



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SARATOGA COUNTY, NEW YORK

BULLETIN

APRIL 2014

OUR MISSION

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Diversity Policy

The League of Women Voters of Saratoga County, in both its values and practices, is committed to inclusion and diversity.

This means:

There shall be no barriers to participation in any activity of the League on the basis of economic position, gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin or disability.

We recognize that diverse perspectives are important and necessary for responsible and representative decision-making.

We believe inclusiveness enhances the organization's ability to respond more effectively to changing conditions and needs.

We affirm our commitment to reflecting the diversity of Saratoga County.

Get in on the ground floor!

Join a Study Committee!

All members are encouraged to join one or both of these studies! It is only after the League has studied a topic and reached a consensus that we adopt a position, and then advocate for that position. (That's League-Speak for considering all sides of an issue before we speak out.)

The purpose of a study committee is to decide on the information to present to our members, and how we should present it, so that they can make an informed decision (i.e. reach consensus) about what our position should be.

The Ballot Access Study Committee

First meeting: Tuesday, April 15th at 7pm

Glasby Room, Saratoga Springs Public Library

Barb Thomas will be chairing this study which will be trying to answer questions like—

- Should you have to be registered in a party to vote in a primary?
- Should parties be able to endorse candidates running on other parties' lines?
- Should all candidates run in one primary, with the top two vote getters facing each other in the general election?
- Should you have to be an election law lawyer to design a legal nominating petition?



The Term Limits Study Committee

First meeting: Monday, April 21, 6 – 8pm

Malta Community Center, Room 106, 1 Bayberry Drive, Malta

Linda Walczak will be chairing this study which will be trying to answer questions like—

- Do term limits prevent corruption?
- What has been the experience of states with term limits?
- Why have some states that had term limits eliminated them?
- What are the arguments for and against term limits?



**League of Women Voters
of Saratoga County (NY-639)**

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Schedule of LWVSC Board Meetings

United Methodist Church, Henning Road, SS
7—9pm 1st Wednesday of each month

September 4, October 2, November 6, December 4,

January 8, February 5, March 5, April 2,

May 7, June 4.

All members are welcome to attend board meetings.

**League of Women Voters of New York State or
League of Women Voters of New York State
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From the President...

I want to encourage all our members to take advantage of our proximity to the state capital and the state League office. This month LWVNY partnered with the Rockefeller Institute to present a program on Election Law that quite a few of our members attended.

And we had eight members attend the Regional Workshops (see p. 3). Whenever you

can, take advantage of these opportunities. You don't have to be on the board or steeped in League information, or an expert on an issue, to participate and get something out of the experience.

It isn't hard to drive down to the legislature to observe at a hearing or a committee meeting – and just being present sends a signal that the public is interested and watching.

But you can do more. Several of our members got together with members of the Rensselaer LWV to talk with Senator Kathleen Marchione about the need for including true campaign finance reform in the NYS budget. Other opportunities to lobby on behalf of the League are coming up – see the flyer about supporting Single Payer Healthcare that is on page 7.

Of course, you can always speak to your representatives, or call them, or write a letter to the editor or sign a petition in your role as a citizen. Sometimes we think that our representatives don't listen, but the refrain we hear most frequently is that they haven't heard from members of their district on the topic you have an opinion about.

Thanks to the rabble rousers, abolitionists and suffragists who joined us for brunch with Sojourner Truth. It is always fun to meet a famous person who has played an important role in our nation's history—and it helps support the League's educational programs in our community.

Donna

**Thanks to Our
LWV Education Fund Contributors**

Super Suffragists

Donna Dardaris ~ Claire Olds

Suffragists

Janice Burns ~ Betty Gallagher

Abolitionists

Helen and Bill Crawshaw

Kathy Koeblich ~ Marian Potter

Barbara Thomas ~ Diane Whitburn

LWVNY REGIONAL WORKSHOPS

Albany was the site of the first of five regional LWVNY workshops for local league board and general members – workshops to help them with their membership, fundraising, advocacy, candidate forum, publicity and Vote411 goals. The Saratoga League was well represented by Donna Dardaris, Amy Durland, Louise Golub, Kathy Koebrich, Ann Kril, Terry Lowenthal, Nancy Martinez, Darnell Rohrbaugh, Barbara Thomas and Linda Walczak. It was helpful to share information with our counterparts in the Albany, Cooperstown, Rensselaer, Saugerties, and Schenectady Leagues and to hear LWV experts on the topics. One of the most important takeaways was how important it is to build personal relationships and focus on the positive.



