



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TOMPKINS COUNTY

JUNE 2015

PRESIDENT: KAY SHARP 272-4748

lwvtompkins.org

EDITOR: ROBERT SILSBEE 273-1436



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your President for another two years. I appreciate your confidence in me to represent you in the community.

In April some of the Board members met with Bruce Estes, Managing Editor of the Ithaca Journal. He wants us to write a Guest Viewpoint article each month in addition to our Letters to the Editor. The Journal realizes the importance of our work in Tompkins County. In response to his invitation, Sarah Jane Blake wrote an article on healthcare in May. This month Kay Wagner and her committee will write an article addressing natural resources and our endeavors to keep them safe from destruction.

Last week we met with two of our legislators Barbara Lifton and Tom O'Mara. This yearly meeting gives us the opportunity to inform them of the causes we hold dear and hear their positions on those issues. We spoke with them about protecting our natural resources, Governor Cuomo's 10-point Women's Equality Agenda, and single-payer healthcare.

This week we had our first Board meeting with the newly elected officers and directors. I believe you will find them energetic and hard working. We started the planning process for programs for the 2015-2016 year. It will be a year filled with exciting topics. We will continue to monitor legislation on natural resources, education, and women's rights just to name a few. Our programs are always well-received in the community.

Last weekend we had our first tabling for voter registration at the Ithaca Festival. In the summer we go to several festivals and provide members of our community the opportunity to register to vote. I hope you will say yes when our Co-Vice Presidents for Voter Services, Lucia Sciore and

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Amy Panek, contact you to volunteer your time to help out at one or more of the functions.

The New York State League Convention is this weekend. Our League has seven members attending. We look forward to gaining new ideas for our work to come. I'll have the chance to meet with the other League Presidents in a breakfast meeting. This allows me to see how other Leagues address issues and to gain new ideas that we might want to explore. In these occasions I am proud to tell other Presidents about our League's work. Because of our numbers and the dedication of our members, we are able to address a number of important issues that smaller Leagues are unable to do.

We are heading toward summer, time for the Board to take a vacation and re-energize ourselves in order to hit the ground running in September. Our first program will revisit the Governor's 10-Point Women's Equality Agenda. Last September we examined each of these points in a series of four programs. Although some of the issues have been passed by both the Assembly and Senate and become law, others remain to be passed by the Senate. Fortunately, pay equity and the consequences for sexual harassment in the workplace have been voted into law. Our work is not over though. The tenth point, which addresses women's right to make her own reproductive choices, is stuck in the Senate. The Assembly passed this piece of legislation without hesitation. We look forward to providing you a program that re-visits Women's Equality.

I hope you have a wonderful summer with family and friends. But don't forget the League totally. Remember to volunteer to register voters during the summer also. This is one of our most important jobs we do for our community.

K. Sharp



VOTER SERVICES

The League at the Ithaca Festival! President Kay Sharp "womaned" a table at the Ithaca Festival (see page one). It was a beautiful day. Mostly we got people who were interested in changing addresses or parties, but also several inquires about what we do at the League and one new member. There will be many opportunities for you to help at tablings this summer: pick the event that interests you —

June 13	Stewart Park Celtic Festival
June 20	Juneteenth
July 11	Dragon Boat Races
July 25	Dryden Lake Festival
August 22	Latino Festival at Stewart Park
September 5	Farmer's Market
September 22	National Voter Registration Day
October 2, 3	Apple Festival —

and contact Voter Services at luciasciore@gmail.com or amy.panek@gmail.com to set a date and time to join in the effort.

Lucia Sciore and Amy Panek

HEALTH CARE

“New York Health,” a universal single payer health coverage bill, would eliminate insurance company coverage, premiums, deductions, co-pays, limited provider networks and out-of-network charges. Instead, it would provide comprehensive universal health coverage for every New Yorker, with a benefit package more comprehensive than commercial or other health plans, with full choices of doctors and other

providers. The program would be funded by broad-based taxes based on ability to pay. It would eliminate the local share of Medicaid (which would become part of NY Health). The bill was introduced by Assembly Health Committee Chair Richard N. Gottfried and Senator Bill Perkins.

The bill passed the Assembly last week. It will now go to the Senate where, unfortunately, it has little chance of passing. Our Health Care Committee will be working on this legislation this year, hoping to influence to Senate to pass it. We are looking for more members of the committee. If you are interested, please call or email me at 273-7746, dlevin01@twcny.rr.com.

