

## Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Update

Regina Tillman, 3rd Vice President for DEI : [rmt370@gmail.com](mailto:rmt370@gmail.com)

I am very much looking forward to the DEI&A discussions at the LWVNYS Conference later this month, and hope you are as well. At this time, I am in the process of finalizing our guest panelists. I love the fact that the representation of DEI efforts will be coming from a number of areas or sectors of work. Thus, instead of churning the information among ourselves, we will have an opportunity to share our experiences with those outside of the League and also get their insights and suggestions.

I am also happy to share that we had a greater number of submissions of the DEI Self Assessment Survey compared to the years 2020 and 2023. In those submissions, there are stories to be told of failed attempts to move past current habits or change current procedures to make attaining your identified goals easier. There are also tales to be told of successes and wins in favor of our higher selves, and in strengthening our mission of creating “community” with folks that believe we can indeed have a more perfect Union... but to get there requires the inclusion of all voices.

Let us know at the State Conference what you have done lately to become more inclusive in our work of defending democracy... be it around the Board table, with your choice of programming and locations, with your active recruitment of new members, with community events and meetings you, as an individual, may be attending... etc., etc.

Additionally, if you can briefly write about the intentional adjustments you have learned to make as a local League in order to adopt tools, techniques, or behaviors that would help to express an ever expanding fairness and inclusiveness of your organization, I welcome the submission. We have received more than last year but there is still a small window open to nominate your League for the DEI Recognition Award: “Building Bridges to Excellence” (deadline extended to June 13th, COB). All submissions will be considered for our 2025 edition of “DEI Success Stories” in which you yourselves continue to demonstrate the journey we all have been on, no matter how large or small, or the distance covered since its 2018 beginnings!

In the meantime, for those who have not yet selected a member of your League to serve as a guide to local DEI implementation in the next term, please send in the contact information of the volunteer selected in this capacity at your earliest opportunity. Many thanks!