


**North Country Legislative Representatives**

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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

March 2010 No. 7

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

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**Don’t Forget to Spring Ahead on March 14th**



Visit Plattsburgh LWV Web Site at [www.plattsburgh.ny.lwvnet.org](http://www.plattsburgh.ny.lwvnet.org)

**NEW**

**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."

**Action ALERT on Ethics Legislation**

Take Action today to pass ethics legislation. Urge your Senator to vote to override the Governor's veto of **S.6457** which would improve ethics oversight and campaign finance enforcement in NYS.

For more specific information on these changes, see the memo in support of **Senate bill 6457/ Assembly bill 9544** by the League of Women Voters of New York State, Citizens Union and NYPIRG. ([http://lwvny.org/advocacy/legAction/Memorandum\\_SenateCodes011010.pdf](http://lwvny.org/advocacy/legAction/Memorandum_SenateCodes011010.pdf) <[http://lwvny.org/advocacy/legAction/Memorandum\\_SenateCodes011010.pdf](http://lwvny.org/advocacy/legAction/Memorandum_SenateCodes011010.pdf)> ) Please take action today, by clicking on the following link: <http://capwiz.com/lwv/ny/issues/alert/?alertid=14647366> <<http://capwiz.com/lwv/ny/issues/alert/?alertid=14647366>>

**Steps to access the Informer:**

Log on to [www.plattsburgh.ny.lwvnet.org](http://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.

**Government Consolidation/ Shared Services Study**

The study, Government Consolidation/Shared Services, will be chaired by Madeleine Robinson. The materials from LWVNY have just been received. There is a consolidation in Essex Co. now; the town of Port Henry (dissolution) consolidating with Moriah. Public hearing is to take place in March. For further information, contact Madeleine Robinson

*Welcome  
New Member*

**Sally Sears-Mack**

**Environmental Committee**

We have had very positive community responses to our Green Pages and continue distribution within the county. We recently had a very nice write-up in the Press on our publication. Plans are under way for the Environmental Fair. We will meet at Oak St. School on Feb. 19th to get things underway. A date for the Fair will be in the next Informer. For more information, contact Barbara Landes [bannlan7@yahoo.com](mailto:bannlan7@yahoo.com).

**Greetings from Florida**



Hi everyone,

It seems as if time is flying by faster than I would like. Still waiting for "summer" here in Florida. We've had freezing temperatures that resulted in the fruit and vegetable farmers suffering millions of dollars in damages.

The League's meeting topic this past month was entitled "Water Water Everywhere and Not a Drop to Drink." The state of Florida is one of the highest consumers of water with half of that for irrigation. More water is being pulled from the aquifers than being replenished. Desalination is ten times more expensive than the traditional ground-water sources for water supply. It also costs about \$1 billion to build a plant with disposal of brine a concern. Storing freshwater would help alleviate some of the problems. The EPA has proposed changes in the Environmental Protection Agency's Proposed Water Quality Standards for the State of Florida's Lakes and Flowing Waters. For ex. the water could be safe for fish consumption but not safe for swimming. The speaker mentioned that 6 lbs of Nitrogen and Phosphorus/fertilizer costs about \$35,000 to clean up if water is contaminated.

On January 15, 2010, the EPA published proposed numeric nutrient standards (criteria) for Florida which consist of different concentration limits for categories of water body in different geographic areas of Florida. Numeric nutrient criteria will be measurable pollutant threshold numbers for the amount of nitrogen and phosphorus in our water bodies; they will finally make it possible to effectively regulate nutrient pollution in Florida. Currently, the state of Florida has a narrative rather than numeric nutrient standards. The narrative standard states: that "in no case shall nutrient concentrations of a body of water be altered so as to cause an imbalance in natural populations of flora and fauna." As shown by the increasing frequency and magnitude of toxic algae

outbreaks in both coastal and fresh waters, this standard has been a failure as a means of regulating pollutant sources.

The speaker mentioned several things that people can do to conserve water and prevent contamination. They include rain barrels, pervious yards, and plants that don't require excess fertilizer or water.

