"What You Need to Know Before the Lights Go Out"

Energy and Climate Change: The Future of Energy in NYS in the Era of Climate Change

Tuesday, Nov. 10
6:30 pm desserts and coffee
7:00 pm Speaker

Guest Speaker: Arthur "Jerry" Kremer, Partner, Empire Government Strategies, Albany

What: Policy Forum and Discussion

Where: St. Sophia's Church, 440 Whitehall Road, Albany.

Why: We will be learning about the Governor's "Reforming the Energy Vision" initiative for regulatory implementation within the state's Public Service Commission. According to information available from the NYS REV website, "The electric industry is in transition and increasing competitiveness of renewable energy resources, combined with aging infrastructure, extreme weather events, and system security and resilience needs, are all leading to significant changes in how electricity is generated, distributed managed and consumed. The availability of reliable, resilient, and affordable electric service is critical to the welfare of citizenry and is essential to New York's economy. To ensure continuing economic growth and prosperity for New York, Governor Cuomo laid out an ambitious energy agenda for the State in 2015, "Reforming the Energy Vision" (REV) with the Public Service Commission (PSC) playing an important role in crafting the regulatory changes needed to make the Governor's agenda a reality."

Mr. Kremer will speak about the Governor's REV initiative and the need for a clear and transparent analysis of the costs for REV. "Jerry" Kremer, was a Democratic member of the NYS Assembly for 23 years, 1963-1988, representing Nassau County. Mr. Kremer was the only suburban legislator to head the Assembly Ways and Means Committee. Mr. Kremer holds degrees from NYU and Brooklyn Law School. He is chairman of the New York Affordable Reliable Electricity Alliance (New York AREA), a diverse organization of more than 150 business, labor and community groups, www.area-alliance.org.
to respond effectively to changing conditions and needs;

We affirm our commitment to reflecting the diversity of Albany County; and

There shall be no barriers to participation in any activity of the League on the basis of economic position, gender, race, ability, age, sexual orientation, creed or national origin.

Next Steps: This evening will highlight a potential topic for 2016 Legislative action within League-adopted priorities. We have included in this issue of the Bulletin two tools to aid League members in framing next steps following this discussion. We have included, first, the adopted policy statement on natural resources which provides sanction based on past study and consensus to pursue advocacy in this area if we chose to do so. Second, is a new survey for League members to weigh in on a wide range of potential targets for lobbying and advocacy items in 2016. If you haven't returned your survey beforehand, please bring it with you for this meeting.

President's Message

October, probably the busiest month of the year for the League, is ending. Thank you to Barbara Frankel, Susanna Martin and Marggie Skinner and all of you who helped with our voter services events. You registered voters at local food pantries, compiled information for Vote411.org and worked at candidates’ forums. You did an amazing job! But, there is still one job left to do. It's probably the most difficult job of all. Make sure everyone who is registered to vote actually does vote.

I remember going to the polls with my parents every Election Day. They made me aware that voting was important. It was the duty of every citizen to vote. I looked forward to having my say. I have been voting since I was 21. I have never missed an election and I never went into the voting booth undecided. I took my right to vote seriously, followed the campaigns and made my decisions early.

Until recently, I just assumed that everyone felt this way. It's hard to believe that so many Americans don’t vote. They have a lot of excuses. They are too busy. Their vote doesn’t count. All politicians are dishonest. What have they done for me? Politics is such a boring topic. Etc., etc., etc.

Maybe this year we can help to increase the number of people who vote. I challenge you to get just one person who doesn’t vote to go to the polls and vote. Maybe this is the year we can start to turn things around. It's one more job for us to do before Election Day.

Yours in League,
Paula Philo

Electronic Bulletin

MEMBERS can receive our Bulletin electronically or by US mail. If you wish to receive our Bulletin electronically, please send an email to bulletin editor, Aimee Allaud, 482-2017, or 85aimee@nycap.rr.com.

LWVAC Board Meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month, at St. Sophia’s Church, 440 Whitehall Road, Albany, 7 PM. Sept 8, Oct. 20, Nov.17, Dec. 15. All members are welcome to attend.

League of Women Voters of NYS and League of Women Voters of NYS Education Foundation
62 Grand Street, Albany, NY., 12207, Tel: 465-4162, www.lwvny.org, e-mail:lwvny@lwvny.org
Dare Thompson, President

League of Women Voters of the US
1730 M Street, NW., Washington, DC 20036-4508
Elisabeth McNamara, President
Background State League Policy For Potential League Examination of the REV Initiative

LWVNYS Legislative Agenda 2015:
Natural Resources
The League supports policies that will address the climate impacts from fossil fuel extraction, production and use in New York state. Climate change is the most serious environmental issue of our time.

