



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TOMPKINS COUNTY

JUNE 2016

PRESIDENT: KAY SHARP 272-4748

lwvtompkins.org

EDITOR: ROBERT SILSBEE 273-1436

ANNUAL MEETING

On May 9th the Tompkins County League held our annual meeting at the Salvation Army building. It began with socializing and a buffet-style dinner. Good food, good conversations!

At the following business meeting we elected members of the Board to serve 2016-2018:

- Mandy Qualls - Voter Services, Co-Chair;
- Amy Panek - Voter Services, Co-Chair;
- Diane Kelleher - Treasurer (2nd term);
- Lory Saltzman - Membership Co-Chair;
- Alene Wyatt - Membership Co-Chair;
- Charlotte Coffman – Program

As we heard reports of the year’s accomplishments and programs and plans for the coming year, it certainly seemed to show us how much a small group of energetic people can accomplish. Many thanks for those who have worked so hard! Those in leadership roles and those who do the very necessary “odd jobs” all contribute to keeping our League successful.

Marnie Johnson

BOARD MATTERS

On Tuesday, June 7th, the Board met at Kendal for a traditional meeting of new and continuing members and those retiring.

Looking ahead through the summer and into the fall, a major focus is Voter Services. Program planning is also a focus and under way.

Notes:

A major Board position still open is that of Communications Director. It is particularly important to let the media know of our programs and activities and anyone possibly interested in doing this should talk to a Board member.

There is also an opening as Youth Services Director: maybe this interests you?

Both the Health and Natural Resources committees would welcome new members as well.

As always, if you have an area of interest or concern you wish the League were studying, let us know.

Transitioning off the Board now are several people —

Lucia Sciori has led our Voter Services effort for some time now with imagination, much hard work, and grace. If our League were to give out medals of honor she would certainly receive one.

Dorothy Rinaldo, Program Co-Chair for the past year, is leaving the Board. Did you know that, after many years of being active in the Lexington, Mass. League, now in “retirement” here in Ithaca, she again answered the call to do more? We are most grateful.

Marnie Johnson, another long-time member and the other Program Co-Chair, has been on and off the Board in revolving door fashion and is going off now.(She thinks maybe she’s finally going to stop being dizzy.)

Marne Johnson

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HISTORIAN'S REPORT

Background:

The History Center's archives has held documents from Women's Political Organizations in Tompkins County beginning in 1944, and twelve cubic feet of League of Women Voter's records from 1950 to 1977. Two boxes of Voter Services Committee records (1985 to 2005) were also donated to the History Center for safekeeping. In recent years, Board members began an effort to add to the History Center's archives and started collecting League files held in various members' homes.

In April, 2015 the Board appointed Flo Smith as the League's Historian for a two year term. A committee was formed by volunteers who expressed interest in the project: Lucia Sciore, Kathy Burlitch, Amy Panek, Debbie Levin and Diane Kelleher. The task of the group is to work with the Archivist of the History Center, Donna Eschenbrenner, to gather and organize the documents important to the League collected since the 1970's to the present.

An orientation/training meeting was held with Donna Eschenbrenner at the History Center on Monday, September 14th. Donna briefly explained how the History Center has changed and grown through time. She described the current structure and mission of providing three kinds of services to the public; archives/library for research, programs and exhibits. Donna showed us through the archives where the League's records are kept, and provided us with the lists of current holdings of LWV records. She explained how the material will be catalogued, and agreed to provide us with the History Center's space to work together under her direction and guidance.

A work session was held at the History Center with Donna on Wednesday, November 11,

2015. We began sorting and labeling League Publications, VCR's and DVD's. After our good start the committee's work stalled in the early months of 2016 due to holidays, vacations and heavy workload at the History Center.

In March, Flo Smith had a back injury which required taking time off for treatment and healing. Donna and Flo agreed to postpone working on the project and resume the Committee's work in the Fall.

Celebrating Women's Suffrage Project:

In the meantime, Rod Howe, the director of the History Center and members of the women's community got together to explore the idea of a program to celebrate the centennial of women's suffrage in New York State. Rod agreed to spearhead the project, advertised the idea and encouraged interested members of the community to join the effort. As a result, a meeting was held on Monday, April 11 to brainstorm and serve as a catalyst for community activities to focus on women's suffrage, called *Celebrating Women's Suffrage in NYS*. The LWV-TC's History Committee will be a significant contributor to the community-wide celebration. In addition to completing the LWV archives for the History Center, the History Committee will help install a display of documents and photos from the League's collection at The History Center in July 2017.

