

Annual Meeting 2017: Recap

by Edna Rosen, Vice President

On June 1, we held our Annual Meeting, with many of our members in attendance. Presiding were our Co-Presidents Catherine Gray and Doris Welch. Presentations of future projects were given by Committee Chairs: Voter Services, Affordable Housing, Campaign Finance Reform, Education, Environmental, Program, Women's Issues, and Special Projects.

Carmen Fariña, the current head of the New York City Department of Education, spoke to our group about the future of education in our public schools. There is now a mandate to teach Social Studies; seventh graders are looking at the question of solitary confinement in our prisons; first graders are becoming tech savvy as they are taught coding, and second and third graders are studying robotics.

The overlying principle behind the Chancellor's programs is that we need well-educated children. High School students are mentoring those in middle school, and middle schoolers are mentoring elementary school students. Now every high school student can take the SAT exam in their own school at no cost! There is an education program for inmates at Rikers Island and SAT exams are offered. She is proud that last year, 8,000 seniors registered to vote. Chancellor Fariña's closing comment was "If we don't have public education, we don't have a democracy."



Chancellor Carmen Fariña.



Co-presidents Catherine Gray and Doris Welch speaking.

New Logo to Increase Visibility, Just in Time for Election Season

by Emily Corvi, Office Manager



This year, the League of Women Voters of the City of New York trademarked a new logo donning the phrase "VOTE LOUDER". This logo will be used on all materials distributed by the Voter and Telephone Information Services Committee during their voter registration training workshops and during voter registration drives. Due to the large number of seats that are on the ballot for this year's municipal election, The League has been conducting many voter drives to increase voter awareness and participation. To get more involved, please contact Barbara Ettington, the chair of the Voter and Telephone Information Services Committee, at vote@lwnyc.org.

Important Election Dates

Friday, August 18th

Deadline to postmark voter registration form for primary election

Tuesday, September 12th

Primary Election

Tuesday, September 26

Possible runoff (if needed)

Friday, October 13th

Deadline to postmark voter registration form for general election

Tuesday, November 7th

General election

What's On the Ballot?

Positions up for election: Mayor, Comptroller, Public Advocate, Borough Presidents, City Council, District Attorneys of New York County and Kings County, Justices of the New York State Supreme Court, and Judges of the Civil Court of the City of New York

Ballot measures (further details can be found on our website at lwnyc.org/elections.html):

1. The New York State Constitution requires that every 20 years all New York State Voters are given the opportunity to say whether or not they would like to hold a Constitutional Convention to revise or amend the New York State Constitution.
2. Amend the New York State Constitution to allow the state to reduce or revoke the pension of a public officer that has been convicted of a felony related to his or her official duties.
3. Creating a 250-acre land bank, allowing local governments to request state Forest Preservation.

Candidate information: www.vote411.org

Contact your elected officials: www.mygovnyc.org

Find your poll site: www.nyc.pollsitemlocator.com

LWVNYC Honors Fannie Conner

by Catherine Gray, Co-president

At our Annual Meeting, Fannie Conner was honored with a commemorative plaque. Fannie Conner has been a very active member of the League. Here are Cathy's remarks:

Fannie, I know that being the center of attention is not exactly your idea of fun, but the Voter Services Committee and the League wanted to thank you for all your dedication, work, and humor that carried us forward.

Fannie has been a committed member from the start: she joined the League of NYC in 1958, and for several years, she ran the Voter Services Committee all by herself. This work is the heart of what the League is about-- educating future and current voters and keeping them informed. Fannie will go anywhere in New York City, even to Staten Island. She must have a huge stash of voting materials in her house so that at a moment's notice, she will be prepared to go to that event in Far Rockaway. Finally, Fannie always brings the best snacks to her meetings. I have a question for you Fannie: can you guess how many people you have registered in your years at the League? The answer: Way too many to count!

Fortunately, you are not leaving the League, but just retiring as the Chair of the Voter and Telephone Information Services Committee. Thank goodness all of your knowledge, expertise, and unconditional support will still remain at the League.

Fannie, we appreciate your tireless devotion to the League and the citizens of New York City. Thank you from your Voter Services Committee and all your friends here at the League of NYC.



From left to right: Fannie Conner, Catherine Gray, Doris Welch.



