



Utica/Rome Voter

Issue 33; September 2010

Newsletter of the League of Women Voters, Utica/Rome Metro Area

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www.lwvuticarome.org

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GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING



WHEN: **Saturday, September 25th, 2010**
10:00 a.m. (9:30 a.m. registration)
Speaker begins after breakfast

WHERE: **Dorothy Smith Advocacy Center -- RCIL**
1607 Genesee Street, Utica
(corner of Scott St., formerly Temple Beth El)
 (THIS LOCATION IS FULLY ACCESSIBLE)

SPEAKER: **Michael Myers, Asst. Attorney General**
Chief of NYS Attorney General's
Environmental Protection Bureau

COST: **\$12.00 per person** – Call or email
Reservations to Trudy (trewck@roadrunner.com,
733-6244) by **Fri., Sept 17th**

Bring a guest!

About the Environmental Protection Bureau

The Environmental Protection Bureau, located within the AG's Social Justice Division, plays a central role in protecting New York's environment and public health. The Bureau is recognized as a leader in the fight against global warming, reducing smog and other forms of air pollution, cleaning up our lakes, rivers and coastal waters, protecting wildlife and other natural resources, and safeguarding our families and communities against toxic contamination.

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CO-PRESIDENTS' CORNER

Another annual year has begun for our Local League of Women Voters. This will be a busy fall for our League with many candidate forums, naturalization ceremonies, voter registrations, as well as our general meeting planned for September 25th, a breakfast meeting at The Dorothy Smith Advocacy Center of RCIL on Genesee Street. See more information on these events in this newsletter.

Your board of directors has been busy this summer planning for League activities for the coming year. Refer to the calendar of events in this newsletter. If you can help at any of the Naturalization Ceremonies, Voter Registration events, or Candidate Forums, please contact Barbara Brookes or Karen McBride.

A major undertaking of the New York State LWV this fall and winter is the issue of redistricting. Liz Pattengill is our point person for liaison with LWVNY for this and will be letting us know more information later in September on this hot topic. If you are interested in helping Liz, please let her know.

Our **Annual Meeting** was well attended for the **luncheon on May 1st** at The Dorothy Smith Advocacy Center of RCIL in Utica. We had a most interesting speaker on hydrofracking, an environmental issue that is geographically in some of our own backyards and some of the concerns raised with drilling for natural gas in the rich shale areas of upstate NY. If you want more information on this topic, our League's point persons are Mary Chapin and Sharen Barboza. At the Annual Business Meeting, Meg Pfeiffer and Audrey Sotendahl were reelected as Second Vice-President and Treasurer respectively, along with directors, Sharen Barboza, Lisa Ostrander, Elizabeth Pattengill, and Shirley Van Marter. Congratulations to all and thank you for volunteering your service. We appreciate your service as well as the services of our continuing board members.

If you have not updated your current contact information and areas of interest for our Local League directory, please call Meg Pfeiffer to provide her with your information. We hope to have the directory available this fall for all our members.

Remember that Board meetings are generally held on the first Saturday of each month at the New Hartford Library, 10:00 a.m. to noon – next meeting is October 2nd. Please let us know any agenda items,

-- Donna Gillette and Carole Torok-Huxtable, Co-Presidents

VOTER SERVICES NEWS

Our League is planning to conduct a Meet-the-Candidates Forum for Oneida County Sheriff on Thursday, September 9, 2010 from 7 – 8:30 p.m. The Forum will be held at the American Legion Post 1376, corner of Middle Settlement Rd. and Clinton St., New Hartford. All four candidates have indicated that they will be there. This is the first pre-primary debate our local League has conducted. Our own League member Barbara Shuck will be Moderator; Donna Gillette will welcome the audience and Mary Anthony and Ibbly Chiquoine will serve as time-keepers. Mark your calendars NOW and plan to come and meet the candidates in person! Bring questions and show your support!

Another debate is in the planning stages. It will be a televised debate between Congressman Michael A. Arcuri and Richard L. Hanna, the two candidates for the 24th Congressional District seat. Both candidates have confirmed their participation on Tuesday, October 19, 2010 from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. at the Theatre of the Information Technology Building at Mohawk Valley Community College. Our Voter Services Committee, Karen McBride, Liz Pattengill, Carole Torok-Huxtable, Barb Gibbs, Shirley Van Marter and Barb Brookes, are meeting with Steve Merren of WUTR to plan this event.

