

CLICK ON THIS LINK TO
Donate to LWVNYC

INSIDE THE LEAGUE

Support the League's Major Fundraiser March 16

By Barb Ettington, LWVNYC Board Member



Buy your ticket today to the **2023 Tribute Awards!** Join other supporters at 8:30am on March 16th, at SECOND Event Space, 849 Avenue of the Americas, for lively conversation over a gourmet breakfast, and honor three amazing women. Ask our honorees how their businesses have impacted NYC in its pandemic recovery—and how and why they became involved with supporting voting rights through their businesses, business practices, and through the programs they've created promoting democracy for all New Yorkers!

Individual tickets are \$250, discounted for LWVNYC members to \$200.

For more details about the event, and to purchase sponsorships or tickets, go to lwnyc.org

AUCTION ITEMS WANTED!

Help us find amazing auction items for our online auction. With **Vote Louder** as our theme, think big! Have questions about the auction? Please email Pat Manning at bronx@lwnyc.org

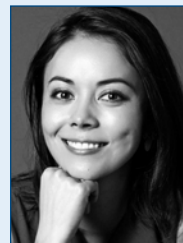
Honorees:



Keia Clarke

Chief Executive Officer, **New York Liberty**

Ms. Clarke's leadership elevated women's basketball to new heights, bringing fans and the team back from Westchester to the Barclays Center after a long pandemic. The team and staff showed enthusiasm not only on the court, but also in their initiatives to encourage New Yorkers to vote.



Sarah LaFleur

Founder and CEO, **M.M.LaFleur**

Ms. LaFleur demonstrated her passion for New York by opening retail stores during the pandemic, and pivoting to create fashion for the changing workplace. M.M.LaFleur created innovative programs to empower citizens to vote and encourage candidates to run for public office.



Celia Moreno

Social Impact Lead, **Lyft**

Ms. Moreno's spearheading work on "LyftUp Voting Access Program" is only one of the many social programs she leads to enable New Yorkers and their communities to become stronger and more vibrant.



Host:

Shirleen Allicot

Co-anchor of Eyewitness News this Morning and Eyewitness News at Noon at **WABC-TV**

From the Co-Presidents

As we begin 2023, we would like to pause and thank everyone—the Board, members, volunteers, partners, Advisory Board—for your passion, support, and hard work on behalf of the LWVNYC in 2022. The accomplishments are many and varied and we look forward to your energy and commitment for all the activities in this coming year.

We are now preparing for the spring primary season. All 51 seats of the NY City Council are up for election and New Yorkers will again use Ranked Choice Voting during the primary process. NYC boasts almost 90% of eligible voters registered, but has a disappointing voter turnout rate that hovers in the low 30% range. We will continue to focus on voter registration, but we are committed to educating New Yorkers on the RCV process and emphasizing the importance of their voice and vote in the election.

We recognize the value and impact of personally connecting with voters and providing them with actionable, understandable, non-partisan voting information. We cannot achieve this work alone and will continue to expand and strengthen our relationships with partner organizations throughout the city to augment our educational efforts and reach the broadest range



Co-Presidents Kai Rosenthal and Deb Brodheim with
Lunch with the League Speaker Manhattan DA Alvin Bragg

of New Yorkers. We look forward to working together to accomplish these ambitions!

Kai Rosenthal
president@lwnyc.org

Deborah Brodheim
co-president@lwnyc.org



The LWVNYC continues to work with the U.S. Department of State International Visitor Leadership Program, and welcomed visitors from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Legislative Branch to the office in December as part of the program "Empowering Women: A Project for Pakistan."

2022 Constitution Day Reaches 6,000 New Yorkers

by Ruth S. Altman, LWVNYC Past President

Constitution Day served as a wonderful opportunity for League volunteers to conduct a Get-Out-the-Vote (GOTV) action day. Sixty-five League volunteers handed out over 6,000 English and Spanish copies of US Constitution booklets in ten low voter turnout neighborhoods throughout the city. New Yorkers not only received free booklets, they also engaged with League members to talk about their rights and the upcoming election.

On a personal note – I have done several voter outreach events over my many years with the League, but this was extra special. The Constitution is the bedrock of our democracy, and on this most important day we helped increase awareness of the importance of voting. The enthusiasm of the folks coming up to our table—the children who wanted the books to take to school and share with their friends, the parents who wanted extra copies to share with their family and friends made me feel that we were making an impact. And for me personally, the fact that I had the privilege of registering several people to vote in the upcoming election made it even more special. I look forward to next year’s celebration.

