President’s Message

From coast to coast, League members are rolling up their sleeves and doing the hands-on work of safeguarding our democracy. From educating and registering voters to breaking down the barriers to voting that still exist in many states, the League of Women Voters (LWV) has worked for more than 87 years to actively engage voters in building a better nation – and this selection season is no different.

As we head into this election season local citizens will have an opportunity to meet and talk with members of the LWV of Oneonta at several venues throughout the fall. The LWV has already taken part in educating and advocating on behalf of local citizens on several Saturday mornings at the Farmer’s Market on Main Street here in Oneonta. Additionally, some of the upcoming events that our League will be taking part in include but are not limited to the following: Grand and Glorious Garage Sale – Sat., Sept. 13th, Main St., Oneonta, SUNY Campus EOP event, Mon., Sept. 15th, and SUNY Campus, two candidate forums, Oct. 20 & 28. Additional times and places will be announced as information becomes available.

We are excited about this year’s Annual Fall Membership Meeting. On Wednesday, September 24th at 6 PM, at Elm Park Methodist Church members and their guests will gather for a potluck supper (always delicious). This year’s invited guest speaker is Barbara Thomas, LWV of Saratoga County. Barbara is well versed on the issue being brought before the League, “The Advisability of Using the National Popular Vote Compact Among the States as a Method for Electing the President”. (See info in this bulletin, “News From Your State League, September, 2008). Barbara’s presentation should spark interest as well as questions and comments. The time frame for reporting consensus on this issue has been lengthened. Leagues around the country will report consensus in May 2009.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a happy fall season in this beautiful part of upstate New York. I know my fellow board members and I look forward to serving the local community as we head into what is shaping up into a busy fall calendar of events. You can checkout the entire calendar of events in the soon to be published Membership Booklet for 2008-2009 and also on our website www.lwvoneonta.org.

Cathy LaFontaine, Co-President - LWV of Oneonta
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)

BELLA MICHAEL’S RESTAURANT
57 River Street Oneonta 431-9166
Mon.-Thurs. 11am-10pm Fri. & St.11am-11pm

COUNTRY CLUB CHEVROLET, INC.
Mark of Excellence Award Winner
70 Oneida Street Oneonta 432-6190

THE PINE SHOP, INC.
576 Main Street Oneonta 432-1124
Mon. - Fri. 9-5:30 Thurs. till 7 Sat. till 5

THOMAS C. POTTER, C.P.A.
Certified Public Accountant
4966 St. Hwy 23 Suite 0 Oneonta
432-9082 (Home) 278-5256

PETER W. HILL, ATTORNEY
Practice limited to Social Security Disability
and Worker’s Compensation
384 Main Street Oneonta 432-4646

BENSON AGENCY REAL ESTATE
1 Grand Street Oneonta 432-4391
www.bensonre.com

VOLKSWAGEN & AUDI OF ONEONTA
Rte.23 Southside Oneonta 432-8100

THE COUNTRY CUBBY
Stove and Fireplace Center
387 Main Street Oneonta 432-5447

WYCKOFF’S
Florist and Greenhouse since 1881
37 Grove Street Oneonta 432-4422 800-356-7577

ALICE SIEGFRIED, POTTER
67 Church Street Oneonta 432-8673
Pottery available at the Artisans’ Guild 148 Main St. Oneonta

SCOVILLE-MENO
HONDA
65 Oneida Street Oneonta 433-1251

WOODY’S MARKET featuring Boarhead Brand
61 Spruce Street Oneonta 432-5151
Mon.-Sat. 8-9 Sun. 9-5
News From Your State League

Update from LWVNYS

September 2008

LWVNYS Welcomes New Executive Director

A member of the League for over 25 years, Laura Ladd Bierman will become executive director of the LWVNYS with experience from four different local Leagues in three states. She has served in a number of positions in local Leagues, including study chair, newsletter editor, board member, Vice President, and President. Laura holds a masters degree in public administration and has career experience in the areas of health care planning and providing financial and consulting services to a national membership organization.

Welcome, Laura! We look forward to working with you!

National Popular Vote Study

At the LWVUS Convention in Portland, OR, in June, the delegates voted to adopt a national study titled “The Advisability of Using the National Popular Vote Compact Among the States as a Method for Electing the President”.

Lori Dawson, study chair for LWVNYS, encourages NYS Leaguers to get a jump start on preparing for this national study by reading the NPV study materials assembled last year by our state League study committee. These materials are available for download at the state League website. The actual study and consensus questions will be put together by the national study committee.

Voting Rights Pamphlet Series

LWVNYS is preparing five new pamphlets related to the voting rights of five different special populations. These are: college students, individuals incarcerated and with criminal convictions, homeless individuals, those with mental health disabilities, and individuals with other disabilities, primarily physical.

Watch the LWVNYS website, where each pamphlet will be available in both print-ready PDF format and as HTML documents.

