



League of Women Voters of Cortland County NEWSLETTER

Sept/Oct 2009

President: Shawn C. Smith *mrs.shawnsmith@gmail.com* **Editor:** Mary Beilby *beilby@cortland.edu*

CALENDAR

- Sept 18th—Board Meeting Red Dragon 6pm.
- Sept. 26th—Voter Registration at the East Side Farmers Market (corner of Elm and Franklin) 8am-1 pm Call M. Beilby 836-6502 if you can help.
- Sept 28th—7pm NY State League President, Betsey Swan, speaking at Tompkins Co League at Beverly Livesay Rm, Human Services Bldg, 320 W. State St. Ithaca.
- Oct 7th —Smart Growth and the Natural Environment. Speaker Ed Marx, AICP; Tompkins Co. Commissioner of Planning and Public Works. Annual Anna Hilton Lecture sponsored by Homer Garden Club at 7pm at Christ Presbyterian/United Community Church at 292 Tompkins St. Cortland. This will constitute our League meeting for October as the topic is a key one for the NYS League and Mrs. Hilton was a League member and environmental proponent .(see LWV position on Smart Growth on p. 2)
- Oct 15—6pm—Board Meeting Red Dragon 6pm.
- Nov. (date TBA) on Health care reform

President's Message:

Greetings CCLWV Members! This year has been quite challenging with the sluggish economy, high unemployment rates, and business closings. However, there is room for optimism! One thing I can say for down times is that we all hunker down with them - together - to continue to get the job done and help one another. Hopefully, you all saw a little green with the green & white Jets memorabilia and fans around the town. It was a pleasure to host them in our community and fun was had by all.

Now that summer is coming to an end, however, it is time to roll up our sleeves and get back to it! There's lots of work to do and many issues to tackle. The NYS LWV legislative agenda includes reforming state government, energy and the environment, and cost-effective & accessible health care. Please look for details found in the voter's guides at locations throughout Cortland County.

As you know, the League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization, which encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. As such, one of our most valued and important local functions is to plan and moderate candidate forums for city, county and school board candidates running for office.

On page 4 of this newsletter, you will find a schedule of opportunities to hear from the people wanting to represent you. Please take the time to jot down the time and date of the forum(s) in your district and plan to attend. Bring your concerns, your thoughtful questions, and your ear to hear from the candidates. They work for us, yes, we the people, and if we do not take the time to make educated voting choices, we get what other people vote for. So, please join us for these very important sessions and encourage others to attend as well.

We will also start out this fall with some thought provoking educational presentations beginning in October where we will be hearing about smart development and the natural environment, followed in November by healthcare reform, and a Meet & Greet of your newly elected officials in December. Watch for specific dates and times to be announced in the newspaper and on flyers posted throughout the community.

Warmly in League, Shawn C. Smith

LWVNY POSITION ON CONTAINING SPRAWL/SMART GROWTH

In supporting a proactive role for the state in conserving natural resources and containing sprawl, the League supports legislation that will:

- Promote regional land use planning
- Enhance urban neighborhoods
- Protect agricultural land, open space, watersheds and other sensitive areas

Effective regional land use planning that curbs sprawling development helps to preserve farmland and open space, protect water quality, improve health by providing more opportunities for physical activity, reduce pollution from automobile emissions, reduce the social isolation of those who can't drive, encourage redirection of resources to enhance urban neighborhoods, and save taxpayers money by reducing the costs of infrastructure. The need for such planning becomes even more urgent with the realization that it can be an important factor in reducing climate change.

In anticipation of the Oct. 7th program at the Christ Presbyterian/United Community Church, you might look at the Tompkins Co. Planning Dept. website: www.tompkins-co.org/planning/ to see some of their work on land-use planning. They have been identifying scenic, water, and other natural resources and increasing density of new development to reduce sprawl and infrastructure costs and enhance population centers and public transportation.

League Mission Statement

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, & influences public policy through education and advocacy.

2009-10 DUES REMINDER: Your membership dues are **essential** to the LWV. A large share of your dues goes to the national and state Leagues that provide direction and useful resources to our local league. Our only source of funding is our annual membership dues and contributions made by friends of the League. So please make sure you pay your dues as soon as you can. Send a check to treasurer, Lenore Schwager using the form below

Our Chapter Needs Support and Members—Encourage Others to Join!

League of Women Voters Membership Application-Cortland County Chapter

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ e-mail _____

Membership dues: \$50 per year

**Please send with check payable to Cortland County Chapter, League of Women Voters
To: Lenore Schwager, Treasurer 42 Pearl St. Cortland, NY 13045**

SIX STEPS TO MAKING GAS DRILLING SAFER
(information distributed at the Spring 2009 LWV-NY Convention)

