LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TOMPKINS COUNTY

MARCH 2012

PRESIDENT: KAY SHARP 272-4748
lwtompkins.org/

EDITOR: ROBERT SILSBEE 273-1436
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VOTING RIGHTS FOR WOMEN:
IRON JAWED ANGELS

1:00-3:30 pm, Saturday, March 24
Tompkins County Public Library, Borg Warner Room

We present a screening of the HBO original 2004 movie, IRON JAWED ANGELS, which dramatizes
the story of activists Alice Paul and Lucy Burns, who took the Women's Suffrage Movement by storm,
risking their lives, marriages and friendships in support of the 19th Amendment.

Open to the Public: Bring a Friend

More information on page 3

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The past month I have had the pleasure of
roaming around Kenya and Tanzania. I shopped
at Kazuri for necklaces made by women of
Kenya to support women's education. I visited a
Masai village and talked with some of the
women there. They make the huts, raise the
children and labor in the fields. The Masai
continue to engage in women's circumcision.

The women said they want this because they
feel they would be unworthy for marriage if
they don't go through this procedure. Traditions
are difficult to change.

Back to America, we have March to celebrate

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Women's History Month. Women in this country worked hard to overcome some of the barriers for women's rights. I hope you will come to the March program where the movie *Iron Clawed Angels* will be shown. It is a moving story of women's determination to be recognized.

Kay Sharp

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**SAVE THE DATE!**

**Friday, April 13, 2012**

City Federation of Women’s Organizations  
Women’s Community Building  
100 West Seneca Street, Ithaca, NY

**Luncheon**  
11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.  
Member Invitation Only  
(includes current and former LWV-TC members)

RSVP Required by March 30th  
RSVP to womens@lightlink.com  
or call 272-1247.

**Open House for the Public**  
1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Ithaca Neighborhood Housing Services (INHS) has secured funding to purchase the Women’s Community Building from the City Federation of Women’s Organizations (CFWO). You are invited to the final luncheon meeting of the CFWO in its current home, the Women’s Community Building.

We hope you’ll join us to share your reminiscences about this downtown center as well as discuss your visions for the CFWO’s exciting future. With the sale of the building, the Federation will be able to fulfill its mission of bettering the lives of women and children – via grants, scholarships and other acts of focused giving – more effectively than ever before.

After the luncheon, please stay for the Open House, which is open to the public, and join the CFWO and INHS for a reception and brief ceremony to mark the transfer of the Women’s Community Building site to Ithaca Neighborhood Housing Services.

Kathleen Yen, CFWO

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**LWV-TC Annual Meeting and Dinner**  
Monday May 7  
6:00 PM Dinner and Annual Meeting  
7:00 PM program with speaker from LWVNY

**INCREASING VOTER PARTICIPATION**

The Salvation Army Center  
150 North Albany Street

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**FEBRUARY PROGRAM**

Shifting its focus from environmental and economic problems with hydrofracking, the Natural Resources Committee organized a program focused on the positive question of what we as individuals and as a community can do to protect the environment and promote the health of our economy. Speakers at our meeting, *Treading Lightly on the Planet*, on February 27 were Lynn Leopold, Deputy Mayor of the Village of Lansing, who has been deeply involved with both the Tompkins County Recycling Center and the local Reuse Center; Dick Franke, a resident of Ecovillage, who has been a leader in sustainability issues at the Village; and Dominic Frangillo, a Town of Caroline Board member who has been involved in sustainability issues for the Town and was a participant in the UN Climate Talks in Durban S. Africa. The program was co-sponsored by Sustainable Tompkins and the Ithaca Journal.

If you were unable to attend, or are looking for a refresher, we invite you view a video of the meeting at [http://shaleshockmedia.org/author/lwv-tc/](http://shaleshockmedia.org/author/lwv-tc/) where you will find videos of the several sections of the program, or from the link under “Programs” on our website.

Bob Silsbee
Dr. Oliver Fein, Cornell Medical College

Patient Protection and the Affordable Care Act versus Single-Payer
7:30-9:00 pm, Thursday, March 29
Unitarian Church
308 North Aurora St.