Some people have said that we want this bill passed because the Affordable Care Act is not working. Nothing could be further from the truth. The ACA is working; it just does not go far enough. Single payer gets the insurance companies out of the mix.

Debbie Levin and Kathleen Yen

PROGRAM

As most members know, the LWV-TC takes a break in the summer months for the most part; there are no monthly programs to attend.

However, at our June Board meeting, preliminary planning for our next fall-through-spring programs began. Our active committees on environment and health care will be preparing two or three of the programs. Other likely topics include a follow-up on the Women's Agenda programs of last September and issues in education and local government. While it sounds like a very interesting year ahead, the program schedule is still in flux. We need to have members' ideas and feedback; let us hear from you.

Finally, one League activity that doesn't take a summer break is Voter Service. Summer into fall is a busy time for that — a most important part of the League's total program. See the schedule under Voter Services to find a good time for you to help.

Dorothy Rinaldo and Marnie Johnson

(TENTATIVE) LWV-TC CALENDAR—2015-2016

Aug 31	Mon	7:00 pm	Board Meeting	Old Jail
Sep 28	Mon	7:00 pm	Women's Issues	
Oct 5	Mon	7:00 pm	Board Meeting	Old Jail
Oct 26	Mon	7:00 p m	Natural Resources (?The Electric Grid?)	
Nov 2	Mon	7:00 pm	Board Meeting	Old Jail
Nov 16	Mon	7:00 pm	Education	
Dec 5	Sat	am	Board Brunch	
Jan 4	Mon	7:00 pm	Board Meeting	Old Jail
Jan?	Mon	7:00 pm	Health Care (?NY Health Act?)	
Feb 1	Mon	7:00 pm	Board Meeting	Old Jail
Feb ?	Sat	12:00 pm	Soup & Bread Luncheon	
Mar 7	Mon	7:00 pm	Board Meeting	Old Jail
Mar ?	Mon	7:00 pm	TBA	
Apr 4	Mon	7:00 pm	Board Meeting	Old Jail
Apr ?	Mon	7:00 pm	TBA	
May 2	Mon	6:00 pm	Annual Dinner Meeting	
Jun 6	Mon	7:00 pm	Board Meeting	Old Jail

WOMEN’S ISSUES

The League of Women Voters of New York State is a proud member of the Women’s Equality Coalition and will continue to advocate for measures that advance economic and reproductive justice for all women in New York State.

The League applauds both the Senate and Assembly for passing A506 (Paulin) / S007 (Lanza), anti-human trafficking legislation earlier this session. We are also pleased that both the Senate and Assembly passed A6075 (Titus) / S1 (Savino), which prohibits differential pay because of sex; A.5360 (Galef) / S.2 (Valesky), which extends the law against sexual harassment to all workplaces; and A.4272 (Gunther) / S.8 (Hannon), concerning reasonable accommodations for pregnancy-related conditions. These are victories for working women!

We also appreciate the Assembly passing three other critical pieces of legislation: A.6221 (Glick) / S.4432 (Stewart-Cousins), the Reproductive Health Act; A.3870 (Nolan) / S.3004

(Addabbo) the Paid Family Leave Act, and A.6183 (Russell) / (no same as), which prohibits employers from denying work or promotions because of familial status. We now call on the Senate to also pass those bills.

Additionally, the League will continue to advocate for the following piece of legislation, which has already passed in the Senate:

- **S.5 (Robach) / (No Assembly companion):** *An act to amend the real property law and the real property actions and proceedings law, in relation to prohibiting discrimination in housing based upon domestic violence status and establishing a task force to study the impact of source of income on access to housing.* This bill would amend the Real Property Law to add a new Section 227-d, which would prohibit discrimination against domestic violence victim status in housing.

