

# News from the League of Women Voters of New Rochelle

*Editor's Note: Many people may wonder what the New Rochelle League does for this community. Check out the many services described in this newsletter from registering people to vote to providing important information on community issues through our Coffee & Conversation speakers each month at the New Rochelle Library and interviews on our cable program (which is now available on Vimeo.com, as well as the local cable stations). Young people have been given an introduction to politics through both state and county League programs. The League organizes forums to introduce the voters to candidates and state offices where the voters are able to submit questions to be debated by the candidates. Then, please consider joining the League to support its work using the form at the end of this newsletter.*

## **Important Election Information**

This year there are several important elections coming up. The first is New York State's **Presidential Primary on April 19<sup>th</sup>**. The Democratic Presidential Primary is really a "dual primary." Candidates for president run against each other in a statewide primary, and delegates run in each congressional district. Delegates are either committed to a particular presidential candidate or uncommitted.

For the Republicans, the selection of congressional district delegates and alternate delegates to the Republican Party's national convention is determined by a congressional district level primary election of candidates for the office of President of the United States. The names of delegates and alternate delegates do not appear on the ballot. Additional at-large delegates are elected by the state committee and apportioned to presidential candidates based upon the statewide results of the presidential primary.

On **June 28**, there will be **Congressional Primaries**. There are four Republicans hoping to run against Democratic Senator Chuck Schumer. Districts 16 and 17 currently have no candidates running against Congresswoman Nita Lowey and Congressman Eliot Engel, respectively, but in the 18<sup>th</sup> district, both Democratic and Republican primaries are expected to occur.

On **Sept. 13** there will be **State Primary Elections**. State primary elections narrow the field of candidates to a single person to represent the political party during the general election.

The **National Presidential Election** will be held on **November 8, 2016**.

## **2016 Primary Registration and Voting Dates**

To register to vote in the primary election by mail: Application must be postmarked no later than March 25. It must be received by the Board of Elections no later than March 30.

To register to vote in the primary election in person: The Board of Elections must have your registration no later than March 25.

To change your address as a registered voter: March 30<sup>th</sup> is the last day for the Board of Elections to receive your registration form. People with a change of address have to re-register.

To apply for an absentee ballot by mail: Application must be postmarked by April 12.

To apply for an absentee ballot in person: The last day is April 18.

To mail in a completed absentee ballot: Application must be postmarked no later than April 18. The ballot must be received by the Board of Elections no later than April 26.

To have someone else deliver your completed absentee ballot in person: The Board of Election must receive the completed ballot by April 19.

For more information go to <http://www.lwvny.org/voter-services.html>

To register to vote online and to see registration deadlines, go to <http://www.elections.ny.gov>

### **School Budget Hearings**

The New Rochelle School Board will soon present its budget for the upcoming school year. Hearings were held in February for voters to ask questions or present positions.

Hearings will be held on **March 10th, 15th, and 22nd**

**at**

**7:00 pm**

**New Rochelle High School Library.**

Attendees are expected to discuss the December 2015 vote during which the School Bond Issue failed to pass.

The hearings can be viewed on Cablevision channel 77 and Verizon Channel 30, and on the Board of Education website at <http://www.nred.org>.

The New Rochelle School Board website reports that Community Building Survey hearings will be held soon to inform community about building needs. Reports on building conditions are located on the School Board website here:

[http://www.nred.org/site\\_res\\_view\\_folder.aspx?id=0336b567-18dd-460a-b5ec-a5cf773eaa3](http://www.nred.org/site_res_view_folder.aspx?id=0336b567-18dd-460a-b5ec-a5cf773eaa3)

## Coffee and Conversation

LWV New Rochelle's popular "Coffee and Conversation" program is held in the Community Room of the New Rochelle Public Library at 9:30 AM, usually on the third Friday of the month. Light refreshments are served. The speakers offer information on local, county, and state issues in a relaxed, roundtable format with ample opportunity for those attending to interact and ask questions. On February 26, New Rochelle Councilman Louis Trangucci (below) discussed the RDRXR plan, the proposed change in downtown traffic patterns and several other city issues as well.

For information about Coffee & Conversation, contact Susan Fleming at 917-232-6685.



Upcoming Coffee and Conversation speakers include:

March 18: Jim Maisano, Westchester County Legislator, Dist 11 (below left)

April 15: State Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins (below right)



## United Nations Meetings

League members are invited to participate in the sixtieth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, on March 14-24, 2016 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. The priority theme is "Women's empowerment and its link to sustainable development." We are limited to 20 attendees. Please contact [unobserver@lww.org](mailto:unobserver@lww.org) if you are interested in attending.

New Rochelle League President Monica Grey attended the December LWV and New York State Education Foundation Day at the UN. It included briefings on *Women, Education and the UN* and *Peacekeeping Operations and Counter-Terrorism*. Speakers included La Neive Collins, a speech-writer and communications adviser for the United Nations, and Jean-Victor Nkolo, who has held managerial positions in 10 peacekeeping missions. Take advantage of this unique opportunity and attend this event next year!

