CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

HEAR THE INSIDE DOPE FROM THE LWV’S LOBBYIST IN ALBANY

BARBARA BARTOLETTI

SPONSORED JOINTLY BY THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS-TOMPKINS COUNTY
AND
THE ITHACA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

Wednesday, October 17, 7:15 PM (note revised starting time!)
Kendal @ Ithaca Auditorium
2230 N. Triphammer Drive: turn left at the T and look for guest parking

For more information contact
Florence Smith at 273-6147. <flosmith42@aol.com>

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I was in California last week watching television one evening and there was an ad by the LWV of California. I was so pleased that they were taking a stand against Proposition 32. The Proposition gives the impression that there will be limits placed on corporation campaign contributions. The League's ad made it clear that the Proposition gave the voter a false impression that it would limit campaign financing. I was proud that the League was informing the public of the fraudulent claims.

October 17th we have the opportunity to hear what is needed for Campaign Finance Reform in New York State. Barbara Bartoletti, NYS League lobbyist, will be speaking to our membership that evening at 7:15 p.m. at Kendal auditorium. I hope many of you will be able to attend. Barbara always gives an informative and lively presentation.

Our September party was delightful. It gave us an opportunity to just visit with one another and enjoy some good entertainment. I was sorry
that more of you didn’t attend. We are going to have another social event this year. In March, on a Saturday afternoon, we are going to have our traditional soup and bread luncheon. This is always a pleasant social event that I hope more of you will be able to attend.

This summer we had great success in registering voters, nearly 500. I can't remember a year that we registered so many voters, many of whom were first-time voters. We had great opportunities in getting to TC3 and Ithaca College. We also had tremendous success at the Apple Harvest Festival. A special thank you goes to our Director of Voter Services, Lucia Sciore. She did an amazing job in organizing all the events. Hats off to Lucia.

We have more great programs this year. So stayed tune.

Kay Sharp

THE YEAR’S FIRST MEETING

There’s no doubt about it! We had a wonderful “Celebrate the League - Membership Party” on September 24th. Board members enjoyed talking with guests about the history of the League of Women Voters of Tompkins County and describing its ongoing and new projects and programs. The League’s Health Care, Natural Resources, Youth Programs and Voter Services Committees had exhibits with handouts that certainly generated lively discussions. Take Me to Vote, the Youth Services program encouraging adults to take children with them to the polls, turned out to be a special topic for discussion with election day fast approaching.

Everyone enjoyed fine refreshments and A Capella music by Pamela Goddard and Jim Blake - known as Diamonds in the Rough. If you were unable to make it to the party this time, keep an eye out for our invitation to the next one.

Sarah Jane Blake

WHAT’S STILL TO COME?

October 17, 2012:

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM: What subject could be more important to talk about — especially this year and at this time of year? As we get closer to the November elections, this should be a topic on everyone's mind.

The League is joining with the Ithaca Branch of the American Association of University Women to present our next educational program. The program will focus on the problem of corporate money and influence in State Government: here’s an opportunity to get an insider’s view on CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM. The meeting will be held WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2012 at 7:15 PM (note change in time from earlier notice) in the auditorium at Kendal at Ithaca, 2230 N. Triphammer Rd, Our Speaker will be BARBARA BARTOLETTI, New York State League Legislative Director and lobbyist in Albany for the LWV. She knows what’s going on behind the scenes. Please plan to come, bring a friend and learn how we can all advocate for campaign finance reform in New York State.

November 28, 2012:

Mark your calendars for an important program we are planning for November in connection with a LWV-NYS effort on reorganization of the court system to make the legal process accountable, less expensive and fair to all. (See note on page 5 for a summary of the state League’s past involvement.) The Tompkins County League decided the court system and the legal process is an important local issue that we should address.

We’re pleased that Glenn Galbreath, JD, has agreed to present his ideas about how the court system should be improved. A Cornell Clinical law Professor and expert on our court system,
he supervises Cornell Law Students who are performing legal work in the local community.

*COURT SIMPLIFICATION* will be held in the Borg Warner Room at Tompkins County Public Library on **Wednesday, November 28, 2012**, 7:00 to 8:30 PM; save the date.

**Next Year, January 28, 2013:**

The Health Care Committee Co chaired by Rebecca Elgie and Sarah Jane Blake, is making arrangements for an educational program in January. The proposed presentation topic is “How what happens in the Legislature in Albany affects those who live in Tompkins County”. There will be a panel discussion and question and answer period. The speakers will present information about; the New York State Health Exchange, New York State Medicaid Redesign Team, New York State Health Care Law and the Affordable Care Act. Sarah Jane will moderate the discussion and emphasize how the potential changes will affect Tompkins County Residents. Watch for further details.

