



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

OF SARATOGA COUNTY, NEW YORK

BULLETIN

NOVEMBER 2010

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.

Celebrate Women's Suffrage

90 Years On 1920-2010

90 Years for Womens Suffrage
90 Years of The League of Women Voters



Elizabeth Cady Stanton's Birthday

Friday, November 12th, 7:30-9:30pm
Saratoga Music Hall at City Hall

474 Broadway, 3rd floor (accessible) Saratoga Springs

RSVP \$20/members; \$25 non-members

RSVP by November 2 with a check payable to LWVSC,

Mail to: Diane Whitburn, 11 North Hill Dr,
Ballston Lake, NY 12019.

Hydraulic fracturing for natural gas

What's the Fracking Fuss?

Wednesday, November 17th

Community Room, Saratoga Springs Public Library
Potluck at 6, Program at 7pm

SPEAKER: KATHERINE NADEAU

Water & Natural Resources Program Director
Environmental Advocates of New York



Katherine joined Environmental Advocates in 2007. She led the campaign for the passage of the Hudson Valley Community Preservation Act and was instrumental in garnering support for The Great Lakes Compact. She currently works on protecting and restoring the Great Lakes, and on water quality issues including monitoring water pollution permits—

and issues related to gas drilling in New York.

Prior to joining Environmental Advocates, Katherine worked as a consultant and community organizer for the Onondaga Nation. Katherine has also worked as an organizer, community outreach director and legislative associate with the New York Public Interest Research Group. *More on fracking p.3*



**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

Board of Directors

All phone numbers in 518 area code, unless noted

President:

Barbara Thomas, 220 West Milton Rd, Ballston Spa, NY 12020 885-9769(h) — summer home: 315-357-3340

1st Vice President/Membership/Citizen's Rights

Lori Dawson, 4 Marion Place, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866 580-0547(h) 580-5383(w)

2nd Vice President/Public Relations

Patricia Nugent, 20 Secretariat Lane, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866 584-4255(h)

Treasurer:

Diane Whitburn, 11 North Hill Dr., Ballston Lake, NY 12019 877-5310(h)

Secretary/ Farmer's Market

Pattie Garrett, 537 Union Av., Saratoga Springs, NY 12866 584-4271(h) 402-7124 (w)

Annual Meeting:

Barbara Murphy, 2 Granada Drive, Clifton Park, 12065 399-0652 or 371-6534

Bulletin Editor:

Margot Ammon, 238 Nelson Av., Saratoga Springs, NY 12866 584-4204

Health Care Advocacy

Patricia Reed, 12 Clubhouse Dr., Saratoga Springs, NY 12866 583-1376 &

Selma Harwood, 230 Nelson Av., Saratoga Springs, NY 12866 584-3794

Nominating Committee

Mary Lou Classen, 4 Blue Spruce Lane, Ballston Lake, NY 12019 877-8874(h)

Poll Reporting

Katherine Chansky, 3168 Route 9, Greenfield Center, NY 12833 893-7817

TAKE ME TO VOTE!

Mary Ratzer, 433 County Rd. 68 Saratoga Springs, NY 12866 587-8376

Voters Service- Candidate Events

Ann Kril, 60 Hillcrest Drive, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866 584-1436(h)

**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

Executive Director: **Laura Bierman**, laura@lwvny.org
Project Administrator: **Stephanie Lopez**, stephanie@lwvny.org
President: **Betsey Swan**, betsey@lwvny.org

League of Women Voters of the United States
1730 M Street, NW, Washington, DC 20036-4508
202-429-1965 www.lwv.org



From the President ~

What wildly successful candidate events we've been involved with!

This year we partnered with Spotlight News, and that helped us with publicity, getting venues, and the taping of events. Not to mention the moderating skills Bill DeVoe brought to the table. We partnered with the Albany LWV, the Southern Saratoga and Colonie Chambers of Commerce for the Bob Reilly-Jennifer Whalen events. We helped the fledgling Warren County LWV with the Chris Gibson-Scott Murphy event that more than 900 people attended.

We wanted to have good turn-outs, but I am reminded of the old adage, "Be careful what you wish for." Standing room only, and not enough of that, was a problem. Kudos to our wonderful Voters' Service team: Ann Kril (Chair), Mary Lou Classen, Janice Burns, Terry Lowenthal, Debbie Peck Kelleher, Millie Green and our faithful VS volunteers: Helen Crawshaw, Margot Ammon, Pattie Garrett. And thanks to everyone who attended the many events.

Hold Sunday, June 5th for the Annual meeting. We wanted to get out of the rut of so many Saturday morning events, so this year we are going to the Vista at the Van Patten Golf Club for lunch. And the price will be the same! Our Speaker Ron Seyb's topic will be *Who Speaks For Me? Free Speech, the Constitution and Corporations*. By the way, Blair Horner told us about <http://www.citizen.org/stealthpacs>, a way to track the amount of money spent on political races by stealth PACs – they are interest groups that pay for ads, but don't have to disclose their donors.

I'm not entirely sure what elegant casual dress is, but I plan to enjoy myself at the Celebration of 90 Years of Women's Suffrage on Elizabeth Cady Stanton's Birthday. Hope to see you there.

