



# The Leaguer

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THE NEWSLETTER OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY

www.lwvchautauqua.org 672-4275



## September 17th at Noon-Clarion Hotel in Dunkirk

John B. Maggiore serves as Policy Advisor for Attorney General Andrew M. Cuomo. An advisor on numerous policy issues, John is also intimately involved with the agency's communications, outreach and intergovernmental operations. He also serves as the Attorney General's representative on the Buffalo and Ft. Erie Public Bridge Authority. John served as an administrator at Buffalo State College in the dual capacities as Assistant to the President for Communications and Director of Government Relations for the College. He was also a lecturer in the Political Science Department and was instrumental in developing a report containing 128 proposals that ultimately served as a key foundation for Erie County's strategic plan for balancing the budget and streamlining county government. John later served on the Erie County Charter Revision Commission, which produced a series of charter changes that were approved by voters in 2006.

John served as Chief of Staff for Assemblyman Sam Hoyt for nearly 10 years. His prior government service included the positions of Staff Assistant to HUD Secretary Andrew

Cuomo and Confidential Assistant to Governor Mario Cuomo.

John has masters degrees in public administration and political science from Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government and Rutgers University, respectively.

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LWV Chautauqua County  
42 Rosalyn Court  
Fredonia, NY 14063



# Show & Tell: The League Meets Optical Scan

League president Marcia Merrins said demonstrations of an optical scan voting machine will be provided at this year's Fredonia Farm Festival. "The League thinks a hands-on approach in educating the public will best serve the transition from lever to optic scan voting machines," she said.

Gen Ludemann "casts" her vote. Claudia Ansell checks her ballot.

Our members had the opportunity on July 16th to be the first to see the operation of the new optical scan voting machine that will replace the current lever machines.

Speaking to the members at the White Horse Inn, County Board of Elections Commissioner Norman Green said the optical scanners will be available for handicapped/disabled voters to use this fall. Under a court order, he said, this will be the last year lever machines will remain in operation in New York state. "New York is dead last in adopting optical scan voting machines and it is being done under a federal mandate to make the transition from lever machines," he said.

In defense of the delay, Green said because other states have uncovered problems

with various scanning operations, New York has

had an advantage in its selection of which machine to use. Green noted the new system provides privacy, security and a paper trail of the ballots cast. That's because voters will have access to a curtained booth where they will mark paper ballots with their votes, place them in a privacy sleeve, then feed them into the scanner where they will be recorded and kept secure.

"Even though we believe the system we have selected for Chautauqua County is voter friendly, changeover can be complicated and we will do our best to educate the public on its use," he noted. This education will be offered this year and next in preparation for the optical scan voting machine use in the fall of 2009 election. The League of Women Voters will be assisting with this public education effort as well.

Green said each polling site in the county will have the new voting machine available for handicapped/disabled voters this year and will replace the lever machines for the fall of 2009 elections. The optical scanners cost \$11,500 apiece with the federal government picking up 95 percent of this cost and the county paying for the balance. The county cannot put money aside for this cost and have already met our obligation in this regard.

"We think the optical scan operation will speed up the voting process," he said. He also noted election inspectors will have to undergo training regarding the scanner's operation. One League member who serves as an election inspector said she feels this training is vital.

"We still have voters coming to the polls who don't know how to operate a lever voting machine," she said.

*The leaders you elect make decisions that affect you—your job, your health care, your energy costs, your security... and more.*

## Visit [VOTE411.org](http://VOTE411.org) for all you need to vote in this important election. Vote November 4th.



**VOTE411.org**  
ELECTION INFORMATION YOU NEED

Election Day Problems? Call Toll Free:  
1-866-MYVOTE1 ■ 1-866-OUR-VOTE ■ 1-888-VE-Y-VOTA

A project of the League of Women Voters



This is a wonderful time to be a member of the League!

We start off our fall season at our booth at the Farm Festival in Fredonia. Esther Lanford has chaired the event and many, many members are taking a small part of their precious summer weekend to meet and greet visitors. We'll also have a new optical scanner to debut to voters!

On September 13th we will have a special meeting to raise some funds for our work. We will have members and friends of the League donating and buying wonderful hand made items. Please join us! Home made biscotti will be there too!