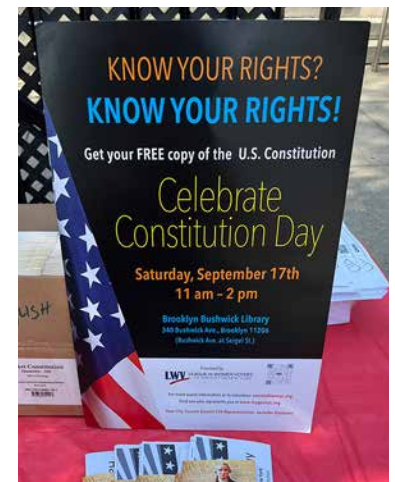
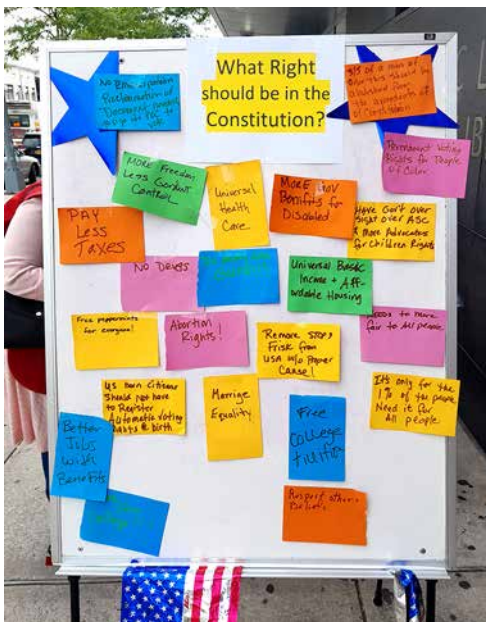
Our thanks to the many volunteers and sponsors who helped make this year’s Constitution Day a success!



Volunteers in East Harlem



Volunteers in East Elmhurst



Our Efforts Towards Election Day

By Laura Quigg, LWVNYC Board Member

“Your vote is your voice,” we say, as we fight to combat voter apathy and convince prospective voters that their voice matters—an especially challenging task in off-year elections in NYC.

The League takes a multi-pronged approach in our efforts to engage with prospective voters, involving many committees throughout our organization. In our civic engagement workshops, we discuss issues that individuals care about and how they can use their vote to advocate for those issues. This quarter we held over 45 such workshops.

We also train interns and volunteers to participate in our nearly 100 voter registration and get out the vote (GOTV) events around the city. We have distributed thousands of palm cards with election information and pocket US Constitutions at scores of libraries, YMCAs, adult care centers, schools, religious institutions, parks, and community centers, and mailed thousands more GOTV postcards to low voter turnout districts throughout the city.

For 2023, we plan to continue and expand this work in a strategic fashion—engaging more members and volunteers, working with our wonderful partners, and exploring new ways to engage. After Covid shut down much of our high school outreach, we started to return to schools in 2022 and will broaden our efforts this spring. We will work to develop and disseminate materials about voting rights for persons with disabilities. We plan to better focus our library outreach to times of days and weeks with more foot traffic. Finally, although we have some insights as to why many people don’t vote, we’d like to take a more organized and rigorous approach to understanding this issue as it applies to NYC, collecting data and anecdotes from our many sources.



Volunteers get out the vote at Manhattan College

MLK DAY: A Fight for Everyone

By Suzanne Surbeck

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. revolutionized the US Civil Rights Movement through courage and belief in the righteousness of his cause. His supporters would need the same qualities in their battle to establish the federal holiday in his name.



Dr. King at the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom on August 28, 1963

The campaign to establish Martin Luther King Jr.’s birthday as a national holiday began in 1968, soon after his assassination. Many bills proposing the holiday were submitted over the following decade, but it wasn’t until 1979 that a formal vote was taken in the US Congress. The measure lost in the US House of Representatives by five votes. Supporters of the bill regrouped, the public petitioned, and the bill finally passed in 1983. President Reagan signed it into law and the first official national Martin Luther King Jr. Day was held in 1986.

