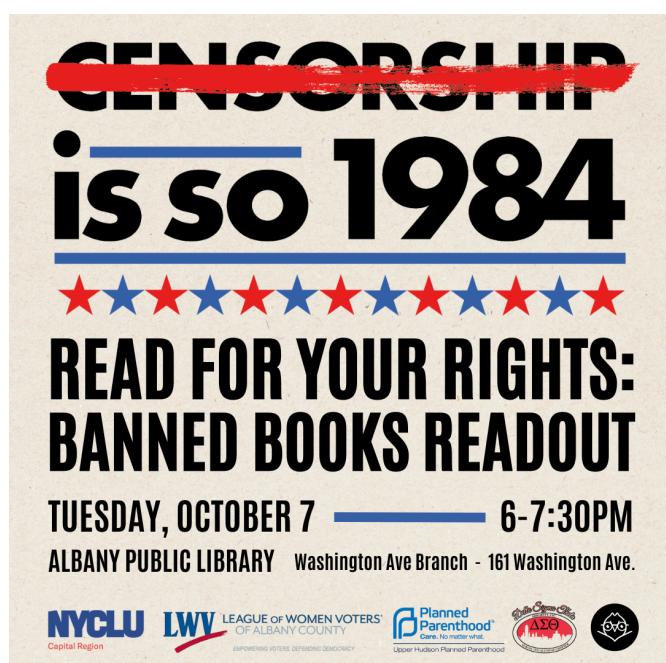


LWVNYS : State Voter November 2025

Regina Tillman, Vice President for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Access
rmt370@gmail.com

Our State DEI Committee meeting of October 6th was well worth the wait! At the top of the meeting, most attendees took the opportunity provided to them to speak to their local DEI-related efforts since meeting last June. This practice, continued from previous years, allows the sharing that is as much informative as it is building comradery, albeit, on a virtual basis. And the value in 'sharing & comparing' amongst colleagues doing similar work can never be understated.

We did not discuss "Banned Book Week", which was October 5 - 11, 2025. In the future, I hope that the DEI&A Committee will provide you with more information earlier on, addressing issues that reflect a dampening of awareness of diverse cultures and ideas, and complete erasures in some cases, or the reverse... expanded knowledge and consideration for those that this country has historically and intentionally marginalized. Either way, if it's happening around us, no doubt our members are also affected.



However, a 'heads -up' is not always needed by some local Leagues that have been working consistently over time to build a sensitivity to Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Access related issues. Close to home in fact, I noted the alignment of the local League with area community and regional groups to present a Banned Book Readout at a local library. This was conducted under what was this year's national theme, "**Censorship is so 1984**". I include the flyer to demonstrate once again that, clearly, we have greater capacity to address concerns with more willing 'hands on deck'.

And since I am on the topic of banned books (not just a seasonal topic of concern, to be sure as the link below to the informational website indicates), I share with you the listing I recently came across. It is composed of books banned from the DOD (Department of Defense) School curriculum with almost 70,000 students enrolled in those schools. This was revealed in a lawsuit by 5 families being brought against the DOD. The article link to access related information also includes an interview with a Librarian... reflecting a nonpartisan group or career whose work is significantly impacted by these ongoing book bans.

<https://bannedbooksweek.org/>

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2025/10/21/defense-department-ordered-return-banned-books-schools/86814856007/>

 gov.uscourts.vaed.572223.54.0.pdf

I thank all those members that have been reading on their own, conducting DEI book clubs, and partnering (as did Albany County with colleagues sometimes outside of our circles of familiarity), on diverse and inclusive readings regardless of book bans. Our mission involves education and leadership... and to access for ourselves, as well as for others, information that the powers that be are attempting to negate, is of value. Remember... We can not rest on our laurels, but rather, we need to continue to grow internally as people, as well as externally as a member organization, in order to meet today's challenges.

Questions? Suggestions? Last minute local League designee appointments to the 2025-2026 State LWV DEI Committee? Contact rmt370@gmail.com .