



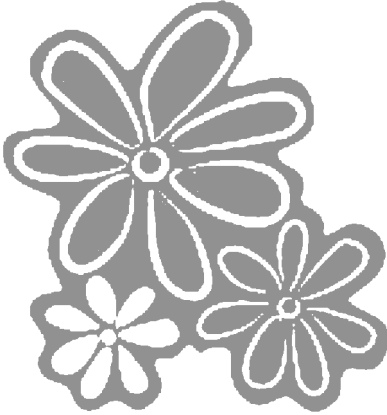
THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
of Schenectady County New York

**BULLETIN**

[www.lwvschenectady.org](http://www.lwvschenectady.org)

MAY 2010

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***Meet the Candidates***

for the Schenectady City Schools' Board of Education

Tuesday, May 11, 7 pm

Schenectady High School, Black Box Theater

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The Schenectady County Working Group on Girls  
presents

***Girls' Day Out: Report to the Community***

Wednesday, May 12<sup>th</sup> at 7pm

McChesney Room at the Public Library.

Join us to hear from some of those who participated (girls, workshop leaders, Muses, clinicians) about what we did, what we learned, and where we hope to go from here.

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**Member Consensus Meeting on LWVNY Study:**

***Consolidation of Governmental Units and Shared Services***

Tuesday, May 25 from 7-9 pm

1st Reformed Church on Union & Church Streets

Informational presentation & consensus meeting

*Please bring consensus questions in this bulletin to the meeting.  
Visit [www.lwvny.org](http://www.lwvny.org) for more information and pages 3 to 5 for the consensus questions.*

## President's Column

Greetings,

More than five years ago the LWV, in collaboration with AAUW, established the Schenectady County Working Group on Girls, a community collaboration whose mission statement reads: 'Working together to put the spotlight on girls, facilitate programs on their behalf and educate the community about their needs, challenges, opportunities and successes.'

You have read in this bulletin about our exciting First Annual Girls' Day Out. Now, plan to attend the Girls' Day Out Report to the Community. On May 12<sup>th</sup>, at 7pm in the McChesney Room at the Main Library, we will have a panel of some of the women involved as workshop presenters, Girls' Circle 'Muses,' and school clinicians, as well as a panel of Middle School girls to discuss this years' series of programs. We will also discuss what we have learned and how we plan to move ahead with the opportunity for Q&A. Light refreshments will be served.

This is an opportunity for you to hear about how the League, in collaboration with other organizations and agencies that work with and care about girls, is working to improve the lives of middle school girls in Schenectady. It is also an opportunity for you to consider if you would like to become involved. We are already planning for our Second Annual Girls' Day Out, beginning on November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

I hope to see you there and at our member consensus meeting on May 25<sup>th</sup>! Please note that important items are included in this newsletter in preparation for our Annual Meeting on June 9 at the Edison Club. At that time, we will be voting on the following proposed items: Board nominations, budget, local program and by-laws changes. Look them over so you know what you're voting on. Let us know if you have any questions.

Joanne

## Municipal Housing Elections

Submitted by Pat McKinnon, Voter Services Chair

Many thanks to all the Schenectady League members who assisted with the Municipal Housing Elections on March 30. We staffed 5 different polling locations from 12 noon until 8 pm. Poll workers included Elmer Bertsch, Eunice Chouffi, Helen MacDonald, Maxine Borom, Connie Young, Helga Schroeter, Mary Pritchard, Pat MacKinnon, Betsy Chase, Jean Wilkinson, Sally Knutson, Vaughn Nevin, Ruth Kerr, Peg Watrous, Kay Ackerman, Betsy Forkas, and Inge-Lise Pangburn as substitute. In addition, Joan Elliott, Helga Schroeter, and Jean Wilkinson validated the nominating petitions for the MHA. In spite of the terrible weather and low vote count in some sites, we were able to make a contribution to the democratic process in Schenectady. Joan Johnson of the Ten Eyck apartments and Ron Alheim, a Section 8 resident were elected as Tenant Commissioners for 2 year terms. The Schenectady LWV received a small stipend for our work.

