



The Broome-Tioga Voter

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of
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LET THE SUN SHINE IN

The League of Women Voters of Broome & Tioga
Counties presents

Enabling Community Solar Power

A look at solar incentives including
tax credits, grants,
production credits and net metering

Find out what is happening
with solar power in NY and
how you can be a part
of this exciting industry!

Speakers:

Dr. Gay E. Canough, ETM Solar Works

Melissa Kemp, Board Member, New York Solar Energy

January 27, 2015

6:45 PM

Vestal Public Library

Presidents' Report for January 2015

We attended a regional meeting of Leagues of the Southern Tier with representatives from LWV Steuben, Schuyler, Chemung (our hosts), Cortland, Tompkins, Cazenovia and one delegate from Utica-Rome. We had a tour of the State League website and a reminder that many of the best aids available on the National League website are more accessible on our state website. Laura also suggested we search for items of interest on the National website by doing a Google Search instead of attempting to go to National and looking there. This seems to work better for me - try it!

The meeting was intended as a group share of resources, best practices and program ideas. We heard about programs with good attendance such as a SAFE Act Forum on gun safety, Water Safety and Quality discussion-especially as it relates to Hydraulic Fracturing, "What it Takes to Run" from some of the candidates from the last election, Student Debt, Mental Health, and Empowering the Voters of Tomorrow. Excellent ideas all! We also had an opportunity to network with other Leagues. This was really great! What a special group, and Karl wasn't our only male!

Laura Ladd-Bierman suggested that we, in the Southern Tier, might want to reach out to the Leagues of Pennsylvania to determine if they are doing or have done a study on Hydraulic Fracturing. I have a call out to the Susquehanna County LWV. Hopefully, more to come on this topic!

Discussion on ways to expand our reach to the public and develop a more diverse membership included reviewing the time and place of our meetings and various meeting formats that have worked for others.

It's a New Year and a great time to look at ourselves and learn ways to do things better. We're

open to suggestions, come to the meetings and share your ideas!

A very important reminder to all of us who are registered voters without a party affiliation. With the 2016 presidential primary season looming, remember New York is a closed primary state which means in order to vote in primaries you must change your party registration in 2015 to be on the books for the 2016 presidential primaries!

A happy and healthy 2015 to all!

Sara and Karl Wokan

A Response from Sheriff Dave Harder:

The LWVBTC received a letter from Sheriff Harder in response to the October Sheriff's debate sponsored by the League. Some excerpts from the letter:

"I wanted to take a brief moment and send you and the members of the League of Women Voters of Broome and Tioga Counties a thank you letter for hosting the debate on October 29, 2014.

The evening, which was sponsored by your organization, afforded those in attendance an opportunity to listen to my opponent and I discuss important issues that affect our everyday lives."

"Please express my gratitude to all those who participate in your organization. As a candidate, it is nice to know that opportunities still exist that allow for non-partisan spirited discussions."



We are seeking applications from Broome and Tioga County high school juniors and seniors to attend the 15th annual **Students Inside Albany Conference**, which will be held May 17-20, 2015, in Albany. Of the students who apply, our League will award one student the opportunity to attend this Spring's event.

The SIA conference, sponsored by the League of Women Voters of New York State Education Foundation, Inc., is designed to increase students' awareness of their responsibility in representative government and to provide the tools necessary for meeting that responsibility. This interactive conference will bring together high school students from across the state to learn about New York State government and the process by which citizens can participate in the policy-making arena. As part of this program, students will also tour the Capitol and observe both the Senate and Assembly in action by spending an afternoon shadowing their legislator. All their expenses are covered, including travel and three nights at the Hampton Inn and Suites in Albany. The participant will receive a one-year membership in the League of Women Voters of Broome and Tioga Counties, which includes a monthly newsletter and invitations to meetings on government related topics. Applications for nominations are due via mail, email or fax by **February 2, 2015**.

Please contact Margaret Goodfellow or Susan Ruff for applications and reference letter forms. Email addresses: mgoodfel@binghamton.edu
advocate@stic-cil.org.

Margaret can be reached at 655-1929 if you have additional questions. Applications

and references can be emailed to Margaret Goodfellow or Susan Ruff, faxed to Susan at [607-772-3613](tel:607-772-3613), if preferred. If preferred students can mail application and reference to **Students Inside Albany**, LWVBTC, PO Box 944, Vestal, NY, 13851-0944.

The selected student will be notified by February 16, 2015 and will be provided with permission forms and materials that must be received by the NYS League of Women Voters by March 1, 2015. This affords the State League time to make all arrangements.