## League of Women Voters on Cable TV

*City People and Issues* is a cable television program sponsored by the New Rochelle League of Women Voters. League members, Ina Aronow and Haina Just-Michael, interview government officials and community leaders about issues facing the citizens of New Rochelle.

Recently, County Legislator Catherine Parker (who represents eastern New Rochelle, Mamaroneck, Rye, Mamaroneck, Larchmont, and part of Harrison) talked with Ina Aronow about county government, focusing on budget and taxes, environmental programs and Playland. Dennis Dion Nardone, WVOX-AM host and author of a book about growing up on the west side of New Rochelle, reminisced about the neighborhood with host Haina Just-Michael.

The interviews are telecast on Cablevision Channel 76 on Mondays at 7 PM, Wednesdays at 9 PM and Thursdays at 9:30 PM. The interview with Catherine Parker will be shown during the weeks of March 7 and 21. The interview with Dennis Nardone will be aired the weeks of March 14 and 28.

These new *City People and Issues* programs are now available on demand at Vimeo.com:

Ina Aronow, Publicity Director for the League of Women Voters of Westchester (LWVW) interviews LWVW President Marylou Green and County Government Committee Chair Janet Zagoria. They review many LWVW activities, such as candidates meetings, Vote411, and printed Voters Guides. <https://vimeo.com/15200540>

New Rochelle Mayor Noam Bramson discusses downtown development, city yard, and the role of the mayor. [www.vimeo.com/153050481](http://www.vimeo.com/153050481)

Arleen Zuckerman from New Rochelle Cares on Aging in Place: Arleen gives an overview of services and programs that the organization is developing for independent senior citizens who want to stay in their communities. [www.vimeo.com/153850717](http://www.vimeo.com/153850717)

Earlier *City People and Issues* are also available on demand at Vimeo.com:

- New Rochelle City Manager Charles Strome, [www.vimeo.com/151950226](http://www.vimeo.com/151950226)
- State Senator George Latimer on state issues, [www.vimeo/148778131](http://www.vimeo/148778131).
- HOPE Community Services, [www.vimeo/com148787475](http://www.vimeo/com148787475).
- Deborah Minchin, New Rochelle High School History teacher and New York State Teacher of the Year finalist [www.vimeo.com/143621059](http://www.vimeo.com/143621059)
- Tracy Kay, Executive Director of the Westchester Children's Museum, [www.vimeo.com/134232823](http://www.vimeo.com/134232823)
- Theresa Kump Leghorn, President of New Rochelle Council on the Arts, [www.vimeo.com/133698495](http://www.vimeo.com/133698495)
- Councilman Jared Rice on My Brother's Keeper in New Rochelle, [www.vimeo.com/130761968](http://www.vimeo.com/130761968)
- RDRXR VP Brandon Palanker on plans to transform downtown New Rochelle with citizen input, [www.Vimeo.com/127661489](http://www.Vimeo.com/127661489)
- Assemblyman Steven Otis, [www.vimeo.com/123188954](http://www.vimeo.com/123188954)
- Linda Tarrant-Reid, award-winning author of African-American history and community activist, [www.vimeo.com/120159502](http://www.vimeo.com/120159502)

### League-Sponsored Student Opportunities

Once again this year, the Westchester County League of Women Voters will be supporting a daylong experience for young women interested in politics. Last year, at the **Running and Winning Workshop**, Senator Stewart-Cousins and fifteen other female elected officials spoke about their path to elected office to the next generation of political leaders.

The program is for young women, high school juniors and seniors, who are chosen to participate because of their interest in pursuing public service as a career. Co-sponsors of the event are the Association of American University Women and the YWCA of White Plains and Central Westchester. The New Rochelle League of Women Voters will be sending two students from New Rochelle High School.



At the state level, one high school student from New Rochelle will be chosen to attend the **Students in Albany Program**. This Conference is an intensive four day training experience held in the spring, and is designed to immerse students in the process by which public policy is proposed enacted, and changed in New York state, and to educate them as to how they can influence and affect this process. Albany insiders discuss the operations of New York State government, including how policy is shaped and enacted. Students develop knowledge of the disparate forces that influence policy development. Additionally, students are afforded the opportunity to observe Senate and Assembly sessions and to shadow Assembly members and Senators.

For more information, see: <http://lwvny.org/youth.html>.

### **Advocacy Training/Lobby Day**

The date for Advocacy Training and Lobby Day in Albany is **Tuesday, May 10!** LWV NYS is still developing the exact schedule, but they are tentatively planning presentations by Issue Specialists on "hot topics" in the morning, lunch for networking, and then lobby visits with your own legislators to lobby our League priority issues.

### **Raise the Age**

The December LWVNR meeting was dedicated to a discussion of the issue of the age at which juveniles can be put in adult prisons. Susan Fleming and Peter Korn, LWVNR Policy Issues and Government Studies Chair, ran the discussion and voting. The members attending approved the following statements with commentary attached to some statements:

1. Children under the age of 18 are not adults and their treatment within the juvenile justice and criminal court system should relate to their stage of development.
2. Children should not be held in adult jails.
3. Rehabilitation is the purpose of the juvenile justice system.
4. The legal rights of children should be protected.

