



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TOMPKINS COUNTY

MARCH 2016

PRESIDENT: KAY SHARP 272-4748

lwvtompkins.org

EDITOR: ROBERT SILSBEE 273-1436

League of Women Voters of Tompkins County

ANNUAL SOUP AND BREAD LUNCHEON

GOOD FOOD, GOOD CONVERSATION

plus a presentation

WOMEN MAKING HISTORY

by **Martha Robertson**,
Tompkins County Legislator

Saturday, March 18, Noon - 2:00 PM

ANNEX of the Unitarian Church

208 East Buffalo Street

**Mark Your Calendar and
Bring a Friend**

HEALTH CARE FILM SHOWING

The League of Women Voters of New York State has long supported policies that “promote access to a basic level of quality care at an affordable cost for all, while ensuring the efficient and cost-effective delivery of care.”

The League of Women Voters of New York State issued a Memorandum of Support for the *New York Health Act*, A.5062 (Gottfried)/S.3525 (Perkins) and on Wednesday, May 27, 2015, the New York State Assembly passed the *New York Health Act*, a bill that would provide universal health care.

In an effort to educate the public, LWWNYS Health Care Committee co-chair Madeline Zevon, reported in the January 2016 *State Voter* that screenings of the new film, *Fix It: Health-care at the Tipping Point*, followed by a panel

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IN MEMORIAM

MARTHA ALLEE

discussion and a Q. and A. were being held by a number of local Leagues and urged “the presentation of as many of these educational events as possible.”

On Monday, April 25th, at 6:30 p.m. a screening of a new film, *Fix It: Healthcare at the Tipping Point*, depicting an alternative method of health care financing and a panel discussion will be held at Cinemapolis, 120 East Green Street, Ithaca, NY. The educational program is being co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Tompkins County, New York Statewide Senior Action Council and Single Payer New York, and is free and open to the public.

The film looks at health care from a businessman’s perspective and delves deeply into the heart of the current healthcare crisis, runaway healthcare costs, economic and health impacts, and depicts an alternative method of healthcare financing and payment. A panel discussion will provide an overview of the current system, challenges from a Tompkins County medical, business, and local government perspective, and information about a NYS alternative for financing/payment, the *New York Health Act*. Come and learn more about what the *New York Health Act* is, how it would be financed, and the cost savings and economic impact based on the 2015 economic analysis report by Dr. Gerald Friedman, Chair of the Department of Economics at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

Panelists include Cassandra Aikman, Human Services Coalition Health Access Programs Coordinator; Don Barber, founding Chair and Executive Director of the Tompkins Health Insurance Consortium; Annette Gaudino,

Campaign for New York Health Coordinator, Dr. William Klepack, MD, Dryden Family Medicine and Medical Director of the Tompkins County Department of Health, Stewart Auyash, MPH, PhD, Ithaca College, Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Health Promotion and Physical Therapy, and one more TBA.

Mark you calendar, Monday, April 25, and we hope you will all come and bring a friend for what promises to be a very informative evening.

Kathleen Yen

COUNTDOWN TO 2016 ELECTIONS!

Come join the Voter Services team on April 20th at 5:30 p.m. (downtown Ithaca location TBA) to discuss tabling and outreach opportunities in Tompkins County during this important election year. We will cover the basics on tabling events: the types of forms and information provided, most frequent questions asked, general time commitments and more. We will also be asking for your input on new sites or events where the League can share important voter registration information with the public. We will begin to build the event schedule for the year and you can sign-up for future events that evening.

If you have a friend or family member who might be interested in volunteering at a tabling event, invite them to attend! To RSVP for this meeting or for any questions, please contact Lucia Score at luciasciore@gmail.com.

Amy Panek, Voter Services

LWV-TC CALENDAR—2015-2016

Mar 19 Sat	12:00 pm	Soup & Bread Lunch: WOMEN MAKING HISTORY	Unitarian Annex
Apr 4 Mon	7:00 pm	Board Meeting	Old Jail
Apr 25 Mon	7:00 pm	SINGLE PAYER HEALTH CARE IN NYS?	TCPL
May 9 Mon	6:00 pm	Annual Dinner Meeting	Salvation Army
Jun 6 Mon	7:00 pm	Board Meeting	Old Jail

SOUP AND BREAD LUNCHEON

It is once again the time of year when the League has our soup and bread luncheon, a relaxed, enjoyable event. Members can sample delicious soups and breads prepared by Board members and not only catch up on League activities but have good visits with each other as well.

