



The Broome-Tioga Voter

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

www.lwv-broometioga.org

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Volume 62, Number 7

April Call to Annual Meeting 2010

League of Women Voters of Broome & Tioga Counties
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Call to Annual Meeting

Tuesday, May 11, 2010

Ramada Hotel and Conference Center

225 Water St., Binghamton, NY



5:30 p.m. ~ Business Meeting

6:30 p.m. ~ Social Time

7:00 p.m. ~ Dinner & Program

DINNER RESERVATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY APRIL 27.

Dinner price of \$28 includes appetizer, salad, entrée, side dishes, dessert, tax and gratuity.

Indicate number of people choosing each entree:

Name: _____ Pasta Primavera

Address: _____ Baked Sole Florentine

Phone/e-mail: _____ Chicken Piccata

Guests: _____

___ Total x \$28 per person = \$ ___ enclosed

Make check payable to "League of Women Voters of Broome & Tioga Counties",
and mail with this coupon to Janet Gill, 23 Orchard Ave., Binghamton, NY 13904.

Annual Meeting Information

Date: Tuesday, May 11, 2010

Time: 5.30 p.m. Annual Meeting, social time and dinner follow

Where: Ramada Hotel and Conference Center, 225 Water St., Binghamton (formerly Regency Hotel)

Menu: choice of 1:

Pasta Primavera in Garlic and Herbs

Maro's Baked Sole Florentine

Chicken Piccata

All come with green beans almondine, oven roasted potatoes, sourdough rolls with whipped butter, coffee or tea and carrot cake

Cost: \$28

Please send check to Janet Gill, 23 Orchard Ave., Binghamton, 13904 by April 27.

Our after dinner speaker is Toastmaster, writer and stand up comedian John D. Montgomery, whose topic is "Diamonds and Ditches : A Humorous Look at Winners and Losers in 2010."

~ Raney Colvill

President's Message - The Call

The fact that I am writing this column for the the Call to Annual Meeting issue of the VOTER leaves little doubt that my first year, as solo president of this League, is nearing its end

My strongest and most grateful memory is that of the League's Board and Off-Board Members whose resourcefulness, knowledge, friendliness and dedication have made this year the success it is turning out to be.

Our Program Meetings were informational, interesting and inspiring to many of us and the community. My only wish is for a larger audience to benefit from the knowledge and expertise of the speakers. To those who did attend, I am sure you are not sorry for making the effort to learn and share information on important issues, such as: Johnson City dissolution, the pros and cons of gas drilling in the Marcellus Shale, the benefits of using local foods for our own health, the economy and the environment, how to keep our indoor air clean, and a lively Legislative Breakfast with our State and County Legislators as well as local supervisors.

Members of the Local Government Committee are researching and reporting on the NYS Consolidation Study which will help our members reach consensus on two of the questions concerning this issue before June 1.

Some of our members will be lobbying our State Legislators on the LWVNYS Legislative Agenda which includes Campaign Finance Reform, Ethics Reform and Redistricting (that will take place after the US Census).

Sara Wokan and I will be attending the LWV National Convention (a first for both of us) in Atlanta from June 11 to June 15. League Presidents from all over the country are sending in proposals for the League to adopt as Resolutions to have the Leagues in our country study and vote on which to take further action. Two of which I am particularly interested in seeing pursued are the FRAC Act and "A Study of the Regulation of Financial Institutions."

The LWVUS supports significant strengthening of the regulation, oversight, inspection and penalties with regard to the development of fossil fuel resources and the mining of hard rock. This includes the passage of the FRAC Act

(HR 2776 & S1215), elimination in national and state legislation of exemptions for drilling and mining in a manner consistent with the preservation of a healthy environment

A Study of the Regulation of Financial Institutions – Study the role of the federal government in regulating financial institutions with a focus on: the causes of the recent financial crisis, existing regulation of financial institutions and measures to protect against future financial crisis and ensure greater economic stability.

I want to thank every member for your support of the League – Local, State and National. Together we are responsible for promoting the beneficial decisions that are made for this country.

~ Clare Simeone



April Program: School Board Elections

Timothy G. Kremer, the Executive Director of the New York State School Boards Association (NYSSBA), will make a presentation on School Board Elections. He will address the elections themselves and why someone should want to serve as a school board member. The number of districts within New York State, the types of school boards, the role of school board members, the relationship between school board members and school superintendents, and what NYSSBA does for its members will be covered. The NYSSBA webpage is www.nyssba.org.

The program will be held at the Vestal Library, 7:00 pm coffee, 7:15 p.m. program, Tuesday, April 27, 2010.

