

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF NEW YORK STATE

56th
**Biennial
Convention**

June 6-7, 2015

The Desmond Hotel and Conference Center
Albany, New York



AWARDS PRESENTATION
Saturday, June 6, 2015

Awards Program

WELCOMING REMARKS

Sally Robinson, President

AWARDS PRESENTATION

RAFFLE DRAWING

ENTERTAINMENT

MOP•CO
improv theatre www.mopco.org

Award Categories

CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT

Presented by Carol Mellor

MEMBERSHIP

Presented by Dare Thompson

THINKING OUTSIDE THE BOX

Presented by Barbara Thomas

VISIBILITY

Presented by Barbara Thomas

VOTER SERVICE

Presented by Judie Gorenstein

YOUTH PROGRAMS

Presented by Judie Gorenstein

AWARDS 2015

Local Leagues were invited to submit to the state League descriptions of work that they had done in the last two years in a variety of categories. Each group was judged by a State board member who has worked in the relevant area. As you read the stories behind the awards, think about how you might be able to adopt these ideas for “imitation is the sincerest form of flattery.” You will notice that we had two categories in which the judges recommended a “tie” decision. As you can imagine it was difficult to choose from such outstanding entries and we thank you all for your submissions.

Citizen Engagement

LWV OF BUFFALO NIAGARA

Their project mobilized action around plans for development of the Outer Harbor. Draft development plans were offered by the Erie Canal Harbor Development Corporation which the League determined did not provide an effective voice for the public.

Coalitions were formed and joint action with allies resulted in communications with the agencies involved and education of the public through luncheons and public forums. The community will be invited to collaborate on a vision for the Outer Harbor which recognizes local priorities and preserves the public trust.

Although all of the submissions for this award were innovative, effective and worthy, this project stood out because it used a local position to propel local action. Local positions, which touch the core issues affecting a community, are often particularly effective in generating publicity for and interest in the League.

Honorable Mention:

LWV of Huntington

LWV of Chautauqua County

LWV of the North Country

MEMBERSHIP BY THE NUMBERS

Based on LWVUS Roster Membership Numbers from
February 1, 2013 to January 31, 2015

Audrey Price Memorial Cup

For outstanding membership growth in small Leagues
(membership under 50.)

LWV OF HARRISON

Honorable Mention:

LWV of the North Country
(representing Clinton, Essex and Franklin Counties)
and LWV of Steuben County

Pewter Platter Award

For outstanding growth in medium-sized Leagues
(membership between 50-150.)

LWV OF RYE, RYE BROOK & PORT CHESTER

Honorable Mention:

LWV of the Hamptons, LWV of Huntington,
LWV of Mid-Hudson, LWV of Port Washington/Manhasset,
LWV of Rensselaer County,
LWV of Rivertowns and LWV of Rochester Metro

MEMBERSHIP BY THE NUMBERS (CONT.)

Harriet Goldberg Award

For outstanding growth in large Leagues
(membership over 150 members.)

LWV OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Honorable Mention:

LWV of Albany County and LWV of Scarsdale

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Membership

LWV OF ROCHESTER METRO AREA

To provide an opportunity for LWV members to chat informally with one another about issues they're concerned about, the Rochester Metro League has instituted a First Friday lunch-time gathering at 1872 Cafe, which is in the heart of Rochester and has connections to the suffrage movement. Attendees wear LWV pins and display flyers to promote the League, and their enthusiasm is contagious.

This regularly attracts 10-15 people and has helped energize, retain and involve members in other League activities.

Thinking Outside the Box

LWV OF ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY (MAL UNIT)

The League of Women Voters of St. Lawrence County (MAL Unit) wins for developing “North Country Matters”, public affairs programming that appears on their local public access channel WCKN and on Youtube! This is a collaborative effort of the League of Women Voters of St. Lawrence County (MAL Unit), AAUW-St. Lawrence County Branch and Clarkson University Media and Mass Communication students (who provide the technical expertise). This regularly scheduled program, in a video magazine format, provides a way for the League to do voter education on important public policy topics to a thinly populated but wide geographic area.

