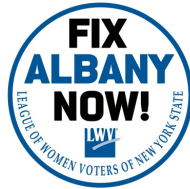




The LOCAL VOTER
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
SYRACUSE METROPOLITAN AREA

APRIL 2010

Syracuse Metro LWV
 PO Box 11866
 Syracuse NY 13218
 (507 Plum St -2nd Fl. Syr. 13204)
 Phone: (315) 448-7199
 Fax: (315) 448-7299
 Email: league@lwvsyr.org
 Web Sites:
 Local: www.lwvsyr.org
 State: www.lwvny.org
 National: www.lwv.org



Come Demand Legislators Take Action for Reform
"Albany On the Record"
May 5, 2010
11:00 am - 4:00 pm
Albany, New York

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.

Come join citizens from across the state to hear from the state's leading political figures on how they will reform Albany.

Buses (no charge) will be provided if minimum number of people reserve

Lunch will be provided! Time after to lobby your legislator, if you wish!

SIGN UP TO ATTEND NOW!

Name _____ Phone _____

Address, City ZIP _____

Email _____

_____ Bus from Syracuse

_____ I will provide my own transportation (Transportation from Crossgates Mall, Albany will be available to avoid parking downtown).

Phone or email your reservation to:

LWVNYS, 62 Grand St. Albany, 12207
 (518)465-4162 — (518)465-0812 (fax)
 May5@lwvny.org

or

LWVSYR, PO Box 11866 Syracuse 13218
 (315)448-7199
 league@lwvsyr.org

DEADLINE TO RESPOND—APRIL 23

The event has been organized by LWVNY, NYPIRG, Common Cause & Citizens Union

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Tuesday, April 20th
Fair Pay Summit & Advocacy Day
- Tuesday, May 4th
Study Consensus Meeting
- Wednesday, May 5th
"Albany On the Record"
- May 14—16
LWVNYS Spring Fling
- June 11—15
LWVUS Convention
- Thursday, June 17th
LWVSYR Annual Meeting

To receive your *Local Voter* by email, please contact us at league@lwvsyr.org. You will help the environment as well as save us printing and postage costs.
 Thank You!

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STAYING INFORMED ON THE ISSUES AND EVENTS

- Local: www.lwvsyr.org
- State: www.lwvny.org
- National: www.lwv.org



BOARD NOTES

MEMBERSHIP NOTES
WELCOME NEW MEMBER
C. BETH HANSEN

CONSENSUS MEETING
**GOVERNMENT MODERNIZATION/
SHARED SERVICES**
May 4, 2010—7 PM
LWVSYR OFFICE
UNITY MUTUAL
507 PLUM ST (FRANKLIN SQUARE)
SYRACUSE 13204

All League members are invited to participate in the consensus process. The more participation the better prepared we will be on how our membership feels about the issue as we strive to make local government more efficient.

NATURALIZATION CEREMONIES 2010 SCHEDULE

We need volunteers for the following dates:

April 22 - 2 pm	County Court House, Room 400
August 19 - 11 am	Federal Building, Courtroom 1
Sept. 16 - 11 am	Federal Building, Court Room 1
Sept. 16 - 2 pm	County Court House, Room 400
Oct. 14 - 11 am	Federal Building Courtroom 1



If you have not participated in this League activity in the past, you will find it a very rewarding and moving experience. Please contact Voter Service Director Susan Bush to volunteer. Email: sjbushywca@cnymail.com.

MARCH VILLAGE ELECTIONS

Many villages in Onondaga County held elections on March 16th. Please make the following changes to your *Who's Who, A Guide to Your Elected Officials*.