~ Carol Oestrich

State Consolidation/Shared Services

Study /Consensus

The Local Government Committee has begun the process of developing the local League's position (Consensus) on the Government / Shared Services LWNYS Study. Our League needs to send our position (consensus) to the State League by June 1. We need as much input from all of our members as we can get. The discussion guide and Consensus questions will be available at the March 23 meeting at the Vestal Library. However both of these papers are available on line and you can access them at your convenience.

On the internet go to lwvny.org; Scroll down to STATE STUDY ON CONSOLIDATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT / SHARED SERVICES.

Click on DISCUSSION GUIDE AND CONSENSUS QUESTIONS.

Once you study these papers, the committee asks you to send only the page with the questions with your answers to Dick Paden (address below) by April 6. Feel free to call or email with any questions.

~ Dick Paden, Local Government Committee Chair

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Johnson City, NY 13790
rpaden1@stny.rr.com
797-2535

Election Night Reporting

The Primary (Sept.14) and the General Election (Nov. 2) will be here before we know it. The Election Board has estimated that we will need 32 phone clerks for both election days.

Many thanks to the past volunteers that have helped make this a successful event. If you've never volunteered before, please consider helping this year. It's an important fundraiser for our League and it's also a valuable community service.

~ Joanne Gee

Education Finance Committee

The committee, comprised of Vivian Carlip, Mary Johnson, Carol Oestrich, and Charlene Shorten, has been trying to keep up with the many changes in the New York State financial situation and its effect on the budgets of our local school districts. We have selected Binghamton, Vestal, Owego, and Harpursville as the districts to particularly pay attention to throughout this and the coming year.

We planned a program for April 2010 on school board elections. Our presenter, Timothy G. Kremer, is the Executive Director of the New York State School Boards Association. A handout with information on local school boards was prepared for distribution.

~ Carol Oestrich

Program Committee Report

Programs for the year covered a variety of topics with a focus on topics which impact the environment and our daily lives. The League year began in September with a report on Dissolution of Johnson City, continued with informational sessions on Gas Drilling: the NYS Plan, Using Local Food, Indoor Air Quality, and Project Sunlight in March with Dennis McCabe. In addition to these, there was a Legislative Breakfast and will be a meeting on April 27 on School Board Elections. Our annual meeting will host Toastmaster, writer, and stand up comedian John D. Montgomery, whose topic is "Diamonds and Ditches : A Humorous Look at Winners and Losers in 2010."

I appreciate the help our president, Clare Simeone, and members of the board have given me during my year as a beginner in the League Program position. Mary Johnson's and Janet Gill's time and talent have also been of great assistance. Mary, as previous program Chair, gave me lots of material and advice, and Janet prepares a good spread for all of us who value coffee and cookies as an important part of our meeting. Also, each of you who have come, listened attentively, and asked stimulating questions have added greatly to the meetings and the speakers' pleasure.

~ Raney Colvill, Chair, Program

Membership Dues Information

This article may seem familiar to you because an article similar to this one was included in the VOTER in the past. The message is different from the last one, however, because the President and the Board now find it necessary to increase our basic dues payment. We have been trying to continue the same services with fewer members, and as described in the next paragraph, after we pay our share to the State and National Leagues for their services, we are left with too little to cover all of our goals.

The bottom line is that your local League membership is a bargain! As you may know, we must make a per-member payment (PMP) to the State and National Leagues to pay our share of the cost of valuable services provided to all local Leagues. These include voter service information and issue information to pass on to our members and the public. The State and National Leagues also advise us on running a good local League, fundraising, membership recruitment and retention, and more. The strength of the League at state and national levels allows it to lobby effectively for good government.

Our basic local dues are now \$2.20 less than the annual PMP for each member. For each household membership, the shortfall is \$5.80. In addition to paying the PMP, we provide several program meetings every year, publish eight or nine issues of The Broome-Tioga Voter, organize and run at least one candidate forum, hold a Legislative Breakfast to meet with elected officials and talk about League issues, and more. We keep you informed about local, state, and national issues you care about.

Over 40% of you have chosen to pay a higher level of dues or to make a financial contribution. Some of you also make in-kind contributions by paying League expenses out of your pocket without requesting reimbursement. Others provide their time and talents to serve on committees. Despite all your wonderful efforts and ours, we find that we need a firmer base to plan an adequate budget for the future.