Ann Kril, Linda Walczak and Terry Lowenthal attended sessions on Vote411 and candidate forums (front diagonal). Behind them are Katrina McEwan (LWVNY administrative assistant) and Marianna Stout (LWVNY board member and Vote411 expert).

LOBBY FOR EQUAL PAY

Equal pay day is April 8, 2014. That is the day in 2014 when the average woman's wage for working all of 2013 and more than three months into 2014 finally catches up to the wages the average man made in 2013 for his one year of work. More than 50 years after the passage of the Equal Pay Act, women and minorities continue to suffer the consequences of unequal pay. The League continues to advocate for the NYS Women's Equality Act and the NYS Fair Pay Act to improve the lives of women, families and the NYS economy. The assembly has passed the Women's Equality Act and is scheduled to pass the Fair Pay Act on April 8. Thank your assembly member and let your senator know that you want this legislation to pass.

LWVNY ROUND TABLE

Discussions by Phone

Carol Mellor, the LWVNY Director in charge of Grassroots Lobbying, has initiated a **series of phone discussions on topics of interest to League members**. Individual League members are invited to call in to a conference call number. Look for an invitation in the State Board Update and the on-line newsletter (These go to all members who have given their email for entry into the database.)

The format for these calls is a short introduction by one of our issue specialists, followed by questions and comments by those on the call. The most recent call was with **Beth Radow, the specialist for the Energy, Agriculture and Environment Committee**, and touched on the following topics:

- The transportation of natural gas and oil in and through NY State.
- The disposal of fracking waste in NY State from other states.
- The classification and treatment of the waste from drilling as hazardous.
- The State League supports the following legislation – **A0563** –“establishes a moratorium on conducting hydraulic fracturing or extraction of natural gas or oil until 120 days after federal EPA issues report thereon” and **A1046/S00674** which “relates to the uniform treatment of waste from the exploration, development, extraction, or production of crude oil or natural gas”.

Next up will be **Education Finance**, followed by **Redistricting**. Watch for your invitation.

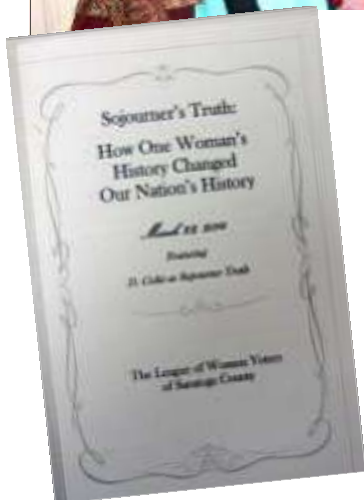
CLIP-IT

Contribute to History—
CLIP NEWS ARTICLES

Marian Potter keeps a scrapbook of LWV Saratoga activities, as reported in newspapers and online blogs BUT only when someone sends the clippings to her. If you see something about our League clip it, or if it is online print it, then mail it to her: Marian Potter, 173 Saratoga Blvd., Saratoga Springs, NY 12866.



Through a special dispensation from God, on Saturday, October 10, 2014, League members and guests were blessed with a performance by Sojourner Truth, abolitionist, and women's suffrage leader. Sojourner's spirit, reincarnated in the body of a young woman, captivated the morning's audience spell-bound for almost an hour. If you weren't there, you missed a powerful experience. The event raised at least \$1,300 for the LWVNY's Education Fund, a fund-raising event, introduced by LWVSC Vice President...



The actresses from "The Stone that Started the Ripple" were honored at a League of Women Voters event in Saratoga Springs, NY on Saturday. Shown here are the recipients of the LWVSC President's Award who were in attendance with author Patricia A. Nugent (left) and Congressman Paul Tonko: (L-R) Carla Duval, Danielle Charlestin (in costume as Sojourner Truth following her one-woman show), and Kaleigh Cerqua. Congratulations to these talented and spirited young women who are "the ripple!"





