


**North Country Legislative Representatives**

**Elizabeth O’C Little** (45th Senatorial District) Albany Office: Room 903, Legislative Office Bldg, Albany, NY 12247; 455-2811; Fax 426-6873. Plattsburgh Office: Government Center, Suite 100, 137 Margaret St., Plattsburgh, NY 12901; 561-2430 email: little@senate.state.ny.us  
**Janet Duprey** (114th Assembly District) Albany Office: LOB 937, Albany, NY 12248; 455-5943. District Office: 202 U.S. Oval, Plattsburgh, NY 12901; 562-1986 email: dupreyj@assembly.state.ny.us  
**Teresa Sayward** (113th Assembly District) Phone 455-5565; Fax 455-5710 email: saywart@assembly.state.ny.us

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**Sen. Kirsten E. Gillibrand**  
531 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510  
Tel: 202-224-4451 Fax: 202-228-0282  
Web: http://gillibrand.senate.gov  
**Sen. Charles Schumer**  
313 Hart Office Bldg.,  
Washington, DC 20510  
Tel: 202-224-6542 Fax: 202-228-3027  
Email:http://schumer.senate.gov/new\_website/contact.cfm  
Web: http://schumer.senate.gov

**Governor David A. Paterson**  
Executive Chambers  
State Capitol  
Albany, NY 12224  
518-474-8390 http://161.11.121.121.govemail  
**Rep. Bill Owens** (23rd Congressional District)  
Room 2366, Rayburn House Building,  
Washington, DC 20515-3223 (Plattsburgh 563-1406)  
Tel: 202-225-4611 Fax: 202-226-0621  
Web: http://owens.house.gov

 **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

February 2011 No. 6

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

- Inside:
1. LWV Diversity Statement/Website Report/League News
  2. FFF Feb. 4th/Feb. 26th Redistricting/Calendar
  3. Meet Your Legislators Report
  4. Greetings from Florida/Special Days in Feb.
  5. Legislative representatives/Membership Form



First Friday Forum on **Feb. 4th**

Redistricting Forum on **Feb. 26th**

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

### 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.”

### WEBSITE REPORT

By Betty Ann King

November of 2010 was the busiest month we have had since the website’s inception. (1824 hits) The first week in November yielded 754 visits while November 2nd (Election Day) provided 209 visitors with information.

December visitation in 2010 yielded 1334 visits which is down from December 2009 ‘s visits of 1581.

The complimentary editorial written by Press Republican editor, Bob Grady has been posted on the website under NEWS.

It should also be noted that Assemblywoman Duprey reports that a major source of her website hits during election season had been due to the direction from our website. She attributes this success to our nonpartisan, non editorializing policies.

Any calendar events? Please forward to [bking8213@charter.net](mailto:bking8213@charter.net) for posting.



### 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.



League News



### House Votes to Repeal the Affordable Care Act

Following the January 20th House vote of 245-189 to repeal the Affordable Care Act, the League has sent a letter to the Senate urging that body to oppose repeal of the Act.

*The League of Women Voters urges you to oppose legislation to repeal the Affordable Care Act, the comprehensive health care law passed by Congress in 2010. The League believes that the Affordable Care Act is a major step forward in guaranteeing health care for all. It has already made a difference by improving health care access and coverage for millions of Americans. Repealing it now would be a step in the wrong direction.*

*We have a health care crisis in America. Too many citizens lack adequate health insurance coverage and rising costs threaten everyone. Since its passage, the Affordable Care Act has brought about positive changes: children are no longer denied coverage for pre-existing conditions, insurers can no longer impose lifetime limits on coverage, adult children can stay on their parents’ health plans up until age 26, and Medicare recipients can have a number of preventive and well-care services without being charged a*

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### Greetings from Florida



Hi everyone,

Now that mostly everyone has had a chance to get settled into the new year, the League began its year with a “Meet and Greet” event in January. This was an opportunity for our members to meet and have dialogue with local office holders. This year we had county and circuit court judges, attorneys, hospital and school board members, councilmen, the supervisor of elections, the state attorney and a mayor. Each attendee addressed the group by indicating the pressing concerns for 2011 in their areas. Many members enjoyed the interactions and always learned something new. The judges, in particular, encouraged League members and the public to act positively when they are called for jury duty. It is always a learning experience and an opportunity to see our Constitution in action.

