

LWV of Albany County

Educate

Participate

Advocate

September 2006

Audrey Kibrick and Marggie Skinner, Co-Presidents

Pot Luck Supper

THE CHARTER SCHOOL DEBATE

Full of sound and fury, but what does it mean?

Speakers Guest Speakers: Patricia Fahy, past president, Albany City School District
Chris Bender, President, Brighter Choice Foundation,
Moderator: Betsey Swan, NYSLWV co-chair, Financing Education

When: Thursday, September 28, 2006
5:30 p.m. Hors D'oeuvres & wine
6:15 p.m. Dinner
7:30 p.m. Panel Discussion

Where: The Woman's Club of Albany building
725 Madison Avenue, Albany (second bldg. from n.w. corner at S. Lake)
You may pull into driveway along side of building to drop off food, etc.
For your convenience we recommend carpooling.

RSVP: By September 24 to Gael Casey Vecchio at 459-9958 or mail to 5 Circle Lane, Albany, NY, 12203, by September 21. Please indicate what you are Bringing and if you will be available to assist in setting up (4:30 p.m.) or Cleaning up after the meeting.
** Thank you in advance for helping!**

Name _____ Phone _____

I will bring: Hors D'Oeuvres (by 5:15 p.m.) _____ Salad _____

Main Dish _____ Dessert _____ \$10 donation _____

I will be able to set up (4:30-5:00 p.m.) _____ or clean-up _____

FROM THE PRESIDENTS

Hello Leaguers, We hope the summer has been fun and safe for all of you and you are ready to begin this exciting year which will bring change to New York State. I would prefer that the daylight would not get less and less each day but that's the way it is!!

We officially start the year with our annual and renowned **Potluck Dinner on September 28, at the Albany Women's Club Building, Madison Ave, Albany, from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m.** Please come and bring a friend to learn about the League. Betsey Swan who works tirelessly on issues such as Financing Education has been putting together a panel of pro/con experts on Charter Schools (Financing Education Phase II) who will discuss their impact on our schools. This will be followed by morning and evening meetings late in October to gain statewide consensus on Charter Schools. Read the information in the other part of this newsletter, and come and participate in the discussion at our potluck. This will prepare you for the consensus meetings where your voice will be heard. The beauty of the LWV is that the consensus process is bottom up. Each one of us has an equal opportunity to participate and express an opinion that becomes the League position when our lobbyists approach out legislators. Members can meet the LWNYS new Executive Director, Kris Hanson, and learn more about the operations of the league in such areas as Voter Service, LeaderSpark, Membership, Administration, Financing Education and other

issues at the **Ida Trager Regional Training Workshop** here in Albany on **September 14 from 4 to 8 p.m. at Beltrone Living Center, 6 Winners Circle, South Building.** In addition to Kris, State Board President Marcia Merrins, other State Board Members, Martha Kennedy, Paula Blum and Edna Vincenti and League members from neighboring Leagues will discuss these issues. The Albany Workshop is deliberately planned for 4 to 8 PM to enable those of you with day jobs to participate. A light supper is being planned so please let Audrey know if you will attend (489-9931 or 928-5585). Directions to Beltrone: Wolf Road either North or South, turn onto Metro Park Road, opposite the Hess Station. Go straight to the end of the road, turn left on Winners Circle to stop sign. Then turn right to the building. There is parking in front and in back of the building.

Watch the Gubernatorial Debates on September 26 (Capital News 9: 7 pm) and October 12 (WMHT: 8 pm). Find the details on page 9.

Please keep reading this bulletin for the many interesting and educational programs we have planned for this year. We hope for a fairly mild winter and wish all of you a healthy year.

