
LWV Chautauqua County
PO Box 42
Fredonia, New York 14063

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The Leaguer

Volume 22, Issue 4
January, 2018

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



Hot Topic Luncheon at Fredonia Technology Incubator
214 Central Avenue in Dunkirk
January 17, 2017 at Noon



Climate Reality

Chautauqua County Leaguers Judi Lutz Woods and Lisa Mertz attended Al Gore’s Climate Reality Leadership Corps Training in Pittsburgh, October 2017. An international network of activists and educators, the Climate Reality Leadership Corps is committed to spreading awareness of the climate crisis and working for solutions to the greatest challenge of our time. The Climate Reality Project offers on-going training in climate science, communications, and organizing to build a 21st century movement to create the sustainable and prosperous future we all want.

On January 17th, Judi and Lisa will present “The Climate Crisis and Its Solutions” along with “The Health Impacts of Climate Change.”



Ninety-seven percent of climate scientists agree that human caused climate change is a reality. Climate science tells us that we are heading toward rising global temperatures. Carbon pollution from burning fossil fuels — coal, oil, and natural gas — is trapping the heat of the sun in our atmosphere, warming our planet, disrupting the jet streams around our Earth, and creating extreme weather like rising sea levels, heat waves, droughts, floods, wildfires, and superstorms. These conditions impact our health directly and indirectly in physical, social, and psychological ways by threatening our air, our water, our agriculture, and our homes. Must we change? Yes. Can we change? Yes. Will we change? Yes. Our future depends on it.

**Reservation Form
Climate Reality**

Fredonia Technology Incubator
214 Central Avenue in Dunkirk
January 17, 2017 at Noon

Several choices of hot soups, sandwiches, coffee, tea and dessert.
Catered by Aloe Vera Cost: \$15.00

For reservations call or e-mail return form to Nicki Schoenl

Name _____

Email _____

Phone _____

schoenl@gmail.com
679-1258

Make check payable to LWV Chautauqua County. Mail reservations to Nicki Schoenl,
2716 Route 39 Forestville, New York 14062

From the President...

During the 2017 State Convention a proposal to consider concurrence with LWV Utah's position on Death with Dignity was approved by convention delegates. The Board approved a February 15 deadline for all Leagues' approval or rejection of this update and concurrence.

At our November meeting Amanda Cavanaugh from Compassion and Choices of New York spoke at our luncheon. After her presentation we voted to support the concurrence position on Death with Dignity. A concurrence is defined by LWVUS as an agreement by League members with a position on an issue reached by a small group of members or by another League. The following is Utah's position on Death with Dignity:

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 believes such legislation should include safeguards against abuse of the dying and protections for medical personnel who act in good faith compliance with the law.

Anyone interested in learning about New York State legislation should go to the New York State Assembly site. Go to Bill Search and Legislative Information. The bill number is A02383. This bill relates to the medical aid in dying act which concerns a terminally ill patient's request for and use of medication for medical aid in dying.

Previously, the Board voted on a League position on charter schools, removing a sentence from an earlier position statement that no longer applies. We supported updating the Charter School position to remove the following sentence: "in lieu of amendment of the Charter School Act to increase the total number of charters that could be granted, it supports retention of the current total (100) with amendment of the Charter School Act so that a charter could be reissued if a charter school ceased to function for any reason."

Warmly,
 Mary Croxton
 679-1774
 mcroxton51@gmail.com

Note from Marcia Merrins:

Mary & I went to the opening of the Women's Suffrage Exhibition in Albany. Standing on the shoulders of these women is certainly humbling. Susan B. Anthony's purse was a wonderful connection to her. Behind me is the gavel use by her at the first convention. I proudly used it myself at subsequent conventions during the years I was state president.



Susan B. Anthony's Alligator Purse, date unknown

National Susan B. Anthony Museum & House

Getting Out the Student Vote I

In fall of 2016, faculty and staff at SUNY Fredonia learned from a National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement that only 30% of their students had voted in the 2012 presidential election. The average for comparable public universities in that election was 49%. An ALL-IN Challenge Committee composed of faculty, staff, students, and a representative from our League was formed to motivate students to vote in 2016. Believing that students needed information on the issues, this committee sponsored a number of modestly-attended lectures on campus and beamed the presidential debates on a giant screen in the Williams Center, with pizza and discussion following. It also sponsored a bus to take students to the polls on election day. The administrators believe that 40% of Fredonia students voted in November, 2016—either here in person or at home by absentee ballot.

The Committee is now planning activities to get out the vote in November, 2018. It has renamed itself the American Democracy Project Committee, thereby associating with a broader national organization than the ALL-IN network, one with which the university is already affiliated. According to the Committee's student members, the way to reach students today is through Twitter. It seems that nobody uses e-mail or Facebook, and other popular apps are less suitable to text. So the Committee is considering how it might use Twitter to inform and motivate students: quite a challenge. Possibly by using Twitter to link students to pod-cast talks on topics that affect them directly. The Committee is also considering bringing exciting candidates to campus, possibly Senator Kirsten Gillibrand. If that becomes possible, our League members will be welcome to attend any scheduled lectures or debates.

