



# The Leaguer

Volume 12, Issue 6  
July 2008

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY

www.lwvchautauqua.org 672-4275

## “Test Drive an Optical Scan Voting Machine!”

**BE THE FIRST ON YOUR BLOCK!**

**July 16  
at Noon**

**The White Horse Inn**



League members and their guests will have a sneak preview of the optical scan machines that we will be using in Chautauqua County in September 2009.

Norm Green, president of the Election Commissioner’s Association of NYS and one of our Board of Elections Commissioners has asked if our League would like to have this opportunity. He considers our feedback important.

Please join us!

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# Annual Meeting, May 13, 2008



**LEAGUER OF THE YEAR NANCY BLECK**

With Judy Reynolds, Event Chairperson



Speaker, David Foley  
Chautauqua County District Attorney



Paula Coats



Janet Jankowski George, Norm Green



Gen Ludemann, Claudia Ansell, Jean Morse



Perce and Michele Bernatz



B. Delores Thompson, Donnie Hover, Tillie Solomonson



Carol Doino and Carol Schwert



The Komars, Marge Weist, The Parrans

Dear Leaguers,

I believe volunteerism is a common ground upon which we learn from each other, and more importantly share with each other. Many members are eager to help when we need assistance for our mailings and other "on-time" tasks. Getting members to take a leadership role is much more difficult.

I would like you to join me and the board to help put in place a co-president model so the tasks are fewer. Come to our board meeting on June 28th or any convenient time.



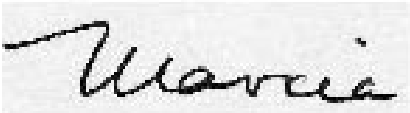
Who will be the volunteers that take us into the future?

Let it be you!

On another note, we had a wonderful annual meeting with special thanks to Judy Reynolds for putting things together so effortlessly.

Program committee members, Gen Ludemann, Shirley Pulawski, Marti Burdick and Ann Manly met at Gloria Garretson's home and got a great start for the fall. Look at our calendar on page 7. I am looking forward to an "extra" program on July 16th prompted by a call from Norm Green. You can get a chance to use the new voting machine before September 2009 at this meeting. It is one you do not want to miss!

I wear many hats in League. In June I will going to Portland representing this League, but also as a nominated director for the national League. On May 15th, I was in Albany for a meeting and dedication of the state League's new headquarters in honor of a former energetic League member Anne Holtzmann.



## We welcome our newest members!

Nancy Lynn Mayer, 1176 Stewart Avenue, Silver Creek, NY 934-3176



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



One Park Place, Suite 207  
Fredonia, NY 14063  
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fiveblessings@mac.com

Reservation Form

### "Test Drive an Optical Scan Voting Machine"

July 16 at Noon  
The White Horse Inn

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

\$12.50 includes beverage. Desserts are available with a surcharge.

\_\_\_ Spinach Salad with Lemon Pepper Chicken, Strawberries, Blueberries and lemon vinaigrette

\_\_\_ Shrimp Salad with Fruit and Croissant

\_\_\_ Tossed Salad with Grilled Chicken

Mail to: Minda Rae Amiran  
12 Lowell Place

Fredonia, NY 14063

679-4636

amiran@fredonia.edu

Dear Leaguers,

Each year I look forward to the annual League dinner. It is always well planned and made special by the committee. One of the joys is always the surprises. I was surprised and happy to be one among the fifty-year members who were honored.

I know these figures don't lie. I joined when I was 13 years old.....

My years with the League of Women Voters have been a dynamic learning experience. I have worked with a number of presidents, serving on various boards and committees. As a group we have survived agendas, minutes, articles, meetings and programs.

I am most appreciative of the friends, knowledge and experiences I have gathered over the years.

Thank you for the 50 years service certificate from LWVUS. May the record we leave be beneficial to those who follow.

Genevieve Ludemann



Marcia Merrins, Martha Kennedy, LWVNYS President and Aimee Allaud, Election Specialist



Marcia and Stephanie Lopez, Program Director pick the raffle winner! ...with a neighborhood onlooker!

# The Dedication of the LWVNYS Office As the Anne Holtzmann Building



Kris Meyers, Executive Director and Betsey Swan, VP Development, unveil the plaque.





# Capitol Beat

Volume 1, Issue 5

Barbara Bartoletti, Legislative Director, LWVNY, E-Mail: [bbheck1@yahoo.com](mailto:bbheck1@yahoo.com) or

Welcome to Albany of old! We are now into a new fiscal year with a budget process more secretive and more behind closed doors than we have seen in probably fifteen years. If you were partial to three-men-in-a room, behind closed doors, then you just loved this budget session.

