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, may become a League member.

Co-President’s Message

A lot has happened since the last issue of our Bulletin. We held a very successful Special Members Meeting on September 23. Voter Services has been busy, and many important decisions were made at the Board Meeting held on October 7.

Our special members meeting was very successful. We just wish that more of you had been able to attend. Please remember that if transportation is ever a problem for you, we are happy to find rides. We welcomed a few guests at this meeting and gained three new members! At our member meeting a discussion of the $5 increase in dues was held and a vote was taken. The vote in favor was unanimous. There was discussion of ways to institute a scholarship fund to help those who would like to be members of our League but have difficulty with the cost.

Most of our time was spent not in a formal meeting but rather getting to know each other informally and talking with each other about what we do now and would like to see our League do and how individuals can get more involved.

We have plans for similar member meetings in the future highlighting opportunities for members to get involved. 
(continued on page 3)
Looking Ahead...

The March 21 Bread and Soup Luncheon has been discussed, with the possibility of holding a different type of meeting. However, most Board Members want this luncheon to continue.

It was agreed to ask members to chime in with their ideas. Who will make the soup? Could it be “soup to pass”, or a collective making of soup immediately before the lunch?

Flo Smith recommended a History Program to reflect March as Women’s History Month and agreed to coordinate the program.

PLEASE let us know what will encourage you to attend this event and what format it should be? Contact Sally or Charlotte.
The Board Meeting took place on October 7. It was good to welcome Marnie Johnson and Nancy Skipper to the meeting. **Remember, members are always welcome to attend board meetings and to participate.** Many important decisions were made.

Reports from Finance, Membership, Program and Voter Services Committees were presented, and their recommendations accepted. Treasurer Ann Coyne recommended a full review of our finances including the need to fundraise and the establishment of a special membership fund. An ad hoc committee will be set up and meet shortly to begin this review. Members interested in joining this committee should notify Ann Coyne or either of the two co-Presidents.

The Program Committee’s list of programs was approved although a program on Health will not take place until January at the earliest. Kay Wagner was authorized to make any decisions regarding the speakers for the Natural Resources program on the Climate Crisis in February.

Under new business, Ann Warde and new member Jennifer Karius introduced a new program which will be the focus of a Second Special Members meeting on November 11. Its topic is voter suppression and other issues surrounding voting. Along with continuing to get to know each other and our League, we will consider the question “Do we have a democracy crisis?” See page 11 for info. We are looking forward to your thoughts and opinions and ideas!

Sally Grubb and Kay Wagner
Voter Services Update!

Voter Services has been doing important work. We received early voting flyers from the State League, and these have been distributed to all the County Libraries. If you would like copies to distribute let us know we have a limited number left. Voter registration took place in many locations from TC3 to Porch Fest and AppleHarvest. This is a much-appreciated service we provide to the community. Thank you to everyone who was able to help.

We are delighted that Governor Cuomo at last signed the bill to change the deadline for registering with a party in order to vote in a primary from October 11 to February 14. This now gives much more time, before the April primaries, for people chose a party for the first time or to change their affiliation.

Thanks to the work of Kathy Yen, our League now participates in VOTE411, the electronic voter guide developed by the National and State Leagues to provide information about all elections, local, state and national. All candidates running for positions in Tompkins County were sent the same list of specially written questions and their answers now appear on the website www.vote411.org. This is part of our mission to support a well-informed electorate. Kathy Yen is looking for feedback on how easy this website is to use. Please go to www.vote411.org and check it out. Enter your address and see what is on your ballot. Go to all NY Races and see all races.

Your constructive criticism about the ease of navigating this site will help Kathy and other leagues make this a better and very useful source of election information. If you would like to help Kathy with this work, please let her know at kyen@twcny.rr.com and join the small group of people that is forming.

We will be sponsoring only one Candidates Forum for November’s elections, for the Town of Caroline. This takes place at 7 pm on October 22, at the Fire Hall in Brooktondale. Mandy Qualls will moderate with Kay Wagner, timer, and Nancy Skipper, collecting questions.
Vote 411, the League’s electronic voter guide, is now LIVE! Candidate information is available for candidates running in the city, town and county races. The information, provided by the candidates, includes biographical information and responses to questions posed by the League. Candidates who did not submit their information are listed with “Candidate Has Not Responded.”

Vote411 was launched in October of 2006 by the League of Women Voters Education Fund (LWVEF) to provide nonpartisan election-related information to the public. In addition to races and candidate responses to questions, information on voter registration, absentee ballots, early voting, and a calendar of candidate forums, etc. is also available on the Vote 411 website.

All of this can be accessed online at www.vote411.org in an easy-to-use electronic format. Individuals can enter their address, or scroll down to the map (click on NY), to find information on races and candidates, compare candidate information, and view the calendar of candidate forums in their area and/or across the state. A Direct link is also posted on the local League website at www.lwvtompkins.org including an “Overview” of local information found at Vote411 on our homepage.

