in their software, the state league returned to using Vote411.org for 2019.

For the June 2019 Primary elections, Marggie Skinner and Patricia Sibilia trained 5 volunteers who were brand new to Vote411 - Melissa Baer Bourgois, Laura Brignull, Andy Lee, Rebecca Myer and Joanne Shawhan. We divided the 28 Albany County competitive races up between the team, and together we covered 75 candidates. We updated race descriptions where needed, and through our diligence we had over 75% of candidates respond. As this is a local election year, the online voter guide particularly helps both candidates and citizens since so little media coverage is typically available for these races. Vote411.org provides a platform for candidates to speak on their own behalf and a source of information for voters that want more than just literature drops to their home.

LWVUS has a new version of the software coming out for the general elections. Because of the change in the Primary date this year, we will have more time than we have had in the past between the Primary and General elections to transition the races and candidates, but also to learn the new system. It will also give the national league a year to use the system before we hit the big 2020 elections.

High School Voter Registration

After a somewhat successful high school voter registration project in 2018, we decided to try again in 2019 and were thrilled when we received a $700 grant from LWVUS that we could use for supplies.

In the spring we shared ideas with Julie Elson’s new citizen initiative, Aimee Allaud and Lois Gundrum’s high school civics program, Regina Tillman’s Albany County Jail initiative and Rema Goldstein and Students Inside Albany, under Andy Lee’s Voter Service umbrella.

We revised and updated our list of high school contacts in Albany County- coming up with 21 schools in all. We recruited new, experienced and prospective members who expressed an interest in voter registration. We developed training materials and resource material to use.
By the time we left the last classroom at Albany High on June 17, we had connected with all 21 schools, scheduled 23 visits to 15 schools, recruited and trained 41 volunteers. We submitted 877 completed registration forms to the appropriate Boards of Election, collected 331 (or more) self-addressed post cards that we will mail to the newly registered voters in October and left more than 100 blank forms for students to mail to the board on their own.

And we cannot wait to do this again year, learning from experience how it can be done even better than we did it this year.

By the time we visited our last school on June 6,10,12,14 and 17, we had developed a packet of items to take with us and/or to send ahead to the teacher as a file that could be projected on a smartboard in the room:

A. For the teachers
   a. If you are a citizen…- to be displayed before we came – with date and time filled in
   b. Passed voting reform legislation (3pp). The NYS legislature passed a flurry of voting reform legislation early in the year. They even funded some items in the state budget- this was sent to the teachers before we came to the class.
   c. Two signs- deadlines for voter registration and for absentee ballots
   d. Absentee ballot application
   e. Job opportunity announcement. Board of elections asked us to help with recruiting workers for elections
   f. Organ donor information

B. For the students
   a. Voter registration form
   b. Constitution
   c. LWVNY publications including “Voter’s Guide”, “Your right to vote: homeless”, “Your right to vote: college students”, “First Vote”
   d. LWV Albany publications including “Voting in Albany”, “Why Vote” and reminder postcard
   e. “I Registered” sticker
   f. Instructions “How to address a post card”

C. For the volunteers
   a. Report form
   b. Instructions
All of the materials were on display at the annual meeting along with a list of the schools, teachers and volunteers.

**Albany Academy**: Grace Farrell, Stephen Winters, Susan Anderson, Rosemary Harrigan


**Albany Charter Leadership**: Emily Stewart

**Berne, Knox, Westerlo**: Emity Stewart, Claire Malone

**Bethlehem Central**: Andy Lee, Sue Cypert, Susanna Martin, Eileen Hoffman

**Cohoes High School**: Lois Gundrum, Terri Kersch

**Colonie Central**: Collette Richardson, Kate Raso

**Guilderland High School**: Julie Elson, Christine Doran, Eileen Hoffman, Rosemary Harrigan

**Heatley School**: Lois Gundrum

**Loudonville Christian**: Katherine Malle

**Ravena, Coeymans, Selkirk**: Susan Mitchell-Herzfeld, Janet Reilly, Kristen Geoghegan

**Saint Anne’s**: Tom Ellis

**Shaker High**: Sandra Beach Rhoades, Susan Mitchell-Herzfeld

**Voorheesville**: Emily Stewart, Claire Malone

**Watervliet High School**: Marggie Skinner

-- Report submitted by coordinator Marggie Skinner
Appendix A: LWVAC Local Program 2018-2019

- Albany County Charter Review Study - Continue following developments in Albany County concerning revisions to the Albany County Charter and take action to support the positions on it adopted by the Albany County League.

