February 7th, 2004
Rowe House, 31 Maple Street, Oneonta
11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

**General Membership Meeting**

*Election of the President*

Laurel Elder leads a discussion on Election of the President and the Role of New Hampshire in the primary process.

Bring your lunch - beverage provided

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Elizabeth Bloom speaks on

**Current Trends in Education:**

*No Child Left Behind*

*Annual AAUW/LWV Luncheon*

March 20, 11:00 A.M. - 1:30 p.m.

Iannelli's Restaurant - 99 Chestnut St. Oneonta

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FROM THE PRESIDENT –

A good discussion was held on our National and Local Positions on a very cold Saturday, January 24. This year is our National Convention in June and next year we will review State Positions for our State Convention in the spring. The Local Positions are reviewed each year. I thank everyone who participated. Even though we send in only one top suggestion for updating or deleting, other issues are discussed. Thanks, Barb, for doing such a great job of presenting and organizing these issues.

If you will review the positions discussed at all levels of our organization, you will see how many areas need further study and action taken. This is an opportunity for each one of you to see what is really important to you, find out more about our position on the topic, do some research, enlighten the Board, and give the General Membership an opportunity to hear what it is you have found by presenting a program on the subject. The last is just a suggestion but it is important for all of our members to become informed on a variety of topics.

A lot of our time is now being spent on the county redistricting issue with attendance at Board meetings, continued research, educating the public, etc. so that little time is left for those involved to look into these other areas of concern.

On Saturday, February 7, you will have the opportunity to meet again at Rowe House at 11am to hear Laurel Elder present a program on the Election of the President and the LWVUS views on this timely subject. Read the article in the September/October National Voter magazine as well as the one in the latest edition, which should be in your mailboxes before this meeting. Come to learn as well as to ask questions.

~ Maggie Winne

MISSION STATEMENT

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan organization whose purpose is to encourage the informed and active participation of citizens in government. The LWV does not support or oppose candidates or political parties, but does support or oppose issues after study and member agreement.

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

President ......................... Maggie Winne
Vice-President ................... Kay Stuligross
Secretary ......................... Karen Geasey
Treasurer ......................... Gerri Haan
Bulletin Editor ................... Dorothy Bloom

OTSEGO COUNTY GOVERNMENT

The Challenge to the Petition Decertification

The challenge to the petition decertification has been filed with the Clerk of the Board of Representatives and the Board of Election. It has been referred to the Public Safety and Legal Affairs or the Intergovernmental Affairs committee. We will observe those committee meetings as well as the full board until further action is taken. These meetings give us up front seats in watching government at work, and we, in turn, give the Board the opportunity to see the first hand responses of interested constituents.

If you can attend any of these meetings, please let me know.
1st Wednesday, 10:00 a.m. 2nd Monday, 9:00 a.m.
3rd Tuesday, 9:00 a.m. 3rd Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.

~ Kay Stuligross

THE ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT

Laurel Elder, Professor of Political Science at Hartwick College, has spent the January term in New Hampshire watching the primary play itself out there as her students take the opportunity to canvas for their favorite candidates. She brings us her observations fresh from the scene of battle at the General Meeting on February 7.

ANNUAL AAUW/LWV LUNCHEON

"NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND" How has this law impacted our Oneonta educational system? Elizabeth Bloom will be the speaker on this important subject after a buffet luncheon at Iannelli’s Restaurant on Saturday, March 20.

The luncheon will start at 11am and the cost is $13 per person. Guests are encouraged to attend with the members.

The Menu: Chicken Tenderloin Francese; Egg Plant Iannelli; Penne Alfredo; Ziti Marinara; Broccoli and Carrots, Salad, Bread & Butter, Mini Cannoli
Coffee, tea or soda

Send reservation and check to Kay Stuligross, 10 Walnut St., Oneonta by March 13. Please make check payable to LWV of the Oneonta Area.

REMEMBER THIS DATE

February 25th is the deadline for articles for the March Bulletin.
MARCH FOR CHOICE

Participate in the March for Women’s Lives. There will be a March for Choice in Washington, DC on April 25, 2004. Planned Parenthood will be sponsoring buses to this event. The Public Policy Position for the LWVUS is to protect the constitutional right of privacy of the individual to make reproductive choices. More information can be found on the website <http://interactive.lwv.org/Issues/Issues.cfm?id=851&c=84>

For more information on the bus, contact Planned Parenthood’s Public Affairs Department in Oneonta at 607.432.2252 or by email at ppscny@ppfa.org.

January 22, 2004 marks the 31st anniversary of Roe v. Wade - the Supreme Court’s landmark decision that constitutionally guarantees a woman’s reproductive freedom. The League of Women Voters celebrates the anniversary of this decision, as it has led to enormous advances in women’s rights, health, and safety.

As we celebrate the anniversary of Roe v. Wade, it has become more crucial than ever that we act to ensure this right is neither weakened nor taken away. Now is the time to demonstrate widespread support for the right to make reproductive choices. The League of Women Voters of the United States is proud to join with nearly 700 other organizations as a cosponsor of the March for Women’s Lives to take place in Washington, DC on Sunday, April 25, 2004. March with the League! Learn how by clicking <http://interactive.lwv.org/Issues/Issues.cfm?id=851&c=84>.

Urgent Lobby Request #108-14

11 sponsors have publicly stated that UVVA threatens reproductive choice. In fact, Senator Orrin Hatch (R UT), in a May 7, 2003 CNN news article, was quoted as saying, “They say it undermines abortion rights. It does.” The League of Women Voters is concerned about violence against women. The League worked for passage of the Violence Against Women Act which passed Congress and was signed by President Clinton in September 1994 as part of a comprehensive crime bill. The League urges members of Congress to oppose UVVA and instead focus on supporting legislation that effectively addresses violence against women.

