

LWV Chautauqua County  
PO Box 42  
Fredonia, New York 14063

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# The Leaguer

Volume 21, Issue 8  
May - June, 2017

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY  
[lww@lwwchautauqua.org](mailto:lww@lwwchautauqua.org), 672-4275

## LWV Chautauqua Annual Meeting

May 17<sup>th</sup> at Domus Fare in Fredonia  
5:00 p.m. Cocktails  
5:30 p.m. Dinner

Our evening will include  
Brief Business Meeting  
Election of Officers  
Leaguer of the Year

"A Press Conference with Susan B. Anthony"  
With Christina Rausa



### The Buffalo News

"Vibrant, unpretentious, intimate and utterly vital."

### Post Journal

"A beautifully-shaped performance."

### The Post Journal

"She is Susan B, Anthony."

### Dunkirk Observer

"For almost an hour Ms. Rausa held the audience mesmerized bringing back the fiery oratory of Susan B. "

LWV Chautauqua County Annual Meeting  
 Domus Fare Restaurant in Fredonia on Wednesday, May 17, 2017 at 5 p.m.  
 Dinner Cost is \$28.00

Make check payable to LWV Chautauqua County. Mail reservations to Judy Reynolds, 305 Chestnut Street, Fredonia NY 14063-1318, 672-4283, [jtrpurple@yahoo.com](mailto:jtrpurple@yahoo.com). All reservations must be received before May 10<sup>th</sup>,

Harvest Salad with organic greens, apples, dried cranberries, croutons, and grape seed vinaigrette

Please select one of the following:

\_\_\_Vegan Risotto Cakes: Baby spinach, sundried tomatoes, tofu and risotto cakes over slow cooked lentil pilaf, topped with homemade marinara sauce.

\_\_\_Chicken Roulades: Chicken breast stuffed with basil pesto, roasted red peppers and artichoke hearts served with pasta and asiago cream sauce.

\_\_\_Fundy Bay Salmon: Canadian cold water salmon, grilled and served over wild rice, topped with homemade mango salsa.

Mini Brownie Sundae with real vanilla ice cream and whipped cream.  
 Cost includes all non-alcoholic beverages

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

## **Common Ground...**

Leaguer readers may remember that with League leadership, a small group of local citizens has been meeting to find common ground among people who voted for Secretary Clinton and people who voted for President Trump. These citizens reject the polarization of views and demonization of opponents that has marred public discourse in recent months. They believe that our democracy is harmed when people can't listen to one another and speak to one another in a civil manner. The group's focus has been on issues not personalities; on action for the future, not on blame for the past. And indeed, a lot of common ground has emerged during the three monthly meetings this gradually growing group has held.

After the initial exploratory meeting, which lasted over three hours, the second meeting's topic was immigration. Here the participants agreed that much-needed agricultural and other laborers should be granted work permits, even if they originally entered the country without the proper documents. It was agreed that these people are not taking jobs away from legal residents and citizens, but rather are doing work nobody else will do these days. The participants also agreed that the U.S. should continue to accept refugees from all places where their lives are in danger, with screening as at present, after review.

The third meeting's topic was the environment. Top of the list for everyone was protection of the Great Lakes, and it was agreed to urge Congressman Reed to oppose cuts to Federal funding for operations to fight invasive species, prevent agricultural run-off, and eliminate industrial pollution. There was also agreement opposing fracking—now under a moratorium in New York State—and agreement to require polluters to remedy the damage they cause, as in oil spills in the Gulf of Mexico and Alaska. Although there were doubts about generating energy from wind power in settled areas, all welcomed the increase in solar generation.

There was plenty of disagreement, of course, but the amount of agreement might have surprised many. All the participants intend to continue talking, which is also a good sign.

### *From Our President...*

#### **Please send in your reservation for our annual meeting today! The deadline is May 10<sup>th</sup>.**

The popularity of our car magnets **Vote! It Counts** has been exceptional and we will be buying more. Please look over our proposed budget for next year. You will be voting on it at our annual meeting on May 17<sup>th</sup>.

There are two candidates for two positions on the Fredonia Central School Board of Education. Both candidates are incumbents so we will not be organizing a **meet the candidates night** for this district if there is a contest. Dunkirk school board **Meet the Candidates Night** will be held on May 9<sup>th</sup>. If you are interested in working at the polls (May 16th) in Fredonia, please contact Gen Ludemann at [genl@netsync.net](mailto:genl@netsync.net).

Students inside Albany: Alexander Lee Majka, a senior at Dunkirk High School, will be going to Albany. He is invited to come to our May meeting to give a brief synopsis of his experience.

League members researched our local League history at the Reed Library at Fredonia University. Rose Sebouhian wrote a summary which is in this newsletter. A copy was submitted to the State League of Women Voters.

