The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government. The league works to increase and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Any person 16 years and older, male or female, may become a League member.

President's Message

Hello League members! Do we have a Bulletin for you. We are gearing up for the May Annual Meeting by sending you various annual reports that you will need to vote on for 2018-19. We have accomplished a lot and plan to do even more next year.

This is the year of the National Convention. We have two delegate positions, so you should consider attending. Just let me know if you want to go and we can work out the details. You need to decide soon so you can get a reservation at the Chicago Hilton, which is where the Convention is being held.

Last month we contacted Assemblywoman Lifton and Senator O’Mara to solicit their support of early voting legislation. The Governor has put monies in his budget to expand voting to two weeks before election day, including some hours to vote on Saturday. We need to take measures to increase voter participation. Both Lifton and O’Mara are in favor of this move. Let’s hope they vote it into the budget.

National League has changed their Bylaws to open membership to people (not just citizens) 16 years and older (no longer 18 years). You will be asked to vote on this being incorporated into our Bylaws at our Annual Meeting. I hope you see this as a positive as I do. We need to branch out to younger people and different ethnic groups that we have not approached before. Just this past week I received a message from the National Latino Organization; they are interested in voter registration drives. We need to again go into the high schools in our county and ask them to get onboard. I want us to consider “Vote18” as an initiative this year.

(continued on page 2)
President’s Message (continued)

You and I have seen the television coverage of killings at our schools; gun violence is rampant. The National League, in Impact on Issues, has a powerful position on gun control. I have put it in the Bulletin so you can review it. I think this a subject that we need to focus on in the very near future. We might want to consider a “walk against gun violence” in June. Local students are demonstrating in support of the 17 victims of the last incidence of gun violence; why shouldn’t we. We cherish our youth. Let’s take a stand in support of them.

In February we received a request to moderate a candidate’s forum for local races in the Village of Trumansburg. I asked the person coordinating the event where he got our name. A relative of his was active in the State League some years ago, and she suggested he get in touch with us.

Our reputation is good for providing well-organized and effective forums. 2018 is starting off good for voter services.

Let’s do some things differently and more. We have the energy and determination of many women and men. Nothing can stop us now.

Kay Sharp
League of Women Voters Policy on Gun Control

The National League developed the following position on gun control in 1990, and amended it in 1994 and 1998. You can find this position in the League’s IMPACT ON ISSUES 2014-2016.

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that the proliferation of handguns and semi-automatic assault weapons in the United States is a major health and safety threat to its citizens. The League supports strong federal measures to limit the accessibility and regulate the ownership by private citizens. The League supports regulating firearms for consumer safety.

The League supports licensing procedures for gun ownership by private citizens to include a waiting period for background checks, personal identity verification, gun safety education and annual license renewal. The license fee should be adequate to bear the cost of education and verification.

The League supports a ban on “Saturday night specials,” enforcement of strict penalties for the improper possession of and crimes committed with handguns and assault weapons, and allocation of resources to better regulate and monitor gun dealers.
Natural Resources 2017-2018 Annual Report and Plans for Next Year
by Kay Wagner

The Natural Resources Committee has spent the past year leaning more about local housing needs and how we might address those needs while at the same time reducing our greenhouse gas emissions and making sure we protect our local environment. In order to bring these issues to the public we held a program on February 26, 2017, titled “Housing Needed: Affordable for People – Friendly for the Environment, It Can Be Done!” Our speakers were Megan McDonald, Deputy Commissioner for the Tompkins county Department of Planning and Sustainability, and Joe Bowes, Director of Real Estate for Ithaca Neighborhood Housing Services. We were fortunate to have as co-sponsors Campaign for Renewable Energy, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Tompkins County, Fossil Free Tompkins, Sustainable Tompkins, and Tompkins County Environmental Management Council.

Megan McDonald gave a brief overview of some of the findings from the county housing study and discussed strategies the county is developing for increasing the amount of affordable housing while at the same time paying attention to environmental issues and the availability of public transportation. Joe Bowes discussed both the new projects INHS has recently developed and ones they are hoping to build in the near future. He also described the steps INHS is taking to rehabilitate the homes and apartments they own, making sure to increase their energy efficiency in the process. The audience asked many good, well-informed questions and urged the speakers to use heat pumps rather than fossil fuels for heating in both old and new construction.