Fannie speaking.

Updates from Our Committees

Special Projects

by *Laura Altschuler, Special Projects Coordinator*

The League and Hunter College will be hosting a Candidates Forum for City Council District 4 at Hunter College's Danny Kaye Playhouse (68th Street/Lexington Avenue) on Tuesday, September 5th at 7 pm. Nine candidates are competing for the seat currently held by Daniel Garodnick who is term limited. Primary Day is Tuesday, September 12th. WABC-TV News Anchor Diana Williams will moderate the forum which will be webcast on WABC and the League's Facebook page will feature a Live link.

The League was selected to host this debate by NYCVotes under the auspices of the Campaign Finance Board. This is a citywide effort to encourage voters to learn about the candidates and the issues, and to vote in the Primary and General Elections.

Check the link on our website where you may submit questions you would like asked of candidates running for City Council and Borough President. We will need League members to assist that evening and members who reside in the district or want to attend should email the office.



A meeting of the Membership Committee.

Program Committee

by *Joanna Leefer, Chair*

Please note that any information listed here is tentative. For more details, please call our office.

September 14, 2017: *How to Protect Against Foreign Interference in Our Elections*, by Christopher Farmighetti of The Brennan Center for Justice @ The Ethical Culture Society. 7:00PM.

October 12, 2017: City Elections and the Constitutional Convention

Doug Muzzio, a Political Science Professor at Baruch, will address us. This will be a lunch meeting. Time and location to be determined.

November 9, 2017: Independent Democratic Coalition (IDC): How this breakaway segment of the Democratic party is reshaping the political scene in Albany. Time and location to be determined.

December 14, 2017: Sanctuary Cities. Time and location to be determined.

Possible subject: Volunteers for Professionals

Membership

by *Mary Jenkins, Chair*

Our challenges include:

- Refining our message on the importance of membership in the League and bringing that message to every speaking event we do
- Harnessing the energies of every new member in our numerous activities
- We encourage all our members to get involved in increasing our membership and welcoming new members to the Membership Committee. We need to encourage more citizens to be involved in civic affairs, and in order to do that, we need more members!

cont.

Education Committee

by Mary Jenkins, Chair

- Diane Burrows has contacted Generation Citizen to express our interest in civics education. This organization sent a speaker to a Voter and Telephone Services Committee meeting in order describe their services to public schools. Diane will contact them again to see whether we might send a speaker on city government. She has also worked with the Fortune Society to do voter registration as many of the formerly incarcerated are not aware that they may be eligible to vote. She will contact them to see if they are interested in having us do voter education.
- Patricia Hannum has a vendor license that allows her to teach film in city schools. She will contact two social studies teachers at IS 442 in Park Slope to see if we can facilitate a pilot program in civics education. She will inform the committee of the outcome. We were provided with an eight page program regarding the state standards in social studies as our curriculum must adhere to these guidelines.
- We were pleased to learn that the State Legislature has agreed to maintain mayoral control of city public schools for two more years.

In the coming year, we will continue to study important issues that affect public education in New York City, to inform voters, and to advocate when and where we can make a difference.

Affordable Housing

by Tiana Leonard

The Committee is hobbled by the State and National Leagues' lack of interest in housing issues, as demonstrated by the absence of these issues from the State and National Legislative Agendas. Another current challenge is the lack of a chair. The former chair stepped down and the committee has been unable to find a replacement. We are looking for interested members to take up the mantle.

Environmental Committee

by Mary Anne Sullivan, chair

It is up to local communities to protect their water and air quality. A major issue where we feel we can help protect the environment of our city is:

- Research how we can get pharmaceutical waste properly and more easily disposed of in NYC so it does not enter our waterways and water supplies as pharmaceutical waste, which cannot be filtered at our wastewater treatment facilities.

Women's Issues

by Carole Mehlman, Chair

A new committee was formed. It meets on the first Thursday of the month at 10:30 AM at the League office. We will be examining industry salaries, the quality of public and private daycares, options for after school, school vacation and weekends.

On the Streets with Voter Education

by Barbara Ettington, Voter and Telephone Information Services Committee Chair

This summer saw an increase in outreach with LWV volunteers staffing sixty events during June and July. Much of the outreach was conducted at GreenMarkets in the Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan and Queens as well as libraries in Queens and street fairs in Brooklyn.

