



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TOMPKINS COUNTY

OCTOBER 2010

PRESIDENT: KAY SHARP 2722-4748
lwvtompkins.org/

EDITOR: ROBERT SILSBEE 273-1436
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MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN ALBANY

BARBARA BARTOLETTI
LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR, LWV-NYS

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 30
LWV Lunch: 12:00-1:00
Public Program: 1:00-2:30 pm

Borg-Warner Room
Tompkins County Library
101 East Green St., Ithaca

Refreshments Available
(more information on page 2)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

These are the worst of times and the best of times. We've had a rough start to this year, but I believe we are a strong League and can overcome these bumps in the road.

Our Voter Service activities is part of the best of times. We've had successful voter registration activities this summer and fall. Voters have thanked us for our being at the Farmer's Market and the Apple Harvest Festival. Our two Candidates' Forums have been well attended and much appreciated by the community. Thank you to Susanne Lipari and Sally Grubb for organizing these events and to all of you who volunteered your time. A special thank you to the Library and the Ithaca Journal for co-sponsoring these two forums.

Our Youth Program is also part of the best of times. Kathleen Yen and Susan Henninger have

been hard at work reaching out to the schools and other organizations in our community. They have launched our "Take Me Out to Vote," asking parents to get their children involved in the democratic process. Our "Students Inside Albany" program for 2011 is in the planning process. What better way to demonstrate our civic responsibility than to get our youth engaged.

The October 30th general membership program promises to be an exciting event. That Saturday Barbara Bartoletti is coming to speak to us about "Making a Difference in Albany." She will give us ways to better our lobbying for important topics at the local level and at the state level. We've invited the Cortland and Schuyler Leagues to join us. A light luncheon will be available at noon for \$3.00. You can't find a better deal in town. The program will begin at 1:00 p.m. I hope to see you there.

There is information in the Newsletter, on page 3, for the annual United Nations Briefing; I hope some of you can make that program.

Good news! We're going to do some fundraising this year. We've always sent one student to the

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"Students Inside Albany" program. We would like to send a second at the cost of \$600. The enthusiastic reports from participating students have convinced us of the value of this program.

Soon, we are going to sell cards to fund this project. The cards we've chosen are made by Acorn Designs. They are very beautiful, and they are printed on re-cycled paper.

A package of six cards is \$8.00. There is a variety of scenes on the cards. The cards are blank inside so you can use them for "hope you get better," "thinking of you," "thank you," "happy holidays" and a myriad of other messages. I'm buying packages to use for Christmas stocking stuffers. We will be selling at our general membership meetings. The cards will be available at our October general meeting. I hope you all will contribute to this worthy cause.

For those of you who live in Kendal, which are many of our members, I am making a delivery on Thursday November 4th afternoon. If you would like your cards delivered then, please call me at 272-4748 to make arrangements.

Kay Sharp



PROGRAM COMMITTEE

We have invited leaders from the Cortland County League to participate in the October 30th event. Barbara Bartoletti, the Legislative Director for LWV-NYS, will join us for a light lunch at 12:00 noon in the Borg Warner room at the Tompkins County Public Library. The lunch is limited to members of the League. This is your opportunity to get acquainted with Barbara Bartoletti in an informal setting.

The public meeting will follow at 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. Ms Barbara Bartoletti will speak on the topic: **MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN ALBANY**. If you haven't heard her talk before, you're in for a treat! Barbara is well known and respected by elected representatives, staff and pundits in Albany, and is frequently quoted in the Ithaca Journal and interviewed in the local media on issues of importance.

The goal is for the audience to take away new ways to mobilize and improve grass roots' efforts to influence government policies.

We're planning on a good turnout so please spread the word.

A Local League's Round Table Discussion will take place on Saturday November 13th. All active members are invited to join the Cortland and Tompkins League Boards. League leaders will incorporate the ideas and strategies learned from Barbara Bartoletti's talk on October 30th and develop a draft action plan for future League activities. The proposed action plan will be presented to the membership for discussion, review and revision. The final plan will be discussed and voted on during our Annual Meeting on May 2, 2011.