Early voting in NYS is now available from Oct. 26 to Nov. 3 across the state. More information is available at www.nyearlyvoting.org and from the NYS League, www lwvny.org.
The Natural Resources Committee was excited to see a large audience at the presentation of the movie “Dirt Rich” that we co-sponsored. The movie was filmed at a number of places around the globe and shows how farmers in those areas are working on ways to enrich their soil while also sequestering carbon and reducing dependence on both pesticides and industrial fertilizers. There were over 200 people at the movie with many of us happily sitting on the stairs, even through a power outage.

Coming up on the evening of Thursday, October 17, is an Ithaca Water Forum being organized by Environmental Advocates of New York. We are co-sponsoring this event along with the Cayuga Lake Watershed Network. The organizers describe it as a “gathering of local advocates, municipal and county officials, and experts in the field to explore how we can advance a broader water agenda in New York’s 2020 legislative session and beyond to better align local and state policies”.

Our committee is continuing to plan our program for February 24. We are still working on speakers and a title, but the focus will be on the climate crisis and what we need to be doing now rather than later. We welcome your thoughts and ideas.

We would love to have some new members on our committee, so if you are interested in joining us contact Kay Wagner (cmw18@cornell.edu, 607-592-4770).
REORGANIZATION OF VOTER SERVICES COMMITTEE

When Mandy Qualls resigned as chair of Voter Services Committee because of her increased work commitments and her inability to give the time needed to fulfill the role, we realized this job has become too much for one person. In fact, it is not so long ago that Voter Services had co-chairs. It was agreed at the Board Meeting to reorganize Voter Services. It will be divided into three areas of responsibility with one person in charge of each area or sub-committee and committee members working with them.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Candidate Forums</th>
<th>VOTE411</th>
<th>Voter Registration</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Will be responsible for organizing forums, arranging moderator training sessions, and recruiting committee members to help by handling questions and time keeping.</td>
<td>The second sub-committee should be VOTE411. Organizing this is a major job and needs more than one person to work on it. Kathy should have help from other interested League members. Making this a sub-committee under Kathy’s leadership we can more easily promote it and recruit people to help. Please see Page 5 for a press release on VOTE411.</td>
<td>This sub-committee should be responsible only for organizing voter registration events and not for organizing events to promote the League. Voter Registration should be an end-in-itself and not a way of promoting our League. We should do voter registration because it is needed and whenever possible and appropriate, work with other organizations.</td>
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<tr>
<td>The chair does not have to be a moderator, but of course can. Both Mandy Qualls and Lucia Armstrong have volunteered to give training sessions.</td>
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<td>This structure should allow this group to organize our own candidate forums, as well as respond to community requests.</td>
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Additional information on the REORGANIZATION OF VOTER SERVICES COMMITTEE

It is anticipated that one of the sub-committee chairs would be overall chair of Voter Services.

Each sub-committee would have an annual organizational meeting planning activities for the year.

No longer one person organizing everything, but many people each doing a small part.

We will be reaching out to members who have expressed interest in Voter Services to see who will help achieve this re-organization and take our Voter Service activities to even greater heights.

If you want to be involved, please contact Sally Grubb!

Kelly Morris and Nancy Skipper, registering voters with the League at the Apple Harvest Festival.
New Committees: Help Wanted!

Several new committees were proposed and approved at our recent Board Meeting.

- **History Committee.** We have had an ad hoc History committee for some time now and the members under Flo Smith’s excellent leadership have been going through our historical records and other documents, and depositing them in the archives at the History Center at Tompkins County. It was agreed to make this ad hoc committee a full Board Committee because of the importance of its on-going work. The committee will also present one history related program a year. Flo has agreed to continue chairing this committee.

- **Youth Outreach Committee.** We already support the State Program “Students in Albany” coordinated for us by Megan Nettleton, but we have no group that concentrates on outreach specifically to youth. We decided to create a Youth Outreach Committee which will include the “Students in Albany” program.

- **Community Outreach Committee.** We currently do not have a committee that concentrates on community outreach and promotes our league. When an event comes up such as Women’s Equality Day, Voter Services ends up organizing a Voter Registration event. We feel we need a group that is specifically responsible for promoting our League and reaching out to the community. Megan Nettleton who is already an at Large Board Member and responsible for our PR has agreed to be the first chair of this committee. The committee will organize events such as Women’s Equality Day, as well as reaching out to the community to recruit new members.

Now we need your participation to make these committees function and be worthwhile.

If you would like to be involved in any way with History of the League, Youth activities or Community outreach PLEASE, PLEASE let us know.
Membership dues have been increased by $5 to $60 with a special student membership of $20 (for students in full time education). We are also establishing a special scholarship fund for new members who find the $60 a stretch. Grants will be given on a case by case basis while we have funds available.

