



BULLETIN

The League of Women Voters of Scarsdale (LWVS) is a volunteer, nonpartisan political organization that promotes political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government. The League is nonpartisan in that it does not support or oppose any candidate for public office; it is political in that it takes positions on selected governmental issues after serious member study and consensus.

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CALENDAR

March

4	Mon	10:30am	General Memb / Consensus Mtg School Budget	Village Hall, 3rd fl
18	Mon	9am	Board Mtg	Village Hall, 3rd fl
19	Tues		Village Election	Village Hall
24	Sun	3pm	Film Screening	SHS Little Theater
25	Mon	9am	Board Mtg	Village Hall, 3rd fl

April

8	Mon	9am	Board Mtg	Village Hall, 3rd fl
		10:30am	General Memb / Consensus Mtg Village Budget	Village Hall, 3rd fl
22	Mon	9am	Board Mtg	Village Hall, 3rd fl
25	Thurs	10am	Morning Book / Film Discussion	TBD
		7pm	Evening Book / Film Discussion	TBD

May

10	Fri	10am	Annual Mtg	Scarsdale Golf Club
		11:30am	Spring Luncheon & Speaker	Scarsdale Golf Club
21	Tues		School Budget Vote & Board of Ed Election	SMS Gym

June

3	Mon	9am	Joint Board Mtg	TBD
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Remember to vote!



Village Election:

Tuesday, March 19th
6am - 9pm
Scarsdale Village Hall

MESSAGE FROM THE CO-PRESIDENTS

Greetings!

As we look out the window at the snow on the ground, we have faith that Spring will come soon and with it will come a flourishing of League activity. We call our members to action to take part in the many opportunities available in order to make a difference in our community. We also reflect on the recent achievements of our League. We recognize that we are one League of many - over 700 community leagues in all 50 states - dedicated to encouraging informed and active participation in government. Since 1920, the League of Women Voters has been an activist, grassroots organization whose leaders believed that voters should play a critical role in democracy. We employ fair, balanced and thoughtful processes that have been honed over decades of community member activities in order to keep democracy strong and vital for voters. And we look forward to many imminent 100th anniversaries - in 1919, the LWVNYS was formed, in 1920 the LWVUS was formed and the 19th Amendment to the US Constitution was passed giving women the right to vote, and in 1921, our own LWVS was formed. We have a lot to celebrate!

So first, let's review some highlights of 2019 year so far! We have been very busy! In January we held our Annual Winter Fundraiser, graciously hosted by Diane and Marc Greenwald. The event was well-attended. We were delighted to be joined by U.S. Representative Eliot Engel, NY State Senator and Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, NY State Assemblywoman Amy Paulin, Chairman of the Board Of the Westchester County Legislators Ben Boykin, County Executive George Latimer, Scarsdale Mayor Dan Hochvert, and Scarsdale Trustees Justin Arest, Carl Finger, Seth Ross and Jane Veron. We could not continue our work without their generous support!

Our League's SBNC election, CNC election and school budget portfolios each held productive information and consensus meetings. We also held an information session and a consensus meeting to discuss the proposed upcoming Scarsdale School District resolution for changing how candidates run for positions on the Board of Education from the present day practice of assigned seats to an at-large system. LWVS statements on all of these topics are or will soon be available on our website. We also reviewed and discussed our local league program for 2019-20 which will be proposed for approval at our Annual Meeting on May 18th.

On January 10th, we co-sponsored a community program on local taxes, "Scarsdale 10583," with the Scarsdale Forum and on February 10th, we co-sponsored a

screening of "JFK's Last Speech," with the Scarsdale Forum and the Scarsdale Public Library.

On January 24th, our League once again assisted local officials at the Westchester County Naturalization Court by welcoming new citizens and providing them with important voter information. This program is coordinated by the League of Women Voters of Westchester.

Our village budget portfolio committee is monitoring the Village's budget planning process. We will evaluate the proposed Village budget on Monday, April 8th, at 10:30 am, at which time we will hear from the Village Manager, Deputy Village Manager, Village Treasurer, Mayor, and members of the Village Board. Immediately following the meeting, we will hold our consensus meeting for League members.

