

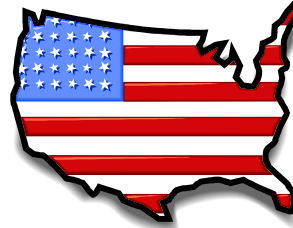


The
LOCAL VOTER
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
SYRACUSE METROPOLITAN AREA

MARCH 2009

Syracuse Metro LWV
 PO Box 11866
 Syracuse NY 13218
 (507 Plum St -2nd Fl. Syr. 13204)
 Phone: (315) 448-7199
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 info@lwvsyr.org
 Web Sites:
 Local: www.lwvsyr.org
 State: www.lwvny.org
 National: www.lwv.org

**IS IT TIME
 TO CHANGE**



**HOW WE CHOOSE
 OUR PRESIDENT?**

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, March 19th
 Cazenovia NPV Program
Thursday, April 2nd
 LWVSYR/TMR NPV Event
Tuesday, April 14th
 NPV Consensus Meeting

Thursday, March 19, 2009
 LWVof Cazenovia
 7:00 pm - Cazenovia Library Community Room
 Albany Street, Cazenovia NY

“The Politics of the Presidential Election Process”

Tim Byrnes, Professor of Political Science, Colgate University

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Thursday, April 2, 2009.
 Syracuse Metro LWV, with SU Thursday Morning Round Table
 7:45 -8:15 am – Coffee
 8:15 - 9:15 M - Program
 Drumlins, Nottingham Room, 800 Nottingham Road, Syracuse

**STAYING INFORMED ON THE
 ISSUES AND EVENTS**

Local: www.lwvsyr.org
 State: www.lwvny.org
 National: www.lwv.org



“Is It Time To Change How We Choose Our President?”
 John Freie, Professor of Political Science, Lemoyne College
 Grant Reeher, Assoc.Professor of Political Science, Maxwell School, SU



**We Can Do It! Fair, Vibrant & Strong
 Convention 2009**

Volunteers are still needed for the LWVNY Biennial Convention to be held in Syracuse May 15- 17. As the host League, the event provides the opportunity for league members to participate in workshops, and to observe the Plenary Sessions. Please let us know if you can help us out. Contact us at 448-7199 or info@lwvsyr.org.

**Tuesday, April 14, 2009
 Syracuse Metro LWV Consensus Meeting**

5:00 pm - League Office
 507 Plum Street, 2nd Floor, Syracuse (Unity Mutual Offices)
 Snacks and beverages will be served

BOARD NOTES

MEMBERSHIP NOTES

It is with great sadness that we note the passing of **Reginald Durant**. Reg was an active member of our League and served for many years as our liaison to the Onondaga Lake Partnership. Our condolences to his wife, Joan, and their children.

We welcome new members **Hilda Pato-Krol** and **Giancarlo Moneti**.

NATURALIZATION CEREMONIES

Registering new voters at Naturalization Ceremonies is a vital part of our Voter Service Activities. Volunteers are needed to provide this service to our newest citizens. Please call Susan Bush at 673-7253 or email Susan at sjbushywca@cnyemail.com.

2009 SCHEDULE

April 23	2 PM	County Court	Room 400
May 7	11 AM	Federal Bldg.	12th Floor
May 21	2 PM	County Court	Room 400
June 4	11 AM	Federal Bldg.	3rd Floor
June 18	2 PM	County Court	Room 400
July 2	11 AM	Federal Bldg.	12th Floor
Aug. 13	11 AM	Federal Bldg.	12th Floor
Aug. 20	2 PM	County Court	Room 400
Sept. 17	2 PM	County Court	Room 400
Sept. 24	11 AM	Federal Bldg.	3rd Floor
Oct. 15	11 AM	Federal Bldg.	3rd Floor
Oct. 22	2 PM	County Court	Room 400
Nov. 5	11 AM	Federal Bldg.	12th Floor
Dec. 17	2 PM	County Court	Room 400

THE LOCAL LEAGUE BOARD

Now is the time when we begin planning for our next League year. An important part of this process is the work of your **Nominating Committee**. The committee, chaired by **Roberta Millert** is looking for new members to serve on the Board.

