



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TOMPKINS COUNTY

FEBRUARY 2008

PRESIDENT: KAY SHARP 272-4748
MEMBERSHIP: MARIA EISNER 277-4404

EDITOR: ROBERT SILSBEE 273-1436
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What's on YOUR Mind for the League?

LUNCHEON MEETING

**SOUP AND BREAD AT NOON ON FEBRUARY 9
WOMEN'S COMMUNITY BUILDING**

(BRING A FRIEND!)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy 88th Birthday. February 14th is the National League of Women Voters' birthday. How fitting that we are having our annual luncheon meeting on February 9th so we can celebrate. That meeting we are honoring our long-term members, some of whom have been in the League for 50 years. We will also honor our new members. The Tompkins County League has a long and rich history as well as a bright future.

We are looking forward to the LWV National Convention in March 2008. The State League is encouraging a review of the National position on health care reform for 2008-2010. We are excited about this process and plan to sponsor a caucus on health care at the Convention.

I look forward to seeing you at the luncheon. We can have some cake to celebrate our history of participation in the democratic process.

Kay Sharp

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LUNCHEON MEETING

The annual luncheon meeting, with soup and bread made by our board members, will be held from 12:00 to 2:00 on Saturday, February 9, at the Women’s Community Building. After some social time, we will start the meeting by honoring our long-time (25+ years) LWV members.

Then, rather than having an outside speaker, the focus of the meeting will be to discuss among the membership what future directions our local LWV chapter might take: given that Ithaca has many activist organizations, what is the best niche for the League, and how can we work with other organizations to maximize our impact? Your thoughts and opinions are important, so please make an effort to attend this meeting! Also, consider inviting a younger friend who might be interested in the league. There will be a charge of \$3/person.

Martha Hamblin



CONSENSUS MEETING: IMMIGRATION



After many meetings, where the complex issues of immigration were discussed, the immigration committee met with the membership on January 29th in the Women’s Community Building to come to consensus. There were 17 people present. Even though the committee found this a very interesting and worthwhile subject to study, we were frustrated because some of the questions posed by the LWVUS were superficial, unclear and duplicative in some instances. Nevertheless, after two hours we had the results, which were sent to the LWVUS the following day. We thank all who came for their help. We can expect to see the resulting national position in a few months time.

Maria Eisner

LWVTC CALENDAR—2007-2008

(tentative items in italics)

Noon Sat., Feb. 9 LUNCHEON MEETING:		Women’s Comm. Bldg.	
Note date change		What’s on YOUR Mind for the League?	
7:00	Mon., Mar. 10	Board Meeting	Mary Berkelman’s
7:00	Mon., Mar. 24	GENERAL MEETING: Bethany Schroeder speaking on the ITHACA FREE CLINIC	Livesay Rm., Hum. Serv. Bldg.
7:00	Mon., Apr. 7	Board Meeting	Libby DeProsse’s
7:00	Mon., Apr. 21	ANNUAL MEETING: Jennifer Wilkins speaking on COMMUNITY FOOD SYSTEMS	TBA
	<i>tentative</i>		
7:00	Mon., May 5	Board Meeting	TBA

PROBLEMS WITH HEALTH INSURANCE AND PRESCRIPTION DRUG PLANS

Do you feel that our current health care system is in need only of minor improvements? Check out these "success stories" of health care in New York State.

I have Medicare A & B covering hospitals & doctors which is paid from my Social Security, amounting to \$1122 in 2007. The cost goes up every year more than anyone's Soc. Sec. or retirement. I also pay AARP medigap which also goes up & will cost \$155/month in 2008. Unfortunately, I have chronic health problems so take 11/12 prescriptions (RX). I see three specialists & a primary care regularly.

At 65 years of age, NYS offers EPIC (elderly prescription insurance coverage). For incomes up to \$20,000, a fee plan is offered with co-pays of \$320. Every year I must reapply & send them a copy of my taxes. One's enrollment period depends on your birthday month so my year for EPIC begins in Sept. Last summer all enrollees were notified that in order to be eligible for EPIC we must join a Medicare D plan. Each of those have different costs & coverage and EPIC suggested different ones for each person, fairly cheap. Each plan has a different formulary with drugs in different tiers depending on cost. There are limits as to amounts that we can fill and the more expensive uncommon ones require the doctor to submit reasons that cheaper drugs cannot be used. This involves extra work & time for MDs.

