



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TOMPKINS COUNTY

OCTOBER 2008

PRESIDENT: KAY SHARP 272-4748
MEMBERSHIP: KATHLEEN YEN 257-8199

EDITOR: ROBERT SILSBEE 273-1436
www.lwvtompkins.14850.com

CANDIDATES' FORUMS

There will be a candidates' forum on Tuesday, October 28 at 7:00 pm in the Forum of the Main Building at the Tompkins Cortland Community College. The candidates participating in this forum will be incumbent James Seward and challenger Don Barber. James Seward currently represents the 51st New York State Senate District. There may be a forum for the Maurice Hinchey-George Phillips contest in the 22nd Congressional District to be organized jointly by the LWV and Cornell but a suitable date has not been found. Watch the newspapers.

all of the great volunteers who helped to make it such a success.

Deborah Levin, Voter Services

NPV COMMITTEE

The first meeting of the National Popular Vote (NPV) study committee will take place in November. The study guide and materials won't be available until sometime in November, and consensus isn't due until May 1, 2009. Please call Sunny Gooding (277-3598) or e-mail shgooding@clarityconnect.com if you're interested.

VOTER SERVICE REPORT

The Tompkins County League of Women Voters has had a voter registration table at the Farmers' Market every Saturday beginning August 2 and ending this past Saturday, October 4. In addition to the Farmers' Market, we have had tables at the Ithaca Festival in June, at the Apple Harvest Festival in September, and at Wegman's during the Cayuga Radio Group's gathering on September 20th. We have had volunteer voter registrars at Loaves and Fishes for lunch and dinner during the month of October. We signed up more than 100 new voters. Many are first time voters; some had just moved to the area. In addition, we handed out about the same number of forms for people to fill out on their own. We also answered many questions about voting in person and about absentee voting. We were occasionally asked for our opinion about candidates, which we politely refused to give. We feel that this was a very successful effort and would like to thank

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Welcome:

We are pleased to welcome our new member, Maria Corwin, 257-3710. Please add her to your membership list.

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HEALTH CARE ROAD SHOW A RESOUNDING SUCCESS

The Health Care Road Show, as announced in last month's Bulletin, proved to be very successful in accomplishing its goals. It brought to people across New York State the message about why we need to reform the way we pay for health care and why Single Payer is the only answer to curing our health care crisis.

The troupe, led and coordinated by Rebecca Elgie, traveled 1300 miles over twelve days, reaching over 3,000 people in ten communities from Buffalo to Albany. Donna Smith, who appeared in SICKO, spoke on nine college campuses and at ten community gatherings. She was joined by local physicians, labor leaders, candidates and office holders to round out a comprehensive case for health care publicly funded and privately delivered. The message reached many more through newspaper reporting and radio interviews.

One very important goal and outcome of the Health Care Road Show was the formation of a new statewide group, "Single Payer New York," which is now organizing contact people from every county to be part of a network for providing information and education about single payer health care. The group is comprised of LWV and other single payer advocacy groups

and individuals, physicians, nurses, other health care providers, labor, elected officials and candidates. There are contacts in over thirty counties so far. They have produced yard signs which say "Single Payer Health Care - One Nation, One Plan."

Rebecca Elgie did a masterful job of putting the events together. We can be very proud. We can also help in furthering the cause by providing her with names of people in other counties who might be interested in joining this network, by putting up a yard sign and by sharing this information with colleagues and friends. We are all affected by the health insurance mess and it is rapidly growing worse.

Go to the web site
www.singlepayernewyork.org
for a wealth of information about these issues.

Everyone is welcome to attend the next meeting of the Health Care Committee on Wednesday, October 22, at 10:30 an at Rebecca's house, 409 Linn St.

If you can help, wish to join the committee, or want more information, contact Rebecca Elgie, 272-0621, healthylink@earthlink.net

LWV-TC CALENDAR—2008-2009

(tentative items in italics)

7:00	Tues. Oct. 28	CANDIDATES' FORUM	The Forum, Main Building, TC3
		Don Barber and James Seward for State Senate, 51st District	
5:30	Mon. Nov. 3	Board Meeting	Kathy Burlitch
6:00-9:00	Tues. Nov. 4	GENERAL ELECTION	
7:00	Mon. Nov. 24	GENERAL MEETING—<i>topic to be decided</i>	TBA
9:30	Sat. Dec. 6	Board Meeting (dish to pass)	Maria Eisner
7:00	Mon. Jan. 26	EDUCATIONAL MEETING— National Popular Vote	TBA
noon	Sat. Feb. 28	LUNCH MEETING—<i>Global Warming</i>	TBA
7:00	Mon. Mar. 23	CONSENSUS MEETING—National Popular Vote	TBA
7:00	Mon. Apr. 27	ANNUAL MEETING—<i>Health Care Roundtable</i>	TBA
7:00	Thur. May 7	CANDIDATES' FORUM—ICSD School Board	IHS Auditorium
noon-9:00	Tues. May 19	SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS	