However, the supporters’ work was not done. Only 17 states had ratified the bill by 1986. Arizona only ratified the bill

after the NFL moved the Super Bowl from Tempe, Arizona to California in protest, costing the state millions of dollars in revenue. The final state to ratify the holiday, South Carolina, only did so in May 2000. Today, Martin Luther King Jr. Day is observed to honor the achievements of the Civil Rights movement and Dr. King, and is often celebrated as a National Day of Service.



The People's Money – LWVNYC Partners with NYC Civic Engagement Commission

By Danielle Mowery and Deborah Brodheim

This year, New York City expanded the popular local Participatory Budgeting (PB) initiative, allowing community members across the city to vote on how to spend a designated part of the City budget—The People's Money—in each borough, as well as in selected Task Force on Racial Inclusion & Equity (TRIE) priority neighborhoods.

The League was excited to be selected as the Manhattan Borough Partner for the launch year of this endeavor. As a first step in the PB process, we worked directly with the NYC Civic Engagement Commission (CEC) and held Idea Generation Workshops throughout the borough this past fall. Workshops were designed to offer New Yorkers of every age and background a concrete form of civic engagement, and a way for their voices to be heard. Participation in idea generation was encouraged for any New York City resident aged 11 years and older.

The in-person and virtual workshops were entertaining and interactive (yes, we made the city budget fun!). They led us to partner with a range of wonderful organizations, including NYPL, Union Square Academy for Health Sciences, Henry Street and Grand Street Settlements, Silberman School of Social Work, BMCC, CUNY Student Government, and many more.

We managed to connect with over 400 residents at over 20 Idea Generation Workshops, surpassing our goal. These workshops generated over 200 ideas from participants, posted on the participate.nyc.gov website. Voting on the selected ideas will happen in May and June, and will also be open to any New Yorker aged 11 years and older.

Thank you again to everyone who helped make this project a success—and a special thanks to Carol Van Deusen and Kathy Collins for connecting us to Social Justice Network and Lighthouse Guild.



Manhattan Borough PB session at Lincoln Center, with LWVNYC's Gerry Russo and Benjamin Solotaire of the CEC



Citywide Participatory Budgeting with Racial Justice Network: (L to R) Yvette Powell, Minerva Pascual, Terrence Coffie, Carol Van Deusen, Danielle Mowery, and Deb Brodheim

LWVNYC Partnership with BronxNet Fosters Increased Voter Education

By Audrey Duncan

Bronx residents have been increasing their voting awareness quotient, thanks to a partnership between BronxNet and the League of Women Voters of the City of New York.

For the past seven years, the LWVNYC has been working with BronxNet to develop voter education content for BronxNet viewers. Information on how and when to vote, voter rights, and ballot issues are all covered in talk shows such as BronxTalk, and in specials and public service messages broadcast and streamed on BronxNet. Voters get the opportunity to hear firsthand from local candidates for New York City Council, Bronx Borough President, State Senate and Assembly, and United States Congress during debates and candidate forums. These provide viewers with insight on each candidate, equipping voters with more information as they head to the polls.

During the last 2022 election cycle, BronxNet and the League produced a short-form voter education content series, Vote Louder, in which LWVNYC student interns went out on the street to interview Bronx residents and get their perspective on issues related to the then-upcoming election. "This was such a great opportunity for our interns to interact with community

members in the Bronx and understand the importance of local TV in the community, as we work to educate and inform voters," said League of Women Voters Intern Chairperson, Diane Burrows.

BronxNet Executive Director Michael Max Knobbe stated, "We are proud of our important partnership with the League of Women Voters, which promotes voter literacy and civic

engagement, presents updates on the voting process, and empowers viewers to better know the candidates and where they stand on the issues."

To view some of the previously broadcast voter education content, visit www.bronxnet.tv. Keep an eye out for new voter information content during upcoming election seasons.



BronxTalk Host Gary Axelbank moderates debate between 34th SD candidates Christian Amato, John Perez, and then Assemblymember Nathalia Fernandez



NYC Racial Justice Proposals: What's Next?

by Kai Rosenthal, LWVNYC Co-President

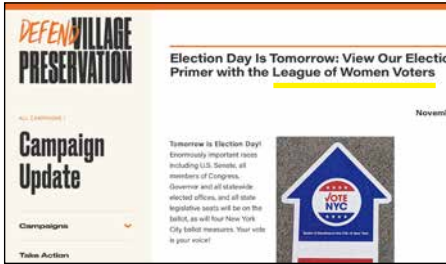
The three **New York City Racial Justice proposals** on the November 8th ballot passed with approximately 70% approval or more. So, what happens now?

