



# League of Women Voters of Albany County Bulletin

## April-May 2017

Issue 5, [www.lwvalbany.org](http://www.lwvalbany.org),

Aimee Allaud & Marian Schwager, Bulletin Editors

Published by League of Women Voters of Albany County, PO Box 611, Slingerlands, NY 12159

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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, sexual orientation, creed or national origin.

## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS JOINT MEETING WITH NYS WOMEN'S PRESS CLUB

*"Endangered Species? The Future of  
Journalism and the 1st Amendment"*

**Thurs., April 20, 6:30-8:30 PM**

### Guest Panelists:

- Rex Smith, TU editor;
- Rosemary Armao, UAlbany Journalism professor,
- Robert Heverly, Assoc. Professor at Albany Law School

**Moderator:** Angela Ledford, Professor of political science at College of St. Rose

**Where:** Delmar Reformed Church, 386 Delaware Ave, Delmar, parking in rear, enter on Delaware Ave.

### What:

The forum will consider the challenges to the First Amendment and the practice of journalism in the current political environment. The following questions will be discussed:

- How does social media, such as Facebook and Twitter, affect the news that voters need to receive in a functioning democracy?
- How do we distinguish "fake news" from the real news"?
- Where does responsibility lie for the provision of authentic and credible news?

**COME AND BE PART OF AN ONGOING PUBLIC  
DISCUSSION OF THIS ISSUE!**

Contact: Aimee Allaud, Communications Director,  
[85aimee@nycap.rr.com](mailto:85aimee@nycap.rr.com), 482-2617, or Joann Crupi, Women's  
Press Club of NYS, [jcrupi@att.net](mailto:jcrupi@att.net).

## Board and Committees

President, Margaret Danes,  
[stsophia@nycap.rr.com](mailto:stsophia@nycap.rr.com)

1st Vice-President, Paula Philo  
[paula.philo@gmail.com](mailto:paula.philo@gmail.com)

2nd Vice President/Voter Services, Barbara Frankel  
[barbarameg@me.com](mailto:barbarameg@me.com)

Secretary Vacant

Treasurer, Marggie Skinner,  
[mpskinner3@yahoo.com](mailto:mpskinner3@yahoo.com)

Directors  
Aimee Allaud (Communications)  
[85aimee@nycap.rr.com](mailto:85aimee@nycap.rr.com)

Linda Ellen Brown (Website)  
[lindaellenbrown@gmail.com](mailto:lindaellenbrown@gmail.com)

Herb Gordon, [gordon@acmenet.net](mailto:gordon@acmenet.net).

Patricia Sibilgia [psbranch@verizon.net](mailto:psbranch@verizon.net),

Stephen Winters, [sdoxie@aol.com](mailto:sdoxie@aol.com).

Mary Beilby  
[mary.beilby@gmail.com](mailto:mary.beilby@gmail.com).

A complete list of committee chairs is available on the LWVAC website, [www.lwvalbany.org](http://www.lwvalbany.org), under Contact Us

## 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](mailto:85aimee@nycap.rr.com).

## Dues are Due!

**Help Make Democracy Work! The LWVAC needs you!**

**Dues renewal time is here and you can renew on the League's website, [www.lwvalbany.org](http://www.lwvalbany.org)**

**or by check (mail to LWVAC, PO Box 611, Slingerlands, NY 12159).**

**LWVAC Board meetings are held monthly (see calendar)** at St. Sophia's church, 440 Whitehall Road, Albany, call Margaret Danes, president, 489-4442, [mdanes@nycap.rr.com](mailto:mdanes@nycap.rr.com). Bulletin editors, Aimee Allaud, [85aimee@nycap.rr.com](mailto:85aimee@nycap.rr.com), and Marian Schwager, welcome comments and suggestions

**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](http://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  
Tel: 202-429-1965/202-429-1965, [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)  
Chris Carson, President

## President's Message

### "IF"

Public opinion polls, vocal town hall meetings, demonstrations, letter writing campaigns. Does any of this affect decision making in Congress? We recently witnessed the demise of the attempt to repeal "Obamacare" and to replace it with a Republican version, the "American Health Care Act". According to the Congressional Budget Office, the proposal would have offered tax benefits for the rich and spending cuts for the poor. The ultra conservative Republican House Freedom Caucus apparently wanted even more concessions, but moderate Republicans apparently had reservations about this new proposal for different reasons. The question arises as to whether public concerns were a factor in this stalemate.

**If** public outcry was in any way a factor, then it leads us to continue efforts to influence our government representatives to act on our behalf of the people. Not on the behalf of any party. Not even on the behalf of PACs and big money.

**If** our representatives come to understand and to believe that their constituents have strong concerns and that those concerns will carry over to election day, then maybe, just maybe, they will understand that no other factors can affect their reelection more than disaffected people at the polls. This realization may not happen overnight, but the continued strong outcries of support or opposition to critical issues may make legislators sit up and take notice. And to become genuinely concerned about their reelection efforts.

