



**The LOCAL VOTER**  
**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS**  
**SYRACUSE METROPOLITAN AREA**

**OCT/NOV 2011**

Syracuse Metro LWV  
 PO Box 11866  
 Syracuse NY 13218  
 (507 Plum St -2nd Fl. Syr. 13204)  
 Phone: (315) 448-7199  
 Fax: (315) 448-7299  
 Email: [league@lwvsyr.org](mailto:league@lwvsyr.org)  
 Web Sites:  
 Local: [www.lwvsyr.org](http://www.lwvsyr.org)  
 State: [www.lwvny.org](http://www.lwvny.org)  
 National: [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)

**NOW MORE THAN EVER**  
 We need to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens.

**NOW MORE THAN EVER**  
 We need to demand that political dialogue, while often boisterous and controversial, be civil.

**NOW MORE THAN EVER**  
 We need to increase our understanding of major public policy and legislative issues.



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**OCTOBER EVENTS**

**CITY OF SYRACUSE BOARD OF EDUCATION FORUM**

HENNINGER HIGH SCHOOL  
 600 ROBINSON STREET  
 TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2011  
 6:30—7 PM—RECEPTION  
 7:00—8:15 PM FORUM

Sponsored by  
 Parents for Public Schools, Syracuse Metro LWV, La Liga, ACTS

**REDISTRICTING NEW YORK—2012**

Maxwell Auditorium, Syracuse University  
 Wednesday, October 19, 2011  
 4:00—6:00 PM

The Campbell Public Affairs at Syracuse University and Fordham University Center for Electoral Politics and Democracy presents a panel on demystifying the redistricting process and its implications.

Panelists  
 Barbara Bartoletti, Legislative Director, LWVNY  
 Dick Dadey, Executive Director, Citizens Union of NYC  
 Costas Panagopoulos, Director, Fordham Center for Electoral Politics & Democracy  
 Jeff Stonecash, Professor of Political Science, Syracuse University

**CITY OF SYRACUSE COMMON COUNCIL FORUM\***

NOTTINGHAM HIGH SCHOOL  
 3100 EAST GENESEE STREET  
 TUESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2011  
 6:30-7:00 PM RECEPTION  
 7:00— 8:30 PM FORUM

Sponsored by  
 Parents for Public Schools, Syracuse Metro LWV, La Liga, ACTS

\*Questions will be related to public education

# BOARD NOTES

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Our condolences go out to the family and friends of **Margaretta Brace**. Margaretta was a long time member and supporter of the Syracuse League.

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If you have not already renewed your membership, please do so soon. Your support is needed for our many activities throughout the year. Your dues also provide financial support to the State and National Leagues.

## NATURALIZATION CEREMONIES

Thanks to all who have helped out this year with this very important Voter Service activity. A schedule for the coming year will be available soon.

If you have not participated in this League activity in the past, you will find it a very rewarding and moving experience.

Please contact Voter Service Director Susan Bush to volunteer.

[sjbushywca@cnyemail.com](mailto:sjbushywca@cnyemail.com)

Phone: 424-0040



## PLEASE NOTE

The **Onondaga County Board of Elections** has moved. They are now located at 1000 Erie Blvd. West. The phone and fax numbers remain the same:

**Phone: 315-435-VOTE or 315-435-3312**

**Fax: 315-435-8451**

## ABSENTEE VOTING

**Nov 1st** - Last day to post mark an absentee Ballot Application

**Nov. 7th** - Last day to submit an Absentee Ballot in person

**Nov 7th**—Last day to submit your Absentee Ballot by mail

**Nov. 8th** - Last day to deliver your Absentee Ballot in person to the BOE

## Officers

Co-Presidents... Joan Durant, Joan Johnson  
Secretary... Open  
Treasurer.... Rhonda Hungerford

## Directors

Advocacy... Audrey Benenati  
Fund-Raising... Nina Tamroski  
Membership... Minna Buck  
Program.... Rae Rohfeld  
Publications... Joan Johnson  
Public Relations... Janet Mallan  
Voter Service... Susan Bush  
Election Specialis ... Lenore Rapalski

## Off-Board Positions

Budget Director.... Roberta Millert  
Nominating Committee.... Open  
Technical Support... Roberta Millert  
Fundraising Coordinator... Nina Tamrowski

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The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy. For more information please call the League office at (315) 448-7199 or e-mail to [league@lwvsyr.org](mailto:league@lwvsyr.org)

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## Diversity Statement

The Syracuse Metropolitan League of Women Voters is committed to diversity and pluralism, which means there shall be no barriers to participation in any League activity on the basis of age, race, ethnicity, gender, disability, sexual orientation, religion, economic status, or national origin.

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Please let us know your email address.

- It is the most efficient way to communicate
- You will be notified of upcoming local events
- LWV National & State Action Alerts

Your e-mail address will not be shared or sold.

