Welcoming Picnic

The Oneonta League of Women Voters invites you to a “DISH TO PASS” picnic to welcome our Russian guests from the OPEN WORLD LEADERSHIP PROGRAM.

Sunday, September 9, 2007
2:00 – 5:00 p.m.
Revised location: Wilber Park @ Large Pavilion
Bring a dish to pass, beverage and table service.
Family and friends are welcome!
(Storm location: Elm Park Church, 401 Chestnut St.)
Questions call: 607-369-7507

President’s Message

The Labor Day holiday will have come and gone by the time you receive your copy of the September bulletin. I hope you were able to enjoy some time away from the everyday pace of things. Sometimes this holiday is the last chance for many to savor the last bit of summer.

As we begin to move from summer to early fall, we also think of the local activities that have become traditions. The LWV of the Oneonta Area sponsored a Candidates’ Forum on August 29, 2007. It was held on SUNY Oneonta’s campus for candidates running in the September 18th Democratic primary. The Grand and Glorious Garage Sale will be held on Saturday, September 8th on Main St., which always brings crowds to the downtown area. Our volunteers will be available to answer questions regarding voting and voter services. Additionally, this September, the LWV of the Oneonta Area will host five Russian visitors as part of the 2007 Russian Civic Hosting Program. This program aims to introduce Russian leaders to U.S. democracy at every level of government and provides first-hand experiences of American life and culture. It is through the efforts of Kay Stuligross and U.S. democracy at every level of government and provides first-hand experiences of American life and culture. It is through the efforts of Kay Stuligross and

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President's Message continued
Kay Stuligross and Marlene Wilklow that the LWV of Oneonta succeeded in being chosen to bring the Russian guests to our doorsteps.

The LWV will be busy preparing for several events coming up later in September and October. The League’s annual Membership dinner meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 25th. We are very pleased to announce that our guest speaker this year is Barbara Bartoletti from NYSLWV, Albany, NY. Barbara’s topic for the evening will be “Reform: Are We There or Do We Have Miles To Go”. Barbara has a great deal of experience with the League of Women Voters in New York State. She is on the Board of Directors for 2007-2009. Presently, Barbara serves as the Legislative Director for LWVNYS. Hope to see you there!

Also, check out Karen Geasey’s article in this month’s bulletin for the newly formed League sponsored “Unfogging Government” workshops. The first of the series is scheduled to take place on September 18th with additional workshops scheduled in October. It’s a great time to become better informed before the upcoming elections in November.

I hope you have plans to get out this fall and enjoy our beautiful upstate setting with family and friends. Until next month, be well and be informed.

Cathy LaFontaine
Co-President
LWV of the Oneonta Area

more details of exciting presenters and directions on how to sign up for this wonderful League-sponsored program!

Committee Members Paul Scheele, Paul Conway, Karen Geasey & Alice Collins.

Highway Clean Up News
Future Clean Ups on Hold for 2007
Due to the I-88 construction all 2007 clean ups are on hold until further notice.

However, we want to give a big round of applause to the record number of crew plus who came out for the Spring Clean Up in April. Here they are in alphabetical order.... Scott Fielder, Gay Ganvoort, Norma Lee Havens, Bob Holstead, Dave Hutchison, Bob and Lucy Ingalls, Annette Lindell, Kay Stuligross (water wagon driver) AND from Adirondack Mt. Club ---- Joe Hart. Barb and Jack Meeks and Maurine Wells.

Since it was an extra large and lengthy job, some of us stayed for lunch at Denny's and went on over to Delaware Co. for a woods walk at Harmony Hill Conference Center.

Thanks again to all.

Lucille Wiggin, Chair

"Unfogging Government" Committee Report
The education project, “Unfogging Government”, has become more solidified over the summer, and the committee is nearly ready to give out all the details. We have dates of the following Tuesdays: September 18, October 2, October 9 and October 16.