Serving on the Board is a great opportunity to learn more about the League. As a Board member you define what the goals of the organization are to our members as well as the community at large.

Please give Roberta a call at 676-2191 or email her at lwvsyr@twcny.rr.com and learn what you can do to gain personally from the experience of serving on the Board.

Officers

Co-President....	Joan Johnson
Co-President...	Rae Rohfeld
Vice-President...	Joe Sammarco
Secretary...	Karen Smith
Treasurer....	J. Arthur Johnson

Directors

Advocacy & Issues....	Lenore Rapalski
Fund-Raising...	Vacant
Membership...	Mary Lou Green
Program....	Don MacLaughlin
Public Relations...	Sherly Day-Bernthal
Voter Service...	Susan Bush

Off-Board Positions

Budget Director....	Rhonda Hungerford
Nominating Committee.....	Roberta Millert, Chair
	Eleanor Feitler
	Joan Durant
Optical Scan Liaison....	Lenore Rapalski
Technical Support...	Roberta Millert

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

MESSAGE FROM THE CO-PRESIDENT



Anthony

As we celebrate Women's History month and the 200th birthday of Abraham Lincoln, I would like to share with you two quotes I recently read that relate to the women's movement for equality. Many of you may have read the first one found in the Post Standard on Saturday January 17, 2009. In an article on Lincoln's Inaugural Rail Journey through upstate New York the writer states a 12-year old girl, Grace Bedell from Westfield New York wrote to Lincoln suggesting he grow whiskers to improve his appearance. She continued with the words "*If I were a man I would vote for you*". It is said that on his journey through Chautauqua County, Lincoln got off the train and kissed the girl on her forehead before hopping back on the train.

The second quote comes from the *Sangamo Journal*,* in 1836 and became a rallying cry for the women's suffrage movement in the 1900's. Lincoln stated "*Consequently I go for admitting all whites to the right of suffrage, who pay taxes, or bear arms, (by no means excluding females).*"

These words from a young girl in 1861 and a young Lincoln in 1836 makes you wonder what could have been if Lincoln had lived. Would women wait until 1920 to get the vote? Would the League be celebrating its 140th birthday rather than its 89th?

- *The Sangamo Journal was published in Springfield, Illinois. Lincoln often wrote letters to the newspaper.*

Joan Johnson



Stanton

CALENDAR

Tuesday, March 10, 2009 – 5:30 PM
Palace Theatre, 2384 James St, Syracuse

"Some American Feminists", a film and panel discussion commemorating Women's History Month - Contact Jan Markarian at jcmark470@yahoo.com for more information

Thursday, March 19, 2009 – 7:00 PM
Cazenovia Public Library – Albany St

"The Politics of the Presidential Election Process"
Tim Byrnes, Professor of Political Science, Colgate University
Sponsored by the Cazenovia League of Women Voters

March 27 - April 5, 2009

Vera House White Ribbon Campaign

Thursday, April 2, 2009 – 7:45 – 9:15 AM
Drumlins Nottingham Room
800 Nottingham Road – Syracuse

"Is it Time to Change How We Choose Our President?"
Professor of Political Science, John Freie, LeMoyne College
Associate Professor Grant Reeher, Maxwell School, S U
Sponsored by Thursday Morning Roundtable and the Syracuse Metro League of Women Voters

Tuesday, April 14, 2009 – 5:00 PM
League Office – Unity Mutual

National Popular Vote Consensus Meeting

Tuesday, April 28, 2009 – 7-9 PM
Salina Town Hall – 201 School St, Liverpool

Liverpool Board of Education Candidates Forum
Sponsored by the Syracuse Metro LWV
and the Eagle Newspapers

May 15-17, 2009
Doubletree Inn – East Syracuse

LWVNY Convention

Tuesday, June 9, 2009 – 5:30 PM
Cavalry Club, Troop K Rd, Manlius NY

Syracuse Metro LWV Annual Meeting
Guest Speaker – Mayor Matthew Driscoll

BACKGROUND FOR THE NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE COMPACT

IS IT TIME TO CHANGE HOW WE ELECT OUR PRESIDENTS?

