



# LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TOMPKINS COUNTY

NOVEMBER 2008

PRESIDENT: KAY SHARP 272-4748  
MEMBERSHIP: KATHLEEN YEN 257-8199

EDITOR: ROBERT SILSBEE 273-1436  
www.lwvtompkins.14850.com

## NOVEMBER MEETING

### THE FUTURE OF ENERGY

**Professor Paul McEuen**  
Dept. of Physics, Cornell

Monday, November 24 at 7:00 PM  
Women's Community Building  
Room 2/3

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By the time you receive this month's Newsletter, the country will have voted for the next President of the United States. The end of a long two-year race is here. These are difficult times for our Nation and the decision will have short-term and long-term effects on our lives.

The League has spent a great deal of time and effort in getting people out to vote. We registered voters and encouraged voters to get out and exercise their rights. I know I spent some time at Dunkin Donuts, flagging down customers to ask them to get out to the polls. Many of you worked at the polling places. Thank you for your work.

The League's work will continue to be needed. We must address healthcare, pay equity, affordable housing, the national popular vote — just to name a few areas of focus. Each and every one of you is a vital force in the work required to make these areas successful. I hope that you will join me in supporting our League's positions in these areas.

Kay Sharp

## THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Thank you to all the wonderful voter service volunteers who provided voter registration information at the Farmers' Market, the Community Block Party, Loaves and Fishes, Head Start, the Ithaca Festival, and the Apple Festival:

Thank you to Gary Anderson, Lucia Armstrong, Beverly Baker, Mary Jo Bauer, Joan Bechhofer, Mary Berkelman, Robin Booth, Kathy Burlitch, Charlotte Coffman, Libby deProsse, Kay Durant, Maria Eisner, Sunny Gooding, Valerie Grysko, Martha Hamblin, Krista Irwin, Nancy Istock, Marnie Johnson, Sarah Johnson, Debbie Levin, Rebecca Levin, Ilma Levine, Pat Long, Saoirse McClory, Sally McMillen, Margaret Myers, Kay Sharp, Barbara Thorp, Alene Wyatt, Kathleen Yen.

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## NOVEMBER MEETING

Our next membership meeting will take place on Monday, November 24th, at 7 p.m. in the Women's Community Building, Room 2/3. Our speaker will be Professor Paul McEuen from Department of Physics at Cornell. His talk, *The Future of Energy*, promises to be an interesting, lively presentation. It will relate to the League's concern about alternative energy. Please, come and bring a friend.

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## LWV RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS

In August, an e-mail was sent to all local school superintendents alerting them to resources available for students. The resources highlighted included: (1) the publication, "Electing the President: A Guide to the Election Process," produced by LWV-US and the Newspaper in Education Institute (NIE); (2) the Citizen Action Toolkit; (3) "Safeguarding U.S. Democracy" on YouTube, a new LWV-US Education Fund Project; and (4) the LWV-NY "Students Inside Albany" program for high school students.

A follow-up letter and copies of the twenty-nine page booklet, "Electing the President: A Guide to the Election Process," and the LWV Voter Guides were mailed to high school government/social studies chairperson in October. Recipients have responded positively and have found the information very useful.

Kathleen Yen

## VOTER SERVICES REPORT

As reported in last month's Bulletin, we had a very successful voter registration effort, signing up over 100 new registrants at a number of different venues. Please see the THANK YOU! on page 1 for a list of the wonderful people who made it all possible.

This was a very busy season for elections. The LWVTC sponsored a Candidate Forum on October 28 at Tompkins Cortland Community College between incumbent State Senator James Seward and challenger, Caroline Supervisor Don Barber. In spite of terrible weather, it was very well attended, with 70 people in the audience. Questions were submitted in writing and were asked by the League's very able moderator, Marnie Johnson. Libby DePross did a fine job as time keeper (even without the usual stop watch). Questions about health care and the economy predominated. There were clear differences between the two candidates views. Thanks to Marnie and Libby for their contribution, and also to Lucia Armstrong who was in charge of collecting the questions and passing them on to Marnie, occasionally with some editing for clarification.

