



**League of Women Voters of Chemung
County, Inc. Newsletter
March 2011**

Please send comments and articles to:

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Events too Good to Miss!!!

March 1, 2011 6:30 -8:30 The Chemung County Council of Women presents the second annual **Salute Your Favorite Woman in History**. Share info: fictional or real person. Presentation is free, enjoy refreshments. Perhaps the founder of LWV will come!!! Chemung County Historical Society, 415 E. Water St., Elmira.

March 10, 2011, 6 pm Movie: **IRON-JAWED ANGELS**
The true story of the women's suffrage movement. "Meaningful Movies," The Park Church, Elmira -- free

March 31, 2011 **Elmira Women of Achievement Dinner**
Mark your Calendars! Notable women of our community are honored for their leadership. A Chemung County Council of Women Event at Crystal House, 89 Fisherville Rd.
Note: Our League's Nominee has been selected based on input from membership and the board and will soon be announced.

April 12, 11:30 am **Pay Equity Day Program (and light luncheon)**
Steele Memorial Library, 101 E. Church St., Elmira
AAUW and LWV sponsors of program. Speaker to be announced.

LWV New York State Updates

1. 2010 Election Survey Results

The League of Women Voters of New York State released the results of an online survey of voters' experiences using the new paper ballot optical scanning system that was implemented statewide for the 2010 election cycle.

Outline survey =1,072 respondents, 47 counties

Responses:

- voting machines performed well
- several inadequacies need to be addressed.
 1. Increased Voter Education
 2. Increased Training for all Elections Personnel
 3. Revision of the Paper Ballot for the Maximum Usability by Voters
 4. Privacy Issues -over 40 percent said they did not have sufficient privacy in marking the ballot, scanning the ballot, or were not given a privacy sleeve or instructed how to use it.
 5. Need to improve ballot design, provide better training for workers, and ensure privacy for voters.

2. Electronic Voter Guides

The State League has announced that it is planning to develop a voter's guide (electronic) available for all geographic areas of the state without cost to the local Leagues. This would enable local Leagues to determine the local races to be covered, including board of education and special district races. This will be explored at the state convention and training will be available there.

3. Redistricting

Governor Cuomo announced legislation to establish independent redistricting commission on Feb. 17. Specifically introducing the Redistricting Reform Act of 2011 to permanently reform how congressional and state legislative district lines are drawn. The League very much supports this action. The League will be sending out more information on lobbying for redistricting reform which includes bills A3432 and S2543.

4. Ethics Reform Delayed

One of every eleven New York State legislators who left since 1999 did so because of ethical or criminal misconduct. Good government groups call for immediate action on delayed ethics reform (2/14/11) Let Sen. O'Mara and Assemblyman Friend know of your concern.

National LWV Update

1. Presidential Public Financing in Danger

The House has voted to end the presidential public financing system. The system has served the nation and presidential candidates of both major parties well and has helped protect the public from corruption. It has also given the average citizen and small donors a major role to play in financing our presidential campaigns.

Action Alert: Let Sens. Schumer <schumer.senate.gov> and Gillibrand <gillibrand.senate.gov> know you oppose the elimination of the presidential public financing act S. 194 and any other moves to eliminate public financing for presidential elections.

2. Protect the Clean Air Act and the EPA

The LWVUS Tool kit for Climate Action now includes materials to support local Leagues' work on one of National's advocacy priorities for 2011: Clean Air Defense. This new section includes background information and suggestions of things local Leagues can do to help safeguard the Environmental Protection Agency's ability to establish the urgently needed clean air protections called for by the Clean Air Act. For more information go to <lwv.org>

Contact Barb Luther (Co- President) 734-1321 <bluther@stny.rr.com>

or

Joan Russen (Vice President) 739-9960 <Joancrussen@aol.com> if you'd like to get more involved or have any questions about the LWV of Chemung County .

LWV Mission Statement: The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages the informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Diversity Policy: The LWV, in both its values and practices affirms its belief and commitments to diversity and pluralism, which means that there shall be no barriers to participation in any activity of the LWV on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin or disability.