STUDENTS IN ALBANY PROGRAM

Do you wonder why we support the Students in Albany program? Perhaps the note from one of this year’s participants will help you.

“To the judges of the Students Inside Albany Conference, 2012:

“Thank you so much for selecting me to attend the conference in Albany. It was a truly magnificent experience, which I shall not forget.

“I learned so much about how our state legislature works and have enjoyed being able to share my findings with my classmates, friends, and family members. The opportunity has helped me expand and mature my political knowledge as well as my understanding on how to effectively advocate for the bettering of every day life by means of our government.

“Again, thank you, Carolyn Eggleston”

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Welcome to our new Board members. We held our first Board meeting with everyone present. It was an invigorating meeting, talking about upcoming elections, voter registration and programming.

The Board is looking for two Directors-at-Large. These positions do not have a formal portfolio; their responsibilities are to assist the Officers and other Directors. It is a one-year commitment. It’s a great way to be of service to the entire League. Please call me at 272-4748 if you are willing to serve the League in this capacity.

Thank you all for volunteering for voter registration at the Ithaca Festival. We registered 14 new voters and helped 30 voters change their address. Lucia Sciore and Debra Dibartolo, our new Directors for Voter Service, did a great job coordinating this event.

Next we will be conducting voter registration at Farmer’s Market and Grassroots. I hope you will volunteer for one of those events. Debra and Lucia will be in touch with you.

July 25th we hold our program meeting to plan our evening programs for the coming year. I hope to bring back from National Convention (June 8th – 12th) some ideas for programs that will be exciting to you and our community.

See you at the Farmer’s Market.

Kay Sharp

VOTER INFORMATION

Local: Tompkins County Board of Elections:  
www.tompkins-co.org/boe/  274-5522

Anywhere:  www.vote411.org

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ANNUAL MEETING 2012
INCREASING VOTER PARTICIPATION:
OPPORTUNITIES IN NEW YORK STATE

LWVTC welcomed Laura Ladd Bierman, Executive Director of NYS League of Women Voters, and Barbara Bartolleti, volunteer Legislative lobbyist for the NYS League of Women Voters, as guest speakers for the May 7, 2012, Annual Meeting.

Ms. Ladd Bierman highlighted what Leagues – National, State, and Local – have done, are doing and will continue to do to increase voter participation. In particular, she identified three opportunities ripe for voter registration modernization: allowing Election Day Registration (EDR); simplifying the process for early voting; and focusing on ballot design, voter education, and poll worker training to work toward making the overall voting process less confusing.

Ms. Bartolleti was pleased to report that legislators in Albany lean toward simplification of the voting process. It then becomes our job, as League members, to champion appropriate legislation to accomplish this. Attendees at the Annual Meeting agreed with her that the overall voting process in New York state should become standardized, as well as simplified, from county to county in order to increase voter participation in the state.

Kay Sharp, President of the TCLWV, introduced Carolyn Eggleston, one of the two Tompkins County representatives for this year’s Students in Albany program. Carolyn said it was an experience she will not soon forget and thanked the League for giving her the opportunity to participate.

Over 40 TCLWV members attended this year’s Annual Meeting and voted unanimously to accept the Nominating Committee’s slate of Board Nominees for 2012-2013: Vice President –Membership, Debbie Levin; Treasurer, Maria Eisner; Co-Director—Voter Services, Debra Dibartolo; Co-Director—Voter Services, Lucia Sciore; Director Communications, Kathy Burlitch; Director at Large, John Harding; Director at Large, Lucia Armstrong.

Members present also voted unanimously to approve the programs planned for the next year by the Natural Resources Committee and the Health Care Committee. It is through the enthusiastic work by these committee members that our community can look forward to presentations and information about energy alternatives, water quality issues, NYS Health Insurance Exchanges, and Universal Health Care for all.

Kay Sharp thanked everyone for attending and for their continued support. The TCLWV looks forward to another dynamic year!

Sarah Jane Blake

PROGRAM PLANNING MEETING

Wednesday, July 25, 2012 6:00 to 8:00 pm
at the home of Florence B. Smith

Effective programs are vital to fulfill the mission of our organization, which ‘…encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.’

Everyone is invited to share in our important planning process and contribute to the work of the Program Committee.

