ANNUAL DINNER MEETING

MONDAY, MAY 6
SALVATION ARMY (150 N. Albany St.)

DINNER AT 6:00
LASAGNA     SALAD      BEVERAGE     DESSERT

COST: $15   RSVP: Lucia Sciore by April 26th
351-0221 or luciasciore@gmail.com

BUSINESS MEETING AT 6:30
ELECTION      BUDGET      FUTURE PROGRAMS

PUBLIC MEETING AT 7:30
ISSUES IMPORTANT IN TOMPKINS COUNTY
Martha Robertson, Chair     Michael Lane, Member
Tompkins County Board of Representatives

MARK YOUR CALENDAR
May 6, 2013. ANNUAL DINNER MEETING

The Annual Meeting and Dinner, which will be
held at the Salvation Army, 150 North Albany
St., Ithaca. The Dinner for LWV members and
guests, will begin at 6:00 PM.

The cost of the dinner is $15.00; please
remember to RSVP to Lucia Sciore by April 26,
by phone, 351-0221, or email, <luciasciore@gmail.com>. You may pay at the
door with cash or check.

The dinner will be followed by a recognition of
the Students Inside Albany participants. The
Annual Meeting will begin at 6:30 with reports

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from the Committees. League members will be 
asked to vote on important issues for the 
2013/2014 fiscal year, including: the 
Nominating Committee’s slate of Board 
Officers and Directors, Treasurer Maria Eisner’s 
proposed budget, and proposed programs of the 
Health Care and Natural Resources Committees.

At 7:30 the public program will begin with 
invited speakers, Martha Robertson, Chair of 
Tompkins County Legislature and Michael 
Lane, the Tompkins County Legislator from 
Dryden. They will discuss current topics of 
interest and answer questions.

Mark your calendars for a SOCIAL 
GATHERING FOR NEW MEMBERS that will 
be hosted at Kathy Burlitch’s home on Monday 
May 20.

Florence B. Smith, VP Programs

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**PROGRAMS FOR 2012-2013**

**HEALTH CARE**

The Health Care Committee of the Tompkins 
County League of Women Voters is looking 
forward to 2013. To build on our successes we 
will:

1. Continue monitoring *Patient Protection And 
   Affordable Care Act* initiatives and programs 
during their multi-year roll out, particularly 
including, in 2013:
   a. expansion of preventive health care 
services;
   b. implementation of Health Benefit 
      Exchange in NYS (enrollment to begin 10-
      1-13 with effective date of 1-1-14);

2. Follow the implementation of the Medicaid 
Redesign Team recommendations including:
   a. mandatory enrollment in Medicaid 
      Managed Care, timeline for all Medicaid 
      populations;
   b. changes to the Medicaid & Medicaid 
      Managed care benefit package;
   c. the introduction of new models of care 
such as Health Homes for Special 
   Populations;

3. Track the progress of Assemblyman Gottfried 
and Senator Duane’s New York State 
legislation for a single payer plan, which New 
York Health recently re-introduced as A5489 
and S2078. We will monitor its progress 
through the Health, Rules, and Ways and Means 
Committees;

4. Continue monitoring local, state and national 
health care issues to see what effects they have 
on Tompkins County;

5. Enhance collaborations and co-sponsorships 
with local community organizations including 
New York State Wide Senior Action Council, 
Visiting Nurse Service of Ithaca and Tompkins 
County, and the American Association of 
University Women and expand interactions with 
other community organizations and neighboring 
county Leagues and the State League.

We invite you to join us! Contact Sarah Jane 
Blake (607) 319-4888 if you would like to 
become a Health Care Committee member.

Sarah Jane Blake

**NATURAL RESOURCES**

The Natural Resources Committee was thrilled 
by the response to our February program on 
renewable energy. The popularity of the 
program made it clear that there are many in the 
community who are interested and involved in 
efforts at the local level to support the 
sustainability of our environment and the well-
being of our residents. We share that interest 
and will focus our work for the coming year on 
local environmental and energy issues.

Cayuga Lake and its surrounding areas provide 
a jumping off place for our work. This focus 
brings up questions about water supplies, run-
off, local agriculture, energy supplies, waste 
disposal and many other issues. We want to
continue asking the question of what a local community can do.

