PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello everyone. What a month! I had the pleasure to attend the New York State League of Women’s Convention May 31-June 2. It was energizing and enjoyable. I got to see people that I have known only via e-mail.

The most important action taken at the Convention was the concurrence with Ohio State’s position on human trafficking. Ohio State LWV did a thorough study of the issue and stated a position. LWVNY decided for concurrence with Ohio’s position instead of requiring further study. The LWVNY Board voted for concurrence in March and a concurrence was voted for at the convention. Our Tompkins County Board voted for the LWVNY position on human trafficking, and now we are asking for your vote. We have to send our vote into State before June 20th.

The LWVNY position on human trafficking is as follows:

Human forced labor and sex trafficking should be stopped through legislation and changes in public policy. Those who have been commercially sexually exploited or coerced into slave labor or are minors, should be considered as victims of human trafficking. Victims of human trafficking should be provided with services to facilitate integration into the community.

Please contact me at phylliskaysharp@gmail.com with your vote. If I don’t hear from you, I will assume that you concur with the state’s position. Let your voice be heard.

As if I could top the experience at the Convention, I did with the 10-Point Women’s Equality Agenda Rally and Lobby Day on June 4th. Lucia Sciore and I took a bus to Albany with League members from Cortland, Binghamton and Oneonta. Barbara Bartolletti, LWVNY Legislative Director, gave a powerful speech in favor of the Governor’s Agenda and asked that Lucia and I stand next to her holding our new banner.

After the Rally, we met with staff from Senator Seward’s office and with Assemblywoman Barbara Lifton. As expected, Seward has many reservations about the Governor’s bill, especially with the tenth point, which addresses women’s right to reproductive choice. Lifton is supportive of all points in the bill. While we
were talking to Lifton, she invited us onto the floor of the Assembly and had us introduced. How exciting!

Then on June 5th I went to the Women’s Hall of Fame to hear Governor Cuomo himself talk about his bill. Barbara Bartolletti had been asked to introduce him. She gave a stirring introduction. After the Governor spoke, he came down to the audience and greeted some of us. I had the opportunity to shake his hand and thank him for his 10-Point Women’s Equality Bill. I said it was about time that women are treated fairly and with respect.

So, I have had a busy and thoroughly rewarding month so far. I am proud to represent our League in these activities.

Lucia Sciore will be calling upon you to participate in our voter registration activities thus summer. See her report for more information. I always enjoy participating in voter registration; it is an opportunity for the League to be of service to our community.

I hope each of you has a restful summer. Take time to energize yourselves for Fall as we plan a busy schedule of candidates’ forums and programs.

Kay Sharp, President

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

It’s that time of year again – time to renew your membership in the League. Reminder letters went out last week. You either have received yours by now or will in the very near future. I hope that you will respond soon. Last year we reached a few more than one hundred members. Let’s do that again.

As a dues paying member you will receive the Bulletin so that you are informed of all of our meetings and the issues that various committees are working on. You will have a say in the direction that your League takes and on the issues that we study and approve.

Please do take a few minutes to write your check and be sure to fill in the form on the back of the letter so that we know how you wish to receive the Bulletin and what committees you might be interested in joining.

Deborah Levin
Vice President, Membership

Our fearless president, prepared to overcome all obstacles and negotiate all disagreements → →
Our Annual Planning Meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 22, 7:00 to 8:30 PM, at the home of Florence B. Smith. The purpose of the planning meeting is to identify priority issues and establish a calendar of events and public education programs for the coming year. We have lots of work to do together and we also want to have time for fun.

At our recent Annual Meeting and dinner we recognized and celebrated our successful programs and accomplishments over the past year. In addition each committee and work group or team reported on plans for the coming year. The members voted to approve plans to build on the ongoing work of the Natural Resources, Health Care, Voter Services and Youth Program Committees. We also committed to work for passage of Governor Cuomo’s Women’s Equality Bill, a multifaceted 10-point legislation designed to eliminate the many barriers to full equality for women in NY State. This legislation, if passed by our Assembly and Senate and signed into law will have a huge positive impact on the lives of women and families in NY State. LWVNY is a driving force in the strong coalition working for Women’s Equality, and we will play an active role to raise awareness in Tompkins County, educate the public, influence our representatives and get out the vote!

Again, the planning meeting: MONDAY, JULY 22 — 7:00 to 8:30 PM. Everybody interested in participating in the planning, or any aspect of future programs, is invited to come.

If you need directions to my home or want to share your ideas, Please RSVP to Flo Smith 273-6147

Florence B. Smith-VP Programs

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**NATURAL RESOURCES**

The Committee is looking ahead to next year and making plans for our focus. We will continue to address the issues surrounding hydraulic fracturing for natural gas and to explore proposals for moving to renewable energy resources. We are closely monitoring the efforts to convert the Cayuga Plant from coal to natural gas and are hoping that instead the plant can be converted into a source of renewable energy. We are interested in the general issue of the health of our lakes, rivers and aquifers and hope to learn more about the study done by the LWV of Michigan, which led to the recent consensus regarding the Great Lakes.

