League of Women Voters of New York State Education Foundation

2019-2020 ANNUAL REPORT
A Centennial Year!
PRESIDENT/MEMBERSHIP SERVICES
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*LWV of the City of New York*

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*LWV of Rivertowns*

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Laura Ladd Bierman, Executive Director
Jennifer Wilson, Deputy Director/Legislative Director
Marissa Goddard, Development Assistant and Database Manager
Lisa Allendorph, Finance Administrator

On the Cover: Photos from individual and league celebrations held on Nov. 19, 2019, the State League’s 100th anniversary.
MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

We hope that you and your loved ones are safe and healthy. By the end of this year (June 2020) difficulties confronting voters and our democracy were coming from multiple directions, and we are very grateful for your continued support as we continue to educate and engage voters.

I had to review my notebooks, calendars and newsletters to reimage the first six months of the last year of activity that the foundation supported (July 2019-December 2019), BC: Before Covid 19. The past year presented grave challenges to families and communities, challenges to our means to participate in private endeavors, familial events and our civic and communal life. The League of Women Voters of New York began the year headed into our next century, fully charged, commemorating our first 100 years, educating voters about newly consolidated primary elections in the spring and directing massive education campaigns to educate voters about a raft of changes to election statutes passed by the Legislature earlier in the year, including pre-registration for 16 & 17 year-olds and early voting.

Implementation of early voting rolled out in 62 New York counties in November 2019 elections and the League was there in every county with information about poll site locations and operating hours and working with the county BOE’s.

A grand centennial birthday celebration, in Buffalo, November 2019, honoring New Yorkers civic contributions included: Carrie Chapman Catt Award for Leadership in Government - Kathy and William Hochul, Narcissa Cox Vanderlip Award for Leadership in Education - Katherine Conway-Turner, Community Leadership Award - Alice Jacobs, and Emerging Leader Award - Ariel Palitz.

League members and supporters toasted the centennial around the state, via Zoom on the actual state League centennial anniversary, November 19.

In partnership with the NYS Archives Partnership Trust, the League held a gala event, at the NYS Museum in Albany, on March 10, honoring Barbara Bartoletti for 40 years as a volunteer lobbyist, Legislative Director for the League. Those who could not attend watched the proceeding on Facebook live, a welcome platform for those who were already restricted from attending by the sudden emergence of the pandemic.

And then, seemingly overnight, we are operating in a new paradigm, a deadly pandemic that threatened everyone. Lock down, stay at home! Stay safe is the new sign-off. The League of Women Voters all over the state did a mighty shift and an enormous pivot in operations to meet the needs of voters. We met all of these challenges head on to continue to strive for our overarching goal this year to GOTV (get out the vote) and get out the vote in communities with lower turnout rates. Election dates and times of the primaries changed, how to vote absentee, where and when you can vote SAFELY all needed to be communicated to all New York voters. By necessity, we dramatically increased our use of virtual tools and to a very satisfying degree, we have been able to reach more voters and increased the communication amongst our powerful grassroots members and supporters. We have expanded our virtual toolbox from necessity and look forward, in safer times, to a hybrid of virtual and in person education opportunities with New Yorkers.

The state League has pursued a course to push out to the local Leagues and counties resources to educate voters in their communities that can be best tailored to their regions to notify voters about how, when and where to vote safely, Three Ways to Vote.

And you, our donors, members and supporters have made all this possible through your generosity. Our staff and multitudes of volunteers have managed an extraordinary effort to get out the vote and we are deeply grateful.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Stassevitch
President

ABOUT THE LWVNYS EDUCATION FOUNDATION

The League of Women Voters of New York State Education Foundation is the educational and fundraising arm of the League of Women Voters of New York State. It derives its strength from the energy and commitment of the women and men in over 50 Local Leagues and Inter-League Organizations (ILOs) throughout the state. Strictly nonpartisan, it works primarily on projects that educate the electorate.

The charitable support of individuals, corporations and foundations throughout New York State helps the LWVNYS Education Foundation accomplish its three main goals:

* To educate people on the importance of their participation in government, in the political process and in the life of their home community; * To create awareness of issues at local, state and national levels and to inform citizens how they can have an impact; and * To instill in young people and new citizens the knowledge of their new role and responsibilities in government.

