



The Broome-Tioga Voter

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

www.lwv-broometioga.org

csimeone@stny.rr.com

Volume 63, Number 7

Call to Annual Meeting 2011

League of Women Voters of Broome & Tioga Counties
P.O. Box 944, Vestal, NY
13851-0944

President

Clare Simeone 775-0035
csimeone@stny.rr.com

1st Vice-Pres./Ed. Finance

Carol Oestrich 797-0026
coestrich@aol.com

2nd Vice-Pres./Program

Raney Colvill 722-0862
lcolvill@stny.rr.com

Secretary

Joanne Gee 775-4856
raygee@echoes.net

Treasurer

Alice Brooks 754-8277
fbrooksjr@stny.rr.com

Voter Service

Sara Wokan 785-6703
riskalark@yahoo.com

Doris Lawton 723-0890
dal22@verizon.net

Membership Database

Mary Diegert 785-1236
mdiegert1@stny.rr.com

Public Relations

Isi Trapper 723-3410
isitrap@hotmail.com

Election Reform

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

Local Government

Richard Paden 797-2535
rpaden1@stny.rr.com

Director at Large

Anne Kalayjian 797-1623
askalayjian@yahoo.com

"Voter" Editor and Submissions

Sue Garing 775-5041
sgaring@verizon.net

Call to Annual Meeting

Tuesday, May 10, 2010

Binghamton Riverwalk Hotel & Conference Center

225 Water St., Binghamton, NY



5:30 p.m. ~ Business Meeting

6:30 p.m. ~ Social Time

7:00 p.m. ~ Dinner & Program

DINNER RESERVATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY APRIL 27.

Dinner price of \$28 includes appetizer, salad, entrée, side dishes, dessert, tax and gratuity.

Indicate number of people choosing each entree:

Name: _____ Pasta Primavera

Address: _____ Baked Sole Florentine

Phone/e-mail: _____ Chicken Piccata

Guests: _____

___ Total x \$28 per person = \$ _____ enclosed

Make check payable to "League of Women Voters of Broome & Tioga Counties,"
and mail with this coupon to Janet Gill, 23 Orchard Ave., Binghamton, NY 13904.

Annual Meeting Information

Date: Tuesday, May 10, 2010

Time: 5.30 p.m. Annual Meeting, social time, dinner, and entertainment to follow

Where: Binghamton Riverwalk Hotel & Conference Center, 225 Water St., Binghamton (formerly Regency Hotel)

Menu: choice of one:

Pasta Primavera in Garlic and Herbs

Maro's Baked Sole Florentine

Chicken Piccata

All come with green beans almondine, oven roasted potatoes, sourdough rolls with whipped butter, coffee or tea and carrot cake.

Cost: \$28

Please send check to Janet Gill, 23 Orchard Ave., Binghamton, 13904 by April 27.

After dinner our entertainment will be presented by Newark Valley resident, Patricia Yoder Clark, who will be portraying someone we all might like to have known. The woman paved the way for women in several areas. Ms. Clark takes on the persona of this woman, comes in an outfit she might have worn, talks as she might have conversed. No, it is not Susan B. Anthony, Abigail Adams or Eleanor Roosevelt. If you think you know, as long as you are not a Board member, married to a Board member, or part of the family of a Board member, mail the name of the mystery woman to me at lcolvill@stny.com and you will win a prize--if your answer is correct.

~ Raney Colvill

March Program Meeting Report: "What's Happening in Albany"

About 37 people were both educated and entertained at a meeting March 22 when Blair Horner spoke about things being done and left undone in Albany. He is gifted with a dry sense of humor, quick intelligence and a good understanding of what happens in Albany, as well as what concerns his audience might have. Thanks for the program go to Sara Wokan, who suggested and implemented it, Carol Oestrich who handled the sound system, , Ann Taft who, with her sense of commitment brought the sound system even though she was unable to stay for much of the presentation, and Janet Gill who made available coffee, tea and cookies. Least, but far from least, thanks go to each of you who came and those League members who told others about the meeting, and, as always, to our wonderful publicity maven, Isi Trapper.