Getting Out the Student Vote II

On November 28, Mary Croxton and I (Minda Rae Amiran) talked about political activism with students in Grissom Hall on the SUNY Fredonia campus. Grissom is a freshman residence hall that recruits students who want a mentally stimulating dormitory environment, and the League had been asked by its Resident Director to speak with the students that evening.

The group that assembled was not large, but was lively and engaged. The students were impressive in their questions and articulacy. But they were not well informed about fact checking and sources of accurate news on the web, they didn't know who their representatives were (even our senators), and they clearly had never been politically active (most had been too young to vote in 2016, but there are other ways to participate).

One of the students asked us why young people don't vote, and we turned the question over to the group. But its members were no better at guessing the reasons than we are. Lack of information...but then, how does one get informed? Back to Twitter, apparently.

Minda Rae Amiran

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

HOT TOPICS

January 17, 2018 - Climate Reality

February 21, 2018 – Albany Update with Lori Cornell.

March, 2018 - Human Trafficking

April 17, 2018 - Criteria for Impeachment with James Hurtgen, SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professor (Emeritus) Department of Politics and International Affairs

May 14 The Future of Public Higher Education with Dr. Virginia Horvath, President State University of New York at Fredonia

The New York State League is asking their members to determine our legislative priorities for 2018. Please let the board know if you have any recommendations.

We endeavor to bring informative programming to our members.
Our Climate Reality program will involve **science based and evidence based research**.

The discussion of human trafficking will include the **vulnerable** in our world. Children, women and men have been forced into labor, slavery and the sex trade. Last year we had a program on **diversity** that included **transgender**, gay and lesbian members of our community.

Our future programs could deal with the loss of important **entitlements** for our citizens and paths to improving our infrastructure. The topics are plentiful. Let me hear your voice.

Contact: Gen Ludemann, genl@netsync.net



L-R, Linda Warner, Mary Croxton, Gen Ludemann, Diane Hofner, Minda Rae Amiran, Marcia Merrins, Brenda Hayes

The Chautauqua County Chamber of Commerce presented its 2017 Pam Lydic Coalition Builder Award to Dr. Minda Rae Amiran. Several League members attended this wonderful event honoring our great leader.

Minda Rae said “... *it seems to me that we’re in real danger of losing our democracy if we don’t take an active part in it. Our elective representatives will be run by the people that pay for their campaigns. The only way to prevent (our country) from becoming an out-and-out plutocracy is to activate citizens to work for their own best interests, and in a way that’s what we do in Literacy Volunteers, because teaching people to read and write, teaching people to speak English, brings them into the community of active citizens.*”

Membership

I want to thank Paula Coats and Laura Sarek for their work on the membership committee. They have done a terrific job and we all appreciate their time and effort.

This leads me to an important request. We need one or two people to continue the work of the membership committee. Paula and Laura are going to train the new membership people before they leave their positions. Please let me know if you are interested (mcroxtton51@gmail.com) or call 679-1774.

I would like to reflect on the reasons I became a member. In part it is because of my family's commitment to the League over the decades. The League's commitment to voting rights and getting out the vote was paramount in my decision to become a member. Our democracy has certainly evolved over the centuries from just men and landowners voting to women earning the right to vote, to the civil rights movement and beyond. The work is not over! The League works hard on issues of voter suppression, early voting, and making the ballot and the act of voting more user friendly, in addition to many other concerns in this area.

While the League is non-partisan, its goal is to inform the voter about important matters affecting our government and our lives. This is an essential part of our work.

Think about why you are a member and let others know what the League is all about. Making democracy work is our work.

Mary Croxton

HOW MUCH TIME DOES IT TAKE TO BE ACTIVE IN LEAGUE?

Do you have an extra **5 minutes** once a year?

In **5 minutes** you can pay your dues.
In **5 minutes** you can click a button to make your voice be heard.

In **5 minutes** you can check lwv.org,
lwvchautauqua.org
lwvny.org

Join the League on Facebook!

THAT IS BEING ACTIVE IN LEAGUE

Do you have an extra **20 minutes** a month?

In **20 minutes** you can read what your dues pay for:

Websites of local, state and national Leagues

The Leaguer

The State Voter

THAT IS BEING ACTIVE IN LEAGUE

Do you have an extra hour or two here and there?

Look at the things you can do at that time:

Observe a public meeting

Do voter registration

Staff a League booth

Make phone calls

Attend a League meeting

Welcome guests at a candidate forum or other meeting

Join the program or membership committee

THAT IS BEING ACTIVE IN THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

JANUARY 8	1:30 P.M.	BOARD MEETING AT MARY CROXTON'S 22 GILLIS STREET, FREDONIA
JANUARY 17	NOON	FREDONIA TECHNOLOGY INCUBATOR
FEBRUARY 21	NOON	ALBANY UPDATE
MARCH	NOON	HUMAN TRAFFICKING
APRIL 17	NOON	CRITERIA FOR IMPEACHMENT
MAY 14	TBA	THE FUTURE OF PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION

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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.

League of Women Voters of Chautauqua County

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

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

Make Your Voice Heard!
Join Us Today!

Membership Form

Mail to:

LWV Chautauqua

P.O. Box 42 Fredonia, NY 14063

Membership Dues: through December 31, 2018 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: _____