



The Broome-Tioga Voter

Bulletin of the *League of Women Voters of Broome & Tioga Counties*
www.lwv-broometioga.org janepark@stny.rr.com

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February Program

Plan now to attend the.....

LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST



Saturday, February 25, 10 AM - Noon

Binghamton Riverwalk Hotel and Conference Center

Cost: \$16 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 20th.** 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

I am writing this column between the Iowa caucuses and the New Hampshire primary. I confess that I am already a little weary from all the hoopla to date. Of course, it is likely to get worse. The year 2012 promises to be a noisy year! All the more reason for us, as the League of Women Voters, to gear up to do what we do best: hands-on work safeguarding democracy and helping shape the issues that keep our community fair, vibrant, and strong. We need to make our kind of "noise."

Our challenge is to find more hands to do the hands-on work. I know I have said a lot already about the excellent and copious work your Board of Directors has accomplished. All of it is true. However, there is much more that could be done with your help.

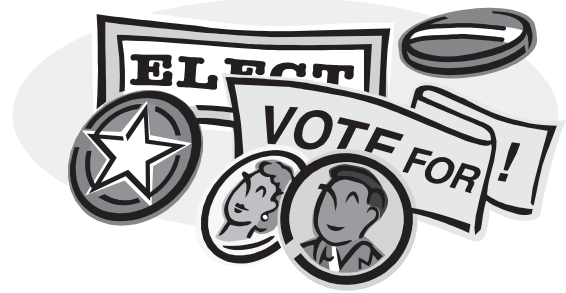
For example, we have two sets of excellent study/action materials inviting our attention.

One is the LWVUS study on **privatization**, the movement to deregulate private industry and transfer many government services, assets, and functions to the private sector. The other is a New York State League program on exploring opportunities for **increasing voter participation** through such activities as voter registration modernization, early voting, better ballot design, poll worker training, and voter education.

What we need now are interested individuals to agree to look over the materials and decide on a plan for pursuing them. By "plan" I mean taking advantage of existing tools such as VOTER articles, program meetings, and collaboration with other groups. By "plan" I also mean that those brave enough to step forward can also define the scope of what they would try to do with these topics. In other words, we are not asking you to launch a full-time career on these (or any other League subjects that may be of interest to you).

Please consider stepping forward. Those of us who have done this in the past have been pleasantly surprised to learn what a rewarding exercise it is, not only for the League, but for our own personal growth. I would love to talk with you further. I can be reached at janepark@stny.rr.com or 748-4192.

~ Jane Park



COULD I? SHOULD I RUN?

A WORKSHOP FOR WOMEN INTERESTED IN PUBLIC OFFICE

The Civic Education Council of Broome Community College will present a workshop for women thinking about running for public office or becoming more involved in community affairs in other ways.

The one-day, Saturday workshop will focus on the positive difference women can bring to public service. Learn about the various roles women have had in local, state, and national government. Participants will learn about which public service roles are available and which ones might be a good match for their interests, skills, and talents.

Clear and practical advice will be offered by a panel of current and past officeholders, candidates, and campaign managers. In addition, a basic overview of practical steps one needs to take, once one decides that public service is an area of interest, will be presented.

The all-day event will be held Saturday, February 11 (snow date February 18), in Room 201 of the Decker Health Sciences Building, Room 201, from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., and includes morning beverages and lunch. The cost is \$10 per person. Registration is required by Wednesday, February 8, by contacting the Continuing Education Office at BCC at (607) 778-5012. Scholarships are also available.

~ Linda Biemer

~ Karl Wokan

(Editor's Note: Linda and Karl represent the League on the BCC Civic Education Council.)

Local Program –Your Input Needed

Over the years the positions listed below have been adopted as the basis for action on local issues. At our annual meeting in May voting members have an opportunity to reaffirm, revise, or otherwise update this local program. If you would like to propose any changes, please send your proposal in writing to Jane Park, 284 Ridgefield Road, Endicott, NY 13760 or janepark@stny.rr.com. **Proposals must be submitted by March 10.**

1. Support for a countywide centralized emergency dispatch system (911) in Broome & 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 & Tioga Counties.
3. Support of a consolidated approach to water and waste water planning in Broome & Tioga Counties.
4. Support of reassessment at full value of all properties in Broome & Tioga Counties in order to achieve more equitable distribution of taxes.
5. Support full-scale separation and recycling in Broome & Tioga Counties.
6. Support of equitable apportionment of the Broome & Tioga County Legislatures.
7. Support of an elected executive for Broome County.
8. Support for adequate operating expenses and facilities by Broome & Tioga County governments to assure effective operation of the Broome & Tioga County Boards of Elections.
9. Support improved public transport in Broome & Tioga Counties.
10. Support consolidation of local government services and local governments in Broome & 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.

~ Jane Park

Please Welcome our New Member

Gia Kirby of Binghamton

~ Eva Anderson

Flooding Event Highlights Importance of River Planning Effort

Recent flooding across the Southern Tier has highlighted the need to better understand and appreciate the power of the region's rivers and their tributaries, especially during prolonged and intensive rainy weather conditions. The *Susquehanna-Chemung Action Plan*, currently under development for the Susquehanna and Chemung River basins in the Southern Tier of New York, examines the issue of flooding as well as range of other important river-related issues. The plan is being prepared through a joint effort of the Southern Tier Central and Southern Tier East Regional Planning Development Boards and is supported by federal funding through the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

The plan has been a two-year effort and has involved the participation of an ad hoc Advisory Committee of interested stakeholder groups from around the region. The planning effort is now nearing completion; however, additional input to the plan is being solicited from the public and a broad range of interests throughout the region.

Anyone interested in the plan or contributing to its development should visit the special web site developed for the project at www.susquehanna-chemung.org. The web site contains draft elements of the plan, as well as a host of information and relevant links, including an on-line data atlas developed especially for the site. Additionally, the web site provides important contact information for those wishing to "get involved" in this important planning effort.

~ Jane Park

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Calendar

Visit lwv-broometioga.org for the latest event details

February 11	Running for Public Office Workshop
February 20	Legislative Breakfast reservations dues
February 25	Legislative Breakfast
March 10	Local Program Inputs Due to Jane Park
March 27	Albany Update

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