



# THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

OF SARATOGA COUNTY, NEW YORK

# BULLETIN

January/February  
2013

## 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.

**Wednesday, January 16, 7pm**

*Updating two LWVSC Positions:*

**Emergency Services**

**Saratoga County IDA & SEDC**

(Industrial Development Agency & Saratoga Economic Development Corporation) **See p.5**  
**Susman Rm., Saratoga Springs Public Library**

**Monday, January 21**

*Martin Luther King, Jr.*

*Day of Service and Celebration*

**Presbyterian New England  
Congregational Church**



**Tuesday, February 12, 1pm**

*Program Planning*

**CPHM Library, Moe Road, Clifton Park**

**All Members are Invited! See p. 6**  
**Book Club will meet right after Program Planning**



**Saturday, February 23, 9am**

*Breakfast With Your Legislators*

**Holiday Inn Saratoga Springs**  
*Details and coupon on page 7*



**League of Women Voters  
of Saratoga County** (NY-639)  
Official address: LWV of Saratoga County  
PO Box 1029, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866  
www.lwvsaratoga.org (518) 728-0237

**Board of Directors**

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**Patricia Nugent**, Chair, Program and Public Relations  
20 Secretariat Lane, Saratoga Springs—584-4255

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**Ann Kril**, Chair, Voter Services  
60 Hillcrest Drive, Saratoga Springs—584-1436

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**Patricia Garrett**, Chair, Special Events, Social Media  
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**Louise Golub**, Co-Chair, Action & Issues  
10 Hathorn St., Saratoga Springs—584-7518

**Barbara Murphy**, Chair, Good Government  
2 Granada Drive, Clifton Park—371-6534

**Peter Neenan**, Chair, Observer Corps  
24 Secretariat Lane, Saratoga Springs—587-9698

**Ann Sheppard**  
9 Kirby Road, Saratoga Springs—583-6318

**Schedule of LWVSC Board Meetings**

Ballston Area Community Center (BACC)  
6:45-8:45pm  
1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month

September 4, October 2, November 13 (Election Day is 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday), December 4, January 8, February 5, March 5, April 2, May 7, June 4.

**League of Women Voters of New York State** or  
**League of Women Voters of New York State  
Education Foundation**

62 Grand Street, Albany, NY 12207  
465-4162 [www.lwvny.org](http://www.lwvny.org)

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202-429-1965 [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)



*From the President... A Tale of Two Hats*

The chair called my name, and I approached the podium to speak. I spoke on behalf of the League, stressing that government deliberations must be open and transparent. I advised them of the League's new position on privatization, cautioning that the needs of all stakeholders must be taken into account. Yes, I played my role at the Board of Supervisors' meeting on transitioning Maplewood Manor to an LDC the way I was expected to, according to League protocol.

But it wasn't Patricia Nugent who wanted to speak. It was Patty Nugent, daughter of Nicholas who spent the last 18 months of his life at Maplewood. Patty wanted to tell them of the great care he received there, the attention he got while his wife of 63 years was dying of a brain tumor. Patty wanted to tell them stories of the other residents she met there, the close knit family that evolves when a local community takes care of its own.

But that was not the hat I was wearing – I was representing a professional organization that only takes positions when a study has been done to confirm the stance taken. And I value and respect that – it's so important to validate the work that we do. Yet, when I turned to go back to my seat, I saw in the audience many who had been my dad's caregivers – aides who had comforted him and me during the emotionally traumatic period of our lives. Selfless workers to whom I dedicated my book on adult parental loss. They now faced job uncertainty, sure to affect the care residents currently in Maplewood will now receive since the Board voted to proceed.

But it wasn't until I left the County Building that I started sobbing - from the County steps, I could see the lights of Maplewood Manor in the foreground. I thought about my time there with my dad, the benefit I had of visiting with him every day because he was so close. I cried for those whose loved ones might get transferred to Vermont or Syracuse or Kingston should it not be financially beneficial for a private firm to keep them there. What a tragedy to isolate elderly loved ones from their families.

