President's Letter

Happy Summer, Leaguers. I hope you are taking time to enjoy our warm weather perhaps even putting thoughts of good government aside. Your board, however, keeps busy with League activities. Anne Payne is beginning to work on the next phase of the Financing Education Study. Call Anne at 432-7351 to join the study committee.

We will have a consensus meeting this fall on charter schools, so take note of any articles you may find on the topic. Although we have no such schools in this area, our opinions will be important as the LWVNYS formulates a position.

Voter Service never rests. Fall debates are in the planning stage for we will have several local races for which we expect to host debates. We also have scheduled a debate for New York State attorney general on Oct. 24. Bette Wagner, our voter registration chair, will have plenty of opportunities for you to help people register. Call Bette for times and places: 369-7507.

Continued inside
President’s message continued

Immigration was a hot topic at the LWVUS Convention in June. After much discussion, the delegates voted for a three-year process: the first two years study and the third consensus. Are you interested? We will need a chair and committee members. I don’t expect much if any direction from National for several months but we can begin by learning about immigration issues in Oneonta, Otsego County and New York State. Give me a call. 432-6974

The proposed wood burning energy facility is of great interest to League. We are fortunate to have Dave Hutchison and Lucille Wiggin on the Environmental Board monitoring this issue for us. Catalyst Renewables will hold a public meeting to answer questions on August 2, at 7:00 PM in Hunt Union on the State College campus.

An award to honor League members who have made extraordinary contributions to the Oneonta League was announced at the May dinner. See page 7 for details.

We are looking forward to a year of more extraordinary events. Plan to join us for our fall dinner, Sept. 26 and learn what we have planned.

Kay

An Award … see page 7 for details.

Welcome New Member
Please add this name to your membership booklet

Linda K Thomas
17 Pleasant Ave.
Oneonta, NY 13820
432-8236
287-9130
redhead5050@hotmail.com

Linda keeps busy with her work at DCMO BOCES Adult and Continuing Education and as Director of Community Relations at Southside Chiropractic. Her work with her business partner, Anne Walters, in development, marketing and presentation of professional workshops on developing human potential, “DNA: Dynamic New Alternatives” allows her to branch out into our community.

Linda and her husband, Bob Mahoney, have a 23-year-old son, Devin.

Calendar

August 2 - Public Meeting – Proposed Bio-mass facility 7:00 PM in Hunt Union on the State College Campus

August 3 - Road Clean Up – call Lucille Wiggin – 432-1022

August 21 - 6:00 PM Board Meeting – 10 Walnut St. Bring a dish to pass.

Sept. 9 - Grand and Glorious Garage Sale

Sept 26 - 6:00 P.M. Opening Dinner for the 2006-207 year. Bring a guest and a dish to pass.

Diversity Policy

The League of Women Voters of the Oneonta Area, in both its values and practices, is committed to diversity and pluralism. There shall be no barriers to participation in the League. The League of Women Voters of the Oneonta Area recognizes that diverse perspectives are important and necessary for responsible and representative decision making.

Officers

President ………. Kay Stuligross 432-6974
Vice President ……Kathy Lafontaine 431-1125
Secretary ……….. Sandee Fleisher 432-3783
Treasurer ……….. Alice Collins
Bulletin Editor …. Vivien Anderson 432-1224
June
- Hosted the Tompkins County Health Care Walkers
- Sponsored a public forum on public finance of health care

August
- 1-88 Road Cleanup
- Voter Registration at Ocasey Summerfest

September
- Over 75 people joined us for a Panel of County Board Chairs and Administrators who discussed county Administration at our opening dinner.
- Voter Registration at The Grand and Glorious Garage Sale,

October
- Debate between candidates for County District 3 and candidates for County District 5. Statements by candidates for Otsego County Treasurer. Co-sponsored by The Daily Star and Central New York Radio Group. First use of media table.

November
- Debate between candidates for mayor of Oneonta. Statements by candidates for Oneonta Town Justice. Over 120 in attendance.
- Election Night Reporting for The Daily Star
- 1000 LWVNY and 1500 LWVO Voter Guides distributed
- 1 88 Road Cleanup

December
- Holiday party at the Eltings attended by 29 members, elected officials, contributors and guests

January
- Program Planning brunch for LWVUS and local program.
- Recommendations - LWVUS – New study Immigration; Updates, Redistricting, Military Policy
- LWVOneonta – monitor Biomass facility proposal
- Importance of Voting and Registration presentation to Oneonta High School class.

