



# LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TOMPKINS COUNTY

SEPTEMBER 2015

PRESIDENT: KAY SHARP 272-4748

lwvtompkins.org

EDITOR: ROBERT SILSBEE 273-1436

## RAISE THE AGE: THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM

Carol Mellor, Grassroots Director  
for the NYS League

**Thursday, September 24, 7:00 PM**

Borg Warner Room  
Tompkins County Public Library

### PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Here we are in September: off and running with our fall cycle of projects.

Historian Flo Smith has arranged a meeting with the Tompkins County History Center to discuss the organization process to archive our League’s materials. Please join Flo in this fascinating review of our long history as a League.

It is time to renew your membership. You will receive in the mail shortly a membership form to return with your dues. Thank you for your support last year; I hope you will continue this year. In addition to dues, contributions to the League or the Community Foundation are always welcomed.

September 24<sup>th</sup> we have our first program of the season. Carol Mellor, Grassroots Director for the New York State League, will present materials for our concurrence study on “Raise the Age.” New York is one of only two states that tries 16 year old offenders as adults and incarcerates 16 and 17 year olds in adult prisons. We will decide whether we want to change that age to 18 years.

Then in October the Natural Resources will present a program on the electrical grid and

microgrids. Look for details mid-September. The November program will focus on the Governor’s *Women’s Equality Act* and its impact on local agencies and their clients.

We are continuing our voter registration events. Please contact Amy Paneck or Lucia Sciore, our co-Vice Presidents for Voter Services, to join in these tabling events. We always need volunteers. We will also be moderating candidates’ forums for the county. We’ve received our first request, which is from Caroline, where we have been moderating for the past four years.

It is always exciting to hear about the projects we will focus on during the Fall months. I hope to see you at these events.

Kay Sharp, President

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

President’s Message.....	1
Program: Raise the Age.....	2
History Project.....	2
Calendar.....	2
Voter Services.....	3
Board Membership .....	3
Natural Resources .....	4
Students in Albany.....	4
Representatives in Washington and Albany...	6



**RAISE THE AGE: THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM**

Age makes a difference! Age determines whether one is treated as an adult or a juvenile in the New York State justice system. Our state and North Carolina are the only two that prosecute ALL youth as adults if they are over 16, thereupon sending them to adult prisons when sentenced. LWV Ohio has 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.

Carol Mellor, Grassroots Director of the New York State League will discuss a position developed by the Ohio State League to protect juveniles younger than 18 from prosecution as adults. This open meeting will be on Thursday, September 24, 7:00-8:30 PM. in the Borg Warner Room, Tompkins County Public Library. A concurrence meeting to consider

usupporting this position, open to all League members, is scheduled for Tuesday, December 8. This September meeting offers the opportunity to become better acquainted with the issues.

Dorothy Rinaldo  
Co-Chair: Programs

**LWV HISTORY PROJECT BEGINS**

A message from Florence B. Smith  
LWVTC Historian

I was appointed to a new position of Historian by the Board last spring, for a term of 2 years, and charged with the task of forming an ad hoc committee to gather and organize important league documents for safe keeping at the History Center in Ithaca. Donna Eschenbrenner, Archivist at the Center, will guide and assist us in this major project.

For the past 2 or 3 decades there has been no system for saving important documents; Board members have kept the records they generated in their own homes. As members moved on from their positions, some important papers were transferred from one person to the next,