I will be going to the Advocacy Training/Lobby Day on April 25. Let me know if there is anything you want me to tell our representatives. I will also be a delegate representing our League at the LWVNYS Convention in June.

If any members have suggestions for programs for 2017-2018 please contact Gen Ludemann [genl@netsync.net](mailto:genl@netsync.net) or Mary Croxton [mcroxton51@gmail.com](mailto:mcroxton51@gmail.com). Some topics already discussed for next year were social media and free speech and teaching science in an age of denial. There will be a program on *wind power* on July 19<sup>th</sup>. Place and time to be announced.

Members of the LWV will be involved with the N.Y.S. cultural heritage conference call. We will be talking about the league organization, legislative agenda, and programs.

Our next board meeting is May 22. Please join us!

Warmly, *Mary Croxton, President*

## **Climate Education Initiative**

Our local League, together with SUNY Fredonia, is sponsoring a Climate Education Initiative whose purpose is to increase understanding of climate change and to promote practices aimed at slowing its progress. As a first step, the CEI founders met with local middle school science teachers to see what they might need by way of help in implementing new NYS requirements strengthening instruction on climate change.

Several of their requests involved making data sets and other information available, and a webpage responding to these requests is under construction. Meanwhile, CEI organized a contest for middle school students in Dunkirk and Fredonia. The contest was to invent ways to use items that would otherwise be thrown into our landfills, and was endorsed by the mayors of Dunkirk and Fredonia, and developed with the help of science teachers Tricia Green of Dunkirk and Amy Lauer of Fredonia.

The winners in Fredonia Middle School were: first prize, Maria Maytum, and second prize, Emerson Bramer. Maria is in 6th grade, the daughter of Julie and Mark Maytum, and Emerson is also in 6th grade, the daughter of Melissa and Frank Bramer. Together, the girls listed 60 ways to reuse or repurpose items we normally throw away. Many of the other entries from Fredonia Middle School were also excellent. Judges of the contest, Professor Sherri Mason and Professor Emeritus Terence Mosher of SUNY Fredonia, remarked on the difficulty of their choice.

The winners in Dunkirk Middle School were: first prize, David Andujar and second prize, Risel Alfaro. David is a 6th grader, the son of Jessica and Jesus Cruz and Risel is also in 6th grade, the daughter of Risel Martinez and Jose Alfaro. Both students devised attractive leaflets to educate the public about lessening the amount of waste we generate: "reducing, reusing, and recycling."

The Leaguer will be kept informed about further actions of CEI. Once the website is up, it is planned to use it in a series of presentations to local groups such as social clubs and Rotary.

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY  
PROPOSED BUDGET 3/31/2017 – 4/1/2018**

Income	2016 Approved	2016 Actual thru 2/15/2017	2017 Proposed (based on 86 members)
Dues	\$4,800.00	\$4,920.00	\$4,690.00
Interest	\$5.00	\$1.30	\$3.00
Donations (Includes Ann Manly Fund)	\$200.00	\$105.00	\$100.00
Luncheons	\$2,550.00	\$1,890.00	\$2,000.00
Annual Banquet	\$1,135.00	\$1,403.00	\$1,500.00
Other			\$0.00
1. Election Night Reporting	\$50.00	\$145.00	\$70.00
2. LWVNYS Big Raffle	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$50.00
3. Refund from DFT	\$0.00	\$250.00	\$0.00
4. Leaguer Ads	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$250.00
5. LWVChautauqua Banquet Raffle	\$100.00	\$140.00	\$130.00
6. Car Magnets	\$150.00	\$490.00	\$200.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$9,240.00</b>	<b>\$9,544.30</b>	<b>\$8,993.00</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>			
State Dues	\$1,600.00	\$1,472.00	\$1,440.00
National Dues	\$2,430.00	\$2,592.00	\$2,533.00
Voter Service (2)	\$900.00	\$286.50	\$630.00
Luncheons	\$1,780.00	\$1,823.20	\$1,700.00
Annual Banquet	\$1,000.00	\$1,316.00	\$1,200.00
Conferences	\$600.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
Fund Raisers			
1. Promotion & Advertising (1)	\$325.00	\$180.00	\$180.00
Fees for use of facilities	\$100.00	\$467.50	\$100.00
<b>General Operating Expense</b>			
Postage, Printing & PO Box	\$320.00	\$267.76	\$260.00
Office Supplies	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Auditing Fee (donated)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Website (donated)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$200.00
Car Magnet cost	\$0.00	\$19.35	\$0.00
Membership Committee	\$125.00	\$0.00	\$50.00
Street Banner Hanging Cost	\$60.00	\$250.00	\$200.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$9,240.00</b>	<b>\$8,674.31</b>	<b>\$8,993.00</b>

(1) Rockefeller Playbill)

(2) Includes TmtV and Farm Festival Expense



# Be Earthwise

*Preserve our Planet*

**VOTE WITH YOUR \$ AND ACTIONS**

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LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NYS



# LWVNY Capitol Beat Blog

By Barbara Bartoletti, LWVNY Lobbyist

## Post Budget Highlights (and Failures)

This year's budget was a several week endeavor. For the first time since Governor Andrew Cuomo was elected, the budget was 9 days late. The legislature had to pass one extender to keep the government working for 9 days until the legislature came back and spent Palm Sunday weekend finishing the budget.

