
LWV Chautauqua County
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The Leaguer

Volume 23, Issue 3
Oct. – Nov., 2018

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

WHITE
Privilege

November 16th at Noon
Clarion Hotel in Dunkirk

FACT:

The poverty rate
among two-parent
black families is

7%

The poverty rate
among single parent
white families is

22%

Across the US, increasing numbers of persons of “Caucasian” descent are discovering and exploring their White racial identity and what it means in 21st century America. People of Color in the US have always been aware of Whiteness and the difference it makes in their own lives but White People themselves are only recently waking up to the reality of their racial identity, beyond their ethnicity or the geographical and national origins of their parents, grandparents, and ancestors even farther back. “White Privilege” is an aspect of White racial identity that has received a lot of attention in the academy and in popular culture since it was first identified by Peggy McIntosh in the mid-1980s. This presentation will describe White Privilege as a cultural phenomenon and locate it in the contemporary context against the backdrop of U.S. race relations history. What is White Privilege, when and how did it become a thing, and why does it matter for Chautauqua County in 2018?

Rianna Moore, PhD Speaker

Rianna Moore, PhD, lectures and consults on topics related to diversity, inclusion, and social justice, with a focus on inequitable power dynamics in human systems; in particular racism, sexism, heterosexism, and exclusions of gender-fluid persons.

Dr. Moore has worked with client systems in the corporate, government, and higher education sectors. In the 1980s and 90s, she was Global Director of Organization Development & Diversity for Engineering & Manufacturing and a management development specialist for a Fortune 50 high-tech firm. She has conducted consulting projects and professional development programs in Italy, Russia, Germany, Scotland, Canada, and Nationalist China as well as throughout the US. Dr. Moore taught at universities in the northeastern US prior to her consulting career, including Norwich University and SUNY Fredonia.

Dr. Moore is a graduate of SUNY Fredonia (BA and MA in English) and Fredonia Central Schools. She holds the PhD in Human & Social Systems from the Fielding Graduate University. A professional member of the NTL Institute for Applied Behavioral Science (www.ntl.org), she is head of NTL’s Publishing Hub as well as a member of the Core Labs, Research & Writing, and Coaching Hubs. She staffs NTL’s signature Human Interaction experiential learning lab as well as the program that qualifies NTL members to staff the H.I. and other Core Labs. She also consults on customized project solutions for NTL’s client systems.

Recent publications include *Journeys of Race, Color, & Culture: From Racial Inequality to Equity & Inclusion* (2017), “Designing a Better Box for Gallese, Italy: Diversity-Inclusion and Social Power in a Global Context” (*OD Practitioner*, October 2016) and “Understanding and Using System Energy” (*Practising Social Change*, November 2011).



From the President

Thank you to all our members that have renewed so far. Let us know if you did not receive a letter in the mail.

The Role of the League

We had a great turnout for our “Hot Topic” presentation of the National Popular Vote and some interesting discussion. I began thinking again about who we are and what our role is. Over the summer I read *The Woman’s Hour* by Elaine Weiss. It was about the great fight to win the vote. No discussion about this topic could take place without talking about Carrie Catt’s **League of Women Voters**. One paragraph stood out that pertains to our discussion. “In hindsight, some analysts even question the wisdom of channeling women’s political energy and expertise into the nonpartisan League of Women Voters. While the LWV grew nationwide in membership and respect, and still plays an important role in educating the voting public on crucial issues and advocating for “good government,” it also siphoned off some of the most talented suffrage politicians into the more passive role of political “education” rather than practice.” I still contend that our nonpartisan stance gives us strength to get out the vote and educate the electorate about issues in a way the parties can’t or will not. Are we stretching ourselves too thin? I think we need to work with allied groups to bring about collective action at the national, state or local levels and to bring about a greater impact than our organization could make on its own. Having an interest in educating our voters about a variety of issues can bring members to us with diverse concerns. It is an ongoing effort to go beyond the campaign ads and rhetoric we experience during elections but we must keep on trying.

Our Candidates meetings were well attended and informative. Thanks to Voter Services for all their time and effort.

Help Needed

As you all know we will need several people to take over Voter Services. We are going to divide the position up. For example we will need someone to organize the Meet the Candidates events, someone to organize registration drives, and someone to help with our school initiatives.