Another problem is that every year the plans change so that we may hear that we should change plans. This brings us back to square one, or going back to meetings, phone calls & the internet. Just as social security is overwhelmed & understaffed so are all forms of Medicare & EPIC. Yet a lot of money is spent on mailing publications & paperwork. I finally learned that my Medicare D being out of state further complicated this. For EPIC to be used, RXs must be filled in NY.

Medicare D runs on the calendar year with a deductible of \$275 for 2008. NY/EPIC

coverage uses Sept. for my coverage year with a separate deductible. All plans have co-pays. With Medicare D when all costs together (deductible, co-pays & insurance payments not including premiums) reach \$2510, initial coverage stage, we reach a 'doughnut hole' coverage gap where we pay FULL price until we reach our EPIC deductible and it will come in. After all costs total \$4,050 catastrophic coverage kicks in from Medicare D. Consequently, I paid \$500 for three RXs in the fall, and recently when I filled a new RX which cost \$73, Medicare D paid \$23, I paid almost \$50 because EPIC wouldn't cover it. Both Regina McGriff at COFA & HICAP counselors at the Senior Center have been very helpful to me and many other Seniors trying to navigate this complicated system.

I object to insurance companies dictating what doctors can prescribe and telling patients that they should take other meds in order for the insurance to pay. I realize NY is in debt, like the rest of the country, so I'm grateful for any help I can get, but I would be happy to take meds from Europe or Canada where I'm confident they are cheaper. I'd like to know how much drug companies spend on advertising and insurance companies on ads plus administration.

In 2006 my nephew in VT & my niece in FL at 37 & 24 had no health insurance with more than one part-time job. I cashed in some investments to help with their expenses which raised my income so that I had to pay more taxes. The man who works on my heat & plumbing has 3 kids. He & his wife both work but have no insurance. I didn't ask if his kids do.

These examples illustrate that it isn't just Seniors who are being hurt by our complicated and inefficient health care system

Pat Long,
LWV-TC Health Committee.

NEW YORK MOVES TOWARDS OPTICAL SCAN VOTING FOR 2008 ELECTIONS

(from LWV-NYS as of 1/24/08)

Civic groups applauded a move by the State Board of Elections today that would place accessible optical scan ballot marking devices alongside existing lever machines in each poll site across the state for this fall's elections. With more than 8,000 poll sites across the state, the decision represents a significant investment by the state in optical scan technology.

Technically, the Board only rejected the use of computerized touch screen systems for this year's elections. However, while counties may still be given a choice on whether to adopt optical scan or touch screen systems when the state's lever machines are slated for replacement in 2009, most consider it highly unlikely that counties would switch from their preliminary investment in optical scan technology to touch screens.

"New Yorkers have every reason to be pleased today. New York will be a paper ballot optical scan state. Finally the BOE has done the right thing and rejected failed DRE technology," said Bo Lipari of New Yorkers for Verified Voting.

"Bravo. After years of delay and indecision, New York is finally on the road to a secure, accessible and auditable voting system. This is an all-too-rare case where common sense won out over the lobbyists," said Barbara Bartoletti of the League of Women Voters of New York State.

"Public confidence in elections where votes were cast on touch screens has plummeted across the country. But today, New York has taken steps to ensure that our voting system remains secure and transparent," said Neal Rosenstein of the New York Public Interest Research Group. "This is a major victory for voting integrity, accessibility and accuracy in New York," he added.

"The Board's decision today should mean fewer lost votes," said Larry Norden of the Brennan Center for Justice. "The Board must now ensure that the ballot marking devices approved are fully accessible and don't use an interface that will lead to confusion by voters," he added.

The groups commended Elections Commissioner Doug Kellner who had refused to vote in favor of authorizing computerized touch screen machines at a tumultuous Board meeting yesterday.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TOMPKINS COUNTY: BOARD 2006-07

LWV NYS website

www.lwvny.org

LWV US website

www.lwv.org

LWV-Tompkins County

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PUBLIC ADVOCACY FOR VOTER PROTECTION

(from the LWV-NYS Website)

The League of Women Voters Education Fund's (LWVEF) Public Advocacy for Voter Protection Project has been created to help bolster the League's capacity for continuing and expanding its critical state-based advocacy in order to prevent the disenfranchisement of eligible citizens, particularly underserved populations.