February
- Civil Liberties public meeting
  Speakers: Paul Scheele, Sugwan Kang, 22 in attendance for luncheon at Pizza Land
- Voter Registration at Job Fair

March
- How to Run for School Board
  Panel: Marti Stayton, School Board Chair Anne Payne, Board member
  Rich Harlem, former Board member

April
- AAUW-LWV Luncheon at Waterfront Café at State College. Speaker: Michael Shea, superintendent: Oneonta School District
- Christine Nelson, Laurens High School, attended Students Inside Albany
- Financing Education membership consensus meeting 22 in attendance for this first part of the study of financing

May
- Spring Dinner and Annual Meeting
Highlights from the LWVUS Convention

Meeting “old” League friends, sharing ideas, and lots of work filled the four Convention days. Leaguers brought many revisions to the proposed program and budget. Caucuses lasted late in the night as we struggled with deciding if we should adopt immigration as a new study or if we should update the redistricting-apportionment policy. In the process, I learned a great deal about alternative redistricting and voting possibilities.

The first delegate vote was to adopt a resolution requiring voting machines to have a voter verifiable paper ballot or paper record as part of our existing position.

Especially fascinating was a plan to implement direct election of the President without the need to amend the Constitution. Presently states are free to direct their presidential electors anyway they choose. All but Maine and Nebraska use the winner take all procedure, but they could choose other methods. I brought back a book on the possibilities, which you may borrow. The convention did not act on this proposal but we can certainly study it and reach individual decisions.

After much discussion and multiple ballots, the delegates voted for the proposed three-year immigration study.

The proposed increased PMP (the amount each local League pays to LWVUS for each member) generated hot discussion. The treasurer explained that the increase was necessary because the PMP had not increased in four years. Since our membership has declined, PMP has become a smaller part of the revenue budget. However, delegates were not satisfied with other parts of the budget and voted to reallocate some funds.

Election of the new board of directors proved exciting for there were two floor nominees for director. Both ran on the voting machine issue. Although neither won, they enlivened the “Meet the Candidates” night and provided new issues for us all to consider.

Kay

Reflections of a First Time Conventioneer

I cannot thank the League enough for inviting me to go to the National Convention in Minneapolis. I have attended many conventions for many organizations and reasons, but this one was certainly filled with substance, inspiration, fun, and even a little drama. Here is a brief overview of my thoughts on returning home:

First, as a new LWV member and new local board member, the National Convention gave me a vision of the amazing role that the LWV plays at the local, state, and national levels. Seeing women from all walks of life and all political parties working together to support the true democratic ideals of our country was particularly inspiring, especially in this day of divisive party politics.

Second, I learned a lot. I went to a number of workshop and caucus sessions on program issues, which allowed me to see how our positions are designed and refined. Some sessions gave me ideas about what we can do at our local level on particular issues (especially ones that I am interested in, such as education). Other caucus presentations allowed local and state leaguers to present their positions on issues which they wished to raise on the floor of the convention; these included issues such as supporting abolition.
of the death penalty, making government more accountable with regard to military and defense spending issues (allowing more oversight and disclosure), environmental protection and global warming, and help in understanding the difficulties with rebuilding the Gulf Coast area after Hurricanes Katrina and Wilma. Through these sessions, attendees and organizers were able to establish a network of contacts, as well as build support; this remained true even when an effort to bring an issue to the National Board as a policy or program issue failed on the Convention floor. I even attended a session for "Younger League Members" (originally defined as 35 and younger, but later modified to 45 and younger, and they still let me in even though I don't qualify in either category)!

Third, I realized what an amazing resource the LWV is for its members. As an attorney, I found a ready network of LWV women and men whose skills and talents are being used and showcased in a variety of ways, and who could be a valuable resource to me not only within the League, but also in my work. I have already been contacted by a national and a state board member about participation in League studies or other League issues at those levels.

Finally, I realized that, easy as it is to feel overtired, overworked, unimportant, or apathetic, the work of the League is vital and important and alive all over this country. The League's history of local involvement has made, and continues to make, an impact on millions of us—as Garrison Keillor said in his remarks at the banquet, the first prize he ever won for writing was a LWV writing contest with a prize of $15; he also shared memories of his childhood, playing under the dining room table while the local LWV women met to discuss the important issues facing their communities and country. He left us with a lament about the passing of the days when children grew up with the League as part of their social consciousness—but I

have chosen to interpret this as a challenge and an invitation to keep the League alive and involved so that it can continue to do its very important work.

Thanks again.

Anne Payne

More photos from the Annual Meeting

Paul and Sarah Patterson chat with John Nader, Mayor of Oneonta

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Grand and Glorious Garage Sale - Sept. 9

Think fall on these hot summer days and plan to register voters at the G&G, Sept. 9. Bette Wagner, Voter Registration chair, will need your help for an hour or two between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Call Bette to let her know when you can help. 369-7507. This is a fun activity and you will have plenty of time to peruse the bargains on the street as well.

