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LWV Chautauqua County  
PO Box 42  
Fredonia, New York 14063

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# The Leaguer

Volume 23, Issue 8  
April - May 2019 #2

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

**May 8, 2019 at 6 p.m.**

With Dunkirk Mayor Rosas  
Fredonia Mayor Landis  
and  
Among the Hemlocks  
A documentary by Roslin Smith

Fireside Restaurant  
5377 West Lake Road, Dunkirk, NY

League of Women Voters  
of Chautauqua County



ANNUAL  
MEMBERSHIP  
MEETING



Athanasia Landis knew about politics at an early age during her youth in Greece, a Thessaloniki native whose parents talked it in the house. And in November, 2015, after 186 years, the

upstate New York town of Fredonia voted her its first female Mayor, 23 years after she and her family moved there. "Not because I'm in any kind of competition with anybody else, but my father always said that in our family, women are leaders, and I have this in my mind all the time."

With five children, she had to give up active practice and said she was moved into politics by her town's Democratic party and after she thought it would be a good way to give back to the community she had grown to love – and which she wanted to change.

"We decided to move to upstate New York and take things slow, or slower," she said. It was idyllic but she said that, "during the last several years we experienced an economic downfall that cost the area jobs and prosperity."

National Herald

Wilfried "Willie" Rosas (D) was sworn in as Mayor of Dunkirk. It was a day of pride, "it's a big day for me and my family and the Hispanic community in New York State as I am now the first elected Hispanic Mayor of any city in New York State history," he said.



Over 100-people packed a room inside City Hall for the swearing in ceremony. Rosas was raised in Dunkirk and is a retired New York State Trooper.

Since serving as a Councilman, he noticed there was a need to be Mayor. "Immediately I began to see that the city needed some change and (due to) a lack of leadership and direction and I thought that was something I could provide for the city," he told 2 On Your Side's Claudine Ewing.

He has plans to work on trying to save NRG and boosting tourism and creating more jobs in the city. "Tourism is what we can do for development on our waterfront, but the County Executive and the IDA are working to bring in a food processing plant. I'm going to work with them and do everything I can from the city standpoint to ensure that that happens," he said.

USA Today

## LWV Chautauqua County Annual Meeting May 8, 2019 at 6 p.m.

With Mayor Rosas, and Mayor Landis  
and the video Among the Hemlocks, from Roslin Smith

**Fireside Restaurant 5377 West Lake Road, Dunkirk, NY 14048.**

- \_\_\_ Vegetarian spinach, artichoke ravioli bake
  - \_\_\_ Stuffed chicken breast with roasted red potatoes and vegetable
  - \_\_\_ Breaded broiled haddock with roasted red potatoes and vegetable
- All served with salad and dessert and beverage

Reservations due by April 30<sup>th</sup>  
Mail to Judy Reynolds, 305 Chestnut St., Fredonia, N.Y. 14063 or phone 672-4283.

Cost \$27.00 Make checks payable to LWV of Chautauqua

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Contact info \_\_\_\_\_

## From the President

We honor them. Our League has several events and activities to recognize and celebrate the women and men who worked and sacrificed to pass the 19th amendment.

On July 4, 1915 suffragists in front of every court house in New York State read the Declaration of Sentiments. Our state League is proposing that we do the same on July 4, 2019 to call attention to the League of Women Voters continuing fight to make democracy work. I would like to have an event in Dunkirk, Fredonia, and Jamestown and volunteers to read the Declaration of Sentiments. It can be delivered with a partner, if you wish. It would be important to wear white with the LWV sash. If you are interested please let me know.

Our local League is participating in a statewide centennial celebration on November 19th, 2019 at the Buffalo History Museum. November 19th is the state's League's actual birthday. We are thrilled that this event will take place in Western New York. Thanks to Marcia Merrins and Lisa Mertz for volunteering to be on the planning committee.

There are a few people willing to write an article about a woman who played an important role in the suffrage movement. I need more writers. We hope to publish the articles in the local newspapers and Leaguer in 2020. This could be an enjoyable project for anyone who is interested in history.

Help out in the LWV booth at the Fredonia Farm Festival in August! Please contact Michaela Golya at [golyama@netsync.net](mailto:golyama@netsync.net). Are there any suggestions for this years' polling question? An example would be: Should there be a national popular vote?

Our League will be doing some post-budget lobbying visits late April to our Assembly member, Andy Goodell. At this time, we are focusing our post-budget lobbying on automatic voter registration, support for S.1931-Comrie/A.4987-O'Donnell providing for the restoration of voting rights for people on parole, and reduction of state campaign contribution limits across the board. If you are interested in joining the group, let me know: [mcroxtton51@gmail.com](mailto:mcroxtton51@gmail.com).