April Program Meeting

April 26- Health Care Panel Discussion- Rebecca Elgie from the Ithaca League, Mary Clark from Citizen Action, and Lenore Boris, Administrator at the Dr. Garabed A. Fattal Community Free Clinic on Front Street will be the panelists. Linda Biemer will moderate the panel discussion. They will present an overview of health care in the United States, discussion of current regulations, and discussion about how the present situation affects those without resources. Following the discussion, there will be a question and answer time. The April meeting will begin with coffee at 7:00 p.m. and the program will begin at 7:20 p.m.

~ Raney Colvill

President's Column

All Good Things Come to An End

As weeks turn into months, and the months turn into a year, I find the end of my position as president of this League closely approaching. As president, I have benefited from many experiences which helped me grow personally. I found I developed leadership skills that I hope to use in other areas of my life. Working with board and off-board members, whose skills and talents inspired me, and who participated in producing very successful, informative programs concerning pertinent issues, was a privilege.

This included a reporter's view of the Marcellus Shale spanning the time when drilling began in Pennsylvania in 2007 through the present New York moratorium of all drilling., a moratorium that will continue until DEC guidelines are in place and oversight is provided.

We had a very informative debate between Senator Thomas Libous and his opponent John Orzel in October.

In December we honored our new members and heard from long time members about the workings of our League in the 1950's and 60's. Some of our present board members presented a power point called the Great Crusade. It was a brief history of the brave women whose 72-year effort made women's suffrage a reality. We, as a League, celebrated the work we carried on for 90 years after their victory.

We were honored to have Laura Bierman, Executive Director of LWVNYS, and Barbara Bartoletti, LWVNYS Legislative Lobbyist, speak to our members and the interested public on the need for an independent redistricting commission on the state level.

Our Legislative Breakfast for local leaders was well attended, and we were able to hear first hand of their challenges, successes and future goals.

As I write this, we look forward to Blair Horner, of NYPIRG, who will give us his perspective with "What's Happening in Albany."

In April, we hope to hear from a panel of healthcare specialists about the status of our present healthcare program.

With the help of Sue Garing, our website manager, and the

staff at the League Easy Website (LEW), we now have a website which we can all update with our League's calendar, voting and other specific information.

We are proud to be represented on the Broome County Legislative Reapportionment Commission, and we wish the commission success in developing fair voting districts.

I want to thank a very cooperative and talented board for making my job easy with their help. I wish them much success in guiding our League in the future years.

I will continue to have greatest respect for the League and its goals.

~ Clare Simeone

Program Committee Report

There is an old saying that "many hands make light work." This year that has happened in so many ways. Mary Johnson used her skill for attracting speakers and running meetings by having an interesting meeting in September on the "Marcellus Gas Play," with Tom Wilber giving his view from a reporter's perspective. In February Mary ran an organized program in which legislators told the approximately 50 people present what their concerns and hopes are for our local and state government.

Sara Wokan and her group helped organize, together with the BCC Political Science faculty, a debate between NYS Senator Thomas Libous and John Orzel, Democratic candidate. In January, Jane Park arranged for Laura Ladd Bierman, LWVNYS Executive Director, and Barbara Bartoletti, LWVNYS Legislative Director, to speak and also answer questions on redistricting. Our president, Claire Simeone, was responsible for an interesting and well-planned program for our League brunch in December. The program celebrated the National League's ninetieth birthday with a power point presentation; and talks by Louise Vanderkulk, Jean Gow, Vivian Carlip, and Elsie Wager about their experiences in leadership positions in the League; and a description of their jobs by board members. Food for the brunch was prepared by LWV's board members and volunteers from the group. Janet Gill, who has volunteered her skill and organization for years, saw that there was ample food and drink for everyone (and has also done that for almost every League meeting).

We have only three more meetings left. Save these three dates: March 22, April 26 and May 10. On March 22 Blair Horner from NYPIRG will discuss "What's Happening in Albany." On April 26 three speakers: Rebecca Elgie from the Ithaca League, Mary Clark from Citizen Action, and Lenore Boris, administrator at the Dr. Garabed A. Fattal Community Free Clinic, will be on a panel moderated by a talented member of our League, Linda Biemer. Our Annual Meeting will be at the Binghamton Riverwalk Hotel & Conference Center (same place as last year, just a different name). It will consist of food, fellowship, and a business meeting though not in that order.