The LWVNYS Education Foundation is incorporated under the Not-for-Profit Corporation Law of New York and is classified as a public educational charitable organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. All contributions to the LWVNYS Education Foundation are fully tax deductible.
**Shannon Tacy**

“Hi, my name is Shannon Tacy and I’m from Castleton, New York. I went to Maple Hill High School and was fortunate to be introduced to Students Inside Albany in my junior year of high school, in 2018. At SIA, I made a lot of friends, got to shadow my state senator and assembly member, and learned so much. After that I knew I wanted to do some work with LWV and learn more, so I asked Laura about an internship with LWV.

During my senior year, I participated in a class offered at my high school, CEIP, or career exploration through internship, where we had to complete a 50-hour internship by the end of the semester. We would get writing assignments every week correlating to the internship we were in. I’m so grateful for my experience with the LWV because I got to do a lot of awesome work. I remember in November, after voting, we had to create a report on the impact of early voting and how helpful it was. I worked with the Albany office to make surveys about early voting that would go to every county in NYS. Once they came back with results, we had to analyze the responses. It was really interesting to see what people thought about the new early voting process.

I also remember getting the incredible opportunity to go to the United Nations with the League and I met a lot of kind women there. Not only that, but I was fascinated about how the UN operated and who worked there. Going to the United Nations was one of my favorite experiences when I worked with the state League.

Even after my class ended, I wanted to continue work with the LWV. I arranged for Laura to come to my school, talk a bit about the League and then offer voter registration to the seniors. I want to thank Laura Bierman and Jennifer Wilson for everything they’ve taught me when I interned at the LWV and I’m happy to say I’m now at St. Lawrence University and I plan to major in government.”

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**YOUTH PROGRAMS**

**Students Inside Albany Conference and Interns**

Because of the COVID-19 health crisis, the 2020 Students Inside Albany Conference was cancelled. Students selected by their local Leagues, however, were invited to join in a Powerpoint presentation by Jennifer Wilson, state League Legislative Director on how New York State government works and how to have influence in the public policy making process – be a citizen lobbyist. This presentation was hosted on Zoom platform and is posted on the state League’s website at: https://www.lwvnyonline.org/youth/SIA/2020/march/NYS-Politics-PPT-SIA-2020.pdf.

During 2019-2020, however, the state League office was fortunate to be able to host three interns, two of whom were former participants in the state League’s Students Inside Albany Conference. These interns were particularly helpful in researching and developing materials to educate the public on the new early voting procedures which were implemented for the first time for the fall 2019 elections. Some of these interns were provided stipends thanks to grants received to educate voters on early voting. With the forced cancellation of the 2020 Students Inside Albany Conference, we decided to highlight these great student interns.
Sarah Bracken

Q: Tell us a little about yourself.
A: My name is Sarah Bracken. I am from the Albany, NY area and am a junior at Brandeis University. I have been working for the League of Women Voters of New York State for the past two summers and am continuing to work for them now (fall) while attending college remotely.

Q: How did you learn about possibly interning with the League?
A: I attended the State League’s Students Inside Albany Conference in 2017 and had a great experience. When looking for a summer internship in 2019, I reached out to my local league. The local league then referred me to the State League where there was an internship available. I started interning with the State League in the summer of 2019. When COVID-19 hit in the spring of 2020 I returned home from college and connected with the League again. I have been working on projects since then.

Q: What did you do with the League as an intern (generally)?
A: Plans for early voting were just beginning when I started at the State League. With the staff, we created a spreadsheet to organize how early voting was implemented in each county. I was responsible for contacting both the local leagues and county boards of elections to obtain the information on early voting poll site hours and locations. This information was then compiled into documents that were put up on the website and printed.

In the spring, my college switched to all remote learning thus I was in the Albany area again. The State League contacted me to help organize the early voting materials again for the June primary. I was able to perform these tasks, researching early voting poll sites, while completing the spring semester. In May, I was able to devote more hours to the League to organize more online educational materials that were needed in the COVID voting world. I also researched and obtained candidate’s social media sites to be posted on Vote 411 for the election. I continued working through the summer and this fall as I continue to attend college remotely.

Q: What did you learn about League, state government, elections, etc from this experience?
A: I learned that the Boards of Elections (BOE) in New York State are extremely decentralized. The BOE in each of the counties functions at a different level - some better than others. I also learned that each Board of Elections is heavily affected by its funding level which impacts its ability to provide services.

Q: What are your future plans – and did interning with the League influence any of those plans?
A: I aspire to pursue a career with a non-profit activist organization that works on an international scale.

Q: Interesting stories of when you were working with us?
A: There was one time when I was talking to one of the county BOE commissioners and she mentioned something Cuomo said in his speech that day. It just happened that was the day when I went up to the Capitol to see his press conference in person. That was a fun little coincidence. We chatted about that for a little.

