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**Does the Current State of Politics Get You Angry?
Don’t Just Explode!
Join the League of Women Voters
and Do Something About It!!**

Join an organization that makes an impact in the community, the state and the nation.
Nonpartisan: We do not support candidates, elected officials or political parties.

Membership Information: call Myra Decker 643-2742 or send:

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone No. (home) _____ (work) _____ Email: _____

Membership Dues: _____ \$45.00 Individual

(Check desired level) _____ \$65.00 Family

Make **check** out to: **Plattsburgh Area League of Women Voters**

Mail to: Myra Decker, 7 Woodland Hills, Morrisonville, NY 12962

THE INFORMER



**League of Women Voters
of the Plattsburgh Area**

October 2007 No. 2

**7 Woodland Hills
Morrisonville, New York 12962**

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Visit Plattsburgh LWV Web Site at www.plattsburgh.ny.lwvnet.org

Special

OFFER TO THE PUBLIC

If you wish to be put on the League's mailing list and receive the League Newsletter, "The Informer", to keep in touch about the League's activities, please submit \$5.00 to cover cost of postage and printing for 10 issues. Make check payable to **League of Women Voters, Plattsburgh Area** and send it to **Myra Decker, 7 Woodland Hill, Morrisonville, NY 12962.**

My Story- Janet Duprey

I believe I joined the League in 1976, my first year as a Clinton County Legislator. Mimi McDowell invited me to a meeting and then asked me to speak at a dinner. Although I'm not positive, I expect the topic was my experience as the first (and only) woman on the Legislature.

I was impressed with the quality of ladies at the meeting, their interest in serving the public from a bipartisan perspective and their willingness to work hard to enroll voters, present the facts and take on tough issues. Perhaps most of all, I was pleased to join an organization that was in the forefront of recognizing women's issues and taking strong stands for equality.

My admiration of League members has grown over the years, and I truly recognize the value of the League of Women Voters as a watchdog organization.

The League would like hear **your story** about how you became involved in the League. Please email your story to larry.arcarese@verizon.net.

REMEMBER: Donations to the local League of Women Voters are **tax deductible** if the checks are made out to the **LWV Educational Fund.**

Steps to access the Informer:

Log on to www.plattsburgh.ny.lwvnet.org. Click on "The Informer" either on the side bar or main part of the page. Click on <http://www.lwvny-bulletins.org/Capital%20Region/Plattsburgh.htm> The next page enables you to click on the latest or past editions of the newsletter. It will ask to either open it up or save it to a disk. You can then print it if you desire. You will get a larger print if you use **legal** size paper.



Need Help on Oct. 4th

The League is registering voters at Clinton Community College on Oct. 4th from 8:00-1 and having a bake sale. We need your assistance in 2 areas:
****helping to register students** (1, 2 or 3 hours or more)
****bringing in cookies, muffins, bar cookies, etc.**



You can drop baked goods off at CCC on Oct. 4th before 8:00 or drop it off on Oct. 3rd at Stasia Arcarese - 118 Prospect Ave., Plattsburgh. Call **(561-1745)** or email larry.arcarese@verizon.net to help out.



Recycle Rechargeable Batteries and Cell Phones

RBRC recycles the following battery chemistries: Nickel Cadmium (Ni-Cd), Nickel Metal Hydride (Ni-MH), Lithium Ion (Li-ion) and Small Sealed Lead* (Pb). RBRC is dedicated to keeping rechargeable batteries and cell phones out of our nation's solid waste stream and preserving natural resources. Answer the Call to Recycle! www.rbrc.org/call2recycle

* weighing less than 2 lbs./1 kg



Plattsburgh Locations:

- | | |
|------------------|---------------------------|
| Lowe's | North Communications Inc. |
| RadioShack | SAM'S CLUB |
| Sears | Sears Repair Services |
| Verizon Wireless | Wells Communications |

Do you Know the Meaning of these Health Care Terms?



Administrative Overhead: Portion of health care expenditures consumed by clerical and technological support for filing and re-filing claims, denial/payment of claims, advertising, executive salaries. While Medicare administrative costs take only about 2-3 percent of their expenditures for administration costs, the lowest percentage for any private insurer is 14 percent.

Health Savings Account: A tax-sheltered savings account similar to the IRA, but earmarked for medical expenses. Deposits are 100% tax-deductible and can be easily withdrawn by check or debit card to pay routine medical bills with tax-free dollars. Larger medical expenses are covered by a low-cost, high deduction health insurance policy.

Health Care as a "Right": The Universal Declaration of Human rights, adopted by the United Nations in 1948, proclaimed that "everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of oneself and one's family, including food, clothing, housing, and medical care." Although this statement of high principle was adopted at the urging of the U.S., and although it reflects the truths of our nation's founding document, our government has not formally recognized these rights.