- Environment - Monitor proposals for landfills in Albany County, based on our existing four-county solid waste position with the recognition of responsible and sustainable use of natural resources by municipalities. The League will monitor the environmental, public safety and health impacts associated with the transportation of crude oil shipments into the Port of Albany, and the extension of a natural gas pipeline into and through Albany County.

- Long Term Care in Albany County - Continue monitoring long term care options and issues in Albany County.
Appendix B: 
LWVUS 2018-2020 Summary of Public Policy Positions


REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT
Promote an open governmental system that is representative, accountable and responsive.

Voting Rights
Citizen’s Right to Vote. Protect the right of all citizens to vote; encourage all citizens to vote.


Election Process
Apportionment. Support apportionment of congressional districts and elected legislative bodies at all levels of government based substantially on population.

Redistricting. Support redistricting processes and enforceable standards that promote fair and effective representation at all levels of government with maximum opportunity for public participation.

Money in Politics (formerly campaign finance).
Support campaign finance/MIP regulations that enhance political equality for all citizens, ensures transparency, protects representative democracy from distortion by undisclosed contributions and big money, and combats corruption and undue influence in government. Support campaign spending that is restricted but not banned. Support public financing, full disclosure, abolishing SuperPACs, and creating an effective enforcement agency.

Selection of the President. Promote the election of the President and Vice-President by direct-popular vote. Support uniform national voting qualifications and procedures for presidential elections. Support efforts to provide voters with sufficient information about candidates.

Citizen Rights
Citizen’s Right to Know/Public Participation. Protect the citizen’s right to know and facilitate informed understanding and public participation in government decision-making.

Evaluating Constitutional Amendment Proposals and Constitutional Conventions
Amendment Proposals. Consider whether a proposal addresses matters of abiding importance, makes our political system more democratic, protects individual rights, could be achieved by a constitutional amendment or legislative proposal, and is consistent with other league positions.

Constitutional Conventions. Hold Constitutional Conventions only when certain conditions are in place, such as: limited to a specific topic, full transparency, delegates selected by population, and voting by delegates not by states.

Individual Liberties. Oppose major threats to basic constitutional rights.

Public Policy on Reproductive Choices. Protect the constitutional right of privacy of the individual to make reproductive choices.

Congress and the Presidency
Congress. Support responsive legislative processes characterized by accountability, representativeness, decision making capability, effective performance, and transparency.

The Presidency. Promote a dynamic balance of power between the executive and legislative branches within the framework set by the Constitution.

Privatization
Ensure transparency, accountability, positive community impact and preservation of the common good when considering the transfer of governmental services, assets and/or functions to the private sector.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
Promote peace in an interdependent world by working cooperatively with other nations and strengthening international organizations.

United Nations
Support a strong, effective United Nations to promote international peace and security and to address the social, economic, and humanitarian needs of all people.

Trade
Support U.S. trade policies that reduce trade barriers; expand international trade; and advance the achievement of humanitarian, environmental, and social goals.
Developing Countries
Promote U.S. policies that meet long-term social and economic needs of developing countries.

Arms Control
Reduce the risk of war through support of arms control measures.

Military Policy and Defense Spending
Work to limit reliance on military force. Examine defense spending in the context of total national needs.

NATURAL RESOURCES
Promote an environment beneficial to life through the protection and wise management of natural resources in the public interest.

Resource Management & Protection
Promote the management of natural resources as interrelated parts of life-supporting ecosystems. Promote resource conservation, stewardship, and long-range planning, with the responsibility for managing natural resources shared by all levels of government. Preserve the physical, chemical and biological integrity of the ecosystem with maximum protection of public health and the environment.

Air Quality. Promote measures to reduce pollution from mobile and stationary sources.

Energy. Support environmentally sound policies that reduce energy growth rates, emphasize energy conservation, and encourage the use of renewable resources.

Land Use. Promote policies that manage land as a finite resource and that incorporate principles of stewardship.