Audrey and Marggie

League of Women Voters of Albany County Board

Co-Presidents	VP Administration	VP Program	Treasurer	Secretary
Marggie Skinner 489-5311	Gael Vecchio 459-9958	Wendy Dury-Samson 439-1113	Mary Berry 439-5679	Judy Jarnefeld 869-3228
Audrey Kibrick 489-9931	Voter Service Maggie Moehringer 475-0969	Membership Susan Coleman 433-9446	Development Lori Keegan-Brady 475-0396	International Relations Kay Wilkie 768-2901
Bulletin Editor Aimee Allaud 482-2617	Public Relations Margaret Sawyer 783-9424	At Large Jacqui C. Williams 433-0277	Local Program Raymond Blanchard 438-0550	Financing Education Betsey Swan 426-3711

E-Mail Address: lwwac@crisny.org. Web Site: www.lwwalban.org

LWV of New York State: 35 Maiden Lane, Albany 12207, Phone: 465-4162, Fax: 465-0812, E-mail: lwwny@lwwny.org, Web Site: lwwny.org

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.

MOVING FORWARD WITH HAVA ACROSS NEW YORK STATE

“When a vote is cast, a vote should be counted. With paper ballots we will have a record. With paper ballots the fundamental principle of one person, one vote is safe.”

(New Mexico Governor, Bill Richardson, March 2, 2006, in a letter to governors of the fifty states announcing New Mexico’s choice of paper ballot optical scan voting as the best system to secure honest and verifiable elections.)

The battle isn’t over yet to obtain SARA (secure, accurate, recountable and accessible) voting for New Yorkers.

What’s New?

- New York will not be replacing lever machines in 2006
- In 2006, a small number of ballot marking devices will be provided at a central location in each county for disabled voters
- Lever machines are scheduled to be replaced by the September 2007 election
- Purchasing decisions for 2007 voting systems will be made over the few months

By county elections commissioners

Plan “B”

There have been many new developments as the State Board of Elections proceeds to comply with deadlines imposed by the US Department of Justice in a series of actions in the US District Court in Albany. On April 10, New York State formally submitted its “Plan B” solution to the Court. Plan B calls for a small number of disabled accessible ballot markers to be available in each county in September 2006. (Only 144 ballot markers will be purchased for the entire state) The Court signed off on this solution in June 2006. For Plan B, most counties have elected to have only one ballot marker available on Election Day. Each county must purchase the devices from their share of New York’s HAVA funds, a big incentive for counties to choose the least expensive device and the fewest possible. Key element here is that ballot markers only mark ballots, they do not count votes. Five companies submitted ballot markers for testing and certification in May-June. All were certified. Only three companies received most of the orders from boards of elections: Avante Touch Screen (111), ES&S Automark (19) and Populex (14). Voting advocates should check with their county boards of elections to find out where ballot markers will be located and how they will inform the public about the availability and use of this device.

“Plan A”

“Plan A” is the term for the next stage of replacement of lever machines in 2007. Plan A describes the process of testing,

certification, selecting and ordering of new voting machines, followed by the acceptance testing, installation, training of poll workers and voters that must take place in each county before first use in September 2007. The State Board of Elections must provide its “Plan A” schedule to the Justice Department by August 15, 2006.

In preparation for the testing process, voting machine vendors submitted applications and fees to the NYS Board of Elections on July 5 for each voting system they want certified. A total of 11 systems, both DREs and precinct ballot scanners, have been submitted by six vendors:

- Avante – one DRE system, one ballot scanner system
- ES&S – one DRE system; one ballot scanner system
- Diebold – one DRE system; one ballot scanner system
- Sequoia – two DRE systems, one ballot scanner system
- Liberty – one DRE system
- Populex – one ballot marking system

Citizen advocacy for paper ballot scanning systems has made it possible for New Yorkers to have a full selection of voting machines to choose from. Congratulations to all of you who have vigilantly worked on this for the last year!

What’s Next?

NYS has contracted with Ciber, Inc., one of the big three independent testing authorities (ITAs) to oversee the certification process. This also includes creating test plans for each system and conducting and managing the actual testing. A key consideration for advocates is will the testing be conducted in an open and observable manner so that citizens can view it? The NYS HAVA Coalition, the LWVNYS, and New Yorkers for Verified Voting, have advocated for an effective and open process which includes locations for testing that are accessible and public with provision for adequate viewing. (See LWVNYS website for HAVA Coalition letter to NYSBOE, July, 2006)

The League’s representative on the Citizen’s Election Modernization Advisory Committee, Bo Lipari (member of Tompkins County League and Exec. Director of New Yorkers for Verified Voting) who was appointed to this committee on May 5, 2006, observed the ballot marking testing and certification process. He will be actively involved with the next stage of certification. As the only member of the Committee who has actual technical expertise we are proud to have him represent the League.

