NOTE FROM OUR CO-PRESIDENTS
IN MEMORY OF DOROTHY RINALDO
VOTE 411 ELECTION
VOTER SERVICES
HELP WANTED
MEMBERSHIP REPORT
APRIL 29TH DAY OF ACTION
STUDENTS INSIDE ALBANY
LOOKING AHEAD
NATURAL RESOURCES
HEALTH CARE COMMITTEE REPORT
THE UNFINISHED WORK OF THE WOMEN’S SUFFRAGE MOVEMENT
HOW TO CONTACT YOUR REPRESENTATIVES

Be part of history, as the League of Women Voters of NYS holds its 59th Biennial Convention

June 7-12, 2021
Virtual on Zoom Platform

https://secure.lglforms.com/form_engine/s/sZpfeEihvqiA-AOCUoRKMQ
The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government.

The league works to increase and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Any person 16 years and older, regardless of gender, may become a League member.

www.lwvtompkins.org
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A message from your Co-Presidents  
Submitted by Sally Grubb and Kay Wagner

Dear Friends in League,

The past year has been a difficult one for all of us. It has been hard not being able to visit our families and friends. It has been hard to forgo all the local Festivals and community events we usually participate in. We have missed the times when we gathered with all of you for programs, meetings, soup and bread lunches, even committee and board meetings. As we look forward to the new year, 2021-2022, we plan on being able to gather together again while remaining safe.

We are pleased to welcome several new members who have become active in much of what we have been doing recently. We are looking forward to some outdoor summer gatherings, following CDC and local Health Department guidelines, when we can get to know our new members and renew friendships with the rest of our members.

Looking back at 2020-2021

Even though we have not been able to meet in person, our League was still very active throughout the year. Like so many individuals and organizations we took full advantage of our ability to meet via Zoom. One added benefit of holding meetings via Zoom has been that more of our members have been joining us at our monthly board meetings. We hope that this will continue in the future. To make this possible we will be looking for ways to use Zoom or other software to continue this virtual option even when we meet in person.

Our Voter Services, Natural Resources and Health Care Committees were active last year and will continue to be so in the future. Detailed reports of what took place are included in this Bulletin.

The Bylaws Committee met earlier this year to review the LWVTC bylaws and update them as needed including adding new wording required by National League. These changes will be voted on at our Annual Meeting in May. One important change concerns the new LWVNY policy, introduced last year, that allows us to use Zoom and similar software when holding meetings. We hope that the use of technology will enable more people to attend meetings either by computer or phone even when the meetings are held in person.

2020 was of course Census year. Your league was active in spreading the word and working with different organizations to encourage people to complete the Census. Your co-Presidents worked with the County Census Committee and attended monthly meetings of the County Public Information Advisory Board (PIAB) to support their work in getting information out to the public. Kay is continuing to act as LWVTC liaison to PIAB. This is an excellent way of sharing a certificate of appreciation from the Census Bureau for the work we did in 2020.

Sally recently learned that we have received a certificate of appreciation from the Census Bureau for the work we did in 2020.
Looking Forward to 2021-2022

2021 may not be a national election year but none the less there will be Village, Town, and County Elections and possibly State ballot proposals and constitutional amendments on voting and redistricting. Voter Services will be active here. We have already been asked if we will host a Candidate Forum for the June Primary for Danby Highway Superintendent and Board Member. We anticipate further invitations because of the number of contested seats in the County and the Towns in Tompkins County. Your help at these events, virtual and hopefully in person, is important.

Because last year was the Census, this year is Redistricting and your League hopes to be very involved in the process both locally and State wide. Work on Redistricting has already started and both National and State Leagues are promoting People Powered Fair Maps to involve as many individuals in the redistricting process as possible. Information regarding all that has gone in a LWVNYS can be found at https://my.lwv.org/new-york-state/redistricting-2021-people-powered-fair-maps-nys.

April 29 is LWV Day of Action. All leagues are encouraged to promote People Powered Fair Maps and to present programs to that end on April 29. Your League, in conjunction with Cortland County League is holding an event to meet New State Assemble Person Anna Kelles, and to present information on People Powered Fair Maps.

