



The LOCAL VOTER
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
SYRACUSE METROPOLITAN AREA

MAY/JUNE 2008

Syracuse Metro LWV
 PO Box 11866
 Syracuse NY 13218
 (507 Plum St -2nd Fl. Syr. 13204)
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 info@lwvsyr.org
 Web Sites:
 Local: www.lwvsyr.org
 State: www.lwvny.org
 National: www.lwv.org



UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, May 26th
 Memorial Day Observed
Wednesday, June 11th
 Onondaga Citizens League
 Annual Meeting
Thursday, June 17th
 Syracuse LWV Annual Meeting

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We're going green -In order to reduce the use of paper as well as printing and mailing costs we can now send you the **Local Voter** electronically. Please call the office at 448-7199 or email us at info@lwvsyr.org and we will make the change.



SYRACUSE METRO LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
ANNUAL MEETING & DINNER

THURSDAY, JUNE 19, 2008
CARNEGIE CAFÉ AT THE MAPLEWOOD INN
400 7TH NORTH STREET @ ROUTE 81
LIVERPOOL NY 13088

CONVERSATION 5:30 PM - DINNER 6:00 PM
BUSINESS MEETING 7:00 PM – PROGRAM - 7:30 PM

*"THE FLOWERS OF TOMORROW
 ARE THE SEEDS OF THE PAST"*

*Sowing Our Seeds
 1848- 2008*



ENTRÉE CHOICES ALL INCLUSIVE

- Traditional Turkey Dinner With All Trimmings - \$24.00
- Italian Delight – Roasted Chicken, Baked Rigatoni & Meatballs - \$24.00
- Carved Flat Iron Steak With Asparagus & Carnegie Potatoes - \$27.00
- Vegetarian Upon Request - \$24.00

All Entrees Include Salad, Rolls & Butter, Coffee/Tea & Fruit Tart

Name ----- Phone -----

Number of reservations @ \$24.00 ----- Number of reservations @ \$27.00 -----

Reservations must be received by Friday, June 13th
 You may call in your reservation at 448-7199
 Email us at info@lwvsyr.org
 Mail a check to Syracuse Metro LWV – PO Box 11866, Syracuse NY 13218

You Are Encouraged To Bring A Friend or Neighbor

BOARD NOTES

MEMBERSHIP NEWS



- A GREAT GIFT FOR MOTHER'S DAY, FATHER'S DAY OR THAT SPECIAL GRAD -

A membership in the LWV makes a gift that gives all year long. Last January a League member in Illinois gave a membership in our League to her Dad in Skaneateles so that he would learn more about one of her special interests and become more politically active. Do the same for one of your favorite people.

2008-2009 Membership Directory. If you would like a copy, please call us at 448-7199 and we will mail one to you.

HELP RECRUIT NEW MEMBERS THE EASIEST MOST EFFECTIVE WAY - Invite a co-worker, friend, neighbor, or relative to our annual meeting on June 19th. More people join and remain members, through personal connections than any other way.

Naturalization Ceremonies

"I can travel...I can vote". These are the words of Majok Aguto Chol as he took the oath of citizenship on Thursday, March 20th in U.S. District Court. Chol is one of many Sudanese boys and girls who fled first to neighboring Ethiopia and then to Kenya before finding a home in Syracuse in 2001*. His story is one of many from around the world who have become United States citizens. They are grateful to call the United States their new home. The League participates in these ceremonies by providing our newest citizens the opportunity to register to vote. Volunteers are needed to register our new citizens.

* *Post Standard - March 21, 2008*

Below are dates not yet covered. Please help us out.

September 25 11am - Federal Building
October 9 11am - Federal Building
October 23 2pm - County Court House*
November 6 11am - Federal Building
December 11 2pm - County Court House*
*Room 400

To volunteer, please call or email **Susan Bush**:
(315) 424-0040
sjbushywca@cnyemail.com

Officers

President....	Joan Johnson
1st Vice-President	Janet Mallan
2nd Vice-President/Membership...	Mary Lou Green
3rd Vice-President/Public Relations...	Gwen Grant
Treasurer....	J. Arthur Johnson
Secretary....	Vacant

Directors

Advocacy & Issues....	Lenore Rapalski
Fund-Raising...	Elizabeth Nicoletti
Program....	Rae Rohfeld
Voter Service...	Susan Bush