The \$153.1 billion budget included many progressive legislative proposals. The most debated issue this year was whether or not to raise the age of criminal responsibility from 16 to 18. This proposal dominated both the Assembly and Senate. The Assembly debated this issue for most of their 8 hour debate. Surprisingly, the Assembly debate was not acrimonious; the vast majority of legislators were in agreement that this issue's time had come and New York did not want to be associated with being the last state in the nation to have not raised the age of criminal responsibility to 18. The final program is incremental in implementation and gives flexibility for which court will try teens based on the crimes they commit. Violent crimes involving a weapon, crimes that inflicted physical injury on victims, and crimes involving sexual violence will all be heard in traditional criminal court.

The other visible issue in this year's budget was the governor's proposal to grant qualifying students free tuition to SUNY and CUNY. The final proposal included a number of provisions that the Governor had not initially agreed to. Private schools were also included in the proposal but with the state only paying up to \$3,000 and only if the college agreed to match that money. SUNY and CUNY students can receive up to \$5,500 per semester. To qualify students must have a household income below \$100,000 for the next four years; the qualifying amount will be raised to \$125,000 by 2020. Students must also take a certain number of credits, maintain a GPA specified by the school, and they must work in New York State for 4 to 5 years post-graduation. Students who do not work in the state will have to repay their grant. This policy does not include payment for room, board, and books.

The budget also included Upstate Ridesharing. The new policy comes with a hefty sales tax, mandatory background checks for all drivers, and a \$1.5 million insurance policy for all drivers.

The Governor said this was the most difficult budget he had to negotiate because of his concerns over potential budget deficits from Washington. A major sticking point in this budget negotiation was the Governor's insistence that his budget division be given unilateral authority if there are federal budget cuts. The legislature agreed to give the Governor authority to put out his own proposal but only if the Assembly and Senate have the option to pass their own version within 90 days of the release. If the legislature does not act the Governor's proposal would stand.

This year's education budget was a tug of war between public schools and charter schools. The League had advocated strongly for an increase in foundation aid. The resulting budget allocated \$700 million for Foundation Aid, which is funding for both rural and urban high needs school districts. Total education aid was \$1.1 billion. The charter school cap remains intact but charter aid was unfrozen for this year. There was also a \$500 per student increase in tuition aid and a \$500 increase in charter capital aid reimbursable by the state. The state took this over so it wouldn't be such a large toll on local districts. STAR rebate checks will also continue.

Another issue the League lobbied during this budget session was a \$2.5 billion for water infrastructure which will be used to rebuild and replace aging water infrastructure. This investment will be used by localities and local governments to help pay for clean drinking water projects and new infrastructure upgrades as well as water testing.

One issue area that was completely absent from budget negotiations was voting reforms. The League had lobbied legislators leading up to the release of the one-house budgets to include voting reforms in their budget packages. Although the Governor and Assembly had included early voting and automatic voter registration in their respective budget proposals, the Senate had not even toyed with the idea of including voting. As soon as negotiations began, both the legislature and Governor were silent on the issue of voting reform. We are truly shocked that the two houses and Governor were able to compromise on so many policies but NOT voting.

The legislature remains on break until April 24<sup>th</sup>. The League will host its annual Lobby Day April 25<sup>th</sup> and we plan to hit the ground running and screaming about voting reforms! The time is now to bring New York's antiquated voting system into the 21<sup>st</sup> century!

## A Brief History of the League of Women Voters of Chautauqua County by Rose Sebouhian, Archivist

Looking through the archives of the early history of the local LWV-Chautauqua, then known as the Dunkirk-Fredonia League of Women Voters, I was struck by the proverb from French critic and novelist Jean-Baptiste Alphonse Karr, "the more things change the more they stay the same." Many of the "hot topics" of today were the same topics of concern at the very first meeting of the local League on October 19, 1961.

During this first meeting held at Wheelock School, a set of by-laws for the provisional local League of Women Voters was submitted and unanimously adopted and then the election of officers followed. Those first board members included: Mrs. Donald Taylor, president; Mrs. Alan McLeod, first vice president; Mrs. Irving Hinerfeld, second vice president; Miss Laura M. Ostrander, secretary; Mrs. Alfred Heinemann, treasurer; and Mrs. Marvin Bernstein, Mrs. Joseph Keyser, Mrs. W. A. Morrow and Mrs. Jack Scott, directors. It should be noted that the journalism style manual of the time always used the husband's name. The only time a woman was able to use her own first name was if she were not married.