After tomorrow, Election Day, those involved with Voter Services can relax for a while

Deborah Levin, Voter Services

## LWV-TC CALENDAR—2008-2009

*(tentative items in italics)*

<b>7:00</b>	<b>Mon. Nov. 24</b>	<b>GENERAL MEETING—THE FUTURE OF ENERGY</b>	<b>Wmn. Comm. Bldg.</b>
		<b>Paul McEuen, Dept. of Physics, Cornell</b>	
9:30	Sat. Dec. 6	Board Meeting (dish to pass)	Maria Eisner
<b>7:00</b>	<b>Mon. Jan. 26</b>	<b>EDUCATIONAL MEETING—<i>National Popular Vote</i></b>	<b>TBA</b>
<b>noon</b>	<b>Sat. Feb. 28</b>	<b>LUNCH MEETING—<i>TBA</i></b>	<b>TBA</b>
<b>7:00</b>	<b>Mon. Mar. 23</b>	<b>CONSENSUS MEETING—<i>National Popular Vote</i></b>	<b>TBA</b>
<b>7:00</b>	<b>Mon. Apr. 27</b>	<b>ANNUAL MEETING—<i>Health Care Roundtable</i></b>	<b>TBA</b>
<b>7:00</b>	<b>Thur. May 7</b>	<b>CANDIDATES' FORUM—ICSD School Board</b>	<b>IHS Auditorium</b>
<b>noon-9:00</b>	<b>Tues. May 19</b>	<b>SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS</b>	

## REFUGEE ASSISTANCE WELCOMED

At the September meeting of LWV-TC, the panel discussion on the national and local refugee situation prompted much interest and many questions, especially about those who have been resettled in Ithaca. Peggy Robinson, one of the panelists who works for the Ithaca school district, said that volunteers are often needed to help new refugees who arrive. The refugees need assistance in finding housing arrangements, donations of furniture, household goods and clothes, and help in signing up for social services (e.g., food stamps), medical appointments, school for the children, English classes for the adults, navigating the public transportation system and food shopping, offering special tutoring as needed and more.

Some volunteers agree to be "sponsors" for a family and others offer shorter-term help for specific aspects of assistance. Sponsorship does not imply financial help, only agreeing to be a primary point of contact for whatever assistance a family needs, at least in the beginning until they are more acclimated into life in this country. There is no specific timetable for continuing sponsorship, although some volunteers continue helping for a longer period of time as refugees move into jobs, apply for green cards, etc. League members who might be interested in helping, either on a short or longer term basis, can get more information from Peggy Robinson —cell phone: 279-9721; email: [peggyr@twcny.rr.com](mailto:peggyr@twcny.rr.com) or League member Margaret Myers —phone: 266-0989; email: [mmyers@twcny.rr.com](mailto:mmyers@twcny.rr.com)

Margaret Myers

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## WELCOME

We are pleased to welcome our new member, Adrienne Lampert, 116 Cascadilla Street, 227-3033. Please add Adrienne to your membership list.

Kathleen Yen

## ADDRESS, E-MAIL & PHONE CHANGES

Please contact Kathleen Yen, 257-8199, [kyen@twcny.rr.com](mailto:kyen@twcny.rr.com) to update your mailing address, telephone number, or e-mail.

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## LWV-TC PUBLICATIONS UPDATE

Two League publications are in need of an update. Please contact Kathleen Yen, 257-8199, [kyen@twcny.rr.com](mailto:kyen@twcny.rr.com) if you are interested in working on a committee to update the "Know Your Schools" booklet and the "Local Government in Tompkins County" publication.

Working on publication updates is a terrific way for members to learn about the schools, services, organizations, and government in Tompkins County and to meet other League members and community leaders.

The first committee meeting will held Monday, November 17, 2008, 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m., at the home of Kathleen Yen, 20 Cedar Lane, Ithaca.

