



The

Winter 2016

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



**HAPPY 96TH
BIRTHDAY
LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS
FEBRUARY 14**

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**NYS PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY
TUESDAY, APRIL 19, 2016**

**LAST DAY TO REGISTER
FRIDAY, MARCH 25, 2016**



In person: At the Board of Elections

By mail: Application must be post-marked by March 25th

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE SYRACUSE METRO AREA

ANNUAL BREAKFAST WITH YOUR STATE LEGISLATORS



Friday, April 8, 2016
Craftsman Inn
7300 East Genesee Street , Fayetteville NY 13066

7:45—9:30 AM

Breakfast Buffet —\$20.00

- Come and meet your state legislative representatives -
- Learn where they stand on the issues you care about-
- Take a chance on our annual raffle- baskets and more-

RESERVATIONS

Phone: 315-396-8225
Email: league@lwvsyr.org

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Number of Reservations @ \$20.00 _____ Total \$ _____

If paying by check, make payable to: **LWVSYR Education Fund**

**RESERVATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY FRIDAY, APRIL 1, 2016
The Breakfast and Program Are Open To The Public**

BOARD NOTES

MEMBERSHIP NOTES

We are sorry to announce the passing of League member, **Phyllis Budell**, Phyllis was a long time member of the Syracuse League and served on the Board.

TRIAL MEMBERSHIPS

Once again we are offering trial memberships to men and women who would like to learn more about the League. Simply fill out the form on the last page of this newsletter. Your trial period begins once we receive your application and continues to the end of our fiscal year, June 30, 2016.

If you have friends or colleagues who may be interested in the League, please pass this information on to them.

HOW YOU CAN SHOW YOUR SUPPORT FOR THE SYRACUSE METRO LWV

\$_____ LWVSYR gifts support our local general operation fund (non-tax deductible)

\$_____ LWVNYS Education Foundation gifts (tax deductible) Simply note on your check that you are donating to the Syracuse LWV and your donation will be held in our grants management account to be used for our local educational programs.

Please mail your check payable to:
Syracuse Metro LWV
PO Box 11866
Syracuse NY 13218

SAVE THE DATE— SATURDAY, APRIL 2, 2016

The Syracuse LWV will host 1 of 4 Regional Training Workshops across the state sponsored by the State League. Having one of these events in our area provides a great opportunity for our members to meet state leaders and leaguers from surrounding communities and to learn and share ideas. The workshop will be held at the Liverpool Public Library from 10:30am – 3:30pm.

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
Peggy Chase
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 the League office at (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

With the New Year comes a new legislative session in Albany. Although it is a new session many of the issues have been around for a long time. The League stands ready once again to advocate for the matters we feel need to be addressed. They include campaign and ethics reform, election law reforms, greater equity in financing public education, fair pay, paid family leave, reforms to our healthcare system, protecting our natural resources, transportation issues and the list goes on.

The League is a part of a coalition that is supporting a single payer healthcare system for New Yorkers. The State Assembly has passed legislation and it is now up to the Senate to do the same. Although the Affordable Healthcare Act has vastly improved the numbers covered by healthcare insurance, there is a lot of room for improvement. On January 14th several members of our League heard the bill's sponsor, Assemblyman Richard Gottfried, speak on the merits of going to a single payer system. The Syracuse League will sponsor the showing of a documentary on the advantages of such a system on April 12th at OASIS (see page 4 of this newsletter). We hope to present the movie at other venues in the area during the next few months. We will keep you posted.

On Saturday, April 2nd the State League will be here for one of four workshops they are holding across the state. The event offers a great opportunity for our members to meet many of our state leaders, mingle with other leaguers in Central New York and learn more about our organization.

Plans are well underway for our annual legislative breakfast which is scheduled for Friday, April 8th at the Craftsman Inn in Fayetteville. This is always a well attended event where our state delegation discusses many of the issues of concern to our members and friends.

We also hope to mount an aggressive voter registration program during the months prior to the general election. A Presidential election always garners more interest than off year elections. Encouraging our local college and high school seniors to register to vote will be a priority.

