

# LWV of Albany County

February 2009

Educate

Participate

Advocate



## Souper Supper Climate Change and Energy

February 24, 5:30

Bethlehem Public Library, Delmar, NY



“It’s not that easy being Green...” (Kermit the Frog),  
but communities and organizations around Albany County and the state are working hard to make it happen.

**Our Speaker: Janet Joseph**

**Director Clean Energy Research and Market Development at NYSERDA**

**Also, come and meet guest Mary Ellen Mallia**

**Director of Environmental Sustainability at UAlbany**

(see page 3 for information on our speaker and guest)

Please call Gael Vecchio (459-9958) to volunteer to bring soup or side dishes.

Please try to remember to label the contents of your dish, and to bring your own bowl/plate and utensils.

## Albany County Legislators’ Reception

February 9, 5:30

Albany County Courthouse

Come and meet your county legislator!

Please call Gael Vecchio (459-9958)

to volunteer to bring finger food.

Contact Maggie Moehringer

for carpooling information (475-0969).



## Great Decisions Starting Up Again!

For those of you unfamiliar, Great Decisions is the name of a briefing book and a program sponsored by the *Foreign Policy Association* (<http://www.fpa.org/>) used to engage citizens in learning about the world. LWVAC has a Great Decisions discussion group that meets regularly at members’ homes during the winter and early spring. Topics covered for this year: US and Rising Powers; Afghanistan and Pakistan; Energy and the Global Economy; The Arctic Age; Egypt in the 21st Century; Global Food Supply; Cuba after Castro; and Universal Human Rights. The first meeting is **February 9, at 9:30 am**, at the home of Katie Henrikson, 4 Oldox Rd, in Delmar. If you are interested in joining the group or obtaining the book, please contact Katie at 439-4308 or [khenriks@nycap.rr.com](mailto:khenriks@nycap.rr.com).

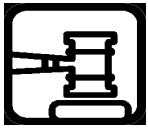
**League of Women Voters of Albany County**

**Website: [www.lwvalbany.org](http://www.lwvalbany.org) Email: [lwvac@crisny.org](mailto:lwvac@crisny.org)**

**Lori Keegan-Brady and Maggie Moehringer, Co-Presidents**

**Carol Webster (439-1491) and Martha Kennedy (439-4559), Membership Co-Chairs**

**Laura Ladd Bierman, Newsletter Editor**



# From the Co-Presidents

The holidays are behind us and we begin a New Year, with a lot of exciting things coming up. Our new president is making history, our State Legislature has a new configuration, and there are many opportunities for you to get involved in local League activities.

Our January meeting on the National Popular Vote (NPV), expertly facilitated by former LWVAC President and social studies teacher extraordinaire Karen Bonventre, was very informative and generated very interesting discussion. We were reminded of the original thinking behind the creation of the Electoral College, the current League position recommending its abolition, how the proposed NPV compact would work, and the pros and cons of this proposal. We then tackled the seven consensus questions (see the article in this bulletin for more details). Typical of League consensus meetings, each question generated stimulating discussion; in some cases we could come to a consensus and in some cases we could not. It was an exciting and lively meeting, and reminded us all of why involvement in the League is good for the brain!

Traditionally the League hosts a reception for Albany County Legislators before their February meeting. This year the reception is on February 9<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 at the Albany County Courthouse, before the public comment period (we will have a statement during that period). It's a great opportunity to socialize with our county officers, get to know them, and help them get to know the League. **PLEASE COME!** Contributions of finger food are very welcome. Please call Gael Vecchio (459-9958) if you can help out, and let us know that you would like to attend; we will arrange for car pools to avoid parking problems.

And, we have a Souper Supper coming up this month on February 24<sup>th</sup> - 5:30 at the Bethlehem Public Library! Our "Greening of Albany County" study group has had the good fortune of getting Janet Joseph, Director of Clean Energy Research and Market Development at NYSERDA to speak with us on "Climate Change and Energy". Mary Ann Mallia, Director of Sustainability for SUNY Albany will also be our guest at the meeting.

