



# The Broome-Tioga Voter

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

[www.lwv-broometioga.org](http://www.lwv-broometioga.org)

[csimeone@stny.rr.com](mailto:csimeone@stny.rr.com)

Volume 63, Number 5

February 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](mailto:csimeone@stny.rr.com)

*1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Pres./Ed. Finance*

Carol Oestrich 797-0026  
[coestrich@aol.com](mailto:coestrich@aol.com)

*2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Pres./Program*

Raney Colvill 722-0862  
[lcolvill@stny.rr.com](mailto:lcolvill@stny.rr.com)

*Secretary*

Joanne Gee 775-4856  
[raygee@echoes.net](mailto:raygee@echoes.net)

*Treasurer*

Alice Brooks 754-8277  
[fbrooksjr@stny.rr.com](mailto:fbrooksjr@stny.rr.com)

*Voter Service*

Sara Wokan 785-6703  
[riskalark@yahoo.com](mailto:riskalark@yahoo.com)

Doris Lawton 723-0890  
[dal22@verizon.net](mailto:dal22@verizon.net)

*Membership Database*

Mary Diegert 785-1236  
[mdiegert1@stny.rr.com](mailto:mdiegert1@stny.rr.com)

*Public Relations*

Isi Trapper 723-3410  
[isitrap@hotmail.com](mailto:isitrap@hotmail.com)

*Election Reform*

Jane Park 748-4192  
[janepark@stny.rr.com](mailto:janepark@stny.rr.com)

*Local Government*

Richard Paden 797-2535  
[rpaden1@stny.rr.com](mailto:rpaden1@stny.rr.com)

*Director at Large*

Anne Kalayjian 797-1623  
[askalayjian@yahoo.com](mailto:askalayjian@yahoo.com)

*"Voter" Editor and  
Submissions*

Sue Garing 775-5041  
[sgaring@verizon.net](mailto:sgaring@verizon.net)

## February Program

*Plan now to attend the.....*

## LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST



Saturday, February 26, 10 AM - Noon

Binghamton Riverwalk Hotel and Conference Center

Cost: \$15 per person

Come and meet your representatives in person,  
learn what their agendas are,  
and introduce them to League priorities.

---

Guests welcome. **Reservations needed by February 19th.** Send check payable to *LWV of Broome & Tioga Counties* (LWVBTC) to

Mary Johnson  
28 Jerome Avenue  
Binghamton, NY 13905.

(Please note guests' names on check memo line.)

## President's Message

### The Heroes and Lessons from the Tucson Tragedy

At the time you are reading this, the events of the shootings at a Tucson supermarket parking lot will have become a sad memory. As I write this now, I am hoping that the message it sends will help us turn around some of our present realities.

First, I must mention some of the heroes who changed certain possibilities in the moments while the shootings were taking place.

Daniel Hernandez, Ms. Giffords' recently hired assistant, had the courage to run towards the sound of the shooting because of his concern for the Congresswoman. He, fortunately, was trained in emergency medical assistance and used his skills to keep Ms. Gifford alive until the ambulance arrived. The technicians on the ambulance to the neurosurgeons and all in between, who have done what it takes to keep her alive as her body heals, deserve to be recognized also. This holds true for the aid given to the other injured victims.

The sixty-year-old woman, who, when the shooter dropped the new magazine he was loading, grabbed it and then proceeded to sit on his legs after he was tackled by two men. One of these men was a 74-year-old Army veteran, Bill Badger, who grabbed the attacker, threw him down and was helped by another brave man, whose name has escaped my memory. All three held the attacker down until the police arrived. When asked how they were able to do this, they answered, "You do what you have to do." Without these quick and brave responses, one can only guess how much more tragic the results would have been.

One can't help mourning the unfulfilled life of a nine-year-old girl, Christina Green, and the devastated family she leaves behind, nor the selfless husband who covered his wife's body and was himself killed. Our sympathies lie with all the families who lost loved ones and our hopes are for the injured, including Ms. Giffords, for a speedy and total recovery.