Woman in History



Mary Katherine Goddard (1738-1816) was a pioneer among women in Baltimore town in the era of the American Revolution. She was a newspaper editor determined to publish the truth as well as a fighter for the right of women to pursue a career. She worked with her brother, William, in his printing shops in Providence and Philadelphia before the pair moved to Baltimore, Maryland. Left to manage the daily operations of the family's print shop while her brother was away drumming up support for his Constitutional Post, Mary Katherine Goddard published The Maryland Journal, numerous almanacs and broadsides.

Through William's influence, Mary Katherine became Baltimore's postmaster in 1775. She held the post for 14 years. But in 1789, Postmaster General Samuel Osgood removed her from the position stating that it would require "more traveling . . . than a woman could undertake." Osgood appointed his political ally, John White, a man inexperienced in postal operations, to replace her.

Mary Goddard approached her publishing duties with great enthusiasm. Her printing coup was her publication of the Declaration of Independence on January 18, 1777. It was the first copy of the Declaration listing all of the signers to appear in print.

Goddard's customers protested her dismissal. She had, by all accounts, been an accomplished postmaster. On November 12, 1789, over 230 citizens of the city of Baltimore presented Postmaster General Osgood with a petition demanding her reinstatement. In their plea, the petitioners noted that Mary Katherine Goddard gave "universal Satisfaction to the community" and they were "praying in the most earnest manner that she be restored."

The citizens' petition was unsuccessful. Having already lost her printing business to her brother, Mary Katherine Goddard turned to selling books, stationery and dry goods. She died in Baltimore on August 12, 1816. (Smithsonian Postal Museum)

continued from p. 4 "Voting Machines"

The Board's proposal would bypass the full and thorough testing process that was guaranteed to New York State voters. In light of all we have learned from other states about the massive failures of DREs, we can't allow this to happen.

Within the next week, the State Board will finalize documents that would allow DREs to be used in very polling place in New York State in 2008 without undergoing full and rigorous testing. If this happens, it will condemn New York State voters to years of the same problems, high costs, and security risks that other states using DREs have experienced. The State Board of Elections is opening the door to making New York a DRE state - we can't let that happen. **Please act now.**

Go to <http://www.democracyinaction.org/dia/organizationsORG/vevo/campaign.jsp?campaign_KEY=12799> to send a fax to the New York State Board of Elections.

Bo Lipari, Executive Director, New Yorkers for Verified Voting

Update on Holt Election Reform Bill

The LWVUS has been monitoring this bill since it was introduced. We noted in February that the voter-verified paper ballot portions of this bill were consistent with the League's position as adopted at Convention 2006. Although the bill has changed over the last few months, that portion of the bill remains consistent with the League's position and state and local Leagues may, if they wish, speak to their Congressional delegations in support of those provisions. We understand that action on the bill on the floor of the House may be imminent, although discussions continue regarding procedural matters. We will continue to watch this bill in case last minute offensive amendments are attached to it.



on Nov. 6th



LWV Web site to have Candidates Biography/Platforms

All candidates running for office in Clinton County have been asked to submit their biography and platform to the League. This information will be put on the League's web site, www.plattsburgh.ny.lwvnet.org by October 1st. For questions, contact **Betty Ann King 293-8213** or bking8213@charter.net.

HOT Immigration Study

On October 15, 2007 from 10-12 am, the Plattsburgh Area LWV will begin an Immigration Study- Strategy and Planning at the home of Barbara Landes (5C Sandra Ave., Plattsburgh). Please call **Barbara 562-2897, Myra Decker 643-2742** or **Betsy Metz 561-6106** for information and directions. Resources and background information can be found on the www.lwv.org web site.

League Members-We Need You

There are many opportunities to participate in Voter Service activities this fall. Some of the activities are:

- **Distribute Voter Guides II
- **Participate in Voter Registration at CCC on Oct. 4th. (see p. 1 for details)
- **Help with candidate debates in the county
- **Help to collect voting results on election night.

To volunteer or to get more information, contact **Betsy Metz 561-6106** or **Myra Decker 643-2742** or mystdek7@northnet.org



The Informer

League of Women Voters of the Plattsburgh Area



October 2007

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League of Women Voters First Friday Forum



October 5, 2007

12 noon

Butcher Block Restaurant



Topic: "Homeland Security in the North Country"

Speaker: **Mike Johnson** from the Department of Homeland Security

\$12.00 Soup and Salad Bar

RSVP by October 3rd to **Carole Cao-Ba 563-3903** or tzivia12@aol.com



Calendar

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| October 1, 2007 | Board Meeting 12 noon - contact Myra Decker for place |
| October 4, 2007 | 8-1 Voter Registration and Bake Sale at Clinton Community College |
| October 5, 2007 | First Friday Forum - Mike Johnson, Dept. of Homeland Security |
| November 2, 2007 | First Friday Forum |
| November 6, 2007 | Election Day |

The Current Status of Clinton County Air Transportation

The First Friday Forum was held on September 7th at the Butcher Block Restaurant. Rodney Brown, Director of Planning for Clinton County and Deputy County Administrator for Clinton County spoke about the airports in Clinton County.

