



# ***LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TOMPKINS COUNTY***

**MARCH 2009**

**PRESIDENT: KAY SHARP 272-4748**  
**MEMBERSHIP: KATHLEEN YEN 257-8199**

**EDITOR: ROBERT SILSBEE 273-1436**  
**www.lwvtompkins.14850.com**

**CALL 273-6147 NOW**

**TO MAKE YOUR RESERVATION  
FOR LUNCH AT NOON  
SATURDAY, MARCH 7**

**OR COME AT 12:30 FOR  
A PANEL DISCUSSION**

**THE STATE BUDGET  
AND THE SCHOOLS**

**Superintendents of All Tompkins  
County School Districts**

The Women's Community Building

topic will be health care. What a timely occasion to speak out on this issue. President Obama is planning his agenda for health care as you read this bulletin.

I hope you have overcome the Winter Blues and are enjoying the longer daylight. I look forward to seeing you at these events.

Kay Sharp

## **SYMPATHY**

League member, Karl Berkelman, passed away Thursday, February 26, 2009. We extend our deepest sympathy to Board member, Mary Berkelman and her family.

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Hello everyone. Hopefully Spring will come soon. In the meantime, we have an active schedule for the next two months.

March 7th is our Annual Luncheon. We have an exciting program that I believe will generate a lot of discussion. We've invited the local school superintendents to update us on the state of their budgets given the deficits in New York State. The soup will be good so please put this event on your calendar.

March 23rd is our consensus meeting for the study of the feasibility of National Popular Vote. This is an important topic to the League. Please plan to attend. We need your voice.

Planning ahead our Annual General Membership Meeting is on April 27th. The

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**City Federation of Women's  
Organizations  
Invites You to**

**“WOMEN MAKING HISTORY DAY”**

**Thursday, March 26, 2009  
Women’s Community Building  
100 West Seneca Street  
Ithaca, NY**

*Honor Local Women &  
Learn More About Local  
Environmental Initiatives*

**6:30 p.m. Reception**

**7:00 p.m. Awards Ceremony & Panel  
Discussion**

*Saving Our Environment...One Woman  
at a Time...*

March is National Women’s History Month. You are invited to come and celebrate “Women Making History Day,” the culminating event of Women’s History Month. Please help us honor and celebrate the visions and accomplishments of local women nominated from the community and by the member organizations.

View the “Women Making History” TIMELINE and visit the display tables during the reception to learn more about the work of local organizations and women who have made a difference.

This year’s honorees include **Lynn Leopold** (CFWO honoree), Marjorie Smith (AAUW), Mildred Staples (Ithaca Garden Club), Priscilla Lawrence (Ithaca Music Club), Shirley Jalso (Ithaca Woman’s Club), Pat Casler (The Service League), Maureen Bernier Jakubson (Tompkins County Quilters Guild), and **Rebecca Elgie** (League of Women Voters of Tompkins County).

Please join us in honoring long-time League members, Rebecca Elgie and Lynn Leopold.

*Saving Our Environment...One Woman at a Time...* will be the topic of a lively discussion of local environmental issues and initiatives with local experts, Judy Saul (Community Dispute Resolution Center), Gay Nicholson ("Sustainable Tompkins"), Betsy Darlington (Finger Lakes Land Trust), Wendy Skinner (SewGreen), Tina Nilsen-Hodges (New Roots Charter School), Linda Waganet (Cornell University), and Sharon Anderson (Cornell Cooperative Extension).

The program is free and open to the public. The “Women Making History” TIMELINE will be on display, in the auditorium of the Women’s Community Building, during the month of March. For information about other Women’s History Month events in Ithaca, visit the Women’s Community Building website at [www.lightlink.com/womens](http://www.lightlink.com/womens).

**LWV-TC CALENDAR—2008-2009**

noon	Sat.	Mar. 7	LUNCH MEETING—School Superintendents — Panel	Wmn. Comm. Bldg.
7:15	Wed.	Mar. 11	CANDIDATES’ FORUM: Cayuga Heights Election	Kendal at Ithaca
9:30	Sat.	Mar.21	HEALTH CARE IN AMERICA	First Presbyterian Church
7:00	Mon.	Mar. 23	CONSENSUS MEETING — National Popular Vote	Wmn. Comm. Bldg.
6:30	Thur.	Mar.26	WOMEN MAKING HISTORY DAY	Wmn. Comm. Bldg.
7:00	Mon.	Apr. 6	BOARD MEETING	Alene Wyatt
6:00	Mon.	Apr. 27	ANNUAL DINNER MEETING—Health Care Roundtable	Salvation Army
7:00	Mon.	May 4	BOARD MEETING	Kathy Burlitch
7:00	Thur.	May 7	CANDIDATES’ FORUM—ICSD School Board	IHS Cafeteria
	Tues.	May19	SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS	
7:00	Mon.	June 1	BOARD MEETING	Kay Sharp