We also need a new treasurer. Perce has done it for a long time. Please think about taking one of these positions.

Advocacy

The program committee is working with the Census Bureau to coordinate a workshop for us. The National LWV is also working on a campaign to urge the U.S. House of Representatives to use its oversight authority to remove the citizenship question from the 2020 Census form, as it will jeopardize the accuracy of the Census in all communities, an outcome that the nation will have to live with for the following ten years. Including a question pertaining to citizenship in the 2020 Census will likely cause participation to plummet and threaten the accuracy of the Census. Census data is not only used to draw state and congressional districts based on population, but it is also used by local governments to plan for public safety and make investments in the future of their communities. An undercount of persons in any given area could result in inadequate disaster responders, insufficient resources for transportation and education. It also impacts the overall health and safety of communities. The last time the Census included a question about citizenship was in 1950, well before the passage of the 1965 Voting Rights Act (VRA). There is no justification to the Department of Justice’s claim that adding a citizenship question is necessary to enforce the VRA.

It is up to Congress to exercise oversight authority over the Census Bureau and the League calls on Congress to use their power and remove the citizenship question from the 2020 Census.

Support H.R. 5308. This bill proposes a series of quarters, beginning in 2021, that would feature a 19th Amendment icon on one side. On the other side, a noteworthy woman, now deceased, would be highlighted. Each state and all of the territories would select one of its outstanding women to be honored in this series. Think about all the women from New York. It would be hard to choose. Again, write your congressperson. Also think about the fact that only the United States and Saudi Arabia do not have a woman on a bill. Write to Congress.

Lastly, I echo the words of Dare Thompson. “Our New York foremothers were voting for the first time in a national election in 1918.” Don’t forget the struggles of our grandmothers so *Get Out The Vote and seek to engage our youth*.

Mary Croxton

ENJOY THE BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP



A Separate Message from LWV Chautauqua County President Mary Croxton

There was a most horrific act of hate and violence over this weekend that should have touched the hearts, minds and resolve of all Americans and Citizens of our world. Going to places of worship and places to learn should come with an inner feeling of safety. That has been shattered over the years. Do we have answers? Schools have been working hard to teach about bullying, and the UN is working hard to help with the refugee concerns. The dialog about sensible gun control among our citizens and legislatures must continue, and our faith based groups must continue to teach us the importance of our shared humanity. There are many more examples and we must continue to expand our efforts. Let us all do some self-reflection and support initiatives that make us a more caring society.

RESERVATION FORM "White Privilege" Clarion Hotel at Noon

- Pan fry fish with slaw & potato salad
- Harvest stuffed chicken breast, mashed, vegetable cranberry sauce
- Martha's Vineyard salad (vegetarian)

\$15 Includes coffee, tea, soda, and dessert

Name _____

Contact info _____

RSVP to Nicki Schoenl, 2716 Rte. 39, Forestville NY 14062

(716) 679-1258

schoenl@netsync.net

- Congress: 90% white
- Governors: 96% white
- Top military advisors: 100% white
- President and Vice President: 100% white
- Current POTUS cabinet: 91% white
- People who decide which TV shows we see: 93% white
- People who decide which books we read: 90% white,
- People who decide which news is covered: 85% white,
- People who decide which music is produced: 95% white
- Teachers: 83% white
- Full time College Professors: 84% white
- Owners of men's pro-football teams: 97% white

Source: 2016-17 data, "No, I Won't Stop Saying White Supremacy", 8/12/2017

White privilege (or white skin privilege) is the societal privilege that benefits people whom society identifies as white in some countries, beyond what is commonly experienced by non-white people under the same social, political, or economic circumstances. Academic perspectives such as critical race theory and whiteness studies use the concept to analyze how racism and racialized societies affect the lives of white or white-skinned people.

According to Peggy McIntosh, whites in Western societies enjoy advantages that non-whites do not experience, as "an invisible package of unearned assets". White privilege denotes both obvious and less obvious passive advantages that white people may not recognize they have, which distinguishes it from overt bias or prejudice. These include cultural affirmations of one's own worth; presumed greater social status; and freedom to move, buy, work, play, and speak freely. The effects can be seen in professional, educational, and personal contexts. The concept of white privilege also implies the right to assume the universality of one's own experiences, marking others as different or exceptional while perceiving oneself as normal.

