PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Dear Members and Friends,

One year into my term as president, I am truly overwhelmed with the commitment of so many members and how effective our involvement is in this community. We have accomplished several important issues with closure still to come on some.

Redistricting of our Board of Representatives is still to be resolved. Consensus on the Death Penalty Study will be held in November.

At our AAUW/LWV luncheon we were pleased to hear from Elizabeth Bloom on the "No Child Left Behind" issue that continues to be a concern on its implementation in all of the schools. Karen Geasey and I attended a workshop in Binghamton on the Campaign for Fiscal Equity for all schools. As many of our upstate schools are under funded for the many state and national mandates, it's important that they are not left out of this legislation.

Another funded issue is the HAVA (Help America Vote Act) and four of us were at the Otseaga Hotel last summer to review several of the new voting machines available. As New York State still has the full-face ballot, we were able to see how these machines could be implemented to help all voters. At our recent National Convention a change was adopted for the League position on "Citizen's Right to Vote":

(continued on page 2)

LWVNY Death Penalty Study Update

The statewide Death Penalty Study committee has formulated study questions. Local leagues will hold consensus meetings in the fall, ours is scheduled for Tuesday, November 16th.

Our local study committee met in May to review the scope of the consensus questions. Specific topics include the costs of the death penalty versus life in prison, geographic inequities in New York state, mechanisms for introducing new evidence and the current law regarding exclusions for certain categories of people (i.e. minors, foreign nationals, etc.) Information will be presented in upcoming Bulletins.

For more info on this study contact Liz Orton (538-1253) or see www.lwvny.org. ✯

SAVE THE DATE!
Tuesday, September 25th
Fall membership meeting w/ special guest:
Kay Maxwell
LWVUS President
This potluck dinner will be held at St. James Episcopal Church. Plan to be there and bring a friend!
(More details in next month's Bulletin)

In this issue

Death Penalty Study Update ..................................1
President's Letter .............................................1
Upcoming Events, Election Dates ...........................2
Welcome New Members ......................................2
Report from National Convention ............................3-4
Dues reminder ....................................................4
Sponsors ............................................................5
Meet the Board of Directors .................................6
(President’s Letter continued from page 1)

In order to ensure integrity and voter confidence in elections, the LWVUS supports the implementation of voting systems and procedures that are secure; accurate; accountable; and accessible. It is up to each state to make this happen.

I welcome all new members and hope to see you at our September 28th meeting. If you have an interest of concern and wish to pursue it further, please contact me and I’ll give you information and/or a contact person. We have several areas that are not covered by anyone at this time and they can be found in your Membership booklet under Program - State, National, and Local.

A big "Thank You" to all who attended our Annual Meeting and especially those who could stay for the business meeting as we had several urgent issues to vote on. The revised Bylaws are available. If you would like a copy, just call.

My first year as your President has certainly been a busy one but productive in many ways. There is a lot more that can be done, so don’t hesitate to volunteer. Thank you to our two outgoing Board members — Gerri Haan and Cynthia Benner for all you’ve done - and we will look forward to seeing you at our many functions throughout the year. The three new Board members are Barbara Hein, Catherine LaFontaine and Elizabeth Burns. Welcome.

Your help will be needed as we register voters, cover the Forums, and distribute information for the fall election. Karen Geasey is our Voter Service Director. Please say "Yes" when called or just volunteer!

Maggie Winnex
President, LWV of the Oneonta Area
432-6206

Welcome New Members!
Alice M.P. Collins  Mary Simpson
4 Harmon Ave.    2 Tilton Ave.
ampcollins@yahoo.com  433-0168
mipica@dncem.net

Upcoming LWV Events

August 9 — Board Meeting*
at Susan Hughson’s camp, 4pm, 433-1847
August 12 — Adopt-a-Highway Cleanup
Route 88 Eastbound between exits 15 & 16.
Contact crew chief Lucille Wiggin 432-1022 to volunteer.
Sept 9 — Death Penalty Study Committee Meeting
Time/place TBA — Liz Orton 538-1253
Sept 11 — Grand and Glorious Garage Sale
downtown Oneonta, 9am-4pm. Volunteers needed for Voter registration table. Call Karen Geasey 432-8158 to claim your shift.
Sept 12 — Peace Festival
Neahwa Park 1pm-4pm. More Voter registration, see above.
Sept 13 — Board Meeting*
Maggie Winne’s home, 7pm, 432-6206
Sept 28 — Fall Membership Meeting
(Potluck)
6pm @ St. James Episcopal Church
w/ LWVUS President Kay Maxwell

*All board meetings are open to any member,

Election Dates:

August 20: Last day to postmark a mail-in registration and to register in person at your County Board of Elections for Primaries
September 7: Last day to postmark a mail-in absentee ballot application for Primaries
September 13: Last day to postmark an absentee ballot for Primaries
September 14: Primary Election Day and last day to deliver an absentee ballot in person to your County Board of Elections
October 8: Last day to register for General Election to be held November 2.