New Wrinkles In An Otherwise Not-So-Smooth Process!

Because New York is trying to “get it right” in this critical next stage of HAVA implementation (we haven’t even spoken about implementation of the statewide database here), the timelines are getting ever more tight. Voting machine companies need to

receive orders so they can ramp up production during early 2007 for delivery well in advance of the September 2007 Primary Election. Testing and certification of these systems is projected to take at least three months after it begins in the fall. And a new element has been introduced into the decisionmaking process: how many voters can be served on an Election Day by a single voting machine? *This figure is crucial because it determines how many machines must be available in each polling place and consequently, how many new systems must be purchased for each lever machine being replaced.* In New York, a single lever machine currently serves up to 800 voters (NYS Election Law).

There is increasing awareness that touch screen voting machines may only be able to serve 400 voters or less during an Election Day (and this is without vvpap and accessibility devices in use). If more than one DRE is needed to replace each lever machine, the high costs of acquiring and maintaining touch screen voting machines will far exceed available HAVA funds and force cash strapped counties to come up with additional funds out of their own budgets. In order to determine this critical replacement ratio, the NYS Board of Elections plans to do what they are calling a “usability” study on each type of voting system (DREs, optical scan, etc.) The results of this study will determine the ratio of new systems to lever machines. The BOE is hoping to have a contract let soon and results available in early October.

MEANWHILE, counties are being urged, in the absence of this information and certification results, to indicate their preference for a voting system for their counties!!

What Can You Do In the Immediate Future?

Since county board of election commissioners have been given the sole authority to make this decision, we need to make them accountable for their choice. Board of election commissioners are appointed to their position and responsible only to the parties they represent. The public has no direct way to hold them accountable. The League and New Yorkers for Verified Voting have begun a Campaign for Accountability, calling for election commissioners to provide a detailed accounting of their reasons for choosing a particular system before they put their order in to the state. There are four steps (opportunities for action) in this campaign:

1. provide a detailed **questionnaire** for county legislators to use to ask the right questions of the election commissioners about the voting systems.
2. write **letters to county legislators** asking them to support a request for accountability
3. conduct a Drive for signatures on a **Petition to the County Board of Elections** for accountability

4. urge **county legislatures to pass Resolutions** calling for the most reliable modern voting system.

**** **ALBANY COUNTY LEAGUE MEMBERS – DID YOU SEND YOUR LETTER (yellow copy in the mid-summer bulletin) TO YOUR COUNTY LEGISLATOR?**

We have been gathering signatures on the Petition to County Election Commissioners at the Altamont Fair and other venues and will be at the Pot Luck Dinner — look for us and add your name!

NOW IS THE TIME FOR THE FINAL PUSH TO OBTAIN PAPER BALLOT OPTICAL SCAN VOTING SYSTEMS FOR NEW YORK VOTERS – THE MOST SECURE, ACCURATE, RECOUNTABLE AND ACCESSIBLE VOTING METHOD.

Aimee Allaud, Elections Specialist, NYS LWV
482-2617, 85aimee@nycap.rr.com

Great Issues Book Discussion

The Great Issues book group will have its initial planning meeting on Monday, September 18, 9:30 AM, at the home of Nikki Singh. The group chose ***Pathologies of Power: Health, Human Rights, and the New War on the Poor, by Paul Farmer***, for the Fall meetings. The introduction and first chapter of the book will be discussed at the September meeting. The first meeting of the Fall is an organizational meeting, where the dates and locations of future meetings are planned.

New members are welcome. Please contact Katie Henrikson, 439-4308, or khenriks@nycap.rr.com, for further information.

THE CHARTER SCHOOL DEBATE

Full Of Sound And Fury, But What Does It Signify?

