

**Volume 5
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2010**

The Voter



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90th ANNIVERSARY CONGRATULATIONS FROM COUNTY EXECUTIVE JIMINO

The following letter from the County Executive, dated March 18, 2010, was addressed to Rensselaer LWV Co-Presidents Bell and DeMarco:

"Congratulations on the 90th Anniversary of the League of Women Voters. What an impact the League has had over the past nine decades...from inspiring our citizens to participate in the democratic process, to educating them about democratic principles to developing in-depth understanding of current public policy issues.

In this milestone year of celebration of the League of Women Voters, it is important that we all take a moment to reflect upon all the good work that you do every day. In our community, as well as nationwide, the League is known as the organization where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement. Likewise, your ability as successful leaders to learn from the past and look to the future with optimism is why the League is one of America's most trusted organizations.

Thank you for your continued advocacy to ensure that our democratic system of governance functions effectively. Happy 90th to all of you...enjoy the pride that comes with being a member of the League of Women Voters of Rensselaer County!"

Signed: Kathleen M. Jimino
Rensselaer County Executive

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Join other League members for our

ANNUAL MEETING

**Celebrating the
League's 90th Anniversary
with a Special Mystery Guest**

THURSDAY, MAY 27, 2010

6:00-9:00 PM

at the

Rensselaer County Historical Society

57 Second Street, Troy, NY

Keynote Speaker: Susan Scrimshaw,
President, Russell Sage College

"Citizen Leaders: Yesterday, Today
and Tomorrow"

COST: \$25 - all inclusive

An invitation will be sent to all members soon.
Reservations will be due by Monday, May 17th.

Questions, call: Judy Rancourt at 518-279-3045.



Members of the Board 2009-2010

Co-President - Diane Bell 273-5172,
dianebell@nycap.rr.com
Arts Center: retrieval of mail & phone calls
Calendar preparation and maintenance
Website maintenance, "Voter" editor (acting)
Member Involvement/Retention

Co-President - Gail K. DeMarco 424-2413,
gdemarco@nycap.rr.com
Public spokesperson
Board Meeting Agendas – preparation & distribution
State & National Information – receipt & distribution
Board List maintenance
Member Involvement/Retention

Vice President - Mary Muller 274-0846,
mullers@mac.com
 "Voter" editor (on leave)

Secretary - Margaret Story 272-1566,
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Minutes/Correspondence
Voter Services: Coordinator,
State Voters Guides, Candidate Forums
Local Program: Troy Charter Status
Study: Local Government Consolidation

Treasurer - Irene Wynnyczuk 279-9789,
irenew@nycap.rr.com
Treasurer Reports, Audit arrangements,
Budget Committee, Member/Finance Drive

Director - Anne Burton 283-3499,
aburton@usoncology.com
Voter Services: Candidate Forum arrangements
Public Relations
Member/Finance Drive

Director - Hazel Landa 279-3714,
dryland2@aol.com
Voter Services: Local Voter Guides, "They Represent You"

Director - George W. O'Connor 272-6512,
goconnor14@nycap.rr.com
Membership: Records Management,
Member Directory/Labels
Local Program: Troy Charter Status
Study: Local Government Consolidation

Director - Donna Packard-Mahoney 221-1904,
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Action
Issues: Health Care

Director - Judy Rancourt 279-3045,
crancour@nycap.rr.com
Meeting Program Coordinator

Director - Fred Stein 663-5230,
fstein@nycap.rr.com
Local Program: Environment, Rensselaer Co. Government

Director David Wolcott 766-0242,
DavidRWolcott72@cs.com
Local Program: Environment
Voter Services: Election Night Reporting (Brunswick,
N. Greenbush, Rensselaer)

The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan organization. For full NP statement, go to "About Us" on our website (www.lwvrc.org).

MESSAGE FROM THE CO-PRESIDENTS

Annual meeting time again! The nominating committee has worked diligently to assemble the 2010-11 slate (see pg. __). Many thanks to the committee members **Marcia Hopple (chair), Nina Pattison, Margo Singer and David Wolcott.**

At the annual meeting we will be celebrating the 90th Anniversary of the League. What more fitting place to do this than at the Rensselaer County Historical Society! We are excited that a **mystery guest** from the Rensselaer League's past will be joining us along with **Susan Scrimshaw**, President of Russell Sage College, who will be our keynote speaker.

