



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TOMPKINS COUNTY

OCTOBER 2015

PRESIDENT: KAY SHARP 272-4748

lwvtompkins.org

EDITOR: ROBERT SILSBEE 273-1436

**Our Electric Grid —
Our Energy Future is Now:
What Will a Modern Electric Grid Mean for
All of Us in New York State?**

7:00 - 8:30 PM, Monday, October 19
Tompkins County Public Library

Brice Smith
Physics Department, SUNY Cortland
Ed Marx and Katie Borgella
Tompkins County Planning Department

Sponsored by The League of Women
Voters of Tompkins County;
Co-Sponsors: The Campaign for
Renewable Energy, The Ithaca Journal,
Sustainable Tompkins, Tompkins County
Environmental Management Council

VOTER SERVICES

Voter Services has indeed been busy this month with voter registration events, presentations to other organizations, new advertising, planning forum events, radio interviews and new initiatives for voters!

We had a presence this past month at Streets Alive (Southside), National Voter Registration Day (a beautiful sunny day on the Commons), and two days at the Apple Harvest Festival (Commons). In addition to registering people, we were able to clarify issues related to voting

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in next year's primaries. A new initiative from LWV-NYS, was to encourage registrants to sign up as organ donors. New York State has one of lowest organ donor pools in the country. This initiative hopes to change that statistic.

Our President, Kay Sharp, Florence Smith and I had the honor of making a presentation to the Downtown Business Women's Association. Not only were we warmly received but several women expressed an interest in joining the League.

The next time you are riding a TCAT bus, look up! For a small investment of time and money, we were able to have signs printed and placed along the interior of all of the TCAT buses. The signs inform riders of the importance of voting and how to contact the League.

We have been asked to host a Candidate's Forum in Caroline, October 28, 2015 at 7 p.m. There may be the possibility of a second forum. Details are being made as I write.

On September 23, 2015, Kay Sharp and I were interviewed live, on Radio Free Ithaca (WRFI). We spoke generally about the League of Women Voters and of our proud history. We also spoke about the importance of voting and our role in the community. It was quite a feat at 7 a.m.!

Lucia Sciore

NATURAL RESOURCES

The Natural Resources Committee has been busy working on plans for our October 19 program. We are pleased that Prof. Brice Smith from the Physics Department at SUNY Cortland, and Ed Marx, Commissioner, and Katie Borgella, Deputy Commissioner of the Tompkins County Planning Department have agreed to speak on the topic of our electric grid. We also thank The Campaign for Renewable Energy, The Ithaca Journal, Sustainable Tompkins, and the Tompkins County Environmental Management Council for their co-sponsorship.

New York State is currently developing plans for upgrading and redesigning our electric grid and it is important that all of us understand what is happening. Our program should help us learn about the future of our electric grid and what important features it needs to have. Our speakers are very knowledgeable about this topic and we expect the program to be both interesting and informative.

As we move on through the following months, the Natural Resources Committee plans to study and learn about land use issues, both locally and more generally. This is a very broad topic, but we will enjoy reading, thinking and talking about the subject. If you would like to join us contact Kay Wagner, cmw18@cornell.edu, 539-3322.

LWV-TC CALENDAR—2015-2016

(Tentative dates and programs in italics)

Oct 19	Mon	7:00 p m	OUR ELECTRIC GRID: OUR ENERGY FUTURE IS NOW	TCPL
Nov 2	Mon	7:00 pm	Board Meeting	Old Jail
Nov 16	Mon	7:00 pm	WOMEN AND ADDICTION	TCPL
Dec 8	Tue	7:00 pm	Concurrence Meeting on RAISE THE AGE	Kendal, Room A
Dec 12	Sat	9:30 am	Board Brunch	Johnson
Jan 4	Mon	7:00 pm	Board Meeting	Old Jail
Jan 25	Mon	7:00 pm	THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT — FOLLOW UP	TCPL
Feb 1	Mon	7:00 pm	Board Meeting	Old Jail
Feb 22	Mon	7:00 pm	VOTING RIGHTS: FEDERAL & STATE LAWS & PROCESSES	TCPL
Mar 7	Mon	7:00 pm	Board Meeting	Old Jail
Mar 19	Sat	12:00 pm	Soup & Bread Luncheon	TBA
Apr 4	Mon	7:00 pm	Board Meeting	Old Jail
Apr 25	Mon	7:00 pm	LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE AND PLANNING	TCPL
May 9	Mon	6:00 pm	Annual Dinner Meeting	TBA
Jun 6	Mon	7:00 pm	Board Meeting	Old Jail