**HEALTH CARE IN AMERICA  
A MEDICAL, MORAL AND ECONOMIC  
CRISIS**

**Saturday, March 21, 2009**

9:30-10:00 a.m. – Coffee

10:00-12:00 a.m. Panel Discussion

First Presbyterian Church – Court & Cayuga  
Dodds Hall (enter through green door)

**Speakers:**

**Dr. Robert MacKenzie –President & CEO of  
Cayuga Medical Center**

**Dr. John-Paul Mead – Internist – Cayuga  
Medical Associates**

**Dr. James Henery- Pastor of First  
Presbyterian Church**

Our speakers will look at the costs of this critical issue to hospitals, physicians and patients. Join us for a discussion of how the failing health care system impacts the economic security of families and deprives them of their basic human rights.

**Sponsored by First Presbyterian Church.**

**Co-sponsors: First Baptist Church, Religious Taskforce for a Living Wage, Catholic Charities, SJC First Unitarian Church, League of Women Voter of Tompkins County**

**MEMBERSHIP**

Please welcome our new member, Nancy Black, and renewed member, Ms. Virginia Bizzell. Please add them to your membership list:

Ms. Nancy Black: 372 Savage Farm Drive,  
Ithaca

Ms. Virginia Bizzell: 46 Genung Rd., Ithaca  
272-7328

Please make the following corrections on your membership list:

Richard Flaville: 36 Sheraton Drive, 257-5184  
Michael Duttweiler: [mduttweiler@twcny.rr.com](mailto:mduttweiler@twcny.rr.com)  
Florence Smith (in Board listing): 273-6147

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT**

The nominating committee presented the following slate of nominees to the Board on Monday, March 2, 2009:

**Officers:**

Co-President	Barbara Caldwell
Co-President	Marnie Johnson
1. Vice President and Program	Florence Smith
3. Vice-President and Membership	Maria Eisner
	(for one year, filling Kathleen Yen's position)
Treasurer	Bo Lipari
Secretary	to be appointed or voted on at the annual meeting

**Directors:**

Immediate past president	Kay Sharp
Voter Service	Debbie Levin
Co-Voter Service	Sally Grubb
Director-at-large	Libby deProsse
Webmasters	Linda and Michael Duttweiler

The positions of Telephone and Action chair have been eliminated.

**Off-Board Directors:**

Co-Program	Robin Booth
Nominating Committee	
	Fran Helmstadter, Chair
	Sally McMillin
	Barbara Thorp

The report of the nominating committee shall be presented to the annual meeting on April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2009. Immediately following the presentation of this report, nominations may be made from the floor by any voting member provided the consent of the nominee shall have been secured. A majority vote of those present and qualified to vote is required for election, a quorum being present.

Respectfully submitted,  
Joan Bechhofer, chair  
Helen Cooil  
Margaret Myers  
Maria Eisner

**STUDENTS INSIDE ALBANY  
CONFERENCE  
APRIL 19 - 22, 2009**

*Students Inside Albany* (SIA) is a student conference sponsored by the League of Women Voters of New York State Education Foundation, Inc. The program is designed to increase high school students' awareness of their responsibility in representative government and provide the tools necessary for meeting that responsibility.

The four-day conference brings together high school students from across the state to learn about New York State government and the process by which citizens can participate in the policy making arena. Students will have the opportunity to tour the New York State Capitol and to shadow their legislator.

The League of Women Voters of Tompkins County (LWV-TC) will sponsor one senior high school student from Tompkins County to attend this exciting state conference. The chosen student should demonstrate not only leadership potential but also an interest in learning about New York State's legislative process. The four-day conference costs (room and board) are covered by LWV-NYS and LWV-TC will cover the cost of car/bus transportation.

A cover letter, "Students Inside Albany" brochures, and applications were sent to Tompkins County high school principals, government/social studies chairpersons, and guidance departments in February. Students are required to complete an application, provide references and a letter of recommendation/nomination by the March 19, 2009 deadline. For more information, please contact Kathleen Yen, 607-257-8199, [kyen@twcny.rr.com](mailto:kyen@twcny.rr.com).

**NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE (NPV)**

The NPV Study Committee will meet on Friday, March 6, at noon at Kendal. Any and all interested LWV members are welcome to attend and participate! Consensus will be the program for March 23rd, so there isn't much time left to study the issues! The consensus questions are given in the following article: do some homework and join the discussion. A brief discussion of the NPV appears in the February issue.

Sunny Gooding

**NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE —  
CONSENSUS QUESTIONS**

**Amending the Constitution**

1. WHICH OF THE STATEMENTS BEST REFLECTS THE CONSENSUS OF THE GROUP? SELECT ONE.

- a) Action to alter a basic element of the Constitutional framework, which is achievable by amendment to the Constitution, should be accomplished by amendment to the Constitution.
- b) Action by states through a compact process is an acceptable way to alter the method for electing the President and Vice-President.
- c) The group could not reach consensus.

2. WHICH OF THE STATEMENTS BEST REFLECTS THE CONSENSUS OF THE GROUP? SELECT ONE.

- a) Because a compact has never before been used to address a fundamental constitutional issue such as voting, the chance that it might set a precedent for the future leads to the conclusion that it is better that the League continue to work for an amendment to the Constitution to establish the direct popular election of the President and the abolition of the Electoral College.
- b) Despite the novelty of the use of the compact approach to address a fundamental constitutional issue such as voting, the League

should support the NPV Compact as a way of achieving an important goal.

c) The group could not reach consensus

### **Congressional Consent**

3. WHICH OF THE STATEMENTS BEST REFLECTS THE CONSENSUS OF THE GROUP? SELECT ONE.

a) The possibility that the NPV Compact will require congressional consent is not of sufficient concern to block the implementation of the plan.

b) The possibility that the NPV Compact will require congressional consent is sufficient to conclude that the plan should not be implemented without obtaining such consent.

c) The group could not reach consensus.

### **Enforcement**

4. WHICH OF THE STATEMENTS BEST REFLECTS THE CONSENSUS OF THE GROUP? SELECT ONE.

a) The NPV Compact contains sufficient enforcement provisions to assure smooth operation of the plan.

b) Although it is not possible to determine whether the enforcement provisions will be sufficient to assure smooth operation of the plan, the plan should be passed anyway.

c) Enforcement of the plan is likely to add uncertainty and bring the courts into the presidential election in ways that raise substantial concerns.

d) The lack of adequate enforcement provisions is sufficient to conclude that the NPV is not a viable plan.

e) The group could not reach consensus.

### **Uniformity**

5. WHICH OF THE STATEMENTS BEST REFLECTS THE CONSENSUS OF THE GROUP? SELECT ONE.

a) The uniformity of voting systems is more important to American democracy than the possibility that the NPV Compact can be adopted.

b) The NPV Compact is more important than uniformity of voting systems because it would succeed in achieving the popular election of the President.

c) The group could not reach consensus.

### **Popular Election of the President**

6. WHICH OF THE STATEMENTS BEST REFLECTS THE CONSENSUS OF THE GROUP? SELECT ONE.

a) It is more important to achieve the goal of national popular election of the President than it is to achieve the goal of abolition of the electoral college.

b) It is more important to amend the Constitution to abolish the Electoral College than it is to achieve the goal of popular election of the President by alternative methods, such as the NPV Compact.

c) The group could not reach consensus.

### **Achievability**

7. DO THESE STATEMENTS REFLECT THE VIEWS OF THE GROUP?

a) The NPV Compact will have problems being passed because of the need for congressional consideration and the need for action by so many states.

Agree      Disagree      No Consensus

b) A constitutional amendment to establish the direct popular election of the President and the abolition of the Electoral College will continue to have problems being passed.

Agree      Disagree      No Consensus

## VOTER SERVICE REPORT

I am very happy to welcome Sally Grubb as co-chair of LWVTC Voter Services. I'm sure Sally will be a great asset to the very important activities of Voter Services and will have lots to contribute to the Board.

I have been talking to several other League members who are interested in helping with various activities of our group.

The League will be supplying a moderator and timers for a candidates meeting to be held at Kendal on Wed., March 11 at 7:15. The election is for members of the Cayuga Heights Village Board.

Deborah Levin

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## NEWS FROM THE NYS LEAGUE

**Coastal Pollution** In New York State, coastal pollution must be fought on two fronts: the Atlantic Ocean and the Great Lakes. Our goal is to turn back the decline of the Atlantic as a source of jobs, revenue, wildlife, and natural beauty. Toward that goal, officials will release a comprehensive plan for ecosystem-based management of the Great Lakes and Atlantic coasts, which will address land and water uses, economy, climate change, energy, and building capacity.

