



The Voice

Editor: Patti Hamaguchi

February 2023

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 at the Litchfield Community Center.
All members are welcome!



**Bill Curry,
Guest Speaker**

Bill Curry served as Connecticut state senator and comptroller, former nominee for governor, and counselor to the president in the Clinton White House. His political commentary has appeared in the Hartford Courant, Salon, The Huffington Post, the Daily Beast, NPR, Connecticut Public Media and MSNBC.

**JOIN US ON SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 2023
FOR OUR ANNUAL SPRING LUNCHEON**

Noon-3pm

At Crystal Peak in Winchester, CT

**"Hidden Consensus: Bipartisan
Solutions to Partisan Gridlock"**

All are welcome!
\$50 pp



Download the registration form for this event from our website, indicate your menu choice, and send a check

Questions: lwvoflc@gmail.com



Mark it on your calendar!
Our Annual Membership Meeting is
Wednesday, June 14th

Meet Laura Smits, LWV CT's President
(location TBD)



MIS/DISINFORMATION IN THE MEDIA: EDUCATING READERS ON RECOGNIZING IT AND AVOIDING IT

Sunday, February 26th 3pm



FREE ZOOM Presentation in partnership with the Litchfield Historical Society

★ Presenters include:



Bruce Putterman,
CEO/Publisher, CT Mirror



Amanda Crawford,
Author/Professor at
UConn



Maria Shanahan,
Journalism Dept.
Chair, UConn

Webinar Registration Link:

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_TNg9Y2QqTGGvbppaajxdyQ

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>



WERE YOU THERE? If not, you missed a very special event!

A big thank you to Reps. Maria Horn, Michelle Cook, Karen Reddington-Hughes, Bill Buckbee, and Cindy Harrison, and our moderator, Christine Horrigan, who did a fantastic job! ❤️

Our 2023 Legislative Breakfast was a HIT!



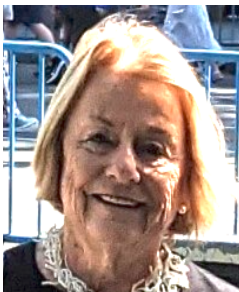


Topics discussed included:

- Those frustratingly high Eversource bills—why this is happening and how the legislature is working to find additional supply sources
- Bears!! The overpopulation problem and how “doing nothing” is not a viable solution to the problem.
- Gun violence: What is working, and what else can be done?
- Lowering taxes: How about lowering those property taxes we pay on cars?

The audience was attentive, engaged and very much enjoyed the candid responses we received from all five legislative attendees to our questions. One key point that was echoed by all our legislators is that bipartisan collaboration is alive and well in the CT legislature. All ideas are welcomed, and committees examine issues without consideration to a party’s position or leaning nearly all the time. There were lots of laughs, great food, and we all met some new friends. Join us next year! A huge thank you to Diane Ryan, Kerry Mayers, Judi Armstrong, and Laura Stancs for putting together all of this together, as well as Holly Stark (thanks for the nametags!) Ken Allen, and Patrick Roy (First Selectman of Roxbury) for all the assistance with setting up and clean-up/reassembling the hall space.

A Special Thank You  To Our Long-Time Member, Jackie Miller!



Jackie Miller, a long-time Board Member and LWV member, recently stepped down as Co-Chair of Membership. We just want to say a huge thank you to Jackie for all of her years of service on the board! Her efforts, time, commitment, and dedication to our chapter is much appreciated. We look forward to seeing Jackie at future events, even though she’s no longer on the board!



A Message from Marianne Seeber, Our President

Hello! As we prepare to welcome Spring in a few short weeks, I'd like to offer you all an update of our board activities. A year ago, our Board of Directors took a Board Assessment Survey, with the consensus that we have been offering a great service to the surrounding community. We've continued to host the lecture series with LHS, held debates for various races, hosted both our Annual Luncheon and Meeting last year and have remained relevant during the pandemic, as best we could. I call on all of us to be extraordinarily proud of our group efforts, as we have accomplished a great deal in a few short months!

We further assessed, however, that there has been a shortage of committee work, often leaving solo board members with a too heavy of a lift. Since September, we have created a number of new committees and this is where you, our members, can get involved. We are seeking members to join one of our various committees to perform short-term duties from time to time. More information on this can be found on pages 9 and 10 of this newsletter.