What can you do as a member to help keep our programs interesting? You can communicate, and when you have done that communicate even more. By communicating, I am talking about telling your neighbor or friend about programs coming up in the future. Invite them to a meeting and let groups you belong to know about meetings. We encourage you to invite others to come to our meetings so that the information essential for intelligent voting is spread.

I thank everyone who has helped with the planning and implementation of meetings, especially Carol Oestrich and Anne Taft. Carol has miked our guests so that we can hear what they say while Anne has brought the necessary equipment (and it is not light) to each meeting requiring it. I also thank all of you who have come, listened thoughtfully and asked questions. Without your participation, and the help of wonderful board members, programs would not have been the same. Thank you.

~ Raney Colvill

Redistricting -- Study & Action

This year the League of Women Voters of New York State and our local League are working to advance redistricting reform. With new census numbers being released, now is the time to push for such reform. The League's primary thrust is to support efforts insuring that new lines are drawn by independent redistricting commissions.

To that end, our local activity has included:

- Two articles in the Voter newsletter
- An informative program in January with our guests

from LWVNYS, Laura Ladd Bierman and Barbara Bartoletti

- A guest editorial in the Press & Sun-Bulletin stressing the importance of the independent redistricting commission concept

In addition, the Board has accepted the invitation of the Broome County Legislature to appoint a League member to their redistricting commission. Mary Johnson has agreed to serve. Initial contact has been made with the Tioga County Legislature, which has not yet determined what process it will use.

We will continue to monitor state and local actions on this critical and time-sensitive topic and encourage all members to let our legislators know what we think.

~ Jane Park

Education Finance Committee

The committee, comprised of Vivian Carlip, Mary Johnson, Carol Oestrich, and Charlene Shorten, has been trying to keep up with the many changes in the New York State financial situation, and its effect on the budgets of our local school districts. We have selected Binghamton, Vestal, Owego, and Harpursville as the districts to pay particular attention to throughout this and the coming year.

We are awaiting news from the National League regarding its study on the federal role in pre-K through grade 12.

The focus will be limited to issues of equity, funding and standards/assessment. Any participation in the study will require us to schedule meetings next year to inform and discuss the issues and to come to consensus.

The School Board Members' spreadsheet for the Broome-Tioga schools will be updated again this year following the elections on May 17, 2011. Committee members are active, as much as possible, in efforts to maintain the State League's position on supporting the foundation approach to funding education. This was adopted by the state in response to the Campaign for Equity litigation in which state aid is distributed according to district and student need.

~ Carol Oestrich

Election Night Reporting

The 2010 election year turned out to be a challenging year at the Board of Elections. However, our volunteers were at their best and dealt with the “issues” of a new phone system at the Board of Elections, and the new phone clerk tally forms. We are very lucky to have such a great group of volunteers. They included so many of our members and their friends who offer their time to make the ENR a successful event. We also appreciated the Johnson City High School students that participated again this year.

The 2010 election year required a full staff of 32 phone clerks, 5 supervisors and 5 runners for both the Primary on September 14th and the General Election that was held on November 2nd.

~ Joanne Gee

Status of Women Council

Our participation in the Status of Women Council enables us to work with women from fourteen organizations in Broome and Tioga Counties to highlight the role and importance of women's contributions in our communities.

In March of 2010 we observed Women's History Month with a presentation, open to the public, by Mary Pat Hyland. Ms. Hyland, formerly a journalist at the Press & Sun-Bulletin, has written two novels about Irish Americans in upstate New York. She spoke engagingly of the joys and challenges in writing about people and places she loves.

In September the Council honored presidents of its member organizations at a tea in the Endicott Visitor Center. Delegates to the Council supplied delicious refreshments, including tea sandwiches made by our delegate, Eva Anderson. Our president, Clare Simeone, was among those honored at the tea.

The 34th Annual Women of Achievement Dinner was held at the McKinley on November 3, 2010 to recognize fourteen women chosen by their organizations. This year the League of Women Voters of Broome and Tioga Counties was pleased to honor Jane Park, who has been active in the League for ten years, and has made many contributions to our community through her church, the Girl Scouts, Literacy Volunteers, and the Y.W.C.A.

