

LWW of Albany County

Educate

Participate

Advocate

December 2006

Audrey Kibrick and Marggie Skinner, Co-Presidents

HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

- Topic:** Report of the NYS Commission on Healthcare Facilities for the 21st Century
- Speaker:** Mark Hustin, Deputy Director and Counsel for the Commission (for a biography and information about the Commission see page 3)
- When:** Friday, December 8th, noon to 2 p.m.
- Cost:** \$25 – Hot Buffet, Salads, Dessert and Coffee
- Where:** Alumni House, University at Albany
- Directions:** From Washington Ave. entrance bear to Right. Follow roadway to Alumni House on Right

From Western Ave. entrance bear to Left. Follow roadway to Alumni House on Left
- Parking:** Dutch Quad Parking Lot (across from Alumni House). For your convenience, please stop at front entrance of Alumni House (with \$3 cash for permit) prior to parking. We encourage carpooling
- RSVP:** By December 2nd, (Saturday) to Gael Casey Vecchio
5 Circle Lane, Albany, NY 12203 or 459-9958

FROM THE PRESIDENTS

Happy Holidays to each and every one of you. We are thankful for the many members and friends who helped us earn the maximum amount for collecting the results at the polls on election day, and to the many others who have already responded so generously to our annual fund drive.

Join us for Lunch on the 8th of December and take a few minutes to fill out your interest sheet.

Let that be your holiday greeting to Don Kennedy at our PO Box. Then, enjoy the rest of the month.

We hope that you will find time this month for friends and family and we certainly look forward to a new year full of promise and- PEACE ON EARTH.

Marggie and Audrey.

Great Issues

The Great Issues group will begin its winter sessions on Monday, January 29. The group will meet on eight alternate Mondays to study the Great Decisions topics for the year. This year's topics include Global Warming, Middle East, Mexico, Migration, South Africa, War Crimes, Central Asia, Children.

The Great Decisions Briefing Book, published by the Foreign Policy Association out of New York City, will be available for \$15 from the Book House in Stuyvesant Plaza or from Bonnie Beard at the International Center (272 Broadway, Menands) in mid-January.

For further information on meeting places and times, contact Katie Henrikson at 439-4308 or khenriks@nycap.rr.com

League of Women Voters of Albany County Board

Co-Presidents	VP Administration	VP Program	Treasurer	Secretary
Marggie Skinner	Gael Vecchio	Wendy Dury-Samson	Mary Berry	Judy Jarnefeld
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The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan citizen organization that promotes the informed and active participation of citizens in government, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Any person of voting age, male or female, may become a League member.

This newsletter is published by the League of Women Voters of Albany County, 12 Coventry Road, Glenmont, New York 12077 and mailed to League Members. The frequency of publication is as follows: one mid-summer issue followed by nine monthly issues from September to May.

Mark R. Ustin, Esq.

Mark Ustin is the Deputy Director and General Counsel for the Commission on Health Care Facilities in the 21st Century. He previously served as Assistant Counsel to the Governor, in which capacity he advised the Governor and his senior staff on all legal issues in the area of health, mental hygiene and aging. He was also one of the primary authors of the legislation creating the Commission on Health Care Facilities. Before that, he served as Counsel to the State Senate Committee on Health, where he was a primary author of landmark legislation in the fields of patient rights, health care quality and technology. Ustin received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Fordham University and a Juris Doctor from St. John's School of Law.

The Commission on Health Care Facilities in the 21st Century is a broad-based, non-partisan panel created by Governor Pataki and the New York State Legislature to undertake a rational, independent review of health care capacity and resources in New York State. It was created to ensure that the regional and local supply of hospital and nursing home facilities is best configured to appropriately respond to community needs for high-quality, affordable and accessible care, with meaningful efficiencies in delivery and financing that promote infrastructure stability.

The mandate of the Commission is to consider and be sensitive to local needs throughout its deliberations. To ensure that the particular needs of each region will be fully considered, the Commission is comprised of 18 statewide members and 36 regional members (6 from each of six regions). In addition, the Commission will work with six Regional Advisory Committees (RACs). Each RAC is charged with issuing its own, non-binding recommendations for rightsizing the hospital and nursing home systems in its respective region. The Commission will make final recommendations on rightsizing New York State's hospitals and nursing homes by December 1, 2006. These recommendations will include possible consolidation, closure, conversion, and restructuring of institutions, and reallocation of local and statewide resources. If the recommendations are approved by the Governor and the Legislature, they become law, and must be implemented by the Commissioner of Health. (taken from the Commission's website).

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Share your Knowledge, Share your Country Become a Citizenship Educator

Can you name the 13 original colonies?