Camillus Mayor—Michael Montero

Marcellus Mayor—John Curtin

Officers

Co-President...	Rae Rohfeld
Co-President...	Open
Vice-President...	Open
Secretary...	Karen Smith
Treasurer....	Donald MacLaughlin

Directors

Advocacy...	Mary Clare Hatch-Pennello
Fund-Raising...	Open
Membership...	Mary Lou Green
Program....	Open
Publications...	Joan Johnson
Public Relations...	Lenore Rapalski
Voter Service...	Susan Bush

Off-Board Positions

Budget Director....	Rhonda Hungerford
Nominating Committee.....	Roberta Millert
	Joan Durant
	Nina Tamrowski
	Mary Lou Green
	Susan Bush
Optical Scan Liaison....	Lenore Rapalski
Technical Support...	Roberta Millert

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy. For more information please call the League office at (315) 448-7199 or e-mail to league@lwvsyr.org

Diversity Statement

The Syracuse Metropolitan League of Women Voters is committed to diversity and pluralism, which means there shall be no barriers to participation in any League activity on the basis of age, race, ethnicity, gender, disability, sexual orientation, religion, economic status, or national origin.

Please let us know your email address.

- It is the most efficient way to communicate
- You will be notified of upcoming local events
- LWV National & State Action Alerts

Your e-mail address will not be shared or sold. Please respond to league@lwvsyr.org

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Past Achievements, Future Work

We've just come down from the high created by our 90th celebration of the League and of the 19th amendment. On March 26th, a lovely, clear day, 100 of us gathered atop the Renaissance Hotel to talk about some of what's been accomplished during these 90 years. County Executive Joanne Mahoney opened our program with recollections of growing up in a political family and always wanting to be in public service. She told stories of some of her campaign experiences, reminding us that women can run for office and win, but they still hear sexist comments and experience running for office differently from men. After lunch, former Family Court Judge and League member, Minna Buck, introduced our keynote speaker, Women's Hall of Fame honoree, Karen DeCrow. She spoke of Ms. DeCrow's long experience as a journalist, civil liberties attorney, founder of many social activist organizations, and former president of the National Organization for Women. Ms. DeCrow shared her experiences in the course of her work to increase opportunities for everyone. She stressed how important voting had always been to her and the efforts she had made to be sure she, and everyone she talked to, voted. Her talk was informative, thoughtful, and humorous. Both she and Ms. Mahoney emphasized the importance of women who had come before and blazed new trails. Karen DeCrow was one of those women for Joanne Mahoney, and it was great to see and hear the connection. In closing the program, Don MacLaughlin shared with everyone the proclamation that Senator David Valesky and his State Senate colleagues had prepared in our honor, along with the proclamation that Assemblyman William Magnarelli and State Assembly members sent for us.

When we haven't been celebrating our ninety years of work, we've been studying ways of modernizing state and local government. While the methods are not altogether new, the State has taken a new interest in consolidating, sharing, and otherwise improving government services. Where localities have voted on such proposals, it has not been an easy decision. Most recently we've seen the process in Seneca Falls, where voters had to decide whether to abolish the village and have it become part of the town. How would you have voted on this issue? Would you have found it difficult to make a choice? Through its study, the League is hoping to provide criteria to help citizens determine how to vote in such decisions. Read the other parts of this newsletter, and earlier issues, where this topic is discussed and other references are provided. Then come to the League's consensus meeting to participate in the discussion on Tuesday, May 4 at 7:00 at the League's office at Unity Mutual on the 2nd floor.

Rae W. Rohfeld

CALENDAR

Tuesday, April 20, LOB Albany	Fair Pay Summit & Advocacy Day
Tuesday, May 4, 7 pm, Unity Mutual 507 Plum St. 2nd Floor	Consensus Meeting on Consolidation & Shared Services Study (see pages 4 & 5)
Wednesday, May 5, 11 am—4 pm, Albany	Albany On the Record (see page 1 for details)
June 11—15, Atlanta GA	LWVUS Convention
Thursday, June 17, 2010, Maplewood Inn, Liverpool	LWVSYR Annual Dinner & Meeting (see page 6)



MILESTONES ON THE ROAD TO EQUALITY -

1872— Susan B Anthony registers and votes in Rochester NY contending that the 14th amendment gives her that right. She is arrested.

1873—At Anthony's trial the judge does not allow her to testify, dismisses the jury, rules her guilty and fines her \$100. She refuses to pay.