Also at the dinner, Kelly Gerner, a senior at Vestal High School, received recognition as this year's Young Woman of Achievement. Kelly participates in the National Honor Society, Student Government, and the BOCES New Visions Engineering Academy. She was awarded a \$500.00 scholarship for college, where she plans to major in computer science or engineering.

The Adult Education Achievement Award was established in 2008 to recognize a woman who has overcome significant obstacles to earn a GED certificate. The honor for 2010 was awarded to Anita Jackson Banks, who received a monetary award of \$250.00. Mrs. Banks worked diligently for four years in the adult education program of the Binghamton City School District to reach her goal of a GED.

As this report is being written, plans are under way to again observe Women's History Month, this year with a program about Eleanor Roosevelt and her contributions in the later years of her life.

Eva Anderson, Delegate
Alice Brooks, Alternate

Natural Resources Committee Report

With a small, but hardy, group we have re-formed the Natural Resources Committee. At this point, we are focusing on natural gas issues but plan to branch out to other issues, such as global warming, as we go forward. We were able to provide the speaker for the September program meeting. Tom Wilbur, on leave from the Press & Sun Bulletin as he writes a book about gas drilling, gave us a reporter's perspective on the Marcellus Shale extraction process. We welcome anyone interested in these and other areas. We meet periodically at the Vestal Public Library.

If you would like to join us contact Mary Johnson, 607-427-4748 or mjohnson23@stny.rr.com.

~ Mary Johnson

Owego Candidate Forum

On March 2nd the LWVBTC co-sponsored a candidates forum with the Concerned Citizens of Tioga County (CCTC). A week before, Meredith Bocek, a member of CCTC, called and asked that the League be a co-sponsor and promised that they would handle all details, but would need help with the forum procedure itself, and wanted the endorsement of the League. Jane Park, a member from Tioga County, was the first person I thought of calling, and she volunteered to look into it. The five-member team, and Jane, had everything covered which resulted in a smooth and informative forum between the seven members who participated at Hubbard Hall. The four questions were League standard, and Jane Ebert and Charlene Shorten were in charge of the time in which they were answered. The energy behind the organizing of this event impressed me, as did the dedication of the panel to the well-being of its Village. I am proud and happy that our League played a role in this civic event.

~ Clare Simeone

Owego Candidate Forum Photo

Membership Committee Report

During 2010 our membership dropped from 125 to 109. Local individual memberships account for 89 members, whereas last year we had 99; household members are 9, last year 10; 2nd household members 9, last year 10; National members 0, last year 3; and honorary members 2, last year 3.

It is hard to account for this loss since we enrolled 10 new members last year. National is no longer accepting membership, and therefore we do not get members through them. It appears that some of our members are not renewing for various reasons. Perhaps we need to get more of our members involved in our activities so that they realize what an interesting and important organization we are. Perhaps we could, in view of the economy, stress that we do have funds available to supplement membership dues when necessary.

Thanks to all who have given us names of prospective members. During 2010 we sent out 16 letters to people who we felt might be interested in joining. From these letters, 10 people joined. Some of the names came from the sign-in sheet at our public programs, but most of them came from our members.

Our public programs are a big boost for membership, and this year's programs should attract many who are interested in local, state, and government affairs.

~ Eva Anderson & Mary Diegert, Membership

Local Government Committee Report

The committee was involved in the process of developing the local League's position (consensus) on the Government/Shared Services LWNYS Study. The process was addressed in the April Call to Annual Meeting 2010. Members were notified that hard copies of the discussion guide and consensus questions would be available at the March 23rd meeting. Members were also informed that materials were available on the Internet at lwvny.org. Members were asked to study the materials and send responses to Dick Paden by April 6. Meetings were held on April 12 (Local Government Committee), April 13 (Board of Directors), and April 26 (Clare Simeone, Louise Vanderkulk, and Dick Paden) to develop the consensus. The consensus reporting sheet was completed, approved by the board, and forwarded to the state League office. In December of 2010, we were notified that the State Study was completed in one year and there are no plans for additional study. Many thanks to the 24 members who participated in this discussion.