Planning, he said, began after the closure of the Plattsburgh Air Force Base. There were other uses contemplated besides the building of an airport. New York Avenue was proposed to be extended to Route 22 with the hope of development taking place along this area. They also knew that the runway was long enough for the shuttle to land, if necessary, and was one of the reasons to keep it. The racetrack proposal was shelved.

They started operating as an airport even though there were no passengers. It cost too much to develop the airport at that point. It cost much less (\$300,000 subsidized by taxpayers) for the Clinton County airport with its 5000 ft. runway to keep operating. The impetus to consider building an international airport came after Pratt Whitney came in. The prospects for the airport were greater, particularly because of its almost 12,000 ft runway, even though it wouldn't be cost breaking. The first priority would be to generate greater passenger activity. In the 80's the Clinton County Airport had 10,000/year passengers vs 2000 today. Big Sky (a Delta affiliate) wants to purchase Commutair (a Continental affiliate) which would expand potential destinations to 140 out of Boston. They would also guarantee

to match any publicized airfare from Burlington. Smaller airports also can't survive without a direct subsidy. If Big Sky is awarded the Essential Air Service contract, the subsidy would continue as long as it was needed.

Renovating the buildings on PAFB would cost millions of dollars. Fortunately with base closures, the Military Assistance Program (MAP) provided money to renovate so that today there are no buildings that need renovation. Thirty million dollars have been given with \$12 million used to build the airport terminal. Two million dollars had been given to Pratt Whitney.



SheltAir, which is a fixed base operator, provides fuel for airplanes among other services. The management contract reads that the County will pay expenses, get revenues and pay them a fixed amount for profit. Currently there are jet airplanes coming in just to get fuel because of SheltAir's reputation.



The current control tower won't work and a new one may have to be built in the future. Planes are currently guided in by the Burlington Airport. SheltAir will guide them in after they're cleared by Burlington by October. Pilots can also turn on the airport landing lights from their planes.

Signage for the airport still has to be done but will cost about \$500,000. The Rt. 87 airport sign is down but has only by an airplane symbol until the signage is approved.

The Montreal market has Ft. Lauderdale as
continued on p.4

Debate Watching 101

Debate Watching 101 provides background information and tips to help you get the most out of watching a candidate debate.

Watching debates is an important way for voters to learn more about the candidates and the issues before the election, so that they can cast an informed vote. At the same time, voters need to view debates with a careful eye to get the most information. Candidates rehearse thoroughly for debates, making it hard to get candid, spontaneous answers. Debates can emphasize form over substance, such as the candidates' appearance instead of their stands on the issues. You may watch a debate and still not get answers to the questions you have about the candidates and issues.

Before the Debate

To get the information you need in deciding who to vote for:

- *Follow the campaign to learn about the candidates and their backgrounds;
- *Find out what the important campaign issues are;
- *Decide what issues are most important to you;
- *Think about the questions you may have and the information you want to get from the debate to help you in your decision making

During the Debate

Ask yourself about the debate format and questions like these to help you judge the fairness of the debate and the performance of the candidates.

- *Does the format give each candidate an equal opportunity to speak and respond to questions?
- *Are the questions clear, fair and equally tough on all candidates?
- Do the questions cover the issues that are important to you?
- *Is the moderator in control of the debate? Does the moderator need to say less and let the candidates say more?

The candidates:

- *Do they answer questions directly, or do they evade them or fail to answer the specific question?

*Do they give specifics about their stands on the issues, or do they speak in generalities? Do they support their positions and arguments with facts and figures?

*Do they talk about their own policies and positions, or do they mostly attack their opponents? Are their proposals realistic? Can they actually carry out the promises they are making?

*Do they appear sincere, confident and relaxed? *Do they show how their backgrounds and experience qualify them to hold the office?

*Are their answers consistent with their previous positions, and if not, do they explain why?

*What image are they trying to create?

*Do their responses appear overly rehearsed or "canned"?

Media coverage

*If you are watching the debate on television, are reaction shots or other techniques used to create a sense of drama or conflict?

*Are you being influenced by comments made by reporters and commentators immediately before and after the debate?

