



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SARATOGA COUNTY, NEW YORK

BULLETIN

November 2012

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.



You are Invited



Saturday, November 17 9am-12n

Prestwick Chase, Saratoga Springs*

9am – Member Appreciation Breakfast

We Give Thanks for You

Breakfast for current members compliments of Prestwick Chase management

9:45-10:30am

*How Technology and Campaign Finance
Influenced the 2012 Presidential Election*

Keynote by Dr. Robert DeSieno followed by Q&A

10:45-12n

*Protecting our Democracy:
Campaign Finance Reform for New York State*

**LWVNYS Presentation by
Barb Murphy, LWVSC board, and Kathy Koebrich,
Democracy is for People, Malta**



RSVP by November 7 to

728-0237 or donnad.lwvsc@gmail.com

*DIRECTIONS TO PRESTWICK CHASE

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. At exit 15 head to Saratoga Springs. | STRAIGHT on CLEMENT AVENUE |
| 2. At the third traffic light take a RIGHT onto EAST AVENUE | 7. At the stop sign turn RIGHT onto DENTON ROAD |
| 3. At the stop sign, continue STRAIGHT across North Broadway onto THIRD STREET | 8. Denton winds around, goes under the RR, continues past fields. |
| 4. Follow this street around the bend | 9. Prestwick Chase at Saratoga will be on your right. If you are coming from within the city go North on N. Broadway, turn left onto First Street, continue straight onto Clement Ave. Follow steps 6 thru 9. |
| 5. At the next stop sign take a RIGHT onto CLEMENT AVENUE | |
| 6. At the next stop sign, continue | |



**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

President

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
537 Union Ave., Saratoga Springs—584-4271

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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

1st Tuesday of each month

September 4, October 2, November 13 (Election Day is 1st 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

Executive Director: **Laura Bierman**, laura@lwvny.org
Administrative Assistant: **Katrina McEwan**, katrina@lwvny.org
President: **Sally Robinnson**, robintwins@gmail.com

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...

I was late submitting my column to Margot this month because I was in Kentucky on a book tour. I met some wonderful people with some “interesting” political perspectives. (The VP debate was the same night, in a nearby town.) At a reception, one man asked me how I spent my time when not writing. I told him I’m active in the League of Women Voters – and braced myself for his reaction. He took a deep breath and then said, “Why do *you people* want EVERYONE to vote? Some people are just too damn dumb and shouldn’t be allowed to vote! Yet you want to register everyone!” I asked who he thought was too dumb to vote, and he answered, “People who vote differently than I do.”

This college professor was only half-kidding. I explained to him that the League encourages informed and active participation in government and works to increase understanding of major public policy issues so that citizens can cast informed ballots. Unlike partisan organizations that only try to scare or brainwash us into voting for their candidates, we deal in issues. And, yes, we DO want everyone to vote. (One person thanked us for “unsuppressing” the vote!)

That’s how we’ve spent the last several months. Our Voter Registration team, under Janice Burns’s leadership, has registered close to 300 people in Saratoga County this election season! Chris Alexander has led the way in New York State with the Vote 411 site that helps voters figure out who their candidates are since the redistricting and what they stand for. The Voter Services team, under Ann Kril’s leadership, has provided voters with the opportunity to meet and question candidates at four forums and through informative print media. And under Barb Thomas’s leadership, we held a forum on the proposed Saratoga Springs charter change – arguably one of the most contentious and important local issues we’ve dealt with in a while.

We have been fortunate to have two media sponsors this election season: *The Saratogian* and *Saratoga Wire*, a new online news source. This has boosted our ability to keep the public better informed, and we’re grateful.

Please RSVP for our Member Appreciation Breakfast and Election Post-Mortem on Saturday, November 17. It’s a wonderful time to socialize, welcome new members, and decompress after a VERY long election season.

See you at the polls. Pat



Step-by-Step Instructions for Getting the Voter Info You Need:

**Go to www.lwvsaratoga.org
You will see Elections 2012**



Visit the League's Vote411.org Online Voter Guide to get a personalized list of races on your ballot with candidate biographies and answers to questions.