Shortly, our Nomination Committee will begin its work to seek nominations for various board positions. As we move forward into the nominating process, I ask that we all assist the Nomination Committee with as much support and input as possible. If you are so inclined, please reach out to Judi Armstrong, our Nominating chair, through our email at lwvoflc@gmail.com and put Nominations in the subject line. We welcome your inquiry!

Remember to register for the upcoming Zoom lecture, in partnership with Litchfield Historical Society, which will be held on Sunday, February 26 on *Mis/Disinformation and the Media*. We are also accepting reservations for our Annual Luncheon at Crystal Peak on April 22. Bill Curry, former Special Counselor in the Clinton administration, will be speaking on *Hidden Consensus*.

Finally the following acknowledgments will also enlighten to you to additional work we have achieved. **Special thanks go to:**

Laura Stancs for her role in gathering and compiling various job descriptions from board members.

Margaret Goodhouse for stepping up early to begin her role as co-chair of membership, *Bibby Veerman*, who despite expressing desire to retire from the board, stayed on, embraced the co-chair role for membership and organized her army of volunteers for the AP fundraiser, bringing us much needed revenue.

Patti Hamaguchi for resurrecting our newsletter and single-handedly creating an impressive and user-friendly website

Kerry Mayers for her tenacity with Voter Services duties, whether it's setting up debates or pursuing lawmakers to show up to our events.

Marie Pettibone for her tenacity as well as seeking many prospective organizations and speakers for our programs

Candy Perez for stepping into the brand-new realm in creating the communications committee for our chapter, assisting all of us to "up our game" in working smarter not harder.

Diane Ryan, in the face of her personal health issues and then of her husband's long hospitalization, continuing to serve us with grace, kindness and fine hospitality.

Theresa Lavoie for her steadiness with managing our finances and tracking our new members.

Rosemarie Greco and Pat Donovan for keeping us well-informed on our Advocacy on various issues, ALWAYS offering a hand wherever needed.

A special thanks to YOU, our members, for your valued feedback, continued support as we pursue our mission of protecting voting rights, civic engagement and continued education on our democracy.

*Happy Spring,
Marianne Seeber
President, LWVLC*

What is our Geographic Territory as the League of Women Voters of Litchfield County?



Did you know that Litchfield County has 26 towns in it?

Our LWV chapter includes all of them. If you have any friends in any of these towns, please do invite them to one of our events so they can see what we're all about!

Bantam, Barkhamsted, Bethlehem, Bridgewater, Canaan, Colebrook, Cornwall, North Canaan, Goshen, Harwinton, Kent, Litchfield, Morris, New Hartford, New Milford, Norfolk, Plymouth, Roxbury, Salisbury, Sharon, Thomaston, Torrington, Washington, Watertown, Winchester, Winsted, Woodbury

A Moderator: What Every Debate Needs! And You Can Be One!



Save the date: Moderator Training May 5, 10 to 12 at Bibby Veerman's home: 415 South Street Litchfield

We need to have more trained moderators for local debates. Sometimes moderators from other towns help us out and we in turn need to offer this service to our neighbors. The LWV Connecticut trainer will be Jean Rabinow. She has vast experience with debates and has assisted local leagues for years in many ways.

This training is open to non-League members as well. If you have friend or family member who you think would make a great moderator please invite them.

Respond to Kerry Mayers (860) 626-9098 kerwinkmayers@gmail.com

Meet a new member, Margaret Goodhouse, who is already Membership Co-Chair



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

A. I was born and raised in Wyoming on a ranch. I went to Georgetown University and eventually became the editor of the *Policy Review* magazine for 10 years. I went to law school at 41 and worked in business development in Washington DC before living in the Mid-East (Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Cairo) for 10 years. My husband and I moved back to Litchfield, his hometown, 5 years ago. I'm also the President of the Litchfield Women's Forum and am mostly retired now.

Q. What got you interested in joining the LWV?

A. I feel the League does important work and advocates for issues that align with my own values. At the same time, a big motivation for me was to find a community of like-minded people and meet some new friends.