Leila Eliot

My name is Leila Eliot. I am from New York City and in the Spring of 2020 I graduated from State University of New York at Albany. I interned in the office during the fall, 2019, while I was in my senior year at SUNY Albany.

My grandmother, Barbara Epstein, has been a member of the League of Women Voters of East Nassau for decades and knows I am extremely interested in women’s rights work. In the summer of 2019 she suggested I reach out to the Albany office to inquire about an internship for Fall of 2019.

During the internship, I conducted research, typed up memos, edited documents, made phone calls and whatever else needed to be done around the office, specifically in regards to early voting. In the fall of 2019 early voting was being implemented for the first time in New York State. My role in regards to early voting included confirming poll site locations, hours and pertinent information for voters by monitoring county boards of elections’ information. I researched and called other organizations in counties where there is no League of Women Voters to distribute the materials on early voting in these counties, too. At the end of the internship I also assisted in drafting the early voting survey conducted statewide and analyzing the results after the election.

From my experience, I learned how much hands-on work is involved in non-profit work as well as how little oversight is done at the state level with regards to local board of elections. I learned how important the work of non-profits like the League of Women Voters truly is. When calling the local non-profits and community organizations in the hope that they would help with getting the vote out, a few of the places refused on the grounds that it was partisan. That was extremely interesting to me.

Since my graduation from the University at Albany in June, I am applying to law school. Interning with the League did not directly affect my plans but it increased my interest in women’s rights issues and made me realize how much work still needs to be done in the state legislature.

In reflecting on my work with the League, I realized how much my generation needs to learn and listen to the institutions and organizations already in place. As we create our own movement, we need to continue to learn from the organizations and people who have been doing this work for decades.
EDUCATION

Mission: To educate people on the importance of their participation in government, in the political process, and in the life of their home community.

Voter Services Activities by Local Leagues

Fall 2019 Election Season

41 Local Leagues, Member-at-Large Units, and Inter-League Organizations (ILOs) responded to the 2019 Voter Service Survey

Voter Registration:
• 17 Leagues did more drives than in past years
• 27 Leagues held training workshops for league volunteers or other groups and organizations
• 24 Leagues held drives in venues different from the past
• 22 held drives in underserved communities

Voter Guides:
37 local Leagues distributed almost 14,000 Voter Guides Part 1

Early Voting brochures:
39 local Leagues distributed:
• 52,000 tri-fold general information brochures in English
• 6,000 tri-fold general information brochures in Spanish
• 3,000 tri-fold general information brochures in each Chinese, Korean and Bengali
• 44,125 inserts for county-specific early voting poll site information to all 62 counties

Candidate Events:
• 34 leagues held from 1-5 candidate events
• 25 leagues had their events videoed
• 3 leagues had their events live streamed

GOTV:
More than half the local Leagues worked to GOTV

Spring 2020 Election Season

42 Local Leagues, Member-at-Large Units and Inter-League Organizations (ILOs) responded (January 1-June 30, 2020 activities) to Voter Service Survey

Voter Registration Drives:
• 10 leagues registered students in their schools.
• 5 leagues registered students at their colleges
• 9 leagues registered new citizens at naturalization ceremonies.
• Over 100 planned voter registration drives throughout the state were cancelled because of pandemic.
• 4 leagues reported registering people virtually.

Candidate Forums:
• Three leagues reported holding candidate forums in person:
  • Scarsdale before the quarantine
  • North Country with social distancing and masks
  • Cooperstown for Village Trustees
• 15 leagues organized and held virtual candidate forums
• 14 leagues moderated or helped with virtual forums (mostly school board elections)

Get Out the Vote Efforts:
• Promotion of state League texting service
• Social Media posts: Facebook, Twitter, Instagram
• Other online: virtual candidate meetings, websites, email blasts
• Flyers in school lunch distribution, food programs, etc.
• Palm Cards handed out at events
• Congratulation cards to high school graduates promoting voting
• PSAs and Letters to the Editors
• Bus wraps and bus stop advertisements
• Radio shows
• Mailed postcards to areas of low voter turnout

Vote 411:
• 18 leagues participated in Vote 411
• 13 Leagues marketed Vote 411

Texting Service (Spring 2020)
The state League purchased an app to enable voters to get texts keeping them up-to-date on changes in the election and reminding them to vote

Supported in part by Craig Newmark Philanthropies and League of Women Voters Education Fund.
State League Voter Services Publications 2019–2020

Road to the Voting Booth, Part II A: A Toolkit or Candidate Events (updated Aug 2019)