Sponsored by
New York State-Wide Senior Council

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

We will celebrate Women’s History Month by presenting a screening of the HBO movie, *IRON JAWED ANGELS*, at Tompkins County Public Library, Borg Warner Room, 1:00 to 3:30 PM, on Saturday, March 24, 2012. This event is co-sponsored by the Library and the History Center.

The movie tells the true story of activists Alice Paul (Hilary Swank) and Lucy Burns (Frances O’Conner), who took the women’s suffrage movement by storm and risked their lives, marriages and friendships in support of the 19th Amendment.

*IRON JAWED ANGELS* dramatizes the events between 1912 and 1920, a short chapter in the long history of the Women’s Suffrage Movement. The movie has a powerful emotional impact. The viewer becomes part of the experience: organizing, marching, writing, and picketing the White House, along with the courageous and resilient young women portrayed on the screen. We honor these women and others like them who, with the force of their solidarity and defiance, fought against overwhelming odds to successfully win passage of the 19th Amendment.

Don’t miss this important movie. The program is free and open to the public; however the film is best suited for viewers 14 years and older.

Florence Smith, Program Chair

CANDIDATES’ FORUM

Tuesday, March 20 is election day for the villages of Cayuga Heights, Dryden, Groton and Trumansburg. The election in Cayuga Heights, for mayor and trustees, is strongly contested. The forum, to be held at Kendal at Ithaca, on Wednesday, March 14 at 7:15 pm, gives you the chance to judge the candidates for yourself. The forum is co-sponsored by the League and Kendal at Ithaca with the League providing an experienced moderator and timer.
ANNUAL REPORTS

HEALTH CARE COMMITTEE

This past year our committee has focused on issues including the setting up of exchanges and progress of the State Legislature in passing a bill in support of a NYS plan for exchanges (the bill was not passed), and work at the state level on Medicaid Redesign. We also were watching the progress of the Congressional Super Committee and its impact on Medicare.

Rebecca Elgie, chair of the Health Care Committee, was part of a panel which presented a workshop at the State League of Women Voters Convention in Albany in May. This panel discussed Medicare Redesign, State Single Payer bills, and the Affordable Care Act. There was a lot of interest in this topic from around the state and the information was well received.

We co-sponsored a rally in July in support of the 46th Anniversary of the beginning of Medicare and spoke in support of the fact that Medicare is not the problem but is the solution and should be improved and expanded to include everyone.

Members of the Committee have attended meetings sponsored by the Health Planning Council about Medical Homes and various developments under the Affordable Care Act.

This fall we focused on our January Health Care Program entitled *Health Care Reform: New York Style* which featured a panel with Dr. Susan Soboroff speaking about the health care system from a physician's point of view — what we have and what we need. Linda Smith, aide to Assemblywoman Barbara Lifton, described the draft of a revised single payer bill to be introduced this spring by Assemblyman Gottfried and Senator Duane. State League President Betsey Swan presented priorities and advocacy for health care at the state League level. The meeting was well attended and there were a number of questions from the floor.

Our focus for the coming year will be to monitor the progress of developing state exchanges and encouraging a plan which will move us closer to universal health care. We will follow the progress of Assemblyman Gottfried and Senator Duane in promoting a single payer plan for New York State which would cover everyone in the state with affordable, comprehensive health care; and using petitions, videos and educational programs will work to educate groups throughout Tompkins County on this topic.

Rebecca Elgie, Chair

YOUTH PROGRAMS

The LWV-TC Youth Services Committee plans to continue to offer the following successful programs currently supported by our League:

*Take Me To Vote*

The League of Women Voters of Tompkins County continues to coordinate the get-out-the-vote program, *Take Me To Vote!*, in cooperation with the Tompkins County Board of Elections. The program encourages adult voters to take a child and “future voter” to the polls with them when they go to vote. “Future voters” who accompany an adult to the polls receive a special *Future Voter* sticker (provided by the LWVTC) from the poll site managers on Election Day.

**Goals:**

- To encourage voter turnout on Election Day;
- To have adults take “future voters” with them to the polls and demonstrate the importance of active, informed participation in government by voting;
- To prepare children for the rights and responsibilities of citizenship through direct experience with the voting process.

