



The Broome-Tioga Voter

Bulletin of the *League of Women Voters of Broome & Tioga Counties*

www.lwv-broometioga.org

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League Brunch

Presentation by

Ray Denniston

Broome Tioga BOCES Cooperative Extension

Discussion to Follow

**“Trends Toward Consumption of Local
Foods and
National and State Policies”**

Saturday, December 5, 2009

10:00 am

Endicott Visitor's Center
Endicott, NY

President's Message

On September 28, Carol Oestrich, Eva Anderson, Sara Wokan, Alice Brooks and I enjoyed a visit from Betsey Swan, newly elected president of the LWVNYS. This was one of many stops toward her goal to visit every local League in NYS, and after lunch with us she was headed for Ithaca to meet members of that League. The following are some topics we discussed with her.

The State League is looking to get every member's email address. For the most part they want them in order to distribute the newly reconfigured State VOTER electronically. Eva Anderson volunteered to get together with Mary Diegert to work on this project. Betsey promises that they will not share these emails with any other organization.

Each year at this time, Local Leagues are asked to study, and later vote on, priorities on the NYS legislative agenda. These are chosen from a list of several state issues from which we send in our local League's top 3 priorities. Betsey informed us that this list will be put on hold for now, but a legislative packet will be given to local Leagues in January 2010. The Agenda will focus on making the State Legislature cleaner and more competitive through emphasizing campaign finance, redistricting and other good government and election reforms.

The newly formed NYS Consolidation Study team requests that local League presidents call the state office with the names and contact information of their study chairs. They have an initial study schedule as well as the list of the names of the Study team online together with a list of websites which contain valuable information about government consolidation as well as an overall explanation of the State initiatives. As of now we have one volunteer, and we are extending our wish to have many more volunteers from our membership for this important and informative study. Please contact me or any member of the board if you are interested.

Leaderspark will no longer be a choice used by local Leagues to select the student to send to Students Inside Albany. The Youth Programs Director and a professor from Buffalo State developing a curriculum entitled “

Pathways to Civic Engagement” and will apply for a grant for it.

~ Clare Simeone

Education Finance Update

The committee is doing research on New York State School Aid, STAR, Charter Schools, the No Child Left Behind legislation, and Schools in Need of Improvement (SINI). Updates in all areas will be compared to the positions of the state and national leagues. A program regarding School Board Elections is being planned for our April 27th meeting. We are gathering again on January 8 at 10:00 am at the Vestal Public Library. We encourage anyone who is interested in these topics to join us that day.

~ Carol Oestrich

We welcome new member, Susan Button from Binghamton. She became a member of our League by joining at the National level. We are pleased to have Susan as a member of the League and encourage her to attend our meetings and participate in our activities.

~ Eva Anderson

Legislative Breakfast

On Saturday, November 14 you will have an opportunity to enjoy breakfast and a conversation with your local elected officials. We are holding the Legislative Breakfast this year at the Regency. The Regency is easy to get to and has excellent parking. We will be in the Riverside Room near the hotel registration desk so park in the upper parking lot. We always have an excellent turnout from our supervisors and members of the legislature. We are starting earlier, 9:30, so that people can get to their other events or activities. The cost remains at \$15. Checks made out to LWVBTC can be sent to

Mary Johnson,
28 Jerome Ave.

Binghamton, NY 13905

by November 6. Hope to see you all there.

~ Mary Johnson

Voter Registration/Membership Report

Voter Guides I and II have been distributed throughout Broome and Tioga Counties. Schools, libraries and municipal buildings were targeted. Special thanks to all who assisted in this task, especially Alice Brooks, Charlene Shorten, Carol Oestrich and Doris Lawton.

We are finalizing arrangements to co-host the Binghamton Mayoral debate along with the Greater Binghamton Chamber of Commerce, which will take place in the City Council Chamber at 7:00 PM on October 28. Time Warner is scheduled to televise the debate and offer it throughout the week on Channel 4. The following organizations have submitted questions for the debate: The Greater Binghamton Chamber, BC Industrial Development Agency, BCC's Committee on Civic Engagement, and The League of Women Voters. The League has submitted questions concerning plans for consolidation within Binghamton. Besides the Chamber and the League, members from Preservation Association of the Southern Tier and Southern Tier Independence Center volunteered their help.

The mayoral candidates who will take part in the debate are Matthew Ryan (incumbent), Richard David and Douglas Drazen. By the time you read this you will probably know the outcome of these efforts by our Voter Service Committee. Thank you to those who helped organize the Mayoral Debate, especially Doris Lawton and Barbara Shope

Deposit's HUD housing units hosted a voter registration drive in their hospitality room. All had a fun time and we obtained new voter registrations, requests for absentee ballots and distributed our Voter Guides. A special thank you to my favorite accordion player-KARL WOKAN.

Respectfully submitted,

~ Sara Wokan (785-6703)

Identification Statement

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Send Voter newsletter articles and feedback to Sue Garing, Editor, sgaring@verizon.net.

Alice Brooks:

2009 Woman of Achievement

The League of Women Voters of Broome & Tioga Counties was proud to honor Alice Brooks as our 2009 Women of Achievement at the annual Women of Achievement Dinner on November 4. This dinner is sponsored by the Broome County Status of Women Council to recognize outstanding women in Broome County.

Alice became a member of the local League in 1998. She soon became a member of the Board of Directors, serving as Secretary for three years. In 2004 she took on the responsibility of Treasurer. In addition to skillfully handling these Secretary and Treasurer jobs she has also volunteered for many other projects and activities such as representing the League at naturalization ceremonies, participating in election night reporting, proofreading publications, attending three State League conventions as a delegate, organizing programs, and working on various committees, etc. Whenever there is a job to be done Alice volunteers to help.

In addition to her League activities, Alice has been very active in many other organizations having recently completed a six-year term on the Board of Directors of the Protestant Cooperative Ministry at Cornell University. At churches in various places, she has been a volunteer church school teacher, youth group leader, Chair of the missions committee, handbell choir member, and for five years produced the church bulletins.

For six years Alice did volunteer work in a children's hospital auxiliary, raising funds for special projects and working in the children's unit library. Her caring and generous personality makes Alice the ideal person to guide and educate children as well as a special friend to others.

Alice has been married to Fred for 55 years. They have two married sons and two grandchildren. She and her husband enjoy traveling, especially to historic sites. Alice enjoys listening to most kinds of music and playing the piano. She attended Cornell University and graduated from Southern Connecticut State University. For three years she taught junior high English and social studies, and for twelve years was a caseworker for children and youth in foster care.

~ Eva Anderson

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SAVE THE DATE: December 5, **LEAGUE BRUNCH** at the Endicott Visitor's Center at 10:00 am. There'll be good food (fruit, breakfast pizza, real coffee or tea and decaf), good conversation and most of all, food for thought. Our speaker, Ray Denniston, was director of the Johnson City School System School Lunch Program for twenty years, is now employed part-time by Broome Tioga BOCES Cooperative Extension working on encouraging local consumers to buy from local farmers. He will be speaking about trends toward consumption of local foods, national and state policies toward that goal and the pros and cons in environmental terms of using local foods.

Ray will share his thoughts on this topic for about an hour and a discussion and questions about the topics pertinent to us will follow. This would be an excellent time to bring a friend who is interested in environmental issues. Reservations would be helpful in planning the amount of food necessary for all who plan to come. If you know ahead that you are coming, please call Raney Colvill at 722-0862 or e-mail rcolvill@Juno.com.

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