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**VOTER SERVICES**

By the time you read this bulletin, the Tompkins County League’s program of voter registration will have been completed for the season. We registered almost 500 voters this summer starting at the Ithaca Festival in June and finishing today at Ithaca College. The prize for the best location goes go the Apple Festival with 170 registered in 2 days. Other locations: TC3, Cornell University, Grassroots, Ithaca Farmers Market, and Loaves & Fishes. In addition to registering people, we were able to answer many questions about voting and LWV programs as well as hand out LWV literature.

Many League members helped make this a success; thank you. Voter Services is especially grateful to the following people who put in extra time at the tables: Debbie Levin, Deb DiBartolo, Marnie Johnson, Kathy Burlich, Clare Nicholetti and Kay Sharp. Thank you,

Lucia Sciore

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Florence B. Smith, VP Programs
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 leaders Kathleen Yen and Susan Henninger have been publicizing the program in various ways including sending information letters to schools, writing a Letter to the Editor of the Ithaca Journal, Ithaca Times, the Finger Lakes Community newspapers, and Tompkins Weekly, submitting press releases and public service announcements to all local media sources, and obtaining a free ad for the program in Tompkins Weekly newspaper. Kathy, Sue, and Lucia Sciore from Voter Services are also hoping to meet with several community group leaders to promote the program this 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.

The Students Inside Albany program has informed Youth Program leaders, Kathleen Yen and Susan Henninger, that the 2013 Conference will be held in Albany on April 14th-17th. We hope to send two Tompkins County high school students to the conference again this year, as SIA is a wonderful program for both Tompkins County teens and our League. 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 if they promote the student’s participation in it.” Anyone who would like brochures to distribute to youth they know can contact Susan or Kathleen.

To read more about these Youth Programs, visit the League’s website at www.lwvtompkins.org

Special thanks to our tireless webmaster, Michael Duttweiler, for all of his help this fall!

Susan Henninger
NATURAL RESOURCES

The Natural Resources Committee will spend the first part of the year investigating the efforts under way in Germany and the rest of Europe to switch from fossil fuels and nuclear power to renewable sources of energy. Many of the countries in Europe are making significant investments in the development of renewable resources, research on and the building of the needed infrastructure, and increased efficiency of energy use. Many of the efforts are small scale programs, some at the level of individual towns. Our program in February will focus on the viability of these European programs to convert to renewable energy sources.

The committee plans to follow up this study by using Europe’s experience to explore what might realistically be done on a local level, specifically in Tompkins County. Our goal is to find ways that the county can become a case study in the use of renewable energy resources on a small scale. It is our hope that the county could become an example for other communities within New York State and the country as a whole.

Although the central focus of the committee will be on alternatives to natural gas and other fossil fuels, we will be continuing to work on issues relating to hydraulic fracturing for natural gas. Kay Wagner contributes to the program of the state LWV committee on Energy, Agriculture and the Environment, which is concerned with all of the problems related to fracking, including pipeline safety. Beth Radow (LWV Larchmont) has been doing a wonderful job of leading that committee and we want to thank her for all of her hard and invaluable work.

Kay Wagner

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Membership renewal letters have gone out to members who had not renewed by the end of September. If you are reading this Bulletin, but have not sent in your dues for this year, the next few Bulletins will be your last. We have a number of very interesting programs planned for the coming months. The best way to hear about all of our programs is to read about them in your League Bulletin.

Deborah Levin

LWV-NYS AND THE COURT SYSTEM

The New York State Court System has been an important League issue for almost 50 years. When the League began its study of the courts in 1955, there was widespread concern over the state of the judicial system. At that time, there were approximately 1500 separate and autonomous courts in the state. This general disorganization had prompted the establishment of a Temporary Commission on the Courts (Tweed Commission), which was in the process of formulating recommendations at the time the League study was adopted. Adopted in 1957, the League’s position in support of a unified court system coincided with the Tweed Commission report calling for a sweeping reorganization of the courts. Since its adoption, this position has been the cornerstone of League activity in this area. In 1975 the New York State Bar Association presented the League with the association’s first public service award in recognition of the League’s work toward improving the judicial system, and in 1990 the League received the Samuel J. Duboff Award from the Fund for Modern Courts in recognition of our long-standing efforts in the area of court reform.

from the LWV-NYS website
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