



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TOMPKINS COUNTY

JUNE/JULY 2009

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www.lwvtompkins.14850.com

PROGRAM PLANNING MEETING

7:00 PM on Wednesday, July 1

Home of Kathy Yen
20 Cedar Lane, Ithaca

Information: 273-6147
(see page 3)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Early summer greetings from one of your co-presidents!

Recently returned from the NY State League convention, I find it was a great way to not only get my feet wet in League activities again but probably be at least waist deep in many interesting and evolving things. As our new state League president, Betsy Swan, said: we have to consider new structures, new ways of using people and ways to be helpful. BUT "more than ever the League is really the only organization able to advocate on multiple issues."

Regarding finances, LWV-NYS has passed through a "perfect storm" and the board is addressing problems in various cost-cutting ways. They are determined not to raise the PMP, realizing that would lose members. Rather, they are trying to encourage strongly that members who are able to contribute extra, do so.

One new study was adopted. It will look at costs of services to local government units, sharing efficiencies and possibilities in multi-government cooperation and, in limited ways, consolidation. This can be quite fascinating as our keynote speaker, John Clarkson, proved as he discussed the subject. We think this is a timely study and it should have some very real and useful applications for us here locally.

Another issue prominent at the convention was that of gas drilling in the Marcellus Shale. Past League strong Environmental Quality positions can allow us to be active in education and advocacy roles. Our TC League expects to be re-forming an active Natural Resources Committee in which this issue can be addressed. Any member interested please call Kay Sharp (272-4748) or Marnie Johnson (257-2948) and if you know of others, not necessarily League members, who would be interested, let's invite them to be involved too.

(continued)

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A proposed "Action Item" on Health Care reform was another important feature, masterfully shepherded along by Rebecca Elgie. (See her separate report on that.) Kudos to Rebecca and her cohorts!

Keep the League in mind this summer, let Board members hear from you if you have ideas and suggestions, and let's reconnect with energy in the fall.

Marnie Johnson

DUES NOTICE FOR 2009-10

Please note that this Bulletin brings you the dues letter and questionnaire for the 2009-2010 year. Please read the letter. A red dot on your address label means that we have already received your dues for the coming year and do not owe us anything at this time.

Maria Eisner

HEALTH CARE NEWS FROM LWV-NYS CONVENTION

The TC league co-sponsored two caucuses along with the E. Nassau Co. League. The first was held at 10:00 pm Friday night and was designed to explain the action motion process and discuss the motion and who would speak during the discussion of it Sunday morning. The draft was submitted to the Action Committee Saturday morning. The second caucus on Saturday afternoon provided a format for leagues to share what their leagues had been doing. Many have held forums on health care: four Albany area leagues cooperated and presented two forums on the key points of view of what a plan might look like and on the future of long term care. We shared what we have been doing and presented our brochure. We had a general discussion of health care in response to questions which were raised. In our meeting with the Action Committee Saturday night they suggested some wording changes – they wanted to be careful not to limit the flexibility of National. They then said they would support the motion, which meant it needed a simple majority to pass. The motion was presented

Sunday morning and after a brief discussion, mostly pro but with a couple of con's questioning whether a Single Payer plan was politically feasible, it was passed by about two to one. The amended motion is given below. We gave each delegation a packet of health care materials including our brochure. I thank the board for their support of this project; it was greatly appreciated by the individual leagues. Similar resolutions have been passed in California, Indiana, Colorado, New Mexico, Washington and Massachusetts.

Rebecca Elgie

HEALTH CARE ACTION MOTION

Passed May 17th, 2009 at League of Women Voters New York State Convention.

Both NYS league and the LWVUS have a position on health care. It is time to have LWVUS be more proactive. Health care legislation is to be introduced this summer in Congress, so the window of opportunity is now. There are several local and state leagues throughout the country that are preparing and sending resolutions to the LWVUS (President and board members). We are urging NYS league to write a letter to the LWVUS Board asking them to actively advocate the league position.

Whereas, the LWV-US position on health care calls for a health care system that is universal, comprehensive, equitable, and affordable both to individuals and to the nation, and

Whereas, the LWV-US position (adopted in 1993) supports a national health insurance plan financed through general taxes in place of individual insurance premiums, and

Whereas, a single payer health care plan fulfills these criteria,

Therefore, the New York State League of Women Voters urges the LW-VUS to continue to support the principle of single payer national health plan.

