



The Leaguer

Volume 20, Issue 7
March - April 2015

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY
lww@lwwchautauqua.org, 672-4275

April 22

"DRUG ABUSE IN CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY: SHOULD WE BE PART OF THE SOLUTION?"

Moonbrook Country Club
Noon



LWV Chautauqua County
PO Box 42
Fredonia, New York 14063

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Drugs have become one of our
most critical problems.

What is the community doing in response?

A panel of community agencies will address this issue:

Harry Snellings
Jamestown Police Chief

Rick Huber, Executive Director
Mental Health Association in Chautauqua County

Christine Schuyler, Director
Chautauqua County Health and Human Services

The panel moderator is Dr. Lillian Vitanza Ney, Chairwoman
Health Care Action Team

"Sure, the drug problem is a national and even international issue. But the pressing concern to us in our corner of the world is that it continues to escalate here. Raids, arrests, overdoses and deaths are increasing despite excellent policing efforts. The recent death of a young person due to tainted heroin adds to the list of mortalities."

Dr. Lillian Vitanza Ney, Post-Journal, March 8, 2015

April 22nd LUNCHEON at Moonbrook Country Club

RESERVATION FORM

Quiche - ham, bacon, cheese

Teriyaki - glazed stir fry over seasoned rice/vegetables

Chicken Parmesan

Cost: \$15

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ email _____

Reservations: Tillie Solomonson, 2 Waldemere Way, Lakewood, NY, 14750
763-8278 tsolomonson@stny.rr.com

You are welcome to attend the program only, but please call 763-8278

so we may plan for seating.

From Your Leadership Team ...

In the last issue of the Leaguer, we noted the downfall of Assemblyman Sheldon Silver. We should consider what we can do.

- The LWV and other good government groups can continue to put the pressure on our elected officials to enact ethics, lobby, campaign finance and redistricting reforms
- We can pay attention and keep up the pressure
- We can vote against any incumbent or challenger who doesn't pledge to support ethics laws with teeth, an independent redistricting commission, lower limits on campaign contributions, clear rules and restrictions on lobbyists
- We can support candidates who pledge to work for ethics laws with teeth, an independent redistricting commission, lower limits on campaign contributions, clear rules and restrictions on lobbyists”

And we can stay engaged and active participants in the ongoing work of our League. Please consider attending our state League convention and represent us!

Warmly,

Minda Rae Amiran, Priscilla Bernatz, Gloria Garretson, Gen Ludemann , Marcia Merrins, Judy Reynolds , Rose Sebouhian, Tillie Solomonson, Linda Warner



Jon Titus



Margaret Bruegel



Our February Hot Topic Luncheon and Presentation on GMOs was well attended. Thank you to Judi Lutz-Woods for coordinating this event.

Be sure to join us for our next meeting on Drugs in Chautauqua County and what we can do about it!





League of Women Voters
of Chautauqua County

www.lwvchautauqua.org
P.O. Box 42 Fredonia, New York, 14063
716-679-4636

This card is for you!
When you meet someone who you think will be interested in our local League League, hand him or her this card.

Business cards will available at our meetings and through your leadership team. Take several!

TENTATIVE AGENDA

Friday, June 5th

2:00 pm Tour of NYS Capitol (space limited and leave from hotel)

6:00 pm Dinner on your own

8:00 pm- 11:00 pm Hospitality Suite and Networking

SATURDAY, June 6th

8:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Registration / Information Desk Open

8:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Sales Room

8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

Workshops 9:45 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.

Workshops 11:00 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.

Lunch on your own 11:00 am - 12:30 p.m.

PLENARY SESSION 4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Hospitality Suite /Sales Room Open 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Reception 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Dinner 7:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Awards Presentations 8:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Guest Speaker: To Be Determined

9:00 p.m.- 11:00 p.m. Info Sessions and Caucuses;

Networking Time 9:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.

Hospitality Suite/Sales Room Open

SUNDAY, June 7th

7:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. Breakfast Buffet

7:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. Presidents' Breakfast 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

9:15 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. PLENARY SESSION

**2015 State
Convention**

June 6-7, 2015
Desmond Hotel and
Conference Center,
Albany

If you are new to the League or a supportive member and want to see how the League truly functions as a grassroots organization, enjoy a weekend at the LWWNYS Convention.