The League is working to:

1. Oppose ID and Documentary Proof of Citizenship As many as 21 million Americans do not have government issued picture identification cards. New laws that require a picture ID at the polls or proof of citizenship are barriers that block citizen voter participation. The League therefore opposes ID and documentary proof-of-citizenship requirements.

2. Improve Administration of Statewide Voter Database Systems The policies and procedures that govern statewide voter registration systems directly impact whether or not eligible voters are rightfully added and wrongfully removed from the system. Proper management of the systems is essential to ensuring that all eligible voters can cast their ballots. Therefore, the League is working to ensure the proper management of these systems.

3. Guard Against Undue Restrictions on Voter Registration A number of states require voter registration programs of any size to register with the state; some mandate state-run training. While training and registration requirements may seem reasonable, the details of compliance can unreasonably restrict programs. Increases in fines against individuals and organizations also make it cost prohibitive for some organizations to conduct registration drives.

4. Improve Polling Place Management The design and operation of polling places is critical to ensuring that all eligible voters can cast their vote and have their vote counted. The League believes we need to examine current practices with an emphasis on how minorities move through the polling process and on those practices that improve both efficiency and the voter's perception of voting.

5. Improve Poll Worker Training and Strengthening Poll Workers Poll workers, more than any other individual, have direct contact with voters by helping them understand ballots and voting machines, checking registration and determining the use of provisional ballots. Because poll workers are essential to the voting process, the League is dedicated to working with elections officials to ensure there are adequate numbers of well trained poll workers.

VOTER SERVICES

We expect to help with a "Meet the Candidates Night" for the Cayuga Heights Village election for mayor and members of the Village Board. The election will be on March 18 with the forum to be held at Kendal on Tuesday, March 11.

At the LWVTC members lunch at the Womens' Community Building on Saturday, February 9, we will give a short presentation about Voter Services activities. We hope to get some ideas about ways to get more people to vote and how to get young people involved in the election process.

Debbie Levin

HISTORY OF THE LEAGUE: PART 3

Over several years, in a period of growth, the League worked out its method of business, a procedure which seeks “first the facts and then a plan of action to meet the facts.” It was specifically Bell Sherwin, the second president of the League from 1924 - 1928, under whose stewardship “study before action” and “consensus” became hallmarks of the League work, consensus being an agreement by members not based on a simple majority, nor unanimity, but reflecting the overall sense of the group. This is the method we still use today. We have one National League and about 900 local Leagues, with around 60 in NY State.

Here is an example of the way we work. Our League has been studying the immigration issue, a National study item, and we came to consensus on it at our last general meeting (see page2). We have wonderful people in Washington — and in Albany when it comes to state study items — who provide us with informational material on the subject. This material is then studied and discussed extensively by a study committee. The National League then provides us with consensus questions. The whole membership is invited to a meeting to participate in the consensus. The answers to the consensus questions provide the basis for the wording of the newly defined National Position. These positions in turn allow us to express our opinion and are the basis for our lobbying efforts on the national, state and local level.

Another study item for this year, coming from the state League, was to deal with the National Popular Vote. It called for an “interstate compact,” the legal vehicle that the Founders placed in the Constitution to enable the states to address a common problem by coordinated action. Under the US Constitution, a state may change its laws, so that all its electoral votes are awarded to the presidential candidate with the most popular votes **nationwide**. With enough, and hopefully all, states adopting this law, a president would be elected by a truly popular vote. Maryland already has a law like that and the League

already has a position that calls for the elimination of the electoral college, so that in this case it would only be a matter of finding out whether we wanted to lobby our state government to pass such a law for NY State. Unfortunately the National League has denied the State League the option to continue this study.

In addition, we have one local study that concerns “children in poverty in T.C.”

