League of Women Voters
of Albany County
Bulletin
May 2014

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

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Annual Meeting
Dinner at Trevisio by Mallozzi’s
Thursday, June 12, 2014
Italian American Community Center
257 Washington Avenue Extension, Albany

Social Hour: 5:30
Dinner: 6:00
Program and business meeting: 6:45

Please join us as we welcome former NYS Assemblyman John “Jack” McEneny for a talk on the restoration of the historic New York State Capitol. In addition to having represented the 104th Assembly district for 20 years, he has been the Albany County Historian and is the author of "Albany, Capital City on the Hudson". Mr. McEneny has served on the NYS Archives Partnership, and the Commission for the Restoration of the Capitol.

LWVAC student delegates to the LWVNYS "Students Inside Albany Conference" will speak about their experiences at this year's event.

Following these presentations, members will vote on the following: 2014-2015 proposed slate of officers, proposed budget, proposed program, proposed Bylaws. Please read the complete proposed Bylaws on the League website, in advance.

Please indicate your choice of entrée and return the form below with your check to LWVAC, Box 611, Slingerlands, NY, 12159, by June 7. Please call Julie Elson, 482-0981, if you have questions. Reservations are necessary for the dinner, but are not necessary for the program and business meeting.
Annual Meeting Dinner Reservation

Name: ____________________________

Menu Choices: $35 per entree

_____ CHICKEN marsala with potatoes and vegetables

_____ FISH baked white fish & herbs, lemon wine sauce
with potato and vegetables

_____ EGGPLANT parmigiana with penne and vegetables

Dinner will include tossed salad with house Italian dressing,
rolls and butter, your choice of entrée and dessert will be Villa Italia cake, coffee or tea.

$____ Check enclosed.

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President's Message

Much Done; Much to Do: A Message from the President

We are very proud to have been recently honored by the League of Women Voters of the US for our efforts. We have been acknowledged for a significant growth in membership this year and for efforts on behalf of our community. This level of achievement could not have happened without a membership committed to making our community stronger and more vibrant. Quite simply, we want Albany County to be the best it can be and we continue to involve ourselves in ways to support that end.

In the past year, the League’s membership has grown by 10.98 percent. Interest in the League has grown because of the efforts of our members. These include the work by Voters Service team members who tirelessly hold numerous candidate forums and for the information available on the website www.vote411.org. Our League members attended the year long work of the Albany County Charter Revision Committee and led us to consensus on charter revision. Then at a general membership meeting, the chair of the revision committee, Hank Greenberg spoke to the League. His remarks were taped and are available to the public on our website.

Under a national position, the League was able to speak out on the possible dangers to the public from the oil coming to the Albany port. If you have read the Times Union you have seen the League’s position in its news stories and in Letters to the Editor. But other things that have not made the headlines include our conducting the elections for the Housing Authority, and our impressive results from numerous volunteers aiding the media in poll reporting on election night.

I am not mentioning names of the many people involved in making the work of the League possible. But they are your officers, your board members, your committee members, those who participate in study groups, those who participate behind the scene, and all of you with your continued membership and support of the League.
This is a year in which the League has been able to make a significant contribution to the wellbeing of our community. But there is an ongoing need for an informed and robust civic life here in Albany County. The coming year will feature elections at the national, statewide and legislative levels. The League will be playing a key role in the region for assembling vital information for voting on these candidates and for sponsoring candidate forums. We will maintain our presence at the county level by monitoring legislative meetings and advocating for a revised county charter. We anticipate our continued involvement and influence with the issue of oil transportation risks to residents of Albany County. These efforts all are carried out with the risk that as an all-volunteer organization we can spread ourselves too thin. But, they also bear rewards for us in knowing we have worked hard to implement our mission as an organization. I hope that you will continue to help us grow and be involved in the issues that are critical to all of us.

Lois Griffin, President, LWVAC

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**League Sponsors Three Young Women to Attend Albany Leadership Conference**

Three local high school students represented the League May 18-21, 2014 at the annual statewide Students Inside Albany Conference sponsored by the League of Women Voters of New York State. Sixty students from leagues throughout the state attended the four day event which gives participants a working view of state politics and public policy through presentations, workshops and one on one job "shadowing" of their community's legislators.

Our League's standing committee convened over the winter and selected three students to be sent to the conference. The review process included essays and letters of recommendation. Each winner receives a student League membership, an invitation to attend the annual meeting and support of their conference participation through coverage of their registration fees. The selected students are:

- **Shelsea Cato**, 11th grade, Bethlehem Central High School.

  In her essay she reveals that "this program is a great opportunity to learn about New York State government....the exposure to the system will not only provide me with additional perspectives of the government, but also with information on the rights and obligations that citizens have in the United States". Shelsea is involved with the Student Senate, is an officer in the Key Club, with A.L.A.N.A., and is a Senior Girl Scout.

- **Haley Chang**, 11th grade, Guilderland High School

  In her essay, Haley states that she is uncertain as to whether she will go into medicine, law or politics. "However being a citizen of this country there come certain responsibilities. Things such as voting require knowledge of the legislative process. One cannot make a properly informed decision without understanding what has gone into making the proposed change". Haley is on the Cross Country and Outdoor Track Teams, Vice-President of Free the Children, President of the Med club, and participates in the International Club and the Science Olympiad. She also tutors students in math.

- **Emily Honen**, 11th grade, Guilderland High School.