The State League is holding a People's Hearing on New York State Redistricting, Thursday, April 29th, 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm. This virtual hearing will allow New Yorkers from around the state to present testimony on why redistricting matters to them and their community of interest. Click here to register via Zoom for this event: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_SAAgQj4o5vynFjTLVfx6Hg

The NY League will be inviting selected applicants to provide oral testimony at this People's Hearing. Testifiers will be selected based on their written testimony and the region of the state they represent.

We will be sharing information on our website and via email about how to get involved in local redistricting – City and County and possibly also the Towns. Congressional lines are likely to be drawn first however because of the election cycle. This November elections will be based on 2020 lines and no changes will be made before 2022 and 2023.

The Board hopes that our League will take an active role in local and State redistricting efforts. We are already reviewing Fair Maps. The LWVNYS has been concerned about the delays in receiving appropriate funding for the state commission on redistricting. Local members have been involved in advocacy on this and many other issues. LWVNYS's website has key information plus videos of talks that have been given on redistricting. To read more go to https://my.lwv.org/new-york-state/redistricting-2021-people-powered-fair-maps-nys

Our League needs to take an active role in these redistricting efforts and as your co-presidents we are giving a call out now for members to help in a variety of ways. In particular, we need to have one or two members take a lead in this work, so please think about taking this on. There will be many of us ready to help but we need one or two people to organize our efforts.
Meeting together again
As we look forward to the coming year, we do hope we will be able to have safe in person gatherings and meetings. There will be lots to do even in an off year for elections. Please send us your thoughts and ideas of what you would like to see us do and ways in which you would like to be involved. We hope that many of you will join us at the virtual LWVNYS convention in June.

And of course, we hope to see very many of you at our annual meeting in May and a later social event which is in the planning stages now.

Finally, one shout out and big thanks to Michael and Linda Duttweiler and David Quinn Jacobs. We have a wonderful new website. Check it out https://lwvtompkins.org/

At our April 5, 2021 Board Meeting, the following resolution was adopted by the Board.

Whereas LWVTC has maintained a website at Clarity Connect over the past 12 years, and

Whereas the server space for this website has been provided by Chuck Bartosch on behalf of Clarity Connect, and

Whereas this website has been a valuable resource to the community, addressing both voter access needs and important community issues,

Now therefore let it be Resolved today, April 5, 2021, that the Board of Directors of LWVTC unanimously express their deepest thanks to Chuck Bartosch for his generous support in enabling the LWVTC to maintain this website.

Here is to an active and successful 2021-2022 for Tompkins County League

Co-Presidents

Sally Grubb and Kay Wagner
In Memory of Dorothy Rinaldo

The League of Women Voters of Tompkins County is saddened by the recent death of Dorothy Rinaldo. Dorothy was a relative newcomer to Tompkins County, but a longtime and very active member of the League of Women Voters. Before coming to Ithaca, she lived in Lexington, MA, Briarcliff Manor, N.Y., and a few other places, where she was on boards of county and state Leagues.

Dorothy and her husband, Peter, moved to Kendal of Ithaca in 2002. After she moved here she became very active in our Tompkins County League, serving one year as Co-President with Marnie Johnson. She spent many years working hard on our Program Planning Committee. A later chair of that committee remembers Dorothy introducing her to the program planning portfolio and valued her matter-of-fact approach that was both encouraging and supportive. She continued with all of this work for many years.

Dorothy was an enthusiastic and energetic person who will be deeply missed.
Vote 411  
Submitted by Nancy Skipper

As many of you may know, VOTE411 is a ‘one-stop shop’ for national, state and local election information, provided by the League of Women Voters, with financial support from the Education Fund.

Tompkins County voters can browse the list of elections within New York State, or enter their home address to find out which specific elections they are eligible to vote in, how to register, where and when to vote, and what will be on their ballot. All candidates for each race are listed, and they are asked to provide information about themselves and responses to a set of questions, to assist voters in making informed decisions. For more detail, see https://www.vote411.org/about

The VOTE411 Committee
Kathy Yen, who spearheaded the LWVTC’s participation in VOTE411, continued providing excellent leadership until July 1, 2020, at which time she stepped back into an advisory role. Nancy Skipper, who had been assisting by gathering local election information, became the chairperson. In August she was joined by Chris St. Clair, a League member who has had invaluable experience with the VOTE411 database for the state of Maryland. Due to Covid, they have not yet met in person, but manage working together via email to provide the information needed by Tompkins County voters.