Volunteers recognize that many New Yorkers are not focused on the elections right now, so it is a challenge to get their attention. With such a big election year for New York City, our teams are finding ways to engage citizens on the importance of the upcoming election. Some of the opening lines used on the street include: "Have you moved recently? Time to re-register to vote", "do you know what your city council person does for their salary of \$112,000? Are you registered to vote?", "already registered? Then you need this information about the Constitutional Convention", and "Do you want to vote in next year's primary? You need to re-register now if you want to change your party."

Save the date for September 26th and join the Voter Services volunteers as we conduct a big campaign for National Voter Registration Day. Plans are underway for four locations in the Bronx; two in Brooklyn and one in Manhattan... with more to come. We need all volunteers ready to roll!

Getting volunteers ready has also been a big push for the Voter Services Committee. Since the beginning of 2017, we have conducted 12 workshops and trained 180 people to become LWV volunteers or to train their own groups who are setting up events.

Sign up to help on National Voter Registration Day by emailing Barbara at vote@lwwnyc.org.



LWVNYC volunteers during a voter registration drive.

LWVNYC Wins 2 Awards from State

by Bella Wang, Volunteer Content Manager

At the New York State League's biennial convention in June, our local chapter received two awards in recognition of our members' efforts between 2015 and 2017. The Harriet Goldberg Award honors our chapter for growth in membership between February 2015 and January 2017. This trend in increased participation, from both our membership and our expanding cohort of volunteers, has continued into the spring and summer of 2017 as the League gears up for the fall 2017 election season.

LWVNYC also received the Carrie Chapman Catt Award for Visibility and Leadership, an award named after the suffragist who helped found the League. The Voter and Telephone Information Services Committee received particular mention, due to its efforts in recruitment, voter registration, and advocacy training programs. Congratulations to all our volunteers for their efforts, and we look forward to an amazing next two years!



President's Schedule

A quick overview of some of the events attended by our co-presidents.

- June 8-11** NYS League Convention in Syracuse
- June 13** Day of Action in Albany
- June 21** Wall Street Journal Breakfast, Topic Future Smart Cities
- June 22** Civics for fun, "*Toward a more Perfect Union: Making Your Voice Heard*" (It's Who We Are, Taft Institute at Queens College) @ Rego Park Library
- June 28** VAC meeting and NYC Votes
- June 29** MTA Genius Challenge -- How to Make the Subways Work
- July 6** On a Panel at NYU. Topic: The Role of Public Interest Groups
- July 13** Civics For Fun, *Toward a more Perfect Union: Making Your Voice Heard* (It's Who We Are, Taft Institute at Queens College) @ Forest Hills Library
- July 19** Planning meeting for exhibit in 2019 @ Staten Island Museum of Women's Suffrage
- July 20** *Vote, Run, Lead* @ Civic Hall
- July 22** The Bronx Town Hall meeting of Senator Gillibrand @ Hostos College
- July 26** Federal Hall, Beyond the Ballot from Suffrage to the Women's March
- August 1** Museum of the City of New York -- screening of *Metropolitan Avenue*

Since the Annual Meeting on June 1st, the League Office and all our volunteers have been extremely busy. The President's email box is full of interesting invitations and questions! Voter Services has had many requests so early in the Election cycle for Voter Registration Trainings and Green Market Voter Registration. New t-shirts have been donated by our members, and new bright, golden backpacks have been designed to hold materials - all for increased visibility of volunteers at such events.

The League Thanks Judy Tashji

by Ruth S. Altman, Co-president as of July 1st, 2017

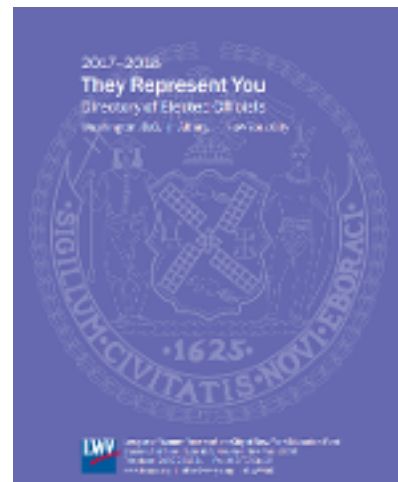
The League of Women Voters of the City of New York has produced an updated version of *They Represent You* (TRY). It lists all city, state and federal elected officials, plus several important additions including community board members, contact information and maps. It also includes information about how a bill becomes a law in Washington, Albany and New York City. The publication's elegant design, readability, and colorful graphics were the work of one Judy Tashji, an LWVNYC member. Judy was honored at our Annual Meeting on June 1st.