Highway Clean Up

Meet the “Highway Pick Up Crew” on Thursday, August 3rd at 8:00 A.M. at Denny’s (South Side) for a delightful early morning walk along I-88. Learn about the New Island access and feel good about helping the local environment. Call Lucille Wiggan (432-1022) for details. We need 6-8 hearty souls plus a driver.

Founder's Award

Purpose:
Award for LWV members for outstanding service and loyalty

Requirements:
10 years membership
At least three years on the Board Committee service, including chairing at least one committee
Familiarity with League mission
Community Visibility
Personal qualities of leadership: imitative, creativity, willingness to accept responsibility

The Award Committee:
three members, one a board member appointed for two years by the President with the approval of the Board.

Process:
The committee will choose their own chairperson. Letters of nomination of candidate(s) for the award should be sent to the committee. It is the responsibility of the committee to announce in the newsletter the due date for these nominations. The award will be presented at the annual spring banquet if there is a worthy recipient that year.

LWVUS - Recent Action by our National League

Lobbied for:
- The Voting Rights Act
- Reauthorization
- DC Voting Rights bill which would give DC residents a voice in Congress

Lobbied against:
- The Federal Marriage Amendment

Joined an alliance to provide outreach to overseas citizens and military voters

Launched an Hispanic Vote project

Began a Membership Recruitment Initiative to increase LWV membership nation wide

Provided a mechanism for local Leagues to post their Voter’s Guides on the LWVUS web site

In coalition with Advance America, made red, white and blue lapel pins available without cost to local leagues to give to people when they register to vote.
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HELP WANTED - LWV Oneonta

Observer Corps Coordinator - Observers help to organize the League’s eyes and ears at public meetings at local school district, city, town and county levels. LWV Observers attend meetings, observe what goes on, and submit a brief written report to the LWV board. This way we stay informed, and let our elected representatives know that we’re paying attention. Most observers attend one meeting per month, depending on their interest and availability.

Publications Assistant
Are you skilled in word processing and/or desktop publishing? If not, would you like to learn? LWV needs someone to put together our local Voter Guides and They Represent You brochures. All the info is collected and verified by the Voter Service Director, and submitted to the Publication Assistant to be typed up and formatted into a brochure or booklet. This year we plan to have a Voters Guide for the fall election (prepared in October), and update They Represent You in January, reflecting the results of November elections. Our local publications are a high-profile service to the community - this is an important job! Free training is available.

Voter Service Committee - Debate Facilities Coordinator
Think the League’s candidate debates are valuable to voters? Be part of making them happen - help with planning and setting up the location. In addition to local candidate nights, we’re scheduled to host a forum for NY State Attorney General candidates this fall! Contact Voter Service Director Karen Geasey for more info at 432-8158.

Immigration Study Chairperson
The LWVUS has just adopted a study of immigration. Are you interested in chairing or serving on our local committee? Study materials and guidelines will be provided by the national League’s Immigration Study Committee. The local chair’s job would be to organize the committee, learn as much as possible and plan programs to educate members and the public about this crucial issue.

Students Inside Albany
Each spring the state League sponsors a leadership program for high school students. We need a coordinator to contact local schools and invite teens to participate.

Program Monitors
Program monitors do just that: monitor local, state and national activity on one of our positions for which we do not have a chair. Are you interested in environmental issues, housing, education, employment, Oneonta schools, the United Nations, foreign trade – we have a long list. As a local program monitor, you can take the lead to keep members informed about your specific interest, and encourage member action when appropriate (such as letter writing, calls or emails to elected officials).
Attention Oneonta League members:

Our fiscal year begins July 1, so dues for 2006-2007 are now due. Annual dues are now $45 for an individual member, and $22.50 for an additional member in the same household. This single dues payment covers you for a year of membership in LWV of Oneonta, LWV-New York State and LWV-US.

Please send your check, payable to LWV-Oneonta, to PO Box 434, Oneonta NY 13820. Be sure to include your name, address, phone # and e-mail address.

If you can, please consider an additional contribution to LWV-Oneonta (not tax-deductible).

You can also make a tax deductible contribution to the League’s Education Foundation. Send a separate check, made out to Oneonta LWV EF.

Thanks for your prompt attention to this matter - prompt dues payment saves volunteer time and LWV funds, and allows our board to plan for the coming year. (But remember that new members are ALWAYS welcome!)

---

LWV of the Oneonta Area
Membership Dues 2006-07

Name(s) ________________________________
Address ______________________________________
Phone _______________________________ Email _______________________________

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Add. Household member ($22.50) $ ____________

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