~ You're Invited ~

Women of Achievement Dinner

The Status of Women Council's annual Women of Achievement Dinner will be held on Wednesday, March 11th, at the Owego Treadway Inn. This year our League will honor Doris Reed. Doris has been a long time member and has been very active in public policy issues at local, state and national government levels.

The evening will begin with a social hour and cash bar at 6:00 p.m., followed by dinner at 6:45. Entree selections are 1) crab stuffed flounder, 2) Prime Rib, and 3) vegetarian plate. The price is \$30.00. Please make your reservations no later than February 25 by sending a check payable to Eva Anderson, 305 Manor Drive, Apt 201, Binghamton, NY 13905. Please note your entree choice on the memo line of the check. If you have questions, you may call Eva at 775-2325.

This is an evening to honor Doris, and also an evening of fun and good company with League members as well as members of other organizations. We hope you will be there.

Grassroots and League “Program”

In a grassroots organization, it is vital that all members have the opportunity to participate. The League “Program” is determined by members and consists of federal, state and local issues. National issues are adopted at LWVUS Convention, state issues at LWNYS Convention and local issues at local Leagues’ annual meetings. Please share the information in this report with your members and encourage member participation in the making of the LWNYS 2015-2017 Program. This process provides every member an opportunity to influence new areas of study and the issues that will direct League action during the 2015-2017 League years.

CALENDAR FOR DEVELOPING LWNYS 2015-2017 PROGRAM

December – February

Local Leagues review LWNYS Summary of Public Policy Positions (and the underlying complete position in LWNYS *Impact on Issues*) and discuss possible revisions and additions at a general membership meeting. Revisions and additions would be done through dropping positions, updating positions, or new studies. Local League boards, using the outcome of the general membership meeting, forward their recommendations on the attached form to the state League by February 20, 2015. This is the only method for suggesting new studies to be adopted at Convention 2015 and the February 20 deadline for submission must be met. Changes in Program cannot be suggested for the first time at Convention.

March

State Board reviews recommendations from local Leagues and develops a Proposed Program for consideration by delegates to State Convention.

April

Proposed Program is sent to local Leagues in Pre Convention Kit. It includes recommended and non-recommended program items, submitted by the February 20, 2015 deadline. Local Leagues review the Proposed Program. They may decide, early on, to establish a League network to rally support for certain items on the recommended or non-recommended lists.

June

Convention delegates adopt a 2015-2017 Program either as proposed by the state League board or as amended by the inclusion of non-recommended items.



A photo from the November naturalization ceremony where co-president Karl Wokan spoke. Read the full article at : <http://faceofamericawps.com/news/welcome-to-america-viola-and-rex/>

Enabling Community Solar Power

The growth of the solar industry has been huge in the past five years. In the past two years, the vast majority of new power plants in-



stalled in the USA have been solar power plants. Just last week, a 550 MW solar power plant came online in California. That's enough to power 160,000 homes! To accelerate the adoption of solar power, state governments have instituted various incentives. These include tax credits, grants, production credits and net metering. In this presentation, I will talk about these various types of incentives, with the focus on what is going on in New York. Thanks in large part to Gov. Cuomo's NY-SUN initiative, this year, NY finally got into the top 10 (for solar installations). There is new legislation in progress in NY that would enable residential customers to "remote net meter" with a central solar power plant. Since not all residences have a suitable place to put solar panels, this will allow many more people to go solar. Come and find out what is happening with solar power in NY and how you can help expand it even more. The bottom line is, more solar power means, not only cleaner energy, but also more local jobs!

Presenters = Dr. Gay E. Canough (ETM Solar) and Melissa Kemp (NYSEIA)



The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan, grass-roots political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Men and women of voting age are welcome to join.

Be Part of the Action—Join Today!

Membership Application

Individual membership \$50/yr.

Household membership \$75/yr. (2 people)

Student membership \$20/yr.

Send me information about the League.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Make checks payable to LWVBTC and mail with this coupon to LWCBC, PO Box 944, Vestal, NY 13851-0944.

I would like to support the League with a tax deductible contribution to the LWWNYS Education Foundation \$ _____

Make checks payable to "LWWNYS Education Foundation" and mail with this coupon to LWVBTC, PO Box 944, Vestal, NY 13851-0944.

The Broome-Tioga Voter

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(607)772-4936

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION U.S. POSTAGE PAID BINGHAMTON, NY PERMIT # 2

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>
January 27	LWVBTC Program on Community Solar Power
February 10	LWVBTC Board Meeting, Vestal Library
February 24	LWVBTC Program "How Fracking Was Stopped in NY and What We Can Learn From It." ~Writer/Journalist, Tom Wilbur
March 11	Women of Achievement Dinner at the Treadway in Owego

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