PROGRAM COMMITTEE REPORT

I enjoyed working with the Program Committee and the League to organize our first general meeting of the year, "The Experiences Of Refugee Families Who Settle in Our Community" on Monday evening September 22, 2008.

The Program Committee chose to focus specifically on refugees in response to the Board's interest in the conference presented by the Family Life Development Center and the New York State College of Human Ecology, Cornell University: "The Immigrant Child: Past, Present, and Future," held on October 3 and 4.

I was pleasantly surprised how easy it was to find good speakers. Each person I contacted patiently answered my questions and directed me to the important people involved in helping refugees. I was gratified that four 'experts' were willing to juggle their busy schedule in order to speak to the League. They worked together to prepare and coordinate their talks and they arranged a display of clothing, craft items and books which illustrated the cultures and personalities of the refugees they worked with.

Debra Virgo, from Interfaith Works, Center for New Americans in Syracuse talked about her role in working with the government to facilitate the settlement of refugees in New York State. She described the dire circumstances that refugees faced in their home countries and the economic and political hurdles confronting those who flee to the U.S.

She provided a brief history of various groups of refugees and some statistics to answer questions from the audience.

Cecelia Linscott of the Refugee Settlement Office in Ithaca gave a short history as background for the changes in refugee services in Tompkins County. She related her experiences, coordinating services with volunteers and agencies on behalf of many refugees in the Community.

Peggy Robinson is the Bilingual Family Liaison for the Ithaca City School District located at the Belle Sherman Elementary School. She works with the English as a Second Language Program and coordinates with the schools, volunteer sponsors and public agencies to help children and adults develop and use necessary language skills..

Carol Whitlow is a sponsor of a large family from Burma. She talked of her experiences with the family, working closely with them through their daily struggles to adjust to a new culture and language. She gave specific examples of how our rigid American systems of providing services do not meet the needs of persons from different cultures.

The four speakers and the audience of League members and others, engaged in a lively conversation, sharing their strong interest and enthusiasm for working with refugees. It was clear that those who volunteered their time to help refugee families received many rewards from the relationships they developed.

Finally, a big thank you to the members of the League who helped to make the program a success by giving support and providing the delicious desserts and beverages which were enjoyed by all.

Florence B. Smith

DUES REMINDER!

Is there a red dot on you mailing label? If so, we've not yet received your dues for 2008-09. Forms are reprinted for your use on pages 4 and 5. Please send your dues, as soon as possible so that we can bring our records up to date, to Alene Wyatt, 380 Savage Farm Dr., Ithaca, NY 14850. If our dues are a financial hardship for you, rather than drop your League membership please consider a token payment. It will be accepted as a full payment. No questions will be asked. (If you subscribe to the bulletin by e-mail, you will receive a separate e-mail reminder.)

Kathleen Yen

A REMINDER FOR ALL OF US: DEBATE OF ISSUES VS. PARTISANSHIP

Things are heating up in this election season. While the candidates are hotly debating their issues and conducting their campaigns, League members have been debating the meaning of nonpartisanship in the face of this campaign season.

Certainly, there is a distinction to be made between nonpartisan activity and speaking out on issues. The LWV was founded as a political organization that speaks out on issues, but never endorses a political party or candidate. In this climate of heightened partisanship, it's not unusual for the media and others to try to make a link between a position on an issue and alignment with a political party. That is certainly one risk of taking positions on political

issues. However, the LWV has done exactly this for the 88 years of its existence.

Speaking out on issues is a respected role for this organization, and spokespersons for the League only speak out when there is a position that allows us to do so. These positions, as we all know, are developed through study and consensus and are not developed in light of any political party's platform. This well regarded process of study and member agreement remains a hallmark of the League's reputation.

In the midst of this election season, we must be ever mindful that we maintain the distinction between speaking out on an issue and endorsing any political party or candidate. The watchword for us is nonpartisanship.

