



# The Broome-Tioga Voter

Bulletin of the *League of Women Voters of Broome & Tioga Counties*  
[www.lwv-broometioga.org](http://www.lwv-broometioga.org) *Like us on Facebook!*

Volume 68, Number 3

January/February/March 2016

*League of Women Voters*  
of

*Broome & Tioga Counties*

P.O. Box 944  
Vestal, NY 13851-0944

Co-Presidents

Susan Ruff 761-7557  
advocate@stic-cil.org  
Sara Wokan 785-6703  
sara.wokan@gmail.com

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President/Website/FB/  
Voter Service/Vote 411

Margaret Goodfellow 655-1929  
mgoodfel@binghamton.edu

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President/Natural Resources

Gay Canough 785-6499  
canough@gmail.com

Secretary

Jane Park 748-4192  
janepark@stny.rr.com

Treasurer

Anne Taft 724-6830  
anci@stny.rr.com

Membership

Joanne Gee 237-2336  
raygee@echoes.net

Public Relations/Member Dev.

Patricia Giglio 648-5116  
patgig301@gmail.com

“Voter” Editor and  
Submissions

Katharine Russell  
802-488-4581  
krussell@binghamton.edu

Alice Brooks 754-8277  
fbrooksjr@stny.rr.com

Beth Kilmarx 754-3948  
bkilmarx@binghamton.edu

## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF BROOME AND TIOGA COUNTIES MARCH 2016 PROGRAM

### Criminal Justice Reforms

March 7th, 2016

Broome County Library, 3:00-6:00 p.m.  
Decker Room

Presenters:

**Professor William Martin** - Department of Sociology, Binghamton University

**Associate Professor Joshua Price** - Departments of Sociology and Translation Research and Instruction, Binghamton University, author: Prisons and Social Death

**Professor Mecke Nagel** - Departments of Philosophy, Africana Studies, Center for Gender and Intercultural Studies, SUNY, Cortland; United Voices of Cortland

**Andrew Pragacz** - Graduate Student, Binghamton University

This topic accommodates a range of research and work by our panelists, who are knowledgeable about the history of criminal justice systems and current proposals being considered by the Governor, legislature, and communities in the state and country.



We have a new number! Effective November 4th, 2015, you can reach the League of Women Voters of Broome and Tioga Counties at our new phone number: 607-834-0127. Please don't hesitate to contact us with questions and comments.

## Co-Presidents' Report



You are receiving this early in the New Year, and we hope this year will lead to a highly informed and engaged electorate as we will choose a new President and other elected officials next fall. Members enjoyed the December Brunch, and we are hoping the January 23<sup>rd</sup> gathering at Denny's will give members and others an opportunity to discuss ongoing League and community concerns.



We will offer a program on the criminal justice system on March 7, from 3-6 p.m. in the Decker Room of the Broome County Public Library in coordination with the Binghamton University Sociology Department. Plans are also underway for a showing of the movie, "Suffragette," during Women's History Month in March. This event is being planned at Broome Community College. Stay tuned – emails and publicity to follow!

We are very pleased to announce that the League's candidate for the Women of Achievement award this year is Pat Giglio. Pat has been a very active and valued member of the League for a long time. She handles our Publicity and Membership Development currently. Our congratulations to Pat. Please see the article on page 3 for information about the Women of Achievement Dinner in March.

Also coming up in January, the League will be sending out requests for applicants for the Student Inside Albany event, May 22<sup>nd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at the Albany Hilton.

"This Conference is an intensive four day training experience held in the spring and is designed to immerse students in the process by which public policy is proposed, enacted and changed in New York State and educate them as to how they can influence and affect this process. Albany insiders discuss the operations of New York State government including how policy is shaped and enacted. Students develop knowledge of the disparate forces that influence policy development. Additionally, students are afforded the opportunity to observe Assembly and Senate sessions and to shadow both their Assembly members and Senators." We urge young people (high school juniors and seniors) to apply. For further information, contact Sue Ruff or Margaret Goodfellow.

Sara Wokan and Sue Ruff  
Co-Presidents

## A NOTE ABOUT FINANCES

Autumn and winter are crucial seasons for balancing our League income and expenses. The community fund drive and our next major fund raiser will occur in the spring. Most of our dues are paid in the early summer; yet two of our four per member payments to the state and national Leagues must be made in October and in January.

