



**The LOCAL VOTER**  
**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS**  
**SYRACUSE METROPOLITAN AREA**

February 2007



*The LWV Celebrates it  
87th year February 14th*

**We've Moved**

**Mailing Address:** P.O. Box 11866  
 Syracuse, NY 13218  
**Our physical location is now:**  
 507 Plum St, 2nd Floor  
 Syracuse, NY 13204  
**Phone:** (315) 448 - 7199  
**Fax:** (315) 448 - 7299  
[info@lwvsyr.org](mailto:info@lwvsyr.org)

**UPCOMING LEAGUE EVENTS**

- February 8th**  
 Advocacy Training Workshop  
 Details page 4
- March 9th**  
 Legislative Breakfast  
 Ramanda Inn, North Syracuse
- April 25th**  
 Mark Bitz, Founder of FREE NY  
 Borders Books Carousel Center
- May 1st**  
 Law Day Event
- May 18 -20**  
 LWVNY Convention
- June 14th**  
 LWV Annual Meeting

**Inside This Issue:**

- Board Notes.....2
- Health Care Position .....3
- HAVA Update.....3
- Advocacy Workshop.....4
- Book Raffle.....5
- Upcoming Events.....6
- Nominating Committee.....6
- NFYSL .....7

**WE'RE ON THE WEB**

- Local League:  
[www.lwvsyr.org](http://www.lwvsyr.org)
- State League:  
[www.lwvny.org](http://www.lwvny.org)
- National League:  
[www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)

**Message from the President**

The League of Women Voters and other good government groups are optimistic that we will see meaningful government reform in New York State this year. Barbara Bartoletti, our State League's Legislative Director, is part of Governor Spitzer's transition team. I feel the League has an influential voice in reforming the State's legislative processes.

Just recently Governor Spitzer and our legislative leaders have agreed to historic ethics reforms. A new Commission on Public Integrity has been formed. These changes are exactly the kind of reforms that are needed to insure accountability and transparency in the legislative process. Our Leaders in the NYS Legislature have heard our concerns and know we can no longer be ignored. But there is still more to do.

I urge everyone to contact their state representatives and let them know we still need an independent redistricting commission; campaign finance reform; accountability for public authorities; reform to the budget process; and changes in the legislative rules. These changes are crucial to make New York State a truly representative government. Ongoing pressure on our elected officials is necessary to *Make Democracy Work!*

The Syracuse League of Women Voters has been busy working hard on voter service and advocacy activities. We work on a very bare bones budget and must rely on the support of the public. To raise funds we are conducting a **Celebrity Book Raffle**. Tickets are only \$5.00 for two chances to win a "Bushel or Peck" of books all signed by their authors. The winner will be drawn at our Annual Legislative Breakfast on March 9th. More details on the raffle can be found on page 5. League Members will be receiving raffle tickets in the mail. If you would like an opportunity to catch up on some good reading and assist the Syracuse League please support this fund raising effort. Non-members can call the League office at 448-7199 or contact a League member to purchase tickets.



We apologize for the delay in the January "Local Voter". It should have been delivered during the 1st week of January. Unfortunately due to an unexplained delay by the USPS it was almost 3 weeks late.

Roberta Millert, President



Lincoln

*"I am a firm believer in the people. If given the truth, they can be depended upon to meet any national crises. The great point is to bring them the real facts."* Abraham Lincoln  
 16th president of US (1809 - 1865)

# BOARD NOTES

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

It is with regret that we announce the death of **Jean M. Hoefler**. Jean died of injuries in an auto accident on December 28, 2006. Jean was an active member of our League serving on the Board in several positions including president. She moved to Gwynedd PA several years ago. A memorial service will be held in Syracuse this spring .

## Naturalization Ceremonies

Volunteers are needed to register new citizens at this year's Naturalization Ceremonies. If you have not participated in this League activity, please consider offering a few hours of your time to help us out. The new citizen ceremonies are held at the Federal and State Court Houses. You will find the ceremony inspiring as new citizens from around the world are grateful to call the United States their new home.

For more details please contact Susan Bush at the YWCA - 424-0040.