The first racial justice proposal, "Add a Statement of Values to Guide Government," requires the New York City Charter (or constitution) to be revised immediately to include the approved

preamble. The second proposal, which establishes an Office of Racial Equity, biennial racial equity plans, and an independent oversight commission, must be implemented by 2024. The third measure, which requires the City to calculate and report the "True Cost of Living" in NYC, must be implemented beginning in 2024.

We will continue to watch how the initiatives come to life within NYC government, and keep you informed.

League of Women Voters of NYC Making News



Topics

Jobs

En Español

Events

CITYLIMITS

Housing & Homelessness

Climate Change & NYC

Una Ciudad sin Límites

Youth

2022 ELECTION

WATCH: Bronx Assembly Candidates Debate to Rep Districts 81 and 82

By Jeanmarie Evelly Published June 13, 2022

BronxTalk will air debates this week between the Democratic candidates running for two Assembly seats representing Throgs Neck, City Island and Pelham Bay (District 82) and Riverdale, Kingsbridge and Norwood (District 81).

With Gary Axelbank

Both events will be hosted by BronxTalk's Gary Axelbank, and co-sponsored by City Limits, Bronx Times, Norwood News and the League of Women Voters. Both programs will air on Optimum 67 / Fios 2133 and stream live at bronxnet.tv

SPECTRUM NEWS NY

LATEST NEWS

WEATHER

TRANSIT

POLITICS

ARTS-CULTURE

COMMUNITY-NEIGHBORHOODS

PODCASTS

OUR JOURNALISTS

GET OUR APP

Nonprofit encourages New Yorkers to vote in upcoming primaries

BY CHERYL WILLS AND KAITLYNN KELLER | NEW YORK CITY
PUBLISHED 4:00 PM ET AUG. 21, 2022

Kate Doran, elections specialist with [The League of Women Voters of New York City](#), Focus" on the last day of early voting for the Aug. 23 primaries for the U.S. House of Representatives and the State Senate.

Doran discussed the races, what's at stake and how they've been encouraging people to vote and make their voices heard. The League of Women Voters of New York City is a nonprofit and non-partisan organization that promotes informed and active citizen engagement in government for nearly 103 years now.

Founded in 1919, [The League of Women Voters of New York City](#) was helped women learn how to vote. Now, it helps all New Yorkers become informed participants in government. Doran issues this year for organizing voters

BRONXTimes

Home Pros

Jobs

News

Best of

Things to Do

Contact Us

Letters to the Editor

Letter: BronxNet does its part to ensure politics debates

By Gary Axelbank

[comments](#) Posted on October 28, 2022

over the last several years these debates on BronxNet have not only been co-sponsored by the nonpartisan [League of Women Voters of New York](#), with whom we have enjoyed a fruitful partnership, but these political programs have also been supported by a number of Bronx newspapers, including the Bronx Times, in which her opinion piece appeared.

THEATERMANIA

Shows & Tickets

News & Reviews

Theater Clubs

Newsletter

Shop

TheaterMania Events

Susan B.
 Theater for the New City, New York City

NEW YORK, September 9 – We are living in a time of deliberate campaigns of voter suppression through a variety of means. Coincidentally, or maybe not so coincidentally, we're living in a time when women's rights are increasingly under attack. All of which makes it seem obligatory to revisit the life struggles of historic female activists and be inspired by their brave campaigns for fundamental rights. From October 12 to 16, Theater for the New City (TNC) will rise to this challenge by presenting "Susan B." by Toby Armour, a one-act bioplay on the great suffragist Susan B. Anthony, directed by Joan Kane. At selected performances (TBA), members of the [League of Women Voters of the City of New York \(LWV of NYC\)](#) will offer voter registration in the theater lobby. Representatives of the League will conduct post-play discussions on Friday, October 14 and Saturday,

THE CITY LIFE ORG

HOME

CONTRIBUTE

NEWS

PODCAST

TV

SHOP

Image Credit: A replica of the Oval Office is on display at the New-York Historical Society. Photo credit: New-York Historical Society.

