WE'RE HAVING A PARTY . . . .
AND YOU'RE INVITED

CELEBRATE THE LEAGUE: IT’S AN ELECTION YEAR!

Bring a friend. Meet your League leaders.
Enjoy the entertainment! Have fun, food and beverages.

Monday, September 24th, 7:00 to 8:30 PM
First Unitarian Society of Ithaca, Church Parlor
306 North Aurora St. (Corner of E. Buffalo and N. Aurora Streets)

For more information contact
Florence Smith at 273-6147, <flosmith42@aol.com>
or Sarah Jane Blake at 277-1312, <sjblake@twcny.rr.com>

YOUTH PROGRAMS

Take Me to Vote, a program that encourages adults to take children with them to the polls, is gearing up as Election Day approaches! Youth Program Coordinators Kathleen Yen and Susan Henninger plan to begin publicizing the program in various ways including disseminating press releases to local media outlets, sending information letters to schools, and meeting with several community youth leaders (with Voter Service Coordinators Lucia Sciore and Debra DiBartolo). There will also be handouts about youth programs at the Voter Registration tables around town and at the Apple Festival at the end of the month.

Word of mouth is another excellent way to let others know about this simple, effective way to teach youth about civic responsibility, so please take a few minutes to urge your family, friends, and neighbors to take a child with them when they vote on November 6th! For further information, call Kathleen at 257-8199 or Susan at 387-7544.

Rhiannon Youngbauer is back! Rhiannon is an Ithaca College student who served as a judge for

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the 2011 Students Inside Albany Conference. She’ll be helping Laura Ladd Bierman, Executive Director of the NYS League of Women Voters, create a video Public Service Announcement. Kathleen Yen and Susan Henninger will be assisting Rhiannon and her two friends with the review and editing of the video. Stay tuned for further details.

Speaking of Students Inside Albany, one of the highlights of the LWVUS Convention in Washington, DC in June was the receipt by the LWVNYS of the 2012 Community Connection award for the SIA program. The Tompkins County League has sent a student to participate in the annual conference each year since 2009. This year our League was able to send two students; a trend we hope to continue! Special thanks go to all LWVTC members who took the time to vote for this educational and fun program for teens.

Susan Henninger

MEMBERSHIP

Membership renewal letters went out in late June, and so far forty-eight members have responded. We know that June is perhaps not the best time to contact people because many are away during the summer. Unfortunately, our fiscal year begins on July 1, so we have little choice. That said, I urge all of you who have not so far responded, to do so ASAP. I will be sending reminder letters very soon. To save paper and postage, please send in your renewals soon. Renewing members made extra donations to the League and to our Education Fund.

Thank you to all who have renewed for the year and a special thanks to those who made additional donations.

Debbie Levin

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TOMPKINS COUNTY: BOARD 2012-13

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Board Members</th>
<th>Website</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
<th>Email Addresses</th>
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<td>LWV NYS website</td>
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<tr>
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<td><a href="http://www.lwv.org">www lwv org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>LWV-Tompkins County</td>
<td>[lwvtc@twcny rr.com](mailto:lwvtc@twcny rr.com)</td>
<td><a href="http://lwvtomkins.org">lwvtomkins org</a></td>
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**Board Members**

- **President**
  - Kay Sharp 272-4748 phylliskaysharp@gmail.com
- **Vice. Pres. Program**
  - Florence Smith 273-6147 FloSmith42@aol.com
- **Vice. Pres. Membership**
  - Debbie Levin 273-7746 dlevin01@twcny rr.com
- **Secretary**
  - Sarah Jane Blake 277-1312 sjblake@twcny rr.com
- **Treasurer**
  - Maria Eisner 277-4404 mle3@cornell.edu
- **Director Communications**
  - Kathy Burlitch 539-7316 klburlitch@frontiernet.net
- **Director Co-Voter Services**
  - Debra Dibartolo 387-5075 debra dibartolo@yahoo.com
- **Director Co-Voter Services**
  - Lucia Sciore 351-0221 luciasciore@gmail.com
- **Director Co-Youth Program**
  - Susan Henninger 387-7544 sue@fingerlakeswriter.com
- **Director**
  - Lucia Armstrong 257-2748 larmstro@twcny rr.com

**Off-Board Chairs:**

- **Co-Youth Program**
  - Kathy Yen 257-8199 kyen@twcny rr com
- **Health Care**
  - Rebecca Elgie 272-0621 erelgie@earthlink net
- **Natural Resources**
  - Kay Wagner 539-3322 cmw18@cornell edu
- **Co-Webmaster; Action**
  - Linda Duttweiler 277-0006 ldutt@twcny rr com
- **Co-Webmaster**
  - Michael Duttweiler 277-0006 mduttweiler@twcny rr com
- **Bulletin**
  - Robert Silsbee 273-1436 rhs1@cornell edu
PROGRAM PROSPECTS

The Program Planning meeting was held on July 25, 2012. We will be presenting a variety of events this year. Watch the Bulletin during the year for more details.