In addition to the Resource Center for Independent Living (RCIL), there are four co-sponsors: Cancer Action Network of the American Cancer Society, American Association of University Women (AAUW), National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), and Mohawk Valley Community College public policy students. We are grateful for the support of our co-sponsors. Hope to see YOU at one or both of these upcoming events!

-- Barbara Brookes and Karen McBride, Voter Services Committee

REDISTRICTING REFORM

Perhaps you've heard the term "gerrymandering," where election districts are redrawn to benefit the incumbent or the party in power. The key to avoiding gerrymandering is the establishment of an independent, nonpartisan, redistricting commission. After each decennial census, reapportionment and redistricting are required by law. By 2012 the latest census figures should be released.

Several civic groups, including the League of Women Voters/NYS, have joined together in support of a bill, S.1614-B, which would replace the existing reapportionment and redistricting commission with an independent, nonpartisan commission; and require that districts be "compact and contiguous;" and equal in size of population. The state League will be sending us materials on redistricting reform, and we will focus on this issue later in the year. Watch for further information in upcoming issues of the "Voter."

-- Elizabeth Pattengill

MEMBERSHIP MINUTE

Please check your membership expiration date which is on the address label of this newsletter. Membership is \$60 for an individual or \$85 for a household. Your check may be sent to our Treasurer or paid at general membership meetings. The address is LWV Treasurer, 26 Woodberry Rd., New Hartford, NY 13413

--Meg Pfeiffer, Membership Chair

ANNUAL MEETING SUMMARY – May 1, 2010

Called to Order: Following guest speaker, Susan Multer, Pres., LWV of Steuben County, a quorum was declared and Co-President Carole Torok-Huxtable called the meeting to order at 1:45 p.m.

Minutes: The minutes of the 2009 Annual Meeting were read and accepted with one correction – the spelling of Sharen Barboza’s name – “Sharen,” not “Sharon.” Motion to accept the minutes was accepted.

Treasurer’s Report: The Treasurer’s Report and Proposed Budget as published in the March 2010 VOTER newsletter, were presented by Audrey Sotendahl. Per Audrey, this budget was prepared in February 2010. We have enough funds with Print, Pack and Post to cover 400 copies. We did not expend any monies with them in 2009. She likes working with them. Concerning our dues, we should expect them to go up only a little, if at all in the near future.

A motion to file the Treasurer’s Report and read it at the next general membership meeting in September, and to have it published in the next VOTER newsletter was passed.

Nominating Committee Report: Doreen Markson presented the slate of candidates for 2010/2012: 2nd Vice President – Margaret Pfeiffer; Treasurer – Audrey Sotendahl; Director – Sharen Barboza; Director – Lisa Ostrander; Director – Elizabeth Pattengill; Director – Shirley Van Marter

Nominating Committee: Doreen Markson - Chair, Nancy Agen, JoAnn Jacobson, Barbara Shuck, Karen McBride and Lori Wasielewski

Program Considerations/Adoption: Co-President Donna Gillette emphasized the “Climate Change/Environment” legislative priority on the LWVUS’s agenda, and the fact that our League is joining Leagues statewide to begin implementing procedures outlined in the LWVUS Action Packet on Climate Change. A motion to accept the consideration of a program on climate change was passed.

Election of Officers: There were no nominations from the floor, so Ruth Head moved that the slate of candidates nominated be accepted. The motion was seconded and it passed.

Co-Presidents’ Remarks and Announcements:

Co-President Carole Torok-Huxtable encouraged us to review the handouts from our guest speaker, and to study the issues written about in our VOTER newsletters. Co-President Donna Gillette advised us to fill out and return to Carole, the “Areas of Interest Checklists” distributed today. She reminded

us of the "local league directory" being prepared for distribution in September – but still needing input from ourselves if any corrections/additions are warranted. Carole indicated that Susan Multer, today's guest speaker on "hydrofracking," left us another film on environmental issues for our use, and that we were pleased with her presentation. Mary Chapin spoke about the 552 leases for land that have been already signed along Route 20. She said further how both the NY DEC (Dept. of Conservation) and the PSC (Public Service Commission) are involved in this issue. More discussion ensued on this topic. Carole told Mary that our League will consult her should additional questions come up about the drilling for natural gas.