MEMBERSHIP

Thank you all for sending in your membership dues. Half of you have sent them in. For those who have not as yet, please send them to me before October 31. Remember to enclose your membership form with all your contact information. If you have misplaced your dues notice, please call me at 272-4748 or e-mail me at phylliskaysharp@gmail.com. and I will send you another form.

Kay Sharp

THE HISTORY PROJECT

Members of the History Committee, Lucia Sciore, Kathy Burlitch, Amy Panek, Debbie Levin, Diane Kelleher and Flo Smith (Historian/Chair), got together with Donna Eshenbrenner on Monday, Sept. 14th for our first orientation and training. Donna briefly

explained how the History Center has changed and grown through time and evolved through it's history. She described the current structure and mission of public services: archives, library for research, programs and exhibits. Donna showed us through the archives where our records will be kept, provided us with the lists of current holdings of LWV records and explained how the material will be catalogued. We can use the History Center's space to to work on the sorting with her direction.

Donna gave us The Guide to the League of Women Voters collection, which contains women's political organization's documents beginning in 1844, with the bulk of LWV records from 1950 to 1977, and a smaller collection about the voter service activities after 1985.

Watch for our progress reports in future bulletins.

Florence B. Smith, Historian

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

LWV NYS website

www.lwvny.org

LWV US website

www.lwv.org

LWV-Tompkins County

contact
website

272-4748

lwvtc@twcnny.rr.com
lwvtompkins.org

Board Members

6/17 President		Kay Sharp	272-4748	phylliskaysharp@gmail.com
6/17 Secretary		Willa Hahn	540-686-6587	willahahn@gmail.com
6/16 Treasurer		Diane Kelleher	257-5551	diane2110@icloud.com
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@twcnny.rr.com
Co-Webmaster	Michael Duttweiler	277-0006	mduttweiler@twcnny.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@twcnny.rr.com
Youth Services	vacant		

PROGRAMS

To pique your interest and give you an idea of our program plans for the remainder of the 2015-2016 year, the following gives a tentative summary. (As always, we are eager to hear comments and suggestions from all members; also, “hot” topics can arise that deserve airing and discussion.)

October 19: *Our Electric Grid — Our Energy Future : What Will a Modern Electric Grid Mean for All of Us in New York State?* (See poster and Natural Resources for details).

November 16: Following after our series, of last year, on women’s issues, will be a program: *Women and Addiction*. Arpi Hovaguimian, Counselor and former director of the Alcohol and Drug Council will speak followed by a panel discussion with 2 or 3 staff from related agencies.

December 8: A concurrence meeting on *Raise the Age*, following our September program on raising the age from 16 to 18 for treating young people in the Juvenile Justice system rather than as adults.

January 25: *The Affordable Care Act — Follow Up:* implementation of the ACA and how well it’s functioning locally.

Then, this being an especially important election year coming up, programs for February, March and April will focus on topics of particular interest in this regard.

February 22: *Voting Rights: Federal and State Law and Processes:* are all citizens equal in voting access and opportunity to make their vote count?

March 22: Soup and Bread Luncheon; topic to be decided.

April 25: *Issues of Government Finance and Planning:* What do we want for our community and how do we pay for it?

May 29: Annual Meeting.