- 1. Pass federal legislation H.R. 2766 will repeal the exemption for hydraulic fracturing from the Safe Drinking Water Act. Two New York Congressmen are members and should be called: Rep. Engel (202-225-2464) and Rep. Weiner (202-225-6616) . Ask them to co-sponsor the bill and push it towards passage by the committee. A companion bill S. 1215 has the same purpose. and is in the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works. Call Sen. Schumer (202-224-6542) to thank him for cosponsoring and fax Sen. Gillibrand, as her office requests (202-228-0282), to urge her to cosponsor the bill and move it successfully through the committee. For background on this legislation go to [www.earthworksaction.org/PR_2009Halliburton Leg.cfm](http://www.earthworksaction.org/PR_2009HalliburtonLeg.cfm)
- 2. Strengthen federal regulation Send fax to Lisa Jackson, Administrator, US EPA (202-501-1450) asking her to a) revisit 2004 EPA study whose conclusion (that hydrofracking did not need further study) did not match its own findings; b) investigate problems in CO, OH, PA, TX, etc.; and c) enforce existing federal laws.
- 3. Support NY State legislation To return home rule on health & safety issues to local government, in accordance with the NY Constitution, ask Sen. Winner (732-2765) and Assm. Bacalles (776-9691) or Assm. O'Mara (732-3500) to delete section 2 of ECL 23-0303 which "shall supercede all local laws or ordinances relating to the regulation of the oil, gas and solution mining industries" (except jurisdiction over local roads and real property tax). Ask Bacalles or O'Mara to support A. 8784 requiring disclosure of chemicals in fracking fluid and permits for withdrawing over 5,000 gallons of water per day; amend to include Susquehanna watershed.
- 4. Extend length and type of public comment on draft SGEIS Send fax to Gov. David A. Paterson (518-474-1513) with copy to his appointee Alexander "Pete" Grannis, Commissioner, NYSDEC asking that public comment period be increased

from 30 days to 60 days and that public hearings be held rather than just allowing written comment on the pending draft Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact Statement on drilling for gas in the Marcellus Shale.. This gives the public and officials time to read and respond to the document and hear the input of others.

CORTLAND COUNTY

- 5. Encourage county legislature to prepare for Impact. Speak during the public portion of the monthly meeting or meet with your county legislator to go over the 21 recommendations from Sullivan County Task Force Report "Preparing for Natural Gas Development: Understanding Impacts and Protecting Public Assets" (www.scgnet.us/documentView.asp?docid=768)
- 6. Urge town officials to prepare for impact Discuss with town officials "What Local Governments Can Do to Minimize the Negative Impacts" by attorney and member of Afton Town Board (search Mary Jo Long + What Local Governments Can Do).
- Adapted from Tompkins County League of Women Voters

Consolidation Study

The State League is conducting a study of up to 2 years of the issue of Consolidation. More information will be available at the state website. The Lundine report is available at www.nyslocalgov.org



Meet the Candidates Forums

A series of public forums for candidates for County Legislature, the Cortland City Common Council, and Mayor of the City of Cortland will be sponsored by the CC League of Women Voters and the CC Area Agency on Aging. Moderated by a member of the League, the forums are scheduled as follows:

September 16 - Harford Senior Center, Creamery Hills Complex at 5:30 pm –Candidates for Legislative District 19

September 23 - Scott Senior Center, United Methodist Church at 5:30 pm —Candidates for Legislative District 15

October 8 - Cortlandville Town Hall at 7:00 pm —Candidates for Legislative Districts 13 and 14

October 14 - 51 Port Watson Street, Cortland at 7:00 pm —Candidates running for the Mayor of the City of Cortland and City Alderpersons

October 19 - Homer Senior Center, Town Hall at 5:00 pm —Candidates for Legislative Districts 9, 10 and 11

October 21 - 51 Port Watson Street, Cortland at 7:00 pm —Candidates for Legislative Districts 1 - 8

In districts below, where there is no opposition, the candidates will be invited to attend community Q&A sessions at their respective senior centers/community buildings. These dates are as follows:

September 30 - Marathon Senior Center, Civic Center at 11:00 for Legislative District 18

October 4- McGraw Community Center at 11:00 for Legislative District for Legislative District 12

October 13 - Willet Senior Center, Town Hall at 5:30 pm for Legislative District 17

October 27 - Truxton Senior Center, United Methodist Church, at 5:30 pm for Legislative District 16

Wherever possible, the sessions will be video taped by the League. The public is encouraged to attend any or all of the sessions.

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ELECTION 2009—PRIMARY ELECTION—TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2009

• **Last day to register for the Primary Election by mail: Postmarked by *August 21*, received by *August 26***

- Last day to register for the Primary Election in person: *August 21*
- Last day to postmark an Absentee Ballot Application for the Primary Election: *September 8*
- Last day to submit an Absentee Ballot Application in person for the Primary Election: *September 14*
- Last day to submit your Absentee Ballot by mail: Postmarked by *September 14*, received by *September 22*
- Last day to deliver your Absentee Ballot in person to your county board of elections: *September 15*

GENERAL ELECTION—TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3

• **Last day to register for the General Election by mail: Postmarked by *October 9*, received by *October 14***

- Last day to register for the General Election in person: *October 9*
- Last day to register for the General Election in person for those honorably discharged from the military or who become naturalized citizens after October 9: *October 23*
- Last day to postmark an Absentee Ballot Application for the General Election: *October 27*
- Last day to submit an Absentee Ballot Application in person for the General Election: *November 2*
- Last day to submit your Absentee Ballot by mail: Postmarked by *November 2*, received by *November 10*
- Last day to deliver your Absentee Ballot in person to your county board of elections: *November 3* (reprinted from 2009 NYS LWV Voter Guide)

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CORTLAND COUNTY 2009-2010 BOARD:

Officers:

President	Shawn Smith	<i>mrs.shawnsmith@gmail.com</i>
1st Vice President Voter Service	Nancy Hansen	<i>nancyh14@verizon.</i>
2nd Vice President Membership	Charlotte Farris	<i>farrisdc@yahoo.com</i>
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LWV NYS website www.lwvny.org

LWV US website www.lwv.org

To get on the e-mailing lists for LWV-US bulletins and action alerts, go to <https://member.lwv.org/Subscribe.asp>
The State Board Report is published six times a year on the state website and provides vital information on all activities and actions of the State Board.