PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

What a great Annual Dinner Meeting! We had more than 35 in attendance. The two participants from Student’s Inside Albany gave a brief description of their experience. Both young women were exuberant in talking about their adventure in Albany. They enjoyed meeting Assemblywoman Barbara Lifton and NYS Legislative Director Barbara Bartolletti. They were impressed with the process involved in getting a bill passed. In all, they enjoyed themselves, and each plans to give oral presentations to their government class.

At the Meeting, we recognized our ten Honorary Members. Each was given a small African violet as a token of our appreciation for their long-term support and participation in our League. We look forward to recognizing our new honorary members each year.

Also at the Annual Meeting, Tompkins County Board Legislators Martha Robertson and Michael Lane presented information about some
of the important issues faced by our County. Legislator Lane specifically mentioned our League’s Linda Duttweiler and her contribution to the County Board’s Redistricting Committee. Thank you Linda, for devoting many hours to this Committee.

Members attending the Annual Meeting approved the proposed 2013-14 budget, and the Programs of the Health-Care and Natural Resources Committees as summarized in the April Bulletin. The membership also approved, for two year terms, the slate of Board candidates as offered by the nominating committee:

- President – Kay Sharp
- VP Programs – Florence Smith
- Secretary – Sarah Jane Blake
- Director at Large – Clare Nicholetti

I appreciate your approval of me as your President for the next two years.

On May 9th Lucia Sciore, Sarah Jane Blake and I met with Assemblywoman Barbara Lifton to discuss the League’s 2013 Legislative Agenda. We focused on Campaign Financing Reform, Election Reform and the Women’s Equality Agenda. Barbara was very supportive of the League’s positions and shared with us all the work she is doing to ban hydrofracking from New York. She was very appreciative of our League’s work in this area. Thank you Kay Wagner and the Natural Resources Committee for all the work you have done with this important issue for the Finger Lakes Region and New York State.

On May 13th I moderated a Candidate’s Forum for the Lansing School Board of Education. Lucia Sciore organized the event. I’m so pleased that Lansing has enlisted our League’s involvement for the past two BOE Forums.

We have 17 new members who joined our League over the past three years. The Board is having a “Welcome to the League” meeting on May 20th. We want the new members to feel welcomed and involved with the Board. The Board will enlist their participation in some of the League’s work we are doing in the upcoming months. I’m always pleased to be able to talk about having new members when I’m sharing information with other local Leagues.

I am a member of the Finger Lake’s Women’s Equality Coalition, which strives to inform New Yorkers about Governor Cuomo’s 10-Point Women’s Equality Agenda. NYS League is a leader in the Coalition. Our League is the process of organizing a Press Conference on May 24th about the Governor’s 10-Point Agenda. Assemblywoman Barbara Lifton, Cyindy Scheibe of Ithaca College and Barbara Thomas of the LWV-NYS Board will be our speakers.

All in all, May has been the busiest month so far this year. It requires a lot of time and energy, but you all have been amazing in your willingness to contribute. THANK YOU!

Kay Sharp

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**PARTY FOR NEW MEMBERS**

Welcome new members. On Monday, May 20th we are having a welcome get-together for all those members who have joined in the last two years. The gathering will be at the home of Kathy Burlitch, 2133 Ellis Hollow Rd. While this gathering is especially for new members, if you would like to join us, please do. For the new members, it is a chance to get to know some of us and learn what the League is doing and how they might get involved in our activities. Let me know if you are planning to come. Call me at 273-7746 or e-mail dlevin01@twcny.rr.com.

Debbie Levin

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**YOUTH PROGRAMS**

This year’s representatives to the Students Inside Albany Conference, Agi Csaki and Desiree Muldoon, attended our Annual Dinner Meeting on May 6th with their family members. Youth Program Directors, Sue Henninger and
Kathy Yen, were also in attendance, along with SIA judge Lucia Sciore. Following the meal, the young women spoke about their conference experiences.