The message this tragedy sends is very similar to those

past ones where innocent people have been brutally shot down by a psychotic killer. Yet, there has been no change, no attempt to prevent this from happening again.

First, we all see how a health care system functions which serves only those who can keep a job that helps them afford insurance or who are old enough to be on Medicare. This compels those without insurance use the Emergency Room as a doctor's office or a clinic. This forces hospitals to raise the rates on bill paying patients to cover their costs. Many preventative measures, such as tests and x-rays, are not provided for the Medicaid patients, or those not accepted by Medicaid, so their illnesses advance to a point where extreme care is necessary.

Mental health care is in much worse shape than physical care. Many of these psychotic killers have shown behavior that arouses suspicion. When parents, security guards at colleges, or the administration get these reports, there should be some follow through. If complaints keep piling up about someone, and a record is kept, mental health professional and a member of the campus police could simply interview the person. This intervention might be enough to put the person on notice or maybe even move the person to treatment. If not, they may wind up alone, with their thoughts. In recent decades states have cut spending to hospitals and treatment centers to the point where many people with aggressive urges cannot get therapy even if they want it.

Guns and or ammunition should not be sold to people who are mentally ill. Yet this scenario continues to repeat itself. Jared Loughner was turned away when he tried to purchase ammunition at a Walmart, but was sold some at another one – why and why not?

Perhaps this is a time to reset our media. Much of what we hear on certain "news" shows borders very closely on what is news and what is not news. When a legislator announces that he "wants my constituents to be armed and dangerous" or another politician uses gun sights to show areas where they need to win seats in the election, this invites a dysfunctional culture where citizens and politicians turn opponents into enemies and vilify those with whom they disagree. This creates potential for dangerous action and at the very least makes political dialogue impossible. In the words of Gabrielle Giffords, who wrote in an email "we need to tone down our rhetoric and partisanship".

Of the above three areas, I would think that more involved attention from mental health providers and the identification of those who should not have guns sold to them need the closest scrutiny. We need to let our legislators know of our thoughts – theirs, or ours, may depend on it.

**Here are some of the near future plans on which the Board is working.**

Budget Committee The Board is forming a Budget Committee. Patricia Giglio has agreed to chair the Budget Committee, with Dick Paden serving as co-chair. The following members have volunteered to be on this committee: Mary Diegert, Joanne Gee, Louise Vanderkulk, and Elsie Wager.

Nominating Committee Linda Biemer is chair of the Nominating Committee this year. Members of the committee are Pat Giglio and Toni Norton, and Board members Raney Colvill and Carol Oestrich. Please consider saying "yes" when called by one of these members. The Board is where the "Action" is!

The Annual Meeting - May 10

This meeting is different from any meeting we have during the year because the members actually have more time to socialize at it than at any other meeting during the year.

At the business meeting you can vote (or not) on the Budget for the 2011-2012 year, and you can vote for (or not) the new slate of officers. Nominations are taken from the floor, so you can add your nomination if you wish. You can also express your concern about any issue of importance to you and request that the Board take action on it in the coming year.

At 6:30 p.m., or earlier, we have a social time with a cash bar. The socializing continues at a wonderful meal and presents the opportunity to meet members you haven't met before. After dinner there is a speaker who shares information in an entertaining way. This year Patricia Yoder will speak to us as Belva Lockwood, suffragist, lawyer and nineteenth century presidential candidate.

We hope to see you there.

~ Clare Simeone, President



### **Legislative Breakfast**

The annual Legislative Breakfast will be held on Saturday, February 26th from 10 a.m. to 12 noon at the Binghamton Riverwalk Hotel and Conference Center, 225 Water Street, Binghamton, NY 13901. Elected officials will be our guests.

The cost for members and members' guests is \$15 (checks to LWVBTC). Reservation checks can be sent to me at 28 Jerome Ave., Binghamton, NY 13905 by February 19th.