We will be assisting the Amsterdam MHA in their tenant elections in June. Amsterdam has fewer sites and will not be electing commissioners at large so significantly fewer workers will be required.

## Observer Corps Report

Submitted by Mary Maitino, Committee Chair

The Observer Corps met on March 24 at the Rotterdam Library Branch. The members decided that from now on, various member reports of observed meetings would be placed on the Schenectady LWV's website, rather than be printed in the Newsletter. Some of the reports were lengthy, but contained important information we felt necessary to include. The website will provide us the ability to do that. So please email to me, marimay67@gmail.com and copy to joanne tobiessen <jtobiessen@hotmail.com, reports of meetings you have attended, and I will send them to our website.

Announcement of the Consensus Meeting  
Submitted by Pat MacKinnon, Voter Services Chair

Please join us for the Schenectady League’s Consensus meeting on Government Consolidation/Shared Service,s on Tuesday, May 25 at the First Reformed Church in Schenectady . According to the State League “This initial consensus is very broad and is to set the parameters by which local Leagues and the state League will evaluate current and future legislation and/or proposals. It does not require a great deal of specific knowledge to answer but, rather, a general knowledge base.” You can familiarize yourself with the terminology and the pro & con arguments at [www.lwvny.org](http://www.lwvny.org). The same information will be presented at the meeting.

The Schenectady LWV Consolidation Committee has been meeting since November to explore this topic. A panel discussion with local government officials from Schenectady County was held on Jan. 13<sup>th</sup>, and the committee members have interviewed all the town supervisors as well as a county official regarding the issues involved.

The local results of a Consensus meeting on Consolidation are due to be turned in to the state League by June 1. We hope that you will join us on May 25 for our consensus discussion.

**Consensus Questions for Consolidation Meeting on Tuesday, May 25**  
(Please bring this with you to the meeting.)

**SECTION I *Standards for Judging State Legislation or Constitutional Amendments***

**What standards should the League apply when evaluating statewide legislation or constitutional amendments concerning the implementation of local government dissolution /consolidation/major shared service proposals?**  
(Answer affirmatively all that you would support)

**A. Does the legislation or constitutional amendment encourage a process that [is]:**

- 1. Cooperative and collaborative? Y\_\_\_ N\_\_\_ U\_\_\_
- 2. Transparent? Y\_\_\_ N\_\_\_ U\_\_\_
- 3. Contains well defined channels for citizen input and review?: Y\_\_\_ N\_\_\_ U\_\_\_
- 4. Provides affected citizens with sufficient and timely information necessary to make informed decisions? Y\_\_\_ N\_\_\_ U\_\_\_
- 5. Other? (Add any additional process standards you support.)

**B. Does the legislation or constitutional amendment contain operational standards that, taken as a whole:**

- 1. Promote administrative efficiency in the decision/process to dissolve, consolidate, or shared services: Y\_\_\_ N\_\_\_ U\_\_\_
- 2. Promote fiscal efficiency in the decision/process to dissolve, consolidate, or shared services: Y\_\_\_ N\_\_\_ U\_\_\_
- 3. What other minimum operational standards should we support when evaluating state legislation/amendments affecting dissolution/consolidation/major shared services proposals? *Attach separate page if necessary.*

**C. Possible State Funding of Government Dissolution/Consolidation/Shared Services**

*(Answer unsure if you do not have an opinion.)*

1. Should the state provide grants or loans to local governmental units that wish to consider dissolution/consolidation/major shared services to enable them to do all or any of the items specified below? Y\_\_\_ N\_\_\_ U\_\_\_

2. Specifically, should the grants or loans be available to:

a. Conduct a feasibility study: Y\_\_\_ N\_\_\_ U\_\_\_

b. Implement the mechanics of dissolution/consolidation/major shared services *(e.g. legal, accounting, consulting fees and costs of referenda (if any))*  
Y\_\_\_ N\_\_\_ U\_\_\_

c. Pay employee expenses related to the integration of staff, early retirement, buyouts: Y\_\_\_ N\_\_\_ U\_\_\_

d. Provide an incentive (thru municipal aid) to dissolve/consolidate/share services:  
Y\_\_\_ N\_\_\_ U\_\_\_

e. Other? *(Please list any other costs of consolidation/dissolution/shared services, if any, that you believe should be funded by state grants, in whole or in part)*

