



# LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TOMPKINS COUNTY

JANUARY 2012

PRESIDENT: KAY SHARP 272-4748  
lwvtompkins.org/

EDITOR: ROBERT SILSBEE 273-1436  
MEMBERSHIP: DEBBIE LEVIN 273-7746

## HEALTHCARE REFORM: NEW YORK STYLE

7 pm, Monday, January 23, 2012  
Women's Community Building

Linda Smith, Aide to NY Assemblywoman Barbara Lifton  
*How Does NY Assembly Bill A7860 Promote a New York State Health Plan?*

Dr. Susan B. Soboroff, Ithaca Free Clinic  
*From A Doctor's Perspective, What Is Improved Medicare For All?*

Betsey Swan, President, League of Women Voters of New York State  
*How Does the League Of Women Voters Support Healthcare  
at National, State and Local Levels?*

Sponsored by:

- League of Women Voters of Tompkins County
- Tompkins County NOW
- Social Justice Council of the First Unitarian Society of Ithaca
- Ithaca Health Alliance
- Single Payer, New York
- State-Wide Senior Action Council

**Please join us!**

For more information contact:

Rebecca Elgie, [www.healthylink@earthlink.net](mailto:www.healthylink@earthlink.net) or Sarah Jane Blake, 607-319-4888

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year everyone! I hope you all had a good holiday. 2012 promises to be a great year for the League, with thought-provoking programs and active voter services work. I hope you all will participate.

Speaking of programs, we have the upcoming healthcare event on January 23rd. Betsey Swan, President of NYS League, is one of our speakers. She will inform us about the State League's position on healthcare. Then on

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

President's Message .....	1
Board of Directors .....	2
Natural Resources Committee .....	3
Redistricting .....	3
Healthcare News .....	3
Youth Programs .....	4
Vote 411 .....	4
Calendar .....	4
Membership .....	5
Campaign Financing.....	5
EPA Rules on Mercury.....	5
Representatives in Congress .....	6

February 27th our Natural Resources Committee is organizing a program on opportunities available to us on the individual and community level to reduce our impact on climate and our environment.

The Board has a number of people who will finish their term this year. The Nominating Committee will be making calls to you to solicit your willingness to join the Board for 2012-14. We need a Treasurer and Co-Directors for Voter Service. In addition, we want to introduce a new way to serve on the Board. We want a few Directors at Large. These people will serve as an assistant to the officers. It's a good way to get to know the Board's functioning and to learn what the officers and directors do. The hope is that these individuals would then consider being one of our officers in the future. I encourage you to agree to serve on the Board in some capacity.

We have decided the topic for the Annual Meeting on May 7th. The State and National have put together a program on "Voter Participation" which we will present as our program. I know this is several months away,

### SHALE PROMISES OR SHALE SPIN: THE ECONOMICS BEHIND HYDROFRACKING

7:00 pm, Friday, January 21

Unitarian Church, Ithaca  
Aurora and Buffalo streets

Speaker: Deborah Rogers

"Why is there such a push to drill when natural gas prices are at a historic low and the US has a surplus of supply?"

but I'd like you to put this date on your calendar. We will have a dinner meeting, a Board meeting, and the program. It promises to be an exciting evening.

Again, I hope that you will come to these programs. I encourage you to run for office on the Board in some capacity. Let's start 2012 with a bang!

Kay Sharp

#### LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TOMPKINS COUNTY: BOARD 2011-12

LWV NYS website

LWV US website

LWV-Tompkins County

leave message at

272-4748

[www.lwvny.org](http://www.lwvny.org)

[www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)

[lwvtc@twcny.rr.com](mailto:lwvtc@twcny.rr.com)

[lwvtompkins.org/](http://lwvtompkins.org/)

#### Board Members

6/13	President		Kay Sharp	272-4748	<a href="mailto:phylliskaysharp@gmail.com">phylliskaysharp@gmail.com</a>
6/13	Vice. Pres.	Program	Florence Smith	273-6147	<a href="mailto:FloSmith42@aol.com">FloSmith42@aol.com</a>
6/12	Vice. Pres.	Membership	Debbie Levin	273-7746	<a href="mailto:dlevin01@twcny.rr.com">dlevin01@twcny.rr.com</a>
6/13	Secretary		Sarah Jane Blake	277-1312	<a href="mailto:sjblake@twcny.rr.com">sjblake@twcny.rr.com</a>
6/12	Treasurer	Co-Voter Services	Susanne Lipari	387-9308	<a href="mailto:sel3@cornell.edu">sel3@cornell.edu</a>
6/12	Director	Bulletin	Robert Silsbee	273-1436	<a href="mailto:rhs1@cornell.edu">rhs1@cornell.edu</a>
6/12	Director	Publications/Pub. Rel.	Kathy Burlitch	539-7316	<a href="mailto:klburlitch@frontiernet.net">klburlitch@frontiernet.net</a>
6/12	Director	Co-Voter Services	Sally Grubb	257-6017	<a href="mailto:sally.grubb@gmail.com">sally.grubb@gmail.com</a>
6/12	Director	Past President	Marnie Johnson	257-2948	<a href="mailto:islandmarnie@gmail.com">islandmarnie@gmail.com</a>
6/13	Director		Lucia Sciore	351-0221	<a href="mailto:luciasciore@gmail.com">luciasciore@gmail.com</a>