I'm sorry that it was necessary to cancel the program scheduled for Monday, September 27. We now have our act together and will present, **WHO DECIDES: THE CASE FOR REDISTRICTING REFORM IN NEW YORK STATE** in January 2011. Redistricting is an important issue, especially in New York State. The League is working hard to change the way redistricting is done so district lines will no longer be drawn by the political party in

power. The program is designed to inform us and increase the public's awareness the problem, and to show what can be done to change the long standing power structure in Albany. Watch for details in the November Newsletter.

Florence B. Smith

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The Natural Resources Committee has continued to work on the issue of Slick-water Horizontal Hydraulic Fracturing for gas in the Marcellus Shale and elsewhere. We have also kept in contact with the League members who helped with our caucus in Atlanta last June and plan to continue to think about the broader issues involving mining and drilling for energy resources.

This summer and early fall the E.P.A. held hearings in four states in order to gather information they can use for their study of Fracking. Their main focus was to be on the use and risks of pollution of water supplies, but many at the hearings urged them to have a broader scope for their study. Members of our June caucus testified at the hearings in Colorado, Pennsylvania, and Texas. Our Tompkins County League Natural Resources Committee prepared and submitted a written statement on behalf of our local League (approved by the national League) to the E.P.A. Kay Wagner gave oral testimony at the hearing in Binghamton in September. The written statement is on our local League's website. Key statements from the written statement were used for the two minute oral testimony, including an emphasis on the need to study the cumulative impact of the thousands of wells to be drilled in each county and, after the drilling, used for several decades. The agency was also urged to include the serious problems surrounding air pollution in their study and to remember that this is a very new process, not a decades old one, contrary to what was being claimed in most pro-drilling testimonies.

This year our committee would also like to study the economic issues surrounding Fracking. It is a complex issue when we consider such things as the impact on local tourism, vineyards, farms and many other businesses. We also need to look at the effect it will have on our roads, traffic, health facilities and schools. There is a need for jobs in this region, but will local workers get the jobs being offered? How long will the jobs last? All of these aspects and questions should be looked at. We plan to have a program focusing on this topic next spring.

PARTICIPATE IN YOUR LEAGUE'S PROGRAMS!

To join the Natural Resources Committee, please get in touch with Kay Wagner (539-3322, CMW18@cornell.edu) or **just come to our next meeting at Marnie Johnson's home* at 7p.m., Tuesday, October 26.**

*361 Savage Farm Drive (Kendal @ Ithaca) — park opposite Parking Lot #3, walk through the parking lot, turn right and look for 361.

ANNUAL UNITED NATIONS BRIEFING: MICROFINANCE

Join League members and friends from around the state for the annual United Nations briefing on **Tuesday, November 9**, from 2:00-4:30 pm in New York City. This year's topic will be Microfinance: From Struggle for Survival to Planning for the Future. Because the UN building is under renovations, the briefing will be held across the street in the Church Center of the United Nations (777 United Nations Plaza). Speakers will be selected by the United Nations Department of Public Information. An optional tour of the UN and reservations for lunch at area restaurants are also available. A registration form is on the LWV-NYS website at http://www.lwvny.org/un/UN_RegistrationForm.pdf.

PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

**LESSONS FROM PENNSYLVANIA:
IMPACT OF MARCELLUS SHALE GAS
EXTRACTION ON
RIVERS, STREAMS AND FORESTS**

A Free, Public, Educational Forum on the Effects of Gas Extraction on Recreation, Hunting, Fishing, Hiking, etc.

**Monday, November 1, 7:00 – 9:00 pm
Lansing Middle School Auditorium
6 Ludlowville Road, Lansing, NY**

High volume, slick water, hydraulic fracturing (hydro-fracking) to take natural gas from the Marcellus Shale has been going on in Pennsylvania for the past three years. Hydro-fracking includes withdrawing millions of gallons of water from nearby rivers, lakes, and streams, mixing it with chemicals, and injecting the solution under high pressure into the shale to release the gas.

What has been the effect of Marcellus gas drilling on the people who use the outdoors for recreation? What has been the effect on their hiking, fishing, biking, birding, hunting, camping, boating, family outings, sightseeing?

Pennsylvanians and those who have studied the effects will share what they have learned, and they will take questions from the audience at this free, educational forum.