3. Should the aid consist primarily of: \_\_\_a. Grants or \_\_\_b. Loans?

4. Should grants, if any, cover 100% of the costs, be limited to matching grants (ie 50%), be limited to some other percentage, or you are unsure? *(Please indicate the consensus, if any)*\_\_\_\_\_

**SECTION II Standards for evaluating a specific local proposal for the dissolution or consolidation of a local governmental entity (county, city, town, village, district, authority) or major shared service.**

Answer affirmatively all that you would support as one of multiple standards for evaluation of a proposal, not necessarily as a prerequisite for supporting a proposal.

**A. Is the process with respect to the proposal:**

1. Cooperative and collaborative? Y\_\_\_ N\_\_\_ U\_\_\_

2. Transparent? Y\_\_\_ N\_\_\_ U\_\_\_

3. Containing well defined channels for citizen input and review?: Y\_\_\_ N\_\_\_ U\_\_\_

4. Providing affected citizens with sufficient and timely information necessary to make informed decisions? Y\_\_\_ N\_\_\_ U\_\_\_

5. Other? *(Add any additional standards you support.)*

**B. Operational standards in deciding whether to support a proposal**

*(Vote for as many as you feel should apply.)*

**Costs/Tax Impacts**

**Whether or not the proposal:**

**1. Results in overall cost savings/positive effect on taxes in the short term?**

Y\_\_\_ N\_\_\_ U\_\_\_

**2. Results in projected cost savings/positive effect on taxes over the long term?**

Y\_\_\_ N\_\_\_ U\_\_\_

**3. Results in cost savings/positive effect on taxes for citizens of both/all entities?**

Y\_\_\_ N\_\_\_ U\_\_\_

**If cost savings for all are not possible for both/all**

**Whether or not the proposal:**

**4. Results in the governmental entity(s) with higher projected costs/taxes having those costs/taxes phased in over time or otherwise mitigated? Y\_\_\_ N\_\_\_ U\_\_\_**

**5. Relies on increases in state aid to show an economic benefit from the transaction or does it stand on its own merit? Y\_\_\_ N\_\_\_ U\_\_\_**

**6. Requires any governmental entity affected by higher costs/taxes to accept such increased costs/taxes by means of a majority vote of the governing board?**

Y\_\_\_ N\_\_\_ U\_\_\_

***Impact on Service Standards:***

**Whether or not the proposal:**

**7. Results in increased quality and/or efficiency of services? Y\_\_\_ N\_\_\_ U\_\_\_**

**8. Results in, at a minimum, a maintenance of services? Y\_\_\_ N\_\_\_ U\_\_\_**

**9. Results in diminution of services but ones that could be purchased more cheaply in the private sector? Y\_\_\_ N\_\_\_ U\_\_\_**

**10. Requires any governmental entity to accept any plan where residents would see a diminution of services by means of a majority vote of the governing board?**

Y\_\_\_ N\_\_\_ U\_\_\_

***Other Items to be evaluated***

**Whether or not the proposal:**

**11. Fairly addresses disparities in employee contracts? Y\_\_\_ N\_\_\_ U\_\_\_**

**12. Results in increased social/economic justice? Y\_\_\_ N\_\_\_ U\_\_\_**

**13. Results in a reduction in the number of governmental entities? Y\_\_\_ N\_\_\_ U\_\_\_**

**14. Maintains sense of community? Y\_\_\_ N\_\_\_ U\_\_\_**

**C. Other?** *(List on back any other areas of inquiry that you believe should be evaluated in any study of a dissolution/consolidation/major shared service proposal)*

