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.

lwvtompkins.org
lwvtompkins@gmail.com

President’s Message
We have more information in preparation for our Annual Meeting, May 7th. Our program for that evening is great. I hope you all will come.

We moderated a candidate's forum for the Village of Trumansburg and got a nice complement. One of the candidates thanked the League for providing a fair and well-organized forum, which he pointed out he had never experienced before. I like to share with you the good comments. Fortunately, so far this year that is all that we are hearing compliments. Thank you for making us look so good in the community.

I was disappointed that we did not get early voting legislation passed. The State League had really thought we were going to get this. But, unfortunately, this item was not included in the budget. We did get a plus, legislators passed a gun safety bill. Known domestic abusers will not be able to obtain guns. I haven't heard how this is going to be implemented. I'll let you know as soon as I find out. I know it will be challenging.

This Saturday a few of us attended State League sponsored workshops on a number of topics. We gathered ideas on how to engage our youth in civics and ideas about registering them to vote while they are still in school. The implementation of these will require our League to get involved more with schools. I know that many of you who have been in the League for a long time used to do this regularly, but at this point in time we aren't making this connection. So I have my to-do list. I may call on you who used to go to our high schools to get some pointers.

(continued)
President’s Message continued...

Another topic was voter services in which we discussed at length the State’s policy on candidate forums. They went into detail regarding “empty” seats. That is, when a candidate no-shows or when a candidate is running unopposed. I know as I organized candidate forums this year, I had not understood this policy completely. Our Candidate Forum Guidelines need to be updated. So again, I have my to-do list.

In May we have planned two programs. I know that we typically don’t have a program in May, other than our Annual Dinner Meeting. We wanted to focus on gun violence given the number of marches that have taken place recently. We felt it was important for us to make the League visible as an organization that has taken a strong position on this topic. So we will be showing the film “Making a Killing: Guns, Greed and the NRA” on May 14 at Cinemapolis. See the announcement later in the Bulletin for specifics. Assemblywoman Barbara Lifton and Senator O’Mara were not available for speaking. But Ms. Lifton has arranged for one of her aides to say a few words about gun legislation following the film.

Then on May 24 we are presenting a panel discussion on gun violence and gun safety. We want to discuss the use of guns and their impact on many people’s lives.

Hope to see you May 7th for our Annual Dinner Meeting.

Kay Sharp
Health Committee Annual Report

The Health Committee presented two programs in the year 2017-2018. March 2017 we organized the program “Rockefeller Drug Laws: Alternatives to Incarceration”. The panel included a Cornell professor, the Tompkins County DA, a Judge, Alcohol/Drug Council and Cayuga Addictions Recovery Services. The community applauded this program; it resonated with the community read “The New Jim Crow Laws”.

In March 2018 a panel discussed the topic “Death with Dignity”. The pros and cons of physician assisted death was presented. The panel included a retired Professor – family member, a clergy – Coordinator of Spiritual Care at Hospicare, an attorney - NY campaign coordinator for Compassion and Choices non-profit organization, a physician- Board certified Family Physician.

The Committee is considering two programs for 2018-19. They both focus on challenges to our community. One is “Opioid addiction in Tompkins County – How do we avoid drug-related deaths?”. The second one is “Hungry and Homeless in Tompkins County – Services and how do we address current gaps in services?”

Debbie Levin, Kay Sharp, Ann Warde, Diane Kelleher

League of Women Voters of Tompkins County
433 Savage Farm Drive
Ithaca, NY 14850

Your name could be here! The board is always looking for more members.
*Celebrate our new honorary life members: Lucia Armstrong and Virginia Bizzell.


*Learn about the Students In Albany Program.

Invite a friend who might be interested in joining the League to be your guest.

Meet Dr. Laura Free, Associate Professor, Department of History, Hobart and William Smith Colleges, Geneva, NY. Dr. Free obtained degrees from Grinnell College, Binghamton University and Cornell University. She teaches history at Hobart and William Smith Colleges and is well known for her work on suffrage topics, including her latest book, Suffrage Reconstructed: Gender, Race, and Voting Rights in the Civil War Era. She has fond memories of accompanying her mother to LWV meetings, and I am certain that you will have fond memories of her upcoming presentation.

——A quick RSVP to cwc4@cornell.edu is appreciated. Include a request for transportation if needed——
The Natural Resources Committee

The Natural Resource Committee will be holding a meeting in May to plan our activities for the next two or three years and we are hoping that some of you who are not on our committee will join in on this discussion (and maybe even decide to join our committee).

We are interested in studying issues concerning land use in Tompkins County. But there are many directions we can take in learning about and taking action on this important subject. Our interest has been in part stimulated by the focus on housing needs we have had this past year. But it has also come to the front when we think about farming (including preserving our farms, water run-of problems, the possibilities of doing carbon farming, etc.), preserving and enlarging our undeveloped land through efforts such those made to build the emerald necklace, questions about where development should and should not occur, protecting our environment and dramatically reducing our greenhouse gas emissions, and many more concerns.

During our meeting in May we will discuss productive and interesting ways for our local League to focus on these critical issues. We hope to develop a plan for the next two or three years rather than one year at a time. All our LWVTC members are invited and encouraged to attend.

We are still deciding on a date and time, so if you would like to come please contact Kay Wagner (cmw18@cornell.edu; 607-539-3322) to let her know what days and times of the week are good for you.