D. Colin as Sojourner Truth



March 22nd, over fifty
a revisit to earth by ex
rator Sojourner Truth.
actress, D. Colin kept
an hour. If you were-
Our League raised at
nd from this inspiring,
e President Ann Kril.

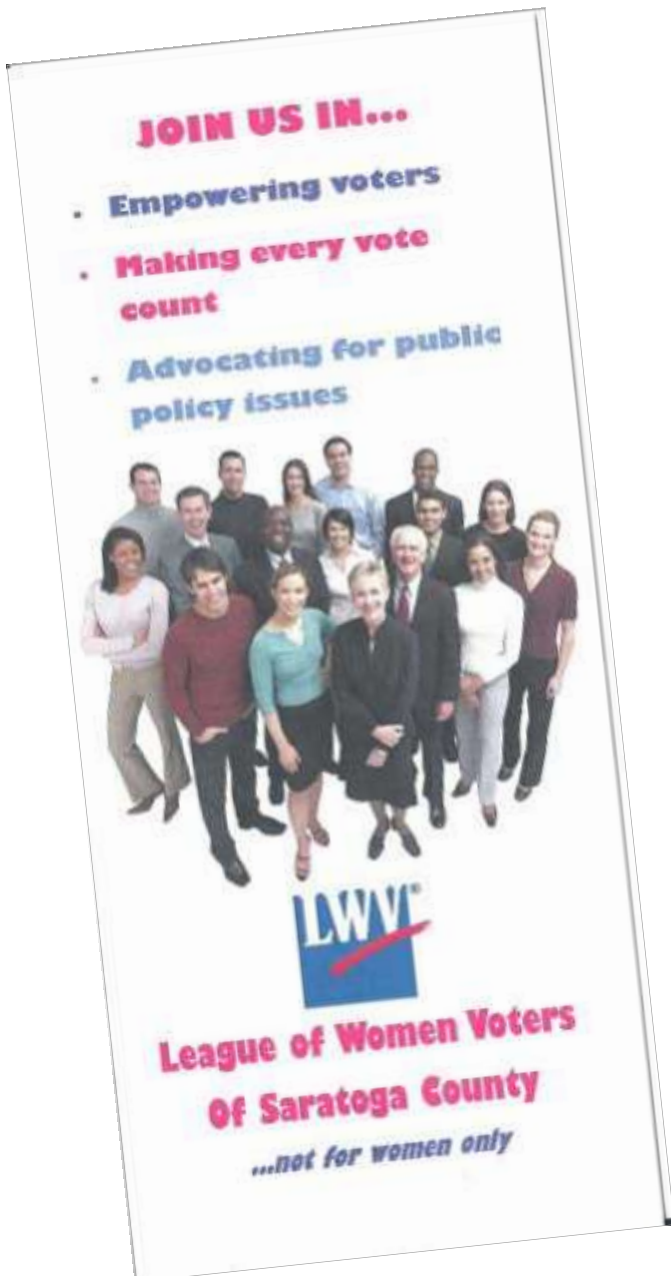


March 22, 2014
LWSC FAMOUS PERSON
FUNDRAISER
SARATOGA SPRINGS



MEMBERSHIP

We have a new membership brochure! Nancy Martinez and her membership committee are hard at work thinking of ways to connect with prospective members. Here's the cover of our newly redesigned brochure. Next they are working on business cards that we can all have handy to give to prospects.



Welcome New Member

Suzanne Bishop

OUR STUDENTS INSIDE ALBANY

By Darnell Rohrbaugh, Chair, Youth Programs

Our Students Inside Albany committee has selected two students from this year's applicants. We will be sending Emma Cohen, a junior from Stillwater High School, and Kali DeMarco, a junior from Mechanicville Jr/Sr High School, to Albany in May. We are also giving the girls an honorary Saratoga County LWV membership so they can receive our newsletter and keep up on League issues.

Emma is active in soccer, track, and dance. She is a member of the French club, Math League, and Chorus and secretary of her class. She volunteers at Proctors. She looks forward to learning about the legislative process and meeting students from around the state. Emma is planning on sharing what she learns with her high school and community.