Despite my personal experience and opinion on the matter, I know the League must continue to do what we do best – take reasoned positions grounded in empirical evidence following study. I also know that Maplewood Manor is not currently financially solvent – although I question what steps have been taken up to this point to address that. My personal story is just that – League members every day must put aside their own beliefs when representing this organization. We will be convening a meeting for League members to express their views on what response might be within our purview, and I encourage all interested to watch for the Mail Chimp announcement about it.

It's a new year and with it comes new opportunities and challenges. This *Bulletin* is chock full of important information and upcoming events. I am grateful to all those who volunteer to pull it together.

Onward, Pat(ty)

## HOW TO JUDGE OUR VOTING PROCEDURES...

### ...OR Voter Fraud: Diversions, Fabrications and Red Herrings

Following is a summary of an article by Bev Harris, longtime 'boots on the ground' national activist who has been uncovering voting machine abuses since the infamous 2000 presidential election.

Bev's article seems to have two recurring themes lately, each from the opposite side of the political spectrum.

One set claims that Anonymous, the computer 'geek' group, has hacked Karl Rove's intended election manipulation.

The opposing group asks: "Are you doing anything about the rampant voter fraud that put Obama in office?"

Bev notes we have to be careful about stories such as these because they can divert **important work on election transparency** into chasing phantoms.

Bev explains where she finds that **wholesale tampering actually takes place**. She notes if you plan to rig an election, you do it as an **inside job**, not with alleged busloads of people casting multiple votes, and not with herds of voter impersonators fooling election judges. You do it with **absentees**, by **manipulating who can vote**, by **altering the voting machine counts**, or you do it by **thwarting the chain of custody**. In other words, it's not the outsiders - the voters - where the focus needs to be.

She reminds us: Let's keep our eye on the ball. Who **handled the ballots**? Who **watched**? Who **programmed the machines**? Was the **list** that was loaded into **electronic pollbooks** the real one? Was the

**count interrupted** for some reason? Did **any ballots disappear**? Were **people prevented from voting**? How do we know that the **ballots** said to have been **mailed in** are the **same ones that were counted**, and how do we know they were **put into the pool** by real voters rather than an elections worker?

The real problem that we have to wrap our heads around, educate others about, and solve, is **transparency issues**, the **public's right to see and authenticate the count**.

Bev notes Germany's open system. That government has ruled that **the public** must be able to see and **authenticate every essential step of the election, without need for special expertise**, and that no after-the-fact procedure can be substituted for the right to **authenticate the original count**. She notes this is exactly the model we here in the USA need to work toward.

There are **four** fundamentals the **public must** be able to see and authenticate:

- 1) Who **can** vote (voter list)
- 2) Who **did** vote (poll list)
- 3) **Counting** of the vote
- 4) Chain of **custody**

We will restore these functions to the American public, once we properly **identify and demand** them, with no compromise and no wasting time on side issues, half-measures, or capitulation. Citizens need to understand that **public** controls over our own elections are the very essence of **self-government**, which is the basis for all democratic systems.

*Barbara Murphy*

## Thanks to Our Contributors

### LWVSC Contributors:

Mr. & Mrs. Frank Berlin  
Laura Chodos  
Helen and Bill Crawshaw  
Carl Danna  
Ann Kril

Suzanne Kwasniewski  
Evelyn Mittleman  
Robert & Josephine Pasciullo  
Dee Sarno  
Barbara Stamas  
Barbara Thomas  
Diane Whitburn

### LWVNY- Education Fund Contributors:

Amy Durland  
Tim and Libby Holmes  
Patricia Nugent  
David & Helen Porter

## FOR THE CHILDREN

The most recent gun-related tragedy in Connecticut further validates the League's long-standing position in support of strong gun control measures. We've held local programs on gun control in the past and believe we must continue to do our part until the senseless killing of innocent children ends. In response to the tragedy, the League will be hosting a community forum in January on gun violence and children. As the details are confirmed, we will be notifying our members and our community. If you'd like to help organize the event, please contact Pat Nugent at 728-0237. In the meantime, to honor these fallen children, let your voice be heard in support of gun safety, conscientious media, and mental health services. Thank you.

