On Tuesday, November 19 The League of Women Voters of Tompkins County raised glasses in a toast!

We toasted in celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the State Convention of the New York Woman Suffrage Party voting to change their name to the New York State League of Women Voters. Cheers to 100 years!
Time to Start Planning!!

August 26, 2020 is the 100th anniversary of women getting the right to vote throughout the U.S. We are beginning to make plans to celebrate that day. Please let us know if you would like to help.

Two different people have reached out to us with a view to working with us on collaborative events:

*Margaret Wakeley would like to include a special fundraising event for the League when she celebrates both her 70th Birthday and her retirement next year.

*Stacey Murphey who is on the Board of the Community Foundation is interested in including the Women’s Fund in our plans. If you would like to help with ideas and planning, please let us know.
On November 11th, together with the Democracy Reform Ranking Project (DRRP), we co-sponsored an open-members’ meeting on “Is There a Democracy Crisis?”

Big thanks to new member Jennifer Karius for all she did to make this meeting a success.

We watched the video “Democracy Crisis” and then broke into small groups for discussion and feedback. Unfortunately, time was too short but we did identify several issues over which people wanted to take action. Jennifer also distributed DRRP’s “Democracy Survey” which attempts to draw together those people who take the survey and identify democracy issues most needing attention across the country. One issue identified as a barrier to free and fair voting was gerrymandering and redistricting.


This is one issue already being addressed by the State and National leagues which we might wish to address locally in Tompkins County.
Time to celebrate!!! The League of Women Voters of New York State turned 100 on November 19. Let’s all raise a glass and toast our State League.

October and early November have been busy with early voting and the election, voter registration, one candidate forum, and VOTE 411. Before we talk about other things, we want to give enormous and heartfelt thanks to Kathy Yen for the excellent and very hard work she did on Vote411. It is now much easier to use and Kathy’s work with the candidates resulted in most of them responding to the questions we asked them so the information available was very informative to voters.

We have been trying a different format for our members meetings in the last couple of months, in an effort to encourage greater participation by members in different league issues.

Membership renewal letters were sent out recently. Please be sure to return your membership form and dues for the coming year as soon as possible. We are particularly interested in your interests and where you would like to be active. Are there other areas where we should be active locally in addition to Natural Resources and Health? If you did not receive your membership letter please let one of us know and we will send a copy to you. We have had some problems with data entry and are having to update many of our records.
The Natural Resources Committee is busy planning the February 24 program. The focus of the program will be on our climate change crisis and what we need to do to respond to it. We are still looking for a title and welcome any ideas you might have. Stay tuned as we continue to work on the program.

On October 17 our League co-sponsored a water forum organized by Environmental Advocates of New York. Cayuga Lake Watershed Network was the other co-sponsor and Hilary Lambert, the Steward of that organization, was one of the speakers. About 50 people attended the forum, most of whom are either professionally involved in water issues or are active in local organizations that are concerned about the health of our water. Kay Wagner had a chance to talk briefly about the LWVTC and what we do. Barbara Lifton spoke about new and proposed New York State legislation that deals with environmental issues and environmental justice. There were several other speakers who described local activities such as volunteers who help monitor Cayuga Lake. Environmental Advocates held this forum as part of an effort to help various community leaders interact with each other and build connections to institutions on the state level. They hope to keep in touch with those who attended so we can be more effective in getting key legislation introduced and passed.

Unfortunately, the water forum conflicted with an excellent program held by the Tompkins County Environmental Management Council. We are pleased that the program was recorded and it is well worth taking the time to watch. It can be viewed at the site https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yx06hb2LV-I

As always, we would love to have more of you join our committee. If you do not want to be an active committee member but would like to receive the emails we share concerning environmental issues and events let us know. Just get in touch with Kay Wagner, CMW18@cornell.edu.
League of Women Voters of Tompkins County Launches Electronic Voter Guide—Help Us Keep It Going!

Kathy Yen and Nancy Skipper will continue to work on VOTE411 and/or a Voter Guide in 2020. However, they need additional help particularly from someone with sophisticated computer skills. They, and your local league, want to know if you used VOTE411 and the Voter Guide on LWV-TC website during the past elections and how valuable you found these information tools.

Please help us by either completing the survey found at the end of this bulletin and returning it to Kathy at 20 Cedar Lane, Ithaca, or by going to our website and filling out the two surveys you will find there. They are Vote411.com Survey [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TY23NMQ](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TY23NMQ) and LWV-Tompkins Website Survey [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TKBNL2T](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TKBNL2T).

This will be extremely helpful to LWV-TC. Both your presidents think VOTE411 is extremely valuable and worth all the work required to maintain it as well as any fees we may be charged in the future. What do you all think? We certainly need to promote it far more in future and stress its availability and importance both to candidates and the voting public.
The League was honored to be a part of the November Naturalization Ceremony.

We welcomed thirty new citizens, registering over half of them to vote. A huge Thank you to Kathy Hopkins and Nancy Skipper for representing the League!
A fantastic opportunity for local students, sponsored by The League of Women Voters!

