



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TOMPKINS COUNTY

SEPTEMBER 2007

PRESIDENT: KAY SHARP 272-4748

MEMBERSHIP: MARIA EISNER 277-4404

EDITOR: ROBERT SILSBEE 273-1436

www.lwvtompkins.14850.com

CANDIDATES' FORUM

**DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY
SUPERVISOR, TOWN OF ITHACA**

**Tuesday, September 11 at 7:00 PM
Ithaca Town Hall, 215 N. Tioga**

(more on page 2)

NEW YORK'S IMMIGRANT FARMWORKERS: AN ENDANGERED WORKFORCE

**Mary Jo Dudley, Director of the Cornell
Farmworker Program**

Membership Meeting
Monday, September 17 at 7:00PM
Women's Community Building
100 W. Seneca St.
(more on page 2)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope you all had a relaxing summer as we have a lot of work to do this Fall. October 20th we are hosting an Ida Trager Regional Training Workshop. It is an opportunity for local leagues in Central New York to meet with the NYS Board to discuss important issues such as membership, voter service, and the NYS study

on National Popular Vote. Attached is a sign up sheet for this event. (See page 3.) I hope you all will attend.

The NYS League has identified its policy positions on election law, government, health care, natural resources, social policy, state finances and women's issues. On page 5 is a brief description of the position statements. Let me know what legislative polices you want the League to identify as the 2008 Legislative Agenda. The Legislative Agenda serves as the basis for the League's action and lobbying in 2008. Your input is important. Call me at 272-4748 or e-mail at kshepherdqueen@yahoo.com.

2008 is an election year. We will be busy with voter registration. The fall state primary is September 18th and the presidential primary is on February 5th, 2008 (note this is a change in dates from previous years). We need volunteers

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for this activity as we will have sign-up tables at the Farmer's Market on September 15th and 29th as well as at the Apple Harvest Festival on September 29th and 30th. Call Debby Levin at 273-7746 if you can help with this activity. I hope you will participate in this important League service to the community.

We continue to focus on recruitment of new members. We are setting up a sign-up table at the swearing-in ceremony for new citizens. We depend on you also to enlist interested people. Please bring a friend to our Fall meeting.

The 2007-2008 year is an exciting one. I hope each of you will participate in at least one of our Tompkins County LWV activities.

Kay Sharp, President

VOTER SERVICES/ CANDIDATES' FORUM

The Tompkins County League of Women Voters will host a Candidates Forum on Tuesday, September 11 for candidates running for Ithaca Town Board Supervisor. The forum is being held at Ithaca Town Hall, 215 North Tioga Street, Ithaca, New York and will begin at 7:00 p.m. A league member will moderate the forum and the evening will begin with an opening statement from candidates. People attending will be able to submit oral questions for candidates to answer. The League hopes that community members will join us. For further information please contact Debbie Levin, Voter Services Coordinator, Tompkins County League of Women Voters, 272-7746.

We are planning to have a voter registration table at the Farmer's Market on Sept. 15 and 29. We need people to staff the table. If you can help on either of those days, please call Debbie Levin at 273-7746 or e-mail dlevin01@twcny.rr.com

Debbie Levin

MEMBERSHIP

We thank all who have already sent in their dues and especially those who added a donation. It is truly appreciated. If you have not had a chance to make your payment yet, please do so as soon as possible.

This Bulletin brings you our new flyer. Please, use it for your own information, but then give it to somebody who is interested in the League and might want to join our organization. We are in need of new members!!!

Our next meeting on September 17th is a good occasion to bring a friend along. For more information the see the Voter Services report at the left. Not only is the subject to be discussed an interesting and timely one, but you can also enjoy home-made desserts and coffee. Hope to see you there.

Maria Eisner

GENERAL MEETING

To provide a local perspective on the topic of immigration, the speaker for our September 17 LWV membership meeting will be Mary Jo Dudley, director of the Cornell Farmworker Program. She conducts research on farmworkers' needs, demographic research on farmworkers in New York State, immigrant farmworkers' contributions to communities and their adjustments to life in their new communities, farmworker empowerment, and gender and participation. Ms. Dudley's presentation, titled "Immigrant Farmers in New York: Endangered," will focus on the role of immigrant workers in NY state agriculture, and the challenges that these workers face. The program will take place in room 2-3 of the Women's Community Building at 7:00. Dessert will be provided by the board. Please invite any interested friends to attend.

