

Message From Our Leaders

By Nella Yelenovic

We are at the epitome of Winter in the Northeast, and everyone from towns and cities to businesses, families and individuals are weary of it all but are still responding, taking care of ourselves while continuing to meet our community responsibilities.

Similarly, we are all responding to the ongoing offensive upon our rights, the Constitution, and our democracy. Political slants, beliefs and commitments aside, democracy in the United States of America is non-negotiable.

The incessant instances of unbecoming conduct and outright crimes we have experienced over the past 13 months are exhausting, unnerving, and appalling. We are not only apprehensive about the challenge; we are often paralyzed with disbelief and fear...but not for long. Our anger boils us out of our numbness. Our love of one another, our country, and our democracy transports us from inaction to decisive and brave action. We have witnessed examples of valor by people unaware that they were even in a battle, but which resulted in their ultimate sacrifice.

The League of Women Voters continues in our efforts to defend democracy and empower not only voters, but the crucial right of voting itself. This too, is at risk. Without free and fair elections, democracy is simply a sham. The League of Women Voters of Huntington is hitting the streets, attending protests and registering and educating students and adults, and meeting with elected officials. We are analyzing our local community, working to determine whose voice has yet to be heard via voting. Letters to the editor and opinion pieces by individual members and members on behalf of the League have been published. We have worked closely and continuously with our sister leagues in Suffolk and Nassau Counties, and regularly seek guidance from the League of Women Voters New York. We embrace announcements and guidelines from the League of Women Voters of the United States.

In an article published by ProPublica in August of 2022, the LWV was characterized by some as abandoning our quiet and subtle clipboard-carrying manners, and instead adopting confrontational and hyper partisan ways in response to the shift in political climate. Maybe anyone who thought that League members were timid should read up on our history. We are the heirs of our grandmothers', great grandmothers' and great, great grandmothers' League. And proud of it.