Take care, keep warm.  
Stasia Arcarese

continued from p. 9 "Voting Machines"

conduct such testing, even though we believe it could be conducted at little or no cost.1 We look forward to working with the Board of Elections on this issue.  
Sincerely,

*Asian American Legal Defense and Ed. Fund  
Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law  
Center for Independence of the Disabled NY  
Citizen's Union of the City of New York Common Cause/ NY*

*League of Women Voters of New York State  
NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund  
New York Public Interest Research Group  
New Yorkers for Verified Voting  
Women's City Club of New York*

**Cc: Assemblyman Brian Kavanagh, Chair,  
Subcommittee on Election Day Operations  
Assemblywoman Joan Millman, Chair, Election  
Law Committee**

**Senator Joseph Addabbo, Chair, Elections  
Committee**

**Andrew Stengel, Senior Adviser for Govt Reform  
New York City Board of Elections  
New York City Councilwoman Gale Brewer,  
Chair, Committee on Governmental Operations**

1 We also understand that the Board has already spent approximately \$750,000 usability testing; if any of this usability testing related to overvoting, we would very much like to see the results.

## Overvotes Threaten Outcomes

February 10, 2010  
New York State Board of Elections

Dear Commissioners:

New York's new optical scan machines will treat overvotes in a way that threatens the voting rights of millions of New Yorkers. As you know, unlike most optical scan systems, the ES&S DS200 and ImageCast machines purchased for New York do not automatically return overvoted or otherwise erroneous ballots to the voter for correction. Instead, the machines will keep the ballot but give the voter the opportunity to either cast the ballot with the overvote error, thereby invalidating the intended vote cast in that contest, or request the ballot back to make a correction by sending a message on a small screen on the ES&S DS200 and ImageCast machine. Having the machine retain the ballot and provide voters with this confusing and inadequate notice will only ensure that votes are unnecessarily lost, which is the exact problem the Help America Vote Act ("HAVA") was designed to prevent. It is our conclusion that the interface and message provided to New York's voters on the small screen of the ES&S DS200 and ImageCast machines is inadequate to provide the notice of overvote error as contemplated by HAVA.

A recent study out of Florida ([www.ffec.org/documents/Invalid\\_Vote\\_Report\\_Revised](http://www.ffec.org/documents/Invalid_Vote_Report_Revised) <[http://www.ffec.org/documents/Invalid\\_Vote\\_Report\\_Revised](http://www.ffec.org/documents/Invalid_Vote_Report_Revised)> \_23June2009.pdf) leaves us extremely concerned that this system will lead to unnecessarily high overvote rates. The study shows that voters who used the ES&S DS200 (the only system in Florida which did not automatically return overvoted ballots to voters) had an overvote rate on Election Day 2008 that was eighteen times higher than that of the systems used in other Florida counties. If New York has an overvote rate that is as high as those Florida

counties that used the DS200, as many as 40,000 votes would be lost for the top of the ticket contest in a major election year. Unfortunately, there is reason to believe that New York will have an overvote rate that is even higher than the overvote rates in Florida. Specifically, (1) voters in New York have used lever machines which contained interlock systems that prevented overvotes for decades; (2) New York allows fusion voting, which results in the repetition of a candidate's name by all endorsing parties and can result in a confusing ballot prone to overvotes; (3) the statutory requirements for the design of paper ballots makes them far less usable than paper ballots used in other states (such as Florida); and (4) there are frequent contests where voters are entitled to choose multiple candidates in the same contest.

These New York specific circumstances create a voting process more prone to overvotes. Overvotes are almost always mistakes and the letter and spirit of the HAVA requires that the state do everything it can to prevent inadvertent errors when voters cast their ballot on Election Day. We strongly urge the Board of Elections to correct this problem immediately. The New York Board of Elections must require that the ES&S DS200 and ImageCast machines automatically return over-voted or otherwise erroneous ballots to the voter for correction. The failure to automatically return overvoted ballots is so significant that the State of Wisconsin recently conditioned its purchase of the ES&S DS200 on a guarantee from the company that the machine be reconfigured to immediately return a ballot to the voter if it detects an overvote. New York must make the same demand for its machines, and refuse the purchase of any machine that cannot meet this demand.

