Scheduled:
Attorney General Debate – Oct. 24
7:00 PM – 8:30 PM Hunt Union Ballroom
Andrew M. Cuomo, D and Jeanine F. Pirro, R

Nov. 1
7:00 PM – 9:00 PM
U.S. House of Representatives, District 24
NYS Senator Ray Meier, R and Michael Arcuri, D
Followed by position statements
Candidates for Otsego County Sheriff, Richard J. Devlin, Jr. and Kenneth “Skip” Beijen
Candidates for Supreme Court Justice for 6th Judicial District: Judge Dennis McDermott and Judge Elizabeth Garry
Broadcast live by SUNY Oneonta IRC- TV – View on Channel 23 and telephone questions.

Financing Education Consensus – Charter Schools
Oct. 10 at 7:30
First United Methodist Church (Church and Chestnut St.)

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REGISTRATION FORM

The League of Women Voters of New York State
in association with
The United Nations Department of Public Information
AAUW-NYS (American Association of University Women)
Center for Women in Government and Civil Society
GFWC (NYS Federation of Women’s Clubs)
NCJW (National Council of Jewish Women)
WBASNY (Women’s Bar Association of the State of New York)
*additional Co-Sponsors to be announced at a later date*

Invites You to Attend

BRIEFINGS ON THE STATUS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING AROUND THE WORLD

on Wednesday, November 15, 2006 @ *9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.*
*Registration begins at 9:00 a.m., program will start promptly at 10:00 a.m.*
at the United Nations Headquarters in NYC – First Avenue at 46th Street

Name

Address

City ___________________ State _______ Zip _______

Day Phone ___________________ E-Mail ___________________

Members/Students, Please Select Your Organization

O LWV of ___________________ O AAUW—NYS
O HS/College/University ___________________ O BRIA
O Center for Women in Government ___________________ O GFWC
O NCJW ___________________ O WBASNY
O Other Co-Sponsoring Organization ___________________

________________________________________________________

COST/PAYMENT INFORMATION

O Briefings Registration begins at 9 a.m., program will begin promptly at 10 a.m.
$75 Non-Member  $55 Members of Sponsoring Organizations  $25 Students  $ ______
O Lunch Buffet in the Delegates Dining Room (Optional @ 12:45 p.m.)
Includes International Buffet, Dessert Bar and Coffee/Tea only  $33.00  $ ______
O Tour of United Nations (Optional @ 2:30 p.m.)
$12.00  $ ______
TOTAL ENCLOSED  $ ______

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FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL: 518-465-4162
Seating is limited so please return your registration and payment as soon as possible!!
REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS NOVEMBER 6, 2005

For updates on the “Briefings” forum, visit our website: www.lwvny.org
President’s Message

A quick look at the front page and the calendar tells you we have much to do this month. Our dinner last week was a grand send off for the League year. Thank you Shirley, Maggie, Marge, Dolly, Gay and Scott – and everyone who came, brought guests, questioned Commissioner Denofrio, or helped in anyway.

Elections are on our mind as we prepare for two very important debates. We were honored to be selected to host a debate between Andrew Cuomo and Jeanine Pirro for Attorney General. This is an event you will not want to miss. Nov. 1 is also tremendously important, for Nov. 7 we will select our new representative to Congress. Plan to attend the debates in person, or if that is impossible, watch them on Channel 23. Write your questions at the debate or telephone. We need to know the positions of the candidates to make an informed choice and they need to know what issues concern us. The newspaper and radio stations will announce any debate changes.

Our meeting on Charter Schools, Oct. 10 is our opportunity to contribute to the formation of a new state position. Although we do not have any charter schools in our area, the standards and funding for all schools in New York State concern us all. Plan to join us at the First United Methodist Church at 7:30. See pages 3, 4, 5. Although this meeting is open to anyone interested, our conclusions will reflect only the opinions of League members.

Celebrating the birthday of Elizabeth Cady Stanton whose work for women’s suffrage led to the organization we know as the League of Women Voters.

The UN Briefing on Human Trafficking Nov. 15 will be fascinating. The registration deadline is Nov. 6, so sign up early if you can be in the City for this event. See pg 2.

The Last Call for Trash is Nov. 1. If you can join our hardy highway cleaners, call Lucille 432-1022 or just show up at Denny’s at 8:00 a.m.