It is quite astounding how many positions the League has acquired over its almost 90 years of existence. They are in the areas of:

Representative government (citizen rights, voting rights, election process, voting machines, issues concerning congress and the presidency);

International Relations (the United Nations, US relations with developing nations, arms control, trade, defense spending);

Natural Resources (resource management, environmental protection and conservation, pollution control, agricultural policy, water management);

Social Policy (child care, equal opportunity, health care, meeting basic human needs, violence prevention, gun control, fiscal policy).

In spite of all this, we are not a big organization. One senator once said, “What, 135,000 women? I thought there were millions!” There were actually 2 Million members in the Woman Suffrage Association when it changed to the LWV; but I don’t think we are that many today.

(Source of information: “For the Public Record”, A Documentary History of the League of Women Voters by Barbara Stuhler, Pogo Press, 2003.)

MEMBERSHIP

The following pages of this Bulletin bring you the new membership list for this year. I am still waiting to get the official final number of members from the LWVUS.

Maria Eisner

LEAGUE of WOMEN VOTERS of TOMPKINS COUNTY
2007/2008 Membership List (For League Purposes only)

Officers

Kay Sharp	President	272-4748	kshepherdqueen@yahoo.com
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Members:

257-6352	Allee `	Mrs. Martha	440 Savage Farm Dr
257-2748	Armstrong	Ms. Lucia	15 Horizon Drive
272-2585	Baker ***	Beverly	320 S Geneva Street
273-8620	Bancroft-Gowin	Mrs. D.G.	100 W Buffalo Street
	Bassett (N)	Ms. Jane	765 Bostwick Road
272-8485	Batt (N)	Ms. Rosemary	60 Genung Circle
272-2218	Battenfeld (N)	Ms. Carol A.	306 Ithaca, Road
273-0268	Bauer	Ms. Merry Jo	921 Coddington Road
266-8244	Bechhofer (H)	Mrs. Joan	313 Savage Farm Drive
257-7131	Beck	Mrs. Ethel H.	201 Savage Farm Drive
257-6450	Berkelman (h)	Mrs. Mary/Mr. Karl	380 The Parkway
257-7091	Bethe	Ms. Rose	324 Savage Farm Drive
272-7328	Bizzell	Virginia	46 Genung Road
257-1563	Bouldin ***	Ms. Cynthia	343 Savage Farm Drive
257-7770	Brazell	Ms. Karen	102 Highgate Place
257-0639	Brittain (h)	Harriet B./Bruce/Douglas	135 Warren Road
339-3446	Broussard	Dr. Shorna	311 E Green Str. #5D
273-6173	Brown	Mrs. Doris	8 Oak Crest Road
273-3009	Browne	Mr. Wayles	206 Eddy Street
257-1240	Browning	Ms. Priscilla	1 Pleasant Grove Lane
539-7316	Burlitch	Mrs. Katherine	2133 Ellis Hollow Rd.
272-5769	Caldwell	Barbara	1624 Ellis Hollow Road
257-2368	Canaday	Ms. Sara Beth	255 Fall Creek Drive
277-5828	Cassano*** (h)	Ms. Pat	1219 Ellis Hollow Rd.
	Booker	Mr. Ron	
272-7551	Coffman	Ms. Charlotte	26 Deerhaven Dr.
257-5446	Colvin	Ms. Germaine	30 Horizon Drive
257-1470	Conneman	Ms. Diane	197 Christopher Lane
539-6870	Coil	Mrs. Helen M.	425 Savage Farm Drive
	Corson (H)	Mrs. Nellie	401 Savage Farm Drive
	Crispell (N)	Ms. Judith	125 Main Street, Dryden 13053
273-1269	Daetsch (h)	Willard/Dorothy	1344 Danby Road
272-7078	Daniel	Mrs. Helen	114 Northview Road
257-6678	deProsse	Ms. Elizabeth	1007 Triphammer Rd.
257-8376	Devereux (H)	Ms. Edwina	602 Savage Farm Drive
272-8717	Dotson	Esther	246 Updike Road
272-3714	Downing (h)	Mr. William	215 N Cayuga Street