Kali is also active in sports, basketball, softball, soccer and cross country. She volunteers coaching k-2 Bidy ball and working with Special Olympics. She is a member of Youth Counsel, National Honor Society and Tech-Smart early College High School Program. She would like to learn about government and how to question and seek answers from government. She would like to meet new people in the program and share points of view.

The Students Inside Albany Program introduces high school students to New York State Legislature, legislative process, citizen advocacy, and involvement while attending workshops and shadowing legislators. The selection processes involved all committee members reading each application, recommendation and essay and assigning points to different aspects. These two girls received the highest combined points. One student's costs are paid by the LWNYSSEF. The other student's program costs come from the Saratoga LWV Education Fund. A big thank you to all those who contribute to the education fund to make this program and others possible.



LWV BOOK CLUB

Book Club will meet in April on Wednesday the 16th at the Clifton Park Halfmoon Library (on MoeRoad) to discuss *The Righteous Mind* by Jonathan Haidt.

All members – even if they haven't read the book - are welcome to attend these discussions which begin at 1:30pm.

Single Payer Lobby Day—Albany

SAVE THE DATE—May 6



There is growing support across the state for the *New York Health* bill (A5389A/S2078A). If passed, New York would lead the country in having the largest universal, single payer health care system in the country. Every New Yorker would receive quality health care and be able to choose their medical provider. No more bankruptcies due to medical debt. No more denials from private health insurance companies. No more discrimination based on coverage status.

More and more groups are supporting the passage of *New York Health*, including 1199/SEIU Healthcare Workers East, Albany Central Federation of Labor, New York State Nurses Association, and the Working Families Party, along with 92 members of the legislature.

For more information or to endorse *New York Health*, contact singlepayernys@gmail.com

New York Health endorsers: 1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers East, American Academy of Pediatrics—District II, Capital District Alliance for Universal Healthcare, Albany Central Federation of Labor, Committee of Interns and Residents/SEIU, Communications Workers of America District 1, Doctors Council/SEIU, Doctors for America—New York, Downtown Manhattan HCV Support Group Finger Lakes for New York Health – Ithaca, NY, Granny Peace Brigade, Gray Panthers NYC Network, Green Party New York, Green Party of Onondaga, New York HCV & HBV Support Group at O'Connor Hospital, Healthcare-NOW! NYC, Hunger Action Network of New York State, IATSE—Local 1, Interfaith Health Care Coalition of Rochester, Interfaith Impact of New York State, League of Women Voters of New York State, Metro Justice of Rochester, National Physicians Alliance—New York, New York State Academy of Family Physicians, New York State Nurses Association, New York State AFL-CIO, Metro New York Health Care for All Campaign, New York Lawyers for the Public Interest, Physicians for a National Health Program – Finger Lakes Chapter, Physicians for a National Health Program – NY Metro Chapter, Rekindling Reform, Single Payer New York, Statewide Senior Action Council; Sullivan County Legislature, UAW Regions 9 and 9A, United University Professions, Upstate Hepatitis Awareness Project, VOCAL-NY, Westchester for Change, Working Families Party

UPCOMING EVENTS

Equal Pay Day, **April 8th** See page 3

Ballot Access Study committee—**April 15**, 7pm SSPL
See page 1

Term Limit Study Committee—**April 21**. 7pm Malta
Community Room. See page 1

Single Payer Lobby Day, **May 6th** See page 7

School Board Elections **May 20th**

**SAVE THE DATE LWVSC Annual Meeting—
June 22** See below



**THE LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS
OF SARATOGA COUNTY**

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REQUESTED**

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**SAVE THE DATE: Sunday morning, June 22 for the LWVSC ANNUAL MEETING
and BREAKFAST at the Saratoga Golf and Polo Club**

JOIN LWV and help us make democracy work!

- YES!** I Would like to join the League. 2014/15 dues enclosed.
(Note: The Bulletin is free with membership) \$55. Individual \$80 Family \$25 Student
 Please send more information I would like to subscribe to the BULLETIN, \$15. enclosed
Membership dues assistance is available, contact membership chair.
 In addition, I would like to contribute \$ _____
 Please send a gift membership to:

Name _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ ZIP _____ Preferred Telephone _____

E-mail _____

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