We also urge the board to conduct usability testing to minimize overvotes. We understand from Commissioner Kellner that the Board may not

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# The Informer

League of Women Voters  
of the Plattsburgh Area



March 2010

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League of Women Voters  
First Friday Forum

**MARCH** 5, 2010

12 noon

Butcher Block Restaurant

**Speaker: Sally Sears-Mack**, President  
Local Development Corporation, Inc.,  
Town of Plattsburgh

**Topic: Planning in the Town of  
Plattsburgh**

**RSVP by March 4th** to Myra Decker  
643-2742 or [mystdek7@northnet.org](mailto:mystdek7@northnet.org)



**March 5th** Planning in the Town of  
Plattsburgh

**March 14th**  
Move clocks one hour ahead



**March 17th** St. Patrick's Day



**March 20th** Spring Begins

**March 28th** Palm Sunday



**March 30th** Passover Begins



**April 2nd** FFF

**April 28th** Annual Meeting

**League Celebrates LWV's 90th Birthday**

The January 30th LWV Membership meeting celebrated the League of Women Voters 90th birthday with entertainment and delicious desserts. The Sounds of the Northway musical group entertained League members and guests. Themed songs included pieces from their women's anthology series, the abolitionist movement, women's suffrage movement, the water/environmental repertoire, a Jewish tribute to Miriam and a historical WW-I anti-war piece. The audience joined in singing as well as hand tapping and foot clapping.



Song of Norway: L to R: Cathie Davenport, Ann Ruzow Holland, Jennifer Van Benschoten



Myra Decker cutting the LWV 90th birthday cake.



Betty Ann King, Cesca Hartnet, Madeline Robinson, Tom Metz, Myra Decker (in the fur hat), Barbara Landes, Beverly Maynard, Inge Sapp.



Barbara Landes, Beverly Maynard, Kathy Schumacker, Inge Sapp. (In front: Madeleine Robinson, Cesca Hartnett)

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**Openness in Government: Sunshine Week 2010**

On Friday, March 19, from 12:00 to 2:00 PM (ET), the LWVEF will co-host the 5th Annual Sunshine Week National Dialogue. The event will be broadcast live via the web. State and local Leagues are encouraged to host "viewing parties" in their communities – perhaps in conjunction with a local, university or law library. This year's program, "Building Transparency," will focus on transparency in the Obama administration – what has changed and what remains to be done. High-level government officials including [Norm Eisen](#), Special Counsel to the President for Ethics and Government Reform, and [Miriam Nisbet](#), Director of the new Office of Government Information Services (OGIS), will discuss the Administration's new initiatives and their effect on the public. Panelists will also take questions from the live and viewing audience. To learn more about the event, visit our partner organization, [OpenTheGovernment.org](#).

**LWVUS 2010 Legislative Priorities**

After a review of congressional action in 2009 and a discussion of expected activity in 2010, the LWVUS Board of Directors has adopted the following Legislative Priorities for 2010: Global Climate Change, Health Care Reform, and Money in Elections (campaign finance reform). On the Legislative Watch List are: Arms Control, DC Voting Rights, Election Reform, Ethics and Lobbying Reform, and UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). This Watch List includes issues which need to be monitored for action opportunities in the 111th Congress. It is understood that the Board will have opportunities to review the priorities throughout the year to make changes if the situation requires it. It should also be noted that DC Voting Rights and CEDAW are perennial legislative priorities that the LWV

has worked hard for in the past and is committed to working for successful passage. For a tally of the member recommended items for advocacy, see the [Report on Member Recommended LWV Priorities for Advocacy 2010](#).

**League Urges Representatives to Oppose Overturning EPA Finding**

The League sent a [letter](#) to the House of Representatives urging members to oppose the 'Dirty Air Act' proposals by Rep. Moran (R-KS) and Rep. Pomeroy (D-ND) that would overturn the Environmental Protection Agency's scientific finding that global warming pollutants endanger public health and welfare. These two separate proposals both represent a direct attack on the Clean Air Act, a law with a nearly 40-year track record of cutting dangerous pollution to protect human health and the environment and spur innovation. In 2007, the Supreme Court ruled that global warming pollutants are covered by the Clean Air Act. In his first year in office, President Barack Obama began complying with the Court by implementing the law – with the support of auto companies, auto workers, states, and environmentalists – that will save consumers money at the pump, cut global warming pollution, reduce America's oil dependence, and create new jobs making more efficient and competitive vehicles. The Clean Air Act will also ensure that the largest power plants and factories use modern technology to reduce their global warming pollution and use cleaner energy. EPA has already proposed to tailor those rules to exempt small carbon emitters and apply them only to very large emitters that have long been subject to similar standards for other pollutants. Any attack on the Clean Air Act is a step backward for public health. It puts our communi- ties at risk, undermines a clean energy economy, and inappropriately injects Congress into scientific decisions.

