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

AAUW/LWV Annual Brunch

SATURDAY, APRIL 12
10 AM – 12:30 pm
CLARION HOTEL
55 MARKET ST, ONEONTA
Ample Parking at Market St.
(No access at Main St.)

Speaker:  Lisa Curch, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor
Sociology Dept., SUNY Oneonta

Topic:  “Aging in America and Everyday Life in the 21st Century”

Brunch:  $14.95 (tax & gratuity included)
Please reserve early.  Space is limited.
Deadline for reservations:  April 9th
Checks made out to LWV of Oneonta
Please mail to: Ruth Tarter,
51 Spruce St., Oneonta, NY 13820

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.

President’s Message

Spring is just around the corner and from the reports I’ve received ---it will be welcomed by all! Along with the change of seasons, so also the LWV will provide change. We move out of our fall/winter calendar of events and into our spring calendar. Why not get out and about and support your local League!

Earlier this month, on March 5th, the LWV of the Oneonta Area, sponsored a workshop on nonpartisan civic organizations and U.S. politics. The event was planned to coincide with “Women’s History Month” and took place on Hartwick College campus. Faculty, League members and students were in attendance. Highlights included overviews of what non-partisan organizations offer to citizens living in a democratic society. The group also discussed the advocacy role organizations, including the LWV, play in communities at the local, as well as...
Women’s History Month

In celebration of Women’s History Month 2008, the League of Women Voters notes the achievements of women in the past and highlights the successes of today’s women, making a difference from coast to coast. From the suffragists who founded our organization 88 years ago to the strong women who volunteer time to improve their communities today, women of the League are making a profound civic impact.

This year, the League is cosponsoring a special series of events titled The Changing Faces of Power: Women in Politics. Visit our special event page to watch video from our first two events, “Women as Candidates” and “Women as Officeholders”, and to learn more about our final event in the series, “Women as Voters and Activists”, coming up on March 25th in Washington, DC.

The special event page is a link that can be found on the LWVUS website. Log on to lwv.org. Select News and Events from the menu. There are additional links from which to access the videos listed above.

Voting Machines

Each NYS county must have, within each polling place, an accessible voting machine for disabled voters for the 2008 election. At long last, at the insistence of the Federal district court, NYS counties have made their choice for this voting technology, and that choice will, most likely, drive the decision for the machines for the non-disabled voter also. We are happy to report that ONLY ONE county has chosen DRE technology! Op-Scan has prevailed! Congratulations to Aimee Allaud, LWVNYS Elections Specialist, LWVNYS Legislative Director Barbara Bartoletti, and hard working partner from New Yorkers for Verified Voting, Bo Lipari, for making themselves heard over the voices of the machine vendors.
If you can do only one thing. . .
Come to the Well of the LOB (Legislative Office Building) on Wed., April 2, 2008, 9:30 AM. to hear Gloria Steinem. The program begins at 10 AM, light refreshments at 9:30 AM. Hear Gloria Steinem speak and field questions from the press. Your presence is important to demonstrate the public support for pay equity. Other invited speakers: Lt. Governor David Paterson, Senate Majority Leader Joseph Bruno, Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, Senate Democratic Leader Malcolm Smith, Assembly Minority Leader James Tedesco, Senator George Maziarz, Senator Craig Johnson, Assembly member Susan John. Attendance is free. For parking information—barbandbob220@verizon.net. Yes, you can reserve a parking space! Later that same day, there will be a Town Hall Meeting with Gloria, 5:30-7:00 PM at the First Unitarian Society, 405 Washington Ave., Albany, NY.

Many readers are familiar with Gloria Steinem. She is a writer, lecturer, editor and feminist activist who is a frequent media spokeswoman on issues of equality. She was instrumental in founding Ms. Magazine, Voters for Choice, Women’s Action Alliance, the National Women’s Political Caucus, the Ms. Foundation and Take Our Daughters to Work Day, among others.

Gloria’s books include the bestsellers Revolution from Within: A Book of Self-Esteem, Outrageous Acts and Everyday Rebellions, Moving Beyond Words, and Marilyn: Norma Jean on Marilyn Monroe’s life.

Information above located at: website: www.lwvalbany.org (March 2008 Bulletin)
at the state and national levels. Having faculty, local League members and students participating in the conversation, provided an interesting and informal setting for presentation, learning and question/answer time. A special “Thank You” goes out to Professors Cherilyn Lacy and Laurel Elder, both Hartwick faculty members and both members of the LWV of the Oneonta Area for organizing this informative and purposeful event!

Another “spring thing” is the start of a new study for the League. Karen Geasey is the chair of this committee. Expect to read more about the progress of the study in future bulletins. Also, you will find Karen’s article referring to the initial Charter Study committee meeting in this bulletin.

The League’s Nominating Committee, chaired by Paul Scheele, recently met for the first time this year to begin the task of preparing to submit names to the board for 2008-2009. These include board officers, and on-board and off-board directors. I wish Paul and his committee well as they get underway. If you should receive a telephone call or an e-mail asking you to serve the League, please consider it as a positive opportunity. Saying, “YES” is the first step to take. Gaining volunteer experience in the community in which you LIVE---it’s priceless! Why not put the LWV first on your volunteer list this year?

I would not be doing my job if I didn’t jump onto April’s calendar and give you a preview of another LWV event. On Saturday, April 12th both the Oneonta Chapter of AAUW (American Association of University Women) and the League of Women Voters of the Oneonta Area will co-sponsor a brunch. The shared event’s guest speaker this year is Lisa Curch, Ph.D, Assistant Professor of Sociology, at SUNY Oneonta. Dr. Curch’s presentation topic is entitled “Aging in America and Everyday Life in the 21st Century”. Dr. Curch’s presentation will address attitudes towards aging in the United States and the implications of such notions for everyday life, as we grow older. (See front page of bulletin for specific details for this event.)

As I conclude this “swing into spring” message, I would sincerely like to wish you all a “Happy Spring!” Living in upstate New York certainly can have its drawbacks with its nasty winters as we all know. But when winter comes to an end, we begin to experience what the change of seasons feels like in upstate New York. And when spring finally arrives, it offers us a chance to take a fresh look at all things! Enjoy!

CATHY LAFONTAINE
CO-PRESIDENT-LWV OF THE ONEONTA AREA

Oneonta City Charter Study - We’re On Our Way!

The City of Oneonta Charter Study committee met for the first time on Tuesday, March 11 to clearly define and organize the project. The group is excited to begin learning how the City’s Common Council, Mayor and Boards, Commissions and Committee system works. We will do our research by attending as many types of meetings as possible, interviewing local officials, and gathering information on governments of small cities similar to Oneonta. We will develop questions based on what we learn that might lead to a new position for our League. The study will eventually include at least one general membership meeting that will hopefully culminate into a consensus meeting for League members. We will keep League members and the community up to date on our progress. Our committee would like to include League members and invite interested members of the community to participate in the process. Please call Karen Geasey, 432-8158, if you would like to join us in any way! Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 1. All are welcome!

CATHY LAFONTAINE
CO-PRESIDENT-LWV OF THE ONEONTA AREA