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January 2025

Prez Says



Congratulations!

Did you know that as a League member, you belong to a "club" that is helping to save democracy? The value of clubs and community efforts in general (e.g. churches

and even bowling leagues) are the theme of the film JOIN OR DIE about why you should join a group and how the fate of America depends on it. It builds on the life-long work of Harvard prof emeritus, Robert Putnam, whose many books - especially the best-seller BOWLING ALONE - have helped all of us see that if we don't get together with other people and talk about things, democracy can't really function.

We will be working with other groups in our area to have showings of this film (it's a nationwide effort even beyond LWV) but, besides that, we will be doing many other things to do what Putnam talks about. The more of us who help, the more effective we will be, so read elsewhere about activities that might interest you and "jump aboard"!

The League has been a go-to organization for many, many women and men who want to contribute to their communities effectively. When I lived in the Utica area, I noticed that the head of the Youth Bureau and so many other such agencies "came up" through the League. Mid-Hudson's well-known environmentalist and current Ulster County legislator, Manna Jo Greene, claims it was the League that got her whole career started decades ago. And my League connections have certainly helped me over the decades in every job I've ever held, as well as helping me "psych out" almost any place I've lived. To misquote Robert Putnam, "Join and Live more fully!" There's so much going on out there to participate in!

The easiest way to get a little or a lot involved is to attend one of our meet-ups identified elsewhere in this newsletter. A separate article in this newsletter titled **JUMP ABOARD** lists many of the activities coming up soon that you can participate in. And you can always email me at darethompson@gmail.com or call me at my home number 845-236-3074. If you don't get me, my LWV member husband, Doug, will be happy to take a message and I'll call you back. I'll help you connect with the activity that most appeals to you with the time and effort you have to share. Talking to League members is one of my favorite things to do.

Meanwhile, everyone, I hope you are ENJOYING THE HOLIDAYS!

Dare Thompson, President
845-236-3074 (preferred) 845-591-3445 (cell)

Calendar Happenings

January 3rd

LWVMHR Membership Zoom

Noon

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86371248153?](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86371248153?pwd=1TZ6JvYrg4Xvn7zleUX78loAxegBbU.1)

[pwd=1TZ6JvYrg4Xvn7zleUX78loAxegBbU.1](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86371248153?pwd=1TZ6JvYrg4Xvn7zleUX78loAxegBbU.1)

January 8th

Communications Committee

4pm

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83405023348?](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83405023348?pwd=XFWvIbR86DQlyybTihjgtSoc3BM99a.1)

[pwd=XFWvIbR86DQlyybTihjgtSoc3BM99a.1](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83405023348?pwd=XFWvIbR86DQlyybTihjgtSoc3BM99a.1)

January 10th

Dutchess Meet-up

Noon

[Mahoney's, Poughkeepsie](#)

January 16th

LWVMHR Board Meeting Zoom

4 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84927964413?](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84927964413?pwd=OGRLwZEF0OixBEB5Eo1MwL5Jub3yyL.1)

[pwd=OGRLwZEF0OixBEB5Eo1MwL5Jub3yyL.1](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84927964413?pwd=OGRLwZEF0OixBEB5Eo1MwL5Jub3yyL.1)

January 17th

Southern Tier Meet-up

Noon

[Silk Factory, Newburgh](#)



LWV Mid-Hudson Meet Ups

DUTCHESS MEETING

Join us at our usual luncheon spot - Mahoney's- on **January 10th** at noon. We welcome any League members with a special emphasis on Dutchess County issues.

SOUTHERN TIER

We will be meeting at the Silk Factory in Newburgh on **January 17th** at noon! While most of us are from Orange, Southern Dutchess and Southern Ulster, we are always open to League members and their friends. As the New Year is upon us, we will find plenty to talk about and plan for...

Jump Aboard!

In the last newsletter we talked about the November election and many things voters - and those who represent them - need from us. In that spirit we will be talking with VIPs in your county, specifically:

- interviews with our state Assembly and Senate members in February and April about state issues the LWV cares about
- a visit with your county's Board of Elections commissioners to talk about the last election and how we can be more helpful
- a visit with your county executive and possibly your county clerk

Want to join us?

We will also be holding Zoom meetings that can later be posted on our website for continual use by the public. Example: we did one last spring on Running for School Board that included current board members and a key state level person explaining what running requires and what it's like to serve. People start registering to run in February so we will spread the word about this Zoom to all the school district clerks. Similar topics we'd like to do are service on county legislatures and town boards and one just on running for office in general.

Want to help?

We are now regularly watching our Dutchess and Ulster county legislatures in action through our Observer Corps and we hope to include Orange Co soon, too. Visits in person are particularly effective in getting the League known and in having an impact. You'd be surprised how fast you'll get to know who's who and they'll get to know you. But just watching online and sharing what you see is helpful and almost as interesting and it's a great way to start.