Monday, September 24, 7:00 to 8:30 PM, at the First Unitarian Church of Ithaca: there will be a “kick-off” celebration of welcome and appreciation for newcomers, current members and invited guests. CELEBRATE THE LEAGUE! The Board members will provide desserts, snacks and beverages and there will be entertainment for a relaxed and fun evening. Please come to the party, and invite a friend.

Wednesday, October 17: we have joined with American Association of University Women of Tompkins County for a program of political interest, which will be held at Kendal at Ithaca. Watch for more information.

November?(date to be announced): there will be a meeting about Campaign Finance Reform featuring a power point presentation prepared by LWVNY.

Monday, January 28: a topic to be determined by the Health Care Committee.

Monday, February 25: SUSTAINABLE ENERGY EFFORTS AROUND THE WORLD. March is Women’s History Month, with a program date and venue to be determined.

Monday, May 6: Annual Dinner; preferred location, the Salvation Army. We will have a catered dinner, and the program will include honoring the participants in the Students Inside Albany program and giving special recognition to members of 30 years or more.

Florence B. Smith

NEWS FROM VOTER SERVICES

It has been a busy and exciting time for the Voter’s Services committee. Voter registration is going strong. We have greatly enjoyed meeting community members and discussing issues related to access to voting and why the League of Women Voters is no longer moderating presidential debates.

This year we have been at many community functions, including the Grassroots festival, 40th Birthday of GIAC, Ithaca Festival, Ithaca.

LWV-TC CALENDAR—2012-2013

(Items in italics are tentative)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sep 19</td>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>10:00 am</td>
<td>Natural Resources Committee</td>
<td>Marnie Johnson</td>
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<td>Sep 24</td>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>7:00 pm</td>
<td>CELEBRATE THE LEAGUE</td>
<td>Unitarian Church Parlor</td>
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<td>Mon</td>
<td>7:00 pm</td>
<td>Board Meeting</td>
<td>Lucia Armstrong</td>
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<td>Oct 17</td>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>7:00 pm</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>Kendal @ Ithaca</td>
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<td>Nov 5</td>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>7:00 pm</td>
<td>Board Meeting</td>
<td>Kathy Burlitch</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 6</td>
<td>Tue</td>
<td>6 am—9pm</td>
<td>NATIONAL ELECTIONS</td>
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<td>Board Meeting</td>
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<td>SUSTAINABLE ENERGY EFFORTS AROUND THE WORLD</td>
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<td>WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH</td>
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<td>Apr 1</td>
<td>Mon</td>
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<td>Flo Smith</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 6</td>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>7:00 pm</td>
<td>ANNUAL DINNER AND MEETING and Board Meeting</td>
<td>Salvation Army</td>
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</table>
Farmers Market and TC3’s and Ithaca College’s Freshman orientations. The volunteers in Voter Services have registered over 150 voters! At TC3 we registered 26 voters in one hour and had students three deep at the table waiting to register!

Do not worry if you have missed out on the fun this summer, we still have some September events scheduled. We will be at the Ithaca Farmers Market 9am-1pm September 9 and 22 and The Apple Festival on September 29 and 30. New participants are always welcomed. No worries: you will be paired up with an experienced member of the group to work with. E-mail Lucia Sciore (at luciasciore@gmail) or Deb Dibartolo (at debra_dibartolo@yahoo) to reserve your one, two, three hour or all day spot at the registration table!

Deb Dibartolo

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**NATURAL RESOURCES**

The Natural Resources Committee has been on summer break but has been following the fracking events. A big concern right now is that Gov. Cuomo seems likely to push to allow fracking in towns near the Pennsylvania border that have not issued bans. Unfortunately this would open the door to fracking in New York State. There is much concern that although he said he would use scientific findings as his basis, a decision may be made even before the SGEIS is finalized and regulations put in place. For those of you who want to learn more about the effects of fracking in other states, there is a very good book out on the subject by Tom Wilbur called "Under the Surface - Fracking, Fortunes, and the Fate of the Marcellus Shale."

During the coming year our committee plans to continue it's work on fracking and other forms of drilling and mining, but we hope to spend much of our time learning about efforts in Germany and other countries to develop renewable energy resources and reduce their dependence on both fossil fuels and nuclear energy. We expect that this will be a fascinating topic to look at and are excited to begin our work.

As always, we would love to have new members on our committee. If you are interested please contact Kay Wagner at 539-3322, cmw18@cornell.edu. Our first meeting this fall will be on Wednesday, September 19 at 10am.