By now, most of us are quite familiar with debates over whether we should continue to elect our presidents indirectly, through the electoral college or directly, by the national popular vote. The discussion swells each time the voters fear the elected president will receive a larger proportion of electoral votes and the losing candidate will receive the greater number of popular votes. Candidates without the largest number of popular votes have actually been chosen 4 times in our history. (1824, 1876, 1888, and 2000).

In recent years the view that presidents should be elected by the popular vote has gathered strength, though many have held to the use of the electoral vote because it is what the founding fathers provided. Most proponents of the popular vote have assumed that to achieve that change, it would be necessary to obtain a constitutional amendment that eliminated the electoral college. While such amendments have been introduced several times, they have never received adequate support.

More recently, a group of interested citizens and political leaders across the states introduced a different way to achieve the effect of having the popular vote choose the president while keeping in place the electoral college. This would be achieved by establishing a compact among the states, which the Constitution allows. Under this “*National Popular Vote Compact*,” the participating states would agree to have all their electors cast all their votes for the person who receives the largest number of popular votes. This is possible because the Constitution gives the States control over how electors are chosen and how they use their votes. The compact, of course, would not go into effect until enough states had joined it to produce 270 votes, the number needed to elect a president and a vice-president in the electoral college. At present, four states have agreed to join such a compact: NH, NJ, IL, and HA. Some other states have completed the legislative process, but the governor has not signed the legislation. States not in the compact would continue to have their electors vote as they do now.

Adopting the NPV Compact does not necessarily mean we would never amend the constitution to eliminate the electoral college. As more states join the Compact, they might decide that an amendment would provide a neater, less complex, way to achieve a direct popular vote for president. At that time, an amendment could be adopted, and the members of the National Popular Vote Compact would terminate the compact.

The League of Women Voters has been studying the electoral process for many years. In 1970, it adopted a position that the president and vice-president should be elected by popular vote and that it would support a constitutional amendment to abolish the electoral college. This year, the question the League is studying is whether it should also support the National Popular Vote Compact as a means to achieve a popular vote for President. A compact has not been used in this way before, and the pros and cons must be studied carefully. We have meetings and lists of readings

NPV RESOURCES

Complete resources for the NPV Study can be found on the LWFVUS Website.
Just log on to www.lwv.org. Click on “For Members” and scroll to “Projects and Programs.”

or

Contact Rae Rohfeld at rrohfeld@twcny.rr.com or by phone at 475-9554

Support for the NPV Compact

Because the League already supports direct election of the president, arguments against the Electoral College (EC) are not included in the material supporting the National Popular Vote Compact (NPV Compact).

Constitutional Issues The NPV Compact is a way to assure that every person's vote counts equally and that the person receiving the most votes is the winner of the presidency. The same result would be achieved by constitutional amendment but the U.S. Constitution is difficult to amend. The NPV Compact is a viable way to attain the same goal as amending the Constitution to eliminate the EC.

A constitutional amendment is not needed to effectuate the NPV Compact because states already have the right to implement changes in how electors are appointed.

The NPV Compact is a compact between states – a method of concerted state action that has long been sanctioned by the Constitution and the courts.

Evaluating Fairness A candidate can be elected president by receiving the most electoral votes even though he or she did not receive the most popular votes. This is not a result voters expect or desire. As election campaigns are now waged, major emphasis and resources are concentrated in key EC battleground states because that is where elections are won or lost. The NPV Compact would eliminate the emphasis on battleground states and would be more apt to assure campaign strategies that appeal to a broad spectrum of the electorate which would foster greater voter participation.

The argument that the plan would negatively impact states' rights is countered by poll results showing that most voters want their individual vote to count, rather than allotting them to electors representing the state as a whole.

Any claim that the NPV Compact is an unprecedented disregard for the U.S. Constitution ignores the reality that voting rights have been changed through state action many times. Women's suffrage, for example, was instituted by twenty states before passage of the constitutional amendment that made the right universal.

Mechanical Considerations Those opposed to the NPV Compact cite mechanical issues that might lead the NPV to fail, but the Compact includes provisions that address issues of enforcement, winning levels and recounts.

Other Issues The Voting Rights Act and the NPV Compact are in harmony, assuring equality of votes throughout the United States.