**LWVUS President
Mary G. Wilson**

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TOMPKINS COUNTY: BOARD 2008-09

LWV NYS website
LWV US website
LWV-Tompkins County

leave message at 272-4748

www.lwvny.org
www.lwv.org
lwvtc@twcny.rr.com
www.lwvtompkins.14850.com

Officers

President	Kay Sharp	272-4748	kshepherdqueen@yahoo.com
V.P.-Program (from 12/08)	Cathy Valentino	272-5214	cavalentino@gmail.com
V.P Membership	Kathleen Yen	257-8199	kyen@twcny.rr.com
V.P. Finance	Sunny Gooding	277-3598	shgooding@clarityconnect.com
Secretary	Barbara Caldwell	272-5769	bcaldwel@twcny.rr.com
Treasurer	Alene Wyatt	257-1894	alene@lightlink.com

Directors:

Bulletin	Robert Silsbee	273-1436	rhs1@cornell.edu
Director-at-large	Libby deProsse	257-6678	deprosse@lightlink.com
Director-at-large	Maria Eisner	277-4404	mle3@cornell.edu
Action	Mary Berkelman	257-6450	mberkelman@netscape.net
Publications/Publ.Rel.	Kathy Burlitch	539-7316	klburlitch@frontiernet.net
Phone	Linda Duttweiler	277-0006	ldutt@twcny.rr.com
Voter Services	Debbie Levin	273-7746	dlevin01@twcny.rr.com

Off-Board Members:

Webmaster	Michael Duttweiler	277-0006	ldutt@twcny.rr.com
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Dear Member,

October 2008

Our new fiscal year started on July 1, 2008 and, if you have not already done so, you should mail your annual membership dues promptly to the LWV-TC Treasurer, Alene Wyatt, 380 Savage Farm Drive, Ithaca, NY 14850. Please, do not forget to renew your membership, and continue to show your support of the League.

Because our PMP (per member payment) to the National League (\$28) and to the State League (\$18) has increased during recent years, leaving us now only \$2 per member for local operating expenses, we are introducing a different payment structure. You may choose between paying either \$48 as *contributing* member or \$58 as *supporting* member, and either \$72 or \$87 for a *contributing* or *supporting* family membership. "Friends of the League" who want to receive the local Bulletin only are asked to pay \$10. They are welcome to attend our meetings, but cannot participate as voting members.

Please make your annual check payable to LWV-TC. If our dues are a financial hardship for you, rather than drop your League membership please consider a token payment. It will be accepted like a full payment. No questions will be asked.

We are always grateful for a contribution toward our operating expenses. It can be added to the dues check, which is not tax-deductible. **For a tax-deductible contribution toward our educational activities, please, use a separate check, made out to Community Foundation of Tompkins County, memo: Ed. Fund of LWV.**

Please, take a few minutes to update your contact information and fill in the questionnaire on the reverse side. Send it, along with your check, to Alene Wyatt, 380 Savage Farm Drive, Ithaca, NY 14850.

Thank you for your faithful support.

Sincerely,
Kathleen Yen, Membership, 277-4404

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LEAGUE of WOMEN VOTERS of TOMPKINS COUNTY Dues 2008-2009

Dues Individual:	<i>contributing</i>	\$48.-;	<i>supporting</i>	\$58.-	_____
Household:	<i>contributing</i>	\$72.-;	<i>supporting</i>	\$87.-	_____
Friend of the League		\$10.-			_____
Contribution (not tax-deductible)					_____
	Total (payable to LWV-TC)				_____
Contribution (tax-deductible) (payable to Community Foundation of TC; memo: Ed. Fund of LWV)					_____

CONTACT INFORMATION (Please Print) Contact information needs to be updated each year.
 Mrs., Ms., Miss, Mr. (first name) _____ (last name) _____
 Mailing Address: _____ (City, Town, Village of _____)
 Telephone Number: _____ A good time to call: day ___ evening ___ never ___
 Work phone (if ok to call): _____ e-mail _____

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS – TOMPKINS COUNTY

QUESTIONNAIRE (2008-2009)

BULLETIN How do you want to access the *Bulletin*? (please check one)

- _____ On our web site **www.lwvtompkins.14850.com**
- _____ Receive it by e-mail (this is a good way to save printing costs and postage)
 - _____ as .doc file or _____ as .pdf file
- _____ Receive it by US postal service

COMMITTEES I am interested in joining a committee on:

"Unmet needs of young children living in poverty in TC" _____;
 Natural Resources _____; Health Care _____; National Popular Vote Study _____.