Candidate event essentials and guidelines for candidate events including a sample calendar for planning a candidate event, sample templates for video-recording policy, save the date letters, invitations to candidates, press release, co-sponsor agreement, sample ground rules and formats, sample moderator scripts and a sample statement if an event needs to be cancelled due to the No Empty Chair Policy


List of essential materials for voter registration drives, instructions for filling out the voter registration forms, fact sheet, voter information resources and templates as well as information on early voting and the election reforms passed in 2019

Toolkit on Getting Out the Vote (Fall 2019)

New ideas or efforts to get out the vote particularly in underserved communities

Voter Registration, Candidate Events, and GOTV While Social Distancing (Spring 2020)

Update to include ideas and samples for organizing and conducting all of these activities while social distancing due to pandemic

League Day at the United Nations

December 4, 2019 • Topic of Briefings: Climate Change

Almost 100 people attended the Annual League Day at the United Nations on December 4, 2019. After tours of the UN facility and lunch in the Delegates’ Dining Room, the attendees were briefed on climate change issues by two speakers.

Thanks to Zonta International – District 4 and the Women’s Bar Association of New York for co-sponsoring the day with the League’s Education Foundation.

Omar Hernandez - Office of UN Sustainability Goals, Department of Global Communications

We don’t necessarily speak about climate change but do speak about climate change impacts. What is the UN going to do? It cannot just call to action for government or mandates from government and intergovernmental organizations, but also needs to speak to private sector and academia. Research that has been conducted is not being implemented in the field and in civil society. It is not just the responsibility of those in government but also those in the private sector and public citizens. We have common goals and common problems and all have a responsibility to address climate change.

Social impact of climate change can be seen in countries heavily effected by natural disasters. These tend to be the poorest countries and those who suffer the most. The groups most impacted are women and children, migrants, refugees, asylum seekers. These are groups that don’t have resources and support and suffer the most. Forced migration to protect their lives and the lives of their families is another result of climate change.

What is being done to minimize the threat of disasters? The capacity of China to rebuild after a climate change disaster is not the same as Haiti. Resources in countries that are developed such as Japan, China, and the US, are much better equipped to deal with the disasters than newly developing countries who are hit by similar disasters. These countries take much longer to recover and result in much more suffering.

 Entire countries can disappear because of climate change. Fiji and islands in the Caribbean are at risk of being completely destroyed. Advocacy can have the biggest impact on climate change but you often need to adjust your messaging for different populations and to involve more stakeholders.

Satay Tripathi, UN Assistant Secretary General and Head of NY Office at UN Environment

Climate change is persistent because of three human emotions and actions – ignorance, arrogance, and a refusal to act.

• Ignorance - people don’t want to talk about climate change and its challenges even though doing so leads to consciousness to change behavior. Humans believe nature exists for us but there are billions of other species on the planet.

• Arrogance - many refuse to be educated about climate change and when people try to educate us, we bring politics into the conversation.

• Refusal to act - even when we know that there are problems, we refuse to act.

There is still hope and we can’t scare people into action; we need to excite people into action. Individuals can have a major impact by making small choices. Global population and impact on resources can be a problem but can also be a positive in implementing change. People can help to control populations by empowering women. Zero budget natural farming (ZBNF) program can help institute no chemical farming. The biggest solution is asking profit managers where they are putting your investment funds. Don’t deploy money to the wrong priority and divert your investments toward companies with more positive impact on climate change.

Presidential Primary

Party Change by Feb. 14, 2020
Register to Vote by April 3, 2020
Presidential Primaries April 28, 2020

Register
and VOTE
On March 10, the League held a special event honoring Barbara Bartoletti, former Legislative Director to the New York State League of Women Voters for over four decades. The evening featured a champagne toast, great food, and lively conversation among the event’s 150 guests. Guests were also treated to an intimate conversation between Barbara and former host of Capitol Tonight, Liz Benjamin. The discussion focused on Barbara’s accomplishments, frustrations and stories of legislative activities during her 40 years at the capitol.

Barbara told the story of her very first lobbying experience with the Counsel to the Assembly Speaker at the time. The League was lobbying for day care access but while Barbara attempted to make her advocacy pitch, the staffer did everything but pay attention to the important issue. The high-level, well paid staffer ate his lunch, called to his girlfriend, and finally turned to Barbara to ask what she was there for. She remembered feeling as though she was pat on the head and condescendingly told “Oh yes – day care is such an important issue.” The interaction stuck with her and increased her drive to ensure important women’s issues weren’t overlooked by the primarily male legislative staff and elected officials.

