



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TOMPKINS COUNTY

August & September 2017

lwvtompkins.org

PRESIDENT: Kay Sharp 272-4748

EDITOR: Megan Nettleton (330) 962-5448



September 26 is National Voter Registration Day.

Most local Leagues and other organizations are organizing voter registration drives on this day.

Contact Kay Sharp and offer to help out and register voters! Let's get everyone registered to vote!



A note from Kay Sharp, League President

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello everyone. Hope you had a delightful summer with family and friends. I enjoyed visiting my Great-grandson. Oh my, am I getting old.

Let's get down to business. Elections are coming up. We have already moderated two campaign forums. We follow the procedure raised by the State League, that is, no "empty chair". I'm sure we will assist with more forums as we get closer to the general elections.

We have been busy with voter registration events. This last weekend the League was at Farmer's Market. Our next voter registration event is September 26th; it is National Voter Registration Day. Then we have Apple Harvest Fair in October. Please volunteer to register voters. It's a fun thing to do and it raises visibility in the community.

This year we are participating with VOTE411, an automated voter guide. It will have candidates' biographical information as well as their answers to four questions we raise. We hope that every candidate responds to the letter sent. It is a great service to the community. Thank you Kathleen Yen for doing all the work required to get this guide up and running.

Look for our signs in TCAT buses mid-September. We hope to raise the visibility of our League. Thank you to Lucia Sciore for the idea and to Sarah Jane Black for the design of the signs. TCAT is placing the signs in their buses free of charge.

We have a number of great programs coming up this Fall. Also, the League is co-sponsoring two

programs with the History Center. They will focus on women's contributions in Tompkins County.

We continue to work with the History Center in archiving our League's materials from throughout our existence. It will be exciting to see the completed story.

I look forward to seeing you at our various events this Fall.

Kay Sharp

A note from Kay Wagner, Natural Resources

The Natural Resources Committee took a break for the summer but will start meeting again this month. During the summer we have continued to monitor local and national issues and attend some of the Dryden town board and planning board meetings at which the proposed solar farms were discussed.

The committee is planning a program to be held in January. The focus of the program will likely be on local housing issues and their connection to environmental and land use issues. As we learn about the situation in Houston we are reminded of the importance of careful planning in the midst of development. Although Houston received an unprecedented amount of rain, the problems were made much worse by the fact that vast areas of ground and wetlands had been paved over or built on in recent years, hindering the absorption of rain. We do not want to create similar problems here.

In addition to land use concerns, we also need to have new construction done with climate change in mind. That is, the construction should not increase our greenhouse gas emissions, which can be accomplished by using heat pumps



instead of traditional furnaces. A recent study by Taitem Engineering indicates

that the use of heat pumps can make sense economically while being a win for the environment.

There is an upcoming event that should be both fun and interesting. On September 16, 11am – 4 pm there will be an electric vehicle car show at 118 West Green Street in Ithaca (the parking lot behind Press Bay Alley). We will have a chance to see different electric vehicles, talk to the owners, and possibly go for a ride.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, September 13, 11am – 1pm. If you would like to attend or would like to be added to the email list for natural resources, contact Kay Wagner, 539-3322, cmw18@cornell.edu. We always welcome new members to the Natural Resources Committee.

You can donate while you shop!

You can support the League's Education Foundation with every purchase you make on Amazon.com. Just select the LWVNYS Education Foundation as the organization you want to support, and Amazon provides .5% of each purchase price to the EF.

An easy way to support us! More info at: <https://org.amazon.com/>

The More You Know!

As of February 14, 2017, individuals sixteen and seventeen years of age are eligible to enroll in the New York State Donate Life Registry. In the event a sixteen or seventeen year old who has joined New York's donor registry may be considered for donation, the parents or legal guardians of that individual will give final consent for donation to take place. Upon reaching the age of eighteen, that individual's enrollment shall be regarded as consent to donation. Please make sure you inform the public of this change during your voter registration drives.



**Your One-Stop Shop for
Nonpartisan Election Information!**

Find out:

How to register?

Where to vote?

What candidates are on the ballot in your district? What are their positions?

**If any candidate is not providing information,
ask why not!**

**For Voters Guide information,
Visit Vote411.org**





A note from Programs, by Charlotte Coffman, VP for Programs

The great news is that we have exciting and relevant programs planned for the upcoming year, and we now have a working committee of three (Ann Warde, Megan Nettleton and Charlotte Coffman) that will meet for the first time on Wednesday, September 13, 9:30am at Triphammer Ithaca Bakery. If anyone is interested in joining us, all are welcome.