Carole then announced the following:

- ◆ LWV Utica/Rome Board meetings are held the first Saturday of the month at the New Hartford Public Library
- ◆ The "Albany on Record" trip planned for Wed., May 5, 2010 – bus will be picking up at the NYS DOT off North Genesee St. (Time TBA)
- ◆ The Oneida County Board of Elections Commissioners need election inspectors. Training will be held in August. Carole has application forms for those wishing to sign up.

Sharen Barboza (newsletter editor) encouraged everyone to feel free to submit articles to her to be published in the newsletter.

Karen distributed the LWV Utica/Rome "activities sheet" for 2009/2010 with the dates remaining for this year's naturalization ceremonies listed on the reverse side, and indicated that the Voter Service Committee is looking for help registering people to vote. Some discussion concerning voter registration followed.

-- Karen McBride (for B. Brookes)

PROPOSED BUDGET – 2010-2011

	Budget	Actual	Budget
	2009-2010	2009	2010-2011
Income			
Dues	\$3,185.00	\$2,880.00	\$3,200.00
Contributions/Gifts	150.00	103.60	150.00
Breakfast Meetings (income from meetings)	2000.00	2,034.50	2300.00
"Utica/Rome Voter" Ads	360.00	405.00	450.00
Election Reporting	90.00	90.00	90.00
From State Raffle	50.00	0.00	0.00
Total Income	5,835.00	\$5,513.10	\$6,190.00
Expenses			
Per-Member Payments to LWVUS	\$1,343.00	\$1,542.60	\$1,700.00
Per-Member Payments to LWVNYS	828.00	954.00	1100.00
Meals (Food costs for membership meetings.)	1800.00	1,848.70	2000.00
Voter Guides and Voter Services	200.00	130.45	200.00
"Utica/Rome Voter" (Printing cost)	400.00	0.00	300.00
Postage	175.00	220.55	225.00
Use of space--OCHS, NHPL & forum sites	100.00	225.00	300.00
Website	50.00	62.35	75.00
Publications	100.00	0.00	0.00
Conferences and Conventions	610.00	660.00	200.00
Miscellaneous (Photos)	200.00	28.22	80.00
Total Expenses	\$5,806.00	\$5,671.87	\$6,180.00
Grants Budget	\$405.00		

BOARD MEETING SUMMARY – JUNE 5, 2010

Meeting called to order at 10:13 a.m. by co-President Donna Gillette.

Present: Donna Gillette, Lucille Argenzia, Audrey Sotendahl, Karen McBride, Loretta Wasielewski, Shirley Van Marter, Meg Pfeiffer, Carole Torok-Huxtable, Elizabeth Pattengill, Barbara Brookes

Excused: Trudy Kennedy, Sharen Barboza, Lisa Ostrander, Johanna Albrecht

MINUTES: Minutes of Annual Meeting on May 1, 2010 accepted with exception of Climate Change as Program Consideration/Adoption. Our local League will join advocacy efforts of the Southern Tier in prohibiting hydrofracking. The environmental focus of local program will be hydrofracking instead of climate change. Motion passed.

Minutes of April 10, 2010 clarified as follows: Under Voter Services: co-Presidents Donna and Carole will send a letter to the State League requesting that a split shift for poll workers be part of the state advocacy program. Under Membership: Audrey will send a kind note and invoice for dues to inactive member. Minutes accepted as clarified.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer's Report filed for audit. Lucille and Audrey will look into procedures for filing Form 990. Motion was made to designate a committee to audit our League's financial records for the past two years.

MEMBERSHIP: Meg reported that an inactive member will give a gift membership and would like to receive the VOTER. Motion accepted. Carole recommends that our League participate in the membership initiative at the State level under the Shur program. Lucille made a motion that membership chair Meg Pfeiffer write a letter to Georgia deGregorio, VP for membership of LWVNY, about our interest in exploring ideas for increasing membership.