Do you know the names of your state senators?

While most Americans are born citizens, immigrants to the U.S. must know the answers to questions like these to become naturalized.



The U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants of Albany is looking for volunteers to help individuals to study for the U.S. citizenship test. This is a great way to get involved in helping your community and meet people from a wide array of cultural backgrounds. You will be instructed on the application process for naturalization, and paired with someone who is in need of a study buddy to provide a little bit of extra help and keep them motivated. Applicants for citizenship must be able to demonstrate that they can read, write, understand, and speak English, and must demonstrate knowledge of U.S. history and government. Often, these are elderly people who have put off becoming citizens due to their lack of confidence regarding the test, or who have previously taken the test, but have failed. It is extremely important for seniors to become citizens, as they often lose social security benefits once they turn 65 if they have not naturalized. This is a perfect way for you to share with someone else what being an American means to you. Also great for building ESL teaching experience! The ideal volunteer would be able to commit at least one to two hours per week and have transportation.

Become a Citizenship Educator today!

Call Jesse DeLaughter, Americorps Citizenship Volunteer, at 459-8812 or e-mail acuscrialbany@gmail.com.



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ALBANY COUNTY

MEMBER INTEREST SHEET – 2006-07

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

(The above information is provided as a convenience to our members and is not circulated to the public. Please circle anything you do **not** wish to have published in our membership directory.)

The League of Women Voters of Albany County has a number of ongoing activities for which we welcome volunteers.

Please check as many of the following in which you would like to be involved:

Action E-mail- members are alerted by email of the need for legislative action. You will be given information about proposed legislation and asked to contact your legislator. Contact may be written, electronic or by telephone.

Albany County Government (monitoring monthly meetings of the Legislature)

Financing Education- study and action.

Global issues/Great Decisions: day___ evening ___ (study/discussion).

Health Care (universal health insurance).

Immigration (study).

National Government Issues.

Natural Resources/Environmental Issues.

Projects with High School students

Speakers' Bureau (we receive requests to provide speakers on a variety of topics; the State league has prepared speakers notes on many of these topics.)

Voter Service

- Voter registration;
- candidate forums: moderator; time keeper; organizer;
- poll reporting (get election results at a polling place on election night from about 8:45-9:30 pm);
- serve on Fair Campaign Practices Committee (advocate for positive, issue-oriented campaign by asking candidates to sign fair campaign pledges and hearing complaints on campaign practices.)

Member Development

- Planning social events to promote membership growth;
- mentoring a new member;
- operating a LWV booth at events and festivals of other organizations;
- calling new or prospective members regarding planned activities.

General Assistance

- Writing articles for the league bulletin on topics that interest you;
 - development, fundraising;
 - distributing League materials or fliers about League events;
 - providing rides to meetings for other members.
 - other (any particular expertise or talent which you are willing to share with the league).
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Other Areas of Interest:

Please list any other issues or topics that you think the League should add to its agenda.

Financial support, only: you prefer to support the League through your membership only.

Please return this survey to:

League of Women Voters
PO Box 611
Slingerlands, NY 12159

Membership 2005–2006

Join & Make a Difference

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

e-mail _____

- Individual membership \$45/year
- Household membership \$60/year
- Student membership \$15/year
- Contribution in support of my local league
- Please send me more information

Mail to : League of Women Voters of Albany County
P.O. Box 611 Slingerlands, NY 12159

Or contact: Susan Coleman Tel: 433–9446

Letters.....

we get letters (we hope!)

Express yourself! We are starting a new column for the bulletin. Let me know your ideas and opinions...keep it short and to the point, and primarily on League issues. Mail your letter to Aimee Allaud, Editor, LWVAC bulletin, 85 Melrose Avenue, Albany, NY, 12203, or 85aimee@nycap.rr.com. Bulletin deadlines are the board meeting each month, generally the first Tuesday of each month.

UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR

Mon., Dec. 4, 7-9 p.m.

“Bought and Sold,” Electronic
Voting in NY,” DVD & discussion
Colonie Town Library
Maxwell Road, Colonie
Call Aimee Allaud, 482-2617
For info.

Tues. Dec. 5, 5:30 p.m.

Board Meeting
Mary Berry’s home

Friday, Dec. 8, 12-2 p.m.

Holiday Luncheon
SUNYA Alumni House
Washington Avenue
Report of the NYS Commission on
Healthcare Facilities for the 21st
Century

Tues. Jan. 6, 5:30 p.m.

LWVAC Board Mtg.
Albany Public Library
Washington Avenue
All welcome

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P.O. Box 611
Slingerlands, NY 12159

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