January 2007, shortly after the new governor, Eliot Spitzer, took office, he and legislative leaders made much

fanfare over three-way agreed to budget reform legislation which became known as Chapter 1 of 2007. Under this new law, a quick start budget process for the agencies and a new legislative budget process was to begin. By the end of 2007 that agency budget reform process was working well. Under the new law, available revenues must be determined by March 1<sup>st</sup> of each year.

On Friday, March 7<sup>th</sup> the sky fell in and on Monday, March 10<sup>th</sup> Governor Spitzer resigned. The following Monday, David Paterson was sworn in as Governor and had to quickly orient himself to budget negotiations. Later that week, Wall Street took a nosedive and with it went revenue that New York State counted on. The new Governor re-estimated revenues to be lower by \$800 million dollars and asked the agencies and the legislative leadership to cut spending in this new budget. But of course, this is an election year and asking legislators in an election year to cut spending, even in very trying economic times, is like trying to tell your four year old "you can't have a cookie before dinner." Legislative leaders stomped their feet, ignored the governor and continued their election year binge.

The issue that held up the budget and kept Albany in a state of either suspended animation or dumbfounded amazement was congestion pricing. This is an issue the League does not have a specific position on. It is a proposal championed by NYC Mayor Michael Bloomberg. It would reduce congestion below 60<sup>th</sup> Street in Manhattan by charging \$8.00 per car for anyone driving in the City from 60<sup>th</sup> Street down to the tip of Manhattan at peak traffic hours of the day. Environmentally, this may be a laudable goal. However, it has created a huge political firestorm. Budget negotiations (behind closed doors, between three-men-in-a room) came to an abrupt halt while hour, after hour, after hour the issue was debated in the Assembly Majority Conference. On April 7<sup>th</sup> the Assembly Majority decided not to bring the issue to the floor of the Assembly for a vote, killing congestion pricing. Following the announcement by the Assembly Democratic Majority, the Assembly adjourned. This prevented the Assembly Republican Minority from introducing a hostile amendment on the floor of the Assembly. Meanwhile over in the Senate, the Senate Democratic Minority walked off the floor preventing a quorum so that the Senate Republican Majority could not force a vote, thereby putting the downstate Democrats on the record on congestion pricing.

Following the failure of congestion pricing on Monday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, both houses of the legislature moved quickly to reach agreement on this year's budget. An agreement was announced on a \$121.9 billion dollar budget on Tuesday night and by 2:30 on Wednesday afternoon the Senate had passed the budget and adjourned. The Assembly followed shortly after. It is almost impossible at the moment to tell what exactly is in this budget as it was passed in secret with only briefings to the legislators in party conference. There were not open leaders meetings except for one. Some joint legislative budget committees never met and the rest met only once. The bulk of this election year budget was done in one big ugly bill which will take several days to digest, to know with certainty how much legislative pork is in this year's budget. What we do know for certain is that the Governor and the legislative leaders both concede that this budget process was awful and they maintain that it won't happen again. How often have we heard that here in Albany? League members should make sure their legislators know that this process has done nothing to bring public trust or integrity back to government in Albany. And the beat goes on...

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR: Dates to Remember**

<b>JUNE 28</b>	BOARD MEETING-9:30 a.m. Marcia Merrins', 42 Rosalyn Court Fredonia 672-4275
<b>JULY 16</b>	LUNCHEON MEETING on Previewing Optical Scan Machine, Minda Rae Amiran, 12 Lowell Place, Fredonia 679-4636
<b>JULY 19</b>	BOARD MEETING-9:30 a.m. Minda Rae Amiran, 12 Lowell Place, Fredonia 679-4636
<b>AUGUST 16</b>	BOARD MEETING-9:30 a.m. Marcia Merrins', 42 Rosalyn Court Fredonia 672-4275
<b>AUGUST 23-25</b>	Fredonia Farm Festival Booth, Esther Lanford, Chair, 672-0249
<b>SEPTEMBER 18</b>	Community Meeting with COPC, NAACP and Hispanic Community Leaders
<b>SEPTEMBER 17</b>	LUNCHEON MEETING Noon, "Project Sunlight" Details to follow.
<b>SEPTEMBER 20</b>	BOARD MEETING-9:30 a.m. Donnie Hover's, 22 Matteson St., Fredonia,
<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 p.m/


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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!**

League of Women Voters of Chautauqua County
Officers
President: Marcia Marrins
1st Vice President: Minda Rae Amiran
2nd Vice President: Nancy Bleck
3rd Vice President: Tillie Solomonson
Secretary: <b>Claudia Ansell</b>
Treasurer: Priscilla Bernatz
Directors: Gloria Garretson, Janet Jankowski-George, Gen Ludemann, Judy Parks, Judy Reynolds , Donnie Hover

**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.