

CALL TO CONVENTION

To: Local League Presidents
From: Dare Thompson

This is the official call to attend the 58th Convention of the League of Women Voters of New York State to be held June 7-9, 2019, at The Albany Hilton in Albany, NY. The official business meeting begins with the opening plenary session at 1:45 p.m. on Saturday, June 8, 2019. We hope, though, that most of you will arrive on Friday for the many, valuable pre-Convention activities.

Convention is an opportunity

- to meet a group of dynamic leaders from around the state
- to make new friends and renew old friendships
- for new leaders to learn the basics of League operation
- for newer League members to be bitten by the "Leaguebug"
- to improve your League's use of technology
- to streamline your League and become more effective with less work.

It is also a wonderful exercise of grassroots democracy in action. Delegates representing the local Leagues come together to make the important decisions that will guide us through the next biennium including the election of officers and directors and the adoption of a budget, bylaws amendments, and our state program for 2019-2021.

Come early for additional opportunities!

- Celebrate our state League's 100th anniversary with special programs, speakers and networking with past state League leaders!
- Join us for workshops, dinner and a speaker on Friday June 7th. It is an additional cost and **not** included with the Convention registration. We will have a speaker on the 2020 Census and what the Leagues can do to help fully implement it. We will have a dinner speaker on our polarizing politics and how the parties have influenced that. And, more workshops and networking, too! (See page 10 of this packet for details)
- Benefit from workshops both for newer and more experienced League leaders on Friday evening, Saturday morning, and Saturday evening - (see p. __). Details forthcoming.
- On Saturday and Sunday morning, attend special workshops led by a trainer on diversity, equity and inclusion to learn how our own personal biases affect our actions and what we can do about them to make the League more diverse and inclusive.
- Hear from a leader in a civics program in NYC who will bring a student with her to converse about the importance of civics from the student's perspective.
- Hear our keynote speaker on Saturday evening, Elaine Weiss, author of *The Woman's Hour: the Great Fight to Win the Vote*.

According to Article VIII, Section 3 of the LWVNYS Bylaws, the convention shall be composed of the following voting delegates:

Sec. 3. Convention:

- Composition.** The convention shall consist of the delegates of the local Leagues, ILOs and MAL units, as provided in this article, and the members of the board, each of whom shall be entitled to one vote.
- Qualifications of Delegates and Voting.** All delegates shall be voting members of the League. Each delegate representing a local League, ILO, or MAL unit, or duly authorized proxy as provided in subsection f, shall be a member in good standing of that local League, ILO or MAL Unit and shall be entitled to vote only if that League, ILO or MAL unit has met its per-member-payment responsibilities. The LWVNYS board may make an exception in the case of proven hardship. No

delegate shall be entitled to more than one vote, and absentee shall not be permitted. Final determination of a delegate's qualifications or credentials shall be made by the convention.

- c. Representation at convention The members of the LWVUS who are organized into recognized local Leagues, ILOs, and MAL units in the state of New York shall be entitled to voting representation at the convention as follows: each local League shall be represented by one delegate. In addition to that delegate, each local League is entitled to one delegate for the first 40 members. Leagues having more than 40 members shall be entitled to one delegate for each additional 40 members or major fraction thereof. Membership numbers will be determined by the number indicated in the official LWVUS membership count report for the year of the convention. Each recognized ILO shall be entitled to one voting delegate. Each MAL unit shall be entitled to one voting delegate.
- d. Quorum. A quorum for the transaction of business at convention shall be participation by one tenth of the total number of authorized delegates.
- e. Authorization for Action. The convention shall consider and authorize a program for action; shall elect officers, directors, the chair and two members of the nominating committee; shall adopt a budget for the ensuing year; and shall transact such other business as may come before it. .
- f. Proxies. Every proxy must be in writing and signed by the president of the local League or ILO or the chair of the MAL Unit. Every proxy shall be revocable at the pleasure of the person executing it, unless otherwise provided by law. The proxy can contain such conditions as determined by the giver of the proxy. For the purpose of representing another League, all proxies shall be delivered to the presiding officer.

If a league is authorized to send one or more delegates to the convention, and is unable to do so, they may authorize another person eligible to vote at convention to represent them by giving that person a "proxy". The League giving the Proxy may give a specific proxy to direct the Proxy holder how to vote on particular matters or a general proxy.

For example, league A is authorized to send two delegates, but only one member of that league is able to attend. The president of league A learns that league B has more members eager to attend the convention than available delegate slots. League A appoints a member of League B to represent them at convention.