Please join us at our Annual Meeting and Spring Luncheon on May 10th, at 10:45 am, featuring Cynthia Deitle, is a lawyer, a former FBI Special Agent and the former Civil Rights Chief for the FBI. Currently, she is the Program and Operations Director for the Matthew Shepard Foundation, a group devoted to advocacy and education on issues of tolerance.

On March 24th, we will co-sponsor a screening of the film "A River Returns: A History of the Bronx River," with the Scarsdale High School, the Scarsdale Public Library, and the Scarsdale Forum. And look for details of our upcoming book or film discussion to be held on Thursday, April 25th.

I am pleased to report that our League will again send two students to our state capital to participate in the Students Inside Albany program.

Please vote in the Village election for the Mayor and Trustees on Tuesday, March 19th!

Please visit the websites of the League of Women Voters of Westchester, the League of Women Voters of New York State, and the League of Women Voters (United States) at lww.org, lwny.org, and lww.org, respectively, to see what is happening at the county, state and national levels, and most importantly, visit our website at lws.org to get updated information four local league initiatives.

Linda Doucette-Ashman and Janice Starr



Upcoming Events

UPCOMING GENERAL MEMBERSHIP AND CONSENSUS MEETINGS

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! COME, LISTEN, LEARN AND PARTICIPATE!

We have 2 General Membership and Consensus meetings in March and April. **Each of our General Information meetings is open to the public and everyone is invited!**

At the conclusion of each of our General Information sessions, we will hold our Consensus meeting for League members only. At that time, if you are not a member of the League, you may join and stay to participate. During our consensus portion of the meeting, we will discuss information learned at the General Information session, express our individual thoughts, and listen to the thoughts and opinions of our fellow League members.

Upon conclusion of our discussion, the group of League members present will determine whether or not there are any issues or comments upon which there is a consensus of opinions of those present in the room. Those points will be pulled together and crafted into a statement which will be submitted to our League Board for final review, edit and submission to the appropriate entity as well as the local media.

More details on each event listed below can be found in this Bulletin, and any updated information will be available on our League website, www.lwvs.org. Stay connected!

SCARSDALE SCHOOL BUDGET

Monday, March 4th, 10:30am at Village Hall, 3rd Floor

SCARSDALE VILLAGE BUDGET

Monday, April 8th, 10:30am at Village Hall, 3rd Floor

Scarsdale School Budget 2019-2020

LWVS General Membership and Consensus Meeting
Monday, March 4th
10:30am
Village Hall, 3rd Floor Meeting Room

The current draft 2019-20 Budget is \$160,782,597; up 1.86% from the 2018-19 Budget. The Tax Levy of the current draft budget amount is 2.27% and the Tax Cap is 2.94%. The current draft of the 2019-20 Budget is \$967,017 below the Tax Cap.

Some highlights of the draft 2019-20 Budget are:

- the addition of approximately 55 window unit air conditioners strategically placed throughout the seven schools
- a budget-to-budget increase of \$824,416 in Security, including contractual staffing, equipment upgrades and supplies
- increased staffing, including:
 - 1.0 FTE STEAM
 - 1.0 FTE Science
 - 2.0 Contingent positions (reduced from 3.0 Contingent as originally presented on February 4, 2019); one of these Contingent teachers is reserved for Special Education
 - 1.0 FTE Academic Support
 - 1.0 FTE School Psychologist

There was one dedicated session to receiving public input on the budget on November 15th, 2018, and the Community Budget Forum will take place on March 25th at 7pm.

Budget Study Session #3 will take place on Monday, March 11th at 6:30pm; the Board of Education will adopt the Budget on April 8th, and the community will vote on the Budget on May 21st.

Our LWVS School Budget statement will be posted to our website once it is completed. Please contact LWVS Budget Study Portfolio Chair [Leah Dembitzer](#) with any questions or comments.

Village Election

Tuesday, March 19th
6am - 9pm
Scarsdale Village Hall
1001 Post Road

Voter Registration Information

If you are not a registered voter, the last day to register to vote in the upcoming Village election is Friday March 8th.

You may pick up a mail-in registration form at Scarsdale Village Hall, or [download the registration form](#) from the Westchester County Board of Elections website.