In this season of giving, any contribution beyond our basic dues will be gratefully accepted and put to good use. Contributions to the League of Women Voters of Broome and Tioga Counties are vital to our work, but are not tax deductible, since a portion of these funds goes toward advocating League positions. Checks made payable to the LWVNY State Education Foundation are tax deductible and may be used for per member payments and for educational and voter service activities.

## Voter Services Report

Predicted to be an election year of historic proportion, 2015 did not disappoint.

We conducted voter registration events, had extensive media presence at a candidate fair, produced Vote 411, and our capstone achievement was the first television debate in the history of the Broome-Tioga LWV.

A tremendous amount of behind the scenes activity occurs during election season and with the 52nd Senate race, it was amplified. The entire state was looking at this race. Everything had to be perfect. And it was. I am grateful for the support of the Board of Directors - in particular, Sara Wokan. Special thanks goes to Karl Wokan for his guidance and wisdom during the days leading up to the debate. The fabulous WSKG PBS team guided me from the start to finish line with media platforms never before accessible to our League. They took us to a very big stage, and I am appreciative. Special thanks to Charles Compton, Director of News and Public Affairs Content Development and Radio Operations and Programming, Caroline Basso, Director of Development and Marketing, Jackie Stapleton, Director of Youth Focused Content, Education Reporter/Trainer, Solvejg Wastvedt, WSKG President and CEO, Brian Sickora and the entire technical team headed by producer, Andrew Pioch. I observed the actual debate within the technical studio while watching Twitter come alive with thoughtful commentary, as well as some welcome comic relief. A wonderful experience. I would also like to thank the candidates themselves, Fred Akshar and Barbara Fiala, their representatives, Broome Republican Party Chair, Bijoy Datta, Rebecca Lumsden and Tina Ruocco, Broome Democratic Party Chair, James Testani, Kara Grip-pen and Alec Lewis. Thank you to our volunteers the night of the debate: Nick Doran, Sarah Knoll, Dai Newman, Eric Newman, Susan Ruff and Karl and Sara Wokan serving as official league timekeepers.

To say the least, it was an astounding year of accomplishment and one I am very proud of.

Sincerely,

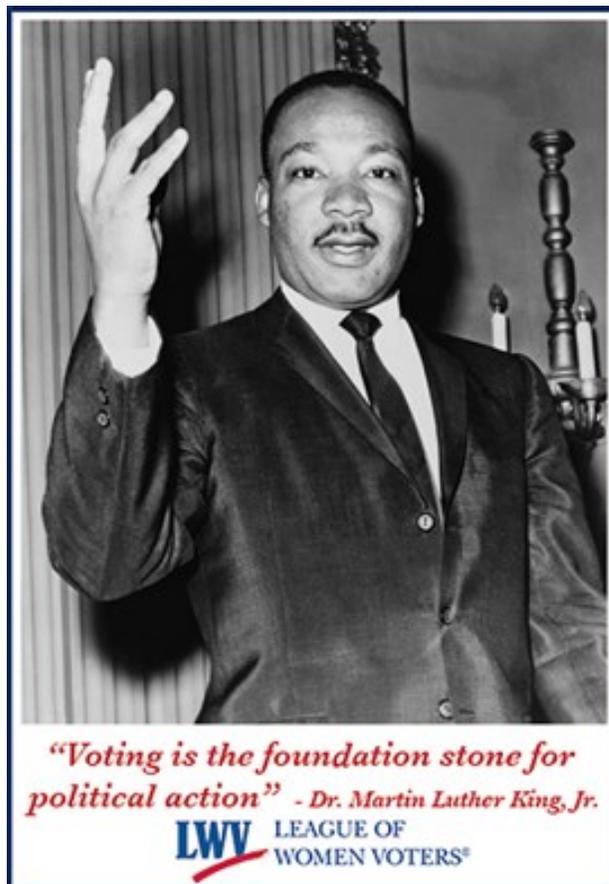
Margaret Goodfellow, 1st Vice President  
and Voter Service

## WOMEN OF ACHIEVEMENT DINNER

The Status of Women Council's annual Women of Achievement Dinner will be held this year on Wednesday, March 23rd, at the Owego Treadway Inn. This year our League will be honoring Patricia Giglio. Pat has been an active member of our League since 2003, serving on the Board of Directors, as chair of the Budget Committee, and as coordinator of the annual Fund Drive.

The evening will begin with a social hour and cash bar at 6:00 p.m., followed by announcements and dinner at 6:45. Entrée selections are 1) champagne chicken, 2) crab stuffed founder, and 3) vegetarian plate. The price is \$30.00. Please make your reservations no later than March 14th by sending a check payable to Eva Anderson, 3 Manor Drive, Apt. 201, Binghamton, NY 13905. Please note your entree choice on the memo line of the check. If you have questions, you may call Eva at 775-2325.