Centering our work on the area around Cayuga Lake is also a natural adjunct to the LWVNY interest in the Great Lakes Initiative. The concurrence involving the Great Lakes was brought forth by the Michigan LWV. We hope to obtain copies of the key studies the Michigan League did over a number of years to get a better understanding of the problems they have seen and are concerned about.

We will likely widen the scope of our projects to include at least parts of the Adirondack region. This is a region that is important for many reasons, including the safety of water supplies, the growth in agriculture in the state, and the competing needs for preserving the wilderness while fostering the economic well-being of the residents.

Specific projects we would like to pursue include helping with the planning of Earth Day 2014, an annual event led locally by Sustainable Tompkins, and continuing our discussions with the Tompkins County Planning Department to see how we can help with the Cleaner Greener Southern Tier initiative.

As always, we will, of course continue monitoring and remaining involved in issues surrounding Hydraulic Fracturing for natural gas. At the present time we are particularly concerned about passage of the legislation which would classify the liquid and solid waste from fracking as “hazardous.” This issue cannot be postponed since waste from Pennsylvania and possibly other states is already being processed by communities within New York State. As communities continue to be under severe financial pressure it can unfortunately become attractive to accept fracking waste without clearly understanding the consequences to the environment and to the health of the residents.

Kay Wagner

ANNUAL REPORTS 2011-2012

VOTER SERVICES

Thank you to all members of the League for your support this past year. We had a successful year, registering a record number of voters and organizing forums. Now that we have rested briefly from our work, we look ahead at the coming year. Continued work on supporting our local and state-wide elections is critical. Be alert for requests for help with tabling at festivals and forums.

Two board members, Clare Nicholetti and I, completed a training on VOTE411.org. This is an on-line voter guide that was up and running for the national and state elections last fall. We are working to increase the available information to include local elections. We will be asking for help to get this up and running. Much help will be needed. Many of the tasks do not involve computer knowledge. Please consider giving your time.

Lucia Sciore

PROGRAMS

As we prepare for our Annual Meeting and look forward to Spring and Summer, it’s a good time to celebrate the important achievements of the past year and recognize the people whose dedication and commitment made our projects and programs a great success. I’m not able to list everyone who participated by ‘just showing up’ and those who volunteer their time, talent and treasure in the planning and preparation by serving on the committees, bringing food or beverages, inviting others, etc. Please know that everyone’s efforts are appreciated and make a real difference. Thank You for supporting the important work of the League.

Please re-read the annual reports from each committee and director in the March Bulletin to get a full picture of the League’s accomplishments during the year. Here’s a brief review of some of our events:

(continued)
September 24, 2012, we opened the season with a PARTY to Celebrate together.

We invited all members and friends to the Unitarian Church Parlor, decorated for a festive atmosphere, with plenty of goodies and beverages, and entertainment of A Capella music by Pamela Goddard and Jim Blake-known as Diamonds in the Rough.

Thank you to our singers Pamela and Jim, Board members and other leaders, for a fun evening of song and good cheer.

October 17, 2012, CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM. Barbara Bartoletti, New York State League Legislative Director, spoke at Kendal Auditorium. Thank you to Kay Sharp for inviting Barbara who gave a powerful explanation of the Leagues recommendations of ways to remove corporate money from the political process in Albany.

We thank the Ithaca Chapter of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) for co-sponsoring this event, and Kendal employees and residents who provided the space and set up the equipment for power point presentation and sound.

January 14, 2013, SIMPLIFICATION OF THE NEW YORK STATE COURT SYSTEM: NECESSARY? POSSIBLE?

Bravo to Professor Glenn Galbreath, of Cornell University Law School and Justice of the Village of Cayuga Heights who discussed the history and complexity of New York’s court system and his proposals for reform. Thanks again, to Kay Sharp for arranging for Professor Galbreath to present his expertise on a topic important to the League. We thank Kendal at Ithaca for the comfort and convenience of the auditorium space.

January 28, 2013, HEALTH CARE: WHAT’S UP IN ALBANY?

Thanks to Sarah Jane Blake and Rebecca Elgie, co-chairs of the Health Care Committee, the members of the Health Care Committee as well as other volunteers who worked to make an enjoyable program for all who participated. We’re pleased to thank our two co-sponsors; the American Association of University Women (AAUW of Ithaca), and the New York State Wide Senior Action council.

