



The

September 2015

LOCAL VOTER LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS SYRACUSE METROPOLITAN AREA

Syracuse Metro LWV
PO Box 11866
Syracuse NY 13218
Phone: (315) 396-8225
Email: league@lwvsyr.org
Web Sites:
Local: www.lwvsyr.org
State: www.lwvny.org
National: www.lwv.org

Calendar

Tuesday, Sept. 10th
Primary Election
Tuesday, Sept. 22nd
OCC Voter Registration
Wednesday, Oct. 7th
Syracuse Board of Education Forum
Tuesday, Nov. 3rd
Election Day

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ELECTION 2015

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

NATURALIZATION CEREMONIES*

September 17 at the Federal Building arrive at 10:30 with the ceremony at 11am

October 15 at the Federal Building arrive at 10:30 with the ceremony at 11am

December 17 at the Federal Building arrive at 10:30 with the ceremony at 11am

* One person is needed at each ceremony. We will mentor you if this is your first time.

VOTER REGISTRATION

September 22: Voter Registration on September 22 from 11am – 2pm
Gordon Student Center at Onondaga Community College. Two people are needed to carry out the registration.

CANDIDATES FORUM

October 7: Syracuse Commissioners of Education Forum, at Huntington K-8 school with room set-up at 5pm. Forum is 6:30 to 8:30. The LWV needs to provide a timer and a table with information, voter registration and organ donor info.

VOTE411.ORG

Assist with contacting candidates and formatting questions for our online election guide. This can be done from home.

For more information and to participate in these events, please contact Voter Service Director Joan Durant at joandurant69@gmail.com or by phone at 673-4837.

***Democracy is not a spectator sport.
It takes all of us to make the system work.***



Tuesday, September 22, 2015

BOARD NOTES

MEMBERSHIP NOTES

**We welcome new members:
Anne Kemper
Elizabeth Stack**

REMINDER

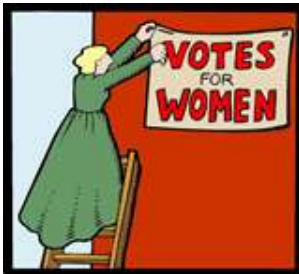
If you have not renewed your membership, please consider doing so. We depend on membership dues to carry out our programs and activities and to support both the National and State Leagues.

If you have misplaced your membership renewal letter, you can use the form on the last page of this newsletter to submit your dues.

To all who have renewed their membership.

THANK YOU

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS



The New York Cultural Heritage Tourism Network is sponsoring a New York Women's Suffrage Centennial Conference, 1917-2017, in Seneca Falls on October 1, 2015. The conference is to provide awareness,

stimulate interest and nurture partnerships in preparation for the Centennial Celebration of women's right to vote in New York State. The state League is participating in this conference as we plan our events, educational forums and materials to celebrate both the centennial of the women's right to vote and the League's 100th anniversary. Members who are interested are encouraged to attend the conference. For more information the link is:

<http://newyorkculturaltourismnetwork.com/>

Officers

Leadership Team
Joan Durant
Joan Johnson

Secretary... Diane Dwire
Treasurer.... Roberta Millert

Directors

Education Margrit Diehl
Membership ... Sylvia Matousek

Publications/Public Relations... Joan Johnson
Voter Service... Joan Durant

Directors-at-large
Mary Ann Barth
Harold Bertram
Michele Jones Galvin
Ann Jamison
Hasoni Pratts

Off-Board Positions

Budget Director.... Vacant
Nominating Committee..... Lisa Alford
Ona Bregman
Diane Chappell-Daly

Technical Support... Roberta Millert

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy. For more information please call (315) 396-8225 or e-mail to league@lwvsyr.org

Diversity Statement

The Syracuse Metropolitan League of Women Voters is committed to diversity and pluralism, which means there shall be no barriers to participation in any League activity on the basis of age, race, ethnicity, gender, disability, sexual orientation, religion, economic status, or national origin.

Please let us know your email address or if your address has changed. It is the most efficient way to communicate. You will be notified of upcoming local events and LWVUS and LWVNY National & State Action Alerts and news.



Your e-mail address will not be shared or sold. Please respond to league@lwvsyr.org if there has been a change on how we can contact you.

FROM YOUR LEADERSHIP TEAM

The days are getting shorter and the trees are beginning to turn color, a sure sign that Election Day is not far away. Soon our local candidates will be ringing your door bell to introduce themselves and let us know where they stand on issues important to our local communities. We hope you listen and learn and make informed choices when you go to the polls.

The Syracuse League will be doing its part to help you make informed choices. Our voter service activities so far include registering students at Onondaga Community College on National Voter Registration Day, September 22nd, and co-hosting a forum for Syracuse Commissioner of Education candidates sponsored by Parents for Public Schools on October 7th.

Once again we will publish an online Voters Guide (www.vote411.org) Here you will find information on the status of your registration, your polling location, and your personal ballot with information on the candidates you will choose on November 3rd.

We also will be available to work with other organizations hosting forums and other activities to assist voters in making informed choices.

