The Broome-Tioga Voter

Bulletin of the League of Women Voters of Broome & Tioga Counties
www.lwv-broometioga.org PO Box 944, Vestal, NY 13851-0944

Volume 71, Number 2 Winter 2019

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“As the New York State League proudly celebrates its 100th anniversary this year, it is a truly monumental achievement to finally see the passage of early voting, same day voter registration, and primary consolidation in New York State!”

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NEW YORK STATE

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NEW YORK STATE TURNS 100 ON NOVEMBER 10TH OF 2019

History Makers
LWV Legislative Director, Jennifer Wilson, Retired LWV Legislative Director, Barbara Bartoletti, Barbara Thomas and supporters. January 14, 2019 - Capitol Building, Albany, NY
How do we define good government? Many opinions on this topic assail our senses as we watch daily news reports. The three-week shutdown has focused our attention on the definition of good government. A family member with a son in the Coast Guard sent me an article. Coast Guard members as well as hundreds of thousands of other federal employees are not getting paid, but still working for us, “the people.” Tragic irony as the Coast Guard has likely seized more drugs than any agency in the history of this country. Such actions remove tons of drugs from trafficking rather than ounces and pounds and contradicts President Trump’s assertions of drug interdiction as a reason to build a border wall.

Admiral Thad Allen, the 23rd Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard (retired, 2010), wrote an opinion piece in the January 2019 Issue of the U.S. Naval Institute “Proceedings Magazine” on how the government shutdown was hurting Coast Guard men and women and their families. https://www.usni.org/magazines/proceedings/2019-01/senseless-government-shutdown-harming-coast-guard-families?fbclid=IwAR0ZnLQH6yCuxWOb-ThwSL10xBAoiQb90sBaulHG5DF85F7n195cd3vojs

“Before modern pay systems, direct deposit and allotments, service members were often paid in cash while at sea where they had no access to banks or the ability to send money to dependents. Families had to carefully plan around deployments. In those times my mother had her priorities—food and rent came first and you dealt with other needs as you could. That said, the single most searing memory of my childhood, was watching my mother cope with my father’s unanticipated extended absence and little cash. My brother, sister, and I had been given banks for Christmas by family friends. They came locked and could only be opened at the bank where our saved change was then deposited to our savings accounts. One day during my Dad’s extended absence, we found our mother in the kitchen crying with a hammer and screw driver trying to open the banks, so we would have milk money for our lunches we took to school. Not even that experience dampened her love for my father and the Coast Guard, but it is an experience I have never forgotten.

In the years that followed we faced other financial challenges. We had transfers during difficult housing markets, forcing decisions on whether to endure a long family separation, risk a short sale, or managing a rental across a continent. In each case we persevered. Pay systems gradually evolved from cash payments to checks, then to allotment checks to dependents, then to direct deposit and modern ATM and automated payment options. We now have on-line self-service for most pay actions. However, the starting point is getting paid.

The responsibility of the government to our citizens and those who serve the nation is equally clear and unambiguous. It begins with “We the people” and sets clear guidance... “establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare.” It does not distinguish between political affiliation, race, gender, sexual orientation, income level, geographic home, employer, or any other means by which citizens are often categorized or minoritized in this country.

I never believed it would be necessary to remind the leaders of all branches of government of their constitutional responsibilities, but it appears they have subordinated the “general welfare” of their fellow citizens to parochial interests. While this political theater ensues, there are junior Coast Guard petty officers, with families, who are already compensated at levels below the national poverty level, who will not be paid during this government shutdown. There is no reasonable answer as to why these families have to endure this hardship in the absence of a national emergency.

