



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TOMPKINS COUNTY

SEPTEMBER 2009

PRESIDENT: MARNIE JOHNSON 257-2948
www.lwvtompkins.14850.com

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September Meeting

MEET AND GREET BETSEY SWAN

President of the League of Women
Voters, New York State:
Sharing Thoughts and Vision for
the League of the Future.

Monday, Sept. 28th, at 7:00 PM
Beverly Livesay Room,
Human Services Building
320 West State Street

Enter parking lot from
Seneca Street
(more info on page 2)

drilling and what that entails. These are two very significant studies; we hope a number of you will want to be involved. Please call me (257-2948) if you have questions or to discuss your interest!

In 2010 the League of Women Voters will be celebrating its 90th anniversary. Regularly considered the first citizens' group formed to educate its members on governmental issues, the League has a rich history and much to be proud of. We will want to emphasize this as well.

On September 28th at our first meeting of the year, Betsey Swan, our new NY State League president, will be our speaker. She inspired us at the State League Convention in June — don't miss this!

I hope to see you there.

Marnie Johnson

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In Tompkins County September seems, for all practical purposes, the start of another year: vacations are over, school has begun, the students have returned to our campuses (and are all over town) and the tempo of life is much more energetic again.

So the League, too, begins another year. We will be forming two major study committees and continuing the Health Committee's advocacy work. One new committee focus will be on the State League study "Government, Consolidation and Shared Services." The other will deal with Natural Resources, with the primary focus on the Marcellus shale gas-

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SEPTEMBER MEETING

Our first meeting will spotlight the new President of the League of Women Voters of New York State, BETSEY SWAN. She was elected at the 53rd biennial convention in May 2009. After the vote, Betsey treated the audience with her views and goals for the League in the coming years. She outlined her plans to visit all the local Leagues, to listen to members and learn about local issues and accomplishments. She described ways the State League can be a resource for the local Leagues. I was fired-up by her talk and left the convention with new energy and enthusiasm.

We're fortunate to host Betsey in Ithaca. You shouldn't miss this opportunity to get acquainted.

Betsey Swan will be our guest speaker Monday, September 28th, at 7:00 PM. The meeting will be held in the Beverly Livesay Room, Human Service Building, 320 West State Street. Use the parking entrance from Seneca St. Beverages and dessert will be provided.

RSVP : Flo Smith, 273-6147,
flosmith42@aol.com

HEALTH CARE COMMITTEE REPORT

It has been a busy summer for Health Care Reform with many capacity crowd town hall meetings and lobbying through phone calls, office meetings and letter writing on the issue. After summer recess the 2 Senate committees, HELP and Senate Finance committee will "marry " the 2 committee bills into one unified approach and in the House the Rules Committee will determine which amendments will come for a vote and the full house will debate, amend and vote on health care reform bill. In October The Weiner amendment, which would substitute HR676 for HR3200 will be discussed and voted on in a first ever floor vote on a Single Payer bill. There is also the Kucinich amendment which will be voted on and which would change

the ERISA law to allow individual states to develop a Single Payer plan for the state. The LWVUS has been lobbying in support of HR3200 with a strong public option. The bill passed in the Senate and the House will then go to a Conference Committee where differences between the bills will be resolved. This common bill will go back to the Senate and House floors for final votes and then to the President's desk. This is the proposed process: of course we all know this could change and be delayed.

The LWVUS Health Care Task Force has been busy and now has 5 new Resources developed by members of the task force — to read the articles (see titles below) go to www.lwvus.org, click on *Issues*, and then on *Social Policy* on the left; at the bottom are Related Resources — click on the title for the article. You can also read the League position and actions. It is important to call our House Representative and Senators and urge them to support strong health care reform and a strong public option; they are hearing a lot of negative opinions.

Our Health Committee will reconvene on Friday Sept. 18th at 10:00 a.m. We will discuss HR3200 and other developments in the health care reform process. We would welcome new members who would like to join the committee. Come and share your ideas and insights. For more information call Rebecca Elgie 272-0621.