League members participated in Martin Luther King celebrations at park activities and also a dinner that was organized by our League members at a local county club.

We’ll be doing our local program planning in February. In addition we will have a program titled “Cultural Shifts in Migrant Families.” Florida has large numbers of migrants primarily because of the agricultural crops (especially fruit). A report will follow in the next Informer.

I participated in an annual event for the Harry Chapin Food Bank. Sponsors and pledges of participants raised over \$213,000 which in turn can purchase over \$1 million in food. The event occurs at a large shopping mall with walkers walking around the mall before the shops open.

Even though it has been cooler than usual in Florida, it still beats the weather that the northeast

has been having. The sun shines brightly almost every day. I’ll think of you being all bundled up.

Keep warm. Take care,  
Stasia Arcarese

### Many Special Days in February

February 2, 2011

Groundhog Day



February 3, 1870 Passage of the 15th amendment: “The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.”

February 12, 2011

Lincoln’s Birthday



February 14, 2011

Valentine’s Day



February 21, 2011

George Washington’s Birthday



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Student delegates informally chatting with Assembly-woman Duprey



Betsy Metz, Betty Ann King, Senator Little

continued from p. 1 "League News"  
*deductible, co-pay, or coinsurance.*

*The League of Women Voters believes that as provisions of the Affordable Care Act continue to be implemented, more and more Americans will have health care coverage while health care costs are reduced for individuals, businesses and communities. In contrast, the Congressional Budget Office estimates that repeal of the Affordable Care Act would add \$230 billion to the*

*national deficit over the next ten years and leave about 54 million Americans without insurance.*

*As an organization that has worked for 90 years to improve government procedures, educate the electorate, and make government at all levels more accessible and responsive to citizens, we are deeply concerned that opponents of the Affordable Care Act have adopted a strategy of fear and obfuscation in attempting to repeal the law. Medicare was enacted over strong opposition from those who opposed "socialized medicine." Social Security was adopted despite loud and prolonged complaints. Yet, both these systems are now sacrosanct. Many other accomplishments, from civil rights to voting rights, were controversial when first adopted but have proven to be critical steps forward. The Affordable Care Act is part of that tradition.*

*The League of Women Voters urges you to oppose repeal of the Affordable Care Act and support health care coverage for all Americans.*

**Global Democracy: Cuba Project**

We are pleased to report that our 2006 application to the U.S. Justice Department for a license to travel to Cuba was approved on November 2, 2010! This means we can proceed with our new project, "[Women of the Americas: Cuba.](#)" which will entail conducting on-the-ground research in Cuba on current women's political and civic role – leadership styles, grassroots initiatives and various indices of women's involvement and advancement. The project has two components: data collection (through interviews, etc.) in Cuba over 12 months, followed by a monograph on the findings. Zaida Arguedas, research team leader, is drafting criteria for the selection of additional members. Arguedas is also traveling to Cuba in May to attend an international conference "The Role of Women in the Twenty-First Century"

# The Informer

League of Women Voters  
of the Plattsburgh Area



February 2011

President

Myra Decker 643-2742  
[mystdek7@northnet.org](mailto:mystdek7@northnet.org)

Stasia Arcarese 561-1745  
"Informer" Editor  
[larry.arcarese@verizon.net](mailto:larry.arcarese@verizon.net)

League of Women Voters  
First Friday Forum

 **FEBRUARY 4, 2011**

12 Noon

Butcher Block Restaurant

**Speaker: Jackie Girard Vogl,**  
Assistant VP for International  
Enrollment Management  
International Student Services

**Topic: "SUNY Plattsburgh:  
We are the World"**



**RSVP by Feb. 3rd to:** Myra Decker  
643-2742 or [mystdek7@northnet.org](mailto:mystdek7@northnet.org)

**Cost:** \$12.00 (no checks please)



**Mark on Your Calendar NOW**

**February 26, 2011**

**"Redistricting Seminar"**

Laura Ladd Bierman, Executive Director  
League of Women Voters of New York State  
and Barbara Bartoletti, Legislative Director  
LWVNYS, will be participating.