Project Sunlight is an important new initiative by the state attorney general's office. You will be amazed at all the information you can access quickly! Join us on September 17th at the Clarion as we learn more about this tool. Many thanks to our program chair Gloria Garretson for her work

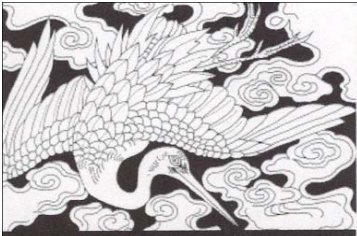
in organizing this event. Inez Krohn and Ann Manly have set the date, October 14th, for an update on Local Government Consolidation with Stan Lundine. It will be at the Stockton Inn. There is an "early bird" coupon on Page 6. Don't miss this one!

Minda Rae Amiran and her Voter Service Committee are up to their noses in preparations for the election season. They will be distributing over 8,000 Take Me to Vote cards to children throughout Chautauqua County.

We will also be hosting two Meet the Candidates events. The first is on October 27 at the Jackson Center in Jamestown at 7 p.m. The second is on October 29 at the 1891 Fredonia Opera House in Fredonia at 7 p.m.

Ask questions, get involved! Get a friend to join! I hope to see you soon!

Warmly,



Laura Mitchell-Woolson, L.Ac.  
Classical Five Element  
Acupuncturist



One Park Place, Suite 207  
Fredonia, NY 14063  
(716) 672-9674  
www.5blessings.com  
fiveblessings@mac.com

## We Welcome Our Newest Member!

**Tory Irgang**  
**155 Park Street**  
**Jamestown, New York 14701**  
**483-2056**  
[tory.irgang@wcahospital.org](mailto:tory.irgang@wcahospital.org)

### RESERVATION FORM: "Project Sunlight" - SEPTEMBER 17th at Noon

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

Seafood Alfredo \_\_\_\_\_ Chicken Marsala \_\_\_\_\_

**\$13 with dessert and beverage.**

Please send in by **September 12** to: Gloria Garretson

4932 E Shorewood Drive

Dunkirk, NY 14048

366-3211 gloriag543@roadrunner.com



**“Come See the Art in League:  
We’re More than Just Issues”**

**Join the Chautauqua County League of Women Voters**

at an

**Art Show & Sale**

**Featuring the Talents of Our Members**

**Saturday, September 13 \* 10 A.M. to Noon**

*at the home of* **Marcia Merrins, 42 Rosalyn Court, Fredonia**

**Let us know that you’re coming! 366-1176 or 672-4275**



## League Calls for Moratorium on New Coal-Fired Electric Power Plants

The LWVUS Board has voted to support a ten-year moratorium on new construction of coal-fired electric power plants. This action is based on LWVUS environmental and energy positions and will reinforce the work the League is doing around the country to combat global climate change.

### **Global warming is happening, and its impacts are already being felt today.**

Evidence includes disappearing glaciers, increasingly severe heat waves and droughts in some areas, intensifying hurricanes and floods in others, and more wildfires. If left unchecked, the effects could be catastrophic: millions of people displaced as rising sea levels flood coastal areas; many regions devastated by reduced crop yields and shortages of drinking water; human health threatened by the spread of malaria and other vector-borne diseases; many plant and animal species at risk of extinction.

### **Coal is the single largest source of global warming pollution in the U.S.**

A thickening "blanket" of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and other greenhouse gases (GHGs) in the atmosphere is trapping solar heat and warming the earth's surface. Most of the CO<sub>2</sub> comes from burning fossil fuels. Coal is the most carbon-intensive fossil fuel, producing more CO<sub>2</sub> per million

Btus of energy than burning oil or gas. Coal-fired power plants are responsible for 33 percent of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the U.S.

### **Restricting CO2 emissions from coal-fired power plants is imperative.**

The League of Women Voters is calling for a ten-year moratorium on the new construction of coal-fired electric power plants. This will allow the coal and power industries more time to test carbon capture and storage (CCS) technologies and to determine whether the long-term storage of CO<sub>2</sub> is feasible and safe. The League will work at all levels to help policy makers and the public understand that investing in climate-friendly energy technologies is essential if we are to avoid irreversible damage to our planet.

