



# The Broome-Tioga Voter

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

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September Program Meeting

Tuesday, September 28, 2010

**"The Dynamics of the Marcellus Gas Play**

**Past, Present and Future -**


**From a Reporter's Perspective"**

by


Tom Wilber

7:00 p.m. Refreshments 7:30 p.m. Program


Vestal Public Library, Vestal Parkway E., Vestal, NY



County Sheriff's  
Election Debate




Health Reform




NYS Consolidation  
Consensus Part II


**COMING  
HOT TOPICS**



LWV 90th Anniversary  
Celebration



Redistricting



Legislative Breakfast

## New Beginnings

January, the first month of the year, has the unique position of ushering in a new year. September, however, has its share of new beginnings, too.

One of the new beginnings for the League is setting up a program of meetings which will cover the issues most pertinent to our members and the involved public of Broome and Tioga Counties. Our hard-working board members have been busy putting a list together, but find that firm dates may not be available for some of them yet.

The board, in cooperation with the LWVUS' decision to study "The Role of the Federal Government in Public Education," has taken on this study. At this point the LWVUS is in the process of forming a National Committee who will prepare the study materials for the Leagues, develop pertinent consensus questions, and decide on the results of the reports submitted.

Without a thorough study and consensus, the National League cannot lobby for this issue on education until we have a National position on it. It is difficult to predict when all this work will be completed, particularly since it is a two year study. Carol Oestrich has volunteered to chair our local committee. She invites anyone, who may be interested in studying this issue, to please join them. When sufficient information has been gathered, it will be shared with our League even though the National Study may not be completed. The date of this topic will be tentative until further notice.

The LWVNYS has requested that redistricting be studied on the state level. The study of this crucial issue may help us stop legislators from choosing their voters. Instead, we will have voters choosing the candidate of their choice. Local Leagues are asked to organize a community forum on the issue of redistricting, and Jane Park has decided to be our point person for this program. Again we are waiting on study materials, power points or DVDs to help study this issue. Jane is looking for volunteers to form a small committee of strong workers and will keep us posted on their progress. A fall tentative date is scheduled for a forum.

Another project which needs volunteers is Election

Night Reporting. This project will take up two and one-half hours of your time. We need people to answer phone calls from all open polling places on Primary Election Night ( September 14) and General Election Night (November 3). Volunteers are asked to come at 8:30 pm to the Broome County Office Building and stay until all the polling places, listed on the forms they are given, have called, but no one stays after 10:00 pm. If we had enough volunteers, a person could come on Primary Election Night and someone else could answer that phone on General Election Night. Many of our former volunteers are no longer able to do this service due to illness, inability to drive at night, and other reasons, so we are asking newer members to take their places. Joanne Gee, coordinator of this service with the Board of Elections, will gladly fill you in on what you will be asked to do. Bring a friend, not necessarily a League member, along with you!

I am very proud of our dedicated and busy board members, some of whom have assumed 2, 3 or more duties. I know there are some equally dedicated members out there.

Carol Oestrich - coestrich@aol.com - 797-0026

Jane Park – janepark@stny.rr.com - 748-4192

Joanne Gee –raygee@echoes.net - 775-4856

~ Clare Simeone, President

### September Program

September 28, 2010

Vestal Library Meeting room: 7 p.m.

The September presentation will be: "The Dynamics of the Marcellus Gas Play-Past, Present and Future-From a Reporter's Perspective." Tom Wilber, our speaker, was a newspaper reporter for 20 years and covered the Marcellus rush for the Press & Sun-Bulletin. He is now working on a book on the subject.

~ Raney Colvill, Programs

## December Brunch Program

Please join us for a "Celebration of the LWV 90th Anniversary," possibly including a viewing of a new anniversary DVD. We will also be welcoming our new members while enjoying a potluck brunch. The event will be held at the Endicott Visitor's Center on December 4th.

