NYLCV’s 28th Annual Spring Gala celebrated a clean energy future, raising over $930,000. 1. Over 700 guests attended the dinner, held at Chelsea Piers’ Pier 60. The keynote address was given by Governor Andrew Cuomo, where he made several big environmental announcements. 3. NYLCV President Marcia Bystryn looks during the speaking program. 4. From left, Westchester Chapter Chair Michael Bogin, NYLCV Board Chair Steve Russo, Capital Region Chapter Chair Bob Rosenthal, 5. Environmental Leader Honoree Andrew Sablin and NYLCVF Board Chair Ed Cox with friends and family. 6. From left, board members Rhea Jezier, Peggy Shepard, and Richard Farren. 7. Corporate Honoree Daniel Tishman, President Marcia Bystryn, and NYLCV Board Chair Steve Russo.

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Director of Development, Maria Klinger  
State Policy Director, Patrick McClean  
Communications Director, Shachar Sharon  
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NYLCV Senior Vice President Josh Klaiber, along with NYLCV interns and board member Dr. Lewis Morrison, visited Capitol Hill to lobby for fully funding the Land & Water Conservation Act. They met with Congress Members including Sean Patrick Maloney, Nydia Velazquez, and John Faso.

NYLCV State Policy Director Patrick McClean spoke at a press conference with our partner transportation and environmental advocacy groups to announce the 2018 Transportation Equity Agenda. The state policy agenda includes subway, bus, street safety and accessibility improvements to make transit safe and accessible for all New Yorkers.

Since 1989, we have worked to lobby state and local elected officials on environmental issues, provide objective information about environmental policy to the public, and hold elected officials accountable. In order to carry out this mission, we began issuing a State Legislative Environmental Scorecard last year and this year we are issuing it in an election year for the first time.

Scores were a major factor during this year’s endorsement process and we will encourage our members to use it as a resource in this fall’s elections. We are also proud to provide this resource to lawmakers as a clear list of our organization’s priorities and practical policies that will make New York healthier, greener, and more sustainable.

We hope the scorecard will influence the enactment of practical, sensible, and pragmatic plans of action that will help our state improve public health, protect natural resources, and combat climate change. These plans must include concrete and physical projects that can realistically be built. At times, it is difficult to get a renewable energy project off the ground due to local opposition, decades-old building codes, or jurisdictional complications.

That’s why NYLCVF is working on a new series of forums about overcoming barriers to siting renewable energy projects in New York State. This series will help shine a light on municipal or state policies that may be hindering, or potential legislation and programs that could encourage, the siting of renewable energy projects. It’s one thing to pledge to transition to clean energy systems -- it’s another to approve specific renewable projects in neighborhoods.

Combating climate change must not be simply an aspirational goal. We should be forming realistic plans to reduce emissions and make our communities more sustainable.

With enough support, we look forward to working with partners and stakeholders in Westchester, the Capital Region, Long Island, Hudson Valley, and Buffalo/Niagara. This program is ongoing and I am looking forward to beginning these exciting forums. As you may already know, NYLCV and NYLCVF will have a new President later this year. I am confident that my successor will continue our great work on this forum series, as well as all our policy advocacy and programmatic work, taking our organizations to even greater heights.

Your support has been integral to NYLCV and NYLCVF as we advance our priorities and make New York a healthier and greener place to live.

Sincerely,  
Marcia Bystryn  
President, NYLCV & NYLCVF

NYLCV Chapter Boards on Long Island and in NYC, Westchester, and the Capital Region got together for their quarterly meeting. They discussed upcoming events, the end of the state legislative session, endorsements, and programs.
Spring and Summer Events Update

State Board Updates

Michael Bogen recently joined the NYLCV State Board and serves as Chair of the Westchester Chapter Board. As an attorney at Sive, Paget & Riesel PC, he focuses on environmental regulation and permitting, with a particular emphasis on wastewater and stormwater discharges, wetlands and hazardous waste management.

Anthony Constantinople recently joined the NYLCV State Board. As a Partner at Constantinople & Vallone Consulting, LLC, he has become one of New York City’s leading voices on land use, environmental, energy and education issues.

Robert Rosenthal recently joined the NYLCV State Board and serves as Chair of the Capital Region Chapter. As an attorney at Greenberg Traurig, LLP, he focuses on environmental and energy law matters, and is experienced with the Clean Water Act and associated state programs.

Michael Woloz recently joined the NYLCV State Board. As a partner at Connelly McLaughlin & Woloz, he has managed public relations, government relations and marketing campaigns for corporations, boards of trade, universities and nonprofit organizations.

Protecting New York’s Watersheds

State Legislative Session

This year’s legislative session was an unproductive one, with no major negotiations post-budget due to a 31-31 tie in the Senate during the last few months, and many legislators seeming to pre-suppose the results of this fall’s elections. Nevertheless, we held legislators accountable by grading them on 13 bills that were priorities for environmental partner groups.

Legislators were graded on their votes for bills that reached the floor and on co-sponsorships for bills that did not. While only three bills passed both houses, all of the bills that did not pass picked up more co-sponsors because of their inclusion on our scorecard, priming them for passage next year.

The scorecard, now in its second year of publication, will be a valuable guide for voters to hold their representatives accountable in November.

Political Update

Each year, NYLCV develops candidate questionnaires that detail our policy priorities. This year, we received over 170 questionnaires in races across the state including Governor, Attorney General, Comptroller, U.S. Congress, State Senate, and State Assembly. The screening process also included over 20 interview sessions with candidates, conducted by our regional chapter boards. Lastly, these candidates were considered by our Endorsement Committee, led by Charles Warren and Richard Farren, and given final approval by our State Board of Directors.

With local leadership on environmental issues more important than ever given the abdication of leadership in Washington, there are big decisions to be made about who leads us as Governor and in the State Senate. Later this summer, we’ll announce our 2018 Endorsed Slate.