See Nov. '10 and Jan. '11 *Informer* for  
background information.



**2011 Calendar**

February 4, 2011 FFF - 12 noon  
**February 26, 2011 Redistricting Seminar**  
March 4, 2011 FFF - 12 noon  
April 1, 2010 FFF - 12 noon

## Meet Your State Legislators Event Is Successful

by Betty Ann King and Betsy Metz

On Saturday, January 8, 2011, The League of Women Voters of the Plattsburgh Area sponsored the first time ever “Meet your Legislators Event” held at Plattsburgh High School Auditorium. In spite of snowy weather that made travel prohibitive for some, the event was well attended by delegates, educators, students’ families, and League members.

Program coordinator Betty Ann King introduced the delegates who were chosen by their respective school districts. Being chosen as a delegate is a distinctive honor in recognition of achievement, character, and interest in the functioning of state government.

Betsy Metz narrated a Power Point presentation on *Students Inside Albany* that was graciously prepared by NYS League of Women Voters for this event.

Through the incredible generosity of our area State Legislators, Senator Betty Little, Assemblywoman Janet Duprey and Assemblywoman Teresa Sayward, (who was unable to be present but provided information and certificates for delegates), students and audience members were able to get a glimpse of the workings of the NYS Assembly and Senate.

Messages conveyed by both Senator Little and Assemblywoman Duprey demonstrate that both women need to be viewed as people with families and ordinary “human qualities” working hard for their constituents. Both women related the importance of being on committees and what accomplishments they considered to be among their finest.

Question and Answer periods followed each Legislators presentation. Delegates questions were thought to be intelligent, provocative and reflective of quality social studies/government programs in our Clinton and Essex county schools.

Photo ops were also available during intermission and at program’s end.

Legislators presented delegates with award certificates signed by Senator Elizabeth Little, Assemblywoman Janet Duprey and Assemblywoman Teresa Sayward.

Abbey Defoe from Chazy Central Rural School was chosen to attend the Students Inside Albany Event from April 10-13. Shawn Holmes from Northeastern Clinton Central School was chosen as first alternate. Mallory Suddoth from Westport was chosen as second alternate.



Right: Senator Little, Mallory Suddoth (2nd Alternate), Shawn Holmes, (1st alternate), Abby DeFoe (Delegate to SIA) Assemblywoman Duprey

Press coverage was terrific. The Press Republican wrote a positive editorial on January 7th lauding the League for its efforts as well as sending two

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continued from p. 3 “Meet the Legislators” reporters to the event which gave us front page coverage the day following the event. Channel 5 also provided coverage on the late news and Thom Hallock from Mountain Lake PBS was also present.

Feedback has been extremely positive. Critique sheets were handed to students and audience when signing in for the event. Most did return the critique sheets at the end of event. Consensus was that the event was a unique and educational opportunity that was appreciated by the entire audience and should be repeated again next year. The prize of attending the Students Inside Albany was genuinely coveted. One suggestion by an audience member was to send more than one student. If only we had the money!

The committee for this event included 13 people. All 13 were needed! Ideas, suggestions, letters, phone calls, contacting legislators, presentations to educators, follow up phone calls, refreshments, contacting media, more letters, invitations to parents, printing programs, creating and printing certificates, creating official name tags, manning of registration tables and engaging the site, securing technological equipment...and the list goes on.

How exciting to see so many people involved in creating this wonderful experience for youth.

Kudos to our committee and to all of you for your support.

Committee in alphabetical order.

Stasia Arcarese, Haila Conant, Myra Decker, Jan Forsman, Cesca Hartnett, Sara Hurwitz, Betty Ann King, Sally Sears-Mack, Mimi McDowell, Betsy Metz, Edie Poland, Inge Sapp, Kathleen Schumacher.

Additional help provided by honorary committee members Jim King and Tom Metz.



Edie Poland registering a Meet Your Legislature delegate. Inge Sapp looks on.



Inge Sapp, Edie Poland, Mimi McDowell