Admiral Allen gave another interview on this subject January 9th on National Public Radio. https://www.npr.org/2019/01/09/683501454/coast-guard-members-may-have-to-work-without-pay-during-shutdown As we publish The Broome-Tioga Voter, the Presidential showdown has ended...for now.
The 2018 elections were historic on the national level. Locally, with a handful of exceptions, incumbent officeholders prevailed. One Broome County Legislative race flipped from Republican to Democrat and added a third woman to the legislature. In a City of Binghamton Council race filling the unexpired term of Joseph Mihalko (now Broome County Clerk), a Republican incumbent was unseated by a Democrat. A Supreme Court race was won by a Republican candidate from Chenango County, and the Republican Broome County Sheriff retained his seat. Changes occurred in the Town of Union Supervisor and one council seat, flipping from Republican to Democrat. In the Village of Johnson City, a 19-year old first time Democratic candidate unseated a multi-term Republican incumbent becoming one of the youngest elected officials in New York State history. NY 52, Fred Akshar and NY 123, Donna Lupardo ran unopposed. In contested races for NY 122 and 124 respectively, Republicans Clifford Crouch and Christopher Friend gained re-election.

The cliffhanger NY 22 Congressional race between Republican incumbent Claudia Tenney and Democrat Anthony Brindisi was not decided for several weeks. The district-wide ballot was secured by court order. After all ballots were counted, Anthony Brindisi was declared the winner.

The League with WSKG and community partners, Binghamton University, SUNY Broome and the Apalachin Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., broadcast a live NY 22 debate at WSKG on November 1st simultaneously covered nationwide on CSPAN’s main channel.

Twitter traffic lit up when the NY 22 hash tag was shown on air. Facebook then took a very distant back seat. A question submitted via Twitter on the opioid crisis was used during the debate. See page four for my personal thank you to all those who made this debate a success. It took six months of coordination and preparation.

The NYS Legislature passed legislation on No Excuse Absentee Balloting, Closing the LLC Loophole, Early Voting, Same Day Voter Registration, Primary Day Consolidation, Pre-Registration for 16- and 17-year-olds and transferability of voter registration. Please go to page five for a synopsis of each bill, elected officials vote records (to the best of my ability and where available), sponsorship and effective dates.
NY 22 Debate

Thank you for your guidance and collaboration.

**League of Women Voters of NYS**
Laura Ladd Bierman, Executive Director, Judie Gorenstein, NYS Board and Voter Service Director

**League of Women Voters of Broome and Tioga Counties**
Board of Directors and Susan Ruff, Sara Wokan, Karl Wokan, Kris Gilbert

**League of Women Voters of Utica–Rome Metro**
Karen McBride, Voter Service

**League of Women Voters of Cortland County**
Dr. Alison King, President

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**Apalachin Alumnae Chapter of Delta Theta Sorority, Inc.**
Angela Riley, President, Carol Ross, Brenda Brown, Sandra Love

**Binghamton University Center for Civic Engagement**
Kelli Huth, Director, Alison Handy Twang, Assistant Director (& LWV)

**WSKG**
Greg Catlin, CEO, Charles Compton, Producer, Moderator, Andy Pioch, Director
Greg Keeler, Digital Media, Jackie Stapleton, Assistant Producer, Dan Davis, Audio
Jill Forstadt, Social Media/Production Assistant, Phil Wescott, Photography
Kirsten Frederickson, Beautification (also known as make-up)

**C–SPAN**

**Candidates**
Claudia Tenney, Family, Staff, Raychel Renna and Hannah Andrews
Anthony Brindisi, Family, Staff, Ellen Foster
HISTORIC VOTING REFORM LEGISLATION PASSES IN NYS

A.00774/S.1100
Youth Voter Pre-Registration. Enable 16- and 17-year olds to pre-register to vote and requires local boards of education to adopt policies to promote student voter registration and pre-registration. Co-Sponsors: Akshar, Lupardo. Votes: Akshar-Yes, Crouch-ER, Friend-No, Lupardo-Yes. Effective: January 2020

A.00775/ S.01099
Voter Registration Transfers. Automatic transferring of a voter's registration when they move within New York State. This would take effect 60 days after the measure is signed into law. Under current law, voters who move within New York but move out of their current county or New York City must update their registration before the established deadline in order to vote. Co-Sponsor: Donna Lupardo. Votes: Akshar-No, Crouch-ER, Friend-No, Lupardo-Yes. Effective March 2019.

