



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
of Schenectady County New York

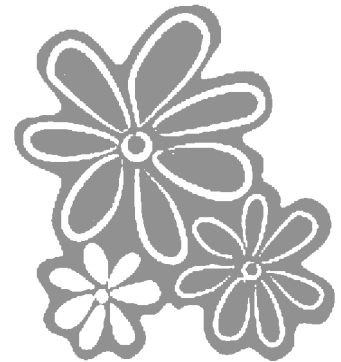
BULLETIN

www.lwvschenectady.org

MAY 2011

***The Schenectady County Working Group on Girls presents
Girls' Day Out: Report to the Community***

Wednesday, May 11, 2011
7pm - 8:30pm
McChesney Room
Schenectady Public Library



PROGRAM:

- Learn more about the Girls' Day Out (GDO) and the Girls' Circle Program
- Hear from student participants and adult volunteers
- Looking ahead for the Working Group on Girls and GDO program
- Learn how you can become involved
- Q&A

All Are Welcome!

Light refreshments will be served

Meet the Candidates

for the Schenectady City Schools' Board of Education
Thursday, May 12, 7 pm
Schenectady High School, Black Box Theater

All candidates running for election have been invited to this candidates' forum.
Candidates will make statements and answer written questions from the audience.

SAVE THE DATE

LWV Annual Dinner

at the Edison Club

Wednesday, June 8 from 5:30 - 9:00pm

President's Column

Greetings,

On Wednesday, May 11th, our Schenectady County Working Group on Girls will present Girls' Day Out: Report to the Community at 7pm in the McChesney Room at the Main Library. A panel of participating girls and women volunteers plus school personnel will discuss this year's program. There will be an opportunity for Q&A. Light refreshments will be served. This is an opportunity for you to learn 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 Third Annual Girls' Day Out, beginning on November 15th, 2011, and we'll be seeking volunteers for next year to assist with the Girls' Circle program in the schools.

On May 12th, the League will host a candidates' forum for the Schenectady City School Board candidates. We encourage you to attend this forum to learn more about the issues in this school board election and to bring your friends, particularly those who live in the City of Schenectady.

Also note that important items are included in this newsletter in preparation for our Annual Meeting on June 8 at the Edison Club. At that time, we will be voting on the following proposed items: Board nominations, budget, local program and by-law changes. Look them over so you know what you're voting on. Let us know if you have any questions. Happy Spring!! Joanne



Nominating Committee Report

Slate of Officers & Board Members 2011-2012

President: Joan Elliott (1 year term)

Secretary: Johanna Petersen

Voter Service Group

(Guidance by Pat McKinnon)

Members: Connie Young/ Inge Pangburn

Pat Rush

Jenny Overeynder

Elizabeth Cooke

Voter Registration: Cheryl Nechamen

Observer Corps: Betsy Chase/ Maxine Borom

Action: Carol Furman

Fund Raising: Michelle Ostrelch

Environment: Ruth Bonn

Health Chair: Carol Furman

Working Group on Girls Chair:

Joanne Tobiessen

Judicial Director: Helga Schroeter

Nominating Committee 2012

Betsy Chase

Vicki Bremer

Mary Pritchard

BY-LAW CHANGES TO BE CONSIDERED AT LWV Annual Meeting

Submitted by Pat MacKinnon and Betsy Forkas

The following changes to the by-laws of the LWV of Schenectady County were approved at the April 5 Board meeting. A vote to adopt these changes will be considered by the membership at the Annual Meeting on June 8.

The proposed changes have been underlined. They were initiated by a need to adjust our first 3 by-laws to be consistent with those of LWVUS. The most significant change was adopted at last year's National Convention; in Section 2, the words "honorary life member" were altered to "life member".

ARTICLE 111 – MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. **ELIGIBILITY.** Any person who subscribes to the purpose and policy of the League shall be eligible for membership.

Section 2. **TYPES OF MEMBERSHIP.** The membership of the LWV of Schenectady County shall be composed of voting members and associate members.

a) Voting members shall be citizens of at least 18 years of age, and will be members of the local League, the NYS League, and the LWVUS.

Individuals who live within the area of a local League may join that League or any other local League.

Those who reside outside the area of any local League may join a local League or may be state members-at-large.

Those who have been members of the League for 50 years or more shall be life members excused from the payment of dues.

b) Associate members shall be all other members.

Local Program 2011-2012

(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 based rehabilitation.

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 the protection of environmental resources, land, water, and air in Schenectady County:

1. ***Advocate for the protection of water resources in the County.***
2. ***Promote understanding of global climate change and support efforts to mitigate its effects.***
3. ***Support energy conservation and development of renewable energy alternatives.***
4. ***Study solid waste management in the County.***
5. ***Support the four League position on solid waste management.***

Health 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 countywide comprehensive health care planning ***and access to health care.***

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.

