



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

MARCH 2007

**Syracuse Metro LWV Annual  
 Legislative Breakfast**

**FRIDAY, MARCH 9, 2007**  
**RAMADA INN**  
**1305 Buckley Rd, North Syracuse**  
 (near the corner of 7th North St)

**8:00am to 9:30 am**  
 Registration 7:45am

***THIS IS YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO MEET AND GREET YOUR STATE REPRESENTATIVES AND TO LEARN THEIR POSITIONS ON STATE ISSUES INCLUDING REFORMING STATE GOVERNMENT, COST EFFECTIVE AND AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE, EQUITY IN SCHOOL FINANCING AND MUCH MORE.***

**Breakfast Buffet \$13.00 pre-paid - \$15.00 at the door**  
**If paying by check make payable to the " Syracuse Metro LWV"**

**\* Reservations must be received by March 1st**

The Buffet is optional. There is no charge to attend the program.  
 The event is open to the public.

To make your reservation:  
 Phone: 448-7199  
 Fax: 448-7299  
 E-mail: info@lwvsyr.org  
 Mail: PO Box 11866, Syracuse NY 13218



Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

**\* You are responsible for payment if you make a reservation for the Buffet and do not attend**

Syracuse Metro LWV  
 PO Box 11866  
 Syracuse NY 13218  
 (507 Plum St -2nd Fl. Syr. 13204)  
 Phone: (315) 448-7199  
 Fax: (315) 448-7299  
 info@lwvsyr.org

**Web Sites:**

**Local:** www.lwvsyr.org  
**State:** www.lwvny.org  
**National:** www.lwv.org

**March is Women's  
 History Month**

*"We hold these truths  
 to be self-evident, that  
 all men and women are  
 created equal."*



- Elizabeth Cady Stanton  
 Seneca Falls, NY - 1848

**UPCOMING LEAGUE EVENTS**

- 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
- President's Message.....3
- Upcoming Events.....3
- Women's Month.....4
- Election Law.....5
- League Publications.....6
- Voting Rights for DC.....6
- League Raffle.....7

# BOARD NOTES

## MEMBERSHIP



*Our Legislative Breakfast is a great time to introduce someone to the League - Bring a friend or neighbor.*

## 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

|                 |                                |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|
| 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   |



*March 17 -  
St. Patrick's  
Day*

*March 21 -  
Spring Arrives!*



## 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.

## Message from the President

March 9th is the League's Annual Legislative Breakfast. I want to encourage all members and non-members to attend. It will be your chance to meet and ask questions of your State Representatives. All of our local State Reps have confirmed they will be attending. Your attendance and participation will show that Central New Yorkers do care what happens in Albany. Bring a friend !

Save \$2.00 by booking your reservation by March 1st.

**Hot off the press !** There is an added incentive to participate in our Celebrity Book Raffle. Now there are four chances to win. Two newly released books have been added to the prize list, they are: Terry McAuliffe's "What a Party" and Senator Chuck Schumer's "Positively America" . The winners will be drawn at the Legislative Breakfast. To purchase tickets just call the League Office. Tickets will also be available the morning of the Legislative Breakfast.

Roberta Millert, President

## UPCOMING EVENTS

|  |  |
|--|--|
| March 9th - 8 - 9:30 AM<br>Ramada Inn - Buckley Rd & 7th North                     | Legislative Breakfast with our NYS Representatives   |
| April 25th - 7:00 PM<br>Book Signing Event<br>Borders Books Café - Carousel Center | Mark Bitz, Founder of "Free New York"<br>Author of <i>Creating a Prosperous New York:<br/>Making Elected Officials Accountable for New<br/>York State's Performance Relative to Other States</i> |
| May 1st<br>Onondaga County Convention Center                                       | Law Day Event Luncheon with the Onondaga Bar<br>Association. Student Voter Registration &, Essay<br>Contests   |
| May 18th - 20th  | LWVNY Convention - White Plains  |
| June 14th Time & Place TBA   | Annual Business Meeting & Election<br>of League Officers   |

## International Women's Day - March 8

International Women's Day is an occasion marked by women's groups around the world. This date is also commemorated at the United Nations and is designated in many countries as a national holiday. When women on all continents, often divided by national boundaries and by ethnic, linguistic, cultural, economic and political differences, come together to celebrate their Day, they can look back to a tradition that represents at least nine decades of struggle for equality, justice, peace and development.