## MAPLEWOOD MANOR DEBATE

LWV SC President ,Pat Nugent, calls on the Saratoga County Board of Supervisors to listen to public input and use a transparent process as it deals with the future of Maplewood Manor. Almost everyone at the hearing was opposed to having the LDC sell the nursing home, but the Board voted for the sale, with the exception of Lewza, Jenkins, M. Johnson, Southworth and Yepsen.



### *LWV Team effort pulls off great Charter event!!!*

**Well, we did it!** Civil discourse on a hot topic. Thanks to all of you who made it happen: The planning (and LWV question writing) committee, Betty Gallagher, Margie Van Meter, Amy Durland, Libby Smith Holmes; those who helped with set-up and break-down of the event: Betty Gallagher, Margie Van Meter, Margot Ammon; Tim Holmes, Louise Golub; those who distributed index cards and collected questions: Bailey Bloom, Cynthia Corbett, Betty Gallagher, Margot Ammon, Louise Golub; interface with SSHS: Ann Kril; screening and sorting questions: Amy Durland; timers: Ellie Dillon, Diana O'Brien; welcome and introduction: Patricia Nugent; charter powerpoint: Libby Holmes; moderator: Dale Willman; speakers: Ken Klotz, Jane Weihe, Brent Wilkes (all LWV members) and Jason Molino.

**Thank you!!**

*Barb Thomas*

## STUDENT NEEDED FOR SIA

In years past we have selected a student to attend the Students Inside Albany (SIA) Conference from our LeaderSpark attendees. With that program being on hold for now, we need a new way to find a student. We are contacting local high schools, putting an article in the newspapers, and reaching out wherever we can to seek a qualified student. **If you know of a Saratoga County HS student you would like to suggest, now is the time.** Completed applications must be received by January 25<sup>th</sup>, so time is of the essence.

The application is on our website as well as general information about the conference. This three day conference has been held for the last 13 years in Albany and there is no charge to the student, or to us, for the student to attend. It is a wonderful opportunity and we need your help to spread the word. If you have any contacts with youth groups, please pass this information along.

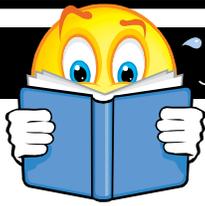
The conference is designed to increase students' awareness of their responsibility in a representative government and provide the tools necessary for meeting that responsibility. This interactive conference will bring together high school students from across the state to learn about New York State government and the process by which citizens can participate in the policy making arena. As part of this program, students will also tour the Capitol and observe both the Senate and Assembly in action by spending an afternoon shadowing their legislators.

## HELP WANTED

Committee members are needed for a study of Agricultural Policy. Must be able to sift through information, work well with others, consider questions from many points of view, plan presentations for public understanding. Working to develop a LWVUS position on Agriculture. Interest in farming practices, genetically modified organisms (GMOs), land and water conservation, nutrition is helpful. Apply to Louise Golub, 584-7518.

*GET INVOLVED! GIVE 2 HOURS A MONTH TO THE OBSERVER CORPS*

Contact Peter Neenan at 587-9698



## JAN. LWV BOOK CLUB

We will meet at 1 PM at the Clifton Park Halfmoon Library on Tuesday, January 8th to review the State Election Law positions. We have invited Aimee Allaud of the Albany LWV to join us. Aimee is most knowledgeable about these positions and can provide us with background on this subject.

In February we will again meet at the Clifton Park Halfmoon library to examine Social Policy.

All league members are invited to join us for interesting conversation and camaraderie. If you have questions, contact Francine Rodger (371-8032) or aerodger@aol.com



Dr. Robert DeSieno, Kathy Koebrich and Barbara Murphy addressed the role of big money in our elections and ideas for campaign finance reform at the LWV Membership Appreciation Breakfast last Nov.