This is an evening to honor Pat, and also an evening of fun and the good company of League members, as well as members of other organizations. We hope you will be there.



**PATRICIA GIGLIO**  
**League of Women Voters of Broome and Tioga Counties**

Written by Eva Anderson, League Delegate to the Status of Women Council

The League of Women Voters of Broome and Tioga Counties is pleased to honor Patricia Giglio as a woman of achievement. Pat has been a member of the League for over ten years and during this time has been an active member, participating in League activities and serving on the Board. Her dedication to making life fair and equal for all humanity has been highlighted by her participation in many public protests and involvement regarding the Vietnam War, environmental matters, rights for women, and racial equality. Her efforts to make the world a better place for everyone began while attending college in Missouri where she protested against racial segregation.

In the 60's Pat moved to New York City, where she worked on presidential campaigns and protested the Vietnam War. In the 70's she joined the women's liberation movement, marching for equality in the workplace and a woman's right to choose. She has continued to be active in the political world by working on campaigns and marching in support of critical issues.

Along with her activities in the political world, Pat feels privileged to serve the local community by donating her time to charitable organizations. She is currently a member of numerous Boards of Directors of local nonprofits, she cooks and serves meals at soup kitchens, and she is eager to help with any other needs of the local population.

Pat completed her bachelor's degree at Binghamton University with an overall cumulative average of 4.0, winning the scholarship award from the New York State Society of CPA's. She did this while working three part-time jobs and raising her family. After 20 years working at the Children's Home of Wyoming Conference as their Chief Financial Officer, she retired. She loves to travel and has visited more than 40 countries, where she takes the time to get to know the people and understand how they live.

Pat has two children and four grandchildren. She says, "They give me hope for the world after I am gone."

**2016 Naturalization Ceremonies**

(All held on Friday)

**February 19**

**April 22**

**July 15**

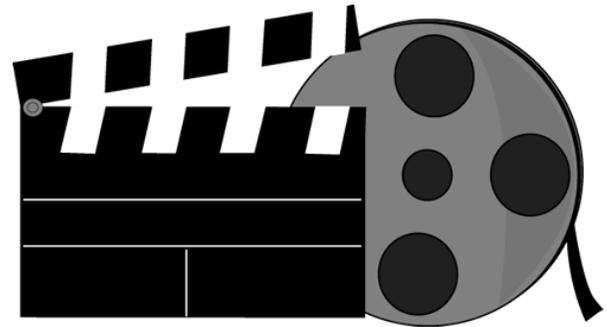
**September 23**

**November 18**

11 a.m. - Broome County Courthouse

Join us! Contact:

Sara Wokan	785-6703
Susan Ruff	761-7557
Margaret Goodfellow	655-1929



**YOU'RE INVITED!**

The critically acclaimed film, "Suffragette," (2015), starring Meryl Streep and Carey Mulligan, will be shown at the Endicott Performing Arts Center, (EPAC), 102 Washington Avenue, Endicott, on February 26th, 2016. The film will begin at 5:30 p.m., and local politicians Donna Lupardo and Debbie Preston will say a few words after the film. Admission is free. Presented by the Public Employees Federation Local 5 and PAC. The UUP Binghamton University chapter is also a possible sponsor. Hope you can attend to enjoy this important film on the Suffragette movement in the United Kingdom.

An additional screening of "Suffragette" will be presented at the Decker Building at SUNY Broome, Monday March 14th, 2016 at 6 p.m. The program will include a panel discussion. More detailed information will be provided as it becomes available. The LWVBTC will be co-sponsoring the event and providing voter registration.

## *New Yorkers Will Soon Vote on Convening a State Constitutional Convention*

By Karen Dewitt

The last time New York State held a constitutional convention, Bobby Kennedy was senator. That was in 1967. The last time a constitutional convention met, and voters actually ratified its result, was 75 years ago. It was in 1938, at the height of the Great Depression.

Now voters will have another chance, in November 2017, to decide whether they want to hold another convention.

If voters approve the idea of holding another convention, Constitutional convention expert and SUNY New Paltz Dean Gerald Benjamin says he believes it will be because of widespread anger over the continuous scandals.

“At a time where we’re very discouraged about state government, we’re offered this moment to push the restart button,” said Benjamin.

He says a recent poll found 69 percent of voters open to the idea.