NEEDED: Bakers, fixers, and those willing to bring something to share. Since this is a special celebration, we would like to have some special food. If you would be willing to fix quiches or a special dish for brunch such as marinated shrimp or sweet bread or muffins to share, please e-mail Raney Colvill at: lcolvill@stny.rr.com. . Thank you.

~ Raney Colvill

### MEMBER NEWS

Great news! During the month of June we added 5 new members to our League:

Helen Beckerhoff, of Norfolk, NY, coming to us through the National League,

Melissa Bishop of Deposit coming to us through the State League,

Miriam Bloom of New York City also coming to us through the State League,

Ione Garing of Kirkwood, who is the mother of our longtime member Sue Garing,

Richard Moench of Binghamton also coming to us through the National League, and

A sincere welcome to Mary Jane Nash of Endwell.

A warm welcome to all. We hope that they will become active members and enjoy all of the friendships and experiences the League of Women Voters of Broome & Tioga Counties has to offer.

We extend our sympathy to the family and friends of Laura House, who died on August 14. Laura has been an active member of the League for over 50 years.

~ Eva Anderson, Membership

## Thank you, LWVBTC!

Dear Clare,

On behalf of the LWVNYS, I would like to thank you and the Broome/Tioga League for your recent contribution of \$100.00. Your contribution will help us continue the work we have commenced over the past year.

We have accomplished the following: We reorganized our website and created a Facebook page. The state board plans to approve of a Director of Technology at the state level to review the LWVNYS use of technology, review its use by local Leagues and draft and implement a technology plan for the next 2 years. We will continue our issue work with updates on Impact on Issues and posting additional materials on our website.

This fall Albany County will test a social networking project called "League Works" to attract younger working members to the League.

State Board, Voter Service Director, Maggie Moerhinger has negotiated for the League to co-sponsor statewide candidate debates with PBS stations of New York. Under the direction of Laura Altschuler of the NYC League, the two Leagues will co-sponsor a debate for the Democratic candidates for Attorney General with WABC.

We have also partnered with the NYS Bar Association to produce 5 specialized Voter Guides.

I am very grateful to all our members and local Leagues for both the financial support and volunteer time they have given to the State League. As a result, we will end this fiscal year in the black, notwithstanding the unbudgeted expense of a new computer server for the office. I look forward to our continued collaborative effort as we move on into the new fiscal year.

Betsey B. Swan

## 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 LWNYS 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](mailto: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

## Local Consolidation Study

The State League board approved the results from the statewide study on local consolidation and shared services at the July meeting. Check out the full position on the League's website.

*The League of Women Voters of New York State (League) supports the efficient and effective operation of government. Consolidation of government units and the sharing of major governmental services may be a way of promoting the efficient and effective operation of government. In achieving this goal, the League supports a cooperative and transparent process, in which citizens have sufficient and timely information with which to make informed decisions about proposed actions, and well-defined channels for citizen input and review.*

- from July 2010 "State News" LWNYS via Dick Paden

## Jane Park:

### 2010 Woman of Achievement

The League of Women Voters of Broome & Tioga Counties is proud to honor Jane Park as our 2010 Woman of Achievement. Jane will be among the outstanding women honored at the annual Women of Achievement Dinner sponsored by the Broome County Status of Women Council to be held on November 3.

Jane has been a member of the LWV for nine years. During all of this time she has been a very active member participating in some of our most important efforts to encourage informed active participation in government and increase understanding of major public policy issues. She has been an editor of our newsletter; was a leader of the study to select the new voting machines; gathered information, produced and distributed our local publication titled "They Represent You"; and enthusiastically helped with many other local efforts of the LWV.

Although at this time most of her efforts are associated with the League, she is presently co-chair of the YWCA's capital campaign. In the past she has held leadership positions in First Presbyterian Church of Endicott, Susquehanna Valley Presbytery, and Literacy Volunteers. Her work with the YWCA, Girl Scouts, Junior League and United Way earned her recognition by the Status of Women Council in 1979.