We will shortly be sending out the annual membership letter and membership form. If you have not already renewed please respond to this letter as soon as possible. Please be sure to fill out all areas of interest to you and plan on helping with the Leagues activities in any way you can. An updated membership form (for renewal and for new members) is now conveniently available for printing on the League’s website: http://www.lwvtompkins.org/documents/LWVTCMembershipForm.pdf

We have had four new members join recently all of whom have jumped in to participate in different activities. The League has been moving ahead with two new programs aimed at broadening our membership: the Milestones meetings are informal discussion get-togethers, and a Book Group will begin its discussions with Don’t Know Much About History. Look for time and date information notices here in the Bulletin.

To make a difference, and to fulfill our mission of creating educated and informed voters, we need all members to participate.

Remember, when you join the League of Women Voters - Tompkins County you automatically become a member of the National League ($32) and the State League ($23) leaving the local fee at only $5. Your membership fee supports the work of both National and State Leagues which in turn support all we do locally. Our local overhead is covered partially by the $5 fee and many generous donations from members and supporters.
Do We Have a Democracy Crisis?

You and your friends are invited to join LWV-TC at a Second Special Members Meeting
Monday 11 November, 7:00pm in the Borg Warner Room at TCPL.

Come for a night of mingling and discussion to boost our ranks and support our mutual causes, together with Democracy Reform Ranking Project, a democracy-focused initiative, developed by new member Jennifer Karius, that engages people to be active in democracy reform by live film events and The Democracy Survey.

Voter suppression is on the rise, impeding millions of registered voters post-Supreme Court Shelby County v Holder decision. The Brennan Center for Justice estimates that 2 million more voters lost their right vote than was expected with that ruling*.

This second special Members meeting provides an opportunity to contribute ideas focused on Voting — a topic at the heart of our organization, and at the heart of our democracy and to further the work of our local League.

We will gather to watch the film Capturing the Flag focusing on the extent and nature of voter suppression in North Carolina in 2016 followed by an open discussion about:

Do We Have a Democracy Crisis?

If So, What Do We Do About It?

Light refreshments will be served. The event will be free but donations towards overhead costs and our new membership scholarship fund are appreciated.
JOIN US TO CELEBRATE LEAGUE MILESTONES

In November we will raise a glass to Voting!

"DID YOU VOTE? Why? Was it worth your while? Will you vote again?" Come share why voting matters to you.

Meet for an informal discussion about why we vote, how important it is that Women got the vote, and brainstorm ideas to help get out the vote! Learn about the League of Women Voters.

When: The second Wednesday of each month, at 7 pm. 11/13/19 and 12/11/19
Where: Bar Argos, 408 East State Street, Ithaca.
Open to everyone! No need to RSVP, look for someone wearing a LWV button.
Contact Megan Nettleton for more info. Nettleton.Megan@gmail.com
Tompkins County League of Women Voters Launches New Book Club. Please join us!

A social, informal book club led by members of the Tompkins County League. Open to everyone!

Each meeting we will read and discuss 2-4 chapters, which are independent from each other. Feel free to join us for one or all of the meet ups!

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Where: Ithaca Bakery, 2255 N Triphammer Rd. There is plenty of parking. We will grab a table in the back of the side room. Look for a poster on our table.

When: Thursday, October 24th to discuss Chapters 1 & 2.
    Thursday, November 21st to discuss Chapters 3, 4 & 5.
    Thursday, January 23rd to discuss Chapters 6, 7, 8 & 9.

Time: 5:45pm. The bakery closes at 7:30. This should give us enough time to chat about the book and get to know each other. Feel free to grab something to eat before or during!

What to bring: A copy of the book, your thoughts, and a friend! Please contact Megan Nettleton with any questions or comments!
Nettleton.Megan@gmail.com (330) 962-5448

https://www.facebook.com/events/484739365681689/

First Book Pick is Don't Know Much About History, Anniversary Edition: Everything You Need to Know About American History but Never Learned (Don't Know Much About Series) By Kenneth C Davis.
YOUR REPRESENTATIVES IN ALBANY

**SENNATORS**

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

**SENNATORS**

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

- [http://lwvtompkins.org/calendar.html](http://lwvtompkins.org/calendar.html)
  The League’s Calendar of Events

- [http://lwv.org/](http://lwv.org/)
  The National League Website

  The State League Website

- [http://lwvtompkins.org/stand.html](http://lwvtompkins.org/stand.html)
  Where the Tompkins County League
  stands on important issues

- [http://www.lwvtompkins.org/program_archive.html](http://www.lwvtompkins.org/program_archive.html)
  A link to previous league sponsored
  programs which were videotaped.

- [http://www.lwvtompkins.org/voting.html](http://www.lwvtompkins.org/voting.html)
  Find out when the Upcoming Elections
  [https://www.elections.ny.gov/](https://www.elections.ny.gov/)

Governor Cuomo
gov.cuomo@chamber.state.ny.us