Kay Wagner

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**NATIONAL CONVENTION**

The LWVUS Convention was held in Washington, DC, from June 8-12 and 48 League members from across New York State joined the over 800 delegates. The Convention was educational and productive for League administration, but mostly it was inspiring and energizing for the attendees.

One of the highlights was that the LWVNYS was presented the 2012 Community Connection award for its Students Inside Albany program. We received a plaque (hanging in the state League office) and a gift certificate to Office Depot. Also, during a plenary session, LWVNYS President Sally Robinson had the opportunity, during our "Moment in the Sun,” to summarize the League's accomplishments in NYS.

…

The delegates retained all current positions of LWVUS, including the new positions on privatization (details coming later) and on the role of federal government in education: *LWV 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 Board’s recommendation for concurrence with the Sentencing Policy position of the LWV of DC was also adopted: *The LWVUS believes*
alternatives to imprisonment should be explored and utilized, taking into consideration the circumstances and nature of the crime. The LWVUS opposes mandatory minimum sentences for drug offenses. Lively discussion on other possible studies, such as a Department of Peace, human trafficking, corporate financing of elections, nuclear power and drug policies were interesting, but the motions failed to be adopted by the delegates. The delegates did agree to an update and review of the LWVUS position on agriculture. They also approved a resolution: 

*We, the representatives of local and state Leagues assembled at the 2012 LWVUS Convention, call upon the LWVUS Board to advocate strongly for all appropriate, duly-considered measures which may include, but are not limited to, a constitutional amendment and which: are consistent with our current positions on campaign finance reform and individual liberties; allow Congress and the States to set reasonable regulations on campaign contributions and expenditures; and ensure that elections are determined by the voters.* Finally, the delegates approved the creation of the LWVUS Campaign Finance Task Force to educate members and communities on the issue of campaign finance in order to inform our education and legislative efforts as needed.

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from LWV-NYS

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**NYS LEGISLATIVE SESSION WRAP-UP**

The 2012 legislative session ended on June 21st exactly as the leadership had scheduled. The leadership in both houses touted how functional they had been this session, perhaps trying to increase their approval rating during this election year.

The highlight of the session occurred back in March with the passage of the “bug ugly” including Tier VI pension reform. The end of session came and went with many not even noticing. Here is the wrap-up of League issues:

- **Redistricting**- The League’s major issue, it was settled in April. The legislature passed very partisan lines but the Governor was able to secure first passage of a constitutional amendment setting up a non-partisan commission to take the redistricting pen out of legislator’s hands going forward. Second passage will happen in 2013 session.

- **Pay Equity**- Passed the Assembly but was not brought to the floor of the Senate

- **Voter Friendly Ballot bill**- Passed the Assembly but was not brought to the floor of the Senate

- **Hydro-fracking**- Still being considered by DEC and did not come before the legislature. Rumor was ramped up at the end of session that the Governor would allow for some permitting in some communities but no action was taken by the Governor. The League has been very active on this issue and we will continue to monitor activity on this issue closely.

- **Tanning beds ban**- The legislature passed legislation banning tanning bed usage by anyone 16 years and younger. The League had lobbied for the ban for ages 17 years and younger. The bill now goes to the governor for signature.

- **Campaign Finance Reform**- Although the Governor talked about the need for campaign finance reform as a candidate for governor and put it into his 2012 State of the State address in January, he did not submit a program bill. The Assembly did pass Speaker Sheldon Silver’s public finance legislation but no companion bill was passed in the Senate. The League supports public financing but felt that although Silver’s bill was a start, more comprehensive reform was needed to complement public financing. There is speculation that the governor will use a pay increase for legislators as leverage to get campaign finance reform when the legislature returns in December. The League will lobby vigorously for campaign finance reform.

*Capitol Beat: Blog of LWV-NYS*
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>SENATORS:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kirsten E. Gillibrand</td>
<td>US Senate, 531 Dirksen Senate Building, Washington, DC 20510</td>
<td>202-224-4451</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>web-site: <a href="http://www.gillibrand.senate.gov">www.gillibrand.senate.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charles E. Schumer</td>
<td>US Senate, 313 Hart Senate Building, Washington, DC 20510</td>
<td>202-224-6542; Binghamton Office: 607-772-6792</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>e-mail: <a href="mailto:senator@schumer.senate.gov">senator@schumer.senate.gov</a></td>
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<th>REPRESENTATIVES:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Richard Hanna</td>
<td>319 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515</td>
<td>202-225-3665; 110 Genesee St., # 110, Auburn, NY 13021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>email; through the website</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>website: <a href="http://hanna.house.gov">http://hanna.house.gov</a></td>
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<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>
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<td></td>
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League of Women Voters of Tompkins County
211 Strawberry Hill Circle, #3
Ithaca, NY 14850