#### Off-Board Chairs:

Co-Youth Program	Susan Henninger	387-7544	<a href="mailto:sue@fingerlakeswriter.com">sue@fingerlakeswriter.com</a>
Co-Youth; Public Educ.	Kathy Yen	257-8199	<a href="mailto:kyen@twcny.rr.com">kyen@twcny.rr.com</a>
Health Care	Rebecca Elgie	272-0621	<a href="mailto:healthylink@earthlink.net">healthylink@earthlink.net</a>
Natural Resources	Kay Wagner	539-3322	<a href="mailto:cmw18@cornell.edu">cmw18@cornell.edu</a>
Co-Webmaster	Linda Duttweiler	277-0006	<a href="mailto:ldutt@twcny.rr.com">ldutt@twcny.rr.com</a>
Co-Webmaster	Michael Duttweiler	277-0006	<a href="mailto:mduttweiler@twcny.rr.com">mduttweiler@twcny.rr.com</a>

## NATURAL RESOURCES

The Committee has been busy planning our February program while also working with the LWVNY Fracking Committee on its response to the DEC's draft SGEIS. We submitted our own Tompkins County LWV response in November and you can find it on our League website at [http://www.lwvtompkins.org/documents/LWVT\\_C\\_Marcellus\\_dSGEIS\\_statement%20.pdf](http://www.lwvtompkins.org/documents/LWVT_C_Marcellus_dSGEIS_statement%20.pdf) We presented highlights of this response at the November DEC hearing in Binghamton.

Our program in February will be held on Monday, February 27, at 7:00 p.m. at the Women's Community Building. The title of the program will be **Treading Lightly on the Planet**. The speakers will be Dick Franke, a resident of Eco Village who has been a leader in sustainability issues at the Village; Dominic Frongillo, a Caroline Board member, who has been involved in sustainability issues both locally and internationally; and Lynn Leopold, a long-time League member who is on the Lansing Board and who helped create both the local Recycling Center and the local Reuse Center. We plan to contact some of the local schools in the hope of engaging some of our young people and their parents in this issue.

We also want to let you know about an upcoming talk we believe you will find interesting. Our local League will be a co-sponsor of a talk given by Deborah Rogers at the Ithaca Unitarian Church on Friday, January 20, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. She will be talking about the economic forces behind hydrofracking and the shale gas plays. As a resident of Dallas, Texas, a former stockbroker, and member of the advisory committee of the Federal Reserve Board of Dallas, Ms. Rogers brings a new perspective to the economic issues relevant to the gas industry. She has become concerned about the financial and economic aspects of drilling for gas in shale after observing how quickly the wells become depleted. This should be a very interesting and educational talk.

Kay Wagner

## TOMPKINS COUNTY INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

An interim report was submitted to the Tompkins County Legislature in November detailing the work of the Commission since last June. The Commission narrowed its review process further on December 15 when members reached consensus that a 14-district plan should become the focus. Final recommendations will be submitted to the County Legislature in March.

All of the maps that were reviewed are posted at <http://www.tompkins-co.org/redistricting/> Please check out this comprehensive website that includes all news releases, maps, minutes, and the interim report. Adjustments to the maps were reviewed in a meeting on January 12, as well as a report from the City Redistricting Commission.

### Future meetings:

January 31: Public Hearing at 5:30 p.m. in the Town Hall, Dryden;  
February 9: Public Hearing, City of Ithaca, at 5:30 p.m. in the Borg Warner Room, Tompkins County Public Library.

There is time for public comments at each meeting and a place to submit comments on the website.

Linda Duttweiler  
277-0006  
ldutt@twcny.rr.com

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## HEALTH CARE

The Committee is excited to bring you a program highlighting Assemblyman Gottfried's Health Care Bill. Despite the fact that we have a National Health Care Law, The Affordable Care Act, which expands coverage, health care costs continue to rise out of control and there will continue to be lack of access to health care for many millions of Americans. In response to this many states such as Vermont and California are turning to a state solution. Assemblyman

Gottfried is revising his Health Care Bill and making it a priority for the coming year.

We hope you can attend our meeting on Monday Jan 23rd to hear the latest information on this revised bill and learn how we can become involved in the coming months to support it.

We invite you to join our Health Care Committee - the next meeting will be Monday, Feb. 6th at Noon at Kendal — contact Rebecca Elgie 272-0621 for more information.

### YOUTH PROGRAMS

The Students Inside Albany program is underway! According to the Executive Director of LWVNYS, Laura Ladd Bierman, the conference provides the students with the skills, knowledge, and confidence to become active participants in their government; it also can provide great visibility for the local League as they promote the students' participation in it. The number of SIA applicants has steadily increased over the last few years and the LWVTC Board is delighted to announce their decision to send two deserving students (instead of one) to Albany on March 25-28, 2012.