This is a wonderful opportunity for the League to educate the public about the important influence the LWV has had in the Suffrage Movement.

If you are interested in being part of the History Committee and/or the community-wide celebration, contact Flo Smith at 273-6147 or, [<fbarrthims@gmail.com>](mailto:fbarrthims@gmail.com)

Flo Smith, Historian

LWV-TC CALENDAR—2016-2017

| | | | | |
|--------|------|---------|---------------|----------------|
| Aug 30 | Tues | 7:00 pm | Board Meeting | Kendal, Room A |
| Oct 4 | Tues | 7:00 pm | Board Meeting | Kendal, Room A |
| Nov 1 | Tues | 7:00 pm | Board Meeting | Kendal, Room A |

BBQ, FIREWORKS, AND VOTER SERVICES!

Welcome to summer – a busy season for the Voter Services team at the League of Women Voters! It has been a beautiful start to the season and we encourage you to spend a few hours during the summer tabling with us – registering voters, talking about the League, and getting to know other League members – we’re a great bunch! The following is a list of tabling opportunities during the summer months; if you can join us for an hour, two or three, please let us know. And you are always welcome to bring a friend or family member. For questions or to sign-up for a slot, please email or call: Amy Panek (amy.panek@gmail.com; 617-448-6841); Mandy Qualls (mandyqualls@gmail.com); or Lucia Sciore (luciasciore@gmail.com; 351-0221).

- 6/18: Juneteenth Celebration, Southside Community Center, 11 am-6 pm
- 6/25: Roller Derby, Cass Park, 6 pm - 8 pm
- 7/2: Ithaca Farmers’ Market, 8 am - 1 pm
- 7/16: Roller Derby, Cass Park, 6 - 8 pm
- 8/3: Naturalization Ceremony, Tompkins County Courthouse, noon - 2 pm
- 8/6: Ithaca Farmers’ Market, 8 am - 1 pm
- 8/20: Roller Derby, Cass Park, 6 - 8 pm
- 9/3: Ithaca Farmers’ Market, 8 am - 1 pm

Amy Panek, Co-Chair,
Voter Services

SUMMER READING SUGGESTION

NO DEBATE: How the Republican and Democratic Parties Secretly Control the Presidential Debates

George Farah; Seven Stories Press, 2004

I’m reading a great book and recommend it to everyone who’s worried about our current election process, especially LWV members and friends.

George Farah, the author of *No Debate* exposes how Washington insiders of the Republican and Democratic parties and corporate lobbyists colluded to seize control of the Presidential debates from the League of Women Voters in 1987, developed the private Commission on Presidential Debates, and proceeded to manipulate the Presidential debates to prevent the public from hearing independent voices not connected with the Democratic or Republican parties.

Nancy M Neuman, former president of the League of Women Voters, praised the book: “George Farah argues persuasively that the presidential debates are organized almost entirely to serve the interests of the two major-party nominees and not the public interests. If you want a behind-the-scenes look at candidate negotiations, backstage maneuvering, and the machinations involved in dealing with major third-party candidates, *No Debate* is the book for you.”

Paul M. Weyrich, Heritage Foundation cofounder, in his review of the book stated: “No Debate exposes just how far the Republicans and Democrats have sold out the American people in suppressing vital issues that need to be examined by the discerning voter. It is shocking, but maybe this book will shock citizens into action.”

John B. Anderson, former presidential candidate added: “Presidential debates are both a public function and an essential part of the electoral process. That process is now broken because of the exclusionary rules dictated by private interests and narrow partisanship. George Farah has carefully researched that charge. His prescription for reform would honor the principle of public interest and accountability by establishing a system which would provide fair and open debates.”

Please read *No Debate*.

Flo Smith, Historian

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

REPRESENTATIVES:

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

YOUR REPRESENTATIVES IN ALBANY

SENATORS

James Seward 518-455-3131; 607-758-9005 www.nysenate.gov/senator/james-l-seward

51st—Towns of Groton, Dryden, Caroline, Danby

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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