If you click on [Print version \(PDF\)](#), you will get information on all races occurring in Saratoga County. Just keep paging down to get to the races you want.

If you want the online guide, it is simplest to click on the Vote411 logo. Ignore all the boxes in the lefthand column. Look to the right and you will see "Build your ballot with our online voters' guide!" This is a live link. Click on it. A new page will come up. Look to the right again. You will see a dark blue bar that says "Vote411 Voter Guide." At the far right of the bar is a tiny wheel. Click on this and choose "All my races." Then look down and choose "Enter My Address." In the box that comes up enter your

street address, city, NY and ZIP. Click on "Search." A map will pop up. Towards the right you will see a button marked "START." Click on this. Choose your language, then click on the button that says "Go To My Races." The presidential race will come up. Look to the top right (in the black bar). You will see "Next Race: [US Senate](#). If you click on this link you will get the next race. A next race link is in the same place on each page. Clicking on them takes you from the most widespread race to the most local race. OR you can look to the top left and click on "All My Races." This brings up a list of your races, and you can select the one you want.

This is a sample of what you'll get:

VOTE 411 VOTER GUIDE Create Ballot

NY Senate District 43

New district: Includes Saratoga County: Towns of Moreau, Greenfield, Wilton, Northumberland, Saratoga, Stillwater, Halfmoon, Waterford, most of the City of Saratoga Springs except the western part, and the City of Mechanicville. Washington County: Towns of Easton and Cambridge. All of Rensselaer County except the City of Rensselaer and the southern part of the City of Troy. All of Columbia County.

 Robin Andrews (DEM)	 Kathleen A. Marchione (REP, CON)
Like on Facebook Like Be the first of your friends to like this.	Like on Facebook Like Be the first of your friends to like this.
Biographical Information	Biographical Information
Parties Democrat	Parties Republican and Conservative
Campaign Web Site	Campaign Web Site

MANDATE RELIEF

LWVNYS co-sponsored an educational forum with the Rockefeller Institute on the issue of mandate relief. Many League members were able to attend this interesting presentation and discussion, but for those of you who couldn't, the Rockefeller Institute videotaped the forum and provides access to the video (and other materials) on their website.

You can see the presentation and discussion with this link: <http://www.rockinst.org/forumsandevents/> and then scroll down as it's the 2nd one listed on that page.

FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES FOR THE CAPITAL REGION, INC. (FCP)

FCP held its second hearing of the campaign season on October 17th to hear a complaint arising from a campaign in the 107th Assembly District. Judy Coburn, Mary Jane Ellis, Beverly LaBarge and Barbara Thomas were the Saratoga members serving on that hearing panel. The 107th covers most of Renselaer and parts of Washington and Columbia counties, so FCP members from that area were not eligible to serve. The complaint was from Steve McLaughlin about a mailer sent on behalf of Cheryl Roberts in which she stated that he had voted against a sales tax exemption for clothing and footwear under \$110. "It was complicated," said Mary Jane Ellis, "but the complaint was substantiated."

If you would like to serve on a hearing panel or the FCP board for the next campaign season, please contact Patricia Nugent so the board can consider your appointment.

Calendar of Events Winter/Spring Preview

- Review of local Positions on IDA and EMS (January 16th).
- Agriculture Study (See "Help Wanted").
- Meet Your Legislators Breakfast (Feb. 23)
- Famous Person Fundraiser (March)
- Bus trip to National Women's Hall of Fame in Seneca Falls.

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 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.

For more info or involvement in the updates contact Terry Lowenthal (587-2516) for Emergency Services or for the IDA/SEDC contact Peter Neenan (587-9698) or Amy Durland (583-0646).

HELP WANTED

At National Convention, one issue was chosen for a national study. Our **Agriculture Policy** is in need of updating because it was adopted in 1988 and times have changed. We will begin before the national office supplies us with materials so that we can get a head start and learn something about our local concerns too. Interest in GMOs (genetically modified organisms) and farming practices helpful. Contact Louise Golub:584-7518

WE MET THE JUDGES!