The 2022-2023 Board:

President: Marianne Seeber
VP Voter Services: Kerry Mayers
VP Programs: Marie Pettibone
Treasurer: Theresa LaVoie
Secretary: Patti Hamaguchi

Membership: Bibby Veerman & Margaret Goodhouse

Advocacy: Rosemarie Greco

Voter Services: Kerry Mayers and Laura Stancs

Communications: Candy Perez

Hospitality & Corresponding Secretary: Diane Ryan

Archivist: Lindsay Feinberg

At Large: Pat Donovan



A Little League of Women Voters' Trivia For You! *How Well Do You Know Your LWVLC Board?*

(Answers are on the bottom of page 11)

1. One of our board members is a Selectman. Who is she, and in what town is she a Selectman?
2. One of our board members is on the Board of Finance in the Town of Litchfield and is also a long-time member of the Sherlock Holmes Society. Who is she?
3. One of our board members is an accomplished artist, whose work has been featured in private galleries and shows in the US, as well as England and France. Who is she?
4. One of our board members dabbles in writing plays, with the premier of her Susan B. Anthony bio ("Rebel in a Red Shawl") debuting in Rochester NY in 2024. Who is she?
5. One of our board members is a sister in the international congregation of nuns, the Daughters of Wisdom. Her passion is justice and the promotion of informed participation of citizens in government. Who is she?

 **The State of Gun Violence in CT and Legislative Solutions**

Sunday, March 19th 3pm 

FREE ZOOM Presentation in partnership with the Litchfield Historical Society

Presenter:



Jeremy Stein,
Executive Director,
CT Against Gun
Violence



Webinar Registration Link to be posted on our website soon!
<https://litchfieldlwv.org>



Board Positions & Committees
Can you help?



Nominations Needed By May 1st for the following positions:

- 1. President 2023-2024**
- 2. Vice President: 2023-2024**
- 3. Special Events Chair**
- 4. Membership Co-Chair**
- 5. Programs Chair**
- 6. Nominations Chair**

Please contact Judi Armstrong, our current Nominations Chair for more information about the roles of these board members or to be considered for one of these positions:
lwvoflc@gmail.com

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

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 as part of the Advocacy Committee. 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 Services:** Help assist us with voter registration events throughout Litchfield County including hosting tables at college and local events, moderating debates and assisting with debates during the fall elections, 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.

The New LWV LC BOOK AWARD



At our February Board meeting, Margaret Hunt kindly joined us to share the success that other organizations have had in awarding a civic-related book to a high school student in lieu of the small cash scholarship we have given in previous years to a small number of students. By awarding a book, we can acknowledge a greater number of students and high schools, and increase the visibility of our organization. We are forming a work group to iron out the details of this new program so we can get it off the ground in April.

Do you live in Woodbury, Watertown, Bethlehem, Thomaston or Plymouth? Know anyone who does who might be interested in joining the LWVC? Please come on Wednesday, May 10th for a meeting/social at Patti Hamaguchi's house in Watertown!

Private Spring Social
For Woodbury, Watertown, Bethlehem,
Thomaston & Plymouth
LWV Members & Interested Prospective
Members!
* Limited to 25 guests





OF LITCHFIELD COUNTY, CT

Wednesday, May 10, 2023
5:30-7:30pm
at a private Watertown home

Complimentary appetizers & desserts!



Featuring a brief informational presentation on Susan B. Anthony by our host, who has done extensive research on her.

* Meet other members!
* Learn about the League of Women Voters of Litchfield County

email Patti at:
pattimcham@gmail.com
to RSVP

The League of Women Voters' Trivia Answers from page 8:

1. Candy Perez. She is a Selectman in Winstead, CT and our Communications Chair.
2. Pat Donovan, our At-Large Board Member.
3. Kerry Mayers, our VP.
4. Patti Hamaguchi, our Secretary.
5. Rosemarie Greco, our Director of Advocacy.

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

LWVLC Facebook page: www.facebook.com/litchfieldlwv
League of Women Voters Connecticut's website: www.lwvct.org

For up to date info, check our website!



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A collage of four images: top-left shows a historical black and white photo of a woman in a suffragette outfit holding a sign; top-right shows a modern group of people sitting together; bottom-left shows a historical black and white photo of a woman in a suffragette outfit; bottom-right shows a modern photo of a woman holding a sign that says "VOTE ON TUESDAY".

The League of Women Voters of Litchfield County

All genders welcome!

[JOIN NOW](#)

BECAUSE DEMOCRACY IS NOT A SPECTATOR SPORT

Contact us at: lwvoflc@gmail.com