League of Women Voters of Albany County Bulletin
March 2016

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

Policy on Inclusiveness
The League of Women Voters in both its values and practice is committed to inclusion and diversity. This means:

- 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,

A Declaration of Sentiments
An exhibit, talk and special dinner featuring Musicians of Ma'alwyck and the Siena College choirs at Druthers Brewery in Albany, near the location of both suffrage and anti-suffrage movement meetings. Featuring the world premiere of Kathleen Ballantyne's "Are women people?" for chorus and string quartet, and a reading of the "Declaration of Sentiments" by Channel 13 newscaster Elaine Houston.

Sunday, March 20
Druthers Brewery ~ 1053 Broadway, Albany
2:00 p.m. Pre-concert lecture (FREE with tickets)
3:00 p.m. Concert with the Musicians of Ma'alwyck & Siena College choirs
5:00 p.m. 1920s style society dinner with craft beer pairings

TICKETS & INFO HERE or call 518-377-3623.
Please note that DINNER reservations must be made by March 16. Prices range from $5 student concert tickets to $110 for VIP seats with preview beer tasting and dinner!

All of the events are a co-production of Musicians of Ma'alwyck, Siena College, Ten Broeck Mansion/Albany County Historical Association, the New York State League of Women Voters, and Druthers Brewery.

President's Message
DO NOTHING, SAY NOTHING
"The point (Preet) Bahara made repeatedly during his visit to Albany is that the corruption he has targeted here exists in no small part because honest people do little to stop it. There are enablers everywhere...legislators and governors who turn a blind eye to the
sexual orientation, creed or national origin.

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**Board and Committees**

**President**
(Nov-June) Margaret Danes

**Secretary**
Loretta Simon

**Treasurer**
Marggie Skinner

**Directors**
Julie Elson (Program)
Margaret Danes (Membership)
Barbara Frankel (Voters Service)
Lois Portnick (at large)
Linda Brown (website)
Herb Gordon (at large)
Aimee Allaud (Bulletin)

A complete list of committee chairs is available on the LWVAC website, www.lwvalbany.org under Contact Us.

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**Electronic Bulletin**

MEMBERS can receive our Bulletin electronically or by US mail. If you wish to receive our Bulletin electronically, please send an email to bulletin editor, Aimee Allaud, 482-2617, or 85aimee@nycap.rr.com.

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ways that money influences decision-making," who thus create the environment in which 'shrewd, educated white-collar criminals' like ex-Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver and ex-Senate Majority Leader Dean Skelos can thrive." (Times Union editorial 2/13/16). But in reality it goes beyond government officials. Low voter turnout has been attributed to frustration, to apathy, and, unfortunately, even to disgust with the state of government. And yet it is exactly this lack of participation in voting that continues the downward spiral of moneyed and corrupt politics.

Our goal in the coming year is to encourage more engagement and involvement of the voting public. Bahara showed us that things can change. Now it is up to us to continue the momentum. We need to brainstorm and collaborate with other "good government" groups, civic and social organizations. We need to offer opportunities to separate facts from fiction. We need to get back to being a government "of the people, by the people, and for the people."

Yours in League, Margaret Danes

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LWVAC Board Meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month, at St. Sophia's Church, 440 Whitehall Road, Albany, Call Margaret Danes, 438-7218 or mdanes@nycap.rr.com for info.

League of Women Voters of NYS and
League of Women Voters of NYS Education Foundation
62 Grand Street, Albany, NY., 12207, Tel: 465-4162, www.lwvny.org, e-mail:lwvny@lwvny.org

Dare Thompson, President

League of Women Voters of the US,
1730 M Street, NW., Washington, DC 20036-4508

Elisabeth McNamara, President

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Join Us in Celebrating Women's History Month

This issue of the Bulletin features two major performance events celebrating March as Women's History Month. We hope you can join our league along with other area leagues and community organizations in attending both the March 9 "Use Your Voice" at the Egg and the "Declaration of Sentiments" on March 20 at Druthers Brewery. Both are described in this issue and are good area examples of events happening throughout the nation to honor the role that women have played in shaping our culture and civilization. The month of March was designated in 1987 by Congress as Women's History Month after a series of years in which the second week on March was designated as Women's History Week. But, the history is far deeper than that as league members know. This year celebrates the 96th year of the League's national founding in 1920, coming long and hard after a struggle for civil rights for women beginning in the 1850's.
Join Us at the Egg on March 9 Another Great Event for Women's History Month

"Use Your Voice Tour"

Patty Griffin, Sara Watkins and Anais Mitchell

Wednesday, March 9, 8PM @ The Egg

An evening of modern American folk music and a special promotion of League of Women Voters and Voter Participation with Grammy-award winning Patty Griffin and acclaimed singer-songwriters, Sara Watkins and Anais Mitchell. "Use your Voice” is a 39-city tour the artists have chosen to use their voices and music to promote the League's work and the importance of voter participation in 2016.

The Egg, Empire State Plaza, Albany NY
Admission: $35, $40, or $45 - choose your seat.
Order tickets here.

Votes for Women

Votes for Women: Examining the Woman Suffrage and Anti-Suffrage Movements through Political Cartoons

A lecture and conversation by author and historian Susan Goodier, Ph.D.

This lecture will be a multimedia presentation based on suffrage and anti-suffrage political cartoons drawn from a wide range of archives and published sources. Audience members will have the opportunity to engage in the analysis of these cartoons and experience first hand this once contentious issue. Book signing to follow.