Barb

Thanks to our contributors

**Jean Marie Crocker
Joy Emory
Claire Olds**

Welcome New Members

**Mary Kuykendall
Brent & Linda Wilkes**

What are horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing?

Hydraulic fracturing consists of pumping a fluid and a propping material such as sand down the well under high pressure to create fractures in the gas-bearing rock. The propping material (usually referred to as a "proppant") holds the fractures open, allowing more gas to flow into the well than would naturally. No blast or explosion is created by the hydraulic fracturing process, which has been used in New York since at least the 1950s. Hydraulic fracturing technology is especially helpful for "tight" rocks like shale.

Quantity of water needed for hydraulic fracturing. Hydraulic fracturing of the Marcellus Shale requires large volumes of water to fracture the rocks and produce the desired amount of gas. Each well may use more than one million gallons of water.

The hydraulic fracturing fluid typically contains compounds added to the water to make the hydraulic fracturing process more effective. These may include a friction reducer, a biocide to prevent the growth of bacteria that would damage the well piping or clog the fractures, a gel to carry the proppant into the fractures, and various other agents to make sure the proppant stays in the fractures and to prevent corrosion of the pipes in the well. The Department is assessing the chemical makeup of these additives and will ensure that all necessary safeguards and best practices are followed.

Disposal of hydraulic fracturing fluid

Fluid removed from the well is required by law to be handled, transported and disposed of properly. Horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing are legal and common in New York. The majority of wells in the Marcellus Shale will be hydraulically fractured.

Horizontal drilling has been used in New York since the 1980s. A "horizontal well" is first drilled down vertically to a depth above the target gas-bearing rock formation. Special tools are then used to curve the well so that the hole is drilled horizontally within the gas-bearing rock for up to several thousand feet. Ten percent of DEC's 2007 well drilling permits were for directional and horizontal wells.

Except for special tools used underground, horizontal drilling is performed using the same equipment and technology as vertical drilling, with the same protocols in place for aquifer protection, fluid containment and waste handling.

Benefits of horizontal drilling:

- Maximum contact with the gas-bearing rock formation, so that more gas can be produced from a single well.
- Multiple horizontal wells can be drilled laterally from the same surface location, so that less of the ground surface is disturbed compared to using vertical wells to produce the same amount of gas.

Excerpted from NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) website.



Blair Horner got us all fired up about the need for redistricting and explained the strategy: (1) Try to get the current Gianaris-Valesky bill (which creates an independent redistricting commission) passed this year, by putting pressure on the individual legislators. (2) Get the governor candidates to pledge to veto the new district lines if they are drawn to reflect the status quo and partisan advantage – both top candidates have, and they need to be constantly reminded of this. (3) Put off any talk of a NYS constitutional amendment till after this next redistricting is complete (that's because there isn't time to pass an amendment in time to do the 2012 redistricting, and we don't want to give legislators the opportunity to say they won't vote for the bill be-



Roy MacDonald and Joanne Yepsen offer different views on current problems at one of several forums co-sponsored with Spotlight newspaper.

COMING EVENTS

Friday, November 12th, Celebrate Women's Suffrage, Saratoga Music Hall—7:30-9:30 pm, see p1

Tuesday, November 16th
LWV Albany's The Perfect Fit Shoes, see box below

Also on the 16th
Tough Talk About Hard Decisions
Exploring Legal and Ethical End of Life Issues, SSPL, 7pm
Pat Reed 583-1376 or reed9@nycap.rr.com for more info

Wednesday, November 17th
What's the Fracking Fuss?
Katherine Nadeau, speaker
SSPL, potluck at 6, Speaker at 7pm
See page 1



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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

November 2010

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Saratoga Springs, NY
Permit No. 16

Contents

What's the Fracking Fuss?1, 3
From the President2
Thanks to Contributors2
Welcome New Members.....2
More on Fracking.....3



NOTICE!

The nominating committee is looking for officers and board members for next year. Self nominations are very welcome.
Call Janice Burns at 587-3436 with any suggestions.

Join the LWV of Albany County
at the Albany Institute of History and Art
Tuesday, November 16, 2010, 6 pm - 9 pm
The Perfect Fit: Shoes Tell Stories
Refreshments of special coffees, teas and desserts

RSVP by November 6, 2010 to Lois Griffin, 1 Sky Terrace, Voorheesville, NY 12186 with a check for \$15.00 per person made out to LWVAC with "AIHA" listed on the memo line. Include names of attendees and their email address.

LWV Schenectady presents—
November 30, 7:00 pm
McChesney Room, Schenectady Public Library
Meg Morris:
"Solid Waste Management"
(waste reduction, reuse, recycling, composting, waste to energy)

GET INVOLVED ! GIVE 2 HOURS A MONTH TO THE OBSERVER CORP
Contact Denny Finneran at 583-1478

JOIN US & MAKE A DIFFERENCE

- YES!** I Would like to join the League.
- \$50. Individual \$75 Family
- \$20 Student
- Please send more information
- I would like to contribute\$ _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

PREFERRED PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

Make your check to: **LWV of Saratoga County**
Mail to: Membership, LWVSC P.O. Box 1029,
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866