**THE LWV-NYS CONVENTION,
MAY 15-17, IN SYRACUSE**

I came home from my first experience at a LWV New York State Convention “fired up” with new ideas and enthusiasm, ready to begin working for the coming year. The workshops were designed to interest both new and experienced leaders: first, by giving information about the LWV, it’s history, purpose and organization; secondly, addressing the challenges confronted by local leagues.

The first presentation “Strengthening League Leadership” was facilitated by Marcia Merrins, LWV-US Director and LWV-NYS Membership VP. She addressed some of the common problems encountered by local leagues and gave specific strategies for leaders to use. She recommended that each year: new members of the boards be oriented to their roles and responsibilities; a detailed plan/calendar should be prepared each year in September; board members should prepare for the future with succession planning; and boards should develop strong nominating committees. Ms. Merrins discussed the importance of league programs. She said each program should: increase visibility in the larger community, attract new members, and raise funds.

Martha Kennedy, LWV-NYS President facilitated a discussion, “Out and About.” She stressed the importance of the League’s non-partisan policy. She described a situation in New York State that created a public relations problem (a LWV leader’s inappropriate use of the media). Ms. Kennedy advised that each local league review their by-laws concerning non-partisanship, rewrite for clarity if necessary and require each leader to abide by the policy in making public statements about the league.

Barbara Bartoletti, LWV-NYS Legislative Director, talked about how she maintains non-

partisanship when dealing with legislatures from both political parties and the media in Albany. Ms. Bartoletti also presented a workshop on “Lobbying for Effective Advocacy” in which audience members participated in role plays.

The speakers offered to help local leagues in any way possible, including visits for consultations or training workshops. The workshop, ” Membership and Marketing,” facilitated by Marcia Merrins was a forum to discuss the concern that the LWV is stagnant. Ms Merrins attributes the cause to be false public perceptions about the League. She stated that there’s a need for major institutional change for the League because there’s been a generational change for women. In order to attract bright working women, it may be necessary to make changes in our organization and procedures. In conclusion Ms. Merrins stated that the League is now more relevant than ever because it’s the only non-profit organization which is free to advocate in multiple areas of interest.

The Convention was a worthwhile experience for me. I brought home lots of printed materials and website references to share, and look forward to working with the Board to begin implementing some of the recommended changes.

Florence B. Smith

PROGRAM PLANNING MEETING

There will be a Program Planning and “Calendaring” meeting on Wednesday, July 1, at 7:00 pm at Kathy Yen's house, 20 Cedar Lane. All are invited: bring your ideas for programs, activities and events to schedule from September '09 to May '10.

For more information call Florence at 273-6147 or email <flosmith42@aol.com>

Florence Smith

LWV-TC CALENDAR—2009-2010

| | | | | |
|-------------|-------------|---------------|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| 7:00 | Wed. | July 1 | PROGRAM PLANNING MEETING | Kathleen Yen |
| 7:00 | Mon. | Aug 31 | BOARD MEETING | Libby deProse |

NEW TREASURER

We welcome to our Board of Directors our newly elected treasurer, Bo Lipari. Bo, a retired software engineer, developed software for both large and small companies throughout a 20-year career. In 2003, concerned about the rush to use touch screen voting machines he began traveling, speaking and organizing all over New York State. These efforts alerted New Yorkers to the risks and problems presented by unverifiable electronic voting.

In 2004, Bo founded New Yorkers for Verified Voting (NYVV), a grassroots citizens group working for secure, reliable, accessible, and verifiable standards for voting systems and

elections. NYVV led the long and ultimately successful struggle in New York State for verifiable, auditable voting systems, which culminated in the selection of hand marked paper ballots, scanners and accessible Ballot Marking Devices. Bo served as NYVV's Executive Director from its founding in 2004 until 2009.

