



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TOMPKINS COUNTY

OCTOBER 2016

PRESIDENT: KAY SHARP 272-4748

lwvtompkins.org

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GUN VIOLENCE

Film: Making a Killing: Guns, Greed and the NRA

Comments: Barbara Lifton, NYS Assembly

Q&A about NYS Legislation to Follow the Film

Monday, October 24 at 7:00 PM

CINEMAPOLIS
(FREE ADMISSION)

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The Natural Resources Committee has been planning a program for Monday, November 14, at 7p.m. in the Borg Warner Room of the Tompkins County Public Library. The program, "Roads to Our Energy Future," will focus on Tompkins County's Energy Roadmap and some of the ways it can be implemented. The Roadmap, produced in March 2016, is a feasibility study that analyzes different possible ways to reduce the county greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by at least 80% from 2008 levels by 2050 while still meeting the projected energy needs.

The speakers for our program will be Katie Borgella, Deputy Commissioner of Planning for Tompkins County and Jonathan Comstock, head of the Tompkins County Heat Smart program. They will explain what the roadmap is, the issues surrounding the measurement of our current and future GHG emissions, and some

methods for reducing these emissions. The discussion will include a look at the use of heat pumps and other ways to cut back on our energy needs. This should be a very interesting program and we hope all of you will attend.

As our committee continues to meet this year we are looking at issues surrounding local development and its connection to energy issues. In particular, we want to learn more about local needs for housing, especially

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Natural Resources.....	1
History Committee	2
October Events	2
Calendar.....	2
Women's Suffrage Celebration.....	3
Senator Gillibrand's Visit.....	3
Constitutional Convention.....	4
The LWV Board Membership.....	5
Representatives in Washington and Albany....	6

affordable housing. Housing needs are at the forefront of our county’s challenges at the present time and some of our committee members hope to attend the county forum on housing to be held in late November.

To learn more about our committee or if you wish to join us, contact Kay Wagner, 607-539-3322, cmw18@cornell.edu.

Kay Wagner

HISTORY COMMITTEE

The History Committee will meet with Donna Eschenbrenner at the History Center at 1:00 pm Wednesday, October 19th to continue working on our project to archive important League records. The History committee is growing with the addition of Kathy Yen. She joins Lucia Sciore, Amy Panek, Diane Kelleher, Debbie Levin and Kathy Burlitch. If preserving the history of the league is important to you, please join us, contact Flo Smith at 273-6147or <fbarrthims@gmail.com>.

Flo Smith

OCTOBER EVENTS

Two important dates to mark on your calendar are Saturday morning, October 15, at 10:00 and Monday evening, October 24, at 7:00.

Coffee with the Candidates

Please join the Tompkins County League of Women Voters for a candidate forum featuring the two candidates for the 58th Senate District, incumbent State Senator Thomas O’Mara (R) and challenger Leslie Danks Burke (D).

The 58th Senate District is one of New York State's geographically largest legislative

districts, encompassing five counties across the Southern Tier and Finger Lakes regions: Chemung, Schuyler, Steuben and Yates counties, and a portion of Tompkins County (the city and town of Ithaca, and the towns of Enfield, Newfield and Ulysses). The candidate forum will be moderated by a representative from the League of Women

Voters and written questions will be collected from the audience and presented to the candidates.

Saturday, October 15, 10:00-11:30 AM
The Space at GreenStar, 701 W. Buffalo Street

Gun Violence

The October 24 program will feature the film *Making a Killing: Guns, Greed, and The NRA*, which tells the stories of how guns, and the - billions made off of them, affect the lives of everyday Americans. It features personal stories from people across the country who have been affected by gun violence, including survivors and victims' families. The film exposes how the powerful gun companies and the NRA are resisting responsible legislation for the sake of profit and thereby putting people in danger. The film looks into gun tragedies that include unintentional shootings, domestic violence, suicides, mass shootings and trafficking - and what we can do to put an end to this profit-driven crisis.

Following the film, Assemblywoman Barbara Lifton will offer a few comments on the film and take questions related to NYS gun legislation.

Monday, October 24 at 7:00 PM
Cinemapolis — Free Admission

LWV-TC CALENDAR—2016-2017

Oct 15	Sat	10:00 am	CANDIDATE FORUM: O’MARA/DANKS BURKE	The Space (Greenstar)
Oct 24	Mon	7:00 pm	MAKING A KILLING: GUNS, GREED & THE NRA	Cinemapolis
Nov 1	Tues	7:00 pm	Board Meeting	Kendal, Room A
Nov 14	Mon	7:00 pm	TOMPKINS COUNTY ENERGY ROADMAP	TCPL
Dec 10	Sat	9:30 am	Board Breakfast meeting	Coffman

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE CELEBRATION

Please see the Historians Report in the LWVTC September 2016 bulletin to read about the plans for a Community Wide Celebration of Women's Suffrage in New York State. The following excerpt from an e-mail, sent by Rod Howe, director of the History Center, to community leaders to inform them of the plans, sets the stage for the celebration:

"In 2017 it will be 100 years since New York State signed woman's suffrage into law, three years before the US passed the 19th Amendment. This was a milestone for the state and a transformative moment in American democracy. Equal opportunity is as important a topic today as it was when Susan B. Anthony was arrested in Rochester for attempting to vote. This historical moment is the perfect time to frame a statewide discussion about the social, professional and political equality of women—and by extension, all citizens—in New York State." *—from New York Council for the Humanities' web page*

We agree that this is a moment for education, conversation and discussion, not only statewide and nationally but locally. There have been local gatherings to discuss what might happen in Tompkins County not only to celebrate this milestone and the arc of the struggle but also to call attention to the work that still needs attention. A small core group, with Kay Sharp and Flo Smith representing the LWVTC, has come together to keep track of events, seed ideas, connect people and provide some level of coordination.

