



The LOCAL VOTER
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
SYRACUSE METROPOLITAN AREA

MAY/JUNE 2010

Syracuse Metro LWV
 PO Box 11866
 Syracuse NY 13218
 (507 Plum St -2nd Fl. Syr. 13204)
 Phone: (315) 448-7199
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 Email: league@lwvsyr.org
 Web Sites:
 Local: www.lwvsyr.org
 State: www.lwvny.org
 National: www.lwv.org

UPCOMING EVENTS
May 14—16
 LWVNYS Spring Fling
May 22nd
 Camillus Aqueduct Rededication
June 11—15
 LWVUS Convention
Thursday, June 17th
 LWVSYR Annual Meeting

To receive your *Local Voter* by email, please contact us at league@lwvsyr.org. You will help the environment as well as save us printing and postage costs.
Thank You!

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STAYING INFORMED ON THE ISSUES AND EVENTS
 Local: www.lwvsyr.org
 State: www.lwvny.org
 National: www.lwv.org



**SYRACUSE METROPOLITAN LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
 2010 ANNUAL MEETING**

**THURSDAY, JUNE 17, 2010
 CARNEGIE CAFÉ & CATERING AT THE MAPLEWOOD INN
 400 7TH NORTH STREET, LIVERPOOL NY 13088**

CONVERSATION: 5:30 PM—DINNER 6:00 PM

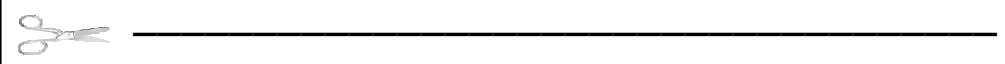
PROGRAM: 7:00 PM

Continuing with our 90th Anniversary Celebrations we are pleased to have Dr. Maryanne Felter, Cayuga Community College, as our guest. Dr. Felter has catalogued a collection of suffrage posters from a collection found at the Howland Stone Store Museum, Sherwood NY. The collection may be the most impressive, if unacknowledged, collection of suffrage posters in the country.

We will also test your knowledge of women's suffrage with fun & prizes.

We hope you can join us. The program is open to the public, feel free to bring a friend.

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING: 8:15PM



DINNER CHOICES—\$24.00 Inclusive

- _____ Chicken Francias with Carnegie Potatoes & Fruit Garnish
- _____ Tuscan Buttercrumb Haddock atop Tuscan Greens with Grilled Vegetables
- _____ Grilled London Broil with Asparagus Demi Glace, Carnegie Potatoes
- _____ Eggplant Rollentini with Marinara Sauce

All entrees include salad, rolls, dessert and coffee

To make your reservation call us at 448-7199, email us at league@lwvsyr.org or return this form with your dinner choice and remittance to Syracuse Metro LWV, PO Box 11866, Syracuse NY 13218

Name _____
 Address _____
 Phone _____ Email _____

RESERVATIONS BY JUNE 9, 2010

BOARD NOTES

MEMBERSHIP NOTES

WELCOME
Karen DeCrow
Margrit Diehl
Jean Gorman
Ron Herrgesell
Marilyn Ribyat

WELCOME BACK
Diane Chappell-Daly
Patricia Durgin

LWVNY CAPITOL BEAT BLOG

Watch and comment on a new LWVNY Blog about NYS Politics written by retired journalist Jay Gallagher. The easiest way to find it is to go to www.lwvny.org. You will see "New League Blog" in red at the top of the right corner of the home page. Click it and then save it in your Favorites. Check it often. You must sign in to comment but you can read it without joining.

NATURALIZATION CEREMONIES 2010 SCHEDULE

We need volunteers for the following dates:

August 19 - 11 am Federal Building
Oct. 12 - 11 am Federal Building

Thanks to all who have helped out this year with this very important Voter Service activity.

If you have not participated in this League activity in the past, you will find it a very rewarding and moving experience.

Please contact Voter Service Director Susan Bush to volunteer.

sjbushywca@cnyemail.com
Phone: 424-0040.



