



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TOMPKINS COUNTY

MAY 2008

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MEMBERSHIP: MARIA EISNER 277-4404

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www.lwvtompkins.14850.com

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

What a great Annual Membership meeting we had on April 21. The food was good and the message given on local foods was good. Thank you Martha Hamblin for arranging this meeting so well. I'm sorry that you will be leaving the Board. We appreciate all the energy and work you have put into the position of Vice-President for Programs.

We received a request from the Rochester League to support their efforts on eliminating lead poisoning in New York State. They provided me with a great deal of information on the Senate Bill S6350, which I've shared with you elsewhere in the Newsletter. I've also written a letter to the Ithaca Journal Editor.

Leagues across the United States are gearing up for the National Convention June 12-16th. I've received Indiana's proposal on health care reform and Virginia's proposal on redistricting, two of the 2008 Legislative Agenda items. I plan to attend caucuses on these topics at the Convention. I'll bring you up to date upon my return from the Convention.

Thursday, May 8th we are sponsoring the Ithaca School Board candidate's meeting along with the PTA and AAUW. Sunny Gooding will moderate. This is always a very interesting forum. I hope you can attend.

Rebecca Elgie and a group of six or more League members, including myself, have been discussing universal health care. Our League is sponsoring a caucus on health care reform at the Convention. At the Convention there will be a

meeting discussing Massachusetts' state health care plan. I'll bring back information about their experience.

On April 24th I along with Alene Wyatt, Sunny Gooding, Linda Duttweiler and Martha Hamblin met with Senator Winner to discuss the League's 2008 Legislative Agenda. The State League provided us with a number of questions to ask about his position on government reform (e.g., redistricting), health care, energy and the environment. He was encouraging about health care insurance for children. NYS recently approved Child Health Plus coverage up to 400% the poverty level. I will provide you with more detailed information on his comments after I have prepared the report to the State League in June. Our meeting with Assemblywoman Barbara Lifton was postponed due to the death of her grandchild. I hope we can arrange to meet with her later this month. Our sympathy is with her.

Kay Sharp

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VOTER SERVICES

Come meet the candidates for Ithaca City School Board on May 8, 2008, from 7:00 to 9:30 at the Ithaca High School Cafeteria. Six people are running for three positions on the Ithaca City School Board: Joshua Bornstein, Allen Lambert, Charles M. (Mac) Larsen, Gail Patrice Lockert Anthony, Seth Peacock and Scott Perez. The candidates will have an opportunity to state their positions on the issues facing the Ithaca schools and to answer questions from the audience. The event is being sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Tompkins County, the Ithaca Council PTAs and the American Association of University Women.

Kathy Burlitch and Debbie Levin will be attending the Naturalization Ceremony on Thursday, May 8 at the Tompkins County Court House. We will have a table where we will hand out literature about the League and about voting. We also plan to register new citizens on the spot. In the past we have attended the ceremony and given new citizens our literature, but have not offered the chance to register right there.



MEMBERSHIP

We welcome two new members,

Mr. Bob Gosse 668 Ringwood Road, Ithaca, NY 14850 539-7751, who won the door prize, a League membership, at the “Women Making History” celebration on March 27th; and

Mrs. Barbara Pardee 373 Savage Farm Drive, Ithaca, NY 14850 257-0832, who was a member and board member in the late 1960s. We are glad to have you back Barbara!

There are several members who have already paid their dues for this year and are therefore not meant to respond to the dues reminder, except for the questionnaire, included in this bulletin. They are the following:

- Ms Rosemary Batt
- Ms. Carol Battenfeld
- Ms. Karen Brazell
- Ms. Harriet Brittain and her family
- Ms. Robin Booth
- Ms. Donna Fleming
- Mr. Bob Gosse
- Mr. and Ms. Joseph Lalley
- Ms. Pat Long
- Ms. Christine Olson
- Ms. Barbara Pardee
- Ms. Elizabeth Reed
- Ms. Patricia Sullivan
- Mr. Jery Stedinger
- Ms. Mary Van Buren (in Trumansburg).

There is a **red dot** on your address label to remind you not to pay!

Maria Eisner, membership

LWV-TC CALENDAR—SPRING 2008

7:00	Thurs., May 8	CANDIDATES’ FORUM FOR ICSD	I.H.S. Cafeteria
	Tues., May 20	ICSD SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION	
7:00	Mon., June 2	Board Meeting	Kay Sharp

ANNUAL MEETING OF CAYUGA MEDICAL CENTER

After a reception they held the election of the Board of Directors and Dr. Mackenzie introduced the guest speaker, Daniel Sisto from the Health Care Association of New York State. He was very complimentary about the job that Cayuga Med is doing for the community and following their mission to “deliver the highest quality health care in partnership with out community, one person at a time.” He pointed out that it is a real neighborhood hospital but has broadened its expertise by affiliating with Roswell Park Cancer Institute, Mayo Medical Laboratories, Weill Cornell Medical School and New York-Presbyterian Hospital as well as connections with Strong Memorial.

