



# The Leaguer

Volume 16, Issue 5  
January—February, 2012

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY

www.lwvchautauqua.org 672-4275



**What Were These People  
Doing on January 11th?**

**Don't You Wish  
You Were There?**

**.....See page 5**

**Inside This Issue**

- 2 Reservation Form
- 3 From Your Board
- 3 Election Year Resolutions
- 4 A Look Back at 2011
- 5 Environmental Briefing
- 6 LWNYS Legislative Agenda
- 7 Calendar
- 8 Membership Renewal Form

LWV Chautauqua County  
PO BOX 42  
Fredonia, NY, 14063



# “When Villages Merge”

February 22  
at Noon

The White Inn



Our speaker will be **Jim Rawcliffe** on the topic of "When Villages Merge". Before moving to the United States in 1984 he was an Elected Councillor on the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead in England, serving as Chairman of the Estates Committee. Mr. Rawcliffe will compare this council with Chautauqua County which is similar in size and population and discuss the benefits which came following the reorganization of local government in England and Wales in the early seventies.

Mr. Rawcliffe was the Chief Financial Officer of the Foods division of RHM who were the owners of Red Wing. He was relocated from England to the USA in 1984 to become Executive Vice President Finance and Administration of the Red Wing Company of Fredonia. Since retirement Mr. Rawcliffe has been a consultant in Alexandria and Cairo, Egypt, for US AID and a volunteer consultant in Pazardjik and Sliven, Bulgaria, and Tashkent, Uzbekistan, for the International Executive Service Corps.

### LUNCH RESERVATION FORM

The White Inn  
February 22 at Noon

**\$12 includes tax, tip coffee or tea**

Roasted Vegetable Lasagna, a variety of seasonal vegetables roasted and served between layers of pasta with a marinara sauce

Sirloin of Beef prepared with red wine and served with noodles and vegetables

Stuffed chicken served with a rice pilaf or herb roasted potatoes and fresh seasonal vegetables

**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE** \_\_\_\_\_ **EMAIL** \_\_\_\_\_

Reservation should be by check paid to the order of LWV Chautauqua and send to Gloria Garretson, 4932 E. Shorewood Dr., Dunkirk

Dear Leaguers,

The Board of Elections has asked the League to help with its planned mock presidential elections at all County high schools in September-October 2012. The Board of Elections will provide voting machines and a machine technician at each site and will get the necessary approvals and set dates. We are being asked to provide two volunteers at each of the 20 sites. The Board unanimously approved partnering with the BoE. Will you help? Please reply to [amiran@fredonia.edu](mailto:amiran@fredonia.edu)

On another note, Sec'y of State Hillary Clinton recently made a public statement that noticed that "....one aspect of peacemaking that too often goes overlooked—the role of women in ending conflict and building lasting security. Some of you may have watched as three remarkable women—two from Liberia, one from Yemen—accepted the Nobel Prize for Peace in Oslo. For years, many of us have tried to show the world that women are not just victims of war: they are agents for peace." For the full speech see:  
<http://www.readersupportednews.org/news-section2/328-121/9058-focus-women-peace-and-security>

Warmly,

*Minda Rae Amiran, Perce Bernatz, Paula Coats,  
 Gloria Garretson, Gen Ludemann, Judy Reynolds,  
 Laura Sarek, Tillie Solomonson,*

**We Welcome  
 Our Newest Members**

**Natalie Gerber and Robert Lash,  
 43 Cushing St. in Fredonia,  
 785-6030  
[nataliee.gerber@gmail.com](mailto:nataliee.gerber@gmail.com)**



## ELECTION YEAR 2012 RESOLUTIONS

1. Ensure all eligible voters are registered to vote and can exercise their right to vote without having to overcome unnecessary and restrictive hurdles.
2. Educate the electorate on the candidates and issues on their ballots and help them find their polling place.
3. Encourage informative and productive debates between candidates so voters can learn about their elected representatives through more than just sound bites.
4. Fight to make sure voters decide the outcome of elections, not special interest money.
5. Promise for clean air for children and their families, and change the discussion to the important issues facing Americans in 2012.

# LWVUS LOOKS BACK AT 2011

## Nation-wide threat to voting rights

Across the country, 38 states have introduced or passed legislation that would make it significantly harder for people to vote – imposing voter IDs, cutting back on early voting, erecting barriers to voter registration. League President Elisabeth MacNamara spoke to a Congressional panel about the dangerous implications of these restrictive laws. You can also see Florida League President, Deirdre Macnab appear on MSNBC's *Politics Nation with Al Sharpton* talking about LWV Florida's decision to stop registering voters as a direct result of Florida's new restrictive third-party voter registration laws.

## VOTE411 and the League get high school students registered to vote

The League's High School Voter Registration program, VOTE411.org and nationwide youth engagement efforts were highlighted in the November cover story of *Leadership for Student Activities*, a national magazine reaching tens of thousands of school administrators and advisors.