(continued)
Students Inside Albany
The Students Inside Albany (SIA) student conference is sponsored by the League of Women Voters of New York State Education Foundation, Inc. The four-day program, held each spring in Albany, NY, is designed to increase high school students’ awareness of their responsibility in representative government and to provide them with the tools necessary for meeting that responsibility. Students from across the state learn about New York State government and the process by which citizens can participate in the policy making arena by:
- Attending workshops (e.g. Tips for Being a Successful Lobbyist, How to Use Technology for Effective Lobbying, The Role Media Plays in Politics, Basics of NYS Government, etc.);
- Touring the Capitol;
- Shadowing their legislators in the Assembly and Senate.
This year our local League was able to sponsor two students to represent Tompkins County at the conference and we look forward to hearing, at our annual meeting, about their experiences and how they plan to share what they learned with their peers.

Resources and links made available on the local website, www.lwvtompkins.org:
  The supplement is an excellent resource put out by LWVUS and NIE (Newspapers in Education) available in pdf format to view or download;
- 2011 Directory of Government Officials and Meetings;
- Vote 18 Project - interactive history of the voting game;
- Interviews and articles related to the Students Inside Albany program;
- Bill of Rights Bookmark.

Kathleen Yen and Susan Henninger Co-Chairs

LWVUS EDUCATION STUDY
The 1965 Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), reauthorized as the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, is currently up for reauthorization, and the role of the federal government in public education and funding are being debated by Congress.

Our local League participated in and completed the LWVUS education study, The Role of the Federal Government in Public Education, and submitted a consensus report to the national League. The LWVUS Education Study Committee is analyzing the data from the local League consensus reports, and will write a position paper on the Role of the Federal Government in Public Education and submit it to the LWVUS Board of Directors for review in March 2012. If there is consensus and a position is approved, the national League can then take action on important issues such as the role of the federal government in preK-12 public education, federal mandates, the funding of education, national common core standards (K-12), and national assessments.

We were honored to have excellent speakers and educators from the community who shared information and their perspectives at the two public panel discussion meetings held at the Women’s Community Building in September and October. At the September 26th meeting, Dr. Ellen O’Donnell, TST-BOCES Superintendent; Dan Lamb, District Representative for U.S. Representative Maurice Hinchey; Thomas Watts, TST-BOCES Director of Exceptional Education; Dr. Cheryl Thomas, Newfield Central School District Superintendent; and Roger Sibley, Franziska Racker Center, provided a historical overview of legislation, funding and equity, and the impact of the federal government’s role in public education on disadvantaged children, early childhood education, special education, and the impact on rural and urban school districts. The October 24th meeting focused on the common core standards and assessments.
Dr. Heather Sheridan-Thomas, TST-BOCES Assistant Superintendent, and Dr. Jeane Copenhaver-Johnson, Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Education at Ithaca College, provided an overview of the driving forces behind the K-12 (national) common core standards and assessments, and the arguments supporting and opposing them.

Background papers, references, consensus questions, PDFs of speakers’ presentations, and the Channel 13 schedule of the September and October public panel discussion meetings were made available on the League website.

Thank you to all the members who participated in the LWVUS education study and consensus.

Kathleen Yen, Chair

NATURAL RESOURCES
This past year the Natural Resources Committee has continued to focus on the environmental and economic implications for local communities of the development of the Marcellus gas resources. As we look to the future the Committee plans to broaden its perspective to search for ways in which we can reduce our impacts on the environment without sacrificing the health of the economy.

In support of these goals the Committee developed two programs, each involving brief presentations by three local experts with subsequent discussion, which were open to the public. The first, in May of 2011, focused on The Long Term Economics of Hydrofacking. The second, presented February 27 of this year, reflected the broadening of our focus and was entitled Treading Lightly of the Planet. The second program addressed alternative energy sources, reuse, recycling and other sustainability issues.