He pointed out that it is difficult for hospitals to operate in the ‘black’ and that reimbursement for hospitals and physicians is linked more and more to quality and efficiency. Procedures with adverse events won’t be reimbursed and if someone gets an infection from the hospital they won’t get paid for extra days in the hospital to treat it so regulations are making hospitals more accountable. They are working to advance the science of medical safety and technology to save money and be more efficient. He also complimented their co-ordination with Island Fitness to provide rehabilitation and a transition from physical therapy to physical fitness.

Rebecca Elgie

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TOMPKINS COUNTY: BOARD 2007-08

LWV NYS website
LWV US website
LWV-Tompkins County

leave message at 272-4748

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www.lwvtompkins.14850.com

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Off-Board Members:

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ACTION ALERT: SENATE ACTION ON GLOBAL WARMING

Global climate change is one of the most serious threats to the environment, health and economy of our nation and our world. With the U.S. Senate expected to take up legislation this spring, now is the time to let your Senators know that they should support strong action to control global warming.

Please contact your Senators and tell them to support and strengthen S. 2191, America's Climate Security Act.

Recent scientific studies show that global warming is already causing environmental changes that will have significant global economic and social impacts. America's Climate Security Act, S. 2191, sponsored by Senators Lieberman and Warner, will establish the basic framework that is necessary to curtail the pollution that is causing climate change.

S. 2191 is a good first step. The bill establishes a "cap and trade" system that will, if properly carried out, achieve two essential goals: cutting green-house gas emissions enough to prevent the worst impacts of global climate change, and doing so in an economically efficient manner. The "cap" sets a limit on allowable emissions from electric power, transportation and manufacturing sources that will decline over time to meet the pollution-reduction goal. The "trading" system sets up a market that allows sources to buy, sell, borrow and trade emission allowances so reductions can be achieved in the most cost-effective ways.

However, the legislation should be strengthened in two ways. First, the bill should ensure that pollution reduction goals are consistent with the best scientific analyses. Currently, the legislation does not achieve all the reductions that will likely be needed, and advances in scientific knowledge may later indicate a need for quicker or greater reductions. Second, the auction system should be expanded to include

more emissions earlier in the process. This will both speed compliance and increase the economic efficiency of the program.

Tell your Senators to oppose weakening amendments, particularly loopholes that undermine the emissions cap through such mechanisms as a so-called "safety valve" that would allow sources to purchase unlimited emission allowances.

Take action today to encourage your Senators to take quick and strong action against global climate change!

TAKE ACTION

1. Contact your Senators now, by phone or by email, and tell them to strengthen and pass S. 2191, as well as to oppose weakening amendments. Tell them that global climate change is one of the most serious threats to the environment, health and economy of our nation and our world.
2. Send this alert to other concerned citizens - your grassroots network, your friends and coworkers. Encourage them to contact their Senators today!

BACKGROUND

Sign up to receive Action Alerts directly by email. Don't miss an opportunity to take action! It's easy to sign up and the League will never share your email with others:

<http://takeaction.lwv.org/lwv/mlm/signup/>

For additional information, please contact LWVUS Grassroots Lobbyist Christina Vamvas at lobbying@lwv.org

Dear Member,

May 2008

Our new fiscal year starts on July 1, 2008 and annual membership dues should be mailed to the LWV-TC Treasurer by the end of June. Since there is no June/July Bulletin the dues reminder is included in the May Bulletin. You may delay your payment until the end of June, but please, do not forget to renew your membership, and continue to show your support of the League.

Because our PMP (per member payment) to the National League (\$28) and to the State League (\$18) has increased during recent years, leaving us now only \$2 per member for local operating expenses, we are introducing a different payment structure. You may choose between paying either \$48 as *contributing* member, or \$58 as *supporting* member, and either \$72 or \$87 for a *contributing* or *supporting* family membership. "Friends of the League" who want to receive the local Bulletin only are asked to pay \$10. They are welcome to attend our meetings, but cannot participate as voting members.

Please make your annual check payable to LWV-TC. If our dues are a financial hardship for you, rather than drop your League membership, please, consider a token payment. It will be accepted like a full payment. No questions will be asked.

We are always grateful for a contribution toward our operating expenses. It can be added to the dues check, which is not tax-deductible. **For a tax-deductible contribution toward our educational activities, please, use a separate check, made out to Community Foundation of Tompkins County, memo: Ed. Fund of LWV.**

Please, take a few minutes to update your contact information and fill in the questionnaire on the reverse side. Send it, along with your check, to Alene Wyatt, 380 Savage Farm Drive, Ithaca, NY 14850.

Thank you for your faithful support.

Sincerely,
Maria Eisner, membership, 277-4404

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LEAGUE of WOMEN VOTERS of TOMPKINS COUNTY Dues 2008-2009

**{IS THERE A RED DOT ON YOUR MAILING LABEL?
IF SO, YOU'VE ALREADY PAID YOUR DUES FOR 2008-09.}**

Dues Individual:	<i>contributing</i>	\$48.-;	<i>supporting</i>	\$58.-	_____
Household:	<i>contributing</i>	\$72.-;	<i>supporting</i>	\$87.-	_____
Friend of the League		\$10.-			_____

Contribution (not tax-deductible)	_____
Total (payable to LWV-TC)	_____

Contribution (tax-deductible) (payable to Community Foundation of TC; memo: Ed. Fund of LWV)	_____
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CONTACT INFORMATION (Please Print) Contact information needs to be updated each year.

