PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

A week ago the State League testified at the LATFOR (The New York State Legislative Task Force on Demographic Research and Reapportionment) hearing in Albany. Asserting that the legislative redistricting lines drawn by LATFOR had been drawn by a partisan panel of legislators to protect incumbents, the League urged the governor to veto those lines. Local Leagues have testified across the state for several months on our position that an independent nonpartisan commission should draw lines without regard to incumbents or political parties. The governor has implied publicly that he would veto partisan lines drawn by LATFOR. Let’s hope he keeps his word.

Although on Friday, January 29th, Federal Judge Gary Sharpe issued a decision that will move the Federal primary election to June 26th, as of now the state legislature has not agreed to move the state legislative primaries from September to June. The League has been in favor of a June primary and will lobby the state legislature to move state legislative primaries to the June date.

The Capital Beat blog at http://lwvny-capitolbeat.blogspot.com/, full of information from the State League’s Legislative Director Barbara Bartolletti, provides a great way to keep abreast of the goings-on in Albany.

On a local level, the Healthcare Committee put on a very successful program. The speakers were all informative and their presentations thought provoking. I hope you were able to be present. It gave you an opportunity to hear Betsey Swan, LWV-NYS president, talk about the three-level process (national, state and local) in the League and the League’s long-standing position supportive of universal healthcare.

This month’s program promises to be an exciting one as well. Kay Wagner and the Natural Resources Committee have arranged a presentation on how we, as individuals and as...
community members, can reduce our environmental footprint. Given our skepticism concerning hydrofracking, due to its questionable economic benefit and many environmental hazards, we must look to other means to meet our need for energy as well as reduce that need.

Kay Sharp

JANUARY MEETING ON HEALTHCARE REFORM: NEW YORK STYLE

An informative two-page handout was on every seat as the audience gathered for the 7:00 pm meeting at the Women’s Community Building on January 23. In addition to contact information for all local, state, and national legislative leaders, it contained a summary of the Empire State Health Plan, which Assemblyman Gottfried authored and which was the focus of the evening’s program. In her introduction, Kay Sharp commented on the different perspectives on health care reform which were to be presented. Rebecca Elgie welcomed League members who had come from Cortland and Binghamton.

Dr. Susan B. Soboroff spoke first, referring to her membership in the group, Physicians for a National Health Plan, which has done a great deal of research supporting a single-payer plan. In a recent survey of physicians, it was discovered that over 60% are now in favor of single-payer. Dr. Soboroff said that the Affordable Care Act is not the real reform that is needed. The law builds on the current system, which is administered by private health insurers whose primary goal is profit making: companies are already finding loopholes in the act to increase profit. The Act does not address cost containment. Real reform will deliver comprehensive coverage, high-quality medical care, cost control, and accountability.

Linda Smith, Aide to Assemblywoman Barbara Lifton, spoke next. She presented a thorough review of the Gottfried draft bill for health care reform, the Empire State Health Plan. In 1992 Gottfried submitted his first plan for single-payer and he has been fine tuning it since then, with the most recent revision presented one month ago. He finds the roots for single-payer in the NYS Constitution: good health care is the right of every person. His plan is not profit driven and does draw on all federal funds that are available to the state. Rebecca Elgie has copies of this complex and detailed bill for our review and use. Gottfried is asking for our input on any part of the plan, and he believes that adoption of the plan is possible in the next two years.

Betsey Swan, President of LWV-NYS spoke next and began with a description and explanation of the League advocacy process at the national, state, and local levels. The League has had a national health care policy since 1992 and advocates for such a plan. The NYS League supports the current Gottfried plan and will review the new bill and decide on future support. Both the National and NYS League support the Affordable Care Act as a step forward, hopefully, toward a single-payer plan and will closely monitor its implementation. Mrs. Swan detailed all of the initiatives that the League has taken regarding health: the Women’s Health and Wellness Act, health care exchanges, Reproductive Health Act, and recently the Medicaid redesign plan of Gov. Cuomo.

A lively question and answer period followed. Rebecca closed by announcing future local and statewide actions and programs on reform. A petition in support of the Empire State Health Plan was circulated. Attendees enjoyed the healthy and tasty refreshments brought by members.