Off-Board Positions

Budget Director....	Rhonda Hungerford
Nominating Committee.....	Roberta Millert, Chair
	Eleanor Feitler
	Barbara Olum
Lake Partnership....	Reginald Durant
Optical Scan Liaison....	Lenore Rapalski
Publications....	Vacant

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 to 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

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. Please respond to info@lwvsyr.org

President's Message

Join us at our annual meeting as we wrap up the 88th anniversary of the Syracuse Metropolitan League of Women Voters with a look back at what the League has accomplished throughout the years. Following dinner and a short business meeting we have prepared a program that I am sure you will enjoy.

Thanks to the late Suzanne Good, who as a member of our League put together a 35 mm slide show depicting the history of the women's rights movement and the formation of the League, we have a great reminder of the role local women played in the fight leading to the passage of the 19th amendment. We have formatted the slides into a compact disc and added a few recent pictures. We know you will enjoy the show. Along with the show we plan other activities to make it a fun evening. We hope you can be there.

As we end the year, I would like to thank a great board of directors and the many league members who gave their time, talents and financial support. The league is alive and well and we have great plans for next year.

Hope to see you on June 19th.

Joan Johnson



*Sowing our Seeds
1848-2008*

ARE YOU SMARTER THAN A FIFTH GRADER ?

**COME TO THE ANNUAL MEETING AND FIND OUT
TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF PRESIDENTIAL FACTS**

**Fun & Not So Fun Facts About
Presidents Past and Present**

**June 19th at the Carnegie Café
located at the Maplewood Inn
North Street, Liverpool**



Door Prizes

Fun



SYRACUSE LWV 2008-2009 PROPOSED BUDGET

INCOME		Budget 2007-2008	Estimated Actual	Proposed Budget
A. Dues	1. Individuals(\$55)	\$2,650	\$2,680	\$2,970
	2. Household(\$80)	\$1,690	\$1,040	\$1,360
	3. Friend/Sustainer	<u>\$520</u>	<u>\$550</u>	<u>\$550</u>
	Subtotal	\$4,860	\$4,270	\$4,880
B. Contributions	1. Member	\$1,500	\$1,310	\$1,300
	2. Nonmember	\$380	\$350	\$350
	3. Business	<u>\$1,000</u>	<u>\$500</u>	<u>\$750</u>
	Subtotal	\$2,880	\$2,160	\$2,400
C. Elections	1. Election Reporting	\$360	\$415	\$360
	2. Individuals	\$0	\$0	\$0
	3. Monitoring Elections	<u>\$350</u>	<u>\$600</u>	<u>\$500</u>
	Subtotal	\$710	\$1,015	\$860
D. Fundraising		\$1,400	\$1,125	\$1,400
E. Fair Campaign Practice Committee		\$200	\$0	\$200
F. From Reserve	1. NY Education Fund	\$580	\$1,590	\$900
	2. JMS Savings	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
	Subtotal	\$580	\$1,590	\$900
H. Grants (2)		<u>\$1,000</u>	<u>\$430</u>	<u>\$500</u>
TOTAL INCOME		\$11,630	\$10,590	\$11,140
EXPENSES		Budget 2007-2008	Estimated Actual	Proposed Budget
A. Operating Costs	1. General Supplies	\$420	\$410	\$420
	2. Postage	\$150	\$110	\$150
	3. Rent	\$600	\$600	\$600
	4. Capital Expense	\$0	\$0	\$0
	5. Insurance Liability	<u>\$350</u>	<u>\$350</u>	<u>\$350</u>
	Subtotal	\$1,520	\$1,470	\$1,520
B. Board and Admin.	1. President	\$100	\$100	\$100
	2. Board Tools	\$50	\$160	\$160
	3. Finance Drive & Fundraise	\$400	\$70	\$200
	4. Membership	\$1,000	\$490	\$580
	5. Public Relations	<u>\$400</u>	<u>\$140</u>	<u>\$200</u>
	Subtotal	\$1,950	\$960	\$1,240
C. Delegates - State/Natl. Conventions		\$500	\$0	\$500
D. Per Member Payment	1. National LWV	\$2,115	\$2,390	\$2,115
	2. State LWV	<u>\$1,655</u>	<u>\$1,305</u>	<u>\$1,415</u>
	Subtotal	\$3,770	\$3,695	\$3,530
E. Local Voter	1. Supplies	\$790	\$710	\$700
	2. Postage	<u>\$450</u>	<u>\$575</u>	<u>\$600</u>
	Subtotal	\$1,240	\$1,285	\$1,300
F. Educational Activities	1. Publications	\$150	\$115	\$150
	2. Program	\$1,000	\$755	\$1,000
	3. Who'sWho	\$180	\$165	\$200
	4. Election Guide	\$120	\$55	\$100
	5. Law Day	\$900	\$75	\$0
	6. Fair Campaign Practices	\$300	\$60	\$200
	7. Facts for Voters	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$100</u>
	Subtotal	\$2,650	\$1,225	\$1,750
G. To Reserves		<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$1,300</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$11,630	\$8,635	\$11,140