Our state and federal representatives, mayors and supervisors, and Broome and Tioga County Legislators will be invited.

~ Mary Johnson

**Upcoming Program Meetings**

March 22 - "What's Happening in Albany?" presented by Blair Horner of NYPIRG.

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 in Binghamton will be the panelists.

May 10 - Annual Meeting

~ Raney Collvill

## League Easy Web

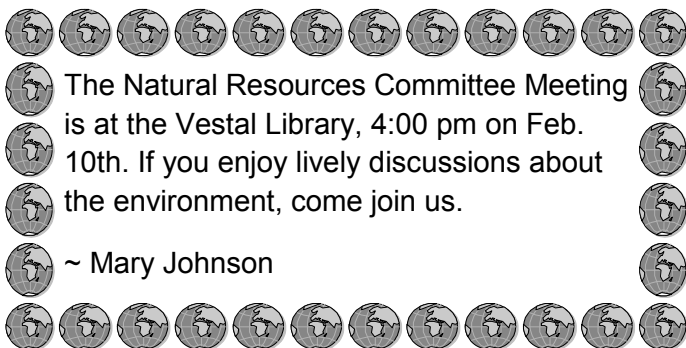
At the National Convention, in June 2010, we were introduced to League Easy Web, which is geared to the needs of the League and provides a support system when needed. Our website was begun several years ago and did well for the time, but we were not able to change some of information on it. Thanks to Sue Garing, who contacted LEW, their support system and Sue helped us work our way to changing our website, while keeping our same web address: [www.lwv-broometioga.org](http://www.lwv-broometioga.org). The Board is gradually learning the benefits of the new website. Our Public Relations Co-Chair, Anne Kalayjian, has mastered updating the League Calendar which gives the website a fresh new format. The VOTER is updated and can be accessed also. We hope to tackle new challenges in the future.

~ Clare Simeone

## More on the LEW Web Page

We chose to get on board with the LEW format because, at its simplest, it is a "fill in the blank" template relatively straight forward for non-programmers to use. Yet it still allows quite a bit of design flexibility so our LEW site is not a carbon copy of other Leagues' LEW sites. Much of the content of the "old" site has been rehosted to the LEW site. Any board member or committee chair can use the LEW site to keep members, and the public, informed. More advanced features we may implement in the future include a "donate" button for fundraising, and member-only password protected pages. As Clare mentioned above, Anne Kalayjian has taken on the primary maintenance task - keeping the calendar up to date. Look there first for the latest information on program meetings. Thank you, Anne!

~ Sue Garing



The Natural Resources Committee Meeting is at the Vestal Library, 4:00 pm on Feb. 10th. If you enjoy lively discussions about the environment, come join us.

~ Mary Johnson

## Convention 2011

### LWVNYS 54<sup>th</sup> BIENNIAL CONVENTION

MAY 20-22, 2011

*Desmond Hotel, Albany, New York*

Georgia DeGregorio, Co-Chair

E-Mail: [georgiatd@frontiernet.net](mailto:georgiatd@frontiernet.net), Telephone: 585-787-9692

Adie Shore, Co-Chair

E-Mail: [absnyny@aol.com](mailto:absnyny@aol.com), Telephone: 914-472-5175

STRONG MEMBERS, STRONG LEADERS,

STRONG GOVERNMENT

## ZOGBY TO SPEAK

We have just learned that John Zogby, pollster of international repute and author of *The Way We'll Be*, published in 2008, will be our Saturday night keynote speaker. Kudos to former Albany County League President Joanne Esposito for facilitating Mr. Zogby's attendance.

## Silent Auction

The silent auction is both a source of fun at the convention and a major fundraiser for the state League. We depend on enthusiastic local League participation to ensure its success. Last year, for the first time, we listed our auction items on-line and received bids by telephone, so that League members who did not attend the convention and non-League members could bid on items.