Looking forward to seeing you at these exciting events!

Yours In League,  
Lori and Maggie

Lori Keegan-Brady ( [Lkeegan-brady@nycap.rr.com](mailto:Lkeegan-brady@nycap.rr.com) )  
Maggie Moehringer ( [mmoehrin@nycap.rr.com](mailto:mmoehrin@nycap.rr.com) )

## A Note About Membership

When a resident of Albany County joins the League of Women Voters they automatically become members of the LWVUS and LWV New York State in addition to the Albany county League. The same tri-level membership is true regardless of which level of our organization actually receives the dues payment. The benefits to the members are the same.

However, there are administrative and financial advantages to the local League if members renew their membership at the local Level. If you are currently a Nationally Recruited Member (NRM) you receive dues renewal notices directly from LWVUS and are not included in our Albany county dues renewal mailing in early March. However, to enhance our ability to serve our community and state, we ask that this year you please consider sending your dues renewal (\$50 individual or \$75 household) directly to the LWV Albany County at P.O. Box 611 Slingerlands, NY 12159.

As always, your level of participation remains at your discretion and your support is appreciated whether through financial contribution only or as an active participant in local program.

## New Members

Mary Ellen Deagan - Slingerlands  
Margaret Mirabelli - Delmar  
Cynthia Abele - Delmar  
Sherry Grenz - Delmar  
Paula Philo - Glenmont

**Welcome!**

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.

## Our Speaker and Guest for the February 24<sup>th</sup> Souper Supper

**Janet Joseph, Director, Clean Energy Research and Market Development at NYSERDA**, oversees a portfolio of more than 650 projects, focused on developing and accelerating the market introduction of emerging clean energy technologies in New York, including wind, solar, biomass, advanced transportation technology, and environmental pollution control. Her program also supports research to better understand and mitigate the environmental effects of energy production, including climate change. Janet has held a variety of technical and policy positions at NYSERDA over the past 18 years. Prior to joining NYSERDA, Janet was a research scientist at Battelle Pacific Northwest Laboratories. Janet has also worked as an environmental consultant for Booz-Allen and Hamilton in Washington, D.C. Janet has a Masters degree in Environmental Chemistry from the University of Maryland. Please see [www.nysesda.org](http://www.nysesda.org) for more information on NYSERDA's programs

**Also, meet our guest Mary Ann Mallia, Director of Sustainability at UAlbany** to find out what they are doing in energy use and promoting locally grown foods. Mary Ellen is originally from Cobleskill, New York. She received her Bachelor's degree in Economics from Siena College. After working in the business world; first at a brokerage firm and then in the financial management program at General Electric, she decided to switch careers and pursue a teaching degree. She obtained a Masters in Education from UAlbany and spent nine years teaching high school social studies at Guilderland and another seven years teaching Economics at Siena College. During that time, she furthered her studies and received her PhD in Ecological Economics from RPI. Last year she accepted the position as Director of Environmental Sustainability at UAlbany. This newly created office is designed to increase awareness of the campus' responsibility to operate in an environmentally sustainable manner. Mary Ellen currently lives on a farm in Princetown with her husband and daughter where they raise chickens and llamas.

## In Loving Memory

### Selma Axelrod

Lifetime League member and past president Selma Axelrod died on Friday, January 9, 2009, at 91. Selma graduated with high honors from Brooklyn College, taught English at a secondary school in Brooklyn, completed her master's degree in school administration at SUNY/Albany, and during the 1970s implemented and administered an innovative curriculum at Hudson Valley Community College aimed at helping homemakers return to the workforce. Donations in her memory may be made to the Hoosick Falls Health Center in Hoosick Falls, N.Y.



### Suzanne Secor

Past LWVAC President and friend Sue passed away on January 15, 2009, after a long struggle with cancer. In addition to the League, Sue was active as a volunteer with her church, the Girl Scouts and Cub Scouts, and the National Daughters of the American Revolution. Those wishing to contribute to her memory are suggested to direct the contribution to the First United Methodist Church of Delmar, 428 Kenwood Ave, Delmar, NY 12054.