“The Impact of Preexisting Conditions on the Individual and the Community”

“Evolution of the Health Care System in the United States”

“Primary Care: Key to Quality and Cost Control”

“Understanding Health Competition: How to Structure Public Health Insurance Plan Choice to Ensure Risk-Sharing, Cost Control and Quality Improvement”

Rebecca Elgie

VOTERS SERVICE REPORT

We will have a voter registration table at the Farmers' Market on September 12 and September 19 from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Thanks to all who have volunteered to staff the table. We are also planning to have a voter registration table at the Apple Harvest Festival on Friday, September 25 from noon to 4:00 PM and Saturday, September 26 from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. We still need people to staff the table on Friday 25, and Saturday 26. Please let Sally Grubb, sallycg@clarityconnect.com, know if you can help at the Apple Festival.

Also, please let us know if you are interested in helping with voter registration at future events and help at candidate forums. We will contact you when events are scheduled.

We are compiling a local voter's guide with all of the candidates who are running for offices in the City of Ithaca, the surrounding towns, and Tompkins County. This should be out when all of the names of candidates are available, later this month.

We plan to sponsor candidate forums for the City and Town of Ithaca, and for Tompkins County.

Look for the 2009 New York State Voter's Guide. It will be in libraries and at various other venues around town.

Deborah Levin
Sally Grubb
Voter Services co-chairs

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TOMPKINS COUNTY: BOARD 2009-10

LWV NYS website
LWV US website
LWV-Tompkins County

leave message at 273-1436

www.lwvny.org
www.lwv.org
lwvtc@twcny.rr.com
www.lwvtompkins.14850.com

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V.P. Co-Program	Florence Smith	273-6147	FloSmith42@aol.com
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Secretary	Kathleen Yen	257-8199	kyen@twcny.rr.com
Treasurer	Bo Lipari	387-9308	bolipari@nyvv.org

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Co-Voter Services	Debbie Levin	273-7746	dlevin01@twcny.rr.com
Co-Voter Services	Sally Grubb	257-6017	sally.grubb@gmail.com

Off-Board Members:

Webmaster	Michael Duttweiler	277-0006	mduttweiler@twcny.rr.com
Co-Program	Robin Booth	273-0570	rlmbooth@twcny.rr.com
Health Care—Chair	Rebecca Elgie	272-0621	healthylink@earthlink.net

**TAKE ME TO VOTE! & STUDENTS
INSIDE ALBANY VOTER SERVICE
PROJECTS**

The League of Women Voters of Tompkins County (LWV-TC) will continue to participate in the New York State League's "**Students Inside Albany**" program for high school students and will sponsor a student to represent Tompkins County at a four-day student conference, held in April, in Albany, NY. The program is designed to increase the awareness of high school students for their responsibilities in representative government and to provide them with the tools necessary for meeting those responsibilities. Students from around the state:

- Learn about New York State government and the process by which citizens can participate in the policy making arena
- Attend workshops
- Tour the Capitol
- Shadow their Legislator

The League is also piloting a "**TAKE ME TO VOTE!**" program for fifth grade students. The "**TAKE ME TO VOTE!**" project is coordinated with the Tompkins County Election Commissioners and is designed to encourage students and their parents/guardians to go to the polls together. The goal is two-fold:

1. to encourage voter turnout on election day
2. to help prepare children for the rights and responsibilities of citizenship

Questions: If you are interested in learning more about the program or volunteering as a "classroom election inspector/poll worker" for a mock classroom voter registration/election, please contact the project coordinators, Kathleen Yen, 257-8199, kyen@twcny.rr.com or Susan Henninger, 387-7544, shenninger@fltg.net.

Kathleen Yen

LWV-TC CALENDAR—2009-2010
tentative dates and programs in italics

7:00	Mon	Sept 28	GENERAL MEETING: Meet and Greet Betsey Swan,	
			President of LWV-NY	Soc. Serv. Bldg.
7:00	Mon	Oct 5	Board Meeting	Debbie Levin
—	—	October	<i>CANDIDATES' FORUM</i>	
7:00	Mon	Nov 2	Board Meeting	
7:00	Mon	<i>Nov 23</i>		
9:00	Sat	Dec 5	Board Meeting	
7:00	Mon	Jan 4	Board Meeting	
7:00	Mon	<i>Jan 25</i>		
7:00	Mon	Feb 8	Board Meeting	
noon	Sat	<i>Feb 20</i>		
7:00	Mon	Mar 8	Board Meeting	
7:00	Mon	<i>Mar 22</i>		
7:00	Mon	Apr 5	Board Meeting	
7:00	Mon	<i>Apr 26</i>		
7:00	Mon	May 3	Board Meeting	