Desiree shadowed Assemblywoman Barbara Lifton (D) and Senator James Seward (R). She talked about how surprised she was to see that many of the Assembly representatives didn’t seem to pay attention to what was happening during the session, telling the students that many of the votes had already been predetermined. One of her favorite parts of the conference was meeting other high school students from all parts of New York State and learning about what issues were important to them. She also enjoyed the tour of the Capital buildings and the talks by Barbara Bartoletti on positive and negative lobbying and Robert Freeman on the Freedom of Information Law. Though she may not go into politics as a career herself, she was happy to discover that you can be involved in the political scene on many different levels.

Agi shadowed Assemblywoman Barbara Lifton (D) and Senator Michael Nozzolio (R). She observed that what you learn in a classroom can only take you so far and that it was amazing to see how politics plays out in real life. She felt like the conference gave her some different perspectives on how the state government works and was also very interested in the talk on how members of the media and bloggers have a strong influence on what the general public thinks about what is going on in Albany. Learning about the personal side of running a political campaign, visiting the Court of Appeals, and hearing a citizen advocate were other highlights of SIA for her. Agi concluded by talking about several ways she intends to share what she learned at the conference with her classmates and Tompkins County residents.

Pictures of Agi and Desiree and their families have been posted on the TC League of Women Voters website and there are also photos at the State League home page (www.lwvny.org) and on the State League FaceBook page.

Susan Henninger

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

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**Board Members**

- **President**: Kay Sharp (272-4748)
- **Vice. Pres. Program**: Florence Smith (273-6147)
- **Vice. Pres. Membership**: Debbie Levin (273-7746)
- **Secretary Co-Health Care**: Sarah Jane Blake (277-1312)
- **Treasurer**: Maria Eisner (277-4404)
- **Director Communications**: Kathy Burlitch (539-7316)
- **Director Voter Services**: Lucia Sciore (351-0221)
- **Director Co-Youth Program**: Susan Henninger (387-7544)
- **Director**: Clare Nicholetti (272-8572)

**Off-Board Chairs:**

- **Co-Youth Program**: Kathy Yen (257-8199)
- **Co-Health Care**: Rebecca Elgie (272-0621)
- **Natural Resources**: Kay Wagner (539-3322)
- **Co-Webmaster; Action**: Linda Duttweiler (277-0006)
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- **Bulletin Editor**: Robert Silsbee (273-1436)

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MORE FROM THE ANNUAL MEETING

When someone has been a member of the League of Voters of Tompkins County for fifty years he or she becomes an Honorary member. At the meeting we recognized the roles of ten such honorable people with an aggregate service to better government of over 500 years: Joan Bechhofer, Rose Bethe, Nellie Corson, Maria Eisner, Carolyn Grigorov, Marnie Johnson, Dooley Kiefer, Beverley and Roger Livesay, and Rachel Siegel.

We also shared a moment of silence in honor of Doris Brown, who died on October 21, 2012. Doris was an active member of the League for many years and past president. She was supportive of the Tompkins County League’s strong stand to prevent the building of a nuclear power plant on Cayuga Lake, worked for the less fortunate in her community, and was instrumental in the formation of the Village of Lansing.

We thank these special people who have contributed their time and talents to the League for most of their adult lives. They served as our historians, our mentors and guides. They are an inspiration for present members of the League and role models for generations to come.

After dessert, and a brief Annual meeting, Kay Sharp introduced our speakers: Martha Robertson, Chair of the Tompkins County Board of Representatives and Mike Lane, County Board Representative from Lansing.

Mike Lane focused on the recent history of the Board of Representatives. He mentioned the important work of the Charter Review Committee and it’s role in keeping policies and procedures current. He thanked the League’s representative (Linda Duttweiler) for participating in the Redistricting Committee. He described the changes made in the local voting districts and explained that, while County policy makers, like the Sheriff and the County Clerk, are elected, it is the responsibility of the County Legislature to appoint the people who fill administrative roles.

Rep. Lane stated that the “Tompkins County Board of Representatives is best at listening to the people.” For example, after the State passed it’s gun control law, the Board recently spent 10 hours listening to people express their views on gun control. As a result, the County Board of Representatives passed a Resolution to express the majority view of the people, even though the County has no power to change or amend the State Laws.