Please RSVP, Need directions?
273-6147 or flosmith42@aol.com

Healthcare Committee at work—festival parade
THREE NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Lucia Sciore (Director and Co-Chair, Voter Services): Born and raised locally in Watkins Glen of second generation Italian heritage, I earned a BA in psychology from Ashland University, Ashland, OH. While teaching psychology at Tompkins Cortland Community College, I earned an MS Ed from Marywood College, Scranton, PA, specializing in group therapy. After a brief move from the area I returned, settling permanently in Ithaca. I married and following the birth of my daughter, decided to return to graduate school. I received a Masters of Social Work from Syracuse University specializing in medical social work. For 20 years, I worked as a clinical psychiatric Social Worker and therapist both in Cortland and in Tompkins County Mental Health services. During my professional career I was a member of the National Association of Social Workers and the International EMDR Association. Currently, I am semi-retired and work with the Nutrition Clinic’s "Intense Out-Patient program." For enjoyment and to continue my sense of community involvement, I volunteer weekly with the Free Clinic. I have been a member of Mensa since 1988. My personal interests include belly dance, Latin & African aerobic dance, contra-dance, Svaroopa Yoga, knitting & sewing.

Sarah Jane Blake (Secretary) has counseled hundreds of New York State Senior Citizens and individuals with disabilities about Medicare, Medicaid, managed care, the elderly drug coverage program, and other health insurance options unique to New York State beneficiaries. As the former Health Insurance Information Counseling and Assistance (HIICAP) Coordinator in Tompkins County, she trained additional volunteer counselors to do the same. As Retirement Services Coordinator at Lifelong in 2005, she coordinated and trained volunteers for the successful Check It! Program, a bill payer assistance program which provides in-home financial management assistance to Tompkins County seniors.

She became a trained Community Supports Navigator in 2010 and continues her work with the Tompkins County Office for the Aging and NYConnects (long term care services in Tompkins County) assisting elderly county residents and their caregivers as they transition from hospital back to their home.

In 2011 she became the westernmost outreach counselor for the Albany-based New York StateWide Senior Action Council. She counsels elderly New Yorkers in the Finger Lakes and North Country regions of the state. Through StateWide rallies and presentations at senior group gatherings across the state, Sarah Jane promotes state and national legislation that highlights and benefits New York State seniors. Her B.A. in English from the University of Maine at Orono and J.D. from Franklin Pierce Law Center in Concord, New Hampshire, have served her well in these pursuits.

Currently, Sarah Jane is an active board member with the Visiting Nurse Service of Ithaca and Tompkins County and serves as the Board Secretary for the League of Women Voters of Tompkins County.

She is proud of her eclectic quirks, as well! She spent 20 years as a Morris dancer (traditional folk dancing from the Cotswold region of England) and has a penchant for long distance cycling – as do many in her family. She has bicycled across the United States from San Diego California to Concord, New Hampshire. Born in Bangor, Maine, she now lives happily with her husband Jim and three cats in Brooktondale, New York.

Debra Dibartolo (Director and Co-Chair, Voter Services):
I have a Master degree in Nursing and a degree in Chemical Dependency Counseling. I work at Cayuga Medical Center and The Alcohol and Drug Council of Tompkins County. I am the president of the New York State Chapter of the International Association of Forensic Nurses and the vice-president of The Mark Twain Chapter of the Emergency Nurses Association. I am also a member of the National Honor Society of Nurses. I have published on America-on-Line Health Experts Web site, and on a health and wellness web-site call Share Care. I also support an organization called Cease Fire Chicago: an organization that believes violence is an epidemic that can be interrupted, saving lives of young men and women, as well as communities saved by interrupting the cycle of violence.

I live in Trumansburg and for most of my life in upstate New York. I have a great husband, Michael, seven daughters and eight grandchildren. I am an enthusiastic reader of culture, sociology and government, as well a lover of knitting and sewing.
VOTER SERVICES

The League of Women Voters’ registration events are under way and the first voter registration event of the summer was an enormous success! On Friday, June 4, and Saturday, June 5 we were at the Ithaca Festival. Our table was staffed by 3 or 4 great volunteers each day, registering voters and answering questions about voting. We registered 14 new voters and helped 30 more change their address with the Board of Elections.