Also discussed at this meeting was the importance of voter service and that the local League agreed to distribute the pamphlet *Facts for Voters, '61* which includes the seven amendments to the New York State Constitution "which will be voted on Nov. 7 . . . and which states the pros and cons of the issues."

This directly connects with LWV-Chautauqua's April hot topic "New York State Constitutional Convention: Promise or Peril. Once again the League will present speakers on both sides of the issue. "Shall there be a convention to revise the constitution and amend the same?"

Throughout the next 50 years one of the most pressing problems the League has tackled is pollution, especially of the Great Lakes. In the September, 1963 *Bulletin* listed as one of the topics of discussion was *Water Pollution in Fredonia*. Cited in the Bulletin was a statement from Assistant Secretary, US Dept. of Health, Education, and Welfare:

"Water pollution is today the most pressing single problem in resource management in our country. It is jeopardizing our water supplies, menacing the public health, destroying aquatic life, and disgracing our environment. It threatens our economic growth. It is an enemy which must be met and conquered."

In 1964 the Dunkirk-Fredonia LWV conducted a Study of Pollutants in Lake Erie. During the remaining years of the 1960's the local League sponsored several radio programs including: Pure Water Bond Issue, Reapportionment and Amendment, Redistricting, Questions of the Constitutional Convention and the United Nations.

The 1970s League focused on whether the voting age should be changed from 21 to 18, the Quality of the Environment and the Reforms of the Electoral College.

The local League of the 1980s focused on inequality of financing of public education, equal pay for equal work, affirmative action in hiring and promotion and the elimination of sexual harassment, all of which continue to be topics today with LWV-Chautauqua.

The 1990s topics included: women's reproductive rights, former County Executive Andrew Goodell speaking about solid waste management (a topic the league discussed in our March hot topics luncheon), health care reform, and diversity in the League. The League also published a pamphlet, *To Anyone Contemplating or Facing Divorce*.

The 2000s topics included/s gun control, protecting the environment, Lake Erie pollution, and health care. In 2000 League Day at Chautauqua was a presentation by the local League of Safeguards for voters and voting machine systems, and the "Democracy is not a Spectator Sport," Campaign for Legislative Accountability.

Finally, today, April 4, 2017 as I picked up our local newspaper the *Observer* the front page above the fold headline reads "Dunkirk v. Trump" which deals with the proposed federal cuts that would slash funding for the Environmental Protection Agency's Great Lakes Restoration Initiative which is instrumental in cleaning up Lake Erie. Dunkirk City Councilman Don Williams Jr. is quoted, "They can't cut anything that can help save the lakes because we drink that water. Forget the importance of the tourism and everything--we drink that water."

It looks as if the League of Women Voters-Chautauqua, as it has done since its beginnings in 1961, will continue the struggle for clean water, and a livable, sustainable planet.  
"The more things change. . . ."



**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

<b>APRIL 26</b> Moonbrook C.C.	<b>NOON</b>	Topic: "New York State Constitutional Convention: Promise or Peril?"
<b>MAY 17</b> Domus Fare	<b>5 p.m.</b>	<b>ANNUAL MEETING – Celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of NYS Suffrage for Women</b>
<b>May 22</b>	<b>1:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Program Committee - at Deb Schwert's house</b>
<b>JUNE 11-13</b> Holiday Inn Express, Liverpool, NY		<b>LWVNYS Convention</b>
<b>JULY 19</b> <b>AUGUST 27</b>		<b>Meeting on wind energy—M. Twichell —details tba</b> <b>Lily Dale Celebration of Women's Suffrage</b>

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THE NEWSLETTER OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY

lww@lwwchautauqa.org, 672-4275



The League of Women Voters of Chautauqua County is where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement.

Invite a Friend to Join or Give the Gift Of League Membership!!

Make Your Voice Heard! Join Us Today!

League of Women Voters of Chautauqua County Management Team

- Mary Croxton, President
Minda Rae Amiran
Priscilla Bernatz
Gen Ludemann
Marcia Merrins
Judy Reynolds
Rose Sebouhian
Linda Warner

Membership Form

Mail to: LWV Chautauqua P.O. Box 42 Fredonia, NY 14063

Membership Dues: through December 31, 2017 Individual: \$60; Family: \$90; Student: \$25 (Check payable to LWV Chautauqua County)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to get involved with:

Local Issues Voter Service State/National Issues

Local Newsletter

Assisting with minor tasks occasionally

Other: \_\_\_\_\_