

The Voice



The newsletter of the League of Women Voters of Litchfield County

July 2024 Edition

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Dear Members,

I commend each of you. Remaining politically active in an organization that holds as one of its core principles to be non-partisan is simple counter cultural. Like Susan B. Anthony and her red shawl, we are rebels in our own way. There will be more on Susan B. Anthony and her red shawl in the months ahead. For now, let's concentrate on engaging and informing voters.

We are fortunate that our League is rich with experience and workers. Where we especially need help is with coordinating debates. Is this something you can offer to do for our League? We have a supportive team that needs a leader. Is that you?

The League on the local, state and national level does not endorse candidates. The League does indeed endorse policies and has positions on many issues. The League is in favor of passage of the November Ballot initiative to amend the Connecticut constitution to allow for No Excuses Absentee Ballots. Read on for more on our efforts promoting this.

Use the email and/or phone number above to ask questions or volunteer for anything in this newsletter. We look forward to hearing from YOU!



Our local League is driven by the interest and talents of our members.

Please share with us your interests and talents.

Democracy Is NOT a Spectator Sport,
Denise Butwill, President

Monthly Meetings, 1st Thursday of the month
Litchfield Community Center
9:00 – 9:30, Meet and Greet
9:30 am – Business meeting starts
Next meeting: September 5, 2024

Voter Registration
Early Voting
No Excuses Absentee Ballot Constitutional Amendment

Naugatuck Valley Community College

Saturday, August 24 , 10-1pm, Jeff Boyd & Susan Putterman & Denise Butwill

Wednesday, September 11, 10-2pm, Jef Boyd & Judi Armstrong & Susan Putterman

Wednesday, October 2, 10-1pm, Jeff Boyd & Judi Armstrong & **this could be you!**

EdAdvance, 215 Hogan Drive Torrington

Monday September 23, 4:30pm – 6:00 pm , Denise Butwill, Kris Durante & **this could be you!**



We are thankful to new member Jeff Boyd for setting these dates at NVCC. Each date will be an opportunity to educate and promote Voter Registration, Early Voting and the November ballot measure regarding no-excuse absentee ballots, which the League is supporting.

** Remember Voter Registration is also an opportunity for a voter to update their address or to change their party affiliation.

New to Voter Registration: A training video for Voter Registration is available from the State League at [Video Here](#) Use this passcode to get in: %4#*E@*=-

YOUR TOWN NOT COVERED If you'd like to organize a drive in your town, at the transfer station, in front of the post office, or another location, please do. We have materials and helpers to support you in this effort. Perhaps on Tuesday, September 17th, National Voter Registration Day.

Adopt a Town – League Ambassador

Ambassadors contact their Registrar of Voters and let them know the League would like to support any Voter Registration Drives they have planned during the course of the year.

Ambassadors coordinate with registrars to arrange to have sample ballots on displayed at your public library before early voting starts of October 2, if the registrars don't already do this.

Ambassadors communicate with their communities' registrars, RTC and DTC about upcoming League events that may be of interest to them: NO EXCUSES, Legislative Breakfast

This is new- Would you like to be an **ambassador**? Contact us.

NO EXCUSES!

Wednesday, October 16 at 6:30pm
Litchfield Community Center

Join us for an informative session on **Your November Ballot and Absentee Ballots!**

Curious about the history of ballot measures and how constitutional amendments make it to the ballot?

Jesse Hubbard, Legislative Director with the Office of the Secretary of the State, will answer all your questions.

This program is proudly presented by the League of Women Voters of Litchfield County, the Litchfield Community Center, and the Office of the Secretary of the State.

Let's get informed and ready to vote!
See you there!



#NoExcuses #GetInformed #VoteSmart

We hope you will attend this event. We will need help staffing a membership table and help with light refreshments after the program. Any brownie bakers? Attached to this email is a full size poste for this event. Are you able to print a copy and post in your community?

AP STRINGER

AP

This involves going to the polling place at the end of the night, 8pm, and waiting until they post the final numbers. Then calling the Associated Press contact and reading them the final numbers from a tape hanging on the wall. There is a comprehensive instruction sheet and a practice phone call before election night. If you are able to help out with this important service and fundraiser, please contact Kerry Mayers and Laura Stanc at LWVofLC@Gmail.com, please put AP reporting in the subject line.

Towns that still need coverage

- MORRIS – 8/13
- ROXBURY – 8/13
- WOODBURY – 8/13 & 11/5

These towns are covered on the dates indicated. Thank you!

- BETHLEHEM – Tina Bernacki and Sue Rea (8/13 & 11/5)
- BRIDGEWATER- Lucy Dobson (8/13 & 11/5)
- CORNWALL - Judi Armstrong & Jodi Luby (8/13 & 11/5)
- KENT - Laura Stancs (8/13 & 11/5)
- LITCHFIELD – Patricia Donovan (8/13) Kerry Mayers & Marjorie Morris(11/5)
- MORRIS - Lynn Potter (11/5)
- ROXBURY - Christine Horrigan (11/5)
- THOMASTON – Christine Horrigan (8/13) Erin Strouse (11/5)
- WASHINGTON – Marilyn and Michael McGills (8/13 & 11/5)

Two opportunities:

- Cover one of the towns that needs coverage! We earn \$80 for each polling place we cover.
- Join someone already going to a polling place, so you'll be ready next year to do it on your own

Other way to get involved with the 2024 Elections

- Help us organize a debate for your CT Senate or CT Congressional District.
- Goshen News has asked the League to **develop questions** for the following election races: US Senate and US House of Representatives - District 5, CT Senate- District 30 and CT House – District 64. They will interview using these questions and print the responses.