A.00776/S.1101
LLC Loophole. Relates to political contributions by limited liability companies; requires limited liability companies that make expenditures for a political purpose to file with the state board of elections, the identity of all direct and indirect owners of the membership interests in the limited liability company and the proportion of each direct or indirect member's ownership interest in the limited liability company. To hold LLC’s to the same aggregate contribution limit of $5,000 that applies to corporations. Co-Sponsor: Lupardo. Votes: Akshar-No, Crouch-ER, Friend-No, Lupardo-Yes Effective January 2019.

A.00777/S.1048
Same-Day Voter Registration. Removes ten-day advance voter registration requirement. Amends the constitution to remove the ten-day advance voter registration requirement, subject to second passage of the next legislature and approval by a statewide ballot proposal. Multi-Sponsor: Lupardo. Votes: Akshar-No, Crouch-ER, Friend-No, Lupardo-Yes

A.00778/S.1049
No-Excuse Absentee Voting. Authorizes ballot by mail by removing cause. Amends the state Constitution to allow for any voter to request to vote by mail. Subject to second passage of the next legislature and approval by a statewide ballot proposal. Concurrent Resolution. Committee. Co-Sponsors: Akshar and Lupardo.

A.00779/S.1103
Combined Primary Date. NYS Assembly passed legislation to combine the federal non-presidential primary and state primary, making voting easier for New Yorkers and saving millions of dollars statewide. The combined federal and state primary would be held in June. The measure would also ensure New York State's compliance with the federal Military Overseas Voter Empowerment (MOVE) Act. Multi-Sponsor: Lupardo, Votes: Lupardo-Yes, Crouch-ER, Friend-No. Effective 2019.

A.00780/S.1102
Early Voting. Relates to early voting; provides that beginning the tenth day prior to any election and ending on and including the second day prior to the election a person duly registered and eligible to vote shall be permitted to vote. This bill establishes an Early Voting system to permit eligible voters in New York State to vote in person during a designated period. Co-Sponsor: Lupardo, Votes: Akshar-Yes, Crouch-ER, Lupardo-Yes. Effective 2019 general election.

A=Assembly Bill Number  S=Senate Bill Number  ER=Excused for Reason
The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan, grassroots political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Men and women are welcome to join.

Be Part of the Action—Join Today!

Membership Application

_____Individual membership $60/yr.
_____Household membership $90/yr. (2 people)
_____Student membership $20/yr.
_____Send me information about the League.

Name______________________________
Address_______________________________
City________________ State_____ Zip_____
Phone______________________________
E-mail______________________________

Make checks payable to LWVBTC and mail with this coupon to LWWBTC, PO Box 944, Vestal, NY 13851-0944.

_____I would like to support the League with a tax deductible contribution to the LWVNYS Education Foundation $______.

Make checks payable to “LWVNYS Education Foundation” and mail with this coupon to LWVBTC, PO Box 944, Vestal, NY 13851-0944.

Volunteer for the SIA committee.
Student materials on LWBTC website.
Deadline for student applications is February 15, 2019
Contact Margaret Goodfellow

607-655-1929
mgoodfel@binghamton.edu

2019
Naturalization Ceremony Schedule
February 8, April 26, July 26, September 20, October 22
Broome County Courthouse, 11 am
Voter Registration after ceremony.
Volunteer today!
Margaret Goodfellow-655-1929
Susan Ruff-761-7557
Sara Wokan-785-6703

Students Inside Albany
Conference
May 19-22, 2019

Students Inside Albany
ALBANY
2019 BROOME COUNTY STATUS OF WOMEN COUNCIL
WOMAN OF ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

REPRESENTING THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
ALICE BROOKS

The League of Women Voters of Broome and Tioga Counties is proud to honor Alice Brooks as our 2019 Woman of Achievement. Alice Brooks joined the League of Women Voters in 1997 after retiring as a caseworker for children and youth. She soon became a member of our board of directors, serving as secretary for three years and later as treasurer for eleven years. In addition to skillfully handling these jobs, she has volunteered for many other projects and activities, representing the League at naturalization ceremonies, participating in election night reporting, proofreading publications, attending three state conventions as a delegate, organizing programs, and working on various committees. Alice is always willing to accept any responsibilities asked of her.

