



**The**  
**LOCAL VOTER**  
**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS**  
**SYRACUSE METROPOLITAN AREA**

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2010

Syracuse Metro LWV  
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 Syracuse NY 13218  
 (507 Plum St -2nd Fl. Syr. 13204)  
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 Local: [www.lwvsyr.org](http://www.lwvsyr.org)  
 State: [www.lwvny.org](http://www.lwvny.org)  
 National: [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

Tuesday, Jan 26th  
 Albany Rally on Hydrofracking  
Wednesday, Feb 3rd  
 Cazenovia LWV Census Lecture  
Sunday, Feb 7th  
 The Stantons of Waterloo  
Monday, Feb. 15th  
 Study Committee Meeting  
Thursday, March 25th  
 Fayetteville Library Program  
Friday, March 26th  
 90th Anniversary Luncheon

**SAVE THE DATE-**



**90TH ANNIVERSARY  
 CELEBRATION  
 FRIDAY  
 MARCH 26TH**

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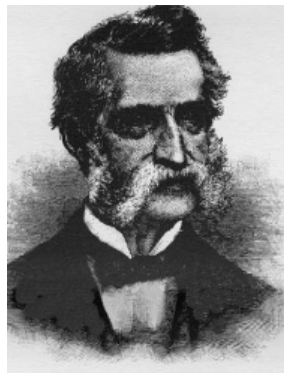
**STAYING INFORMED ON  
 THE ISSUES AND EVENTS**

Local: [www.lwvsyr.org](http://www.lwvsyr.org)  
 State: [www.lwvny.org](http://www.lwvny.org)  
 National: [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)



***She said he said-  
 the Stantons of Waterloo***

Take part in an Equal Rights Convention of the mid 19th century on women's suffrage. Meet with the radical thinker Elizabeth Cady Stanton and her abolitionist husband, Henry Stanton. ( Henry conducts the rights meeting as it was improper for a woman to do so at the time).



Learn about the life and times of this unique couple and be ready to debate the controversy of a woman's role in the society of the day.

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7TH - 2 PM**

**ONONDAGA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION**

**321 MONTGOMERY STREET  
 SYRACUSE 13202**

**TICKETS: \$5.00  
 RESERVATIONS BY THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4TH  
 REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED**

**EMAIL: [league@lwvsyr.org](mailto:league@lwvsyr.org)  
 PHONE: 315-448-7199  
 MAIL: PO BOX 11866, SYRACUSE NY 13218**

*The program is part of our continuing celebration of the signing of the 19th amendment and the 90th birthday of the League of Women Voters*



**LEAGUE OF  
 WOMEN VOTERS®**

# BOARD NOTES

## MEMBERSHIP NOTES

The most important way you can help maintain and grow our LWV is to bring members and friends who live near you to our meetings..

Celebrating our 90th birthday, is a reminder of our past and what the future holds. It has and continues to be a struggle.

Please note all our events are open to the public.

## NATURALIZATION CEREMONIES 2010 SCHEDULE

### We need volunteers for the following dates:

March 24 - 11 am	Federal Building, Court Room 5
April 22 - 2 pm	County Court House, Room 400
August 19 - 11 am	Federal Building, Courtroom 1
Sept. 16 - 11 am	Federal Building, Court Room 1
Sept. 16 - 2 pm	County Court House, Room 400
Oct. 14 - 11 am	Federal Building Courtroom 1

If you have not participated in this League activity in the past, you will find it a very rewarding and moving experience.

Please contact Voter Service Director Susan Bush to volunteer. Email: [sjbushy-wca@cnyemail.com](mailto:sjbushy-wca@cnyemail.com)  
Phone: 424-0040.



## PLANNING FOR NEXT YEAR

The Nominating Committee will soon be meeting to prepare a slate of officers for the 2010-2111 League year. Serving on the Board is a great way to learn more about the League and to meet the members of our organization. Please contact Roberta Millert, chair of the committee at [lwvsyr@twcny.rr.com](mailto:lwvsyr@twcny.rr.com) or call the office at 448-7199 for more information.