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE SYRACUSE METROPOLITAN AREA
NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT
2008 – 2009**

Officers to be elected at annual meeting:

Co-President	Rae Rohfeld	1 year term
Vice President:	Joe Sammarco	2 year term
Treasurer:	Art Johnson	2 year term
Secretary:	Karen Smith	1 year term

Directors to be elected at annual meeting:

Program:	Don Maclaughlin	2 year term
Public Relations	Sherly Day-Bernthal	2 year term

Continuing Officers and Directors:

Co- President:	Joan Johnson
Finance:	Elizabeth Nicoletti
Membership :	Mary Lou Green
Advocacy:	Lenore Rapalski
Voter Service:	Susan Bush

Off Board Positions to be elected at annual meeting:

Budget Director:	Rhonda Hungerford
Onondaga Lake Partnership:	Reginald Durant
Publications:	Open

Respectfully submitted by the Nominating Committee:

Roberta Millert, Chair, Mary Lou Green, Barbara Olum, Eleanor Feitler and Joan Johnson

PROPOSED 2008-2009 DUES STRUCTURE

The Board of Directors of the League of Women Voters of the Syracuse Metropolitan Area recommends adopting a motion at the annual meeting to increase the membership dues to \$55 for an individual membership and \$80 for a household membership (two or more people residing in the same home) effective July 1, 2008. Student memberships will remain the same at \$25.

These increases will put our schedule of dues in line with LWVNYS dues. They will also help cover LWVUS Per Member Payment increases anticipated to begin in July.

Please call the office at 448-7199 if you have questions about dues or how they are distributed among your local, state and national LWV.

PROPOSED LOCAL POSITIONS* - 2008-2009
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
SYRACUSE METROPOLITAN AREA

MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK

- Promote greater citizen participation in the political process by encouraging citizens to become knowledgeable about the issues and to actively lobby elected officials.
- Encourage individuals to exercise their right to vote.
- Continue the project to increase voter participation in low-turnout neighborhoods within the city of Syracuse.
- Continue the project to increase voter participation among youth.
- Establish action projects for members to accompany themes at meetings.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- Study and support where appropriate legislation, which promotes proposals to modernize local government by sharing services among villages, towns, public schools, the city of Syracuse, Onondaga County.
- Support efforts to contain sprawl with planned growth throughout Onondaga County

SOCIAL POLICY

- Monitor *the state school aid formula* and its implications for upstate school districts and the Big 5 districts.
- Promote educational efforts dealing with domestic violence and the Integrated Domestic Violence Court in Onondaga County.
- Promote opposition to the Death Penalty in support of the new LWVNY position.

NATURAL RESOURCES

- Support efforts of the Onondaga Partnership to facilitate improvement projects for the lake and its watershed.

LOCAL SUPPORT FOR STATEWIDE ISSUES/STUDIES

- Promote improved reforms for HAVA; including elimination of the full face ballot, improved training for poll workers, advocacy for optical scan machines, and citizen education and training for replacement machines.
- Promote meaningful lobby reform.
- Promote and encourage further NYS budget process reform.
- Promote and encourage meaningful campaign finance reform.
- Promote the creation of an independent redistricting commission.
- Promote the creation of an independent ethics commission.
- Promote meaningful reform of public authorities.
- Promote additional legislative rules reform.
- Promote and encourage meaningful property tax reform.*

New language is in bold italics.