March is also *Women's History Month* and a special part of the luncheon this year will be a presentation by our guest Martha Robertson. Martha is a member of our county legislature; she has chaired in it the past. Two years ago she also ran as a candidate for Congress. The topic *Women Making History*, to which she can speak from a special perspective, is a timely one as we approach the 100th anniversary of women's voting rights, in New York State in 1917 and the United States in 1920.

As you put this on your calendars right now (!) consider inviting a friend or neighbor to join us. They will be most welcome. To help us in our planning please call Marnie Johnson (257-2948)

or Dorothy Rinaldo (257-5667) to let us know you are coming.

Marnie Johnson, Dorothy Rinaldo
Program Committee

ANNUAL REPORTS/FUTURE PROGRAMS**Natural Resources**

The Natural Resources Committee is continuing to learn about issues concerning local development and its impact or potential impact on the environment. As part of this we are reading the Tompkins County Comprehensive Plan and the Tompkins County Energy Roadmap. The Comprehensive Plan can be found at

<http://www.tompkinscountyny.gov/compplan>
and information concerning the Energy

Roadmap can be found at

<http://www.tompkinscountyny.gov/planning/energy-climate>

(continued)

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TOMPKINS COUNTY: BOARD 2015-16

LWV NYS website

www.lwvny.org

LWV US website

www.lwv.org

LWV-Tompkins County

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Board Members

6/17	President	Kay Sharp	272-4748	phylliskaysharp@gmail.com	
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6/17	Co-VP1	Co-Program	Marnie Johnson	2572948	islandmarnie@gmail.com
6/17	Co-VP1	Co-Program	Dorothy Rinaldo	257-5667	dotrin7@gmail.com
6/16	Co-VP2	Co-Voter Services	Lucia Sciore	351-0221	luciasciore@gmail.com
6/16	Co-VP2	Co-Voter Services	Amy Panek	617-448-6841	amy.panek@gmail.com
6/17	Director	Natural Resources	Kay Wagner	539-3322	cmw18@cornell.edu
6/17	Director		Sorel Gottfried	272-3910	sorel9@gmail.com
6/16	Director		Runjini Raman	940-300-4592	rr595@cornell.edu
	Director	Membership	vacant		
	Director	Communications	vacant		

Off-Board Chairs:

Co-Webmaster; Action	Linda Duttweiler	277-0006	ldutt@twcnny.rr.com
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Health Care	Debbie Levin	273-7746	dlevin01@twcnny.rr.com
Youth Services	vacant		

When we think about the connections between local development and the environment there are many different issues to think about, just a few of which are land use, greenhouse gas emissions, the health of our water, and the need for affordable housing. With this in mind, we are beginning to plan a public program for next year that will explore one or more of these connections. There are many community members who are thinking about future development within the county and want to learn about the best ways for us to move forward. We hope that our program will be a valuable way to engage the public in this important issue.

Directing our attention to environmental news within New York State, we were happy to learn that Governor Cuomo is calling for at least a temporary halt in the construction of the Algonquin natural gas pipeline. Here is a clip from the press release sent out by his office: "The safety of New Yorkers is the first responsibility of state government when making any decision. Over the past several months there have been a series of serious incidents at the Indian Point Nuclear Facility, which my administration is investigating. At the same time, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission has approved a natural gas pipeline in close proximity of Indian Point. I am directing my administration to commence an immediate independent safety analysis of the natural gas pipeline project and until that occurs, we urge the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to suspend the project."

Kay Wagner, Natural Resources

Health Care

In 2014-2015 the Committee focused on Women's Health and Well-being. We organized programs focusing on the Governor's 10-Point Women's Equality Agenda. Topics, for example, were domestic violence, equal pay, human trafficking, work place sexual harassment. We spent a lot of effort in advocating for the 10-point agenda, and we

were successful in getting 9 of the 10 points passed into law.

2015-2016 we continued our focus on women's health and being. Early this year we organized a program on women and alcohol and are co-sponsoring a film and panel discussion on possibilities for a single payer health plan for New York State.

In 2016-17 we will study the Rockefeller laws and incarceration. This focus is consistent with the League's position on alternatives to incarceration. This program will also examine the quality of life for the young who break the law. This focus is consistent with our program on "raising the age;" the needed law that would increase the age of responsibility in the criminal court system from 16 to 18 years.

Debbie Levin, Kay Sharp

Program

The Program Committee arranges programs planned by working committees or members of the LWV-TC. We began our term of office in August by meeting with with members of the LWV-TC Board to plan programs.