In addition to League activities, Alice has been active in other organizations. While living in Chicago, she did volunteer work in a children's hospital auxiliary, raising funds for special projects and working in the children's library. At churches in various places, she volunteered as a youth group leader, church school teacher, missions committee chair, hand bell choir member, and library assistant. She served six years on the board of directors of the Protestant Cooperative Ministry at Cornell University.

Alice grew up in Otsego County and met her husband Fred in Cooperstown High School. Since their marriage 65 years ago, Alice and Fred have lived in several beautiful parts of the country, Connecticut, Illinois, and Oregon, but were happy to return to upstate New York in 1980. They have lived in Vestal since 1985.

Alice enjoys traveling with Fred to scenic and historic sites, and especially to visit their two married sons and three grandchildren. She enjoys reading well-written mysteries and local history, playing the piano, and completing crossword puzzles. Alice values her membership and the friends she has made in the League of Women Voters.

Alice will be honored at a luncheon organized by the Broome County Status of Women Council, to be held Saturday, March 30, 2019 at 12:30 pm at Riverdale Banquet Hall, 2901 Watson Boulevard, Endwell, NY.

The luncheon will start at 12:30 pm. There will be no social hour or cash bar. The price is $35.00 per person. Please make your reservations no later than March 3rd by sending a check payable to Eva Anderson, 3 Manor Drive, Apt 201, Binghamton, NY 13905. If you have questions, you may call Eva at 775-2325.

This is an afternoon to honor Alice, and also a time of fun and good company with League members as well as members of other organizations. We hope you will be there.

~ Eva Anderson, League Representative, Broome County Status of Women Council
2018 League of Women Voters Annual December Brunch

Saturday, December 1st, the League held its annual brunch. The entire menu was prepared by Board Members. For the first time the League conducted a silent auction of items donated by League Members and others. We made a nice profit from it, but we must admit, the effort that went into planning, meal prep, presentation, clean up and the auction was daunting. Thank you to all who attended, enjoyed the meal, those who donated items and placed bids. Pieces of art work created by League members Aubrey Clark and Barbara Shope were auctioned. We heard some of these bid successes were considered quite the bargain, including the quilt bought by Charlie Compton of WSKG. We auctioned local libations including hemp wine a The Ladies of Lisle French-distilled bourbon (which has a fairly, let’s just say, rugged flavor).

Our guest speakers were the Board of Elections Commissioners of Broome and Tioga Counties; Oliver Blaise (Republican), Philip Grommet (Democratic) and Bernadette Toombs of Tioga County (Republican).

The public’s attention to the Board of Elections focuses on two days each year, primary and election day. We know it’s a year round operation. In the 2018 election year they were busy beyond measure and they have the numbers to prove it. Here’s a sample from Broome County.

From June 1st
- 4,966 new registrations
- 13,474 change of addresses
- 5,409 absentee applications
- 872 over the counter (in-person)

74,627 voted in the General Election 2018
To compare in the last Gubernatorial, General Election, Broome County had 53,350 voters
87,177 voted in General Election (2016-Presidential), a difference of 12,550 from 2018.

The 2018 overall voter turnout rate in Broome County in 2018 was 66%. We noticed turnout rates as high as 77% depending on the race and the district. This is due to the mid-term Congressional, US Senate, Statewide Gubernatorial, Senate and Assembly races. We can only imagine what 2020 will bring.

The commissioners were asked questions from the audience regarding upcoming legislation on no-excuse absentee and early voting. The viewpoint was general opposition to early voting due to the cost of implementation and support for no-excuse absentee as a mechanism moving toward vote by mail.

An audience member asked about the presence of voter fraud and was met with a loud and resounding NO from the commissioners. New York State voting machines have paper ballots and multiple redundant processes and procedures to ensure the integrity of the ballot. It was a lovely event and gathering of League members and guests.