## Board Recruitment

This is the time when we begin to recruit members to join our LWVAC Board for the coming year. While board members, according to our bylaws, are "elected", they for the most part are volunteers who want to become more intimately involved in the running of the League, the issues it takes on, government, voter service, advocacy, education, and all the other good things we do. It is a WONDERFUL opportunity to take your passions and turn them into action, your talents and turn them into public service. All of the good things we do don't happen by themselves. We are a VOLUNTEER organization, and we are only effective through volunteer effort. Officers and committee chairs can ALWAYS use a co-officer, co-chair or willing committee member, and are ALWAYS interested in involving and training the next generation of board members. Are you interested in becoming more involved in advocacy, government at any level, voter service, the study of issues, the education of the public and students? Do you have administrative skills that you would like to volunteer? Are you interested in growing the League? WE NEED YOU!!! Don't be shy! Please contact Marggie Skinner [marggies@earthlink.net](mailto:marggies@earthlink.net) or Maggie (475-0969, [mmoehrin@nycap.rr.com](mailto:mmoehrin@nycap.rr.com)) or Lori (475-0396, [lkeeganbrady@nycap.rr.com](mailto:lkeeganbrady@nycap.rr.com)) and we can give you more information about what it means to be on the board.

# COAL—THE GREAT HOPE, THE FALSE PROMISE OR A DISASTER IN THE MAKING?

By Chad Tolman (LWVDE)

Chad Tolman (LWVDE) is a member of the LWVUS Climate Change Task Force

## Coal – Is It:

### The great hope?

It is cheap and readily available in many parts of the world; it can reduce oil imports and fuel economies in developing countries.

### The false promise?

If all the costs from mining, transportation, electricity production, and disposal of wastes are counted, and added to the costs of environmental degradation and human health impacts, coal is not “cheap.” It accounts for much of the emissions of sulfur and nitrogen oxides, mercury, particulate matter, and carbon dioxide in the world today.

### A disaster in the making?

The carbon content of coal per unit of energy produced is the highest of all the fossil fuels. The carbon/energy ratio for coal is 5, oil is 4 and gas is 3. Currently, coal-fired power produces about 50% of the electricity in the United States and 80% in China. If the world’s remaining coal is burned and the carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) released, the atmospheric concentration of CO<sub>2</sub> could be increased by 100 to 300 parts per million (ppm)—enough to produce catastrophic consequences. A recent MIT study found that China is already consuming about twice as much coal as the US, which has the equivalent of 500 coal plants of 500 megawatts (MW) each. China is adding two that size each week, causing its CO<sub>2</sub> emissions to increase by 9% just in 2006. The feasibility of carbon capture and sequestration (CCS), which might make it possible to keep most of the CO<sub>2</sub> out of the atmosphere by storing it deep underground, has not yet been demonstrated at a commercial scale.

## Abundant Reserves

Coal was the first fossil fuel to be used in significant quantities. Following the invention of the steam engine in Eighteenth Century England, coal powered the world’s industrial revolution, gradually replacing human, animal, wind, wood and water power for heating, transportation, farming and manufacturing. Coal may be the last of the conventional fossil fuels to be used up, since there is more of it than there is oil or natural gas. Oil is already about half gone. It has been said that there is enough coal to last for a long time. If the remaining coal contains 450 GtC, and were burned at a constant rate of 6 GtC/yr, it would last only 75 years. But if the rate of burning increases rapidly, as seems likely, especially as oil runs out, it won’t last that long. The rate of coal burning in China, where it is the major energy source, is increasing rapidly. Experts estimate that China’s energy consumption will more than double by 2020, corresponding to an average increase of over 5%/year.

## Coal-Power Technology

The demand for energy is rising steadily in the U.S., Europe and Japan — and more rapidly in China, India and other developing countries. The abundance of coal reserves across the globe makes it the fuel of choice for new power plants and an inevitable part of the world’s energy mix for the foreseeable future. This holds true for the U.S., which has more coal than any other nation, 27% of the world’s total, and has been called the Saudi Arabia of Coal. Developing new technologies to use coal in ways that minimize carbon emissions is imperative.