Be part of a team that develops candidate questions.

Scholarship Winners 2024



Hannah Seo (left)
from New Milford High School
and
Jenna Sobek (right)
from Litchfield High School

Each was awarded a \$1000 scholarship.

You may read their winning essays [on the website.](#)

Many thanks to Erin Strouse our scholarship chair. Consider being an essay reader for next year. It is really fun to see how many talented, civically engaged students there are.

Member Spotlight



Diane Ryan shows her League spirit in her own quiet and dedicated way. She serves both as our Corresponding Secretary and as our Hospitality Chair. She puts all she has into anything she does, and these two roles are no exception. For larger membership events she has been known to recruit her dearly departed husband, as well as her son, grandson and granddaughter to help with the heavy lifting and passing of plates. There were also the years, not too long ago, when she took on the role of putting out the Vote Today signs the night before the elections. Again, as she did this, she encouraged her grandchildren to be involved. If you see coordinated paper products, flowers and balloons you know that Diane Ryan is somewhere in the background making sure everyone has what they need. She is always quick to say "I can help with that" followed by stating specifically what she will do. And there is no need to follow up with her. She can be counted on to do exactly as she says. Litchfield Country is a better League because of this special lady and her League Spirit. Congratulations to Diane Ryan who won this year's Spirit of the League Award for the LWV of CT. A Statewide honor.

Congratulations and thank you to **Margaret Hunt**, League member and a Litchfield representative on the new Region 20 School Board.

----- **Welcome to our New Members** -----



Jeff Boyd, Bethany is a retired physician who worked three decades in Waterbury. He is also a member of Third Act. Thanks to Jeff for connecting us with the training video for Voter Registration and for setting up the Voter Registration drives at Naugatuck Valley Community College. He lives in Bethany and you can follow him on Instagram @Jeff.Cartoon.Boyd

Not an Instagram user, check out his climate cartoons here without joining <https://www.instagram.com/jeff.cartoon.boyd/>



Charlotte Jones, Goshen

Although I am a recent member of the League and full-time resident of the county, I have spent summers and weekends in Goshen since I was a little girl. My family and I live in the house my grandparents bought in 1949, and where my grandmother, Madeleine L'Engle, wrote *A Wrinkle in Time*. I am a strategic thinker who thrives when I can be involved in big-picture planning and storytelling. I love identifying and describing organizational goals, discovering growth opportunities, and developing relationships among groups that have common interests. I continued my work in strategy and planning when I took on managing Madeleine L'Engle's estate full-time at a critical moment. My volunteer service as a mediator in the nyc court system, training in improv at the Upright Citizen's Brigade, and self-care through the Feldenkrais method, all involve deep listening and collaboration to bring about something new, joyful, and healing, which I hope to bring to all my endeavors. I am drawn to organizations that seek to broaden knowledge and support informed decision-making, as well as those that empower people to lead and help their communities become more just and sustainable. I serve on the Board of the Susan B. Anthony Project, and I look forward to working with the League.



Josephine Jones, Goshen

We are thrilled to welcome Josephine and her daughter Charlotte to our League.

Laura S. Kramer, Litchfield I have lived in MA, CA, NY and CT and I always belong to the League as did my mother of blessed memory. I am actively supporting reelection of Jahana Hayes and getting kids in Waterbury Community College registered to vote. I'm also active with Third Act CT.



Hello, my name is **Jodi Luby** and I live in **Salisbury, CT**. I am a believer in the power of every individual vote and joined the League to help with voter registration. My background is in graphic design, art and photography. I am retired now but spent the past 35 years in direct marketing and branding. Now I am a practicing artist working in ceramics, photography and printmaking.



Kris Durante is a Harwinton resident who spent her career in both the corporate and non profit sectors in marketing, human resources and community building. Since her retirement, she's volunteered in numerous capacities and is now very much looking forward to being involved with the LWV of Litchfield county and in promoting civic engagement.

Marie Scirica of Litchfield is a returning member. Welcome back Marie!

Beth Adels, Goshen

Thank you

- for donations to our general fund
Laura Stanc, Marie Pettibone, Erin Strouse, Audrey & Ben Solnit
- for donations to our Education Fund
Kathy and Walter Thompson
- for donating the use of their facilities for our Annual Meeting
Litchfield Community Center
- for speaking at our Annual Meeting
Jerry Geci, Chairperson of Litchfield SMART (Save Money And Reduce Trash)

An opportunity for education



[REGISTER HERE](#) for this free virtual program sponsored by National Voter Registration Day, of which our League of Women Voters is a partner.

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

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/lwvoflc/>

View our League Google Calendar, perhaps add it to your own calendar, <https://calendar.google.com/calendar/u/0?cid=bHd2b2ZsY0BnbWFpbC5jb20>

Newsletter Feedback

We value your feedback! Please send any comments, suggestions, or contributions for the next newsletter to LWVofLC@gmail.com If you found an error – Great! You may be the proofreader we've been looking for.

About Us

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization dedicated to encouraging informed and active participation in government.

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