VOTER SERVICE I would like to be involved with Voter Service in the following ways:

- _____ Register voters
- _____ Election reporting
- _____ Help with candidates' forums
- _____ Moderate meetings (training provided)
- _____ Distribute Facts-for-Voters
- _____ Hand out voting information to new citizens
(3 times/yr. at naturalization ceremonies)
- _____ Talk to high school students about voting, participation in government, civil rights

OTHER WAYS TO BE INVOLVED

- _____ Help with a one-time job
- _____ Represent the LWV on the board of the City Federation of Women's Organizations
- _____ Observe meetings¹⁾ of the:
 - _____ County Legislature
 - _____ School Board
 - _____ City Council
 - _____ Town Board (of _____)
 - _____ Village Board (of _____)
 - _____ Other (specify) _____

¹⁾You would be asked to report back to the board or to the membership through the Bulletin.

SPECIAL TALENTS (to share with the League): _____
 e.g. audit our books?

PROSPECTIVE MEMBER(S): (Information will be sent to individuals interested in the LWV)
 Name _____ address OR e-mail: _____ Telephone: _____

IDEAS & SUGGESTIONS: (e.g. topic for a meeting or forum, student involvement)

**HAZARDOUS MATERIALS IN THE HOME:
SUGGESTIONS FOR SAFER ALTERNATIVES**

Leaking landfills, toxic and radioactive waste dumps, industrial hazards, and environmentally damaging oil spills are covered on a regular basis in the news; yet people continue to calmly use hazardous materials in the home as cleaners, insecticides, etc. A brightly colored package or a pleasantly scented product can disguise chemicals that are harmful to people and the environment. The following "recipes" to substitute for more hazardous products are taken from an LWV-TC pamphlet of 1990. We hope that these suggestions will help you choose simpler, safer alternative products for use in and around the home. You will see additional ideas in future issues.

CLEANING CONCERNS AND METHODS TO DEAL WITH THEM

In the Kitchen

steel sinks	Rub with paste made of baking soda and water OR Use cloth dipped in ammonia for brown stains.
copper	Apply paste of equal parts salt, flour and vinegar OR Dip lemon in salt and rub on - rinse and dry.
silver	Rub with paste made of baking soda and water OR Soak in sour milk or buttermilk overnight OR Fill a glass jar 1/2 full with strips of aluminum foil, then add 1 tablespoon rock salt and enough cold water to fill the jar. Keep covered. Dip silver items into the jar and leave for two minutes. Rinse well and dry.
drains	Pour 2-4 qts. boiling water down the drain weekly to keep it open OR Put 1/2 cup baking soda and 1/2 cup warm white vinegar down the drain. After 15 minutes, flush with boiling water to dissolve crystals OR Add 3 tablespoons washing soda followed by 2 cups warm water into the drain OR For clogged drain, use a plunger or snake.
ovens	Sprinkle spills with baking soda or salt while still very warm, then wipe up. Scour with steel wool if very soiled OR Set a dish of ammonia in the oven overnight. Add water to ammonia in the morning to wash the interior OR Fill a spray bottle with equal parts of ammonia and water. Spray on oven walls, close door and later wipe clean (or leave overnight and then wipe up).
oven racks	Soak in scalding water with 1 cup ammonia. 1/2 cup detergent; rub with steel wool OR Place on towel in bathtub, sprinkle automatic dishwashing detergent or liquid detergent on racks, barely cover with hot water.
fires	For stove top fires, turn off burner and sprinkle food with salt OR For grease fires, throw baking soda over the blaze.

YOUR REPRESENTATIVES IN CONGRESS

SENATORS:

Hillary Rodham Clinton US Senate, 476 Russell Senate Building, Washington, DC 20510
202-224-4451; Syracuse Office: 315-448-0470
e-mail: senator@clinton.senate.gov web-site: clinton.senate.gov

Charles E. Schumer US Senate, 313 Hart Senate Building, Washington, DC 20510
202-224-6542; Binghamton Office: 607-772-6792
e-mail: senator@schumer.senate.gov web-site: schumer.senate.gov

REPRESENTATIVES;

Michael Arcuri 327 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515-3224
202-225-3665; Cortland Office: 607-756-2470
e-mail: send from web-site web-site: arcuri.house.gov

Maurice Hinchey 2431 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515
202-225-6335; Ithaca Office: 607-273-1388; 123 S. Cayuga St. #201
e-mail: mhinchey@mail.house.gov web-site: www.house.gov/hinchey

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