BY WAY OF INTRODUCTION

Less than seven years after New York's passage of charter school enabling legislation, the movement remains one infused with more heat than illumination. Opponents charge that charters are destroying the public education system, which has fostered this country's greatness through its ability to provide an educated workforce inculcated with core democratic values. Conversely, proponents claim charters are the only hope for public education, which admittedly has failed large numbers of children. What is apparent is that some charters are spectacularly successful, some are abject failures, and many have been unable to produce results appreciably different from those of traditional public schools. Moreover, there is distressingly little research about what separates successful from unsuccessful charters. Without this type of research, one of the basic purposes of charters, allowing for educational experimentation into more effective ways to educate children traditionally left behind by public schools, will remain unfulfilled.

While we know little about what makes a charter school work, the demand, as measured by applications for new charters and waiting lists for existing ones, increases; and it is very likely that the cap on charter schools will be increased within the next year and perhaps within the next few months. Because the League currently has no position that would allow it to address many of the issues facing charter schools and because the political reality is that charter schools are unlikely to disappear in the near future, we elected not to use the study to decide whether the charter school movement is good or bad for New York State public education. Rather, its purpose is to explore how the legislation might be strengthened, so that the reality of charters can begin to match the rhetoric. We hope to develop a nuanced position that will enable the League to advocate for stronger schools as part of its Financing Education position.

WHAT ARE CHARTER SCHOOLS?

The three hallmarks of charter schools nationally are autonomy, choice, and accountability. These schools operate with more autonomy and fewer regulations under a charter issued by public entities in return for enhanced accountability. With greater autonomy from one-size-fits-all regulations, charters are supposed to make better decisions tailored to their individual school communities. Proponents of the original legislation speculated that charters would have the freedom to operate in different ways from traditional public schools, attracting different teachers and programs and acting as incubators for innovation and improved student performance. Charters would be accountable to both students and their parents and to the chartering entities.

New York State has authorized the creation of 100 charter schools, self-governing public schools operating under charters, contractual agreements with the State, outside the purview of elected boards of education. Charters are funded by average operating expenses of their students' home districts, which are transferred from the school districts to the charters. The home districts must cut expenses in response to monies transferred to charters. Charters are eligible for state and federal grants for start up expenses and for facilities planning/acquisition, but they receive no State funds to cover the cost of construction or rental expenses.

While many districts transfer minimal amounts of money to students in charters, in Albany, Buffalo, and Lackawanna, the money lost to charters has been substantial and continues to grow. During the 2004-05 school year, 10.15% of the Albany City School District's budget was transferred to charter schools.

This portion of our study will explore ways in which the Charter School Act might be amended to improve the educational experience that charters provide for children and to lessen financial impact on the home school district.

WHAT ARE THE ISSUES FOR CONSENSUS?

A. The Chartering and Oversight Process

Charters are currently issued and supervised by both the Board of Regents and SUNY, a bifurcation engendered by the politics of the two organizations, with the Republican SUNY trustees being perceived as more pro-charter than the Democratic Board of Regents. The Charter School Act has vague standards for the grant and renewal of charters. The two chartering agencies are rumored to apply different standards in the grant and renewal of charters, although it is difficult sometimes difficult to determine what standards are applied as politics overtakes the chartering process.

For renewal, the charter must file a report outlining the extent to which it has met its education goals. The chartering agency must find that the charter can operate the school in an educationally sound manner and that renewal is likely to improve student learning and achievement. For the best and the worst charters, oversight and renewal is easy. However, for those charters whose performance is similar to traditional public schools, the failure to define improved student learning in operational terms, disaggregating achievement by race/ethnicity and special needs, makes it impossible to make valid comparisons between charters and comparable district schools. SED in its annual report to the Governor and Legislature, does not attempt to make a comparison to comparable schools, although it is required by law. Instead it compares achievement of individual charters to achievement of the district as a whole. The failure to adopt clear standards for renewal is made more egregious by the fact that SED has recommended amendment of the CSA to allow for 10 year renewal of charters.