[Directions from downtown Ithaca:

Take Route 13 North  
Cayuga Heights Road EXIT  
Right at stop sign (toward Lansing)  
go a few hundred yards, around the

curve

2<sup>nd</sup> left is Cedar Lane (dead end street)  
#20 Cedar Lane is the 6<sup>th</sup> house on the

right (down the hill, after the curve)]

There are a variety of tasks and ways to participate. Some tasks are short, one-time tasks and other jobs are more involved.

The proposed agenda for the first committee meeting is as follows:

- I. Project Overview & Distribution of Materials
- II. Tasks and Assignments
- III. Project Schedule
- IV. Draft Letter to schools and government agencies

Kathleen Yen

**FINANCE REPORT**

After discussion and information received from the State League Education Foundation, the Board of Directors of the LWVTC Education Fund, Inc., decided to withdraw the application to the IRS for tax exempt status. The main reasons for doing so were anticipated difficulties in ensuring that all reporting requirements could be met in the future, when different Board members would be responsible, and the convenience of the current system, whereby contributions to the Community Foundation on our behalf are fully tax deductible and can be accessed relatively easily when needed to pay appropriate bills. The IRS acknowledged the withdrawal of our application by letter dated October 24, 2008.

Sunny Gooding

**NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE STUDY**

The first meeting of the National Popular Vote (NPV) Study will be held at Kendal, at 12 noon on Monday, November 17. Buy your lunch in the Windows cafeteria at Kendal and join us in the Café. If all goes well with the upcoming election, we'll know who the next president will be by that time, and won't have to regret that steps to guard against a repeat of the 2000 election drama weren't taken. All interested members are welcome, and future meetings will be scheduled in accordance with the schedules and preferences of the members. If you're interested, but can't make that meeting, please call Sunny Gooding at 277-3598, or email her at [shgooding@clarityconnect.com](mailto:shgooding@clarityconnect.com)

Sunny Gooding

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TOMPKINS COUNTY: BOARD 2008-09**

LWV NYS website  
LWV US website  
LWV-Tompkins County

leave message at 272-4748

[www.lwvny.org](http://www.lwvny.org)  
[www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)  
[lwvte@twcny.rr.com](mailto:lwvte@twcny.rr.com)  
[www.lwvtompkins.14850.com](http://www.lwvtompkins.14850.com)

**Officers**

President	Kay Sharp	272-4748	<a href="mailto:kshepherdqueen@yahoo.com">kshepherdqueen@yahoo.com</a>
V.P.-Program	Cathy Valentino	272-5214	<a href="mailto:cavalentino@gmail.com">cavalentino@gmail.com</a>
V.P Membership	Kathleen Yen	257-8199	<a href="mailto:kyen@twcny.rr.com">kyen@twcny.rr.com</a>
V.P. Finance	Sunny Gooding	277-3598	<a href="mailto:shgooding@clarityconnect.com">shgooding@clarityconnect.com</a>
Secretary	Barbara Caldwell	272-5769	<a href="mailto:bcaldwel@twcny.rr.com">bcaldwel@twcny.rr.com</a>
Treasurer	Alene Wyatt	257-1894	<a href="mailto:alene@lightlink.com">alene@lightlink.com</a>

**Directors:**

Bulletin	Robert Silsbee	273-1436	<a href="mailto:rsh1@cornell.edu">rsh1@cornell.edu</a>
Director-at-large	Libby deProsse	257-6678	<a href="mailto:deprosse@lightlink.com">deprosse@lightlink.com</a>
Director-at-large	Maria Eisner	277-4404	<a href="mailto:mle3@cornell.edu">mle3@cornell.edu</a>
Action	Mary Berkelman	257-6450	<a href="mailto:mberkelman@netscape.net">mberkelman@netscape.net</a>
Publications/Publ.Rel.	Kathy Burlitch	539-7316	<a href="mailto:klburlitch@frontiernet.net">klburlitch@frontiernet.net</a>
Phone	Linda Duttweiler	277-0006	<a href="mailto:ldutt@twcny.rr.com">ldutt@twcny.rr.com</a>
Voter Services	Debbie Levin	273-7746	<a href="mailto:dlevin01@twcny.rr.com">dlevin01@twcny.rr.com</a>