Barbara admitted that a lot changed from when she first came on as Legislative Director for the League. Not just the addition of women’s restrooms to the third floor of the Capitol, but major changes including the first woman of color to be named the Senate Majority Leader. The conversation was an excellent celebration of both Barbara’s outstanding career as the League’s Legislative Director, and the incredible progresses women have made as active participants in our elections and government.

The video of the conversation between Barbara and Liz is posted on our state League website, as well as photos from the evening. The event was generously co-sponsored by the NYS Archives Partnership Trust who also provided critical help for us throughout the planning.
100 Years and Beyond!

A Celebration of the Centennial of the League of Women Voters of New York State!

On Friday, November 16, 2019, the League of Women Voters of New York State held a Centennial Celebration at the Buffalo History Museum. The event highlighted the great strides women have made defending and helping to define democracy for 100 years by honoring western New York change makers and up-and-coming women leaders. The evening awards and honorees included:

**Narcissa Cox Vanderlip Award for Leadership in Education**
- Dr. Katherine Conway-Turner, President, SUNY Buffalo State

**Carrie Chapman Catt Award for Leadership in Government**
- Kathleen Hochul, Lt. Governor of New York State
- William J. Hochul, Jr., Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary to Delaware North Companies

**Community Leadership Award**
- Alice Jacobs, President, Board of Directors of Albright Knox

**Emerging Leader Award**
- Ariel Palitz, Senior Executive Director, Office of Nightlife, The Mayor’s Office of Media and Entertainment, NYC

Awards were presented by state League President Suzanne Stassevitch, with opening remarks provided by Katie Alexander, Anchor/Reporter, WIVB/WNLO-TV | We’re 4 Buffalo. After the award ceremony, guests were able to view the Museum’s suffrage exhibit and enjoy hors d’oeuvre and desserts.

The Buffalo History Museum was hosting a special exhibit, Emblem of Equality: Woman Suffrage in Western New York. The exhibit featured posters by local artist Evelyn Rumsey Cary that told stories on suffrage and The Buffalo Six – the western New York women who were imprisoned for picketing the White House, and more. The exhibit was curated in collaboration with local historian Susan Eck.

**We thank the co-sponsors of this centennial celebration:**
The Buffalo History Museum
League of Women Voters of Buffalo and Niagara
Wegman’s Food Market
Michelle Macey, Beauty Organix
Nancy J. Parisi, Social Documentation Photography
Following the successful passage of the early voting statute by the New York State Legislature, the state League undertook a large project to educate citizens throughout New York State on the new voting laws enacted in 2019 and to evaluate the implementation of the new laws during the election. The League printed and distributed 52,000 trifold brochures of general information on early voting in English, 6,000 in Spanish, and 3,000 in each Chinese, Korean and Bengali (the languages required on the ballot in NYC based on the Voting Rights Act). The League also printed and distributed approximately 44,125 brochure inserts with information for each county listing the locations and times for early voting in that county.

In addition to printed materials, the state League created a new webpage with general information about early voting, but also information on where poll sites were located, times of sites, public transportation or parking availability for each of the 62 counties. The public was able to click on their county to obtain all of this information. The League also printed hundreds of flyers that were distributed with the new website, www.nyearlyvoting.org. We used press releases and social media posts to advertise our educational materials.

Following New York’s first ever early voting election, the League solicited responses to a survey regarding voters’ experiences voting early for the first time. The League received 1,791 survey responses, representing voters from 55 counties voting at 239 different early voting poll sites. In addition to the survey, the League received dozens of emails and phone calls from voters and League members reporting issues about their early voting and Election Day voting experiences.

The data was broken into regions of the state and used to make recommendations for improvements to future periods of early voting. The League recommended that county boards of elections move and expand poll locations, increase trainings and education on new equipment for both poll workers and the public, and increase county board of elections outreach to voters. Although there were a few common issues, overwhelmingly voters rated their experience voting early positively. 93% of surveyed voters said they plan to vote early again and less than 1% said they did not plan to vote early again in the future.

The state League presented our findings at two public hearings, in testimony before the legislative committees, and used the report at 50 different in-person meetings with legislators from all over the state. The survey results were also shared with board of election commissioners from every county in the state of New York. In December, the League attended the Election Commissioners Association Conference where we were able to further connect with these election officials and make recommendations for future periods of early voting. Local Leagues also met with their boards of elections commissioners following the early voting period to assess potential partnerships for the following year.

