



League of Women Voters of Albany County

April 2010

Educate

Participate

Advocate



Climate Change Issues



Thursday, April 15, 5:30 pm: Souper Supper

Community United Methodist Church

1499 New Scotland Road, Slingerlands

5:30 Bring a soup, salad, or dessert to share - also bring your place setting

6:30-8:30 Program

Speaker: Denise Sheehan, Vice President for Government and Regional Affairs for The Climate Registry and former Commissioner of NYS Department of Environmental Conservation

No time to bring food? Come anyway. A reservation is not necessary.

Questions? Call Lois Griffin, 765-4733

The Climate Registry, a not-for-profit organization, is the leading greenhouse gas registry in North America which assists businesses and organizations in measuring, reporting and reducing their carbon footprints. Denise works with the US and Canadian federal governments, so that they remain familiar with major climate change initiatives. She also works with companies and organizations to increase awareness of climate policies that may impact their operations.

Denise has over 20 years of experience in government: nine years with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, including two years as Commissioner. As Commissioner of DEC, Denise represented New York State in the negotiations to create the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), the first cap-and-trade program in the US for carbon emissions. She also spearheaded efforts to preserve one million acres of open space and implemented new programs to improve the state's air and water quality and revitalize brownfields. Denise also has several years experience in public budgeting and finance and local planning and economic development.

Denise holds a Master of Public Administration degree and a Bachelor of Science degree in Economics and Political Science from the State University of New York. She is also the recipient of the Distinguished Alumna Award in Public Administration and Policy from the Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy at the University at Albany. (see page 4 for more information on this issue.)

Please Pay Your Dues EARLY to save us the cost of additional mailings.

League of Women Voters of Albany County

Website: www.lwvalbany.org Email: lwvac@lwvalbany.org

Ann Brandon, President

Carol Webster (439-1491) and Martha Kissinger (439-6833), Membership Co-Chairs

Laura Ladd Bierman, Newsletter Editor



From the President

If you missed the souper supper in March, you have a second chance April 15th at the Slingerlands Community United Methodist Church. League members are great cooks! Without prior planning we had a nice assortment of soups, salads, even lasagna, and desserts. We hope you can come in April for the meal and talk by Denise Sheehan on the timely topic of climate change. Is the crazy weather we've had this winter part of that change? We will see if she has some answers.

Thanks to Loretta Simon and Judy Thomson and their committee for guiding us through the state consensus last month on local government consolidation/shared services - not an easy topic. And thanks to all of you who persevered in honing in on this topic and making your views known.

As we get toward the end of the league year, I'm thinking about things we can do better. I have felt all year that we've needed to have more people participating on our committees. If you can give a little time and ideas to a program study, voter service, membership, or public relations, we need your help. Think about it for next year and when you see our new president or program vice president, let them know how you can help. I've found that the more I become involved, the more I enjoy and appreciate the league.

A reminder - dues are due. You should have gotten a notice a few weeks ago. We sincerely hope that you will be able to continue to support the league. Each of you is part of our strength.

Yours in League,
Ann

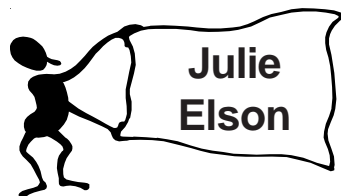
"Students Inside Albany" Gets Three from LWVAC

Thanks to the efforts of selection committee chair Ruth Dinowitz, the League of Women Voters of Albany County has submitted to LWVNY the names of three finalists from towns in Albany county to attend this year's Students Inside Albany program. The April 11-14, 2010 program features guest speakers who give the participants an understanding of the legislative process and offers students a first hand opportunity to shadow legislators as they accomplish their daily tasks. The program is offered to all leagues statewide and is co-supported by both State and local league underwriting. This year, nominating packets were mailed to 12 county public and private schools. Five area schools submitted applications for a total of eight candidates. Three were selected as finalists and two alternates were also chosen. Each of the finalists will be invited to attend our annual meeting on May 18 and will be awarded student memberships.