Officers

Co-President...	Rae Rohfeld
Co-President...	Open
Vice-President...	Open
Secretary...	Karen Smith
Treasurer....	Donald MacLaughlin

Directors

Advocacy...	Mary Clare Hatch-Pennello
Fund-Raising...	Open
Membership...	Mary Lou Green
Program....	Open
Publications...	Joan Johnson
Public Relations...	Lenore Rapalski
Voter Service...	Susan Bush

Off-Board Positions

Budget Director....	Rhonda Hungerford
Nominating Committee.....	Roberta Millert
	Joan Durant
	Nina Tamrowski
	Mary Lou Green
	Susan Bush
Optical Scan Liaison....	Lenore Rapalski
Technical Support...	Roberta Millert

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy. For more information please call the League office at (315) 448-7199 or e-mail to league@lwvsyr.org

Diversity Statement

The Syracuse Metropolitan League of Women Voters is committed to diversity and pluralism, which means there shall be no barriers to participation in any League activity on the basis of age, race, ethnicity, gender, disability, sexual orientation, religion, economic status, or national origin.

Please let us know your email address.

- It is the most efficient way to communicate
- You will be notified of upcoming local events
- LWV National & State Action Alerts

Your e-mail address will not be shared or sold. Please respond to league@lwvsyr.org

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Advocacy has been central to the League's mission since the League began 90 years ago. In keeping with that purpose, on May 5th several Syracuse Metro League members gathered at Exit 34A of the Thruway to join members from Buffalo, Rochester and Utica traveling to Albany to show our support for "Reinventing Albany." There we met up with a large crowd of people who traveled from other parts of the state for the same reason. The League co-sponsored the day's event with four other "good government" groups: Common Cause, Brennan Center for Justice, Citizens Union, and New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG). When we arrived, we received excellent information packets and a satisfying box lunch, and we took them to our seats in a huge, packed meeting room where discussion on "Reinventing Albany" was under way.

Each Albany official who appeared gave short remarks and then engaged in a question and answer session moderated by Jay Gallagher, former bureau chief of Gannett News Services. The officials were Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, Senator John Sampson, Leader of the Democratic Conference; Assembly Minority Leader, Brian Kolb; Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli; Minority Leader of the Senate, Dean Skelos; and Governor David A. Paterson. The topics being considered were member items, campaign finance, ethics, redistricting, and lobbying. All the officials realized some change must come, but no one promised anything specific. Occasionally an official made positive comments about a reform possibility, and the audience responded with clapping and cheering. It didn't happen very many times, though. Speaker Silver made reference to legislation Senator Valesky introduced on redistricting, but he seemed to object to the way the Commission responsible for proposing legislative districts would be chosen. While redistricting will happen next year after the census is completed, reformers will have to work hard to obtain any changes in the process.

Next year will be a busy year for the League. The November elections will be hard fought. Providing reliable information through candidates' forums and voter guides will keep us busy. New voting machines will require us to help inform voters about using them. The Fair Campaign Practices Committee should be publicized and ready for action. And we will still be advocating for "reinventing Albany."

Rae Rohfeld

CALENDAR

Saturday, May 22, 2010, 11:30 AM—9:15 PM
Camillus Erie Canal Park
5750 DeVoe Road, Camillus

Rededication of the aqueduct — a full day of activities. More information call 488-3409 or check the website at www.eriecanalcamillus.com

June 11—15, Atlanta GA

LWVUS Convention

Thursday, June 17, 2010, Maplewood Inn, Liverpool

LWVSUR Annual Dinner & Meeting (see page 6)

MILESTONES ON THE ROAD TO EQUALITY -



1874— The US Supreme Court decides that citizenship does not give women the right to vote and that women's political rights are under the jurisdiction of each individual state.

1910— The Women's Political Union holds its first suffrage parade in New York City.

1914— Montana and Nevada grant voting rights to women.

1916— Jeannette Rankin, a Republican from Montana, is elected to the House of Representatives becoming the first woman to serve in Congress.

SYRACUSE LWV 2010 – 2011 PROPOSED BUDGET

INCOME		2009-2010 Budget	Estimated Actual	Proposed Budget
A. Dues	1. Individuals (\$55)	\$2,365	\$3,360	\$3,630
	2. Household (\$80)	\$960	\$720	\$800
	3. Friend/Sustainer	<u>\$900</u>	<u>\$520</u>	<u>\$600</u>
	Subtotal	\$4,225	\$4,600	\$5,030
B. Contributions	1. Member	\$1,000	\$380	\$950
	2. Nonmember	\$300	\$50	\$200
	3. Business	<u>\$750</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$720</u>
	Subtotal	\$2,050	\$430	\$1,870
C. Elections	1. Election Reporting	\$160	\$260	\$260
	2. Monitoring Elections	<u>\$450</u>	<u>\$630</u>	<u>\$500</u>
	Subtotal	\$610	\$890	\$760
D. Fundraising		\$1,000	\$60	\$640
E. From Reserve	1. NY Education Fund	\$1,115	\$320	\$700
	2. JMS Savings	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
	Subtotal	\$1,115	\$320	\$700
F. 90th Anniversary Luncheon		<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$140</u>	<u>\$0</u>
TOTAL INCOME		\$9,000	\$6,440	\$9,000