Intended Audience

People who enjoy the outdoors for recreation, hunting, fishing, hiking, biking, birding, hunting, camping, boating, family outings, and sightseeing. In addition, anyone who seeks more information about the effects of drilling for Marcellus gas in Pennsylvania on their natural environment should attend.

Speakers:

- **Katy Dunlap, Trout Unlimited, Eastern Water Project Director.** Ms. Dunlap will talk about changes in trout water, ranging from small mountain streams to the Delaware River, and what

some members of Trout Unlimited are doing about the changes they see.

- **Shellie Northrop, member and volunteer of several PA and NY hiking clubs and trail associations.** Through Ms. Northrop’s years of hiking and contact with other hikers, she is able to describe the impact of drilling activities for hikers in the Northern Tier of Pennsylvania. She will also use examples in PA to offer suggestions of how those of us in NY can take action now that will help protect our wilderness areas.
- **Bill Belitskus, Allegheny Defense Project, Board President.** Mr. Belitskus has been hiking, camping and recreating in Pennsylvania’s Allegheny National Forest for over 35 years, and is now watching the fragmentation of forest, truck traffic, and disruption from having 50% of the Forest leased for drilling. He will discuss one of the critical issues of deep shale extraction: withdrawal of water from streams and rivers, and riparian rights of landowners to protect waterways.

Sponsors: Social Ventures, ROUSE (Residents Opposed to Unsafe Extraction), Dryden Resource Awareness Coalition (DRAC), Cornell Outdoor Education, Cayuga Lake Watershed Network, League of Women Voters of Tompkins County, and others

HEALTH CARE COMMITTEE

Our next meeting will be on Monday, October 18th, noon-2:00 pm in the dining room at Kendal at Ithaca.

Join us for an ongoing discussion of the healthcare bill, share articles about health care and discuss reform proposals. We will begin to plan for our General Meeting on Health Care scheduled for February. Please join our group and add to the discussion. Call 272-0621 for more information.

Rebecca Elgie

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TOMPKINS COUNTY: BOARD 2010-11

LWV NYS website			www.lwvny.org
LWV US website			www.lwv.org
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Health Care—Chair	Rebecca Elgie	272-0621	healthylink@earthlink.net
Natural Resources—Chair	Kay Wagner	539-3322	cwm18@cornell.edu
NYS Consolidation —Chair	Alene Wyatt	257-1894	alene@lightlink.com

VOTER SERVICES

Voters Services has been busy over the past month with voter registration drives and candidates forums and will continue to be busy into November and the elections.

On September 1, a Candidates Forum was held for two primary races - the Democratic Primary for Sheriff of Tompkins County between Peter Meskill and Ken Lansing - and the Democratic Primary for Attorney General. Peter Meskill and Ken Lansing both participated in the forum as did local representatives of the five Attorney General candidates. While the League does not normally sponsor forums for primary races it was decided that in these particular races it was important to give the community the opportunity to ask these candidates questions. The community agreed. Many questions were sent in to the Library before the event and over

120 people attend the forum which was co-sponsored by the Library, the Ithaca Journal and the League. An additional bonus, provided by the Ithaca Journal, was having a live feed over the internet.

As a result of the success of this forum, it was decided to hold another for two of the state races – the 153rd Assembly District race between Barbara Lifton, D and Tom Reynolds, R; and the 53rd Senate District race between Pamela Mackesey, D and Tom O’Mara, R. This was again co-sponsored by the League, the Ithaca Journal and Tompkins County Public Library. Questions could also be submitted ahead of time. The forum was again very well attended with over 110 interested citizens, some of whom had submitted questions via email before the forum, others submitting them throughout the forum. Nancy Ramage and Kay

Sharp, with support from Bruce Estes of the Ithaca Journal and Sally Grubb from the Library, made the selection of which of the many submitted questions could be asked in the limited time.

On Thursday, October 21, a third Candidates Forum will be held at Dryden Fire Hall for the 153rd Assembly District Race (Barbara Lifton, D and Tom Reynolds, R) and the Sheriff's Candidates race (Peter Meskill, D and Ken Lansing, Independent). This Forum will be cosponsored by the Dryden Grange.

With our new canopy we have had a very successful voter registration drive during the Apple Harvest Festival. Thank you to everyone who participated. It was good to know that our

time was well spent on the Commons with 75 people coming to us to register or change their address.

