Program Planning Meeting
Local and National Issues
Saturday, January 26 - 10 AM
Rowe House
32 Maple St.
Board Members Please Bring a Brunch Snack
Beverage provided

President’s Letter
Happy New Year to you as we begin 2008.

It is only fitting to first send out a big “THANK YOU” to Lucille Wiggin for hosting this year’s annual holiday “Open House”. Although it was a small group that gathered on a snowy Sunday afternoon in December, the time spent was rich with conversation and the hors doeuvres were exceptionally tasty! Thanks again Lucille for opening your home to us. If you weren’t able make it to this year’s holiday open house, please try to join us next year.

Next on the League of Women Voters of the Oneonta Area’s agenda is our annual Program Planning Meeting. This year we will be meeting on Saturday, January 26th. (See invitation on this page for more details.) Each year the League gathers to discuss issues, to make recommendations or sometimes to begin a study on an important topic either for state or for national. We also discuss issues that have significance on the local level. For example, this year we will be making a decision regarding a study on the City of Oneonta’s Charter. If you are interested in specific issues, they are listed in your 2007-2008 membership booklet. I would encourage you to bring your membership

Continued inside
President’s message continued

booklet along with you to the Program Planning meeting. If you have questions about the format for discussion or want additional information, please contact me, Cathy LaFontaine, 431-1125. Hope to see you at the meeting.

March is Women’s History Month. Our League will sponsor an event that coincides with this special time. Cherilyn Lacy, a Board Director with our League, is coordinator for this event. Look for details in our February bulletin.

Looking yet further into the future, on April 12th the LWV of Oneonta and the American Association of University Women (AAUW) will join together to sponsor a brunch to be held at the Clarion Hotel, Main Street, Oneonta. There will be a guest speaker for this event. Watch for more details in the March LWV Bulletin.

We are looking forward to a great year ahead. If you are a new member to the LWV of Oneonta maybe now is the time to get involved. If you have been a member of the LWV of Oneonta for some time but for whatever reason have not been an active member, maybe this is the time for you to get reacquainted with our organization. We welcome you to join us for one or all of the events throughout the coming year.

Cathy LaFontaine
Co-President
LWV of the Oneonta Area

Hats off to our member Volunteers!

I wanted to thank the members who were crucial in our very busy debate season this past fall in the Oneonta Area League. Cathy LaFontaine did a fine job in her debut appearance as a debate moderator for our Primary Election debate on Aug. 29. Cathy then used that experience to lead a busy evening of two forums on October 23. Laurel Elder moderated our second night of General Election race forums and again showed her skill in keeping the event organized and running smoothly.

We appreciated our volunteers who served as time keepers and/or greeters and ushers for any or all of the 3 evenings: Bob Holstead, Bette Wagner, Sarah Patterson, Susan Hughson, Alice Collins, Diane Slocum, Marg O’Mara, Lucille Wiggins, and Shirley Fioravanti. Maggie Winne was our telephone operator.

We distributed 1,000 LWVNYS Part I Voters’ Guides in the Oneonta area to inform and enable voters to register and get out the vote. Maggie Winne was very helpful in distributing the State Guides and the 2,000 local Voters’ Guides to other members for community distribution, as well as getting many to destinations on her own.

I greatly appreciate all the patience, flexibility and energy from all the League volunteers who made this unusually busy fall debate season a success! I think we did our best to provide our community voters with the information they needed to make their selections on our full Election Day slate.

Karen Geasey
Voter Service Director

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<th>Officers</th>
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<tr>
<td>Co-President ...Cathy LaFontaine 431-1125</td>
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<td>Co-President .....Maggie Winnie 432-6202</td>
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<td>Secretary ........ Alice Collins</td>
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<td>Treasurer ........ Sandee Fleisher 432-3783</td>
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<td>Vice-President ...Karen Geasey 432-8158</td>
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<td>Bulletin Editor .. Vivien Anderson 432-1224</td>
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Fall 2007 Education Project: “The Constitution and You” (Unfogging Government)

On behalf of the League of Women Voters of the Oneonta Area, we would like to thank the people whose volunteer assistance made it possible for our Fall Education project to happen in September. The four series program was titled “The Constitution and You,” and it examined the Federal and NYS Constitutions regarding how the three branches of government are organized and how these then impact our lives as members of our particular communities. Dennis Shea, David Brenner, Paul Scheele, John Nader and Rich Brown each presented one evening of information and explanation from their own perspectives which were based in their professional and/or elective office experiences. The evenings were not largely attended on our first occasion for this project, but the content was extremely useful and the League is very grateful for their participation and time.