In order to register to vote, you must:

- Be a U.S. Citizen
- Be 18 years of age by the date of the election in which you want to vote
- Live at your present address at least 30 days before an election
- Not be in jail or on parole for a felony conviction
- Not claim the right to vote elsewhere

Absentee Ballot Information

For registered voters who will be out of Westchester County on Village Election Day, an absentee ballot can be obtained by filling out an absentee ballot application at Scarsdale Village Hall or [downloading the absentee ballot application](#) from the Westchester County Board of Elections website.

Tuesday, March 12th is the last day for the Scarsdale Village Clerk to receive an application for an absentee ballot to be mailed to a qualified voter; however, applications made in person at Scarsdale Village Hall can be accepted until 5:00pm on Monday, March 18th.

For more information, call the Village Clerk's office at (914) 722-1175 or visit [lwvs.org](#).

Film Screening:

A River Returns: A History of the Bronx River

Sunday, March 24th
3pm - 5pm
Scarsdale High School Little Theater

On March 24th, we will co-sponsor a screening of the film "A River Returns: A History of the Bronx River," with the Scarsdale High School, the Scarsdale Public Library, and the Scarsdale Forum.

LWVS General Membership and Consensus Meeting

Scarsdale Village Budget 2019-2020

Monday, April 8th
10:30am
Village Hall, 3rd Floor Meeting Room

The Village Budget Process is under way! The Village Board of Trustees Finance Committee met with the Village Budget Officer and staff on January 17th to discuss the Village budget and staffing recommendations.

A list of 2019 Finance Committee Budget discussion meetings can be found [here](#).

The LWVS will be holding its General Public Information and Member Consensus meeting for the Village Budget on **Monday, April 8th** at 10:30am in the 3rd Floor Meeting Room of Village Hall. Please join us!

SAVE THE DATE

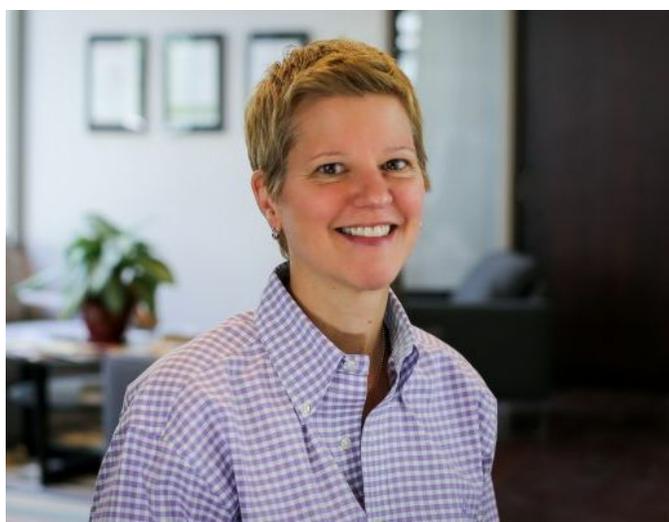
The League of Woman Voters of Scarsdale
cordially invites you to its

Annual Meeting and Luncheon

Friday, May 10th
11:45am - 2pm
Scarsdale Golf Club
Hartsdale, NY 10530

FEATURED SPEAKER

Cynthia Deitle



Cynthia Deitle has devoted her career to civil rights enforcement and outreach. She is a lawyer, a former FBI Special Agent and a former Civil Rights Chief for the FBI. Currently, Deitle works as the Program and Operations Director for the Matthew Shepard Foundation, a group devoted to advocacy and education on issues of tolerance. Matthew Shepard was the victim of one of the most notorious hate crimes in the history of our nation. As a student at University of Wyoming he was brutally beaten and then tied to a fence and left to die, because he was gay.

Cynthia trains law enforcement agencies and communities across the country about how to recognize and enforce the federal hate crime laws. Her message is one of tolerance, diversity, education and collaboration.

Deitle received her Bachelor of Arts degree from The Ohio State University and her Juris Doctor degree from New England Law Boston. She earned a Master of Laws degree in Criminal Law from New York University School of Law and a Master of Laws degree in Constitutional Law from the George Washington University National Law Center.

Deitle has published several law review articles on the right to bear arms under the Second Amendment and the use of excessive force by police in the context of the civil rights laws.

Tickets are \$40 per person in advance, \$45 at the door; student price \$20.