For additional information, please contact lobbying@lwv.org

AN HISTORIC CHAPTER IN VOTING RIGHTS FOR WOMEN FROM HBO

Iron Jawed Angels premieres on HBO on Sunday, February 15 at 9:30pm EST, immediately following one of the last episodes of “Sex and the City.” But preceding that will be free screening events and rallies on Thursday, February 12, 2004 at 7:00 at movie theaters across the country. HBO would like to work with your League to promote and organize these events. HBO’s Iron Jawed Angels recounts for a modern audience a key chapter in U.S. history: the story of suffragists who fought for the right to vote. The movie focuses on two young women, Alice Paul and Lucy Burns, and their fight to build on the previous work of the National American Women’s Suffrage Association (NAWSA). The film stars Academy award-winners Hilary Swank and Angelica Huston, as Carrie Chapman Catt, along with Frances O’Connor, Patrick Dempsey and Julia Ormond. Director Katja von Garnier uses modern music and contemporary style to create a powerful, moving film.

Those of us who have HBO in our homes might like to share viewing the film with others or perhaps tape it to show at a later date. Any of us inclined to make a holiday out of the New York, January 12 showing may sign up to work with HBO in promoting the film and you can join the competition for voter registration and are encouraged to call 212-426-7006 or email at ija@cegny.com for further information.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 7th, 11:00 AM - General Meeting - Election of President, Rowe House, 31 Maple St., Oneonta

March 20th - Joint Meeting with AAUW, Lunch at Iannelli’s
WILL YOUR VOTE COUNT?

On Monday, February 9, at 7:30 PM, in the Red Dragon Theater at SUNY Oneonta, there will be a speaker discussing the challenges of Electronic Voting Machines. In the January Bulletin there was an in depth article on DRE’s (Direct Recording Electronic Systems). This will be one way to find out more on this technology of mandated new voting machines and some of the issues they raise. Election Administration Reform is a Level One priority on the national level of the LWV as we implement the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA).

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

John Lindell ~ 5210 Myrtlewood, Florida
A returning member, John is a retired political science professor from Hartwick. Although a Florida resident, he returns to upstate New York each summer.

Richard Miller ~ 30 Draper St., Oneonta, NY 13820
Richard is president of Hartwick College and new to the Oneonta community.

LET’S GET CONNECTED —
WEBSITES, PHONES, & E-MAILS

Town of Oneonta  http://www.wpc.com/town
City of Oneonta  http://www.oneonta.ny.us
Otsego County  http://www.otsego.com
LWVUS  http://www.lwv.org
LWVNY  http://www.lwvny.org
President Bush  president@whitehouse.gov
Senator Schmurer  senator@schumer.senate.gov
607-772-8109 or 202-224-6542
Senator Clinton  http://clinton.senate.gov
518-431-0120 or 202-224-4451
Representative Boehlert  rep.boehlert@mail.house.gov
315-793-8146 or 1-800-235-2525
Governor Pataki  gov.pataki@chamber.state.ny.us
518-474-7516
State Senator Seward  seward@senate.state.ny.us
607-432-5524
Assemblyman Magee  magee@assembly.state.ny.us
607-432-1484

LWVNYS ON THE GO

November 2003: Barbara Bartoletti and 200 other advocates, policy analysts, local officials and business people gathered in Rockland County for a two-day conference on problems with the NYS budget. The Citizens’ Budget Committee suggested a few places to start: inspect the finances of public authorities, force the state to pick up the costs for providing health care to the poor, and eliminate special accounts which are separate from the state budget. Barbara likened the task of reforming Albany to that of women winning the right to vote. She said, “I figure in the next 60 years, some of what we’ve been discussing will occur.”

On Jan 22 LWVNYS President Marcia Merrins focused on the partnership between local Leagues and County boards of Elections in an address at the Winter Conference of the NYS Election Commissioners Association. She was joined on the podium by Off-Board Campaign Finance Specialist Aimee Allaud.

NEWS FROM THE STATE LEAGUE
CAPWIZ IS COMING!

CapWiz is the new information tool to keep League members and supporters up to date and mobilized to engage and take action on electoral issues. The state League will create action alerts and sample letters to lawmakers. CapWiz establishes that final connection between you and your elected leaders.

Check out CapWiz and the newly designed League web site at www.lwvnys.org and find out what you can do to secure the desired outcome on League positions.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

CITY OF ONEONTA COMMON COUNCIL
1st and 3rd Tuesdays
7:30 pm, City Hall

ONEONTA TOWN BOARD
2nd Wednesday, 7:30 pm
Town Hall, West Oneonta

ONEONTA BOARD OF EDUCATION
1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 7:00 pm
Call 432-8232 for location

OTSEGO COUNTY BOARD OF REPRESENTATIVES
1st Wednesday, 10:00 am
3rd Wednesday, 7:30 pm
County Office Building, Cooperstown
Watercolors
Peg Hathaway
248 Southside Drive
Oneonta, NY 13820
(607) 432-8810

Woody's Market
A Premium Delicatessen featuring sandwiches and subs made with Boardhead brand cold-cuts, fresh homemade salads, groceries, meats, and micro-beers
61 Spruce Street
Oneonta, NY 13820
432-5151
Mon-Sat 8am-8pm
Sundays 9am-5pm

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Potter
Pots at Artisan's Guild
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&
Pie in the Sky
Rt. 7, Otego

Peter W. Hill
Attorney at Law
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and Workers' Compensation
384 Main Street, Oneonta (607) 432-4646

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