## Officers

Co-President...	Rae Rohfeld
Co-President...	Vacant
Vice-President...	Vacant
Secretary...	Karen Smith
Treasurer....	Donald MacLaughlin

## Directors

Advocacy...	Mary Clare Hatch-Pennello
Fund-Raising...	Vacant
Membership...	Mary Lou Green
Program....	Vacant
Publications...	Joan Johnson
Public Relations...	Lenore Rapalski
Voter Service...	Susan Bush

## Off-Board Positions

Budget Director....	Rhonda Hungerford
Nominating Committee.....	Roberta Millert
	Joan Durant
	Vacant
Optical Scan Liaison....	Lenore Rapalski
Technical Support...	Roberta Millert

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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) 448-7199 or e-mail to [league@lwvsyr.org](mailto: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.

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Please let us know your email address.

- It is the most efficient way to communicate
  - You will be notified of upcoming local events
  - LWV National & State Action Alerts
- Your e-mail address will not be shared or sold. Please respond to [league@lwvsyr.org](mailto:league@lwvsyr.org)

# FROM THE PRESIDENT

We are well into thinking “90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary” now. Our programs in the next few months will provide opportunities to look at the past in the long struggle of the suffragists, our present efforts to ease access to voting and improve government, and the future of our democratic ideals. We’ll have times of entertainment, times of reflection, and times to freshen our perspective on where we’re going.

Our **February 7<sup>th</sup>** program takes us back to participate in a 19<sup>th</sup> century meeting for women’s suffrage. The Onondaga Historical Association will offer a presentation in which Elizabeth Cady Stanton and her husband, Henry Stanton, two major suffragist leaders, engage us in a conversation about the issues of the day. We think this will be fun as well as enlightening and urge you to bring friends and family members.

Save the afternoon On **March 25<sup>th</sup>** for a tea at the Fayetteville Library where we’ll enjoy a program on women’s 19<sup>th</sup> century clothing, which may remind us of how clothing relates to what we can do no matter where and when we live.

On **March 26<sup>th</sup>**, we’ll have our big celebration luncheon and hear a modern women’s leader, **Karen DeCrow** discuss the times we’ve been through and the work we’ve yet to do. Since this event will be at the top of the Renaissance Syracuse Hotel, we’ll also be able to enjoy the spectacular view of the area in which we live and work.

All of these events are open to the public. We hope you and your friends will be able to join in our celebration of the passage of the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment for women’s suffrage and the establishment of the League of Women Voters to help people be informed voters.

***Rae Rohfeld***

## CALENDAR

Tuesday, Jan. 26, 11 AM  
State Capitol Steps. Albany

Rally On Hydrofracking

Wednesday, Jan. 27

Consolidation Study Committee Mtg.

Wednesday, Feb. 3, 7 PM  
Cazenovia Library  
100 Albany St Cazenovia

Cazenovia LWV - US Census Meeting  
Kristi Anderson, Professor of Political Science  
Syracuse University, Speaker

Sunday, Feb 7, 2 PM  
Onondaga Historical Association  
321 Montgomery St. Syracuse

“She Said, He Said” -Elizabeth & Henry Stanton

Sunday, Feb. 14<sup>th</sup>

90<sup>th</sup> Birthday - League of Women Voters

Monday, Feb. 15, 7 PM  
Sargent Room, Liverpool Public Library  
310 Tulip St. Liverpool

Study Committee - Guest speakers  
James Rowley and James Farrell (see page 5)

Thursday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2 PM  
300 Orchard Street, Fayetteville

Fayetteville Library - Tea and Program  
Women’s 19<sup>th</sup> Century Clothing

Friday, March 26, 12 Noon  
Renaissance Hotel  
701 East Genesee St. Syracuse

90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Luncheon  
Guest Speaker - Karen DeCrow



## **10 Questions, 10 Minutes**

The goal of the 2010 Census is to count all residents living in the United States on April 1, 2010. The U.S. Census Bureau does not ask about legal status of respondents in any of its surveys and census programs. To help ensure the nation's increasingly diverse population can answer the questionnaire accurately and completely, about 13 million bilingual Spanish/English forms will be mailed to housing units in neighborhoods identified as requiring high levels of Spanish assistance. Additionally, questionnaires in Spanish, Chinese (Simplified), Korean, Vietnamese and Russian - as well as language guides in 59 languages - will be available on request.