**(TENTATIVE) LWV-TC CALENDAR—2015-2016**

<b>Sep 24</b>	<b>Thu</b>	<b>7:00 pm</b>	<b>RAISE THE AGE: THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM</b>	<b>TCPL</b>
Oct 5	Mon	7:00 pm	Board Meeting	Old Jail
<b>Oct 19</b>	<b>Mon</b>	<b>7:00 p m</b>	<b>THE NEW ELECTRIC GRID: WHAT WILL IT MEAN FOR US</b>	<b>TCPL</b>
Nov 2	Mon	7:00 pm	Board Meeting	Old Jail
<b>Nov 16</b>	<b>Mon</b>	<b>7:00 pm</b>	<b>WOMEN’S EQUALITY ACT</b>	
Dec 5	Sat	am	Board Brunch	TBA
<b>Dec 8</b>	<b>Tue</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>Concurrence Meeting on Juvenile Justice System</b>	<b>TBA</b>
Jan 4	Mon	7:00 pm	Board Meeting	Old Jail
<b>Jan?</b>	<b>Mon</b>	<b>7:00 pm</b>	<b>Health Care (?NY Health Act?)</b>	
Feb1	Mon	7:00 pm	Board Meeting	Old Jail
<b>Feb ?</b>	<b>Sat</b>	<b>12:00 pm</b>	<b>Soup &amp; Bread Luncheon</b>	
Mar 7	Mon	7:00 pm	Board Meeting	Old Jail
<b>Mar ?</b>	<b>Mon</b>	<b>7:00 pm</b>	<b>TBA</b>	
Apr 4	Mon	7:00 pm	Board Meeting	Old Jail
<b>Apr ?</b>	<b>Mon</b>	<b>7:00 pm</b>	<b>TBA</b>	
<b>May 2</b>	<b>Mon</b>	<b>6:00 pm</b>	<b>Annual Dinner Meeting</b>	
Jun 6	Mon	7:00 pm	Board Meeting	Old Jail

but new members of the League Board often rely heavily on the memories of long term members for an understanding of the past work of the League.

Presently the History Center holds more than 40 boxes of LWV documents in the archives. The bulk of the papers cover the period from 1950 - 1977, and a smaller collection of Voter Services activities between 1985 and 2005 was added.

Donna stated that the League collection is a heavily used resource for students, local leaders and those interested in particular issues, such as; housing, social services, education and the environment. We will add a vital resource to the History Center's archives as we add to and organize our materials.

We will start the project by meeting with Donna Eschenbrenner on MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14TH, 1:30 PM at the History Center. Donna will orient us to the History Center Archives and explain the process we will use to sort and organize the important papers collected by

League members. One or more sessions will then be arranged for a later time to work with this extensive set of material.

If you are interested in this project please contact me, 273-6147 or [<fbarrthims@gmail.com>](mailto:fbarrthims@gmail.com)

Flo Smith, Historian

## VOTER SERVICES

Voter Services has been very active this summer. We tabled at more events than in the past: Dragon Boat Festival, Dryden Lake Festival, Naturalization Ceremony, Roller Derby and Southside Festival. Also we tabled at TC3 and Ithaca College, not only for voter registrations by also received some interest in student members. If you missed an opportunity to table with us, don't be sad; there are six more opportunities this year that include Roller Derby, National Voter Registration Day and Apple Harvest Festival. Call or email us for

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

LWV NYS website

[www.lwvny.org](http://www.lwvny.org)

LWV US website

[www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)

LWV-Tompkins County

contact  
website

272-4748

[lwvtc@twcny.rr.com](mailto:lwvtc@twcny.rr.com)  
[lwvtompkins.org](http://lwvtompkins.org)

#### Board Members

6/17	President	Kay Sharp	272-4748	<a href="mailto:phylliskaysharp@gmail.com">phylliskaysharp@gmail.com</a>	
6/17	Secretary	Willa Hahn	540-686-6587	<a href="mailto:willahahn@gmail.com">willahahn@gmail.com</a>	
6/16	Treasurer	Diane Kelleher	257-5551	<a href="mailto:diane2110@icloud.com">diane2110@icloud.com</a>	
6/17	Co-VP1	Co-Program	Marnie Johnson	2572948	<a href="mailto:islandmarnie@gmail.com">islandmarnie@gmail.com</a>
6/17	Co-VP1	Co-Program	Dorothy Rinaldo	257-5667	<a href="mailto:dotrin7@gmail.com">dotrin7@gmail.com</a>
6/16	Co-VP2	Co-Voter Services	Lucia Sciore	351-0221	<a href="mailto:luciasciore@gmail.com">luciasciore@gmail.com</a>
6/16	Co-VP2	Co-Voter Services	Amy Panek	617-448-6841	<a href="mailto:amy.panek@gmail.com">amy.panek@gmail.com</a>
6/17	Director	Natural Resources	Kay Wagner	539-3322	<a href="mailto:cmw18@cornell.edu">cmw18@cornell.edu</a>
6/17	Director		Sorel Gottfried	272-3910	<a href="mailto:sorel9@gmail.com">sorel9@gmail.com</a>
6/16	Director		Runjini Raman	940-300-4592	<a href="mailto:rr595@cornell.edu">rr595@cornell.edu</a>
	Director	Membership	vacant		
	Director	Communications	vacant		