Friday afternoon touring the Capitol is a wonderful way to start.

Expenses fully paid by LWV Chautauqua County.

Consider this great opportunity!

Call Marcia at 672-4275, mmerrins@netsync.net or Minda Rae at 679-4636, airan@fredonia.edu.

It is a fabulous experience!

Voter Friendly Ballot Act

This **memorandum of support** was sent to the Assembly Elections Committee by LWVNYS.

SUBJECT: AN ACT to amend the election law, in relation to enacting the voter friendly ballot act; and to repeal section 7-126 of such law relating to the form of ballots.

Purpose: To create a ballot layout that is easy for voters to read and use.

The League of Women Voters of New York State (the League) strongly supports this legislation to improve the ballot layout so voters will be able to read and mark their ballots more accurately and easily. New York State voters now use a paper ballot and optical scan voting machine system but the ballot requirements in New York State Election Law are based on obsolete lever voting machine standards. In November 2010 and again in November 2012 the League conducted a statewide survey of over 1,000 voters who used the paper ballot optical scan voting machines. A significant number of voters participating in both surveys indicated they had problems using the paper ballot and wanted an improved ballot design, which would enable them to mark their ballots with greater ease and accuracy. A ballot that is clear and simple to read makes voting easier and more accurate for voters to register their choices. The United States Election Assistance Commission (EAC) report, "Effective Designs for the Administration of Elections" cites guidelines for ballots for improved readability, usability and which would result in more accurate voting. A03389 amends the current election law to conform ballot requirements to meet these guidelines, which also have been recommended by the AIGA Design for Democracy project. The League supports the changes to New York State Election Law in this bill that achieve minimum uniform standards for all ballots used in the State and still provide flexibility for local boards of elections to achieve good ballot design. The League strongly supports this bill and urges your support.

LANDFILL EXPANSION: We can make a difference.

Testimony from Karen Harvey at the DEC Hearing on March 4th

"Do we receive high volume hydraulic fracturing waste at the Chautauqua County Landfill?"

The primary reason for loss of public and private water sources in Ohio due to storage of radioactive high volume hydraulic fracturing waste is because real time measurements of radiation using a Geiger counter at a landfill or water treatment plant - measures gamma rays from black shale generated waste which contains naturally occurring radiation from radium, radon and plutonium.

The problem is black shale radiation is Alpha and Beta radiation which cannot be measured with a Gamma Geiger counter. When drilling mud, HVHF cuttings, construction demolition debris or brine are stored or the leachate is sent through a water treatment plant in Jamestown the water soluble radioactive materials are concentrated but will not be discernible with an on site Gamma reading Geiger counter.

For an accurate reading, samples must be sequestered in closed containers for 21 days minimum to acquire their constituent parts to determine radioactivity. Minimum allowable radiation is 5 pico curies per gram or in water 5 pico curies per litre.

Are we testing the materials coming from Pennsylvania to our landfill, our leachate, our water after treatment for Alpha and Beta radioactivity? What regulations does New York State have in place to address Alpha and Beta radioactive waste?

Karen Harvey

2015
**LEGISLATIVE
 AGENDA**

League of Women Voters® of New York State

Note: These are only two items on the agenda. The next Leaguer will cover Judicial Issue and State Finances and Education

Election Law Reform

Voter registration modernization, including same-day voter registration - The League supports paperless forms of voter registration as a means of decreasing costs and increasing accuracy of the voter rolls. In 2013, New York moved a major step toward this goal by allowing secure online voter registration through the Department of Motor Vehicles. Ultimately secure online voter registration should be expanded to serve all eligible citizens. The League supports Election Day registration, registering and voting on the same day, as a proven method of increasing voter participation. The League supports preregistration of 16- and 17-year-olds to ensure that their voting participation is routine before they attend college or enter the workforce.