## Pulverized-coal (PC) Power Plants

Most of the coal mined today is pulverized and burned with air to generate electricity, using the heat of combustion to make steam that drives turbines. Though coal is cheap, it is also dirty, and burning it produces large quantities of CO<sub>2</sub>—the main anthropogenic greenhouse gas that contributes to global warming—along with oxides of sulfur and nitrogen, mercury, fine particulate matter, and large amounts of solid waste, as well as waste heat. Only about 30% of the heat produced by a normal PC plant is actually delivered as electrical energy at the point of use. New “supercritical” power plants are starting to come on line that can improve efficiency to 45% by using higher-temperature, higher-pressure steam. The SO<sub>x</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub> and mercury from burning coal can be partially removed by scrubbers, but all of the CO<sub>2</sub> at present goes into the atmosphere. The burning of coal produces 50% of U.S. electrical generation and 36% of total U.S. CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

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## COAL

### **Integrated Gasification/Combined Cycle (IGCC) Power Plants**

One of the promising technologies for reducing coal's environmental impacts is Integrated Gasification/Combined Cycle (IGCC) electrical generation. In this process, the coal is heated with steam and oxygen to produce synthesis gas (syngas), which consists mostly of hydrogen (H<sub>2</sub>), carbon monoxide (CO), and CO<sub>2</sub>,<sup>17</sup> along with smaller amounts of other gases like hydrogen sulfide (H<sub>2</sub>S). Removal of the CO<sub>2</sub> and H<sub>2</sub>S gives a mixture of H<sub>2</sub> and CO that can be burned with air in a gas combustion turbine, much like natural gas, to generate electricity, forming water and CO<sub>2</sub>. Using part of the waste heat from the turbines to produce steam for additional power generation increases energy recovery and gives the process the 'Combined Cycle' (CC) part of its name.

Currently, IGCC plants cost about 20 percent more to build than conventional PC power plants and are also more expensive to operate. Even without CO<sub>2</sub>-capture, electricity produced by IGCC costs 5 to 11 percent more to make. With CO<sub>2</sub>-capture and storage below ground, the cost increases to 30 percent or more above a PC plant. IGCC plants can do a much better job of capturing SO<sub>x</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub>, and mercury than can conventional pulverized-coal plants because the pollutants can be removed before going into the turbines, when there is little nitrogen in the gas stream. For the same reason, the capture of CO<sub>2</sub> can be more readily incorporated into an IGCC plant than into a conventional PC plant. Since the CO<sub>2</sub> formed in producing syngas contains little nitrogen, it can be compressed and liquefied and then pumped deep underground for long-term storage (sequestration), if the geology is favorable.

Two IGCC plants are in operation in the U.S. They control pollutants like sulfur and particulates but do not separate out carbon. A permit application for a new 690 MW IGCC power plant in Washington State was recently denied because it would not include carbon capture and storage.

### **Coal-to-liquid (CTL) Fuels**

The technology for making liquid transportation fuels (gasoline, diesel, or jet fuel) from coal is well established. It was invented in the 1920s and used by Nazi Germany in World War Two, and later by South Africa. Governor Schweitzer is proposing to do it in Montana. The problem is that CTL fuels produce CO<sub>2</sub> both when the fuel is made and again when it is burned—roughly twice as much per mile as hydrocarbon fuels<sup>21</sup> derived from petroleum. This means that coal should not be used to make significant amounts of transportation fuels, if we are to avoid serious damage to the climate system. For the same reason, tar sands, oil shale, and methane hydrates should not be developed as energy sources unless the carbon in them can be effectively captured and sequestered.

### **Carbon Capture and Sequestration (CCS)**

If we are to stabilize the composition of the atmosphere to prevent continuing global warming, nearly all of the CO<sub>2</sub> from coal will need to be captured and sequestered (stored) permanently. It remains to be seen, however, how widespread suitable geological formations for deep underground storage are, and how much CO<sub>2</sub> they can hold. The most likely candidates are saline aquifers, underground coal seams, and geologic formations deep below the ocean floor. There is also a risk that the stored CO<sub>2</sub> might later leak and escape into the atmosphere.