#### Off-Board Chairs:

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

details. ([luciasciore@gmail.com](mailto:luciasciore@gmail.com)  
[amy.panek@gmail.com](mailto:amy.panek@gmail.com)) Plans are in the works  
 for moderating candidate forums for this fall's  
 elections. Volunteers are always helpful.

Do you ride the bus? Soon our advertisements  
 will be inside the buses. You can see them as  
 you let TCAT transport you to your  
 destinations.

Help the League to advertise the work that we  
 do. Wear your League button whenever you go  
 out shopping or to the market. Show your pride  
 in the League!

Lucia Sciore and Amy Panek, Co-Chairs

### NATURAL RESOURCES

The Natural Resources Committee has been  
 busy planning our program to be held on  
 October 19 at 7:00 PM at the Borg Warner  
 Room of the library. The focus of the program  
 will be on the New York State electrical grid,  
 including its current state, why it needs to be  
 upgraded and why major changes need to be  
 incorporated. As part of the program we also  
 plan to discuss the current Tompkins County  
 feasibility study which will analyze the viability  
 of the construction of a microgrid in the county.

New York State is in the midst of discussion  
 and planning concerning the future of our  
 energy transmission and production. In  
 particular, the Public Service Commission and  
 Governor Cuomo have put together a proposal  
 called *Reforming our Energy Vision* (referred to  
 as REV). With climate change well under way  
 and a system for production and transmission of  
 energy that is old and outdated, we need to  
 move to clean renewable sources of energy  
 production as quickly as possible. This will  
 require a redesign of our electrical grid in order  
 to support what will be a highly distributed  
 system of energy supply and storage. It is with  
 this prospect in mind that the Natural Resources  
 Committee has decided it is important to present  
 a program that will help the public understand  
 what is at stake and what changes need to be  
 made.

The second part of our program will cover the  
 possibility of creating a microgrid in Tompkins  
 County. A microgrid is a small electrical grid  
 that can produce, store and distribute its own  
 electricity even if it is cut off from other sources  
 of power. The hope is that the installation of  
 microgrids can help communities become  
 resilient in the face of severe storms or other  
 major catastrophes. The project proposed by  
 Tompkins County would include the regional  
 airport and other local vital services.

In addition to working further on plans for our  
 program, our committee will be investigating the  
 subject of land use, particularly as it impacts our  
 local region. We have just started thinking  
 about this subject and would enjoy having more  
 members join us. If you are interested in  
 coming to our meetings contact Kay Wagner  
 (539-3322, [cmw18@cornelledu](mailto:cmw18@cornelledu)).

Kay Wagner, Chair

### 2015 STUDENTS INSIDE ALBANY

Our League has participated in the *Students  
 Inside Albany* program for a number of years,  
 screening student applicants from the local high  
 schools and supporting one or two student in the  
 program each year. The following provides a  
 summary of this spring's program.

The 2015 Students Inside Albany Conference  
 had 62 attendees representing 41 local Leagues,  
 MAL Units and ILO's. The students came from  
 all over New York State from Long Island to  
 Buffalo and Plattsburgh to Binghamton. They  
 ranged from sophomores to seniors in high  
 school. They were energetic and enthusiastic to  
 learn about New York State government.

On Sunday evening, Blair Horner, Legislative  
 Director, NY Public Interest Group (NYPIRG),  
 presented information on how New York State  
 Government works. He explained the roles of  
 the various branches of New York State  
 government and the differences between the  
 state government and the other levels of  
 government, eg, national and local.

