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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: _____ \$50.00 Individual

(Check desired level) _____ \$70.00 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**

July/August 2010 No. 10

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

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

Hard Copy of Informer

To all members and the public: If you wish to receive the League Newsletter, **"The Informer"** by mail, 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.**

LWV Plattsburgh Area Diversity Statement

"The League of Women Voters of the Plattsburgh Area is committed to diversity and pluralism. There shall be no barriers to participation in any League activity on the basis of age, gender, race, disability, sexual orientation, ethnicity, national origin, religion, creed, economic status or political affiliation."

Voter Service News

Help Needed

The League's website will be posting candidates' bios/platforms. Betty Ann King will need help contacting candidates. Please contact her at 293-8213 or bking8213@charter.net

Candidate Forums

The League is working with MLPBS (Mountain Lake Public Broadcast System) in planning debates in primary & probably general races in the 23rd Congressional & 114th Assembly races. More information in next **Informer**. If you wish to be involved, contact **Betsy Metz** at **561-6106** or tmetz@westelcom.com



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.

Environmental Recyclable Update

Batteries (AAA, AA, C, D) are now being accepted at the Morrisonville Landfill convenience station ticket station.

Household/file folders/office paper is also being accepted in your recyclable containers.



Boxboard can be put with your cardboard boxes.

League Board Meeting Minutes are Available

If you wish to receive the board minutes of the Plattsburgh Area League of Women Voters, please contact **Myra Decker** at **643-2742** or mystdek7@northnet.org



"Like" the League on Facebook at www.facebook.com/leagueofwomenvoters Donate to the League on our Facebook Causes page.

Action Alert: It's Now or Never for Climate Change and Energy Legislation

As Washington, DC, and much of the northeastern United States swelters under record high heat, oil continues to gush in the Gulf of Mexico making us all even more mindful of the environment. Now is a good time to not just talk about the weather, but do something about it! Tell your Senators to support comprehensive energy legislation http://salsa.wiredforchange.com/65950/p/dia/action/public/?action_KEY=1503 that holds energy companies responsible for cleaning up the pollution they emit into our air and water, reduces U.S. dependence on oil, limits carbon pollution, and improves energy efficiency.

As you are contacting your Senators, please note that the **Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) is up for ratification.** The United States is one of only a few countries that have never ratified CEDAW. And since 1980, the United States has ratified similar treaties on genocide, torture, race, and civil and political rights. Ratifying the CEDAW treaty would continue that important tradition. Ratification

Update Your Will

Have you recently moved to a new state? Had a child? Did you get married last year? Or maybe there's a new grandchild or step-child in your life? Any one of these major life events is reason enough to update your will. It is always important to stay in touch with your attorney regarding any changes in estate and probate law. While you're updating your plans, don't forget to include a gift for your favorite charities, like the League of Women Voters Education Fund – to strengthen the pillars of our democracy for years to come. If you have already included a gift for the LWV in your will or trust, but have not previously informed us, or if you have been thinking about setting up a gift

that provides income, such as a charitable gift annuity, please contact Lauren Frank, at 202-263-1355 or lfrank@lwv.org.

New LWVUS President Elected

At the LWVUS National Convention last month, Atlanta resident Elisabeth MacNamara was elected the new national president of the League of Women Voters.

Elisabeth's stirring acceptance speech highlighted the League's major accomplishments over the last 90 years -- and sent a clear message that our work is not done.

Nancy Tate, Executive Director of the LWVUS said that "Elisabeth's expertise and strong leadership come at a time when the stakes could not be higher for people like you who care about open, honest government and democracy. I am thrilled to welcome Elisabeth, and to work with you as we continue the fight for a better America."

Need to Reach LWVUS Officers and Director?

[Contact information for LWVUS officers and directors](#) is now available on our website.

Board Guidance on Concurrences Newly Adopted by Convention Delegates

The LWVUS Convention delegates adopted three new concurrence positions. These actions provide Leagues with one *updated position on Arms Control* and two new positions for *advocacy on Selection of the President* and *Equality of Opportunity*. Guidance for applying these positions can be found at <http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Presidents&CONTENTID=15604&TEMPLATE=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm>. For further questions, please contact Judy Duffy at jduffy@lwv.org or the LWVUS advocacy staff (Christina Vamvas at cvamvas@lwv.org).

League Members Assist in National Discussion

Thanks to the many League members who assisted in the national discussion on the "Budget and Economy" led by AmericaSpeaks. Approximately 3,500 people from 60 cities participated. Some members have sent feedback to the LWVUS on the process and information used by the primary organizers, and we welcome your continued feedback. Please send those thoughts to cgraeve@lwv.org.