Martha Hamblin

**IDA TRAGER REGIONAL
TRAINING WORKSHOP**

On Saturday, October 20th, we are hosting an Ida Trager Regional Training Workshop for the Central NYS area. We have not participated in one of these workshops for quite a while, so we're very excited about this opportunity to meet with NYS Board Members and other local leagues in the area. The purpose of the Workshop is to provide a platform for open and intimate dialogue, problem-solving and visioning among local leagues and the NYS League Board. Attending from the NYS League Board are Martha Kennedy (President), Marcia Merrins (VP-Membership), Maggie Moehringer (Voter Service) and Betsey Swan (Development). They will discuss with us various topics of interest to all League members such as expanding membership, voter service, and the NYS study on National Popular Vote.

The Workshop will be held at Tompkins/Cortland Community College, "TC3", Room 21 OB. The College is off Route 13 in Dryden: right at 3rd traffic light then left into the 1st parking lot. The room is in the 1st building by

the circular drive with the TC3 sign in front. The Workshop will be held from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.; a light lunch will be provided. Send in the registration form below and RSVP to me at 272-4748. I hope to see you there. This is also a great opportunity to invite a friend who may want to join our LWVTC.

Kay Sharp

ERRATA

In the summer bulletin report on non-League activities of League members a number of names were misspelled. Corrected spellings are: Cathy Valentino, Carolyn (Cali) Grigorov, Eva Hoffmann and Jane Segelken. Also, Eva Hoffmann has served on the Town of Ithaca Planning Board and Conservation Board but has not been a member of the Ithaca Town board. Thank you, Eva, for your sharp eyes.

Bob Silsbee

PLEASE CLIP AND SEND TO:

LWVNYS, 62 Grand Street
Albany, New York 12207

NAME: _____

LOCAL LEAGUE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____

E-MAIL: _____

Enclosed is my Registration Fee of \$5 for the October 20th, Central New York, Ida Trager Workshop. (Make check payable to LWVNYS.)

LOCAL PROGRAM 2007 – 2008

The League’s study program is chosen by its members. A study committee will inform itself on an issue, will discuss the issue, and will come to consensus. “Consensus” is an agreement that is not based on a simple majority, nor unanimity, but reflects the overall “sense of the group” as expressed through the exchange of ideas and opinions. Consensus is the basis of all League positions, which in turn are used as a platform for lobbying the government, on the local, state and national levels.

A local committee now studies: *Unmet needs of young children living in poverty in Tompkins County*, considering the economic, social and legal angles of this issue: see the committee meeting notice which follows.

We will also be participating in studies by the LWVNYS and the LWVUS.

We will monitor the actions of the NYS government relating to redistricting, campaign finance, public authorities, elections, voting machines, freedom of information, ethics, budget and lobbying.

We will be alert to and take action on abuses of our civil liberties.

CHILDREN IN POVERTY

The Children in Poverty Committee will hold a meeting at 7:15 PM on Wednesday, September 26, at the home of Libby deProsse, 1007 Triphammer Rd. Call for a ride or instructions: 257-6678. This will be an exploratory meeting: What can we do as a committee to help solve the problems the many children in Tompkins County are experiencing in their situations? Call 257-6678 for more information.

Libby deProsse, Chairman, pro tem.

LWVTC CALENDAR—2007-2008

(tentative items in italics)

7:00	Tues., Sept. 11	CANDIDATES’ FORUM: democratic primary for Supervisor, Town of Ithaca	Ithaca Town Hall 215 N. Tioga St.
7:00	Mon., Sept. 17	GENERAL MEETING: IMMIGRANT FARMWORKERS (see page 2) Mary Jo Dudley, Cornell Farmworker Program	Women’s Community Bldg.
	Tues., Sept. 18	DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY FOR SUPERVISOR, TOWN OF ITHACA	
7:15	Wed., Sept. 26	Children in Poverty Committee	(Libby deProsse)
7:00	Mon., Oct. 1	Board Meeting	(Jane McGonigal)
	Oct. ?	CANDIDATES’ FORUM: Local Elections	
11:00	Sat., Oct. 20	IDA TRAGER TRAINING WORKSHOP	TC3 (see page 3)
	Tues., Nov. 6	LOCAL ELECTIONS	
7:00	Mon., Nov. 12	Board Meeting	(Debbie Levin)
7:00	Mon., Nov. 26	GENERAL MEETING: Affordable Housing	Meeting Room
9:30	Sat., Dec. 1	Board Meeting	(Maria Eisner)
7:00	Tues., Jan. 22, 29?	GENERAL MEETING: Agribusiness and Nutrition	
	Tues., Feb. 5	PRIMARIES FOR STATE & NATIONAL ELECTIONS	
Noon	Sat., Feb. ?	GENERAL LUNCHEON MEETING: Albany Reform	
7:00	Mar. ?	GENERAL MEETING: Consensus Meeting on Immigration	
7:00	Apr. ?	ANNUAL MEETING: Presidential Election by Popular Vote	