The following is an excerpt from one of the winning essays, by Bethlehem Central junior Megan Perry, "I am very interested to learn more about how the government system works..... I want to be as educated as possible about the processes of legislation to make sure that my vote counts. The idea of shadowing an assembly member and a senator is an aspect of the program that interests me most. This seems to be a perfect opportunity to see directly and better understand the work and processes of the legislature." In addition to Ms. Perry, participants will be Victoria Koscis from Berne Knox Westerlo and Giovanna O'Neil from Bishop McGinn. Committee members Marggie Skinner, Stephen Winter and Marian Schwager participated in the selection process.

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan citizen organization that promotes the informed and active participation of citizens in government, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Any person of voting age, male or female, may become a League member.

This newsletter is published by the League of Women Voters of Albany County, 12 Coventry Road, Glenmont, New York 12077 and mailed to League members. The frequency of publication is as follows: one mid-summer issue followed by nine monthly issues from September to May.



League in Profile

Mentor or Svengali? My transformation from simple state-worker, mother, wife and some-time peace activist into a League of Women Voters Board member began when I was introduced to Marggie Skinner one evening at the Fountain while I was dining with my family and she was in a party with my work colleague, Claire Malone. Of course I had heard from Claire about Marggie and had read of Marggie's activism and accomplishments in the Albany community, but I had never met her face to face. Upon introduction, I took the opportunity to ask Marggie about forming a neighborhood association which I had recently learned was required by the city of Albany if you wanted a "spring cleaning special trash pickup" in your area. Marggie, as both past president of the Pine Hills NA and the Council of Albany Neighborhood Associations (CANA) agreed to help me and also extended an invitation to join a group of women who walked a 3 mile route at 6 am every weekday morning. She said that during the walks, she would discuss the steps to take to create a neighborhood association.

It took me about a month of lying in bed after my husband got up at 5:15 to accept that since I was awake anyway, I might as well exercise and meet some interesting women. So really really early one morning, I stood on the designated corner waiting for Marggie and her entourage to appear and my fate was thereby sealed. Over the ensuing months, Marggie guided me through the process of organizing what would become the New Scotland Woodlawn Neighborhood Association, she took me under her wing, introducing me to representatives from other neighborhood associations, taking me to CANA meetings.

As the saying goes, paybacks are a b*tch, and so it was with Marggie, in return for her help with the neighborhood association, I was given the job of treasurer for her valiant Albany Common Council representative campaign. As the years passed, Marggie would casually mention her fulfilling work with the League of Women Voters, "and by the way, here is a brochure which includes a membership application". I could have made a life size model of the liberty bell with the LWVA brochures that became sodden masses in my laundered pants and jacket pockets. Marggie got me working on the League fund raising Board of Election poll reading and poll watching for the Albany Housing Authority gigs, and "you would enjoy this League presentation or that", and "how about the annual luncheon?" and slowly but surely with patience and skill, she reeled me in.

And so the circle is complete, during my first year on the League Board, I have found a comfortable and actually exciting niche in the area of solid waste management ie garbage, the bait with which Marggie Skinner caught me initially. With Aimee Allaud's guidance, I have been following and reporting on the development of what will hopefully be a regional environmentally sound alternative to the Rapp Road landfill.

I look forward to working with the League on this and other issues in the future.



Local Government Consolidation/ Shared Services

Loretta Simon, Co-Chair

Our consensus meetings on evaluation standards for new legislation and local government proposals were lively and well attended. Mary Berry moderated the evening session at the Bethlehem Public Library and Marion Schwager, the morning session at the Albany Public Library. Members of the Saratoga County LWV joined us at the morning meeting to observe how we were conducting our sessions. We reached consensus on all standards but one, where we registered "undecided," and suggested some additional standards and editorial changes. Our results were forwarded to the State LWV for their consideration. Many thanks to the committee for all their hard work and to all those who brought food to the Super Supper. It was delicious!

Climate Change

Are we ready to take seriously the issue of climate change? Below is an article from the national League web site. To learn more about curbing greenhouse gas emissions, go to www.lwv.org and click on climate change.

Global climate change is one of the most serious threats to the environment, health and economy of our nation. Recent scientific studies show that global warming is already causing environmental changes that will have significant global economic and social impacts.