## Extreme Makeover: Website Edition

Earlier this month, we launched our brand new website. Along with its new look, we'll be bringing you more content on the issues you care most about – and give you more opportunities to spread the word about the League's work.

## People Not Polluters

This spring, the League launched the Promise campaign, asking members of Congress, community leaders and any individual to make the promise for clean air and public health. Leagues around the country went to work, encouraging members of their communities to Make the Promise and stand up for clean air. You can make the promise at [www.peoplenotpolluters.org](http://www.peoplenotpolluters.org).

## Global Democracy alumni run for office - and win!

Seven of the twenty participants in the 2009-11 Legislative Fellows Program ran for elective office in the elections held in Colombia and Brazil in October 2011. Four were elected - three in Colombia and one in Brazil. The Ligue des Electricites Tunisiennes, our sister organization, played a pivotal role in educating and observing the historical elections held in Tunisia also in October 2011.

## VA League Says "No" to Partisan Do-Overs

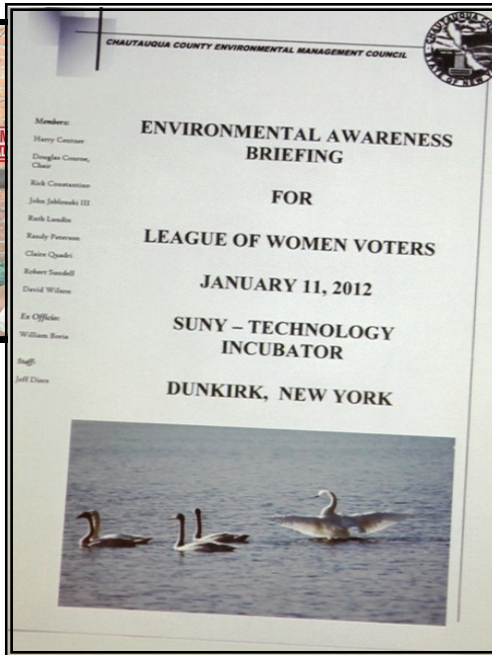
Around the country, state and local Leagues are working to make sure that the redistricting process is fair and transparent. To showcase one League's work, LWV Virginia sent a message to statewide media urging state leaders to follow their constitutional obligation of finalizing a congressional redistricting plan before the end of the year. Not doing so could force the state to move its primary schedule and generate massive confusion for voters and local elections officials.

### INTERESTING TIDBIT FROM CONGRESS.ORG

**SEARCH ENGINES ARE A THORN IN CONGRESS' SIDE:** A NEW GOOGLE FEATURE IS HURTING CONGRESSIONAL REPUTATIONS.

THE POPULAR SEARCH ENGINE NOW "SUGGESTS" RELEVANT SEARCHES WHEN YOU BEGIN TYPING BASED ON OTHER USERS' BEHAVIOR. BUT THAT MEANS PEOPLE WHO TYPE A LAWMAKERS' NAME OFTEN SEE THE WORST THINGS PEOPLE THINK ABOUT THEM.

FOR REP. ALCEE HASTINGS, THAT'S A BRIBERY CHARGE HE WAS CLEARED OF LONG AGO. FOR REP. JEAN SCHMIDT, IT'S AN ETHICS INVESTIGATION. AND FOR AT LEAST NINE MEMBERS OF CONGRESS, IT'S WHETHER OR NOT THEY ARE GAY.



### Fracking Facts

- Requires 3-9 million gallons of water per frack.
- (Chautauqua Institution uses 500,000 gallon per day during their season.)
- Minimally 200 tanker trucks travel to well site.
- Approximately 60% of the water is recovered.
- Over 200 chemicals can be used in water or sand; some are recognized carcinogens.

### What We Can Do to Save our Lakes and Streams?:

- Advocate for storm water ordinances.
- Work with town/village planning and zoning boards for enhanced low impact development.
- At home, slow it down, spread it out, soak it in.
- Insist on candidates having sustainable environmental platforms.

## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA Steps To A New and Better State Government



### □ **Election Reform**

Improve election processes to extend, encourage and protect voting, including paperless and Election Day registration, better ballot design, improved polling place management/poll worker training, and measures to ensure the integrity of all ballots.

### □ **Campaign Finance Reform**

Support lower contribution limits, increased disclosure and public financing. Support stronger and more effective campaign finance enforcement with increased civil and criminal penalties for violations.

### □ **Other Government Reform Positions**

Support structural reform to legislative redistricting; support effective ethics enforcement and open and transparent government processes; monitor impact of the property tax cap on localities and schools.

### □ **Health Care**

Support affordable and effective health care for all New Yorkers.

### □ **Natural Resources**

Support protection and management of New York's natural resources in the public interest.

### □ **Other League Positions**

The League also has positions on the Judiciary, State Finances, and Social Policy under which we can and do take action.