In May 2006, Bo was appointed as the League of Women Voters of New York State's representative to the NYS Citizen's Election Modernization Advisory Committee (CEMAC). CEMAC, was created by the New York State Legislature to advise and assist the NYS Board of Elections in the examination of voting systems.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TOMPKINS COUNTY: BOARD 2009-10

LWV NYS website
LWV US website
LWV-Tompkins County

leave message at 272-5769

www.lwvny.org
www.lwv.org
lwvtc@twcny.rr.com
www.lwvtompkins.14850.com

Officers

| | | | |
|-----------------|------------------|----------|--|
| Co-Presidents | Marnie Johnson | 257-2948 | |
| | Barbara Caldwell | 272-5769 | bcaldwel@twcny.rr.com |
| V.P. Co-Program | Florence Smith | 273-6147 | FloSmith42@aol.com |
| V.P Membership | Maria Eisner | 277-4404 | mle3@cornell.edu |
| Secretary | Kathleen Yen | 257-8199 | kyen@twcny.rr.com |
| Treasurer | Bo Lipari | 387-9308 | bolipari@nyvv.org |

Directors:

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------|----------|--|
| Bulletin | Robert Silsbee | 273-1436 | rhs1@cornell.edu |
| Director-at-large | Libby deProsse | 257-6678 | deprosse@lightlink.com |
| Publications/Publ.Relations | Kathy Burlitch | 539-7316 | klburlitch@frontiernet.net |
| Web | Linda Duttweiler | 277-0006 | ldutt@twcny.rr.com |
| Co-Voter Services | Debbie Levin | 273-7746 | dlevin01@twcny.rr.com |
| | Sally Grubb | 257-6017 | sallyrg@clarityconnect.com |

Off-Board Members:

| | | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|----------|--|
| Webmaster | Michael Duttweiler | 277-0006 | mduttweiler@twcny.rr.com |
| Co-Program | Robin Booth | 273-0570 | rlnbooth@twcny.rr.com |
| Health Care—Chair | Rebecca Elgie | 272-0621 | healthylink@earthlink.net |
| Natural Resources—Chair | Kay Sharp | 272-4748 | kshepherdqueen@yahoo.com |

Dear Member,

June 2009

Our new fiscal year starts on July 1, 2009. But since there won't be another Bulletin until later in August or in September, we are including the dues letter and questionnaire in this Bulletin. Please renew your membership by July 1st to show your support of the League.

Because our PMPs (per member payments) to the National League (\$28) and to the State League (\$18) have increased during recent years, we have changed our payment structure. You now have a choice between paying either \$48 as *contributing* member, or \$58 as *supporting* member, and either \$72 or \$87 for a *contributing* or *supporting* family membership. **Please make your check payable to LWV-TC.** "Friends of the League" who want to receive the local Bulletin only, are asked to pay \$10. They are welcome to attend our meetings, but cannot participate as voting members.

If our dues are a financial hardship for you, rather than drop your League membership, please, consider a token payment. It will be accepted like a full payment. No questions will be asked.

We are always grateful for a contribution; it can be added to the check. **For a tax-deductible contribution, please, use a separate check, made out to Community Foundation of Tompkins County, memo: Ed. Fund of LWV.**

Please, take a few minutes to fill in the questionnaire on the reverse side and send it, along with your check made out to LWV-TC, to our treasurer,
Robert Lipari, 3991 Route 228, Alpine, NY 14805.

Thank you for your faithful support.

Sincerely,
Maria Eisner, membership, 277-4404

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LEAGUE of WOMEN VOTERS of TOMPKINS COUNTY

Name _____ Date _____

Dues Individual: *contributing* \$48.-; *supporting* \$58.- _____
Household: *contributing* \$72.-; *supporting* \$87.- _____
Friend of the League \$10.- _____

Contribution _____

Payable to LWVTC **Total** _____

Contribution (tax-deductible and payable to Community Foundation
Of TC; memo: Education Fund of LWV) _____

League of Women Voters of Tompkins County 2009-2010

Mrs., Ms., Miss, Mr. _____

Mailing Address: _____ (City, Town, Village of _____)

Telephone Number: _____ A good time to call: ___ day ___ evening ___ never.

Work phone, if OK to call: _____ e-mail _____

Bulletin How do you want to access the **Bulletin**? (Please check one)

___ On our web site www.lwvtompkins.14850.com?

___ Receive it by e-mail? ___ Receive it by US postal service?

Action Alerts Do you want to receive Action Alerts by e-mail? ___ yes, ___ no.

(They are always available on our website.)