Experience with CCS technology is still very limited and short term. Oil and gas companies have pumped CO<sub>2</sub> underground to help flush oil and gas from depleted fields, but this does not sequester carbon. In one old oil field in Texas, CO<sub>2</sub> has been injected into a well and carefully monitored since 2004 to see if it is escaping. At present, the largest sequestration project is injecting one million tons/year of CO<sub>2</sub> from the Sleipner gas field into a saline aquifer under the North Sea. Much more than that is produced each year by a typical coal-fired power plant. A much larger scale CCS project is envisioned in Australia, which has a lot of coal. Meanwhile, the one large-scale CCS prototype project on the drawing boards in the U.S.—FutureGen—was cancelled in January 2008 because of dramatic cost increases.

### **Environmental Damage from Coal Mining**

Not to be overlooked in this discussion is the tremendous environmental damage caused by the mining of coal itself. Increasingly, in the Eastern United States, Appalachian coal is being mined by mountain top removal. This method requires that forests be clear-cut, the overburden of soil and rock loosened with high explosives, and the resulting debris pushed into nearby streams and valleys. Since coal will continue to have a place in the U.S. energy portfolio for some time to come, U.S. energy policy should promote mining coal in ways that are less environmentally destructive.

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## Albany County Landfill: Should We Do a New 4 League Study?

Associated with our “Greening...” study could be the major area of the proposed expansion of the Albany County Rapp Road Landfill. Albany Pine Bush is opposing this expansion. Members of the LWVAC attended a DEC sponsored public hearing on the expansion on December 3<sup>rd</sup>; testimony from the hearing is available at the web site cited below. At that meeting, a plea for more time for the public to read the documents was made, but it is not yet known if there will be additional public hearings. Since we have a position, the possibility exists of the League presenting comment on the planned expansion and taking associated action – letters to the editor, op-ed pieces, demonstrations and testimony. This action, of course, takes place with the knowledge and approval of Ann Brandon, our VP for Action, and the involvement of the board. For your information, our position is printed below. We can consider undertaking a reconsideration of the points of our position if necessary by doing more study. For information about the planned expansion see <http://www.capitalregionlandfill.com/>, where there is background information, meeting dates, and suggestions on how to get involved. If you are interested in this topic please contact Ann Brandon, LWVAC VP for Action, at 439-4332, or Judi Campell, LWVAC Director for Natural Resources and “Greening Study” Co-chair, at 478-0016.

### ***Existing Four League Position on Solid Waste Approved: October, 1991***

Members of the League of Women Voters in Albany, Rensselaer, Saratoga and Schenectady Counties agree that the wise management of natural resources respects the interrelationship of land use, water resources, air quality, energy use and waste management.

We support waste and toxicity reduction and environmentally sound methods of recycling and reuse as the primary forms of solid waste management Programs supporting reduction, recycling and reuse should be given policy and funding priority.

Waste management policies and funding priorities should recognize that many materials which are usually discarded as solid waste are in actuality resources having value; should promote the conservation of primary resources and the extensive reuse, recycling and recovery of manufactured and processed materials; should reduce the toxicity of materials entering the waste stream; and should assure the safe containment of unusable or toxic residues that may remain.

Therefore, the four Leagues support solid waste policies that:

- protect human health and safety;
- promote the wise management of natural resources, including land, wildlife and habitat, water, air and atmosphere, energy and materials;
- promote the conservation of primary materials such as timber, minerals, ores and energy;
- promote the extensive reuse and recycling of secondary materials;
- minimize the effects of hazardous materials in the waste stream;
- make it as easy as possible for people to use legal and responsible waste disposal methods; and
- encourage communities to take responsibility for recycling and waste disposal by locating needed facilities within their boundaries and by cooperating with other communities in the management of solid waste.