Fran Helmstadter

HEALTHCARE COMMITTEE

Our next meeting, Monday April 2 at noon at Kendal, will focus on discussion of a current draft of the Empire State Health Plan. All are welcome. More information and plan draft available from Rebecca Elgie, 272-0621 or healthylink@earthlink.net
YOUTH PROGRAMS

Students Inside Albany
Two high school students, Carolyn Eggleston, from the Ithaca City School District, and Valerie Horn, from the Dryden Central School District, have been chosen to represent Tompkins County and attend the annual March 25-29, 2012 Students Inside Albany conference, sponsored by the League of Women Voters of New York State Education Foundation (LWV/NYSEF). Yulita Alim, from the Ithaca City School District, and Maura Slocum, from the Trumansburg Central School District, were selected as alternates.

Carolyn and Valerie will join over 40 other high school students from across New York State in Albany to attend interactive workshops, shadow their legislators, and learn more about NYS government and the processes by which they can participate in the policy making arena.

The selection committee consisted of Lynn Leopold, Sally Grubb, Eric Acree, Rhiannon Youngbauer, Carolyn Corson, and Ceil Spero, who graciously hosted the meeting at her home.

Interpreter services will be need for one of the students and calls have been initiated to ensure that those services will be made available at the conference.

ELECTING THE PRESIDENT: A GUIDE TO THE ELECTION PROCESS - 2012

This guide is loaded with information about the presidential elections: funding, primaries, relevant laws, historical data, registration. Take a look and find out how much you didn’t know.

TAKE ME TO VOTE

A request was made and approved by the Board to order more stickers for poll workers to hand out to youth who go to the polls with an adult on election day.

Susan Henninger and Kathleen Yen

VOTING RIGHTS FOR WOMEN: IRON JAWED ANGELS

Our March program will recognize Women's History Month by showing the film Iron Jawed Angels, on Saturday March 24th, from 1:00 to 3:30 PM at Tompkins County Public Library (TCPL), Borg Warner Room. Save the date!

Iron Jawed Angels is an HBO original movie released in 2004. The film tells the true story of how defiant and brilliant young activists, Alice Paul (played by Hillary Swank) and Lucy Burns (Frances O’Conner), took the women's suffrage movement by storm, putting their lives at risk to gain the passage of the 19th Amendment which gave American Women the right to vote.

The Tompkins County Library will provide background for the film with lobby displays related to Women's History Month, and the History Center will post photos in the Borg Warner Room. The program co-sponsored by TCPL and the History Center.

Florence Smith

---

LWV-TC CALENDAR—2011-2012
(Italicized items are tentative)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feb 27</td>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>7:00 pm</td>
<td>TREADING LIGHTLY ON THE PLANET</td>
<td>Wmn. Comm. Bldg.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 5</td>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>7:00 pm</td>
<td>Board Meeting</td>
<td>Old Jail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 7</td>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>10:00 am</td>
<td>Natural Resources Committee</td>
<td>Johnson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 24</td>
<td>Sat</td>
<td>1:00 pm</td>
<td>VOTING RIGHTS FOR WOMEN: IRON JAWED ANGELS</td>
<td>TCPL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr 9</td>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>7:00 pm</td>
<td>Board Meeting</td>
<td>Burlitch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr 2</td>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>noon</td>
<td>Healthcare Committee: Empire State Health preliminary draft</td>
<td>Kendal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 7</td>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>6:00 pm</td>
<td>Annual Meeting and Dinner: VOTER PARTICIPATION and Board Meeting</td>
<td>Salvation Army</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
TOMPKINS COUNTY INDEPENDENT
REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

A public hearing was held in Dryden on January 31, followed by one on February 9 in Ithaca, to listen to comments on the recommended redistricting map 14C version 1. The Commission reviewed about 23 proposed maps considering anywhere from 13 to 17 districts. All maps are posted at http://www.tompkins-co.org/redistricting/, in addition to meeting agendas, minutes, etc.

In considering districts, the following goals were a focus when making a recommendation to the Tompkins County Legislature:

Equal Population Within a 10% Spread
Keep Villages Intact

Maintain Communities of Interest/ Neighborhoods
Reflect City and Town Boundaries
Reduce Slivers into Town of Ithaca
Consider Legislative Workload
Reduce Potential Board of Elections Expense

Final recommendations will be considered at the Commission meeting on February 14, at 92 Brown Road at 5:30 p.m. Adoption of the final report will be held February 22, at 92 Brown Road at 5:30 p.m. The Commission will recommend a preferred plan Tompkins County Legislature by March 1.