A large audience packed the Borg Warner Room at Tompkins County Public Library to learn how the Affordable Care Act will affect all New Yorkers. Our two well informed and effective speakers were David Evelyn, MD, MPH, Vice President for Medical Affairs, Cayuga Medical Center; and Linda Smith, Legislative Aide to New York State Assembly-woman Barbara Lifton.

February 25, 2013, RENEWABLE ENERGY: GLOBAL AND LOCAL.

We thank the Natural Resources Committee, Kay Wagner, chair, and several active members for organizing an informative, timely event that attracted a ‘standing room only’ audience to the Parlor of the First Unitarian Church of Ithaca.

We thank the speakers: Francis Vanek, Senior Lecturer in Civil and Environmental Engineering at Cornell University.; Guillermo Metz, Green Building and Renewable Energy Program Coordinator at Cornell Cooperative Extension; and Jonathan Comstock, Co-chair of Energy-Independent Caroline and Chair of Solarized Tompkins.

We also give thanks to the members of Sustainable Tompkins who co-sponsored the event.

March 16, 2013, The annual SOUP AND BREAD LUNCHEON, sponsored by the Board, was held in the Parlor of the First Unitarian Church of Ithaca. We thank the Board members and friends who provided wonderful home made soups bread and dessert.

Florence Smith, VP for Programs
FROM NEW YORK STATE LEAGUE

ENERGY, AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

The former Committee on Hydraulic Fracturing has changed its name to the Committee on Energy, Agriculture and Environment to convey the breadth of its scope. Following League precedent set in 2012, our committee has written a memorandum of support for identical bills (S0674/Avella and A1046/Sweeney) which would eliminate the gas industry's exemption from waste being classified and treated as "hazardous." When LWVNYS lobbyist Barbara Bartoletti determines that the bills are ready to move out of the respective legislative committees, she will distribute the Memo to all legislators, and members will be sent an action alert. Following League precedent in 2010, 2011 and 2012, our committee is following different bills imposing a two-year moratorium on permitting for extraction of shale gas (S1201/Carlucci and A5424-A/Sweeney which has already passed). Both bills include input on health impacts of high-volume hydraulic fracturing (HVHF), but differences between the two bills will have to be resolved. Our committee is also planning an informational session on "Energy Choices" to be held at the state convention in June.

Beth Radow

PAY EQUITY

The Women's Equality Agenda includes a provision to make equal pay for equal work easier to obtain by prohibiting employers from terminating or retaliating against employees who share wage information, a practice that enables wage disparities to persist undetected and by increasing damages and eliminating loopholes that make it difficult to win a settlement when a worker has not received equal pay for equal work. LWVNY is working in the Women's Equality Coalition to make this into law by the end of session (June, 2013).

LWVNY (and the NYS Pay Equity Coalition of which the League is a primary member) will continue to support three equal pay for job titles of comparable worth bills that have been passed in previous sessions by the Assembly and have never made it to the floor of the Senate:

- The NYS Fair Pay Act [A05958 (Heastie), S01491 (Krueger)] This bill is comprehensive, covering both the public and private sectors, and enforceable. Passage of this bill would provide protection for all those working in traditionally female job titles in NY State.

- A01729 (Jaffee) While it does not cover the private sector, it seeks to ensure that each public sector employer in NY State pays non-biased compensation to job titles that have equivalent value. [Currently, there is no SAME AS bill in the Senate.]

- [A00753 (Rosenthal), S01871 (Montgomery)] Although this bill only covers those working for the State, it does include enforcement mechanisms.

As in previous years the Assembly intends to pass this pay equity bill package on Equal Pay Day, April 9th 2013.

On Equal Pay Day, April 9, LWV of Chemung County and the Elmira-Corning AAUW will present a talk entitled "She Makes, He Makes: Equal Pay and Family Gender Roles" by Pamela Tolbert, PhD, of the Industrial Labor Relations School at Cornell University.

Barb Thomas and Lois Haignere
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TOMPKINS COUNTY: BOARD 2012-13

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LWV US website  www.lwv.org
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6/14 Director Voter Services Lucia Scioire 351-0221 luciascioire@gmail.com
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Bulletin Robert Silsbee 273-1436 rhs1@cornell.edu

WOMEN'S STRUGGLE FOR EQUALITY CONTINUES

The NYS League and our League have endorsed the Women's Equality Agenda that Governor Cuomo announced in his State of the State message. The NYS LWV developed the 10-point statement, reproduced on the next page, which outlines the problems and potential solutions that the Governor's plan would address. The NYS League is asking all of you to write a brief message to your State Legislators encouraging them to endorse this Agenda. Every vote counts; let your voice be heard.