After the Debate

Compare your impressions with others who watched the debate will help clarify your thoughts about the candidates and the issues:

*Asking yourself, based on the information you got from watching the debate, which candidate appears most qualified for the office;

*Identifying the issues on which you agree with a candidate and those on which you disagree, and deciding whether that makes you more or less likely to vote for a particular candidate;

*Asking yourself if you learned something new about the issues or the candidate;

*Thinking about whether you have more questions about the issues or the candidates that you want to follow up;

*Getting more information about the candidates' positions from news reports, candidate Web sites and nonpartisan voter information Web sites such as **VOTE411.org**. (To see full version of Debate 101 go to lww.org) © LWV Education Foundation 2006



Safer, More Compassionate World Forum

League of Utica/Rome Metro
Tuesday, October 23, 2007

Mohawk Valley Community College
1101 Sherman Drive
Utica, New York

These forums will:

*Explore comprehensive approaches to counterterrorism beyond governmental policies and actions.

*Highlight ways citizens can engage constructively in what the 9/11 Commission termed the "Agenda of Opportunity" (education, employment, and the possibility for a brighter tomorrow) and contribute, person-to-person, to help build a future without the threat of terrorism.

*Encourage a less fearful, more informed, non-partisan public discussion about the predominant threat to the security of the United States.

Speakers:
John Zogby, speaker and political pollster
Beverly Quist, Sociology Professor, Mohawk Valley Community

Co-Sponsors:
Mohawk Valley Community College
Thomas Proctor High School
American Association of University Women
Retired Utica Teachers Association



"Briefings on the Effects of War on Women Around the World"

November 28, 2007 1-3 pm

United Nations Headquarters in NYC

10-11 am Optional Tour of UN \$12.
11:30-12:30 International Buffet \$35.
1-3 Briefings: Program (\$63 for League members)
\$100 discounted fee to members for tour, lunch, Jeans, shorts, sneakers will NOT be permitted.

The LWVNYS Registration Desk will be open from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Please allow yourself extra time to get through security and to register with the LWV before going on the Tour, Lunch and/or Briefings. Because of the tight security, we will be escorted from the LWVNYS Registration Desk as a group. Please remember that the LWVNYS Registration Desk will be our meeting point.

Please feel free to call me if you have any questions.
Stephanie Lopez, Administrative Assistant LWVNYS (518) 465-4162 stephanie@lwvny.org
<http://www.lwvny.org/> <<http://www.lwvny.org/>>

This event is sponsored by the LWV of NYS in association with the UN Department of Public Information, AAUW-NYS, Women's Bar Association NYS.



continued from p.3 "Airport"
its #1 destination. Allegiant Air makes their money on packages. It is 1/2 travel agent and 1/2 airline. One asset of the Plattsburgh International Airport is free parking.

When asked about the condition of the runway, he said that the runway is in very good shape. If there is a problem, blocks (18" thick by 10' x10') at a cost of \$3000 can be replaced and 95% of the cost would be picked up by the FAA.

The fixed base operator typically will build structures if needed.

Snow removal is paid for the county by equipment left by PAFB located in the snow barn. The money used for snow removal comes from leases.

They're hoping that Laurentian, a company that will provide maintenance, repair and overhaul, will locate to Plattsburgh. It would provide about 1600 jobs. Brown said that it takes an average of 5 days to check a plane. With Laurentian's laser guided scaffold, it takes only hours, not days, to set up and time means money. One bay will fit a 747. Eventually 3 bays could be built with a cost of \$130 million/bay.

The "old" airport will officially close on Oct. 15th. FAA stipulates that an airport agent and can be closed only if it is bought out and then it will pay to relocate. The County now owns the entire airport at a cost of \$4.2 million except for one building and that building could be leased back at no cost. Compute Air will lease that building until they move back to Cleveland and then it will be used for the Aeronautical Institute. Hopefully planes for

the Institute's students to practice on will be flown in before the airport closes. If not, then the planes will have to be trucked in. The rest of the property will then be owned by the Town of Plattsburgh, who will have the power to determine it's use.

The tenants at the old airport can lease a T hanger at the new airport for \$250/month (vs \$100/month at the old airport). So far, 15 out of the 20 former old air base tenants are willing to lease.

To finally close the "old" airport, two things need to be done. (1) An environmental survey and (2) to dispose - studies and reports to the FAA.

Question was asked whether Federal Express or UPS would relocate to Plattsburgh. He said that they are looking into a cargo company.



Don't Allow Uncertified DREs in your polling place!

The New York State Board of Elections has proposed a dangerous plan that would allow uncertified DREs to be used in polling places around the state in 2008. The proposal would allow DREs to be used without undergoing the full certification testing required under New York State's regulations and that citizens fought so hard for.

The Board's proposal would allow a DRE to be used in each polling place as an accessible voting machine, using the VVPAT as the official ballot. But since a DRE's VVPAT cannot be read back or verified by the voter in any way other than direct visual observation, a DRE fails to satisfy even the basic requirement of allowing all voters to verify their ballots. The Board is considering allowing an inaccessible DRE to be used as an accessible voting device!

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