At every stage of reduction, reuse, recycling, recovery and disposal, the positive and negative impacts on the following must be considered:

- public health
- financing
- regulatory provisions
- air and water quality
- land and water resources
- noise levels
- transportation and infrastructure
- economic factors
- energy use
- waste residue
- visual aesthetics

Solid waste management methods should be determined by town, city, or county governments, or by a regional or intermunicipal authority. Federal or State government standards should be considered minimal. The five Leagues support direct involvement by citizens and local governments at all stages of planning, development, operation and monitoring of all solid waste management plans and projects.

Construction of solid waste facilities may be financed by various methods, including bonding, grants, waste generator fees, and private funding. Operating costs should be funded primarily by waste generator fees, sale of recycled materials, fines and penalties, and to a lesser degree by public monies. Standards for operation of solid waste management facilities should be established and enforced by the public sector, whether actual operations are conducted by private or public entities.

(continued from page 5)

# COAL

The Bush administration proposed a new stream buffer zone rule to make it easier to mine coal in this way. Over 700 miles of streams were destroyed by the practice between 1985 and 2001, and the damage is likely to double by 2018.

## Looking Ahead

Generating “clean coal” energy with IGCC plants incorporating CCS is very expensive. The recent experience in Delaware illustrates this point. As a result of a large increase (59%) in residential electricity rates in 2006, the legislature ordered Delmarva Power to issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) for new electrical power generation in the state. Three bids were received: one for a 600 MW IGCC coal plant with a CCS option, one for an offshore wind farm with 200 3 MW turbines, and one for a small 180 MW combined cycle gas plant. To everyone’s surprise, the wind bid came in with a lower cost per MWh than the IGCC coal plant, even without CCS added, with much less environmental impact, and was chosen as the preferred option. The Delaware Public Service Commission and three other state agencies have now approved a 25-year power purchase agreement between Delmarva Power and Bluewater Wind for the first U.S. offshore wind farm. U.S. coal-powered plants must incorporate IGCC and CCS. By developing these new clean technologies, the U.S. will be in a position to help developing countries continue to use coal in ways that do not increase carbon emissions. “Emissions will be stabilized only through global adherence to carbon dioxide emission constraints. China and India are unlikely to adopt carbon constraints unless the United States does so and leads the way in the development of CCS technology.” In “Avert Dangerous Climate Change”, NASA’s James Hansen argued in 2007 that we should not let atmospheric CO2 increase to more than 450 ppm if we are to avoid dangerous risks to society and nature. The atmospheric concentration is now about 385 ppm and increasing by more than 2 ppm/yr. Since there is enough carbon left in the remaining oil, natural gas and coal to take us way beyond 450 ppm, Hansen proposed that no new power plants based on coal be built without CCS, and that existing coal plants without it be phased out within a few decades. More recently, he and a number of other climate scientists, based not on climate models but on earth’s past response to changing concentrations of CO2, have concluded that the sensitivity of climate to CO2 is much greater than had been expected and that a doubling of the pre-industrial concentration of CO2 (280 ppm) to 560 ppm could lead to a rise of 6°C rather than 3°C as believed earlier. They conclude that we must reduce CO2 to 350 ppm to avoid dangerous climate change. They recommend that global greenhouse gas emissions be decreased by 80% by 2020. In an article titled, “Goodbye Coal! Moving Toward a Ban on New Plants”, he points out that the U.S. has gone from 151 proposed new coal burning power plants in early 2007 to serious difficulty in financing or building any new plants based on coal. He proposes banning all new coal plants, a step that Denmark and New Zealand have already taken. The League of Women Voters has now called for a moratorium on all new coal-fired power plants.

## Membership 2008-2009 Join & Make a Difference

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

- Individual Membership \$50/year
- Household Membership \$75/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 PO Box 611 Slingerlands, NY 12159

Or Contact: Carol Webster (439-1491)

# National Popular Vote

## LWVAC's Recent Consensus Meeting

(Consensus decisions are listed in brackets after question and are italicized in answer choices)

### Amending the Constitution

**1. Which statement best reflects the consensus of the group? Select one. [LWVAC: C]**

a. Action to alter a basic element of the Constitutional framework, which is achievable by amendment to the Constitution, should be accomplished by amendment to the Constitution.

b. Action by states through a compact process is an acceptable way to alter the method for electing the President and Vice-President.

