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.

Dear Members & Supporters of the Oneonta LWV,

As I finish my years on the Board of the Oneonta League of Women Voters, I look back at all of the incredible people with whom I have worked and how much I have learned from each one. I thank you all for this opportunity to serve as secretary, president, membership chairperson, and co-president these past several years.

Cathy has been a joy to mentor these past two years along the way to keeping the Oneonta League a viable and visible presence in this community. Her dedication to the variety of responsibilities of the co-presidency, as well as the newsletter, has been outstanding.

We have work to do before the final membership meeting in May but I urge all of you to seriously consider what part you will take on as a responsibility in the next year. We need WORKERS in a variety of areas. Look in your program book and see what it is you feel comfortable covering.

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
As I begin to write this message and reflect back on the past two years, I am struck by how quickly the two years have gone by while I volunteered as Co-President of the LWV of Oneonta. Of course, being able to share the title of “Co-Pres” with Maggie Winne, made all the difference. The road was less bumpy, the ride was more enjoyable and the lessons learned, invaluable.

The League Board is to be commended for a job well done. Ruth, Sandee, Diane, Karen, Alice and Cheryl all deserve praise for their continued dedication to the League during the past two years. I have valued their support and guidance during my term. “Thank You All”.

In turn, the LWV of Oneonta has carried out the League’s mission and we have much to be proud of this year. Just take a look at “The Year in Review” which is included in the program handout for the Annual Brunch Meeting to be held on Saturday, May 30, 2009. We accomplished what we set out to do with few exceptions.

However, along with our successes the LWV of Oneonta is also experiencing what many organizations are facing today and that is the unsuccessful attempt at attracting new, energetic and in the League’s case, civic minded
**Letter to Members & Supporters - continued**

For our League. How about Program Coordinator, Newsletter Editor, Membership Recruitment, Public Relations? Of course, the most important is someone to take on the responsibility of keeping all of this moving forward here in Oneonta. Seriously, think about your League and come to the Brunch on May 30 and voice your ideas. I’ll be looking for you.

- Maggie Winne

**Volunteer Work**

“The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in service to others.” -- Gandhi

I know. Most of us by now feel either that we’ve already “found” ourselves, or that we’re already “lost” in service to others, or both. Those are normal feelings in modern-day America. However, I am deeply concerned, as I’m sure many of you are, about the future of the League of Women Voters, Oneonta Area. Why should that be? We all know that LWV is one of the most significant political interest groups in the country. That is because

-- the League starts with a clear understanding of what democracy means and requires; it really should be, as Lincoln said, “government of the people, by the people, and for the people.” LWV stands for democracy;

-- the League chooses carefully the issues it focuses on;

-- the League studies each issue long and hard, starting with local League study groups;

-- the League presents its positions to lawmakers clearly and forcefully;

-- because the League is democratic, principled, and forceful, it attracts powerful allies to its positions;

-- for the same reasons, many citizens look to the League for guidance, both in elections and on policy stances;

-- finally, whether we win on our issues or not, individual League members can feel good, even fulfilled, by knowing that they are good citizens; they studied, they learned, and they acted; what other organization produces that result?

Why then should our local League have difficulty finding the leadership it needs? The run-up to our May 30th meeting, and the meeting itself, give us all a chance to ponder that question. Do we value LWV-Oneonta Area? What do we want our organization to do, and what do we want it to become? What issues and activities are we interested in; better, which am I interested in? What can I do? How can I help?

I’ll never forget one of Lyman Achenbach’s favorite sayings: “Volunteer work is the highest paid work in the world.” How about collecting some of that high pay by stepping forward to help LWV-Oneonta? At the very least, come to LWV’s May 30th Annual Meeting brunch, bring your ideas, and let’s discuss our situation.

- Paul Schelle, LWV of Oneonta Member

---

**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
- **Benson Agency Real Estate**
  1 Grand Street Oneonta 432-4391
  www.bensonde.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)

---

**LWV Oneonta Area Came to Consensus**

As a result of action taken by delegates at LWVUS Convention 2008, our league formed a committee to, “Study the advisability of using the National Popular Vote Compact among the states as a method for electing the President.”

On April 28, 2009 our committee (Dorothy Baldwin, Pat Oertel, and Bette Wagner) presented a summary of the study to the membership. Seven Consensus Questions were discussed led by Moderator Anne Payne assisted by Recorder Alice Collins. The heavy editorial nature of the questions were negatively received by our league but we remained focused to conclude as follows:

1. Actions by states through a compact process are an acceptable way to alter the method for electing the President and Vice-President.
2. Despite the novelty of the use of the compact approach to address a fundamental constitutional issue such as voting, the League should support the NPV Compact as a way of achieving an important goal.
3. The Possibility that the NPV Compact will require congressional consent is not of sufficient concern to block the implementation of the plan.
4. Although it is not possible to determine whether the enforcement provisions will be sufficient to assure smooth operation of the plan, the plan should be passed anyway.
5. The NPV Compact is more important than uniformity of voting systems because it would succeed in achieving the popular election of the President.
6. It is more important to achieve the goal of national popular election of the President than it is to achieve the goal of abolition of The Electoral College.

7a. We disagreed that The NPV Compact will have problems being passed because of the need for congressional consideration and the need for action by so many states.
7b. We agreed that a constitutional amendment to establish the direct popular election of the President and the abolition of The Electoral College will continue to have problems being passed.

The CNPV Consensus report was sent to LWVUS as requested.

- Bette Wagner, Committee Chair
LWV of the Oneonta Area
Membership Dues 2009-2010

Our fiscal year runs from June 1 to May 31. Paying your dues at the time of the annual meeting keeps you current with LWV until June 2010 and enables us to know we can count on your membership for the 2009 - 2010 year.

Please note: the Board voted to increase dues for 2009 - 2010 as noted below.
Please fill out the form below completely to ensure proper credit and listing in our membership booklet.

Name (s) __________________________________________________________

Address __________________________________________________________

Phone _____________________ Email ________________________________

Individual Dues ($50) $ _____________

Add. Household member ($25) $ _____________

Additional Contribution to LWV Oneonta (NOT Tax-deductible) $ _____________

Total (payable to LWV Oneonta) $ _____________

You can also make a tax-deductible contribution to The LWV Education Foundation (Make separate check payable to Oneonta LWV EF)

Mail Dues Check to:
LWV-ONEONTA, PO BOX 434, ONEONTA NY 13820

-----------------------------------------------------------------

RESERVATION – ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP BRUNCH – SATURDAY, MAY 30, 2009

Reservation - $15.95 per person (tax and gratuity included) Number attending ______

Check Total $ _______

Please make check for Brunch payable to LWV of Oneonta. Mail to: Ruth Tarter
51 Spruce St
Oneonta, NY 13820

Deadline for Reservations is Tuesday, May 26, 2009

Please Note: One check made out to LWV of Oneonta to cover both your Dues and the Brunch can be sent to Ruth Tarter at the mailing address noted above.

Please see information on front page of this bulletin for brunch details. Information for the brunch is also included on the LWV of Oneonta’s website www.lwvoneonta.org