The concept has attracted attention as well as opposition. Some critics say that the term uses the concept of "whiteness" as a proxy for class or other social privilege or as a distraction from deeper underlying problems of inequality. Others state that it is not that whiteness is a proxy but that many other social privileges are interconnected with it, requiring complex and careful analysis to identify how whiteness contributes to privilege.[6] Critics of the concept of white privilege also propose alternative definitions of whiteness and exceptions to or limits of white identity, arguing that the concept of white privilege ignores important differences between white subpopulations and individuals and suggesting that the notion of whiteness cannot be inclusive of all white people. They note the problem of acknowledging the diversity of people of color and ethnicity within these groups. Conservative critics have offered more direct critiques of the concept; Shelby Steele writes that "today ... the lives of minorities are no longer stunted by either prejudice or 'white privilege'", while Federalist contributor David Marcus says that the concept is an obstacle in the road to achieving an equal society.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/White_privilege

From the State League

Gubernatorial Debate

As you should have seen, the state League has decided to organize its own debate among the gubernatorial candidates. We became frustrated as many media partners were willing to partner with us only if the Governor attended. We felt it was important that all candidates be invited and if at least 2 are willing to attend, we hold the debate. Currently four of the five candidates have agreed to participate and the Governor hasn't said "no" yet. It will be held at the **College of St. Rose (Albany) on Thursday, Nov. 1, from 6-7:30 pm**. The College will live stream the debate on our facebook and twitter accounts and on Youtube. Everyone statewide who has internet access should be able to watch the debate live. We are currently confirming the media panelists, but one will be a student from St. Rose. A limited number of seats will be open to the public and available on a first come, first serve basis. We will announce all details as soon as possible. Thank you to all who supported this effort on our Go Fund Me page - this debate was not budgeted and will have expenses that will be covered through these donations. We can still use your help and you can donate at:

https://www.gofundme.com/gubernatorial-debate?fbclid=IwAR15WTtpOhgR1q7XQAYVKIYTOM-ws6VQJ6wxxAJCmzuo_eXrw7f0PYn4jmE. You can also confirm your interest in attending the debate at: <https://www.facebook.com/events/558055944625882/>. Both links are on the state League's facebook page.

Civics Education

Laura Ladd Bierman, LWNYS Executive Director, has been appointed to the NYS Education Department's new **Civics Readiness Task Force**. She will keep us updated as this statewide task force considers how the state curriculum will ensure all students have a basic understanding of civics and how they can be engaged in their communities.

The **lesson plans for teachers on civics**, developed by the state League and the NYS Social Studies Supervisory Association, have been distributed statewide to all school districts. You can view the plans on our website or at www.lwvncivics.org.

Getting Out the Vote

Our Election Commissioners have often told us that almost all eligible citizens in Chautauqua County are registered to vote, but the dreadful fact is that they don't vote. In 2014, in the towns of Arkwright, Dunkirk, Hanover, Pomfret, and Portland, turnout ranged from 59% to 27% for registered Republicans, from 50% to 26% for registered Democrats, and from 48% to 5% for unaffiliated voters, who outnumber party-affiliated voters in every (or almost every) election district.

In an effort to get people to vote, the League is planning a door-to-door campaign. Since we cannot be everywhere, we have chosen the three districts where the turnout has been consistently lower than average: they are District 1 in Wards 1, 3, and 4 in Dunkirk. During the month of October and up until the November 6 elections, we are signing up volunteers to ring doorbells telling people where their polling place is and that their votes will make a difference. The volunteers will be able to choose their hours and streets.

If you are interested in being one of those volunteers, please e-mail Minda Rae Amiran (amiran@fredonia.edu) or call her at 679-4636 and leave a message.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

November 6	6 a.m. – 9 p.m.	GENERAL ELECTIONS
November 28	1:30 p.m.	Board Meeting at Mary Croxton’s home 22 Gillis Street, Fredonia, 679-1774
November 16	Noon	Hot Topic Luncheon, “White Privilege”, Rianna Moore, Speaker

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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

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

Membership Form

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

Membership Dues: through December 31, 2019 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: _____