Recent LWVS Events

Naturalization Court

On Thursday, January 24th, Westchester County Clerk Timothy C. Itoni administered the Oath of Citizenship to new citizens at the Richard J. Daronco Courthouse in White Plains. The ceremony marks the culmination of the process of applying for United States citizenship for our newest citizens.

Despite the torrential rain outside, 120 new citizens came to the courthouse with family and friends to celebrate their naturalization.

The League of Women Voters has the privilege of being invited as a guest of the court to the bi-monthly ceremonies. One of our representatives congratulates the new

citizens with a United States flag and a *Welcome, New Citizens* pamphlet with information on how to register to vote, when the elections are held, and how to learn about the candidates.

The heartwarming ceremony is an uplifting reminder of what it means to be an American citizen.

If any members of the LWVS would like to attend a Naturalization Ceremony on behalf of the League, please contact the LWVS President at: president@lwvs.org.

LWVS Winter Fundraiser

The League of Women Voters of Scarsdale held its Winter Fundraiser at the home of Diane and Marc Greenwald on Saturday, January 26th. Over 70 league members and guests, including many state and local representatives such as U.S. Representative Eliot Engel, NY State Senator and Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, NY State Assemblywoman Amy Paulin, Ben Boykin, Chairman of the Board Of the Westchester County Legislators; County Executive George Latimer, Scarsdale Mayor Dan Hochvert, and Scarsdale Trustees Justin Arest, Carl Finger, Seth Ross and Jane Veron attended the event.

It was a lovely and inspirational evening as everyone mingled and chatted with old and new friends. Guests learned about many new initiatives taking place at the state level such as Election Law, and Campaign Finance and Healthcare reforms, all issues for which the League of Women Voters has taken positions of support. It was interesting and enjoyable to spend a few hours listening to and debating educated view points on a range of topical issues without a partisan bent to the conversations. All with great food, drink and good cheer!

We thank Michelle Lichtenberg for sharing her photos of the event with us.



Pictured: Diane Greenwald, host; Janice Starr, LWVS Co- President; Andrea Stewart-Cousins, New York State Senator from the 35th District and Senate Majority Leader; Elliot Engel, U.S. Representative for the 16th Congressional District; and Linda Doucette-Ashman, LWVS Co-President

School Election

On Monday, January 28th, we convened our General Information and Member Consensus meeting regarding the School Board Nominating Committee's election that occurred on January 8th. Elissa Ruback, the LWVS School Election System Chair, conducted the meeting. Ms. Wendy Gendel, Chair of the SBNC Administrative Committee, shared an overview of the Administrative Committee's work during the 2018 year. Discussion surrounded Recruitment and Publicity, Policies and Procedures, and Fundraising. You can find the [League statement on the SBNC election](#) on our website.



Advocacy

LONG-STANDING LEAGUE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES SEE PASSAGE IN ALBANY

Since the start of the new year, the League has already seen many of its long-standing State Legislative Priorities realized with the passage of reform bills in Albany, including:

ELECTION LAW REFORMS

- Early voting*
- Single June Primary Consolidation
- Pre-registration for 16 and 17 year olds
- State-wide voter registration transfer
- Same day voter registration**
- No-excuse absentee voting**

*Depends on funding in State budget

**Requires Passage of Constitutional Amendments - i.e., this concurrent resolution must be passed by two consecutive, separately elected legislatures (so again in 2021) and then be approved by statewide voter referendum.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

- Closing of the "LLC Loophole" - Limited Liability Companies (LLCs) will now be treated as corporations for purposes of campaign finance. Since 1996, a loophole in the state's campaign finance law let corporations create LLCs for

the sole purpose of giving virtually unlimited amounts of money to candidates. New York's "LLC Loophole" treated limited liability companies as people, allowing each to donate up to \$65,100 to every statewide candidate per election cycle - far more than the \$5,000 aggregate contribution limit for corporations.

HEALTHCARE

- Reproductive Health Act codifies Roe v. Wade in New York State law and takes reproductive choice out of the criminal code and moves it into the health code.
- Comprehensive Contraceptive Coverage Act mandates insurers to cover all forms of birth control.
- Boss Bill prohibits employers from discriminating against employees based on the employees' or dependent's reproductive health decisions.