By 2010, there will be an estimated 310 million people residing in the United States. Counting each person is one of the largest operations the federal government undertakes. For example, the Census Bureau will recruit nearly 3.8 million applicants for 2010 Census field operations. Of these applicants, the Census Bureau will hire about 1.4 million temporary employees. Some of these employees will be using GPS-equipped hand-held computers to update maps and ensure there is an accurate address list for the mailing of the census questionnaires.

With one of the shortest questionnaires in history, the 2010 Census asks name, gender, age, race, ethnicity, relationship, and whether you own or rent your home. It takes only about 10 minutes for the average household to complete. Questions about *how* we live as nation- our diversity, education, housing, jobs and more - are now covered in the American Community Survey, which is conducted every year throughout the decade and replaces the Census 2000 long-form questionnaire.

### **PLEASE NOTE**

The Cazenovia LWV has extended an invitation to our members to attend a lecture on the U S Census The basics, political controversies over how to conduct it, and what the political stakes of the census count are for our states and localities will be discussed. Syracuse University Professor of Political Science, Kristi Anderson will be the speaker. The meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 3rd at 7 pm at the Cazenovia Library .

### **MILESTONES ON THE ROAD TO EQUALITY -**



**1851- Amelia Bloomer publishes in her Seneca Falls newspaper, *The Lily*, a description of a comfortable, loose-fitting costume consisting of a short skirt worn over pantaloons.**

**1851- Sojourner Truth delivers her "And Ain't I a Woman" speech at the Woman's Rights Convention in Akron Ohio**

**1855 - Elizabeth Cady Stanton makes an unprecedented appearance before the NYS Legislature to speak in favor of expanding the Married Woman's Property Law.**

**1859 - Carrie Chapman Catt is born in Ripon Wisconsin**

## NEWS AND NOTES

### 2010 LWVNYS LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Attached to this newsletter is the LWV Legislative Agenda. As you can see, the focus is squarely on improving the state legislature, how it functions and in particular how it gets elected. Keep informed by looking at our new home page for the *Advocacy Areas* section which explains the League advocacy

process, highlights current action, and guides the reader into specific advocacy areas where more detail into specific advocacy areas is provided. The new home page is online at:

<http://lwvny.org.html>



If you have not already done so, sign up at [www.lwvny.org](http://www.lwvny.org) to use the LWVNYS Citizen Action Tool Kit (CATT) by clicking "Take Action Now" at the top right column of the website - [www.lwvny.org](http://www.lwvny.org)

Paper Copies of the New Electronic  
**STATE VOTER**  
are available by calling  
Stephanie at the State League Office  
At 518-465-4162

Fee is \$5 per issue or \$20 for  
the rest of the fiscal year (4 issues)  
**Stay connected with the State**



### *March is Women's History Month -*

*What better way to celebrate than  
by attending many of our events  
scheduled around the founding of  
the League of Women Voters and the signing of  
the 19th Amendment.*

### GOVERNMENT STUDY UNDERWAY

Our League needs to be prepared to discuss the consensus questions coming from the LWV NYS Study Committee on "Government Consolidation/ Shared Services. "

This is a vast topic. The need for government modernization in Onondaga County has been a focus for study, discussion and advocacy by many in our community.

As Leaguers, how will we add to the discussions, analyze the points of view and participate in forming a NYS LWV position?