The Rensselaer League has received several honors this spring in connection with the 90th Anniversary of the League (see pgs. 1 and –). We do what we do because we care deeply about democratic principles, but it's still gratifying to be recognized once in a while.

To highlight the League's 90th Anniversary, Board Member **Anne Burton** set up a handsome display in the E.Greenbush Public Library that contained old photos, books on women's history and dolls dressed in early 20th century garb. Thanks, Anne.

The State League is asking us to make a big effort to attend the May 5 event, **"Albany On the Record"** (see pg. ____). Hope to see you there.

Diane Bell and Gail DeMarco,

ANNUAL MEETING BUSINESS:

NOMINATIONS FOR YEAR 2010-2011

(You will be asked to vote on the following nominees - except in the case of two one-year director positions which will be appointed by the Board).

Offices to be Filled

Two Year Term:

Co-President	-Margaret Story
Vice President	-Fred Stein
Treasurer	-Irene Wynnyczuk
Director	-Anne Burton
Director	-Nancy Fairchild
Director	-Joyce Diwan

One Year Term*:

Secretary	-Mary Muller
Director	-Jane Ducatt

One Year Term (Board to appoint):

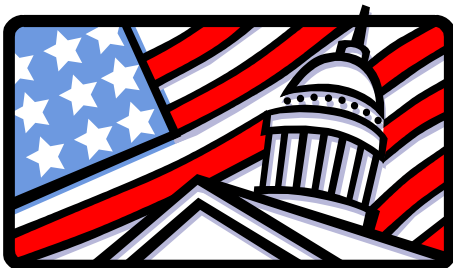
Director	-Mary Ellen Frieberg
Director	-Karen Norlander

2011 Nominating Committee:

Chair	-Marcia Hopple
Member	-Gail DeMarco
Member	-Open

(Two Board members will be appointed to the Nominating Committee later.)

* Since Margaret Story (currently the Secretary) and Fred Stein (currently a Director) have been nominated to move to new positions on the Board and both have one year left in their current terms, it was necessary to nominate two new individuals to complete the two unexpired terms.



NEW DIVERSITY POLICY

(You will be asked to vote on a new policy as presented below.)

The League of Women Voters of Rensselaer County, in both its values and practices, is committed to inclusion and diversity. This means that there shall be no barriers to participation in any activity of the League on the basis of economic position, gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, or disability.

We recognize that diverse perspectives are important and necessary for responsible and representative decision-making. We believe inclusiveness enhances the organization's ability to respond more effectively to changing conditions and needs.

TIDBITS FROM THE STATE LEAGUE:

*The State League has launched a blog about NYS politics. Go to:

<http://lwvny-blog.blogspot.com>

*The State League is going electronic with the **State Voter**. Those still wishing to receive a paper copy should call Stephanie at 465-4162 or e-mail her at Stephanie@lwvny.org. Fee: \$5 per issue.