Wednesday, March 16, 6:00 p.m.
King’s Place Gallery ~ 27 N. Swan St., Albany
FREE ~ Please reserve your space by calling 518-436-9826 or email jillian@tenbroeckmansion.org

News Briefs and Needs

NYS LEAGUE NOW HAS A POSITION ON RAISE THE AGE!

Enough leagues of different sizes and from various locations throughout the State were able to affirmatively participate in the concurrence on Raise the Age for the LWVNYS to have a new position now included in the 2016 Legislative Agenda booklet: http://www.lwvny.org/advocacy/2016/LegislativeAgenda_2016_DoublePg.pdf

Here it is: Juvenile Justice

The League supports the protection of children's legal rights. Juvenile justice should focus on rehabilitation rather than punitive action. Children under the age of 18 should not be treated as adults in the criminal justice system. Having this position will now enable us to advocate for legal and policy positions consistent with this. Neither state nor local leagues are able to take positions without a concurrence process having been completed.
NATIONAL LEAGUE PASSES NEW POSITION ON CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION!
After its January 2016 meeting the National League has issued guidance for both federal and state level calls for conventions. The details of the position can be found by searching under Constitutional Convention within its LWVUS website. In essence, there is a call for safeguards to ensure that the process is open and transparent, that delegates are elected by and from the citizenry, and that the topics are single-purpose rather than open-ended.

The issue of a New York Constitutional Convention will be brought to the voters in November, 2017. In preparation for this, the Rockefeller Institute has developed a resource document available for our use at http://www.rockinst.org/nys_concon2017/.

VOTE 411 NOW ALLOWS FOR COMPARISON AMONG PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES!
With all of the media "noise" surrounding the 2016 Presidential election, the National League has provided yet another voter service by developing on its interactive voter tool, Vote 411 candidate responses to position questions. For quick reference to compare candidate positions, go to Vote411.org.

LEAGUE SELECTS TWO FOR STUDENTS INSIDE ALBANY
Once again, a League committee chaired by Tina Raggio has solicited interest from high schools in the county to nominate students who are interested in participating in a model legislative learning experience, the Students Inside Albany three-day conference. The event is sponsored each May by the state League and gives students an opportunity to learn how state government works. Each student also "shadows" one of their state legislators as they conduct their daily business during session. Students mingle with others from throughout the state and get to hear from senior level officials and policy makers. Our nominees are also given one year free membership in the League and invited to attend our annual meeting. This year's attendees will be Abigail Goldfarb, 11th grade, Voorheesville Central High School and Colin P. Baker, 11th grade, Bethlehem Central High School.

NATURALIZATION CEREMONIES NEED MORE VOLUNTEERS!
After more than a decade, league volunteer Monique Roeth has stepped down from the leadership of our efforts to welcome newly naturalized citizens during ceremonies at the Federal Courthouse in Albany. The League's role is to assist in the greeting of persons entering the ceremony, providing them with voting information, helping them to register to vote (and returning their forms to the county Board of Elections) and joining with other observers in congratulating their achievement. Julie Elson has agreed to work with existing volunteer Judith Grose-Johnson in making sure that the monthly or bi-monthly event is well-staffed. This is a morning's activity and in March there are ceremonies on both March 18 and March 25. Anyone interested in helping should contact Julie at 482-0981 or jelson510@earthlink.net.

WANTED: A REWARD FOR!
A few good people to serve on the Board of Directors of the League. They are described as being dangerous to ignorance and voter apathy. If you are one or know one, inform the nominating committee.

Reward for serving on the Board:

- Strengthening democracy
- Fighting apathy
- Working with informed dedicated people.

LWVAC Nominating committee: Lois Griffin, chair; Ann Brandon; Tina Raggio; Maggie Skinner; Barbara Frankel. Contact: griffinocee@gmail.com, 487-4671
SAVE THE DATE
Albany County Legislature
Pre-meeting Reception with Legislators
Monday, April 11, 5:30 p.m.
Albany County Courthouse, 16 Lodge Street, Albany
Regular Albany County Legislature meeting is at 7:00 PM,
public comment period is 6:30 PM
Come and share appetizers with your Albany County legislators and stay for the meeting. Please contact Julie Elson at 482-0981 or at jelson510@earthlink.net to let her know if you will be attending and bringing something to share.

Calendar
Sun, Mar 6, 2:00 PM LWVAC Board Mtg, St. Sophia's Church, 440 Whitehall Road, Albany, call Margaret Danes, 489-4442
Wed, Mar 9, 8:00 PM "Use Your Voice Tour" concert @The Egg,
Mon, Mar 14, 7:00 PM Albany County Legislature, Albany County Courthouse, 2nd floor, Legislative chambers (6:30 public comment) League attendance encouraged; call Margaret Danes, for more information, 489-4442
Sun, Mar 20, 3:00 PM "Declaration of Sentiments" concert, Druthers Brewery (see story at top)
Mon, Apr 11, 5:30 PM LWVAC pre-meeting Reception for Legislators
April 12 Last day to send application for absentee ballot to BOE
April 19 NYS Presidential Primary, polls open 12:00 N-9 PM

League of Women Voters of Albany County
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Membership 2015-16 - 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
___ Please send me more information

Scholarships are available on an individual confidential basis.