All eight candidates for Supreme Court Judge in the 4th Judicial District attended our Meet the Candidates Event on October 11. They each had five minutes to talk about themselves and their qualifications, before we broke up for cookies and coffee and informal conversation. This was the very first time that we held an event exclusively for judge candidates. Now it is up to the voters to choose four of them.

For those who missed the event (and that is most of you) Dale Willman of Saratoga Wire recorded each of the judge candidates. You and your friends and neighbors can view them on Saratoga Wire or link to



them from

A GIFT OF EMPOWERMENT

LWV Saratoga County is now offering gift certificates for one year membership in our League. It's the perfect birthday or holiday gift for the person who shares your passion for the issues but hasn't gotten around to joining yet.

There aren't many gifts you can get for \$55 that would have such a significant impact – on the recipient and on the issues. There is a sense of pride that accompanies League membership and... this gift will multiply the power of our voices about the issues we all care about.

The recipient will get a certificate like the above, and information about the League. S/he must be a resident of Saratoga County to qualify. Please contact donnad.lwvsc@gmail.com to reserve the Gift of Empowerment today. It's worth every penny.

WANTED:

Board member for the LWV Saratoga.

Must be available for meetings on the 2nd 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.

CONCURRENCE?

Great Lakes Concurrence Discussion

November 13, Tuesday, Glasby Room, Saratoga Springs Public Library, 6:45 pm

Should LWVNYS concur with the position on the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence Seaway that LWV Michigan has adopted?

Synopsis of the position we will consider:

The League of Women Voters of Michigan supports preserving and enhancing the environmental integrity and quality of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Ecosystem. We support the attainment and maintenance of high water quality standards throughout the Great Lakes Basin, with emphasis on water pollution prevention. Water conservation should be a high priority of all governments in the Basin.

We encourage all our members to attend to discuss this important issue...and stay for the board meeting that immediately follows.

Background: There is widespread agreement that the Great Lakes presently are exhibiting symptoms of extreme stress from a combination of sources that include

- toxic contaminants,
- invasive species,
- nutrient loading,
- shoreline and upland land use changes,
- hydrologic modifications.

Many of these sources of stress and others have been impacting the lakes for over a century. These adverse impacts have appeared gradually over time, often in nearshore areas, in the shallower portions of the system, and in specific fish populations. Factors such as the size of the lakes, the time delay between the introduction of stress and subsequent impacts, the temporary recovery of some portions of the ecosystem, and failure to understand the ecosystem-level disruptions caused by the combination of multiple stresses have led to the false assumption that the Great Lakes ecosystem is healthy and resilient.



TAKE ME TO VOTE!

If you see fifth graders at the polls with their parents on Election Day, they will be there because they are participating in Take Me To Vote. This is the 9th year the LWV Saratoga has sponsored this program, which encourages fifth grade students to go to the polls with their parents, or another adult. We have over 1500 students potentially participating in this program. The class with the greatest participation percentage will be visited by their Assembly member in the Spring.



OBSERVER CORPS

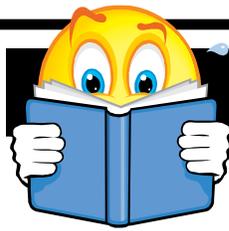
NOTICE TO ALL LEAGUE MEMBERS:

The Observer Corps is always interested in attracting more League members who would be the “eyes and ears” of the LWVSC at meetings of governmental bodies in the county. While we have pretty good coverage of many County Board subcommittees, we could always use more help! Also, any members who regularly attend other government bodies (e.g., city or town councils/boards, school boards, etc) who would like to represent the League as observers are also welcome. Please contact Peter Neenan (Pneenan@ix.netcom.com) or 518-587-9698 for further information. (Email is easier to reach Peter, but he has a screening on his email so the first time you try to use it you will need to be added to his "ok" list.)

