
LWV Chautauqua County
PO Box 42
Fredonia, New York 14063

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The Leaguer

Volume 21, Issue 6
February- March, 2017

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY
lww@lwwchautauqua.org, 672-4275

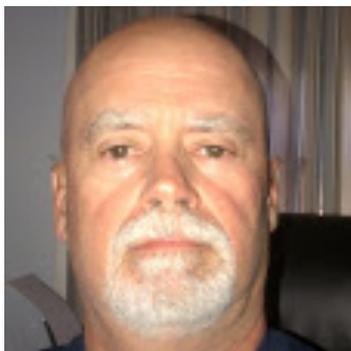


What is in Your Garbage?

March 22, 2017 at Noon

Barlow's Mill
369 West Main Street in Fredonia

Ted Osborne, speaker



Theodore W. Osborne

Mr. Osborne is a resident of Jamestown, New York. He graduated from Fredonia State University with a Bachelor of Science, Business Administration and Marketing. Mr. Osborne has had extensive involvement with reduction, reuse and recycling solid waste. He was a founding member of the New York State Product Stewardship Committee and is a member of The New York State Association for Reduction, Reuse and Recycling. He served on the Board of directors of the New York State Solid Waste Managers Association and the New York Federation of Solid Waste Organization. He has done investigation

of industrial and hazardous waste for compliance with federal; state and local regulations. He has held several jobs in this area and at the present time is managing T. Osborne Consulting and Brokerage.

Catered Buffet provided by Aloe Vera - \$15

On the buffet will be a
Choice of soups - Italian Wedding or Broccoli Cheese
Choice of Wraps: crab, egg, tuna and chicken

Oriental Salad Side

Éclair cups with Coffee and Tea

Please send payment to: Perce Bernatz, 68 Lambert Ave., Fredonia, 14063, 673-1961, priscilla@mainalley.com to reserve a place.

Name _____

Phone _____ email _____



Centennial of Women's Right to Vote
Sue Mager, Presenter

RSVP

March 21st at 7 p.m.

Connie Wojcinski, 672-9588

Dunkirk Moose Club, #89
296 Lake Shore Drive West in Dunkirk

Or nyswchadwickbay@gmail.com

By March 13

From Our President...

There is another public meeting of the **Central Connection** on Wednesday, February 22 at 6:30. The meeting will take place at the Dunkirk High School on 75 West 6th Street, Dunkirk, N.Y. The theme will be "How can we work together to promote our region: our arts, neighborhoods, businesses, our diversity and our likeness. This will be an open discussion of issues and opportunities. This is an opportunity to act locally and take an active role in our future. To find out more search "Central Connection" on Facebook.

In 2017 the voters of New York will be faced with the question of whether or not New York State should hold a **Constitutional Convention**. Do you want to know more? Come to the Barker Library, Fredonia on March 29 at 6:30. The meeting will be in the Steele Room. A Constitutional Convention allows delegates, elected by the people, to gather and examine the state's Constitution. The delegates can propose changes and new provisions to the Constitution. Some of the important issues are the "forever wild" article, the Blaine Amendment, Reproductive Choice (no current provisions in the NY Constitution), Pensions, Campaign Finance, and much more. Come learn about the process and what it means to you and our state. This meeting will be followed up by a luncheon April 26th and Moonbrook C.C. in Jamestown (more later on this).

We are working with the Middle School teachers in Dunkirk and Fredonia on a project related to climate change. It is a contest called "Don't Throw That Away." Students can write papers, do posters or come up with other creative expression to deal with this environmental issue.

A Special Request - The program committee would like the people who are interested in coming to our luncheons to have their reservations in by the deadline.

Get involved. Town Hall meeting with Congressman Tom Reed February 18th. The first meeting is at the North Harmony Senior Center at 9:15 and the second meeting is in Cherry Creek at 11:30 in Pine Valley VFW

Warmly, *Mary Croxton, President*

Minda Rae Amiran, Priscilla Bernatz, Gen Ludemann, Marcia Merrins, Judy Reynolds, Rose Sebouhian, Linda Warner



LWVNY Capitol Beat Blog

second from the Attorney General.

