



The Voice

Editor: Patti Hamaguchi

April 2024

The newsletter of the League of Women Voters of Litchfield County Serving all of Litchfield County, CT

The LWVLC is a non-partisan, all-volunteer organization committed to promoting effective public policy and the informed participation of citizens in government. All are welcome to join.

Board Meetings are held the first Thursday of each month at 9 am at the Litchfield Community Center.
Next meeting is May 2nd! All members are welcome!

A Message from Pat Donovan, Our President



Greetings,

Easter has passed & hopefully Spring is on the way. A reminder to members that now is the time to purchase your tickets for the Annual Spring Luncheon at The Torrington Elks on April 27th where our guest speaker will be Dr. Mary Jane Minkin, Yale School of Medicine.

As our year draws to a close, I ask you to consider the work LWV does to educate voters both on candidates and issues as well as promoting increased voter participation. These are issues that are currently under attack both from nefarious sources and voter apathy.

You can help turn the tide – currently, according to The Secretary of State's office, CT has a voter turnout rate of approximately 33%. Disgraceful for one of the original 13 states. Perhaps you are not able to be a full-time volunteer but can you spare a few hours to work on a debate, organize a get out the vote campaign, work on one educational program. Your League welcomes your suggestions. Please contact myself, any board member or come to a meeting (1st Thursday of the month, 9 am, at the Litchfield Community Center).

We want to hear from you.

Thank you,
Pat Donovan
President

Here's What's Coming Up!

Time to sign up for our Annual Spring Luncheon

Dr. Mary Jane Minkin, a lively and sometimes irreverent speaker, has been at the forefront of women's health since joining the Yale OB-GYN's staff as its second female intern. She has appeared on podcasts and Youtube videos with her lively take on the state of women's healthcare and the journey women have taken towards having more control over their bodies. Did you know CT was the last state to legalize contraception for women? Join us for what will be an informative and fun presentation!

All RSVPs need to be received by Thursday, April 18th 5pm.

How do I RSVP and register for this event? Go to: <https://litchfieldlwv.org/upcoming>

Or use this QR code: (open the camera in your phone and it will bring you to the website)

If you prefer to download the registration form and mail it in with your check, the old-fashioned way, you can also opt to do that if you'd prefer not to pay online.



Questions? Call Denise at 860-294-9383



OF LITCHFIELD COUNTY, CT

Join us for our Annual Spring Luncheon!

"Women's Healthcare in Connecticut: The Journey Here and Where We Need to Go"

Dr. Mary Jane Minkin, MD, OB-GYN (Yale School of Medicine) will be our guest speaker.



**Saturday, April 27th
Noon--2pm**

**Delicious Buffet Luncheon at the Torrington Elks Club
\$50 per person/cash bar**

Our Annual June Meeting will be Monday, June 10th at 7pm at the Litchfield Community Center!

(A big thanks to the Litchfield CC for waiving our fee for this event!)



What will we do at the meeting?

1. Meet up with old friends and meet some new ones too!
2. Say farewell to our current board members who are stepping off: Pat Donovan, Bernie Harrington, Rosemarie Greco, Laura Stancs, and Patti Hamaguchi
3. Eat! (Free appetizers and desserts, yum!)
4. Celebrate the Scholarship Recipients as they receive their awards
5. Vote on our new proposed slate of officers for the upcoming 2-year cycle! (Nominations from the floor always permitted as well)

Here is our Proposed Slate of Officers for 2024-2026!



Denise Butwill: For President



Margaret Goodhouse: For VP



Erin Strouse: For Secretary



Christine Horrigan: For Treasurer

The League in Action!

We had a table at the “Rise Up Sisters!” Exhibit as part of the Northwestern Community College’s Women’s Month of March



EARLY VOTING IN CONNECTICUT IS ARRIVING!

We fought hard for early voting, so we hope you'll consider using it this year for the elections!

When do we vote next? August 5-12th CT State Primaries for Democrats & Republican Voters Only

▲ August 2024

13 AUG	Tuesday, August 13, 2024	PRIMARY
Early Voting Deadlines:		
In Person Only: August 5, 7, 9, 10, 11 (Regular Hours)		
10 am – 6 pm		
August 6 and Aug 8 (Extended Hours)		
8 am – 8 pm		
Call your Town Clerk for Early Voting Locations		
Registration Deadlines:		
BY MAIL	IN PERSON	ONLINE Get Registered!
Wednesday, August 7, 2024	Monday, August 12, 2024	Wednesday, August 7, 2024

Vote this Year!