The Tompkins County League of Women Voters is now accepting applications from local junior and senior year high school students to attend the 20th annual Students Inside Albany (SIA) conference, which is scheduled to be held May 17-20, 2020 in Albany.

This interactive conference will bring together 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 this program, students will also tour the Capitol and observe both the Senate and Assembly in action by spending an afternoon shadowing their legislator.

For students who are chosen, all their expenses are covered, including travel and three nights at the Hampton Inn in Albany. Students are in charge of arranging their own transportation, which is reimbursed by the league.

Please visit [http://www.lwvtompkins.org/youth.html](http://www.lwvtompkins.org/youth.html) for full details.
New Committees: Help Wanted!

Several new committees were proposed and approved at our recent Board Meeting.

- **History Committee.** We have had an ad hoc History committee for some time now and the members under Flo Smith’s excellent leadership have been going through our historical records and other documents, and depositing them in the archives at the History Center at Tompkins County. It was agreed to make this ad hoc committee a full Board Committee because of the importance of its on-going work. The committee will also present one history related program a year. Flo has agreed to continue chairing this committee.

- **Youth Outreach Committee.** We already support the State Program “Students in Albany” coordinated for us by Megan Nettleton, but we have no group that concentrates on outreach specifically to youth. We decided to create a Youth Outreach Committee which will include the “Students in Albany” program.

- **Community Outreach Committee.** We currently do not have a committee that concentrates on community outreach and promotes our league. When an event comes up such as Women’s Equality Day, Voter Services ends up organizing a Voter Registration event. We feel we need a group that is specifically responsible for promoting our League and reaching out to the community. Megan Nettleton who is already an at Large Board Member and responsible for our PR has agreed to be the first chair of this committee. The committee will organize events such as Women’s Equality Day, as well as reaching out to the community to recruit new members.

Now we need your participation to make these committees function and be worthwhile.

If you would like to be involved in any way with History of the League, Youth activities or Community outreach PLEASE, PLEASE let us know.
Along with receiving your dues and updating our newly online membership roster for the coming year, the membership committee is keenly interested to know each member’s interests — what would you like to see our league doing this year?

How might you like to be involved? Your ideas and interests, and the large and/or just-as-important small ways in which you might want and be able to contribute, direct the board to shape our upcoming programs and activities.

You can always fill out the interests section membership form — even if you’ve already paid your dues — by downloading and sending in the form: http://www.lwvtompkins.org/documents/LWVTCMembershipForm.pdf

Or you are most welcome to send an email to let any of the board members. We would love to chat about how you might like to share your skills and interests and/or suggest program ideas and future directions for our league.

JOIN US TO CELEBRATE ALL THE LEAGUE ACCOMPLISHED IN 2019!

When: The second Wednesday of each month, at 7 pm. 12/11/19

Where: Bar Argos, 408 East State Street, Ithaca.

Open to everyone! No need to RSVP, look for someone wearing a LWV button.

Contact Megan Nettleton for more info. Nettleton.Megan@gmail.com

Bring your ideas for 2020!
Tompkins County League of Women Voters Launches New Book Club. Please join us!

A social, informal book club led by members of the Tompkins County League. Open to everyone!

Each meeting we will read and discuss 2-4 chapters, which are independent from each other. Feel free to join us for one or all of the meet ups!

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Where: Ithaca Bakery, 2255 N Triphammer Rd. There is plenty of parking. We will grab a table in the back of the side room. Look for a poster on our table.

When: Thursday, January 23rd to discuss Chapters 6 & 7.
Thursday, February 20th to discuss Chapters 8 & 9.

Time: 5:45pm. The bakery closes at 7:30. This should give us enough time to chat about the book and get to know each other. Feel free to grab something to eat before or during!

What to bring: A copy of the book, your thoughts, and a friend! Please contact Megan Nettleton with any questions or comments!
Nettleton.Megan@gmail.com (330) 962-5448

https://www.facebook.com/events/810157909423187/

First Book Pick is Don't Know Much About History, Anniversary Edition: Everything You Need to Know About American History but Never Learned (Don't Know Much About Series) By Kenneth C Davis.
YOUR REPRESENTATIVES IN ALBANY

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senator@schumer.senate.gov ;
www.schumer.senate.gov

REPRESENTATIVES:
Tom Reed 202-225- 3161; 607-654-7566; e-mail
and web-site: reed.house.gov

Important Links

http://lwvtompkins.org/bulletins.html
See all of the League’s Past Bulletins

http://lwvtompkins.org/calendar.html
The League’s Calendar of Events

http://lwv.org/
The National League Website

http://www.lwvny.org/
The State League Website

http://lwvtompkins.org/stand.html
Where the Tompkins County League
stands on important issues

Find out when the Upcoming Elections
https://www.elections.ny.gov/

Governor Cuomo
gov.cuomo@chamber.state.ny.us