Please respond to [league@lwvsyr.org](mailto:league@lwvsyr.org)

# CO-PRESIDENTS REPORT

## ***DON'T FORGET TO ASK***

The Syracuse League has been chosen to be one of several local leagues in New York State to be part of an LWVUS membership and leadership training program. The program is a “best practices” mentoring program to help enrich the democracy-building efforts of our over 90 year grassroots organization. Each League in the program has been assigned a nationally trained “coach”. Our coach, Carole Torok-Huxtable hails from the Utica League.

One thing I learned from attending the workshop is that we need to **ASK** our members to get more involved in what we do and to **Ask** a friend or neighbor to attend a particular function with you.

A story we heard at the workshop from one of our LWVUS coaches was that she often walked with one of her neighbors and they would talk about various issues of concern in their community. One morning she mentioned to her neighbor that the League was sponsoring a forum on a particular issue and would she be interested in attending. Her neighbor replied, “Why yes, I thought you would never **ASK**.”

On Thursday, October 13<sup>th</sup> our Board of Directors will meet with our “coach”. We will keep you posted on what we learn. Meanwhile, we hope you will attend some of our upcoming events and don't forget to **ASK** a friend to attend with you.

***Joan Johnson***

## **CALENDAR**

Tuesday, October 18, 2011– 6:30 PM  
Henninger High School, 600 Robinson St  
Syracuse, NY 13206

Syracuse Board of Education Candidates' Forum  
Sponsored by Parents for Public Schools, Syracuse Metro  
LWV, Spanish Action League, ACTS

Wednesday, October, 19, 2011 4-6 PM  
Maxwell Auditorium, SU Campus

REDISTRICTING NEW York—2012, “Demystifying the  
Redistricting Process and Its Implications” (more info  
page 1)

Tuesday, October 25, 2011—6:30 PM  
Nottingham High School, 3100 East Genesee St  
Syracuse, NY 13224

Syracuse Common Council Candidates' Forum  
Sponsored by Parents for Public Schools, Syracuse Metro  
LWV, Spanish Action League, ACTS

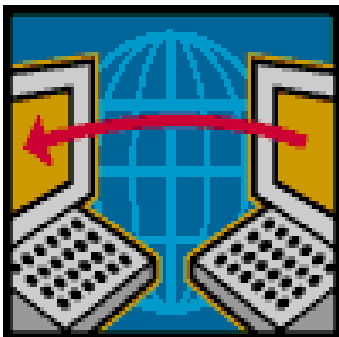
Tuesday, November 8, 2011

Election Day—Polls open 6:00 AM—9:00 PM

Please note we are also in the planning stages for a Supervisor Candidates Forum in the Town of Lysander.  
We will keep you posted by email.

**SO MANY WAYS TO BE WELL**

**CONNECTED!**



**[www.lwvsyr.org](http://www.lwvsyr.org) - League of Women Voters of the Syracuse Metro Area**

**Facebook –[www.facebook.com/LWVOFSYRACUSE](http://www.facebook.com/LWVOFSYRACUSE)**

**[www.lwvny.org](http://www.lwvny.org) - League of Women Voters of New York State**

**[www.lwvus.org](http://www.lwvus.org) - League of Women Voters of the United States**

**[www.on.gov.net](http://www.on.gov.net)—Onondaga County Government**

**[www.ny.gov](http://www.ny.gov)—New York State Government**

**[www.usa.gov](http://www.usa.gov)— United States Government**

**You too can stay well connected by receiving an electronic copy of our newsletter. If you are receiving a printed version we could save printing and mailing costs if we could get it to you ( **in color**) via email. Please help us and your environment by emailing us at [league@lwvsyr.org](mailto:league@lwvsyr.org) and stating you would like to receive the newsletter electronically.**



**Help Us and Help the Environment**



# **NEWS FROM LWFVNY**

## **REDISTRICTING**

With our coalition, ReShapeNY, we have continued to keep pressure on the state to enact redistricting reform in a fall special session through both testimony and through the media.

Thanks to our local Leagues in Syracuse, Buffalo, Rochester, Binghamton, Westchester and NYC for presenting testimony at each of the LATFOR hearings. In some cities, press conferences were also organized and attended by local members. And other local Leagues have submitted Letters to the Editors in their local newspapers. Thanks to all who helped make the League visible and active on this issue.

## **VOTER PARTICIPATION PROJECT**

The League has recently received a grant from the Rockefeller Brothers Foundation to organize a comprehensive educational project examining different means of increasing the rate of voter participation in New York, including expanding opportunities for voter registration, early in-person and absentee voting and vote by mail, and better voter education and ballot design. In this project, we are researching the effect on voter turnout of different innovations in voter registration modernization and early voting, and associated administrative issues for election officials and security concerns.

A power point presentation on the research and the issue, with supporting documents, will be available this fall for local Leagues to use at a community forum. The Syracuse League will organize a forum to present the info to members and the public after the first of the year.