(Graphic courtesy of vote411.org)

We Had a Record Turnout (67!) for Our Legislative Breakfast on February 24th!



A big thank you to Sen. Steve Harding, Rep. Karen Reddington-Hughes, Rep. Cindy Harrison, Rep. Jay Case, Rep. Maria Horn, and Rep. John Piscopo.



Thanks also to Christine Horigan, our master of ceremonies!
And Diane Ryan, Judi Armstrong, Laura Stancs, Pat Donovan for putting together such a wonderful feast! And thanks to Jo-Ann Iannotti for taking so many awesome photos!





Our 2024 Scholarship Program is taking applications until May 1st!
A big thank you to Erin Strouse for organizing all this!

2024 Scholarship Guidelines and Application Process

The League of Women Voters of Litchfield County is a non-partisan organization that provides voter information and encourages citizen participation in government. Membership is open to any person at least 16 years old who subscribes to the purposes and policies of the organization. Student memberships are free.

The league is sponsoring two \$1000 scholarships, with the purpose of encouraging the active participation of youth in the American political process, and in service to their community, both now and in the future.

Award: \$1000 to be used towards the cost of a post secondary education program or career training.

Eligibility: Any senior student, enrolled in a Litchfield County public high school, who has been accepted into a post secondary education or training program

Application Package: The League of Women Voters of Litchfield County Scholarship award applicant package must include the following:

2024 scholarship application:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSejxcm78s8_UfTqoYXMriL6_do2CF8EXJljTVl9Mykr6LzUQQ/viewform

- Proof of acceptance into a post-secondary education or training program
- A written essay (no more than 500 words) making a persuasive appeal to your peers on the importance of voting.
- Evidence of volunteering within the community and/or school, as well as any leadership positions held.
- A Letter of recommendation from a teacher. Letter should be sent directly from the teacher to LWVLCScholarship@gmail.com

The 2024 application deadline is May 1st, 2024

All applications will be reviewed and winners chosen by a committee composed of members of the League of Women Voters of Litchfield County.

Want to Make Some Extra Cash and Help Democracy at the Same Time?

Consider being a paid poll worker!

HELP STAFF YOUR LOCAL POLLING PLACE

Our democracy depends on ordinary people who make sure every election runs smoothly and everyone's vote is counted — people like you.

When you sign up with Power the Polls, we'll share everything you need to apply to be a poll worker in your community.

You can make sure we have safe, fair, efficient elections for all voters. Step up and become a poll worker for the next election today!

POLL WORKERS GET:
 TRAINING **PAID***

*Varies by location

Help your community and sign up to Power the Polls!

<https://www.powerthepolls.org/LWV>

Would you be willing to be an AP Reporter the day of the elections? You can also do that!

Contact:

Morgen Peck
Coordinator – CT, NJ, NV & NY

200 Liberty Street, 19th Floor
New York, NY 10281

Mpeck_contractor@ap.org

T: (339)987-1297

Annual Dues Are Due by July 1st
Dues are \$55. Anyone who has not renewed by
January 30th has been dropped from our
membership list BUT....

**If you reinstate or join now, we will extend your membership to
June 30th 2025! WHAT A DEAL!**

To do this, go on our website and pay online or
download the form and mail it in with your check.

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Wanna be “in the know?” Follow us on Facebook! All events and local
issues our members may want to know about related to our mission are posted there.

<https://www.facebook.com/LitchfieldLWV>



A Goodbye of Sorts...

A note from me-- your Secretary, who also happens to be the editor of this newsletter (and website creator):
Just want to say how much I have enjoyed these past 2 years being on the Board! I have a lot on my plate
professionally and personally and therefore will need to be a “supporting player” for the next few years
rather than being on the board. That said, I hope to get to League events and continue my membership! We
have such a terrific group and I know the new board will continue to keep the League on point. Thanks
again to Erin Strouse for taking over the Secretary position!

Warmest Regards,
Patti Hamaguchi