Water. Support measures to reduce pollution in order to protect surface water, groundwater, and drinking water, and set up a process to evaluate inter-basin water transfers.

Waste Management. Promote policies to reduce the generation and promote the reuse and recycling of solid and hazardous wastes.

Nuclear. Promote the maximum protection of public health and safety and the environment.

Climate Change. Support climate goals and policies that are consistent with the best available climate science and that will ensure a stable climate system for future generations.

Public Participation
Promote public understanding and participation in decision making as essential elements of responsible and responsive management of our natural resources.

Agriculture Policy
Promote adequate supplies of food and fiber at reasonable prices to consumers and support economically viable farms, environmentally sound farm practices, and increased reliance on the free market.

Federal Agriculture Policies. Provide financial support to subsidize agriculture in specific instances, enforce federal antitrust laws to ensure competitive agricultural markets, and apply clean air and water regulations to all animal and aquaculture production. The federal government should fund basic agricultural research to provide adequate safety of our food supply.

SOCIAL POLICY
Secure equal rights and equal opportunity for all. Promote social and economic justice and the health and safety of all Americans.

Equality of Opportunity

Equal Rights. Support ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment and efforts to bring laws into compliance with the goals of the ERA. Support equal rights for all under state and federal law regardless of race, color, gender, religion, national origin, age, sexual orientation, or disability.

Education, Employment, and Housing. Support equal access to education, employment, and housing.

Federal Role in Public Education. Support federal policies that provide an equitable, quality public education for all children pre-K through grade 12.

Fiscal Policy

Tax Policy. Support adequate and flexible funding of federal government programs through an equitable tax system that is progressive overall and that relies primarily on a broad-based income tax.

Federal Deficit. Promote responsible deficit policies.

Funding of Entitlements. Support a federal role in providing mandatory, universal, old-age, survivors, disability, and health insurance.

Health Care
Promote a health care system for the United States that provides affordable access to a basic level of quality care for all U.S. residents, including
behavioral health that is integrated with and achieves parity with the physical health care system.

**Immigration**
Promote reunification of immediate families; meet the economic, business, and employment needs of the United States; be responsive to those facing political persecution or humanitarian crises; and provide for student visas. Ensure fair treatment under the law for all persons. In transition to a reformed system, support provisions for unauthorized immigrants already in the country to earn legal status.

**Meeting Basic Human Needs**
Support programs and policies to prevent or reduce poverty and to promote self-sufficiency for individuals and families.

**Income Assistance.** Support income assistance programs, based on need, that provide decent, adequate standards for food, clothing, and shelter.

**Support Services.** Provide essential support services.

**Housing.** Support policies to provide a decent home and a suitable living environment for every American family.

**Child Care**
Support programs and policies to expand the supply of affordable, quality child care for all who need it.

**Early Intervention for Children at Risk**
Support policies and programs that promote the well-being, development, and safety of all children.

**Violence Prevention**
Support violence prevention programs in communities.

**Gun Control**
Protect the health and safety of citizens through limiting the accessibility and regulating the ownership of handguns and semi-automatic weapons. Support regulation of firearms for consumer safety.

**Urban Policy**
Promote the economic health of cities and improve the quality of urban life.

**Death Penalty**
LWVUS supports abolition of the death penalty.

**Sentencing Policy**
Support the exploration and utilization of alternatives to imprisonment, taking into consideration the circumstances and nature of the crime. LWVUS opposes mandatory minimum sentences for drug offenses.

**Human Trafficking**
Oppose all forms of domestic and international human trafficking of adults and children, including sex trafficking and labor trafficking.

Whatever the issue, the League believes that efficient and economical government requires competent personnel, the clear assignment of responsibilities, adequate financing, coordination among levels of government, effective enforcement, and well-defined channels for citizen input and review.
Appendix C:  
LWVNYS 2018 Summary of Public Policy Positions

Complete impact on issues from NYS League can be found here:  

ELECTION LAW

UNDER LWVUS POSITIONS Support of measures to protect, extend and encourage the use of the franchise, including paperless and Election Day registration, no-excuse absentee and in-person early voting. Restore integrity to the election process – specifically support for uniformity in election laws and procedures in their implementation and enforcement; promote measures that ensure the integrity of all ballots; support ballot access and fair campaign practices. Support comprehensive campaign finance reform, including public financing of campaigns.  
Opposition to term limits for members of the NYS Legislature.  
Opposition to term limits for NYS statewide elected officials.

