

**Special
points of
interest:**

- Troy School Board Elections.
- Annual Meeting
- Immigration Study set for this Fall
- Non-partisan statement
- Political Calendar

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LWVRC TAKES A STAND FOR TRANSPARENCY IN ELECTIONS

The League of Women Voters of Rensselaer County is always interested in transparency in voting. That is why we were so concerned that the Enlarged City School District of Troy was using non-certified voting machines for its school election. When it was clear that the District was going to continue with the voting machines, we wanted to have poll watchers at the sites. The State League and the School Boards Association helped us with the appropriate language for poll watching certificates. The Superintendent would not allow us to participate in this way. (The League does have poll watchers in general elections.) We are saddened that we were not able to complete our process of observation of the election process in this instance. We think the Board of Education gave the wrong message to its students and the public by choosing to keep us outside this election process.

Five candidates ran for three eligible seats. Incumbent Stephanie Scully was re-elected, and newly-elected members Ilene Clinton and Anne-Wager Rounds will join the Board on July 1, 2007. Each candidate serves a three-year term. The Board of Education election final vote tally: Ilene Clinton – 901; Anne Wager Rounds – 781; Stephanie Scully – 594; Archiah Phillips – 548; and Ed Smith – 378.

Congratulations to Stephanie Scully, Ann Wager Rounds, and Ilene Clinton who won election May 15 for the Enlarged City School District of Troy.

Members of the Board 2006-07

Co-President **Marcia P. Easterling**
273-5412 measterling@nycap.rr.com
*Board Meetings Agendas/Mail; Main-
tain Calendar; Board List; New Mem-
ber Orientation*

Co-President **Gail K. DeMarco**
434-2413 gdemarco@nycap.rr.com
*Public Spokesperson; Receive/
Distribute State and National Mailings;
Arts Center Mail and Phone Calls; New
Member Orientation*

Vice President **Mary Muller**
274-0846 mullers@mac.com "Voter"
editor; Public Relations

Secretary **Margaret Story** 272-1566
MrgStry@aol.com *Minutes/ Correspon-
dence*

Treasurer **Irene S. Wyn-
nyczuk** 2799789 iwynn@nycap.rr.com
*Treasurer; Budget Committee; Co-
Chair: Membership/Finance Drive; Co-
Chair: THA Election*

Director **Diane Bell** 2735172
dbell1@nycap.rr.com *Web Site; Voter
Services: Local Voter Guides and Local
Section NYS Voter Guide; General
Meeting Program Coordinator*

Director **Anne E. Burton** 283-
3499 aburton@usoncology.com *Mem-
ber Interest Data Base; Member In-
volvement—All Areas*

Director **George W. O'Connor**
2726512 gandt54@verison.net
*Membership Records Management;
Prospective Member Mailings; Member
Directory/Mailing Labels; Chair: Troy
Charter Review; Co-Chair: THA Elec-
tions*

Director **Donna Packard-Mahoney**
283-6423 dmahoney@nycap.rr.com
Action; Issues/Advocacy

Director **Fred D. Stein** 663-5230
Fredd@nycap.rr.com *Chair: Natural
Resources; Rensselaer County govern-
ment; State Prog.: Financing Education*

From the CoPresidents

Once again we had a wonderful dinner and Annual Meeting at Emma Willard in May. We thank **Marcia Easterling** and her husband for making the arrangements for us. After dinner, Susan Arbetter of WMHT's "New York Now", spoke on reinventing ourselves. Thank you to **Anne Burton** for making contact with Susan.

You have received your dues statement so you know that our budget passed. The Proposed Local Program and Proposed Bylaw as identified in the last VOTER passed also.

Marcia Easterling, Margaret Story, Fred Stein and Donna Packard-Mahoney were elected to two year terms on the Board. We thanked **Margaret Story** for her service as co-president of the Board.

In May, **Anne Burton** and **Donna Packard-Mahoney** represented our League at the State Convention. They shared highlights of that event at the Annual Meeting.

The fall means the beginning of our Voter Service activities. Already, we have scheduled a Candidate's Forum in East Greenbush. If you know of any group that is interested in sponsoring a forum, have them contact Gail DeMarco.

The Board members are listed on this page. Please contact us with questions, suggestions or concerns. Board meetings are open. Join us the second Thursday at the Krause Center on Burdett Avenue in Troy at 7:00 pm.

Gail DeMarco and Marcia Easterling

LWV RENSSELAER COUNTY – NON-PARTISAN POLICY STATEMENT

Adopted at the June 19, 2007 Board Meeting

The League of Women Voters does not support or oppose any political party or candidate. It does, however, adopt and advocate positions on governmental measures, policies, and issues in the public interest after careful study and substantial agreement among its members.

Members of the League are encouraged to become actively involved, **on an individual basis**, in all public activities, including activities of, and on behalf of political parties and candidates.

At all times, League members shall be careful to distinguish their activities as individuals from those undertaken on behalf of the League. They shall take particular care to avoid the appearance of representing the League when, in fact, they do not.

