



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TOMPKINS COUNTY

SEPTEMBER 2016

PRESIDENT: KAY SHARP 272-4748

lwvtompkins.org

EDITOR: ROBERT SILSBEE 273-1436

The Struggle for Voting Rights



The public is invited to a presentation by Dr. Donathan L. Brown, Associate Professor, Ithaca College, on the important issue of voting rights.

Dr. Brown is a Fulbright Scholar, Chair of the Ithaca College Diversity Scholars Program, and lead author of the book *Voting Rights under Fire*.

Monday, September 26, 7PM
Borg Warner Room, TC Public Library

VOTER SERVICES

Registration Events:

The Voter Services Committee is very busy this election year and has had a number of very successful voter registration events over the past year. With the election right around the corner, we have quite a few events planned for the next few weeks.

September 18th at Porchfest from noon to 4pm;

September 25th at Streets Alive on S. Plain Street from 1-5pm;

September 30th - October 2nd at the Apple Harvest Festival from 12-4pm each day;

October 8th and 9th at St. Catherine's of Siena in Ithaca;

November 2nd at the Naturalization Ceremony at the Tompkins County Courthouse.

If you'd like to volunteer at any upcoming events, we'd love to have you! Please contact either Mandy Qualls (mandyqualls@gmail.com)
(continued)

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or Amy Panek (amy.panek@gmail.com) for specific information regarding times and available places for volunteers.

Candidate Forums:

We are currently planning for a candidate forum with Senator Tom O’Mara (R) and Leslie Danks Burke (D). Both candidates are running for the 58th New York State Senate seat. The Voter Services Committee is currently working with both candidates on a date and time for the candidate forum and will keep the League updated as soon as the details are confirmed.

Facebook:

A great source for information on not just upcoming Voter Services events, but League events in general, is our Facebook page. Visit us at <https://www.facebook.com/LeagueOfWomenVotersOfTompkinsCounty>, like our page, and share it with your friends. It’s the best way to keep up with our events, ask questions, reach out to the public, and show off all the great things the League has been doing.

Mandy Qualls, Voter Services

lead author of the book, *Voting Rights Under Fire: The Continuing Struggle for People of Color (2015)*. To learn more about Dr. Brown and his work, check out his website <http://faculty.ithaca.edu/dlbrown/>

Location: Borg Warner Room, Tompkins County Public Library

Monday, October 24, 7 pm

Topic: *Gun Violence*

Film: *Making a Killing: Guns, Greed and the NRA* — Watch the trailer at www.makingakilling.com

Speaker: Barbara Lifton, NYS Assembly Rep. A brief talk and Q/A about NYS gun legislation will follow the film.

Location: Cinemapolis

Monday, November 14, 7 pm

Topic: *Tompkins County Energy Roadmap*

Organizer: Kay Wagner and Natural Resources Committee

Panel Discussion: Key community representatives TBA

Location: Borg Warner Room, Tompkins County Public Library

Saturday, December 10, 9:30 am

Topic: *Board Breakfast Meeting*

Location: Home of Charlotte Coffman, 26 Deerhaven Drive, Ithaca, NY cwc4@cornell.edu 607-272-7551

Charlotte Coffman, Program

FALL PROGRAMS

Monday, September 26, 7pm

Topic: *The Struggle for Voting Rights*

Speaker: Donathan Brown, Associate Professor, Fulbright Scholar, and Chair of the Ithaca College Diversity Scholars Program. He is the

LWV-TC CALENDAR—2016-2017

Sep 26	Mon	7:00 pm	THE STRUGGLE FOR VOTING RIGHTS	TCPL
Oct 4	Tues	7:00 pm	Board Meeting	Kendal, Room A
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

NATURAL RESOURCES

The Natural Resources Committee is planning its program for November 14 on the topic of the Tompkins County Energy Roadmap. The roadmap evaluates the feasibility of meeting the county’s energy needs through 2050 while at the same time honoring its commitment to reducing the county greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 80% from the 2008 levels. This reduction will be challenging, particularly in light of the anticipated increased use of natural gas, which is a much more potent source of GHG than is coal when the two are viewed over a period of 20 years. We expect the speakers to discuss implementation plans in addition to giving an overview of the road map.

Locally, as well as on the state and national levels, there is a lot going on with regard to environmental issues. A few of the projects we are keeping an eye on are the proposed Dryden pipeline, the Dominion New Market pipeline project, Cornell’s plan for major new construction on Mitchell Street and (in the future) at East Hill Plaza, and the pipeline planned to go across sacred Native American

lands in North Dakota. This last pipeline could place important water resources at risk.

We are just starting to meet again for the fall and would love to have new members on our committee. If you are interested contact Kay Wagner (539-3322, cmw18@cornell.edu).

Kay Wagner, Natural Resources

LWV-TC ON TV

President Kay Sharp was interviewed for public service television — PEGASYS, Channel 13 — in early September. To see our League in action, tune in to Channel 13 on Saturday, September 24 at 11 AM or 6 PM.