The situation is serious. New York State's commercial and recreational fisheries have only 21 percent of their value 50 years ago. Nationally, 32 percent of all monitored beaches had closings or advisories in 2007 compared with 23 percent a decade earlier. Hard clam production on Long Island is down from 700,000 bushels a year to fewer than 10,000 bushels. Despite these alarming statistics, Governor Paterson has proposed cutting Environmental Protection Fund money for oceans and Great Lakes from \$5 million to \$2 million for the coming year

**Pay Equity Update** The Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act was the very first bill signed into law by President Obama. It restores the 1964 Civil Rights Act equal-pay protections for people whose jobs involve the same work. Unfortunately the Ledbetter Act does not address pay inequities across different but equally-valued job titles. The NY State Fair Pay Act (A3911, S955) addresses this problem by removing discrimination in job titles traditionally done by women and people of color. We need to build support in both the Labor Committee and the Senate as a whole. Check the March 2009 SBR for the names of the Senators who are co-sponsors of this legislation and thank them, and urge the others to come on board.

**Sprawl and Land Use** The LWVNYS urges New York State to take a proactive role in regional land use planning. To further that goal, we have joined Empire State Future, a coalition of groups and individuals interested in advancing the principles of "smart growth". In addition to providing educational materials that will augment the efforts of land use activists, this coalition plans to provide the public with a website that is informative, up-to-date, lively, and easy to use.

A statewide Community Preservation Act (S381) was reintroduced on January 7, 2009. It would allow cities and towns to create community protection funds to protect open space, support working farms, and preserve community character.

The State Smart Growth Infrastructure Policy Act (A543) was reintroduced in 2009. During the last legislative session, this bill was considerably watered down and the governor refused to sign it. The 2009 version attempts to define smart growth principles clearly and requires state agencies to base funding on these principles.

Much more at <http://www.lwvny.org/>

**PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2009-2010**

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>2008-09 Budget</b>	<b>2008-09 YTD (to Jan 30)</b>	<b>2009-2010 Proposed</b>
<b>DUES</b>			
Individual/regular (\$48/58)	5,194.00	4,546.00	4,664.00
Friends (\$10)	50.00	294.00	50.00
Household (\$72/87)	1,272.00	420.00	945.00
Sub-Total	<u>6,516.00</u>	<u>5,260.00</u>	<u>5,659.00</u>
<b>CONTRIBUTIONS</b>			
General	700.00	212.00	200.00
Sub-Total	<u>700.00</u>	<u>212.00</u>	<u>200.00</u>
<b>PROJECTS</b>			
Know Your Schools			50.00
Election Night Report	50.00		50.00
Sub-Total	<u>50.00</u>		<u>100.00</u>
<b>OTHER - Misc.</b>		120.00	120.00
Interest	10.00	1.18	2.00
Winter Lunch	75.00		75.00
Annual meeting	500.00		500.00
Subtotal	<u>585.00</u>	<u>121.18</u>	<u>697.00</u>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<u>7,851.00</u>	<u>5,593.18</u>	<u>6,656.00</u>

**EXPENDITURES**

<b>Board and Admin.</b>			
President	50.00		50.00
Secretary	50.00		50.00
Treasurer	50.00		50.00
Board Tools	50.00	71.28	50.00
<b>Committees</b>			
Finance			
Membership			
Materials & Supplies	100.00	90.80	100.00
Programs	100.00	52.00	100.00
Winter Lunch	75.00		75.00
Annual Meeting	500.00		500.00
PR			
Sub-Total	<u>975.00</u>	<u>214.08</u>	<u>975.00</u>

(continued)