The do-over could include issues like limiting or banning outside income for lawmakers, or closing loopholes in campaign-finance laws.

Benjamin spoke at a panel on the constitutional convention, organized by the New York State Bar Association and SUNY’s Rockefeller Institute.

If there is another convention, former Assemblyman and senior fellow at the Demos Foundation Richard Brodsky says it won’t be motivated by concern about legislative ethics, but by social issues that people care more about, like schools, and pension benefits.

“The conventions that went forward were not voted by a political dynamic characterized by insanity or anger,” Brodsky said. “They were characterized by a set of social concerns, largely progressive.”

He says the state’s constitution has many progressive elements already, like fairer treatment of the mentally ill, and strict rules on land conservation in the Adirondacks and elsewhere. Because of that,

he says, liberals have potentially more to lose at a convention.

“The move towards constitutional revision has, in recent years in America, been a right wing concern,” Brodsky said.

Benjamin says he’s heard fear of change expressed on both sides.

“I can’t tell you how many people have told me in the last two weeks that the Koch brothers would run the convention,” Benjamin said. “The ones who didn’t tell me that the Koch brothers would run the convention tell me that the labor unions would run the convention.”

Other issues that could be addressed include revisiting the state’s prohibition on gambling, which is now riddled with exceptions, and deciding whether to include on line fantasy sports gambling.

Barbara Bartoletti is with the League of Women Voters. Her group joined other progressive elements in opposing a constitutional convention the last time the vote was held, twenty years ago. The League is still deliberating at this point whether to back the effort in 2017, but she says it needs to be clear that no one group would control the event, and that campaign money would not be a major influence. She says it needs to be “less of an insider, and more of a people’s convention.”

If voters approve a convention, the next step is to choose delegates, and that opens a whole new set of issues. Lawmakers are allowed to serve, and under current rules can double dip for salaries and pension credits. The vote on delegate selecting would be held in November of 2018.

The panelists, who took no sides on holding a convention, say another factor in whether a constitutional convention ultimately happens is leadership. Even though the governor of the state does not really have a role in the process, they say Governor Andrew Cuomo could be key in encouraging a yes vote. Cuomo’s father, Mario Cuomo championed a convention in the 1990s, but he left office before the 1997 vote occurred. The constitutional convention was ultimately voted down. In 2010, his son said he favored a gathering, but so far has taken no action.

Reprinted with permission from Charles Compton, WSKG Director of News and Public Affairs Content

## ***League Opportunities***

### ***Advocacy Training/Lobby Day***

The date for this event is **Tuesday, May 10<sup>th</sup>**. The exact schedule is under development, but is expected to include presentations by League Issue Specialists on “hot” topics in the morning, lunch for networking, and then lobby visits with our legislators on League issues (to be determined). More info to come from the State League.

### ***Training Workshops***

The State League is offering training workshops for **ALL League members** in 4 locations around the state on Saturdays during March and April. The workshops will cover many aspects of local League management, as well as advocacy, current issues and more. All members, especially local board members, are welcome to attend. Schedule currently is: March 5<sup>th</sup> - NYC, March 12<sup>th</sup> - Round Lake (just north of Albany), April 2<sup>nd</sup> - Syracuse, April 9<sup>th</sup> - Buffalo. We urge you to attend.

## **Report of the Living Wage Committee of the LWNYS**

December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Members of the committee are: Ann Converso (LWV Buffalo/Niagara); Carole Mehlman (LWV NYC); Lenore Schwager (LWV Cortland); **Sara Wokan (LWV Broome/Tioga)** and Barbara Thomas (LWV Saratoga), chair. Dare Thompson (President, LWNYS) participated ex-officio.

The Living Wage Committee was charged by the LWNYS Convention 2015 to determine what is an appropriate living wage for our state and its localities.

LWVUS has said that Leagues may take action on a living wage under the national position on Meeting Basic Human Needs that includes the statement "People who are unable to work, whose earnings are inadequate or for whom jobs are not available have the right to an income and/or services sufficient to meet their basic needs for food, shelter and access to health care." The position further states that, “one of the goals of social policy should be to promote self-sufficiency for individuals and fami-

lies.” Guidance from LWVUS requires that state and local leagues do the research necessary to determine what an appropriate wage is for their own community.

The committee further defined a living wage using the Buffalo/Niagara concurrence with the LWV Kansas position: *A living wage should provide sufficient income without government assistance, for food, clothing, housing, energy, transportation, health care, education, child care, and a small amount of discretionary income.*

**We further recommend that the minimum wage, if set state-wide, be set no higher than, but close to, the living wage for a family consisting of one wage earner and 2 children, in the county with the lowest living costs.** The League has long supported equal pay for equal work and does not recommend that the minimum wage be set, or employers pay employees, based on the number of their dependents.