A Glorious Garage Sale for Voters

Thanks to Sandee Fleisher, Cathy LaFontaine, Karen Geasey, Marge O’Mara, Julie Pollak, Georgia Schadt, Linda Thomas, and Maggie Winne our Voter Services booth made a good showing as we helped the community register to vote. Thanks also to Bunny Joseph who had planned to help but was scheduled after the rain began. We delivered 11 forms to the Board of Elections, at least 20 people took forms home, and another 7 took absentee ballot applications.

Bette Wagner

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.

Officers

President .......... Kay Stuligross 432-6974
Vice President ...Cathy LaFontaine 431-1125
Secretary .......... Sandee Fleisher 432-3783
Treasurer .......... Alice Collins
Bulletin Editor ....Vivien Anderson 432-1224
Consensus questions for 2006 League of Women Voters of New York State
Financing Education Study – Charter Schools

Introduction

When the charter school legislation was proposed in 1998, the League opposed the original bill, believing that public funds should be used to support public schools, and because of our fear that charter schools would drain money away from traditional public schools while continuing to require them to function as educators of last resort. The PTA, AAUW, and the School Boards Association joined us in our opposition to this legislation. The CHARTER SCHOOL ACT of 1998, which explicitly characterized charter schools as public schools, resolved some of our objections.

Now seven years after New York’s passage of this legislation there is no consensus on the success of such schools. Opponents charge that charters are destroying the public education system while proponents claim charters are the only hope for public education, which, admittedly, has failed large numbers of children. What is apparent is that some charters are spectacularly successful, some are abject failures, and many have been unable to produce results appreciably different from those of traditional public schools.

There is little research about what separates successful from unsuccessful charters. Without this research, one of the basic purposes of charters, allowing for educational experimentation into more effective ways to educate children traditionally left behind remains unfulfilled.

The League currently has no position that would allow it to address many of the issues facing charter schools and because charter schools are unlikely to disappear in the near future, we hope to develop a nuanced position that will enable the League to advocate for stronger schools.

You may choose No, Probably Not, Unsure or Probably Yes in response to each question. Your comments are important.

I. Amendment of the New York State Charter School Act

Should the New York State Charter Schools Act be amended?

Since familiarity of the Act and of its current effects will develop during your discussion we suggest returning to answer this question last.

NO - PROBABLY NOT - UNSURE - PROBABLY - YES
Comments:
### II. State Grant and Oversight of Charters

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A. Should authority of agencies (other than the home school district) to grant, to oversee, to renew and to revoke charters be limited to a single entity? (Currently both the Regents and SUNY can do this.)</th>
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<tr>
<td>B. Should the League advocate for more stringent oversight of charter compliance in the renewal/revocation of charters?</td>
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<tr>
<td>C. Should the League support greater emphasis on positive educational outcomes in the renewal of charters?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. Should the League support educational achievement equal to or better than those of comparable district schools as a precondition for charter renewal?</td>
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<tr>
<td>F. Should charter schools be eligible for capital construction and renovation services and reimbursement of capital expenditures? (A yes vote would mean we support public finance for charter school buildings)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G. Should the League support separate levels of reimbursement for elementary and secondary education to charter schools based on what the home district spend for the level of schooling provided?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H. Should the League support measures that would limit the percentage of a district’s school budget that could be paid to charter schools?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### III. Financial Impact of Charter Schools

(You may support or oppose multiple measures in III. A – G)

| A. Should the League support limiting the financial impact of charter schools on their home districts? |
| B. Should the League support a dedicated statewide funding stream? |
| C. Should the League support a dedicated statewide funding stream for students attending charter schools who previously attended private or parochial schools, or were home-schooled? |
| D. Should the League support transition assistance to district schools? |
| E. Should the League support home district payment to charters based on the same standard used to pay operating aid to school districts? (Districts receive State operating aid based on average daily attendance, while charter schools receive payment from home districts based on enrollment.) |
IV. Limit on Number of Charter Schools and of Students Attending Charters
(You may support or oppose multiple measures in IV. A – D)

A. Should the League support an amendment to the Charter School Act so that a new charter could be reissued to another chartering entity upon closure of a charter school? (Currently, when a charter school closes, the closed school is still counted toward the total number of charters. If this amendment passes, the charter could be reissued so that the closed charter schools would no longer be counted toward the maximum number of charters that could be issued.)