We cannot do this without your help. Please consider helping us with these activities. Contact us by email at league@lwvsyr.org or by phone at 315-396-8225.

Joan Durant
Joan Johnson



“Increasing Organ Donation in New York State through Voter Registration”

The LWV of the Syracuse Metropolitan Area is working with the **NEW YORK ALLIANCE FOR DONATION**. The mission of the New York Alliance for Donation (NYAD) is to **increase organ, eye and tissue donation in New York State** through collaborative advocacy, education, promotion, and research. Our goal is to ensure a transplant for every New Yorker in need. At every voter registration event we will:

- Inform people that they can enroll as an organ, eye and tissue donor on their voter registration form.
- Distribute Voter Guides that will contain additional information on organ, eye and tissue donation.
- Distribute campaign-specific postage-paid enrollment brochures provided by NYAD.



**2015 ONONDAGA COUNTY PRIMARY
WHO'S ON THE BALLOT**

DEMOCRATIC PARTY PRIMARIES

NYS ASSEMBLY, 128th DISTRICT:

David M. Stott
Pamela J. Hunter
Jean Kessner

CITY OF SYRACUSE COUNCILOR AT LARGE:

Gary Morris, Sr.
Helen D. Hudson
Steven P. Thompson

CITY OF SYRACUSE COUNCILOR—4TH DISTRICT:

Khalid Bey
Mary A. Nelson

SYRACUSE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION (Vote for 4):

Max Ruckdeschel
Mark D. Muhammad
Rita Paniagua
Katie Sojewicz
Michelle Mignano
Dan Romeo

REPUBLICAN PARTY PRIMARIES

TOWN OF ELBRIDGE COUNCILOR (Vote for 2):

Rita A. Dygert
Anthony W. Demarco
Floyd C. Druger
Douglas C. Blumer

TOWN OF TULLY SUPERVISOR:

William A. Lund, Jr.
Frank Speziale, Jr.

CONSERVATIVE PARTY PRIMARIES

ONONDAGA COUNTY, COUNTY EXECUTIVE:

Toby Shelley
Oscar L. Peterson II

ONONDAGA COUNTY LEGISLATOR—9TH DISTRICT:

Write In

CITY OF SYRACUSE 2ND & 5TH DISTRICT COUNCILORS:

Write In

TOWN OF LYSANDER TOWN COUNCILOR (Vote for 2)

Melinda J. Shimer
Andrew O. Reeves
Write In

INDEPENDENCE PARTY PRIMARY

CITY OF SYRACUSE COUNCILOR—3RD DISTRICT:

David C. Barrette
Joe Porter

**COUNT DOWN TO ELECTION DAY
DATES TO REMEMBER**

**PRIMARY DAY
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10 2015
POLLS OPEN NOON—9 PM**

Sept. 3- Absentee ballot application by mail postmarked
Sept. 9- Last day to apply for an absentee ballot in person
Sept. 10- Deliver absentee ballot in person
Sept. 9- Absentee ballot by mail postmarked
Sept. 17- Mailed absentee ballot must be received

**GENERAL ELECTION
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2015
POLLS OPEN 6AM- 9PM**

Oct. 9— Last day to register in person
Oct 9— Register by mail postmarked
Oct 14— Mailed registration must be received
Nov. 2- Last day to apply for absentee ballot in person
Oct 27- Absentee ballot by mail postmarked
Nov 3— Last day to deliver absentee ballot in person
Nov 10- Mailed absentee ballot must be received

NEW YORK IS A CLOSED PRIMARY STATE

Before the public votes for candidates in a local, state or national election, there is often a primary that determines which candidates will make it to the final round.

New York's closed primary system allows citizens to vote only if they are registered in a specific political party. For example if you are enrolled in the Republican Party, you can only vote in a Republican Primary. This holds true for all political parties in New York State.



**The League of Women Voters
Nonpartisan
Political
Grassroots
Volunteer**



Check Your Registration

Find Your Polling Place

Find Your Candidates

Learn Where They Stand on the Issues

Get Election Info You Need!

FIND IT ALL AT WWW.VOTE411.ORG

The League's Electronic Website

League of Women Voters of the Syracuse Metropolitan Area



*September 17th is
Constitution Day—
the day we celebrate
the formation and
signing of the
United States
Constitution.*

Jennifer Wilson Joins the LWVNYS Staff

We welcome Jennifer Wilson as the new Director of Program and Policy for the NYS League. Jennifer moved to Albany three years ago for a legislative internship with the NYS Assembly. She later applied to the Rockefeller School of Public Affairs and Policy to pursue a Master's in Public Administration. She is in her last semester of her MPA Program and is on track to graduate in December. Previously she served in Senator Schumer's Albany office.

Jennifer can be reached at jennifer@lwvny.org

Issues and Advocacy : Sally Robinson

The State League Needs You! We are looking for volunteers for three different issues-related committees. Please email Laura at the state office at Laura@lwvny.org with any questions about the committees.

If you have an interest in serving on the study committee for the **Legislative Procedures update**, please contact the state office at Katrina@lwvny.org. The update would be focused on two aspects of our current position in particular, although it might consider other parts:

1. the reference to a part-time legislature
2. the ambiguous reference to length of terms.

