



The Broome-Tioga Voter

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Broome & Tioga Counties

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THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF BROOME AND TIAGA COUNTIES PRESENTS

AUTHOR AND JOURNALIST TOM WILBUR

NEW YORK’S EPIC STAND AGAINST FRACKING



PHOTO CREDIT AND REPRINT PERMISSION - BINGHAMTON PRESS AND SUN BULLETIN

HOW THE CUOMO ADMINISTRATION’S DECISION TO BAN SHALE GAS
DEVELOPMENT IN NEW YORK REFLECTS CRITICAL ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL
ISSUES IN THE 21ST CENTURY

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2015

VESTAL PUBLIC LIBRARY

6:45 P.M.

Wilbur’s career as a journalist encompasses more than 20 years in the newspaper business, including 17 years with the Binghamton Press & Sun-Bulletin, covering business, health, and environment beats.

Wilbur has reported on shale gas development in New York and Pennsylvania since 2008 and was among the first reporters to provide daily coverage of events in Dimock, Pennsylvania, which have since become iconic of the national controversy over fracking. For that, he won top honors in Best of Gannett beat reporting in 2010. He left the newspaper in 2010 to write full time about shale gas development. He now tracks current events related to shale as development in his blog, Shale Gas Review.

Wilbur holds a BA in English from the University of Rochester and an MA in journalism from Syracuse University’s SI New House School. He has taught various journalism courses as an adjunct at Binghamton University.

Co-Presidents' Report for February 2015

February finds the Nominating Committee at work lining up candidates for next year's Board. If you would like to learn more, contact Jane Park via phone at 748-4192 or e-mail at janepark@stny.rr.com. Whether a board member at large or holding a specific office, you can participate directly in planning the direction of our local league. Board meetings are held monthly on the second Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. at the Vestal Public Library, and are open to the public and all members.

More disappointment from Albany! Be sure to read the statement released by the State League, Common Cause and NYPIRG. Why do we have to rely on federal investigations to enforce ethical behavior in our legislature? We deserve better!

The NYS Board of Elections just released a report on Lever Voting Machines. It's on their website. As you know, these machines are still allowed for use in certain circumstances and races despite clear evidence they fail to provide access to all of us and the right to vote independently and privately at polling sites. <http://www.elections.ny.gov/>

Our February program features Tom Wilbur on Fracking. Tom has presented for the League in the past. He was a reporter for the Binghamton Press and Sun-Bulletin and has recently published a book on the subject. We are looking forward to learning more from someone who has in-depth knowledge and insight on this subject. Come hear from someone who, from the very beginning, has had a front row seat in what has turned out to be a truly historic battle of epic proportions.

March will bring our program to Tioga County entitled "Child Care Concerns and Issues" on March 24th from 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. at Tioga Opportunities. There will be guest speakers and a panel discussion. We all know of friends, family, neighbors or colleagues who are struggling with this issue. Come and learn. Tioga Opportunities is located across from the new Owego Elementary school construction site. Free childcare will be provided.

A print copy of LWVNYS 2015 Legislative Agenda is included in this month's issue. The format has changed and includes a short synopsis of each position. Print copies of They Represent You will be included in the March issue and are already available on our website presently located under the "Elections" heading. We'll send all as attachments in the e-mail distribution list as well.

The Women of Achievement Dinner is fast approaching. Our honoree this year is Doris Reed. We hope you will join us in celebrating this extraordinary person.

See you at the next meeting or program!

~Sara and Karl Wokan



Nearly 30,000 Supporters Join Us in Fighting Secret Money

By: Renee Davidson 01/21/2015

The 2014 election was the most expensive midterm election in U.S. history, due to hundreds of millions of dollars of secret money donated through Super PACs. As a result, the voices of special interest groups are threatening to become louder than those of voters. That's why we've been pushing the Federal Election Commission (FEC) to pass critical campaign finance reforms to protect our political system from corruption.

After months of work, we're pleased to report that -- with your help -- the League submitted a total of nearly 30,000 public comments to the FEC in support of stopping the flood of dark money into our elections! Our comments called for stricter disclosure regulations as well as narrowing the definition of coordination between candidates and outside groups.

Five years ago this week, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled to open the floodgates to big money and special interest with its decision in *Citizens United v. FEC*. The result of this decision led to the creation of Super PACs. Today, Super PACs and other outside groups can raise and spend unlimited amounts because they are supposedly "independent" from the candidates. But in reality, there are many ways to coordinate that are not blocked by the FEC's current weak regulations.

Your comments to the FEC underscore that you believe that Americans have a right to know who is funding our nation's political campaigns. Americans deserve a democracy that is free of political manipulation -- one that is responsive to voters and not big money and special interests.

We're proud of the thousands of supporters across the country who are fighting for our democracy and pushing back against dark money. The stakes are too high, and the League will not stand by and let our political system be corrupted. Thank you for weighing in!