You are invited to submit a comment on the above website or contact me at 277-0006.

Linda Duttweiler

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

LWV NYS website www.lwvny.org
LWV US website www.lwv.org
LWV-Tompkins County leave message at lwvc@twcny.rr.com lwvtompkins.org/

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

Off-Board Chairs:
Co-Youth Program Susan Henninger 387-7544 sue@fingerlakeswriter.com
Co-Youth; Public Educ. Kathy Yen 257-8199 kyen@twcny.rr.com
Health Care Rebecca Elgie 272-0621 healthylink@earthlink.net
Natural Resources Kay Wagner 539-3322 cmw18@cornell.edu
Co-Webmaster Linda Duttweiler 277-0006 ldutt@twcny.rr.com
Co-Webmaster Michael Duttweiler 277-0006 mduttweiler@twcny.rr.com
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The Committee continues its efforts on the issue of fracking, but also wishes to bring attention to what we as individuals can do to leave a smaller footprint on the planet.

In January we worked with other local groups to bring Texas financial analyst Deborah Rogers to Ithaca for a public lecture. The Tompkins County LWV co-sponsored her lecture called the Economics of Fracking. If you were unable to attend, a film of the talk she gave in Binghamton can be found at http://shaleshock.org/resources/shaleshock-media/ (scroll down to Deborah Rogers: Economics). Also at that site or at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nxG4CpNSZTQ is an interview she did with local resident Bill Podulka which covers the same material in a less formal setting.

We are now busy planning our program, entitled Treading Lightly on the Planet, to be held on Monday, February 27, at 7:00 pm in the Women’s Community Building, 100 West Seneca Street. It will be co-sponsored by the Ithaca Journal and Sustainable Tompkins.

The speakers for this program will be Dick Franke, a resident of Ecovillage who has been a leader in sustainability issues at the Village; Dominic Frongillo, a Caroline Board member who has been very involved in sustainability issues both locally and internationally and has just returned from the UN Climate Talks in Durban S. Africa; and Lynn Leopold, Deputy Mayor of the Village of Lansing, who helped create both the Tompkins County Recycling Center and the local Reuse Center.

The program will focus on the questions many of us have about ways we, as individuals and as members of a local community, can reduce our footprint on the planet. This includes thinking about what we buy and how we dispose of it, how to reduce our use of fossil fuels, and realistic ways to make use of renewable resources. The speakers for our program have spent a lot of time working on these issues and will share their ideas and experiences with us.

Finally, we are working, through our participation in the LWV-NYS Fracking Committee, to choose which of the fracking related bills in the NYS Assembly and Senate most deserve the support and lobbying efforts of the League.

Please join us at our next meeting, Wednesday, March 7, 10:00 am at 361 Savage Farm Drive. Call Kay Wagner at 539-3322 for more information.

Kay Wagner

REDISTRICTING — NEW YORK STATE

The legislatively-controlled state redistricting commission, LATFOR, released 2012 district lines this week although the Governor has continued to repeat his pledge to veto LATFOR drawn lines. The League in a press release, expressed its continued disappointment in the LATFOR process. The League for decades has called for an independent commission to draw fair lines devoid of partisan gerrymandering; these proposed lines are drawn to ensure political incumbency of the parties in power for the next decade. It is therefore no surprise that they have been the subject of so much criticism given the inherent self-interest of the process. Bill Mahoney at NYPIRG, who looked at a rising population inequality among all the districts, reported that the process has resulted in even more gerrymandered lines in the state Senate than those produced through previous cycles of political gerrymandering. Barbara Bartoletti, LWVNYS Legislative Director, testified at the first LATFOR hearing in Albany on Monday, Jan. 30. See her testimony and a link to see your own new lines on homepage of the state League website.

from State News
Election Reform
Improve election processes to extend, encourage and protect voting, including paperless and Election Day registration, better ballot design, improved polling place management/poll worker training, and measures to ensure the integrity of all ballots.