ANNUAL MEETING BUSINESS (continued)**RENSSELAER CO. LWV: PROPOSED BUDGET FOR JULY 1, 2010 – JUNE 30, 2011**

LWV RENS.CO.BUDGET	<u>Actual on 06/30/09</u>	<u>Budget 2009-2010</u>	<u>PROJECTED 2009-2010</u>	<u>PROPOSED 2010-2011</u>
INCOME				
Dues	\$3,565.00	\$3,650.00	\$3,360.00	\$4,000.00
Contr.-Members (Cash)	\$863.00	\$700.00	\$1,035.00	\$700.00
Contr.-Mem. (In Kind)	\$30.00			
Contr.- Non-Members	\$50.00		\$70.00	
Contr.- Tax Ded. (Ed.Fd)	\$275.00	\$300.00	\$200.00	\$300.00
Election Night Reporting	\$1,723.00	\$700.00	\$1,590.00	\$1,400.00
THA/TPL Elections	\$1,500.00		\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Speakers Fees		\$25.00	\$50.00	\$25.00
Annual Meeting	\$754.00	\$950.00	\$950.00	\$950.00
General Meetings	\$136.00	\$400.00	\$300.00	\$300.00
Interest (CD's)	\$66.78	\$80.00	\$32.00	\$35.00
Sub-Total	\$8,962.78	\$6,755.00	\$8,587.00	\$8,710.00
From Reserves (Savings)		\$1,839.60		
TOTAL – INCOME	\$8,962.78	\$8,644.60	8587	\$8,710.00
EXPENSES				
Board & Administration				
President/s	\$56.22	\$75.00	\$75.00	\$75.00
Board Tools & Supplies	\$195.83	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$250.00
Membership,incl.Directory	\$102.58	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
Finance/Member Drive	\$68.36	\$75.00	\$72.40	\$75.00
Annual Meeting	\$812.50	\$850.00	\$850.00	\$900.00
General Meetings	\$355.89	\$400.00	\$300.00	\$450.00
Rent (The Arts Center)	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00
Scholarship (Mem. Dues)	\$45.00	\$80.00	\$90.00	\$100.00
MaryC.Stierer Ann.Award	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
Delegates/Travel				
National Convention-2010		\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00	\$0.00
NYS Convention- 2011	\$1,370.68			\$700.00
Conferences/Meetings		\$40.00		\$50.00
Financial Support- LWV				
PMP – National	\$2,185.00	\$2,310.60	\$2,310.60	\$2,384.00
PMP – NYS	\$1,440.00	\$1,449.00	\$1,449.00	\$1,440.00
Contribution – LWV NYS	\$200.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
Bulletin - "Voter"				
Printing	\$391.61	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$450.00
Postage	\$294.00	\$275.00	\$250.00	\$275.00
Educational Activity				
Program Study	\$192.00	\$150.00		\$100.00
"Students Inside Albany"		\$25.00	\$50.00	\$50.00
Web Site	\$166.80			\$200.00
Voter Service				
Fair Campaign Practices	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
"They Represent You ..."	\$101.52	\$75.00	\$70.00	\$120.00
Election Monitoring Exp.	\$97.14	\$40.00		\$91.00
NYS Voter Guides	\$211.43	\$100.00	\$90.00	\$250.00
Local Voter Guides	\$129.66	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$125.00
Action/Lobbying		\$50.00		\$25.00
TOTAL - EXPENSES	\$8,816.22	\$8,644.60	\$8,257.00	\$8,710.00
Income over Expenses	\$146.56			

RENSSELAER CO. LWV: PROPOSED BUDGET FOR JULY 1, 2010 – JUNE 30, 2011

Budget Committee: Mary Ann Cleaves, Anne Burton, Lorrie Smith, Irene Wynnyczuk

NOTES**INCOME**

- We are proposing to increase our dues to -- \$50. Individual and \$75. Household memberships. The Budget Committee last year anticipated that this would be necessary since at that time our State and National per member payments (PMP) were greater than the dues we collected. This year National has proposed an additional increase of \$.60 for this fiscal year and another increase of \$.40 for the 2011-12 year to be voted on at their Convention in June 2010. The last dues increase we made was as of July 1, 2007.
- Member Contributions: Our members have been very generous in making contributions along with their dues payments, and on other occasions. We hope that we can still count on that level of support for our programs. It is always possible to make a tax-deductible contribution by making the check payable to the LWV NYS Education Foundation.
- Non-Member Contributions: We ask our members to forward names of friends or acquaintances who might be interested in supporting our activities with a contribution or by becoming a member. We give them the option of tax deductible contributions – (these funds are deposited with the NYS Education Foundation for use by the LWV of Rensselaer County for our educational projects).
- Election Night Reporting: This has been a steady source of income for us. In this fiscal year there will be State and National elections in November 2010. But we never know in advance what we will be asked to cover, so we can only make a somewhat educated guess as to what this income figure will be.
- Monitoring Elections: Troy Housing Authority tenant commissioner election will be held 8/25/10 assuming that there are more than two candidates. This determines our fee. In addition we expect to conduct the election for the Troy Public Library as we did in 2009.

EXPENDITURES

- Board Tools / Supplies / Training: We have put funds in this account to cover additional supplies and technical training that may be necessary.
- Annual/General Meetings: We have budgeted for fees for the use of meeting locations, as well as, some of the cost of food supplied.
- PMP – National: We will be paying \$29.80 for 56 Individual members and \$44.70 for 16 Household memberships. National is moving toward the eliminating the concept of nationally recruited members, and will eliminate this year the \$5.00 rebate we would have received for those 13 on our roster.
- PMP – NYS: We will be paying \$18. for 56 Individual members and \$27. for 16 Household memberships.
- Educational Activity – Program Study: In the event that a program requires some study, we have provided some funding for that purpose.