1888— The International Council for Women is founded and holds its first meeting in Washington DC

CONSENSUS MEETING—GOVERNMENT MODERNIZATION/SHARED SERVICES STUDY

Change is in the air, and not only because spring is here. One of the big issues facing Onondaga County now is how the sales tax revenue will be shared between the city, towns, villages and school districts. This decision will affect all of us as municipalities figure out how to deal with less sales tax revenue.

Major changes in what and how government services will be provided is occurring now. How do we sift through the facts and opinions and what will we support?

The NYS League of Women Voters is studying government modernization and shared services. The goal is to develop standards that we can apply in assessing changes to state law that would facilitate the consolidation/dissolution process and/or the expansion of shared services. And, can we reach agreement on the standards local leagues will apply in assessing proposals for consolidation/dissolution/shared services in our own area.

We have included the questions in this newsletter and we invite you to join the study committee as our League prepares to answer the consensus questions with responses “yes,” “no,” or “undecided”. Check out the LWVNY web site for background materials. Our League will reach consensus at a **7 pm meeting on May 4th (Tuesday) at the Unity Mutual Offices on Plum St in Syracuse.**

Carol Wixson, Study Chair

SECTION I

Standards for Judging State Legislation or Constitutional Amendments

What standards should the League apply when evaluating statewide legislation or constitutional amendments concerning the implementation of local government dissolution/consolidation/major shared service proposals (answer affirmatively all that you would support):

- A. Does the legislation or constitutional amendment encourage a process that [is]:**
 - 1. Cooperative and collaborative?**
 - 2. Transparent?**
 - 3. Contain well defined channels for citizen input and review?**
 - 4. Provide affected citizens with sufficient and timely information necessary to make informed decisions?**
 - 5. Other?: (add any additional process standards you support)**
- B. Does the legislation or constitutional amendment contain operational standards that, taken as a whole:**
 - 1. Promote administrative efficiency in the decision/process to dissolve, consolidate, or share services?**
 - 2. Promote fiscal efficiency in the decision/process to dissolve, consolidate, or share services?**
 - 3. Other minimum operational standards we should support when evaluating state legislation/ amendments affecting dissolution/consolidation/major shares services proposals. Attach separate page if necessary.**
- C. Possible State Funding of Government Dissolution/Consolidation/Shared Services**
 - 1. Should the state provide grants or loans to local governmental units that wish to consider dissolution/consolidation/major shared services to enable them to do all or any of the items specified below?**
 - 2. Specifically, should the grants or loans be available to:**
 - a. Conduct a feasibility study**
 - b. Implement the mechanics of dissolution/consolidation/major shared services(e.g. legal, accounting, consulting fees and costs of referenda(if any)**
 - c. Pay employee expenses related to the integration of staff, early retirement, buyouts**
 - d. Provide an incentive (thru municipal aid) to dissolve/consolidate/share services**
 - e. Other? (Please list any other costs of consolidation/dissolution/shared service, if any, that you believe should be funded by state grants, in whole or in part)**
 - 3. Should the aid consist primarily of:**
 - f. Grants or**
 - g. Loans**
 - 4. Should grants, if any, cover 100% of the costs, be limited to matching grants (ie 50%), be limited to some other percentage, or you are unsure? (please indicate the consensus, if any)**

SECTION 2

Standards for evaluating a specific local proposal for the dissolution or consolidation of a local governmental entity (county, city, town, village, district, authority) or major shared service.

A. Is the process with respect to the proposal:

1. Cooperative and collaborative
2. Transparent
3. Containing well defined channels for citizen input and review
4. Providing affected citizens with sufficient and timely information necessary to make informed decisions?:
5. Are there any additional standards you support)

Operational standards in deciding whether to support a proposal Costs/Tax Impacts

Whether or not the proposal:

1. Results in overall cost savings/positive effect on taxes in the short term
2. Results in projected cost savings/positive effect on taxes over the long term
3. Results in cost savings/positive effect on taxes for citizens of both/all entities

If cost savings for all are not possible for both/all:

