



# *LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TOMPKINS COUNTY*

June 2017

[lwvtompkins.org](http://lwvtompkins.org)

**PRESIDENT:** Kay Sharp 272-4748

**EDITOR:** Megan Nettleton (330) 962-5448

## *The 100 Year Celebration of Women's Suffrage in New York*



**A note from Kay Sharp, League President**

Happy June! It was great seeing so many of you at our Annual Dinner Meeting. The food was good, the meeting was short and the program was entertaining. We recognized our nine new members and our ten honorary members.

The New York State League Convention is June 10-11. We are sending three delegates: myself, Kaye Wagner and Susan Multer. One of the issues that I will be looking for answers to is what process the State League took to support changing their previous neutral position to their now position of support of the ballot proposal on the Constitutional convention. State had told local Leagues to remain neutral and to hold educational programs on the topic. Many Leagues question the State ballot proposal change, in particular, why weren't local Leagues included in that decision-making. There are going to be two caucuses at the Convention to discuss this issue.

The Board welcomes our new Secretary, Megan Nettleton, who you will notice is also our new Bulletin Editor. Ann Warde, who temporarily served as our Secretary when our previous one resigned mid-term, is now a Director at Large. Welcome to both of you.

We want to thank Bob Silsbee for his 11 year term as our Bulletin Editor. You did a great job and we appreciate it! We hope that you will remain active in the League.

There are bills in Senate Committees on issues that we hold dear to our hearts—single payer healthcare and reproductive choice. The legislative session is almost over, so it is imperative that you call your Senator to express the importance of their supporting these bills. Our Board members are calling members of the Senate Committees with the same message. We

hope that they don't die in Committee.

The Health Committee and the Natural Resources Committee are taking a summer break. They will reconvene in September.

Our Student Inside Albany participant, Laurel Deacon, reported that it was a great experience. She learned a lot about our government. We hope to send two students next year. Searching for students will start in September, when schools open for the year. This is a great opportunity that we offer to high school students. The procedure that we use to select youth for this Program involves many steps. It involves teacher/guidance counselor nominations, student essays, and student interviews. Megan and I will spearhead this Program and may call on you to participate in the selection process.

The Board will take a summer break between now and the last of August. After a refreshing time off, we will get back to business on issues that you believe are important to examine and to take action.

Have a great summer!

Kay Sharp

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**Did you know that the league has a Facebook page?**

A great way to keep track of what the league is doing while the board is on summer break, 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

## **A note from The Natural Resource Committee**

The Natural Resources Committee is continuing to follow and learn about the Tompkins County proposals for meeting local housing needs, while also keeping track of other local environmental issues and activities. The county recently developed a draft strategy on the development of local housing and gave a presentation which some of our members attended.

To learn about the draft housing plan here is a link:

[http://tompkinscountyny.gov/planning/housing-choices?mc\\_cid=33a6233331&mc\\_eid=5d7f906d09#Strategy](http://tompkinscountyny.gov/planning/housing-choices?mc_cid=33a6233331&mc_eid=5d7f906d09#Strategy)

If you go to this website you will find valuable information about the goals and strategies the county is focusing on. The plan is interesting and important but does not discuss environmental or land use issues. We have received feedback that these issues are being studied by those developing the plan but do not have specific information. Hopefully the final plan will incorporate specific building requirements and the broad use of renewable energy resources rather than increasing the local dependence on natural gas.

The LWVNY convention is being held on June 9 – 11. The Committee on Agriculture, Energy and the Environment, chaired by Beth Radow, will be presenting an information session on current environmental issues. Susan Multer and Kay Wagner will help with the program and hope there will be some good discussions with those attending our session. Beth has developed a wonderful webpage called “Be Earthwise” on

the LWVNY website. A link to it is:  
<http://lwvny.org/earthwise/>

The Natural Resources committee will take a break for the summer but will continue monitoring and being involved in local environmental activities. If you would like to join our committee or know more about what we are doing contact Kay Wagner, [cmw18@cornell.edu](mailto:cmw18@cornell.edu), 539-3322. We can add you to our email list even if you do not want to attend our regular meetings.

Kay Wagner, Natural Resources

## **A note about membership**

Fellow members,

At the end of summer is when a mailing comes out, to remind members that it is time to renew their membership for the coming year.

At the same time we could increase our reach to those who may be interested in the work of the League, not only in the areas of registering voters and running forums or participating in current study committees, but perhaps in creating new committees to pursue the study of new issues of interest, proposing new interesting public events to inform voters, and helping to enhance League positions and lobby for them.