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TOMPKINS COUNTY: BOARD 2006-07

LWV NYS website			www.lwvny.org
LWV US website			www.lwv.org
LWV-Tompkins County	leave message at 273-8350		lwvtc@twcny.rr.com www.lwvtompkins.14850.com
Officers:			
President	Kay Sharp	272-4748	kshepherdqueen@yahoo.com
VP Program	Martha Hamblin	277-3025	mth3@cornell.edu
VP Membership	Maria Eisner	277-4404	mle3@cornell.edu
VP Finance	Sunny Gooding	277-3598	shgooding@clarityconnect.com
Secretary	Jane McGonigal	272-4065	jwm7@cornell.edu
Treasurer	Alene Wyatt	257-1894	alene@lightlink.com
Directors:			
Action	Mary Berkelman	257-6450	mberkelman@twcny.rr.com
Director-at-large	Libby deProsse	257-6678	deprosse@lightlink.com
Co-Voter Service	Debbie Levin	273-7746	dlevin01@twcny.rr.com
Co-Voter Service	Barbara Thorp	257-2462	bthorp@twcny.rr.com
Publications/PR	Kathy Burlitch	539-7316	klburlitch@frontiernet.net
Phone	Linda Duttweiler	277-0006	ldutt@twcny.rr.com
Bulletin	Robert Silsbee	273-1436	rhs1@cornell.edu
Off-Board Members			
Events Coordinator	Germaine Colvin	257-5446	gcolvin111@aol.com
Web Master	Michael Duttweiler	277-0006	mdutt@twcny.rr.com

LWVNYS POSITIONS IN BRIEF**Election Law**

Support of measures to protect, extend and encourage the use of the franchise; open the political system by enacting a public campaign financing law for statewide offices; establish legal, ethical campaign guidelines; monitor campaign practices; simplify rules for ballot access. And restore integrity to the election process – specifically support uniformity in election laws and procedures and in their implementation and enforcement; promote measures that ensure the integrity of all ballots; and support adequate funding for these procedures and for training of all involved election personnel.

Opposition to term limits for members of the NYS Legislature.

Opposition to term limits for NYS statewide elected officials.

Government

Support of standards to ensure equitable representation in the State Legislature and the Congress.

Support of improved measures to provide representation for legislative districts in case of a vacancy.

Support of responsive and responsible legislative processes which increase the role of the individual member and the committee system.

Support of effective lobbying and ethics regulation.

Support of procedural reforms in the constitutional convention process to promote openness and nonpartisanship.

Health care

Support of measures to assure a basic level of quality physical and mental health care for all state residents including regulatory incentives to encourage development of cost-effective alternative methods of delivery; funding for health promotion and disease prevention programs; provisions for effective citizen participation in health policy decisions.

Support of measures that enable individuals to assume responsibility for their own health and to participate in decisions including termination of extraordinary life-extending

procedures.

Support for uniform eligibility and coverage of basic health care costs through public financing.

Judicial

Support of a unified state court system with improved provisions for judicial selection.

Support of statewide guidelines for law enforcement at all levels to prevent racial and economic profiling.

Support of measures to improve pretrial procedures in the criminal courts.

Support of measures to promote a fair and efficient jury system.

Support of alternatives to incarceration.

Opposition to the death penalty, with life without parole as the primary alternative.

Natural Resources

Support for measures to achieve watershed protection including limiting pesticide uses and applying Best Management Practices.

Support for a state-established, intergovernmental system for land resource management.

Support for a proactive role for New York State in regional land use planning, containing urban sprawl and protecting sensitive areas.

Support of reconditioning of the New York State Erie/Barge Canal.

System and its development for recreational uses.

Social Policy

Support measures to meet the needs for low-income housing through use of state funds and incentives to localities

State Finances

Support reforms for greater equity in education financing for both pupils and the taxpayers.

Oppose in principle the use of public funds to support non-public schools, kindergarten-twelfth grade.

Support of a uniform equitable assessment and property tax system.

Support of measures to provide for openness and accountability in the operation of the New York State public authority system.

Support of a timely and responsive state budget.

Support the funding of public higher education and the existing formula for financing the community system, 1/3 tuition, 1/3 state aid, and 1/3 county support.

Women's Issues/Social Policy

Support of measures which hold marriage to be an economic partnership with a presumption of equality between the spouses.