On Monday, the students toured the state  
 Capitol and heard about whose faces are on

those engraved stones and the secret of the fireplaces in the Senate Chambers. League Legislative Director, Barbara Bartoletti, then provided them with the do's and don'ts of lobbying the legislators – how to approach them, make your arguments and be persuasive. Senator George Latimer joined the group to allow students to role play in lobbying him. Students were able to approach the Senator and lobby him on an issue of the student's choice. It was wonderful of the Senator to engage with the students in this activity.

In the afternoon, the students were directed to find their Assemblymember's offices and shadow their legislator. All of the students were escorted onto the Assembly and introduced on the floor of the Chamber. They viewed the legislators at their desks and the Chamber in session.

After dinner, Casey Seiler, Capital Bureau Chief for the *Times Union*, and Jimmy Vielkind, Chief of Albany Bureau, *Capitol New York*, discussed the role of the media in covering and influencing public policy decisions. They also discussed the tension between the increased speed of media coverage due in large part to the growth of social media and the constant need to confirm sources and information.

On Tuesday, Jasmine Gripper, Education Advocate, from the Alliance for Quality Education, presented information to the students on education issues and the methods they use to advocate for these issues. The topic was of particular interest to the students who asked many questions on financing education, but also the hot topics of Common Core and APPR. Jessica Wisneski, Legislative and Campaigns Director for Citizens Action of NY, also spoke to the students about their activities in lobbying, but focused more on their strategies for enlisting the public in advocating for change.

On the way to the Capitol that afternoon, the students had a tour of the Chambers of the Court of Appeals and heard about the different levels of the judiciary in New York State from Gary

Spencer, Information Officer at the Court of Appeals.

The students shadowed their Senator on Tuesday and again were escorted to the floor. During session, a few veterans were honored by the Senate, but then the Senate recessed for a Finance Committee meeting. Some students were able to join Barbara Bartoletti and attend the Committee meeting.

On Wednesday morning, Barbara Bartoletti engaged the students in a discussion of what they saw in the Assembly and Senate. Much of the discussion surrounded questions on procedures and voting in both Chambers and the role of leadership in each Chamber. The students were also presented individually with a certificate for attendance at the Conference. Seven students noted that they had been offered internships in the legislators' offices for the summer.

Just for fun, the students also went bowling one night at a local bowling alley that provided laser lights, disco lights, black lights, and runway lights combined with the latest music videos on a giant screen. The group also enjoyed a boat cruise on the Hudson River another evening to view the city skyline.

Quotes from some of the students included:

\_SIA gives an honest chance to grasp the reigns of state government, giving you all that you need in a comfortable environment, while leaving it entirely up to you to form your own convictions.

\_I learned that anyone can express opinions to legislators and really make a difference. I am going to keep up with the legislators' actions by stopping by their offices and going online.

\_SIA has made me want to become more active in my state government because I now know ways to contact my local representatives and positively affect my community through politics.

\_Our school government teachers don't even break the surface of state government and seeing it function first hand was very cool.

From the NYS League Education Fund

## YOUR REPRESENTATIVES IN WASHINGTON

## SENATORS:

Kirsten E. Gillibrand 202-224-4451 e-mail and web-site: [www.gillibrand.senate.gov](http://www.gillibrand.senate.gov)  
Charles E. Schumer 202-224-6542; [senator@schumer.senate.gov](mailto:senator@schumer.senate.gov) ; [www.schumer.senate.gov](http://www.schumer.senate.gov)

## REPRESENTATIVES:

Tom Reed 202-225-3161; 607-654-7566; e-mail and web-site: [reed.house.gov](http://reed.house.gov)

## YOUR REPRESENTATIVES IN ALBANY

## SENATORS

James Seward 518-455-3131; 607-758-9005 [www.nysenate.gov/senator/james-l-seward](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.assembly.state.ny.us/mem/Barbara-Lifton)

League of Women Voters of Tompkins County  
433 Savage Farm Drive  
Ithaca, NY 14850-6507