To that end, if you have friends or acquaintances whom you believe would really like to be engaged in what our League does, to educate themselves or to offer expertise, if only they knew more about what we do, please think about making a list of their names and addresses and sending the list to us. We will then send them information about our League along with a warm invitation to join.

Dolores Saltzman, Membership

### Upcoming Voter Registration Drives

We would also like to alert all Voter Services volunteers and League members of our ongoing commitment to support efforts to increase organ donations in New York State. There is a great mismatch in the number of donors and those in need; as we register voters, please remind them that there is space on the back of the form where they can sign up to be an organ donor. If you have not already made that commitment yourself, please consider doing so!

Thank you to all have volunteered in the past and we hope to see you, as well as welcoming new faces, for the upcoming League events!

Amy Panek & Mandy Qualls  
Co-Directors, Voter Services

We have several opportunities this summer and fall to register new voters. Please see below for the dates and contact us if you would like to volunteer! You can send an email to either Amy Panek at [amy.panek@gmail.com](mailto:amy.panek@gmail.com) or Mandy Qualls at [mandyqualls@gmail.com](mailto:mandyqualls@gmail.com)

### Upcoming Voter Registration Drives

Aug 2 Naturalization Ceremony  
Sept 2 Ithaca Farmers Marke  
Sept 24 Porchfest Fall Creek Neighborhood  
Sept 26 National Voter Registration Day  
Sept 30/Oct 1 Apple Harvest Fest

### Save The Date: Upcoming 2017-2018 League Programing

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>
<b>September 25th-</b>	<b>The Constitutional Convention Debate</b>
<u>October 23rd-</u>	<u>Is That Really True?</u>
<b>November 13th -</b>	<b>Impact of Federal and State Budgets on Tompkins County</b>
<u>December -Saturday</u>	<u>Brunch (Board Members Only)</u>
<b>January 22, 2018-</b>	<b>Natural Resources</b>
<u>February 26, 2018-</u>	<u>Mental Health</u>
<b>March 26, 2018-</b>	<b>Soup and Bread Luncheon</b>
<u>May 7, 2018</u>	<u>Annual Meeting</u>

### A note from Programs, by Charlotte Coffman, VP for Programs

#### **SEPTEMBER 2017. The Constitutional Convention Debate: Member and Public Meeting**

Date: Monday, September 25, 7pm  
Place: Borg Warner Room, Tompkins County Public Library, 101 East Green St., Ithaca, NY.

In January 2017, we sponsored an informational meeting *Does New York Need a Constitutional Convention?* Dr. Henrik Dullea explained the purpose, process, challenges and opportunities of such a convention. This fall meeting will take a more critical look at the issue in preparation for the statewide November vote on whether to hold such a convention. This event is free of charge and open to the public. Mark your calendars, publicize the event, and bring a friend.

## Annual Meeting Update, May 2017

Our May 8 annual meeting was well attended as we shared a meal and toasted our honorary members for their long years of service. All enjoyed the program about the life and contributions of suffragist and abolitionist Matilda Gage as presented by Pamela Poulin.

**Dr. Poulin noted that the fight for women's rights is not over.**

*She suggested that our LWV chapter join other women's groups around the country in holding a public reading of the attached Declaration of Rights of the Women of the United States, written by Matilda Gage and Elizabeth Stanton in 1876. Such presentations are most effective when several individuals read portions of the document in a public place with local news coverage. July 4 is a popular date for such an activity, but raising awareness is a year-around commitment and Ithaca offers many appropriate venues such as public parks and local festivals.*

***If anyone would like to organize such an event, please notify someone on the board.***

Declaration of Rights of the Women of the United States” \*

by Matilda Joslyn Gage & Elizabeth Cady Stanton  
National Woman Suffrage Association  
4th of July 1876

~A Proposal for Shared Readings of this “Declaration”  
Across the USA Each 4th of July Until Women  
Achieve Full Rights,  
Not **ONLY** the Right to Vote~

WHILE the nation is buoyant with patriotism, and all hearts are attuned to praise, it is with sorrow, we come to strike the one, discordant note, on this the one-hundredth anniversary of our Country's birth. Our faith is firm and unwavering in the broad principles of human rights proclaimed, in 1776, not only as abstract truths, but as the corner stones of a republic. [Emphasis & pronunciations added for reading ease.]