~ Margaret Goodfellow
Women’s History Month
Women’s Suffrage
How to Celebrate a Complicated Win for Women

Can we honor those who helped achieve women’s suffrage, while recognizing the complexity — and occasional ugliness — of their movement?

By Ann D. Gordon
Ms. Gordon is an emeritus research professor of history at Rutgers University and the editor of the papers of Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony.

Source: NY Times August 27, 2018

There’s a historical haze confounding plans to observe the coming 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment in 1920.

It descends, first, in definitions: “That’s the one that guaranteed a right to vote to all American women, right?” Not exactly. The “women’s suffrage” amendment, like the 15th Amendment before it, which sought to protect the political rights of former slaves, guaranteed nothing. It simply told states that being female could no longer be a reason to bar citizens from voting. To African-American women living in states with systems in place to block African-American men from voting, the amendment provided neither clarity nor power.

Haze also makes it difficult to see what merits celebration. With the most prominent advocates of women’s voting rights having come under scrutiny for their racial exclusiveness, including Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Alice Paul, can we honor their activism? Can we celebrate a transformation that broke men’s monopoly on political power while we simultaneously face up to ways that the ugliest aspects of American history influenced how citizens achieved this victory and how they behaved afterward? That is possible if we tell a documented story and use appropriate lenses.

Image
Suffragists in Greenwich Village in New York, circa 1912. Credit Bettmann Archive, via Getty Images
How to Celebrate a Complicated Win for Women, Continued.

A popular, national reform movement cannot be measured simply by the actions of a few leaders. Multitudes worked to overcome strong resistance to sharing political power with women. Under many leaders across seven decades, they battled in arenas of state and national politics that were infested with racial conflict. Eventually, a movement that began among opponents of slavery, who at least talked the talk of racial equality, grew to embrace the whole range of American opinions on race.

For a celebration, we need history that recognizes in the 19th Amendment a fundamental change in government, eliminating the presumption that men had a right to govern for women. Three generations of women sought that change before 1920, and more generations fought on afterward to win voting rights for female citizens in Puerto Rico and for African-Americans, Native Americans and Asian-Americans on the mainland. Their efforts were powered by a political awakening, a perception among women of varied backgrounds that they needed a voice in politics. In 1871, 200 black women in North Carolina thought direct action might make the point: Dressed in men’s clothing, they went to the polls and cast ballots. In 1880, two dozen female millworkers in a small Wisconsin town sent word to the Republican National Convention that as self-supporting citizens, they needed the vote. From 1905, members of the Texas Federation of Colored Women’s Clubs applied steady pressure to open doors to political participation in their state. The list goes on.

Those women strove to change law and political culture all over this land because they believed that manhood suffrage — full voting rights for men and only men — made a mockery of self-government.

Like any social movement arising from the population of these complicated United States, however, this one contained contradictions. One woman who campaigned for suffrage wanted a vote to put an end to immigration. Another felt humiliated that her former slaves had a political voice and she did not. At the 20th century’s start, white women in North Carolina could promise their menfolk that with votes they would strengthen white supremacy. We were a nation torn by often vicious prejudices; fervent beliefs in racial, ethnic, sexual and religious hierarchies; and a people armed with powerful tools of exclusion. Women brought those problems into their movement and did little better than anyone else in the country at resolving those conflicts.

We also need history that recognizes how the suffrage movement’s history calls attention to the precariousness of voting rights in the United States. When Congress was drafting a 15th Amendment (ratified in 1870), two choices were made that struck many observers as unwise: seeking suffrage only for men and leaving political rights in the hands of state governments. The amendment told states that they could no longer disqualify men from voting “on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.” Any mother could have foreseen the result: Tell your son he cannot ride his scooter around the living room — “There are rules, young man” — and he turns up next in the dining room. The amendment did not anticipate all the ways that states would block black men from voting, like imposing poll taxes. That was a deadly mistake. The amendment also removed any doubt that states controlled voting rights. That was a bad decision we still live with.