Otsego County Board of Elections — 547-4247
Reports from the LWV 46th Biennial National Convention

More than 700 local league delegates from 47 states met in Washington DC from June 11-15 to decide the LWVUS program agenda, elect a national board and officers, and celebrate the League’s accomplishments. Maggie Winne reports here as our voting delegate, and Cathy Lafontaine, who served as the delegate for LWV Cazenovia, shares details and her reflections on this exciting experience. Interested members may access complete reports of convention action through the LWVUS website (www.lwv.org).

Delegate Report
by Maggie Winne

As your one voting delegate to national convention from this chapter I just want to report some of the business that took place and how I voted. We delegates had a limited amount of time to digest a great deal of information in order to make (hopefully) intelligent decisions at the plenary sessions. The experience was intense to say the least.

There were afternoon and nightly caucuses on a variety of topics. Obviously, one could only attend a selected few. I voted against abolishing the Death Penalty simply because of the work that is being done now at the State level as well as within our own chapter. I also voted against increasing the PMP above the approved 80 cents to have a staff person study and carryout our position on civil liberties. Even though this is a high priority item, I could not justify an increase in our dues at this time. The California delegation presented the LWVUS president with a $1,000 donation specifically for this study.

There is continued support for the ERA; the Assault Weapons Ban; and more exposure for the United Nations including extra information in our public schools. There was strong disagreement among League members on the interpretation of the position on "Citizens Right to Vote" that the LWVUS had taken on whether a Voter Verified Paper Audit Trail should be a requirement with Direct Recording Electronic Voting; therefore, a new resolution was approved stating "In order to ensure integrity and voter confidence in elections, the LWVUS supports the implementation of voting systems and procedures that are secure; accurate; accountable; and accessible."

Kay Maxwell was reelected President and the incumbent Board members were all reelected; however, there were two other nominees for Board seats. The Budget was passed with the good news that the national organization is again working in the "black".

There has been a staff reduction since ’98 - ’99 of 24 persons (at the national level) along with other cost-saving items. There is a decrease in overall members nationwide and all are working on increasing this at every level.

If you would like any further information, please contact me at 432-6206 and "Thank You" for giving me this opportunity to serve you in this capacity. ☯

A new member’s perspective on LWVUS
By Cathy LaFontaine

The LWV of the United States has every reason to be proud. As a new member to the local Oneonta LWV, I was honored when asked to attend this year’s conference as a delegate. I was impressed with the level of leadership at the national level as well as the representation of those attending from our state and local levels. It was a very positive experience for me from the time of our arrival on Friday, June 11th, through and including the closing session on Tuesday, June 15th. After experiencing this year’s convention first hand, my sense is that the LWV at all levels, takes great pride in being the well-respected organization that it is today. I am pleased to be a part of such a great organization.

(continued on page 4)
REMINDER!

Our fiscal year ended June 30, so if you haven’t paid your dues since January 2004, you need to send in a check! We depend on support from each member.

Where do our dues go? A copy of the budget adopted at our annual meeting was included in last April’s bulletin. Here you can see that the PMP - Per Member Payment - we pay to the LWV New York and LWV United States is by far our biggest expense ($39 per member). While locally, we are all volunteers, there are expenses for voter service activities, program, education and action, as well as board costs. Please make a contribution in addition to your dues if possible. For a tax-deductible contribution, make your contribution check out to the Oneonta LWV Education Foundation. Dues, of course, are not deductible.

Your board works hard raising funds to help us balance our budget, but we depend on member dues and contributions to make it happen! Our Membership Directory is printed in September, and only paid members will be listed. Please save us a phone call and send your check today. 