OLD BUSINESS:

- ◆ 501c3 Status Update: Lucille made a motion to institute a board committee to begin the 501c3 application to form a tax exempt corporation. The next meeting of this committee and anyone interested will be Tuesday, June 29th at 5:00 p.m. at Symeon's.
- ◆ Voter Services: Barbara enquired about ordering Voter Guides, Part I and II. Order due June 20th. Board decided to order 500 Facts for Voters and 300 Part II. Audrey will call State LWV to find out method of payment.

NEW BUSINESS: PROGRAM PLANNING 2010 –2011:

- ◆ Board set the following dates for 2010-2011 board meetings: (All on Saturdays at 10:00 a.m.) August 14 (Aug./Sept. meeting), Oct. 2, Nov. 6, Dec. 4; 2011: Jan. 8, Feb. 5, Mar. 5, April 2, May 7 (Annual Meeting).
- ◆ General Membership meetings:
 - September, 2010: Environmental Issues. Speaker from NYS Attorney General's Office.
 - November 20, 2010: New voting systems in N. Y. State: post-election follow-up and evaluation. Possible speakers include Barbara Bartoletti, Maggie Moeringer, Aimee Allaud or Bo Lipari (New Yorkers for Verified Voting).
 - January 22, 2011: Reauthorization of Older Americans Act and Health Care; Livable Communities Initiative. (Refer to Betsy Swan's message on Health Care in May SBR).
 - March 19, 2011: Consolidation Study: Panel of state and local city planners.
 - May 7, 2011: Annual Meeting: Transparency/Open Government (Local Study).
- ◆ Hot Topics Luncheon meeting: Donna announced that RCIL is interested in sponsoring a community forum on the oil spill crisis—regulatory oversight of the oil spill in the Gulf. Lucille made a motion that we partner with RCIL in sponsoring this forum to bring concerned citizens together; seconded by Lorrie.

OTHER:

- ◆ Carole welcomed new board members Shirley Van Marter and Liz Pattengill.
- ◆ Naturalization Ceremonies: Carole reminded board that the next one will be held on June 24th at the Federal Bldg. The ceremony at Fort Stanwix will be held on September 14th. Carole asked Karen to forward a list of dates of Naturalization Ceremonies with Activities Sheet to all board members.

NEXT MEETING: Saturday, August 14, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. Meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

-- Barbara Brookes, Secretary

BOARD MEETING SUMMARY – AUGUST 14, 2010

Meeting called to order at 10:18 a. m. at New Hartford Public Library.

Present: Carole Torok-Huxtable, Loretta Wasielewski, Elizabeth Pattengill, Meg Pfeiffer, Audrey Sotendahl, Sharen Barboza, Karen McBride, Barbara Brookes

Excused: Donna Gillette, Lisa Ostrander, Lucille Argenzia, Trudy Kennedy, Shirley VanMarter

MINUTES: Approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Audrey presented report which will be filed. She will file federal Form 990.

MEMBERSHIP: Meg reported that there are 55 members. Meg is compiling a directory which will list the top three interests of members. Meg has written to DeGregorio of the state League about our participation in the Shur program: recruiting new members, partnering with local groups to increase visibility and coaching to develop leaders.

VOTER SERVICES: Karen and Barbara reported on the on-going voter registration drive at the Farmer's Market at Chancellor Park. Audrey volunteered to help register new citizens at the next Naturalization Ceremony at Fort Stanwix in Rome, NY on September 16th. Nancy Agen, a new member, will be recruited to help with voter registration drives.

Candidates Forums: Steve Merren of WUTR has agreed to televise our Candidates Forum for the 24th Congressional District candidates: incumbent Congressman Michael A. Arcuri and Richard L. Hanna. The Forum is scheduled for Tuesday, October 19, 2010 from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. pending candidates' acceptance of our invitation. Co-sponsors of this debate include Resource Center for Independent Living (RCIL), Mohawk Valley Community College (MVCC), American Association for University Women (AAUW), American Cancer Society and WUTR-TV. The Voter Services committee is also planning a pre-primary debate featuring the four candidates for Oneida County Sheriff

OLD BUSINESS:

- ◆ Special Committee Status Report Update: Sewage: Since Johanna was not present to give a report, Sharen will contact Mary Anthony for an update for the newsletter.