The committee recognizes that raising the minimum wage to become a living wage will require economic adjustments. We particularly note the difficulty that non-profits in the child care, health, mental health, elder-care and home-care fields (where many of their workers make very close to the current minimum wage) will face if the state does not increase its grants and reimbursements to keep pace. Some of this increase in state costs will be off-set by decreasing the need for government assistance to meet basic human needs.

Studies can be found to support positions on both sides of the issue of raising the minimum wage. The most positive result is the redistribution of dollars to lower wage workers reducing income inequality and shifting the cost of need for tax supported benefits to the private sector.

The raise in minimum wage has little or no effect on employment or hours, and the increase in consumer costs is moderate and less in percentage than the wage raise. It does cause some additional shifts to technology, happening throughout the wage structure. It has some stimulus effect on the economy from the increased money spent on goods and services. It also reduces employee turnover, saving employment and training costs. The complete report is available on the LWNYS website.

(Sources: Forbes, US Dept of Labor, Harvard Kennedy School Shorenstein Center ).

## Raise the Age Concurrence – Update

At our November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015 Board Meeting, the Broome-Tioga League included discussion of the Raise the Age Concurrence with member input provided at the meeting. Submission of the concurrence decision was due in Albany by Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016. The Board submission supported the concurrence position as follows:

Concurrence Position: 1. Children under the age of 18 are not adults and their treatment within the juvenile justice and criminal court system should relate to their stage of development. 2. Children should not be held in adult jails. 3. Rehabilitation is the purpose of the juvenile justice system. 4. The legal rights of children should be protected.

Complete Raise the Age materials are available on the NYS League website at:

[http://www.lwvny.org/programs-studies/juvenile-justice/2015/combined-concurrence-materials\\_0915.pdf](http://www.lwvny.org/programs-studies/juvenile-justice/2015/combined-concurrence-materials_0915.pdf)



**The League of Women Voters**, a nonpartisan, grass-roots political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

**Men and women of voting age are welcome to join.**

***Be Part of the Action—Join Today!***

### Membership Application

- Individual membership \$50/yr.
- Household membership \$75/yr. (2 people)
- Student membership \$20/yr.
- Send me information about the League.



Bridging the digital divide with League member Dai Newman. Dai spearheads a program with BU's Center for Civic Engagement.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_

***Make checks payable to LWVBTC and mail with this coupon to LWVBTC, PO Box 944, Vestal, NY 13851-0944.***

I would like to support the League with a tax deductible contribution to the LWNYS Education Foundation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

***Make checks payable to "LWNYS Education Foundation" and mail with this coupon to LWVBTC, PO Box 944, Vestal, NY 13851-0944/***

# The Broome-Tioga Voter

The League of Women Voters of Broome & Tioga Counties  
P.O. Box 944  
Vestal, NY 13851-0944  
607-834-0127 (Effective 11/4/15)  
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
BINGHAMTON, NY  
PERMIT # 2

## Calendar

Visit [lww-broometioga.org](http://lww-broometioga.org) for the latest event details.

<i>2nd Tuesday</i>	<i>LWVBTC Board Meeting, open to the public, 6:30 pm, Note new location: ETM Solar Works, 300 North Street, Endicott, NY</i>
February 9	LWVBTC Board Meeting at ETM Solar Works, 6:30 p.m.
February 26	"Suffragette" Showing at the Endicott Performing Arts Center, 5:30 p.m.
March 7	March Program on Prison Reforms at the Binghamton County Library, 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
March 8	LWVBTC Board Meeting at ETM Solar Works, 6:30 p.m.
March 23	Women of Achievement Dinner at the Owego Treadway Inn, 6:00 p.m.

## Contents

March Program Information	cover
---------------------------	-------

New Phone Number Information	cover
Co-Presidents' Report	2
Note on Finances	2
Voter Service Report	3
Women of Achievement Info	3
Biography of Patricia Giglio	4
2016 Naturalization Ceremony Schedule	4
"Suffragette" Showing Information	4
State Constitutional Convention Article	5
League Opportunities	6
Report from the Committee on Living Wage	6
Raise the Age Concurrence Update	7
Photo of Dai Newman	7
LWVBTC Membership Form	7
2016 Broome and Tioga They Represent You Inserts	