



Amherst League of Women Voters

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

May 2024

CALENDAR

Tuesday, May 14th, 7:00 PM- Judy Brooks Conversation - Discussion with Jacqueline Wallace: Black Woman Leader for Amherst's Racial Justice. For more information, see below. Register on our [website](#).

Sunday, May 5th, 2:00 - 3:30 PM - Town Charter Review Session Three - Topics are Public Participation (Article 8) and Transition Procedures (Article 10). Zoom link [here](#).

Monday, May 13th, 7:30 PM - Next Steering Committee meeting. Email [Rebecca](#) for location and agenda.

Sunday, June 2nd, 2:00 - 4:00 PM- LWVA Member Consensus on Town Charter Amendments to lobby for. You must register for the Zoom link [here](#). Members of LWVA only.

Tuesday, June 4th, 7:00 - 8:00 PM- LWVA Member Budget Review in preparation for the Annual Meeting. Register for the Zoom link [here](#). Members of LWVA only.

Thursday, June 13th, 6:30-8:30 PM- LWVA Annual Meeting. Munson Library, South Amherst. 6:30 PM: Meet and greet; bring finger food to share. 6:50 PM: Rebecca Todd, Director of the Connecticut River Conservancy, will give a brief update on the state of the river.

Dear Members and Friends,

Our next Judy Brooks Conversation will feature Jacqueline Wallace, who was unable to join us in April. Jacqueline has been a steadfast positive leader in Amherst for decades. She will have a lot to share with us.

Next week, the Town Charter Review committee will present its third program. If you missed the first one, the presentation slides are uploaded on our website, and the recording is on YouTube. The second video session will be posted soon and the slides are on our website. Looking ahead, the Charter Review Committee will hold a members-only meeting on June 2 to see if membership can come to consensus about specific changes to lobby for when the Town begins the review process.

Please note that we have a few important member meetings coming up. Besides the Charter Review zoom, on June 4, also on Zoom, we have a budget review for members to see how the Finance Committee will present the

budget at our Annual Meeting, which will be in person on June 13. Good stuff!
We hope you all will participate.

Book sale organizing is ramping up. Want to help? See below for more details.
Reach out to [Susan Millinger](#) for more information.

Rebecca Fricke

Spokesperson - [Email](#) with any questions or comments.

Amherst Home Rule Charter Review

The LWVA Charter Review Task Force is continuing its review of the Amherst Home Rule Charter in relation to League good government principles. The Task Force will be hosting a series of public Zoom discussions on questions related to potential Charter amendments. Save the dates and spread the word.

Sunday, May 5, 2:00 - 3:30 PM ([Zoom link](#))

Public Participation (Article 8)

Transition Procedures (Article 10)

Sunday, June 2, 2:00 - 4:00 PM - Member Consensus Meeting.

Please register for the Zoom link on website and [here](#).

For members only.

The public is cordially invited to participate or just listen in to the public discussion. The first part of the discussion will be the presentation of potential amendments to the Charter, how they may relate to good government principles, and how five years of experience has demonstrated whether an amendment is or is not needed. We will then open to public comments.

The LWVA'S "Good Government" Principles

1. **Widespread and inclusive** participation
2. **Diversity** in the community reflected in government
3. **Openness** and full disclosure
4. **Checks and balances** of power among the executive, legislative and administrative branches of government and the electorate
5. **Honesty and non-corruptibility** in all decision-making
6. **Efficiency**, based on professional management and timely decision making
7. **Accountability** for political and fiscal decisions

Voters Service News

This month, Voters Service volunteers tabled at the [Collective Power for Reproductive Justice](#) conference at Hampshire College. Many thanks to Sue

Lowry, Sandi Albertson-Shea, and Adele Gladstone-Gilbert for representing our League, and for registering and informing voters! The conference's theme this year explored "ways of organizing, connecting, and cultivating practices that center impacted communities, foster collective resistance, and practice community care." We are happy to have been able to have a League presence and get people thinking about the power of their vote!

The LWVMA Voters Service Committee met this month to discuss the success of our partnership with the Disability Law Center (DLC) and Rev Up to survey polling places for accessibility. They were blown away by the thoroughness and reach of the League's volunteers. So, thank you again to all who participated—we made a big impact and helped them move towards a more comprehensive study. Of course, if the Votes Act goes through intact, monitoring and ensuring ADA compliance at polling sites would ideally be the job of the Secretary of State.

We also discussed upcoming work on developing questions for state candidates for the upcoming primary and general elections. We will create a subcommittee for that job. A representative from Third Act came to let us know of their work trying to connect with community colleges to register voters. If any of our members have any connections to the community colleges in our area, please let [Jessica Ryan](#) know so that she can connect you to their efforts.

Jessica Ryan, Chair of Voter Service -[Email](#)



Photo of Sandi Albertson-Shea registering voters at the Collective Power for Reproductive Justice conference.

