



The Voice

Editor: Patti Hamaguchi

September 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 are welcome to join.

All members are welcome!

Board Meetings are held the first Thursday of each month at 9 am at the Litchfield Community Center.

We will have our first “Small Group Gathering” at Denise Butwill’s house on Oct. 4th. Please RSVP to Denise if you can make it.

SCARECROW
SCHOLARSHIPS
Civics

CHILI &
Chocolate Chips

SMALL GROUP
GATHERING



OCT 4
6:00 PM

DENISE'S
HOUSE

RSVP
DBUTWILL
@GMAIL.COM

FOR MEMBERS &
FRIENDS

A Message from Bernie Harrington and Pat Donovan, Our Co-Presidents



Fall arrives in a few short days. It ushers in one of the LWV busiest seasons. Firstly, we would like to invite you to drop in at any of our monthly meetings held at 9am on the 1st Thursday of every month (no meeting July & August) at the Litchfield Community Center. Learn how we approach our goals.

Right now, we are busy working on Voter Registration and reaching out to possible debate candidates. Each of these efforts take manpower. Please be generous with your time when the Voter Service Group asks for assistance.

Of course, The League is not the only group busy in fall. Consider volunteering as a poll worker. Polls in Connecticut are open from 6am to 8pm. Many workers help make shorter hours for all. Election Day is November 7th. Contact your local Registrar of Voters for additional information. Democracy is everyone's job.

Warmest Regards,
Bernie & Pat



It's time for SCARECROWS in
the MEADOW!

(Last year's LWVLC scarecrow
courtesy of Pat Donovan's talents!
#3 winner. "Is early voting right for you?")



**Wine and cheese to
follow at 3:30, hosted
by Pat Donovan.
Come join us!**

Scarecrows in the Meadow, sponsored by the Litchfield Historical Society, is held in the Tapping Reeve Meadow, behind the Law School. There are 50 scarecrows, decorated by schools, civic groups & individuals, and will be on display dawn to dusk from Oct 14 to 31st. Opening Celebration Saturday October 14, 1 to 3pm. 199 S Lake St, Litchfield

This year's scarecrow project will be created Kerry Mayers, Laura Stancs, Denise Butwill & Pat Donovan, with a theme of "Witch Candidate for You?" Come and check it out!

Come join the fun!

A League of Women Voters Scavenger Hunt TBD early November! Keep an eye on your email for an invite to this fun event, with lite appetizers and desserts to follow!



Annual Dues were Due by

July 1st It is \$55. Please pay asap if you have not done so already. If you go on our website, you can pay via PayPal or download the form and mail it in with your check.



Ann McGurk



Our deepest condolences to an amazing woman who was one of the founding members of our [League of Women Voters of Litchfield County](#), Ann McGurk. Ann passed away on July 15th after a lifetime of providing comfort and care to not only her children, but the greater community as well, volunteering for countless organizations all the while baking and feeding for many lucky folks. Read more about Ann's amazing life here: <https://www.legacy.com/.../name/ann-mcgurk-obituary...>

The Annual Meeting on June 14th was held at Bibby Veerman's lovely home in Litchfield

Outgoing President Marianne Seeber addressed the group and was presented with gifts by Marie Pettibone and much appreciation for all the work she did on behalf of our group this past year.



Special Guest Former CT State LWV President Laura Smits addressed the group.



ARTICLE IV

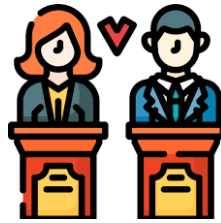
Passed June 14, 2023 Unanimously at our annual meeting

Sec. 1. Number. This Board will consist of the officers as enumerated in Article V, Sec. 1, and a minimum of five other elected directors to a maximum of seventeen (17). The number of officers and/or directors may be increased or decreased within the above limit by resolution of the Board.

Debates, Debates, Debates! What's New?



Former National LWV President and former CT LWV President Kay Maxwell, was kind enough to train future moderators via in-person and online trainings. Patti Hamaguchi (our secretary) attended an in-person training and reported that the information was extremely helpful and interesting as well!



We need candidates so we can set up debates!

Kerry Mayers and Laura Stancs want to know--what candidates in your area might be good candidates for a debate in their upcoming elections?

Please email Kerry with any suggestions and she will reach out to the candidates to see if we can arrange a debate: kerwinkmayers@gmail.com

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>



Who was that in front of the Torrington Stop N Shop on National Voter Registration Day? (Sept. 19th) None other than our own Pat Donovan and Laura Stancs!

The Current 2023-2024 Board:

Co-Presidents: Pat Donovan and Bernie Harrington

Vice-President **Open**

Acting Treasurer: Bernie Harrington

Secretary: Patti Hamaguchi

Membership: Bibby Veerman & Margaret Goodhouse

Programs: **Open**

Nominating: **Open**

Advocacy: Rosemarie Greco

Voter Services: Kerry Mayers and Laura Stancs

Communications: Candy Perez

Special Events & Corresponding

Secretary: Diane Ryan

Scholarship: **Open**

At Large: Erin Strouse

At Large: Marie Pettibone

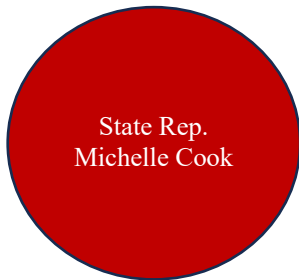
Here's another great way to get involved in the League with a very small amount of time required! Check it out!



Have any interest or background in finance or fundraising?

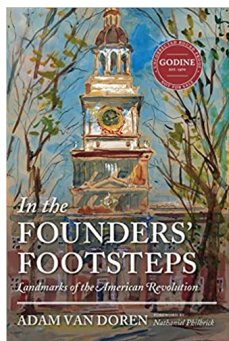
We're looking to start a finance advisory group to meet quarterly. This group would learn about the financial side of the League and suggest fundraising ideas, investment ideas etc. If interested, please contact Bernie Harrington at bernardharrington15@gmail.com

Women's Empowerment Day at Prime Time House in Torrington on August 28, 2023



Our Book & Scholarship Program Recipients Spring 2023

This year we invited all 13 public high schools throughout Litchfield County to submit the name of a recipient, increasing each scholarship to \$400 per student, with 9 schools choosing to participate. Each awardee received a copy of the book, *In the Founders' Footsteps* by Litchfield-area author Adam Van Doren, which we purchased through our local bookseller, The Hickory Stick Bookshop in Washington Depot.



The 9 Recipients of the book and scholarship awards were:

1. Benjamin Nordland (Litchfield High School)
2. Allison Neak (New Milford High School)
3. Amy Byler (Nonnewaug High School: Region 14)
4. Aleksandra Caracciolo (Northwest Regional High School)
5. Luca Tammaro (Shepaug Valley High School)
6. Kylie Decker (Thomaston High School)
7. Katherine Fritz (Torrington High School)
8. Abigail Wayland-Smith (Wamago Regional High School)
9. Mattingly Creter (Watertown High School)



**Watermelon Festival
August 6, in Torrington!**

The LWV of Litchfield assisted the Secretary of State's Office at their Voter Registration/Info booth! Was great to meet our Deputy Secretary of State, Jacqueline Kozin. Thanks to volunteers: Marge Hubbard, Pat Donovan, Bernie Harrington, Patti Hamaguchi, Laura Stancs and Bibby Veerman!

