



# The Voice

Editor: Patti Hamaguchi

December 2022

## 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 genders are welcome to join.

**Board Meetings are held the first Monday of each month at 8:45 am (new time!) at the Litchfield Community Center.**  
*All members are welcome!*

### *President's Message*

By Marianne Seeber, LWVLC President

Hello and I am so glad you opened this newsletter! I hope you enjoy the new layout and its content and that it serves you as a way to feel connected and engaged in our League chapter.

As my first 6 months of serving as president winds down, the re-launching of this newsletter is well-timed. I am excited and grateful for the Board's accomplishments so far, as well as what to look forward to in 2023:

We had a busy fall hosting area debates and co-sponsoring the 5th Congressional debate between Jahana Hayes and George Logan with CT Public. Thanks go out to the more than 2 dozen people who volunteered their time, assisting with these important events. A special thanks to Kerry Mayers, VP of Voter Services and her team, for working tirelessly to bring as many debates as possible to the surrounding communities. Also, a big kudos to Bibby Veerman, who helped organize our volunteer efforts with the Associated Press (we collect data once the polls close on Primary Night and Election Night) and as a result, our treasury will receive \$1910.00. I offer a WOOHOO and thank you to all of the members who volunteered their time.

- The members' survey results are in and you can get a synopsis elsewhere in this newsletter.
- In mid-November, the board participated in a day-long retreat, at the 5 Points Arts Center in Torrington, to refocus our efforts and set goals for the upcoming months.
- Next week, we will be launching our new website! Keep an eye out for a special announcement in your email. We will be posting more opportunities to get involved as we move towards upcoming events.
- Starting in January, we will be offering our yearly series of lectures in partnership with the Litchfield Historical Society. Once again, these programs will be presented on Zoom.
- Finally, as the pandemic *seems* to be winding down (fingers crossed), we are planning more in-person educational and social events.

Please reach out to learn more about these events and get involved. Check the website regularly for updates. With the election over, and the Early Voting referendum having passed, we are looking to find creative ways to be more engaged with our members and one another.

You are welcome to attend the monthly board meetings on the 1st Monday of each month at 8:45 AM (new time), Litchfield Community Center. Please join us!

Marianne Seeber, President  
LWVLC



*Meet Marianne Seeber, President of the League of Women Voters of Litchfield County!*

**Q. Can you tell us a little bit about yourself?**

A. Born in Bucks County, PA, I've moved to CT 3 times over the years. After a 2 year stint in The Netherlands, my husband and I lived in Brookfield for 22 years while we raised our two children. This is where I first joined the League. After retiring from my private counseling practice, I moved to Roxbury in 2017.

**Q. What got you interested in joining the LWV?**

A. When I moved back from Holland in 2000, my friend Laura Smits encouraged me to join my local League in Brookfield. Fast forward to 2022, we are still friends; she's president of the state League and I'm excited about my tenure as president here in Litchfield County. I've had an "activist mindset" for a long time and I love meeting other people interested in activism and learning about political issues.

**Q. What do you hope to accomplish during your tenure as president?**

A. I believe community involvement can be the antidote to despair. I see the League as a platform to create community, which is so important during these divisive times across our nation. We are reissuing our newsletter after a long hiatus, with this current edition. We've updated our website and hope to engage our membership at a greater level because of these means to connect. We promise to communicate frequently, giving our members opportunity to volunteer, connect socially and remain current with issues that are facing our county, state and nation.

---

*A Little League of Women Voters' Trivia For You!*

(Answers are on the bottom of page 10)

1. What year was the League of Women Voters formed?  
A. 1875      B. 1920      C. 1969      D. 1907
2. What year was the Litchfield (town) League formed?  
A. 1969      B. 1890      C. 1955      D. 1921
3. What year did the Litchfield (town) League expand to include the entire Litchfield County area?  
A. 2001      B. 1925      C. 1962      D. 1995

## What's Coming Up? MARK IT ON YOUR CALENDAR!



**December 11, 2022, at Crystal Peak for a Holiday Craft Fair** (Put on by the Torrington Women's Club) 10:45am -3:45pm  
Address is 164 Torrington Road, (Old Route 8) Winchester, CT

Stop by our table and say hello! We will be distributing information about the League of Women Voters and conducting a raffle for several free manicures!