NEW BUSINESS:

- ◆ Program for General Membership meeting on September 25, 2010 discussed.
- ◆ Redistricting: Elizabeth Pattengill will be the point person for this study. Other members with interest in this issue include: Mary Chapin, Shirley Van Marter, Rose White, JoAnn Jacobson, Nancy Horvath, Lisa Ostrander, Mary Anthony, Ruth Head and Lucretia Hunt. Elizabeth mentioned a relevant article on the prison population in the Observer-Dispatch of August 5, 2010. More information will be coming.
- ◆ Newsletter: Deadline for articles: by end of August or by September 3rd with anticipated mailing right after Labor Day.
- ◆ 501C3 tax-exempt status update: Committee has met twice to devise a mission statement, purpose and by-laws. This information will be presented at the September or November General Membership meeting. Karen has found a lawyer to volunteer to assist the committee.
- ◆ State Board Report Items: Carole reminded board members to read the SBR on redistricting, elections and membership.
- ◆ National LWV Update: Refer to weekly Leader's Update which is emailed to all board members when it is received from national LWV. August 26th marks the 90th anniversary of passage of the 19th Amendment granting all women the right to vote.
- ◆ Voter Education Special Project Proposal for 2010: Donna/Carole (Mary Anthony, Barb Weaver, Johanna Albrecht) Carole would like to schedule a follow-up meeting with the Board of Election Commissioners, Pam Mandryk and Kathy Perez, near the end of August.

NEXT MEETING: Saturday, October 2, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. Meeting was adjourned at 11:51am.

-- Barbara Brookes, Secretary

GETTING THEM REGISTERED - 2010

We're up and running with voter registration this new election year! On the following dates: Tuesday & Wednesday, Sept. 21 - 22 from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. [2-hour time slot], we request your assistance to help us register to vote at Mohawk Valley Community College (MVCC). We're working again with the Public Policy students. For two days during the week of Sept. 27th, [DATES TBA], we will be registering at Utica College (UC). Please say "YES" when called by the Committee to volunteer an hour or two. Upcoming naturalization ceremonies - Fri., Sept. 24th, 10:30 a.m. (Oneida County) and Thurs., Sept. 16th, 11 a.m. (federal) at Ft. Stanwix. REMINDER...Friday, OCTOBER 8TH is the last day to register in person or to postmark a mailed-in registration form for the November 2nd General Election! Contact Committee Chair Barbara Brookes @ 853-2723 [bbrookes@yahoo.com], or Karen McBride @ 225-3159 [skiesprit@aol.com] to volunteer time.

We have "set up shop" at Utica's Farmers' Market in Chancellor Park for the past six Wednesdays from 10:30 a.m. - 2 p.m., registering so far 11 persons. We distributed 6 blank registration applications and 2 absentee ballot applications. Although our registration recruiting has been minimal at this site, the Chancellor Park setting among the colorful locally grown produce and congenial farmer-vendors has been most enjoyable. We could use your help there on Wednesdays: Sept. 15, 29 and Oct. 6 from 10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m., or 12 - 2 p.m. Again, please contact the phone numbers above.

On Saturday, June 26th, from 11 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., our League shared a table with the United Nations Association (UNA) to help celebrate the arrival to our region refugees of various ethnicities at the World Refugee Day event at Hanna Park. Although League was there to register to vote any already-naturalized refugees and other eligible citizens, most whom we approached were either already registered or not as yet citizens! We were glad, however, to be part of the joy and exuberance of the day!

On "Utica Monday Night," August 9th, at the invitation of the Mohawk Valley Latin American Association, we attempted to set up voter registration at the Heritage (Chancellor) Park, but were "rained out!" Great experiences - ALL! The Voter Services Committee is ready, almost at a moment's notice, to register people to vote. For the individual citizen, it's one sure way of exercising some voice in one's governance. Please be willing to assist when asked!