Dueling Voting Reform Packages

This week the League was very pleased to see two major pushes for voting reforms – one from Senate Democrats and a

On Monday we stood with the Senate Democratic Conference as they announced their package of voting reform bills. The package includes many reforms that the League has long supported including early voting, consolidation of primaries, automatic voter registration, and ballot reform. We were very happy to see the conference roll out this package but we will need to work extremely hard to get Senate Republicans on board with these bills.

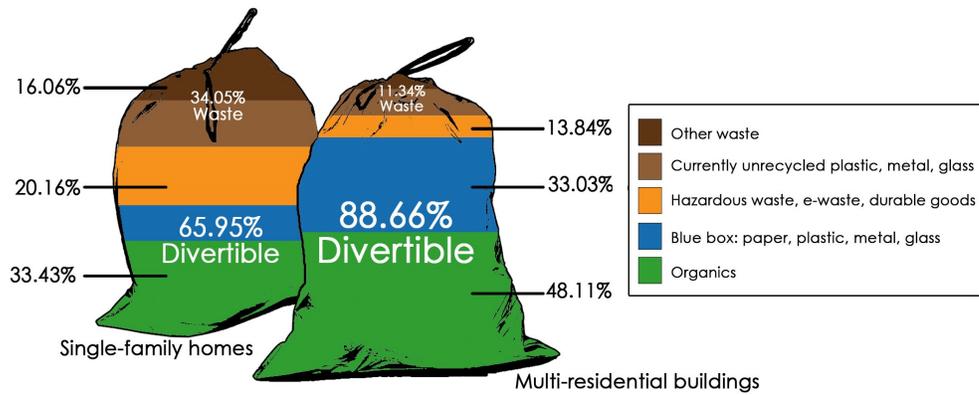
Tuesday morning we attended the annual budget briefing given by Fiscal Policy Institute. It is an informative session that both advocates and legislators attend. The questions for the FPI staff Economists centered around the probable Federal cuts and their impact on New York's budget. The Taxation budget hearing held that same day was interesting this year for two reasons. The hearing was interrupted twice by protesters, which has never happened before. Assemblyman Farrell tried strenuously to get them to leave; finally Troopers came in and the protesters left. The questions centered again on the impact of possible congressional cuts to the state budget.

On Wednesday the Attorney General unveiled his own voting reforms package. The AG's list of proposals was quite a bit longer and more comprehensive than the reforms put forward by the Democratic Conference. His reforms were motivated by the massive issues New York voters faced on Election Day 2016. The reforms would not only empower voters by instituting common sense reforms such as early voting and no-excuse absentee voting; but would also protect voters from unfair treatment on Election Day through enhanced poll worker training and protections against improper ballot challenges. Our Vice President of Issues and Advocacy, Sally Robinson, spoke at the press conference.

We are so pleased to see a renewed passion for election law reforms from our elected officials. The League has fought for decades – nearly a century – to repair our broken election system. As we move closer to the 100th anniversary of women winning the right to vote, and our own 100th anniversary, we are even more impassioned to fight for these reforms. This legislative session we will do everything in our power to see that voting is not put on the back burner by our legislature or our governor! We will pass these common sense reforms!

WHAT'S IN YOUR TRASH?

Have you ever wondered what is in your trash or how much you are really throwing away? According to the EPA, Americans generated in 2011 about 250 million tons of trash and recycled and composted almost 87 million tons of municipal solid waste. That is a lot of trash!



Chances are you have a good idea of what goes into your trash since you (or someone from your household) put it there. But, do you really know what all is in your trash? More importantly, do you know what is in your trash that could have been recycled or reused or how much you are throwing away? Conducting a waste audit at home is a great way to truly understand what (and how much) your household is throwing away. Oh, and, it is easy to do.

The first thing you will want to do is get protective equipment such as gloves and goggles. Depending on your trash, things could get a little messy. You just might be glad you have them on. You will also want a scale of some sort. One option is to use your home scale (which you probably have in a bathroom or hiding in a closet). Another option is to use a luggage scale (found at most home/organization retailers). We'll get into the actual weighing step later in the article.

Once you've located a good area to conduct the audit (somewhere you don't mind if it gets a little dirty), gather up your full trash and recycle bags. You may even want to plan ahead and place everything into a designated container so that you know what duration of time the trash materials represent. Example – A household collected trash for an entire week and then audited it such that they had a representative weekly weight.

