



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS BULLETIN
of SCHENECTADY COUNTY, NEW YORK

SEPTEMBER 2009

PLEASE JOIN US!

SCHENECTADY COUNTY LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

2009 FALL BUFFET LUNCHEON

ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9TH

TIME: Noon

PLACE: Stockade Inn

PROGRAM TOPIC: Restorative Justice

SPEAKER: CONNIE FENTON

Connie is a certified NYS School Social Worker and is the School Social Worker for the Guilderland Central Schools. The programs she currently works with include Real Justice and the National Coalition Building Institute.

COST: \$20 per PERSON

RSVP: CONNIE YOUNG 393-7061 or connieandjohnyoung@verizon.net

FRIENDLY LUNCH at the 1st Reformed Church of Schenectady

Tuesday, September 29 from 11:45-12:45 pm

Redistricting (An Overview)

This important decision to be made by the NYS Senate of how to rearrange the polling districts in the state will have a profound effect on the outcome of future elections. Come and explore with us the need for, the potential implementation of and the possible consequences of redistricting.

Bring your own lunch and beverage. Call Connie Young, 393-7061 to let us know that you are coming.

Mission Statement: The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan political organization. We encourage the informed and active participation of citizens in government. We work to increase the understanding of major public policy issues and influence public policy through education and advocacy.

Pres: Joanne Tobiessen (393-0477)

Vice-Pres.: Connie Young (393-7061)

Newsletter: Helen MacDonald (346-7006)

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

By Joanne Tobiessen

Greetings:

Hope you had a good summer and are ready to jump into some enjoyable, educational and challenging activities with the League this fall! We start our season with what has become a popular gathering at the Stockade Inn for lunch on Wednesday, September 9th with a thought-provoking discussion of 'Restorative Justice.' Do RSVP if you plan to attend.

In October we will be hosting our 'Meet the Candidates' forums in Schenectady, Rotterdam, Niskayuna and Glenville. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Karen Bradley, our Voter Service Chair, at 372-9135 or dbradley99@aol.com. Also, Elaine Klein is coordinating voter registration efforts. Please contact her if you can help: elaineklein@hotmail.com.

Thinking about something we may take for granted, women voting, we note that August 26th was the 89th anniversary of the day the US Constitution was amended to grant women the right to vote, an historic day for women's rights in this country. Looking at what is happening for women around the world, many are studying and working to empower women politically and economically. If you have a chance, I encourage you to read the NYTimes Magazine issue of August 23rd which focuses on 'Why Women's Rights Are the Cause of Our Time,' with the lead article written by Nicholas D. Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn, who have recently written a book "Half the Sky: Turning Oppression Into Opportunity for Women Worldwide" (to be published next month). This magazine issue reports stories that are painful and inspiring and offers ways we can provide support. It also helps us to connect to the old maxim 'think globally, act locally' – I would add -- through the League.

I look forward to seeing you at our League programs in the coming year.
Happy September! Joanne

Observer Corps

Submitted by Mary Maitino, Chair

The purpose of the Schenectady LWV's Observer Corps is to maintain a presence at local government meetings, and to monitor those governmental bodies for information that is important to the League, the community and the state. By attending these meetings, we can learn how local government works, and about issues that either are, or could be identified as items for local study and action. These meetings include the Schenectady City Council, the Schenectady County Board, the Schenectady City School District, as well as the school boards and town meetings of as many communities in Schenectady County as we can cover.

According to the Open Meetings Law, it is "the right of all citizens to have advance notice of and to attend all meetings of public bodies at which any business affecting the public is discussed or acted upon, with certain limited exceptions to protect the public interest and preserve personal privacy." The general requirement of the law is that "all meetings of public bodies shall be open to the public at all times." The law also provides for the timely reporting of the minutes of the meetings of public bodies.

Please contact Mary Maitino at marimay67@gmail.com if you are interested in becoming a member of this very important group. There are times when the community is not represented at some of these meetings. If you are not currently involved, consider doing so. It can be very interesting and you are doing a service.

Housing Issues in Schenectady

Submitted by Pat MacKinnon, Chair Housing Committee

This year we are beginning to explore the issues pertaining to housing in Schenectady County. We hope to have a speaker from the City of Schenectady's Homeownership Coordination office for our October Friendly Lunch, and we will hear from the Schenectady County Habitat for Humanity group at our December luncheon.

Pat MacKinnon will be serving as the LWV of Schenectady County representative to the Schenectady Municipal Housing Authority. We are assisting with the formation of a renewed Tennant's Association in Yates Village, and will be attending nominating and election meetings for this group in early September and early October.

Anyone who is interested in participating in this housing exploration can contact Pat MacKinnon at 399-8271 or macol17@nycap.rr.com.

Environment Committee

Submitted by Carol Furman

The Environment Committee will meet on September 14th at 12 Noon at the Moon and River Cafe in downtown Schenectady. Our work will continue to focus on the monitoring and protection of our water resources and on efforts to mitigate the effects of global climate change. We are planning a program in November, on nuclear power expansion to meet our need for clean energy.