** Formerly Local Program*

The greatest benefit of membership comes from volunteering your time as a committee or board member - call us at 488-7199 or email us at info@lwvsyr.org.

LWVUS ANNOUNCES POSITION ON IMMIGRATION



"After a lengthy and comprehensive study of this complex issue by our grass-roots members" said League president Mary G. Wilson, "the League's position calls for a path to citizenship for current unauthorized immigrants."

"As part of overall immigration reform, the League supports a system for unauthorized immigrants already in the country to earn legal status, including citizenship, by paying taxes, learning English, studying civics and meeting other relevant criteria," Wilson stated. "We oppose deportations of current unauthorized immigrants who have no history of serious criminal activity," she said.

Other elements of the league's position include support for increased enforcement personnel at borders, more effective tracking of individuals who enter the U.S., and significant fines and penalties for employers who hire unauthorized workers. Furthermore the League will champion due process for all persons, including the right to a fair hearing, right to counsel, right of appeal and right to humane treatment. The League's position sets criteria for legal admission to the U.S., including family reunification of spouses or minor children, economic, business and employment needs in the U.S.; political persecution or humanitarian crises; and studying in the U.S.

The full text of the League's position can be found at www.lwvus.org.

Local public radio station **WRVO**, will offer expanded coverage of Election 2008 on its website. Visit www.wrvo.fm/election for details.



On Thursday, April 17th, City Councilor **Stephanie Miner** spoke to League members and friends on issues facing the City of Syracuse Public Schools. Miner who chairs the Council's Education and Human Development Committee, discussed the need to make dramatic changes to improve educational outcomes in Syracuse schools, such as the "Say Yes" program and the West Side Initiative. Recently both programs were included in the City's budget.



Picture: Councilor Miner speaks with Voter Service Director Susan Bush after the program.

NYS Is Now a Paper Ballot State!

On April 24th Liberty/Nedap Voting Systems announced that they were withdrawing their voting machines from the certification process in New York and would not fulfill their contract to provide eleven BMD machines for Hamilton County. Hamilton has now decided to purchase the Sequoia ImageCast as most of the surrounding counties have. Liberty's decision to withdraw their DRE, along with the earlier withdrawal of the Avante Company, means that there are no DRE-type machines undergoing New York State certification. In essence, New York has become a paper ballot/optical scan state – a victory for the voters!

We're *almost* resting on our laurels now – since the February decision of the 61 counties in NYS which chose ballot marking devices compatible with optical scanners for the 2008 implementation, we have allowed ourselves some brief breathing space. However, while we reconnoiter, the NYS Board of Elections is on a fast track to perform "acceptance testing" of all the ballot marking devices which will be deployed in every polling place in the state in time for the September primary for use by the disabled community. "Acceptance testing" is a preliminary testing out of the functionality of the devices here in Albany by the technical staff of the NYSBOE before machines are shipped out to the counties. So far, according to reports given at the BOE commissioners' meeting in April, only minor flaws have been detected and the vendors were able to correct those before shipping.

As we move into the next phase of the HAVA implementation, we will be working closely with the Voter Service side of the League. Maggie Moehringer, LWVNY Voter Service Chair, and I will be exploring how the League can provide information to the voters in this presidential election year on the BMDs, and on NYSVoter (the statewide voter registration database). We will be working with the NY-BOE to complement their efforts. This will be the first year the database will be fully operational and voters will be able to check to see if they are registered to vote in advance of the election. However, as with any huge computerized system, there can be errors and we'll want to help voters through that process so that everyone who has registered is in the database.

Aimee Allaud, LWVNY Election Specialist

A further note - On March 19th, League members, members of the Voting Integrity Committee and Bo Lipari, executive director of New Yorkers for Verified Voting met with Election Commissioners Helen Kiggins and Ed Ryan. We look forward to working with them as the new voting system is implemented.

Lenore Rapalski,
LWVSYR Issues & Advocacy Director

**League of Women Voters
Membership Application**

8

*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*

____ ***I would like to support the League with a donation.***

For more information call us at (315) 448-7199 or visit us at www.lwvsyr.org



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
SYRACUSE METRO AREA
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MAY/JUNE 2008

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

**LWVSYR ANNUAL MEETING
THURSDAY, JUNE 19TH**