Our League then reported our concurrence with this position that was under consideration by the NYS League. A requisite number of Leagues from various parts of the states participated and agreed, so the concurrence met the requirements for the adoption of a new position. Therefore, this position has been included in the LWV NYS **2016 Legislative Agenda**.

For more information on this topic, please see: [http://www.lwvny.org/programs-studies/juvenile-justice/2015/Raise-the-age\\_0915.pdf](http://www.lwvny.org/programs-studies/juvenile-justice/2015/Raise-the-age_0915.pdf)

Requests for a copy of the booklet delineating many of the legislative issues that will get LWV NYS' attention in 2016 can be sent to: [LWVNewRochelle@gmail.com](mailto:LWVNewRochelle@gmail.com).

## **NR Comprehensive Plan Preliminary Public Hearing and Town Hall Meeting**

Help guide final development of the comprehensive plan recommendations, zoning changes to promote sustainability, and potential future land use.

Monday, March 21, 2016

7pm (Sign in at 6:45)

New Rochelle City Hall

Council Chambers

For more info contact the City of New Rochelle Dept. of Development: 914 654-2185

## **LWV National Convention in Washington, DC**

Members are invited to attend the League's National Convention in Washington, D.C. from June 16-19 to experience the collective power of our mission, messages, and actions to build a more perfect democracy. Included below are some highlights of this event.

**Lobby Day.** Be a part of advancing the League's legislative priorities when you go to Capitol Hill for meetings with your elected representatives in the U.S. Congress.

**Pre-Convention Welcome Activities.** Attend **Key Structures of Democracy sessions** – on money in politics, redistricting, and constitutional amendment safeguards – to learn the powerful ways you can bring these issues home for action.

**A first-time convention-goer** event and **Convention orientations** will connect “newbies” and veterans in learning how to make the most of Convention.

**Daily caucuses and workshops.** Participate in a range of League issues and skills building gatherings – in election services, voter protection, advocacy, civic engagement, social media, fundraising and more.

**Plenary sessions.** Learn from experts in politics and communications about where the League can focus its impact in the coming biennium, engage in proceedings around League positions, and look ahead to strategies for success as our centennial year approaches.

**Connect through engagement.** Take part in the **Engagement Zone, Wares Market, Banquet and Discussion Roundtables.** Attend the renowned **Capitol Steps comedy performance** and enjoy their hilarious take on national politics.

For more details, including how to register, see the [Convention 2016 information page](#).

## Voter Registration Drives

Joan Alexander and Amy Weiser, Voter Services Co-Chairs have been busy organizing voter registration drives around the city and recruiting members to help staff the locations. Members are registering first time voters at all three local colleges on a weekly basis, and are available to staff any locale by request until the Fall 2016 elections are over.



Lorei Kwok (above) assisted Joan Alexander with voter registration at Monroe College.

Joan and Amy are doubling their efforts during the month of March to register as many people as possible before the spring deadlines. They plan to set up regularly at the Library Book Sale on the first Friday and Saturday of each month, and at the Wednesday and Saturday Farmers Markets when they open for the season.

**They always need volunteers!** If you can help, even if only once, even if for just an hour, please contact Joan Alexander: [royjoanalex@yahoo.com](mailto:royjoanalex@yahoo.com).



**Join the LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NEW ROCHELLE**

The League depends on the work and financial support of all of its members to carry out its programs. Membership is open to women and men of voting age. Joining our local league confers membership in the State and National Leagues, and enables you to receive publications from all three levels with access to members-only online resources, and provides the opportunity to be involved in local, state and national issues.

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Individual: \$50 year      \_\_\_\_ Household: \$75\* year

\*Additional household member name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ New Membership      \_\_\_\_ Renewal

\_\_\_\_ I would like to support the League with a tax-deductible contribution (check made payable to LWV Education Foundation)

\_\_\_\_ \$100.00

\_\_\_\_ \$ 50.00

\_\_\_\_ \$ other

**Return this Application with membership check payable to LWV NR:**

**THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NEW ROCHELLE**

**46 LONG VUE**

**NEW ROCHELLE, NEW YORK 10804**

**Events Calendar for 2016**

March 10, 15, and 22 - New Rochelle BOE Budget Hearings

March 14-24 - UN Commission on the Status of Women Meeting

March 18 - Coffee and Conversation with County Legislator Jim Maisano

March 21 – Comprehensive Plan Public Hearing

March 25 – Last day to register to vote in the Primary Elections

March 30 – HBO film, *Iron Jawed Angels*, 11 am at WCC Valhalla, Tech Bldg, Rm 107

April 15 - Coffee & Conversation - NYS Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins

April 19 - Presidential Primary

May 9 – NR BOE and Library Board Candidate Debate

May 10 – League Advocacy and Lobby Day in Albany

June 16-19 - LWV National Convention

June 28 - Congressional Primaries

September 13 - State and Local Elections

November 8 - National Elections