<http://lww.org/blog/nearly-30000-supporters-join-us-fighting-secret-money>

DORIS REED: 2015 WOMAN OF ACHIEVEMENT

The League of Women Voters of Broome & Tioga Counties is pleased to honor Doris Reed as a woman of achievement. Doris has been a dedicated member of the League for over 30 years where she served on the Board and was a member of the National Security Committee. Aside from her work with the League, her greatest efforts to secure social and economic justice came through memberships with other organizations. Her work with these organizations included joining protests, not only in the US, but also delegations in Guatemala, Nicaragua, El Salvador and Mexico. The information gained while in these countries was used to lobby United States embassies in an attempt to bring peace and social justice to their citizens. Doris never backs down from what she believes is right and her desire to help people in distress.

Doris began her adult life intending to have a career in music. She eventually gave up her music career and became a physical therapist. In the 1950's, while working in New York City she joined the "reform democrats" who put an end to the very corrupt Tammany Hall regime that ruled in NYC from 1854 through 1934. Several decades later Doris went to El Salvador, as an election observer, where she dispersed a crowd of ruling class supporters. Doris has been a frequent protester at the School of the Americas, Fort Benning, GA, "crossing the line" more than once, which in 2002 resulted in her arrest and a sentence of one year probation.

Enchanted by the beauty of our local area, she was a long-time member of the TC Hiking Club and the Southern Tier Bicycle Club. True to her love of nature she was among the first to have solar panels on her roof, which she continues to use today.

In 2009 Doris was given the Phoenix Award for her dedication to peace and social justice. Even at the age of 90 she is still active in her efforts to bring peace and social justice everywhere. She resides in Endicott with her 12-year old feline companion "Gata."

The League of Women Voters of Broome & Tioga counties is proud to call Doris Reed our Woman of Achievement.



WOMEN OF ACHIEVEMENT DINNER DEADLINE

Your reservation for the Women of Achievement Dinner **MUST BE RECEIVED BY FEBRUARY 25**. The price is \$30. Please indicate on your check if you prefer flounder, prime rib, or vegetarian. Make the check payable to Eva Anderson and mail to her at 3 Manor Drive, Apt. 201, Binghamton, NY 13905. A ticket will be mailed to you upon receipt of your check.

The event will be held on Wednesday, March 11, at the Owego Treadway Inn, beginning with a social hour and cash bar at 6:00 p.m., followed by dinner at 6:45.

Save the Date!

Child Care Concerns

March 24, 2015

9:30-11 a.m.

Tioga Opportunities, 9 Sheldon Guile Boulevard, Owego, NY 13827
(Across from the new Owego Elementary School construction site)

It is a very difficult and stressful task for parents to locate good, reliable, and affordable childcare when parents must work to support their families. We have invited panelists Norma Bergman and Anne Shear from the Family Enrichment Network, Laurie Bowen from Mom's House, Amanda Kushner, a parent and also EISEP Case Manager at Tioga Opportunities and Darlene Weidman, Director of Employment and Transitional Services, Tioga County DSS to discuss the barriers facing families who must rely upon childcare.

Members of the Early Childhood Education program at BCC will be in attendance to assist with a quiet arts and crafts area for young children who may attend with their caregivers. If you wish to attend and will be bringing a child/children, please contact Sue Ruff at advocate@stic-cil.org so that we will be able to accommodate your needs.



Eleanor Roosevelt First Lady of the World

My Missus and some of her female political friends want to build a shack on a stream in the back woods and want, instead of a beautiful marble bath, to have the stream dug out so as to form an old-fashioned swimming hole.

This is how Franklin D. Roosevelt described his wife Eleanor's ambition to build a retreat for herself and her friends away from the big family house at Hyde Park, New York. The "shack," built in 1925 near a gently flowing stream, was actually a stone cottage situated on land F.D.R. offered the women for their lifetime use.

The following year, the women had a second building constructed on the site to house a small furniture factory. After the factory closed in 1936, Roosevelt converted the building into a cottage for herself, her secretary, and guests, and christened it "Val-Kill Cottage." She used the cottage only sparingly until the death of F.D.R. in 1945. Then, she moved permanently to Val-Kill. She had once described Val-Kill as the place "where I used to find myself and grow" and where "I emerged as an individual." It was truly her home and the place where she came into her own. She gained strength and inspiration from the pastoral surroundings.

Join us on a Spring Adventure!! We are joining other LWV in our Southern Tier region to plan a bus trip to tour Val-Kill, Hyde Park and lunch at the Culinary Institute of America.

Trip Itinerary for April 25th

8:00 a.m. Meet
8:30 a.m. Buses leave
11:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. Arrive at Culinary Institute of America for Lunch at the American Bounty Restaurant order from menu. VISA and MasterCard cards are accepted and individual checks are not a problem.
2:00 p.m. Tour of Val-Kill and time available to explore Hyde Park (included in your ticket price)
5:00 p.m. Depart for Home with a stop at Roscoe Diner for dinner.