### **We cannot afford to wait any longer to cut greenhouse gas emissions.**

The global climate is changing faster than was predicted just a few years ago, and what we do in the next two to three years will determine our future. Power plants have a lifetime of 50 years or more. Building new conventional coal-fired plants today will commit us to decades of unnecessary carbon emissions and foreclose the possibility of preventing dangerous global warming.

### **Energy efficiency and renewable energy can meet our electrical needs.**

A combination of energy conservation, greater efficiency in the use of electricity, and increased development and use of renewable energy can ensure that there is enough electricity to support continued economic growth without building a new generation of CO<sub>2</sub>-emitting power plants. The California experience shows that this strategy works. Through a variety of efficiency initiatives, California has held per capita electrical consumption essentially constant since 1975 while maintaining a robust economy.

### **The U.S. must lead with strong action.**

As the world's largest economy and largest per capita emitter of global warming pollution, the U.S. must provide leadership in international efforts to reduce GHG emissions. Aggressive action in this country will help influence China, India and other rapidly developing nations to take steps to control their own emissions. Moreover, by developing and sharing clean-energy technologies, the U.S. can help these developing countries leapfrog over the fossil-fuel-based model of development practiced here and take a more sustainable growth path.



# TAKE ACTION

## What is Project Sunlight?

Project Sunlight is a website designed to promote your right to know and monitor government decision-making. The website – the first of its kind in New York State - offers a new prototype for how government should make information available in today's "digital democracy." The website promotes transparency in government by making easily accessible information about individual Elected Officials, campaign finance activities, legislation, lobbyists, state contracts, and registered corporations and charities. You may perform advanced searches and examine seven different datasets or follow simple search options to easily explore governmental information. The website also offers educational videos and materi-

als to inform you about the basic laws governing official conduct as well as an instructional video on how to use the website.

## How does Project Sunlight work?

Project Sunlight is in its first phase. During this initial phase, different data has been collected from various state agencies, standardized, and made available to you on a comprehensive, easy-to-search website. You have the ability to search for information related to an individual elected official, campaign finance activities, legislation, lobbying activity, recipients of state government contracts, and registered corporations and charities. The website is designed with all users in mind. Advanced Search options allow users to simultaneously search all available databases while Basic Search options allow users to follow simple search results and educate themselves on elected officials, lobbyists and legislation.

## How do I find an elected official?

Currently, Project Sunlight allows you to search data related to campaign finance, legislation, lobbying activity, registered corporations, recipients of state government contracts, corporations and charities. The website also offers educational videos on relevant laws, an educational glossary, and basic information on how state government works.



## Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources

A landmark agreement, designed to ensure Great Lakes waters stay within their natural basin, got one step closer to becoming a reality August 1st when the United States Senate approved the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact.

The Compact is a companion document to an international agreement between the eight Great Lakes states, Ontario, and Quebec to prevent the diversion of Great Lakes water to outside of the basin. The Compact puts in place federal protections in the United States, but must be passed by each member state, as well as being approved by Congress and the U.S. President.

After a three year journey through ten state and provincial legislatures, the Compact and International Agreement now has the blessing of the U.S. Senate. The only remaining hurdles to making this a reality is the approval the House of Representatives, and the signature of U.S. President Bush, who earlier this week endorsed the rapid movement of the document.

### Countdown to Election Day

#### PRIMARY ELECTION – TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2008

When two or more candidates from a political party seek election for the same office, voters registered in that party vote in a primary election to choose the candidate who will represent that party in the general election.

- Last day to register by mail for primary election: Postmarked by *August 15*, received by *August 20*
- Last day to register in person for primary election: *August 15*
- Last day to postmark application for absentee ballot for primary election: *September 2*
- Last day to apply in person for an absentee ballot for primary election: *September 8*
- Last day to postmark absentee ballot and date it must be received by the board of elections: Postmarked by *September 8*, received by *September 16*
- Last day to deliver absentee ballot in person to the county board of elections: *September 9*

#### GENERAL ELECTION – TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2008

- Last day to register by mail for general election: Postmarked by *October 10*, received by *October 15*
- Last day to register in person for general election: *October 10*
- In-person registration for persons honorably discharged from the military or who become naturalized citizens after October 10: *October 24*
- Last day to postmark application for absentee ballot for general election: *October 28*
- Last day to apply in person for an absentee ballot for the general election: *November 3*
- Last day to postmark absentee ballot and date it must be received by the board of elections: Postmarked by *November 3*, received by *November 11*
- Last day to deliver an absentee ballot in person to your county board of elections: *November 4*