Campaign Finance Reform
Support lower contribution limits, increased disclosure and public financing. Support stronger and more effective campaign finance enforcement with increased civil and criminal penalties for violations.

Other Government Reform Positions
Support structural reform to legislative redistricting; support effective ethics enforcement and open and transparent government processes; monitor impact of the property tax cap on localities and schools.

Health Care
Support affordable and effective health care for all New Yorkers.

Natural Resources
Support protection and management of New York’s natural resources in the public interest.

Other League Positions
The League also has positions on the Judiciary, State Finances, and Social Policy under which we can and do take action.

TAKE ACTION! IT’S EASY!
To take action on the issues listed in this brochure or any other issues, log onto the League’s website at: www.lwvny.org and click “Take Action” at the top right column. You can search for your elected officials and also sign-up to automatically receive League Action Alerts on key legislation because your involvement can make a critical difference! Make your voice heard!!!

FOR INFORMATION ON TRANSPARENCY IN GOVERNMENT
Open Book NY www.openbooknewyork.com
(Office of the State Comptroller
Project Sunlight www.sunlightny.com (NYS Office of the Attorney General, A Public Integrity Initiative)
SeeThroughNY www.seethroughny.net (Empire Center for NYS Policy, A Project of the Manhattan Institute for Policy Research)

INFORMATION ON THE LEGISLATURE AND PENDING LEGISLATION
www.assembly.state.ny.us
www.nysenate.gov
http://public.leginfo.state.ny.us/menuf.cgi (Bill Text, Status, Summaries, Sponsor Memos, Floor Votes)

FROM THE NATIONAL LEAGUE
On February 9, we surpassed our 25,000 signature goal on the petition asking the White House to appoint new FEC commissioners! We could not have done this without the support of League members and supporters from across the country. You persevered through what was sometimes a difficult process, and helped push this petition across the finish line!

Reaching our goal is only the first step in this process, and now we must wait for an answer from the President. We will keep you posted on when the response comes out. In the meantime, you can also check out responses to other petitions that have also reached the threshold. Also, please take a moment to check out the statement from the League on this achievement and take a look at our blog to stay caught up on everything going on. Thank you again for all of your work. YOU really helped to push this petition over the edge!

Elisabeth MacNamara
President, League of Women Voters
Martha Allee  
440 Savage Farm Dr  
Ithaca, NY 14850-6507  
257-6352  
mallee@lightlink.com

Lucia Armstrong  
15 Horizon Drive  
Ithaca, NY 14850-6225  
257-2748  
larmstro@twcny.rr.com

Joan Bechofer*  
313 Savage Farm Drive  
Ithaca, NY 14850-6503  
266-8244  
Joanb@lightlink.com

Virginia Bizzell  
46 Genung Road  
Ithaca, NY 14850-9605  
272-7328  
vfbizzell@aol.com

Cynthia Bouldin**  
343 Savage Farm Drive  
Ithaca, NY 14850-2708  
257-1563  
drb6@cornell.edu

Kathy Burlitch  
2133 Ellis Hollow Rd  
Ithaca, NY 14850-9670  
539-7316  
kburlitch@frontiernet.net

Mary Margaret Carmichael  
307 Savage Farm Drive  
Ithaca, NY 14850  
272-2057  
mmc4@cornell.edu

Nellie Corson*  
940 Savage Farm Dr  
Ithaca, NY 14850-6501  
272-1815

Debra Dibartolo  
P.O. Box 981  
Trumansburg, NY 14886  
387-5075  
debra_dibartolo@yahoo.com

Katherine Durant  
15 Ogden Rd  
Ithaca, NY 14850-9663  
539-7688  
k Durant001@twcny.rr.com

Rebecca Elgie  
409 Linn Street  
Ithaca, NY 14850-3738  
272-0621  
healthylink@earthlink.net

Monica Anderson  
6 Estates Dr.  
Ithaca, NY 14850-9792  
339-1194  
anderson_5@msn.com

Beverly Baker  
320 S. Geneva Street  
Ithaca, NY 14850  
272-2585  
bb@bakertravel.net

Virginia Bizzell  
46 Genung Road  
Ithaca, NY 14850-9605  
272-7328  
vfbizzell@aol.com

