



your

VOTER



President's Message

Greetings and Happy New Year! I hope that you all had a joyous and restorative holiday season. It's time now to look to the year ahead... and what an IMPORTANT year this promises to be. The 2024 General Election may be the most defining event that our country has faced in all of modern history. It is for 'a time such as this' that our efforts to inform and educate, register, and enable equitable access to the ballot must be more earnest and robust than ever. We'll need your help more than ever. You will be receiving information on how you can participate and do your part in the weeks and months ahead.

We have already begun to put things in place for 2024.

- See story on page 2 about the two grant proposals Monica Ferguson wrote. (Thank you, Monica!)
- Invitations and applications have already been sent to area high schools for SIA recruitment. We'd like to send two (2) students to Albany again this year.
- We're planning candidate forums for upcoming primaries, Black History Month and Women's History Month activities.
- In our November Membership Meeting, the membership in attendance chose which of National's Legislative Agenda items we will focus on this year.: Judicial Issues (reforming prisons and the judicial process, equitable representation for all, etc.); Good Government (campaign funding legislation, etc.); and Health Care (fair and equitable access and outcomes, drug costs, aid for the terminally ill. etc.)

My colleagues and Co-Presidents, Gail and Gayle, (shhh- just between us, I call them "THE GALES", because together they are a force of nature, a breath of fresh air, and the wind beneath my wings), and I have been working very hard to recruit new members, engage our youth, and to keep the Rockland League vibrant and relevant. Your ideas, resources, and involvement are needed as we embark on another very ambitious year!



Have a wonderful winter and a happy, healthy, and prosperous 2024. We're looking forward to seeing you!

Yours in league,
Doria Hillsman, Co-President

LWV News: The latest updates from Chapter, State, and National

Chapter Activities



Library Voter Displays

If you frequented any of the Rockland County Libraries throughout the Fall, you likely encountered an exhibit like this one.

Thanks to the work of our Leadership Team, each of the libraries was provided with voter information and material to distribute.

The many creative librarians then built full displays featuring books for children and adults on the important topic of civic responsibility, democracy, and voting.

Look for more ways that the RCLVW will be partnering with our libraries throughout the year!

Grants

Late last year, thanks to the efforts of Monica Ferguson and Gayle Struble, the chapter submitter two grant proposals to National. The first grant would help us fund our continuing efforts in Youth Voter Registration. As you know, we participated in several events last Fall, culminating in more than 125 students being registered. This grant would allow us to increase those efforts. The second grant is to fund our efforts in New Citizen Voter Registration. The idea would be to get more involved in the County's new citizen swearing-in ceremonies, establish connections and provide ongoing voting and civic information to our county's newest citizens. We should be hearing back shortly as to whether we received either or both grants. We'll be sure to keep you in the loop!

Voting While Incarcerated Update

We continue to work with the Sheriff's Office to provide those incarcerated in the County Jail with the opportunity to register and learn about their voting rights. Our current project focuses on training the Sheriff Office staffers who will be working with the prisoners on these important topics. More details as they happen!

Committees

Wondering how you can personally make an impact? Now that our membership is growing, we're in the process of creating committees where you can pick an area or two to get involved. Please start thinking about how you'd like to contribute. Maybe you enjoy being the face of the Chapter at recruiting events; or maybe you prefer to be in the background and focus on communications or education. Good at fundraising? How about membership drives? There will be something for everyone! We'll be revealing the new committees shortly, so keep your eyes on your email for more details.

National/State Activities

Year-End Message from National Leadership

Leagues across the country work tirelessly every day to empower voters and defend democracy — and 2023 was no exception! As we reflect on this past year, I want to take a moment to celebrate your impact:

- Leagues reached over one million voters through textbanks and friendbanks on League In Action and over two million voters on VOTE411, the most ever for a non-federal election cycle.
- State leaders came together in Las Vegas, NV, for our 2023 National Council, where we focused on our Transformation Journey, the future of the League, and our “moonshot” goal of abolishing the Electoral College.
- We celebrated litigation and Supreme Court victories for fair maps and voter protection, and we continued our second year of Power the South, our campaign to strengthen people power across the South.
- This is just a fraction of all our achievements this year. Celebrate your success and learn more about the League’s 2023 impact in our blog on www.lwv.org.

Exciting National News!

A special award was bestowed recently to the League of Women Voters. The VOTE411.org website was named Best Government & Civil Innovation Website in the 24th Annual Webby People’s Voice Awards.

This is a great reminder for all of us to become familiar with all the wonderful information it provides. Brought to you by the League of Women Voters Education Fund, VOTE411 is committed to ensuring voters have the information they need to successfully participate in every election. Whether it's local, state or federal, every election is important to ensuring our laws and policies reflect the values and beliefs of our communities.

Be sure to refer Vote411 to your friends, families, neighbors, and co-workers!