---

LWV of the Oneonta Area
Membership Dues Renewal 2004-05

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name (s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Address</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual Dues ($40)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional Household member ($20)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional Contribution to LWV Oneonta (NOT Tax-deductible)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total (payable to LWV Oneonta)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tax-deductible contribution to The Education Foundation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Watercolors**  
Peg Hathaway  
248 Southside Drive  
Oneonta, NY 13820  
(607) 432-6810

---

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

---

**Alice Siegfried Potter**  
Pots at Artisan's Guild  
148 Main St., Oneonta  
&  
Pie in the Sky  
Rt. 7, Otego

---

**THE PINE SHOP INC.**  
576 Main St.  
P.O. Box 426  
Oneonta, NY 13820  
(607) 432-1124  
Hours: Mon. - Fri. 9-5:30  
Thurs. 9-6, Sat. till 5  
Sun. 10-4  
Others by Appointment

---

**Benson Agency**  
One Grand Place for Real Estate  
432-4391

---

**Peter W. Hill**  
Attorney at Law  
Practice limited to:  
Social Security Disability  
and Workers' Compensation  
384 Main Street, Oneonta (607) 432-4646

---

**April Linton Gates, LMT, NCTMB**  
Therapeutic Massage and Acupressure  
17 Olen Howek Street  
West Oneonta, New York  
By Appointment (607) 436-9571

---

**The Shipping Room**  
291 Chestnut Street  
Oneonta, NY 13820  
(607) 433-0545  
Fax: (607) 431-0618  
Email: shipsroom@stnyr.com  
Sunday: 1-5pm  
Monday-Friday: 8am-5:30pm

---

**Iannelli’s Ristorante and Pizzeria**  
Dining in a Family Atmosphere  
Michael Iannelli - proprietor and chef  
99 Chestnut St.  
Oneonta, NY 13820  
www.iannellis.com  
Ristorante 607/433-5230  
Pizzeria & Take-out 433-4330

---

**Butternut Graphics**  
Political Signs & All Your Business Needs  
(607) 432-7282  
318 Chestnut Street, Oneonta, New York 13820
MEET YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Karen P. Geasey

Since joining the League in January 1996, Karen has taken on one task after another, competent handling committee work and board responsibilities while balancing family life and employment. Trained as an MSW, Karen has worked with individuals and families who've experienced domestic violence, abuse, addictions and mental health problems. Karen and husband Dave (whose SUNY Oneonta TV crews capture many of our candidate forums for broadcast) have two teenage sons and a 4 year-old daughter.

Asked why she joined the League, Karen says, “I've always been interested in politics, and the nonpartisan perspective of the League was attractive.” She's been active with a wide variety of League projects including Balancing Justice Study Circles, Candidate Nights, our local webpage and Observer Corps, and held many leadership positions, including President. Her commitment to the League is evident in her recruiting success; in addition to getting Dave involved, she inspired her dad, Robert Holstead, to join and brought Chris Burgher onboard as Publications Assistant.

The League isn’t her only hobby – Karen participates in her kids' sports activities (indoor soccer, bowling and Little League), and is involved in her church. She is also the League’s representative on the Community Awareness Task Force. When she can, Karen unwinds with a good book, cross-stitching or a family camping trip.

In her current role of Voter Service Director, Karen embodies the League’s mission of encouraging informed and active participation of citizens in government. If you don’t know Karen yet, you will certainly hear from her by election day – or better yet, why not contact her yourself and volunteer to help out in this busy election season? ★

Kay Stuligross

Kay was impressed by the voter services of the LWV in Norman, Oklahoma when her husband Jack (now retired from teaching economics at Hartwick College) was in graduate school “They'd put a voter guide in each bag at the grocery store.” She became a Leaguer in 1966, while living in Warrenburg, Missouri. In 1971, the Stuligross family moved to Waukesha, Wisconsin, where Kay served a local league president. Arriving in Oneonta in 1980, Kay quickly became, and is still, an essential part of our local league. She’s lent her expertise to many tasks, including Finance, Membership, and Voter Service for us (among other things), and is a past President. During her tenure here in Oneonta, Kay has contributed to the development of local League positions on Planning, City and County Government. Most recently Kay’s had a leading role in the League’s action on county redistricting, and currently serves as our Vice-President & Membership Director.

We haven’t kept Kay’s expertise all to ourselves here in Oneonta: she’s served two terms on the LWVNYN Board, where she led the first study on Health Care. Kay is one of those rare people who doesn’t just act locally, she acts globally. When the LWVUS had opportunities for local leagues to participate in Global Democracy projects, she co-chaired the committees that brought Polish and Ugandan women visitors to Oneonta. In 1999 the Global Democracy Project enabled Kay and fellow LWV member Barb Hein to spend two weeks in Uganda helping to facilitate civic education workshops.

In addition to her work with LWV, Kay was a founding board member of our local Habitat for Humanity chapter. She and Jack are both members of the Catskill Choral Society. They have 5 sons and 10 grandchildren. ★