LWV-NYS

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TOMPKINS COUNTY: BOARD 2015-16

LWV NYS website

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LWV US website

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LWV-Tompkins County

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Board Members

6/17	President		Kay Sharp	272-4748	phylliskaysharp@gmail.com
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6/17	Co-VP1	Co-Program	Marnie Johnson	2572948	islandmarnie@gmail.com
6/17	Co-VP1	Co-Program	Dorothy Rinaldo	257-5667	dotrin7@gmail.com
6/16	Co-VP2	Co-Voter Services	Lucia Sciore	351-0221	luciasciore@gmail.com
6/16	Co-VP2	Co-Voter Services	Amy Panek	617-448-6841	amy.panek@gmail.com
6/17	Director	Natural Resources	Kay Wagner	539-3322	cmw18@cornell.edu
6/17	Director		Sorel Gottfried	272-3910	sorel9@gmail.com
6/16	Director		Runjini Raman	940-300-4592	rr595@cornell.edu
	Director	Membership	vacant		
	Director	Communications	vacant		

Off-Board Chairs:

Co-Webmaster; Action	Linda Duttweiler	277-0006	ldutt@twcny.rr.com
Co-Webmaster	Michael Duttweiler	277-0006	mduttweiler@twcny.rr.com
Bulletin	Robert Silsbee	273-1436	rhs1@cornell.edu
History	Florence Smith	273-6147	fbarrthims@gmail.com
Health Care	Debbie Levin	273-7746	dlevin01@twcny.rr.com
Youth Services	vacant		

PARENTAL CHOICE IN EDUCATION ACT

This Act, supported by Governor Cuomo, “would designate \$150 million in education tax credits annually that would provide:

- “tax credits to low-income families who send their children to nonpublic schools;
- “scholarships to low- and middle-income students to attend either a public school outside of their district or a nonpublic school;
- “incentives to public schools for enhanced educational programming (like after school programs); and
- “tax credits to public school teachers for the purchase of supplies.”

The League of Women Voters of New York State strongly believes that public taxpayer dollars should go to public education and opposes the *Parental Choice in Education Act*.

This Act would:

- give individuals and corporations a 75% tax credit (instead of a much less valuable deduction) for donations to private and parochial schools; and,
- divert millions of dollars away from public schools at a time when those funds are desperately needed.

Instead the League supports full funding for amounts due to public schools under the landmark *Campaign for Fiscal Equity* lawsuit, which would benefit high-needs, rural and urban districts and ensure that ALL of New York’s students receive a sound and basic education.

Please call your Assembly member and tell him/her to stop the *Parental Choice in Education Act* and prevent this flawed policy from coming to the floor of the Assembly.

LWV-NYS

SINGLE-PAYER HEALTH ACT

The following is a statement of support by the LWV-NYS for the Gottfried-Perkins single-payer New York State health care act.

Date: May 2015

To: New York State Assembly Codes Committee

SUBJECT: AN ACT to amend the public health law and the state finance law, in relation to establishing New York Health

The League of Women Voters of New York State supports the above referenced legislation (A.5062 / S3525) because even after the full implementation of the Affordable Care Act, 1.65 million New Yorkers will remain uninsured and of those that do have health insurance, many are underinsured. Employer-based health plans that provide coverage through private for-profit insurance companies create a piecemeal coverage system that does not guarantee access to necessary health services. Uninsured and underinsured New Yorkers often forgo necessary health care, which increases their risk of illness and disease.

Under the New York Health plan, the current system of health care coverage would be replaced by a comprehensive, single payer coverage program financed through existing federal, state and local sources as well as through new, progressive assessments on payroll and non-payroll income. The “local share” of Medicaid funding - a major share on local property taxes - would be ended. Our current system of inefficient and inadequate health care coverage plans would provide access to appropriate health care and would target New York’s scarce healthcare dollars toward providing universal access to high quality, cost-effective care for all residents, regardless of age, income, health or employment status.

The League of Women Voter of New York State has long supported policies that promote access to a basic level of quality care at an affordable cost for all, while ensuring the efficient and cost-effective delivery of care.

For the above reasons, the League of Women Voters of New York State strongly supports A.5062/S.3525

YOUR REPRESENTATIVES IN WASHINGTON

SENATORS:

Kirsten E. Gillibrand 202-224-4451 e-mail and web-site: www.gillibrand.senate.gov
Charles E. Schumer 202-224-6542; senator@schumer.senate.gov ; www.schumer.senate.gov

REPRESENTATIVES:

Tom Reed 202-225-3161; 607-654-7566; e-mail and web-site: reed.house.gov

YOUR REPRESENTATIVES IN ALBANY

SENATORS

James Seward 518-455-3131; 607-758-9005 www.nysenate.gov/senator/james-l-seward
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54th—Town of Lansing
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59th—Towns of Ithaca, Newfield, Enfield, Ulysses, & City of Ithaca

ASSEMBLYWOMAN

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