Energy and Climate Change
The League will continue to advocate for legislation, regulation and executive action to protect natural resources, public health, and the economy from impacts of the fossil fuel industry. We oppose the build-up and build-out of the natural gas infrastructure; instead, sources of renewable energy should be developed to meet emissions goals and slow climate change. We support initiatives that encourage the use of more energy-efficient options and encourage public participation in decision-making relating to the state’s energy options. We believe that the state should fund renewable energy and we support relevant qualifying criteria for subsidies for renewable energy. Subsidies and tax exemptions favoring the fossil fuel industries should be eliminated and the liabilities, costs and expenses associated with their operations should be redirected to them. The process for permitting pipelines should analyze the project's cumulative effect.

Hazardous Waste
The League supports the proper labeling and disposal of hazardous waste products and a ban on importing drilling and other "hazardous" waste from other states. We promote actions that move New York toward a Zero Waste future.

State and Local League Happenings!

Our State League Matters Campaign-A Success!!
Thanks to over 300 donors around the state, the League Matters Campaign went over our $400,000 goal to reach a total of $409,014 as of June 30, 2015. Our Board and Campaign Committee have been working hard to raise these funds since July of 2012 and we are gratified by the overwhelming support we received.

LWVAC Voter Registration at Food Pantries - September 21-25, 2015
Voter registration drives were conducted at 14 venues with more than 50 registered and at least 12 signed up for becoming organ donors. Whole Foods hosted us for a drive on Sat. Oct. 3. We had 13 voter registrations and organ donations.

LWVAC Members Attend Community Services Day at SUNYA
On October 14, League members set up an information booth to interact with students attending the exposition to match student interest with community volunteer opportunities. We were able to interact with many students and 12 signed up to have us contact them. Follow up activities will be planned to reach out to these students and to consider additional recruitment from this age group.

Volunteers Needed for new State League Living Wage Committee
Barb Thomas of the State League is looking for volunteers to serve on a new committee exploring the potential for the League to work at setting a definition for the concept of a living wage. Those interested should contact Barb at barb.lwv@nycap.rr.com.
LWVNYS 2016 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA
HAVE YOUR SAY!

Now is the time to help identify the issues you want the LWVNYS to lobby for. Go to page 5 to see the list of the issues we, as a State, have chosen to focus on in recent years. Please complete the form and check the items on the form you want to continue to focus on. You may also write in other issues you want addressed in 2016. Mail the form to Aimee Allaud, 85 Melrose Ave, Albany, NY 12203 or email it to her at 85aimee@nycap.rr.com by November 10.

Your input is important. We as a local League, along with other local Leagues, report to the State League our opinion about topics. (You are the “grassroots” in League). The Legislative Director, the State League President, and the Issues Specialists review all the issues identified by the local Leagues. They present their analysis, along with your recommendations to the State League Board of Directors, which then decides what issues become the 2016 Legislative Agenda.

League Day at the United Nations
Thursday, December 3

The state League is pleased to offer its annual League Day at the United Nations on Thursday, December 3, 2015. This year’s briefings will cover two topics: Global Healthcare Issues and Educating the Youth of the World. The briefings this year will be held in the morning, from 10:00-12 noon, followed by lunch in the Delegates' Dining Room and optional tours of the UN in the afternoon. A bus will again be leaving from Crossgates Mall for the day trip. Go to page 7 the registration form or register online at:
https://secure.lglforms.com/form_engine/s/INvmPPc4Hpebf0PLNzaRnw.

SAVE THE DATE
LWVC Holiday Luncheon
Tuesday, December 15, 12 p.m.

Normanside Country Club, Salisbury Road, Delmar, $25
(Menu and reservation form will be on website and in separate mailing)

Speaker: Susan Arbetter, Host, The Capitol Pressroom

The Capitol Pressroom is a daily one-hour radio program broadcast from the Legislative Correspondents Association Pressroom on the third floor of the State Capitol in Albany. The show features interviews with important newsmakers. The show streams live at 11 a.m.
LWVNYS 2016 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA
HAVE YOUR SAY!

Now is the time to help identify the issues you want the LWVNYS to lobby for. Click here to see the list of the issues we, as a State, have chosen to focus on in recent years. Please print out the form and check the items on the form you want to continue to focus on. You may also write in other issues you want addressed in 2016.

This is YOUR opportunity to have a voice. Here are the 2015 Legislative Agenda issues:

**Election Law Reform****
Same-day voter registration _____
Early in-person voting and no-excuse absentee voting _____
Better ballot design _____

**Healthcare**
Single-payer insurance _____
Other healthcare issues (for example – school-based health Services) Write in your ideas.