Early in-person voting and no-excuse absentee voting - While 32 other states have some form of early voting, New York only allows voters to cast their ballots on one Election Day, except in limited circumstances in which voters may vote by absentee ballot. The League supports implementing early voting to provide better access to the polls for all voters. We also support a constitutional amendment to allow for no-excuse absentee voting.

Improvements to the way voters mark their ballots by better ballot design - New York State voters now use a paper ballot and optical scan voting machine system, but current ballot requirements are based on obsolete lever voting machine standards. A clear and simple-to-read ballot would make voting easier and more accurate. The League supports improvements to ballot design that would include: (1) a clear delineation between offices with a bold vertical bar between offices and a fine line between the candidates, (2) a larger font with an absolute minimum size and (3) fill-in circles in black instead of gray.

Healthcare

Single-Payer -The League supports a single-payer concept, which includes equitable access and cost containment, as the best approach to implementing League positions on health care. Public financing using general taxes would reduce costs significantly by lowering administrative expenses and coordinating regional planning as well as potentially lowering real estate taxes because Medicaid expenses (currently 40 percent) would be removed as a burden on counties.

Other Healthcare Issues - The League intends to continue our efforts to improve access and equity in health care. We will monitor a number of health care concerns such as: the allocation of medical resources to underserved areas, health promotion and disease prevention, school-based health services, women's health issues, cuts to the Tobacco Control Program, end-of-life issues, long-term care and prescription drug expenses.

“Be A Part of the Solution”

Dialogue with students about everyday activism.

Coordinated by Women's Student Union and Mary Croxton

April 1st at 5 pm

SUNY Fredonia Event at 5 pm, Williams Center.

| MARK YOUR CALENDARS | |
|----------------------------|--|
| MARCH 23 | LWV Chautauqua Board Meeting 1:30 pm, Gen Ludemann's, 129 Lambert Avenue, Fredonia, genl@netsync.net |
| APRIL 1 | SUNY Fredonia Event at 5 pm, Williams Center. "Be A Part of the Solution", dialogue with students about everyday activism. Coordinated by Women's Student Union and Mary Croxton |
| APRIL 22 | HOT TOPICS LUNCHEON at Noon - Drugs in Our County, at Moonbrook Country Club. Tillie Solomonson, coordinator |
| MAY 20 | LWV Chautauqua Annual Meeting |
| JUNE 6-7 | LWV New York State 2015 Convention at the Desmond Hotel in Albany. |

School Board elections are May 19.
 The League will hold Meet the Candidates meetings on May 12 at City Hall in Dunkirk and May 14 at the Fredonia High School Library.

THANK YOU TO OUR ADVERTISERS

**Kniti Griti Works
Pottery**
 672-4275
 knitigritiworks.com

**The 1891
Fredonia Opera House**
 679-1981
 www.fredopera.org

**Dunkirk & Fredonia Yoga
Center**
 672-6697
 Supporting Your Journey in Health & Wellness
 carolyngrady.com

Fairmount House
 ANTIQUES, COLLECTIBLES, GIFTS
 12 E. Fairmount Ave. Jamestown
 708-8549

Fredonia Baptist Church
 Christian Nursery School
 12 Church Street, Fredonia
 679-9966

**DARWIN'S
Health Club, Inc.**
 43-57 Water Street, Fredonia
 679-1591

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY

lww@lwwchautauqa.org, 672-4275



The League of Women Voters of Chautauqua County is where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement.

Invite a Friend to Join or Give the Gift Of League Membership!!

Make Your Voice Heard!
Join Us Today!

League of Women Voters of Chautauqua County Management Team

- Minda Rae Amiran
- Priscilla Bernatz
- Gloria Garretson
- Gen Ludemann
- Marcia Merrins
- Judy Reynolds
- Rose Sebouhian
- Tillie Solomonson
- Linda Warner

Membership Form

Mail to:

LWV Chautauqua

P.O. Box 42 Fredonia, NY 14063

Membership Dues: through December 31, 2015 Individual: \$60; Family: \$90; Student: \$25 (Check payable to LWV Chautauqua County)

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

Email _____

I would like to get involved with:

_____ Local Issues _____ Voter Service _____ State/National Issues

_____ Local Newsletter

_____ Assisting with minor tasks occasionally

Other: _____