Supported in part by the League of Women Voters Education Fund.
LWVNYS EDUCATION FOUNDATION BALANCE SHEET
June 30, 2020

ASSETS

Current Assets
- Checking Account: 21,864
- Savings Account: 171,651
- Centennial Endowment Fund: 36,252
- B. Bibby Endowment Fund: 205,894
- Prepaid Expenses/Insurance Exp.: 3,780
- Accounts Receivable: 1,307

Total Current Assets: $440,748

Fixed Assets
- Building, Equipment, Furnishings, Software: 240,539
- Land: 18,000
- Accum Depreciation – Building, Eqmt, Furnishings, Software: (131,860)

Total Fixed Assets: $126,679

Other Assets
- Grants Management: 111,912

Total Other Assets: $111,912

TOTAL ASSETS: $679,338

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Total Liabilities: $63,562

Equity
- Temp Restricted Net Asset
  - Grants Management: 110,530
- Total Temporary Restricted Net Asset: $110,530

- Permanently Restricted
  - B. Bibby Endowment Fund: 207,593
  - Centennial Endowment Fund: 37,227
- Total Permanently Restricted: 244,821

- Unrestricted Fund Balance: 214,286
- Net Income: 46,140

Total Equity: $615,777

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY: $679,339

Income and Expenses 2019-2020

Income
- Grant Income (local League): 104,947
- Member Contributions: 101,854
- Board Donations: 48,898
- Community/Corporate Donations: 65
- Grant Income: 35,704
- Direct Mail Income: 28,710
- Other Income: 14,613
- Development Income: 73,787

Total Income: $408,578

Unrealized gain/loss for investments not included

Expenses
- Educational Programs
  - Youth Programs (SIA and Civics): 13,875
  - Advocacy Education: 27,143
  - Voter Service Education: 73,049
  - History Projects: 21,945
  - Other Education Programs: 13,385
- Total Educational Programs: $149,397

- Local League Educational Programs
  - Grants to Local Leagues: 89,264
- Total Local League Educational Programs: $89,264

- Building Expenses
  - Building, Equipment and Leases: 4,796
  - Utilities: 4,045
  - Maintenance and Upkeep: 24,582
  - Insurance: 1,721
- Total Building Expenses: 35,144

- Total Administration: 46,127

- Total Dues and Subscriptions: 1,621

- Total Development & Fundraising: 40,885

Total Expenses: $362,438

Net Ordinary Income: $46,140

The financial information presented above is unaudited and subject to adjustments and modifications during the auditing process.
Barbara Epstein and her granddaughter Leila Eliot.

Donor Profile: Barbara Epstein

Barbara is a 50-year member of the League of Women Voters! A friend introduced her to the League and she was hooked. Barbara is also the grandmother of Leila Eliot who interned with the state League last year and is profiled on page 3.

Throughout her 50 years with the League, Barbara has been active in many League programs and has held various leadership positions in her local League (East Nassau). At the local level, her interest in the need for affordable housing led to a local study and ultimately a county League position on affordable housing. Barbara is currently the affordable housing director for her county League (League of Women Voters of Nassau County ILO). Currently a part of the local League’s management team, Barbara has been president of her local League a number of times. Much of her local League focus has been on voter service activities. She has assisted in obtaining candidate information for Vote 411, the League’s electronic voter guide, and encouraging candidates to participate in this guide. This year, with the COVID pandemic, Barbara helped to organize three virtual candidate forums. Barbara is also adept at and active in moderating candidate forums. Finally, Barbara was part of the county redistricting committee after the last census (2010) and will be again this coming year.

One of Barbara’s favorite League experiences is attending state and national conventions. These gatherings give her an opportunity to network with other League members from across the state and the country. Successes and accomplishments of other Leagues’ programs are shared and training on new initiatives is provided which is great information to bring back to her local League. The energy Barbara gains at the conventions help bring enthusiasm and excitement back to her own local League activities.

Although Barbara is not a large donor for the League, she believes very strongly in the League’s mission and activities and supports its programs as she can. She considers the League’s training to be especially important for members and the public. As a trusted voice in Albany, Barbara greatly appreciates that the League trains its members and the public to advocate and lobby on critical issues. The League’s educated voice is strong in the state Capitol in part from its grassroots participation.

Collaboration with other organizations also strengthens the League’s impact on key issues, such as women’s issues, and is important to Barbara.