**If** you and I and citizens across the country take to the polls in huge numbers on election day armed with facts and information rather than decisions based on cleverly crafted political marketing campaigns, then we stand a chance of having government "of the people, by the people, and for the people." For not even big money can affect elections if there is an outpouring of "people power".

Is the vision of informed and active citizenry a possibility? It is. And so it is our mandate as the League to continue our efforts and to join with other good government groups in offering unbiased reporting, debates, literature, forums and programs based on facts. An informed and invigorated electorate can be a powerful and awesome force, earning respect and accountability and better government. We offer you some ways in our "What's An Activist to Do?" article in this bulletin.

Margaret Dares, President

*Note: The League of Women Voters can neither support nor oppose any political candidate or party. It can, and must, however, support issues and positions achieved by the consensus of members from local Leagues throughout the United States.*

## News Briefs

- Albany County Local Law "S" banning Polystyrene Foam food containers was defeated in the County Legislature on March 13 by a vote of 21-16 to oppose the ban expansion. The LWWAC joined with environmental advocates to mount a visible campaign through petitions and calls to legislators. Your voice counted, but the opponents cited economic concerns that reached the ears of the Legislature more strongly.
- LWVNYS: LWVNYS Announces Support for 2017 Constitutional Convention Ballot Question. On March 27, the LWVNYS announced support for calling a NYS Constitutional Convention. If voters approve the Constitutional Convention question in November 2017, a total of 189 delegates from State Senate districts and 15 at-large delegates will be elected in November 2018 to meet in a convention to convene in 2019. Read the League's statement here: [http://www.lwvny.org/programs-studies/concon/2017/Press-Con-con\\_032717.pdf](http://www.lwvny.org/programs-studies/concon/2017/Press-Con-con_032717.pdf)

## Welcome New and Returning Members

Michele Abram, Cohoes  
Suzanne Ayers, Castleton  
Karen Bogucki, Slingerlands  
Glen Charles, Albany  
Donna DiBuono, Albany  
Joe Galu, Albany  
Karen Lafreniere, Schenectady  
Colleen Mahoney, Selkirk  
Carrie Manchester, Cohoes  
Mary McCarthy, Loudonville  
Ann McGuinness, Selkirk  
Gail Moon, Averill Park  
Susan Morrison, Menands  
Judith Ratner, Albany  
Deborah Rausch, Latham  
Emily Stewart, Delmar  
Regina Tillman, Albany  
Gail Volk, Delmar  
Thomas Welsh, Delmar  
Britt Westergard, Guilderland

## LWVAC Proposed Slate of Officers and Directors 2017-2018

### Two-year Terms:

President: Margaret Danes (one year)  
First VP: Patricia Sibilila (administration) (one year)  
Second VP: Mary Bielby (Action) (Two years)  
Secretary: Britt Westergard (one year)  
Treasurer: Marggie Skinner (Two years)

### Elected Directors - two years

Aimee Allaud Communications  
Linda Brown Webmaster  
Barbara Frankel Voter Service  
Susanna Martin At-large  
Paula Philo Membership  
Stephen Winters At-large

### 2018-19 Nominating Committee:

Chair: Marian Schwager

Off board members: Tina Raggio, Arleen Stein (Two board members to be appointed by new board)

## LWVAC Proposed Local Program 2017-2018

### 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. (New language added; although the extension has been suspended, it could be revived.)

### Long Term Care in Albany County

Continue monitoring long term care options and issues in Albany County.

### A Study of Albany City School Board Election Process

This is a proposal to study the election process for Albany school board members, budget, and other fiscal items that must be approved by the voters. The League has a long history of involvement the City school elections, beginning in 1970 with the nonpartisan election of the City of Albany school board. In 1988, the League studied the election process for the school board and came to the consensus on a rotation election system for the seven-member board. Candidates for the Albany School Board are elected in the November general election and the budget is voted in May. The board may call a referendum on other issues.