4. Results in the governmental entity(s) with higher projected costs/taxes having those costs/taxes phased in over time or otherwise mitigated
5. Relies on increases in state aid to show an economic benefit from the transaction or does it stand on its own merit
6. Requires any governmental entity affected by higher costs/taxes to accept such increased costs/taxes by means of a majority vote of the governing board

Impact on Service Standards:

Whether or not the proposal:

7. Results in increased quality and/or efficiency of services
8. Results in, at a minimum, a maintenance of services
9. Results in diminution of services but ones that could be purchased more cheaply in the private sector.
10. Requires any governmental entity to accept any plan where residents would see a diminution of services by means of a majority vote of the governing board

Other Items to be evaluated

Whether or not the proposal:

11. Fairly addresses disparities in employee contracts
12. Results in increased social/economic justice
13. Results in a reduction in the number of governmental entities
14. Maintains sense of community

C. Are there any other areas of inquiry that you believe should be evaluated in any study of a dissolution/consolidation/major shared service proposal?

WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO VISIT THE LWNYS WEBSITE FOR ADDITIONAL MATERIALS AND TO CONTINUE TO ADVOCATE FOR MORE EFFICIENT, MORE REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT IN ONONDAGA COUNTY.

JOIN US ON MAY 4TH TO VOICE YOUR OPINION ON THE ISSUES

CELEBRATING 90 YEARS



*LWV Display at the Fayetteville Library -
Barbara Olum, Rae Rohfeld, Joan Johnson*

90th Anniversary Luncheon—March 26, 2010



*County Executive Joanie Mahoney
giving opening remarks*

*Speaker Karen DeCrow &
LWV Member Minna Buck*



*Luncheon guests—
Bonnie Foley, Linda Greenfield, Debra Merryweather*

MARK YOUR CALENDAR—LWVSYR ANNUAL MEETING—JUNE 17TH

We continue our 90th birthday celebration with a very special program at our annual meeting. Dr Maryanne Felter, Professor of English and Dr. Daniel Schultz, Professor of Behavioral and Social Science at Cayuga Community College, have catalogued a collection of suffrage posters from a collection found at the Howland Stone Store Museum.

The Howland Stone Store Museum, located on Route 34B in Sherwood NY., 15 miles south of Auburn is a treasure-trove of artifacts and information collected by Miss Emily Howland, an often overlooked women's rights activist. Her home became a retreat for many suffragists, including Susan B. Anthony, Anna Howard Shaw and Harriet May Mills.

The Howland Suffrage Collection may be the most impressive, if unacknowledged, collection of suffrage posters in the country and here it is in our own backyard. The Museum also holds a piece of Susan B. Anthony's birthday cake, no longer particularly appetizing, under glass!

Please join us for this very special program.

WE REMEMBER GRANNY D

“Granny D”, Doris Haddock, died at the age of 100 on March 9, 2010 in Dublin New Hampshire. Granny D, whose 3200 mile walk across the United States at the age of 89, drew thousands of activists into the movement for campaign finance reform. On her journey she made a stop in Syracuse. Members of the Syracuse League joined her at the Federal Building to meet with then Congressman Jim Walsh. Although Walsh was not in his office, we met with staff. Granny D was a force to be reckoned with as she discussed the many reasons why campaign finance reform was so important to the American democratic process.

On March 1, 2000, when she finished that walk in Washington, Granny D, told a crowd of more than 2000 cheering supporters including a dozen members of Congress- who had gathered on the Capital steps:

“This morning we began our walk among the graves of Arlington – so that those spirits, some of whom may be old friends, might join us today and that we might ask of them now, Did you, brave spirits, give your lives for a government where we might stand together as free and equal citizens, or did you give your lives so that laws might be sold to the highest bidder, turning this temple of our Fair Republic into a bawdy house where anything and everything is done for a price? We hear your answers in the wind.”

Granny D ‘s walk made her a national celebrity- yet she did not rest on her laurels but continued her activism well into her 90’s including publishing a book - “You’re Never Too Old to Raise a Little Hell.”

Here is her response to the Supreme Court’s recent decision to strike down limits on corporate abuses of the electoral process.