If your League is going to have a proxy holder, please contact the state League office.

Delegates representing their own local League are uninstructed and are expected to use their own judgment in reaching decisions based on convention discussion. Delegates are committing their local Leagues to program study and action as well as financial obligation. Your League should be well represented!! For your convenience, a label has been attached to the Convention Registration Form in this packet indicating the number of voting delegates that your League is allowed to send to Convention.

Every League member is encouraged to attend all or part of the convention as a visitor. Visitors may participate in all convention events. However, they are unable to vote as delegates.

TENTATIVE AGENDA

Friday, June 7, Pre-Convention

- 11:00-12:30 Board meeting
1:15-2:30 Workshops
3:00-4:00 Tour of NYS Capitol
4:15-5:45 Speaker on Census and small group discussions
6:00-6:30 Welcome reception
6:30-8:30 Dinner with speaker
9:00-10:00 Evening information sessions

Saturday, June 8

- 8:30 - 9:45 Other workshops
10:00 -11:30 Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Workshop for all
11:45 - 1:30 Lunch with speaker
1:45 - 5:00 Plenary Session
5:30 - 6:30 Reception
6:30 - 8:30 Dinner with speaker and awards
9:00 - 10:00 Evening information sessions

Sunday, June 9

- 7:00-8:00 Breakfast by portfolio
8:15 – 9:45 DEI Workshop (continued)
10:00-12:00 Plenary Session
12:30-3:00 New board meeting

CONVENTION CHECKLIST

- Select your local delegates. For your convenience, a label has been attached to the Convention Registration Form indicating the number of voting delegates to which your League is entitled.
- **Mail Convention Registration Form to State League office by **May 24, 2019****
- Make your reservations **by May 16th by calling (866) 691-1183 or visit www.hiltonalbany.com** enter the date and click check availability, then on the right side of the screen enter group code **ILWV** to access the discounted rate. Reservations received after that date will be accepted on a space availability basis only (see last page for more information).
- **RESERVATION CANCELLATION** is determined by the hotel. Please contact hotel for cancellation policy.
- Consider holding an information session to showcase a program or activity of your local League or a caucus to promote a study or issue of interest to you or your League
- Decide which workshops your delegates will attend
- Reserve a space to display or sell publications and products you want to share with other Leagues

FEATURED SPEAKERS



"Civil Discourse: How Can We Achieve That Today?"

Friday, June 7, 6:30 pm

Robert Boatright, PhD, Director of Research, National Institute of Civil Discourse and Professor and Chair, Political Science Department, Clark University

Robert Boatright teaches courses on American political behavior, political parties, campaigns and elections, interest groups, political participation, and political theory. He has served as a research fellow at the Campaign Finance Institute, as an American Political Science Association Congressional Fellow, and as a research associate at the American Judicature Society. He is currently the director of research for the National Institute of Civil Discourse at the University of Arizona. He has published books and articles on campaign finance reform, congressional redistricting, the congressional budget process, and on various aspects of jury service. His most recent books include *Getting Primaried: The Changing Politics of Congressional Primary Challenges* (University of Michigan Press, 2013) and the *Handbook of Primary Elections* (Routledge, 2018).



"Action Civics: A 21st Century Approach to Educating Youth for Democratic Participation"

Saturday, June 8, 12 noon

DeNora Getachew, Executive Director, Generation Citizen

DeNora Getachew is a native New Yorker and passionate advocate who over the last decade has fought to improve our democracy at the national, state and local level. DeNora attended John Jay College of Criminal Justice and Fordham University School of Law. She cut her teeth working on local democracy and government reform for former New York City Council Speaker Christine Quinn. Throughout her career, she has shaped state and local policy on a host of reform issues, including as Campaign Manager & Legislative Counsel at the Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law, Policy Director for then-Public Advocate Bill de Blasio, Policy Director at Citizens Union, Legislative Director at the New York State Trial Lawyers Association, and Legislative Attorney for the New York City Council's Governmental Operations Committee. During her democracy and social justice travels, DeNora has contributed to the New York Times' City blog, Huffington Post, the Des Moines Register, Newsday, and Gotham Gazette.