Mrs., Ms., Miss, Mr. (first name) _____ (last name) _____

Mailing Address: _____ (City, Town, Village of _____)

Telephone Number: _____ A good time to call: day ___ evening ___ never ___

Work phone (if ok to call): _____ e-mail _____

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS – TOMPKINS COUNTY

QUESTIONNAIRE (2008-2009)

BULLETIN How do you want to access the *Bulletin*? (please check one)

_____ On our web site www.lwvtompkins.14850.com

_____ Receive it by e-mail (this is a good way to save printing costs and postage)

_____ as .doc file or _____ as .pdf file

_____ Receive it by US postal service

COMMITTEES I am interested in joining a committee on:

"Unmet needs of young children living in poverty in TC" _____;

Natural Resources _____; Health Care _____; National Popular Vote Study _____.

VOTER SERVICE I would like to be involved with Voter Service in the following ways:

_____ Register voters

_____ Election reporting

_____ Help with candidates' forums

_____ Moderate meetings (training provided)

_____ Distribute Facts-for-Voters

_____ Hand out voting information to new citizens

(3 times/yr. at naturalization ceremonies)

_____ Talk to high school students about voting, participation in government, civil rights

OTHER WAYS TO BE INVOLVED

_____ Help with a one-time job

_____ Represent the LWV on the board of the City Federation of Women's Organizations

_____ Observe meetings¹⁾ of the:

_____ County Legislature _____ School Board _____ City Council

_____ Town Board (of _____) _____ Village Board (of _____)

_____ Other

(specify) _____

¹⁾You would be asked to report back to the board or to the membership through the Bulletin.

SPECIAL TALENTS (to share with the League): _____
e.g. audit our books?

PROSPECTIVE MEMBER(S): (Information will be sent to individuals interested in the LWV)

Name _____ address OR e-mail: _____ Telephone: _____

IDEAS & SUGGESTIONS: (e.g. topic for a meeting or forum, student involvement)

LEAD POISONING OF CHILDREN IN NEW YORK STATE

Lead poisoning of children persists as one of the most prevalent and preventable environmental diseases in New York. Prevention is the only effective way to protect children from irreversible damage. We support the call by the governor and other elected officials to remove toys with lead from store shelves. We applaud their recognition of the serious and often irreversible health effects of lead poisoning on young children.

But most children are not being poisoned by toys. The major culprit is still deteriorating lead paint in older homes. New York has born the greatest number (3.3 million) and highest percentage (43 percent) of pre-1950 homes in the nation - the homes most likely to contain lead paint. Each year thousands of children are newly lead poisoned in the state. Even in Ithaca, lead poisoning is a concern. Lead is in the soil from scraping lead-based paint off older homes.

Lead easily crosses the blood-brain barrier in young children whose normal hand-to-mouth activities causes frequent ingestion of lead particles. By impairing the development of children's nervous systems, lead poisoning can cause learning disabilities, limited attention span, mental retardation and behavior problems. The brain and nerve damage cannot be reversed.

Senate Bill S6350, introduced by Rochester Republican Senator Joseph Robach, amends the public health law and enacts the childhood lead-poisoning primary prevention and safe housing act. The bill urges improved public awareness of lead safety issues and education of both property owners and tenants about practices that can reduce the incidence of lead poisoning.

Right now the Department of Health concentrates on secondary prevention, which focuses on intervening after a child is found to have an elevated level. State Comptroller

Thomas DeNapoli conducted an audit of the Department of Health's Childhood Lead-Poisoning Prevention Program, which was released in June 2007. In the report Mr. DeNapoli states that "Only by combining primary prevention with secondary intervention can childhood lead poisoning actually be eliminated....The State should make a strong commitment to accelerate progress toward eliminating childhood lead poisoning in the State. Eradication of lead poisoning would undoubtedly save millions of dollars in direct and indirect services funded by the State's taxpayers for those with elevated blood levels. Most significantly the elimination of lead poisoning would allow many children to avoid serious health conditions."

The existing housing codes and enforcement systems in most jurisdictions do not include primary prevention measures for lead hazard and hazard abatement, mitigation, and control. The financial incentives currently in place have not proven sufficient to motivate property owners to undertake widespread and effective lead-based paint hazard abatement, mitigation and controls.

Therefore, we need to charge our State legislators to increase funding for lead-hazard control work. Last year, the Assembly passed this legislation, sponsored by Rochester Democratic Assemblyman David Gantt and several others. It is now in the Senate Health Committee.

Childhood lead poisoning is 100 percent preventable. We urge the Senate Health Committee, of which Senator Winner is a member, to pass this bill. Please contact your Senator to vote favorably on Senate Bill S6350.

Kay Sharp (with the assistance of the Rochester League of Women Voters)

YOUR REPRESENTATIVES IN CONGRESS

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