DUES REMINDER FOR 2009-10

Hi, I'm Bo Lipari, the new Treasurer for the LWV of Tompkins County. In these tough economic times, it's easy to put off what seems like non-essential payments. But your membership dues ARE essential to the LWV. A large share of your dues goes to the national and state Leagues, and we need to pay these items on time. Our only source of funding is our annual membership dues and contributions made by friends of the League. So please make sure you get your dues paid as soon as you can. Send your dues payments to Bo Lipari, 3991 Rte. 228, Alpine NY 14805. (387-9308)

SIX STEPS TO MAKING GAS DRILLING SAFER

(information distributed at the
Spring 2009 LWV-NY Convention)

1. Pass federal legislation

H.R. 2766 will repeal the exemption for hydraulic fracturing from the Safe Drinking Water Act. Call Rep. Hinchey (202-225-6335) and Rep. Massa (202-225-3161) to thank them for co-sponsoring the bill. It's available at <http://thomas.loc.gov> and is in House Committee on Energy and Commerce. Two New York Congressmen are members and should be called: Rep. Engel (202-225-2464) and Rep. Weiner (202-225-6616). Ask them to co-sponsor the bill and push it towards passage by the committee.

A companion bill S. 1215 has the same purpose. It's also available at "Thomas" (as in Thomas Jefferson) above and is in the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works. Call Sen. Schumer (202-224-6542) to thank him for co-sponsoring and fax Sen. Gillibrand, as her office requests (202-228-0282), to urge her to co-sponsor the bill and move it successfully through the committee. For background on this legislation go to www.earthworksaaction.org/PR_2009HalliburtonLeg.cfm

2. Strengthen federal regulation

Send fax to Lisa Jackson, Administrator, US EPA (202-501-1450) asking her to a) revisit 2004 EPA study whose conclusion (that hydrofracking did not need further study) did not match its own findings; b) investigate problems in CO, OH, PA, TX, etc.; and c) enforce existing federal laws.

3. Support NY State legislation

To return home rule on health & safety issues to local government, in accordance with the NY Constitution, ask Sen. Winner (732-2765) and Assm. Bacalles (776-9691) or Assm. O'Mara (732-3500) to delete section 2 of ECL 23-0303 which "shall supercede all local laws or ordinances relating to the regulation of the oil, gas and solution mining industries" (except jurisdiction over local roads and real property tax).

Ask Bacalles or O'Mara to support A. 8784 requiring disclosure of chemicals in fracking fluid and permits for withdrawing over 5,000 gallons of water per day; amend to include Susquehanna watershed.

4. Extend length and type of public comment on draft SGEIS

Send fax to Gov. David A. Paterson (518-474-1513) with copy to his appointee Alexander "Pete" Grannis, Commissioner, NYSDEC asking that public comment period be increased from 30 days to 60 days and that public hearings be held rather than just allowing written comment on the pending draft Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact Statement on drilling for gas in the Marcellus Shale.. This gives the public and officials time to read and respond to the document and hear the input of others.

(continued)

5. Encourage county legislature to prepare for impact

Speak during the public portion of the monthly meeting (Chemung: 2nd Monday at 7 p.m.; Schuyler: 2nd Monday at 6:30 p.m.; Steuben: 4th Monday at 10:30 a.m.) or meet with your county legislator to go over the 21 recommendations from Sullivan County Task Force Report “Preparing for Natural Gas Development: Understanding Impacts and Protecting Public Assets” (www.scgnet.us/documentView.asp?docid=768)

6. Urge town officials to prepare for impact

Discuss with town officials “What Local Governments Can Do to Minimize the Negative Impacts” by attorney and member of Afton Town Board (search Mary Jo Long + What Local Governments Can Do).