League Issues Opponents say that the NPV Compact conflicts with the League's support of uniform voting standards. Supporters of the Compact advocate its passage in all states, which would result in uniform voting standards. It is true that the NPV Compact could be in effect for an interlude when not all states had signed on to it. The same could be demonstrated for other laws, such as the Equal Rights Amendment. Nonetheless, it must be remembered that uniform voting standards are not now in effect. The NPV Compact could help assure that every vote would be counted equally.

Further, implementation of a method which assures direct election of the president by popular vote is in keeping with the League's long-held position.

Opposition to the NPV Compact

There is little respect for the Electoral College (EC). The League opposes it and most voters want a direct popular vote. But is the National Popular Vote Compact (NPV Compact) an appropriate way to achieve that result?

Evaluating Fairness Voters supporting the candidate who receives the majority of votes in their state want their state's electors to support their choice. Adoption of the NPV Compact may require a state elections official to direct its state's electors to cast their ballots in support of a candidate who was not favored by the voters of that state.

Passage of the NPV Compact will result in the emphasis of presidential campaigns shifting from the battleground states to areas of large concentrations of population. So, while some voters are disenfranchised by the EC, others might be disenfranchised by the NPV Compact. Because the Compact requires entry into a contract with other states which binds state elections officials to direct electors to vote in a certain way, regardless of the outcome of the election in their state, states' rights are diminished.

In addition, one can question the advisability of a method that bypasses the normal constitutional amendment process in this manner.

Constitutional Issues Many constitutional scholars argue that this plan will lead to extensive litigation involving challenges to the NPV Compact on issues such as the scope of constitutional powers, the Compact itself, the need for congressional approval, the concerns of non-compacting states, and constitutional protections of state interests and their role in elections.

Mechanical Issues/Flaws The methods for enforcement of this plan are unclear. Opponents question the power and timing to withdraw from the Compact and the power to enforce compliance.

Others express concern about an onslaught of lawsuits between compacting and non-compacting states, as well as procedures in close elections.

The plan, allowing the election of a president by a plurality of votes, does not improve on the current system; neither the present system nor the NPV Compact requires that the president be elected by a majority.

Other Issues The Voting Rights Act requires pre-clearance for legislative changes. This, too, has the capacity to engender lawsuits to ensure compliance.

League Issues This proposal does nothing to achieve the goal of uniform standards of voting. The NPV Compact is effective when passed by states representing 270 electoral votes, effectively negating the impact on presidential elections of the voters in states which represent the other half of electoral votes. A system which assures no voter disenfranchisement is a better way to assure that every person's vote counts.

The League has long supported the abolition of the EC. Although the NPV Compact purports to foster the same result, it creates additional concerns. Amending the U.S. Constitution is a difficult process, and we should seriously consider supporting the normal amendment procedures to abolish the EC versus this specific "work-around."

NEWS AND NOTES FROM LWVNYS

UPDATE ON VOTING MACHINES

The League of Women Voters of NYS and New Yorkers for Verified Voting released a statement on February 9, 2009 re-enforcing their position on "Why Lever Machines Do Not Provide An Acceptable Method of Voting For New Yorkers?"

The long complicated process of implementing HAVA in NYS has led some people to suggest that it is possible and desirable to retain the lever voting machines. Our organizations recognize that frustration and concern over the costs and difficulties of transitioning to new equipment for local boards of elections is very real. The League and its local chapters will continue to work to assist voters and local boards of elections to achieve the goals of HAVA and the LWVUS goal of SARA (secure, accurate, re-countable and accessible voting).

Aimee Allaud, Election Specialist, LWVNY
Wanda Warren Berry, Executive Director, NYVW

Pay Equity Update

The Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act was the very first bill signed into law by President Obama. It restores the 1964 Civil Rights Act equal-pay protections for people whose jobs involve the same work. Unfortunately the Ledbetter Act does not address pay inequities across different but equally-valued job titles. The NY State Fair pay Act (A3911, S955) addresses this problem by removing discrimination in job titles traditionally done by women and people of color. We need to build support in both the Labor Committee and the NYS Senate as a whole.

Lois Haignere,
Off-Board Specialist for Pay Equity

A NEW VOICE IN ALBANY:

We welcome **Christina Dupre**, the new administrative assistant at the LWVNY office in Albany. Christina joins Executive Director, **Laura Ladd Bierman** and Program Director, **Stephanie Lopez**.