The New-York Historical Society New York's first museum, continues its mission to educate the next generation of voters by hosting a voting registration event. On Saturday, October 8, from 12-3pm, New-York Historical welcomes volunteers from the [League of Women Voters](#), who will be on hand to register new voters in the Museum's lobby. October 14 is the deadline to register to vote in the New York general election on November 8. Additional voting registration events will also take place at New-York Historical next year and into 2024.

BROADWAY WORLD

MUSEUM BROADWAY

NOW OPEN

145 W 45TH ST

News

Shows

Industry

Chat

Jobs

Students

Shop

Stage Mag

Games

Voter Registration and Talkbacks Will Accompany Production Of SUSAN B. at Theater for the New City

Performances run October 12 to 16.

by Steph Wild Oct. 04, 2022

Theater for the New City (TNC), 155 First Ave., will present "Susan B." by Toby Armour, a bioplay on suffragist Susan B. Anthony directed by Joan Kane, October 12 to 16. In conjunction with the play, [League of Women Voters of New York](#) will conduct voter registration in the theater lobby (each performance) and talkbacks on the midterm

Labor Unions Join Civic, Advocacy, and Environmental Groups To Support the Environmental Bond Act Ahead of General Election

New York State Laborers, League of Women Voters, and other civic and advocacy groups joined the New York League of Conservation Voters, WE ACT for Environmental Justice, Trust for Public Land, and other environmental groups on November 3 to demonstrate support for the Clean Water, Clean Air, and Green Jobs Bond Act (Proposition 1) and urge New York voters to vote 'yes' on November 8.

NYLCV

NYLCV is the only statewide environmental organization in New York that fights for clean water, clean air, renewable energy and open space through political action. We're open, pragmatic and efficient.

More about us »

Make your voice heard on critical environmental issues:

Ask an Intern

What does equity mean to you?

My name is **Bethany Lewis**, and I am a freshman at Manhattan College. I am a double major in political science and international studies, with a minor in women and gender studies. I consider myself a “Jane-of-all-Trades,” having tried many different things growing up: soccer, Girl Scouts, gymnastics, Robotics team, cheerleading, and competitive dance, among others. My involvement in all these things has one constant theme: my wish for fairness, equity and opportunity for all girls and women. To me, equity is the idea that every person has the same opportunities and access to succeed in life. It is not that everyone is treated exactly the same, but that we all have the *same access* to learn, grow and succeed.

My name is **Fatima Hussain** and I have been an intern for the League of Women Voters since the summer. I am a Kashmiri-American majoring in chemical engineering. My pronouns are she/her/hers. One of the biggest flaws in the system is the lack of knowledge on candidates and their policies. This is an especially large problem in immigrant communities that don’t have information on candidates and don’t know where to turn to for help. The lack of voter education has been something I feel is detrimental to society progressing. Upon learning about the League, I noticed that many of the things I want to see change in were already being addressed. I am happy to be a part of this initiative and working for an organization that has the same priorities as I do. To me, equity means providing underserved communities with the resources they need to thrive.



The Returning Citizens Project

By Diane Burrows, LWVNYC Past President
and Sherletta McCaskill, LWVNYC VP of Communications

The League has been engaged in Criminal Justice Reform advocacy for many years through our Criminal Justice Reform Committee. Through our work in this community, we recognize the many challenges returning citizens face after incarceration. We believe that civic engagement empowers returning citizens and helps them find and use their voices and their power. Therefore, in a collaboration between the Voter Services Committee and the Criminal Justice Reform Committee we have produced an informative program called the Returning Citizens Project. The goal of this project is to provide civic education and promote voter engagement for people impacted by the criminal justice system.

Using our existing “Civics 101” presentation as well as information about the origins of the voting rights movement,

we have collaborated with **Exodus** and **Hudson Links**, two major organizations that provide services for returning citizens. We provided information during lively presentations to assist participants in creating their own voting action plan, from registration to accessing the polls. We discussed strategies to influence elected officials through lobbying and advocacy, and shared ideas with participants for becoming active in their home communities. We shared stories of peers who struggled to obtain and maintain the right to vote, and the many champions of civil rights upon whose shoulders we all stand. Convincing returning citizens that they matter, and that their voices and votes count, provides them with the foundation for active citizenship and positive change.

We continue to reach out to other organizations who work with returning citizens and hope to expand this program to many more New Yorkers.