Yet, we cannot forget, even in this glad hour, that while all men, of every race, and clime, and condition, have been invested with the full rights of citizenship, under our

hospitable United States of America flag, all women, still suffer the degradation of disfranchisement.

The history of our Country, these past one hundred years, has been a series of assumptions and u-sur-pa-tions of power over woman, in direct opposition to the principles of just government, acknowledged by the United States, as its foundations.

These rights are:

*First.* the natural rights of each individual.

*Second.* the equality of these rights.

*Third.* that rights, not delegated, are retained by the individual

*Fourth.* that no person, can exercise the rights of others, without delegated authority

*Fifth.* that the non-use of rights does not destroy these rights

And for the violation of these fundamental principles of our government, we arraign our rulers on this, the Fourth day of July 1876.

**BILLS OF ATTAINDER** have been passed, by the introduction of the word "male" into all of the State constitutions, denying to women the right of suffrage, and thereby making being female a crime—an exercise of power, clearly forbidden in Article I, Sections 9 & 10\*\*of the United States Constitution.

**THE WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS**, the only protection against arbitrary actions and judgments, and all forms of unjust imprisonment, which the Constitution declares, *quote* "shall not be suspended, except in cases of rebellion or invasion or when the public safety demands it," *end quote*.

\* The above “Declaration,” edited, shortened, with emphasis & syllabication added by Pamela L. Poulin, Ph.D., Professor Emerita, Johns Hopkins University. For a complete reading & commentary, with attributions to Gage, see: <http://ecssba.rutgers.edu/pubs/volume3.html>

**TAXATION WITHOUT REPRESENTATION**, the immediate cause of the rebellion of the colonies, against Great Britain, is one of the grievous wrongs the women of this country, have suffered during this century.

Deploring war, with all of the de-mor-al-li-za-tion, that follows in its train, we have been taxed to support standing armies, with their waste of life, and wealth. Mothers were arrested, fined, imprisoned, even for praying and singing in the streets, while men blockaded the sidewalks with im-pun-i-ty, even on Sunday, with their military parades and political processions.

Believing in honesty, we are taxed to support a

dangerous army of civilians, buying and selling the offices of government, and sacrificing the best interests of the people. And, moreover, we are taxed to support the very legislators and judges who make laws, and render decisions adverse to women. And for refusing to pay unjust taxation, the houses, lands, bonds, and stock of women have been seized and sold within the present year of 1876.

#### UNEQUAL CODES FOR MEN AND WOMEN.

Held by law, as a perpetual minor, incapable of self-protection, even in the industries of the world, woman is denied equality of rights. The fact of being female, not the quantity nor quality of work, in most cases, decides the pay and position.

Laws catering to man's vices, have created two codes of morals, in which penalties are graded according to the political status of the offender. Under such laws, women are finned and imprisoned. Under the pretense of regulating public morals, police officers seizing the occupants of dis-re-pu-table houses, march the women in platoons to prison, while the men, the partners in their guilt, go free.

While making a show of virtue in forbidding the importation of Chinese women on the Pacific coast for immoral purposes, our rulers, in many states, and even under the shadow of the National Capitol, are now proposing to legalize the sale of American womanhood for the same vile purposes. [*This paragraph retained because of present day trafficking of women and children for sexual purposes.* PLP]

The judiciary above the Nation has proved itself to be but the echo of the party in power, by upholding, and enforcing laws that are opposed to the spirit and letter of the Constitution. When the slave power was dominant, the Supreme Court, decided that a black man was not a citizen, because he had not the right to vote; and when the Constitution was so amended as to make all persons citizens, the same high tribunal decided, that a woman, though a citizen, had not the right to vote. Such va-cil-la-ting interpretations of Constitutional law, unsettle our faith in judicial authority, and undermine the liberties of the whole people.

These articles of impeachment against our rulers, which today you have only heard in part, we now submit to the impartial judgment of the people. To all these wrongs and oppressions, woman has not submitted in silence and resignation. From the beginning of this one hundred years, when Abigail Adams, the wife of one president and the mother of another, said, *quote* "We will not hold ourselves bound to obey laws in which we have no voice, or representation," *end quote*. Until now, woman's discontent, has been steadily increasing, culminating nearly thirty years ago, in 1848, in a simultaneous movement, among the women of the nation, demanding the right

of suffrage [ , the right to vote].