## Naturalization Schedule

Feb. 15 - 2 pm	County Court House, Room 400
Mar. 22 - 11am	Federal Bldg. Ceremonial Court
April 12 - 11am	Federal Bldg. Room 5
April 26 - 2 pm	County Court House, Room 400
May 24 - 2 pm	County Court House, Room 400
June 28 - 2 pm	County Court House, Room 400
July 6 - 11am	Federal Bldg. Ceremonial Court
Aug. 16 - 2pm	County Court House, Room 400
Sept. 20 - 11am	Federal Bldg. Ceremonial Court
Sept. 20 - 2pm	County Court House, Room 400
Oct. 18 - 2pm	County Court House, Room 400
Oct. 25 - 11am	Federal Bldg. Ceremonial Court
Nov. 8 - 11am	Federal Bldg. Court Room 5
Dec. 13 - 2pm	County Court House, Room 400



*February 14th -  
Valentine's Day*

*February 17th -  
Presidents Day*



## Officers

President....	Roberta Millert
Vice-President ....	Janet Mallan
Treasurer....	J. Arthur Johnson
Secretary....	Mary Lou Green

## Directors

Advocacy....	Joan Johnson
Fund-Raising...	Open
Membership....	Janet Mallan
Public Relations...	Holly Hoehner
Local Advocacy	Lenore Rapalski
Voter Service....	Joan Durant
At-Large .....	Adam Bushey
Program....	Open
At-Large.....	Elizabeth Nicoletti

## Off-Board Positions

Budget Director....	Rhonda Hungerford
Nominating Committee.....	Debra Merriweather
	Barbara Olum
	Joan Johnson

Lake Partnership....	Reginald Durant
Optical Scan Liaison...	Lenore Rapalski
Newsletter.....	Roberta Millert
	Joan Johnson

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy. For more information please call the League office at (315) 448-7199 or e-mail: [info@lwvsyr.org](mailto:info@lwvsyr.org)

## Diversity Statement

The Syracuse Metropolitan League of Women Voters is committed to diversity and pluralism, which means there shall be no barriers to participation in any League activity on the basis of age, race, ethnicity, gender, disability, sexual orientation, religion, economic status, or national origin.

We look forward to reader participation and invite your questions regarding issues and columns. Kindly mail your queries to the office or e-mail to [info@lwvsyr.org](mailto:info@lwvsyr.org)

Please let us know your email address.

- It is the most efficient way to communicate
- You will be notified of upcoming local events
- LWV National & State Action Alerts

Your e-mail address will not be shared or sold to any other organization. Please respond to [info@lwvsyr.org](mailto:info@lwvsyr.org)



## LWVNYS POSITION ON HEALTH CARE

As recommended by the membership, we have begun a series of articles that reflect public policy positions established by the League through our program planning process. Every two years, prior to our biennial convention, local leagues are asked to review present positions or make recommendations for the future. These positions are the basis for action. The entire program can be found in the League publication, "Impact on Issues" that can be found on our web site. We begin with our position on Health Care. For the complete statement on Health Care see Pages 39-51 in "Impact on Issues".

### HEALTH CARE POSITION IN BRIEF

Support of measures to assure a basic level of quality physical and mental health care for all state residents, including regulatory incentives to encourage development of cost-effective alternative methods of delivery; funding for health promotion and disease prevention programs; and provisions for effective citizen participation in health policy decisions.

Support of measures that enable individuals to assume responsibility for their personal health and to participate in decisions including termination of extraordinary life-extending procedures

Support for uniform eligibility and coverage of basic health care costs through public financing.



### ELECTION COMMISSIONERS CALL FOR DELAYING NEW VOTING MACHINES

At its winter conference in New Paltz NY recently the New York State Election Commissioners Association approved a position in favor of implementation of new voting machines in 2009. The reasoning behind this decision is that there is not enough time to replace lever machines this year. The commissioners oppose implementation in 2008 because a high-turnout in a presidential election year would strain a new system unfamiliar to poll workers and voters. The League and New Yorkers for Verified Voting already hold this position and were pleased with the call for delay in implementation.

What about the Department of Justice Lawsuit that requires New York State to be HAVA compliant by 2007? The NYS Board of Elections, along with some county commissioners, is scheduled to meet with the Department of Justice on January 24<sup>th</sup>. There have been many delays in certifying machines so it is widely believed that the Justice Department may rule in favor of New York election officials.

We shall wait and see and continue to fight for optical scan technology.



eliminating racism  
empowering women  
**ywca**

## **ADVOCACY – How to have your issues & voice heard! (Hands on, active workshop)**

First the basics:

Structure of the State and Federal Government  
How bills are passed

Second try it out:

How to advocate on issues

Third take action (optional):

Visit to legislators

**DATE:** Thursday, February 8, 2007

**PRESENTER:** Betty DeFazio - Planned Parenthood of the Rochester/Syracuse Area

**TIME:** 11:30 registration  
Brown Bag Lunch (bring your own) – Cookies & Drinks Provided  
Noon – 2:00 training  
2:00 – 4:00 prepping for the visit and visit to legislators

**LOCATION:** Girls Incorporated, 401 Douglas Street – from James Street turn north on Oak Street, take the 2<sup>nd</sup> left onto Douglas, Girls Inc. is at the corner of Douglas and Graves.