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The museum is open Wednesday thru Saturday 10:00 am -3:00 pm and by appointment. Large group tours (i.e., schools, touring, reunions, etc.) or special tours for other than posted hours may be arranged, dependent upon staffing levels, with a minimum two weeks notice.

**Some Highlights of County Legislature Business/  
Resolutions of the January 27th and February  
10th County Legislature Meetings**

by Betty Ann King

The Legislature meetings I have attended to date have been sparsely attended. At times a few students have been present. This meeting was packed with individuals who either chose to address the Legislature or who were in support of those presenting.

Legislators McManus and Sears were absent. Jim Gratton addressed the Legislature in his capacity as Census Worker Recruiter. Census workers will be paid \$13/hr. and \$.50 per mile reimbursement. If interested, go to [2010census.com](http://2010census.com) for further information.

The issue of the evening:  
Several people addressed the Legislature in support of Cape Air being renewed for a two-year, federally-funded contract flying out of Plattsburgh International Airport. Colgan Air has also applied for the funded contract and touts larger planes, co-pilot and a stewardess as assets superior to the 9 passenger planes of Cape Air.

For over an hour people spoke citing the Cape Air advantage. Reliability, frequency of flights, Connections at Logan airport, professionalism, lower environmental impact, and low fares were thought to be more advantageous than larger, less frequent flights that are predicted to be below capacity. Colgan's reputation for cancelled flights and jacking up prices was also discussed. Legislators Heins, Gallagher, Walker, and Defayette were supportive of Cape Air and Trombley, Rowden, and Butler were in support of Colgan. A survey conducted by the Chamber of Commerce has shown that the larger aircraft was needed to keep up with growth at the airport. The vote was tabled to be taken at a time when all Legislators could vote. Deadline was determined to be February 5th. (Note: Vote was taken February 3rd and Colgan was selected 7-3. Heins, Defayette, and Walker supported Cape Air)

Mike Tolosky also addressed the Legislature to make a plea for all to rally against the closing of Lyon Mountain Prison.

Legislator Trombley is sponsoring a resolution opposing closure of the Lyon Mountain Correctional Facility.

**February 10th**

Legislator McManus was lauded for his commitment and ability to perform his job despite the fact that he is going blind.

Amy Ivy of Clinton County Cooperative Extension addressed the Legislature thanking the county for their support. Ms. Ivy announced that a community Farmers' dinner is being planned whereby public can meet the farmer who has grown the food. There has been a significant increase and interest in gardening and purchasing food from local growers. The dinner is also an opportunity for the Chamber of Commerce to recognize the economic impact agriculture has on this area.

A cycling event involving 2000 bicyclers from Canada will take place on August 8. Cyclists will tour around Lake Champlain and expected to have a huge economic impact on the area.

A satellite site of Mental Health and Addiction Services is being set up in the northern part of the county. This service is thought to reduce the amount of client no shows as transportation is an issue.

Clinton County is the first home based program for Veterans in the country. A 12 passenger van for Veterans has just been updated.



**League News**



**Blog on NYS Politics Launched**

The state League has just launched a blog on New York State politics, thanks to Jay Gallagher, retired Albany Bureau Chief for Gannett News. Jay will be writing about Albany happenings and posting his stories on our blog. You can read the blog simply by visiting the site, <http://lwnvy-blog.blogspot.com>; we have provided a link to the blog from the League's website also (in the top right corner of the header). If you would like to comment on a blog, you have to "sign in" on the blog website. Spread the word and watch for new blog entries!

**League Issues Report Card on Obama Ethics Reforms**

The League and other good government groups issued a report card commending the Obama Administration for strong rules on lobbying, ethics and transparency, while urging action on public financing and FEC reforms. Click [here](#) for details. For more on the report card, see [The Washington Post](#), [Politico](#), [The Reason Foundation Blog](#), and [The BLT: The Blog of LegalTimes](#).

