



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SARATOGA COUNTY, NEW YORK

BULLETIN

Sept/Oct 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.



SUNDAE SOCIAL ON SUNDAY

SEPTEMBER 29th 2-4pm

Community Room of the Saratoga Springs Public Library.

Get together with prospective, new, and continuing members to enjoy free ice cream sundaes. We have invited NY Civil Liberties Union and LWV of NYS to address Voter Suppression AND KICK OFF THE LWV YEAR!



~get your message out

~build excitement for your agenda

~reach out to the next generation of activists

Dianne Patterson

Vice-president for Public Relations at Family Planning Advocates

& Erica Wilkens,

Communications Associate at Family Planning Advocates

will tell us how to do it!

Saturday, October 26, 9am to 12 noon

Saratoga Springs Public Library—Open to Non-Profit Organizations

Inside: Pull-out Flyer Listing Candidate Events

Compare candidates on Vote411 at lwvsaratoga.org
Their opening statements will be posted following their candidate event.

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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.

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From the President...

Four o'clock on Saturday afternoon and we're getting ready to take down our Voter Registration table at Irish 2000. Janice and I have been at the Saratoga County Fairgrounds since shortly after 9:00 AM and it's been a long but rewarding day. Pat and Rick came in the morning to help us cover the table and they gave Janice and me time to look for a cup of coffee. Then in the afternoon, Barb, Helen and Bill gave us a

hand (or several hands). As we were beginning to pack up all of our paraphernalia, I was joking about having to go home and work on the to-do lists Janice and Barb had given me. At the top of Barb's list was WRITE YOUR COLUMN FOR THE BULLETIN. I guess I sounded a little whiny about the effort it takes to sit at a desk and think of something to write about because Helen said to me, "Write it now. Don't wait until you get home. It may be easier to think of what you want to say when you're not at a desk trying to force the words to come."

And she was right! I didn't actually write the column at the Fairgrounds, but all of a sudden I knew what I wanted to say to you. I want to talk about why Saturday was such a rewarding day for me. It wasn't just sitting outside all day in some of our first fall weather (a lot better in my opinion than the heat and humidity we had been dealing with). It wasn't having an ideal location to listen to the bands playing on the Traditional Stage at the Festival and to watch all of the people entering the Fairgrounds. It wasn't even getting to spend the day with people whose company I enjoy and who share my commitment to the right of every citizen to vote.

It was all of those things combined with the knowledge that I was performing a service to the public while promoting those principles that the League is founded on. It was the young man who dashed up to our table and said, "I'm so glad you're here! I just moved and I have been meaning to change my registration but haven't gotten to do it yet." It was the woman who was rather embarrassed to confess that she hadn't voted in 20 years, but now she's registered and will be voting this fall. It was the mother who almost dragged her son to the table and kept telling him how important it was that he exercises his right to vote.

I think it's human nature to feel good when you know you are doing good work. It's a bonus when you also enjoy what you are doing. How about you? What would you be willing to do for the League this year? I'm not expecting that everyone could spend a full day registering voters, but how about one hour of your time at a League event sometime this year? Or could you/would you be willing to spend an hour or two working on something from home? Come to the Membership Meeting on September 29, have a sundae and get acquainted or reacquainted with other League members. We will have a list of volunteer opportunities and you just might see one that speaks to you!

Donna



I just watched the Videos that Francine Rodger made at our Down on the Farm program last April (made possible with the grant we received from the Alfred Z. Solomon Charitable Trust). Lots of food for thought there! I wasn't able to go to that meeting, so it was very informative. Now I am wondering what happens to those sick cows it doesn't pay to treat. I recommend that you watch the videos, too. It is easy. Just go to our website www.lwvsaratoga.org and select VIDEOS. *by Barb Thomas*

THE LWV SARATOGA MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE has a new chair: Nancy Martinez. Congratulations, Nancy! Say "hi" to her at the Sundae Social.

JOIN A STUDY COMMITTEE. Our local LWV is forming committees to study the three NYSLWV study topics: Ballot Access, Constitutional Convention, Term Limits. See the summer issue for the scope of the studies. This is a good way to get to know other LWV members and to learn the ins & outs of an issue. Let Donna Dardaris know which committee you are interested in.



VOTER REGISTRATION tabling was scheduled for the Saratoga Springs Farmer's Market on 3 Saturdays: September 7 & 21 and October 5 and Wednesday's Sept 11 & 25 and October 9, too. We were also at the 2013 Irish 2000 Festival all day on September 14th at the Saratoga County Fairgrounds in Ballston Spa. Opportunities to help with voter registration come up quickly (we just got one for National Voter Registration Day on September 24th for Global Foundaries,) so contact Janice Burns right now (587-3436 or jburns14@nycap.rr.com) if you can do any of the events that haven't happened yet and to get on her volunteer list. **No experience is required.**

Welcome New Members

Carol Fallon & Linda Walczak



LWV BOOK CLUB

On October 16th at 1pm the book club will meet in the Clifton Park/Halfmoon Library (on Moe Road) to finish up our discussion of **Fair Food: Growing a Healthy, Sustainable Food System for All** by Oran Hesterman.

If you haven't read the book or aren't particularly interested in agricultural policy you are welcome and encouraged to attend this informal discussion group. If you have read the book, that's even better.

We expect to have a farmer present to give the perspective of someone in the business.

All league members are invited to join us for interesting conversation and camaraderie. If you have questions, contact the chair of our Agriculture study committee, Louise Golub (584-7518 or louise@golubcpa.com).

We'll also choose our next book to read.

FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES FOR THE CAPITAL REGION, INC. (FCP) held its first hearing of the Fall season regarding a complaint of unfair practices in the Malta race for Town Justice. The panel found that Elwood Sloat, Jr. did not commit an unfair practice. *The Saratogian* reported on the hearing results in detail on 8/31/13. LWV Saratoga is represented by Bev LaBarge and Mary Jane Ellis on the FCP board.

PLEASE TRY TO VOTE ON THE ACCESSIBLE BALLOT MARKING DEVICE (BMD) at the next election.

You don't have to have a disability to use the machine. Barb Thomas used it in the primary. Even though the machine was opened up correctly, Election Inspectors had trouble getting the screen to light up for the session and getting the machine to accept the printed ballot – because the software has been changed and they weren't given new instructions. You will need to allow an hour for voting on the BMD, so try to go to the polls when they aren't busy. (It doesn't take an hour to vote on the BMD if inspectors know what they are doing, but so few people ask they don't get to practice). LWV wants to be sure that those who really need the BMD will have a good voting experience.



COMING EVENTS

September 29, **Sundae Social on Sunday**, 2-4PM, SSPL

October 8, Tuesday, **UN Day in NYC**

October 16, **Book Club**, 1pm, CP/HM Library

October 26, Saturday, **Using Social Media**, 9am—noon, SSPL



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

Candidate Events throughout October, see Insert
Registration Events September till October 11 (last day to register), see page 3 and website.
Vote411 becomes live early in October. Candidate opening statements will be added after each event.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Sept/Oct 2013

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Thanks to Our Contributors

Donna Dardaris & Marian Potter



2013 UN DAY (Oct. 8):
Unite to End Violence Against Women
Bus from Albany
Register at lwvny.org by September 25

JOIN US & MAKE A DIFFERENCE

- YES!** I Would like to join the League. 2013/14 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 _____