SOCIAL WELFARE

- Gender Expression Non-Discrimination Act (GENDA) - adds gender identity and expression as a protected class under state's human rights and hate crimes laws
- Ban on conversion therapy practice on minors

GUN CONTROL

- Extension of waiting period for background checks from three to thirty days
- A ban on bump stocks, which allow guns the ability to rapid fire
- Red Flag Bill: A law that allows the court to order the temporary removal of guns from the possession of people deemed a risk to themselves or others
- A ban on school personnel other than law enforcement officers and security guards from carrying a gun on school property
- A prohibition of the ownership, manufacturing or sale of guns created by a 3-D printer
- Creation of a Firearm Violence Research Institute in the State University of New York system
- Requirement that state police implement a gun buy-back program

Membership Announcements

2018 CNC Election

Since our last bulletin, we have issued a consensus statement concerning the [2018 CNC election](#) and one concerning the 2019 SBNC election. Visit our [Stand on Issues](#) page to view all our recent consensus and board statements.

LWVS Nominating Committee

The LWVS Nominating Committee will soon nominate the 2019-2020 slate of LWVS officers and board members.

Committee members include:
Diane Greenwald* (chair)
Amy Cooper
Joan Frankle
Deb Pekarek*
Julie Zhu*

League members are encouraged to contact nominations@lwvs.org or any committee member with suggestions and comments.

**Off-board members were approved at our Annual Meeting in May 2018.*

Stay Connected!

Just a reminder that only the Fall Bulletin and the Spring edition, published in advance of our annual meeting in May, will be printed and mailed to you. Throughout the year, other Bulletins and all other notices will be transmitted electronically via email and posted on our [website](#).

If you have not been receiving our emails, we may have an incorrect email address for you. If you think we have the wrong address, or if you have not yet provided us with your email address, please send it to Janice Starr at membership@lwvs.org.

LWVS is now also on Social Media. Like us on [Facebook](#) and follow us on [Twitter!](#)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

The League is grateful for the support of all of its donors. Please note that the annual updated listing of our many generous supporters for 2018-2019 will appear in the 2019 Spring Bulletin.

THANK YOU

THANK YOU...

Diane and Marc Greenwald for hosting our annual Winter Fundraiser at your lovely home, and to LWVS Board Members who contributed delicious food, drink and spirits to make our evening an incredible success.

Anne Lyons for representing our League at the U.S. Naturalization Court in White Plains in January.

Elissa Ruback for monitoring the SBNC election, leading our general membership and consensus meeting on the School election system and crafting the League's statement on this topic.

Renee Baylor for keeping us all up to speed on the activities of the County League.

Elissa Ruback for organizing our League's Students Inside Albany essay competition and **Evelyn Stock** again, for acting as our independent "judge" in selecting this year's Students Inside Albany winners.

Leah Dembitzer for organizing and preparing for our School District budget General Information and Consensus meeting on March 4th!

Dara Gruenberg for coordinating the LWVS co-sponsorship of the screening of an amazing documentary, *JFK: The Last Speech* at the Woman's Club and the upcoming screening of *A River Returns: A History of the Bronx River* as well as all your efforts to keep us informed and get us prepared for our upcoming Village Budget information session and consensus meeting. See inside for details.

Cindy Dunne for arranging for our incredible speaker for our Annual Meeting/Luncheon in May! See details inside this newsletter.

Deb Morel for keeping our website up-to-date in real time with all of our ever-changing information and activities, including the morning of March 4th when we were waiting to see whether school would be cancelled!!

Mary Beth Evans for keeping us all informed and updated regarding recent passage in Albany of a number of League advocacy priorities.

Diane Baylor for maintaining our local membership database.

Joan Bowen for running our social media world!

Karen Brew for working hard to publicize our events and League statement in our local media.

Debbie Miller for keeping our accounts in order and required submissions complete and on time!

Joan Frankle for taking and maintaining our Board minutes.

Kitt Rosenthal for keeping our coffee flowing at our Board meetings.

Dana Matsushita for your continued efforts to bring the Bulletin together in a cohesive and timely manner!

And thank you to all our board members for your patience, attention, and work to further our organization's mission.