EXPENDITURES (continued)	2008-09 Budget	2008-09 YTD (to Jan 30)	2009-2010 Proposed
<b>DELEGATES/TRAVEL</b>			
State convention	800.00		500.00
National Convention	1,000.00		500.00
WCB	175.00	32.00	175.00
Students Inside Albany			50.00
	<hr/> 1,975.00	32.00	<hr/> 1,225.00
<b>FINANCIAL SUPPORT</b>			
State Individual.@ \$18	1,764.00	2,196.00	1,584.00
State Household @ \$27	432.00		324.00
National Individual .@ \$28	2,744.00	3,356.00	2,464.00
Nat. Household @ \$42	672.00		504.00
	<hr/> 5,612.00	5,552.00	<hr/> 4,876.00
<b>BULLETIN</b>			
Production	375.00	158.31	375.00
Postage	400.00	181.73	400.00
Sub-Total	<hr/> 775.00	340.04	<hr/> 775.00
<b>EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES</b>			
Know Your Schools			100.00
Study	25.00		25.00
Sub-Total	<hr/> 25.00		<hr/> 125.00
<b>VOTERS SERVICE</b>			
Meetings			
School board	25.00		25.00
November	150.00		150.00
Facts for Voters	200.00	184.36	150.00
Sub-Total	<hr/> 375.00	184.36	<hr/> 325.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<hr/> 9,737.00	6,322.48	<hr/> 8,301.00
<b>INCOME</b>	7,851.00	5,593.18	6,656.00
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	9,737.00	6,322.48	8,301.00
<b>I-E (From Education Fund)</b>	-1,886.00	-729.30	-1,645.00

### LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TOMPKINS COUNTY: BOARD 2008-09

LWV NYS website  
LWV US website  
LWV-Tompkins County

leave message at 272-4748

[www.lwvny.org](http://www.lwvny.org)  
[www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)  
lwvtc@twcnny.rr.com  
[www.lwvtompkins.14850.com](http://www.lwvtompkins.14850.com)

#### Officers

President	Kay Sharp	272-4748	kshepherdqueen@yahoo.com
V.P.-Program	Florence Smith	273-6147	FloSmith42@aol.com
V.P Membership	Kathleen Yen	257-8199	kyen@twcnny.rr.com
V.P. Finance	Sunny Gooding	277-3598	shgooding@clarityconnect.com
Secretary	Barbara Caldwell	272-5769	bcaldwel@twcnny.rr.com
Treasurer	Alene Wyatt	257-1894	alene@lightlink.com

#### Directors:

Bulletin	Robert Silsbee	273-1436	rhs1@cornell.edu
Director-at-large	Libby deProse	257-6678	deprose@lightlink.com
Director-at-large	Maria Eisner	277-4404	mle3@cornell.edu
Action	Mary Berkelman	257-6450	mberkelman@netscape.net
Publications/Publ.Relations	Kathy Burlitch	539-7316	klburlitch@frontiernet.net
Web	Linda Duttweiler	277-0006	ldutt@twcnny.rr.com
Voter Services	Debbie Levin	273-7746	dlevin01@twcnny.rr.com

#### Off-Board Members:

Webmaster	Michael Duttweiler	277-0006	mduttweiler@twcnny.rr.com
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### MEMBERSHIP DUES

To renew, please fill out the form below and send with your check(s) to Alene Wyatt at 380 Savage Farm Drive, Ithaca, NY14850. Address questions to Kathleen Yen at 257-8199.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Dues</b> Individual:	<i>contributing</i>	\$48.-;	<i>supporting</i>	\$58.-	_____
Household:	<i>contributing</i>	\$72.-;	<i>supporting</i>	\$87.-	_____
Friend of the League		\$10.-			_____
<b>Contribution</b> (not tax-deductible)					_____
	<b>Total</b> (payable to LWV-TC)				_____

**Contribution** (tax-deductible) (a separate check, payable to Community Foundation of TC; memo: Ed. Fund of LWV)

## YOUR REPRESENTATIVES IN CONGRESS

## SENATORS:

Kirsten E. Gillibrand US Senate, 531 Dirksen Senate Building, Washington, DC 20510  
202-224-4451 web-site: [gillibrand.senate.gov](http://gillibrand.senate.gov)

Charles E. Schumer US Senate, 313 Hart Senate Building, Washington, DC 20510  
202-224-6542; Binghamton Office: 607-772-6792  
e-mail: [senator@schumer.senate.gov](mailto:senator@schumer.senate.gov) web-site: [schumer.senate.gov](http://schumer.senate.gov)

## REPRESENTATIVES;

Michael Arcuri 327 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515-3224  
202-225-3665; Cortland Office: 607-756-2470  
e-mail: send from web-site web-site: [arcuri.house.gov](http://arcuri.house.gov)

Maurice Hinchey 2431 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515  
202-225-6335; Ithaca Office: 607-273-1388; 123 S. Cayuga St. #201  
e-mail: [mhinchey@mail.house.gov](mailto:mhinchey@mail.house.gov) web-site: [www.house.gov/hinchey](http://www.house.gov/hinchey)

League of Women Voters of Tompkins County  
20 Cedar Lane  
Ithaca, NY 14850

Address Service Requested