**Become an LWVUS fan on Facebook at  
[www.facebook.com/leagueofwomenvoters](http://www.facebook.com/leagueofwomenvoters).**

**February FFF Report**

by Betty Ann King

Carol Blakeslee-Collins is the current Director and Curator of the Clinton County Historical Museum and was the guest speaker for the LWV Friday Forum on



February 5th. Carol's background is impressive and includes being abroad for a year in Spain and working for a semester in the Pravada Museum. Carol worked several years in the Public Broadcasting System and helped edit news regarding Watergate. For 21 years, Carol was a producer for the News Hour with Jim Lehrer. She also was the Executive Producer at Mountain Lake PBS. She was in charge of the Production Department including staff, budget, program production, project development, grant writing, and fundraising. Carol substantially increased production with two new series; Mountain Lake Journal, and Adirondack Outdoors; and documentaries on Arto Monaco, the Wild Center, and the impact of mercury pollution on the common loon.

Upon leaving, Mountain Lake, Carol obtained a Master's degree in Education and taught history and government before embarking on her new venture as museum curator/director.

Carol considers the museum as a vehicle for interpreting the past and making it relevant now. And as stated on the museum's web site. (<http://clintoncountyhistorical.org>) "The Clinton County Historical Association is dedicated to preserving Clinton County's heritage. With its museum, historic sites and period houses the Association reveals the way the County's inhabitants lived and worked for over three hundred years. By touring the properties, visitors see how Clinton County evolved from a forested wilderness into a farming community and on to be one of the fastest growing rural areas in the State."

Carol expressed that her own museum experiences were fabulous. She attributes much of her historic sensibility as a gift from her parents; her father who appreciated the history of people and her mother who appreciated

the statement of buildings, art and artifacts. The Clinton County Historical Association is located in the Four Chimneys building at 98 Ohio Avenue on the former Plattsburgh Air Force Base. With Blakeslee's influence, the museum is revitalized and has moved from object oriented history to thematic history that tells a story.

Rotating exhibits from other local museums also have become a popular edition as evidenced by the interest in the miner exhibit from Lyon Mountain museum.

In recent history, the museum has moved 3 times and thousands of items are in storage. The museum needs a complete inventory. Grants are being pursued for funding of a collection manager. An intern and 6 docents now form the collection committee and have rewritten the Collection Policy.

Specific tasks and responsibilities are needed for Exhibit and Design and for Research.

The museum is looking to build a park on the grounds. It needs to relate to the lake, to be handicapped accessible, to have a picnicking area and to have a student gardening area. A grant is being procured to lure a landscape architect to create the design.

An exciting way to tell a story is to recreate the environment/scene. A civil war encampment will take place on the grounds May 15th and 16th, The CCHA will also sponsor a first time Civil War camp for students in July.

Funding of the museum comes from Clinton County who awards the CCHA \$25,000 annually; memberships, street drives, museum store sales, and grants. The sale of the Saily House has made the museum financially healthy.

CCHA's vision : The CCHA transforms lives and inspires community memory on both personal and scholarly levels by preserving and sharing the story of Clinton County.

CCHA's mission: CCHA is to collect and preserve the historical material pertaining to history of Clinton County, N.Y. and to interpret and celebrate through exhibits and programs the county's rich history.

**Profile of League Member,  
Madeleine Robinson**

by Betty Ann King

As we celebrate the 90th birthday of the League of Women Voters, **Madeleine Robinson**, current Board Member and Secretary of The League of Women Voters in the Plattsburgh Area, shares with us some experiences and changes that she has realized in her 45 years as a League member. This tiny gentle lady is a fine example of the strength, wisdom, and courage that has inspired women to claim equality and fairness in politics, business, social institutions, education and employment.



Madeleine was raised on a cattle ranch in northwest Nebraska with a younger sister. She attended a one-room school and high school in the nearest town.

Madeleine found early in life that women were often victims of discrimination. In fact, when Madeleine graduated from Doane college in Nebraska, she was unable to find a teaching job because she couldn't coach football or basketball. One school was willing to give Madeleine a position on the condition that she would also coach drama and chorus, (Madeleine professes to have no musical or drama training). When Madeleine asked for \$1000 as her salary, the offer was withdrawn. Madeleine shared that she was able to make this "bold" demand because she had already had another satisfactory offer in another field.