Ballot Access Consensus Results
New position: The League of Women Voters of New York State supports the continuation of Fusion Voting in New York State whether or not Wilson-Pakula is repealed.

Constitutional Convention Update Results
New Position: The League supports the following reforms as positive factors in deciding on support for a constitutional convention. Delegates should be elected by a fair nonpartisan process that complies with federal voting rights provisions and eases ballot access to encourage participation by racial and other minorities. Public financing should be provided for candidates and their positions on issues and convention goals should be widely publicized to enable voters to cast informed votes at their election. Statewide office holders, state or federal legislators, and state judges should not serve as delegates.

GOVERNMENT

UNDER LWVUS POSITIONS Support of citizen rights, including reproductive rights. Support of effective regulation of lobbying and ethics.

Support of standards to ensure equitable representation in the State legislature and Congress. Support of improved measures to provide representation for legislative districts in case of a vacancy. Support of responsive and responsible legislative processes which increase the role of the individual member and the committee system. Support of procedural reforms in the constitutional convention process to promote openness and nonpartisanship. Support of the consolidation of government shared services when it promotes effective and efficient operation of government.

HEALTH CARE

Support of measures to assure a basic level of quality physical and mental health care, including regulatory incentives to encourage development of cost-effective alternative methods of delivery; funding for health promotion and disease prevention programs; provisions for effective citizen participation in health policy decisions. Support of measures that enable individuals to assume responsibility for their own health and to participate in decisions, including extraordinary life-extending procedures. Support for uniform eligibility and coverage of basic health care costs through public financing with single payer concept as an acceptable approach to implementing League positions on equitable access and cost containment. Support for the option of medical aid in dying for the terminally ill.

JUDICIAL

Support of a unified state court system with improved provisions for judicial selection. Support of statewide guidelines for law enforcement at all levels to prevent racial and economic profiling. Support of measures to improve pretrial procedures in the criminal courts. Support of measures to promote a fair and efficient jury system. Support the rights of indigent defendants to representation at public expense.
Support of alternatives to incarceration.
Opposition to the death penalty, with life without parole as the primary alternative.

NATURAL RESOURCES

UNDER LWVU’S POSITIONS Support for protection and management of New York’s natural resources in the public interest, including energy conservation and energy options from renewable sources. Support for measures to achieve watershed protection including limiting pesticide use and applying Best Management Practices. Support for a state-established, intergovernmental system for land resource management. Support for a proactive role for New York State in regional land use planning, containing urban sprawl and protecting sensitive areas. Support of reconditioning of the New York State Erie/Barge Canal System and its development for recreational uses. Support for preserving and enhancing the environmental integrity and quality of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Ecosystem.

SOCIAL POLICY

UNDER LWVU’S POSITIONS Support for equality of opportunity, meeting basic human needs, childcare, energy-efficient and environmentally sound public transit, and gun control. Support measures to meet the needs for affordable and accessible housing through use of state funds and incentives to localities. Support of a livable wage for all localities in New York State.

STATE FINANCES

Support reforms for greater equity in education financing (K-12) for both pupils and taxpayers. Support raising funds to provide New York’s children with a sound basic education through increases in the New York State personal income tax, implemented in a progressive fashion. Support for the replacement of the existing local residential property tax relief programs in which relief goes to all with programs based on need, with annual cost of living adjustment. Oppose in principle the use of public funds to support non-public schools (K-12). Support the funding of public higher education and the existing formula for financing the community system, 1/3 tuition, 1/3 state aid, and 1/3 county support. Support a uniform equitable assessment and property tax system. Support of measures to provide for openness and accountability in the operation of the New York State public authority system. Support of a timely and responsive state budget.

WOMEN’S ISSUES

Support of measures that hold marriage to be an economic partnership with a presumption of equality between the spouses. Opposition to measures that contain a presumption of joint custody of the children. Support for equity in employment laws and practices and equal pay for jobs of comparable worth. Support of measures to reduce the incidence and effects of domestic violence.