



The Broome-Tioga Voter

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

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52nd New York State Senatorial Seat Debate

Thomas Libous, NYS Senator
John Orzel, Democratic Candidate

BCC Little Theater

September 26 7pm-8:30pm

Sponsored by LWVBTC and the
BCC Political Science Faculty



Be A Part of the Action

VOTE!

November 2nd General Election

Elections 2010– Time to Become an Informed Voter

According to League standards it is not enough to vote; one needs to become an informed voter. The media may present us with slogans and images of the candidates, but we need to find a way to get behind this and go to the substance of the campaign. Here are some basic steps to achieve this.

DECIDE WHAT YOU ARE LOOKING FOR IN A CANDIDATE. What are this candidate's positions on issues that are most important to you? Some NY State issues come to mind: Redistricting, public authorities, the NY State budget, campaign financing, gas drilling.

Does this candidate have the leadership qualities you are looking for: intelligence, honesty, ability to communicate effectively?

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE CANDIDATE. The following websites will help: political parties sites, League websites – National, State, and Local - and also, the State League's *Voter Guide II* brochure.

For incumbents, you can check their voting records on issues that you consider important. The Project Sunlight website, www.sunlightny.com, contains this information.

LEARN ABOUT LEADERSHIP QUALITIES. How do you know if someone will be honest, able to act appropriately when under pressure, able to work well with other officials to get things accomplished?

Look at the candidate's background and his/her experience. Observe his or her campaigns.

Does he or she accept speaking engagements before different groups – even those that might not be sympathetic? Does she or he accept invitations to debate, or instead choose campaign media events instead of answering serious questions?

LEARN ABOUT ENDORSEMENTS. What interest groups and organizations give their stamp of approval, for example, Sierra Club or the NRA? Find out what the group stands for at their website.

LOOK INTO CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS. How does the candidate fund his/her campaign? Does the candidate use his or her own money, get money from a few wealthy donors, or does the candidate get money from many small contributors or Political Action Committees?

How might some of the contributions affect the candidate if elected?

SEE THROUGH DISTORTION TACTICS. Name calling and appeals to prejudice, attacks on an opponent based on personal characteristics that will not affect performance in office, does the candidate employ these?

Watch for catchwords – “un - American,” “liberal,” etc. Watch for passing the blame. Watch for a tendency to evade issues.

Take the time to sort it all out . Your choice will become clearer.

~ Clare Simeone

Reminder: Women of Achievement Dinner

The Status of Women Council's annual Women of Achievement Dinner will be held on Wednesday, November 3rd, at the McKinley in Endicott. The League's very deserving honoree this year is Jane Park, who has been a very active member for several years and has recently volunteered to be our spokesperson for the newly formed LWVNYS Redistricting Study.

The evening will begin with a social hour and cash bar at 6:00 p.m., followed by dinner at 7:00 p.m. The entree selections are (1) chicken Marsala, (2) tilapia, and (3) vegetarian plate.

Reservation deadline is October 22. The price is \$30.00. Reservations may be made by sending a check payable to Eva Anderson, 345 Trim Street, Kirkwood, NY 13795. (Please note your entree choice on the memo line of the check.) If you have questions, you may contact me at daveva345@juno.com or phone 775-2325.

This is not only an evening to honor Jane, but also an evening of fun, entertainment, and the good company of League members, as well as members of other organizations.

~ Eva Anderson, Council Delegate

Laura House Memorial

It has come to the Board's attention that some members, who knew Laura House and her contributions to the League, want to make a donation to a LWV Memorial in her honor. Anyone interested in doing so, is asked to send a donation to our Treasurer, Alice Brooks. After we hear from all who are interested and received the donations, the Board will be able to better decide what the nature of the memorial will be.

Send the donation to:

Alice Brooks

305 African Road

Vestal, NY 13850-2722

~Clare Simone, President

Voter Services Report

We're entering our busy season for Voter Services. Our attempts to register voters at the various festivals and fairs this summer failed due to fees required by the various sponsors (\$100-\$200 per event).

Thank you to all who volunteered for the August 7th Voter Registration Drive at Sam's Club, Town Square Mall! We registered four new voters, registered seven others, and provided four absentee ballot applications.

We also distributed Voter Registration information at the New Citizenship Ceremony to over 55 new citizens July 23rd.

We have received and distributed the new issue of Voter Guide 1. The Voter Guides are available on-line at the State League's website. We have sent or delivered Guides to all area high schools, many libraries, and governmental offices.