The new membership dues will be \$50.00 for an individual member. Household dues (two or more members at the same address) will be \$75.00. Those who are able are encouraged to continue to pay dues at one of the higher lev-

els, which will remain the same. These new dues will begin on July 1, 2010. Members will continue to pay dues during the anniversary of the month they joined the League. Any member who cannot pay the full amount may send what she or he is able, and the difference will be paid from our Jackson Fund.

All of our members are valuable to us, and we look forward to many more years with our present members and with new ones who will join us in our future endeavors.

-- Clare Simeone

Voter Service

Summer of 2009 provided a time of reflection and preparation for Voter Service activities leading to the mostly local elections of November 2009. The League's excellent Voter Service Guides, Parts I and II, were distributed in August and September. In June we had again participated in the Urban League's Juneteenth Celebration at Columbus Park in Binghamton. Our site featured voter registration information. We also encouraged membership in the non-partisan League of Women Voters of Broome and Tioga Counties.

Three voter registration drives were conducted in August and September. The first at Sam's Club in Town Square Mall followed by what has become an annual event at the Oakdale Mall. A new outreach took us to Deposit where an information program was given and registrations were completed in the hospitality room of HUD'S housing unit.

A highlight of our activities was the Mayoral debate in October among Binghamton candidates. Co-sponsored with the Broome County Chamber of Commerce, the debate hosted current Mayor Matthew Ryan and challengers Richard David and Douglas Walter Drazen.

We were represented at the Naturalization Ceremonies on February 5 and April 9 by Doris Lawton and Susan Ruff. Voter registration applications and information were given to the new citizens.

~ Doris Lawton

Nominating Committee Report

We nominate the following slate of officers and directors, with our thanks to those who have agreed to serve:

For a two-year term, 2010-2012:

1 st Vice-President	Carol Oestrich
Treasurer	Alice Brooks
Directors	Anne Kalayjian Richard Paden

For a one-year term, 2010-2011:

Director	Isolde Trapper
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Nominating Committee, 2010-2011:

Chair	Linda Biemer
Members	Pat Giglio Eleanor Hamilton

Board Members continuing their terms:

President	Clare Simeone
2 nd Vice-President	Raney Colvill
Secretary	Joanne Gee
Directors	Mary Diegert Jane Park Sara Wokan

Immediately following the presentation of this report at the Annual Meeting, any voting member may make nominations from the floor provided that consent has been secured from the person(s) being nominated.

Respectfully submitted,
Nominating Committee 2009-2010,

Pat Giglio
Eleanor Hamilton
Jane Park
Sara Wokan
Anne Taft, Chair

Proposed Local Program 2009-10

The Board of Directors recommends re-adopting Local Program 2008-09 Items 1-10 below:

1. Support for a countywide centralized emergency dispatch system (911) in Broome and Tioga Counties, with the cost assumed by each county
2. Support of the Councils of Governments as forums for communication and cooperation in Broome and Tioga Counties
3. Support of a consolidated approach to water and wastewater planning in Broome and Tioga Counties
4. Support of reassessment at full value of all properties in Broome and Tioga Counties in order to achieve more equitable distribution of taxes
5. Support full-scale separation and recycling in Broome and Tioga Counties
6. Support of equitable apportionment of the Broome and Tioga County Legislatures
7. Support of an elected executive for Broome County
8. Support for adequate operating expenses and facilities by Broome and Tioga County governments to assure effective operation of the Broome and Tioga County Boards of Elections
9. Support improved public transport in Broome and Tioga Counties
10. Support consolidation of local government services and local governments in Broome and Tioga Counties, provided that a valid feasibility study determines the level of services will remain the same or be improved and is cost effective. It is essential that all aspects of the process are well publicized and that citizen participation is encouraged.

~Anne Taft

Proposed 2010 – 2011 Budget: Notes on Material Changes in the Budget

Income

A. Dues: Income has been calculated based on current membership numbers which are lower than the prior year's. An increase in dues may need to be considered as currently our dues do not cover the total dues imposed by the State and National Leagues.

B. Contributions – Members: This income category includes in-kind contributions made by our members. Additionally, many of our members generously include a contribution when paying their membership dues. The budgeted number was decreased to correspond with the decrease in number of members.

B. Contributions – Finance Drive: Revenues from our annual finance drive have been lower in the past few years as our list of potential contributors has decreased.

C. Other - Product Sales: This money comes from selling our League products and sales have been lower in the past few years.

C. Other – Election Night Reporting: The League should receive increased revenue this year from both primary and general election night reporting.

D. LWVBTC Reserves: This is the amount which will be necessary to withdraw from our certificates of deposit if projected income and expenses realized are equal to budgeted amounts. The amount has decreased from the prior year due to a decrease in budgeted expenses.