Marnie Johnson,
Program Co-Chair

FROM LWV-NYS

Minimum Wage

The State League is organizing a Committee to examine the issue of minimum wage versus living wage. If you would like to join the Committee, contact Barbara Thomas at Barb.lwv@nycap.rr.com. She is the Chair of the Committee and can answer questions you may have. This is an opportunity to get involved in an important issue with a group of dedicated League women.

Kay Sharp

Money in Politics Materials

The [Money in Politics Introduction and Overview paper](#) is now posted. This paper provides a comprehensive overview of the existing LWV position on Campaign Finance, the proposed update, League action on Campaign Finance, the purpose of a campaign finance system and why Money in Politics matters to the League of Women Voters. Newly posted is a [brief background paper](#) (2 pages) on the current LWVUS Money in Politics Review and Update. This short paper provides key points of the MIP Review including scope of work, timeline, current position, background and history. Feel free to use this paper as a handout for your MIP events, as notes for an introduction to an event, as talking points, or as a newsletter article. For additional information, please contact Barbara Zia, MIP Committee Chair at MIPCommitteeChair@lwv.org.

Constitutional Amendment Materials

Subscribe to the newly-formed Yahoo group to discuss the League Constitutional Amendment Study and share information with other League members. To subscribe, send an email message to lwvconamend-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. You will receive an email back inviting you to join the discussion group. Follow the instructions in this email and you will be signed up for the CA discussion group. Be sure to check out [the Constitutional Amendment page](#) on the LWV web site, which includes the Study Guide, Consensus Questions and background materials. Questions can be sent to Pat Donath, CACommitteeChair@lwv.org.

2016 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Now is the time to participate in the identification of issues you want us to lobby for. Below is a list of the issues we, as a State, have chosen to focus on in recent years. Please check items on the form you want to continue to focus on. You may also write in other issues you want addressed in 2016.

Your input is important. We as a local League, along with other local Leagues, send in to the State League our opinion about topics. The Legislative Director, the State League President, and the Issues Specialists review all the issues identified by the local Leagues. They present their ideas to the State League Board of Directors, which then approves the issues for the 2016 Legislative Agenda. As you can see, this is an opportunity to have a voice.

2015 Legislative Agenda issues:

Election Law Reform _____

- Same-day voter registration _____
- Early in-person voting and no-excuse absentee voting _____
- Better ballot design _____

Healthcare _____

- Single-payer insurance _____

Other healthcare issues (for example – school-based health Services) Write in your ideas.

Good Government Reform _____

- Campaign finance _____
- Ethics _____

Judicial Issues _____

- Streamlining the court system _____
- Judicial selection _____
- Improvements in the grand jury system _____

Support of adequate indigents’ defense services _____

- Alternative to incarceration _____

Natural Resources _____

- Energy and climate change _____
- Hazardous waste _____
- Electric grid _____

State Finances and Education _____

- Greater equity in education financing for both pupils and taxpayers _____
- Reform of the property tax system (EITC) _____

Transportation _____

Women’s Issues _____

- Fair pay _____
- Paid family leave _____
- Childcare _____
- Reproductive choice _____
- Sexual harassment _____
- Human trafficking _____

Write in your issues:

Return to Kay Sharp, TCLWV, 278 Black Oak Road, Ithaca 14850 or e-mail phylliskaysharp@gmail.com

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
 51st—Towns of Groton, Dryden, Caroline, Danby

Michael Nozzolio 518-455-2366; 315-568-9816 www.nysenate.gov/senator/michael-f-nozzolio
 54th—Town of Lansing

Thomas O'Mara 518-455-2091; 607-735-9671 www.nysenate.gov/senator/thomas-f-omara
 59th—Towns of Ithaca, Newfield, Enfield, Ulysses, & City of Ithaca

ASSEMBLYWOMAN

Barbara Lifton 518-455-5444; 607-277-8030 www.assembly.state.ny.us/mem/Barbara-Lifton

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 Ithaca, NY 14850-6507