Thanks also to A.O. Fox Hospital and Sarah at the Fox Care office and their commitment to education by allowing us to have a classroom for our evenings. We also appreciate Senator James Seward and his Oneonta area office staff for providing all the participants with a copy of the U.S. Constitution.

The committee of Paul Scheele, Paul Conway, Anne Payne, Alice Collins and Karen Geasey enjoyed working on this effort and we hope that the League will be able to continue to offer valuable educational programs like this with the assistance of the very knowledgeable local resources in our community.

LWV of the Oneonta Area Study of the City of Oneonta Charter

Our League voted to do a new study on the City of Oneonta’s Charter last May at our annual meeting. We are looking for members and non-members in the community who would like to participate in this study. Please call Karen Geasey at 432-8158 or e-mail at kgeasey@hotmail.com if you are interested and would like more information.

Update - NY State Delegates Embraced Study of Compact for National Popular Vote

FYI --- After lobbying and caucusing, delegates attending the NY State Convention in May 2007 enthusiastically adopted the non-recommended study: Should NYS Join the Compact for a National Popular Vote? By the time of the final vote at the Sunday morning plenary session there was only one “no” vote. The motion to adopt the study more than met the requirement of support from 3/5 of the voting delegates.

In June, the NPV State Study Committee began its research. The timetable approved by LWVNYS board required that all study materials including consensus questions would be out to local Leagues by the end of January 2008. In fact the NPV study guide is near completion.

Then on October 31, LWVNYS was informed that “we would not be able to take action on any position resulting from the study” based on this study. However, because of the enthusiasm expressed by Leaguers across the state, the LWVNYS Board directed two members of the former state study committee to lobby Leagues across the country to recommend adoption at Convention 2008 of a National Study entitled “The Advisability of Using the National Popular Vote Compact among the States as a Method for Electing the President.”

The LWVNYS website is an excellent source of valuable information on this topic. Some of the topic areas accessed from the LWVNYS website include an explanation of the National Popular Vote Compact, the history of the Electoral College and how it works. Additionally, from this website there are some great resource links and recommended websites.

For further information go to: http://www.lwvny.org/npv.html or you could also try http://www.nationalpopularvote.com/index.php.

Information for this update - LWV of Saratoga County Bulletin-January 2008 & NYSLWV Website
**Calendar of Events**

**January**
26   National & Local Program Planning – Rowe House, 10:00 AM

**February**
11   Board Meeting
     35 S. Belmont Circle, 7:00 PM

**March**
10   Board Meeting,
     35 So. Belmont Circle, 7:00 PM

Change in Calendar of Events: March 29th "Empowering Women to Run for Office" - changed to new event to take place the Week of Mar. 3rd. Look for details in next month’s bulletin.

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**EMAIL NOTIFICATIONS** - including LWV meeting date reminders, notification of special events and deadlines - are periodically sent to members and friends of LWV Oneonta. Every effort is made to keep these messages to a minimum (typically no more than one-two per month) and we do NOT share our email list with any other organization. Addresses for the email distribution list are compiled from the member directory, but if you have changed addresses we may not have you entered correctly, or we may just have a typo :-) If you are not receiving email notifications from LWV of Oneonta and would like to, please send a message to

lwvfoneonta@verizon.net

Thank you,
Barb Hein - Email list-keeper

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**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.

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**VOTING 2008 UPDATES**

You would have to be living on another planet for the last several months to not be aware of what’s been happening with PRESIDENTIAL CAUCUSES AND PRIMARIES. And, they are not over yet. Things are just gearing up for **“SUPER TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2008** when more than 20 states will hold primaries or caucuses. In fact, February 5th will turn out to be the most crowded primary day in history!

Keep in mind that you may register at the BOE or any state agency participating in the National Voter Registration Act on any business day throughout the year. If you are a registered voter and know you are going to be away (or have a medical reason), you may request an Absentee Ballot from the Board of Elections by Feb. 4th in person or download from the web-site, [www.otsegocounty.com](http://www.otsegocounty.com). To be eligible to vote in the primary on February 5th your application must be postmarked by **January 29th** or hand-delivered to the (BOE) Board of Elections no later than **February 4th**.

Otsego County Board of Elections is located at Meadows Office Complex Suite 2, 140 Co. HWY 33w, Cooperstown, NY 13326, 547-4247 or 547-4325. NYS Board of Elections – 518.473.5086.