

LWV Chautauqua County  
PO Box 42  
Fredonia, New York 14063

### Inside This Issue

About Our Program	2
Reservation Form	2
From the President	3
LWVNYS Regional	3
Workshops	
Human Trafficking in WNY	4
Early Voting	5
LWV Proposal	6
Calendar	7
Membership Form	



# The Leaguer

Volume 22, Issue 6  
March, 2018

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



**HOT TOPIC LUNCHEON AT  
STOCKTON HOTEL & RESTAURANT  
MARCH 21, 2018 AT NOON**

**Presenters:**  
**Karen Yerversky**  
Family Advocate/Training  
Coordinator

**Kelly Ziegler**  
Family Advocate

**Jessica McKeever**, Safe Harbour Program Coordinator, provides prevention education to middle school and high school youth in 10 districts in Chautauqua County. Safe Harbour also partners with CAP, the Department of Health and Human Services, Probation and other youth serving agencies and organizations in the county to identify youth that are victims of trafficking or who are at risk for trafficking.



**HUMAN TRAFFICKING** is the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring, or receipt of persons by means of threat, use of force, or other forms of coercion. It can involve abduction, fraud, deception, and the abuse of power or the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person; or having control over another person for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labor or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude, or the removal of organs.

Community-led activities are an important prevention tool. Sex trafficking in America is commonly misunderstood by much of the population, as many assume it only includes those illegally brought to America from other countries in order to work in the sex trade against their will. However, domestic human trafficking is a flourishing epidemic that targets our country’s young citizens, as well as adults. Minor victims of human trafficking are sometimes recruited for slave labor, but most are forced to work in the sex trade. This happens in every state of our nation. At-risk youth are most often the targets of domestic human trafficking, as predators single out vulnerable minors. Some of the most common categories of trafficked minors in America include:

- Homeless youth and runaways
- Those suffering poverty
- Those who have suffered physical or sexual abuse
- Those with disruptions in normal development
- Those in the foster care system
- Those who fit into the LGBT category
- Those having a substance abuse issue

Traffickers use fraud, coercion and force to compel women, men and children to engage in illegal sexual activities.

Come to our March meeting to find out more about human trafficking in our own county. Bring a friend.

**Reservation Form**

Stockton Hotel and Restaurant, 2 Stockton-Kimball Stand Road, Stockton, New York 14784

\_\_\_ Strawberry Salad - Fresh greens are tossed in poppy seed dressing and topped with strawberries, blueberries bleu cheese crumbles and glazed walnuts. You may choose to have chicken added.

\_\_\_ Turkey Club - Choose fries or salad

\_\_\_ Burger with grilled mushrooms and swiss cheese. Choose fries or salad

Peanut Butter Pie

Coffee and Tea

Cost \$15.00

Send reservation to Mary Croxton: 22 Gillis Street, Fredonia, New York 14063  
 mcroxton51@gmail or call 679-1774

Please have reservations in by March 16th!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

From the President...

I want to thank Paula Coats and Laura Sarek for their years of service to the LWV of Chautauqua membership committee. They have done an exemplary job. We welcome our new membership committee consisting of Leslie Willie and Jennifer Branden. Both members want to encourage college students and young persons to join in the League endeavors. We are always open to your suggestions about engaging youth and encourage your participation in youth programs the League sponsors. One ongoing project is "Students in Albany". We have chosen a senior from Fredonia High School this year. More information about this student and this program will be provided in a later newsletter.

Minda Rae Amiran made a stellar presentation to our legislators on the Administrative Services Committee, promoting the Charter Review Commission's amendments to the County Charter on Changes in Chautauqua County districts. I want to thank her for her efforts. See the Observer article on 2/21/18.

On March 21 we will have a presentation by the Child Advocacy Program on Human Trafficking in Chautauqua County. Several league members went to the UN League program in NYC on Human Trafficking. We will report on that experience. Please read the information on human trafficking in the newsletter.