  Emily's goal is to become a political advisor or a professor of history. Her essay reveals that she "wants to study politics not only to immerse myself in what I love, but to better my knowledge of it". One of the counselors wrote that "Emily loves to learn and is especially interested in history, New York State and the inner workings of the government". Emily is on the Cross Country running team, Stage Crew, and the school newspaper, The Journal.
The League is a Lifelong Link to a Community and a Cause

At this year's annual meeting, we will be honoring 50 year members Judith Wing and Monique Roeth. Our recently departed member Addie Muhlfelder was also a 50 year plus member. In 2010 she was honored at the annual meeting and prior to the meeting was gracious in hosting a preparatory session for several other honorees to gather at her home and reminisce about their experiences. The notice on her passing (see below) provides an excerpt from that fascinating conversation.

Have you been a member of LWV for 50 years? If you joined a League (anywhere) and have been a member for 50 years or more, we would like to know. You are our success stories and we would love to hear about your experiences in League and to honor you. Plus, after 50 years, you will receive free membership! If you think that you are one of our long term members, please let us know - we can check our records if necessary. Contact Lois Griffin, president, griffinocee@gmail.com, or 487-4761.

The League Bylaws are Changing

Since fall of 2013 a committee chaired by Arleen Stein has met to review and revise the league by-laws. The proposed changes are highlighted in a copy of the document posted on the web site. At the annual meeting members will be asked for approval of these changes. Please take some time to review this on the website in advance of the June Annual Meeting.

There are minor changes, e.g., changing "month" to 30 Days", simplifying English, moving some Sections to more appropriate Articles; and in some Articles, delineating information that was in one paragraph to several sections for clarity.

Significant changes include:

- Adds an inclusion policy that prohibits discriminate based on gender, race, ability, age, sexual preference, creed, economic position, or national origin.
- Adds that the immediate past president shall serve in an ex-officio capacity on the Board, but may not vote.
- Articulates that the board has fiduciary responsibility for the League of Women Voters of Albany County
- Clarifies that the Recording Secretary shall now keep minutes of all meetings of the Board of Directors and Membership meetings where business is conducted and appropriately distribute them for approval and shall properly archive all official records and minutes where business takes place.
- Clarifies that the fiscal year is from July 1st until June 30th of each year; however, the Membership Year is the calendar year.
- Clarifies that any member who fails to pay dues by June 30th shall be dropped from the membership rolls. Dues paid by new members joining after June 30th will be applied to the following calendar year.
- Adds an Audit Committee that will examine the Treasurer's books 30 days prior to the Annual Meeting, consisting of at least three voting League members, at least one of whom is not an elected Board member. The Board may select an outside auditor any time it deems necessary. An audit report will be presented at the first general meeting after the Annual Meeting.

We Mourn the Passing of Long Time Member Addie Muhlfelder

The League is saddened to announce the passing of longtime member, Addie Muhlfelder, on April 26, 2014. Addie was honored by the LWVAC at its 2010 annual meeting as a lifetime member. During an event at her home in which several other honorees gathered to share their experiences and memories she noted a League involvement beyond the 50 year watermark we use to designate lifetime membership. She spoke of her involvement in League as follows:
"My mother, Nan deBeer, was involved with the Albany League of Women Voters from its early beginnings. She joined the founders who felt that after women finally got the vote in 1920 it was important they be informed voters. I grew up knowing how League members studied issues, arrived at positions and acted on them. Through the years the League has continued to be a dedicated nonpartisan organization faithful to its mission. Today, more than ever, we look to the League to help us understand the major problems our local, state and federal governments are facing."

League Policy on Inclusiveness

The League of Women Voters in both its values and practice is committed to inclusion and diversity. This means:

- We recognize that diverse perspectives are important and necessary for responsible and representative decision making.
- We believe inclusiveness enhances our organization's ability 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.

Calendar

Tue., May 27, 7 pm  "Gardening in a Changing Climate" Saratoga Library, 39 Henry St
A program presented by Saratoga LWV Climate Change Team. One of LWVUS priorities is education and action on Climate Change. The Saratoga team will present information on how gardeners can help mitigate the effects of climate change. Carpooling suggested: email Aimee Allaud, 85aimee@nycap.rr.com, or call 482-2617 if you wish to attend.

Tue., June 3, 7 pm  LWV Albany County Board Meeting  St. Stephen's Church,
16 Elsmere Ave., Delmar. All members are welcome to attend.

June 6-10  LWVUS Convention  Dallas, Texas: "Power: Our Voices, Our Votes"

Mon, June 9, 6 pm  Albany County Legislature Monthly Meeting, Legislative Chambers,
Albany Co. Courthouse
Call Judy Wing, judywing@beverwyck.com for information.

Thurs., June 12, 5:30pm  LWVAC Annual Meeting and Dinner
Italian American Community Center, Washington Ave. Ext.
Speaker: Former Assemblyman Jack McEneny to speak on Restoration of the Capitol

Fri, June 20, 10am-3pm  LWVAC Board Planning/Orientation Meeting for 2014-15
Place to be determined. All members are welcome to attend.
Call Lois Griffin, 487-4761, or emailgriffinocee@gmail.com

Wed, June 25  Saratoga Springs LWV bus trip to FDR's home, Presidential Library and Museum, Eleanor Roosevelt's Val-Kill, and lunch at the historic Beekman Arms in Rhinebeck. $85, includes tours and lunch. Bus leaves The Crossings in Clifton Park at 7:15 AM, returns home at 7 PM. Mail your check to LWV Education Fund, c/o Mary Lou Classen, 4 Blue Spruce Lane, Ballston Lake, NY., 12019. See www.lwvsaratoga.org.
Membership 2014 - Join & Make a Difference

Name: __________________________ Telephone: __________________
Address, City, Zip: __________________________________________________
Email: _______________________________________________________

___ Individual Membership $60/year
___ Household Membership $90/year
___ 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

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