## 2017-18 Proposed Budget

EXPENDITURES	BUDGET	ACTUAL	PROPOSED
	16-17	2/14/2017	17-18
<b>A. OPERATING COSTS</b>			
1. General Supplies	200.00	95.09	150.00
2. Postage	50.00		50.00
3. PO Box Rental	56.00	60.00	60.00
Subtotal	306.00	155.09	260.00
<b>B. BOARD &amp; ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES</b>			
1. President	50.00	0.00	50.00
2. Board Administration	150.00	28.07	100.00
3. Administrative Committees			
a. Publicity/website	500.00	136.26	500.00
b. Finance Drive/Development			
c. Membership	300.00	215.53	350.00
Subtotal	1,000.00	379.86	1,000.00
<b>C. DELEGATES, TRAVEL &amp; AFFILIATIONS</b>			
1. State Convention	500.00		
2. National Convention			2,000.00
5. Affiliations	1,000.00		1,000.00
Subtotal	1,500.00	0.00	3,000.00
<b>D. FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE LEAGUE</b>			
1. State PMP	2,690.00	1,345.00	2,610.00
2. National PMP	4,573.00	2,176.00	4,176.00
Subtotal	7,263.00	3,521.00	6,786.00
<b>E. BULLETIN</b>			
1. Supplies	1,500.00	509.40	1,500.00
2. Postage	330.00	188.00	330.00
Subtotal	1,830.00	697.40	1,830.00
<b>F. EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES</b>			
1. Program Study/action	150.00	154.00	150.00
2. Voters Service			
a. Voter Registration*	200.00	1,035.75	1,000.00
b. Candidate Meetings*	500.00	243.75	500.00
c. Voters Guide *	100.00	252.80	225.00
3. Student Sponsor*	700.00	66.25	700.00
4. Special Projects/Programs	200.00		

Subtotal	1,850.00	1,752.55	2,575.00
<b>G. EVENTS</b>			
1. Annual Meeting	1,700.00		1,700.00
2. Potluck	200.00	351.81	350.00
3. Other Event	250.00	64.69	100.00
4. Luncheon	1,200.00	1,011.60	1,000.00
Subtotal	3,350.00	1,428.10	3,150.00
<b>EXPENDITURES TOTAL</b>	<b>\$17,099.00</b>	<b>\$7,934.00</b>	<b>\$18,601.00</b>
<b>INCOME</b>	<b>PROPOSED</b>	<b>ACTUAL</b>	<b>PROPOSED</b>
	<b>16-17</b>	<b>2/14/2017</b>	<b>17-18</b>
<b>AA. MEMBERSHIP DUES</b>			
Subtotal	9,000.00	4,616.68	9,000.00
<b>BB. CONTRIBUTIONS</b>			
1. Member	1,000.00	325.00	500.00
2. Non-member Contributions	100.00	70.00	500.00
Subtotal	1,100.00	395.00	1,000.00
<b>CC. OTHER FUNDRAISING</b>			
1 Annual Meeting	1,500.00	35.00	1,700.00
2 Potluck	30.00		
3 Luncheon	1,200.00	1,050.00	1,000.00
4 Events	250.00		2,000.00
Subtotal	2,980.00	1,085.00	4,700.00
<b>EE. OTHER INCOME</b>			
2. Poll Reporting	2,500.00	2,570.00	2,500.00
4. Misc. Income/Grants/Raffle	500.00	25.00	500.00
Subtotal	3,000.00	2,595.00	3,000.00
<b>FF. BANK INTEREST</b>			
Subtotal	40.00	20.10	40.00
<b>INCOME TOTAL</b>	<b>\$16,120.00</b>	<b>\$8,711.78</b>	<b>\$17,740.00</b>
grants mngmt * items can be pd from EF funds			
<b>(TO) FROM RESERVES</b>	<b>\$979.00</b>	<b>-\$777.78</b>	<b>\$861.00</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$17,099.00</b>	<b>\$7,934.00</b>	<b>\$18,601.00</b>

## Calendar

April 20 Thursday "Endangered Species" Future of Journalism and the 1st Amendment"  
6:30-8:30 PM Meeting, at Delmar Reformed Church, 386 Delaware Avenue, Delmar

April 21 Friday Naturalization ceremony. Federal District Courthouse, Broadway, Albany,  
7:45 AM assist new citizens to register to vote. Contact Julie Elson,  
[jelson510@earthlink.net](mailto:jelson510@earthlink.net).

April 25 Tuesday LWVNYS Advocacy Training Lobby Day, Legislative Office Building,  
10:00AM-1:00PM (see flyer in this bulletin)

May 1 Monday LWVAC Board Meeting, St. Sophias Church, 440 Whitehall Road,  
6:30PM-8:30 PM All members are welcome. Call president, Margaret Danes, 489-4443

or [danesh@stsophia.com](mailto:danesh@stsophia.com).

- May 2 Tuesday 6:30 PM Bethlehem School Board Candidate Forum, Bethlehem High School, Delaware Avenue, Delmar, call Barbara Frankel, 518-810-4180.
- May 5 Friday 7:45 AM Naturalization ceremony. Federal District Courthouse, Broadway, assist new citizens to vote. Contact Julie Elson, [jelson510@earthlink.net](mailto:jelson510@earthlink.net).
- May 7 Sunday 12N-4PM Albany History Fair, Whose Side Are You On? Suffrage and and Anti-Suffrage in Albany, Historic Cherry Hill, 523 ½ S. Pearl St., Albany
- May 8 Monday 7:00 PM Albany County Legislature monthly meeting, Albany County Courthouse call Patricia Sibilian, [patriciasibilian@gmail.com](mailto:patriciasibilian@gmail.com).
- June TBD LWVAC Annual Business Meeting, with Guest Speaker, Jim Ketterer of Bard College, Martel's Restaurant at Albany Municipal Golf Course.