In an effort to provide more timely coverage of meetings covered by the Observer Corps rather than just that covered in the Bulletin, regular updates of League-relevant content of County Board meetings will be provided twice monthly on our webpage. This service will begin the end of October. This will afford more frequent coverage, both in months that the Bulletin is regularly published, as well as in those months (such as December) when the Bulletin is not regularly issued.

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

Contact Peter Neenan at 587-9698



LWV BOOK CLUB

We will meet at 1 PM at the Saratoga Springs Library on Tuesday, November 13th to review the State Judicial positions. Helga Schroeder of the Schenectady LWV will join us as a resource for the presenters. Helga is the LWVNY specialist for Judicial Issues, and was the upstate coordinator for The Fund for Modern Courts for many years. She will provide a unique perspective.

There will be no meeting in December, but we will reconvene in January on Tuesday January 8th, at the Clifton Park Library. We will look at state election law issues and will be joined by Aimee Allaud, the LWVNY Election Law specialist.

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.

To the Board of the League of Women Voters of Saratoga County

I have performed the following procedures on the financial records of the League of Women Voters of Saratoga County for the year ended June 30, 2012.

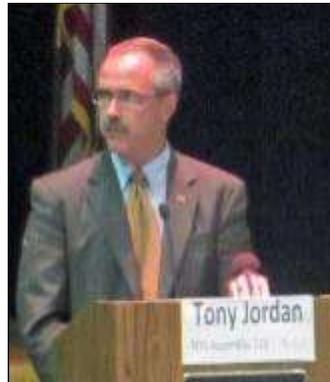
- Traced dues income from books to Treasurer's Report at 6 months and 12 months.
- Traced fundraiser income from books to Treasurer's Report at 12 months.
- Traced donations from books to Treasurer's Report at 12 months.

There were no unexplained differences.

- Compared source documents with a sample of expenses. Including PMP payments.
- There were no unexplained differences.

- Compared bank balances per Treasurer's Report with source documents for Checking account, Ed Fund, CDs, Savings account.
- There were no unexplained differences.

Yours truly, Louise Golub



L to R: Carrie Woerner vs Tony Jordan running to serve the 113th Assembly District and Robin Andrews vs Kathy Marchione in the 43rd Senate District. On October 18, 2012, the four candidates stated their positions and answered questions from the audience.



There were plenty of questions from the audience.



Moderator Barbara Thomas kept things moving along.



LeaderSpark Program Paused

For years the LWV of Saratoga County has provided a leadership training program for high school sophomores and juniors called LeaderSpark. In order for the program to run, we need one or two committed leaders, a suitable place to meet, and a host of volunteers. A funding source is also necessary. Last year and this year, these elements have not fallen into place with enough certainty to allow us to move forward with the program. Although the program has received many positive compliments from the students, parents and the community, there is also some concern that it may need to be updated to be more relevant for today's youth and the technology savvy

leaders of the future. The Saratoga LWV board of directors discussed the issues involved and determined we should do what we always do when confronted with a complicated decision: Study it.

We need some volunteers to look at this program and the feasibility of continuing it. We also want to look at what the needs are for youth in Saratoga County that blend with the LWV's mission and what we can do to provide for those needs. We want to see what other youth programs are available and if any of those may be better suited to our current circumstances. If you are interested in participating in this study, please contact Darnell Rohrbaugh 371-2588.

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 6, Tuesday, Election Day, Polls open 6am-9pm

November 13, Tuesday, Great Lakes Concurrence, Glasby Room, SSPL, 6:45pm

fluenced Election 2012 plus Campaign Finance Reform for NYS, Prestwick Chase, 9:00am Breakfast, 9:45 Program. See page 1.

November 13, Tuesday, Book Club, SSPL, 1pm

November 17, Saturday, Member Appreciation Breakfast, How Technology and Campaign Finance In-

January 16, Wednesday, Review of local positions. SSPL, Susman Rm., 7pm.



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SARATOGA COUNTY

P.O. BOX 1029 SARATOGA SPRINGS, NY 12866

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

November 2012

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VOTE NOVEMBER 6TH



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