	Van Dyke	Ms. Alison	
539-7688	Durant (N)	Ms. Katherine	150 Ogden Road
277-0006	Duttweiler (h)	Ms. Linda/Mr. Michael	345 Coddington Road
277-4404	Eisner (h)	Maria/Thomas	60 Hickory Circle
272-0621	Elgie	Rebecca	409 Linn Street
844-8184	Ferger	Ms. Martha	10 Union St. #8, Dryden 13053
272-3421	Fireside ***	Ms. Bryna	202 Eastwood Avenue
257-7545	Fleming	Mrs. Maralyn	205 The Parkway
266-9428	Foote (N)	Ms. Barbara J.	474 Savage Farm Drive
257-0514	Gebhart	Ms. Françoise	214 Tareyton Drive
	Gomer /Park	Ms. Adelaide	513 Wyckoff Road
277-3598	Gooding	Ms. Synnova H.	105 Eddy Street
272-3910	Gottfried (h)	Ms. Sorel/Mr. Kurt	1016 Cayuga Heights Road
257-0035	Greenspan	Charlotte	429 Warren Road
257-6631	Gries	Elaine	23 Spruce Lane
273-6372	Grigorov (H)	Carolyn	629 Coddington Road
257-6017	Grubb	Ms. Sally	104 Midway Road
277-3025	Hamblin	Ms. Martha T.	305 Fairmount Ave.
266-0644	Harding	Mr. John S.	420 Savage Farm Dr.
272-3914	Helmstadter	Frances	305 Ithaca Road
	Henley	Mr. Christopher L.	522 Dryden Road, Apt. E3G
387-7544	Henninger	Susan	3 Sunrise Terr., Trumansb. 14886
273-3331	Hieber (N,h)	Mary,Mr. Neil	103 Regency Lane
273-6450	Higgins	Ms. Doria	2 Hillcrest Drive
273-2389	Hoffmann	Ms. Eva B.	4 Sugarbush Lane
	Hoffmann	Prof. Roald	222 Baker, Dpt. Chem.&Chem.Biol. Cornell
266-7020	Holcomb	Mr. Donald	385 Savage Farm Drive
279-7249	Hunter	Ms. Tee-Ann	107 Hillcrest Drive
	Irwin	Mrs. Diana	577 Brooktondale Rd., Brookton.14817
257-4854	Istock	Nancy	213 Texas Lane
272-8708	Jacklin	Miss Kathleen	117 Park Place
266-0243	Jagendorf	Jean W.	455 Savage Farm Drive
	James	Ms. Jean	Lamphier Rd. Box 277, Locke 13092
257-2948	Johnson	Ms. Marnie	361 Savage Farm Drive
257-2948	Johnson	Sarah L.	430 N Geneva Street
257-7122	Jordan	Ms. Teresa	
	Allmendinger	Mr. Richard	1414 Hanshaw Road
273-7489	Kanter	Ms. Ann A.	5 Cornell Walk
272-3936	Kennedy	Mrs. Margaret	63 Hickory Circle
257-7453	Kiefer	Dooley	629 Highland Road
272-3367	Knapp	Ms. Jeanette	1143 Ellis Hollow Rd.
273-8189	Koch	Ms. Judith	313 Ithaca, Road
273-1868	Kurman	Ms. Tiina	P.O. Box 906, 14851
539-6181	Larsen	Ms. Phyllis	1675 Ellis Hollow Road
273-3457	Leopold (h)	Ms. Lynn/Mr. Carl	1203 East Shore Drive
273-7746	Levin	Deborah	211 Strawberry Hill Circle, Unit 3
277-3409	Levine	Ilma	71 Brooktondale Rd., Ithaca
387-9308	Lipari	Mr. Robert (Bo)	3991 Rt. 228, Alpine 14805
272-2776	Livesay (h)	Roger/Beverly	147 Snyder Hill Road
272-2612	Lumley (N,h)	Mr. John, Mrs. Jane	743 Snyder Hill Road
272-9088	McClory (h)	Ms. Saoirse	
	Hirschberger	Mr.Lawrence	213 W Lincoln Street (277-0488)
387-9205	McCue (h)	Ms. Janet	
	Kibbee	Mr. Robert	6115 Mecklenberg Rd., Mecklenberg 14886
257-1983	McCune	Ms. Virginia	353 Savage Farm Drive