### **Take Action! It's Easy!**

To take action on these issues or any other issues, log onto the League's website at: [www.lwvny.org](http://www.lwvny.org) and click "Take Action" at the top right column. You can search for your elected officials and also sign-up to automatically receive League Action Alerts on key legislation because your involvement can make a critical difference! Make your voice heard!!!

### **For Information on Transparency in Government**

#### □ **Open Book NY**

[www.openbooknewyork.com](http://www.openbooknewyork.com)

*(Office of the State Comptroller)*

#### □ **Project Sunlight**

[www.sunlightny.com](http://www.sunlightny.com)

*(NYS Office of the Attorney General,  
A Public Integrity Initiative)*

#### □ **SeeThroughNY**

[www.seethroughny.net](http://www.seethroughny.net)

*(Empire Center for NYS Policy, A  
Project of the Manhattan Institute  
for Policy Research)*

### **For Information on the State Legislature and Pending Legislation**

[www.assembly.state.ny.us](http://www.assembly.state.ny.us)

[www.nysenate.gov](http://www.nysenate.gov)

[http://public.leginfo.state.ny.us/  
menuf.cgi](http://public.leginfo.state.ny.us/menuf.cgi)

*(Bill Text, Status, Summaries, Sponsor  
Memos, Floor Votes)*

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

<b>February 22</b>	Noon Luncheon at the White Inn -Jim Rawcliffe speaks of his experiences with consolidation of governments in England
<b>March 21</b>	Noon Luncheon about the "Options for Care for Senior Citizens" Marianne Spanos
<b>June 8-11</b>	LWVUS Convention in DC! "The Power of the Vote—Imagine, Commit, Act!"

**THANK YOU TO OUR ADVERTISERS**



**Kniti Griti Works**  
Clay & Fiber Art

Marcia A. Merrins      mmerrins@netsync.net  
716-672-4275  
www.knitigrityworks.com

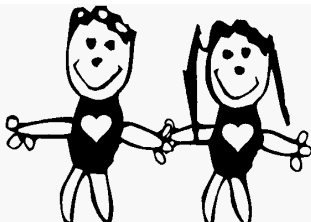
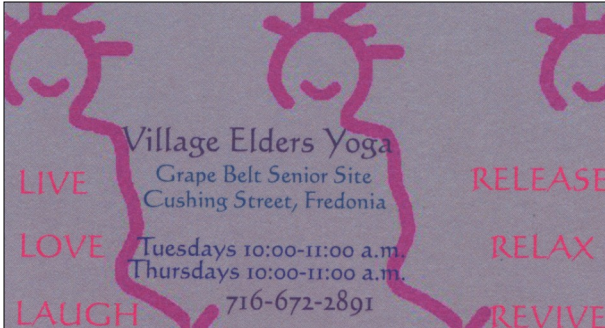


The 1891  
**Fredonia Opera House**

*Chautauqua County's only year-round performing arts center offering the best in theatre, music, dance, and cinema.*

**Box Office - 716.679.1891    www.fredopera.org**


Chautauqua County Association for the Education of Young Children

Village Elders Yoga  
Grape Belt Senior Site  
Cushing Street, Fredonia

**LIVE**      **RELEASE**  
**LOVE**      **RELAX**  
**LAUGH**      **REVIVE**


Tuesdays 10:00-11:00 a.m.  
Thursdays 10:00-11:00 a.m.  
716-672-2891



**DARWIN'S**  
HEALTH CLUB, INC.

Open  
Mon. - Fri.  
4:30 am-10 pm  
Sat. 7 am-6 pm  
Sun. 7 am-5 pm

679-1591  
47-53 Water St.  
Fredonia, NY 14063



**Fairmount House**  
12 E. Fairmount Ave.  
Lakewood, New York 14750  
telephone: (716) 708-8549

Antiques, collectables, and gifts  
Hours: Thursday through Sunday  
Noon to Five - Thirty

Tillie Solomonson

**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.*

**Invite a Friend to Join or Give the Gift Of League Membership!!**

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

**League of Women Voters of Chautauqua County Management Team**

Minda Rae Amiran

Priscilla Bernatz

Paula Coats

Gloria Garretson

Gen Ludemann

Judy Reynolds

Laura Sarek

Tillie Solomonson

**Membership Form**

**Mail to:  
LWV Chautauqua  
P.O. Box 42  
Fredonia, NY 14063**

**Membership Dues: through December 31, 2012  
Individual: \$60; Family: \$90; Student: \$25  
(Check payable to LWV Chautauqua County)**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Email \_\_\_\_\_

*I would like to get involved with:*

\_\_\_\_\_ Local Issues      \_\_\_\_\_ Voter Service      \_\_\_\_\_ State/National Issues

\_\_\_\_\_ Local Newsletter

\_\_\_\_\_ Assisting with minor tasks occasionally

Other: \_\_\_\_\_