Want to help?

We are also also looking for people who can help with Communications. Do you have a relationship with a local newspaper or radio station? Are you good on social media? Do you like to speak to other groups? Any related skills could really help us spread the word about the important work we do.

Want to help?

This is just a start. **Tell us what you like to do and/or want to learn, and we'll find a spot for you.**



New Membership Portal Coming

On February 1, the League of Women Voters will launch a new internet-based system to be used for joining or renewing your membership. This new system will make it easier to manage your membership information, allow our local chapter to track payments better, and give the national organization a clearer picture of the people who make up our ranks. Keep a look out for more information in January !

**Be ambassadors for civility.
Eat ice cream**



We think Stewarts Ice Cream is on to something!

Observer Corps

Jane Simkin Smith wrote an article about the Dutchess County Legislative Meeting she observed from December 9th. She noted -

“The main business of this session was the approval of the 2025 budget. Five amendments to the budget prepared County Executive Sue Serino were offered by both Republican and Democratic legislators, and each amendment was approved unanimously. Members from both parties expressed appreciation to both Ms. Serino (who was present) for her open-minded and collaborative approach to the budget development process, as well as to the Budget Office, the Budget and Finance committee, and commissioners of the various executive agencies for their, help, responsiveness and transparency. Democratic legislators pointed out that the level of collaboration and cooperation was unlike prior years under prior administrations when they had had no voice.”

The rest of her article can be found under our [“Observer Corps”](#) section of our League of Women Voters of the Mid-Hudson Region Website.

If you have an interest in getting more involved in our Observer Corps we would love to discuss it with you. Send an email to info@lwvmidhudson.org and we'll get back to you!



Keep Up With the Latest Local Events

[Learn more](#)

In the News



VOTE411.org Wins First Place in 4th Annual Anthem Awards

“The League's mission is to ensure that voters have all the information they need to vote with confidence,” said Celina Stewart, CEO of the League of Women Voters of the United States. “We are proud to offer VOTE411 as a nonpartisan tool to make it easier for voters to participate in the democratic process. Winning first place is a testament to our commitment to ensuring that voting is accessible and equitable for all.”

Read all about it on the [National League Website!](#)

Newly Released LWV Book

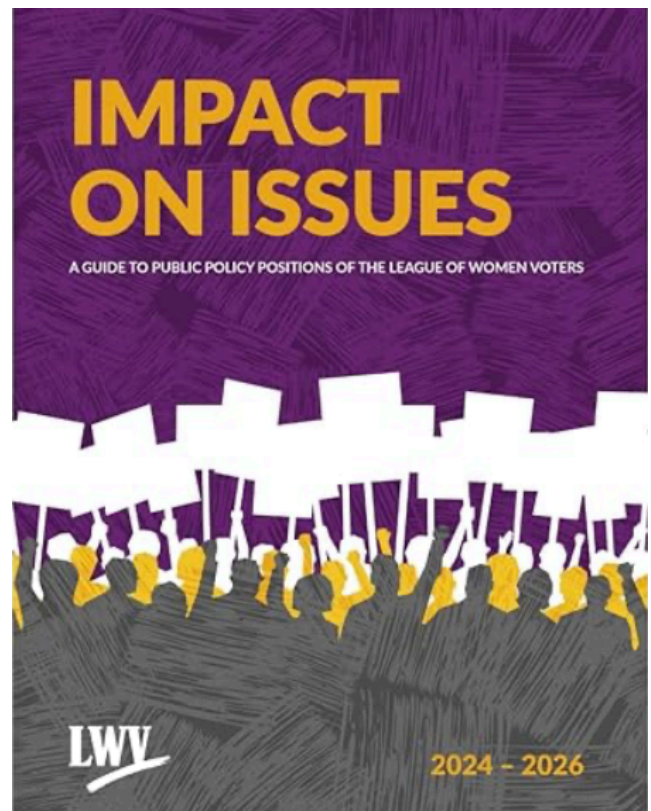
Impact on Issues 2024-2026: A Guide to Public Policy Decisions of the League of Women Voters, by the LWV of the United States.