Racial Justice Committee News



JUDY BROOKS SERIES

**JACQUELINE WALLACE - BLACK WOMAN
LEADER FOR AMHERST'S RACIAL JUSTICE AND
EQUITY**

LWVAMHERST.ORG FOR ZOOM LINK

**TUESDAY
14 MAY 2024
7.00 PM**

ONLINE



**JACQUELINE
WALLACE-
CLINICAL SOCIAL
WORKER AND
THERAPIST,
DIRECTOR OF THE
AMHERST AREA
GOSPEL CHOIR**



**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.**

Greetings from the Racial Justice Committee (RJC)

Mary Custard, Dean of Students at Amherst Regional High School, was our Judy Brooks Conversation guest on April 3rd. It was inspiring to learn about the many ways she helps our students grow and learn. As you read this, Mary and a special group of students are visiting in a village in Senegal and the Gambia! We will invite her students to reflect on their experience for a future Judy Brooks event.

The next Judy Brooks Conversation, on May 14th, features Jacqueline

Wallace. She is known to most of us as Director of the Amherst Area Gospel Choir. Please join us to learn about her many other achievements. The registration link is on our [website](#), along with recordings of past Conversations.

In RJC news, Marcie Sclove has resigned as chair; she and Dick are spending a year near their daughter's family in Santa Barbara, CA. Milan Clark and I are the new co-chairs. We are grateful to Marcie for her years of dedication to RJC and her committed leadership. We wish her well in the year ahead.

Martha Hanner, for the Racial Justice Committee

At our Annual Meeting on June 13th, we vote whether to accept the LWVUS revised policy on Diversity Equity and Inclusion.

Please view this informative and brief (23-minute) recording which outlines the reasons behind the revisions and how the revised policy relates to the League's overall work, including the "moonshot" goal of abolishing the electoral college.

Transformation: Are You Ready to Move the League Forward?(passcode: L3Q%n\$2k)

Health Care

The Health Care Committee is getting ready for Convention on June 28–30, planning for two caucuses and some tabling. ("Caucus" in this League usage is a meeting organized by local or state Leagues to promote a cause or course of action.) We applied for in-person caucuses, but also plan to show them on Zoom.

The two topics accepted are:

1. Vote for the Vermont Update to the US Privatization Position (in conjunction with LWVVT); and
2. Moving Hearts, Changing Minds: Using Storytelling for Advocacy, (partnering with the Port Washington-Manhasset League [NY]).

The second caucus was designed in part to help improve the first one. That is, we should be able to make the Vermont update more convincing by incorporating brief stories that follow a few basic principles to make them memorable and moving.

Please share your health care stories with us (by email, or [via this webform](#)) so we can explore them together to find their greatest impact.

Let me know if you'd be willing to contribute an hour or two of your time to working with us on a story.

Anyone interested in attending, please contact Barbara Pearson, Chair HCC- [Email](#)

Connecticut River News

Connecticut River Relicensing Update

The Northampton League, the Franklin County League, and the Berkshire County League have joined the Amherst League in submitting a statement to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) pertaining to the relicensing of the Turner's Falls Dam and the Northfield Mountain pumped storage facility.

We submitted our statement for FERC to the national League of Women Voters. This submission is required by the national League when we are proposing to take action on a national issue, e.g., the relicensing of a dam and water storage facility. We have not yet received a response from the national League to our request for permission to file our statement with FERC.

The good news is that we have received emails from Senator Jo Comerford and from the Connecticut River Conservancy informing us that FERC has extended the deadline for filing these relicensing statements from next Monday, April 22, to Wednesday, May 22. Thus, we have more time to hear back from LWVUS.

Please stay tuned for further developments.

Please contact Elizabeth Davis by [email for more information](#).



LWVA Book Sale

Book Sale 2024

Spring Ahead to Prep for Our Big Event

Keep collecting the books and media we need to pull off our only fundraiser of the year... the one the community eagerly awaits.

Collection dates are July 5-15.

Sorting dates are July 5-22.

Sale dates are July 26-28, August 3-4.

For more details, go to LWVAmherst.org

2023-2024 Civic Action Grants

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

Read [here](#) for how to apply. Contact [Rebecca Fricke](#) for more information or questions.

LWVA Book Group Schedule

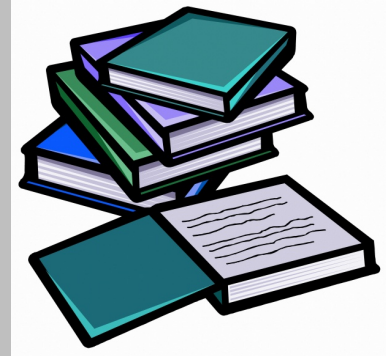
The LWV Book Group will meet the second Wednesday of the month at 1:30 PM at Applewood, 1 Spencer Drive, Amherst. The building is handicapped accessible.

Here are the schedule and books:

May: *Heaven and Earth Grocery Store*, James McBride, 400 pages

June: *Prequel*, Rachel Maddow, 416 pages

July: *Master Slave Husband Wife*, Ilyon Woo, 416 pages



For information, call Phyllis Lehrer 413-253-5179 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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STEERING COMMITTEE

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](#). Link checker is Kay Fite and Proofreader is Rebecca Curzon.

LWV Amherst



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