At this time four members are going to a regional training conference in Rochester on April 14 to participate in workshops. The following are some of the workshops:

- Motivating Voters to Vote
- Engaging Youth in our Democracy
- Civic Education and Engagement for Students and Communities
- Social Media and Apps for Engaging New Members

If you would like to attend please contact me. [mcroxtton51@gmail.com](mailto:mcroxtton51@gmail.com)

Warmly,  
Mary Croxton

### League of Women Voters of NYS Regional Training Meetings March - April 2018

The League of Women Voters of NYS invites all members to come to training workshops being held throughout the state on **Saturdays from 10:00-3:00** in March and April. All members are invited to attend any or all of the workshops. All local Leagues board members are strongly encouraged to attend at least part of the day. Lunch will be provided and will allow for informal networking among the attendees (no program). There is a \$20 charge to cover other expenses.

#### **April 14, Rochester Area**

(Rush Henrietta Senior High School, 1799 Lehigh Station Rd, Henrietta, NY 14467)

#### **Tentative Workshop Topics**

- Moderating Candidate Forums
- Creatively Managing Your Local League
- Getting your Members Active on Issues
- Motivating Voters to Vote
- Engaging Youth in Our Democracy
- Social Media & Apps for Engaging New Members and the Public
- Becoming a Player in Your Community: Observer Corps, Hot Topics & Collaboration
- Raising Funds & Having Fun
- Making the Most of Voter Service Activities
- Civic Education & Engagement for Students & Communities

Contact Mary Croxton if you are interested in attending.

# The face of human trafficking in WNY

By [Brittini Smallwood, News 4 Reporter](#) Published: November 3, 2015, 7:27 pm

There have been nearly three thousand reported cases of human trafficking so far this year in the nation. According to statistics, New York is one of the top four states where it occurs.

Many people believe it's an overseas issue, but it's happening right in our own backyards.

"Human trafficking is a significant issue in Buffalo," Judge Amy Martoche of Buffalo's Human Trafficking Court said. News 4 met Lynn, who's a survivor. Her identity is concealed for her protection. She was born and raised in western New York and trafficked for years. "I didn't have any control over my actions. What I could say. Do. Where I could go," Lynn said. "I was to the point where I wished that I didn't wake up one day."

She tried to break free multiple times. Lynn said the Buffalo Human Trafficking Court and International Institute of Buffalo helped turn her life around. "They helped me locate different services so I could go to get help and treatment. Not only that, but they helped me with transportation to make sure I was able to make those appointments," Lynn added.

She is just one of the hundreds who have been trafficked in western New York. The International Institute of Buffalo has helped more than 500 people who've been forced to work in commercial labor or as prostitutes since 2007.

The human trafficking court has had 63 cases since opening two years ago. However, many are noticing that the people who are trapped in these horrific situations, are people living right down the street.

"The face of human trafficking I think has even surprised us," Amy Fleischaer, director of victim services at the International Institute of Buffalo explained. "Human trafficking can look like anything. We've seen a huge diversity of cases here in WNY."

Judge Martoche added, "None of it is what I would have expected. If you had asked me 3 years ago. I had a completely different idea about what trafficking was. I have come to learn that it comes in all shapes and sizes. All forms." Within the past two years, 63 percent of the people the International Institute has helped are American citizens. The court has seen ever more, 80 percent are mostly from Erie and Niagara County. "I didn't think that someone could be trafficked within her own country or within his own country and that's absolutely not true," Judge Martoche said.

She's had defendants from all walks of life. Some have been in high school, whereas other have their graduate degrees. The international institute has also seen a diverse group of survivors. "The youngest survivor we've worked with has been about 5-years-old. And then we've worked with somebody who's 83," Fleischaer explained.

Knowing that it's hard for the survivors to break free, the trafficking court works to provide them with resources so they can go on to live a prosperous life.

"The tools that we are hopefully providing for them, will only enhance their ability to continue to survive," Judge Martoche said. Lynn is one of those success stories. Today she's living with her family and has found her purpose for living.

"I'm glad I was able to break through it, because my children mean so much to me," she said. "It's something that I didn't think would happen again and I'm glad it did." It's like a dream come true for her.

If you know someone who's being trafficked, experts say they should call the Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-800-942-6906.

Also, here are some of the signs that someone is being trafficked:

- They're not being paid or get very little for their work.
- They're fearful, anxious, depressed or paranoid because they are forced to work.
- They shows signs of physical or sexual abuse.
- They have no control over their money or financial documents.

There are additional signs that someone is being trafficked. Here's more information about what to look out for: <http://traffickingresourcecenter.org/what-human-trafficking/recognizing-signs>.