In making our just demands, a higher motive, than the pride of gender inspires us; we feel that national safety and stability depend on the complete recognition of the broad principles of our government. Woman's degraded, helpless position is the weak point in our institutions today; a disturbing force, everywhere, severing family ties: our prisons with criminals, our cities with drunkenness and prostitution; our homes with disease and death.

It was the boast of the Founders of the Republic, that the rights for which they contended, were the rights of human nature. If these rights are ignored in the case of one-half of the people, the nation is surely preparing for its downfall. Governments try themselves. The recognition of a governing and a governed class is incompatible with the first principles of freedom.

Woman has not been a heedless spectator of the events of this century, not a dull listener to the grand arguments for the equal rights of humanity. From the earliest history of our country, woman has shown equal devotion with man, to the cause of freedom, and has stood firmly by his side in its defense. Together, they have made this Country what it is: Woman's wealth, thought and labor have cemented the stones of every monument man has reared to liberty. Indeed, is not Liberty depicted as a woman?

And now, at the close, of a hundred years, as the hour hand of the great clock, that marks the centuries, points to 1876, we declare our faith, in the principles of self-government; our full equality with man in natural rights; that woman, was made first for her own happiness, with the absolute right to herself—to all the opportunities and advantages life affords, for her complete development; and we deny that dogma of the centuries incorporated in the codes of nations—that woman was made for man—her best interests, in all cases, to be sacrificed to his will.

We ask of our rulers, at this hour, no special favors, no special privileges. We ask, justice, we ask, equality, we ask that all of the civil and political rights, that belong to citizens of the United States of America, be guaranteed to us, and to our daughters, forever. Thank  
you!

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Alice Paul, Ph.D., LL.D., presented a draft of **Equal Rights Amendment** on July 20, 1923 in Seneca Falls at 75th Anniversary of the First Women's Rights Convention, in honor of Lucretia Mott.

"Men and women shall have equal rights throughout the United States and every place subject to its jurisdiction," Alice Paul introduced to Congress in 1923 & it has been introduced every year thereafter. Passed by Congress in 1972 with change in wording. NYS has no ERA in its Constitution yet



## **Do you need to get in touch us?**

### **LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TOMPKINS COUNTY: BOARD 2017-18**

LWV NYS website

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

LWV US website [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)

LWV-Tompkins County contact 272-4748

[lwvtc@twcny.rr.com](mailto:lwvtc@twcny.rr.com)

website [lwtompkins.org](http://lwtompkins.org)

#### **Board Members**

6/19 President Kay Sharp 272-4748  
[phylliskaysharp@gmail.com](mailto:phylliskaysharp@gmail.com)

6/19 Secretary & Bulletin Megan Nettleton  
330-962-5448 [Nettleton.Megan@gmail.com](mailto:Nettleton.Megan@gmail.com)

6/18 Treasurer Diane Kelleher 257-5551  
[diane2110@icloud.com](mailto:diane2110@icloud.com)

6/18 VP1 Program Charlotte Coffma 272-7551  
[cwc4@cornell.edu](mailto:cwc4@cornell.edu)

6/18 Co-VP2 Co-Membership Lory Saltzman  
257-7240 [lorysaltz@gmail.com](mailto:lorysaltz@gmail.com)

6/18 Co-VP2 Co-Membership Alene Wyatt  
257-1894 [alene@lightlink.com](mailto:alene@lightlink.com)

6/18 Co-Director/Voter Services Mandy  
Qualls 405-210-6598 [mandyqualls@gmail.com](mailto:mandyqualls@gmail.com)

6/18 Co-Director/Voter Services Amy Panek  
617-448-6841 [amy.panek@gmail.com](mailto:amy.panek@gmail.com)

6/19 Director Natural Resources Kay Wagner  
539-3322 [cmw18@cornell.edu](mailto:cmw18@cornell.edu)

6/19 Director Ann Warde 241-0192  
[amw38@cornell.edu](mailto:amw38@cornell.edu)

#### **Off-Board Chairs:**

Co-Webmaster; Action Linda  
Duttweiler 277-0006 [ldutt@twcny.rr.com](mailto:ldutt@twcny.rr.com)

Co-Webmaster Michael Duttweiler  
277-0006 [mduttweiler@twcny.rr.com](mailto:mduttweiler@twcny.rr.com)

History Florence Smith 273-6147  
[fbarrthims@gmail.com](mailto:fbarrthims@gmail.com)

### **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

Pamela Helming 518-455- 2366, 315-568- 9816  
[helming@nysenate.gov](mailto:helming@nysenate.gov)

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)