## What's an Activist to Do?

### Here Are Some Ideas:

1. Bring a friend or colleague to a LWVAC program.
2. Call your legislator in Congress or your state legislator and share your concerns on issues. Call often. And/or send postcards. (E-mails get "lost")
3. Assist with LWV voter registration activities (contact Barbara Frankel, [barbarameg@mac.com](mailto:barbarameg@mac.com))
4. Join our Women's March partners on specific issues you feel passionately about, [www.womensmarch.com/partners](http://www.womensmarch.com/partners)
5. Check out [Cap Region/Albany NY Women's Resistance & Civic Action Coalition] on Facebook for many action activities, opportunities and meetings
6. Come to the LWVNYS Lobby Day and learn the issues and the techniques. (see flyer)
7. Take the LWVNYS' "Be Earthwise Pledge", the League's new campaign to engage all Americans to learn the facts, vote with your dollars and vote with your daily actions to preserve our planet at [www.lwvny.org](http://www.lwvny.org)., read What You Can Do About Climate Change, <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/03/25/opinion/sunday/what-you-can-do-about-climate-change.html?mwrsm=Email>
8. Select one of many League positions and plan an informational program, i.e. "Gun Safety" or "Equal Rights" We need "smart" voters on election day.
9. Attend local town, city, county, or school board meetings often and report on actions for the League website and newsletter. League presence is a reminder of government "accountability."



LEAGUE OF  
WOMEN VOTERS®

## Membership 2017-18 - Join & Make a Difference

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel: \_\_\_\_\_ Address, City, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

- Individual Membership \$60/year       Send me newsletters by mail
- Household Membership \$90/year       Just use my email for newsletters
- Student Membership \$25/year       Contribution in support of my local League
- I'd like to join; this is the best I can do       Please send me more information
- tax deductible contribution to LWVNYS Education Fund

Mail to: League of Women Voters of Albany County, PO Box 611, Slingerlands, NY 12159

Or join online at <http://www.lwvalbany.org/join-renew.html>

**Albany County Legislature Local Law Tracking by LWVAC monitor, Patricia Sibilia**

2016		
Local Law N	Prohibit Albany County government from discriminating against potential employees based on their criminal arrest record or conviction.	Passed By Legislature in February session. Approved by County Executive March 9 <sup>th</sup> .
Local Law O	Amending the County Charter – Reform Caucus proposal vs. Local Law H that was passed in November 2016 election	Tabled at request of sponsor in Law Committee – maybe permanently on hold
Local Law P	Help address wage gap between women and men by prohibiting employers from requiring job applicants to provide prior or current salary information	Sent to Law Committee Expect edits and to go to Public Hearing in April
Local Law Q	Protect canines from enclosure in dangerously hot or cold vehicles	Sent to Law & Public Safety Committee. Tabled at request of sponsor in Law
Local Law R	Limit the length of time a dog may be restrained outdoors	Sent to Law & Public Safety Committee. Tabled at request of sponsor in Law
Local Law S	Regulating the use of polystyrene foam disposable food service ware and requiring the use of biodegradable or compostable service ware (Food Service Waste Reduction Act)	Legislative vote in March session. Proposal failed
Local Law T	Amending and updating Local Law from 2013 entitled “an omnibus Human Rights Law for Albany County”	In Law Committee. Will be withdrawn; to be combined into Local Law P
Local Law U	Amending the Albany County Charter for increasing transparency in the budget process	Sent to Law Committee Tabled as sponsor not present
Local Law V & W	Amending the County Charter relating to Commissions on Reapportionment	Public Hearing held in Dec, and again in Feb. Discussion underway between the two sponsors.
Local Law X	To bestow any and all County privileges to veterans who were discharged from the military for their lesbian/gay/bisexual/transsexual status under the Federal Don’t Ask Don’t Tell Law	Tabled in Law Committee
2017		
Local Law A	Prohibiting the use of cigarettes, tobacco products, liquid nicotine or electronic cigarettes in parks or recreational areas owned and operated by the County	Sent to Law and Health Committee in Feb meeting Public Hearing, March 28
Local Law B	Limited exemption from real property taxes for qualified conservation easement exemption agreements within the Town of Bethlehem	In Law Committee Public Hearing, March 28
Local Law C	(Was 2016 Resolution 80) Preventing the hiring of former County Legislators and the families of current or former Legislators by the County	In Law Committee Public Hearing, March 28

LWV of Albany County  
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Slingerlands, NY 12159