We will try and hold another voter registration drive before the School Board Elections in May – this is another time when people realize they want to vote and need to register to do so.

Voter Services is a very important function of the League of Women Voters but is only successful when fully supported by the membership. We need more members to volunteer for these activities in the future and to participate in the Moderator Training, which will take place in late 2010 or early 2011. **Call 257-6017 or 387-9308 to connect!**

Sally Grubb & Susanne Lipari

LWV-TC CALENDAR—2010-2011

(tentative programs in italics)

Oct 18	Mon	noon	Health Care Committee	Kendal Dining Room
Oct 26	Tues	7:00 pm	Natural Resources Committee	Johnson
Oct 30	Sat	1:00 pm	MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN ALBANY: with BARBARA BARTOLETTI	Tompkins County Library
Nov 1	Mon	7:00 pm	IMPACT OF GAS DRILLING ON PENNSYLVANIA RIVERS, STREAMS AND FORESTS	Lansing Middle School
Nov 2	Tues		ELECTION DAY	
Nov 8	Mon	7:00 pm	Board Meeting	Levin
Nov 13	Sat	10:30 am	ROUND-TABLE DISCUSSIONS AND ACTION PLANS: STATE AND LOCAL ISSUES	<i>Women's Community Building or TCPL</i>
Dec 11	Sat	9:30 am	Board Meeting	Lipari
Jan 3	Mon	7:00 pm	Board Meeting	Old Jail
Jan 24	Mon	7:00 pm	REDISTRICTING ISSUES	TBA
Feb 7	Mon	7:00 pm	Board Meeting	Old Jail
<i>Feb 16</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>7:00 pm</i>	<i>WHAT DOES THE HEALTHCARE BILL MEAN FOR YOU?</i>	<i>TBA</i>
Mar 7	Mon	7:00 pm	Board Meeting	Old Jail
Mar TBA			LWV HISTORY: ELEANOR ROOSEVELT	History Center
Mar 26	Sat	12:00 pm	ANNUAL SOUP & BREAD MEETING: TBA	TBA
Apr 4	Mon	7:00 pm	Board Meeting	Silsbee
May 2	Mon	7:00 pm	ANNUAL DINNER MEETING: NATURAL RESOURCES — THE ECONOMICS OF FRACKING	TBA
Jun 6	Mon	7:00 pm	Board Meeting	Sharp

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

For those of you who may be new to the League — and even some old hands who may be confused— the following is a brief explanation of the relationship between the national League of Women Voters (LWVUS), the state League (LWVNY) and our local county League (LWVTC). All three branches recruit new members, so if you join one, you essentially become members of all three. However, there are advantages to joining locally. While we have to pay a per member payment (pmp) to both State and National, we do keep some fraction of the local dues for support of our programs. More important is that you are kept informed, through our monthly bulletin, of all the local activities such as candidates forums,

meetings that feature speakers and panels on various current topics, and information about study groups. And we hope that you will become active locally by joining a committee or helping with various voter service activities.

If you have been a member, but have not paid your membership dues for this year, please do so now. For anyone who wishes to join or renew, there is a membership form below. Note that we normally distribute the monthly bulletin via e-mail. If you prefer to receive a paper copy via the US mail, we ask for an additional \$10 to cover production and mailing. Feel free to call me if you have any questions – 273-7746,

Deborah Levin

MEMBERSHIP DUES & CONTRIBUTIONS: FISCAL YEAR, JULY 1, 2010 - JUNE 30, 2011

www.lwvtompkins.org LWVTC Phone: 607-272-4748

_____ I am interested in learning more about the League (LWV). Please contact me:

_____ I am interested in supporting the work of the League (LWV) and joining:

(PLEASE COMPLETE)

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

E-mail _____

MEMBERSHIP DUES (Individual: \$55.00, Household: \$85.00)	\$ _____
Mailed paper copy of Monthly Bulletin (if desired \$10.00)	\$ _____
Contribution (Not Tax-Deductible)	\$ _____
TOTAL (payable to LWV-TC) (not tax-deductible)	\$ _____

TAX-DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTION

Please make a **separate check payable to:**

Community Foundation of Tompkins County;
with "LWV Education Fund" in the MEMO \$ _____

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