Challenges to Women’s Health and Well-being

Four programs in our Women’s Healthcare Series

See page 3

Candidates’ Forum

ITHACA CITY COURT JUDGE

Wednesday, Sept. 3, at 7:00 pm
Tompkins County Public Library

Candidates:
Kristine Shaw
Seth Peacock
Rick Wallace

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

I hope you have had a good summer, full of friends and family, or on a great vacation. I enjoyed my trip to Central Europe, a place I have never been before. But now it’s time to get back to League activities and make a contribution to our community.

I’m particularly excited about our September program series: Challenges to Women’s Health and Well-being. In February 2013 Governor Cuomo announced his 10-point women’s equality agenda. Last September we held a press conference announcing our support of that agenda. Unfortunately, it did not get passed into law. The Assembly passed a bill covering the entire ten points; the Senate developed ten separate bills and passed all but the tenth one – that dealing with women’s reproductive health choices. Hence, our need is to keep the spotlight on the 10 points. We need the Assembly and Senate to work together and get this agenda passed into law.

We’ve never had four programs in one month. It is a big undertaking, but I know that our League can do what it sets its mind to. The speakers are from different organizations within our community and it promises to be a great series. I hope that you will attend all four programs. Again, if anyone needs transportation, call me and I will make arrangements to

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get you to the programs. We want a good presence of League members at these meetings.

It will soon be fall and we are already organizing candidate forums for the community. We were at Ithaca College on Tuesday registering young voters. There will be other voter registration activities announced; I hope you will volunteer. There will be announcements of candidate forums soon. These activities are the greatest contributions the League offers to our citizens.

I hope you are all looking forward to the League’s upcoming events as much as I am.

Kay Sharp

HEALTH CARE

The League of Women Voters of Tompkins County will be presenting a four part series, Challenges to Women’s Healthy & Well-being. All of the meetings will take place in the Borg Warner Room at the Tompkins County Public Library on Monday evenings at 7:30pm. The first presentation will be on Monday, September 8; the topic is Reproductive Rights. The speaker will be Renee Bracey Sherman, Cornell Policy Review Communications Chair.

On Monday, September 15, Kristi Taylor, Adult Communication Educator at the Advocacy Center of Tompkins County will speak on Domestic Violence Against Women.

Monday, September 22’s topic will be Sexual Harassment in the Workplace, presented by Karen W. Baer, Director of the Tompkins County Office of Human Rights.

For the last meeting, September 29, Barbara Thomas, First Vice President, Pay Equity Specialist, League of Women Voters New York State, will speak on Pay Equity.

This is a very ambitious project, which we hope will have a good turnout. The meetings are all free and open to the public and the topics are all ones that are very current and have gotten lots of exposure in the press recently. There will be ample time after each talk for questions.

This series is co-sponsored by Planned Parenthood of the Southern Finger Lakes, National Organization for Women, Tompkins County Human Rights Commission, New York StateWide Senior Action Council, Ithaca Health Alliance and the AAUW.

Sarah Jane Blake

VOTER SERVICES

Voter Services is gearing up for the 2014 Election Season. There is a Pre-primary Forum planned for September 3, 2014 for the three Ithaca City Court Judge candidates. Another Forum is being planned for October 22, 2014, for the two candidates for the New York State 125th Assembly District.

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<td>Sep 3</td>
<td>Wed 7:00 pm</td>
<td>CANDIDATES’ FORUM: CITY JUDGE</td>
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<td>Sep 8</td>
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<td>Oct 6</td>
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<td>Oct 22</td>
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Challenges to Women’s Health & Well-being

Please join us for our Women’s Healthcare Series
Mondays this September, 7:30 – 9 p.m.
Borg Warner Room, Tompkins County Public Library, Ithaca

**Monday, September 8, 2014**
Reproductive Rights
Speaker: Renee Bracey Sherman, Fellow – MPA Candidate 2015; Editor, Online Content, Cornell Policy Review Communications Chair, Women in Public Policy

**Monday, September 15, 2014**
Domestic Violence Against Women
Speaker: Kristi Taylor, Adult Community Educator, Advocacy Center of Tompkins County

**Monday, September 22, 2014**
Sexual Harassment in the Workplace
Speaker: Karen W. Baer, Director, Tompkins County Office of Human Rights

**Monday, September 29, 2014**
Pay Equity
Speaker: Barbara Thomas, 1st Vice President, Pay Equity Specialist, League of Women Voters New York State

Co-sponsors
Planned Parenthood of the Southern Finger Lakes
National Organization for Women
Tompkins County Human Rights Commission

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
We plan to table at a lot of the old favorites: Farmers Market & Apple Festival. We are tabling again this year at Ithaca College and Tompkins Cortland Community College and are offering Student Membership Rates. Additionally, we have been asked to table at Ellis Hollow Apartments and at another City Judge Forum (sponsored by Activists Committed To Interrupting Oppression Now, at GIAC on August 26th).