To help you update your calendar, here is a summary of programs (*TCLWV is co-sponsor):

Date	Topic	Location
September 25, 7pm	The Constitutional Convention Debate	Borg Warner Rm Tompkins Co Public Library
October 23, 7pm	Is That Really True? Facts or Fake News?	Borg Warner Rm Tompkins Co Public Library
*October 24, 7pm	Different Perspectives on Voting	The History Center
*November 2, 7pm	Women's Suffrage and Political Office: A Seat at the Table	The History Center
November 13, 7pm	Impact of Federal and State Budgets on Tompkins County	Borg Warner Rm Tompkins Co Public Library
December 16, 9:30am	Saturday Brunch – Board ONLY	26 Deerhaven Drive, Ithaca
January 22, 7pm	Natural Resources	Borg Warner Rm Tompkins Co Public Library
February 26, 7pm	Mental Health	Borg Warner Rm Tompkins Co Public Library
March 26, TBA	Soup & Bread Luncheon	TBA
May 7, TBA	Annual Meeting	TBA



Let's take a closer look at the first two programs (later newsletters will provide details on later programs):

SEPTEMBER 2017. The Constitutional Convention Debate: Member and Public Meeting

Date: Monday, September 25, 7pm

Place: Borg Warner Room, Tompkins County Public Library, 101 East Green St., Ithaca, NY.

In January 2017, we sponsored an informational meeting Does New York Need a Constitutional Convention? Dr. Henrik Dullea explained the purpose, process, challenges and opportunities of such a convention. This fall meeting will take a more critical look at the issue in preparation for the statewide November vote on whether to hold such a convention.

Barbara Lifton, NYS Assembly Representative for District 125 will present the “con” voice and Dr. Henrik N. Dullea, Vice President for Community Relations Emeritus, Cornell University will present the “pro” voice. Each speaker will talk for 15 minutes about their reasons for supporting/not supporting the proposed constitutional convention and will address the process and problems of delegate selection. A Q/A session will be followed by a closing statement of 5 minutes each.

As you probably know, the NYS League has issued a statement in support of the proposition to have a constitutional convention. There has been much discussion within the League about this decision because not all of the local chapters agreed with this stance. At any rate, for the September 25 program, we will maintain a neutral stance allowing each speaker to freely make his/her case.

This is a complicated topic so an advance understanding of what is at stake can make this debate more useful to us and to our audience. You might review some of these resources – or search for others to share with the membership.

- NYS LWV Constitutional Convention Reform

<<http://www.lwvny.org/advocacy/gov-reform/con-con.html>>

- The Pros and Cons of Con Con (Village Voice)

<https://www.villagevoice.com/2017/08/31/new-york-is-about-to-vote-on-a-constitutional-convention-heres-why-you-should-care/>

- Rockefeller Institute of Government Constitutional Convention Project:

<http://www.rockinst.org/NYS_ConCon2017/>

This program is free and open to the public. Please help us publicize it and don't forget to bring a friend.



Save The Date! OCTOBER 2017. Is That Really True? Facts or Fake News?: Member and Public Meeting

Date: Monday, October 23, 7pm

Place: Borg Warner Room, Tompkins County Public Library, 101 East Green St., Ithaca, NY.

With the increase in use of social media, the broad range of media outlets claiming to deliver the news, and the finger pointing about what is and is not true, it is important for citizens to be aware of various methods for evaluating the reliability of what we read, see and hear.

To facilitate the exploration of this topic are three excellent speakers:

- Michael Engels, a research librarian at Cornell University who developed a website guide that helps people evaluate news sources (http://guides.library.cornell.edu/evaluate_news).
- A representative from Project Look Smart, an Ithaca College program that teaches media literacy in the schools at all educational levels (<https://www.projectlooksharp.org/>).
- Neil Borowski, Editor, Ithaca Journal, who will present the journalist perspective.

The League is grateful to Sheila Stone for proposing and organizing this program and to Jim Blizzard for videotaping the proceedings that will be posted on our Website.

Again, this program is free and open to the public. Don't miss it.

The League is also co-sponsoring the following event, in partnership with the Child Development Council and AAUW. Please join in continuing the dialog in our community to *ensure optimal developmental outcomes for all infants, toddlers and preschoolers.* T

The Raising of America: Early Childhood and the Future of our Nation
Once Upon a Time (33min)
Viewing & Policy-Maker Panel ~ Kendal at Ithaca
Friday, October 6, 2017 3:30-5pm, Auditorium
with refreshments honoring CDC's 50th Anniversary

Aspects of the documentary series delve into :

- Brain science of ECD
- The squeeze on parents
- Life-long effects of trauma
- Economic impacts
- Policy issues

The more we learn from these documentaries and from local resource people about the facts and needs, the more urgency we feel about taking action. We know that we must work on effecting policy changes to improve the outcomes for all young children. We need to connect local, state, and national policy makers



CONTACT PAGE

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LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TOMPKINS COUNTY: BOARD 2017-18

LWV NYS website www.lwvny.org LWV US website www.lwv.org

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