## FREE Zoom Presentations in Coordination with the Litchfield Historical Society



In the past, we have been honored to co-host a number of historical presentations, in-person and via Zoom. This upcoming year (2023), we have several dates already planned. Mark them on your calendar. More details will be posted on our website and FB page.



**Join us on Sunday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> at 3pm** (30 minute free presentation plus questions afterwards)

**Topic: Affordable Housing: How a Town's Affordability Can Add Additional Housing**

Presenter: Jill Musselman, Executive Director, Litchfield Housing Trust, Inc.  
For more information on registration, check our website in January for the link!

- Sunday, February 26th at 3pm **Topic: MisInformation and Disinformation and the Media.** Presented by Bruce Putterman, Publisher CT Mirror and Marie Shanahan, UCONN Chair of Journalism.

- Sunday, March 19th at 3pm **Topic: Connecticut Against Gun Violence** with Jeremy Stein, Executive Director of CAGV (Pending)



*(Photo from a previous year's Legislative Breakfast)*

**Join Us for Our FREE Annual LWVLC Legislative Breakfast on Saturday, February 11<sup>th</sup> 9:30am-noon**

**Where?** Roxbury Town Hall (29 North St, Roxbury, CT)

Meet your CT State legislators! All nine legislators representing Litchfield County will be invited. Join us for some coffee, breakfast, and a moderated Q & A with our group. (Picture from previous breakfast) In the event of inclement weather, we will transfer to a Zoom format.



*Volunteers Needed!  
Can you help?*

We know you are all very busy! Please know that volunteering is not expected as part of your membership, but very much appreciated if you are able to do so. It's a great way to contribute to our mission as well as meet some new friends! To find out more about volunteering, please email us at: [lwvoflc@gmail.com](mailto:lwvoflc@gmail.com)

Here are our upcoming volunteer needs:

- **Get involved with Advocacy:** Rosemarie Greco, our chair would love to have you join her on the Advocacy Action Team to work on these issues. In 2022, we worked to protect and expand voting rights and access by ensuring passage of the Early Voting referendum, and informing the public and legislature in the face of mis/disinformation. *(It passed!)* and more.
- **Voter Registration:** Help assist us with voter registration events throughout Litchfield County including hosting tables at college and local events, and more!
- **Membership & Socials:** Help us spread the word about the good work that the League does for the community and its members, host and assist with small local home-based socials for member meetings, presentations at public places (libraries, community centers) and more.

- **Presenters & Speakers:** Our members love to learn! We're always looking for informal, as well as formal presentations on timely social, historical, and government-related issues to increase our knowledge.



**Meet a new LWV Member, Lucy Dobson!**

**Q: What inspired you to join the LWV?**

**A.** I belonged to a League chapter while living out in Ashland, Oregon for 20 years. After moving back here a year ago, I decided to join the local League here and find out more about local candidates and issues.

**Q: Can you tell us a little bit about yourself?**

**A.** I grew up in St. Paul, MN and married a guy from Darien. I lived in Washington, CT for 30 years, before moving to Oregon. I'm now enjoying living in Litchfield, near my children and 8 year-old grandson.

**Q. What would you like to see the LWV do in 2023?**

**A.** I would love to have speakers present on different topics, about 3-4 times a year on non-partisan issues. I love being around people, so any social activities are most welcome.

## November's Survey Results

A huge thank you to all of our members who were kind enough to fill out the online survey we sent out via email. We had 42 out of 80 responses. Here's what we found out:

### **Top 2 reasons you join?**

- Interest in supporting local voting drives/increase voter participation and education (52%)
- Desire to connect with other smart and like-minded individuals. (40%)

### **What areas would you like to see our local chapter prioritize?**

- Host more informational events related to political and historical issues, democracy and speakers related to national LWV goals, such as eliminating the Electoral College. (71%)  
Advocate for issues related to voting such as easier access to mail-in ballots and early voting (43%)
- Increase membership, including more diversity (age, ethnic, gender, etc). (40%)