E. Education Foundation, Inc.: This revenue source can be accessed to pay for our Educational Expenses and a portion of our Financial Support for the National and New York State Leagues. The decrease is a result of a decrease in budgeted National and State dues.

Expenses

B. Administrative Committees – Public Relations: The use of alternate methods of advertising has decreased the costs for publicizing our events.

C. National and State Convention: The convention next year will be in New York; we have budgeted a slight in-

crease in the costs of attending this convention over what we experienced two years ago.

D. National and State PMP: Dues were calculated based on the current number of members. State and National PMP bills are based on membership as of February 1st and we had a slightly lower membership count in 2010 than we did in 2009. State dues were assumed to remain at \$18 per individual. We budgeted a slight increase in National dues from the current \$29.20 per individual to \$30.00.

E. The *Broome-Tioga Voter* – Printing: In the past few years a less expensive printer has been used for publishing this newsletter.

With many thanks to the Budget Committee members: Alice Brooks, Mary Diegert, Joanne Gee and Clare Simeone for giving their time and effort to this project.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Giglio

“THEY REPRESENT YOU” BROCHURES

The 2010 edition of “They Represent You” brochures with contact information for local office holders are being distributed (2,000 copies for Broome and 1,200 for Tioga). Thanks to Jane Park and Jane Ebert for compiling the information and to the several members who helped distribute them to libraries, schools, government offices, and community organizations.

PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010 - 2011

		2008-2009	2009-2010	Proposed
		<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Budget</u>
INCOME:				
A.	Dues	\$ 5,115	\$ 5,600	\$ 5,200
B.	Contributions			
	1. Members	1,138	1,500	1,200
	2. Finance Drive	880	1,000	900
C.	Other			
	1. Bank Interest - Checking Account	-	-	-
	2. Product Sales	46	75	50
	3. Election Night Reporting	1,470	1,100	1,200
	4. Miscellaneous	262	300	300
D.	LWVBTC Reserves	850	1,035	642
E.	Education Foundation, Inc.	1,667	2,930	2,736
TOTAL INCOME		\$ 11,428	\$ 13,540	\$ 12,228

EXPENSES:

A.	Operating Costs			
	1. General Supplies	\$ 125	\$ 100	\$ 100
	2. Duplication	43	50	50
	3. Telephone	449	450	450
	4. Postage	45	50	50
	5. P. O. Box	94	95	100
	6. Audit	100	100	100
	7. Meeting Room Expense	150	150	150
	8. Annual Dinner	127	150	150
	Total Operating Expenses	1,133	1,145	1,150
B.	Board and Administrative Committees			
	1. President	-	50	30
	2. Board Tools & Expenses	4	75	75
	3. Administrative Committees			
	a. Finance Drive	163	150	150
	b. Products	7	100	100
	c. Membership	95	125	100
	d. Public Relations	5	150	100
	e. Web Site	278	275	280
	Total Board & Administrative Committees	552	925	835

C.	Delegates			
1.	National Convention	-	2,250	-
2.	State Convention	1,826	-	2,000
3.	State Training	-	-	-
4.	Status of Women Council	104	105	105
	Total Delegates	1,930	2,355	2,105
D.	Financial Support for the League			
1.	National PMP	3,129	3,314	2,930
2.	State PMP	2,034	2,166	1,773
3.	Additional League Support	100	150	150
	Total Support for League	5,263	5,630	4,853
E.	<i>The Broome-Tioga Voter</i>			
1.	Supplies	17	50	50
2.	Postage	450	500	500
3.	Printing	576	1,000	750
	Total Broome-Tioga Voter	1,043	1,550	1,300
F.	Educational Activities			
1.	Program	367	750	750
2.	Voter Service			
a.	State Voter Guide	524	350	350
b.	Local Government Guides	257	260	260
c.	Other	56	100	100
3.	Other Educational Activities	-	100	100
	Total Educational Activities	1,204	1,560	1,560
G.	Position Support			
1.	Brochure Printing and Distribution	213	225	225
2.	Action Activities	-	-	50
	Total Position Support	213	225	275
H.	Legislative Breakfast	123	150	150
	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 11,461	\$ 13,540	\$ 12,228

The Broome-Tioga Voter

The League of Women Voters of Broome & Tioga Counties
P.O. Box 944
Vestal, NY 13851-0944
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Calendar

Tues. Apr. 27 "School Board Elections" Program
Tues. May 11 Annual Meeting - Ramada (Regency) Hotel

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