Fund Raising Committee Report  
Submitted by Sandra Harrsen

The League extends a big thank you to both members and non-members who contributed to our Fund Raising efforts for the year 2009 – 2010. The Operating Fund received \$1,085 and the Educational Foundation received \$1,305. The total for all contributions is \$2,390. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

Those members supporting the Operating Fund were:

Virgina Adler	Faye Bailey	Ruth Bergeron
Ann Bish	Vicki Bremer	Julia Burgess
Muriel Burrows	Julia Helfman	Analine Hicks
Israel Jacobs	Sharon Jordan	Ruth Kerr
Peggy King	Judith Middelkoop	Nancy Peterson
Frank Quinn	Helen Quirini	Cay & David Raycroft
Sonia Rubenstein	Helga Schroeter	Dr. Paul Sorum
Dorothy & Samuel Thompson	Joanne Tobiessen	Jean & John Wilkinson

Those non-members supporting the Operating Fund were:

Cheryl & Thomas Della Salla	Eleanor Kenyon	Cynthia & Herbert Shultz
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Those members supporting the Educational Foundation were:

Kay Ackerman	Virginia Adler	Vicki Bremer
Cornelia Hume	Janet Hutchison	Israel Jacobs
Pat MacKinnon	Majorie McMahan	Judith Middelkoop
Edith & Walter Morlock	Nancy Peterson	Miranda Rand
Helga Schroeter	Roberta Steiner	Joanne Tobiessen
Jean & John Wilkinson		

Those non-members supporting the Educational Foundation were:

Friends of Mike Cuevas	Joan & George Gould
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**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.

*President:*  
Joanne Tobiessen 393-0477

*Vice-President:*  
Connie Young 393-7061

*Newsletter Editor:*  
Helen MacDonald 346-7006

## League of Woman Voters of Schenectady County Local Program 2010-2011

(Changes are noted in bold italics.)

### Justice and the Law

Support improvements to the local criminal justice system by:

1. strengthening the Probation Department and rehabilitation programs in the County.
2. facilitating the implementation of alternative courts (problem solving courts) in Schenectady County and promoting collaborations to support them.
3. ***monitoring the juvenile justice system and promoting community bases rehabilitation programs.***

### Local Government

- Monitor activities of county governmental units, including town boards, the Schenectady City Council and the Schenectady County Legislature; monitor activities of other quasi-governmental units, public authorities and agencies such as Metroplex, IDAs and Planning Boards; monitor activities of elected public Boards of Education.
- Support standards of high professional qualifications and political nonpartisanship in manager form of government.
- Evaluate opportunities for inter-municipal cooperation and examine options for the consolidation of governmental services in Schenectady County.

### Children at Risk

- Collaborate with other organizations to identify the needs of girls in Schenectady County, ***facilitate programs on their behalf***, and educate the community about their needs and challenges.

### Local Education

- Monitor local initiatives related to schools and financing education.

### Environmental Issues

Support environmental efforts in Schenectady County by educating, monitoring, and advocating to further environmental goals related to water resources and efforts to deal with global warming.

1. Work to understand, protect, and conserve the water resources of Schenectady County including the Great Flats Aquifer, the Mohawk River, and other ground water resources. This includes water treatment infrastructure, protection of recharge zones, response to spills and other pollution, and preservation of recreational use.
2. Promote understanding and mitigating efforts to reduce negative effects of global climate change. Support efforts to improve energy efficiency, energy conservation, use of renewable energy, and the reduction of green house gas emissions, the use of green building practices, recycling, the creation of green jobs, and local sustainable agriculture in Schenectady County.
3. ***Promote planning for future energy needs in the context of dwindling petroleum and natural gas reserves and increased demand for energy.***
4. Renew our commitment to the 1991 Four League position on solid waste management.

### Health Care Services

- Support and advocate for national health care reform that provides quality physical and mental health care for all citizens.
- Educate our membership and others about long term care standards and develop recommendations for local options.
- Encourage and support county- wide comprehensive health care planning.