B. Operations

There are three areas of concern about charter operations – student issues, teacher and administration issues, and subsidiary operational issues including the length of time between granting the charter and opening the school and the nature and quality of charters run by for-profit education management organizations (EMOs).

Student issues fall into two areas: the mix of students at charters; student stability within charters. Charters generally have lower concentrations of disabled students and students with limited English proficiency than traditional public schools. In addition, some charters have tremendous student instability, with substantial portions of the student body leaving the charter during or at the end of a school year.

There is concern that charters are using this mechanism to return less desirable students to their home schools. The truth or falsity of this allegation is beyond the scope of this article, although it has been our limited experience that this practice does exist in some local charters but not in the better run ones.

Professional staffing issues fall into three areas: certification of teachers; unionization of professional employees; burnout and other factors leading to instability of professional staff. In general charter employees are not unionized, although nothing prevents a charter from becoming unionized. Charters have the freedom to hire a limited number of teachers with credentials other than full New York certification. We know little about the extent to which New York charters have elected to employ uncertified teachers and whether those who are uncertified are considered successful. The more serious personnel issue appears to be the high rates of turnover of professional staff in some charters. The cause, whether from burnout, inadequate increases in pay, or incompetent administration, is unclear. High turnover has the potential to be devastating to children's learning, both because there is no institutional memory in a school with high turnover and because there are insufficient mature teachers to mentor younger ones.

C. Funding

The lack of an independent funding stream for charter schools is perhaps the most controversial part of the legislation, pitting charters against school districts, when theory would have them partner for the overall improvement of education. As part of the consensus, League members will consider amendment of the CSA to provide additional funding. Ways to do this would be to create a separate funding stream for charters, create a funding stream for children attending charters who had not been in the public system previously, create a funding stream to reimburse districts for fixed expenses that did not diminish when children left for charters, and provide transition assistance to districts for up to five years after a charter seat was created. SED has supported transition assistance for districts once charters account for a certain percentage of the district's population.

If funding is problematic for school districts, it presents its own set of challenges to charters, which must pay for facilities out of operating expenses. This has forced some

charters to enter agreements with for-profit EMOs, which run the school and provide finance for school construction. EMO partnering has two potential disadvantages. Schools run by EMOs have been criticized as large, cookie-cutter schools, with no flexibility to take local needs or conditions into account in design of the educational program. Also, to the extent the EMO takes a profit, less money is available for the education of children.

SED has suggested one remedy to the problem of facilities creation or location would be to make charters eligible for planning and tax-free bonding services of the NYS Dormitory Authority. While ability to finance building with tax-free instruments would help, it would not address the further problem of the inherent instability of charters.

New York City has given young charters rent free space in city school buildings, which has enabled the charters to delay acquisition of facilities until they have a track record and hopefully a record of academic success.

THE CONSENSUS PROCESS

Given the need for the League to arrive at a position on charters this fall, it has adopted a highly compressed consensus process. The study Bibliography, Consensus Questions, and Summary of Information about Charter Schools are available on-line at www.lwvny.org. VHS tapes of interviews with Tom Carroll of the Brighter Choice Foundation and Pat Fahey are available for purchase at the state League office. Christian Bender of the Brighter Choice Foundation and Patticia Fahey, former President of the Albany City School District Board of Education, will address these issues at the Albany County League potluck supper (see first page of bulletin for details) on Thursday, September 28. Consensus meetings will be held in the morning (October 24) and evening (October 26). See Calendar for specifics.

Betsey Swan

Financing Education Chair

Albany Public Library Observes Banned Books Week

On Saturday, September 30 at 2:00 pm, in the auditorium of the main library there will be an observance of Banned Books Week, which runs from September 23 through 30.

Observed since 1982, Banned Books Week reminds Americans not to take this precious democratic freedom for granted. Banned Books Week celebrates the freedom to choose or the freedom to express one's opinion even if that opinion might be considered unorthodox or unpopular and stresses the importance of ensuring the availability of those unorthodox or unpopular viewpoints to all who wish to read them. After all, intellectual freedom can exist only where these two essential conditions are met. The American Library Association Code of Ethics states, "We uphold the principles of intellectual freedom and resist all efforts to censor library resources."

