



The newsletter of the
New York League
of Conservation Voters
and NYLCV Education
Fund

Ecopolitics

Summer 2018



Evening Hours with NYLCV

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. 2. The keynote address was given by **Governor Andrew Cuomo**, where he made several big environmental announcements. 3. NYLCV President **Marcia Bystryn** looks on 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 Sabin** and NYLCV Board Chair **Ed Cox** with friends and family. 6. From left, board members **Rhea Jezer**, **Peggy Shepard**, and **Richard Farren**. 7. Corporate Honoree **Daniel Tishman**, President **Marcia Bystryn**, and NYLCV Board Chair **Steve Russo**.



Board Members

New York League of Conservation Voters

Board Officers

Steven C. Russo, Chair
Jon R. Del Giorno, Vice Chair
Lisa Linden, Vice Chair
Gail S. Port, Vice Chair
Denise M. Richardson, Secretary
Rosalind Walrath, Treasurer

Board Members

Michael Allegretti	Richard Kassel
Michael Bogin	Steven Malito
Nanette Bourne	Granville Martin
Anthony Constantinople	Evan Mason, MA
Joseph W. Cotter	Glenn J. Pacchiana
Jonathan S. Drescher	Mitchell H. Pally
Michael Elmendorf	Michael J. Posillico
Richard L. Farren	Larry Rockefeller
Barbara J. Fife	Robert Rosenthal
John L. Greenhal	Peggy Shepard
Marjorie L. Hart	James Tripp
Robin Hubbard	Charles S. Warren
Rhea Jezer, Ph.D.	Michael Woloz
Suri Kasirer	

NYLCV Education Fund

Board Officers

Edward F. Cox, Chair
Thomas E. L. Dewey, Vice Chair
David J. Freeman, Vice Chair
Paul Roux, Vice Chair
Valerie Cook Smith, Secretary
Patrick M. Murphy, Treasurer

Board Members

Adrienne T. Atwell	Raymond G. Long
John Cahill	Sophia Mendelsohn
Andrew H. Darrell	Gail S. Port
Ann Davlin	Andrew Sabin
John Dionisio	Andrea Schmitz
Eric Gribetz	Peggy Shepard
James Hagedorn	Rosalind Walrath
Katherine Kennedy	Neal Zuckerman
Lisa Linden	

NYLCV & NYLCV Staff

President, Marcia Bystryn
Development & Events Manager,
Christina Anand
NYC Program Director, Adriana Espinoza
Director of Programs, Angela Hotaling
Senior Vice President, Joshua Kleinberg
Director of Development, Marla Klinger
State Policy Director, Patrick McClellan
Communications Director, Shachar Sharon
Operations Manager, Elaine Shimunov

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 NYLCV 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



NYLCV Senior Vice President Josh Kleinberg, 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 McClellan 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.



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.

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 NYLCV 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 NYLCV as we advance our priorities and make New York a healthier and greener place to live.

Sincerely,

Marcia Bystryn
President, NYLCV & NYLCV

Spring and Summer Events Update



NYS Deputy Secretary for Energy & Financial Services Adam Zurofsky was the guest speaker at an NYLCVEF Corporate Partners Eco-Breakfast this June. Other recent guest speakers included EPA Region 2 Administrator Peter Lopez and NYC Department of Sanitation Commissioner Kathryn Garcia.



We stood with the NYLCVEF Clean Buses for Healthy Niños campaign partners to deliver our petition to Governor Cuomo's office. As part of this campaign, the petition calls for electric school buses in environmental justice communities.



Chris Neidl, Director of Business Development at Brooklyn SolarWorks, was a featured speaker at our Emerging Leaders Breakfast this July. He spoke about innovations in the renewable energy industry and how to expand solar power.

State Board Updates



Michael Begin recently joined the NYLCV State Board and serves as Chair of the Westchester Chapter Board. As an attorney at Sive, Paget & Riesel P.C., 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.



Rich Kassel recently joined the NYLCV State Board and the New York City Chapter board. He directs Capalino+Company's Energy, Environment and Sustainability practice group, advising businesses and not-for-profit clients on a wide range of issues to help them thrive in the New York market.



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.



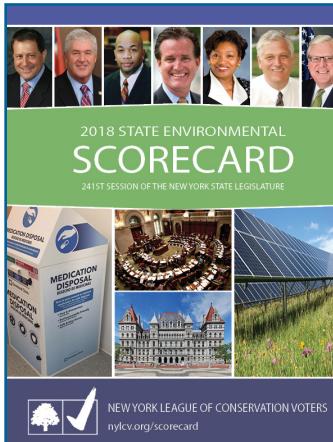
Steve Malito recently joined the NYLCV State Board. He is Chair of Davidoff, Hatcher & Citron, LLP's New York State Government Relations group which focuses on all aspects of government relations on the state level.



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.

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 presuppose 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.

Protecting New York's Watersheds



Providing nearly 15 million people with clean drinking water, including most of New York City, supporting billions of dollars of annual economic activity through tourism, recreation, and ports, and housing one of the best trout fisheries in the country, the Delaware River Watershed is one of our most precious resources. In 2016, NYLCVEF joined the Delaware River Watershed Initiative (DRWI), a major collaborative conservation effort funded by the William Penn Foundation to educate and engage New Yorkers on watershed protection efforts. Through this work, NYLCVEF expands our reach to new regions of the state, amplifies the messages of groups working on the ground, grows our list of engaged New Yorkers, and co-hosts educational events with DRWI partners.

In June 2018, NYLCVEF partnered with groups from the DRWI and the Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed (CDRW) to host a policy forum in Monticello, NY on the

benefits of green infrastructure. More than 30 municipal leaders, planning professionals, representatives from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, local groups, and community members joined the conversation.

This was NYLCVEF's fourth policy forum on green infrastructure to date. It was also our most rural context yet for such a discussion. Presentations ranged from the difference between green and grey infrastructure, the growing need for stormwater management in the watershed due to increasing rain and flood events, and the range of ecological and community benefits of incorporating more green space into municipal planning.

To learn more about this event or to read our background paper, visit nycv.org/GIDelawareRiver.