**Good Government Reform**
Campaign finance _____
Ethics ______

**Judicial Issues**
Streamlining the court system _____
Judicial selection _____
Improvements in the grand jury system _____
Support of adequate indigents’ defense services _____
Alternatives to Incarceration ______

**Natural Resources**
Energy and climate change _____
Hazardous waste ______
Electric Grid_____ 

**State Finances and Education**
Greater equity in education financing for both pupils and taxpayers _____
Reform of the property tax system (EITC)_____

**Transportation**
**Women’s Issues**
Fair pay _______
Paid family leave _______
Childcare _______
Reproductive choice _______
Sexual harassment_____
Human trafficking ______

**Write in your issues:**

________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________

_________________________

________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________

Return to Aimee Allaud, LWVC, 85 Melrose Avenue, Albany, NY., 12203, 85aimee@nycap.rr. by November 10.
Calendar

Tues. Nov. 10, 6:30 p.m. LWVAC Policy Forum, "What You Need to Know Before the Lights Go Out", 7:00 PM program presentation, St. Sophia's Church, 440 Whitehall Road, Albany. See front page of this issue.

Tues. Nov. 17, 7 p.m., LWVAC Board Meeting, St. Sophia's Church, 440 Whitehall Road, Albany. All members are welcome. Contact Paula Philo, paula.philo@gmail.com.

Thurs. Dec. 3 LWVNY United Nations Briefing on Global Healthcare Issues and Educating the Youth of the World (see bulletin article for information and links to reservation form)

Tues. Dec. 15, 12 Noon, Holiday Luncheon, with guest speaker, Susan Arbetter, Host, The Capitol Pressroom, Normanside Country Club, $25. Contact Julie Elson, jelson510@earthlink.net

Tues. Dec. 15, 2:00 p.m., LWVAC Board meeting at St. Sophia's following Holiday Luncheon

Membership 2015-Join & Make a Difference

Name: ___________________________________________ Tel: ___________

Address,City, Zip:
________________________________________________

Email: ____________________________________________

___ Individual Membership$60/year ___ Send me newsletters by mail

___ Household Membership$90/year ___ Just use my email for newsletters

___ Student Membership$25/year

___ Contribution in support of my local League

___ Please send me more information

Scholarships are available on an individual confidential basis.

Mail to: League of Women Voters of Albany County, PO Box 611, Slingerlands, NY 12159
REGISTRATION FORM
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NYS EDUCATION FOUNDATION, INC.
in association with United Nations Department of Public Information,
Zonta International District 4, and The Women’s Bar Association of the State of New York,
The General Federation of Women’s Clubs and National Council of Jewish Women New York Section

INVITE YOU TO ATTEND

Briefings at the United Nations on Two Topics:
Global Healthcare Issues (10:00-11:00 am)
Educating the Youth of the World (11:00 am-12 noon)
Thursday, December 3, 2015
United Nations Headquarters in NYC -- First Avenue at 46th Street, NYC

Name: ____________________________________________________________
Organization: ________________________________________________________
Address: ____________________________________________________________________________________________
City: ___________________________________ State: _______ Zip: ___________________________________
Day Phone: ( ) ______________________ E-Mail: _______________________________ 

COST/PAYMENT INFORMATION

☐ Discounted fee to members of sponsoring organization for all three activities: Tour, Lunch, & Briefing $ 105

Individual Choices:
☐ 10:00-12 noon Briefings Program
   ☐ $50 League Members or Members of Sponsoring Organizations
   ☐ $60 Non-Member $40 Students $ _____

☐ Lunch in the Delegates’ Dining Room
   ☐ Include Lunch, Dessert Bar and Coffee/Tea only $ 50
   ☐ UN requires proper attire: jeans, shorts, sneakers will NOT be permitted

☐ Tour of the UN (Space limited and afternoon exact time TBD) $ 15

☐ Roundtrip Bus From Albany To NYC (one stop at New Paltz NY Thruway Exit 18) $ 45

TOTAL ENCLOSED $ _____

My Check for $___________ is enclosed (make payable to LWVNYS EF) OR Please charge my credit card:
Card Holder’s Name: ________________________________________________________________Signature: ______________________________
Card Number: ____________________________________________ Expiration Date: ________________

PLEASE RETURN TO:
United Nations Briefings/LWVNYS**62 Grand Street** Albany, New York 12207
Fax: 518-465-0812 (Credit Card Registrations ONLY); E-Mail: lwvny@lwvny.org
FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL OR TO MAKE RESERVATION BY PHONE: 518-465-4162
SPACE IS LIMITED, SO RESERVE EARLY; $25 administrative fee for any cancellations

REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS NOVEMBER 20, 2015