Albany Public Library and its partner, the New York Civil Liberties Union - Capital Region Chapter are presenting this special program to bring attention to attempts in our society to restrict the flow of information to legitimate users. Local actors and community leaders will read excerpts from books that have been banned or challenged in America. In addition, many local poets will be reading from their own works. NYCLU members will also discuss current challenges to intellectual freedom and free speech, including the USA PATRIOT Act.

Banned Books Week is sponsored by the American Booksellers Association, the American Booksellers Foundation for Free Expression, the American Library Association (ALA), the American Society of Journalists and Authors and the Association of American Publishers. It is endorsed by the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress.

For more information on Banned Books week visit <http://www.ala.org/bbooks/index.html>.

For more information on the New York Civil Liberties Union visit

<http://www.nyclu-crc.org/>.

For more information on the PATRIOT Act visit the American Civil Liberties Union at <http://www.aclu.org/>.



THE LEAGUE
OF WOMEN VOTERS
of New York State

The League of Women Voters of New York State
35 Maiden Lane, Albany, New York 12207
Phone: 518-465-4162 Fax: 518-465-0812

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 15, 2006
lwny@lwny.org

Contact: Kristen Hansen
518-469-8905

Gubernatorial Debates
League of Women Voters of New York State Announces
Date Changes and Agreements to Participate

ALBANY, New York - The League of Women Voters of New York State (LWVNYS) and co-sponsor, Zogby International, have announced date changes and details for two scheduled debates.

The Gubernatorial Debate to be held at Cornell University in Ithaca, originally scheduled for October 18, 2006, is being changed to September 26, 2006. This debate will be held at the university's Bailey Hall at 7:00p.m. **The debate will be cablecast live on NY1 News and NY1 Noticias in New York, Capital News 9 in Albany, News 10 Now in Syracuse and R News in Rochester.** The cablecast availability of the debate in other parts of New York is being developed, and the radio network for the debate is being developed.

The second date change is for the Gubernatorial Debate being held at WNED Studios in Buffalo. The debate, originally scheduled for October 26, 2006, will be held on October 12 at 8:00PM. This debate will be offered live on WNED – **TV AND WNED - AM.** Additionally, all nine New York State public television stations have agreed to carry the debate. **THE DEBATE WILL ALSO BE OFFERED TO ALL PUBLIC RADIO STATIONS IN NEW YORK.**

The date changes were necessary as a result of on-going negotiations among LWVNYS, debate partners, including media, and the candidates. **LWVNYS is happy to announce agreement to participate on the part of all candidates currently on the ballot for these two debates.** We look forward to these two informative and educational debates.

- ### -

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. The LWV does not support or oppose candidates or political parties. Membership is open to all and provides the opportunity to be active and involved in local, state and national issues..



Ida Trager Regional Training Workshops

New York State

**Voter Service? LeaderSpark?
Membership? Administration?
Financing Ed Phase II? Other
Issues?**

This is your opportunity to address these and other issues with Kris Hansen, our new Executive Director, Marcia Merrins state board president, Martha Kennedy, Paula Blum, and Edna Vincenti from your state board, as well as other local League members from your area.

See the schedule below and reserve your spot. A light lunch or supper will be provided.

SEPTEMBER 14 Capital Area 4:00pm – 8 pm
Beltrone Living Center, 6 Winners Circle, Albany

SEPTEMBER 28 Long Island 11:45am – 4 pm
Farmingdale University, 2350 Broadhollow Road
Farmingdale, NY - Knapp Hall (University Club)

SEPTEMBER 29 Scarsdale 9:45am- 2pm
Scarsdale Public Library-Olmsted Road and Rt 22
914 722-1300.