The League believes that now is the time to act on global climate change. We can reduce global warming pollution by using existing technologies to make power plants and factories more efficient, make cars go farther on a gallon of gasoline, and shift to cleaner technologies. Cities, states and individuals are already adopting many of these solutions, which also reduce our dependence on oil, reduce air pollution, and

League of Women Voters of Albany County NOMINATIONS SLATE 2010-11

Officers

President	Mary Berry	2010-12
Co-President		
VP Program	Marian Schwager	2009-11
VP Action	Jan Messina	2009-11
VP Administration	Lois Griffin	2009-11
Secretary	Paula Philo	2010-12
Treasurer	Margaret Sawyer	2010-12

Directors (On Board)

Voter Service	Mary Ann Lettau	2009-11
Membership	Monica Sharp	2010-12
Co-Membership	Margaret Danes	2010-12
State & Local Government	Judi Campbell	2009-11
Public Relations	Arlene Urell	2010-12
Social Policy	Judy Thomson	2009-11
State Study	Loretta Simon	2009-11
Local Programs	Julie Elson	2009-11
At-Large	Tina Raggio	2009-11

Directors (Off Board)

National Government	Edith Allen	2010-12
Website administrator	Jessica McMullan	2009-11
Information Specialist	Don Kennedy	2009-11
Bulletin Editor	Laura Bierman	2009-11
Bulletin Distribution	Carol Webster	2010-12
Voter Services	Carol Webster	2010-12
Voter Services	Judy Wing	2010-12
Budget Director	Maggie Moehringer	2009-11
Nominations Committee	Marggie Skinner, Chair	2010-12
	Marian Schwager	2009-11
	Tina Lord	2009-11
Poll Reporting	Marggie Skinner	2010-12
Development	Betsey Swan	2009-11
International Relation	Katie Henrikson	2009-11

protect pristine places from oil drilling and mining. State and local initiatives are proving that answers exist.

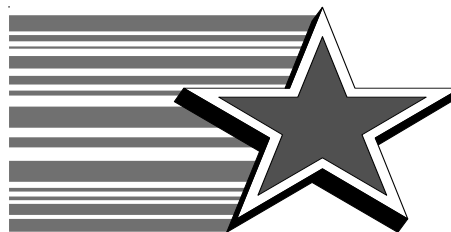
To reinforce and expand on those efforts, the League urges federal action that reduces global warming pollutants on a national and global scale.

[League Urges Congress to Provide Sufficient Funds for International Programs in 2011](#) - Mar 16, 2010

The League and coalition partners sent a letter to both the House of Representatives and the Senate urging Congress to provide at least the amount proposed by the administration for international programs in 2011. The League is particularly concerned about funding for international adaptation to deal with global climate change.

[League Urges Representatives to Oppose Overturning EPA Finding](#) - Feb 01, 2010

The League sent a letter to the House of Representatives urging members to oppose legislation from Representatives Moran and Pomeroy which would overturn the EPA's scientific finding that global warming pollutants endanger public health and welfare.



Public Access TV for the City of Albany – The Time Has Come

Six years after the City's franchise agreement with Time Warner Cable expired, the City and the Company have negotiated a draft agreement which also includes provision for a PEG (public, education, government) operation, using three channels assigned to TWC (16,17 &18) for this purpose. Annually since 2004, the City has renewed its contract with TWC while trying to agree on how much funding the Company would agree to provide for capital investment for a PEG/PACTV. The Albany County League, along with Albany's Council of Albany Neighborhood Associations (CANA), and represented by Marggie Skinner, Stephen Winters, Ray Blanchard and Aimee Allaud, have kept this issue alive (though sometimes it seemed like a lost cause!). LWVAC has maintained the item as a local League action item, enabling us to continuously advocate on its behalf.

The agreement with TW provides for funding of \$217, 000 in each of two phases for equipment to be placed in several locations: Albany High School, The College of St. Rose, the New School for Radio and Television, and the Albany Public Library. Each of these "shareholders" will provide a component of the PACTV entity.

The City School District and The College of St. Rose will collaborate in a School and College Media Workshop offering AP course work and credit to Albany High students and student video productions will be aired on the TWC public access channels. Broadly defined, the St. Rose/City School District will provide the *Educational* component of the PEG construct. St. Rose will also provide training in workshops for the general public on using equipment and producing programs at their new Communications Center on the campus behind the Massry Center.