## EARLY VOTING

In his current budget proposal, Governor Cuomo has funded early voting for New York State, an improvement to our voting system long advocated by the New York League of Women Voters.

We don't yet know whether this part of the budget will pass, but the Chautauqua County Board of Elections is already thinking about how to implement it. According to the Governor's proposal, our county will be entitled to one early-voting site (there's to be one for every 50,000 voters) and the site is to be open for twelve days before the elections.

Now, here is the problem: where should this one site be located? Norman Green, the Democrat Commissioner of Elections, is on record as favoring Mayville. But Mayville, small in itself, isn't a place that's easy to reach for everyone in our far-flung villages and farms. Jamestown has the largest population of any city or village in the county, but siting the voting machine in Jamestown would put Dunkirk/Fredonia, the second-largest population center, at a serious disadvantage.

At the LWVCC luncheon meeting on February 21, Lori Cornell, Governor Cuomo's representative for our region, thought that the law would be inflexible as to one site, twelve days. However, many good suggestions were made by our members at that meeting. What about six days in Jamestown and six in Dunkirk? What about making it possible to vote from anywhere by affidavit ballot? What about putting the voting machine and its staff on a van and driving throughout the county on a published schedule? The Voter Service Committee is following up on these suggestions with the County Election Commissioners. Look for further news in a later Leaguer.

Minda Rae Amiran

### MEET THE CANDIDATES

Minda Rae Amiran, chair of Voter Service, reported that on May 9th all seven candidates will be present at the Meet the Candidate Debate for the 2018 Democratic Congressional Primary. The debate will be held at Chautauqua Lake Central School in Mayville. She will be working on the School Board Elections Meet the Candidate debates after petitions are returned at the end of April.

## From the Observer, February 21...League of Women Voters of Chautauqua brings proposal to legislature

MAYVILLE — The League of Women Voters of Chautauqua County brought a proposal before legislature members on Tuesday regarding a six-person redistricting committee. According to Minda Rae Amiran, League Voter Service Chair, the Chautauqua County Charter and Administrative Code Review Commission has put together a proposal laying out the guidelines for such a commission that has not yet been acted upon by the legislature.



Amiran told the members of the Legislative Administrative Services Committee that the proposal would call for the County Legislature to confirm a multi-partisan commission which would evaluate the existing county legislative districts.

The proposal states that the members would be appointed by unanimous agreement of the two majority leaders and two minority leaders of the county legislature and consist of two registered voters from each of the two political parties with the largest number of active and inactive registered voters, and only one of each of those pairs can be an elected official. Only one member on the commission can be an elected official. Likewise, no member of the commission can be a political party chair, the spouse of a political party chair or the spouse of an elected official.

The commission would then study the population data, and within six months after appointment, make recommendations to form a proposed local law regarding changes in legislative district boundaries that would then be effective at the end of the terms of office of incumbent County Legislatures.

Before making recommendations, the commission would request comment from the Board of Elections, Amiran said, which would allow the board to assess if certain district re-drawing would save taxpayer money. She said in some circumstances, a district being drawn one way could cost more money while if it was drawn another way it wouldn't cost more.

She said the resulting plan would have to be approved by at least four members of the commission. Amiran said the proposal has not yet been acted upon by the legislature, and she is not sure why. She said she has heard two objections to the plan: that it should be voted on by the next legislature and that legislators themselves are most knowledgeable about redistricting.

Committee Chair Bob Scudder, R-Fredonia, said he was not aware that the proposal had not gone forward. He said there was *"no intention"* for it not to go forward.

*"I think it's good you're bringing this to our attention,"* Scudder said.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

- March 19**    **1:30 p.m.**    **Board Meeting at Mary Croxton’s, 22 Gillis Street in Fredonia**
- March 21**    **Noon**            **Stockton Restaurant - “Human Trafficking in Chautauqua County”**
- April 17**    **Noon**            **Moonbrook Country Club -”Criteria for Impeachment”, James Hurtgen, presenter**
- May14**        **6:00 p.m.**    **Clarion Hotel - Annual Meeting - ”The Future of Public Higher Education”, Dr. Virginia Horvath, speaker. Judy Lutz-Woods, Leaguer of the Year**

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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: \_\_\_\_\_