

LWV Winter, 2017

NEWSLETTER

Calendar of Upcoming Events:

Friday, January 20, Deadline for submissions to be selected to be in the Students Inside Albany program which sends a local young person to observe our state government in action.

Saturday, January 21, 6:00 pm, Chinese New Year Party at the home of Roz and Peter Larr, 6 Fieldstone Place, Rye, NY. Speaker: George Latimer.

Tuesday, February 7, 7:00 to 9:00 pm, NY State LWV Conference on Constitutional Convention, Church Street School, White Plains.

Friday, April 7, Deadline for submissions to be selected for the Student Civic Achievement Award.

"We in America do not have government by the majority. We have government by the majority who participate."

--- Thomas Jefferson

Presidents' Letter

Dear LWV members,

I was honored to have been elected as Co- President of our chapter at our annual meeting on June 24, 2016. Along with Liz Rotfeld, our League will be entering uncharted waters, having a co-presidency in the wake of the tremendous accomplishments of Debbie Reisner over the previous seven years. My joke is that it will take AT LEAST two people to fill her shoes!

While I am relatively new to the League, I do come with an array of experience having served locally in both elected positions as well as appointed ones. I was a three term member of the Blind Brook Board of Education, as well as a one term Trustee on the Village of Rye Brook Board. In addition, I have served as a member of the Rye Brook Recreation and Parks Council twice, for five years in the 1990's, as well as currently in the capacity of Chairman.

Despite having had this experience, I know that I will have to lean heavily on our own Executive Board to help shepherd me through some of the nuances of League life. I feel very fortunate to have wonderful Board members who have welcomed and mentored me thus far. I am confident that working with Liz, we can continue the good works of our League into the future. I look forward to a great year ahead!

Sincerely, Rick Buzin

Saturday, January 21, 6:00 pm, Chinese New Year Party

at the home of Roz and Peter Larr, 16 Fieldstone Place, Rye, NY. Speaker: George Latimer.



George Latimer

Come and enjoy delicious Chinese food, friendly conversation, and convivial hospitality.

All funds generated from donations for admissions and from the raffle will go to support our youth programs.

New York State Senate, District 37 Candidates Forums

The first was Co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters AND the Osborn Residence Association on Wednesday, September 28th. There was a "Meet & Greet" Reception, followed by a Candidates Forum for **George Latimer and Julie Killian at the Osborn Auditorium, 101 Theall Road, Rye.**

ALSO:

League of Women Voters Sponsored a local Candidates Forum.

On October 25, our chapter of the League of Women Voters sponsored an informative Forum with **Julie Killian and George Latimer, Candidates for the N. Y. State Senate.**

The event was held at the Rye Middle School.

“Tools for Change” Program

The Tools for Change Seminar welcomed twenty-six students to its current annual program. They represent a wide range of talents and perspectives from the community. In addition to our annual recruiting from the local high schools, this year nine of the twenty-six are from the Port Chester Carver Center. The group has held three meetings so far, the most recent on January 17.

The Tools for Change seminar is animated by the belief that active citizenship, college (not merely admissions) readiness, and career success require a similar set of mindsets and capacities. Active citizenship involves voting, but also the ability to address community problems. College success is not just mastering and moving information, it's learning to think analytically in at least one disciplinary style and then using this style to communicate and collaboratively solve the problems that matter. Community, college and career readiness require cognitive as well non-cognitive abilities, analysis and perseverance, the ability to communicate and the development of an ethical sensibility. Tools introduces students in the community to the most common mode of inquiry in American society, the evidence

based research, and teaches them to use this method to solve problems they care about.

Dr. William Tobin from Duke University directs the program. The seminar is modeled on two Duke programs he has co-directed: the Honors program in the Sociology Department and DukeEngage, Dublin--an undergraduate research and civic engagement program. Tools for Change is sponsored by the League of Women Voters and has received generous support from private and public—most recently, the Town of Rye and Westchester County—sources as well as community organizations such as the NAACP and Building Community Bridges.

During their previous meetings students focused on developing their own perspectives so they could begin to get leverage on community challenges. In later classes students will engage and try on the perspectives of their classmates as they identify and address a community question.

\$\$ Student Civic Achievement Award \$\$

Each year the League of Women Voters of Rye, Rye Brook and Port Chester gives a Student Civic Achievement Award to one high school junior who lives in and attends a high school in the City of Rye, Villages of Rye Brook and Port Chester, or the Rye Neck section of the Town of Rye, in recognition of the student's overall contributions to his or her school and community in the areas of civic engagement,

advocacy, leadership or voter education.