The workshops will be held at the Fox Care Center and they will go from 7:00-8:30. The opening session will feature Dennis Shea, retired Political Science professor at SUNY Oneonta, who will present the U.S. Constitution and NYS Constitution. This session will set the stage for the following workshops, which will cover the Legislative, Executive and Judicial branches of our government. The project was designed to be a refresher course or a beginning glimpse of the workings of government, with a special focus on the local and state levels this year. A second goal will be to prepare citizens for the local elections in November, which will include local and state races only. Stay tuned to our website and the local media resources for

Want Ad

PUBLIC RELATIONS DIRECTOR

For the LWV of the Oneonta Area

The League is looking for a League member who has an interest in the following areas:

Coordinate Publicity on a regular basis with local media sources.

Prepare press releases, forward information to State Board and assist with Membership Recruitment.

If interested in this position or if you have questions, please contact:

Maggie Winnie @ 432-6206
Some Effects of Current Immigration Policies and Legislation

Some will argue that the U.S. immigration policies up until the 1990’s were effective because laws were passed according to the needs of the country and the laws were enforced. Also, there was not the concern about illegal immigrants and national security. Beginning in 1986, most of the enforcement funding for the INCS was used to fight the war on drug traffic. Now a majority of the funding goes to border patrol issues and these have not necessarily been effective. Also, the existing laws regarding hiring of illegal immigrants are not being enforced; abuse of these illegal immigrants often occurs because there is no government oversight of business using immigrant labor.

The quotas set for immigrants in the 1990 Immigration Act are at 700,000 favoring relatives and skilled workers. Yet unskilled, agricultural workers are a large category needed by businesses in the U.S. This unskilled pool of immigrants has not replaced the native born workers, and some say that they complement rather than compete and raise wages for native born, unskilled workers.

In spite of favoring relatives, the reunification policies have not proved effective because the quotas have caused a large backlog of applications. This backlog is due, in part, to the multiple levels of “relatives” allowed to apply. Also legal channels to immigration are often blocked by the quotas and the backlog. Currently, there is a 22 year backlog for green cards and the procedure becomes ever more expensive. Another startling aspect of the reunification backlog is that children born in the U.S. of illegal immigrants often face deportation or fostering.

Statistics say that thirty percent (30%) of the current illegal immigrants came into the country legally and overstayed their visa. There are numerous reasons for this, but the GAO admits it cannot keep up with the monitoring of visas. Meanwhile, communities with a large immigrant population are experiencing overcrowded housing and schools, overstretched public services, and in some cases, a rising problem with gang warfare.

The 1986 amnesty bill gave legal status to 27 million illegal immigrants. To date, only about 37% have chosen citizenship. Perhaps a guest worker program will be the answer but it will need greater government oversight to solve the current widespread cheating and abuse by businesses in the existing program. Steven Camarota, an economist at the Center for Immigration Studies in Washington, advocates “attrition” of the approximately 12 million illegals in the U.S. – not mass deportation – through enforcement of existing laws. It took “25 years of neglect” to get to the immigrant situation of today, he says. It will take “a lot of years to get out of it” The Christian Science Monitor, April 17, 2006, p. 17.

Immigration Committee

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 of the Oneonta Area to Host Russian Visitors
The League of Women Voters of the Oneonta Area will host five Russian visitors as part of the 2007 Russian Civic Hosting Program. This program aims to introduce Russian leaders to the U.S. democracy at every level of government and provides first-hand experiences of American life and culture.

“The Oneonta League is delighted to have the opportunity to host the Russian visitors,” said Cathy LaFontaine and Maggie Winne, League co-presidents. “This will be an enlightening experience for everyone in our community.”

The program will open with a picnic at Wilbert Park large pavilion Sunday, September 9, at 2:00 p.m. “We invite the Oneonta community to join us as we welcome our guests. Please bring a dish to pass, your own table service and beverage.” Said Kay Stuligross, co-chair of the project.