1. Join the local League study by contacting Carol Wixson, at [armcar@windstream.net](mailto:armcar@windstream.net) or 673-2787, or the League office at [league@lwvsyr.org](mailto:league@lwvsyr.org) or 448-7199

2. Read some of the Study bibliography printed in the December 2009 Local Voter or visit the state web site at [www.lwvny.org](http://www.lwvny.org) and locate Program Study and Action.

Each of us in our local Study group has selected a report from the Bibliography, to share and briefly summarize. The Bibliography is sorted by: General Background, Consolidation, Shared Services, Special Services and Case Studies.

3. The next meeting of the Study Group is on Monday, February 15, at the Liverpool Library from 7-8:30 PM. **James Rowley**, former supervisor of the town of Clay will discuss the recent merger between the Clay Police Department and the Onondaga County Sheriff's Department. **James Farrell**, former county legislator and mayor of Liverpool will discuss the unsuccessful efforts to merge the city of Syracuse and the village of Liverpool police departments.

All local Leaguers are welcome to join us and may bring along others interested in the topic.

*Carol Wixson, Chair of the Committee*

## **-PLANNING FOR 2010-2011 -**

Each year we need to review our Local Program. Please review our current local positions and issues and let us know if you would like to see any changes. Our Local Issues and Positions Statement serves as a guide for planning future programs. Send your comments to us by email at [info@lwvsyr.org](mailto:info@lwvsyr.org) or snail mail to PO Box 11866, Syracuse, NY 13218. The deadline for responses is February 15, 2010.

### **LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS SYRACUSE METROPOLITAN AREA 2009-2010 LOCAL ISSUES/POSITIONS**

#### **MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK**

Promote greater citizen participation in the political process by encouraging citizens to become knowledgeable about the issues and to actively lobby elected officials.  
Encourage individuals to exercise their right to vote especially among under represented populations.

#### **LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

Study and support where appropriate legislation, which promotes proposals to modernize local government including shared services among villages, towns, public schools, the city of Syracuse, and Onondaga County.  
Support efforts to contain sprawl with planned growth throughout Onondaga County

#### **SOCIAL POLICY**

Monitor the state school aid formula and its implications for upstate school districts and the Big 5 districts.  
Promote educational efforts dealing with domestic violence and the Integrated Domestic Violence Court in Onondaga County.  
Promote opposition to the Death Penalty in support of the LWVNY position.

#### **NATURAL RESOURCES**

Support efforts of the Onondaga Partnership to facilitate improvement projects for the lake and its watershed.

#### **LOCAL SUPPORT FOR STATEWIDE ISSUES/STUDIES**

Promote improved reforms for HAVA; including improved training for poll workers; adequate staffing at polling places; the use of split shifts for election workers and citizen education and training for replacement machines.  
Promote improved election processes which extend and encourage voting, including no-excuse absentee balloting and Election Day registration.  
Promote and encourage meaningful campaign finance reform.  
Promote the creation of an independent redistricting commission.  
Promote the creation of an independent ethics commission.  
Promote meaningful reform of public authorities.  
Promote additional legislative rules reform.  
Promote and encourage meaningful property tax reform.

### ***MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK***

## 2009 ELECTION UPDATE

### LWVNY Election Survey Results

For the 2009 General Election the League of Women Voters of NYS conducted an online survey of our members' experiences in voting on the new equipment. Several of our local members participated in the survey by replying to the questions in our last newsletter.

#### Adequacy of Instruction

Overall 76% of the respondents indicated satisfaction with the adequacy of instructions they received on how to use the voting machines and fill out the ballot. However, a number of people expressed concern that they overlooked the reverse side of the ballot where the propositions were located and recommended that either the ballot and/or the inspectors alert voters to review both sides of the ballot.

#### Marking the Paper Ballot

Many respondents felt that the ballot print was too small and fine and the squares and circles to be filled in were also too small. Some noted that a square takes more time than a circle to fill in accurately. The correct type of pens or pencils with the right kind of tip and a sufficient supply of these tools in the privacy booth was also noted. One person noted that a magnifying lens could also be provided alternatively to using the BMD. Some voters noted that there wasn't adequate lighting in the privacy booth to mark the ballot and recommended that flashlights be provided if the physical condition of the room couldn't be altered.