The criteria for the Student Civic Achievement Award are:

* Proven civic engagement, such as participation and volunteering in school and community organizations, committees and boards; and/or

* Demonstrated advocacy for various causes, such as political, economic, education, civil, environmental or quality of life issues; and/or

* Proven leadership roles in school and community organizations, committees and boards; and/or

* Demonstrated interest in voter education.

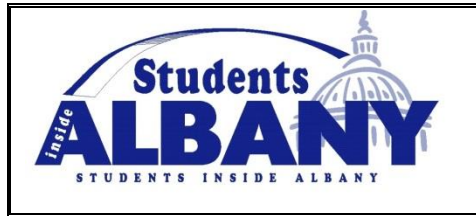
Students eligible for the award will participate at a high level in numerous activities. In doing so, they will have proven to be exemplary leaders and excellent role models for their peers.

The recipient of the Student Civic Leadership Award will be selected by a subcommittee of the LWV Board members based on the content of the application and by an interview, if deemed necessary by the subcommittee members. The recipient will receive a \$500.00 monetary award.

The LWV has distributed to each local high school an application form to be completed by a student who wishes to apply for the Student Civic Achievement Award. The deadline for submission of the application is April 7, 2017. Each student must submit a reference and the guidance counselor or a school

administrator must sign off on the application. The award recipient will be notified in May 2017 and will be presented with the Award at the June LWV Annual Meeting.

For further information, please contact Joan L. Feinstein at jfeinstein@wfsnyc.com or call her at 914-937-3626.



STUDENTS INSIDE ALBANY CONFERENCE FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

The League of Women Voters - Rye, Rye Brook & Port Chester (LWVRRBPC) will sponsor a local high school student to attend the annual Students Inside Albany (SIA) Conference to be held in May of 2017 in Albany. The State LWV and our local chapter, LWVRRBPC, will underwrite all of the costs of attending the conference.

SIA is sponsored by the League of Women Voters of New York State Education Foundation, Inc. and is designed to increase students' awareness of their responsibility in a representative government and to provide the tools necessary for meeting that responsibility. This interactive conference brings together approximately 60 high school students from across the state to learn about New York State government and the process by which citizens can participate in

the policy making arena. As part of the program, students tour the Capitol and observe the Senate and Assembly in action by spending an afternoon shadowing their legislators. Students participate in a series of interactive discussions with Albany insiders on topics such as the state budget process, the role of lobbyists in the legislative process, the rights of citizens to access government information and the role of the media in politics.

This last spring's Student Inside Albany winner, from Rye High School, was Isabelle Schindler. Her "Thank you" letter is reproduced here:

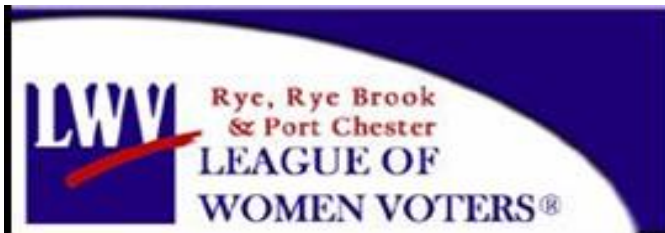
Dear Ms. Nicholson,

I just wanted to thank you and the entire local league for sponsoring my attendance at the Students Inside Albany Conference. It was an amazing and educational experience that has only deepened my love of politics. I took extensive notes on the entire program and would to do a write up some time as well as attend your annual meeting on June 24th. Please also let me know if there would ever be an opportunity for me to ever do any volunteer work for the local league.

My sister helped the New York City league utilize social media and she enjoyed it greatly.

Thanks again,
Isabelle Schindler





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PO Box 194
Rye NY 10580
(914) 481-3234

The League of Women Voters of Rye, Rye Brook & Port Chester is a nonpartisan political organization that promotes political responsibility through the informed and active participation of citizens in government.

Our mission is to foster a better understanding of policy issues that will impact our lives and our communities.

Email:
LWV.Rye.RyeBrook.PortChester@gmail.com

Website:
www.lwvrbpc.org

Facebook Page:
[Facebook.com/LWVRRBPC](https://www.facebook.com/LWVRRBPC)

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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS - RYE, RYE BROOK & PORT CHESTER

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

Select Membership Level: Make checks payable to Rye, Rye Brook & Port Chester LWV

___ Student \$25 ___ Individual \$67 ___ Family \$90 ___ Sponsor \$125 ___ Patron \$250*

The LWV is a 501 (C) 4 advocacy organization, membership dues are not tax deductible.

*Includes membership. Monies in excess of \$67 Individual and \$90 Family go to the LWV Educational Foundation, a 501(C) (3) organization, and are tax deductible.

RETURN APPLICATION WITH CHECK TO: LWV RYE-RB-PC, PO Box 194, Rye, NY 10580.