In addition to these two programs the Committee has co-sponsored two forums to better inform the public of options, analyses, and arguments relevant to the DEC’s proposed SGEIS. The first considered environmental issues, the second economic and social. In January we worked with other local groups to bring Texas financial analyst Deborah Rogers to Ithaca for a lecture exposing some behind the scenes financial problems encountered by the gas companies, removing some of the rosy glow presented by them to the public and their stockholders.

The Committee has developed and submitted comments, both written and in oral presentation, to the DEC expressing our concerns with the use of hydrofracking in the development of our natural gas resources; and to the Southern Tier Economic Development Council concerning both the negative economic impacts of gas drilling and, again in line with our expanding horizon, ways to stimulate the local economies in environmentally friendly ways.

Our committee chair, Kay Wagner, has been very active at the level of the NYS-League, working with Beth Radow (a League member from Larchmont who is the Issues Chair for the LWVNY Fracking Committee), Mary Beilby (Cortland), and Susan Multer (Corning), on issues related to fracking. This State Fracking Committee organized two informational sessions on hydrofracking for the State League convention in May, 2011, and has formulated positions for the LWVNY concerning fracking which were submitted to the DEC during the SGEIS comment period and to Governor Cuomo and other officials in Albany. They also took the opportunity, while at the convention in Albany, to brief members of the Cuomo staff on fracking, with emphasis on the economic issues as well as environmental ones. An extended discussion by Committee members with Barbara Lifton, representative for the 125th NYS Assembly District, gave us background for useful input to the State League’s Fracking Committee, as it forms recommendations for NYS legislation in the coming year. The text of such recommendations should soon appear on the LWVNY website.

As for the future, we are working with the state Fracking Committee plus some League
members from other states to determine what we might do at the national convention this June. It is likely that at least an informational session will be held to update members on the general area of drilling and mining for energy resources. The committee is still discussing our program for next year. We will certainly continue monitoring and being involved in the issues surround hydrofracking. We also want to look further into other ways to reduce our impact on the planet, and to explore realistic possibilities for the development of renewable energy resources. We hope to spend some time looking into the efforts Germany and other countries are making in developing renewable energy resources.

Kay Wagner, Chair

LWV-TC WEBSITE
The League website, maintained by Michael Duttweiler, is designed to serve League members as well as the community-at-large. The goal is to have information available on many voter issues and local, state, and national programs. League publications, such as In-League (NYS) and League Basics (US) which elaborate organizational functions of boards and Leagues, and Impact on Issues (NYS and US), which include statements on all of the positions are available. Monthly bulletins and calendar items are posted as well as program announcements and updates. There is an e-mail contact area and place to join. Clarity Connect, Inc. continues to host our site and we are grateful for their generous contribution.

Linda Duttweiler, Co-Webmaster
ON REDISTRICTING — FROM LWVNYS

As many of you may be aware, we are nearing the end of our most recent campaign for a better redistricting process for New York and I wanted to provide an update on what is happening in Albany and clarify the League's position. Many of you held public forums highlighting the need for reform using the materials we provided in the fall of 2010. This followed years of the League advocating for a constitutional amendment setting forth permanent and fair guidelines and establishing an independent commission to draw lines free of partisan gerrymandering. We have long felt that the pen that draws legislative lines needs to be removed from the hands of the legislators, but understandably it has been an uphill fight given the inherently political nature of the redistricting process.

The first set of state legislative lines for the 2012 election was released by the Legislature in January and a revised set is expected soon. At the time of their release, we criticized those lines as partisan and gerrymandered, as did our good government colleagues and many others, and we called for both improving the lines and implementing lasting structural reform to a fundamentally flawed process. Congressional lines have yet to be released, even though a federal judge has moved the Congressional primary forward to June 26. It has never been more obvious that the redistricting process in New York is broken and the courts are already preparing to step in as they have in past decades of Congressional redistricting.