The second component, *Government*, will be achieved through a Memorandum of Understanding with the New School of Radio and Television, a private for profit entity. NSRT will receive almost one-half of Phase 1 monies for equipment and facilities on the Harriman State Campus for use in the production of public access programming for the government and education channels. They are also required to assist with setting up a public access studio at the main Albany Public Library site and offering technical support at this site. NSRT, under Phase 1, will receive the only direct fiber link to TWC for uploading programming, both live and taped. A vital component of any PEG is to promote citizen access to governmental meetings in a timely fashion. NSRT is charged with installing equipment at City Hall and overseeing its operation.

The third component, *Public*, is to be achieved through a Memorandum of Understanding with the Albany Public Library which will allocate space at their Washington Avenue facility for a studio for equipment and production of programming. This component receives very limited funding for acquisition of some equipment initially, but none for operations and is dependent on the NSRT for technical and administrative assistance in creating and maintaining the public access operation. Advocates for PEG have recommended that the Library be the primary site for a community media center and revenues from the franchise fee which the City receives from TWC should be dedicated to the public access site at APL. Also, this site does not receive a direct fiber link until Phase 2. The current proposal does not achieve these goals and also includes unrealistic goals for production of programming as a condition for receiving Phase 2 funding.

Although each "leg" of a PEG operation has different goals, they overlap. In the proposed Albany franchise agreement, with four "shareholders" providing the PEG, a governing structure which has primary policymaking, administrative and fiscal responsibility for the PEG needs to be defined at the outset. None of the documents outlining the entity do that. Communities in the area which already have one or more components of PEG are Bethlehem, Guilderland, Colonie and Watervliet.

Advocates have commented on the proposed agreements to the Common Council's Ad Hoc Committee on Public Access in February, to the Common Council at the March 1 Public Hearing and to the Albany Public Library Board of Trustees. The CANA Committee on Public Access, along with other community advocates, submitted comments and recommendations on the agreement and the four Memoranda of Understanding to the Common Council. If you would like to receive a copy, please request one from Aimee Allaud, 85aimee@nycap.rr.com. While we are generally supportive of the progress which has been made toward realization of a public access television capacity for Albany residents, we think there are serious concerns which must be addressed before finalizing any agreements with the four "shareholders." The Common Council needs to review and revise the proposed MOUs before proceeding.

WHERE WILL YOU BE ON TUESDAY APRIL 20th — NATIONAL EQUAL PAY DAY?



Consider showing your
support for Pay Equity

THE WELL
Lobby of the
NYS Legislative Office Building

Join the NYS Pay Equity Coalition at the Legislative Office Building on April 20 for action on Fair Pay for all. The coalition is working to pass job-title pay equity legislation in fields where women and people of color are the majority of the workforce. This is a free event and a good opportunity to learn more about this issue.

The program:

9:30 am - Registration at the LOB

10:00 am - Welcome by Barbara Bartoletti

10:15 am - Comptroller Tom Dinapoli

10:30-11:30 am Panel-

The Economic Empowerment of Women and People of Color, moderated by Hon. Barbara Smith.

Alan Lubin, New York State United Teachers' former executive vice president serving from 1993 to 2010

Deborah Figart, Dean of the School of Graduate and Continuing Studies, the Richard Stockton College of NJ

Galen Kirkland Commissioner of the NYS Division of Human Rights

The League of Women Voters of New York State supports state legislation and regulations that will establish greater equity in wage compensation for comparable jobs. Comparable worth of jobs should be determined by gender-neutral criteria such as responsibility, effort, skill, education and experience required, and the working conditions.

For more information, call Lois Haignere, State League Pay Equity Co-Chair, 518 464-0991.

Come Demand Legislators Take Action for Reform

"Albany On the Record"

May 5th, 2010

11:00 am - 4:00 pm

Albany, New York

New Yorkers are fed up! Scandals have driven from office Governor Spitzer, Comptroller Hevesi, Senate Majority Leader Bruno and a growing number of state legislators. Some elected officials - including Governor Paterson - are currently under investigation. Many of these abuses of power were rooted in the absence of effective and independent ethics and fiscal watchdogs, tough ethics laws and adequate transparency in government.