OCTOBER 3 Syracuse 9:45am- 2pm
Location TBA

OCTOBER 4 Buffalo 9:45am- 2pm
Harlem Road Community Center 4255 Harlem Road, Amherst, NY 14226

GOALS

1. Foster strong relationships between the LWVNYS and LWV local Leagues, boards and members
2. Foster strong relationships among local Leagues within regions
3. Problem solve among local and state LWVNYS leaders.
4. Identify the best ideas and best people to move LWVNYS forward
5. Provide a consistent annual platform for open and intimate dialogue, problem solving and visioning

OPEN TO INTERESTED LEAGUE MEMBERS & FRIENDS

PLEASE CLIP AND SEND TO:
LWVNYS, 35 Maiden Lane, Albany, NY 12207

Or Fax 518-465-0812 (Credit Card Only)
Phone: 518-465-4162

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____

Email _____

Local League _____

Date of workshop I wish to attend: _____

Enclosed is my registration fee of \$5

My check is enclosed (payable to LWVNYS)

Charge my: Mastercard VISA

Cardholder's name _____

Exp. Date: ____/____

Card Number _____

Signature _____

**ALBANY
FORUM**

Getting to Universal Healthcare:

Federal, State and Local Perspectives



Sunday, September 10, 2006

2:30 – 4:30 p.m.

Speakers:

Congressman Mike McNulty

State Senator Neil Breslin

Albany County Health Commissioner James B. Crucetti, MD

Paul Sorum, MD, of Physicians for a National Health Program, Alan Lubin of NY State United Teachers, Peter Elitzer of Peter Harris Clothes and Rev. Cass Shaw of the Albany Presbytery are on a panel that will ask questions of the speakers.

The audience will also have the opportunity for questions.

Huyck Auditorium at Albany Medical Center

45 New Scotland Avenue

Albany, New York

* * *

Sponsored by the Capital District Alliance for Universal Healthcare

For additional information call 518 439-3758

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.

Welcome our new members

Valerie Faust	Albany
Sherry Gold	Slingerlands
Barbara Zaron	Slingerlands
Earl Zimmerman	Latham

**The League of Women Voters of New York State in association with
The United Nations Department of Public Information**

* additional Co-Sponsors to be announced at a later date *

Invites You to Attend:

BRIEFINGS ON THE STATUS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING AROUND THE WORLD

Wednesday, November 15th, 2006
9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

United Nations Headquarters in NYC
First Avenue at 46th Street

Registration begins at 9:00 a.m.
The Program will start promptly at 10:00 a.m.

Seating is Limited - Registration Deadline: November 6, 2006
LOOK FOR MORE INFORMATION IN THE OCTOBER BULLETIN

UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR

Sunday, Sept. 10

2:30-4:30 p.m.

Health Care Forum

Huyck Auditorium

Albany Medical Center

45 N. Scotland Avenue

Monday, Sept. 11, 6:30 p.m.

Albany County Legislature

(public comment period)

7:00 — Meeting convenes

County Courthouse

Eagle & Elk Streets,

Albany

Tuesday, Sept. 12

NYS Primary Election

Polling Places Open

12 – 9 p.m.

Thurs., Sept. 14

Regional Training Workshop

4 – 8 p.m.

Beltrone Living Center

(see President's letter)

Thurs., Sept. 14

LWVAC/ACOI voter registration

booth, Washington Park Lakehouse

3:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 16

10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

New Scotland Plum Fest

Feura Bush Reformed Church

LWVAC Voter Registration booth

call Aimee Allaud, 482-2617

to volunteer

Monday, Sept. 18

Great Issues book discussion

9:30 a.m.

call Katie Henrickson, 439-47108

for location

Tuesday, Sept. 26

7:00 p.m.

NYSLWV Gubernatorial TV Debate

Capital News 9

(Live from Cornell Univ.)

Thurs. Sept. 28 5:30 p.m.

LWVAC Pot Luck Dinner Mtg.

The Woman's Club

725 Madison Ave., Albany

(see front page)

Tues. Oct. 3, 5:30 p.m.

LWVAC Board Mtg.

Albany Public Library

111 Washington Avenue

Large auditorium

Members welcome

The League of Women Voters of Albany County

P.O. Box 611

Slingerlands, NY 12159

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit # 247
Albany, NY