EXPENSES		2009-2010 Budget	Estimated Actual	Proposed Budget
A. Operating Costs	1. General Supplies	\$100	\$120	\$150
	2. Postage and PO Box	\$200	\$150	\$200
	3. Rent	\$600	\$400	\$600
	4. Business property Liability	<u>\$360</u>	<u>\$360</u>	<u>\$360</u>
	Subtotal	\$1,260	\$1,030	\$1,310
B. Board and Admin.	1. President	\$200	\$100	\$100
	2. Board Tools (Web site)	\$200	\$230	\$200
	3. Finance Drive & Fundraiser	\$350	\$0	\$350
	4. Membership	\$550	\$70	\$100
	5. Public Relations	<u>\$350</u>	<u>\$80</u>	<u>\$250</u>
	Subtotal	\$1,650	\$480	\$1,000
C. Delegates: State/Natl. Conventions		\$500	\$0	\$700
D. Per Member Payment	1. National LWV	\$2,000	\$2,020	\$2,320
	2. State LWV	<u>\$1,280</u>	<u>\$1,280</u>	<u>\$1,410</u>
	Subtotal	\$3,280	\$3,300	\$3,730
E. Local Voter	1. Supplies & Printing	\$800	\$620	\$700
	2. Postage	<u>\$550</u>	<u>\$440</u>	<u>\$500</u>
	Subtotal	\$1,350	\$1,060	\$1,200
F. Educational Activities	1. Publications	\$100	\$20	\$40
	2. Program	\$500	\$270	\$470
	3. Who's Who	\$170	\$170	\$200
	4. Election Guide	\$100	\$170	\$200
	5. Fair Campaign practices	\$0	\$0	\$0
	6. Voters Guide	<u>\$90</u>	<u>\$110</u>	<u>\$150</u>
	Subtotal	\$960	\$740	\$1,060
G. Past presidents recognition		\$0	\$400	\$0
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$9,000	\$7,010	\$9,000

**SYRACUSE METROPOLITAN
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT
For the 2010 – 2011 term**

Officers to be elected at annual meeting:

President	Susan Bush	1 year term
Vice President	Mary Clare Hatch-Pennello	2 year term
Treasurer	Don MacLaughlin	2 year term

Directors to be elected at annual meeting:

Advocacy	Mary Clare Hatch-Pennello	1 year term
Fund Raising	Vacant	2 year term
Program	Rae Rohfeld	2 year term
Public Relations	Joan Johnson	2 year term
Voter Service	Joan Durant	1 year term

Continuing Officers and Directors:

Secretary:	Karen Smith	1 year of 2 year term
Membership	Mary Lou Green	1 year of 2 year term

Off Board Continuing:

Nominating Committee	Nina Tamrowski	2nd year of a 3 year term
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Off Board Specialists to be elected at annual meeting:

Budget Director	Rhonda Hungerford	
Onondaga Lake Partnership	Vacant	
Publications	Joan Johnson	
Nominating Committee	Barbara Olum	3 rd year of a 3 year term
	Minna Buck	1 st year of a 3 year term

Off Board Continuing:

Lenore Rapalski	Voting Machine Specialist
Roberta Millert	Technical Support

“Thanks to board members, Officers and Committee Members Past and Present.”

Respectfully submitted by the Nominating Committee:

Roberta Millert, Chair, Joan Durant, Susan Bush, Marylou Green & Nina Tamrowski

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS SYRACUSE METROPOLITAN AREA

PROPOSED 2010-2011 LOCAL ISSUES/POSITIONS

MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK

- Promote greater citizen participation in the political process by encouraging citizens to become knowledgeable about the issues and to actively lobby elected official
- Encourage individuals to exercise their right to vote especially among under represented populations

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- Study and support where appropriate legislation, which promotes proposals to modernize local government by sharing services among villages, towns, public schools, the city of Syracuse, and Onondaga County
- Support efforts to contain sprawl with planned growth throughout Onondaga County

SOCIAL POLICY

- Monitor the state school aid formula and its implications for upstate school districts and the Big 5 city districts
- Promote educational efforts dealing with domestic violence and the Integrated Domestic Violence Court in Onondaga County
- Promote opposition to the Death Penalty in support of the new LWVNY position