We have been working feverishly on VOTE411.org, a new website designed to offer voters a wealth of information on races at all levels of government. Local races and candidates should be up soon so check the website and relax while you peruse the candidates and state referenda on the ballot.

Lucia Sciore and Amy Panek

MEMBERSHIP

Informed and active citizens joining together to explore common problems and identify shared goals, can resolve the tough issues that confront our community, our nation and our world. Be directly involved in shaping important national, state, and local issues by continuing your support of the League of Women Voters and renewing your membership.

Your membership supports and continues the work of the League at the national, state, and local levels, and includes a range of activities such as nonpartisan voter services and candidate forums, community education programs, studies on issues, youth leadership and civic engagement through the Students Inside Albany program, and advocacy/lobbying/testifying on public policy issues.

Your level of support and involvement is your choice. It can be supporting the League financially and renewing your membership, or more active involvement such as participating in voter registration and voter education activities, joining a committee, serving on the Board, attending candidate forums and public meetings, writing to your elected representatives and, of course, voting on election day.

You will be receiving your membership renewal letter in the mail shortly. Please take a few minutes and complete the Membership Form on the reverse side of the letter so that we can update your contact information, your preference for how you would like to receive the Bulletin, and how you would like to be involved. Please send your completed Membership Form and dues check to me by October 31, 2014.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please feel free to call. The Board and I look forward to greeting you personally at our next meeting.

Kathleen Yen, 257-8199

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The Natural Resources Committee is planning our programs for the coming year. Our first program will be held on Monday, November 17. It will focus on the need to adapt to climate change in our agricultural practices and in other areas of impact. Climate change is already happening, so although we need to do as much as possible to reduce the amount of change, we also need to learn about ways to adapt.

Our second program, to be held in March, will be a joint program with the Health Care Committee. This program will look at our common interests when we consider the effect our environment has on our health. When we look at the many issues and concerns we have about our environment we realize that choices made can have a significant impact on the health and well-being of the residents. We are looking forward to working on these issues with our Health Care Committee.

In addition to developing these programs, we continue to monitor and, when appropriate, be involved in issues surrounding both fracking and the need to move to renewable energy resources. We also plan to spend time this fall exploring the proposal called Reforming Energy Vision that has been put forth by the Public Service Commission and Governor Cuomo.
This plan proposes a major change in the NYS electrical grid, a change that could support a dramatic increase in a distributed system of renewable energy resources. The plan is, however, quite complex and we need to better understand both its positive and negative features.

As always, we welcome new members to our committee. If you are interested please contact Kay Wagner 539-3322, cmw18@cornell.edu

**PROGRAM**

The Health Care Committee planned to focus on Health Care for Women during this program year 2014/2015. At the Annual Meeting on May 5th, the plan was warmly received and approved by all. During the Summer the Committee met with Kay Sharp to plan how we would do justice to such a large, complicated and important issue. The group decided to split the topic into 4 separate sessions, invite 4 different experts to speak and schedule one presentation each week in September.

We understood that we had chosen an ambitious project for September. We immediately began collaborating with other groups, to find excellent speakers and enlist the support of co-sponsors to produce the Women’s Healthcare Series of 4 public educational programs in September as described on pages 2 & 3.

Please do your part and help us spread the word among your friends and colleagues. Invite them to attend all 4 programs or choose the specific topic of interest. We ask for your help. Let’s make this series have a positive impact in our community!

The Natural Resources Committee will sponsor a program on Monday, November 17th, *Adapting to Climate Change*. It will be held at Tompkins Public Library, Borg Warner Room, 7:00-9:00 p.m. Watch for more information next month.

Florence B. Smith, VP Programs
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

League of Women Voters of Tompkins County
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