We again ask each local League to create a themed basket valued at a minimum of \$50, which highlights specialties of the area or something close to the heart of the local League.

We are also seeking stand alone items such as bed and breakfast weekends in the United States or abroad, tickets to Broadway shows, gift certificates to restaurants, jewelry, artwork, services, such as lunch with local celebrities, lunch with local politicians, dinner for 8 catered by the donor, a cocktail party catered by the donor with

(CONVENTION from page four) proceeds going to the local League of the purchaser's choice, etc.

In order to facilitate the early upload of on-line items, we ask you to return the Silent Auction Form (Attachment 7) by February 15, 2011. *[ed: form removed from article, email sgarling@verizon.net for copy]*

#### RECOMMENDED BYLAW CHANGES

The LWVNYS received no recommendations for bylaw changes from local Leagues.

#### RECOMMENDED PROGRAM

The last item local Leagues are asked to consider in preparation for convention is to make recommendations for program. Local Leagues that wish to recommend a study, concurrence, or one or update of League position should do so by returning their recommendations to the League office in the format contained in Attachment 8 by February 15, 2011. See Sally Robinson's SBR for more information about making program recommendations. The board will consider each proposal at its March meeting and vote either to recommend it or not. The delegates will adopt a program at convention. *[ed: form removed from article, email sgarling@verizon.net for copy]*

#### NOMINATIONS FOR LOCAL LEAGUE AWARDS

As usual, local Leagues, groups of members or individual members will be honored at the state Convention for their wonderful projects, programs and services. Does your League have a great youth program, voter service project or maybe a membership or action program? Don't be shy – let us know! The categories for awards and the nominating form are attached. Please consider nominating your League or member(s) for an award. We all have great successes to celebrate – let's do it at Convention. Be sure to include samples or exhibits with your nomination. The forms and attachments (see Attachment 10) are due to the state office by March 1. *[ed: form removed from article, email sgarling@verizon.net for copy]*

#### AWARDS PROGRAM

This year we are planning to sell ad space in the Awards Program to businesses and individuals as a way of raising money for the state League and of getting the names of local Leagues out in the community.

We are asking members of local Leagues to sell space to local merchants, banks, and individuals. A prize will be presented to the local League that sells the largest dollar amount of ads and the Local League that sells the greatest dollar amount of ads per local League member. See Attachment 9 for more information and form to be completed for each ad solicitation. The forms must be received in the state League office no later than noon of May 2, 2011. *[ed: form removed from article, email sgarling@verizon.net for copy]*

~ from January 2011 State Board Convention News email.

#### "CAPITOL BEAT"

**January 18, 2011:** The League of Women Voters of NYS is pleased to announce the return of "Capitol Beat." This informative and entertaining column, written by the LWVNYS Legislative Director Barbara Bartoletti will contain legislative updates about League issues, as well as political gossip. We will also outline the budget and of course, will chronicle the always-lively end of session. We have created a blog page for "Capitol Beat" on our League website and we welcome your comments posted on this blog page. We have also linked the Legislative Calendar so you have all the dates of the legislative session. So, check out the blog and continue to watch it for updates - we hope to keep it lively and current. Get all the latest legislative info right on our website and blog! <http://www.lwvny.org/> and <http://lwvny.org/advocacy/2011SessionCalander.pdf>

~ From LWVNYS email 1/18/2011

# The Broome-Tioga Voter

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION U.S. POSTAGE <b>PAID</b> BINGHAMTON, NY PERMIT # 2
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

<b>Calendar</b>	
February 26	Legislative Breakfast
March 22	Program Meeting “What’s Happening in Albany”
April 26	Program Meeting “Health Care Panel Discussion”
May 10	Annual Meeting

<b>Contents</b>	
President’s Message	2-3
Legislative Breakfast Details	3
Upcoming Meeting Topics	3
New Members	3
League Easy Web Information	4
Natural Resources Committee Meeting	4
LWVNYS Convention Information	4-5
Capitol Beat News	5