**FEE:** Free; registration required by Tuesday, February 6  
space is limited

### -----REGISTRATION FORM-----

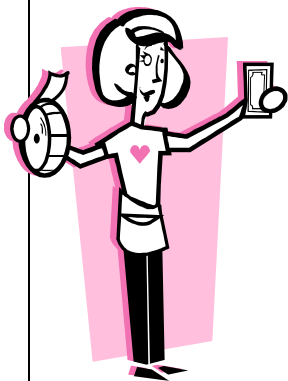
Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

- I am attending training, prepping and legislative visit
- I am attending training only from noon -2:00pm



# Celebrity Book Raffle

**Prize: A Bushel and Peck of Books**  
**Tickets \$5.00 each**

**To Benefit the Syracuse Metro League of Women Voters**

<b>1<sup>st</sup> Prize:</b>	“Character is Destiny”	John McCain
	“Creating a Prosperous New York State”	Mark Bitz
	“Letters to My Daughters”	Mary Matalin
	“Talking Back”	Andrea Mitchell
	“The Fourth Perimeter”	Tim Green
	“The Fifth Angel”	Tim Green
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Prize:</b>	“Creating a Prosperous New York State”	Mark Bitz
	“Great Presidential Wit”	Bob Dole
	“Pope Joan”	Donna Cross
	“The First 48”	Tim Green
	“Take it Back”	James Carville and Paul Begala

“All books have been donated by their Authors”

**Drawing:** The winners will be picked March 9<sup>th</sup> 2007 at the LWV Annual Legislative Breakfast at the Ramada Inn, Buckley Road, Liverpool.

This is your chance to financially help the Syracuse League of Women Voters and to catch up on your reading with some great books. All books signed by the author.

**To purchase tickets please call the League Office at 448-7199**  
**or Contact a League Member**

PLEASE PARTICIPATE  
 THE SYRACUSE METRO LWV NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT!

# UPCOMING EVENTS

February 6th - 7:30 PM Newhouse II Studio A	Eric Lichtblau Lecture (see Bio below) No charge for the program. Parking \$3.50 at Marion Lot, Corner of Waverly & Walnut St.
February 8th - 11:30 AM - 4:00 PM Girls Inc. 401 Douglas St, Syracuse	Advocacy Training Meeting - LWV/YWCA
March 9th - 8 - 9:30 AM Ramada Inn - Buckley Rd & 7th North	Legislative Breakfast with our NYS Representatives
April 25th - 7:00 PM Book Signing Event Borders Books Café - Carousel Center	Mark Bitz, Founder of "Free New York" Author of <i>Creating a Prosperous New York: Making Elected Officials Accountable for New York State's Performance Relative to Other States</i>
May 1st Onondaga County Convention Center	Law Day Event Luncheon with the Onondaga Bar Assoc. Student Voter Registration &, Essay Contests
May 18th - 20th	LWVNY Convention - White Plains
June 14th Time & Place TBA	Annual Business Meeting & Election of League Officers

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The Syracuse Metro LWV Nominating Committee will soon meet to select candidates for the 2007-2008 League year. Candidates for several Board positions including President, Secretary, Membership, Voter Service, Program and Finance will be elected at our annual meeting in June.

Serving on the Board provides the opportunity to learn more about the League and to meet the membership. If you are interested in serving or if you know of someone that would be interested, please give Nominating Chair, Debbie Merrywether a call at 455-5210 or leave a message at our office - 448-7199.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Our annual **Legislative Breakfast**, a time to meet and grill your state leaders on issues of importance to you and all New Yorkers, will take place on **Friday March 9<sup>th</sup>** at the Ramada Inn in Liverpool. A new governor with new ideas has provided the impetus for change and reform in Albany. Be a part of the action and join us on March 9<sup>th</sup>. An added attraction will be our Book Raffle.



## Eric Lichtblau at Syracuse University

"The Press and National Security"

Eric Lichtblau, who grew up in Syracuse is the son of Syracuse University professor Myron Lichtblau. He has broken some of the most important stories of our times as a correspondent for *The New York Times*. Last spring his outstanding reporting on national affairs was rewarded with a Pulitzer Prize. He and his colleague, James Risen, were cited by the Pulitzer judges "for their carefully sourced stories on secret domestic eavesdropping that stirred a national debate on the boundary line between fighting terrorism and protecting civil liberty." Before joining the Times staff in 2002, Lichtblau worked as a reporter for *The Los Angeles Times* for 15 years. He is a graduate of Cornell University.

The audience will have a chance to meet the speaker at a reception following the program.

Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2007

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Place: Studio A, Newhouse II

*"If the freedom of speech is taken away then dumb and silent we may be led, like sheep to the slaughter"*

**George Washington**  
*1st President of the United States*  
1732-1799



# News From *Your* State League

Update from LWVNYS

January 2007

## **Barbara Bartoletti**

### **Appointed to**

### **Transition Policy Development Team on Government Reform!**

We are excited to report the appointment of our very own Barbara Bartoletti to the incoming Governor's transition policy development team on government reform. Barbara took that opportunity to offer testimony and expert advice to the team in the area of government reform. What an ideal opportunity for the League! After so many years of advocating for government reform we may finally see some concrete results of the hard work of many League members and friends in New York State.

### **The Season for Debates**

We certainly had a very busy fall! The state League, under the auspices of Voter Services, set an ambitious schedule of debates. Three were successfully held, including a primary debate for Attorney General and two general election gubernatorial debates. We give special thanks to all of you who worked so very hard. The process of debate planning is complicated and necessitates careful timing and the buy in of many different people. The disconcerting reality is that after many long hours of careful planning some debates do not come to fruition. The state League will be conducting a thorough review of our policies related to debates. We welcome comments and suggestions from all local League members.

### **Voters Guide II**

The Voters Guide II was published with a version that gave statewide candidate biographical information and candidate responses to specific questions. Additionally, regional and local versions were available in many areas of the state. Many voters let us know they found these resources helpful. In addition

to the traditional hardcopy distribution of Voters Guides across the state, Voters Guide II was offered electronically through the state League website.

### **We Moved!**

After the UN event it was time to orchestrate the move of the state League offices from 35 Maiden Lane to our new home at 62 Grand Street. This process involved many weeks of planning and preparation. We are happy to report that the move was conducted without a single major glitch. Many people generously gave of their time to help us prepare for the move and unpack in our new offices. The staff of the state League is eternally grateful! Thank you!

### **Farewell to D-Net,**

### **Long Live Smart Voter**

The inaugural year of the Smart Voter website was met with positive feedback from users. Smart Voter replaces D-Net, which we used a few years ago. Founded by the California League of Women Voters, Smart Voter was adapted for use in New York State. The first year of Smart Voter offered general statewide information and piloted one county, Westchester, for local polling place look-up.

### **Youth Development Initiative**

The Youth Development Initiative, which consists of LeaderSpark and Students Inside Albany, held the first LeaderSpark 2007 training for program coordinators in Albany on September 21. The next set of trainings, geared toward program facilitators, is scheduled for January 2007, with trainings tentatively to be held in the Long Island, Capital, and western New York regions. Students Inside Albany 2007 will be held April 22-25 in Albany at a location to be announced within the next month. Two LeaderSpark graduates per site will be offered the opportunity

to attend Students Inside Albany

#### 1. Reforming State Government:

##### **Ethics**

##### **Campaign Finance**

##### **Redistricting**

##### **Lobbying**

##### **Budget**

##### **Public Authorities**

##### **Legislative Procedure**

#### 2. Equity in School Financing

#### 3. Cost Effective & Accessible Health Care

#### 4. Court Restructuring/Judicial Selection

*Additional League positions will also be highlighted.*

bany, leaving the additional sixteen spots available to interested local Leagues. As with the 2006 Students Inside Albany conference, local Leagues will determine the process for candidate selection at the local level. Look for detailed information toward the end of January 2007.

### **Our 2007 Legislative Agenda**

We begin the New Year with a new governor and high hopes of seeing real reform in how New York State does business, a comprehensive health care program for all New Yorkers, the beginning of reform in our court system, and fair and adequate funding for New York's school children.

Copies of this Legislative Agenda, along with the Legislative

---

#### **LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NEW YORK STATE**

62 Grand Street  
Albany, NY 12207-1403  
(518) 465-4162

Fax (518) 465-0812  
Web Address: [www.lwvny.org](http://www.lwvny.org)  
e-mail: [lwvny@lwvny.org](mailto:lwvny@lwvny.org)

---

**GET INVOLVED!**

---

**League of Women Voters  
Membership Application**

*Democracy is not a spectator sport  
It's efficient activism*

*It is a way to make your voice count  
It is a way to make politics a process for the people*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ *Individual Level....\$50*

\_\_\_\_ *Household Level\*...\$65*

\_\_\_\_ *Student Level \*\*....\$25*

**Please make check payable to:  
Syracuse Metro Area League of Women Voters  
P O Box 11866**

\* *two members in the same household*

\*\* *Full Time student under 25*

**Syracuse, NY 13218**

**For more information call us at (315) 448-7199**



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
SYRACUSE METRO AREA  
PO Box 11866  
SYRACUSE, NY 13218**

**Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
Syracuse, NY  
Permit no. 372**

**FEBRUARY 2007**

**We Are Now On The Web  
[www.lwvsyr.org](http://www.lwvsyr.org)**