~ Dick Paden



Proposed Local Program 2011-2012

The Board of Directors recommends re-adopting Local Program 2010-2011 Items 1-10 below:

1. Support for a countywide centralized emergency dispatch system (911) in Broome and Tioga Counties, with the cost to be assumed by each county.
2. Support of the Council of Governments as forums for communication and cooperation in Broome and Tioga Counties.
3. Support of a consolidated approach to water and waste water planning in Broome and Tioga Counties.
4. Support of reassessment at full value of all properties in Broome and Tioga Counties in order to achieve more equitable distribution of taxes.
5. Support full-scale separation and recycling in Broome and Tioga Counties.
6. Support of equitable apportionment of the Broome and Tioga County Legislatures.
7. Support of an elected executive for Broome County.
8. Support for adequate operating expenses and facilities by Broome and Tioga County governments to assure effective operation of the Broome and Tioga County Boards of Elections.
9. Support improved public transport in Broome and Tioga Counties.
10. Support consolidation of local government services and local governments in Broome and Tioga Counties, provided that a valid feasibility study determines the level of services will remain the same or be improved and be cost effective. It is essential that all aspects of the process are well publicized and that citizen participation is encouraged.

~ Clare A. Simeone

Nominating Committee Report

We nominate the following slate of officers and directors, with thanks to those who have agreed to serve:

For a two-year term, 2011-2013:

President	Jane Park
2 nd Vice-President	Richard Paden
Secretary	Joanne Gee
Directors	Margaret Goodfellow Mary Johnson Susan Ruff Sara Wokan

Nominating Committee, 2011-2012:

Chair	Clare Simeone
Members	Judith Arnold Anne Taft

Board members continuing their terms:

1 st Vice-President	Carol Oestrich
Treasurer	Alice Brooks
Director	Anne Kalayjian

Off-board Directors:

Mary Diegert, Membership Database
Doris Lawton, Naturalization Ceremony

Immediately following the presentation of this report at the Annual Meeting, any voting member may make nominations from the floor provided that consent has been secured from the person(s) being nominated.

Respectfully submitted,,

Nominating Committee 2010-2011

*Raney Colvill
Patricia Giglio
Toni Norton
Carol Oestrich
Linda Biemer, Chair*

League of Women Voters of Broome and Tioga Counties

May 10, 2011

Annual Meeting Agenda

5:30 Business Meeting

Welcome and Call to Order – Clare Simeone

Credentials Report and Appointment of Minutes Committee

Announcements - Clare Simeone

Treasurer's Report - Alice Brooks

Adoption of the 2011-2012 Budget - Pat Giglio, Budget Co-Chair

Adoption of Local Program- Raney Colvill, Vice President of Program

Nominating Committee Report – Linda Biemer, Nominating Chair

Words from the President

Remarks and Acknowledgments

Call for Direction from the Board

Adjournment

6:30 Social Time

7:00 Dinner

8:00 Speaker

Proposed 2011 – 2012 Budget: Notes on Material Changes in the Budget

Income

A. Dues: Income has been calculated based on current membership numbers with no increase in dues in the next fiscal year.

B. Contributions – Finance Drive: Revenues from our annual finance drive have been lower in the past few years as our list of potential contributors has decreased.

C. Other - Product Sales: This money comes from selling our League products. Sales have increased in the past year and the budget includes a modest increase over the previous budget.

C. Other – Election Night Reporting: The League has signed a contract with Broome County Board of Elections for \$1075 for this fall's elections.

D. LWVBTC Reserves: This is the amount which will be necessary to withdraw from our certificates of deposit if projected income and expenses realized are equal to budgeted amounts. The amount has increased slightly from the prior year due to a small increase in budgeted expenses.

E. Education Foundation, Inc.: This revenue source can be accessed to pay for our Educational Expenses and a portion of our Financial Support for the National and New York State Leagues. The increase is a result of an increase in budgeted National and State dues.

Expenses

A. Operating Costs – Annual Dinner: This line covers the costs of guests of the League at the annual dinner. The reduced estimate reflects the actual expenses incurred in the past years.

B. Administrative Committees – Products: The increase in cost of products purchased corresponds with the increase in expected revenues from the sale of products.