B. Should the League support a limitation of the number of charters issued in New York State?

C. Should any increase in the cap be tied to increased accountability for educational quality?

D. Should any increase in the cap be tied to transition assistance to district schools?

E. Should any increase in the cap be tied to creation of a dedicated statewide funding stream?

V. Selection and Retention of Students

A. Should the League support measures that would limit the percentage of children in a district that could attend charters?

B. Should the League support measures to prevent mid-year departures?

VI. Research on Charter Schools

A. Should the League support public funding of academic research about the possible correlation between charter school characteristics and student academic success?

Variables for investigation might include:

1. Length of school day, week, year;
2. Per student expenditures (look at public and private revenue sources);
3. Education Management Organizations: for profit vs. not-for-profit Education Management Organizations (EMOs); EMOs vs. non EMOs; district conversion vs. new schools;
4. Rates of teacher and administrator certification and retention
5. Class size;
6. School size;

7. Student selection mechanism and retention;
8. Demographics of student body;
9. Size of district and location within State;
10. Stand-alone facilities vs. shared facilities;
11. Other

B. Should the League support public funding to measure educational growth in individual students as they progress from grade to grade in charter schools? (The NY State Education Department is requiring traditional districts to adopt data systems that will enable them to measure value added to an individual student’s achievement over time.)
Global Warming and Energy Use

Global warming is occurring and carbon dioxide emissions from the burning of fossil fuels are speeding up the process.

I strongly recommend you seeing Al Gore’s movie, An Inconvenient Truth, if you possibly can. It was carefully researched and very well presented. There is also a book out by the same name, showing many of the photos and charts that are in the film. The book is on Processed Chlorine Free paper, 30% post consumer waste and “is the first book produced to offset 100% of the CO₂ emissions generated from production activities with renewable energy…” What an excellent example Gore has set!

There is a website, www.stopglobalwarming.org that you can access to join the virtual march against global warming (it’s free). You can also learn more about global warming, check out the blogs that link there, and note the names of some prominent marchers and featured partners. The featured partners include the National Wildlife Federation, Sierra Club, National Council of Churches, Natural Resources Defense Council, Philadelphia Eagles, Union of Concerned Scientists, and many more. When you join you can find out how many other marchers are in or near your area (by zip code) and you are encouraged to invite others to join the march.

The United States, with only four percent of the world’s population, is responsible for 22% of the world’s greenhouse gas emissions. There are many ways we can help reduce these emissions. Here are a few that Stopglobalwarming.org recommends:

- Replace 3 frequently used light bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs. The new bulbs last longer and use less energy which means less pollution from power plants. Your household would save about 300 pounds of carbon dioxide a year. If every household in the United States did it, we would save a trillion pounds of greenhouse gases from entering the atmosphere!

- Check your tires weekly and make sure they are adequately inflated. It’s both safer and saves fuel. Save 250 lbs of carbon dioxide and $840 per year.

- Keep your vehicle in tip top shape. A tune-up could boost your miles per gallon anywhere from four to 40 percent; a new air filter could get you 10 percent more miles per gallon.

- Run your dishwasher only with a full load. Save 100 lbs. of carbon dioxide and $40 per year.

- You can test your environmental knowledge with the Great Green Web Game on the internet: http://go.ucusa.org/game Try it, have fun and learn what you can do!

Calendar

Oct. 2 – Board meeting - 10 Walnut St. 7:00 PM – All Welcome

Oct. 10 – Financing Education Consensus – 7:30 PM – First United Methodist Church

Oct. 24 – Attorney General Debate 7:00 PM – Hunt Union

Nov. 1 – Congressional District 24 Debate – 7:00 PM – Morris Hall

Nov. 1 – Highway Cleanup – 8:00 AM at Denny’s

Nov. 7 – Election Day

Nov. 15 – UN Briefing on Human Trafficking

Dec. 3 – Holiday Party – 3:00 – 5:00 PM – 7 Tilton Ave.
Alice Siegfried
Potter

Pots at
Artsians' Guild
148 Main St., Oneonta

UCCCA – Catskill Gift Shop
11 Ford Ave., Oneonta

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