Opposition to measures that contain a presumption of joint custody of the children.

Support for equity in employment laws and practices and equal pay for jobs of comparable worth.

Support of measures to reduce the incidence and effects of domestic violence.

Support for measures to meet the needs for affordable and accessible housing through use of state funds and incentives to localities.

LWVUS IMMIGRATION STUDY

Below is a preview of the questions for the upcoming Immigration Study Consensus process. These questions are for discussion only. For each item in the various lists, assign a rating: High Priority, Lower Priority, Disagree, or No Consensus.

Question 1a: Federal immigration laws should take into consideration criteria such as the

following (not listed in any particular order or hierarchy):

- a. Ethnic and Cultural Diversity
- b. Economic, Business and Service Employment Needs
- c. Environmental Impact/Sustainability
- d. Family Reunification of Authorized Immigrants and Citizens with Spouses and Minor Children
- e. History of Criminal Activity
- f. Humanitarian Crises/ Political Persecution in

Home Countries

- g. Immigrant Characteristics (health and age)
- h. Rights of All Workers to Safe Working Conditions and Livable Wage
- i. Rights of Families to Remain Together
- j. Rights of all Individuals in U.S. to Fair Treatment Under the Law (Fair Hearing, Right to Counsel, Right of Appeal, and Humane Treatment)
- k. Education and Training

Question 1b: Of the items in Question 1a which you have marked as “High Priority,” please take a moment and select the three most important criteria and list them, in order.

Question 2: Unauthorized immigrants currently in the U.S. should be treated as follows:

- a. Deport Unauthorized Immigrants
- b. Some Deported/Some Allowed To Earn Legal Adjustment of Status Based on Length of Residence in U.S.
- c. Some Deported/Some Allowed to Earn Legal Adjustment of Status Based on Needs of US Employers
- d. All Allowed to Earn Legal Adjustment of Status by Doing Things Such as Paying Taxes, Learning English, Studying Civics, Etc.
- e. If Deported, Assess Fines Before Possible Re-Entry
- f. Assess Fines Before Allowed To Earn Legal Adjustment Of Status

Question 3: Federal immigration law should provide an efficient, expeditious system (with minimal or no backlogs) for legal entry into the U.S. for immigrants who are:

- a. Immediate Family Members Joining Family Member Already Admitted for Legal Permanent Residence in the U.S
- b. Entering the U.S. to Meet Labor Needs
- c. Entering the U.S. as Students
- d. Entering the U.S. because of Persecution in Home Country

Question 4a: In order to deal more effectively

with unauthorized immigrants, Federal immigration law should include:

Social Security Card or Other National Identification Card with Secure Identifiers for *All* Persons Residing in the U.S.

Question 4b: Federal immigration law dealing with unauthorized immigrants should be enforced by including:

- i. Physical Barriers (such as Fences) and Surveillance at Borders
- ii. Increased Personnel at Land, Air, and Sea Entry Points
- iii. More Effective Tracking of Persons with Non-Immigrant Visas Until They Leave the Country
- iv. Verification of Documents, such as Green Cards and Work Permits with Secure Identifiers.
- v. Improved Technology to Facilitate Employer Verification of Employee Visa Status
- vi. Improved Technology for Sharing Information Among Federal Agencies
- vii. A Program to Allow Immigrant Workers to Go in and Out of the U.S. to Meet Seasonal and Sporadic Labor Needs
- viii. Significant Fines Pro-Propionate to Revenue for Employers Who Fail to Take Adequate Steps to Verify Work Authorization of Employees

Question 5: (Please mark each question as “Consensus” or “No Consensus”)

Federal immigration law should address and balance the long-term federal financial benefit from immigrants with the financial costs borne by states and local governments with large immigrant populations.

Question 6: (Please mark each question as “Consensus” or “No Consensus”)

Federal immigration law should be coordinated with U.S. foreign policy to pro-actively help improve economies, education and job opportunities, and living conditions of nations with large emigrating populations.

YOUR REPRESENTATIVES IN CONGRESS

SENATORS:

Hillary Rodham Clinton US Senate, 476 Russell Senate Building, Washington, DC 20510
202-224-4451 Syracuse Office: 315-448-0470
e-mail: senator@clinton.senate.gov web-site: clinton.senate.gov

Charles E. Schumer US Senate, 313 Hart Senate Building, Washington, DC 20510
202-224-6542 Syracuse Office: 315-423-5471
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REPRESENTATIVES;

Michael Arcuri 327 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515-3224
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Maurice Hinchey 2431 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515
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