For more information on the work entailed in producing VOTE411 for Tompkins County, and details on past and upcoming elections, see https://www.vote411.org
Voter Services
Submitted by Sally Grubb

Last year was a year of cancellations, isolation, and learning new ways of fulfilling our mission of empowering people to vote through education, voter registration, and getting out the vote. The lockdown started in March at the end of our financial year 2019-2020, and we are still not back to normal, wearing masks and social distancing at very few events, as we enter the new 2021-2022 year.

In April we cancelled a program with Rejoice the Vote. We hope to work more closely with this dynamic organization in the future. We were unable to host informational voter registration tables at Streets Alive, Ithaca Festival, Farmers Market, Apple Harvest and even now are still very much in virtual mode for all we do. However, we learned to do our work remotely, through Zoom meetings, and the distribution of informational literature using all avenues open to us.

We developed new relationships at Cornell University with Cornell Votes; at Tompkins Community College with the support of Kerry Curran, and Connie Stirling Engman; and brought Ithaca College Voter Registration onto the Commons with the support of Lucia Sciore.

We went back to our roots and started working with the food banks again. During the election season we used different strategies to get out the vote. We developed and printed informational flyers which we added to food parcels distributed by the different food banks and churches throughout the County. We also distributed voter registration forms and information to the libraries in the Finger Lakes Library System as well as Tompkins County Public Library. Wherever we were able to develop contacts and in-person outreach was going on, we distributed informational literature. Educating the community about absentee ballots and early voting was a key part of the work we did. Working with the Board of Elections we helped sign people up for absentee ballots, complete their ballots and return them to the Board of Elections.

Many members of our League worked to make our election work a success. Special thanks for their leadership go to Ann Warde, Megan Nettleton, Kerry Curran, Lucia Sciore, Connie Stirling-Engman, Kathy Hopkins, and many, many others too many to list here. Without all of you nothing would have happened. My apologies for not being able to list you all by name but you know who you are. Your work was greatly appreciated.

Zoom enabled us to work much more easily with other leagues to develop candidate forums for races that extended outside Tompkins County Boundaries. We worked closely with Oneonta, Mid-Hudson, Cooperstown and Cortland Leagues in an attempt to organize a candidate debate for NYS 51st Senate District. We failed to get agreement from the Republican Party, although we had the support of their candidate, for the League’s terms for the debate and so it was cancelled.
We did however learn the benefits of working together and benefited enormously from the ability to get together over Zoom without anyone having to travel to another location. We developed recommendations for organizing similar events in the future.

This led to the successful organization of a jointly sponsored candidate debate for 125th New York Assembly District Race. We developed a good working relationship with Cortland League and have joined with them on other endeavors since then including National Resources and now redistricting. Again, the use of Zoom has made this collaboration much easier.

We started calendar year 2021 with a virtual Candidates’ Debate for the Special Election held on March 23, for Tompkins County’s 2nd Legislative District, the seat previously held by Anna Kelles. League Members Pam Tolbert and Ann Coyne assisted during the evening. I acted as moderator, our timer was Scott Brim and we received IT support from Ted Crane. The event was recorded and posted on Vote411 and our website and presented over Pegasys Community TV. WRFI streamed the event live over their radio station. Thanks to everyone who helped to make this event a success. We have already been asked to sponsor a virtual forum and co-sponsor a live forum for Danby’s Primary this June for Highway Superintendent and two Town Councilpersons. We can anticipate being invited to sponsor other forum in the Fall for the November elections.

All in all, we have had a busy year, and anticipate a busy year moving forwards. And I am now delighted to say that Pam Tolbert has stepped forward and will be taking a leadership role with Voter Services in 2021-2022.

