



League of Women Voters of Chemung
County, Inc. Newsletter
March , 2010

Local LWV News and Notes:

Equal Pay Gap Day - April 20th

Join us and bring your friends to "Equal Pay Gap Day" at Steele Memorial Library auditorium from 12pm - 2pm, with the main program at 12:30pm. Let's share our experiences and thoughts on a the continuing issue of inequalities in pay based on gender. We'll also up have an update on wage discrepancies, an update fact sheet, and welcome elected public officials to talk about their thoughts on the issue and take questions.

Chili and bread and beverage will be available. Please call me at 737-6182 or email me at <maryohungerford@gmail.com> if you plan to bring cookies or fruit or another snack. We also appreciate help with set up and clean up.

The League is co-sponsoring this event with the American Association of University Women.



News & Notes: National and State Front -

1. The Health Care bill recently passed, not without partisan rancor and unbelievable backlash from opponents. Many remembered Sen. Ted Kennedy, and the 50 year fight he engaged in to make health care reform a reality. The LWV at the national and State levels celebrates the passage of this Bill.! Thank you to those of you who contacted your representatives, wrote letters to newspapers, and otherwise supported the passage of this bill.

2. NYSLWV New:

State Board Report—News From Your President March 2010

Page | 1

NEWS FROM Betsey Swan, NYS President

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ALBANY ON THE RECORD

New Yorkers are fed up! Scandals have driven from office Governor Spitzer, Comptroller Hevesi, Senate Majority Leader Bruno and a growing number of state legislators. Some elected officials – including Governor Paterson – are currently under investigation. Many of these abuses of power were rooted in the absence of effective and independent ethics and fiscal watchdogs, tough ethics laws and adequate transparency in government. On **May 5, 2010**, the League will co-sponsor Albany on the Record, an educational event in which it will bring citizens to Albany to hear the positions of the state's leading political figures on how they will reform Albany. The League is organizing busses to this event from around the state. Travel is free, and lunch will be provided. Bus transportation will also be provided from Crossgates Mall for those who wish to drive to Albany.

We need your help to make this event a success. Please send notice of the event and of free transportation to your members, community groups, and the press. It is imperative that interested individuals register as soon as possible because the bus routes will be determined by interest and space at the event is limited. Sign up on the State League website, www.lwny.org, or call the State Office at 465-4162 to make a reservation. Urge your friends and family to join you.

State Board Report---Issues & Advocacy News March 2010

Legislative ISSUES SPECIALIST

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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

While the rest of the world might have had something significant going on in their personal lives during the month of March, healthcare reform on the national level has now passed, March Madness goes on in the world of sports, but in the NYS legislature we have total stagnation. Late in February, Hiram Monserrate was expelled by his fellow Senators and a special election was set for March 16th.

Because the democrats have a slim majority (32/30) and Mr. Monserrate was the 32nd vote, his expulsion has left the democrats without a majority vote. Without a 32nd vote, the democrats in the state Senate have been unable to vote on any legislation, therefore NOTHING has happened. The League's election reform legislation, which passed the Assembly in January, has been on third reading in the Senate since early February. The

no-excuse absentee ballot bill, as well as other changes to the election law, have remained on third reading in the Senate, but have not passed. Once the March 16th election to replace Mr. Monserrate was held, Assemblyman Jose Peralta, now Senator Peralta was seated and therefore the democrats had their 32nd vote.

One significant League priority which we have been advocating for 17 years did become law last week when the Governor signed the Family Health Care Decision Act. This legislation would allow the family of a patient who did not have a health care proxy to express what that patient would want for end of life care. This was a significant lobbying victory for the League.

Budget negotiations are being done behind closed doors by the same old “three men in a room” and it would appear that there will be no open conference committees this session. In an election year when only cuts are being done, no leader wants his members exposed to cameras talking about cuts to education and healthcare. This past Monday, March 22nd, ten days before the fiscal year ends and the budget is due, the Senate passed its one house budget resolution containing several cuts to education and healthcare to close the more than 9 billion dollar budget deficit for this year. Yesterday, March 24th, the Assembly was in session late into the evening passing their one house budget bill which does not have as severe cuts to education and healthcare as does the Senate version. It does contain some of the recommendations made by Lt. Governor Richard Ravitch. Negotiations will continue, perhaps through the weekend to resolve differences between the legislature and the Governor; however, it is quite certain the New York will not have an on-time budget this year. The League will continue to monitor the activity OR inactivity as we move

LWVCC Board Members:

Vice President - Barb Luther - <bluther@stny.rr.com> 734-1321
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Voter Service Director and Membership -
Maureen Pugliese - <mapugliese@netzero.com> 734-4173
President - Mary Hungerford, see address and phone below

Members and friends of the League, this is your newsletter. Send in your opinions or items, that you want in the newsletter by the end of last Friday of the month, 6 pm. Personal announcements are welcome so that we keep in touch with each other!.

Email your items or any questions or comments you have to:
<maryohungerford@gmail.com> or snail mail to: Mary Hungerford - 1727 Genesee Rd., Elmira NY 14905 Phone: 737-6182

LWV Mission Statement: The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages the informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Diversity Policy: The LWV, in both its values and practices affirms its belief and commitments to diversity and pluralism, which means that there shall be no barriers to participation in any activity of the LWV on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin or disability.