International Women's Day is the story of ordinary women as makers of history; it is rooted in the centuries-old struggle of women to participate in society on an equal footing with men. In ancient Greece, Lysistrata initiated a sexual strike against men in order to end war; during the French Revolution, Parisian women calling for "liberty, equality, fraternity" marched on Versailles to demand women's suffrage.

The idea of an International Women's Day first arose at the turn of the century, which in the industrialized world was a period of expansion and turbulence, booming population growth and radical ideologies.

Few causes promoted by the United Nations have generated more intense and widespread support than the campaign to promote and protect the equal rights of women. The Charter of the United Nations, signed in San Francisco in 1945, was the first international agreement to proclaim gender equality as a fundamental human right. Since then, the Organization has helped create a historic legacy of internationally agreed strategies, standards, programs and goals to advance the status of women worldwide.

Over the years, United Nations action for the advancement of women has taken four clear directions: promotion of legal measures; mobilization of public opinion and international action; training and research, including the compilation of gender desegregated statistics; and direct assistance to disadvantaged groups. Today a central organizing principle of the work of the United Nations is that no enduring solution to society's most threatening social, economic and political problems can be found without the full participation, and the full empowerment, of the world's women.

*Published by the United Nations Department of Public Information*

### This Month in Women's History

**March 3, 1913**—Woman Suffrage supporters marched in Washington, D.C., disrupting the inauguration of President Woodrow Wilson. Onlookers attacked while police stood by.

**March 8, 1884**- Susan B. Anthony testified before the House of Representatives Judiciary Committee on a woman's right to vote

**March 9, 1976** -West Point Military Academy accepts its first female cadet.

**March 13, 1906** - Susan B. Anthony, Died

**March 25** - Matilda Joslyn Gage, Born 1826 - Gloria Steinem, Born 1934

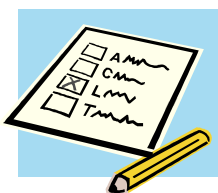
**March 26, 1930** -Sandra Day O'Connor, Born

**March 29, 1961**—The 23rd Amendment to the Constitution is ratified, providing suffrage to the District of Columbia.

**March 30, 1932**- Amelia Earhart, first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic.

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*"It will not do to say that it is out of a woman's sphere to assist in making laws, for if that were so, then it should be also out of her sphere to submit to them" - Amelia Bloomer*



## LWVNY'S POSITION ON ELECTION LAW

This is the second of a series begun in February on articles that reflect public policy positions established by the League through our program planning process.

The League of Women Voters of New York State supports measures to protect, extend and encourage the use of the franchise; to open the political system by enacting a public campaign financing law for statewide offices; to establish legal ethical campaign guidelines; to monitor campaign practices and to simplify rules for ballot access. The League supports restoring integrity to the election process - specifically support of uniformity in election laws and procedures and in their implementation. In addition the League supports measures that ensure the integrity of all ballots; and support for adequate funding for these procedures and for training of all involved election personnel.

The League of Women Voters of New York State supports a single statewide voting system using paper ballot/optical scan with a ballot marking device for the disabled.

The League opposes term limits for members of the New York State Legislature and New York statewide elected officials.

## WHAT 'S NEXT IN NEW VOTING MACHINES FOR NEW YORK STATE

An integral part of the League's Election Law is the voting system counties will purchase to meet HAVA Regulations. Momentum is growing to amend the law that gave each county the right to choose their own voting technology. Two assembly members, Sandra Galef (Democrat, Ossining) and Barbara Lifton (Democrat – Ithaca) have introduced a bill that would follow more than a dozen states in implementing a statewide optical scan system. The Senate has taken no action. The League, along with New Yorkers for Verified Voting (NYVV) and the Voter Integrity Committee (VIC) supports a single statewide voting system using paper ballot/optical scan. Stay tuned for action you can take to let our legislators and Governor Spitzer know where we stand.

### WHAT IS NYVV?

New Yorkers for Verified Voting (NYFVV) is a state-wide advocacy group that has worked since federal law (HAVA) has stated that all states must replace lever voting machines for new technology. NYFVV, under the leadership of its executive director, Bo Lipari. Lipari, a member of the Tompkins County League, also sits on the NYS Board of Elections Advisory Committee as the League's representative.

### WHAT IS VIC?

Voters for Integrity (VIC) is our local advocacy group for paper ballot/optical scan. The committee, headed by Lenore Rapalski (LWV of the Syracuse Metro Area) is composed of several non-profit organizations in the Syracuse area.