Kay Sharp, President

WEA MEETING

On Wednesday, April 10th from 7:00-8:30 pm in the sanctuary of the First Unitarian Society of Ithaca, the Social Justice Council of the Unitarian Church is sponsoring a program on the WEA. Barrie Gewanter, Director of the CNYCLU will present the ten points of Governor Cuomo's proposed agenda and the Rev. Janet Shortall, chaplain at Cornell, will discuss the religious underpinnings of the agenda. Other community organizations will be present to answer questions, as well.

LWV-TC CALENDAR—2012-2013

May 6 Mon 6:00 pm ANNUAL DINNER AND MEETING and Board Meeting Salvation Army Burlitch
May 20 Mon TBA SOCIAL GATHERING FOR NEW MEMBERS

THE PROBLEM

Many barriers in New York block women’s full equality.

- Women in New York earn between 55 and 80 cents for every dollar that a man earns.
- Women working for small employers (fewer than 4 employees) cannot file a lawsuit to stop sexual harassment.
- Victims of employment and credit and lending discrimination cannot recover attorneys’ fees when they win discrimination cases. Forty-one states allow recovery of attorneys’ fees, but New York is not one of them.
- New York is a major destination for sex and labor trafficking victims. Traffickers and buyers often operate with impunity while their victims are often treated as criminals. Penalties for trafficking do not match the severity of the crime.
- Women with children are less likely to be recommended for hire and promoted, and in most cases, are offered less in salary than similarly situated men.
- Landlords often refuse to rent to tenants who hold housing vouchers, the vast majority of whom are women.
- Landlords can evict and refuse to rent to victims of domestic violence, 85 percent of whom are women.
- New York does not have a law on the books guaranteeing pregnant women cannot be pushed out of their jobs just because they need an adjustment at work (including something as simple as a stool to sit on).
- One of the many obstacles domestic violence victims face in obtaining orders of protection is testifying against their abuser in person, which can be intimidating and unsafe.
- New York’s abortion law fails to provide the protections guaranteed in Roe v. Wade and is out of sync with current medical practice.

THE SOLUTION

The solutions to some of the problems women face each day are:

- **Equal Pay for Equal Work.** Workers should not be punished when they share salary information—transparency is key to fair pay. We must close loopholes that let employers pay women less and give teeth to our equal pay laws by increasing damages.
- **Stop Sexual Harassment in All Workplaces.** Legal protection should not be denied just because a woman works for a small employer—sexual harassment is never okay.
- **Ensure Just Restitution for Victims of Discrimination.** Those who sue for credit and lending discrimination should be able to recover attorneys’ fees.
- **Strengthen Human Trafficking Laws.** Trafficking victims should be ensured protection, not prosecution. Prosecutors must have the tools they need to hold the real perpetrators—traffickers and buyers—accountable.
- **End Discrimination Against Families.** No one should have to face discrimination at work just because they have children.
- **End Discrimination Against Tenants.** People who receive Section 8, Social Security Insurance, or other legal sources of income should have the same rights to choose where to live as everyone else.
- **Stop Housing Discrimination.** Domestic violence victims need legal protections from discrimination in buying, renting and leasing housing.
- **End Pregnancy Discrimination Once and For All.** Pregnant workers deserve a clear legal right to modest workplace accommodations to keep them healthy and on the job.
- **Protect Domestic Violence Victims Seeking Orders of Protection.** Victims should be allowed to testify by video conference, not in physical proximity to their abuser.
- **Protect Reproductive Health Care Decisions.** New York law should reflect federal abortion protections and current standards of medical practice.
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<th>YOUR REPRESENTATIVES IN WASHINGTON</th>
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<td><strong>SENATORS:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Tom Reed 202-225-3161; 607-654-7566; e-mail and web-site: reed.house.gov</td>
<td><strong>ASSEMBLYWOMAN</strong></td>
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<td>Barbara Lifton 518-455-5444; 607-277-8030 <a href="http://www.assembly.state.ny.us/mem/Barbara-Lifton">www.assembly.state.ny.us/mem/Barbara-Lifton</a></td>
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