State Legislative Agenda 2009

Your LWVNYS Board is asking the local League Boards to provide input on the selection of legislative priorities for 2009. Any member can have a voice in this important process. Tell your local Board what issues you'd like the LWVNYS to focus on in Albany in 2009.

Access to Information Improves

Three new websites provide the taxpayer with information about where their tax dollars go. Some of this information was previously available only by filing an F.O.I.L. request. www.SeeThroughNY.net features searchable databases of NYS governmental employees, including job titles and salaries. It also includes teachers’ union and superintendent contracts for nearly every school district in the State, the Legislature’s pork-barrel “community projects” spending for 2008-2009, and internal operations expenditures for both the Assembly and the NYS Senate.

Open Book New York, from the office of the NYS Comptroller (www.osc.state.ny.us/openbook/), gives taxpayers unprecedented access to financial information of our State government. This includes spending by 113 State agencies and public authorities and display of more than 60,000 state contracts. You can even search State contracts to see who is doing business with the State.

Project Sunlight provides a prototype for how government should make information available to citizens in the digital age (www.SunlightNY.com). It includes information about individual elected officials, campaign finance activities, legislation, lobbyists, state contracts, and registered corporations and charities. This website also offers educational videos and materials about the basic laws governing official conduct.

Links to these websites can be found on the LWVNYS website.

A Membership Committee of One?

Yes, anyone can recruit new members to the League. How? Mention program meetings and voter service efforts to your friends and colleagues. Write about your League for your community newspaper. Finally, speak to other community groups about your League. If you’re not an experienced speaker, learn and practice in adult education classes and your local Toastmasters club, among others.

Domestic Violence Update!

In an important step to protect victims of domestic violence, Governor Patterson signed into law bill S.6783/A6060. This bill expands access to civil orders of protection for all victims of domestic violence, regardless of marital, parental, or blood relative status. Finally, New York joins the rest of the nation in providing these important protections. This victory marks the end of a 20 year battle, won in part because of the help of a new umbrella Coalition of over 100 Organizations and individuals. We especially thank Assemblywoman Weinstein, Senator Winner, and Governor Patterson for their commitment and leadership.

League Day at the UN

This year’s annual UN Day will be on Tuesday December 2, 2008. The topic will be the Effect of Global Warming on Women and Children Around the World. The schedule for the day will include a Tour of the UN and lunch in the Delegates Dining Room in addition to the main presentation.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NEW YORK STATE
62 Grand Street
Albany, NY 12207-1403
(518) 465-4162
Fax (518) 465-0812
Web Address: www.lwny.org
e-mail: lwny@lwny.org

GET INVOLVED!
Updates from LWV of Oneonta’s Board Meeting.

The Board met on Wednesday, August 20, 2008. The minutes from the May 2008 and June 2008 Board meetings were approved as submitted. The following reports were made: Treasurer, Membership, Program Director, Voter Service, Telephone/Bulletin Database and City Charter Study. The Board also discussed the fall membership meeting and guest speaker. Updates on the LWVUS Convention were given, specifically on the Compact for a National Popular Vote (the topic for the Fall Membership meeting, on Wed., Sept. 24, 2008). Maggie, Diane and Cathy will be updating the League’s membership booklet. The Board also discussed the fall candidate forums to be held in October, the changes in bulletin ad format, and the letters to be mailed to League supporters.

- LWV of Oneonta Board Members

DUES - AGAIN

Yes, I have had some response since our last newsletter but not enough. PLEASE, we need you. The League of Women Voters of the Oneonta Area is a vital part of this community. We have been busy getting new voters registered as well as those who have changed their address and need to update their registration. Some need Applications for Absentee Ballots. We are there - at the Farmer’s Market, at the Grand and Glorious Garage Sale, at the colleges, All of this takes time and PEOPLE POWER. That people power is you our MEMBERS.

The form didn’t make it in the last newsletter but is in this one for you to use. A check for $45 or $62.50 can always be sent to the LWV mailbox, Box 434 or sent to me at 3 Handsome Ave. If there are any changes in your address, telephone number, or email address, please include.

Looking forward to hearing from all of you who have not yet renewed and any new ones that you may have recruited.

- Maggie Winne, Membership Chair

LWV of Oneonta Member Receives Award

Congratulations to Laurel Elder who was awarded the Margaret B. Bunn Award for Outstanding Teaching during Hartwick College graduation ceremony last spring. The annual award is presented to the faculty member judged by students who graduated five years earlier to have been the most outstanding faculty member with whom they studied. In part because Elder’s students “do” politics, she has twice been named Student Senate’s Most Outstanding Professor.

- Submitted by Kay Stuligross

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:

$________(Separate check made out to LWVEN for a tax deduction)

NAME________________________________________

ADDRESS_____________________________________

CITY_________STATE________ZIP______________

PHONE_________E-MAIL_______________________

***PLEASE MAIL THIS FORM WITH YOUR CHECK TO THE ABOVE ADDRESS. THANK YOU!