### **Would you be interested in holding member meetings/socials? YES!**

Preferred times? 5:30pm (40%) and the majority preferred at someone's home

**Would you like to receive a newsletter? Resounding YES! (You asked and you shall receive!)**

**Your Board hard at work brainstorming and planning for 2023!**

### **YOUR BOARD AT WORK**

We held an all-day brown bag 2023 planning session on November 15, 2022



### Summary of the meeting:

- We would like to expand Membership, Communication and Advocacy Directors by having committees help the Directors pursue their goals for 2023.
- Input from members via the survey indicates a strong preference for educational presentations, more opportunities to socialize with other members (5:30 pm most preferred time) and so the Board discussed ways we can achieve some of these goals in 2023. Between this meeting and the next Board meeting, we will do some investigations to get a more firmed up plan. Members were enthusiastic about reinstating a newsletter, with Patti Hamaguchi offering to take this on.
- The Board would like to have a new website, with the Communications Director being elevated to a board position, and acting as the conduit between the Board and President so that social media and the website are updated quickly. Patti Hamaguchi offered to set it up, with Candy Perez doing updates as part of the Communications role, over time. Discussion about a central online storage method for board-level documents so that everyone has ongoing access, with less reliance on binders and hard-copy documents. Candy will look into.
- Board discussed the need to have a succession plan for the President position, in particular so that a President-Elect can shadow the president for at least a year before taking office. Other key board positions should also look at a succession plan and mentor potential replacements.
- There was discussion regarding the need for a Board Manual, which would outline the specific roles of each board position, and the processes and procedures for things such as the protocol for making decisions. Laura Stancs graciously offered to work on this project.

**CHECK OUT THE HIGHLIGHTS OF 2022!**

Have you seen our website lately? It's updated with a whole new look and updated content. Check it out: <https://litchfieldlwv.org>



[HOME](#) [ABOUT US](#) [NEWSLETTERS](#) [EVENTS](#) [PAY DUES OR JOIN](#) [DONATE](#) [MORE](#)

A collage of four images: top-left shows a woman in a dark dress holding a sign that says "VOTES FOR WOMEN"; top-right shows a group of people sitting on a red couch with "VOTE" signs; bottom-left shows a group of women in white dresses marching; bottom-right shows blue signs that say "VOTE ON TUESDAY" and "VOTE TODAY".

The League of Women Voters of Litchfield County

All genders welcome!

[JOIN NOW](#)

BECAUSE DEMOCRACY IS NOT A SPECTATOR SPORT

After much advocacy work, we are excited that the voters of Connecticut agreed with us that Early Voting/Absentee Ballots should be an option for voters in the Constitution State!







The League of Women Voters of Litchfield County volunteered for the Home Runs 4 Hunger Event on September 7th. Both Gubernatorial candidates fielded a team for a friendly softball game in Torrington. Proceeds were donated to the Friendly Hands Food Bank in Torrington.

**Our Annual Summer Meeting at Bibby Veerman’s Beautiful Home & the Installation of our New Board. 6/29/2022**



**The 2022-2023 Board:**  
**President:** Marianne Seeber  
**VP Voter Services:** Kerry Mayers  
**VP Programs:** Marie Pettibone  
**Treasurer:** Theresa Lavoie  
**Secretary:** Patti Hamaguchi  
**Membership:** Jackie Miller & Bibby Veerman  
**Advocacy:** Rosemarie Greco  
**Voter Services:** Kerry Mayers and Laura Stancs  
**Communications:** Candy Perez  
**Hospitality & Corresponding Secretary:** Diane Ryan  
**At Large:** Pat Donovan and Margaret Goodhouse

From left to right: Patti Hamaguchi, Kerry Mayers, Diane Ryan, Rosemarie Greco, Marie Pettibone, Bibby Veerman, Marianne Seeber, Candy Perez, and Jackie Miller.