Don't forget our annual meeting! We will elect officers and vote on our annual budget. Please send your reservations by April 30th to Judy Reynolds. (See reservation form).

Warmly,  
Mary Croxton, president



“Among the Hemlocks: Fantastic Stories from Fredonia,” the recently produced documentary from filmmaker Roslin Smith, will be shown during our annual meeting. Roslin Smith is an assistant professor of communication at the State University of New York at Fredonia.

The film, which Smith describes as a “memory documentary,” depicts the history of Fredonia using

voices of Fredonia residents. Historical photographs, newspaper clippings, re-enactments, interviews and voice-overs bring to life humorous, strange and factual stories from long ago. More than 84 community members, faculty and staff from the university — as well as students enrolled in courses taught by Smith — were involved in the production. Research, production and post production spanned 18 months.

Inspiration for the title was drawn from the Seneca Indian nation that once lived along the banks of a small creek surrounded by towering evergreen trees. “These gentle people called the area ‘Ga-na-da-wa-o,’ which means ‘among the hemlocks,’” Smith explains. “That creek is known today as Canadaway Creek, and the surrounding area, of course, is Fredonia.” Beautiful landscapes of the Fredonia area are featured, as well as historical music and sounds to relive a bygone era and the people who lived among the hemlocks.

Her poetic documentary, Views from Within, won the I Love CHQ promotional video contest in 2015. Her 2017 trilogy of documentaries, Moons, Mountains and Masterpieces. A Portrait of An Artist, was screened locally at the Opera House, nationally in Miami, FL, and internationally in Montreal.

A copy Of Among the Hemlocks will be given to the Darwin R. Barker Library in Fredonia as a permanent

### **Small Steps to Save the Environment**

The Climate Education Initiative (CEI) is hosting an action workshop at 4 p.m. on April 27 at the Fellowship Hall in the Fredonia Presbyterian Church at 219 Central Avenue in Fredonia. The purpose of the workshop is to exchange ideas on reducing our carbon footprint. Many people who are worried about increasing pollution and the effects of climate change feel there is nothing they can do as individuals to preserve our environment. But others have found small actions that make a difference, and CEI is opening a space in which people can share steps they’ve taken to reduce pollution or greenhouse gases in ways that fit with their lifestyles.

As an example, it may seem that something as small as eating more local produce can’t possibly benefit the environment in any meaningful way. But, as the old song has it, while each of us holds one small candle, together we make a great light. A lot of people eating more locally produced foods can cut miles of truck traffic, saving gas and reducing toxic emissions. People who have taken many other small actions and people who are interested in hearing about them are invited to come to the meeting to talk.

The Climate Education Initiative is an information and action group formed by local residents, with the cooperation of the League of Women Voters, and with internet support from SUNY Fredonia. Visit its website at [www.fredonia.edu/cei](http://www.fredonia.edu/cei). For more information on the meeting, e-mail Minda Rae Amiran, [amiran@fredonia.edu](mailto:amiran@fredonia.edu).

**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) <sup>1</sup>	\$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
<b>Other</b>			
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
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$8,893.00</b>	<b>\$10,676.55</b>	<b>\$10,380.00</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>			
State Dues	\$1,440.00	\$1,610.00	\$1,700.00
National Dues	\$2,533.00	\$2,592.00	\$2,700.00
Voter Service <sup>2</sup>	\$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
<b>Fund Raisers</b>			
1. Promotion & Advertising <sup>3</sup>	\$180.00	\$195.00	\$200.00
Fees for use of facilities	\$100.00	\$187.50	\$180.00
<b>General Operating Expense</b>			
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
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$8,893.00</b>	<b>\$11,361.43</b>	<b>\$10,380.00</b>

(1) Includes one time donation from Haskins estate

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

(3) Rockefeller Playbill)

## Status of National Popular Vote Bill in Each State

The National Popular Vote Interstate Compact (NPVIC) is an agreement among a group of U.S. states and the District of Columbia to award all their electoral votes to whichever presidential candidate wins the overall popular vote in the 50 states and the District of Columbia. The compact is designed to ensure that the candidate who receives the most votes nationwide is elected president, and it would come into effect only when it would guarantee that outcome.