Judy also worked with a team that helped her produce TRY. This team was new to this endeavor and many unanticipated problems arose. Judy was unflappable when confronted with these issues. She never complained or criticized, and her carefully updated proofs always appeared promptly. We are delighted that Judy has agreed to design the eBook of another League publication titled *What Makes New York City Run*. We look forward to its publication in the near future.

Both *They Represent You* and *What Makes New York City Run*, are available for purchase on our website at lwnyc.org or by contacting the office.



From left to right: Ruth S. Altman and Judy Tashji.



The cover for 2017-2018 *They Represent You*.

Make Sure You're Heard with Voices

by Bella Wang, Volunteer Content Manager

LWVNYC has partnered with Voices to create a free mobile app to connect users with their local, state, and federal representatives. One of the League's priorities in 2017 has been to encourage our members and volunteers to engage in regular political advocacy as citizens, and Voices is a key part of that effort. When Voices users subscribe to the LWVNYC feed on the app, they receive weekly alerts about topics ranging from City Council bills on the environment, to national issues like protecting the Affordable Care Act. The app also provides scripts and contact information for talking to elected officials about issues, so that volunteers can mobilize.

In addition to information from the NYC chapter of the League, Voices also publishes advocacy alerts from the New York State League, the ACLU, Planned Parenthood, and the National Organization for Women. Citizen lobbying to change public policy is a team effort, and we're proud that our members are part of that effort.

You can download Voices for both Android and iPhone at <https://tryvoices.com/lwv>.



Upcoming Events and Information

Committee Meetings

- **Tuesday, August 22nd @ 6PM**- Voter and Telephone Information Services
- **Thursday, September 7th @ 10:30AM** - Women's Issues
- **Monday, September 11th @ 10:30AM** - Program
- **Wednesday, September 13th @ 2PM** - Education
- **Wednesday, September 13th @ 5:30 PM** - Voter and Telephone Information Services
- **Tuesday, September 19th @ 12PM** - Environmental
- **Thursday, September 21st @ 10:30AM** - Affordable Housing
- **Monday, October 2nd @ 10:30 AM**- Program
- **Wednesday, October 11th @ 2PM** - Education
- **Tuesday, October 24th at 6PM** - Voter and Telephone Information Services

Positions Needed

LWVNYC has three available positions that we are looking to fill.

1. **Secretary** - Duties include taking minutes and notes during board meetings, and being involved in other duties as an officer.
2. **Newsletter Editor** - Duties include editing grammar, syntax, spelling, etc. for newsletter content, writing articles, and organizing content.
3. **Fundraising assistant** - Duties include grant research, grant writing, etc.
4. **Publisher** - We're looking for a publishing for our publication *What Makes New York City Run*.

If you're interested in any of these positions, please email our office manager Emily Corvi at ecorvi@lwnyc.org.

Board Meetings

If you are not a member of The League, please contact the office prior to attending a board meeting.

- **Thursday, August 24 @ 2PM**
- **Thursday, September 28th @ 2PM**

Trainings

In order to attend a League training, please email ecorvi@lwnyc.org with your name, email, and which event you wish to attend.

- **Wednesday, August 23rd @ 6:30PM** - Voter Registration Training
- **Thursday, August 24th @ 6:30PM** - Speaker Training. Must be an LWVNYC member to attend this workshop.
- **Saturday, September 9th @ 10:00AM** - Voter Registration Training

Newsletter Staff

Ruth S. Altman - Project Coordinator

Edna Rosen - Associate Project Coordinator

Emily Corvi - Senior Editor

Ksenia Novikova - Associate Editor and Senior Designer

Bella Wang - Volunteer Content Manager

We would also like to thank all of those who contributed to our Fall 2017 newsletter.

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