He wrapped up his talk with the comment that a Constitutional Convention for NY State was needed to make changes in State Government.

Martha Roberson spoke about the budget process in light of the State’s cut backs and the recent sequester imposed by Congress which placed a great burden on County staff and services. She mentioned the Public Library and TC3 as a prime concerns, because of the negative effect on quality of life for County residents. She reported that the Health Care Exchanges should be in place by October 2013. There’s a program of ‘facilitative enrollers’ to ease the process and the Chamber of Commerce will provide ‘navigators’ to help businesses enroll in an insurance plan. The Affordable Care Act will commence in January 2014.

A lively question and answer session concluded the program.

Florence Smith, VP-Programs

VOTER SERVICES

The League coordinated another forum this month. We organized the Lansing School Board forum for three candidates. Ideas are currently flowing for local spring and summer festivals at which we could table. All ideas are welcome from the members. Please feel free to email or call me, or any of the board members with suggestions.

Lucia A. Sciore, Director, Voter Services
MEMBERSHIP REPORT

It’s that time again – time to renew your League membership. Membership renewal letters will be going out next month. When you send your dues, please take a few minutes to fill in all relevant information on the back. We want to know how you would like to receive the monthly Bulletin and how you wish to become involved in the activities of the League. If you use e-mail, I urge you to receive the Bulletin electronically. This will save time, paper and money. If you do wish to get a hard copy of the newsletter, there is a $10 charge for postage and handling. Since the Bulletin in published at Kendal, those lucky folks who live there only have to pay $5 – we save on the postage.

Renew Early
Join a Committee
Register New Voters
Deborah Levin, VP-Membership

NEWS ITEMS FROM LWV-NYS

Great Lakes Ecosystem Concurrence

Thank you to everyone who responded to the Great Lakes Ecosystem Concurrence request. Every response was positive, and the state concurrence guidelines for number of Leagues and geographical distribution were met. The League Board officially adopted the policy at its March 14th meeting. A copy is attached, and it is also contained in the newly updated LWVNYS Impact on Issues which will be posted to the state League website and distributed by the end of this week.

(This concurrence was supported by us. — Ed.)

Women's Equality Agenda

The state League and 47 of our local Leagues have signed on as supporters of the Women's Equality Agenda, which would break down common barriers to equality that women face every day. You can find the entire Agenda as proposed by Governor Cuomo at http://nywomensequality.org/; a link is also posted on the state League website. At this point there is no legislative language, but we expect language after the budget is enacted.

The Women's Equality Agenda includes provisions that would advance pay equity, stop discrimination against pregnant workers, low-income families, and domestic violence survivors, and protect reproductive decision making in New York State. The state League has no position on two additional Agenda items concerning attorney's fees or human trafficking because we have not been a subject of League study.

(See press conference notice, page 1. —Ed.)

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.

(LWV-TC member Kay Wagner is member of this committee. — Ed.)
### YOUR REPRESENTATIVES IN WASHINGTON

**SENATORS:**
- Kirsten E. Gillibrand 202-224-4451  e-mail and web-site: [www.gillibrand.senate.gov](http://www.gillibrand.senate.gov)
- Charles E. Schumer 202-224-6542; [senator@schumer.senate.gov](mailto:senator@schumer.senate.gov); [www.schumer.senate.gov](http://www.schumer.senate.gov)

**REPRESENTATIVES:**
- Tom Reed 202-225-3161; 607-654-7566; e-mail and web-site: [reed.house.gov](http://reed.house.gov)

### YOUR REPRESENTATIVES IN ALBANY

**SENATORS**
  51st—Towns of Groton, Dryden, Caroline, Danby
  54th—Town of Lansing
  59th—Towns of Ithaca, Newfield, Enfield, Ulysses, & City of Ithaca

**ASSEMBLYWOMAN**
- Barbara Lifton 518-455-5444; 607-277-8030  [www.assembly.state.ny.us/mem/Barbara-Lifton](http://www.assembly.state.ny.us/mem/Barbara-Lifton)

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