One noteworthy common thread from the politically, ethnically and economically diverse nationwide participants is something many League members may agree is important for the health of our democracy: "Abandon the failed politics of partisanship. You can't demonize each other and expect us to trust you."

Workshop Materials Now Available Online

Materials from some of the Convention workshops, including elections and budget related resources, are now available at http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Council_and_Convention&Template=

Make Plans Now to Participate in the 10/10/10 Day of Climate Action

Convention delegates attending the climate change caucus enthusiastically endorsed the idea that Leagues across the country participate in the international day of climate action on October 10, 2010. The campaign is being organized by 350.org, <http://www.350.org> a movement aimed at uniting the world around solutions to the climate crisis. State and local Leagues are encouraged to engage in some kind of activity on 10/10/10 that will build awareness about what people can do to protect the planet. Leagues can coordinate plans and learn what others are doing on the League's climate change email list. (To join the discussion, visit the For Members section of the LWVUS website.) For project ideas and resources, check out the League's new web-based Toolkit for Climate Action http://participate.lwv.org/c/9217/p/salsa/web/common/public/content?content_item_KEY=3766 and 350.org's October 10 webpages. <http://www.350.org/about/blogs/getting-work-2010-our-new-plans>

Great News for League's Voter Protection Project

The League just received word that the Public Advocacy for Voter Protection (PAVP) project will continue for its 5th year due to the generous support of a long-time funder. We are excited to continue this crucial hands-on work of protecting voters. Learn more about the [Public Advocacy for Voter Protection project](#).

Enforcing the NVRA Empowers Women

As part of the PAVP project, the Arizona and Pennsylvania Leagues are working to ensure that public assistance agencies in their states comply with the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA), in particular the provision mandating all individuals seeking assistance at the agencies be offered the opportunity to register to vote. A recent article by Demos, "[Increasing Access in Hard Times: Women and the National Voter Registration Act](#)," reinforces the need for this type of work, noting that "as more women turn to public assistance, the potential for empowering them to participate in the political process is great."

Fair Judiciary: The Quest for a More Diverse Judiciary Featured in *Judicature*

The League's state-wide educational campaign "Safeguarding U.S. Democracy: Quest for a More Diverse Judiciary" is featured in the American Judicature Society's publication, *Judicature*, March-April, Vol. 93, No. 5. The [article](#) was written by Program Director Zaida Arguedas and Program Specialist David Ward to highlight the League's important "[The Quest for a More Diverse Judiciary](#)" campaign in Kansas. By highlighting the League's program, the Society recognizes how significant the topic of judicial diversity has become to citizens and good-government groups throughout the country.

The Informer

League of Women Voters
of the Plattsburgh Area



July/August 2010

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Save the Date!!

All League members are invited to participate in the **Battle of Plattsburgh Parade on September 11, 2010**. The theme this year is "Volunteers in History."

Save this date. If you wish to be involved or need more information, please contact **Myra Decker at 643-2742 or mystdek7@northnet.org**



Photos of 2009 Parade



2010 Calendar

August 20, 2010	Last day to register to vote in the Primary Election
August 30, 2010	Board Meeting-place TBA
September 3, 2010	FFF
September 11, 2010	Battle of Plattsburgh Parade
October 8, 2010	FFF
October 8, 2010	Last Day to register to vote in the General Election
November 2, 2010	Election Day
November 4, 2010	FFF
December 2, 2010	FFF

DISCLOSE Act Passes House

On June 24 the U.S. House of Representatives passed the DISCLOSE Act, which adds strong new disclosure requirements and bars foreign-controlled corporations from spending huge amounts to elect or defeat candidates. The League's support for the legislation proved essential as a weakening amendment to exempt a few very large non-profit organizations from some disclosure requirements was included. MacNamara called it "a step in the right direction," and says the League will continue to fight for enhanced disclosure in the wake of the devastating *Citizens United v. FEC* Supreme Court decision.

Check out the *New York Times* editorial "Who Approved These Ads?" which mentions the League's support. <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/06/25/opinion/25fri3.html>

Justice Department Issues NVRA Guidelines

The League has been working with the Department of Justice on [new guidelines for implementation of the National Voter Registration Act \(NVRA\)](#). The new guidance incorporates many League recommendations and should encourage states to properly carry out their responsibilities to offer voter registration opportunities at social service agencies and through other means.

More good news: U.S. Sen. Charles Schumer has appointed [League of Women Voters of New York Legislative Director Barbara Bartoletti](#) to serve on the 37-member federal Election Assistance Commission responsible for developing guidance for states to meet requirements of the Help America Vote Act, adopting voting system guidelines and certifying voting systems.

