PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our Annual Meeting is coming soon – Monday, May 5 at 6:00 p.m. at the Salvation Army. We plan to hold a brief business meeting after dinner. It will address approval of last year’s meeting minutes, election of Board members, and approval of the 2014-15 budget. We’ll devote the rest of the evening to discussing the priorities of our League.

There will be a short presentation by committees reviewing where they’ve been in the past year and plans for the future. There are the two committees: Natural Resources and Healthcare. There will also be a presentation on voter services and the Women’s Equality Agenda.

We will not have an outside speaker this year. The Board felt it was important to focus on hearing suggestions from the general membership on where our League should focus in the near future. We want to know from you on what programs our committees should focus their efforts.

Our February meeting was on human trafficking, one of the 10-points of the Women’s Equality Agenda. This month I had the opportunity to attend a very interesting and thought provoking program on human trafficking at Cornell University.

(continued)
This is the time of year when we have an opportunity to meet with our legislators. I’ve contacted Senators Seward and O’Mara as well as Assemblywoman Barbara Lifton and am waiting to get dates to meet with them to discuss our legislative agenda that covers election reform, natural resources and the women’s equality agenda. These meetings have always been informative and worthwhile. Members of the Board will each talk about one of these topics. If you have a particular message you would like emphasized, please send them to me before April 20th.

I hope to see you at the Annual Meeting. The Board wants to hear from you: your ideas and suggestions.

Kay Sharp, President

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**NATURAL RESOURCES 2014-15**

The natural resources committee had a very successful program on Cayuga Lake and its watershed on March 31. We want to thank our speakers, Bill Foster and Hilary Lambert, and also our co-sponsors: the Ithaca Journal, Cayuga Waterfront Trails Initiative, the Sciencenter, and Sustainable Tompkins. Attendance was strong, with a total of around 60. It was a pleasure to see people from different parts of the community, thanks to the efforts of our co-sponsors.

We are now planning our programs and other activities for the coming year. Our main effort will be to develop two public programs. One will focus on what is happening locally concerning the development and use of renewable energy resources as well as what can realistically be achieved in the near future. The other program will focus on the science of climate disruption due to global warming. This program will present an analysis of the causes and results of this disruption in terms that can be understood by the non-scientist.

We will continue to follow the issue of fracking, follow up on the NYS Energy Plan, monitor the status of the proposal to repower the Cayuga Plant with natural gas, and investigate the general issues of preservation of our clean water supplies and the growth of local agriculture. We will respond to these issues as the opportunity arises.

Kay Wagner, Natural Resources

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

| Board Members | 6/15 President | Kay Sharp | 272-4748 | phylliskaysharp@gmail.com |
| | 6/15 Vice. Pres. | Florence Smith | 273-6147 | FloSmith42@aol.com |
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| | 6/14 Director | Kathy Burlitch | 539-7316 | kblurlitch@frontiernet.net |
| | 6/14 Director | Lucia Sciore | 351-0221 | luciasciore@gmail.com |
| | 6/15 Director | Clare Nicholetti | 272-8572 | claren919@yahoo.com |
| | 6/14 Director | Amy Panek | 617-448-6841 | amy.panek@gmail.com |

| Off-Board Chairs: | Membership, Co-H.C. | Debbie Levin | 273-7746 | dlevin01@twcny.rr.com |
| | 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 Editor | Robert Silsbee | 273-1436 | rhs1@cornell.edu |
ANNUAL MEETING

This year, the Board is planning a different kind of celebration for our Annual Dinner Meeting. Instead of hosting a speaker, we will gather to celebrate being part of the League of Women Voters of Tompkins County, and enjoy a relaxed dinner with good company and sparkling conversation. We will recognize all those who have contributed to our work, celebrate our accomplishments and discuss our plans, hopes and dreams for next year.

The Annual Dinner and meeting will be Monday, May 5, 2014 from 6:00 to 8:30 PM at the Salvation Army.

Following dinner, there will be a short business meeting to consider and vote on the Annual Budget, the nominating committee’s slate of officers, the nominating committee for the next fiscal year, and other important matters. Members of the Board and Committee chairs will lead a discussion of our accomplishments this year and seek feedback from the members regarding possible plans for next year’s activities.

The Dinner will consist of Vegetarian Lasagna, tossed salad, bread, beverages and cake for dessert. To reserve space, please send your check for $15 per person, BEFORE MONDAY, APRIL 28, to Maria Eisner, 410 Savage Farm Drive, Ithaca, NY 14850.

Florence Smith, VP Program

HEALTH CARE — 2014-15

The Health Care Committee of the Tompkins County League of Women Voters is looking forward to a very active 2014.

We will continue to monitor local, state and national health care legislation, laws, and programs that promote access to basic levels of equitable and affordable health care for all. We will:

• monitor the continuing multi-year “roll out” of programs and initiatives of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act;
• follow the progress of Universal Health care at the national level and the Single Payer Health Plan at the New York State;
• track the results of the new enrollment in New York State of Health insurance plans; and
• review the changes that result from implementation of Medicaid Redesign Team plan in New York State.

We will be seeking to increase our health care collaborations, co-sponsorships, and connections with several organizations: New York State Wide Senior Action Council, Visiting Nurse Service of Ithaca and Tompkins County, American Association of University Women, neighboring county Leagues and the State League.

We also want to explore and examine the “connections” that exist among health care issues such as the health impacts of managing our natural resources and promoting women’s health care issues.

We have lots of work to do and anticipate a very busy and productive 2014! Won’t you join us?

Debbie Levin, Sarah Jane Blake
Co-Chairs, Health Care Committee

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YOUR REPRESENTATIVES IN WASHINGTON

SENATORS:
Kirsten E. Gillibrand 202-224-4451 e-mail and web-site: www.gillibrand.senate.gov
Charles E. Schumer 202-224-6542; senator@schumer.senate.gov; www.schumer.senate.gov

REPRESENTATIVES:
Tom Reed 202-225-3161; 607-654-7566; e-mail and web-site: reed.house.gov

YOUR REPRESENTATIVES IN ALBANY

SENATORS
James Seward 518-455-3131; 607-758-9005 www.nysenate.gov/senator/james-l-seward
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

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