The president, the voter service director, and any officer or board member who speaks publicly on behalf of the League shall not run for or hold elective office or work actively on behalf of a candidate for elective office while serving as a board member. Financial contribution to a candidate's campaign shall not, in itself, constitute working actively on behalf of a candidate; however, such persons shall not publicly endorse any candidate.

No member who is running for elective office or actively supporting a candidate for public office shall participate on behalf of the League in any activity pertaining to that office, including, but not limited to, candidate's forums or debates.

Any member who, as an individual, speaks or works against a League position shall make it clear that she/he is acting as an individual and not on behalf of the League. Any officer or board member who is strongly identified by the public with the League should consider resigning from the board before speaking or working against a League position.

The political activities of a spouse or relative of a board member are to be considered as separate and distinct from the activities of the board member.

New Transportation Plan for the Capital District

"The Capital District Transportation Committee (CDTC) is the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) responsible for carrying out federal requirements for cooperative transportation planning and programming within Albany, Rensselaer, Saratoga, and Schenectady Counties in New York State. A key responsibility of every MPO is the maintenance of a long-range regional transportation plan. All federally-funded for federally-approved transportation actions such as highway or transit capital projects must derive from the regional plan.

CDTC is currently updating this transportation plan, entitled **New Visions 2030**, and is taking steps necessary to make it compliant with new requirements of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient, Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users or SAFETEA-LU. CDTC's Policy Board has released the elements of the draft plan for public review.

The draft **New Visions 2030** plan includes findings and recommendations that emerged from an exploration of fundamental questions about the future of the region: its economic prospects, settlement patterns, social equity and sustainability. This has involved extensive engagement with individuals, groups and various affected parties. The effort, underway since 2004 and involving a series of Working Groups, is resulting in draft New Visions 2030 plan elements that go beyond current principles, strategies and actions to help shape a Capital District future in which the transportation system fosters economic health, environmental stewardship and a high quality of life. (Please see <http://www.cdtcmpo.org/rtp2030/2030.htm>)

The purpose of contacting you and sending you the attached draft report entitled **Meeting the Environmental Mitigation and Consultation Requirements of SAFETEA-LU: An Opportunity Transportation System** is to seek input regarding the draft discussion of potential environmental mitigation of the draft New Visions 2030 plan. This draft discussion is derived from both a scan of New Visions principles, strategies and actions and resulting programs CDTC has been carrying out over the past decade and plans to initiate in the future, as well as a game plan for analysis of resource mapping relative to the mapped locations of projects. Is this draft discussion and game plan consistent with other regional initiatives or relevant policies or strategies, including those of your agency or organization? Are we missing something? We would appreciate receiving your thoughts on those two questions in particular and other comments you may have.

Any comments regarding the draft New Visions 2030 plan elements and/or the attached draft environmental discussion should be received by CDTC by August 24, 2007.

(Contact information)

Sincerely,

Anne Benware

Senior Transportation Planner"

LWVUS Immigration Study

The League of Women Voters has recently launched a two-year Immigration Study aimed at helping communities understand the implications of immigration at the local, state, and federal level. As part of this project, League members and leaders will explore the underlying values and principles regarding immigration, reasons for immigration, current federal immigration policy, and the impact of immigration in American society. Other related topics covered will include:

business and economic effects and impact
 diversity
 effects of global interdependence on migration
 motivation of refugees, asylees and other immigrants

In addition to the eight LWVUS Immigration Study Committee background papers [available online](#), Leagues are encouraged to utilize the plethora of immigration information available in news magazines and newspapers. The Immigration Study Committee continues to work diligently to provide balanced materials that address the pros and cons of the issues. One such example is the [testimony presented](#) to the House Judiciary Committee by Wade Henderson, President and CEO of the League partner, the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights (LCCR). In this testimony, Henderson discusses immigration reform as it relates to civil and human rights

Welcome New Members:

Patricia A. and Kevin M. O'Bryan
 2 Glenkill Road
 Troy, NY 12180
 272-3964

And a Correction:

Yolanda Brower
 40 Autumn Drive, Apt. 180
 Slingerlands, NY 12159

ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES - MAY 22, 2007

Members and guests present - 27

Co-President Gail DeMarco welcomed attendees before dinner. Following dinner, Anne Burton introduced the speaker Susan Arbetter of WMHT. The annual meeting began following the speaker with Co-President Margaret Story presiding.

Minutes: Following precedent, members agreed that the Board should approve the minutes of this year's annual meeting.

Budget: Treasurer Irene Wynnyczuk explained the 2007-08 budget (enclosed) as proposed by the budget committee and recommended by the Board. Burton moved and Lorrie Smith seconded the motion to adopt. Carried. Wynnyczuk also reported that the total worth of the LWVRC treasury as of April 30, 2007 was \$6,608.55.