LEAGUE DAY AT THE UNITED NATIONS

Are you going to NYC in mid-November? Plan to spend a day, Thursday November 17, with the League at the UN. Information at https://secure.lglforms.com/form_engine/s/INvmPPc4Hpebf0PLNzaRnw

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@twcny.rr.com lwvtompkins.org
Board Members			
6/17 President		Kay Sharp 272-4748	phylliskaysharp@gmail.com
6/17 Secretary	(Sept.-Dec.)	Willa Hahn 540-686-6587	willahahn@gmail.com
6/18 Treasurer		Diane Kelleher 257-5551	diane2110@icloud.com
6/18 VP1	Program	Charlotte Coffman 272-7551	cwc4@cornell.edu
6/18 Co-VP2	Co-Voter Services	Mandy Qualls 405-210-6598	mandyqualls@gmail.com
6/18 Co-VP2	Co-Voter Services	Amy Panek 617-448-6841	amy.panek@gmail.com
6/18 Co-VP3	Co-Membership	*Lory Saltzman 257-7240	lorysaltz@gmail.com
6/18 Co-VP3	Co-Membership	Alene Wyatt 257-1894	alene@lightlink.com
6/17 Director	Natural Resources	*Kay Wagner 539-3322	cmw18@cornell.edu
6/17 Director	At Large	*Sorel Gottfried 272-3910	sorel9@gmail.com
*Off Board until 11/14/16			
Off-Board Chairs:			
	Co-Webmaster; Action	Linda Duttweiler 277-0006	ldutt@twcny.rr.com
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	Bulletin	Robert Silsbee 273-1436	rhs1@cornell.edu
	History	Florence Smith 273-6147	fbarrthims@gmail.com

HISTORIAN'S REPORT

The History Committee had a two-hour work session with Donna Eschenbrenner at the History Center in August. We sorted through two boxes of material and have much more to do. The Committee plans the next session for October. It's crucial that we get the archives completed this year, so that our unique historical documentation will be available to the public before the 100th anniversary, in 2017-18, of women's suffrage in NYS. If you are interested in preserving the League's history, please join us. Contact Flo Smith at 273-6147 or fbarrthims@gmail.com

Exciting plans are in the making for the 100th Anniversary of Women's Suffrage in NY! We thank the History Center's staff, Director Rod Howe and Donna Eschenbrenner for highlighting the importance of the League's work in this effort.

The History Center has sponsored two programs featuring local historians, authors of books on the topic of the women's suffrage movement in NY. The programs were enthusiastically received by the audience. Several individuals spoke to Rod about their interest in the women's suffrage movement and discussed ways to use the local educational resources and to engage various individuals, groups and organizations in the community. They agreed to reach out and recruit others to join an ad-hoc committee.

The purpose of the committee is to facilitate a Community Wide Celebration of the anniversary, in 2017/18, of Women's Suffrage in NYS. Rod Howe and the group agreed that the League's involvement was critical because of its collection in the archives, and its current records are the only source of accurate primary documentation about the local women and men who worked for women's right to vote since the 1940's. Flo Smith has joined the group as representative of the LWV-TC.

The group met a few times this Summer for brainstorming and planning sessions. We established the expectations and ground rules of how we will work together, and explored

several ideas of the kind of events and programs to promote and support. The plan is for each person to use their influence and resources to generate community interests and support different community groups and organizations to sponsor their own events/activities.

Since most people involved are very busy and want to avoid time consuming meetings, the coordination of the community project will be the responsibility of a small 'Steering Committee' which will meet for 75 - 90 minutes once a month. Flo Smith and another volunteer will represent the League at these committee meetings.

The general responsibilities of the Steering Committee are to:

- Connect and help coordinate different activities;
- Seed creative ideas and have conversations;
- help look for funding as appropriate;
- utilize social media/calendars to promote the events of the diverse agencies and organizations;
- Ensure a broad story line — e.g., the 100-year anniversary can be used to highlight other voting rights issues; and
- Compile basic historical information.**

It's most important that we complete the League archives this year because the project relies on having our accurate primary historical documentation about the important women and men involved in the battle for women's right to vote.

After the archives are completed, secure and available for public use, then we can focus our attention on collaborating with our partners and assisting them to celebrate with us and the whole community.

The planned Community Wide Celebration is a huge undertaking, we can make it a success if all League members participate in the effort. Please stay alert for more information about how you can be involved.

Florence Smith, Historian

END OF LEGISLATIVE SESSION

We had a great session this year with many of our priority bills being voted on in the Assembly. Unfortunately, none of these bills were taken up in the Senate, but we were happy to see Assembly work together to pass the single payer health bill, the Contraceptive Coverage Act, and a bill on equal pay for companies receiving state contracts. This session also saw the full passage of Paid Family Leave, an issue the League has been fighting to pass for many years. The Assembly took up several of our priority voting bills including early voting, no excuse absentee voting, allowing for electronic poll books, and the Voter Friendly Ballot Act. The League was also once again successful at preventing the Education Tax Credit bill from coming to a vote in the Assembly. This was an extremely important bill that we lobbied against all session and we anticipate it being proposed again next year.

One of the biggest issues we worked on this session was legislation to close the LLC loophole. We worked directly with the bill sponsors and our good government allies to try and stir some movement on this bill. We held several press conferences throughout the session and issued memos of support each time the bill moved to a new committee. In the final weeks of session the Governor issued his own LLC package that created 8 different laws, each one

closing the loophole for a specific office rather than a single bill that would close the loophole for all elected officials. The Governor's package was never seriously considered and the bills still do not have Assembly or Senate sponsors. Ultimately the Assembly did vote to pass the original LLC bill but the Senate never took the opportunity to vote the bill out of committee. This will certainly be an issue we will revisit next session.

Ethics reforms were largely overlooked by the legislature this session. During the last day of session, Governor Cuomo released a 5-point ethics plan that was mainly aimed at curbing independent expenditures. The plan did not include closing the LLC loophole, increasing disclosures of discretionary funding or lowering of contribution limits. Instead the plan tightens coordination rules for independent expenditures, forces political consultants to register as lobbyists, and implements pension forfeiture. While we support these efforts, these are not the type of reforms that will change Albany's culture of corruption. Until the legislature passes laws to address the larger issues of campaign finance abuse and improper usage of undesignated budget line items, the legislature will continue to take advantage of our broken system.

New York State Voter



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

League of Women Voters of Tompkins County

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