Cynthia Bouldin**  
343 Savage Farm Drive  
Ithaca, NY 14850-2708  
257-1563  
drb6@cornell.edu

Kathy Burlitch  
2133 Ellis Hollow Rd  
Ithaca, NY 14850-9670  
539-7316  
kburlitch@frontiernet.net

Mary Margaret Carmichael  
307 Savage Farm Drive  
Ithaca, NY 14850  
272-2057  
mmc4@cornell.edu

Nellie Corson*  
940 Savage Farm Dr  
Ithaca, NY 14850-6501  
272-1815

Debra Dibartolo  
P.O. Box 981  
Trumansburg, NY 14886  
387-5075  
debra_dibartolo@yahoo.com

Katherine Durant  
15 Ogden Rd  
Ithaca, NY 14850-9663  
539-7688  
k Durant001@twcny.rr.com

Rebecca Elgie  
409 Linn Street  
Ithaca, NY 14850-3738  
272-0621  
healthylink@earthlink.net

Lucia Armstrong  
15 Horizon Drive  
Ithaca, NY 14850-6225  
257-2748  
larmstro@twcny.rr.com

Joan Bechofer*  
313 Savage Farm Drive  
Ithaca, NY 14850-6503  
266-8244  
Joanb@lightlink.com

Virginia Bizzell  
46 Genung Road  
Ithaca, NY 14850-9605  
272-7328  
vfbizzell@aol.com

Cynthia Bouldin**  
343 Savage Farm Drive  
Ithaca, NY 14850-2708  
257-1563  
drb6@cornell.edu

Kathy Burlitch  
2133 Ellis Hollow Rd  
Ithaca, NY 14850-9670  
539-7316  
kburlitch@frontiernet.net

Mary Margaret Carmichael  
307 Savage Farm Drive  
Ithaca, NY 14850  
272-2057  
mmc4@cornell.edu

Nellie Corson*  
940 Savage Farm Dr  
Ithaca, NY 14850-6501  
272-1815

Debra Dibartolo  
P.O. Box 981  
Trumansburg, NY 14886  
387-5075  
debra_dibartolo@yahoo.com

Katherine Durant  
15 Ogden Rd  
Ithaca, NY 14850-9663  
539-7688  
k Durant001@twcny.rr.com

Rebecca Elgie  
409 Linn Street  
Ithaca, NY 14850-3738  
272-0621  
healthylink@earthlink.net

LWV-TC 2012 MEMBERSHIP

* Honorary
** Friend

Rosemary Batt  
60 Genung Cir  
Ithaca, NY 14850  
rb41@cornell.edu

Robin Booth  
375 Stone Quarry Road  
Ithaca, NY 14850-9358  
273-0570  
rtnbooth@twcny.rr.com

Priscilla Browning  
1 Pleasant Grove Lane  
Ithaca, NY 14850-2548  
257-1240  
percyb@twcny.rr.com

Diane Connenman  
250 Strawberry Hill Circle #2  
Ithaca, NY 14850-2688  
257-1470  
dyk2@cornell.edu

Elizabeth Deprosse  
1007 Triphammer Road  
Ithaca, NY 14850-2510  
257-6678  
deprosse@lightlink.com

Robert Dunphy  
948 Cliff St.  
Ithaca, NY 14850  
339-5818  
dunphy.7.04.52@gmail.com

Maria Eisner  
410 Savage Farm Drive  
Ithaca, NY 14850-9610  
277-4404  
mel@cornell.edu

Martha Ferger  
PO Box # 8  
Dryden, NY 13053  
844-8184  
jferger@pol.net
League of Women Voters of Tompkins County
211 Strawberry Hill Circle, #3
Ithaca, NY 14850

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YOUR REPRESENTATIVES IN CONGRESS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**SENATORS:**

Kirsten E. Gillibrand
US Senate, 531 Dirksen Senate Building, Washington, DC 20510
202-224-4451
web-site: [www.gillibrand.senate.gov](http://www.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: [www.schumer.senate.gov](http://www.schumer.senate.gov)

**REPRESENTATIVES:**

Richard Hanna
319 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515
202-225-3665; 110 Genesee St., #110, Auburn, NY 13021
e-mail; through the website website: [http://hanna.house.gov](http://hanna.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](http://www.house.gov/hinchey)