Members of the Voter Services Committee met with Doug Garnar and other interested groups on September 8th to plan and organize a calendar for political forums and debates for the fall. We will to host/facilitate/moderate a debate in October.

Respectfully submitted,

~ Sara Wokan

Laura House, In Memoriam

Laura House was my second friend in Endicott when I came with my husband, Jim to Endicott in 1952. Endicott was his home town. Laura and I met at a League of Women Voters meeting, of course. In the winter of 1953, Laura and I were sent as delegates to a League Legislative Conference in Albany. We rode the train (yes, there was a train in those days) to Albany and back, six hours each way. We had to become close friends, because there is something about such a long train ride that brings out many details of one's life. Needless to say, we were ecstatic to be free of home responsibilities.

We were also sent as delegates to a LWV National Convention in Minneapolis-St. Paul a few years later. Again, we were happy for the stimulation of a National Convention with women of similar interests..

Laura had many talents: to mention a few, Cub Scout Den Mother, PTA President LWV, Local President, State Board member, fine viola player and a founder of the Binghamton Community Orchestra, twenty years in the Binghamton University Office of Community Relations, interim director for part of that time.

Laura's death, August 14, 2010, in Wolfeboro, NH, her summer home, was the culmination of a long and rewarding friendship for me and many others in our community. She will be greatly missed.

~ Jean Gow



LWV Broome and Tioga Counties
Celebrate 90 years of the LWVUS as we
welcome new members to our League.

**Join us for a Brunch
At the Endicott Visitor's Center
300 Lincoln Ave. Endicott
December 4th, 2010 at 10 AM**

52nd New York State Senatorial Seat Debate

A 52nd NYS Senatorial Seat debate is scheduled for October 26th at the BCC Little Theater from 7pm-8:30pm. NYS Senator Libous will debate Democratic Party candidate John Orzel. The debate is co-sponsored by BCC Political Science Faculty. If you have questions or would like to volunteer please call me at 785-6703.

~Sara Wokan

A warm welcome to our new member:
Dona Murray from Endwell.

~ Eva Anderson, Membership

Gas Drilling Program Report

The new program year had a good start on Tuesday, September 28th, when Tom Wilber spoke on "The Dynamics of the Marcellus Gas Play from a Reporter's Perspective." For several years Mr. Wilber covered issues related to natural gas drilling for the *Press & Sun-Bulletin* and is now writing a book on the subject. About sixty persons, many of them active members of environmental groups, attended the program and contributed to a lively discussion.

Mr. Wilber contrasted the approach of Pennsylvania to natural gas drilling with that of New York State. Because of Pennsylvania's long history with extraction industries, both coal and petroleum, regulators there were more inclined to allow horizontal gas drilling to proceed quickly and now are trying to cope with the ensuing problems. Although New York has had some experience with vertical drilling in counties west of Broome, major extraction development has not yet gained a foothold here. As a result, we are in a phase now when regulators are attempting to foresee problems, hoping to have infrastructure in place to deal with problems before permits are issued.

Despite the fact that natural gas prices are currently very low, the industry has determined that a healthy profit can be made. Therefore, these companies will continue to be highly interested in drilling the Marcellus. Whenever questions are raised now about potential problems, industry representatives respond by saying that they are already highly regulated, but without additional oversight, this is not true. Mr.



The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan, grassroots political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

**Men and women of voting age
are welcome to join.**

Be Part of the Action – Join Today!

Membership Application

___ Individual membership \$50/yr.

___ Household membership \$75/yr. (2 people)

___ Student membership \$20/yr.

___ Send me information about the League.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

***Make checks payable to LWVBTC and mail with
this coupon to LWVBTC, PO Box 944, Vestal,
NY 13851-0944.***

Wilber believes that horizontal gas drilling will eventually be allowed in New York State and that we need to keep pressure on regulatory agencies to be ready to deal with the industry.

For such an exciting and timely program, we thank Raney Colvill, our program chair; Mary Johnson, who arranged for Tom Wilber's presentation; Stanley Scobie, who introduced Mr. Wilber; Carol Oestrich, who takes care of our audio-visual equipment; and Janet Gill, who provides refreshments at program meetings

~Alice Brooks

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Calendar

October 12	LWVBTC Board Meeting
October 26	Libous-Orzel Debate
November 2	General Election
November 3	Women Of Achievement Dinner
November 9	LWVBTC Board Meeting
December 4	LWV 90th Anniversary Celebration

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