During the LWVNY convention Kay Wagner, Susan Multer (Steuben County LWV), and Mary Beilby (Cortland County LWV) ran two caucuses that provided information on hydraulic fracturing, renewable energy resources, and the need to educate ourselves about what will be required to upgrade our electrical grid if renewable energy resources are to become a reality.

During these caucuses there was a discussion of the Hazardous Waste Bill that is currently in committee in the NYS Senate. Those at the caucuses were urged to go back to their local leagues and encourage members to call their senators to support bringing the bill to the floor.
where it would be likely to pass. This bill is critical even if fracking never comes to New York State since waste from Pennsylvania is already being disposed of in New York without treating the toxic and sometimes radioactive content of this waste.

The committee always welcomes new members. If you are interested, please contact me (539-3322, cmw18@cornell.edu).

Kay Wagner

ALBANY RALLY—ANOTHER VIEW

President Kay Sharp and Voter Services Director, Lucia Sciore, attended a rally in Albany in support of Governor Cuomo's 10-point Women's Equality Agenda. 'Exciting' is the word that expresses the fervor of support from hundreds of groups across the state who came in support of the new bill. As we were assembled on the West Capitol Park, we listened to several speakers promote the passage of this bill.

Barbara Bartoletti, Legislative Director for NYS League, spoke strongly in support of the bill. She invited several of us from the NYS League on stage as she made her presentation. We displayed our wonderful new banner donated by Sarah Jane Blake, LWVTC secretary. Thank you Sarah Jane! During the rally, Barbara Lifton, our Assemblywoman, personally introduced us to Sheldon Silver, Speaker of the NYS Assembly.

At another location, Governor Cuomo had a press conference to formally present the bill. As of this writing, with only 9 days left to this legislative session, we hope the legislation will be passed. There is strong support in the Assembly, but not in the Senate.

Kay Sharp and I made our way to the Legislative Assembly to connect with Barbara Lifton to discover any up-dates on the bill. While at the Assembly, Ms. Lifton initiated a request that President Sharp and I be formally recognized and introduced on the floor of the Assembly as representing the League of Women Voters of Tompkins County. It was a gratifying and humbling experience.

We then proceeded to the Senate offices to meet with Senator Seward's staff. We met with about 15 others from the League and another organization to support the bill. Although Senator Seward was concerned primarily with the issue in the bill of women's reproductive rights, we reassured him/them that we supported the total bill and not just that one point.

Totally exhausted, we boarded the bus for the trip back to Cortland. Not to rest on our laurels, Kay Sharp was up early the next day, planning a trip to Seneca Falls where Governor Cuomo began his state tour to promote the Women's Equality Bill. She picked up the banner from my house with a smile on her face and her League pin proudly displayed on her shirt.

Lucia A. Sciore

Barbara Bartoletti and Kay Sharp
VOTER SERVICES

We had an exciting start to the new election year. Voter Services is busy: we hosted the Lansing School Board Forum and our first ever press conference, an effort to promote Governor Cuomo's Women's Equality Agenda. Thank you all who attended and are in support. (Remember to write your Senator in support of the bill.)

Clare Nicholetti and I attended a training session on VOTE411.org. I attended an additional session, at the State Convention, on how to input local candidates on the 411 site. I will need HELP with this and ask for assistance. Not all of the tasks require access or knowledge of computers. Much of the work requires phone or face-to-face contact with candidates.

We will table throughout the summer at various places. If there are any useful locations that you

know of, please contact me. We’ve received permission to be at Farmer's Market on Saturdays (Steamboat Landing), Thursday (Dewitt Park), and Wednesday (East Hill). Additionally, we hope to be tabling at Greenstar and Tops: not every day, but at least a couple of times at each market. We definitely will be doing the Apple Festival again this year. We need to be more visible to attract new members. and will email you with offers of times and dates that need to be covered.

Finally, the Tompkins League now has a Facebook Page. Please "like" us and tell anyone you know that we are here! A good way to increase our presence in the community and the world!

Lucia Sciore
Director of Voter Services
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<th>YOUR REPRESENTATIVES IN WASHINGTON</th>
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<tr>
<td>SENATORS:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kirsten E. Gillibrand 202-224-4451</td>
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<td>Charles E. Schumer 202-224-6542;</td>
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<td>REPRESENTATIVES:</td>
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<td>Tom Reed 202-225-3161; 607-654-7566;</td>
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<td>59th—Towns of Ithaca, Newfield, Enfield, Ulysses, &amp; City of Ithaca</td>
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<th>ASSEMBLYWOMAN</th>
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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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League of Women Voters of Tompkins County
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