As you can see, there is much work to be done. We hope you will join us in ***“MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK.”***

Joan Johnson

CALENDAR

Saturday, March 19, 2016, 9:30am
Dunkin Donuts, 758 W. Genesee St
(Corner of W. Genesee & Geddes)

LWVSYR Board Meeting

Saturday, April 2, 2016, 10:30 am-3:30 pm
Liverpool Public Library, Tulip St, Liverpool

LWVNYS Regional Workshop

Friday, April 8, 2016, 7:45—9:30 am
Craftsman Inn, Fayetteville NY

LWVSYR Annual Legislative Breakfast

Tuesday, April 12, 2016, 5:30pm
Syracuse OASIS, 3633 Rt 298, East Syracuse 13057

Fix It Health, Healthcare at the Tipping Point

FIX IT

HEALTHCARE AT THE TIPPING POINT

Join us for a screening of the documentary, ***FIX IT, HEALTHCARE AT THE TIPPING POINT***. The movie documents the current healthcare crisis in the United States. Despite recent reforms, Americans remain vulnerable to economic catastrophe with a serious illness or injury—insured and uninsured alike.

“Out of control healthcare costs continue to be a heavy burden for millions of Americans. One third of Americans don’t get the healthcare they need because of cost. Our businesses are under relentless pressure from increasing healthcare costs. The devastating impact ripples through our economy, impacting infrastructure, schools and local governments. This is a problem we can fix if we just follow best practices from around the world.”

Richard Master

Executive Producer

On May 27, 2015, the New York State Assembly passed the New York Health Act— a single-payer bill introduced by longtime sponsor Richard Gottfried— by a 2:1 majority. The bill was passed because of the impact of the Coalition for New York Health, a statewide organization of over 150 groups across the state that endorsed the bill including Labor, Community Groups, Physicians’ Groups, Public Health Groups, Faith Groups, Senior Groups and Legislative Bodies.



Syracuse OASIS Senior Education Center
6333 Route 298, East Syracuse NY 13057
Tuesday, April 12, 2016— 5:30pm

A PANEL DISCUSSION WILL FOLLOW THE MOVIE

Sponsored by: Syracuse Metro LWV, CNY NOW, NYS Nurses Association, Syracuse Chapter National Association of Social Workers

Answers to Quiz on Page 6:

#1 Straw Polls, Straw polls are informal votes taken to gauge voters’ opinions of and interest in presidential candidates.

#2 All Registered Voters,

#3 Alaska

#4 No Set Percentage, In a winner take-all state, the candidate who wins more than any other candidate, even if it is less than 50%, of the delegates. In a proportional state, candidates win delegates in proportion to the votes received.

#5 Superdelegates. Superdelegates are typically elected office holders who are free to pledge their support to the candidate of their choice.

Living Wage Committee

The Living Wage Committee was charged by the LWVNY Convention 2015 to determine what is an appropriate living wage for our state and its localities.

LWVUS has said that Leagues may take action on a living wage under the national position on Meeting Basic Human Needs that includes the statement "People who are unable to work, whose earnings are inadequate or for whom jobs are not available have the right to an income and/or services sufficient to meet their basic needs for food, shelter and access to health care." The position further states that, "one of the goals of social policy should be to promote self-sufficiency for individuals and families." Guidance from LWVUS requires that state and local leagues do the research necessary to determine what an appropriate wage is for their own community.

The committee further defined a living wage using the Buffalo/Niagara concurrence with the LWV Kansas position: *A living wage should provide sufficient income without government assistance, for food, clothing, housing, energy, transportation, health care, education, child care, and a small amount of discretionary income.*

Barb Thomas
LWVNY Women's Issues Specialist

Advocating for a Living Wage in Ithaca NY—August 2015



Paid Family Leave Committee

Act now to encourage Governor Cuomo and the NYS Senate to pass the Paid Family Leave Act!

The League supports gender neutral paid family leave from employment to care for a sick child, spouse, or parent. Paid Family Leave can pass in the upcoming legislative session. But to get it passed we have to demonstrate public support.

We hope to have petitions to pass asking for your signature of support in the next few weeks. Letters to the editor including personal stories about the need are especially effective.

A Lobby Day will be held in Albany on February 2nd.

Barb Thomas
LWVNY
Women's Issues Specialist



New York Women's Suffrage Centennial

The League of Women Voters of New York State applauds Governor Cuomo for authorizing the Women's Suffrage 100th anniversary Commemoration Commission. New York State had played a critical role in the history of the women's suffrage movement nationwide. The Commission will help implement events and programs to celebrate these key accomplishments during the centennial year of 2017. We hope the Governor will continue to support our efforts and approve sufficient funding for the Commission in his 2016 budget.



Dare Thompson, LWVNYS President

Advocacy Training Day Tuesday, May 10, 2016

This year the State League will combine its annual advocacy training day with an actual lobby day. The schedule calls for plans to hear presentations from our Issue Specialists in the morning, lunch for networking, and then visits with our own legislators to lobby our League priority issues.