**Off-Board Members:**

Webmaster	Michael Duttweiler	277-0006	<a href="mailto:ldutt@twcny.rr.com">ldutt@twcny.rr.com</a>
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## **SPEAKERS BUREAU**

Are you interested in giving short presentations to various groups regarding League history, voter information, local government, etc.? Please contact Kathleen Yen, 257-8199, [kyen@twcnny.rr.com](mailto:kyen@twcnny.rr.com)

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## **INFORMATION FROM THE STATE LEAGUE**

### **Resources for Local League Leaders**

Are you hesitating to take on a leadership role in your local League because you don't know how to do the job? In fact, League work is easy to learn with the many resources available. National and NYS Leagues provide how-to manuals with general information for leaders as well as specifics for most jobs. The state League website is continually updated with background material as well as the latest information about ongoing projects. It also contains the complete text of State Board Reports, including the latest issue. The SBR contains issue updates as well as such organizational data as the bulletin exchange and contact information for the LWVNY Board and portfolio chairs. In addition, listserves and contact with regional directors, state board members, fellow Leaguers you meet at Convention and fall leadership workshops, and LWVNY office staff can help direct you to the information you need. When a report is due, the necessary form is included in the SBR early enough to give you plenty of time to complete it. The State League recognizes the challenges involved in being an active League leader and wants to help. Take them up on their offer and accept the challenge of League leadership.

### **Citizen Court Monitoring**

This program began in 1975, when non-lawyer volunteers were recruited to observe court proceedings and report on their findings and recommendations. The program has been

influential in solving many of the problems that ordinary citizens face when dealing with the courts. It has been highly successful at achieving numerous public-interest objectives. Modern Courts wants to expand its monitoring program of local town and village justice courts into additional counties throughout the state. They hope to partner with local Leagues in identifying volunteers for this program. If you're interested, ask your local League president to contact the state League office and find out about joining the program.

### **Convention 2009**

The next LWVNYS Biennial Convention will be May 15-17 at the Doubletree Inn in Syracuse, NY. The Convention theme will be "Fair, Vibrant and Strong." In addition to the usual outstanding speakers, presentations, and entertainment, this Convention will introduce a pre-convention training workshop on Friday afternoon, May 15. This training will provide more extensive opportunities for training and sharing of experiences in areas most often identified as challenging. While aimed at the new Leader, there will be modules geared specifically to the seasoned Leader. Consider coming to Syracuse early to participate in this new training workshop.

### **League Day at the UN**

This year's annual UN Day will be on Tuesday, December 2, 2008. The topic will be the *Impact of Global Warming on Women and Children Around the World*. In addition to the main presentation, the day's schedule will include an optional tour of the UN and an optional buffet lunch in the Delegates Dining Room. Be sure to register early – space is limited and seating is on a first come-first serve basis. You can find the registration form on the LWVNYS website at: <http://lwvny.org/un/UNregistrationForm2008.pdf>

### **Membership: 'Tis the Season**

An Election year is an especially good time to talk to your friends about joining the League. People turn to the League for information so

they can cast an informed vote. They look to League-sponsored debates and forums for their non-partisan fairness. They also consult our “Facts for Voters” for reliable information on where statewide and national candidates stand on the issues they care about. And at a time when the entire nation seems even more partisan than usual, the League's non-partisan approach is a refreshing change.

### **National Popular Vote Study**

At the LWVUS Convention in Portland, OR, in June, the delegates voted to adopt a national study titled “The Advisability of Using the National Popular Vote Compact Among the States as a Method for Electing the President.” To keep informed of the progress of the study, join the email discussion list. Just go to the “For Members” section of the LWVUS website ([www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)), click on “Programs and Projects,” then “National Popular Vote Compact”, and finally “NPV Study Discussion List.” There you can give the email address at which you want to receive list mailings. You

will need to reply to an email confirming your desire to sign on to the list. That's it – you're on! Or watch the state League website for updates.