If any of you has any interest in helping with any of our work empowering people to vote, please let either Pam at pst3@cornell.edu or me at sally.grubb@gmail.com know
The League of Women Voters of Tompkins County

Needs the help of active Members

If you are interested in
• Advocacy
• Redistricting
• Climate Change
• Registering Voters
• Getting out the Vote
• Working with Youth

WE NEED YOUR HELP

Please contact lwvtompkins@gmail.com, sally.grubb@gmail.com, or cmw18@cornell.edu
Membership Report
Submitted by Lory Saltzman

First, the numbers.
We have:
10 Life or Honorary Members (Honored for 50 year membership.
56 Primary Members
10 Additional Members
and
1 Student Member
For a total of 77

Many new members joined our League in the later half of last year. We are always pleased to welcome new members and in this case our new members have contributed more than their membership dues. That is because our increased number of members means we are now entitled to 3 delegates at State and National Conventions. Our newest member is Patricia Sipman-Marohn whom we were happy to “see” and welcome at our virtual Board meeting on March 8th. All members are notified of and welcome to attend Board meetings.

Sadly, on March 23rd we lost one of our Honorary members. Dorothy Rinaldo, whose warm presence and lively spirit will be very much missed. A brief memorial appears in this Bulletin.

In September we send out a letter to our members asking that they renew their membership as we gear up for the fall election activities. Since Nation and State Leagues consider memberships to expire one year from the last renewal it is a good idea for members to try to renew membership at the same time each year to make sure their membership is up-to-date at the National and State levels. New members are welcome any time of course, and if a new member joined for the first time late in the calendar year we would not expect them to renew their membership until a year from September.
Mark your calendars! On April 29, 2021, the League of Women Voters will host events around the country to increase public awareness and engagement around the redistricting process, and make sure the public’s voice is heard. Since redistricting occurs every ten years, this is a once in a decade opportunity to advocate on behalf of ourselves and our neighbors.

Tompkins County League of Women Voters, alongside the Cortland County League of Women Voters, are meeting virtually with State Assemblyperson Dr. Anna Kelles on April 29th at 5pm. We invite members of both Leagues to join us as we introduce the League, talk about our non-partisan stance, and discuss People Powered Fair Maps with Dr. Kelles.

New district lines can be drawn to intentionally decrease voters’ power based solely on their political party. We believe redistricting should be fair and transparent. People Powered Fair Maps™ advocates for redistricting processes that eliminate partisan and racial gerrymandering nationwide.

Please RSVP by filling out this form. (Please cut and paste into your browser)

https://forms.gle/dnGL5yPmvuyB6TUM8
Students Inside Albany
Submitted by Megan Nettleton

The League of Women Voters of Tompkins County believes that educating and empowering the youth of our country to participate in civic activity is vital to maintaining a strong democracy. Students Inside Albany (SIA) is an annual conference sponsored by the League of Women Voters of New York State Education Foundation, Inc. The program is designed to increase students' awareness of their responsibility in representative government and provide the tools necessary for meeting that responsibility.

The LWV-TC is thrilled to announce that we are sending two local students to this year's virtual conference, to be held on May 21-22, 2021. Miranda Mangaraj, a junior at Lehman Alternative Community School alongside Lily Herman, a junior at Trumansburg High School will be representing LWV-TC. Both students are impressive members of their local communities. Lily is the president of her class, and assists with fundraising and social media. Miranda is highly involved with the Youth Farm project, with a focus on social justice.

The objectives of Students Inside Albany are to increase student understanding of public policy in New York State, and to enhance student understanding of the roles of the various groups seeking to impact New York State legislation and policy development, enactment and change. The program aims to increase the understanding of the New York State legislative process through meeting with local legislators.
As with the rest of the world, the League of Women Voters of Tompkins County took our meetings and programs from in person to a digital format this past year. In addition to our monthly board meetings which are open to all members, the Leagues committees held two very important events this spring.

The Health Care Committee was asked by the State League to lead discussions by and for our membership about health care and the financing of health care in New York, leading to a local Consensus and Comments meeting in February or March. On January 11th, on a Zoom meeting for all members of the Tomkins County League, Ann Coyne presented a PowerPoint about national issues related to health care financing and how various age groups are covered by different types of public health care. On January 19th, many members of LWVTC attended the informational Zoom meeting sponsored by the Broome-Tioga League. On February 8, 2021, members of LWVTC attended the Zoom meeting for voting on the consensus. Nancy Skipper took copious notes as the group discussed and approved the changes made to both the Health Care consensus and the Financing of Health Care consensus by the state committee. The report from LWVTC was sent to the State office well before the March 10th deadline.

