
LWV Chautauqua County
PO Box 42
Fredonia, New York 14063

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The Leaguer

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November, 2017

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY
lww@lwwchautauqua.org, 672-4275



Care and Choice at the End of Life

Hot Topic Luncheon at Shorewood Country Club
Tuesday, November 14, 2017 at Noon

Speaker's Bio

Amanda Cavanaugh joined *Compassion and Choices New York* as the Outreach Coordinator in New York in January 2016 and is now the Campaign Organizer for the Empire State. Prior to working with Compassion and Choices, she completed training for Medical Assisting because she had a passion for helping people. Amanda also worked in the health insurance field specializing in helping people access Medicaid and Medicare. Amanda became familiar with Compassion and Choices when her partner Chrissy was facing a terminal diagnosis from cancer. After losing her partner in February of 2015, Amanda knew that she did not want to see anyone else suffer needlessly, and so she began to volunteer with Compassion and Choices to advocate for end of life choices.



The Evans and Evans Law Office will give an overview of the legal aspects of Medical assistance in dying.

History

Compassion & Choices launched a robust campaign to authorize medical aid in dying in New York in September 2015.

The Medical Aid in Dying Act was first introduced on May 10, 2016, and nearly 100 C&C supporters turned out to the New York state Capitol in support of the bill.

In 2016, we brought lawmakers to the table to negotiate the Medical Aid in Dying Act. More than 1,300 supporters contacted lawmakers to urge approval in the Health committee. We tabled the New York State Fair, and as a result, over 6,000 residents spoke with us, and 4,200 wrote postcards to their representatives.

On May 23, 2016, the Assembly Health Committee passed the bill.

On January 23, 2017, when bill sponsors re-introduced the Medical Aid in Dying Act, C&C held a press conference to announce the bill.

Polling Data

Eagle Point Strategies Survey, September 2015

Three of four New York voters (77%) think “when a mentally competent adult is dying from a terminal illness that cannot be cured, the adult should be allowed the option to request a prescription for life-ending medication from their doctor, and decide whether and when to use that medication to end their suffering in their final stages of dying.”

Reservation Form
Compassion and Choices
November 14, 2017
Noon
Shorewood Country Club
4958 West Lake Road
Dunkirk, New York 14048 (off Route 5 coming from Dunkirk toward Erie, PA)

_____ Chicken and Biscuits
_____ Pear Pecan Salad (can be made without nuts)
Apple Crisp
Cost: \$15.00

Name _____ contact info _____

Make check payable to LWV Chautauqua County. Mail reservations to Mary Croxton, 22 Gillis Street, Fredonia, NY 14063, 679-1774, mcroxton51@gmail.com. Please reply before Nov. 10, 2017.

From Our President...

Proposal for **Concurrence** with a LWV of Utah's Position on Death with Dignity

During the 2017 State Convention a proposal to consider concurrence with LWV Utah's position on Death with Dignity was approved by convention delegates.

Concurrence is defined by LWVUS League basics as: an agreement by League members with a position on an issue reached by a small group of members or by another League.

Utah's Position

In January of 2016 the League of Women Voters of Utah conducted a study on whether or not they would support legislation to allow for aid in dying in their state. Their study provides information about laws in the five states currently allowing terminally ill persons to request physician aid in dying, as well as a detailed history of death with dignity through the ages.

The Utah's position on Death with Dignity states:

1. The League of Women Voters of Utah believes state laws should grant the option for a terminally ill person to request medical assistance from a relevant, licensed physician to end one's life.
2. The League of Women Voters of Utah believes such legislation should include safeguards against abuse for the dying and/or medical personnel.

What Do Death with Dignity Laws Allow?

They all include qualifying criteria:

- a competent adult over the age of 18 can request a prescription to end his or her life only if diagnosed as terminally ill and likely to die within six months.
- the request for a prescription from licensed physicians must be made both in writing and orally.
- the individual must be able to self-administer the medication
- the individual must be of sound mind and capable of clear communication
- the laws often require a series of requests and waiting periods to guard against abuse. Patients diagnosed with mental illness and people with disabilities are ineligible.

The Debate

Pro

The argument from autonomy, self-determination

The argument from mercy, or avoidance of pain and suffering

Con

The argument from the intrinsic wrongness of killing

The argument concerning the integrity of the medical profession.

There are copies of the Utah study at the Barker Library in Fredonia. There is too much information to be published in the Leaguer. Please check lwnvy.org for more on this concurrence.

Mary Croxton
679-1774
mcroxton51@gmail.com

The League of Women Voters of Chautauqua County invites the public to attend three events to meet the candidates for positions in Chautauqua County, Dunkirk, and Fredonia. The first event, jointly sponsored by the Jamestown chapter of the American Association of University

Women and the Political Science Department of Jamestown Community College, will take place at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 24 in the Weeks Room at JCC in Jamestown. There the audience will be able to question candidates for County Executive, Republican George Borrello and Democrat Michael Ferguson, and candidates for County Clerk, incumbent Republican Larry Barmore and Democrat challenger Leeann Lazarony. Candidates in the only two contests for County Legislator representing Jamestown will also appear: Democrat Frank Besse and incumbent Republican David Wilfong running to represent District 11, and incumbent Republican Elisabeth Rankin and Democrat David Paul Reinhardt running for District 12. Many of these candidates are sponsored by additional parties, as is true of candidates appearing in the debates in Dunkirk and Fredonia described below.