Although our main focus has been on the issue of housing needs, we have continued to monitor environmental issues at the local, state and national levels. In particular, we are in regular contact with the LWVNY Committee on Agriculture, Energy and the Environment.

As our committee begins to think about the coming year we plan to look beyond the question of good places to construct new housing and learn about the more general issue of competing land uses in the future of the county. This will mean looking at county maps and asking questions such as what land is good for development, what will be viable places for solar and wind farms, how do we ensure that agricultural land is preserved and used, and what land is being set aside in land trusts or hopefully will be in the future. As we learn more about good use of land within the county, we also want to focus on agricultural practices and the potential for doing what is called “carbon farming” locally. It will also be important to think about ways to help municipalities preserve their land in the face of likely cutbacks in federal financial aid.
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

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP REPORT by Alene Wyatt and Lory Saltzman

Currently Tompkins County League of Women Voters has 76 Members. Of these there are: 65 Primary and Life Members and 11 Additional Household Memberships.

Sadly long time active Life Member Libby deProsse died on February 16th. We will miss Libby, and others too, now in declining health or moved away.

We welcome back……………..Martha Wright!

New Household Members…..Elizabeth Sciore-Jones and Maury Tigner, and new Member Lisa Campbell

As always we want to encourage those who are interested in the issues of the day and in helping others to vote, and vote intelligently, to join us in that endeavor. Generally that interest in our League activities on the part of our friends have been the ways our new members have found us.

Publicity about our public programs, the programs themselves, and the articles in the local media generated by informed study in our committees may also encourage interest and involvement in the League. To reach out to program attendees, we passed two sheets at our last program asking for Emails of those who would like to receive electronically our Bulletin and/or notice of future programs. Those without Email were advised to contact Megan. There were 27 signatories, a few, members, who already receive both, with the rest requesting the Bulletin and/or notices.
League of Women Voters of NYS Regional Training Meetings

Tentative Workshop Topics
- Moderating Candidate Forums
- Creatively Managing Your Local League
- Getting your Members Active on Issues
- Motivating Voters to Vote
- Engaging Youth in Our Democracy
- Social Media & Apps for Engaging New Members and the Public
- Becoming a Player in Your Community: Observer Corps, Hot Topics & Collaboration
- Raising Funds & Having Fun
- Making the Most of Voter Service Activities
- Civic Education & Engagement for Students & Communities

Register online at:
https://secure.lglforms.com/form_engine/s/1Z8RiqOqQSIzwMaEDIpS-Q

OR
Click here for registration form.

Send completed form and $20 check:
League of Women Voters of NYS
62 Grand St, Albany, NY 12207

If you are interested and want to know more information, please contact Kay Sharp.

What: The League of Women Voters of NYS invites all members to come to training workshops being held throughout the state on Saturdays. All members are invited to attend any or all of the workshops.

Where: (CNY Living History Museum, 4386 US-11, Cortland, NY 13045)

When: April 7, 10:00-3:00pm

Cost: Lunch will be provided and will allow for informal networking among the attendees (no program). There is a $20 charge to cover other expenses.
Do you have a calculator and a few spare hours a month? Come be our treasurer!

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TOMPKINS COUNTY
TREASURER’S JOB DESCRIPTION

MONTHLY:
Maintain checking account: Pay bills and process reimbursements, Prepare deposits, Reconcile monthly bank statements
Process any tax-deductible donations for the LWV-TC Education Fund made out to the Community Foundation of Tompkins County as they come in. Monthly Reports to the Board

SEMI-ANNUALLY:
Annual Per Member Payments State and National Leagues
Electronic Tax Filings: NY State Sales Tax Report, due March 20, Federal Form 990-N e-postcard

ANNUALLY:
Annual Budget:
Prepare Proposed Budget for presentation to the Board in February/March
Board approved Budget must be submitted to Membership 30 days before the Annual Meeting, Present Budget/Annual Report at Annual Meeting in May

**Training is available, as well as other board members who are willing to co-chair.
CLOTHING DURING THE SUFFRAGETTE ERA

Denise Green, Curator of the Cornell Costume Collection and Assistant Professor, Department of Fiber Science & Apparel Design, Cornell University.