Committees I am interested in joining a committee on:

___ Environment & Energy, ___ Consolidation & Shared Services in Government,

___ Natural Resources, ___ Health Care Updates, ___ Other?

Voter Service I would like to be involved

___ Register voters ___ Election reporting

___ Suggest a topic for a meeting ___ Keep track of local current events ²⁾

___ Help with candidates' forums ___ Moderate meetings (training provided)

___ Distribute Facts-for-Voters ___ Hand out voting information to new citizens ¹⁾

___ Talk to high school students about voting, participation in government, civil rights

Other ways to be involved ___ Do a one-shot job

___ Represent the LWV on the board of the City Federation of Women's Organizations

___ Observe meetings of the County Legislature, ___ School Board, ___ City Council

___ Town Board (of _____), ___ Village Board (of _____), ___ other. ³⁾

¹⁾ ca. 3 times a year at Naturalization ceremonies ²⁾ report back to board and membership.

³⁾ possibly some court proceedings. You would be asked to report back to the board or to the membership through the Bulletin.

In addition: Special talents I would like to share with the League:

Someone I know is interested in the League. Her/his name and address:

My ideas for the League:

GAS DRILLING

If you are interested in working with our newly forming study committee on Natural Resources, you can get a head start on the issue of gas drilling at several events this June.

Drilling in the Marcellus Shale: How our Many Faiths Respond

Wednesday, June 10, at 7:00 pm. UU Society of Ithaca, 306 N Aurora St, Ithaca (Unitarian Church Sanctuary and Parlor). Sponsored by Interfaith Action for Healing Earth

Binghamton Regional Sustainability Coalition Event

Monday, June 15th, at 7:30; Broome Community College Health and Home Forum, sponsored by BRSC (Binghamton Regional Sustainability Coalition) with co-sponsors Shaleshock and Citizen's Energy Alliance. Details TBA: line-up right now includes Theo Colborn calling in, Ron Gula from PA (a farmer who delivers warnings about leasing/contaminations from personal experience), and a rep from Shaleshock.

Getting Your Voice Heard in the Natural Gas Debate: with a Focus on the New York State Regulatory Process.

Tuesday, June 23rd, Museum of the Earth, 1259 Trumansburg Rd, Ithaca.

Wilma Subra is Coming to Ithaca!! Presented by Catskill Mountainkeeper. As the search for natural gas in the Catskill region progresses and new regulations are looming, Catskill Mountainkeeper announces the next forum on gas drilling. As space is limited, we are suggesting people pre-register for this FREE event at 845-482-5400 or info@catskillmountainkeeper.org

VOTER SERVICES REPORT FOR JUNE/JULY BULLETIN

Four Voter Services volunteers staffed a table on the Commons on May 30 during the Ithaca Festival. We registered nine new voters and sent a couple home with forms which they promised to fill out. We also talked to several people about joining the League, and gave them information about us. The highlight of the day was when a gentleman came up and told us that the League was the one organization whose information he could always trust to be true and informative. Of course we know that, but it is nice to hear it from others. Thanks to Kay Sharp, Libby DeProsse and Sally Grubb. Welcome Sally, our new co-chair of Voter Services.

We hope to do several voter registration events at the Farmer's Market this summer. While there is not a very important election this fall, it is a good idea for the League to do these events — they give us very good exposure. And we always sign up a few new voters.

When you renew your membership (and we hope that you will do that soon) you will find a form that asks how you can help with the League's various activities. Please, consider signing up to help at Voter Services events.

Deborah Levin
Co-Chair, LWV-TC Voter Services

LWV-NYS AND LWV-US INFORMATION

To access the quarterly NYS VOTER, no longer sent as hard copy, go to <http://lwvny.org/bulletins.html#voter>

And to get on the e-mailing lists for LWV-US bulletins and action alerts, go to <https://member.lwv.org/Subscribe.asp>

YOUR REPRESENTATIVES IN CONGRESS

SENATORS:

Kirsten E. Gillibrand US Senate, 531 Dirksen Senate Building, Washington, DC 20510
202-224-4451 web-site: gillibrand.senate.gov

Charles E. Schumer US Senate, 313 Hart Senate Building, Washington, DC 20510
202-224-6542; Binghamton Office: 607-772-6792
e-mail: senator@schumer.senate.gov web-site: schumer.senate.gov

REPRESENTATIVES;

Michael Arcuri 327 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515-3224
202-225-3665; Cortland Office: 607-756-2470
e-mail: send from web-site web-site: arcuri.house.gov

Maurice Hinchey 2431 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515
202-225-6335; Ithaca Office: 607-273-1388; 123 S. Cayuga St. #201
e-mail: mhinchey@mail.house.gov web-site: www.house.gov/hinchey

League of Women Voters of Tompkins County
20 Cedar Lane
Ithaca, NY 14850

Address Service Requested