



The Voice

Editor: Patti Hamaguchi

January 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 February 1st! *All members are welcome!*

Board News: Bernie Harrington is now our Acting Treasurer and is assisting with Membership. Pat Donovan will continue as President until our June elections.

A Message from Pat Donovan, Our President



Happy New Year!

As we head into this busy year, I would like to assure you that your league is busy planning fun and informative activities. We hope many of you will be able to join us.

Coming up first is the Legislative Breakfast, February 24th (details in this newsletter). Also in this newsletter are the details of our annual luncheon. Plans are also in the works for bringing back the very popular "Big Issues in Small Towns", a Spring scavenger hunt and a Fall discussion of immigration. In addition, this is an election year and although our ability to host debates has been more than challenging, efforts to "Get Out the Vote" will increase. In order to bring all our plans to conclusion we will need the cooperation of all our members. If you are able to work on a project or have a program suggestion, please contact me at litchfieldleaguewomensvoters@gmail.com.

Thanking you in advance for your continued support,
Warm Regards,
Pat Donovan



Please join us! It's FREE!
2024 LWVLC LEGISLATORS' BREAKFAST SATURDAY,
FEBRUARY 24, 9am-noon

A cordial, friendly and non-partisan conversation with our local legislators,
who work together on our behalf on many important issues
(The Q & A Format Moderated by Christine Horrigan)

Confirmations include: (waiting on a few others)



Rep. Maria Horn

District 64



Rep. John Piscopo

District 76



Rep. Karen Reddington-
Hughes

District 66



Rep. Michelle
Cook

District 65



Sen. Stephen Harding

District 30

When? Saturday, February 24, 9:30am to noon

Where? Camp Cochipianee in Goshen

MEMBERS HARD AT WORK! A huge thank you to Diane Ryan, Judy Armstrong and Laura Stancs, who will set up the day before. Margaret Goodhouse will greet everyone who enters at the membership table. Patti Hamaguchi is making name tags, flyers, and handling social media. Denise Butwill is doing press releases.

What can YOU do to make this event a success?

- Come!
- Invite a friend.
- Be informed. Read the legislators' newsletters and websites.
- Offer to be a legislator greeter. To do this, you will engage an assigned legislator in non-political conversation during breakfast, be informed on the issues and committees that are important to them, pass any pressing questions on to Christine (our moderator), or be ready to ask a question from the floor.
- Sign up for hospitality. We'll need a few egg dishes, a tray of bacon, muffins or bagels (We already have fruit and French toast!)

Contact Denise if you would like to be a greeter or assist with hospitality!

How? Email her at dbutwill@gmail.com

Consider joining the Board! We have some open positions

The Current 2023-2024 Board:

Co-Presidents: Pat Donovan

Vice-President **Open**

Acting Treasurer: Bernie Harrington

Secretary: Patti Hamaguchi

Membership: Bibby Veerman & Margaret Goodhouse

Programs: **Open**

Nominating: **Open**

Advocacy: Rosemarie Greco

Voter Services: Laura Stancs

Communications: Candy Perez

Special Events & Corresponding

Secretary: Diane Ryan

Scholarship: Erin Strouse

At Large: Marie Pettibone & Denise Butwill

Here's another great way to get involved in the League with a very small amount of time required! Check it out!



Have any interest or background in finance or fundraising?

We're looking to start a finance advisory group to meet quarterly. This group would learn about the financial side of the League and suggest fundraising ideas, investment ideas etc. If interested, please contact Bernie Harrington at bernardharrington15@gmail.com

Our Scholarship Program Spring 2024

This year we are going to do something new and different! Board Member Erin Strouse has been carefully studying what other leagues and organizations do as part of their scholarship programs and found that an essay contest related to civics/voting is a great way to get students thinking about democracy. This spring, we will be launching our very first county-wide essay contest! On January 4th, the LWVLC Board authorized the awarding of two \$1,000 scholarships to each awardee, from any public high school in Litchfield County. Several Board Members have volunteered to serve on this project. More information to follow, including the topic of the essay and timeline and distribution plan for applications.





Come listen to Dr. Mary Jane Minken, MD, our Guest Speaker, and join us for our Annual Luncheon

When? April 27th at 11:00am

Where? The Elks Club in Torrington

Topic: How is Politics Impacting Women's Health?

Dr. Minken is a practicing gynecologist. She has taught at Yale University School of Medicine for over 41 years, and is a clinical professor of obstetrics, gynecology and reproductive sciences. Dr. Minken has been recognized by Connecticut Magazine as a "Top Doc" in the state.



Look for the invitation to arrive in your email in February!

Kerry Mayers is moving to Darien!

Our long-term member, past-president, artist and board member of many hats is moving.

We celebrated Kerry's contribution and had a luncheon in her honor at Patti Hamaguchi's house in Watertown after our board meeting on January 4th.

We will miss Kerry's wise counsel at our board meetings and look forward to seeing her at our special events!





Members: (seated) Christine Horrigan and Bernie Harrington;
(back row) Bibby Veerman, Pat Donovan and Kerry Mayers



Board Members: Laura Stancs and Denise Butwill



Diane Ryan, Hospitality



Board Member Erin Strouse and Marge Hubbard, Member

Annual Dues Were Due by July 1st It is \$55. Please pay asap if you have not done so already. Anyone who has not renewed by January 30th will unfortunately be dropped from our membership list. If you go on our website, you can pay via PayPal 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>