Youth Program leaders Kathleen Yen and Susan Henninger have been hard at work coordinating the program. Kathleen sent SIA information

letters to all of the Tompkins County schools and in December was invited to speak about the program to the junior and senior social studies students at Charles O. Dickerson High School in Trumansburg. Susan has been publicizing SIA in all of the local media outlets as well as sending program information to community organizations who work with youth in Tompkins County. Applications are due by January 18th. Five judges consisting of two LWV members, an Ithaca College student, a Cornell librarian, and a retired Social Studies teacher will read the applications and select the representatives and two alternates on January 27th and the winners' names will appear in the February Bulletin.

For more information about SIA or other youth programs, visit the website at [www.lwvtompkins.org/youth.htm](http://www.lwvtompkins.org/youth.htm) or contact Kathleen at 257-8199 or Susan at 387-7544.

### VOTE 411

How can I find information about voting? Polling place? Absentee ballots? Re-register after change of address? Election dates? A great place to start a search is the website <http://www.vote411.org>, which supplies a wealth of election information for all of the U.S.

### LWV-TC CALENDAR — 2011-2012

<b>Jan 20 Fri</b>	<b>7:00 pm</b>	<b>SHALE PROMISES OR SHALE SPIN: THE ECONOMICS BEHIND HYDROFRACKING, speaker: Deborah Rogers</b>	<b>Unitarian Church</b>
<b>Jan 23 Mon</b>	<b>7:00 pm</b>	<b>HEALTHCARE REFORM: NEW YORK STYLE</b>	<b>Wmn. Comm. Bldg.</b>
Feb 6 Mon	7:00 pm	Board Meeting	Old Jail
<b>Feb 27 Mon</b>	<b>7:00 pm</b>	<b>TREADING LIGHTLY ON THE PLANET</b>	<b>Wmn. Comm. Bldg.</b>
Mar 5 Mon	7:00 pm	Board Meeting	Old Jail
<b>Mar 24 Sat</b>	<b>1:00 pm</b>	<b>Film: IRON JAWED ANGELS</b>	<b>TCPL</b>
Apr 9 Mon	7:00 pm	Board Meeting	Burlitch
<b>May 7 Mon</b>	<b>6:00 pm</b>	<b>Annual Meeting and Dinner: VOTER PARTICIPATION and Board Meeting</b>	<b>Salvation Army</b>

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

We would like to welcome the following new members who have joined the League in this calendar year:

Sarah Jane Blake  
Jennifer Engel  
John P. Melvin  
Christine Olson  
Lucia Sciore  
Robert Dunphy

Some of you have already become very active members, and we hope that others will do the same. We also urge you to come to members' meetings, which are held once a month (except December and in the summer.) The next meeting will be on January 23, on the very important topic of Health Care. (See details in the calendar.)

I would like to take this opportunity to urge all of our members to recruit new members. With a presidential election coming up next fall, the League will be very busy — so, get involved, join a committee, come to a Board meeting.

Deborah Levin

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## CAMPAIGN FINANCING

from LWV-US: 12//1/11:

The U.S. House of Representatives [voted this week](#) to do away with one of the most effective deterrents to campaign finance corruption our nation has relied on since the Watergate scandal of the 1970s.

The legislation (HR 3463), proposed by Representative Gregg Harper (R MS), will repeal the presidential public financing system and terminate the Election Assistance Commission, a federal agency set up following the failed 2000 Presidential election to improve how we run our elections.

If we look at the scary developments in the 2012 elections so far, it is not hard find the dominance of special interest money in the form of bundlers, Super PACs and the like.

Shouldn't we be trying to repair the public financing system to keep our candidates from being indebted to deep-pocketed spenders right out of the gate? Also, unfortunately, elections in our country are still not well-administered, and we are concerned that many states and localities are not doing a good job ensuring federally-protected voting rights.

Let us not go back to the 2000 election but go forward, improving each election over the last. We know what needs to be done; now let us devote the resources to what should be done.

Elisabeth MacNamara, President

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## EPA RULING ON MERCURY POLLUTION

**Washington, DC** - The League of Women Voters of the United States praised the Obama Administration's tough new rules regulating mercury and air toxic pollutants from power plants released earlier today.

"It's about time. After decades of delay the Obama Administration deserves credit for finally limiting mercury from power plants," said Elisabeth MacNamara, president of the national League of Women Voters. "This is about protecting people's lives," she said.

"The decision announced today by the EPA to set strict standards on mercury and other toxics from power plants is the most important public health decision from this Administration thus far. Limiting mercury and air toxics will save thousands of lives and help those with asthma and bronchitis breathe easier. Mercury particularly harms children, including effects on IQ, learning, and memory," she said.

## YOUR REPRESENTATIVES IN CONGRESS

## SENATORS:

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