# The League at Work Helping Our Members and the Community Learn and Become Educated on Timely Topics in 2022!

**LWV** THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LITCHFIELD COUNTY

INVITES YOU TO OUR  
**INTERNATIONAL LUNCHEON**

**RUSSIA: THE INEVITABILITY OF NOW**  
WITH DR. JAMES HATT  
ENGLISH BARRISTER, DIPLOMAT,  
EXPERT ON RUSSIAN AFFAIRS

**SATURDAY, MAY 14, 2022  
12 NOON**

TORRINGTON COUNTRY CLUB  
250 TORRINGTON ROAD, GOSHEN, CT 06756

LWV INTERNATIONAL LUNCHEON • MAY 14, 2022 • 141

PLEASE PRINT NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER OF MEMBERS WISHING TO ATTEND \_\_\_\_\_ CHECKED HERE \_\_\_\_\_ CHECKED HERE \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE PRINT NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_


NUMBER OF MEMBERS WISHING TO SUPPORT THE WORK OF THE LEAGUE \_\_\_\_\_

ENCLOSURE IS MY CHECK FOR \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Head Office: 1000 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20036  
www.lwvusa.org | 202-462-6000 | 1-800-458-7862

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LITCHFIELD COUNTY**  
P.O. Box 899, Litchfield, CT 06759  
litchfield@lwv.org • litchfield@litchfieldhistoricalsociety.org

Ranked  
 Choice  
 Voting



with  
**Jonathan Perloe**

**Sunday, April 10<sup>th</sup>  
at 3 p.m.**  
presented via **zoom**

Register Online at  
[litchfieldhistoricalsociety.org/calendar](http://litchfieldhistoricalsociety.org/calendar)

**LITCHFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
MUSEUM | INGRAM LIBRARY  
TAPPING REEVE HOUSE | LITCHFIELD LAW SCHOOL

**LWV**

## 'All Honor to the Ladies': Litchfield County Women and the Civil War

### Lecture with Peter Vermilyea


The League of Women Voters of Litchfield County and the Litchfield Historical Society are thrilled to welcome teacher, historian, and author, **Peter Vermilyea** for a virtual lecture on the work of women during the Civil War. The Lecture will be held over Zoom

**'All Honor to the Ladies'**  
Litchfield County Women and the Civil War

Lecture with Peter Vermilyea

Sunday, January 23, 2022  
3:00 pm  
Zoom


To register,  
email [registration@litchfieldhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:registration@litchfieldhistoricalsociety.org)



**LWV** | **LITCHFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**Public Education**  
The New Battlefield for Educating  
Democratic Citizens in Controversial Times

**Sunday, February 20<sup>th</sup>  
at 3 p.m.**  
presented via **zoom**



with  
**Dr. Richard H. Hersh**

**LITCHFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
MUSEUM | INGRAM LIBRARY  
TAPPING REEVE HOUSE | LITCHFIELD LAW SCHOOL

**LWV**



## Human Trafficking

A Victim Service Provider Perspective  
with **Alicia Kinsman**

**Sunday, April 18<sup>th</sup>  
at 4 p.m.**  
presented via **zoom**

Registration Required  
Zoom Space is Limited  
Email [registration@litchfieldhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:registration@litchfieldhistoricalsociety.org)

**LITCHFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
MUSEUM | INGRAM LIBRARY  
TAPPING REEVE HOUSE | LITCHFIELD LAW SCHOOL



***Did you know?***

**Fun Facts About Your CT State Government and How Primaries Work**

**In Connecticut, you must belong to a specific political party if you want to vote in their primary.** So if you are registered as a Republican, you vote in their primary. If you are registered as a Democrat, you vote in the Democrat party primaries. If you register as “Independent” that is an actual political party and you can vote in their primary, if they have one. “Unaffiliated” is someone who has NO affiliation with any political party. They cannot vote in primaries.

**[The League is Online Too! Check Out These sites!](#)**

LWVLC Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/litchfieldlwv](http://www.facebook.com/litchfieldlwv)

League of Women Voters Connecticut’s website: [www.lwvct.org](http://www.lwvct.org)

Contact us at: [lwvoflc@gmail.com](mailto:lwvoflc@gmail.com)

**The League of Women Voters’ Trivia Answers from page 2:**

1. B. 1920
2. A. 1969
3. D. 1995