Barbara considers the Students Inside Albany Conference to be one of the most important programs of the state League as it has the potential to change the lives of the participating students. Her local League has sent a student each year to the Conference and they have heard from the students when they return about the impact of the program and how they are armed for action with the training they have received. The state League’s publications, such as First Vote and the voter guides for special populations, also are key to support according to Barbara, as they can educate the public on the importance of their voting rights.

Barbara concluded by mentioning that a very special part of the League for her is the friendships and knowledge that she has developed. Also, the League plays a vital role in speaking for the people and good government and she is proud to be a part of that. She encourages all people to support the League with any amount they can afford to assist in the state League’s future goals and mission.
### $5,000+

- Anonymous (1)
- Lisa O. Allendorph
- Phoebe Bender
- Laura Ladd Bierman
- Joanne and Michael Esposito
- Emily and Eugene Grant
- Sally and Eric Robinson
- Ann Sandford
- Suzanne Stassevitch
- Evelyn Stock

### $1,000- $4,999

- Anonymous (1)
- The Martin Family Fund of the Ayco Charitable Foundation
- Aimee and Guy Allaud
- Mary and Al Belby
- Marilyn Bottjer
- Joan Bozer
- Toni Coffee
- Jane Colvin
- ErinLeigh Damrill
- Kate Doran and Edward Fondiller
- Shirley and Joseph Eberly
- Rosalie Genevro
- Julia Gregory
- Elaine and John Hogle
- Elizabeth Hubbard
- Louis Jacobs
- Martha and Donald Kennedy
- Mary Lunt
- Marcia and James Merrins
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- Maribelle Leavitt
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- Carol Mellor
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- David Robinson
- Lorri Robinson
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1919 SOCIETY

The 1919 Society was created in celebration of the state League’s 90th birthday to ensure that the League is able to maintain its vibrant reputation in the 21st century. Remembering a charity in your will or other estate plans is a powerful way to ensure that your values survive you and that the League remains robust for the next generation. In addition to providing a wonderful legacy for the community, bequests decrease the size of your taxable estate.

Members of the 1919 Society as of June 30, 2020:

Barbara Bartoletti
Helen Bailey Bayly
Laura Ladd Bierman
Paula Blum
Anne Burton
Lori Dawson and Michael LaBelle
Elizabeth Hubbard
Katharine W. Lloyd, MD
Evelyn Stock
Dorothy Westhafer

Sustaining Support – Recurring EF Donors

Many donors find it easier to set up monthly or quarterly gifts to the EF. These gifts are made with a credit card and happen automatically on the schedule that works best for our donors. Sustaining support like this means the EF can continue to provide meaningful resources for New York State voters. Thanks to our 2019/2020 EF recurring donors:

Kate Jankowski
Deborah Liebman
Lori Robinson

Joan Rogers
Suzanne Stassevitch
Janalyn Travis-Messer
Robert and Peter Wiernik

For more information on making recurring gifts to the League, please contact Laura Ladd Bierman, at (518) 465-4162 or Laura@lwvny.org.
I first became involved in the League in the fall of 2014. I was a sophomore at Binghamton University, and Margaret Goodfellow (current co-President of the LWV of Broome & Tioga Counties) sat on a committee I chaired to increase voter registration at the University, and she asked me if I was interested in joining. I was interested in getting involved because I am incredibly passionate about democracy and civic life, especially around engaging young people in the democratic process.

Since then, I’ve been a proud card-carrying member of the League. Margaret has been a mentor to me throughout my experience of registering voters, and I always knew I could count on her with advice or a good story (and still can!). While I moved back home to the Syracuse metro area since graduating, I have still found myself helping out with newsletters and naturalization ceremonies in Broome & Tioga Counties and am looking forward to many more once the pandemic is over.

Without a doubt, my favorite League experience has been registering new citizens at naturalization ceremonies. I have attended a handful of ceremonies, and they are one of the most beautiful and powerful events in our civic life. I continue to be touched by watching people become citizens and getting their first opportunity to register to vote. It is one of the most tangible experiences for the important work the League does. There is nothing like the thrill of registering a new citizen to participate in American democracy!

Pre-pandemic I was on the road a lot for work, so I did not have as much time as I would like to volunteer, but I’ve still found myself helping the political engagement folks at the Center for Civic Engagement at Binghamton University here and there. I try to give money since I cannot really give the time. I’m passionate about democracy, civics, and voting as well as food insecurity and donate to organizations I think make a difference in those areas, especially locally.

In the early days of the pandemic, I read somewhere that it is just as important to invest in our democracy’s health as it is to invest in public health. That has really stuck with me since I came across that sentiment, especially after witnessing the very messy primaries across the countries. Much like everyone else, I worry that we have become too polarized, which is why we need a voice as trusted as the League more than ever.

