
LWV Chautauqua County
PO Box 42
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Inside This Issue

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| About Our Program | 2 |
| From the President | 3 |
| Voting Reform Meeting | 4 |
| Proposed 2020 Budget | 5 |
| Upcoming Dates | 6 |
| More Program Info | 7 |
| Membership Form | 8 |



The Leaguer

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Feb. - March 2019

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

Medical Cannabis

March 20th
6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

JCC Training Center
Bennett Rd
(Rt 60)



The program is
absolutely free and
open to the public.

Refreshments too!

Medical Cannabis With Kevin Harbison



In 2014, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo signed into law the Compassionate Care Act to establish a comprehensive medical marijuana program. Just eighteen months after the Compassionate Care Act was signed into law, the first New Yorkers obtained medical marijuana. The program continues to oversee the manufacture and sale of medical marijuana to ensure that it is dispensed and administered in a manner that protects public health and safety.

New York State's Medical Marijuana Program allows patients who suffer from specific serious conditions who also have a condition clinically associated with, or a complication of, the serious condition to be certified by a practitioner to receive medical marijuana products for medical use. Practitioners must complete a New York State Department of Health (Department) approved course and register with the Department to certify patients. Practitioners must consult the New York State Prescription Monitoring Program Registry prior to issuing a certification to a patient for medical marijuana.

Patients who are certified by their practitioners must apply to the Department to obtain a registry identification card. During the patient registration process, certified patients may designate up to two caregivers to obtain and possess medical marijuana products on their behalf. Caregivers who are designated during the patient registration process must also separately register with the Department in order to obtain a registry identification card. Certified patients and designated caregivers who have been issued a registry identification card may visit one of the registered organizations' dispensing facilities in New York State to purchase approved medical marijuana products

Only patients with one of the following severe, debilitating or life-threatening conditions may qualify for the Medical Marijuana Program: cancer, positive status for HIV or AIDS, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), Parkinson's disease, multiple sclerosis, damage to the nervous tissue of the spinal cord with objective neurological indication of intractable spasticity, epilepsy, inflammatory bowel disease, neuropathy, chronic pain as defined by 10 NYCRR §1004.2(a)(8)(xi), post-traumatic stress disorder or Huntington's disease, any condition for which an opioid could be prescribed (provided that the precise underlying condition is expressly stated on the patient's certification) or substance use disorder. Patients must also have one of the following associated or complicating conditions: cachexia or wasting syndrome, severe or chronic pain, severe nausea, seizures, or severe or persistent muscle spasms, PTSD or opioid use disorder (only if enrolled in a treatment program certified pursuant to Article 32 of the Mental Hygiene Law).

Even though the program has been successfully running for the past five years, there is still much confusion on what it is, what it is for, how to get certified.

Kevin Harbison Pharmacist, and manager of the PharmCannis Amherst dispensary will present an informative program on New York State Medical marijuana program to answer your questions, give information, and clarify the use of medical marijuana in the treatment of various serious conditions. He describes himself as follows:

After 6 years at the University of Buffalo School of Pharmacy, I received my doctorate in Pharmacy. During my 6 years in school I earned my stripes working at Rite Aid from cashier, technician, to intern. After graduation I signed on with Rite Aid and spent the next four years as a staff pharmacist and seven years as a managing pharmacist.

During my graduation I received an award for excellence in recognition of outstanding performance of non-prescription medicine. Patient care is a passion that still holds true today for me. Leaving Rite Aid was bittersweet. Leaving a company and patients I held so dear was tough, but the hunger to learn more and be part of the emerging medical cannabis field was calling me. The fear of leaving something so familiar was soon washed away by all the amazing patients that I met and their stories of taking back their lives from many of their debilitating conditions. These successes inspired me to work hard to reduce the stigma of cannabis in the community.

Currently, I am a preceptor for the pharmacy schools at The University at Buffalo, Albany, and D'Youville. When not at the dispensary, I enjoy playing with my two German shepherd rescue dogs and tending to my honey bees. With whatever free time I have left over, it is spent taking classes at the yoga studio my wife and I started in 2015, Satya Yoga.

See Page 7 for more information on Medical Cannabis

From the President

A focal point of our service to voters is education. The LWV is working vigorously to see that the newly enacted voting reforms are implemented. Recently members of our League visited our Assemblyman to ask that Early Voting legislation be funded by the state. At this point this legislation is an unfunded mandate that the counties will have to finance. Please write to our Assemblyman and Senator to ask them to fund the Early Voting legislation.

Senator Catharine Young
700 West. State Street
Westgate Plaza
Olean, NY 14760

Assemblyman Andrew Goodell
Fenton Building
2 East 2nd Street
Suite 320
Jamestown, NY 14701

Members from our League also visited the Chautauqua Board of Elections to see what we could do to help effect early voting (page 4). We agreed on a program to help educate voters. This presentation will be in April. (See Upcoming Events for details). Our members can also help by suggesting new poll sites for early voting. Most likely one of these sites will be in Mayville. Two other sites may be needed in the north county and the south county. New poll sites: must be handicap accessible, have ample parking, be available for nine days, usable on a permanent basis, and preferably free of charge. Let us know if you have any ideas. We have also offered to help look at new electronic poll books that might be purchased.