Nominating Committee Report  
Slate of Officers and Board Members  
2010 – 2011

First Vice President (Program) - 2 year term  
Pat MacKinnon

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President (Development) - Open

Treasurer - 2 year term  
Judy Middelkoop

Board - 2 year terms

Gwynneth DeLong (Community Outreach)

Helen MacDonald (Bulletin)

Lynda Nichols (Membership)

Connie Young (Program Coordinator)

For the Nominating Committee - 1 year terms

Vicki Bremer

Betsy Chase

Sonia Rubenstein

Submitted by: Ellen Blake, Ruth Bonn, Lynda Nichols, Connie Young, Julie Burgess, Chair

**Proposed By-Law Changes to be voted on at the Annual Meeting:**

- Eliminate the word "general" when referring to membership in the following: Article IV Section 1, and Section 4 Article V Section 1 Article VII Section1 Article IX Section 3-e-1.
- Article V Section 5, add the sentence "The treasurer shall annually present the accounting records for audit."
- Article VI add Section 5 AUDIT COMMITTEE. An Audit Committee shall be appointed by the Board of Directors to audit or obtain an audit of the League's accounting records. The audit committee shall present the results of the audit to the Board by the end of every calendar year.
- Article VII Section 2, add "At" the Annual Meeting "members" shall...
- Article VII Section 2 d), remove "it" and replace with "them"... "transact such other business as may properly come before them."
- Article IX Section 2, delete "concerted" "...as the membership shall choose for study and action."

## Proposed LWV Budget for 2010-2011

		2009-2010 Budget	2009-2010 Yr-end Projection	2010-2011 Budgeted
<b>INCOME</b>				
A. Dues		8,000	7,800	7,500
B. Contributions				
	1. Membership	1,250	1,030	1,250
	2. Non Member	250	0	100
	3. Earmarked Funds			
	a. Take Me To Vote	125	0	125
	b. Escrow Ed. Fund	500	0	200
	c. Scholarship	-----	-----	165
C. Other Contributions				
	1. Bulletin Ads	750	500	750
	2. Interest	10	50	10
	3. Election Monitoring	100	0	100
	4. Election Reporting	100	0	100
	5. Meeting Revenue	2,400	1,500	2,400
	6. Legislative Reception	200	0	0
D. From Reserves				
	1. LWVNY Ed Foundation			
	a. Youth Programs	1,000		600
	b. Other Grants	950	225	700
	c. Who's Who	2,000	1,500	0
	d. Girls' Day Escrow	9,000	9,000	10,000
	2. Our Reserves	3,155	3,155	2,485
E. Miscellaneous Income		150		150
<b>Total Income:</b>		<b>29,940</b>	<b>24,760</b>	<b>26,635</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
A. Operating Costs				
	1. General Supplies	300	200	250
	2. Postage--Bulk Mail	400	400	425
	3. P.O. Box & Permit	250	246	250
	4. Bank Charges	25	25	25
	5. Copy Expense	50	50	25
	6. Bulletin	1,000		
	a. Copying	-----	900	900
	7. Web Page	200		200
	8. Meeting Expense	2,400		2,400
	<i>sub total:</i>	<i>4,625</i>	<i>1,821</i>	<i>4,475</i>
B. Board & Admin Committees				
	1. President	100		50