If you are interested in reserving a seat, please send a check for \$85 to The League of Women Voters of Broome and Tioga Counties, P.O. Box 944, Vestal, NY 13851-0944. The cost of lunch and dinner is not included and the cost of the group tour is \$40 for up to 50 people.



NEWS RELEASE

SPEAKER'S ARREST PROMPTS CALL FOR SWEEPING ETHICS REFORMS

REFORMERS SAY NEW YORKERS SHOULD NOT HAVE TO RELY ON FEDS FOR ETHICS ENFORCEMENT

New York's leading reform groups today urged Governor Cuomo and the Legislative leaders to make fixing the state's broken ethics enforcement system their top priority. Common Cause/NY, the League of Women Voters N.Y.S. and the New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG) urged changes to the Joint Commission on Public Ethics and the Legislative Ethics Commission – both agencies charged with monitoring political ethics in the state.

The arrest of the Assembly Speaker by the United States Attorney stands in sharp contrast to the inaction of New York's own so-called ethics watchdogs.

The groups urged that lawmakers advance a plan that includes the following 4 points:

- Overhaul of ethics oversight: Merging of the Legislative Ethics Commission into JCOPE. Changes for the new JCOPE board, including: a smaller number of members, bans on membership by elected officials, a prohibition on executive or legislative staff becoming JCOPE staff until a "cooling off period" has ended, JCOPE compliance with FOIL and Open Meetings Law, a strict requirement that board members are sworn to protect the interests of the public – not the interests of their appointing authorities, and an end to the so-called "legislative veto."
- Better ethics disclosures: Full disclosure of outside business clients for all lawmakers, including lawyers as proposed by the New York City Bar Association.
- Stricter oversight of lobbyists: Broadening of the definition of lobbying to include public relations efforts in support of government actions. New, much lower campaign contributions for lobbyists and those receiving government contracts as well as enhanced disclosures of such contributions.
- Changes to the campaign finance system: Eliminating the LLC loophole, lowering contribution limits, and strict controls over the "personal use" of campaign contributions, as well as a voluntary system of public financing of elections.

Excerpted from letter to Governor Cuomo dated January 16, 2015:

Dear Governor Cuomo:

Please accept our condolences over the passing of your father, the Honorable Mario Cuomo. The League of Women Voters worked closely with former Governor Cuomo and realized significant accomplishments in several public policy areas under his leadership.

The League of Women Voters congratulates you and the decision of your administration to ban high volume hydraulic fracturing in New York State. Your support for human health in the presence of the hazards and risks presented by this heavy industrialized lifecycle process creates a legacy of historic proportion and one that the science indicates will withstand the test of time. In this letter, we support a consistent application of the decision to ban high volume hydraulic fracturing to all phases of this lifecycle process, to the extent the decision to do so is within your jurisdiction.

In the interest of establishing a final Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact Statement (SGEIS) which is consistent with the reasoning employed by Acting Commissioner Howard A. Zucker that resulted in the ban, we urge your administration, as carried out through the Department of Environmental Conservation, to include within context of the overall ban the importation from out of state of both liquid and solid waste produced from high volume hydraulic fracturing and its use or disposal, in any manner, anywhere within New York State.

Banning the waste from high volume hydraulic fracturing is logical and appropriate for the following reasons: (i) high volume hydraulic fracturing is a lifecycle process involving multiple phases which are addressed in the draft revised SGEIS, including, without limitation, the waste; (ii) the ban on high volume hydraulic fracturing is premised on health impacts or potential health impacts; and (iii) studies which address the health impacts or potential health impacts from liquid or solid waste from high volume hydraulic fracturing are among those cited by Commissioner Zucker (See a partial list of references, below).

Currently, New York accepts this unregulated, toxic, radioactive waste from out of state high volume hydraulic fracturing operations and it is deposited into landfills, spread onto roads to control dust and melt ice, illegally dumped in streams, and otherwise disposed of with the result of creating risks of radioactive surface water contamination, groundwater contamination, and potentially other types of pollution leading to adverse health impacts. In the event deep-well injection of the waste were to be permitted, it could result in earthquakes, as has been documented by the US Geological Survey. We believe that if the overall ban on high volume hydraulic fracturing does not include a specific ban with respect to the liquid and solid waste produced as part of the production lifecycle, New Yorkers will still be exposed to risks from the very adverse health impacts the overall ban is intended to prevent. For this reason we ask that waste be included in the overall ban.

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Calendar

Visit lwv-broometioga.org for the latest event details.

<i>2nd Tuesday</i>	<i>LWVBTC Board Meeting, open to the public, 6:30 pm, Vestal Library</i>
February 24	LWVBTC Program on Fracking, Vestal Public Library
March 11	Woman of Achievement Dinner, Owego Treadway
March 24	LWVBTC Program on Childcare, Tioga Opportunities
April 25	LWVBTC Val-Kill Trip

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