Mark you calendar and watch for more info on the day.



SEE HOW MUCH YOU KNOW ABOUT THE PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARIES

- Which of the following is NOT a method of selecting a candidate for a general election?
 Straw Poll Primary Caucus Convention
- Who can vote in an open primary?
 Democrats Republicans Independents All Registered Voters
- Which of the following states holds a caucus to choose a presidential nominee?
 Alaska Michigan Oklahoma South Dakota
- In a winner-take-all state, what percentage of the vote must a candidate win in order to claim all of the state's delegates?
 35% 51% 100% No set percentage
- What makes Superdelegates different from delegates at nominating conventions?
 There is no difference They hold their own convention They can pledge their votes without regard to primary or caucus results They create their own party platform

Answers on Page 4

VOTER SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

REGISTER NEW VOTERS

This year's presidential election promises to be exciting and right now unpredictable. Presidential election years always turn out more voters and this year does not appear to be an exception with prospective candidates in both major parties energizing the electorate.

As always the League stands ready to conduct voter registration drives especially in our local colleges and high schools. Volunteers are needed to help organize events and participate in registration activities.

**Please consider volunteering to help us out with both these activities by contacting the League at league@lwvsyr.org or by phone at 396-8225. You do not have to be a member of the League to help us. We will pair you with a League member.*

REGISTER NEW CITIZENS AT NATURALIZATION CEREMONIES 2016

Location	Date & Time
Federal Building Ceremonial Courtroom #1	Thursday, March 17 11:00am*
Federal Building Ceremonial Courtroom #1	Thursday, April 21 11:00am*
Federal Building Ceremonial Courtroom #1	Thursday, May 19 11:00am*
Federal Building Ceremonial Courtroom #1	Thursday, June 16 11:00am*
Federal Building Ceremonial Courtroom #1	Thursday, August 18 11:00am*
Federal Building Courtroom 5, 12 th floor	Friday, September 16 11:00am*
Federal Building Ceremonial Courtroom #1	Thursday, October 20 11:00am*
Federal Building Ceremonial Courtroom #1	Thursday, November 17 11:00am*
Federal Building Ceremonial Courtroom #1	Thursday, December 15 11:00am*

***Please arrive 30 minutes early for all ceremonies with 100 voter registration forms**

League of Women Voter of the Syracuse Metropolitan Area Strategic Planning 2015-2016

Mission:

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy is-

The principles that guide our organization...

The goal of the League of Women Voters is to empower citizens to shape better communities worldwide.

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political membership organization which

- acts after study and member agreement to achieve solutions in the public interest on key community issues at all government levels,
- builds citizen participation in the democratic process and
- engages communities in promoting positive solutions to public policy issues through education and advocacy

Using the mission statement and the principles that guide our organization a group of members examined our strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. This is the plan that was designed to incorporate the issues of communication, events/programs and membership:

1. To continue the trial membership program with the addition of assigning a league member to stay in contact with the new trial member.
2. To increase awareness and use of our website www.lwvsyr.org and face book site LWVSYRACUSE by inviting members to use and incorporate the leagues pages into their own sites.
3. To increase communications with members by having Board Members contacting a list of members on an ongoing basis.
4. To increase our membership by involving and educating newly retired people on the League.
5. To increase our membership by involving and educating college age students through contact with government groups at local colleges.
6. Developing programs to keep current members involved and to recruit new members. This is a responsibility of all Members. Current programs in the planning stages are Single Payer and the Legislative Breakfast
7. To continue voter education programs such as voter registration at monthly Naturalization Ceremonies, VOTE 411 voter guide and candidate forums.

How can you help to encourage an informed and active participation in government, work to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influence public policy through education and advocacy?

- Volunteer to help organize a program, do a voter registration event or stay in contact with a new trial member
- Attend programs **and bring a friend**
- Include the Leagues on your social media sites

Joan Durant, Co-leader
League of Women Voters of the Syracuse Metro Area





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

Winter 2016



JOIN THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

With A Free Trial Membership

The League of Women Voters of the Syracuse Metro Area is offering a free trial membership to our local League for new members. The first time membership only runs from now until **June 30, 2016** when you will be invited to join as a full member of the League—local, state and national. We are offering many new programs. Take advantage of this offer and learn what the League is all about and our 90 plus year history.

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

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

Phone _____ **Cell Phone** _____ **E-mail** _____

**To join email us at league@lwvsyr.org or mail this form to
 Syracuse Metro LWV PO Box 11866 Syracuse NY 13218.**