Of particular interest to Leagues who sometimes have difficulty getting the participation of two or more of the candidates for a particular office at their candidate events, is their “Conversations with Candidates.” A part of “North Country Matters,” “Conversations with Candidates” features one candidate at a time in conversation with the League and AAUW representatives. (Care is, of course, taken to give all candidates an opportunity to participate.)

Visibility

LWV OF UTICA-ROME AND LWV OF RENSSELAER COUNTY (TIE)

LWV of Utica-Rome

The League of Women Voters of Utica-Rome did an exceptional job of getting print and broadcast media coverage. They did all the right things: submitted press releases and articles on everything they were doing, took pictures and submitted them for media use, wrote letters to the editor, wrote guest editorials, sent media advisories. This persistent effort resulted in more than 30 articles and captioned pictures in print media and more than a dozen local television and radio segments.

LWV of Rensselaer County

The League of Women Voters of Rensselaer County has put together a scrapbook of clippings that their League has garnered in their local newspapers AND of LWVNY publications AND of things that other local Leagues have done (often in collaboration with LWV Rensselaer). They take this scrapbook to all tabling opportunities and use it to answer the question, "What does the League do?"

Honorable Mention:

LWV of the Hamptons

LWV of Port Washington/Manhasset

LWV of Rochester Metro

Voter Service Award

LWVS OF ALBANY, RENSSELAER, SARATOGA, AND SCHENECTADY COUNTIES

The mission of the League is to encourage citizens to be informed and active participants in government. *VOTE411* is an excellent online voters' guide that not only provides important voting information but also lets people hear from candidates in their own words about their positions. How do we reach people and let them know about *VOTE411*? The League of Women Voters of Albany, Rensselaer, Saratoga, and Schenectady Counties found a way.

They commissioned ads advertising *VOTE411* on 15 CDTA buses that traveled throughout the Capital District area the month prior to the November election. The Leagues together accomplished more than any one League could on their own, creating high visibility for *VOTE411*. This year's voter service award goes to these four Leagues.

Youth Award

LWV OF THE HAMPTONS AND LWV OF SARATOGA COUNTY (TIE)

LWV of the Hamptons

This year it was impossible to decide between two Leagues as to which should receive the youth award, The LWV of the Hamptons held several programs to educate young people and encourage them to be involved. Their targeted audience ranged from eight to ten year old girl scouts whom they helped earn a government badge, to high school students being trained for a town youth court whom they taught the history of enfranchisement and how change is achieved, to eighteen year olds and above who heard a public service announcement created by and featuring a high school junior urging young adults to vote.

LWV of Saratoga County

The LWV Saratoga focused on giving students from grades 5 through 8 a firsthand account of the battle for women's suffrage. This League commissioned three local women to portray Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Sojourner Truth and to present three 30 minute one woman shows. Their goal is to present this to over 1000 students.

Both of these Leagues truly deserve an award for their work in engaging our youth.

Organ Donation Grant Project

Stipends awarded to participating local Leagues:

LWV of Albany County	LWV of Rochester Metro
LWV of Broome Tioga	LWV of Saratoga County
LWV of Buffalo-Niagara	LWV of Schenectady County
LWV of Cazenovia	LWV of Somers
LWV of East Nassau	LWV of Southwest Nassau
LWV of Geneva	LWV of the City of New York
LWV of Huntington	LWV of the North Country
LWV of Mid-Hudson	LWV of Utica-Rome
LWV of New Rochelle	LWV of Wayne County (MAL)
LWV of Oneonta	

The Board of the League of Women Voters of New York State congratulates the following Award Winning Leagues:

LWV of Albany County
LWV of Buffalo-Niagara
LWV of the Hamptons
LWV of Harrison
LWV of the City of New York
LWV of Rensselaer County
LWV of Rye, Rye Book, Port Chester
LWV of Rochester Metro
LWV of Saratoga County
LWV of Schenectady County
LWV of St. Lawrence County (MAL Unit)
LWV of Utica-Rome

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