LWV-NYS AND LWV-US INFORMATION

To access the quarterly NYS VOTER, no longer sent as hard copy, go to <http://lwny.org/bulletins.html#voter>

And to get on the e-mailing lists for LWV-US bulletins and action alerts, go to <https://member.lwv.org/Subscribe.asp>

The State Board Report is published six times a year and provides vital information on all activities and actions of the State Board. To sign up for your free electronic version of the SBR, contact Stephanie at Stephanie@lwny.org

****IMPORTANT DATES****

2009 Primary Election and General Election

September 8, last day to postmark Absentee Ballot Application for Primary Election

September 14, last day to submit an Absentee Ballot Application in person for the Primary Election

Last day to submit Absentee Ballot by mail (postmarked date, Sept. 14; received by Sept. 22)

September 15, last day to deliver Absentee Ballot in person to County Board of Elections

September 15, noon to 9 p.m., Primary Elections (Ithaca districts 4, 5, 6, 11, and Enfield)

October 9, the last day for postmarked or hand-delivered registration for General Election

October 27, the last day for postmarked request for absentee ballot for General Election

November 2, last day to apply in person for absentee ballot for General Election

Last day to submit Absentee Ballot by mail (postmarked by Nov. 2; received by Nov. 10, 2009)

November 3, Last day to deliver Absentee Ballot in person to County Board of Elections

November 3, General Election Day, polls open 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.

VOTER INFORMATION: Contact the **Tompkins County Board of Elections (607-274-5522, www.votetompkins.com)**, or go to their office at 128 East Buffalo Street, Ithaca, NY 14850, or

The 2009 *VOTER'S GUIDE: Facts For Voters* is available to view or print from the LWV website **League of Women Voters of New York State, www.lwny.org**

**City Federation of Women's Organizations,
Inc. (CFWO) - Fall Dinner Meeting
Wednesday, October 28, 2009
5:30-7:30 p.m.**

**Women's Community Building
100 West Seneca Street
Ithaca, New York**

**Dinner: 5:30 – 6:00 p.m.
Business Meeting: 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.**

Now that the City Federation of Women's Organizations (CFWO) has made the historic decision to give Ithaca Neighborhood Housing Services (INHS) the option to purchase the Women's Community Building (WCB), the federation members need to consider the vision and structure of the organization for the next century. **All** members of the federation are invited to attend the October 28th dinner meeting and participate in a guided brainstorming session to address issues about the CFWO's future vision, identity, use of assets, role in the community and collective activities.

Some hypothetical questions to consider:

- What will membership in CFWO mean in the future? Benefits? Requirements?
- Does the LWV-TC wish to continue their membership in the CFWO?
- How should funds be used? How should awards, grant-giving, loan activities be structured?
- Do federation members have an interest in rental or ownership of a communal space to be used by members?
- What are some of the ways your group might envision a \$500, \$1000, or \$2500 grant being used to further the mission of the CFWO?

Questions: All interested League members are encouraged to attend and participate in the discussion. If you cannot attend, please contact board president, Janis Graham, 273-5758, grahamj@twcny.rr.com and share your questions and ideas.

Dinner Reservations: To make a reservation for dinner, please call Sarah Johnson at the Women's Community Building, 607-272-1247, womens@lightlink.com

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The CFWO has served the interests and needs of women, girls, and children since its founding in 1910.

Purpose: *The purpose of the City Federation of Women's Organizations is to support women, to administer the Women's Community Building in ways consistent with this goal; and through its members and member organizations/clubs act as a catalyst for the improvement of the lives of the women in Tompkins County, making a contribution to the community as a whole.*

Membership: Membership is open to the public, men and women, and is available in several categories: federated clubs, businesses, not-for-profit agencies, and individuals. The League of Women Voters of Tompkins County is a federated club member.

CFWO Board Members: Janis Graham (President), Carol Chase, Liz Colucci, Betty Falcao, Martha Hamblin, Ruth Hopkins, Mary Lee Noden, Pam Silverstein, Jackie Wakula, Alene Wyatt, Kathleen Yen

YOUR REPRESENTATIVES IN CONGRESS

SENATORS:

Kirsten E. Gillibrand US Senate, 531 Dirksen Senate Building, Washington, DC 20510
202-224-4451 web-site: gillibrand.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
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Maurice Hinchey 2431 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515
202-225-6335; Ithaca Office: 607-273-1388; 123 S. Cayuga St. #201
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Address Service Requested