**Proposed LWVSC Budget for 2011-2012:
To be voted upon at the Annual Meeting in June.**

LWV Budget		2009-2010 Actual	2010-2011 Budgeted	2010-2011 Mar. 01, 2011	2010- 2011 Projected Year End	2011- 2012 Budgeted Amount
INCOME						
A. Dues		10,300.00	7,500.00	4,642.50	4,642.50	7,865.00
B. Contributions						
	1. Membership	1,505.00	1,250.00	1,425.00	1,425.00	1,250.00
	2. Non Member	60.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	600.00
	3. Earmarked Funds					
	a. Take Me To Vote	125.00	125.00	0.00	250.00	0.00
	b. Escrow Ed. Fund	150.00	200.00	25.00	25.00	25.00
	c. Silent Auction/Candidate's Forum	----- --	165.00	0.00	0.00	350.00
C. Other Contributions						
	1. Bulletin Ads	500.00	750.00	450.00	450.00	500.00
	2. Interest	0.64	10.00	0.36	0.50	0.50
	3. Election Monitoring/Housing	500.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
	4. Election Reporting	0.00	100.00	597.00	597.00	500.00
	5. Meeting Revenue	2,180.00	2,400.00	1,690.00	2,890.00	2,500.00
D. From Reserves						
	1. LWVNY Ed Foundation					
	a. Youth Programs/Inside Albany	0.00	200.00	0.00	400.00	600.00
	b. Other Grants	900.00	400.00	625.00	825.00	620.00
	c. Who's Who	1,500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,000.00
	d. Girls' Day Escrow	3,325.00	10,000.00	12,240.00	12,240.00	14,000.00
	2. Our Reserves	0.00	2,485.00	0.00		3,221.50
E. Miscellaneous Income		162.24	150.00	0.30	0.30	25.00
	Total Income:	21,207.88	25,935.00	21,795.16	23,845.30	34,157.00
EXPENSES						
A. Operating Costs						
	1. General Supplies	259.20	250.00	0.00	0.00	250.00
	2. Postage--Bulk Mail	222.76	425.00	600.00	600.00	600.00
	3. P.O. Box & Bulk Mail Permit	246.00	250.00	245.00	245.00	245.00
	4. Bank Charges	0.00	25.00	3.00	3.00	25.00
	5. Copy Expense	0.00	25.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	6. Bulletin	775.45				
	a. Copying		900.00	747.13	1,100.00	1,100.00
	7. Web Page	160.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00

	8. Meeting Expense	2,080.81	2,400.00	1,407.41	2,607.41	2,500.00
	<i>sub total:</i>	<i>3,744.22</i>	<i>4,475.00</i>	<i>3,202.54</i>	<i>4,755.41</i>	<i>4,920.00</i>
B. Board & Admin Committees						
	1. President	0.00	50.00	0.00	0.00	50.00
	2. Board Tools & Expenses	0.00	50.00	0.00	0.00	50.00
	3. Fundraising	216.46				
	a. Copying	----- --	150.00	176.04	176.04	176.00
	b. Postage	----- --	50.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	4. Membership Committee	336.35				
	a. Copying/Supplies	----- --	250.00	143.34	143.34	250.00
	b. Postage	----- --	100.00	27.01	27.01	50.00
	<i>sub total:</i>	<i>552.81</i>	<i>650.00</i>	<i>346.39</i>	<i>346.39</i>	<i>576.00</i>
C. Delegates						
	1. State Convention	0.00	1,800.00	0.00	?	0.00
	2. National Convention	2,204.35	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,200.00
	<i>sub total:</i>	<i>2,204.35</i>	<i>1,800.00</i>	<i>0.00</i>	<i>0.00</i>	<i>2,200.00</i>
D. Financial Support of the League						
	1. National PMP	3,984.25	4,470.00	3,163.05	4,217.40	4,335.00
	2. State PMP	2,493.95	2,700.00	1,910.25	2,547.00	2,601.00
	<i>sub total</i>	<i>6,478.20</i>	<i>7,170.00</i>	<i>5,073.30</i>	<i>6,764.40</i>	<i>6,936.00</i>
E. Educational Activities						
	1. Environment	175.89	200.00	0.00	0.00	370.00
	2. Health Care	231.96	200.00	56.52	56.52	100.00
	3. Observer/Action/Lobbying	0.00	50.00	0.00	0.00	50.00
	4. Judicial	0.00	50.00	0.00	0.00	50.00
	5. Youth Programs/Inside Albany	0.00	200.00	0.00	600.00	600.00
	6. Girls' Day Escrow	3,475.00	10,000.00	12,240.00	12,240.00	14,000.00
	7. Voter Services					
	a. Facts For Voters	149.26	100.00	37.80	37.80	100.00
	b. Take Me To Vote	77.76	125.00	0.00	0.00	125.00
	c. Meeting Space/Taping/Ed Fund	445.08	100.00	587.76	587.76	1,530.00
	d. Who's Who	1,512.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,000.00
	8. Community Outreach	-----	-----	-----	-----	100.00
	9. SCED	0.00	250.00	30.00	30.00	250.00
	<i>sub total:</i>	<i>6,066.95</i>	<i>11,025.00</i>	<i>12,922.08</i>	<i>13,552.08</i>	<i>19,275.00</i>
F. Position Support						
	1. Affiliation					
	a. Martin Luther King	0.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00