A recent LWVUS announcement interpreted the Meeting Basic Human Needs position to permit state and local Leagues to lobby in support of raising state or local minimum wages or adopting a living wage position. The state League is forming a committee of League volunteers to look at the issue and possibly make a recommendation on a state minimum wage to the Board. For more information on the **living wage concurrence**, contact Carol Mellor, Grassroots Lobby director (Carolmellor140@gmail.com).

We are also forming a **long-range program planning committee** to look at the last decade or two of program planning, what studies and updates were undertaken, and analyze the effort involved and the results. Please email or call the state office at Katrina@lwvny.org or 518-465-4162 if you are interested in serving on either committee.



“All the ills of democracy can be cured by more democracy.”

*Al Smith, 1873-1944
42nd Governor of
New York State*

Grassroots Lobby Director: Carol Mellor

The delegates at the state Convention agreed to engage our members in a concurrence on the issue referred to as “Raise the Age.” New York is the only state other than North Carolina that prosecutes ALL youth 16 years of age and older as adults. LWV Ohio conducted a full study and several updates on the issue of Juvenile Justice and arrived at Juvenile Justice positions. Paramount in their positions is the principle that children under the age of 18 are not adults and “their treatment within the juvenile justice system should relate to their stage of development,” that the purpose of juvenile justice should be rehabilitation, and that the legal rights of juveniles should be protected”. We will be asking members to concur with some, but not all, of the Ohio position.

WE will be distributing materials, including a Powerpoint presentation, articles, etc, on this issue. We ask that each local League schedule a meeting **during the Fall 2015** to present the materials and ask members to concur with the Ohio position. The results will be due into the state office by January 1 so that if agreement is reached, we can lobby on this new position during the next Legislative session. Include this concurrence in your calendar for a Fall meeting.

**League Day at the United Nations
Thursday, Dec. 3**

The state League is pleased to offer its annual League Day at the United Nations on Thursday, December 3, 2015. This year’s briefings will cover two topics: **Global Healthcare Issues and Educating the Youth of the World.** The briefings this year will be held in the morning, from 10:00-12 noon, followed by lunch in the Delegates’ Dining Room and optional tours of the UN in the afternoon.

For a reservation form, contact the state league at lwvny@lwvny.org or 518-465-4162



HOW TO JUDGE A CANDIDATE

DECIDE WHAT YOU ARE LOOKING FOR IN A CANDIDATE

What are their positions on the issues? Are they issues you care about?
What are their leadership qualities and experience – Intelligence? Honesty? Communications skills?

FIND OUT ABOUT THE CANDIDATES

Call your local Board of Elections
Call your local political party headquarters
Check out candidate's websites and campaign literature
Pay attention to television and radio ads and reports
Read your local newspaper
Attend debates and forums
For incumbents, check their voting records on the issues you care about

LEARN ABOUT THEIR LEADERSHIP SKILLS

Look at their background and experience – are they prepared for the job?
Observe their campaigns – do they accept speaking engagements to debate?
Do they avoid serious questions?

LEARN WHAT OTHER PEOPLE THINK ABOUT THE CANDIDATES

Talk to your neighbors, friends, relatives, political volunteers

LEARN ABOUT ENDORSEMENTS

LOOK INTO CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS

FOLLOW OPINION POLLS

SEE THROUGH DISTORTION TECHNIQUES

Name calling? Rumor mongering? Catchwords? Passing the blame? Promising the impossible? Evading Issues?

SORT IT ALL OUT

What candidates' views on the issues do you agree with?
Who ran the fairest campaign?
Which candidates showed the most knowledge of the issues?
Which candidates have the leadership qualities you are looking for?

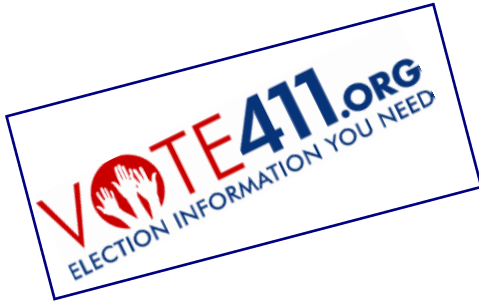
NOW VOTE!

Prepared by the League of Women Voters of the Syracuse Metropolitan Area
www.lwvsyr.org league@lwvsyr.org 315-396-8225 PO Box 11866, Syracuse NY 13218



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
 SYRACUSE METROPOLITAN AREA
 PO BOX 11866
 SYRACUSE NY 13218**

September 2015



JOIN THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK FOR 95 YEARS

_____ Individual Member \$55.00 _____ Household* \$80.00 _____ Student** \$25.00

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Cell Phone _____ E-mail _____

Date _____

To join call us at (315)396-8225, email us at league@lwvsyr.org or mail this form to Syracuse Metro LWV PO Box 11866 Syracuse NY 13218.

ANNUAL DUES—July 1, 2015-June 30, 2016

* Two members in the same household ** Full time student under 25

Please share this information with others who have expressed interest in our work or who have thought about becoming a member of the League.