The Natural Resource Committee held a two part event with Oceania and The League of Women Voters of Cortland County. The film THE STORY OF PLASTIC is a battle cry for the current movement to reduce plastic pollution, and a reality check for the narrative around plastics by revealing how the entire production system pollutes and marginalized communities, long before plastic pollution makes its way into the ocean. In addition to members viewing the film online, there was a panel discussion on March 30th featuring
Kay Wagner, LWV Tompkins County
Shelia Cohen, LWV Cortland County
Jessica Plotnick, Skidmore College Plastic Free Zone
Alexis Goldsmith, Beyond Plastics
Brian Langloss, Oceana
Kate Kurera, Environmental Advocates of New York

Looking forward, LWV-TC has two events this spring. Tompkins County League of Women Voters, alongside the Cortland County League of Women Voters, are meeting virtually with State Assemblyperson Dr. Anna Kelles on April 29th at 5pm. We invite members of both Leagues to join us as we introduce the League, talk about our non-partisan stance, and discuss People Powered Fair Maps with Dr. Kelles. Please RSVP by filling out this form.
https://forms.gle/dnGL5yPmvuyB6TUM8

LWV-TC holding its Annual Meeting on May 10th at 5pm. Please keep an eye out for a Zoom link. This summer we are hoping to have a socially distant outdoor gathering, details to come!
**April 29th at 4:45 pm**

LWV Day of Action

Tompkins County League of Women Voters, alongside the Cortland County League of Women Voters, are meeting virtually with State Assemblyperson Dr. Anna Kelles on April 29th at 5pm. We invite members of both Leagues to join us as we introduce the League, talk about our non-partisan stance, and discuss People Powered Fair Maps with Dr. Kelles.

Please RSVP by filling out this form. (Please cut and paste into your browser)

https://forms.gle/dnGL5yPmvuyB6TUM8

**May 10th at 5pm**

LWV-TC Annual Meeting

Please keep an eye out for a Zoom link. Early this month you will also receive information on our current and proposed budget, the report from the nominating committee, and the recommended changes to our bylaws. We will be discussing and voting on all of these at the annual meeting, so please read them carefully before then. You will also be hearing from us about plans we have for the meeting in addition to the business we need to accomplish This summer we are hoping to have a socially distant outdoor gathering, details to come!

**June 7-12, 2021**

Be part of history, as the League of Women Voters of NYS holds its 59th Biennial Convention

Virtual on Zoom Platform

All members are welcome and encouraged to attend, whether you are a delegate or not. To register and learn more about the convention go to https://my.lwv.org/new-york-state

For information regarding attending the Convention and possibility of becoming one of our delegates please email sally.grubb@gmail.com or call 607 279.9189.
Natural Resources Report
Submitted by Kay Wagner

The Natural Resources Committee is pleased to announce that Susan Multer has agreed to be a co-chair of the committee beginning in June. Susan has been a member of our committee since she moved to Ithaca a few years ago. She is a longtime member of the League and was active in working on environmental issues, especially around fracking, while a member and president of the Steuben County League and also as a member of the LWVNYS Committee on Agriculture, Energy, and the Environment.

The Natural Resources Committee has, unfortunately, been unable to meet this past year due to the restrictions surrounding COVID. Instead, we have kept in touch with each other and shared information by email. As we shared information about environmental issues and current events, we have posted the most important ones on our website. Hopefully our League members and others have seen these postings.

Last fall Kay Wagner was contacted by Jessica Plotniki, a student at Skidmore College who is working to ban the use of single use plastic items on her campus. She asked if our League would be interested in presenting a movie and program on plastic together with the organization Oceana. This sounded like a wonderful way to do a virtual program, so the plans went ahead. Brian Langloss of Oceana organized the program and found just the right people for the panel discussion. We were very fortunate to have the LWV of Cortland County join us in this project.

