



**League of Women Voters of Chemung  
County, Inc. Newsletter  
January, 2012**

Dear Members and friends,

Hope you had a happy holiday season and wish you all the best in the new year! In the "Coming up" section below please note the Jan. 23, Monday Membership meeting at Steele Memorial Library. This meeting is a much needed time for all of us together (bring along interested in joining) and talk about what you want the content of future meetings and study groups to be this year.

Looking forward to seeing you there!  
Barb Luther and the Board.

Coming up:

1. **Board Meeting:** Sat., Jan. 7th, 9:30am at Panera's. **All members welcome!**
  
2. **Membership Planning and Social Meeting:** Mon., Jan. 23rd, 7:00-8:30 pm at Steele Memorial Library. Please plan to attend this time to discuss what's ahead for us and get together!
  
3. Some planned general/membership meetings as of now:
  - \*Salute Your Favorite Woman in History evening with CCCW, Thurs., March 1st.
  - \*Equal Pay Day Program, Tues., April 17th
  - \*School Board Elections Debates/Forums - TBA for this spring

What programs and/or study group topics would you like to see and work on in the coming year? Let's hear from everyone!

U.S. LWV's President Elisabeth MacNamara writes in her "Leaders Update" on Jan. 5, 2012:

*"Last year, Congress's principal environmental target was the EPA. Applying the empty term 'job-killing' to every effort to protect our air and water, members of the House proposed countless bills and amendments to abolish or eviscerate an agency with a sound track record of improving the quality of our air and water and, thereby, the quality of our public health. We expect similar attacks to continue as an issue in the 2012 campaign...*

*So as we start off the New Year, let's all resolve to take this opportunity to make the Promise (from the Clean Air Promise campaign) and send a message to our representatives in Washington: Don't mess with the Clean Air Act; don't mess with the EPA!"*

On another note, the LWVUS encourages local Leagues to make suggestions to the National Board on LWVUS Legislative priorities for the future. Our Jan. 23 meeting would be a great time to bring up such suggestions. We are asked to keep in mind that the National League must prioritize and consider those issues where we might:

- (1) be able to make a difference or have a significant impact;
- (2) strengthen League's credibility and visibility;
- (3) ensure League have sufficient issue and political expertise;
- (4) be able to manage resources effectively (manage cost factors);

Some New York LWV Updates:

1. Lobby Day January 18th in Albany. Contact a local LWV Board below (see list below) and also email the state office for more information :

<lwny@lwny.org>

2. 2012 Legislative Agenda of the NYLWV:

\*Election Reform: Improve election processes to extend, encourage and protect voting, including paperless and Election Day registration, better ballot design, improved polling place management/poll worker training, and measures to ensure the integrity of all ballots.

\*Campaign Finance Reform: Support lower contribution limits, increased disclosure and public financing...stronger and effective campaign finance enforcement with increased civil and criminal penalties for violations.

\*Other government positions: Support structural reform to legislative redistricting; support effective ethics enforcement and open and transparent government processes; monitor impact of the property tax cap on localities and schools.

\*Health Care: Support affordable and effective health care for all New Yorkers.

\*Natural Resources: Support protection and management of New York's natural resources in the public interest.

\*Other League Positions: The League also has positions on the Judiciary, State Finances, and Special Policy under which we can and do take action.

Personal Note: We'll miss Babs Dunn, as she has move to Brattleboro, VT to live near family in late November. She's been a most dedicated and energetic board member and League volunteer. All the best to her in Vermont!

If you'd like to get more involved or have any questions about the LWV of Chemung County please contact one of the following people:

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

*Joan Russen (Vice President) 739-9960 <Joancrussen@aol.com>*

For comments or information and articles you would like to submit to the newsletter, please conatact: *MaryHungerford (VoterService) 737-6182 <maryohungerford@gmail.com>*

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.