## UPDATING POSITIONS

**January 16, Wednesday, 7pm,  
Susman Room, Saratoga Springs Public Library**

### **Emergency Services & IDA/SEDC Positions**

At the annual meeting in June, the membership voted to update the Emergency Services position regarding ambulance service, fire and police protection. This position dates to 2000 and it was felt that it should be updated to reflect current environment, circumstances and any new technology. They also voted to update the League's IDA/SEDC position, in order to consider new statewide planning information and how "smart growth" methods might be incorporated into the policy. The current position on the Industrial Development Agency (IDA) and Saratoga Economic Development Corporation (SEDC) was originally adopted in January, 2007, and addresses the Saratoga League of Women Voters' perspective on the roles, responsibilities and oversight of these entities.

Both positions can be found at: [www.lwvsaratoga.org](http://www.lwvsaratoga.org) in their entirety, by clicking on Advocacy and Issues and then paging down to the Local League positions.

We hope you will attend to join the discussion. Although it is an update and not a new study, it is important that we get a general membership understanding and consensus on any change in a current position. It should be especially interesting and important to those members who have joined since 2000 and may not know a lot about these topics.

*Terri Lowenthal, Ami Durland and Peter Neenan*

## TAKE ME TO VOTE! 2012

Again for the 9<sup>th</sup> year, the League of Women Voters of Saratoga County has sponsored a project to engage fifth graders in the real world of citizenship and voting. The committee contacted fifth grade teachers in the county elementary schools to seek participation in this project. With responses from nearly 40 teachers, we distributed over 1200 information sheets about voting procedures, registration and deadlines to students to take home to their families. Just before Election Day each student was given a certificate which they could take with them to the polls. Workers at the polls added a VOTE sticker to the certificate if the student was accompanied by a voting adult. The certificate, with the VOTE sticker affixed, was then returned to the classroom. When the teachers sent us the results we computed the highest percentage of participation for each class. The class with the highest participation in each building will be recognized with a plaque.

Winners this year, tied at 100% participation are Mrs. Barbagelata's class at Shenendehowa's Chango Elementary School and Mrs. Pattee's class at Spa Christian Academy. Runners up are Mrs. Sinnenberg's class at Burnt Hills – Ballston Lake's Stevens School and Mrs. Fahey's class at Shenendehowa's Okte School. Plans are being made for Assembly Member James Tedisco to visit Stevens and Okte, and Assembly Member Tony Jordan will visit Chango and Spa Christian.

*The Take Me to Vote! Committee consisted of Carol Green, Libby Smith Holmes, Kathy Kennedy, Betsy Knorr, and Francine Rodger (chair).*

## PROGRAM PLANNING

### All Members are Invited! Not just for Book Club members!

Tuesday, February 12, 1pm  
CPHM Library, Moe Road, Clifton Park

**Program Planning will be the first item on the Agenda.** As we have looked at League positions we have said some of them really need updating. This is our opportunity to recommend changes or studies of state positions.

#### Grassroots and League “Program”

In a grassroots organization, it is vital that all members have the opportunity to participate. The League “Program” is determined by members and consists of federal, state and local issues. National issues are adopted at LWVUS Convention, state issues at LWNYS Convention and local issues at local Leagues' annual meetings. This process provides every member an opportunity to influence new areas of study and the issues that will direct League action during the 2013-2015 League years.

**You are a root. Together we are the grassroots. Join the discussion!**

#### CALENDAR FOR DEVELOPING LWNYS 2013-2015 PROGRAM

**December – February** - Local Leagues review LWNYS Summary of Public Policy Positions (and the underlying complete position in LWNYS *Impact on Issues*) and discuss possible revisions and additions at a general membership meeting. Revisions and additions would be done through dropping positions, updating positions, or new studies. Local League boards, using the outcome of the general membership meeting, forward their recommendations on the attached form to the state League by February 20, 2013. **This is the only method for suggesting new studies to be adopted at Convention 2013 and the February 20 deadline for submission must be met. Changes in Program cannot be suggested for the first time at Convention.**

**March** - State Board- reviews recommendations from local Leagues and develops a Proposed Program for consideration by delegates to State Convention.