2009 Legislative Agenda

Attached to your March Local Voter you will find the 2009 Legislative Agenda. Included are the legislative priorities chosen by local leagues across the state and your State Board of Directors. When contacting your local state legislators, please inform them of our agenda even though they might not agree with the League position. Check the LWVNY website frequently for updates and "Action Alerts." We will attempt to remind you via email when it is time to "Take Action" on any of our priorities or other issues.

UPDATE ON SPRAWL & LAND USE

The LWVNYS urges New York State to take a proactive role in regional land use planning. To further that goal, we have joined Empire State Future, a coalition of groups and individuals interested in advancing the principles of "smart growth". In addition to providing educational materials that will augment the efforts of land use activists, this coalition plans to provide the public with a website that is informative, up-to-date, lively and easy to use.

Statewide Community Preservation Act (s381) was reintroduced on January 7, 2009, It would allow cities and towns to create community protection funds to protect open space, support working farms, and preserve community character.

The State Smart Growth Infrastructure Policy Act (A543) was reintroduced in 2009. During the last legislative session, this bill was considerably watered down and the governor refused to sign it. The 2009 version attempts to define smart growth principles clearly and requires state agencies to base funding on these principles.

Ruth Bonn & Anne Huberman,
Off-Board Specialists for Sprawl & Land



March 15 - 21, 2009

Sunshine week is a national initiative to open a dialogue about the importance of open government and freedom of information.

On January 15th the Syracuse Metro League of Women Voters hosted a presentation and conversation on Modernizing Government in Onondaga County. Vito Sciscioli, Executive Director of Syracuse 20/20 & Chair of the Onondaga County Government Modernization Task Force, joined Clyde Ohl, former county legislator, Onondaga Citizens League member and a representative of Syracuse 20/20 for an informative and lively conversation on new approaches on how we govern locally. Ohl is also a member of the Syracuse LWV.



Left to Right Vito Sciscioli, Clyde Ohl

1943 Guide to Hiring Women



As we celebrate Women's History Month, we thought the following excerpt from the July 1943 issue of Transportation Magazine would give us all a laugh. It was written for male supervisors of women in the workforce during World War II. Thanks to Gwen Grant for sharing it with us.

- 1). Pick young married women. They usually have more of a sense of responsibility than their unmarried sisters. They are less likely to be flirtatious, they need to work, and they still have the pep and interest to work hard and to deal with the public efficiently.
- 2). When using older women, try to get those who have worked outside the home at some time in their lives. Older women who have never contacted the public have a hard time adapting themselves and are inclined to be cantankerous and fussy.
- 3). General experience indicates that "husky" girls – those who are just a little on the heavy side – are more even tempered and efficient than their underweight sisters.
- 4). Retain a physician to give each woman you hire a special physical exam, one covering female conditions. This not only protects the property against possible lawsuits, but reveals whether the employee-to-be has any female weaknesses which would make her mentally or physically unfit for the job.
- 5). Stress at the onset the importance of time. A minute or two lost here and there makes serious inroads on schedules.
- 6). Give the female employee a definite day-long schedule of duties so that they'll keep busy without bothering management for instructions. Numerous properties say that women make excellent workers when they have their jobs cut out for them, but they lack initiative in finding work themselves.
- 7). Whenever possible, let the inside employee change from one job to another at some time during the day. Women are inclined to be less nervous and happier with change.
- 8). Give every girl an adequate number of rest periods during the day. You have to make some allowances for feminine psychology. A girl has more confidence and is more efficient if she can keep her hair tidy, apply fresh lipstick and wash her hands several times a day.
- 9). Be tactful when issuing instructions or in making criticisms. Women are often sensitive; they can't shrug off harsh words the way men do. Never ridicule a woman - it breaks her spirit and cuts off her efficiency.
- 10). Be reasonably considerate about using strong language around women. Even though a girl's husband or father may swear vociferously, she'll grow to dislike a place of business where she hears too much of this.
- 11). Get enough size variety in operator's uniforms so that each girl can have a proper fit. This point can't be stressed too much in keeping women happy.

**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....\$55*

____ *Household Level*....\$80*

____ *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
PO Box 11866
SYRACUSE, NY 13218**

MARCH 2009

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