	2. Board Tools & Expenses	75		50
	3. Fundraising	300	300	
	a. Copying	-----	-----	150
	b. Postage	-----	-----	50
	4. Membership Committee	300	200	
	a. Copying/Supplies	-----	-----	250
	b. Postage	-----	-----	100
	c. Scholarship	-----	-----	165
	<i>sub total:</i>	775	500	815
<b>C. Delegates</b>				
	1. State Convention	0	0	1,800
	2. National Convention	2,500	0	0
	<i>sub total:</i>	2,500	0	1,800
<b>D. Financial Support of the League</b>				
	1. National PMP	4,400	4,400	4,470
	2. State PMP	2,700	2,700	2,700
	<i>sub total</i>	7,100	7,100	7,170
<b>E. Educational Activities</b>				
	1. Environment	400	176	200
	2. Health Care	250	0	200
	3. Observer/Action/Lobbying	50	0	50
	4. Judicial	100	0	50
	5. Youth Programs	1,150	200	600
	6. Girls' Day Escrow	9,000	9,000	10,000
	7. Voter Services			
	a. Facts For Voters	300	150	100
	b. Take Me To Vote	125	78	125
	c. Meeting Space/Taping/PR	400	200	400
	d. Who's Who	2,000	1,500	0
	<i>sub total:</i>	13,775	11,304	11,725
<b>F. Position Support</b>				
	1. Affiliation			
	a. Martin Luther King	25	0	25
	b. SCED	250	250	250
	c. Human Rights Commission	25	0	25
	d. Fair Campaign Practices	100	100	100
	e. SACC	65	0	0
	<i>sub total:</i>	465	350	400
<b>G. Miscellaneous</b>				
	1. Legislative Reception	200	0	0
	2. Escrow Ed. Fund	500	200	200
	3. Other Expenses	0	49	50
	<i>sub total:</i>	700	249	250
	<b>Total Expenses:</b>	<b>29,940</b>	<b>21,324</b>	<b>26,635</b>

**Juvenile Justice Forum Announcement**  
Submitted by Helga Schroeter, Judicial/AT Co-Chair

The Judicial/AT Committee has been studying the workings of the judicial system. Last month, we met with Family Court Judge JoAnn Assini, who addressed the issue of juvenile justice. This month we plan to attend a luncheon forum on Juvenile Justice in New York State to be held on Tuesday, May 25 from 12 noon to 2:30 p.m. at the New York State Bar Association, 1 Elk Street, Albany sponsored by the Fund for Modern Courts. If you are interested in attending the luncheon or in joining the committee contact Helga Schroeter (370-5240) for information

**Membership Committee Report**  
Submitted by Lynda Nichols, Membership Chair

The Membership Committee has been considering ways to improve our outreach for new members. One concern for some who wish to become League members is the cost to join. So the Membership Committee is trying something new for next year. It is a practice that both the Albany and Saratoga Leagues are trying also. We want to make it known that partial membership “scholarships” are available. When we learn that an individual could join the League if the membership fee could be subsidized, we would like to make that service available.

To create a “scholarship” fund, we will have a silent auction at the June 9 Annual Dinner Meeting. We are gathering donations from vendors at the Schenectady Sunday Farmers’ Market. If you have gone to the Market, you know the quality and variety of products available there. If you have not gone to the Market, here is your chance to bid on and experience delicious locally produced products. At the June 9 Dinner the auction table will include Market items or certificates for perishable items to be picked up at the Sunday Market. We hope your generous bids will allow us to do two things: subsidize some memberships to our League, and support the wonderful resource of our local Farmers’ Market. Come to the June 9 meeting prepared to bid!

**MEMBERSHIP FORM**

Please send this membership form with your dues to Lynda Nichols, 1038 Maryland Ave. Schenectady, 12308

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

Membership choices: Student \$20 Individual \$55 Family \$75 (Needs Adjustments can be made.)  
*These yearly dues are not tax deductible*



## MAY CALENDAR of Events

Tues, May 4... LWV Board, 1400 Keyes Ave., 5-7 pm

Mon, May 10...Environment Committee, Moon & River Café, South Ferry St., Noon

Mon, May 10...Working Group on Girls, YWCA, 3:30 pm.

Tues, May 11..."Meet the Candidates' Schenectady City Schools' Board of Education, Schenectady High School/Black Box Theater, 7 pm.

Wed, May 12... Working Group on Girls Community Forum, McChesney Room, Library, 7-9 pm.

Mon, May 17...Health Committee, Moon and River Café, 12 Noon, Health Survey of Sch'dy orgs.

Tues, May 25...NY State Bar Assn., Luncheon Forum on Juvenile Justice, Noon.

Tues, May 25...Consensus Meeting on Consolidation and Shared Services, 1<sup>st</sup> Reformed Church, 7-9.

## *Save the Date!*

### *Annual Dinner & LWV 85th Birthday Celebration*

*at the Edison Club June 9 from 5:30 - 9:00pm*