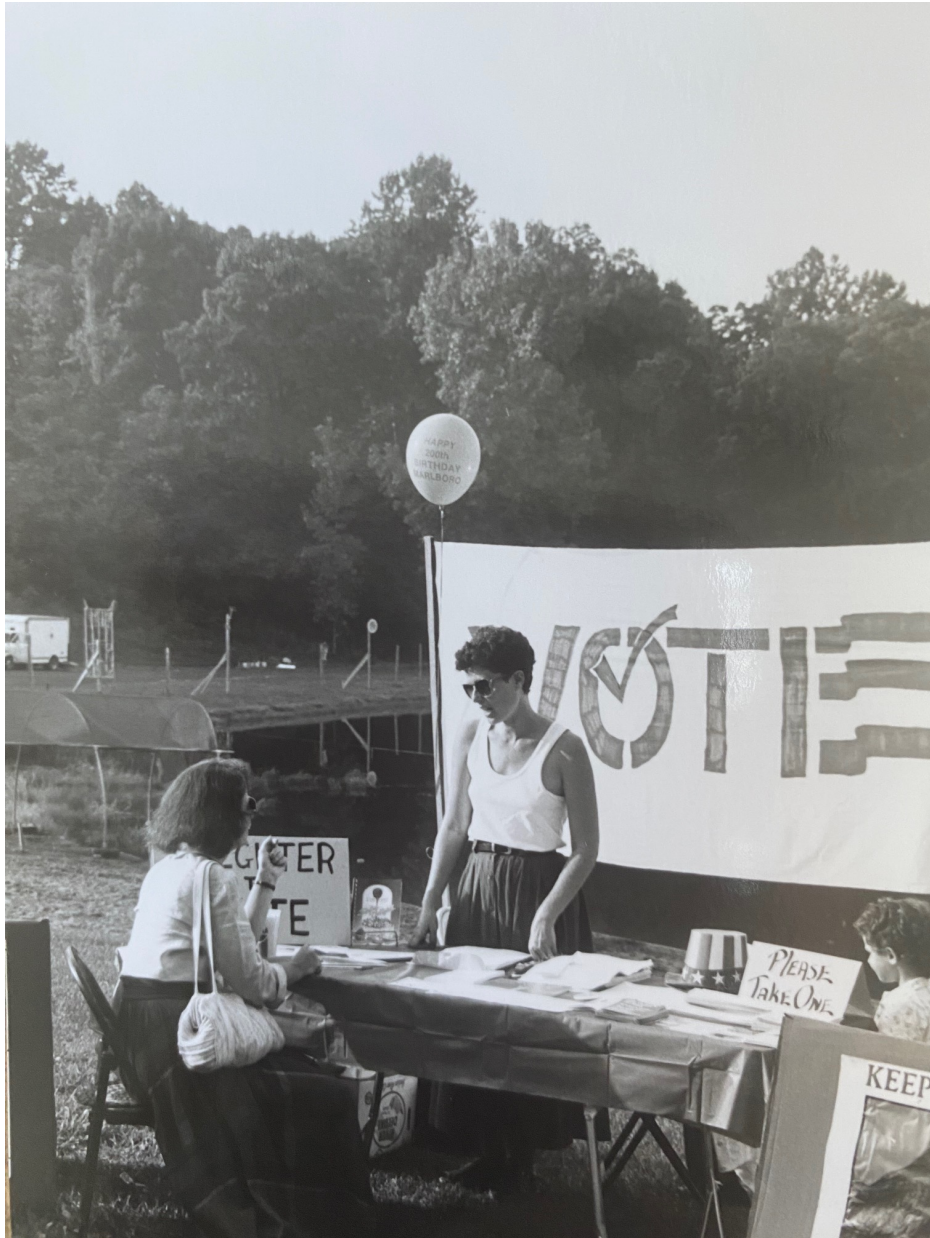
Throughout its history, the League has served dual purposes of education and advocacy, engaging in studies on representative government, international relations, natural resources, and social policy. This version of “**Impact on Issues**” covers the League's advocacy efforts beginning in the 1960s.

First each position, as approved by a League's national convention, is presented. Then historical information about the issue follows, putting the policy in context. Policies and explanations are put forth in a nonpartisan manner, as is the hallmark of the organization.

The book, available through Amazon in paperback, would make a fabulous sequential basis for a reading group. It also could serve as a definitive reference book as to where the League stands on various issues.

Check it out. It's worth more than the \$6.99 that Amazon is charging for it. A shame that it's not available in our local bookstores.





Dear friends,

I found this picture of myself, in an old newspaper, of when I first joined the League of Women Voters, over 35 years ago! I joined because I was a young mother concerned about solid waste issues and the environmental problems we would be handing off to our children.

Well now I am a grandmother with the same concerns and I am so thankful that I can still work for the betterment of our world by being a active member in our League! There is a new interest in Solid Waste - Reducing, Reusing and Recycling, as well as Composting. This is being examined in all of our Counties in the Mid-Hudson

Region.

Let's talk trash at our get-togethers and do what we can to make a difference!

Cindy Lanzetta

From the Editor - This is still a work in progress as we figure out our new program. Stick with us as we find ways to improve this monthly Newsletter. We welcome information or articles you think would add to our members & friends knowledge of educating voters and protecting our Democracy. Deadline for next Newsletter is January 20th. Thank you!



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