“People have been asking me how I feel about the recent decision by the Supreme Court to strike down some of the campaign finance reforms that I walked for and have been working on for a dozen or so years.

When I was a young woman, my husband and I were having dinner at the Dundee home of a friend, Max foster, when a young couple rushed through the door breathless to say that they had accidentally burned down Max’s guest cabin, down by the river. Max stood up from his meal. He set his napkin down. He smiled at the young couple and he said, “Thank goodness, you have done me a great favor, and you don’t even know it. We have been wanting to completely redo that old place, and now it will be a clean start. It will be better than ever the next time you come to stay.”

Well, I guess the Supreme Court has burned down our little house, but, truth be told, it was pretty drafty anyway. We had not really solved the problem of too much money in politics. Not hardly. And now we have an opportunity to start clean and build a system of reforms that really will do the trick.”

I think one of the wings of the new house will be the public financing of election campaigns, I think another wing will be a dramatic expansion of our conflict of interest and bribery laws. I think all of us, left, right and middle; will enjoy living there without the special interests stealing us blind any more. “

Excerpts for this report by John Nichols from The Nation, a weekly nonprofit periodical devoted to politics and culture.

NEWS & NOTES

ANOTHER MILESTONE ON THE ROAD TO EQUALITY



On March 9, 2010, history was made at the Onondaga Historical Association, where LWVSYR President Rae Rohfeld witnessed the signing of a book contain-

ing the signatures of all Syracuse mayors and Onondaga county executives. In the 162 year history of Syracuse mayors and the 48 year history of county executives, the event marked the first time a woman’s signature has been added to the book. Both Mayor Miner and County Executive Mahoney made history this year, the 90th Anniversary of the 19th amendment .

FAIR PAY SUMMIT & ADVOCACY DAY

Join the NYS Pay Equity Coalition at the Legislative Office Building on April 20 for action on fair pay for all. The coalition is working to pass job-title pay equity legislation in fields where women and people of color are the majority of the work- force. This is a free event and a good opportunity to learn more about this issue.

REACHING CONSENSUS—THE LWV WAY

From its inception the advocacy work of the League of Women Voters has been directed at issues on which action by a branch of government will have an impact on the lives of individuals and on our democracy. We use our advocacy voice to spur government to take action that will have a positive effect on the issues about which we care. In other words, the advocacy work of the League focuses on “making a difference” on public policymaking

In the process of discussing the issue, League members must turn the issue upside down, sideways, backwards and forwards. Because of our nature, training, upbringing, experience and hearing others’ ideas, League members will see an issue differently. In fact we cherish the fact that we bring different perspectives on issues. Because the process of coming to consensus is an amalgam of members’ thoughts, ideas and ways of looking at the facts, members attending the consensus meeting must dig deeply into the issue. Consensus questions are designed to spark a discourse about the issue akin to the discussion we would expect policymakers to have when they deliberate the issue. Consensus questions are not black and white, yes or no questions There is no right or wrong answer to a consensus question.

Consensus questions are designed to spark our brains to think about what we know about the issues and what we value about principles inherent in the particular issue. Many would say that is the challenge of participating in a consensus meeting. Other would say that is the fun of participating in a consensus meeting. But whether you see it as a challenge or fun, we hope you will participate in our **Government Modernization Consensus meeting on May 4th.**



**SYRACUSE METRO
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
PO BOX 11866
SYRACUSE NY 13218**

APRIL 2010

**Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
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Syracuse, NY
Permit no. 372**



**League of Women Voters
Membership Application**

*Democracy is not a spectator sport
It's efficient activism*

*It is a way to make your voice count
It is a way to make politics a process for the people*

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

Phone _____ **Work Phone** _____ **E-mail** _____

___ **Individual Level....\$55**

___ **Household Level*....\$80**

___ **Student Level **....\$25**

**Please make check payable to:
Syracuse Metro Area League of Women Voters
P O Box 11866**

* *Two members in the same household*

** *Full time student under 25*

Syracuse, NY 13218

___ ***I would like to support the League with a donation.***

For more information call us at (315) 448-7199 or visit us at www.lwvsyr.org