b. Human Rights Commission	0.00	25.00	0.00	0.00	25.00
c. Fair Campaign Practices	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	150.00
<i>sub total:</i>	<i>100.00</i>	<i>150.00</i>	<i>155.00</i>	<i>125.00</i>	<i>200.00</i>
G. Miscellaneous					
1. Escrow Ed. Fund	398.90	200.00	62.24	62.24	25.00
2. Other Expenses	49.11	50.00	17.99	17.99	25.00
<i>sub total:</i>	<i>448.01</i>	<i>250.00</i>	<i>80.23</i>	<i>80.23</i>	<i>50.00</i>
Total Expenses:	19,594.54	25,520.00	21,779.54	25,623.51	34,157.00

**Check book
Balance 5,604.61
CD 5,198.66
General Ed
Fund 4,174.39
Total Assets: 14,977.66**

Education Committee Report

Submitted by Education Committee Chair, Mary Maitino

We have received (online) our first paper for the **Education Study**. You can find this information yourself if you go to the LWVUS site, and click on "For Members" at the top of the page.

EDUCATION STUDY: LWV Education Study Paper Available Online (NEW)

The first of the Education Study papers, "Role of Federal Government in Public Education: Historical Perspectives" is available. Additional papers will be posted in the coming weeks. The Leaders Guide and Consensus Questions will follow. We have until the end of November to conduct our study and take consensus. As the LWVUS Study Committee members finish writing each paper, they will post it on the LWVUS website. (Watch the "**Leaders' Update**," and the **Public Education List** for continuing information. (See below)

Two books were recommended in preparation for the study: **The Flat World and Education** by Linda Darling-Hammond and **The Death and Life of the Great American School System: How Testing and Choice are Undermining Education** by Diane Ravitch

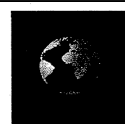
This committee is open to anyone who is interested. Please call me at 377 3248, or email me, marimay67@gmail.com if you would like to join.

****Inside Albany Conference****

Submitted by Maxine Borom, Coordinator

A very successful "Inside Albany" conference was held last week by the LWVNYS. Two Schenectady High School students, Dana Mancini and Joshua Goldstein, participated in the conference. Both were very enthusiastic about the experience, which included visits to legislators, talks by experts on the working of New York State government and even a tour of the Capitol building. In addition, the students felt that contact with young people from around the state was extremely worthwhile (there were 35 participants, from Long Island to Buffalo!

It should be noted that the Schenectady LWV, in cooperation with the GE House at SHS, funded the second local participant. (One student from each local league is funded by the state league). We should all be very proud of ourselves for providing this valuable opportunity to these two fine young people



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THIS LETTER WAS SENT TO THE TIMES- UNION BY THE LWVNYS PRESIDENT **Secretive Ethics Reform**

To the Editor: As you noted in an April 9 editorial, “three men in a room” is no way to negotiate ethics reform. Since Albany’s similarly secretive effort at ethics reform in 2007, which resulted in a deeply flawed bill, 11 legislators have been indicted or convicted of crimes committed while in office.

The League of Women Voters of New York State has spent decades working for ethics reform in this state. We believe that all New Yorkers deserve to see whether the terms of any proposed new ethics reform accomplish full disclosure, independent enforcement and meaningful penalties for misbehavior.

It is time for legislators, regardless of party affiliation, to vote for meaningful reform. Public officials are elected to uphold the public trust. New Yorkers should insist on transparent ethics regulation through an independent ethics commission.

BETSEY B. SWAN, President, LWVNYS,
Menands, N.Y., April 11, 2011

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League of Women Voters

Of Schenectady County
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Schenectady, NY 12309

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PAID PERMIT NO. 402
ALBANY, NY

10 issues per year

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Or Current Resident

MAY CALENDAR of Events

Mon, May 9...Environment Committee, Moon & River Café, South Ferry St., Noon
Tues, May 3... LWV Board, 1400 Keyes Ave., 3-5 pm.
Mon, May 9...Working Group on Girls, YWCA, 3:30 pm.
Wed, May 11...Health Committee, Moon and River Café, 12 Noon. Talking points about
County health needs.
Wed, May 11... Working Group on Girls Community Forum, McChesney Room, Library, 7-8:30 pm
Thurs, May 12..."Meet the Candidates' Schenectady City Schools' Board of Education, Schenectady
High School/Black Box Theater, 7 pm.
Wed, June 8 ANNUAL DINNER



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