New members are welcome. We will be having an orientation session in September for those new to the committee. If you would like to receive announcements and agenda for our meetings please contact Carol Furman by e-mail at cfurman@earthlink.net or by phone at 346-2746.

TOUR THE GOVERNOR'S MANSION

See the changes that Michelle Paterson, the Governor's wife, has made to obtain LEED Certification and enjoy an optional lunch after the tour.

The tour begins at 11am on Thursday, September 10. We will meet at the Governor's Mansion. *(Parking is available at the State Museum Lot or the Cathedral Lot, both on Madison. Drop-off only at the Mansion.)*

The lunch will cost \$10-\$15.

RSVP Call our State LWV President, Betsey Swan at 426-3711 or email: betsey@lwwny.org

Please indicate whether you wish to have lunch after the tour. Space is limited and filled on first-come, first-served basis.

NISKAYUNA WINES & LIQUORS, INC.

Your Neighborhood Store

Peter J. Scanlan

2211 Nott St. at Balltown Rd.

Niskayuna, NY 12309-4326

Phone: 518-374-4013

Fax: 518-374-1483

The Scanlon Family since 1969

Albany League to Discuss Consolidation

The Albany LWV is holding it's ANNUAL POT LUCK DINNER to discuss Government Consolidation
The panelists are John Clarkson, Former Executive Director of the Lunding Commission and Jeff Haber of the NYS Association of Towns.

The questions to be addressed are: Should the League support elimination of state constitutional and legislative barriers to consolidation of governmental units and to the sharing of governmental services? Should the League support mandating consolidation of certain local governmental units and services? Or should the state encourage consolidation by adopting incentives for consolidation?

Interested persons are invited to attend this important and sure-to-be fascinating discussion on Tuesday, September 22 at 5:30 pm for appetizers and dinner and 7 pm for the speakers at St. Sophia's Church at 440 Whitehall Road, Albany (*Whitehall runs between Delaware Ave. and New Scotland Rd. The church is closer to New Scotland end.*)

Contact Lois Griffin, 765-4733 or ohgriffin@gmail.com by Friday, Sept. 18 for more information and to reserve your spot.

LWVNYS Youth Programs: A New Direction

Announcement by the State League

The LWV NYS is excited to announce plans for expanding and revising the LWVNYS Youth Programs. Our priority is to both more fully accommodate the needs of local Leagues and to offer programs that are better able to meet the needs of diverse student populations. A recent survey of local leagues found that approximately 30 leagues were engaged in youth programs relating to civic engagement this past year. In comparison, only five local leagues statewide conducted LeaderSpark Programs.

The state board recently decided to not continue the LeaderSpark affiliation agreement when it expires on November 1, 2009. Instead, an expanded leadership curriculum will be developed to replace the current LeaderSpark program. In addition to offering leadership training, the curriculum will contain both traditional League components of civic engagement and participation in the electoral process, as well as financial planning components. Because New York States' student population is so diverse, we have found that a one-size fits all curriculum cannot meet the needs of all students. Similarly, the differing capacity of Leagues around the state affects their ability to undertake a multi-week-long curriculum. To better meet divergent needs of students and capacity of local Leagues, plans are underway to develop a series of curricular modules that local Leagues can elect to present in whole or in part, as determined by League interest and student need. Each module will contain a series of activities geared to students with different levels of sophistication. By developing our own curriculum, we hope to give local Leagues the resources to meet the needs of students in their particular communities.

The current affiliate agreement between the LWVNYSEF and LeaderSpark Inc., expires on November 1, 2009. The materials are copyrighted and cannot be used after the expiration date unless you have negotiated an agreement to extend the period of usage. If you wish to use the materials after this date and would like help in negotiating an extension, please let us know.

Betsy B. Swan, President and JoAnn Ross, Citizen Education/Youth Program Coordinator
Cell Phone Numbers Go Public next month.

All cell phone numbers are being released to telemarketing companies and you will start to receive sales calls.

YOU WILL BE CHARGED FOR THESE CALLS

Even if the message is saved on your phone, you will be charged for the minutes to listen to it.

To prevent this, call the following number from your cell phone: 888-382-1222.

It is the National DO NOT CALL list. It will only take a minute of your time. It blocks your number for five (5) years. You must call from the cell phone number you want to have blocked. You cannot call from a different phone number.

***HELP OTHERS BY PASSING THIS ON TO ALL YOUR FRIENDS.** It takes about 20 second*

September Meetings

Tues, Sept 8....League Board, 5-7 pm, 1400 Keyes Ave.

Wed, Sept 9....**Fall Buffet Luncheon** at the Stockade Inn at noon.

Thurs, Sept 10.....Tour the Governor's Mansion, 11 am.

Mon, Sept 14....Environment Committee, Moon & River Café, noon.

Mon, Sept 14..... Working Group on Girls at the YWCA, 3:30 pm.