LWVNYC Committee Updates

Please feel free to email the Committees if you're interested in learning more and/or would like to get involved.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

By Jane Hatterer, Chair

education@lwnyc.org

The Education Committee continues its active participation in the DemocracyReadyNY Coalition supporting NY Statewide civic education policy and practice. As members of six of the DRNY working committees, our members are engaged in advocacy, civic education, policy matters, research and standard setting activities relating to civic education and its assessment, and youth action civics. Ariana Tzanos, the Executive Director of Youth Civics Initiative (YCI), and I will be contributing to planning the coalition's youth-led webinar during NY State's Civics Week March 6-10, 2023.

We are also continuing to work closely with YCI as its principal adult ally, and have helped to build out its team this year with an addition of twelve new movement correspondents, seven new students in social media and outreach, and twelve new journalist mentors. In my capacity as adult ally of YCI, I am a member of the steering committee for the Civic Education and Participation Coalition.

We continue to participate in the NY State League's Youth Chair committee, and advocate on behalf of civic education and equity and access in civic engagement.

COMMITTEE FOR CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM

By Akyla Tomlinson, Michele Figueroa, and Tiffany Khan, Co-Chairs

criminaljustice@lwnyc.org

The Committee for Criminal Justice Reform would like to extend a special thank you to all committee members for your continued support and hard work this year. We have had several victories, but the fight is not over. The committee will continue to focus on ways to advocate for the closing of Rikers Island.

The Committee's mission is to advocate for individuals vulnerable to the criminal justice system and to lobby for legislation and policies that will correct the unfair system we now have. With this in mind, we plan to continue to work towards our goal of making NYC a leader in criminal justice reform.



Co-President Deb Brodheim addresses Lunch with the League attendees



Discussion after a Lunch with the League event

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

By Joanna Leefer, Chair

programs@lwnyc.org

After two years of conducting monthly speaker programs via Zoom, the Program Committee restarted live programs this fall. An enthusiastic turnout of over 40 attendees came to our September 13 program featuring Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg. He spoke on the purpose of his office and his vision for keeping NYC safe in the coming years. The October program featured WNYC Radio senior politics reporter Brigid Bergin. Ms. Bergin spoke on the issues impacting November's mid-term. The November program on Congestion Pricing offered a lively discussion from three expert panelists with divergent views on the topic. All three programs can be seen on [our YouTube Channel](#).

The 2023 programs are still in the formative stage. Manuel Castro, of the Mayor's Office of Immigration, will speak to us in January on the challenges of housing and work programs for migrants and asylum seekers. Other topics under consideration include Voting Accessibility for Inmates Awaiting Trial, and Plans to Protect NY Harbors from Storm Surges.

The Program Committee welcomes suggestions from League members on other speaker topics. Please send suggestions to programs@lwnyc.org.

VOTER SERVICES COMMITTEE

By Laura Quigg, Gerry Russo, and Diane Burrows, Co-Chairs

voter.services@lwnyc.org

The 2022 Election Season was one continual process for our committee this year, with two primaries and the General Election in an off-year with historically low voter turnout—we knew we had our work cut out for us!

We created and distributed thousands of palm cards for each election, recruited and trained volunteers, and participated in over 100 VR/GOTV events throughout the city. Our volunteers also wrote thousands of postcards that were sent to addresses in low voter turnout districts. Finally, our Speakers Bureau has ramped up its activities, holding dozens of civic engagement workshops with our many terrific partners.

Upcoming Events

Please contact admin@lwnyc.org to confirm meeting dates!
For more information on Committees and Events,
please visit www.lwnyc.org

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- City Affairs Committee: check the website calendar for upcoming meetings and subcommittee meetings
- Committee for Criminal Justice Reform: check the website calendar for upcoming meetings and subcommittee meetings
- Education Committee: 2nd Wed. of the month; 5:30–7:00pm
- Voting Reform Initiative Committee: check the website calendar for upcoming meetings
- Voter Services Committee: 3rd Wed. of the month; 6:00–7:30pm

• **DEMOCRACY IS NOT A SPECTATOR SPORT** •

CLICK ON THIS LINK TO
[Join LWNYC](#)

CLICK ON THIS LINK TO
[Donate to LWNYC](#)

Newsletter Staff

Ruth S. Altman
Diane Burrows
Susan B. Glattstein
Sherletta McCaskill
Natalie Silverman
Andrea Zuckerman

*Thank you to all of our
newsletter contributors!*



4 West 43rd Street, Suite 613, New York, NY 10036
212-725-3541 admin@lwnyc.org