-- Karen McBride and Barbara Brookes, Voter Services Committee

UPDATE 4: Permit Compliance and Abatement Project

When Oneida County agreed to the Consent Decree with the State DEC in 2007, the date 2014 was set for completion of all repairs and improvements to stop the overflow of raw sewerage into the Mohawk River at the Sauquoit Creek Pumping Station.

The County is now in the process of seeking an extension of that date until 2020. Officials are optimistic that they will be successful. DEC has ample proof of the County's hard work and progress in meeting the requirements of the Decree. The vast amount of work which needs to be done to repair and renovate the system as well as providing funding for the huge cost cannot realistically be completed by 2014. No decision has yet been received by the County.

As far as funding goes, good news was received in July. On the 9th officials announced that the County will receive \$21.8 million in loan interest loans as well as \$4 million in federal grants to help in funding of repair costs. There is still a heavy tab both the county and the local municipalities will have to bear. The fact that the area has received these funds puts Oneida County well on the path to receive further federal help later on. Sewer users in the Sauquoit Creek Pumping Station area are already being charged \$1.05 per 1,000 gallons of water used to help fund repairs in the system. In the Town of New Hartford those fees are being paid by the Town out of other funds available to the Town Board.

In the Town of New Hartford the Supervisor, Patrick Tyksinski, fears that town residents will be asked to pay more than their share in repair costs. He has made the suggestion that the town build and operate their own sewerage plant. In addition the Town Board has hired the engineering firm of Barton & Loguidia to look at New Hartford's problems and determine another course of action that could be taken beside continuing as a member of the County Sewer District. As of this date no information on any of these issues has been released to the public. An additional problem is that the Town of New Hartford has not yet adopted local laws which provide for storm water control. Other municipalities in the Sauquoit District have done this.

The Steering Committee has not met since May. So, at present they are waiting for the DEC's answer to the County's request for the time extension. Secondly is resolution of the question of what the Town of New Hartford plans to do to complete the necessary repairs and improvements in its sewer system.

The report on funding is very encouraging. The low interest loans and the grants are very positive developments. The cost of meeting the County's obligations under the Consent Decree are steep, but a beginning has been made. Serious work by the Working Group and the Steering Committee is being done to plan for the future.

-- LWV Observers Johanna Albrecht, Mary Anthony and Barbara Weaver

UPCOMING EVENTS

- | | |
|---|---|
| Utica/Rome LWV Board meeting: | 10 a.m., Saturday, Oct. 2 nd
New Hartford Public Library, New Hartford |
| General Membership Meeting: | 10 a.m., Saturday, Sept. 25 th
RCIL - 1607 Genesee St., Utica |
| <u>Oneida County Board of Legislators*</u> : | Oneida Cty Off Bldg., 800 Park Ave, 10 th Fl., Utica
9/15 & 10/13 2:00 p.m.; 9/29 & 10/27 7:00 p.m. |
| <u>Rome Common Council:</u> | 7:30 p.m., Rome City Hall
Wed., Sept 22 nd , Oct. 13 th , and Oct. 27 th |
| <u>Utica City School District Board:</u> | 6:00p.m. Conkling Building, 1115 Mohawk St.
Tues., Sept. 28 th , Oct. 12 th , Oct. 26 th |
| <u>Rome City School District Board**:</u> | 7:00 p.m., Wednesdays
Sept. 15 th (Bellamy); Oct. 20 th (Denti)
Oct. 6 th /Nov. 3 rd District Office (Business Meeting) |
| <u>Oneida County Naturalization Ceremonies:</u> | 10:30a.m., Oneida County Office Bldg, Utica
Fridays, Sept. 24 th , Nov. 5 th |
| <u>Federal Naturalization Ceremonies:</u> | 11am, Alexander Pirnie Bldg, 10 Broad St. Utica
Thurs. Dec 2 nd |
| | 11am Fort Stanwix, Rome
Thurs, Sept. 16 th |

*Meetings can be seen on cable TV: Utica area - Channel 3 on the following Tues at 1p.m., Wed. at 8:00 p.m. and Sat at 2p.m.; Rome area - Channel 99 on the following Wed at 8:00 p.m.; ** Televised on Channel 99 on Tues at 9p.m. and Thurs at 7:30 p.m.

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