Tues, Sept 22...Albany LWV Annual Potluck Dinner, St Sophia's Church, Albany, 5:30 pm.

Tues, Sept 29 **Friendly Lunch**, 1st Reformed Church, 11:45 am.

Check out our website at www.lwvschenectady.org.



THE NUTHATCH.

COUNTDOWN TO THE ELECTION

PRIMARY ELECTION—TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15th

- 9/8...Last day to postmark an Absentee Ballot Application for the Primary Election.
- 9/14...Last day to submit your Absentee Ballot by mail.
- 9/15...Last day to deliver your Absentee Ballot in person to your county board of election.

GENERAL ELECTION—TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3rd

- 10/9...Last day to register for the General Election by mail.
- 10/9...Last day to register for the General Election in person.
- 10/23...Last day to register for the General Election in person for those honorably discharged from the military or who become naturalized citizens after October 9th.
- 10/27...Last day to postmark an Absentee Ballot Application for the General Election.
- 11/2...Last day to submit an Absentee Ballot Application in person for the General Election.
- 11/10...Last day to submit an Absentee Ballot by mail.
- 11/3...Last day to deliver an Absentee Ballot in person to county BOE.

Inner Circle Studio



INNER CIRCLE STUDIO
hair design
skin care
body waxing
high light
low light
perms

612 michigan ave,
schenectady, ny, 12303
518 377 8685
www.innercirclestudio.biz
email:
innercirclestudio@gmail.com

Membership News

Submitted by Lynda Nichols

What a weather-strange summer we had. But I am confident we will have a wonderful Schenectady League membership year. You can help in that effort by paying your dues early in September. To date almost 40% of members have sent in the 2009/2010 dues. Now we hope the rest of you will rejoin and participate in the very active program outlined on the membership form. We need you all.....for your input on local concerns and awareness of the hugely important issues facing our state and nation.

And we need your email address too. Email is an important, efficient way for us to communicate with you. So be sure to fill in the email line if you have one. It helps us a lot!

Finally, November may seem a long time away, but early November is when we have our annual orientation for potential new members. We depend on you all to recommend names of people who might consider joining us. Think about friends, family, neighbors, other organization members, acquaintances..... Send names to Lynda Nichols at 374-1643 or nicholsL@nycap.rr.com.

2009-2010 Membership Dues It's Time For Renewal !

When you read the Bulletin, you know how active our League is. Our goals are to educate citizens about government and public policy, help citizens participate in elections, and to influence public policy in line with the issues we've studied. Your membership dues make working for our goals possible. Our League year is July 1 to June 30, which means it's time to pay dues for the coming year. Call Lynda Nichols (374-1643) with any questions.

The information on the form below is important to us. We appreciate your filling it in.

DUES for 2009 – 2010

June, 2010

Return to: LWV of Schenectady County, P.O. Box 9135, Schenectady, NY 12309

Name(s) _____
 Address _____
 Phone _____ E-mail _____

_____ \$55 Individual _____ \$75 Household _____ \$20 Full time student

Additional contribution to the League Amount? _____

(Dues cover July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010. Special payment arrangements can be made. Contact Lynda Nichols, 374-1643. League dues and contributions are not tax deductible.)

_____ I am supporting the League with *my membership dues payment, but please consider me an INACTIVE member.*

ACTIVE MEMBERS: As a grassroots organization, the League depends upon the work of its members. Even a few hours will help us. Please check below those activities you could be involved with. We always need more help and more members involved.

PROGRAM -- Issues for Study and Action

¶ **Judicial Issues** (Support of alternative treatment courts; court observing; release and recognizance) _____

¶ **Health Care** (Study of proposed health care reforms; local health care issues) _____

¶ **Working Group on Girls** (Supporting services for girls in Schenectady County) _____

¶ **Environment** (Monitor local issues, aquifer protection) _____ (Sprawl, land use action) _____

¶ **Local Issues** (Observing, monitoring local governments, authorities, etc.) _____

¶ **Local Education** (Monitor city school board meetings) _____

¶ **Housing Issues in Schenectady** _____

VOTER SERVICE

Help organize candidate forums/debates _____ Moderate forums _____

Voter registration _____ Distribute voter publications _____ Updating Who's Who _____

Take Me to Vote Program (for elementary schools) _____

LEADERSPARK (Leadership Training for High School Students)

Organizing _____ Teaching _____ Small group facilitation _____ Fund raising _____

LEAGUE ORGANIZATION

Assisting with League Events/Meetings: Organizing _____ Hospitality _____ Food _____

Communications: Writer _____ Speaker _____ Moderator _____ Photography _____ Videotaping _____

Finance: Fund drive _____ Special fundraising events _____ Bulletin ads _____ Underwriting _____

Bulletin: Reporting _____ Proof-reading _____ Writing _____ Mailing help _____ Graphics _____

Membership: Phoning _____ Hospitality _____ Membership recruitment _____

Any **special skills or talents** you would be willing to share with the League? (computer, artistic, writing, other skills?) _____