"The Woman's Hour Has Struck: Winning the Vote"

Saturday, June 8, 6:30 pm

Elaine Weiss, Journalist and Author

Co-sponsored by NYS Archives Partnership Trust

Elaine Weiss is an award-winning journalist and writer whose feature writing has been recognized with prizes from the Society of Professional Journalists, and her by-line has appeared in *The Atlantic*, *Harper's*, *New York Times*, *Boston Globe*, *Philadelphia Inquirer*, as well as reports and documentaries for National Public Radio and Voice of America. She has been a frequent correspondent for the *Christian Science Monitor*. Her long-form writing garnered a Pushcart Prize "Editor's Choice" award, and she is a proud MacDowell Colony Fellow. She is the author of *The Woman's Hour: The Great Fight to Win the Vote*. Elaine holds a graduate degree from the Medill School of Journalism of Northwestern University. She has worked as a Washington correspondent, congressional aide and speechwriter, magazine editor, and university journalism instructor.

WORKSHOP AND TRAINING SPEAKERS

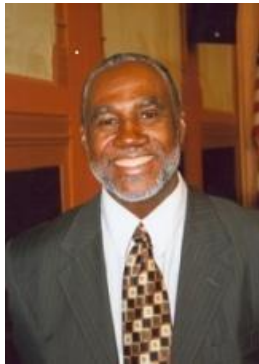


"The 2020 Census: Is There a Role for the League?"

Friday, June 7

Jeff H. Behler, Regional Director, US Census Bureau

Jeff H. Behler began his Census Bureau career in the Detroit Regional Office in 1997 as a survey statistician for various programs. In 2002, he transferred to Census Bureau headquarters in Suitland, Md., to work in the Decennial Management Division as a project manager for census tests in 2004, 2005 and 2006. He has also served as Deputy Regional Director for the Dallas Regional Office and Regional Director for the Detroit Regional Office. He has a bachelor's degree in statistics, mathematics and actuarial science from Central Michigan University



"How to Make the League More Diverse and Inclusive?"

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Training for All Attendees

Saturday, June 8, and Sunday, June 9

Greg Owens, DEI Trainer

Gregory Owens is a Licensed Master Social Worker who currently is the Special Projects Director at the Office of Children and Family Services and is responsible for state-wide initiatives, including mentoring, youth gangs and violence, disproportionate minority representation, cultural competence and responsible fatherhood. He is also a trainer and leadership development consultant. Among other things, Mr. Owens has also been a treating clinician for the NFL, and as Gregory McKnight, he enjoyed a successful 9-year career as a night host on smooth jazz radio stations in the Capital Region.

INFORMATION SESSIONS AND CAUCUSES

During these sessions, local Leagues are encouraged to share successful programs and discuss new ideas; caucuses can also be scheduled to line up support for your recommendations for League priorities or study topic. If you would like to lead a session, please contact the state office to reserve your room.

Friday, June 7, 9:00 pm- 10:00 pm
Saturday, June 8, 9:00 pm- 10:00 pm

TENTATIVE WORKSHOPS AND INFORMATION SESSIONS
(MORE TO BE ADDED)

Friday 1:15 – 2:30 pm

Election Laws

What are those new election laws and how will they be implemented?

Judie Gorenstein, LWVNYS Vice President for Voter Services

Civics

How can local Leagues increase civics education in their schools?

Laura Ladd Bierman, LWVNYS Executive Director

Lisa Kissinger, Editor of LWVNYS Civics Lesson Plans, and President, NYS Social Studies Supervisory Association, and Social Studies Director, Shenendehowa School District

Fundraising

Share your fundraising tips with others and learn the successes of some of our local Leagues. All Leagues always need new ways to find money!

Colleen Geary, LWVNYS Fund Manager

Friday 9:00-10:00 pm

Food Waste and Food Insecurity

Discuss this important issue to see what you can do

Beth Radow, LWVNYS Chair, Energy, Environment and Agriculture Committee

Advocacy Training

Learn to be an effective citizen lobbyist and hear what's hot in the Legislature now

Jennifer Wilson, former LWVNYS Legislative Director

Fact or Fake: Exploring the Role of Media in Politics

Hear how you can replicate a civics workshop held in Westchester

Susan Schwarz, LWV of Westchester

Reviving Civility (continued from dinner speaker)

Come talk about what we can do to encourage civil discourse in our communities

Linda McKenney, LWV of Saratoga

Saturday 8:30-9:45 am

Youth Programs of Local Leagues

Come hear about programs organized by local Leagues for youth

Betty Ann King, LWVNYS Youth Chair

Moderating Candidate Forums

Hear the good, bad and ugly of moderating from experienced moderators

Judie Gorenstein, LWVNYS Vice President for Voter Services

League Management

How can you avoid doing it all for your League? And, how can you engage new members in your League?