Madeleine then went to work for General Electric as a tester in the sales department. Madeleine's department specialized in control equipment and

her line was electrical switches. One item for sale in her department was an Atom Smasher which sold for a million dollars...quite a hefty sum for 1942!

Men doing the same job as Madeline made considerably more money. Women had a very strict dress code and were not allowed to work if pregnant.

Later on, Madeleine would work as a substitute teacher making \$8.00 a day. Three of those dollars per day went to a baby sitter. Madeleine shared that that wasn't so bad because the sitter also did her ironing and mopped her floors! Interestingly, she said she was often called to substitute in a high school math class. The school was noted for being difficult for substitutes to manage the children but they loved Madeleine! Why? Probably for several reasons, but the one that stood out was. Madeleine helped them to do problems on the board. The MAN they had hired for the position **COULD NOT DO MATH. HE WAS HIRED TO COACH!!**

Madeleine and her husband, a grocery store manager and a minister, were married for over 50 years before the Reverend's demise. They were blessed with 4 children. All have daughters. Madeleine's oldest son lives in Kingston and is a nurse for hospice. She has a daughter who is a comptroller for Vermont colleges, a daughter who is a nurse in California and a son who is an agricultural engineer in Oregon employed by the United States Department of Agriculture.

Madeline first joined the LWV in Rennslear County. She joined because she felt it was a good avenue for making a difference as well as being a good role model for her 2 daughters. The Rennslear LWV became a significant part in initiating and furthering NYS legislation to clean

continued from p. 5 "Robinson"

up the Hudson River. Farmers at that time were particularly resentful of any inference that the River needed "cleaning up" and many General Electric employees were fearful of retribution if noted to be in support of this venture. Of course we all know that because of legislation and efforts of many, the Hudson River is far healthier today. When Madeline and her husband moved into the Keeseville area, she worked with Mimi McDowell to set up a provisional league in Essex County. Since then most members have either died or moved. She and Ann Holland are the only Essex County league members left. Madeline cites increasing average age as being a major problem for League sustainability and productivity. She states, "We haven't found the way to bring younger members in." She indicates that our League has done fairly well and accomplishes much for our small numbers.

Madeleine believes that it is the Friday Forum program that has kept this group together. Other programs that Madeleine touts as making a significant difference in our community are: Voter Service that includes debates, forums, Meet the Candidate activities, Voter Registration drives. Madeleine commented that "One does not get out of high school without some pressure to vote." Recycling.

Madeleine is particularly proud of the League's accomplishment in cosponsoring this past year's forum of the high profile 23rd Congressional candidates.

In addition, Madeleine is most active in her church. She loves to cook and to read. Currently she is reading *Three Cups of Tea* by Greg Mortensen.

Thank you, Madeline for the many hours you

have dedicated to The League. We are all richer for the model of dedication, perseverance and justice you have provided us. We are especially appreciative of your incredible knowledge base.

**Website Updates**

by Betty Ann King

January 2010 turned out to be the busiest month for LWV of Plattsburgh website visits since its inception in 2006. The heaviest use days were January 22, 23, & 24 which corresponds with the timing of the Supreme Court Decision regarding campaign financing by corporations. Speculation is that visitors are interested in the League's position regarding this decision.

Mary G. Wilson, national president of the League of Women Voters on the Supreme Court's decision in Citizens United v. FEC has issued a statement. The League filed an amicus brief in this case. The amicus can be viewed on line at the NYLWV home page (<http://www.lwvny.org/>) or on our local website under In the News. (<http://plattsburgh.ny.lwvnet.org/>) Also new under "In the News" are League articles on Government Ethics Reform and Redistricting.

Looking for Green Pages recycling information? Look under Environmental Action/Green Pages on our website. (<http://plattsburgh.ny.lwvnet.org/>)

**Retraction**

At our last LWV Board meeting, February 1st, it was brought to our attention that we were erroneously listed as co-sponsors for the Interfaith Council meeting to be held on February 4th, and unaware of the fund raising ad placed in the February Informer. Though we applaud their goal, we felt that we could not set a precedent by lending our name to these efforts. We do encourage individual members to pursue local causes; it becomes a question of fairness if we, Plattsburgh LWV open the door to one and not others. We feel we should put our energy and support into League related issues/items; through our publication, 'The Informer.'

In an effort at fairness, we, the Board of Director's, trust that members will understand our attempt to keep from setting precedents.