As a bonus we had a load of fun visiting with our neighbors, new and old friends, reminiscing and having great discussions about election campaigns of the past and future. We also had several local politicians stop by and say hello; and frequently received a “thank you” or a “keep up the great work” from folks passing by.

We have several more events planned for the summer. Hopefully a few of these events will fit in you busy summer schedule. Remember no experience is necessary! Please e-mail or call me (debra_dibartolo@yahoo or 607-387-5075) if volunteering for 1-2 or more hours at any (or all!) of the following events will fit into your summer plans.

Farmers Market, from 9 am—1pm: June 16, 30; July 14, 28; August 11, 25; September 8, 22.

Apple Festival, time and dates to be announced.

Grassroots festival, July 20-22 exact times and dates to be announced.

Please contact Lucia Sciore (Luciasciore@gmail.com or Deb Dibartolo (debra_dibartolo@yahoo) with any questions or any other potential community events where the League can continue its mission of voter service.
MEMBERSHIP REPORT

I hope you have all received your membership renewal letters, which were sent out a few days ago. Please take a few minutes to renew your membership for the next year and to fill out the questionnaire on the back. It is very important that we know how you wish to receive the Bulletin, and the ways in which you would like to be involved in League activities.

There will be a refresher MLD (Membership Leadership Development) meeting in August in Syracuse. Kay Sharp and I are planning to attend. One thing that I learned at the first MLD meeting that I attended is that every member of the League should be a member of the membership committee – we should all be recruiting new members. So ask your friends to join. Tell everyone you know what a great organization this is.

Just paying your dues, however, is not enough. Getting involved in the League’s various committees and activities is even more important. A good way to get started is to do a “one shot” job. This summer and early fall the League will have voter registration tables at a number of venues around town. We will be at GIAC for their birthday party, at the Farmers’ Market on a number of Saturdays, and at the Apple Festival in September. If you are interested in helping at any of these, please use the Voter Services contacts given on page 5.

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP
GET INVOLVED IN YOUR LEAGUE

Deborah Levin, Membership Chair

LWVUS EDUCATION STUDY

The LWVUS Board approved a new Education position at the March 2012 (March 25, 2012) Board meeting. The position is based on responses received from the 377 Leagues across the country who participated in the Education Study. The LWVTC owes a debt of gratitude to Kathleen Yen who put a tremendous effort into the organization of our participation in this study. The following is a portion of the position statement:

“The League of Women Voters believes that the federal government shares with other levels of government the responsibility to provide an equitable, quality public education for all children pre-K through grade 12. A quality public education is essential for a strong, viable, and sustainable democratic society and is a civil right.

“The League believes that the role of the federal government should include the following:

- Provide leadership and vision to promote a quality education for all children;
- Provide broad common standards developed by educational experts upon which states and local education agencies can build;
- Provide a suggested curricular structure or framework as a guide to state and local education agencies to develop their own curricula;
- Provide a national assessment that clearly informs teachers, parents and students about how well individual students have mastered criteria established at the national level;
- Provide a national assessment that informs districts how well their populations compare to other populations similar to theirs; and
- Provide a combination of competitive grants and non-competitive funding to states and local school districts to achieve equity among states and populations.”

The full position statement is at http://www.lwv.org/member-resources/education-study

LWV-TC CALENDAR—2011-2012

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<th>Time</th>
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<td>Tue</td>
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<td>Federal Primary Elections</td>
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<td>Jul 25</td>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>6:00 pm</td>
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<td>Mon</td>
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## YOUR REPRESENTATIVES IN CONGRESS

### SENATORS:

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
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<th>Website</th>
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</table>
| Charles E. Schumer | US Senate, 313 Hart Senate Building, Washington, DC 20510 | 202-224-6542; Binghamton Office: 607-772-6792 | [senator@schumer.senate.gov](mailto:senator@schumer.senate.gov) | [www.schumer.senate.gov](http://www.schumer.senate.gov)

### REPRESENTATIVES:

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maurice Hinchey</td>
<td>2431 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515</td>
<td>202-225-6335; Ithaca Office: 607-273-1388; 123 S. Cayuga St. #201</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mhinchey@mail.house.gov">mhinchey@mail.house.gov</a></td>
<td><a href="http://www.house.gov/hinchey">www.house.gov/hinchey</a></td>
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League of Women Voters of Tompkins County
211 Strawberry Hill Circle, #3
Ithaca, NY 14850