Our program committee has started to work on programs for next year. We are looking at a workshop on the Census and programs on fair housing, childcare, New York's Green Deal, and Single Payer and Medicare for all. If you have any ideas for programming please let us know. E mail me at mcroxtan51@gmail.com. I will pass your thoughts along to the program committee.

**Warmly,
Mary Croxton**



**Chautauqua Cattaraugus Women's
Action Group (CCWAG) Event**

Saturday March 9th at 10:30 a.m.
Fredonia Grange Hall

Bill Parment will give a talk on the
history of the progressive movement.

Please arrive 15 minutes early.
Meeting will start promptly!

Voting Reform Meeting with Board of Elections

LWV Chautauqua County (LWVCC) members Mary Croxton, Minda Rae Amiran, Gail Crowe, Marcia Merrins, Lisa Mertz met with Brian Abram and Norman Green from the Chautauqua County Board of Elections (BOE) on February 15th in Mayville.

LWVCC outlined its Voter Registration service: outreach for voter registration, getting out the vote, and info on where to vote. Minda Rae Amiran is stepping down from the role. Gail Crowe will be filling that voter service position.

The BOE outlined problems foreseen implementing new voter reform regulations and sees the first year as "labor intensive". One special challenge will be voter education. There is no marketing plan. The BOE will utilize media, website, press releases and is looking to LWVCC as an extension for voter education.

What we know so far about early voting:

- BOE proposes three venues for early voting: North county, South county, and Mayville (at the Board of Elections to reduce costs).
- As many as 25,000 voters could be expected
- Sites must operate for nine straight days (Saturday to Sunday prior to Election Day), from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM, plus two evenings until 8 PM.
- Sites must be ADA compliant, with adequate size, parking, and efficient design
- BOE hopes to procure permanent sites free of charge
- Electronic poll books are in the plan for future early voting. However, procedures for the initial early voting won't change and will involve the poll books currently used.
- More training time will be needed for new technology and security
- BOE is planning targeted training by invitation only for Wheelock and City of Dunkirk.
- Discussion that signatures are increasingly difficult to match - problem is expected to worsen with use of screen on electronic poll books.
- LWVCC will brainstorm potential early voting sites at its next board meeting and share results with BOE. LWVCC will solicit input from Leagues in counties which already implement early voting, and share that info with BOE (e.g., How many voters come each day in other states? What do leagues in other states say about early voting numbers?)

Costs

- Merged primary dates will result in eventual cost savings offsetting some costs of early voting - BOE contends these "savings" must be seen in context wherein separate primaries need not have occurred
- BOE exploring equipment to print ballots on demand: one model is slow at 40 seconds per ballot
- BOE also exploring needed upgrades to voting machines, which are 10 years old
- BOE estimates initial upfront cost of \$250,000 for early voting. Will need additional funding for regular upgrades, going forward
- Concepts of early voting and Election Day voting may be blended for purposes of electronic poll book conversation

BOE will invite LWV to participate in vendor presentations of voting machine products. LWVCC will advocate with NYS Congressman Andrew Goodell and Senator Catharine Young on behalf of funding at State level to implement early voter registration mandates.

BOE foresees no obstacles with absentee voting and same day voting legislation, and no concerns related to merger of primary dates.

16- and 17-year old pre-registration

- BOE anticipates seamless implementation of new regulations for 16- and 17-year old voter pre-registration. BOE will work in concert with DMV to implement reforms and will spread the word by going into the schools, and through government agencies. DMV form will change effective 01-01-20
- Discussion that a more positive spin to DMV form is needed.

Hot Topics Luncheon

- BOE accepted LWVCC'S invitation to present on the topic of "Voting Reforms" at luncheon meeting of League of Women Voters along with Association of American University Women (AAUW) on April 17, 2019 at 12 PM at the Harbor Hotel in Celeron.

