



Amherst League of Women Voters

A Voice for Citizens, a Force for Change
e-bulletin

January 2024

CALENDAR

Monday, January 8th, 6:30 PM - LWVA Steering Committee meeting.
[Email to receive location and agenda.](#)

Thursday, January 18th, 7:00 PM - Judy Brooks Conversation - Debora Ferreira and Allegra Clark, co-chairs of the Community Safety and Social Justice Committee (CSSJC). For more information, see below. To register for the Zoom, please visit [our website](#).

Saturday, January 27th - Program Planning - AM Time and Place to be determined. More to come in a mini-e-bulletin.

Saturday, February 10th, 12 noon - Birthday Luncheon - Ticket Details will be announced soon. **Special Guest - Sen. Jo Comerford.**

Dear Members and Friends,

It was so good to see some of you at the Holiday Party. Special thanks to Nancy Eddy for reserving the room, to Applewood for donating the coffee and the space, to Deanna Pearlstein and Phyllis Lehrer for decorating and laying the table, and to all members who contributed. It was fun to see the room full of members catching up. The treats were delicious. To those who could not attend, we missed you and hope you and yours are doing well.

Happy New Year!! January is traditionally a time for reflection and resolutions. Will you resolve to become more active in the League? And, if you are already doing all you can, will you resolve to talk to a friend and ask them to join us?

We are in the midst of planning an in-person Birthday Luncheon for LWVA, so please hold the date - February 10th, 2024! Look for more details to come in a special mini-Bulletin.

Happy Holidays,

Rebecca Fricke
Spokesperson

LWVA Membership Renewal Is Wrapping Up

**This year we've made it easy.
Click below to start.**

Membership Renewal

Racial Justice Committee News

Greetings from the Racial Justice Committee (RJC)

Our next Judy Brooks Conversation Series program will be on Thursday, January 18th, at 7:00 PM. Debora Ferreira and Allegra Clark, co-chairs of the Community Safety and Social Justice Committee (CSSJC), will speak on the topic, "*Working Towards Racial Equity and Social Justice in Amherst.*" Please register for this interesting event, to be held on Zoom, at www.lwvamherst.org.

As the months continue, I will be able to report on the exciting new statewide League Study Group on Reparations. We are just beginning the process and I am excited to delve into the important possibility of contributing to the League's advocacy positions.

Wishing you all happy holidays...

Marcie Sclove, Chair, Racial Justice Committee (RJC)

[Click here to email Marcie.](#)



JUDY BROOKS SERIES

WORKING TOWARDS RACIAL EQUITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE IN AMHERST

CO-CHAIRS OF THE COMMUNITY SAFETY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE WILL REVIEW THE CHARGE OF THE COMMITTEE AND PROGRESS TOWARDS AND BARRIERS TO ACHIEVING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PREDECESSOR COMMUNITY SAFETY WORKING GROUP. THE STATUS OF CRESS (COMMUNITY RESPONDERS FOR EQUITY, SAFETY AND SERVICE) WILL BE PART OF THE DISCUSSION.

**THURSDAY
18 JANUARY 2024
7.00 PM**



DEBORA FERREIRA AND ALLEGRA CLARK, CO-CHAIRS OF THE COMMUNITY SAFETY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE



**LWVAMHERST.ORG
FOR ZOOM LINK**



JUDY HARRIS BROOKS (1944-2018) WILL BE LONG REMEMBERED AS AN EDUCATOR AND CIVIC LEADER WHO WAS ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN FINDING SOLUTIONS TO COMPLEX ISSUES IN HER COMMUNITY.

ONLINE

Book Sale Planning

The Book Sale Committee will be meeting soon!

A poll will be sent in early January to determine the best time for the committee to meet. The poll will be sent to those who attended the meeting assessing the 2023 Book Sale. If you are new to Book Sale planning and would like to attend this meeting, perhaps to explore what's involved, please contact millinge@roanoke.edu.

For "old hands," please be thinking about what role(s) you'd like to play and what changes you'd like to see us make.

Legislative Envoy News

This summer, I volunteered to be LWVA's [Legislative Envoy](#), to reinforce our League's advocacy at the state level. I attended an orientation session and,

with the blessing of the Steering Committee, became your Envoy.

I wrote to our terrific reps, Rep. Mindy and Sen. Jo, and introduced myself in the new role, summing up my Envoy goals like this: "With direction from the state League, I will be contacting you on issues that the League has studied and prioritized, AND I also hope to be a point of contact for you when you want to get a message specifically to our local League members, so we can add a multiplier effect for *your* priorities."