Dare Thompson, LWVNYS President

Social Media, Websites and Other Technology

Learn how to use social media sites, how to subscribe to the new MyLO website program and other technology questions.

Marissa Goddard, LWVNYS Development Assistant

TBD

Parliamentary Procedures and Plenary Session Discussions

Hear how you can propose amendments, ask questions and debate issues during plenary session

Mary Berry, LWVNYS Parliamentarian

Saturday 9:00 – 10:00 pm

Voter Services Q&A

How do I ____? What does this mean ____? Ask your voter service questions here.

**Judie Gorenstein, LWVNYS Vice President for
Voter Services**

2019-2020 Proposed Budget

Ask your questions or get clarification on the 2019-2020 proposed budget

**Nancy Rosenthal, LWVNYS Chair, Budget
Committee**

**Laura Ladd Bierman, LWVNYS Executive
Director**

Proposed New Program Process and Bylaw Amendments

How will the proposed process affect members and League program?

**Sally Robinson, LWVNYS Vice President for
Issues and Advocacy**

Carol Mellor, LWVNYS Grassroots Director

Women's Suffrage and League History Projects

Come share what your League is doing to celebrate the League's centennial and women's suffrage. And learn what more you can do from others.

**Barb Thomas and Joan Johnson, LWVNYS
Co-Chairs, Women's Suffrage Educational
Programs Subcommittee**

MEMBERS NEEDED AS CONVENTION VOLUNTEERS

**Contact Laura Ladd Bierman at State Office
(518-465-4162 / Laura@lwny.org)**

- Delegates can volunteer during non-plenary hours.
- Visitors can volunteer during plenary and observe plenary at no charge.
- Volunteering is a great way to meet and network with fellow Leaguers.

EXHIBITS AND SALES

Convention will bring together creative League members ready to share ideas and techniques that work! Your exhibits and/or products may offer the perfect solution to another League's problem. Keeping in mind that imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, the state League encourages you to bring products and publications to sell and exhibits to share at Convention. There will be a fee of \$25 for each table requested by a local League.

If your League wishes to sell any publications or merchandise, it should be prepared to staff its own table and cover any additional charges for special equipment rentals (such as VCR and monitor) and/or AV charges. All exhibits must be labeled with the local League name. All products and/or exhibits must be picked up by 2:00 PM on SUNDAY, June 9th.

***Sales/Exhibit space is limited and will be allotted on a first come, first serve basis.
Contact Linda Bondi at the State Office if you'd like to reserve space in the Exhibit Room
Tel: 518-465-4162 or Linda@lwny.org***

REGISTRATION INFORMATION
for Delegates, Visitors and Observers

The method of determining the number of delegates to which your local League is entitled is described in "Call to Convention" in this packet. For your convenience, a label has been attached to the Convention Registration Form on the reverse side of this form indicating the number of voting delegates your League is allowed to send to Convention. **If you have more members interested in attending Convention as delegates than the number allotted to your local League, members may have the opportunity to attend Convention representing another local league.** Please contact Linda Bondi at the state League office (518-465-4162 or Linda@lwvny.org) for more information. You may also send as many nonvoting delegates (visitors) as you would like.

Your League is entitled to the number of voting delegates listed on this label:

Visitors: Non-voting delegates or others who wish to receive all printed materials and participate in all or part of the special events of the Convention.

Observers: Those who wish to attend sessions and meetings only and who do not wish to partake in any meals, special events or receive any printed materials.

FEE SCHEDULE

Pre Convention, Friday, June 7 (see separate form to register)

Includes workshops, tour of NYS Capitol, Census speaker and discussion, Dinner and speaker\$75

Convention

Delegate (receive voting privilege) OR Visitor.....	\$295
All sessions and materials	
Saturday lunch and speaker	
Saturday evening reception, dinner, speaker and awards	
Sunday breakfast	
Saturday lunch and speaker only.....	\$40
Saturday evening reception, dinner and speaker only.....	\$100
Observer (may attend workshops, but no materials or meals)	\$50 per day

CONVENTION REFUND AND CANCELLATION POLICY

SUBSTITUTION - If there is someone else within your League who can attend the convention in your place, his/her name can be substituted for yours at any time with no penalty. Simply send the new attendee's name, address, phone, and email address to LWVNYS via email or fax with a note as to who he/she is replacing. While not preferred, substitutions can even be accommodated on site at the actual meeting.

CANCELLATION - Whether or not you receive a refund of either the entire fee or a portion of the fee depends on when you cancel.