257-6654	McGinnis	Ms. Mary	341 Savage Farm Drive
272-4065	McGonigal	Ms. Jane W.	1152 Coddington Rd.
273-1423	McMillin	Ms. Sally H.	311 E Green Street Apt. 2E
257-1597	Miller ***	Ms. Nina	15 Spruce Lane
273-3378	Morse	Ms. Helen S.	40 Turkey Hill Road
266-0989	Myers	Ms. Margaret	700 Warren Rd. #25-1F
272-4207	O'Connor	Ms. Deborah	9 John Street #1
	Olson (N)	Ms. Christine M.	1 Lowell Place
539-6538	Payne***	Ms. Katy	1743 Ellis Hollow Road
266-0636	Payne	Mary Ann M.D.	226 Savage Farm Drive
564-9267	Potter	Ms. Nancy B.	44 Tupper Road, W.Danby 14883
539-7547	Putnam***	Mrs. Janis H.	2065 Ellis Hollow Rd. ja
273-5065	Ramage	Mrs. Nancy H.	964 E. State Street
257-5667	Rinaldo (h)	Dorothy / Peter	428 Savage Farm Drive
539-7726	Rinaldo-Lee	Marjorie B.	31 Hunters Lane
272-0584	Robertson***	Ms. Martha Oschrein	1655 Ellis Holl. Rd.
272-2663	Rosten	Ms. Ellen	205 N Willard Way
257-7240	Saltzman (h)	Ms. Dolores S./Sidney	412 Hanshaw Road
387-5456	Schlough	Mrs. Ruth	1140 Agard Rd., Trumansburg 14886
273-9410	Schwartz	Miss Ruth	2 Fairway Drive
272-0425	Sears	Ms. Joan	309 E Court Street
257-9598	Segelken	Ms. Jane Baker	114 Texas Lane
387-9252	Sellers	Mrs. Dorothy	1687 Taughannock Blvd, T.burg 14886
272-4748	Sharp	Ms. Kay	278 Black Oak Road
273-2028	Siegel (H)	Ms. Rachel J.	318 Savage Farm Drive
273-1436	Silsbee	Mr. Robert H.	433 Savage Farm Drive
273-6147	Smith	Ms. Florence B.	423 S. Geneva Street
257-0768	Spero	Mrs. James (Ceil)	431 Savage Farm Drive
257-7711	Spicer (N)	Caroline	2250 N Triphammer Rd. Apt.E 12
272-9121	Sullivan (N)	Ms. Patricia	723 E. Shore Drive
257-2462	Thorp	Barbara C..	209 Texas Lane
277-3174	Tausz	Ms. Joanne	28 Hickory Road work 539-6315
273-7605	Valenti	Ms. Aurora Rubens	104 Valley Road
272-5214	Valentino	Cathy	110 Eastern Heights Dr.
257-2165	Van Buren	Mary	106 Iroquois Place
387-5602	Van Buren (N)	Ms. Mary	4831 Buck Hill Rd. N., T.burg, 14886
539-3322	Wagner	Ms. Catherine	1665 Ellis Hollow Road
539-7835	Walcott	Ms. Jane	84 Besemer Hill Rd.
273-3003	Wright	Ms. Martha	114 E Court Street
257-1894	Wyatt	Alene	380 Savage Farm Drive
257-8199	Yen	Mrs. Kathleen	20 Cedar Lane
387-6544	Zion (h)	Ms. Micheline	112 Larchmont Dr. Trumansb. 14886
266-0665/211	Crittenden	Mr. James	

N = National member, h = household members,
 H = honorary member, *** = star member (inactive/supporting member).

Friends of the League:

273-4040	Brentlinger (H)	Jane	301 Columbia Street (Honorary Friend)
272-8888	Flaville	Richard	38 Sheraton Drive
272-8596	Gyrisco***	Mrs. Valerie	36 Twin Glens Road
266-8495	Heaton	Ms. Kathlyn B.	316 Savage Farm Drive
273-6865	Long	Pat	4 Schickle Road
266-8067	Schaff	Mrs. Anne	939 Savage Farm Drive
535-4947	Cloud	Charlotte J.	400 E. 52nd Street, NY, NY 10022 (P.O. Box 257, Watkins Glen 14891)

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