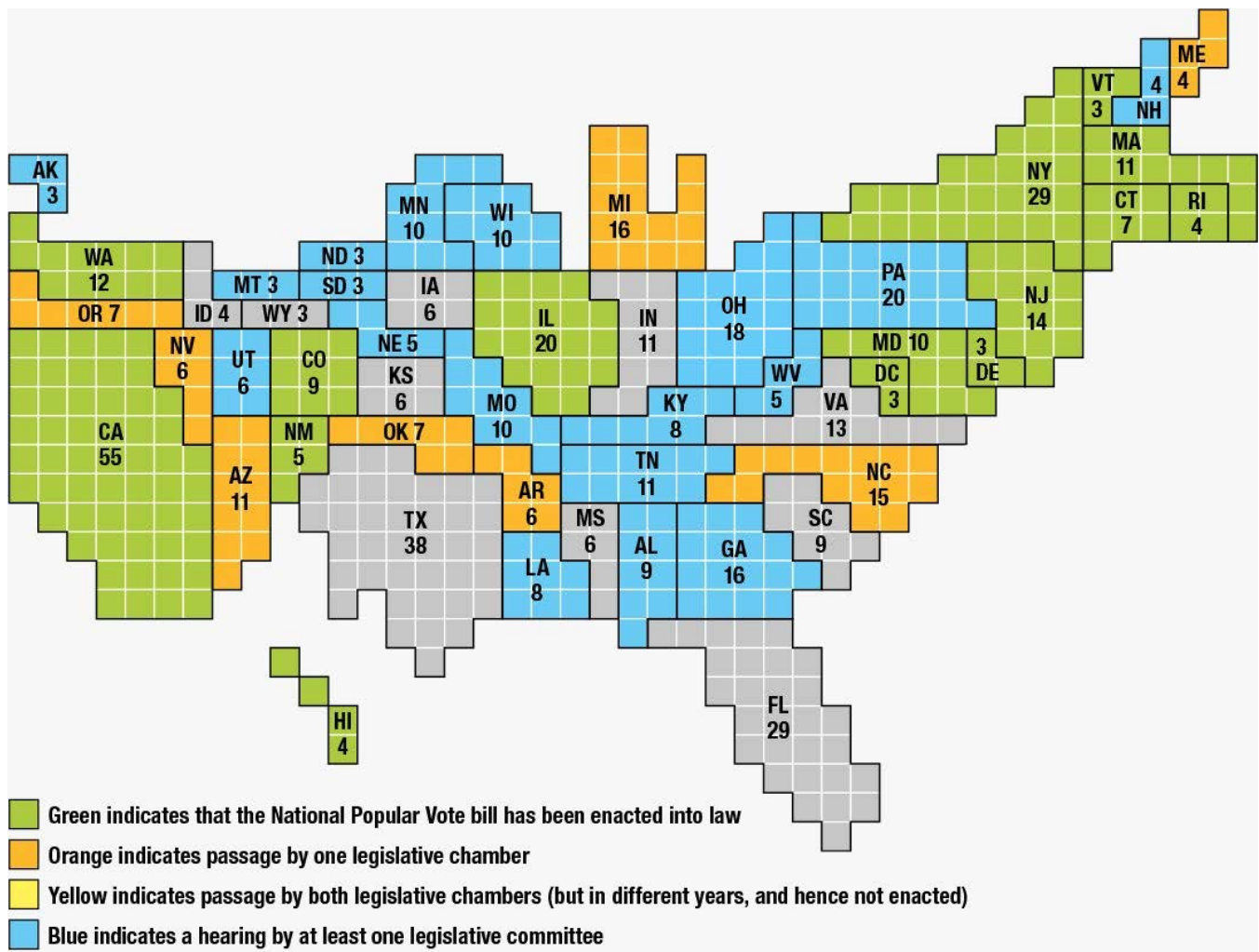
As of April 2019, it has been adopted by fourteen states and the District of Columbia. Together, they have 189 electoral votes, which is 35.1% of the Electoral College and 70.0% of the 270 votes needed to give the compact legal force.

"The jurisdictions in which it has been adopted include 5 small ones (DC, DE, HI, RI, VT), 6 medium-sized states (CO, CT, MD, MA, NM, WA), and 4 big states (CA, IL, NJ, NY).

The bill will take effect when enacted by states possessing an additional 81 electoral votes.

The National Popular Vote bill has now passed a total of 37 state legislative chambers in 23 states. It has also passed one legislative chamber in 8 states possessing 72 electoral votes (AR, AZ, ME, MI, NC, NV, OK, OR). It has been unanimously approved at the committee level in 2 states possessing 27 more electoral votes (GA, MO). The National Popular Vote bill has been introduced in various years in all 50 states.

On the map below (courtesy of Victor Bobier), each square represents one electoral vote (out of 538).





**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.

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**43-57 Water Street, Fredonia**  
**679-1591**

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: \_\_\_\_\_