### **Victory: Great Lakes Compact**

The Great Lakes are a unique and precious resource, providing freshwater for the 40 million people who live within the basin. Each year, rainfall and snowmelt replenish only about one percent of the water in the basin; the remaining 99 percent is finite and nonrenewable. The Great Lakes Compact, for the first time ever, treats groundwater and surface water as one system subject to the same standard; considers the Great Lakes and their tributaries to be one ecosystem; establishes protection of Great Lakes ecosystems and economies as priorities everywhere in the basin; and ensures that every Great Lake state will have the same fair set of rational protections, while allowing each state flexibility. The U.S. Senate and House have approved the Compact and the President has signed it into law.



**HAZARDOUS MATERIALS IN THE HOME:  
SUGGESTIONS FOR SAFER ALTERNATIVES**

Some more alternatives to toxic and polluting household supplies, taken from an LWV-TC pamphlet of 1990. We hope that these suggestions will help you choose simpler, safer alternative products for use in and around the home. You will see additional ideas in future issues.

**In the Laundry**

soap	In automatic washer use 1 cup soap flakes or powder, 2-4 tablespoons washing soda or Borax.
bleach	Try oxygen-based bleach (such as Clorox II) in place of the more hazardous chlorine-based bleach.
fabric softener	Add 1/4 cup baking soda or 1/4 cup white vinegar to rinse cycle.
stains	Mix 2 tablespoons ammonia, 1 teaspoon soap, 1 pint water and store in spray container. Spray on for general stain removal. Grease stains: Rub on chalk; let set; wash. Mildew: To prevent: use borax with laundry soap. To remove: use chlorine bleach or alcohol, an oxygen-based bleach, or lemon juice and salt, then spread in sun to bleach. Bloodstains: Apply peroxide and let sit; rinse with cold water.
heavily soiled whites	Soak in baking soda solution, then wash.

**In the Bathroom**

toilet bowl	** Bleach: 1/2 cup liquid chlorine bleach in toilet bowl for 1/2 hour, then scrub with brush and flush OR ** Mix 1 teaspoon ammonia, 1 cup hydrogen peroxide, 2 quarts water, pour into toilet, let stand 1/2 hour, brush and flush.
porcelain	Use a nylon pad and scrub with baking soda paste, a cut lemon or cream of tartar paste.
ceramic tile	Use porcelain cleaner above OR Scrub with 1/4 cup baking soda, 1/2 cup vinegar, 1 cup household ammonia and 1 quart warm water OR To remove film buildup, apply full-strength vinegar to a sponge and wipe. Next, use baking soda as scouring powder and rub with a damp sponge Rinse with water.
Disinfectant	**Bleach: 1/4 cup chlorine bleach in 1 quart warm water OR **Ammonia: 1/4 cup household ammonia in 1 quart warm water OR Borax: Mix 1/2 cup borax to 1 gallon hot water OR Pine oil: Mix 1 pint soap flakes, 6 cups hot water, 1 pint pine oil

**\*\*NEVER MIX AMMONIA AND CHLORINE BLEACH**

## YOUR REPRESENTATIVES IN CONGRESS

## SENATORS:

Hillary Rodham Clinton US Senate, 476 Russell Senate Building, Washington, DC 20510  
202-224-4451; Syracuse Office: 315-448-0470  
e-mail: senator@clinton.senate.gov web-site: clinton.senate.gov

Charles E. Schumer US Senate, 313 Hart Senate Building, Washington, DC 20510  
202-224-6542; Binghamton Office: 607-772-6792  
e-mail: senator@schumer.senate.gov web-site: schumer.senate.gov

## REPRESENTATIVES;

Michael Arcuri 327 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515-3224  
202-225-3665; Cortland Office: 607-756-2470  
e-mail: send from web-site web-site: arcuri.house.gov

Maurice Hinchey 2431 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515  
202-225-6335; Ithaca Office: 607-273-1388; 123 S. Cayuga St. #201  
e-mail: mhinchey@mail.house.gov web-site: www.house.gov/hinchey

League of Women Voters of Tompkins County  
20 Cedar Lane  
Ithaca, NY 14850

Address Service Requested