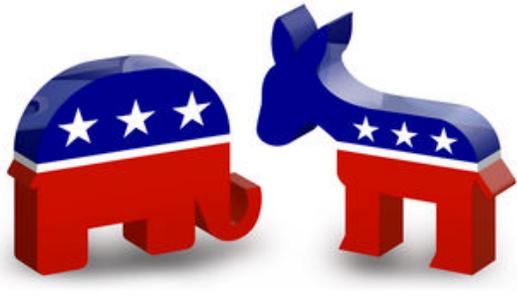
Next, the fun part. Open up the trash bag(s) and sort out all the different commodities into piles. You may even want to have several different containers for each commodity type so that you can weigh the piles more easily. The following are examples of commodities commonly found most household trash.

Glass Food/Food packaging Cardboard Plastic Paper Bathroom items

You'll notice that several of these items are items that potentially could be recycled, which is a goal of the audit – identifying items that COULD have been recycled. Once you have everything sorted out into commodity piles, weight each pile so that you can record that weight in your notes. Having weight data for each commodity and then the grand total allows you to do several things.

First, it allows you to know how much trash your household is sending to the landfill each day – month – year. Secondly, sorting things out into commodities allows you to get a representative sample of how much of each category you are throwing away. Maybe upon auditing, it becomes clear that not only is your household throwing away aluminum soda cans, but they are throwing away a good deal of them. Search our database for recyclable items in your area. Some municipalities even offer the equivalent of a rebate (on your monthly trash bill) for having two recycle totes versus one.

In summary, there is a wealth of information in your trash. Take the time to find out what's in your trash. You just might be surprised what you find.



Reaching Out

Many commentators have spoken about the dangers of the polarization and demonization so prevalent in our country at this time. Trying to build a small bridge among a few people of good will, three members of the League who voted for Clinton last November met with three people who voted for Trump. The meeting took place on neutral ground at the Upper Crust Bakeshop in Fredonia.

One of the most remarkable things about the meeting was that the six people involved couldn't seem to stop talking. A meeting that was intended to last an hour went on for three, and could have lasted even longer. It was a successful meeting in giving everyone some insight into one another's different positions and in showing that these positions are not monolithic. Neither Trump nor Clinton voters are completely in lockstep with one another.

There was some agreement on a number of issues. All favored repairing roads and bridges, and nobody was sure how to fund the work. All favored money for special education and support for education generally, though they disagreed about school vouchers and public support for private or public charter schools. All wanted to lower the price of drugs, especially drugs whose prices have been raised many times over, though there wasn't agreement on how to reach that result. All wanted affordable medical insurance for everybody, though they disagreed about the place of the free market in reaching that goal. All favored penalties for companies that pollute our air and water, though they disagreed about how much regulation is necessary to achieve environmental safety. All agreed that climate change is real, though some thought the change is strongly affected by human activity while others thought the human factor unproven.

All agreed that we need a press that distinguishes fact from opinion and that refuses to spread false "facts." However, they differed about which sources are currently reliable. There was some agreement about a woman's right to choose when to have children, at least up to viability of the fetus, though one person held that a child is a human being at conception and that all abortion is murder. Many other topics were discussed—especially the nature of Islam and the degree to which fears about immigration are legitimate—and there seemed to be general agreement that fanaticism of any kind is dangerous and that efforts to accentuate our differences lead to further polarization and inability to act on common ground.

All this sounds promising, but although some members of the group said they were willing to meet again, it's not clear what such a meeting would accomplish. The discussion was civil and respectful, but it foundered on a basic disagreement about facts. The Trump voters seemed to believe that any source mentioned by the Clinton voters was biased, "political," and untrustworthy. For example, they didn't believe the FBI, CIA, and other agencies about Russian interference in the election. They didn't believe any cited scientific reports about human effects on climate change. They explicitly rejected CNN, MSNBC, ABC, CBS, PBS, and the New York Times and other print media as sources of reliable information. They all agreed that Fox News was the only reliable source. This distrust of any information contrary to what one already believes seems a fatal problem—probably a danger for all of us. If we can't agree on how the world works (insofar as we know some part of it), it is hard to see how we can agree on ways to achieve the ends we all desire.

Minda Rae Amiran

100th Anniversary Dates

November 6, 2017 - 100th Anniversary of Women's Suffrage in NYS

November 19, 2019 - 100th Anniversary of the LWVNYS

February 14, 2020 - 100th Anniversary of the LWVUS

August 20, 2020 - 100th Anniversary of the Official Certification of the Ratification of the 19th Amendment by the US Secretary of State

Here are notes written by Rianna Moore from the Hot Topics Meeting
 “Understanding the Transgender Community”

For those of us who want to *do* something....