We believe that the Governor should use his veto threat, and the power it gives him to negotiate with the Legislature, to not only improve the 2012 lines but also to achieve certain and permanent structural reform to the redistricting process. Permanent structural reform can only be achieved through a constitutional amendment but momentum for this has typically diminished greatly in the years following each redistricting battle. Now may be a unique opportunity for reform in light of the unprecedented campaign that has been waged by many different groups, including those allied with us in ReShapeNY, to hold legislators to their pledge to enact redistricting reform and Governor Cuomo's insistence that the status quo could not stand. Certainty can be added to the process by coupling first passage of a constitutional amendment with an accompanying statute, ensuring reform even if the amendment does not achieve the second legislative passage necessary to go on the ballot. The League will continue to urge the Governor and the Legislature to reach an agreement that provides for both a constitutional amendment and a statute, creating structural reform that permanently takes the redistricting pen away from the legislature and provides the voter with the power to choose their elective representatives.

Sally Robinson, VP Issues and Advocacy

FROM LWVUS

League Asks President Obama to Respond to FEC Petition

The League and coalition partners sent a letter (see LWVUS website) to the President to follow up on the WhiteHouse.gov “We the People” petition. The petition was signed by over 25,000 individuals from around the country and called on the President to nominate new commissioners to the Federal Election Commission (FEC) prior to the 2012 elections.

Elections: Promote Vote 411 and Your Election Work!

With the election season in full swing and Super Tuesday’s ten primaries/caucuses just finished, we urge Leagues to promote VOTE411 and all of your valued voter education and voter registration work. At the LWVUS website is a press release template to tailor to your needs so you can raise awareness of your League’s important election activities during this primary/caucus season.

Elisabeth MacNamara, President
## Income

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## Expenses

|                      | $ 420.00                  | $ 261.27                | $ 100.00        | $ 361.27             | $ 380.00          |
| Convention (National 2012/ State 2013) | $ 2,000.00                |                         |                 | $ 2,000.00           | $ 2,000.00        |
| Voter Services       | $ 300.00                  | $ 77.84                 |                 | $ 77.73              | $ 300.00          |
| Administration(including treasurer) | $ 125.00                  | $ 26.40                 |                 | $ 26.40              | $ 100.00          |
| Fundraising          | $ 37.80                   |                         |                 | $ -                  |                   |
| Membership           | $ 100.00                  | $ 121.03                | $ 50.00         | $ 171.03             | $ 150.00          |
| Meetings/Programs    | $ 800.00                  | $ 485.84                |                 | $ 485.84             | $ 800.00          |
| Annual Meeting       | $ 350.00                  |                         | $ 350.00        | $ 350.00             | $ 350.00          |
| Committees           | $ 300.00                  |                         |                 | $ -                  | $ 600.00          |
| PMP National*        | $ 2,608.00                | $ 1,605.00              |                 | $ 3,210.00           | $ 3,500.00        |
| PMP State*           | $ 1,575.00                | $ 963.00                |                 | $ 1,926.00           | $ 2,000.00        |
| Membership (CFWO)    | $ 120.00                  |                         |                 | $ -                  |                   |
| Internet             | $ 120.00                  |                         |                 | $ -                  | $ 120.00          |
| Youth Programs       | $ 120.00                  | $ 68.15                 | $ 600.00        | $ 668.15             | $ 700.00          |
| **total**            | **$ 8,855.80**            | **$ 3,540.27**          | **$ 3,100.00**  | **$ 9,276.42**       | **$ 11,000.00**   |
| total minus CF use   | $ 5,326.92                |                         |                 | $ 7,350.00           |                   |

## Community Foundation

| Donations to Community Foundation | $ 700.00 | $ 690.00 | $ 690.00 | $ 700.00 |
| Payments made out of CF          |          |          |          |          |
| National PMP                     |          |          | $ 1,605.00 | $ 1,750.00 |
| State PMP                        |          |          | $ 1,444.50 | $ 1,000.00 |
| Videotaping                      |          |          | $ 300.00  | $ 300.00  |
| 2 nd Students in Albany          |          |          | $ 600.00  | $ 600.00  |
| **Total from CF**                |          |          | $ 3,949.50 | $ 3,650.00 |

1. No income expected this year, but we hope not to have expenses, either
2. No funds raised this year
3. More services because of Presidential election year
4. No more membership
5. Student in Albany, Bring your Child to Vote, etc.
6. Another video project for next year
League of Women Voters of Tompkins County  
211 Strawberry Hill Circle, #3  
Ithaca, NY 14850