**April**- Proposed Program is sent to local Leagues in Pre Convention Kit. It includes recom-

mended and non-recommended program items, submitted by the February 20, 2013 deadline. Local Leagues review the Proposed Program. They may decide, early on, to establish a League network to rally support for certain items on the recommended or non-recommended lists.

**June** Convention delegates adopt a 2013-2015 Program either as proposed by the state League board or as amended by the inclusion of non-recommended items.

**February Book Club will examine Social Policy, following Program Planning. See p.5**



#### WANTED:

Board member for the LWV Saratoga. Must be available for meetings on the 1st Tuesday of each month and WILLING to be in charge of the LWV's fundraising. (There are members willing to help). **Contact Pat Nugent to discuss the role.**

**Look who's coming to  
breakfast in March!**



Abigail &  
John  
Adams

*Watch for your invitation to the  
**Famous Person Fundraiser.***

This very popular event takes place on a Saturday in March, so your invitation will arrive in February. You won't want to miss this famous American couple!

Welcome New Member

Pauline Boehm



# Have Breakfast with Your Legislators at Holiday Inn, Saratoga Springs

232 Broadway, (Route 9), Saratoga Springs, NY 12866, (518) 584-4550

Saturday, February 23, 2012 at 9 am

Moderator: *Barbara Bartoletti*

*An opportunity to meet face-to-face with your representatives  
at an interactive breakfast followed by a panel discussion.*



## INVITED PANELISTS

### *NYS Senators*

Hugh Farley  
Kathy Marchione

### *NYS Assemblymen*

Tony Jordon  
John McDonald  
Jim Tedisco  
Dan Stec

## MENU

Chilled Juices  
Freshly Sliced Fruit Display  
Lightly Scrambled Eggs  
Bacon & Sausage Patties  
Hot Cakes or French Toast  
Home Fries  
Assorted Breakfast Breads  
Assorted Cold Cereals  
Assorted Individual Yogurts  
Coffee, Tea, or Milk

### How to get there

From I-87, take exit 14. Turn right at exit onto 9P towards Saratoga Springs. Go to the end and turn left onto Circular St. Go around the curve to Broadway. Hotel is on your right.

*R.S.V.P. by February 15 to Assure Your Seat at the Breakfast*

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Please seat me with my legislator (insert name) \_\_\_\_\_

Number in your party \_\_\_\_\_ Members, \$20.= \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

Nonmembers, \$25.= \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

Total enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Make checks payable to: League of Women Voters of Saratoga County**  
**Mail to: Mary Lou Classen, 4 Blue Spruce Lane, Ballston Lake, NY 12019**

*Questions?? Call Pattie Garrett at 518-584-4271*

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Tuesday, January 8,** Book Club, CPHM Library, Clifton Park, 1pm

**Wednesday, January 16,** Updating Positions, 7pm, Susman Room, SSPL

**Monday, January 21,** Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration and Day of Service, New England Presbyterian Congregational Church, daylong activities

**Tuesday, February 12,** Program Planning for LWVNY, CPHM Library, Clifton Park, 1pm

**Saturday, February 23,** Breakfast with your Legislators, Holiday Inn, Saratoga Springs, 9am  
RSVP by Feb 15



**THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SARATOGA COUNTY**  
P.O. BOX 1029 SARATOGA SPRINGS, NY 12866

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

**January/February 2013**

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**CONTENTS**

Updating 2 Positions, Martin Luther King Day, Program Planning, Legislative Breakfast.....1  
From the President.....2  
How to Judge our Voting Procedures, Thanks to Our Contributors .....3  
We Did It, Students Inside Albany, Want Ad, The President addresses the County Bd, Welcome New Member .....4  
January Book Club, Updating Positions, TAKE ME TO VOTE!, Member Appreciation Breakfast .....5  
Program Planning, Wanted, Guess Who's Coming To Breakfast in March.....6  
Legislative Breakfast, RSVP coupon.....7  
Upcoming Events .....8

**JOIN US & MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

- YES!** I Would like to join the League.  2012/13 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

- In addition, I would like to contribute \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Please send a gift membership to:

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE (home) \_\_\_\_\_ (work) \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Membership, League of Women Voters P.O. Box 1029, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866