

Bulletin

January 2008

## Saugerties League of Women Voters

### **CALENDAR**

**Tuesday, January 15<sup>th</sup> General Meeting: 7:00 P.M. “ Identity Theft and Prevention”  
Frank D. Greco Center**

**Tuesday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> Board Meeting: 7:00 P.M. Frank D. Greco Center**

**Tuesday, February 5<sup>th</sup> Presidential Primary**

**Tuesday, February 19<sup>th</sup> General Meeting: 7:00 P.M. Frank D. Greco Center**

**Tuesday, February 26<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting: 7:00 P.M. Frank D. Greco Center**

### **PRESIDENT REPORT**

A Very Happy New Year to all! We hope we will be seeing you at our 2008 meetings. The first meeting this year will deal with identity theft. If you or someone you know has experienced this Problem, you know how traumatic loss of identity can be. It is not only expensive and time consuming, but it also takes a psychological toll as one tries to regain control of one's finances. Our guest speaker will be Alice Haberski, Director of the Consumers Fraud Bureau of the Ulster County District Attorney's office. She will be offering ways for us to reduce our exposure to identity theft. Please spread the word about our meeting and bring family and friends with you.

Also remember that we would like to send the bulletin via e-mail to as many members as possible. If you are willing to receive your bulletin in this way, will you please send your e-mail address to Jeanne Sutton, our bulletin editor, at [wwchimes@aol.com](mailto:wwchimes@aol.com)

Hope to see you at our January 15<sup>th</sup> meeting

\_\_\_ Sally Colclough and Mary Finger

### **JANUARY 15<sup>th</sup> MEETING – “IDENTITY THEFT”**

The League of Women Voters of Saugerties is sponsoring a program on identity theft. The guest Speaker will be Alice Haberski, Director of the Consumer Fraud Bureau of the Ulster County District Attorney's Office. She will be discussing the problem of identity theft and offering ways to make us less vulnerable to this crime. The public is invited to attend this presentation. Bring friends and family.

# THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS THROUGH THE DECADES!

Compiled by Kay J. Maxwell

Founding and Early History

## **The 1920s:**

### **Organization:**

Since the League had inherited its structure from the National American Women Suffrage Association, in the 1920 it was a federation of affiliated state Leagues, most of which had been in existence as state headquarters of the NAWSA. State Leagues were the keystone of the League's structure, and had the responsibility for organizing local Leagues. By 1924, the League was organized in 346 of 433 congressional districts. Twenty-three state Leagues and 15 city Leagues maintained regular business headquarters, nearly all with one or more paid staff. A convention, held annually at first and then later biennially, of the state League representatives selected a program that for many years was national, state and local all in one. Local Leagues were not represented at the conventions and the state League delegates also chose the national officers and directors:

to the latter the League looked for leadership which molded them together into one effective organization. The National Board continued the practice of extensive field work which had been so successful in the suffrage movement. Its members carried the enthusiasm and inspiration for the whole League to the remotest and smallest towns. The League had from the beginning the dual advantages of grassroots and central thinking, planning and leadership. That the League structure of our federal system was an additional advantage because it provided experience which made our form of government more understandable.

25 Years of Great Ideas, 1950

During its first two decades, the League concentrated on study and getting needed legislation passed. All League program at the national, state and local levels was proposed by national Boards program departments and standing committees and then authorized by the national convention. The national Board furnished study materials for all national and some state items. This led to national Board and staff expertise and legislative successes that overshadowed the goal of the public at large. The structure that developed in the departments and committees of the National League tended to build up special interests and specialists in subject matter. But there was a sense

that another facet of League purpose – development of the well rounded, effective individual – suffered by comparison.

**Issues:**

League President Maud Wood Park called the first League program adopted in the 1920 a kettle of eels. And no wonder! Its contained some 69 items grouped in broad subject areas; child welfare, education, the home and high prices, women in gainful occupations, public health and morals, and independent citizenship for married women! The League’s first major national legislative success was the passage of the Sheppard -Towner Act providing federal aid for maternal and child care programs.

The League also set up classes to train volunteers teachers for citizenship schools. And the League organized institutes to study defects in our system of government, initiated “Know Your Town” surveys, candidate questionnaires and meetings, and nationwide get-out-the-vote campaigns activities. In 1928 the League sponsored “ Meet the Candidates,” the first national radio broadcast of a candidate forum. Voters service efforts remain a hallmark of the League’s service to the electorate today and laid the foundation for the efforts that make up the League’s education program – from candidate debates and candidate questionnaires produced by Leagues throughout the country, to the myriad projects funded through the League of Women Education Fund, which was founded on 1957.

**LEAGUE OPPORTUNITIES:**

*Is there a member who is familiar with web-site technology who might be willing to help us set up a Saugerties League web-site? If so, please call Sally {246-2945} or Mary {246-4067}*

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