recorded by Gail Crowe

LWVCHAUTAUQUA PROPOSED BUDGET 3/31/2019 – 4/1/2020

| Income | 2018 Approved | 2018 Actual thru 2/11/2019 | 2019 Proposed (based on 93 members) |
|--|-------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| Dues | \$4,690.00 | \$5,355.00 | \$5,680.00 |
| Interest | \$3.00 | \$2.55 | \$3.00 |
| Donations (Includes Ann Manly Fund) ¹ | \$100.00 | \$1,035.00 | \$150.00 |
| Luncheons | \$2,000.00 | \$2,945.00 | \$2,877.00 |
| Annual Banquet | \$1,500.00 | \$900.00 | \$1,100.00 |
| Other | | | |
| 1. Election Night Reporting | \$0.00 | \$225.00 | \$150.00 |
| 2. LWVNYS Big Raffle | \$50.00 | \$0.00 | \$50.00 |
| 4. Leaguer Ads | \$250.00 | \$100.00 | \$150.00 |
| 5. LWVChautauqua Banquet Raffle | \$100.00 | \$152.00 | \$150.00 |
| 6. Car Magnets | \$200.00 | \$12.00 | \$70.00 |
| Total Income | \$8,893.00 | \$10,676.55 | \$10,380.00 |
| Expenditures | | | |
| State Dues | \$1,440.00 | \$1,610.00 | \$1,700.00 |
| National Dues | \$2,533.00 | \$2,592.00 | \$2,700.00 |
| Voter Service ² | \$630.00 | \$972.88 | \$750.00 |
| Luncheons | \$1,700.00 | \$2,939.53 | \$2,500.00 |
| Annual Banquet | \$1,100.00 | \$947.69 | \$1,000.00 |
| Conferences | \$500.00 | \$1,308.83 | \$1,000.00 |
| Fund Raisers | | | |
| 1. Promotion & Advertising ³ | \$180.00 | \$195.00 | \$200.00 |
| Fees for use of facilities | \$100.00 | \$187.50 | \$180.00 |
| General Operating Expense | | | |
| Postage, Printing & PO Box | \$260.00 | \$96.00 | \$100.00 |
| Office Supplies(5) | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Auditing Fee (donated) | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Website | \$200.00 | \$262.00 | \$250.00 |
| Car Magnet cost | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Membership Committee | \$50.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Street Banner Hanging Cost | \$200.00 | \$250.00 | \$0.00 |
| Total Expenses | \$8,893.00 | \$11,361.43 | \$10,380.00 |

(1) Includes one time donation from Haskins estate

(2) Includes TmtV, Farm Festival Expense, SIA and Election Night Reporting Payment

(3) Rockefeller Playbill)



March 9, 2019

Chautauqua/Cattaraugus Women's Action Group (CCWAG) will host Bill Parment at 10:30 AM at the Fredonia Grange at 58 West Main Street. Mr. Parment will speak about the Progressive Movement.

March 14, 2019

Celebrating International Women's Day
Turner Center on the grounds of Chautauqua Institution
6:00 to 8:00 PM

Emceeding the event will be Dr. Tracy Mitrano

The first speaker will be Dr. Mary Beth Sievens who is the Chair of Women's History at State University of New York at Fredonia. Her topic will be "The Success of Average Farm Wives in an 1846 Petition to the NYS Constitutional Convention".

The second speaker will be Dr. Mary Cardinale, adjunct Professor of English at Utica College and the recording Secretary for the Daughters of the American Revolution. The topic will be the DAR.

The LWV will have a table at the event.

March 20, 2019

LWV Chautauqua Event: *Discussion of Medical Cannabis* with Pharmacist Kevin Harbison of Pharma Cannabis Dispensary. JCC-N Conference Center, 10807 Bennett Road, Dunkirk at 6:30 p.m. Coffee and desserts provided.

April 4, 2019

Summit. A Gathering of Chautauqua County Women.

The purpose of this program is to build a network of women and women's groups to support each other and the goals of gender equality and opportunity for all Chautauqua County women. We will create networking opportunities, share goals and initiative of each sponsor group.

The speaker will be Lisa March Ryerson,
CEO of AARP Foundation and former President of Wells College.

The summit will be at Moonbrook Country Club on 2879 North Main St. in Jamestown from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. Hors d'oeuvres will be served. The cost is \$10.00 and free to students.

LWV Chautauqua County is a sponsor of this event.

April 17, 2019

AAUW of Jamestown and LWV Chautauqua County present

New York Expansion of Voters' Rights

Presenters will be Chautauqua County Election Commissioners Brian Abram and Norman Green.
Harbor Hotel, 10 Dunham Avenue in Celeron.

We will gather at 11:30 a.m. and lunch will be served at noon. The cost is \$15.00.

May 8, 2019

LWV Chautauqua County Annual Meeting
at the Fireside Restaurant on 5377 West Lake Road, Dunkirk, NY 14048.
This event will start at 6PM.

New York State Medical Marijuana Program

Practitioners

Educate

Practitioner takes approved course.



Register Online

Practitioner registers online using the Health Commerce System.



Certify

Practitioner can now issue certifications to patients with qualifying medical conditions.



Dispensing facilities are found across New York State. All are registered and regulated by the Department of Health, and all products are tested for quality assurance.

Medical marijuana is only available in smoke-free and non-food product forms. This ensures the safest delivery methods for patients.

Product examples:



Capsules



Oral Spray



Oils



Vaporization



Department of Health

#1083

12/18

Register Online

Certified patient registers online and can name up to two caregivers. Patients who can't give consent, including children, must have a caregiver.



Receive ID Card

Patient gets Temporary ID Card to use right away. Permanent ID Card arrives in 7-10 business days. Caregivers get ID cards too.



Purchase

Patient and/or caregiver can buy medical marijuana from a Registered Organization's dispensing facility.



For more information

health.ny.gov/mmp

1-844-863-9312

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Marcia Merrins

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Fredonia Opera House

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: _____