ANNUAL SOUP AND BREAD LUNCHEON

MARCH 24TH, 12-2PM UNITARIAN CHURCH ANNEX ITHACA

TOMPKINS COUNTY LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

Annual Meeting & Dinner
Date: Monday, May 7, 5:30 – 8:00pm
Location: Salvation Army, 150 North Albany St
Dinner: Choice of meat/vegetarian lasagna, green salad, bread, dessert, tea, coffee
Price: $15

A special presentation by Dr. Laura Free, Hobart & William Smith

Business meeting led by Kay Sharp, presentation of honorary member certificates by Charlotte Coffman, Students Inside Albany introduced by Megan Nettleton.

If you would like to attend, but need transportation please contact Kay Wagner or Megan Nettleton.
Voter Services Report by Mandy Qualls

This past year, 2017, was another active year for the Voter Services Committee. In addition to registering new voters, we held 4 candidate forums, and volunteers with the League continued to take opportunities to present to youth and community members on the importance of voting.

Our wonderful and dedicated Voter Services volunteers represented the League at many festivals and events around the county, including: Naturalization Ceremonies; Ithaca Festival; Apple Festival; National Voter Registration Day; Ithaca Farmers’ Market; TC3 and Cornell University.

We moderated the Ithaca 5th Ward Common Council candidate debate, the Tompkins County Democratic Party Congressional candidate debate for the NY 23rd District congressional seat, Ithaca District 3, and Ithaca District 4.

Next year, Voter Services plans to hold voter registration drives at Cornell, Ithaca College, and Tompkins Cortland Community College. We have also received a request from the President of the Latino Civic Association of Tompkins County to hold one or several registration drives. We also plan to continue our voter registration drives at each Naturalization Ceremony, the Ithaca Festival, the Apple Harvest Festival, and the Ithaca Farmers Market.

We continue to post regularly to the League Facebook page and Twitter account to keep everyone informed, and we encourage all members to share it with others.

We welcome your feedback on places and events to register voters across the county and we encourage you to get to know the League and the community by volunteering for a tabling event this year. 2018 brings us another opportunity for a big year, as we have several local, state, and national elections affecting our county. We would love to have you come volunteer with us for as many or as few events with which you are comfortable.

If you would like to volunteer, or have any questions or comments on Voter Services, please contact Mandy Qualls (mandyqualls@gmail.com).
In Memory

Long-time member Elizabeth (Libby) deProsse passed away on February 16, 2018 at the age of 94.

Libby cared very deeply about social justice issues, and to spend the energies in ways to make this a better world. The League of Women Voters was a prime beneficiary of her efforts.

Libby served on the board in a variety of roles, beginning not long after she joined the league over fifty years ago. Most notably, she served as president for several lengthy stints, offering her special and much appreciated leadership.

The League, whether as individuals, committees, or as a whole, was quite active and accomplished some significant things during those years. But we couldn’t have done it without Libby.

Among all of us who knew her, Libby will be remembered with great affection and admiration for her spirit.

**The first women’s rights convention in the United States was held at the Wesleyan Chapel in Seneca Falls, New York, on July 19 and 20, 1848. The building is now maintained by the National Park Service.**

**Charlotte Woodward was a 19-year-old farmer’s daughter at the convention, and was the only person in attendance that lived long enough to see female suffrage become legal.**

**Lucy Stone was a leader of the women’s rights movement and lecturer for the abolitionist movement. People against her message made it known during her lectures: in midwinter, someone opened a window and threw ice water on her; Stone wrapped a shawl around her shoulders and kept talking.**

**Victoria Claflin Woodhull was a feminist, women’s rights advocate, proponent of free love and spiritualist that ran for president of the United States in 1872, 48 years before women could vote (her name did not appear on the ballot as she couldn’t pay the fees and wasn’t yet 35-years-old).**
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
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

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