Attached to this issue of The Broome-Tioga Voter are the 2019 publications of They Represent You for Broome and Tioga Counties. Also included is the 2019 NYS League of Women Voters Legislative Agenda. This subject matter is separate from our meeting held on February 9th at Little Venice where members met to discuss programs of interest to be submitted to the LWVNY State Board by March 1st. After all submissions are received and reviewed, a determination will be made on where the League will program over the next two years. Thank you for those members who took time out of their schedules to attend and participate. It was a nice way to spend a Saturday afternoon with fellow League members.

Although a number of long fought voting reforms passed this year, there are serious financial challenges awaiting the State and Counties Board of Elections. The Governor has failed to allocate money in the budget to support implementation of any voting reforms, nor in the 30-day budget amendment period. This includes early voting to be implemented in the 2019 general election. Legislation has yet to pass for electronic poll books, the key component necessary for a seamless transition to early voting.

The League and numerous others are working diligently to advocate for funding for voting reform. We noticed changes in the 2019 NYS voter registration form. The changes are in the order of political party listings. NYS Election Law states that after each gubernatorial election, those parties receiving 50,000 or more votes are included on the form for the following four years. They are as follows in order of votes received: Democratic, Republican, Conservative, Working Families, Green, Libertarian, Independence and SAM (a new party altogether). Dropping off the form are Women’s Equality and Reform parties. The Serve America Movement (SAM) is a political organization founded by Morgan Stanley lawyer Eric Grossman in 2017. Ballot access was the process by which they achieved party status in New York by meeting and exceeding the 50,000 vote threshold in the NY Gubernatorial Election with candidate Stephanie Miner from Syracuse on their ballot line. Therefore, it is entitled to a line on the voter registration form for the next four years. We didn’t know about the change when They Represent You went to print. Once Congressman Brindisi’s phone number is confirmed, we will do an update for both and post it on our website and send it to you.

Due to the single primary date, you may have noticed in early January public declarations of candidacies for elected offices such as the Broome County District Attorney. The single primary date has moved up due dates on the political calendar. Don’t be surprised if you begin to hear from candidates seeking your John Hancock on a ballot petition. The first day for signing designating petitions is February 26th.

Jennifer Wilson, Legislative Director for the State League, has accepted a position in another organization after receiving an offer that was too good to refuse. Her last day at LWVNYS was February 8th. We appreciate all she has accomplished at LWV and wish her the best in the future.

~Margaret Goodfellow
The Broome-Tioga Voter

The League of Women Voters of Broome & Tioga Counties
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Phone: 607-834-0127
Like us on Facebook!
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## Calendar

Visit lwv-broometioga.org for the latest event details.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2nd Tuesday</td>
<td>LWVBTC Board Meeting, open to the public, 6:30 pm, ETM Solar Works, 300 North St., Endicott, NY 13760. Phone: 785-6499.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 9</td>
<td>Programming Luncheon, 12:30 pm, Little Venice Restaurant</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 30</td>
<td>Status of Women Council Women of Achievement Luncheon, 12:30 pm Riverdale Banquet Hall, Endwell, NY</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 14</td>
<td>LWV Broome and Tioga Counties Annual Dinner and Meeting, 5:30 pm Unitarian Universalist Church Binghamton</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 19-22</td>
<td>Students Inside Albany Conference Albany, NY</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 7-9</td>
<td>LWVNYS Bi-Annual Convention Albany, NY</td>
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</tbody>
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## Contents

- Voting Reform Passes 1/14/19  cover
- President’s Report  2
- Voter Service Report  3
- Voter Service NY 22 Debate Thank You  4
- Voting Legislation  5
- Students Inside Albany  6
- League Membership Application Form  6
- 2019 Naturalization Ceremony Schedule  6
- 2019 Status of Women Council  7
- 2018 Annual December Brunch Report  8
- Suffrage NY Times Opinion Article  9-10
- Ending Notes  11
- Calendar and Contents  12