My most recent assignment was to let them know that the state League urges them to pressure leadership to bring [H4101](#), An Act Relative to Accelerating Improvements to the Local and Regional Public Health System To Address Disparities in the Delivery of Public Health Services, to a vote. It has already been voted favorably out of committee, and since both Jo and Mindy are original petitioners for the strategies outlined in the bill, my job is to let them know they could count on "wind in their sails" from Amherst.

With scaffolding and community provided by the Envoy program, I hope to serve you, the reps, and the state League by being a consistent spokesperson for our and their priorities. I look forward to a term or two fulfilling the role and then will welcome the opportunity to orient another League member for the honor.

Barbara Pearson

[Email Barbara with questions or comments.](#)

2023-2024 Civic Action Grants

The LWV Amherst is now accepting applications for 2023-2024 Civic Action Grants

Up to \$2,500 is awarded for projects that are directly related to the League's priority programs. Read [here](#) for how to apply. Contact [Rebecca Fricke](#) for more information or questions.

The LWVA received another comment to our website about a troop of the Girl Scouts of Central and Western MA and its work to earn the Election Connection patch, made possible with a Civic Action Grant.

My Girl Scout troop #74893 is a Cadette troop of four 11-year old girls.... The girls wanted you to know that they started on the requirements at the end of August for the special Massachusetts's State senator election because Ann Gobi gave up her position to be in Governor Maura Healy's Cabinet. They wanted you to know that they worked with Westminster Town Clerk Ellen Sheehan to fulfill the requirements. The girls created notices to remind people to vote and to thank them for coming out to vote



both in the primary and the election. We finished up today at our meeting learning the meanings to the final words that we had not covered. We thank you for the opportunity to do this patch.

LWVMA and LWVUS News Highlights



Changes in Dues Structure

If you didn't attend the LWVMA Town Hall about the changes in membership dues structure that LWVUS is planning, you can watch the recording [here](#).

The LWVA Steering Committee is determining how to help our local league with this transition. These changes will have a significant impact on our budget for at least a year. More information to come.

Statements of Rights and Responsibilities

In April 2023, the LWVUS Board of Directors approved Statements of Rights and Responsibilities for both local Leagues and individual League members. If you would like to learn about the responsibilities of a local League, [visit this page](#). To see what we are committing to as individual members, [visit this page](#).

This is the introduction to the Member Rights and Responsibilities policy:

The purpose of the Member Rights and Responsibilities policy is to ensure that all active members of the League of Women Voters (LWV)¹, including Board members, members of state and local Leagues, members-at-large (MALs), and Inter-League Organizations (ILOs), are committed to maintaining the [mission and integrity of LWV](#). The grassroots influence of LWV is strengthened by a unified understanding of the responsibilities of being a League member as well as what members can expect from LWV. The Board of Directors of the League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) and its Governance Committee will review these policies from time to time and revise as needed.

LWVA Book Group Schedule

The LWV Book Group will meet the second Wednesday of the month at 1:30 PM at Applewood, 1 Spencer Drive, Amherst. The building is handicapped accessible.

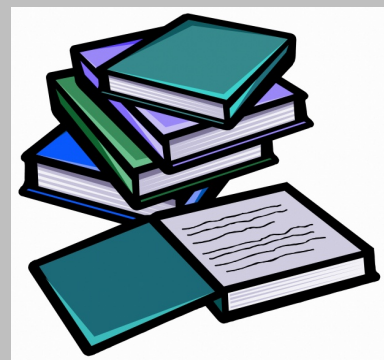
Here are the schedule and books:

January 2024 - *Cloud Cuckoo Land*, Anthony Doerr

February - *How the Word is Passed*, Clint Smith

March - *American Character: A History of the Epic*

Struggle Between Individual Liberty and the Common Good, Colin Woodard



For information, call Phyllis Lehrer 253-5179 or [email her](#).

FORWARD THIS MESSAGE!

This monthly message is for anyone interested in the League, not just members. If you know someone who might be interested, forward this message and invite them to subscribe themselves, using the link below.

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Andrea Battle, At-Large
Rebecca Fricke, Spokesperson & E-Bulletin
Marla Jamate, Social Media
Susan Lowery, Membership
Jessica Ryan, Voter Engagement
David Shanabrook, Treasurer
[Click here for email links.](#)

e-BULLETIN STAFF

*The Editor of the LWVAmherst e-Bulletin, Rebecca Fricke can be contacted [here](#).
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LWV Amherst



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