Advocacy Training and Lobby Day

The state League's annual Advocacy Training and Lobby Day has been scheduled for April 24th in the NYS Museum (we'll make sure you have time to view the special exhibit at the Museum on women's suffrage history, too). Any member is welcome to attend.

Come learn about our advocacy agenda, hear directly from the Issue Specialists about our expected action for the 2018 Legislative Session and lobby your own legislators.

Click here to print out and mail a registration form. Click here to register online. The topics on which we will be lobbying will depend on how the budget negotiations turn out.
Health Committee Concurrence

Our January program was on death with dignity, physician assisted death. State League asked us to consider this issue by concurrence. This is not a study, rather a concurrence with Utah’s recent research and position. This was decided at the 2017 State League Convention.

There are a few states that allow, by law, a physician to assist a terminally ill in their death. New York is not one of them. By polling the audience attending the January program and ascertaining board members’ positions, we reached concurrence. We support the following: (1) The League of Women Voters of New York believes state laws should grant the option for a terminally ill person to request medical assistance from a relevant, licensed physician to end one’s life and (2) The League of Women Voters of New York believes such legislation should include safeguards against for the dying and/or medical personnel.

Our concurrence was reported to State League. The deadline for local Leagues to report their position is February 15. It will be some time before we hear about the overall support/opposition. We will keep you informed.

-Kay Sharp
Happy New Year! Maybe a little late, but I hope you have a good 2018.

At our January program on physician assisted death, several people, community members and new League members, asked me why the League of Women Voters was getting involved with this topic. In exploring this question with them, I realized that we as a League have to educate people about the many, wide spread issues on which we have taken a position. People think we are just about voter registration and advocacy for campaign financing. They do not know about our positions, for example, on child care, women’s health, immigration, the death penalty, gun control; and the list continues. We as a League of Women Voters have a responsibility to educate our community. I will try to address this narrow view of the League by writing items for the media. You can take on this responsibility by talking to friends, relatives and other people you know. You could write a letter to the editor about your passion for any of the myriad of issues. Let’s roll up our sleeves and get to work. Let’s expand our community’s beliefs about the League.

National League has decided to change the bylaws to reflect who can join the League of Women Voters. They have decided, and we’re considering this change. The bylaws would read “any person 16 years or older…” can join the League. The League of Women Voters has changed the age of membership and taken out the issue of citizenry. This is a bold, but definitely needed, change in who we invite into our organization. I think this gives us some new ways to get new members, such as going into high schools and offering membership to a younger age group. We could go to local churches to find persons who are coming to the United States and have not obtained citizenship yet. Again, we have a responsibility to jump into action; let’s find new members in new ways.

A topic that everyone associates with the League is voter rights. New York State League is encouraging us and all of the local Leagues to meet with their legislators in the next couple of weeks. They want us to talk to them about a change in when we can vote. Early voting is the focus. As you know, New York has one of the lowest rates of voter participation. The goal is to engage more people by offering them 10 additional days to vote. I have called Senator O’Mara and Assembly member Barbara Lifton to meet with us and discuss the importance of early voting and the need for monies to implement this change. Governor Cuomo endorses early voting and we know what it would cost, now we need the budget to allocate monies for this change.

So a lot is going on in the League of Women Voters, on all tiers. I’m excited; I hope you are too.

Kay Sharp
Tompkins County is urgently in need of more housing, especially affordable housing. At the same time, it is important that any new development be done with environmental and land use issues in mind. In particular, climate change and its accompanying problems must be taken into account while we meet the needs of our community.

With this in mind, the Natural Resources Committee is presenting the program “Housing Needed: Affordable for People – Friendly for the Environment, It Can Be Done!”. It will be held on Monday, February 26 at 7pm in the Borg Warner Room of the Tompkins County Public Library. Our speakers will be Megan McDonald, Deputy Commissioner of the Tompkins County Department of Planning and Sustainability and Joe Bowes, Director of Real Estate Development, Ithaca Neighborhood Housing Services. Co-sponsors are Campaign for Renewable Energy, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Tompkins County, Fossil Free Tompkins, Sustainable Tompkins, and Tompkins County Environmental Management Council. Megan McDonald will discuss efforts being made by the county and the problems that need to be solved. Joe Bowes will discuss the work that INHS has been doing in creating new developments and in refurbishing existing housing. Both are concerned that new housing be done in a way that protects the environment and also meets the needs of residents for transportation, local shops and services. So put this on your calendar and come to the program!