## **STUDENTS INSIDE ALBANY**

The Students Inside Albany Conference has been set for March 25-28, 2012. It's a bit earlier this year so local Leagues need to start recruiting students NOW. This 3 day conference provides the high school students with the skills necessary to become active citizens and lobbyists. The only cost to the local Leagues is the transportation to and from Albany – the conference is free for students.

## **HYDROFRACKING**

Now that the DEC has produced its complete revision of the SGEIS (Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact Statement) on gas drilling and hydraulic fracturing, the public has until Monday, December 12th to comment. In accordance with LWFV positions on air and water quality, protection of watersheds, etc., it is critical that we identify areas that are weak or omitted and suggest appropriate revisions.

There are experts available to speak on the many different aspects of this topic, free of charge, for local Leagues. Call the state office for a list of speakers. Finally, the NY Times recently printed a Letter to the Editor from LWFVNY's President Betsey Swan on this topic. See a link to the letter on the state League website.

## **HEALTH CARE ISSUES**

Sally Dreslin is the new LWFVNY Health Care Specialist. Sally is a member of the Albany County League and Associate Director of Governmental Affairs for the New York State Nurses Association. Sally's first job as Health Care Specialist was to review A7860/S5425—Establishing the New York State Health Plan (Gottfried/Duane). As a result of her recommendation, the League will support this single payer bill and include it in our health care advocacy efforts during the upcoming legislative session.

## **2012 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA**

Now is the time to let us know what state issues you would like to see included in the 2012 LWFVNY Legislative Agenda – Reforming NYS Government? Health Care? State Finances? Natural Resources? Any other issues you feel need to be addressed by our State Legislature? Please email or snail mail your opinions to your local league by November 1st. This is your opportunity to provide input on lobbying efforts next spring.

**HELP WANTED:  
PROGRAM COMMITTEE LOOKS AT EDUCATION**

Every day we can find news stories about successes and failures in our schools. Many school districts and organizations are trying to provide successful learning experiences for every child. Our League would like to offer a program series to inform more people in the county about what's going on, what changes are occurring, and how every one can be involved in *Transforming Schools in our Community*. Organizing the program seems almost as challenging as improving the schools outcomes, but we are learning more all the time.

We expect to collaborate in this activity with people from area organizations who have also been working on educational transformation. So far, we have talked with members of Parents for Public Schools and leaders from Say Yes to Education (which supports and includes the Syracuse City School District). We want to highlight the positive, interesting and exciting things that are going on in the schools of the community and involve speakers with experience in working with students living in poverty as well as experts who know the research on reaching and engaging students from poor communities.

Here are some of the issues we want to explore:

1. How does poverty influence students, families, and the public schools? (This pertains to areas outside the city of Syracuse as well as areas inside.)
2. What is the impact of various funding approaches on schools, and how can we best achieve equity in funding?
3. How can we best meet the needs of our various students? (Students living in poverty, special needs students, etc.)

We hope to be ready to deliver this program in January or February. If you would like to play some role in planning and implementing this program, please contact me at 475-9554 or [rrohfeld@twcny.rr.com](mailto:rrohfeld@twcny.rr.com).

**Rae Rohfeld, Program Director**



**HOW TO MAKE  
VOTING EASIER  
ON ELECTION  
DAY**

**Check Your Name, Address and Polling Location** Go online or call the Board of Elections.

**Bring I.D.** You may be asked to provide this if you are a new voter.

**Get a Ballot** Don't panic if you are not on the voting list. Get help from a poll worker to make sure your vote is counted by casting a provisional ballot.

**Get Help** Poll workers are there to help you. They will show you how to use the voting machine and answer any questions you may have.

**Stay and Vote** Even if the lines are long don't leave without voting. The outcome of the election will be important.

**Avoid Crowds** Plan to vote mid-morning or early afternoon. First thing in the morning, at noon and after working hours, you will usually find the longest lines.

**Bring a Friend** Why go alone when you can take a friend or family member with you.

**Bring Along Your Children** This is a great opportunity to teach them what voting is all about.

**Onondaga County Board of Elections:**  
[www.ongov.net/elections](http://www.ongov.net/elections)  
315-435-3312



**League of Women Voters  
Membership Application**

*Democracy is not a spectator sport  
It's efficient activism*

*It is a way to make your voice count  
It is a way to make politics a process for the people*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ *Individual Level....\$55*

\_\_\_ *Household Level\*....\$80*

\_\_\_ *Student Level \*\*....\$25*

*Please make check payable to:  
Syracuse Metro Area League of Women Voters  
P O Box 11866  
Syracuse, NY 13218*

*\* Two members in the same household*

*\*\* Full time student under 25*

\_\_\_ *I would like to support the League with a donation.*

**For more information call us at (315) 448-7199 or visit us at [www.lwvsyr.org](http://www.lwvsyr.org)**