From March 23 through April 1, 2021, those who registered for our program were able to view the movie “The Story of Plastic” on their computers. This was followed by a panel discussion on the evening of March 30. After some introductory comments by Kay Wagner and Sheila Cohen (president of LWV of Cortland County), Brian Langloss presented a brief summary of the highlights of the film and served as moderator for the panel. Members of the panel were Jessica Plotnick from Skidmore College Plastic Free Zone, Alexis Goldsmith from Beyond Plastics, and Kate Kurera from Environmental Advocates of NY. The movie was excellent and the panel did an exceptional job of educating all of us about the many problems associated with both the production and disposal of plastic.

As we look forward to the LWVNYS convention in June, Susan and Kay are working with Beth Radow, Chair of the LWVNYS Committee on Agriculture, Energy and the Environment to present a caucus on food insecurity and its connections to both environmental issues and social justice.

We hope that many of our members will attend the convention and come to the caucus.
Health Care Committee Report
Submitted By Ann Coyne

The Health Committee continued to discuss the organization and financing of health care in New York and nationally following the February 2020 presentation sponsored by LWVTC on health care financing held at Kendal. After March, all discussions had to take place on-line using Zoom.

On September 29, 2021, LWVNYS sent out a large packet of information about health care and the financing of health care for discussion by members, leading to a local Consensus and Comments meeting in February or March. Included in the packet were a Facilitators Guide and a Final Discussion Guide. Each League in NY needed to send the results of its consensus meeting to the State office by March 10, 2021.

Ann Coyne, Ann Warde, Megan Nettleton, and Nancy Skipper formed a subcommittee to get the task completed before March 10th and met by Zoom on December 9, 2020 to discuss what educational material was needed for local League members. On January 11th, on a Zoom meeting for all members of the Tomkins County League, Ann Coyne presented a PowerPoint about national issues related to health care financing and how various age groups are covered by different types of public health care. On January 19th, many members of LWVTC attended the informational Zoom meeting sponsored by the Broome-Tioga League. On February 8, 2021, members of LWVTC attended the Zoom meeting for voting on the consensus. Nancy Skipper took copious notes as the group discussed and approved the changes made to both the Health Care consensus and the Financing of Health Care consensus by the state committee. The report from LWVTC was sent to the State office well before the March 10th deadline.

The LWVTC members attending the Zoom meeting made several suggestions about health needs in more rural areas of New York, like Tompkins County. Several issues identified were high-speed broad band, undocumented workers, portability of insurance, visitors to NY who become ill, more public availability of computers for virtual medical visits by low-income residents who can't afford WIFI in their homes, reduction of costs by use of nurses or other providers to keep pregnant women healthy and to monitor patients who are hospitalized often because of not following their medication regimen, and more focus on the concept of a 'medical home' where patients have their own medical provider.

Subsequent to the consensus meeting, the Health Care Committee has discussed future issues in health care that might be studied, such as the death with dignity legislation.
The Unfinished Work of the Women’s Suffrage Movement

Join LWV of Saratoga and Sally Roesch Wagner, a nationally recognized lecturer and author of The Women’s Suffrage Movement for a program that gives voice to the unsung women who helped shape the suffrage movement, including African American suffragists who faced racism within the movement, and Iroquois women whose society influenced suffragists.

This event is co-sponsored by LWV Saratoga and the Saratoga Springs Public Library, and is made possible with a grant from Humanities New York.

It will now be presented via Zoom at two different sessions on Thursday, April 29th. Register at least 36 hours in advance.

Use this registration link for the 2pm session: https://sspl.libcal.com/event/7474238

Use this registration link for the 7pm session: https://sspl.libcal.com/event/6672555
How to contact your Representatives

Washington DC.

SENATORS
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202-224-4451
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58th—Towns of Ithaca, Newfield, Enfield, Ulysses

Representative in the NYS Assembly
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District 125-Tompkins County
The League of Women Voters of Tompkins County publishes this bulletin four times a year.

Previous bulletins can be found on our website at
http://www.lwvtompkins.org/bulletins.html

For information about our league go to
http://www.lwvtompkins.org/

Reach us by email at
lwvtompkins@gmail.com

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