Come join people to hear from the state's leading political figures on how they will reform Albany.

Bus will available from Crossgates Mall, to avoid parking downtown, if enough people make a reservation!

Lunch will be provided!

Time after to lobby your legislator, if you wish!

Sign Up NOW on the State League website, www.lwvny.org, or call the State Office at 465-4162 to make a reservation.

DO IT NOW!

Come make a difference!

Spring Fling Weekend in NYC - May 14-16

There's still time to join us on May 14 in New York City for the state League Cocktail Party Fundraiser. And, there may still be rooms at the hotel, and tickets on Saturday for the tours (Ellis Island and King Tut Exhibit) and theater (South Pacific at Lincoln Center).

Check out details on the state League website, www.lwvny.org and call the state League Office at 465-4162 to make a reservation.

Financial Aid Policy- Adopted March 2010

In order to encourage prospective members to join the League regardless of financial issues, and to retain current members, the board adopted the following policy, effective immediately.

- . The membership committee will give membership dues aid on a case by case basis and review annually when dues renewals are sent.
- . The identity of the person receiving aid would be known only by the membership committee, treasurer and data information specialist.
- . The aid awarded would be half of the individual dues.
- . The membership committee is given the authority to grant one full membership dues award per year in special cases of financial hardship.
- . Members who do not renew their membership will be contacted by phone to determine if the cause is due to financial hardship or other reasons.
- . This policy can be changed by the board at any time as the need arises.
- . This information will be disseminated to prospective members.
- . For consideration of financial aid regarding membership dues, contact the membership committee chair.

Submitted by Carol Webster, for the membership subcommittee: Ann Brandon, Lois Griffin and Carol Webster.

League Member News:

Our condolences go out to Monique Roeth, whose husband, Harold, passed away on February 11th.

Sally Knapp recently suffered a broken leg and arm in an auto accident. She's now at Good Samaritan Health Care Center in Delmar for rehab. Best wishes for a speedy recovery to Sally. Cards welcome.

Did you lose a silver earring at the March 15th meeting at the Bethlehem Library? Contact the library.

Do you know of a special accomplishment of a league member? Contact Ann Brandon, ambrandon2@verizon.net.

New Members

Pam Taft - Glenmont

Lisa Allendorph - Delmar

Mary Allendorph - Delmar

Welcome!

Membership 2009-2010 - Join & Make a Difference

Name: _____ Telephone: _____

Address, City, Zip: _____

Email: _____

Individual Membership \$50/year

Household Membership \$75/year

Student Membership \$15/year

Contribution in support of my local League

Please send me more information

For financial aid information, contact Carol Webster, 439-1491.

Mail to:

League of Women Voters of Albany County PO Box 611, Slingerlands, NY 12159

Or Contact: Carol Webster (439-1491)

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ALBANY COUNTY
PO Box 611
Slingerlands, NY 12159

Nonprofit Org. U.S. Postage PAID Permit #247 Albany, NY

League Calendar

<u>WHEN</u>	<u>WHAT</u>	<u>WHERE</u>	<u>MORE INFO</u>
Apr. 5, 9:30 am	Great Decisions	Home of P. Zima	
Apr. 6, 7:00 pm	Board Meeting	St. Stephen's Church, Delmar	
Apr. 15	Deadline for May Bulletin	LBierman@nycap.rr.com	
Apr. 15, 5:30 pm	Souper Supper Topic: Climate Change	Slingerlands United Methodist Church Speaker: Denise Sheehan	pages 1, 4
Apr. 19, 9:30 am	Great Decisions	Home of F. Frank	
Apr. 20	Equal Pay Day 2010	Legislative Office Building, Albany	page 6
May 5	"Albany on the Record"	Empire Plaza, Conf. Room 6, Albany	page 6
May 14-16	Spring Fling Weekend	New York City	page 6
May 18, 5:30 pm	Annual Dinner & Mtg. 90th Anniversary League Celebration with Visit from Susan B. Anthony	Century House, Latham	