*c. The group could not reach consensus.*

**2. Which statement best reflects the consensus of the group? Select one. [LWVAC: A]**

*a. Because a compact has never before been used to address a fundamental constitutional issue such as voting, the chance that it might set a precedent for the future leads to the conclusion that it is better that the League continue to work for an amendment to the Constitution to establish the direct popular election of the President and the abolition of the Electoral College.*

b. Despite the novelty of the use of the compact approach to address a fundamental constitutional issue such as voting, the League should support the NPV Compact as a way of achieving an important goal.

c. The group could not reach consensus.

### Congressional Consent

**3. Which statement best reflects the consensus of the group? Select one. [LWVAC: C]**

a. The possibility that the NPV Compact will require congressional consent is not of sufficient concern to block the implementation of the plan.

b. The possibility that the NPV Compact will require congressional consent is sufficient to conclude that the plan should not be implemented without obtaining such consent.

*c. The group could not reach consensus.*

### Enforcement

**4. Which statement best reflects the consensus of the group? Select one. [LWVAC: C]**

a. The NPV Compact contains sufficient enforcement provisions to assure smooth operation of the plan.

b. Although it is not possible to determine whether the enforcement provisions will be sufficient to assure smooth operation of the plan, the plan should be passed anyway

c. Enforcement of the plan is likely to add uncertainty and bring the courts into the presidential election in ways that raise substantial concerns.

d. The lack of adequate enforcement provisions is sufficient to conclude that the NPV is not a viable plan.

*e. The group could not reach consensus.*

### Uniformity

**5. Which statement best reflects the consensus of the group? Select one. [LWVAC: C]**

a. The uniformity of voting systems is more important to American democracy than the possibility that the NPV Compact can be adopted.

b. The NPV Compact is more important than uniformity of voting systems because it would succeed in achieving the popular election of the President.

*c. The group could not reach consensus.*

### Popular Election of the President

**6. Which statement best reflects the consensus of the group? Select one. [LWVAC: A]**

*a. It is more important to achieve the goal of national popular election of the President than it is to achieve the goal of abolition of the electoral college.*

b. It is more important to amend the Constitution to abolish the Electoral College than it is to achieve the goal of popular election of the President by alternative methods, such as the NPV Compact.

c. The group could not reach consensus.

### Achievability

**7. Which statements reflect the views of the group? [LWVAC: AGREE ON BOTH]**

a. The NPV Compact will have problems being passed because of the need for congressional consideration and the need for action by so many states. *Agree* Disagree No Consensus

b. A constitutional amendment to establish the direct popular election of the President and the abolition of the Electoral College will continue to have problems being passed.

*Agree* Disagree No Consensus





**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ALBANY COUNTY**  
**PO Box 611**  
**Slingerlands, NY 12159**

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## League Calendar

<u>WHEN</u>	<u>WHAT</u>	<u>WHERE</u>	<u>MORE INFO</u>
February 3, 5:45 pm	Board Meeting	Presbyterian Church, Delmar	
February 9, 5:30 pm	Legislative Reception	Alb. Co Court House	see page 1
February 20	Deadline for March Bulletin	LBierman@nycap.rr.com	
February 24th	Souper Supper: Greening Albany Co.	Bethlehem Public Library	see page 1
March 3, 5:45 pm	Board Meeting	Presbyterian Church, Delmar	
March 14	New Member Coffee	C. Webster's Home	
March 26	Souper Supper: Gun Violence	Bethlehem Public Library	
April 7, 5:45 pm	Board Meeting	Presbyterian Church, Delmar	
April 28th	Super Supper: Legislative Update	Bethlehem Library	
May 5	Board Meeting	Presbyterian Church, Delmar	
May 15-17	LWVNYS Convention	Syracuse	
May Date TBD	Annual Meeting	Normanside Country Club, Delmar	