B. Administrative Committees – Public Relations: The use of alternate methods of advertising has decreased the costs for publicizing our events.

C. National and State Convention: The convention next year will be in Washington, D.C.; we have budgeted a slight increase in the costs of attending this convention over what we experienced two years ago.

D. National and State PMP: Dues were calculated based on the current number of members. State and National PMP bills are based on membership as of February 1st. State dues were assumed to remain at their current rate. National dues will be increasing slightly.

With many thanks to Budget Committee members: Alice Brooks, Mary Diegert, Joanne Gee, Richard Paden and Elsie Wager for giving their time and effort to this project.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Giglio

"They Represent You" Brochures

The 2011 edition of "They Represent You" brochures with contact information for local, state and federal office holders are being distributed (2,000 copies for Broome and 1,200 for Tioga). Thanks to Jane Park and Anne Kalayjian for compiling the information, and to the several members who helped distribute them to libraries, schools, government offices, and community organizations. Additional copies are available from Jane, 748-4192.

~ Jane Park

PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011 - 2012

		2009-2010	2010-2011	Proposed 2011 - 2012
		<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Budget</u>
INCOME:				
A.	Dues	\$ 5,590	\$ 5,200	\$ 5,400
B.	Contributions			
1.	Members	1,639	1,200	1,200
2.	Finance Drive	730	900	800
C.	Other			
1.	Bank Interest - Checking Account	-	-	-
2.	Product Sales	121	50	150
3.	Election Night Reporting	743	1,200	1,075
4.	Miscellaneous	254	300	500
D.	LWVBTC Reserves	1,500	642	660
E.	Education Foundation	1,640	2,736	2,780
TOTAL INCOME		\$ 12,217	\$ 12,228	\$ 12,565

EXPENSES:

A.	Operating Costs			
1.	General Supplies	\$ -	\$ 100	\$ 100
2.	Duplication	35	50	50
3.	Telephone	449	450	450
4.	Postage	35	50	50
5.	P. O. Box	96	100	100
6.	Audit	100	100	100
7.	Meeting Room	150	150	175
8.	Annual Dinner	61	150	100
	Total Operating Expenses	926	1,150	1,125
B.	Board and Administrative Committees			
1.	President's Expenses	13	30	30
2.	Board Tools and Expenses	107	75	50
3.	Administrative Committees			
a.	Finance Drive	106	150	175
b.	Products	301	100	150
c.	Membership	94	100	125
d.	Public Relations	21	100	60
e.	Web Site	-	280	215
	Total Board & Administra- tive Committees	642	835	805

C.	Delegates				
	1.	National Convention	2,235	-	2,250
	2.	State Convention	-	2,000	-
	3.	State Training	-	-	-
	4.	Status of Women Council	104	105	110
		Total Delegates	2,339	2,105	2,360
D.	Financial Support for the League				
	1.	National PMP	3,309	2,930	3,075
	2.	State PMP	2,052	1,773	1,845
	3.	Additional League Support	200	150	150
		Total Support for League	5,561	4,853	5,070
E.	<i>The Broome-Tioga Voter</i>				
	1.	Supplies	17	50	30
	2.	Postage	335	500	475
	3.	Printing	542	750	725
		Total Broome-Tioga Voter	894	1,300	1,230
F.	Educational Activities				
	1.	Program	530	750	750
	2.	Voter Service			
		a. State Voter Guide	347	350	350
		b. Local Government Guides	267	260	275
		c. Other Voter Service Expenses	11	100	75
	3.	Other Educational Activities	-	100	100
		Total Educational Activities	1,155	1,560	1,550
G.	Position Support				
	1.	Brochure Printing and Distribution	213	225	225
	2.	Action Activities	-	50	25
		Total Position Support	213	275	250
H.	Legislative Breakfast		218	150	175
		TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 11,948	\$ 12,228	\$ 12,565

The Broome-Tioga Voter

The League of Women Voters of Broome & Tioga Counties
P.O. Box 944
Vestal, NY 13851-0944
(607)772-4936

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Calendar

April 26	Program Meeting "Health Care Panel Discussion".
May 10	Annual Meeting, Dinner and Program.

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