Jane has an impressive and varied work background. She has been employed as interim executive director of the YWCA, worked as the Regional Coordinator for the Governor's Office for Voluntary Service, and was Public Relations/Fund Development director for Indian Hills Girl Scout Council. She also did free lance writing, training and consulting on strengthening volunteer programs and voluntary organizations. During this time her book "Meaning Well Is Not Enough" was published.

Jane received a BA from the College of Wooster, and a Master of Social Work from the University of Pittsburgh. Her family consists of a husband, two sons and one grandson. She enjoys playing piano (especially accompanying soloists and groups), sail boating, and reading.

~ Eva Anderson

## Introduction To Redistricting

When the 2010 census figures are released early in 2011, New York State will begin its once-a-decade process of reconfiguring election districts for state and Congressional representatives.

### Current System

The legislature delegates initial responsibility for drafting advisory maps to the Legislative Task Force on Demographic Research and Reapportionment (LATFOR). The Task Force consists of six members: one legislator and one non-legislator appointed by the Temporary President of the Senate, one legislator and one non-legislator appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly, and one legislator appointed by each of the Senate and Assembly minority leaders. LATFOR's recommendations are not binding on the legislature. However, they are heavily influenced by the preferences of the legislative leadership.

It is not hard to see why this system is widely perceived as guaranteeing gerrymandering. The result is – or at least seems to be -- that incumbents are picking their voters rather than the other way around.

### Toward a more independent process

Good government groups including LWVNYS have begun their once-a-decade efforts to promote the creation of an independent redistricting commission as an essential first step in improving the fairness of the entire process.

Legislation currently in process and supported by the League would replace LATFOR with a citizen apportionment commission and an apportionment nominations committee as follows:

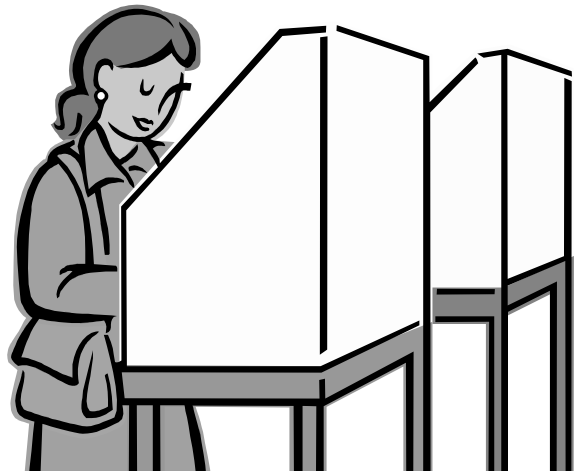
- The nominations committee would have eight members (one each appointed by the presiding judge of the Court of Appeals, Attorney General, State Comptroller, Governor, Temporary President of the Senate, Speaker of the Assembly, Senate minority leader, and Assembly minority leader).
- Nominations committee members could not serve if they currently hold or, in the past two years, have held elective or public office, a position as a lobbyist, a political party position or are a relative or spouse of an elected public offi-

cial.

- The nominations committee would develop a list of forty persons who are vetted for conflicts of interest such as those areas mentioned above, and the resulting pool will consist of 15 enrolled Democrats, 15 enrolled Republicans, 10 persons not enrolled as Democrats or Republicans. Nominees will also be selected to represent the geographic, racial, ethnic and gender diversity of the state.
- The actual apportionment commission would be selected from the members of the nominations pool, with each legislative leader (majority and minority) appointing two members. These eight members would then appoint three additional members, one of whom will serve as chair. No more than four members of the apportionment commission would be enrolled in the same political party, and the commission membership will reflect the diversity of the state as described above.

Whew! This is quite a grueling process just to get to a relatively more independent redistricting commission. No one ever said it would be easy! Once in place, of course, the commission faces many daunting challenges in actually drawing district lines. We will be hearing much more about the entire process as it unfolds. Stay tuned.

~ Jane Park



# The Broome-Tioga Voter

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Calendar	
September 7	Board of Directors meeting at the Endicott Library
September 14	Primary Election
September 28	Program Meeting - Gas Drilling
November 2	General Election
November 3	Women Of Achievement Dinner

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