Program: Story invited DeMarco to present the 5 recommended local program items. DeMarco read through each item. Then she moved and Dinny Shanley seconded the motion to support and advocate Item IA and B, Local Government Operations, and County and City Charters that are consistent with LWV principles adopted at the National and State levels. DeMarco moved and Marcia Easterling seconded the motion to support and advocate Item II, the League's Capital Region Solid Waste Consensus. DeMarco then moved and Wynnyczuk seconded the motion to support and advocate Item III, Changing the Present Method of Re-districting the Rensselaer County Legislature according to the plan set forth in the Local Program handout (enclosed). DeMarco moved and Chris Salmon seconded the motion to support and advocate Item IV, Local Alternatives to Incarceration (ATI), based on the LWV NYS Consensus on ATI, and encourage development of a local restorative justice program. Finally, DeMarco moved and Diane Bell seconded the motion to support and advocate Item V, Policies and Programs addressing Global Warming and consistent with LWV principles. Before voting on program,

there was discussion and clarification. Barbara Bartoletti explained the Iowa Plan, the work of the Iowa LWV, which provides for an independent Districting Commission as cited in Item III. Mention was made of Vermont's Restorative Justice program in which the community looks out for community members and community service is an alternative to incarceration for certain crimes and misdemeanors.

Smith raised a question about how to implement Item V. Several suggestions were made:

Consult Judith Enck, Peter Ironowitz, NYS climate control official of DEC; invite a panel

to present ways that positively impact climate change. DeMarco then asked that members vote on each item. All carried.

Report of NYSLWV Convention: Donna Packard-Mahoney and Burton spoke glowingly of their experience. Mahoney reported on the following issues: 1. voting machines - NYLWV resolution to require optical scanners backed by a papertrail 2. national popular vote compact - to do away with the electoral college as now constituted; in future all electoral votes should go to the winner of the popular vote. 3. Women's Issues/Social Policy which evoked great discussion but no resolution. 4. Health Care with a single payer system.

Presentation of By-Law Revision: DeMarco read through the new Article II (enclosed) and moved that the revision be accepted. Sue Clark seconded the motion. Carried.

Report of the Nominating Committee: Jill Nagy, Co-Chair presented the slate of nominated officers:

for Co-President - Marcia Easterling

for Secretary - no candidate

for Directors - Fred Stein, Donna Packard-Mahoney, Margaret Story

for Nominating Committee (off-Board) - Jill Nagy, Millie Estes, Jane Ducatt (cont. p. 7)

Rensselaer County Political Calendar 2007

Primary Election September 18

General Election November 6

Voter Registration Primaries:

August 24: Registrations for Primary voting must be mailed, and received by Aug. 29

August 24: In Person Registrations to vote in Primary

August 29: Notices of change of address from registered voters received

Voter Registration General Election:

October 12: Applications postmarked no later than, and received by October 17

October 12: In Person Registration to vote in General Election

October 17: Notices of change of address from registered voters received

Voting by Absentee Ballot : Primary

September 11: Last day to postmark application for ballot

September 17: Last day to apply in person for ballot

September 17: Last day to postmark ballot Must be received by September 25

September 18: Last day to deliver ballot in person to the county board.

Voting by Absentee Ballot: General Election

October 30 Last day to postmark application or letter of application for ballot

November 5: Last day to apply in person for ballot

November 5: Last day to postmark ballot. Must be received by November 13

November 6: Last day to deliver ballot in person to board of elections.

(source: Political calendar 2007 Rensselaer County Board of Elections

<http://www.elections.state.ny.us/NYSBOE/law/2007PoliticalCalendar.pdf>)

(cont. from page 6) Nagy called for further nominations from the floor - Story was nominated and accepted the nomination as Secretary. Nagy then asked for a motion that the nominating ballot become the elective ballot. Mary Abbott so moved and Smith seconded. Carried. The Chair then instructed the current secretary to cast a unanimous ballot and then declared the slate as formally elected.

DeMarco then stepped forward to present on behalf of the LWVRC a gift to Story in recognition of her excellent leadership over the past 4 years.

George O'Connor distributed copies of new membership directory.

State Board Report on HAVA distributed. **call for direction from the floor to the Board:** none given **Adjournment: 8:45.**



**League of Women Voters
Rensselaer County**

265 River Street
Troy, NY 12180

<http://lwwrc.org>

CALENDAR August/September 2007

AUGUST 2007

- 2 Troy City Council, Thurs., 7 pm
- 8 Rensselaer County Legislature, Open Forum, Wed., 6pm
- 9 **Board Meeting, Thurs., 7pm, (Krause Center)**
- 14 Rensselaer County Legislature, Monthly Meeting, Tues., 6pm,

SEPTEMBER 2007

- 5 Rensselaer County Legislature, Open Forum, Wed., 6pm
- 6 Rensselaer County Legislature, Open Forum, Wednesday, 6 pm
- 18 **Primary Election Day, Tues., 12N – 9 pm**
- 12 Rensselaer County Legislature, Monthly Meeting, Wed., 6 pm
- TBDLWVNYS Regional Meeting,
- 13 **Board Meeting,., 7pm, (Krause Center)**