**LWV OF ALBANY COUNTY
PROPOSED BUDGET 2010-2011**

EXPENDITURES	BUDGET 09-10	ACTUAL / PROJECTED	PROPOSED 10-11	CATEGORY EXPLANATION
A. OPERATING COSTS				
1. General Supplies	\$200	\$400	\$400	General repro/printing, annual rpt
2. Postage	\$200	\$200	\$200	Bulk mail permit
3. Misc. Expenses	\$100	\$100	\$100	PO box, other
Subtotal	\$500		\$700	
B. BOARD & ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES				
1. President	\$50	\$50	\$50	Discretionary spending
2. Board Administration		\$200	\$200	Meeting rooms, gifts
3. Administrative Committees				
a. Publicity/website	\$300	\$240	\$240	Hosting, domain name services
b. Fund Drive/Development	\$200	\$170	\$200	Postage/repro
c. Membership	\$400	\$400	\$400	Publications,directory,invoices,events
Subtotal	\$950		\$1,090	
C. DELEGATES, TRAVEL & AFFILIATIONS				
1. State Convention	\$0	\$0	\$3,000	State Convention 2011
2. National Convention	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$0	National Convention 2010
3. Affiliations	\$1,125	\$2,100	\$1,100	Fair Camp.Comm.,LWVNYS donation
Subtotal	\$4,125		\$4,100	
D. FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE LEAGUE				
1. State PMP	\$3,465	\$3,465	\$3,609	Per member payments to LWVNYS
2. National PMP	\$5,439	\$5,439	\$6,095	Est. PMP to LWVUS, to be revised
Subtotal	\$8,904		\$9,704	after National Convention
E. BULLETIN				
1. Supplies	\$1,000	\$810	\$900	Printing and mailing supplies
2. Postage	\$300	\$248	\$250	Bulk mailing
Subtotal	\$1,300		\$1,150	
F. EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES				
1. Program Study	\$200	\$0	\$200	
2. Voters Service				
a. Facts for Voters	\$300	\$195	\$300	LWVNYS Guide Part 1
b. Candidate Meetings	\$100	\$50	\$50	
c. Voters Guides	\$400	\$200	\$400	LWVNYS Guide Part 2, other guides
3. Student Sponsor	\$150	\$600	\$600	Increased for more students projects
4. Special Projects/Programs	\$100	\$500	\$300	Increased for more special projects
Subtotal	\$1,250		\$1,850	
G. EVENTS				
1. Annual Meeting	\$2,000	\$2,500	\$2,000	Subsidized in part
2. Potluck	\$400	\$265	\$300	Subsidized in part
3. Luncheon	\$1,200	\$1,100	\$1,200	Self-funding
Subtotal	\$3,600		\$3,500	
EXPENDITURES TOTAL			\$22,094	

**LWV OF ALBANY COUNTY
PROPOSED BUDGET 2010-2011**

INCOME	BUDGET 09-10	ACTUAL / PROJECTED	PROPOSED 10-11	
AA. MEMBERSHIP DUES				
Subtotal	\$10,000		\$10,000	Based on 1/1/2010 numbers
BB. CONTRIBUTIONS				
1. Member	\$500	\$695	\$700	Often made with dues payments
2. Fund Drive	\$4,500	\$4,200	\$5,000	
Subtotal	\$5,000		\$5,700	
CC. EVENTS				
1 Annual Meeting	\$1,700	\$1,750	\$1,700	Collections from attendees
2 Potluck	\$150	\$160	\$150	Collections from attendees
3 Luncheon	\$1,000	\$1,100	\$1,200	Collections from attendees
4 Other Events	\$0			
Subtotal	\$2,850		\$3,050	
EE. OTHER INCOME				
2. Poll Reporting	\$2,500	\$2,000	\$2,000	For Channel 13 and AP
3. Speakers Bureau	\$0		\$0	
4. Misc. Income/Grants/Raffle	\$250	\$1,900	\$500	e.g. AHA elections, State League raffle
Subtotal	\$2,750		\$2,500	
FF. BANK INTEREST				
Subtotal	\$100	\$30	\$50	
INCOME TOTAL	\$20,700		\$21,300	
BUDGETED EXPENSE TOTAL			\$22,094	
BUDGETED INCOME TOTAL			\$21,300	
(TO) FROM RESERVES			\$794	Reserve 3/2010: \$28,000
GRAND TOTAL			\$0	