The second Meet the Candidates event will take place at 7 p.m. on Thursday, October 26, in the courtroom in Dunkirk City Hall. On the platform will be the county-wide candidates who previously appeared in Jamestown, joined by candidates for County Legislature from District 1: Republican incumbent Kevin Muldowney and Democrat Jim Palmetier. It is hoped that the three remaining contestants for Dunkirk City Judge will also appear, although the community was able to question two of them during the debate preceding the September primary. Only two seats on City Council have been in play: Ward 1, where Mr. Welka has withdrawn, and Ward 2, where the challenger, Shaun Heenan, is unable to appear at the debate. Because LWV rules forbid "empty chair" debates, Ward 1 candidate Donald Williams and Ward 3 candidate Adelino Gonzales, both Democrat incumbents, will be present and available for individual questioning but will not be on the platform.

The third Meet the Candidates event will take place at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, November 1 in the Fredonia Opera House. The public will be able to question candidates for County Clerk, Barmore and Lazarony, and candidates for County Legislature from District 3, Democrat Bob Dando and Republican incumbent Robert Scudder. Also present will be candidates for Town of Pomfret Board, Democrat incumbent Brett Christy and Republican Michael Reynolds. A crowded platform will also hold candidates for 4-year terms as Village Trustee (2 openings): Republicans Roger Britz and incumbent Doug Essek and Democrats Leslie Wille and Steve Yunghans. Running to complete the term of former Trustee Roger Ruckman are Democrat Michael Barris, Republican Dale Ricker, and non-party candidate Ronald Lee Sellers.

As is well known, the LWV time-keepers are strict about keeping the candidates' statements brief so that many members of the audience can ask questions. Candidates are also encouraged to question one another in true debate form. In this election, several of the candidates are relatively unknown to the public, so it is all the more important for voters to inform themselves of their views. It is to be hoped that all three Meet the Candidates forums will attract lively audiences. As always, these events are free and open to all.



October 24
Weeks Room at JCC in
Jamestown
County Executive
County Clerk
Contested Legislative Seat

October 26
Dunkirk Courthouse in City
Hall
County Executive
County Clerk
Contested Legislative Seat
Dunkirk Court Judge
Contested Legislative Seats

November 1
Fredonia Opera House
NO County Executive
County Clerk
Contested Legislative Seats
Town of Pomfret Council
Village of Fredonia Trustees

The Constitutional Convention: A Brief Overview

The New York State Constitution mandates that every 20 years voters be presented with the ballot question: “Shall there be a convention to revise the constitution and amend the same?” A Constitutional Convention allows delegates elected by the people to gather and examine our state’s Constitution. The delegates can propose changes and new provisions to the document. Changes to language can be made for greater clarity and understanding, or to streamline what is already in place. New provisions would serve to address issues that the current Constitution does not address, and the Convention can propose to delete outdated provisions.

When will you be voting?

November 7, 2017

Vote on whether or not to convene a state Constitutional Convention.

If approved:

November 6, 2018 - Election of delegates

November 5, 2019 - Estimate for the date of vote on Convention’s proposed changes

Amending the Constitution

Amending Legislatively:

Identical resolutions must pass in both houses in two consecutive legislative sessions with an intervening statewide election. Any proposed legislative amendments to the Constitution must then be approved by voters.

Amending through Convention:

First people vote on whether to convene a convention: then election of delegates is held the next fall. Delegates convene in Albany and examine the State Constitution. Delegates propose amendments and people vote on whether or not to accept them at the next general election.

Con-Con Presentation to Hispanic Group

On September 25, at the Friendly Kitchen in Dunkirk, the League reached out to voters who are not comfortable in English by presenting an explanation in Spanish of the upcoming constitutional convention vote. Mary Croxton showed the League’s power point on the process and Mary Margaret Fogarty translated it into Spanish. Minda Rae Amiran distributed a Spanish version of our local “pro and con” sheet and helped with the ensuing discussion. The Voter Service Committee is grateful to Cathy Peterson, Director of the Rural Ministry, for her donation of the site and refreshments and for her help with pre-event publicity.



Convention 2018

53rd National Convention

League of Women Voters of the US
Thurs., June 28 – Sun., July 1, 2018
Hilton Chicago - 720 S. Michigan Ave.

First Call: The League of Women Voters' 53rd National Convention 2018

We invite you to save these dates and plan to join hundreds of passionate and engaged leaders for this vibrant national gathering in Chicago next June.

League Day at the United Nations A Briefing on Forced Labor and Human Trafficking

Nov. 16, 3:00 - 5:00 pm

(lunch and tours available, too, starting at 11:30 am)

The Annual League Day at the United Nations (NYC) will be held on Thursday, November 16. We will again offer a delicious lunch in the Delegates' Dining Room, tours of the facility (General Assembly room, Security Council room, etc) and then a briefing.

This year we will have a panel of UN experts discuss the issue of Forced Labor and Human Trafficking. The panel will also discuss what individuals can do to help reduce this problem.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

OCTOBER 24	7:00 p.m.	MEET THE CANDIDATES - Weeks Room at JCC in Jamestown
OCTOBER 25	NOON	LUNCHEON- Freedom of Speech & Social Media, CLARION HOTEL
OCTOBER 26	7:00 p.m.	MEET THE CANDIDATES – Dunkirk Court in City Hall
NOVEMBER 1	7:00 p.m.	MEET THE CANDIDATES – Fredonia Opera House
NOVEMBER 14	NOON	LUNCHEON - Death with Dignity – Shorewood County Club
NOVEMBER 28	1:30 p.m.	BOARD MEETING at Mary Croxton’s, 22 Gillis St. Fredonia

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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: _____