Marlene Wilklow, co-chair, commented, “Saturday, September 15, we invite everyone who has met our guests and those who have not had the opportunity to do so to join us in saying good-bye to our guests at a reception from 4:00 – 5:30 p.m. at the Unitarian-Universalist Church, 12 Ford Ave.

During the week of September 10-14th, the visitors will meet with city, county, and state officials, as well as leaders of local organizations in order to examine the relationship of government to community organizations. The visitors are particularly interested in the development of women leaders and the provision of social services.
League of Women Voters of the Oneonta Area
Visit Our Web Site At
www.lwvoneonta.org

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LWV of the Oneonta Area ~ Bulletin

ELECTION DAY
TUESDAY
NOV. 6, 2007
Polls are Open
6 a.m. - 9 p.m.
“The LWV of the Oneonta Area will carry on the League’s dedication to promoting democratic values globally,” said Mary G. Wilson, National president of the League of Women Voters. “We firmly believe that citizens of all countries need to be informed and active in government and that all governments should be open and accessible to their citizens.”

The LWV of the Oneonta Area is receiving financial support from the Open World Leadership Center in partnership with the League of Women Voters Education Fund to carry out the program. The Civic Hosting Program, Part of the Open World Leadership Center, works to increase mutual understanding between the United States and participating countries, and enables leaders from Russia, Ukraine and other Eurasian countries to experience American democracy and civil society in action.

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Membership in the League is open to men and women of all ages.

Kay Stuligross

Annual Membership Dinner
Tuesday, September 25th
at
St. James Great Hall
St. James Church
305 Main St., Oneonta

Social Hour
6 P.M.
Meet and greet old friends and new acquaintances

Dinner
6:30 P.M.
Bring your guests, a dish to pass and your table service

Speaker
7:15 P.M.
Barbara Bartoletti
Legislative Director of LWVNYS
She will speak on the topic - “Reform: Are We There or Do We Have Miles To Go”

Welcome New Members –
Diana Moseman Peggy Wightman
808 Foote Hollow Road 6363 St. Hwy 7
Stamford, NY 12167 Maryland, NY 12116
607.538.9015 607-432-6036
mosemadl@oneonta.edu

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Co-President .....Maggie Winnie 432-6202
Secretary ....... Alice Collins
Treasurer ......... Sandee Fleisher 432-3783
Bulletin Editor .. Vivien Anderson 432-1224
YES, I WOULD LIKE TO JOIN OR RENEW MY MEMBERSHIP IN THE ONEONTA LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

I UNDERSTAND MY MEMBERSHIP WILL ENROLL ME AT THE Local, State and National levels of the League. I will receive the NATIONAL VOTER magazine, the STATE VOTER newspaper, as well as the local League NEWSLETTER.

Complete the form below and mail with a check payable to:

LWV OF THE ONEONTA AREA
PO BOX 434
ONEONTA, NY 13820

436-4050
www.lwvoneonta.org

Calendar Year is June 1, 2007 – May 31, 2008
(Renewals for members who have not yet paid in the 2007 calendar year.)

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS:

_______ $45 Individual (Basic Membership)

_______ $67.50 Household (Two members living at same address)

_______ $25 Student

DONATION $__________

LWV-ONEONTA EDUCATION FOUNDATION:

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THANK YOU!

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**Oneonta LWV Calendar Fall 2007**

**September**
- 8 – Grand & Glorious Garage Sale
- 8-16 – Russian Visitors
- 10 – LWV Board Meeting
- 18 - Primary Election Day
- 25 - Opening Membership Pot Luck Supper

**October**
- 8 -LWV Board Meeting
  - LWVNYS Regional Meeting
- 15 - Bank Window Week
- 23 –Candidates’ Debates for the General Election
- 30 –Candidates’ Debates for the General Election

**November**
- 6 - Election Day 2007
- 12 - Board Meeting
- 27 - Consensus on Immigration

**December**
- 2 – LWV of the Oneonta Area Holiday Party