LWVS CALENDAR

March, 2019

Monday	4 th	10:30 am	General Membership/Consensus Mtg. SCHOOL BUDGET	Village Hall, 3 rd Floor
Monday	18 th	9 am	Board Meeting	Village Hall, 3 rd Floor
Tuesday	19 th	6am – 9pm	Village Election for Mayor and Trustees	Village Hall
Sunday	24 th	3pm – 5pm	A River Returns: A History of the Bronx River	Scarsdale High School Little Theater
Monday	25 th	9 am	Board Meeting	Village Hall, 3 rd Floor

April, 2019

Monday	8 th	9 am	Board Meeting	Village Hall, 3 rd Floor
	8 th	10:30 am	General Membership/Consensus Mtg. VILLAGE BUDGET	Village Hall, 3 rd Floor
Monday	22 nd	9 am	Board Meeting	Village Hall, 3 rd Floor
Thursday	25 th	10 am	Morning Book Discussion session	TBD
	25 th	7 pm	Evening Book Discussion session	TBD

May, 2019

Friday	10 th	10 am	Annual Meeting	Scarsdale Golf Club
	10 th	11:30 am	Spring Luncheon/Speaker	Scarsdale Golf Club
Tuesday	21 st	7am – 9pm	School Budget Vote and Board of Ed elections	Middle School Gym

June, 2019

Monday	3 rd	9 am	Joint Board Meeting	TBD
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Note: Please confirm all meeting dates, locations and times at our website, www.lwvs.org. There are times when meetings need to be rescheduled or new meetings added! Thank you for your understanding.

THEY REPRESENT YOU

Village of Scarsdale

As of July 2018

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Dan Hochvert, Mayor
Term Ends April 2019
Justin Arest
1st term ends April 2020
Matthew Callaghan
2nd term ends April 2019

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Scott Silberfein, President
2nd term ends June 2020
Pamela Fuehrer, Vice President
2nd term ends June 2021
Nina Ledis Cannon
1st term ends June 2019

Lena Crandall
1st term ends April 2020
Carl Finger
2nd term ends April 2019
Seth Ross
1st term ends April 2019
Jane Veron
2nd term ends April 2020

Leila Maude
2nd term ends June 2019
Christopher Morin
2nd term ends June 2020
William Natbony
2nd term ends June 2019
Alison Tepper Singer
1st term ends June 2021

League of Women Voters of Scarsdale 2018-19

Officers

Co-Presidents: Linda Doucette-Ashman and Janice Starr
president@lwvs.org

First Vice President: Mary Beth Evans
firstvp@lwvs.org

Second Vice President: Anne Lyons
secondvp@lwvs.org

Recording Secretary: Joan Frankle
recordingsecretary@lwvs.org

Corresponding Secretary: Karen Brew
correspsec@lwvs.org

Treasurer: Debbie Miller
treasurer@lwvs.org

Committee Chairs

Advocacy: Mary Beth Evans*
advocacy@lwvs.org

Annual Luncheon: Anne Lyons*
annualluncheon@lwvs.org

Bulletin Editor: Dana Matsushita*
newsletter@lwvs.org

Civics Jeopardy and Mock Election: Leah Dembitzer* and Elissa Ruback*
presidentialpursuit@lwvs.org

Development / Finance Drive: Anne Lyons*
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Environment / Sustainability: Margaret Smith
environment@lwvs.org

Historian: TBD

Hospitality: Kitt Rosenthal*
hospitality@lwvs.org

Planning & Zoning: Deb Pekarek
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Program/Education: Cindy Dunne*
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Publicity: Joan Bowen*
publicity@lwvs.org

School Budget: Leah Dembitzer*
schoolbudget@lwvs.org

School Election: Elissa Ruback*

Social Media: Joan Bowen*
socialmedia@lwvs.org

Students Inside Albany: Elissa Ruback*
sia@lwvs.org

Village Budget: Dara Gruenberg*
villagebudget@lwvs.org

Village Election: Diane Baylor*

LWVW Liaison: Renée Baylor*
lwwestliaison@lws.org

Membership: Janice Starr*
membership@lws.org

Membership Statistician: Diane Baylor*
membershiprec@lws.org

Nominating Chair: Diane Greenwald
nominations@lws.org

villageelectionsys@lws.org

**Voter Services: Amy Cooper* and Ronny
Hersch***
voterservice@lws.org

Website: Deb Morel
website@lws.org

Winter Fundraiser: Diane Greenwald
winterfundraiser@lws.org

** Board members*