#### Privacy Issues

The single most frequently expressed comment concerned privacy issues surrounding the location of privacy booths, privacy screens, scanner and BMD so that privacy is provided in marking and casting the ballot. Some inspectors as well as voters did not understand the purpose of the privacy sleeve and how to use it. Inspectors did not routinely use it with all ballots. Several voters who spoiled ballots wondered about the privacy procedures for spoiled ballots.

#### Ballot Scanning

Very few voters in the survey cohort had any problems with the scanning operation. Some Erie County residents apparently had their ballots rejected several times due to an unexplained error message which inspectors said had occurred several times earlier. In one case, after several unsuccessful attempts to scan the ballot two election inspectors (one Democrat, one Republican) opened up the ballot box and deposited the voter's paper ballot inside!

#### Ballot Marking Device (BMD)

Generally the survey respondent were unaware of the location of the ballot marking device in the polling place and did not ob-

serve anyone using it. Several respondents requested information on how to use it but were discouraged from using it by the election inspectors who were uncomfortable with the procedure for the BMD.

*Aimee Allaud, LWVNY Election Specialist*

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### Onondaga Election Commissioners - From Testimony before the NYS Senate Elections Committee

Onondaga County participated in the 2009 pilot project. We selected 13 towns with a total voter enrollment of 110,000. This represents about 40% of our county's registered voters.

We deployed 86 ImageCast machines in the pilot area. If the voter enrollment was over 2,000 at a particular site we sent two machines.

The suggested ratio for privacy booths from the state was one per 250 voters. We felt a ratio of one per 100 voters would be better. We are glad we went with the higher number.

The ImageCast's worked very well. The one big concern we had was a lack of privacy for our voters.

We did not provide a privacy folder for the voters which we will in the future. We also had overzealous inspectors who insisted on helping voters scan their ballots or were simply standing too close to the scanner. We trained them to stay away from the scanner but some of them were trying to be helpful. We will provide additional training in the future.

We also need to put effort into polling place layout. We have discovered that many of our sites are no longer large enough to allow us to set up a large number of voting booths in a manner to allow voter privacy. We are attempting to find places that will accommodate 4 or more election districts. This will also allow us to use fewer inspectors at a time when many of the older inspectors are quitting as a result of the new voting system.

One thing that would help us find these mega polling places would be to make Election Day a school holiday in New York State as it is in New York City. This would allow us to use the schools and their parking lots and perhaps recruit teachers to act as inspectors.

After the election we conducted the 3% audit. Following the formula outlined in regulation 6210 we manually audited all or part of 13,362 ballots. This is equal to 15% of all ballots. It took 22 people 20 hours to complete this. We do believe an audit is necessary, but it should truly be 3% of the systems. The trigger requiring a full audit if the race is within 1% also makes sense.

*Helen Kiggins, Edward Ryan*  
*Onondaga County Election Commissioners*



SYRACUSE METRO  
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
PO BOX 11866  
SYRACUSE NY 13218

Jan/Feb 2010

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Syracuse, NY  
Permit no. 372

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



**League of Women Voters  
Membership Application**

*Democracy is not a spectator sport  
It's efficient activism*

*It is a way to make your voice count  
It is a way to make politics a process for the people*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ *Individual Level....\$55*

\_\_\_ *Household Level\*....\$80*

\_\_\_ *Student Level \*\*....\$25*

**Please make check payable to:  
Syracuse Metro Area League of Women Voters  
P O Box 11866**

**\* Two members in the same household Syracuse, NY 13218**

**\*\* Full time student under 25**

\_\_\_ ***I would like to support the League with a donation.***

**For more information call us at (315) 448-7199 or visit us at [www.lwvsyr.org](http://www.lwvsyr.org)**