State Update


Change to the NYS Board of Election Commissioners

Douglas Kellner was recently removed from his position as one of the Democratic Election Commissioners at the NYS Board of Elections. Kellner was appointed by Elliot Spitzer and held the role for 18 years. He will be replaced by Henry Berger, who previously served as special counsel to former New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio.

Read the City and State article about Kellner's removal at [here](#) and then read the LWVNYS statement [here](#).

Calendar of Events: Mark the Dates!

JANUARY 2024




S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

January 14
 Board Meeting
Check your email for details.

FEBRUARY 2024


S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		



February 14
 Last day to change Party Enrollment for the Primaries in April and June.

February 24
 Diversity Brunch AAUW

Calendar of Events (cont'd): Mark the Dates!




MARCH 2024

	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1	2
March 9 RCLWW General Meeting	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
March 23 Last day voter registration for April 2 nd Presidential Primary must be received by BOE via Mail or In-Person	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
March 23 Women's History Month Program with AAUW "Effect of Women's Vote"	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
<i>Check your email for details as we get closer.</i>	31						

APRIL 2024

	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	
28	29	30					



April 1
Last day to apply **In-Person** for an absentee ballot

April 2
Presidential Primary

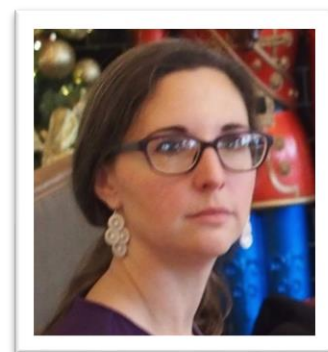
April 2
Last day to postmark ballot and postmarked ballot envelope must be received by the BOE by **4/9/24** and last day to deliver ballot **In-Person** to the local BOE.

General Meeting

The 2023 General Meeting took place in early December at Banchetto Feast in Nanuet. Attended by 18 members and guests, the event was a great mix of business, pleasure, celebration of achievements, networking, friendship, and of course great food, fundraising, and gifts!

It was a 'party with a purpose' as the proceeds from ticket and raffle sales will be applied to Rockland League's efforts and initiatives for the upcoming year. If you were unable to come – it's not too late, you can still contribute. No amount is ever too large or too small.

Thanks to all who attended, and a big shout out to our friends at Banchetto Feast for their very generous gift card donations.



RCLWV Youth Corps

Establishing good voting habits at an early age helps ensure a lifetime voter. This spring, the RCLWV Youth Corps is ramping up our efforts to get as many young people as possible engaged and excited to vote.

We're looking for young people aged 16-23 to join our Youth Corps to learn how to talk with their friends and family about voting, create social media content about voting and other issues important to today's youth, and generally have fun getting involved in democracy!

Please help us expand our Youth Corps and nurture our new generation of voters. To join the Youth Corps or volunteer as an adult coordinator, please contact Alissa Ryan at ryan.alissa@gmail.com.



New Members!

Please join us in welcoming the newest RCLWV members to our organization! Over the past few months, our leadership team has been actively recruiting and signing up several new members. Join us at an upcoming meeting to say hello and help them get acclimated to the RCLWV.

If you're wondering how you can help, please see the article on page 8 regarding our 2024 Membership Drive.

Your Leadership Team

Doria Hillsman: doria.hillsman@gmail.com

Gayle Struble: struble64@gmail.com

Gail Wanger: gailwanger@gmail.com

Susan Reif: Newsletter Editor:

sbreif@gmail.com

To Join: <https://lwvrocklandcounty.org/join-our-league/>

To Donate:

<https://lwvrocklandcounty.org/donate-to-the-league/>

More Ways to Reach Us:

Email: rocklandlwv@gmail.com

Website: <https://lwvrocklandcounty.org/>

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/LWVRockland>

The League of Women Voters: Who We Are

We believe in the power of women to create a more perfect democracy. That's been our vision since 1920, when the League of Women Voters was founded by leaders of the women's suffrage movement. For 100 years, we have been a non-partisan, activist, grassroots organization that believes voters should play a critical role in democracy. The League works to protect and expand voting rights and ensure everyone is represented in our democracy. For more information, and membership information, visit:

League of Women Voters of Rockland County:

<https://lwvrocklandcounty.org/>

League of Women Voters of NY: <https://www.lwvny.org/>

League of Women Voters (National): <https://www.lwv.org/>

Membership Drive 2024

Remember that old shampoo ad: You tell a friend, then they tell a friend and so on? Well instead of sharing the secret shampoo, let's share the benefits of RCLWV membership! If you refer a friend or someone in your circle, and then they refer a friend or someone in their circle, soon the amazing works of RCLWV will be known throughout Rockland County, and possibly even the state!

We've accomplished so much in 2023! Imagine what we could do with twice as many members participating?

It's a near certainty that between your family, friends, and business and professional networks, you know one or two people who may be interested in joining RCLWV. Can you share those names with us? Then our membership team can reach out, familiarize your referrals with all the good RCLWV does, and encourage them to join. Easy, right? Send your referrals to: rocklandlwv@gmail.com. Here's to doubling our membership in 2024!