- **FULL REFUNDS** (minus \$50 processing fee) will be issued if you cancel 10 business days or more prior to the Convention.
- **PARTIAL REFUNDS** a refund for half (50%) of the registration fee will be issued if you cancel within 3 to 10 business days prior to Convention.
- **NO REFUNDS** will be issued if you cancel 3 or fewer business days prior to Convention.

*****Cancellation and refund of the hotel room is based on the policy of the Hiton Albany (please contact them for more information)**

REGISTRATION FORM

PLEASE COMPLETE *one form for each registrant*, a single payment maybe sent for all members attending from your League

RETURN BY May 24th

Name: _____

Local League and Office held, if appropriate: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: () _____ E-Mail: _____

<u>Item</u>	<u>Number of Persons</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Total</u>
Friday- Pre-Convention Workshops and Dinner	Complete separate Registration form (on page 10 of this packet) and submit payment with that form.		
Full Conference Registration: Voting Delegate (includes all sessions and materials, Saturday lunch with speaker, evening reception and dinner with speaker and Sunday Breakfast) <i>Lunch Choice must be indicated:</i> ___ Bourbon Glazed Salmon ___ Spinach and Cheese Quiche <i>Dinner Choice must be indicated:</i> ___ Spinach and Brie Stuffed Chicken ___ Asparagus and Pea Risotto		\$295	
Full Conference Registration: Non Voting Visitor (includes all sessions and materials, Saturday lunch with speaker, evening reception and dinner with speaker and Sunday Breakfast) <i>Lunch Choice must be indicated:</i> ___ Bourbon Glazed Salmon ___ Spinach and Cheese Quiche <i>Dinner Choice must be indicated:</i> ___ Spinach and Brie Stuffed Chicken ___ Asparagus and Pea Risotto		\$295	
Observer Registration: Non Voting and No materials or meals		\$50 x _____ #of days	
Saturday Lunch with Speaker ONLY (included with Delegate and Visitor Registration)		\$40	
Saturday Evening Dinner ONLY (included with Delegate and Visitor Registration)		\$100	
<u>Total Payment Due (enter payment info on next page)</u>			\$

CONVENTION REGISTRATION PAYMENT (FROM PREVIOUS PAGE)

_____ Send check payable to LWVNYS to LWVNYS 62 Grand Street, Albany, NY 12207

OR

_____ Charge my: MasterCard Visa American Express Discover

Card Number: _____

Exp Date: ____ / ____ Cardholder Name: _____

Signature: _____

Zip Code: _____ Total Payment Amount: _____

**REGISTRATION
DEADLINE
May 24, 2019**
FAX TO: 518-465-0812
OR MAIL TO:
LWVNYS
62 GRAND STREET
ALBANY, NY 12207



Hotel Registration Information

Hilton Albany
40 Lodge St, Albany, NY 12207
League of Women Voters of NYS State Convention
June 7-June 9, 2019

The Hilton Albany welcomes you for
the League of Women Voters of NYS 2019 Biennial Convention.
For the occasion, The Hilton Albany is extending a special rate of:

\$137.00 plus tax (single or double occupancy), per night for June 6-9, 2019.

To make your reservations:

Call (866) 691-1183 and mention you will be attending this event

OR

Rooms can also be booked online at www.hiltonalbany.com
enter the date and click check availability, then on the right side of the screen enter group
code **ILWV** to access the discounted rate.

Reservations will be accepted until **May 16, 2019** or until the room block has been sold out.
We look forward to seeing you at The Hilton Albany.

RESERVATION CANCELLATION is determined by the hotel. Please contact the Hilton Albany for
information about their cancellation policy.

Registration Form
Pre-Convention Workshops and Dinner
Friday, June 7, 2019, 1:15 to 10:00 pm
\$75.00

*This form is **ONLY** to register for the Pre-Convention Workshops and Dinner. It does not include Convention registration costs. **Registration ends May 24, 2019***

Name: _____

Local League: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Day Phone: () _____ E-Mail: _____

Cost includes:

- **Workshops**
- **Tour of NYS Capitol**
- **US Census Bureau Speaker, and**
- **Dinner with Speaker on Civil Discourse**

My check in the amount of \$75 is enclosed (payable to LWVNYS)

Charge My: Master Card Visa American Express Discover

Card Number: _____

Exp Date: ____ / ____ Zip Code: _____

Cardholder Name: _____

Signature: _____

**TOUR REGISTRATION
DEADLINE
May 24, 2019
FAX TO: 518-465-0812
OR MAIL TO:
LWVNYS
62 GRAND STREET
ALBANY, NY 12207**