Our committee is also putting together a list of books, both nonfiction and fiction, that focus on environmental issues. If you have some books you would like to recommend please send the information to Kay Wagner. You can also contact her if you would like to know more about what our committee is doing. She can be reached at cmw18@cornell.edu, 607-539-3322.

Kay Wagner, Chair Natural Resources Committee, LWVTC
Interested in becoming a league member?

The league would love to have you!

Who can join LWV-TC? Membership is open to all men and women, 16 years or older.

What does membership bring?
Joining the League of Tompkins County automatically enrolls you in the League of Women Voters of New York State and the League of Women Voters of the United States.

Membership includes our Voter newsletter with reports, legislative action, events, news, membership updates, and more. For more information, here is our Membership Booklet.

To join LWV-TC, print and complete the membership form and return it to the address indicated on the form.

You will receive a packet from the Membership Chair. If you have problems accessing or printing the form, please contact lwvtompkins@gmail.com.

FOLLOW
THE LEAGUE ON SOCIAL MEDIA
TWITTER @ LWVTOMPKINS
HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/LEAGUEOFWOMENVOTERSOF TOMPKINS COUNTY/
**Program Committee Update**

The program committee met on Feb 1 to discuss future program content, videotaping challenges and ways to use social media to enhance program publicity.

The committee proposed offering events is April this year. Stay tuned as we explore participating in Advocacy Training and Lobby Day in Albany (April 24) and organizing a Social Media Workshop in Ithaca.

The fall 2018 programs will on the following dates: September 24, October 22, and November 12.

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**You can donate while you shop!**

You can support the League’s Education Foundation with every purchase you make on Amazon.com

From your desktop:
1. Sign in to smile.amazon.com

2. Go to Your Account from the navigation at the top of any page, and then select the option to Change your Charity.

3. Just select the LWVNYS Education Foundation as the organization you wish to support, and Amazon provides .5% of each purchase price.

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**A quick history lesson**

- New York State women secured the right to vote on November 6, 1917.
- League of Women Voters New York State was founded on November 19, 1919.
- League of Women Voters of the United States was founded on February 14, 1920.
- The 19th Amendment to the US Constitution (giving American women the right to vote) was officially certified on August 26, 1920.
Looking Ahead in 2018

*The National Convention is scheduled for June 28th-July 1st, in Chicago! Welcome to the Windy City!

*The Voter Registration committee will very soon be announcing the 2018 voter registration dates. Keep an eye out for opportunities to volunteer.

**Join the nominating committee!**
Are you looking for an easy way to be involved with the league? The nominating committee is looking for three additional members, to help find individuals to fill upcoming board positions.

This committee only goes through May, and you can do this from home! Please contact Kay Wagner if you are interested.
As individuals, what can members do to advocate?

Tip of the month: Attend a community meeting. Learn about local issues and hear from elected officials. You can connect and organize with people already active in your community. Check your local government’s website or contact your local League.

"Action is agitating, organizing, educating, pleading, and persuading." -- Carrie Chapman Catt

Clarity Connect, Inc. continues to host our website, and we are grateful for their generous contribution.

Our League web page, is designed to serve League members as well as the community at large.

Our fantastic webmasters are Michael & Linda Duttweiler.

lduttweiler@gmail.com                           mduttweiler@gmail.com

Want to contact Governor Cuomo?
Email  gov.cuomo@chamber.state.ny.us or
http://www.governor.ny.gov/contact/GovernorContactForm.php
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

Pamela Helming 518-455-2366, 315-568-9816
helming@nysenate.gov
54th—Town of Lansing

Thomas O’Mara 518-455-2091; 607-735-9671
www.nysenate.gov/senator/thomas-f-omara
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

YOUR REPRESENTATIVES IN WASHINGTON

SENATORS

Kirsten E. Gillibrand 202-224-4451 e-mail and
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REPRESENTATIVES:

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

Important Links

http://lwvtompkins.org/bulletins.html
See all of the League’s Past Bulletins

http://lwvtompkins.org/calendar.html
The League’s Calendar of Events

http://lwv.org/
The National League Website

http://www.lwvny.org/
The State League Website

http://lwvtompkins.org/stand.html
Where the Tompkins County League stands on important issues

http://www.lwvtompkins.org/program_archive.html
A link to previous league sponsored programs which were videotaped.

http://www.lwvtompkins.org/voting.html