We look forward to seeing a good number of members at our meeting.

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
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In response to recent rallies, walk-outs, and marches related to gun violence, we are offering two additional programs in May. You will receive details and reminders as these programs develop. Please mark these dates now on your calendar.

Monday, May 7, 7-9pm    Film: Making a Killing — Guns, Greed and the NRA, Cinemapolis

Monday, May 14, 7-9pm    Perspectives on Guns: A Conversation, Tompkins County Public Library

The Robert Greenwald film Making a Killing: Guns, Greed and the NRA features personal stories from people who have been affected by gun violence including unintentional shootings, domestic violence, suicides, mass shootings and gun trafficking.

It exposes the profit of gun companies and the role of the National Rifle Association. It explores ways that we can reduce gun violence in our communities.
During our annual Soup and Bread Luncheon on March 24, members and guests enjoyed tasty soups, good conversation and a cozy setting away from the cold winds of March.

We were informed and entertained by Dr. Denise Green’s presentation Women Empowered: Fashions from the Frontline. Denise is an Assistant Professor and Curator of the Cornell Costume and Textile Collection, Department of Fiber Science & Apparel Design, Cornell University. She invited everyone to visit the exhibitions on view in the Human Ecology Building and to explore their online information <https://www.human.cornell.edu/fsad/about/costume/home>. Thanks to all who brought food to share!

Charlotte, VP of Programming
## Tompkins County League of Women Voters Annual Report, Programs 2017-2018

Charlotte Coffman, VP for Programs

The Tompkins County LWV strives to provide members and the public with factual, non-partisan information on topics of current interest. Thanks are due to the Natural Resources and Health Committees, as well as the past and current boards for assistance in offering these programs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Speakers/Exhibitors</th>
<th>Attendance</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 25, 2017</td>
<td>The Constitutional Convention Debate</td>
<td>Barbara Lifton, NYS Assembly Representative for District 125. Henrik Dullea, VP for University Relations Emeritus, Cornell University.</td>
<td>90</td>
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<td>October 24</td>
<td>Voting Perspectives.</td>
<td>The LWV provided a panelist, Linda Duttweiler, and co-sponsored this event, organized by the History Center.</td>
<td>21</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 2</td>
<td>Women's Suffrage and Political Office: A Seat at the Table.</td>
<td>The LWV co-sponsored this event, organized by the History Center.</td>
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<td>November 13</td>
<td>Impact of Federal and State Budgets on Tompkins County</td>
<td>Kathleen Schlather, Human Service Coalition. Frank Kruppa, Tompkins County Health Dept. Kip Kephart, Tompkins County Dept. of Social Services. Lisa Holmes, Tompkins County Office of the Aging. Beverly Chin, Human Services Coalition Health Planning Council. The co-sponsors were AAUW, the Tompkins County Public Library, the Human Service Coalition, and the New York Statewide Senior Action Council.</td>
<td>23</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Topic</td>
<td>Speakers/Exhibitors</td>
<td>Attendance</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 13</td>
<td>Saturday Brunch</td>
<td>Board Meeting Only</td>
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<td>February 26</td>
<td>Affordable for People – Friendly for the Environment, It Can Be Done!</td>
<td>Megan McDonald, Associate Planner for the Tompkins County Department of Planning and Sustainability. Joe Bowes, Director of Real Estate Development, Ithaca Neighborhood Housing The co-sponsors were Cornell Cooperative Extension of Tompkins County, Campaign for Renewable Energy, Fossil Free Tompkins, Sustainable Tompkins, and Tompkins County Environmental Management Council</td>
<td>60</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 24</td>
<td>Soup &amp; Bread Luncheon</td>
<td>For members and partner agencies. Denise Green, Curator or the Cornell Costume Collection and Assistant Professor, Department of Fiber Science &amp; Apparel Design, Cornell University.</td>
<td>16</td>
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<td></td>
<td><em>Women Empowered: Fashions from the Frontline</em></td>
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<td>April 7</td>
<td>LWV Regional Training</td>
<td>Organized by the NYS LWV, Cortland, NY</td>
<td>4</td>
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**2018-2019 Programs (proposed)**

The Program Committee is working with the board, the issue committees, and our partners to offer these programs for the coming year: Gerrymandering, Campaign Finance Reform, Opioid Abuse in Tompkins County, Hungry and Homeless in Tompkins County and other relevant topics.

As always, we encourage our membership and members of the community to suggest topics for our programs.
**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).**

### Nominating Committee Notes:

The following people have been nominated for positions on the board:

* **VP of Membership (1 year): Delores Saltzman**
* **VP of Programs: (2 years): Charlotte Coffman**
* **Co-Treasurers (2 years): Connie Stirling-Engman and Kay Wagner**
* **Voter Services (1 year): Mandy Qualls**

Nominating Committee for 2018: Ann Warde, Kay Wagner and Debbie Levin

Nominating Committee for 2019: Off-board members are Lucia Armstrong and Sally Grub. We are still looking for a third person.
As individuals, what can members do to advocate?

Tip of the month: Spread the word. Stay engaged every day, and leverage your social media followers to get involved too! Follow the League on Twitter and Facebook to find out how to make an impact.

"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_ar
dive.html
A link to previous league sponsored
programs which were videotaped.

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