#### Primary Election

**Tuesday, September 9, 2008**  
Polls are open on Primary Day from 12 noon to 9 p.m.

#### General Election

**Tuesday, November 4, 2008**  
Polls are open 6 a.m. – 9 p.m.

From Bo Lipari’s Blog on Optical Scan

### State Board informs Court of schedule delay

“As I reported in my last post, problems encountered during New York State’s tough certification testing has caused the timeline for the 2009 rollout of state’s new voting machines to slip. Now the State Board of Elections has notified the Court that it will not be possible to complete testing on schedule and deploy the new machines in time for the September 2009 primary, as the Court has ordered. The state, in its July 25 Status Report to Judge Gary Sharpe for the first time gives formal notice that: **“Overall, activities and progress toward HAVA compliance are in jeopardy...”**”

Read the full post:

<http://www.nyvv.org/boblog/index.php>

### EARLY RESERVATION FORM

“Local Government Consolidation”

Former Lt. Governor Stan Lundine, Speaker

**OCTOBER 14th at Noon at the Stockton Inn**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

**Chicken Salad Croissant \_\_\_\_\_ Chicken Caesar Wrap \_\_\_\_\_**

**\$16**

Please send in by October 1 to:

Inez Krohn, 136 Mill Street, Brocton, New York, 14716

792-9727 or [inezk@fairpoint.net](mailto:inezk@fairpoint.net)

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR: Dates to Remember**

<b>AUGUST 21-23</b>	Fredonia Farm Festival Booth, Esther Lanford, Chair, 672-0249
<b>SEPTEMBER 6</b>	BOARD MEETING-9:30 a.m. Minda Rae Amiran's 12 Lowell Place, Fredonia 679-24636
<b>SEPTEMBER 13</b>	<b>Fundraiser/Membership Event! Show and Sale</b> <b>10 a.m. at 42 Rosalyn Court—Call 366-1176 or 672-4275</b>
<b>SEPTEMBER 17</b>	LUNCHEON MEETING Noon, "Project Sunlight" Clarion Hotel –Reservations- Gloria Garretson at 366-3211
<b>SEPTEMBER 18</b>	Community Meeting with COPC, NAACP and Hispanic Community Leaders at the Clarion Hotel in Dunkirk
<b>OCTOBER 14</b>	LUNCHEON MEETING-Noon at the Stockton Inn "Local Government Consolidation"" with Stan Lundine Reservations—Inez Krohn 792-9727
<b>OCTOBER 25</b>	BOARD MEETING-9:30 a.m. Judy Parks' 6 Andrew Court, Fredonia 679-9613
<b>OCTOBER 27</b>	MEET THE CANDIDATES-Jackson Center, Jamestown 7 p.m.
<b>OCTOBER 29</b>	MEET THE CANDIDATES-1891 Fredonia Opera House, Fredonia 7 p.m

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 Sun. 7 am-5 pm

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 Karen & Roy Harvey  
 The most powerful weapon in the hands of the  
 oppressor is the mind of the oppressed – *Steven Biko*

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY



*The League of Women Voters of Chautauqua County is where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement.*

**Make Your Voice Heard  
Join Us Today!**

LWV Chautauqua County  
Officers  
Co-Presidents: Marcia Merrins, Shirley Pulawski  
1st Vice President: Minda Rae Amiran  
2nd Vice President: Nancy Bleck  
3rd Vice President: Tillie Solomonson  
Secretary: **Claudia Ansell**  
Treasurer: Priscilla Bernatz  
Directors: Gloria Garretson, Janet Jankowski-George, Gen Ludemann, Judy Parks, Judy Reynolds, Donnie Hover, Maggie Irwin

**2008-2009 Membership  
LWV Chautauqua**

Nancy Bleck, 38 Elm Street, Fredonia, NY 14063

Membership Dues: to December 31, 2008  
Individual: \$60; Family: \$90; Student: \$25  
(Check payable to LWV Chautauqua County)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to work on:

Local Issues

Voter Service

State/National Issues

Local Newsletter

Call me to discuss what I can do

I cannot be active at this time, but I want to support LWV goals with my membership.