- 1) The immediate goal is to get GENDA (Gender Expression Non-Discrimination Act) passed in the NYS legislature, where it has been "stuck in government investigations" (quoting Helen). What we can do:
- a) Call Cathy Young, R, 57th district. District ofc (Olean): 716-372-4901; Albany: 518-455-3563; satellite ofc (Jamestown): 716-664-4603. cyoung@nyenate.gov
 - b) Call John Flanagan, R, 2nd district. Smithtown ofc: 631-361-2154; Albany: 518-455-2071. Flanagan@nyenate.gov

What we are telling them is to pass GENDA. Its purpose is self-explanatory from its name, but google it to learn more (easy).

A phone call or a postcard is most effective. Go on their websites for their snail-mail addresses. Emails get deleted without being read, perhaps by staffers, so senators may never see them. Sealed letters are suspected of anthrax contamination (a handy excuse for ignoring constituents) and go right in the circular file.

Websites I've gone to this morning -- easy and informative:

- * GENDA
- * Susan's Place (mentioned by Helen, places all over NYS for homeless folks, beautiful website)
- * National Center of Transgender Equality (beautiful, informative site)
- * NYS Division of Human Rights
- * 2015 U.S. Transgender Survey (part of National Center, can get there via either website)
- * Cathy Young's and John Flanagan's

Our presenters know the name of the committee in the NYS legislature that GENDA is stuck in. Asking them to please supply that name so when we call Cathy and John, we can be specific, and we could reach out to all those committee members. What needs to happen for it to get unstuck??? Who is on that committee? Are the meetings of that committee open to the public? What if a group of cis-gendered allies traveled to Albany together to lobby that committee? That would be doing something.

What we can do as allies....

- * Educate ourselves ... yesterday was a great beginning!
- * Educate others in our communities and respective spheres of influence.
- * Support the trans persons around us.
- * Be vocal.
- * Make those calls, as above.
- * Added from me: Let's share with one another what we're doing so we can get a sense of collective impact.

Data point from Helen's presentation: Trans people, especially trans women, join the military at a higher rate than cis-gendered people do. 80% of trans women join the military.

Prefix "cis-" is from the Latin, just as "trans-" is. Cis means "same as". I looked it up in my Webster's here at home and also in an online dictionary -- type "dictionary" in your google search bar and several dictionaries come up.

Respectfully submitted,
 Rianna Moore

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

MARCH 22 Barlow's Mill	NOON	Topic: "WHAT'S IN YOUR GARBAGE?" Reservations. Perce Bernatz, 68 Lambert Ave., Fredonia, 14063 673-1961 priscilla@mainalley.com
MARCH 15	1:30 P.M	BOARD MEETING – Mary Croxton's home, 22 Gillis Street, Fredonia, 679-1774, mcroxton51@gmail.com
APRIL 26 Moonbrook C.C.	NOON	Topic: New York State Constitutional Convention: Promise or Peril?"
MAY 17	5 p.m.	ANNUAL MEETING – Celebrating the 100 th Anniversary of NYS Suffrage for Women
MAY 21 – 24		STUDENTS INSIDE ALBANY
JUNE 11-13 Holiday Inn Express Liverpool, NY		LWVNYS Convention

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THE NEWSLETTER OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY

lww@lwwchautauqa.org, 672-4275



The League of Women Voters of Chautauqua County is where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement.

Invite a Friend to Join or Give the Gift Of League Membership!!

Make Your Voice Heard! Join Us Today!

League of Women Voters of Chautauqua County Management Team

- Mary Croxton, President
Minda Rae Amiran
Priscilla Bernatz
Gen Ludemann
Marcia Merrins
Judy Reynolds
Rose Sebouhian
Linda Warner

Membership Form

Mail to: LWV Chautauqua P.O. Box 42 Fredonia, NY 14063

Membership Dues: through December 31, 2017 Individual: \$60; Family: \$90; Student: \$25 (Check payable to LWV Chautauqua County)

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

Email _____

I would like to get involved with:

Local Issues Voter Service State/National Issues

Local Newsletter

Assisting with minor tasks occasionally

Other: _____