Currently I am the Elections Specialist for both the City League and the state League. In that role I monitor the NYC Board of Elections and I am the City League’s representative on the various voter coalitions aiming to serve voters, and achieve voting reform. I have regularly delivered testimony to the NYC Council, and the New York State Election Law committees. I have cordial working relationships with several NYC print and TV journalists, giving me the opportunity to deliver the League’s message to a larger audience.

Q: What has been your favorite League experience?
A: Traveling to Seneca Falls in 2015 with a bus full of NYC League friends. We stayed at the Gould Hotel, and toured all of the sites, including the Women’s Hall of Fame, and Historical Park. The home of Elizabeth Cady Stanton was a particular highlight.

Donor Profile: Kate Doran (No relation to Nick above!)

Q: What interested you in the League and made you get involved?
A: I joined the League in fall 2017 after attending the LWV of New York State’s Legislative Conference. I was inspired to get involved by the experience of meeting so many League members who were passionate about democracy, and by the work the League was doing. I was also very interested in the League’s efforts to increase civic engagement among young people.

Since then, I have volunteered with the League in many different capacities. I have helped with voter registration drives, and I have also served as a co-President of the LWV of Broome & Tioga Counties. I have also been a mentor to young people interested in getting involved in the League, and have served as a mentor to young people interested in getting involved in the League.

Q: What is your favorite League experience?
A: One of my favorite League experiences was helping to register new citizens at naturalization ceremonies. I have attended a handful of ceremonies, and they are one of the most beautiful and powerful events in our civic life. I continue to be touched by watching people become citizens and getting their first opportunity to register to vote. It is one of the most tangible experiences for the important work the League does.

Q: What is your role as a donor to the League?
A: As a donor to the League, I am proud to support the work that the League is doing. The League is an absolutely essential source of trusted information. We are unlike the media, or any other good government group, owing to our history of education and engagement, not to mention the struggle to get the United States to acknowledge that everyone in our community is important.

I believe that gifts to the League keep our legacy alive, and empower others with facts, and information so that they can be truly informed, involved citizens.

Q: Is there anything else you’d like to let our readers know?
A: I have been a League volunteer for many years. I am proud to support the work that the League is doing, and I believe that the League is an absolutely essential source of trusted information. We are unlike the media, or any other good government group, owing to our history of education and engagement, not to mention the struggle to get the United States to acknowledge that everyone in our community is important.

I believe that gifts to the League keep our legacy alive, and empower others with facts, and information so that they can be truly informed, involved citizens.

Q: What are your volunteer activities outside of the League?
A: I am a member of the League’s Legislative Director on staff. This position is indispensable to my work as Elections Specialist, and I believe, to our overall mission.

Q: How do your gifts to the League help change the lives of people in your community and in New York State?
A: The League is an absolutely essential source of trusted information. We are unlike the media, or any other good government group, owing to our history of education and engagement, not to mention the struggle to get the United States to acknowledge that everyone in our community is important.

I believe that gifts to the League keep our legacy alive, and empower others with facts, and information so that they can be truly informed, involved citizens.
2019/2020 LOCAL LEAGUES IN NEW YORK STATE

Albany County
Allegany & Cattaraugus Counties
(Broome/Tioga Counties
Buffalo/Niagara
Cazenovia
Central Nassau County
Chemung County
Cooperstown
Cortland
East Nassau County
Putnam County
Geneva
Hamptons, Shelter Island & North Fork
Huntington
Larchmont/Mamaroneck
Long Beach
Mid-Hudson Region
New Castle
New Rochelle
New York City
North Country serving
Clinton, Essex and Franklin Counties

North East Westchester
Oneonta
Orange County MAL (Members at Large)
Port Washington/Manhasset
Rensselaer County
Rivertowns
Rochester Metro
Rockland County
Rye, Rye Brook, Port Chester
Saratoga County
Scarsdale
Schenectady County
Schuyler County
Smithtown
Southwest Nassau County
St. Lawrence MAL (Members at Large)
Steuben County
Syracuse Metropolitan Area
Tompkins County
Utica/Rome Metro Area
White Plains

Inter-League Organizations
Nassau County ILO
Suffolk County ILO
Westchester County ILO

“America, as the world’s greatest proponent of democracy, has good reason to demand of herself civic and social consciousness, tolerance, justice, high standards of political honesty – for those we must strive if we are to defend our democracy by making it a shining example.”

– The League of Women Voters of NYS, 1946