## ***PATTERNS OF GOVERNMENT IN ONONDAGA COUNTY***

The Syracuse Metro League of Women Voters, F.O.C.U.S Greater Syracuse and the Maxwell School of Public Affairs and Citizenship Community Benchmarks Program have worked together to publish the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of "Patterns of Government in Onondaga County."

"Patterns," is intended to be a guide to understanding the basic structures and functions of local government. It has been a useful tool for all citizens of Onondaga County.

We are most appreciative to Chuckie Holstein, Executive Director of F.O.C.U.S, and Carol Dwyer, Director of the Community Benchmarks Program, for offering their services in updating the publication. A special thank you goes out to Bradley Warren, a Syracuse University student who researched and put the new edition together.

"Patterns" is available now on our website [www.lwvsyr.org](http://www.lwvsyr.org) . We are exploring ways to copy and distribute it to the public.

### **LWVNYS 2007 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA**

Included with our March Local Voter is a copy of the LWVNY 2007 Legislative Agenda. Each year local leagues around the state identify issues important to their local league. The recommendations are prioritized and serve as a basis for action and visits to our local legislators. *Look it over and attend our Legislative Breakfast.*

### **WHO'S WHO A GUIDE TO YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS**

"WHO'S WHO" is a valuable tool to contact your area elected officials. We wish to thank Bristol- Meyers Squibb Company for once again underwriting the cost of printing the guide.

### **THINKING OF RUNNING FOR YOUR SCHOOL BOARD**

The Central New York School Boards Association has provided a guide for individuals interested in running for their local school board. Review the responsibilities of the school board and what qualifications it takes to run for office.

### **Voting Rights for the District of Columbia**

The League of Women Voters supports H.R. 5388, the DC Fair and Equal House Voting Rights Act of 2006 which never reached the floor in the final days of 2006. We urge the new House to pass this bipartisan bill sponsored by Tom Davis (R) and Eleanor Holmes Norton (D) without any changes.

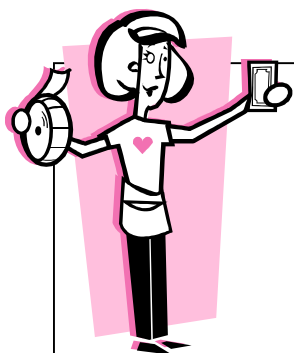
The legislation calls for a permanent two-seat expansion to 437 – one for DC and one for Utah (entitled to the seat by population size).

DC citizens pay U.S. taxes, fight and die for the U.S. during wartime and are governed by the laws Congress passes. Their only voice in Congress is a non-voting delegate in the House.

Contact Congressman Jim Walsh now urging him to support H.R. 5388 – voting rights for DC.

Phone: 423-5657 Fax: 423-5669

Email: [rep.james.walsh@mail.house.gov](mailto:rep.james.walsh@mail.house.gov)



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

**NOW THERE ARE FOUR CHANCES TO  
WIN !!!!!!!**

**As an added incentive, there will be drawings for 2 additional books.**

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

|                              |  |   |
|------------------------------|--|---|
| <b>1<sup>st</sup> Prize:</b> | "Character is Destiny"<br>"Creating a Prosperous New York State"<br>"Letters to My Daughters"<br>"Talking Back"<br>"The Fourth Perimeter"<br>"The Fifth Angel" | John McCain<br>Mark Bitz<br>Mary Matalin<br>Andrea Mitchell<br>Tim Green<br>Tim Green |
| <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Prize:</b> | "Creating a Prosperous New York State"<br>"Great Presidential Wit"<br>"Pope Joan"<br>"The First 48"<br>"Take it Back"  | Mark Bitz<br>Bob Dole<br>Donna Cross<br>Tim Green<br>James Carville and Paul Begala   |
| <b>3<sup>rd</sup> Prize:</b> | "What a Party: My Life Among Democrats: Presidents,<br>Candidates, Activists, Alligators & Other Wild Animals"<br>Terry McAuliffe & Steve Kettman              |   |
| <b>4<sup>th</sup> Prize</b>  | "Positively American Winning Back the Middle-Class Majority<br>One Family at a Time"<br>Senator Charles Schumer  |   |

"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!

**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**

**Syracuse, NY 13218**

\* *two members in the same household*

\*\* *Full Time student under 25*

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



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SYRACUSE METRO AREA  
PO Box 11866  
SYRACUSE, NY 13218**

**MARCH 2007**

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

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