



# The Broome-Tioga Voter

Bulletin of the *League of Women Voters of Broome & Tioga Counties*

[www.lwv-broometioga.org](http://www.lwv-broometioga.org)

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*Plan now to attend.....*

## LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST

Saturday, November 17, 9 a.m.

Russell's Steak and Seafood

Cost: \$11 per person

Come and meet your representatives in person, learn what their agendas are, and introduce them to League priorities.

Guests welcome. **Reservations needed by November 9.** Send check payable to LWV of Broome & Tioga Counties to Mary Johnson, 28 Jerome Avenue, Binghamton, NY 13905. (Please note guests' names on memo line.)

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## ANNUAL BRUNCH & PROGRAM

Saturday, December 1

9:30 Coffee 10:00 Brunch

(Reservations not required. Guests welcome.)

Endicott Visitors' Center, 300 Lincoln Ave., Endicott

### “Vote 18” Program

### Voter Responsibilities for

### High School Students

*See you there!*

## **Co-President's Column: Seize the Moment**

About a week before the meeting on Clean Money-Clean Elections, I took the advantage of a lunch date to distribute some fliers about that meeting to the friends and acquaintances present. When I handed a flier to a woman sitting across the table from me, she responded with, "Oh! That's a great idea, but it will never happen." I immediately envisioned the League's predecessors being put into prison for marching for votes for women, and was ever more grateful that they did not think that way about their cause even in the worst of circumstances.

Those of us who heard Jessica Wisnieski speak, know not only that it can happen but is happening. Three states: Arizona (1998), Connecticut (2005), and Maine (1996) have public funding available statewide and in the legislature; New Jersey has a legislative pilot project (2004), New Mexico has it available for their Public Regulation Commission (2003) and in 2007 made it available for judicial elections; North Carolina has funds available for judicial elections (2002); Vermont has made public funding available for the governor and lieutenant governor (1997); and two cities, Albuquerque, New Mexico and Portland, Oregon (2005-both) have city-wide full public financing. These laws have been approved through a combination of the ballot process and by legislatures.

In New York, Governor Spitzer said, "Full public financing must be the ultimate goal of our reform effort. By cutting off the demand for private money, we will cut off the special interest influence that comes with it." Our own Rep. Donna Lupardo is on record of supporting it, also.

In the U.S. Congress, Sens. Dick Durbin (D. IL) and Arlen Specter have introduced the FAIR ELECTIONS NOW Act which provides full public financing for Senate candidates. A companion bill in the House is also expected soon.

All of us have been discouraged, even angered at the congressional money in politics scandals. Nick Nyhart, of Public Campaign, writes in the National

Voter (2006), "...scandals of this magnitude create opportunities for major reform". In 2005, it took the imprisonment of a disgraced governor to galvanize the Connecticut Legislature to pass and the governor to sign the first CMCE law in the nation done through a legislative body.

We all need to "seize the moment" to help promote a law that will open possibilities for so many causes. Healthcare Reform, Alternative Energy sources, Environmental Concerns is a short list of them that will give people of different backgrounds an opportunity of getting elected without owing favors to special interest groups, their contributors, and lobbyists. We can do this by flooding our respective Senators' and Representatives' mailboxes and e-mails, both national and state, with our urgent request for campaign reform such as the Clean Money, Clean Elections Law.

~ Clare Simeone, Co-President

## **Voter Service**

Thanks to everyone who helped in the planning and presentation of the Judicial Forum on October 30. We hosted candidates for Broome County Judge and for three Vacancies in the 6th District of the State Supreme Court. The program segment of our regular monthly meeting, at the Vestal Public Library, was given over to the Forum. The public was invited.

Both Part I and Part II of the Voters' Guides - three thousand in all - have been distributed to locations in Tioga and Broome Counties. Part I gave general voting information, dates and deadlines. Part II was more specific, giving information on the ballot proposals and arguments for and against.

We have opportunities for at least two members to train as moderators for future candidate forums. Elsie Wager will do the training. If you are interested please call Barb at 651-9464 or Doris at 723-0890.

~ Doris Lawton

## Clare Simeone:

### Woman of Achievement

The League of Women Voters of Broome & Tioga Counties is proud to honor Clare Simeone as our 2007 Woman of Achievement. Clare will be among the outstanding women honored at the annual Women of Achievement Dinner sponsored by the Broome County Status of Women Council to be held on November 7.

Since joining the League of Women Voters in 1999 Clare Simeone has been a very active and valued member. Soon after joining she accepted the responsibility of coordinating with the Broome County Board of Elections to supply volunteers to help compile election night results for media reporting. In addition to this, she served for 4 years as Secretary for our local League. Throughout the years she has been a member, Clare has coordinated our yearly "Students Inside Albany" project. She handled local publicity and selected a deserving high school student to spend a few days in Albany learning how state government works and visiting with government representatives and agencies as our local delegate. She was also Chair of our Local Government Committee for a short time before being elected to the position of Co-President of the LWV of Broome & Tioga Counties.

Clare received a BS degree from Villanova University and an MS degree in elementary education from the State University at Cortland. After teaching in schools in New Jersey and Pennsylvania, she took a position at Susquehanna Valley Central School. She retired from SV with 32 years of service.

Clare volunteered as a Sunday school teacher and was a member of the Vestry at the Church of Good Shepherd, was a board member and Secretary for the Southside Ecumenical Council, and she taught literacy to refugee Iraqi and Laotian women.

She enjoys reading, gardening and traveling. She visited London four times in the last two years to spend time with her daughter and son-in-law ☞

who live there, and recently took a long-awaited cruise around the Hawaiian Islands.

~ Eva Anderson

## November/December Program Notes

### Legislative Breakfast:

This year's Legislative Breakfast will be held on Saturday, November 17 at 9 AM at a new location. Russell's Steak and Seafood Restaurant will offer an expanded buffet menu, including fruit, waffles, sausage and bacon among other items. Invitations have been sent to Congressman Hinchey, NYS Assembly and Senate representatives, mayors, town supervisors and Broome and Tioga legislators. We try to cover the areas where our members reside. Our elected officials and members have enjoyed this opportunity to discuss their positions on our issues. Mail your reservation by November 9 to Mary Johnson, 28 Jerome Ave., Binghamton, NY 13905 along with your check to LWVBTC for \$11.

### Annual Brunch:

The annual brunch will be held on Saturday, December 1 at the Endicott Visitor Center. We will have coffee at 9:30, brunch at 10 followed by the program on Vote 18. Walt Townes it's creator has shared it with the NYS League at it's convention in May. Now it can be taught in grades 6 thru 12 it is geared to seniors who are 18. Members who participated found it motivating and fun and hope you do too.

~ Mary Johnson

### Identification Statement

The Broome-Tioga Voter is published 9 times a year (January, February, March, April, May, July/August, September, October, and November/December) by the League of Women Voters of Broome & Tioga Counties, 38 Oakridge Drive, Binghamton, NY 13903

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## Calendar

Tuesday	November 6	<b>GENERAL ELECTION</b>
Wednesday	November 7	Women of Achievement Dinner, Owego Treadway
Tuesday	November 13	Board Meeting, Vestal Library
Saturday	November 17	Legislative Breakfast
Saturday	December 1	Brunch and Program, Endicott Visitor Center
Tuesday	December 11	Board Meeting, Vestal Library
Tuesday	January 8	Board Meeting, Vestal Library

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