ANNUAL MEETING BUSINESS (continued)

LOCAL PROGRAM FOR 2010-2011

(No changes are proposed for this coming year. You will simply be asked to reconfirm the program.)

1 . WE WILL SUPPORT AND ADVOCATE FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT - COUNTY, CITY, TOWN, VILLAGE - OPERATIONS, AND COUNTY AND CITY CHARTERS THAT CONFORM TO THE FOLLOWING PRINCIPLES:

A. Government, policies, programs and performance should provide for:

- Competent personnel with clear lines of responsibility,
- Coordination among various agencies and levels of government,
- Adequate financing,
- Effective enforcement, and
- Well-defined channels for citizen input.

B. Charter amendments should provide for:

- Independent Charter Revision Commissions that are representative of the community and do not include any elected or political party official at the local level.
- A Districting Plan following each decennial census, after meaningful community participation.
- The Districting Plan shall be guided by criteria in NYS Election Law which requires that districts be as compact, contiguous and convenient as possible. Also the plan as far as practical shall follow the principle of equal representation both numerically and by number of legislators from each district.

2. WE WILL ADVOCATE FOR CHANGING THE PRESENT METHOD OF RE-DISTRICTING THE RENSSELAER COUNTY LEGISLATURE TO A PLAN THAT SHALL:

- Provide for equal representation for citizens both numerically and by number of elected representatives from each district, with preference for single-member districts as the system most prevalent and familiar to citizens and most likely to represent constituencies of similar interests and concerns.
- Be prepared by an Independent Districting Commission with meaningful public participation that is representative of the community and does not include any elected County / political party official.

3. WE WILL SUPPORT AND ADVOCATE FOR THE LEAGUE'S CAPITAL REGION SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT CONSENSUS THAT INCLUDES:

- Waste and toxicity reduction, and
- Environmentally sound methods of recycling and reuse as primary forms of solid waste management.

We hope to carpool from Rensselaer County to the May 5 event.
Call Diane Bell at 273-5172 if you need a ride or wish to drive.

"ALBANY ON THE RECORD"

**JOIN CONCERNED CITIZENS FROM 18 GOOD GOVERNMENT GROUPS TO
HEAR FROM THE STATE'S LEADING POLITICAL FIGURES ABOUT
HOW THEY PLAN TO EFFECTUATE REAL REFORM**

**Wednesday, May 5, 2010
11:00 AM - 4:00 p.m.
State Capitol
Meeting Room off Concourse**

New Yorkers are fed up! Scandals have driven from office Governor Spitzer, Comptroller Hevesi, Senate Majority Leader Bruno and a growing number of state legislators. Some elected officials - including Governor Paterson - are currently under investigation. Many of these abuses of power were rooted in the absence of effective and independent ethics and fiscal watchdogs, tough ethics laws and adequate transparency in government.

Lunch: Will be provided!

Lobbying: Time after the event for you to lobby your legislator, if desired

*Parking: You can register for parking by calling the State League at **518-465-4162***

SIGN UP NOW TO ATTEND:

- * Go to www.lwvny.org**
- * Call the LWVNY office to reserve – 518-465-4162, OR**
- * Mail in the form below to: LWVNYS, 62 Grand St., Albany, NY 12207**

"ALBANY ON THE RECORD" EVENT RESERVATION FORM

Name: _____ Local League/Organization: _____

Address, City, Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Email address: _____

APRIL-MAY-JUNE 2010 CALENDAR**APRIL 2010**

- 15 - LWVRC, Monthly Board Meeting
- 22 - Earth Day
- 22 - Consensus Meeting: Government Consolidation and Shared Services, Krause Center, Burdett Ave., Troy

MAY 2010

- 3 - Dewey Loeffel Landfill, Public Comment Period ends
- 5 - Albany On the Record event
- 6 - LWVRC, Monthly Board Meeting
- 10 - Troy School Board, Meet the Candidates Night, Troy High School, Burdett Ave., 7 p.m. (RenCo LWV moderating)
- 14-18 - LWVNY, Spring Fling, NYC
- 18 - Troy School Board Elections
- 27 - Rensselaer LWV Annual Meeting

JUNE 2010

- TBA - Rensselaer LWV Board Reorganization Meeting
- 11-15 - LWVUS Convention

**League of Women Voters,**

Rensselaer County

265 River Street

Troy, NY 12180

Web site: lwvrc.org