NATURAL RESOURCES

- Support efforts of the Onondaga Partnership to facilitate improvement projects for Onondaga Lake and its watershed

LOCAL SUPPORT FOR STATEWIDE ISSUES/STUDIES

- Promote improved reforms for HAVA: including improved training for poll workers, adequate staffing at polling places, the use of split shifts for election workers and citizen education and training for Replacement machines
- Promote improved election processes which extend and encourage voting, including no-excuse absentee balloting and Election Day registration
- Promote and encourage meaningful campaign finance reform
- Promote the creation of an independent redistricting commission
- Promote the creation of an independent ethics commission
- Promote meaningful reform of public authorities
- Promote additional legislative rules reform
- Promote and encourage meaningful property tax reform.

(Note: No changes have been suggested for the 2010-2011 Local Issues/Program)

NEW STATE LEGISLATION

-Election Law Reform-

The legislature has passed and the governor has signed legislation which will simplify the absentee ballot process by removing a requirement that the voter provide certain information on the reason for the voter’s absence. Currently, the absentee ballot application form requires that individuals provide specific information about the nature of their disabilities or why they won’t be in their polling district on Election Day, as well as name and addresses of employers and specific information regarding whereabouts. The bill will repeal many of the provisions that dictate what information voters must provide when applying for an absentee ballot.

Legislation has also been enacted which will provide that an affidavit ballot submitted on Election Day at a polling place will constitute an application to register to vote or to change political party enrollment. Previously, voters whose names were either not found in the poll books, or whose names are not listed as being enrolled in a party in a primary election, were required to cast affidavit ballots. This bill codifies into statute the current custom of using the affidavit ballot as a registration or change of enrollment tool.

-Public Officers Law-

The legislation strengthens the open meetings law by providing two alternatives to court invalidation of an action taken when any aspect of a meeting is closed in violation of the law. First, a court could stay the implementation of an action and remand the action to the public body for reconsideration so that the issue can be properly and entirely discussed in public. Second, a court could, upon finding a violation of law by a public body, require mandatory training for the members of such public body.

The legislation is good news to the League of Women Voters who have lobbied for these reforms for years.



LWVSYR REACHES CONSENSUS ON STATE STUDY

The Consensus Meeting on government consolidation /shared services was held on May 4th to complete the questionnaire provided by the State League. We had a lively discussion as we looked at the “Standards for Judging State Legislation or Constitutional Amendments” and “Standards for Evaluating a Specific Local Proposal for the Dissolution or Consolidation of a Local Government Entity or Major Shared Service.” You read the questions in the April Local Voter.

Our responses will be shared with those from Leagues across the state. LWVNY will then share the League’s position.

This is such a timely topic! The MDA and the Chamber of Commerce (now called the Center State CEO) and 20/20 (sharing information about this for years) will be continuing their discussions and action toward transforming governments. Shouldn’t we be a player in these ongoing efforts?

When you realize that in Onondaga County, alone, planning decisions are made by 35 local governments (19 towns, 15 villages and a city) involving over 700 elected and appointed officials on 105 legislative, planning and zoning boards, it seems obvious that local governments need to be structured so that they can more effectively address regional issues that have the most impact on job growth and economic competitiveness. (from Onondaga Citizens League Study 2005 on Strategic Government Consolidation).

The picture is larger than whether or not a village is dissolved into a town. A thriving economy in Syracuse and Central New York will require citizens to explore and support new ways of making it happen.

Thanks to the Study Committee and the Leaguers who attended the Consensus Meeting.

Carol Wixson,
Study Chair

Come to the Annual Meeting and play:

"INSUFFERAGIBLE TRIVIA"

Test your knowledge of Women’s Suffrage

Prizes and Fun

**June 17th at
The Maplewood Inn
7th North St Liverpool**





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LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
PO BOX 11866
SYRACUSE NY 13218

MAY/JUNE 2010

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Syracuse, NY
Permit no. 372

Annual Meeting
June 17th

**League of Women Voters
Membership Application**

*Democracy is not a spectator sport
It's efficient activism*

*It is a way to make your voice count
It is a way to make politics a process for the people*

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Work Phone _____ E-mail _____

___ *Individual Level....\$55*

___ *Household Level*....\$80*

___ *Student Level **....\$25*

**Please make check payable to:
Syracuse Metro Area League of Women Voters
P O Box 11866
Syracuse, NY 13218**

* *Two members in the same household*

** *Full time student under 25*

___ ***I would like to support the League with a donation.***

For more information call us at (315) 448-7199 or visit us at www.lwvsyr.org