We made arrangements to produce 5 programs in the Borg Warner Room of the Tompkins Public Library, 1 at Kendal at Ithaca, 1 in the Unitarian Church, and 1 at the Salvation Army building.

We arranged the following programs:

- The September program, "Raise the Age: The Juvenile Justice System" was held in the Tompkins Public Library on September 24.
- "Our Electric Grid-Our Energy Future is Now" was the October 19th program held in the Library.
- On November 16 LWVTPC Health Committee co-sponsored "Women and Addictions" with the AAUW, held in the Library.
- The December program in Conference Room A at Kendal was a concurrence meeting on the Ohio League's proposal

to advocate raising the age to 18 at which juveniles will be treated as adults.

- January 25 program, Affordable Care Act: Continuing Impressions of the Affordable Health Care Act in Tompkins County.
- We arranged the February 22 meeting in the Library on “Livable Wage, Tompkins County Perspectives”.
- The March 19 Soup and Bread Luncheon “Women Making History”, with speaker Martha Robertson will be held in the Unitarian Church.
- As the final public event for this spring we will be co-sponsoring a showing of the film *Fix it: Healthcare eat the Tipping Point* at Cinemapolis on April 25. Open to the public, the film and subsequent panel discussion will address the many issues related to proposed single payer health care in New York State.
- The Annual Meeting on May 9 will be held at the Salvation Army building.

Marnie Johnson, Dorothy Rinaldo
Program Committee

VOTER SERVICES

Although it was not a presidential year, 2015 was an active one for Voter Services. It was a good time to try new places for our informational tabling and voter registration. We continue to work on encouraging voters not only to register but also to vote informatively.

We represented the League at a dozen festivals and events around the county including the following: Naturalization Ceremonies; Ithaca Festival; Latino/Streets Alive Festival; Dragon Boat Races; Apple Festival; National Voter Registration Day; Roller Derby; Dryden Lake Festival; TC3 and Ithaca College (Freshman Orientations).

This year, in addition to registering voters, we participated in a NY State League Drive to increase Organ Donor lists. New York State has

one of the LOWEST number of organ donors! When we register people for voting, we encourage them to spend 2 more minutes and register as an organ donor.

There were several promotional events to inform the community about our activities. Our President, Kay Sharp and Lucia Sciore were interviewed on a live radio program (WRFI). A few of the board members had Opinion Papers published in the Ithaca Journal. We were also asked to present at a Downtown Business-women’s Association Luncheon. If you rode the bus this year, you may have noticed signs inside the bus, promoting the League and Voting (of course).

Outreach has increased to include student engagement. We offered our services at the local colleges and participated in discussions about voting rights. We re-instituted a lower student membership fee to attract younger participants. We continue to maintain a Facebook page to keep everyone informed. One of our student board members graduated and we are looking for another.

Candidate forums were active this year. There were three requests: two were held and one cancelled. We had media covering one of the forums.

New for 2016, Amy Panek and Lucia Sciore (with the help of Mandy Qualls) will be hosting a brain storming meeting for anyone interested in Voter Services. The meeting will be held in April and its purpose is to discuss how to efficiently handle voter registration for the 2016 elections. We will be sending out emails to those who have made the request on the membership form. If you didn’t and would like to, please let Amy or Lucia know.

Very recently, we were able to make a connection with Cornell University to help them with their student elections and to begin promoting the League on their campus. We are excited and hope to be doing more with the support from the Cornell Students.

It’s going to be a tremendously busy year and we need your help.

Lucia Sciore, Voter Services

YOUR REPRESENTATIVES IN WASHINGTON

SENATORS:

Kirsten E. Gillibrand 202-224-4451 e-mail and web-site: www.gillibrand.senate.gov
Charles E. Schumer 202-224-6542; senator@schumer.senate.gov ; www.schumer.senate.gov

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Tom Reed 202-225-3161; 607-654-7566; e-mail and web-site: reed.house.gov

YOUR REPRESENTATIVES IN ALBANY

SENATORS

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Michael Nozzolio 518-455-2366; 315-568-9816 www.nysenate.gov/senator/michael-f-nozzolio
54th—Town of Lansing

Thomas O'Mara 518-455-2091; 607-735-9671 www.nysenate.gov/senator/thomas-f-omara
59th—Towns of Ithaca, Newfield, Enfield, Ulysses, & City of Ithaca

ASSEMBLYWOMAN

Barbara Lifton 518-455-5444; 607-277-8030 www.assembly.state.ny.us/mem/Barbara-Lifton

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