Mission Statement

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

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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.

LWV Officers

Co-President
Cathy LaFontaine....431-1125
Co-President
Maggie Winne........432-6206
Vice-President
Karen Geasey...........432-8158
Secretary
Alice Collins
Treasurer
Sandee Fleisher....432-3783

New Members Always Welcome - contact Maggie Winne, Local Membership Director at 607.432.6206 or leave a phone message at 607.436.4050 and someone will get back to you.

The Grassroots Speaks – Program Planning

Program and action are the heart of the League. Most members join the League to affect change and to influence public policy. League Program consists of governmental issues chosen for study and action. It includes both adopted positions upon which action is taken and issues chosen for study that will lead to a position and action. In Program Planning we consider both aspects but are primarily concerned with issues for update or study will lead to a position and action.

On January 24th we may suggest retaining an existing LWVNYS position, dropping a position that is no longer useful in its present form, or updating a study to reevaluate a position in light of new information. The League Of Women Voters of New York State provides its members with a very useful feature on its Web site. You might want to check it out. It is the “Citizen Action Toolkit”. There are links on the Web site that provides useful information. We will be discussing state legislative positions as well as local positions during the program planning meeting. Please plan to bring this LWV Bulletin with you to the planning meeting.

Review 2007-2009 LWVNYS POSITIONS
(Page 12 - LWV Membership Guide)

Some terms to be familiar with:

• Program - to recommend which positions should be retained, dropped or updated. The following definitions should be used to guide these decisions:
• Retain - Members are committed to the position and will actively be involved in supporting LWVNYS efforts to pursue position’s goals.
• Drop – Position is no longer useful in its present form or is not supported by members. Action on this position will end. Any future action will require adoption of a new study.
• Update – A study of limited scope to reevaluate a position in light of new information, changed circumstances, and/or conflict with another position. The aim is to consider position changes.

When taking action, remember these points:

• Action may be taken under national, state, inter-League organization positions as well as under our own local positions.
• No local position may be adopted or action taken which is in opposition to program positions of other levels of the League.
• Action on positions of other levels of League must be cleared with the appropriate person at that level.

If you haven’t participated in the Program Planning process, this is your chance. Hope to see you there!

LWV of the Oneonta Area

The Grassroots Speaks

Recommendations for the Oneonta League and the LWV of New York State

January 24 – 10:00 AM

Coffee and Brunch Snacks
Provided by your Board
Rowe House
31 Maple St.

Please bring this bulletin with you.

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President’s Letter

The month of January in any year is a time to briefly glance backwards, look forward to the year ahead while remaining focused on the present.

Let’s face it, a good portion of the League’s work in 2008 involved working with, around and for the National Election on November 4, 2008. History will tell the whole story someday, but it was a monumental movement for our country. We, the people, elected a new president who ran on a platform for change and a simple statement that evoked a positive outlook, “yes we can!” Elections at the local level brought candidates out to debate and participate in several forums. Citizens also got to take an active role in the election process. The candidates who ran for office, whether running for office for the first time or looking to be re-elected, were afforded the opportunity to speak to their constituencies. All this was made possible with the help of our League volunteers, along with the support of the Daily Star and SUNY Oneonta’s media staff members. We are very grateful for everyone’s contribution in helping to make voter education and participation such a success.

This New Year brings a couple of ongoing tasks with it for our League. Karen Geasey heads up the LWV’s City Charter Committee and Bette Wagner is the new Committee Chair for the Compact for a National Popular Vote. Both of these committees will be working toward their goals in the next few months. Look for updates in future newsletters.

Currently, our League will be hosting the Annual Planning Meeting on Saturday, January 24, 2009 at 10 AM at the Rowe House, 31 Maple St. Traditionally, the January meeting is our time to assess our local program and to recommend retaining, updating or dropping positions or adding new studies or action projects. The League alternates on a yearly basis between national and state program but always includes local program. This year the League will be assessing State and Local Issues. Is there an issue of concern for Oneonta, Otsego County or New York State you think the League should address. Join us for this important Planning meeting. For additional information, call 436-4050.

Cathy LaFontaine
Co-President LWV of Oneonta

SUPPORT THE ADVERTISERS WHO SUPPORT THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

Bella Michael’s Restaurant
57 River Street Oneonta
607-431-9166
Mon.-Thurs. 11am-10pm Fri. Sat.11am-11pm

Peter W. Hill, Attorney
Practice limited to Social Security Disability
and Worker’s Compensation
384 Main Street Oneonta 432-4646

Alice Siegfried, Potter
67 Church Street Oneonta 432-8673
Pottery available at the Artisans’ Guild 148 Main St. Oneonta

Benson Agency Real Estate
1 Grand Street Oneonta 432-4391
www.bensone.com

Country Club Chevrolet, Inc.
Mark of Excellence Award Winner
70 Oneida Street Oneonta 432-6190

Artware
Quality framing and art materials
170 Main Street Oneonta 432-0679

April Linton Gates, LMT, NCTMB
Therapeutic Massage and Acupressure
11 Sloan Drive Otego 287-6915 (cell)

NEWS FROM NEW YORK STATE

The Local League Board

Now is the time when local League nominations committees look for new members to serve on their Boards. Serving on your League Board, or serving your local League in any other capacity, is an amazing opportunity. The Board plays a major role in defining the League, not only to its members but also to the community at large. Every member of the Board plays a part.

Yes, you’ll be serving your League when you serve on its Board. But you’ll also be gaining personally. You’ll be learning from more experienced members how to do the many tasks that make the League work. You will develop expertise that will carry over into your work on other issues with different organizations. With the self-confidence you’ll develop . . . lwvnys newsletter-January 2009.

Call to Convention 2009

The LWVNYS Biennial Convention will be May 15-17 at the Doubletree Inn in Syracuse, NY. The Convention theme will be “Fair, Vibrant and Strong”. In addition to planning our program, electing a new board, adopting by-laws changes and a new budget, we will have helpful workshops, interesting and informative presentations, a special presidents’ meeting, great speakers and entertainment, good food, and fun.

Mark your calendars and consider being part of Convention 2009, either as a delegate of your local League or as an observer. This is your opportunity to be sure the concerns of your community and your local League are represented at the Convention. Most important, working with other League members and seeing New York State League leaders in action is something you won’t want to miss. lwvnys newsletter-January 2009.

DUES

It is time for me to update the National Database as well as the local one. For members who did not pay dues in 2008, your name/s will be removed and you will no longer be receiving the newsletter, the State newsletter, and the National Voter.

We miss your support. If you feel you still would like to pay for the 2008 year, then it needs to be in the mailbox by January 20. Dues notices will go out again in May at our Annual Meeting time. Our year starts on June 1.

Due to the lateness in the year, if you do not wish to pay your dues, a contribution to the League is always appreciated.

Dues are $45 for an individual and $67.50 for a household. Contributions can be made to the local League or to the LWVEF (League of Women Voters Education Fund). The Education donation is tax deductible. Checks can be mailed to the LWV of the Oneonta Area, Box 434, Oneonta, NY 13820.

Maggie Winn
Membership Chairperson

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