Voters’ Guide 2004
LWV
Election Day for School Board and District Budget is Tuesday, May 18
CANDIDATES FORUM FOR ONEONTA
SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD
Tuesday, May 11
7:00 - 9:00 PM
in Craven Lounge
at Morris Hall
on the SUNY Oneonta Campus

Forum will be Taped and rebroadcast on
Public Access Channel 23 on:
Saturday, May 15 at 6:00 PM
Monday, May 17 at 6:30 PM

On May 18, voters will elect three members to serve on the Oneonta School District Board of Education.

For this Voters' Guide, each candidate was asked to give his/her name, address, occupation and educational background. In addition, each candidate was asked to answer the following questions:

1) How do your life experiences qualify you to serve on the school board?

2) What do you see as the future of education and what will be the role of the school board in reaching that future?

For more information or to join the League, contact:
President: Maggie Winne, 432-6206
Membership Chair: Kay Stuligross: 432-6974
SUSAN M. HUGHSON

Address: 11 Ravine Parkway N. Oneonta, NY 13820
Occupation: Semi-retired Chemistry Lab. Instructor
Education: SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, B.S. in 1964
Graduate courses in education and psychology and school law
NYS School Board Association Seminars

LIFE EXPERIENCES:
Prior service as a member of the OSD Board of Education (appointed to fill a vacancy and elected to a full term) gives me familiarity with the policies, personnel and schools of the district. Other long time experiences in education (5 yr. board member of Unatego, college level teacher and Sunday school teacher) provide additional background.

FUTURE OF EDUCATION:
In order to become contributing members of society, it will be increasingly important for young people to become educated about world issues and technological advances. They must be taught to ask relevant questions and how to find the answers.

School boards must strive to create an environment that enables and encourages each student to reach their full potential. They must be fiscally responsible to district taxpayers, lobby for on-time state budgets and be proactive in the effort to maintain local control of schools.
GRACE LARKIN

Address: 714 Winney Hill Road, Oneonta, NY
Occupation: Retired teacher
Education: B.A. + 30 Hrs.

LIFE EXPERIENCES:
I am a parent and educator, taught English at OSH for thirty-three years. An important contribution to the board is having a history in the district as issues arise.

FUTURE OF EDUCATION:
Commissions have predicted billions needed for education in N.Y.S. These billions will be found and distributed on an equitable basis as timely budgets are enacted. This will result in:

-safe and attractive schools.
-a review of testing and its emphasis which may result in an individualized, value added assessment.
-additional learning tools such as one-to-one computing, providing a laptop for home and school for distance learning, field trips, Power Point presentations, research and independent writing,
- continued emphasis on music, arts and humanities as well as math and science.

Obviously this is a wish list, that can be achieved as boards and citizens continue vigilance and voice to providing funding and mandates.
PAUL PATTERSON

Address: 40 Elm Street, Oneonta, NY 13820
Occupation: Supervisor-City of Oneonta Garage Central
Education: High School-Whitesboro Central School, Regents College

LIFE EXPERIENCES:

My father, a school teacher for 35 years, raised 9 children on a meager salary. He taught us the value of a good education, and a great love of learning. Work experience: a successful entrepreneur in a corporate environment. Owned my own school bus company, and grew it from 5 to 75 buses in 5 years. School Transportation Supervisor for Oneonta Bus Lines. Regional Director for Laidlaw with responsibility for over 1000 school buses and 20 locations. Alderman for Oneonta’s Third Ward. Served on Finance and Personnel Committees.

FUTURE OF EDUCATION:

Friend and relatives who are educators complain of the State and Federal mandates that micro-manage the education process. Our job as board members is to put the best possible teachers and administrators in place to build an environment where education and students can flourish, given the limited resources available. I believe my background, experience, and ability to build consensus will help accomplish that goal.
JASON SMITH

Address: 98 East Street, Oneonta, NY 13820
Occupation: Human Resources Manager, Ultra Dairy Garelick, Fraser, NY
Education: 1989, Dual A.S. degrees, Business Administration and Mass Communication, Corning Community College, Corning, NY
1991, Bachelors of Science, Industrial and Labor Relations, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY
1997-2000, Kellogg Graduate School of Management, Northwestern University, completed 36 graduate credits towards Masters’ of Business Administration

LIFE EXPERIENCES:

As a parent of 5 and 8 year old boys, I am aware of early childhood and elementary needs.

As a business person, I am aware of the need for schools to prepare children for adulthood, and will focus on fiscal responsibility.

As a Human Resources professional, I have 14 years of experience in hiring, managing, labor negotiations, and benefits administration.

Finally, I possess Board of Education experience, having served a 3-year term in Corning, NY from 1988-1991. I have also served on the SUCO Childrens’ Center Board.

FUTURE OF EDUCATION:

My philosophy is, “Let each become all that (s)he was created capable of being.” Whether college-bound, or headed for the workforce, students must graduate as thinking and productive society members. We must meet these needs with the help of educators, technology, and the whole community. As a board member, I will listen, question, and debate issues to help us reach that future.
WILLIAM B. WALSHE

Address: 139 Southside Drive, Oneonta, NY 13820
Occupation: I work at the Brewery Ommegang
Education: High School diploma, Saugerties, N.Y. 1980
Retired New York State Correction Officer
Honorable Discharge US Navy
Honorable Discharge Army National Guard

LIFE EXPERIENCES:
I taught classes while working for New York State Department of Corrections as a Network Officer and Drill Instructor. I have two children who have attended the Oneonta School District. My daughter, Alysia, has graduated from the Oneonta High School and my son, Derek, is currently attending Riverside School. I have attended over 250 meetings as a Parent Representative for the Committee on Special Education. This has given me a better understanding of how our special educational system works and the opportunity to give back to the community.

FUTURE OF EDUCATION:
I would like to see the federal and state governments fund their mandates placed upon the school district. As a New York State pensioner I have my health benefits from New York State. Our teachers are a very important part of the education of our children and young people. I would support some kind of health benefit in retirement for our teachers when they retire.
POLLING PLACES

City of Oneonta

Ward 1 - Valleyview Elementary School
Ward 2 - Oneonta Middle School
Ward 3 - Oneonta Middle School
Ward 4 - Center Street Elementary School
Ward 5 - Greater Plains Elementary School
Ward 6 - Riverside Elementary School
Ward 7 - Center Street Elementary School
Ward 8 - Center Street Elementary School

Town of Oneonta

District 1 - Greater Plains Elementary School
District 2 - Valleyview Elementary School
District 3 - Greater Plains Elementary School
District 4 - Riverside Elementary School

POLLS OPEN: 12 NOON UNTIL 9 PM