Invitation to Public Information Meetings on Hydraulic Fracturing Study

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is hosting upcoming public meetings on the proposed study of the relationship between hydraulic fracturing and its potential impacts on drinking water. Hydraulic fracturing is a process that drills vertical and horizontal cracks underground that help withdraw gas or oil from coal beds, shale and other geological formations. By pumping fracturing fluids (water and chemical additives) and sands into rock formations, fractures are created in the formation from which natural gas or oil can be more easily extracted. The meetings will provide public information about the proposed study scope and design. EPA will solicit public comments on the draft study plan.

The meetings will be held **August 12 at the Anderson Performing Arts Center at Binghamton University in Binghamton, N.Y.** For registration information, please go to <http://hfmeeting.cadmusweb.com/RegistrationForm.aspx> For more information on the meetings, visit: http://www.epa.gov/safewater/uic/wells_hydrofrac.html.

Anti-Clean Air Act Amendment Fails in Senate

Thank you for taking action to protect the Clean Air Act! Senator Lisa Murkowski's (R-AK) [resolution](#) to overturn the EPA's finding that greenhouse gases cause climate change failed in the Senate, preserving an historic agreement made last year with the auto industry to cut pollution and save up to 450 million barrels of oil each year.

LWV 90th Anniversary Tribute Video Series Now Available

Did you know that Eleanor Roosevelt served as a League vice president for legislative affairs in the 1920s? [http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?](http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=90th_Anniversary1)

3 [Section=90th Anniversary1](http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=90th_Anniversary1)

Good and Bad News on Voter Photo ID Leg.

The League of Women Voters of South Carolina (LWVSC) has worked tirelessly to block a voter photo identification bill in its state legislature, and [the bill finally died](#) on the last day of the session this week. LWVSC will continue to be an outspoken and effective leader on this issue; congratulations on a hard-fought victory. The League of Women Voters of Indiana (LWVIN) has been battling similar legislation in its state, and today, the Indiana Supreme Court upheld the law in a 4-1 decision (<http://www.indystar.com/article/20100630/NEWS/100630007/0/NEWS02/Indiana-justices-uphold-voter-ID-law>). League of Women Voters of Indianapolis president Erin Kelley said they will continue to monitor the situation in Indiana and take action if they find specific individuals denied the right to vote; stay tuned.

AZ Immigration Law Undermines Equal Justice

The League of Women Voters of Arizona and the League of Women Voters of the U.S. joined a lawsuit challenging the new immigration law SB 1070 in Arizona. The [amicus brief](#) states the law will "subject United States citizens and legal residents who are members of racial and ethnic minority groups, and particularly those who may be perceived to be somehow 'foreign,' to the disruption, stress, and humiliation of detention and interrogation." Former national League president Mary Wilson says she is disappointed to see the Arizona state legislature and governor "turn their backs on fundamental civil rights." http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Press_Releases&CONTENTID=15473&TEMP_LATE=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm

"Federal Role in Public Education" Study Committee Application Online

The study would focus on the role of the federal government in education policymaking, with possible consideration of funding, common standards and/or governance relationships among all levels of the government. Members of the committee will be responsible for developing study materials and consensus question,

participating in reviewing/ tabulating all of the responses submitted by participating Leagues, and based on those, recommending position language to the Board. The LWVUS Board is now seeking applications from members who are interested in being on the study committee. [Please complete the online application form \(including your resume\), no later than August 16, 2010.](#)

New Smackdown Your Vote! Democracy Award

As part of the League's longstanding Smackdown Your Vote! (SYV!) (<http://vote.wwe.com/>) partnership, World Wrestling Entertainment is supporting a new award to honor state and local Leagues for their work to engage young people in the political process. SYV!'s generous support will encourage innovation in the area of youth engagement for many years. Want to get involved? [Contact your local League](#) or download and share the brand-new [2010 18-30 Voter Issues Paper \(VIP\)](#), (<http://salsa.wiredforchange.com/dia/track.jsp?v=2&c=sKIPDTQk1eQ0B%2BW76KoOK%2BbaszpUwvGh>) must-have resource for young people

Convention 2010 Photos Online

Convention 2010 images at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/lwv/collections/72157624450290134/> Please check back in the coming days for photos that might be added to this collection. Also, keep an eye on our website for a video of the "Past Presidents Panel," which will be posted in the coming days.

Women's Equality Day: Only 7 Weeks Away!

August 26 will mark the 90th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment. Seven weeks may seem like a long time, but Leagues should start planning NOW for activities to mark Women's Equality Day, a day that is so important to our history and so strongly associated with the League. [Find planning ideas here](#) and watch for more information in future Leaders' Updates.

Health Care Reform Update

A new federal website was launched on July 1, 2010. The website is designed to provide individuals with information on the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and how it will impact consumers.

4 <http://www.healthcare.gov/news/blog/>