We envision a google calendar for posting suffrage initiatives and a website for posting resources. The History Center in Tompkins County has agreed to be the main point of contact. There are specific ideas already in play from developing a toolkit for school and community groups to a reading of Declaration of Sentiments to book talks. There are many ideas that have been brainstormed including ways to involve youth; collecting oral histories; using theater as a way of promoting dialogue; showing movies; art and essay contests; a series of newspaper columns offering differing

perspectives on voting and citizenship. There are also a number of programs that are possible including, women in politics, when did others receive the right to vote, and changing the NYS constitution.

We can use everyone's help. If you are a member of any group or organization that may partner with us, contact Flo Smith or Kay Sharp. We will need to meet with the other groups to plan and then coordinate with Rod Howe and the Women's Suffrage Core Group.

Flo Smith

A GILLIBRAND VISIT TO ITHACA

Ithaca, N.Y. 9/30/16 – U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand today announced the bipartisan *Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission Act (S.3073)* at The History Center in Tompkins County. This legislation would establish a Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission in honor of the 100th anniversary of the passage and ratification of 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which guaranteed women the right to vote. The Commission would work with federal, state and local governments, private organizations, as well as Congress to develop and coordinate educational activities for Americans to learn about the suffrage movement. Under this legislation, the Commission would provide grants that support organizations in upstate New York and across the country commemorating the anniversary of the 19th Amendment.

"This legislation would help educate and inspire young people around the country about the unparalleled importance of the women's suffrage movement in American history" said **Senator Gillibrand**. "The women's suffrage movement was born in New York, it was championed by fearless women like Juanita Breckenridge Bates, and nearly a century after the 19th Amendment was passed and ratified, our state continues to be at the forefront of fighting for women's rights, from paid family leave to equal pay for equal work. The 19th Amendment changed the world for the better, and it deserves our commemoration. I will urge

all of my colleagues in the Senate to support the Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission Act."

The State of New York was the birthplace of the women's suffrage movement and it hosts some of the most legendary landmarks that helped shape this monumental gain in America's history. New York was a powerful force in the movement for equal rights for women and the passage and ratification of the Nineteenth amendment. This bill provides the opportunity for New York to be recognized as an instrumental part in the struggle for women's suffrage by providing grant funding for programs and activities that commemorate the efforts of the movement and the role of New Yorkers who promoted the core values of our democracy.

Gillibrand Office Press Release

CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION?

Every 20 years, New York voters are given the opportunity to vote for or against holding a state constitutional convention. In 2017 voters will once again be faced with this important ballot proposal and the League has already begun to work in conjunction with academic institutions and other good government groups to educate and empower voters.

The League has partnered with the Rockefeller Institute, the Government Law Center at Albany Law School, and the Siena Research Institute, to implement a multiyear campaign to ensure that all of New York's voters have a clearer sense of what a Constitutional convention could achieve. The coalition has already held multiple educational forums throughout the state.

The first program focused on getting the media up to speed on the historical significance of constitutional conventions and the potential impact one might have in New York. A second forum highlighted the potential ethical reforms that could be achieved by amending the constitution. The most recent forum discussed how a convention would be organized and what aspects of the Constitution could be streamlined through a convention. Additional forums on

various issues to be considered during a possible convention are being planned for later this year.

Internally, the League has begun creating its own educational materials and programs which it plans to release in the fall of 2016. The League also started educating its members by inviting constitutional scholars to speak at regional training workshops in Saratoga, Buffalo, Syracuse, and New York City. Our members were delighted to hear from Gerald Benjamin (Associate Vice President for Regional Engagement and Director of the Benjamin Center for Public Policy Initiatives at SUNY New Paltz), Christopher Bopst (Chief Legal and Financial Officer of Sam-Son Logistics, Inc. in Buffalo and co-author of numerous articles on state constitutional conventions), and Peter Galie (Professor Emeritus and Former Chairman of the Political Science Department at Canisius College) during the training sessions. The presentations are all posted on the state League website and provide members with a taste of what is to come in 2017.

If the ballot measure passes in 2017, the League will shift its focus to educating voters on potential issues that could arise if certain articles of the Constitution are amended.

New York State Voter



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

LWV NYS website			www.lwvny.org
LWV US website			www.lwv.org
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6/17	Director	Natural Resources	Kay Wagner	539-3322	cmw18@cornell.edu
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*Off Board until 11/14/16

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54th—Town of Lansing

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ASSEMBLYWOMAN

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