



**The LOCAL VOTER LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS SYRACUSE METROPOLITAN AREA**

MAY 2009

Syracuse Metro LWV  
 PO Box 11866  
 Syracuse NY 13218  
 (507 Plum St -2nd Fl. Syr. 13204)  
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 info@lwvsyr.org

Web Sites:  
 Local: [www.lwvsyr.org](http://www.lwvsyr.org)  
 State: [www.lwvny.org](http://www.lwvny.org)  
 National: [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)

**UPCOMING EVENTS**  
Thursday, May 14  
 Senate Hearing on Election Reform  
May 15 - 17  
 LWVNYS Convention  
Tuesday, June 9  
 LWVSYR Annual Meeting

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**STAYING INFORMED ON THE ISSUES AND EVENTS**  
 Local: [www.lwvsyr.org](http://www.lwvsyr.org)  
 State: [www.lwvny.org](http://www.lwvny.org)  
 National: [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)

**CORRECTIONS**  
 Please note the following changes to the information in the 2009 "Who's Who, A Guide To Your Elected Officials."  
 District 16 County Legislator **Sam Laguzza's** email should read [slaguzza16@hotmail.com](mailto:slaguzza16@hotmail.com)  
 Lafayette Supervisor **Gregory Scammell's** telephone number is 315-677-5251.



**SYRACUSE METRO LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS ANNUAL DINNER & MEETING**

Tuesday, June 9, 2009

Cavalry Club

Troop K Road - Manlius

5:30 PM – Conversation/Cash Bar

6:00 PM – Dinner

7:00 PM – Program – Guest Speaker Mayor Matthew Driscoll

8:00 PM – Business Meeting

To make your reservation call us at 448-7199 or return this form with your dinner choice and remittance to Syracuse Metro LWV, PO Box 11866, Syracuse, NY 13218. The dinner and program are open to the public. Bring a friend.



**ENTRÉE CHOICES**

- Beef Hip Steak - \$28.00
- Chicken St. Charles – Hollandaise sauce/toasted almonds - \$24.00
- Haddock Parker House – Lemon butter/bread crumbs - \$23.00
- Pasta Primavera - Fresh veggies/pasta/grilled portobellos - \$20.00

To make your reservation call us at 448-7199 or return this form with your dinner choice and remittance to Syracuse Metro LWV, PO Box 11866, Syracuse NY 13218. The dinner and program are open to the public. Feel free to bring friends and family, **Reservations by June 2**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make checks out to Syracuse LWV.**

# BOARD NOTES

## MEMBERSHIP NOTES

### GIFTS FOR MOMS, DADS, NEW GRADS



Give the gift that keeps on giving for Mother's Day, Father's Day or graduation - membership in the League of Women Voters. It will exercise the brain, update information on local, state and national issues or be a thoughtful choice for the person who has everything. Student membership is \$25, individual \$55 and family \$80

### LWVNY RAFFLE

The **Big League Raffle** is back again by popular demand. Here is how it works. This year 50% of the net proceeds goes to the State League. The winner receives 25% of net proceeds, local Leagues receive 20% of the net proceeds and the local League that sells the winning ticket will receive an additional 5%. Please participate. You not only will help support your local league but the state league also - and you might be the big winner!



### NATURALIZATION CEREMONIES

Registering new citizens at Naturalization Ceremonies is a vital part of our Voter Service Activities. Volunteers are needed to provide this service to our newest citizens. Please contact Susan Bush at 673-7253 or email Susan at [sjbushywca@cnyemail.com](mailto:sjbushywca@cnyemail.com).

#### 2009 SCHEDULE

May 21	2 pm	County Court, Room 400
June 4	11 am	Federal Bldg., 3rd Floor
June 18	2 pm	County Court, Room 400
July 2	11 am	Federal Bldg., 12th Floor
Aug 13	11 am	Federal Bldg., 12th Floor
Aug 20	2 pm	County Court, Room 400
Sept 17	2 pm	County Court, Room 400
Sept 24	11 am	Federal Bldg., 3rd Floor
Oct 15	11 am	Federal Bldg., 3rd Floor
Oct 22	2 pm	County Court, Room 400
Nov 5	11 am	Federal Bldg., 12th Floor
Dec 17	2 pm	County Court, Room 400



### Officers

Co-President....	Joan Johnson
Co-President...	Rae Rohfeld
Vice-President...	Joe Sammarco
Secretary...	Karen Smith
Treasurer....	J. Arthur Johnson

### Directors

Advocacy & Issues....	Lenore Rapalski
Fund-Raising...	Vacant
Membership...	Mary Lou Green
Program....	Don MacLaughlin
Public Relations...	Sherly Day-Bernthal
Voter Service...	Susan Bush

### Off-Board Positions

Budget Director....	Rhonda Hungerford
Nominating Committee.....	Roberta Millert, Chair
	Eleanor Feitler
	Joan Durant
Optical Scan Liaison....	Lenore Rapalski
Technical Support...	Roberta Millert

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy. For more information please call the League office at (315) 448-7199 or e-mail to [info@lwvsyr.org](mailto:info@lwvsyr.org)

### Diversity Statement

The Syracuse Metropolitan League of Women Voters is committed to diversity and pluralism, which means there shall be no barriers to participation in any League activity on the basis of age, race, ethnicity, gender, disability, sexual orientation, religion, economic status, or national origin.

We look forward to reader participation and invite your questions regarding issues and columns. Kindly mail your queries to the office or e-mail to [info@lwvsyr.org](mailto:info@lwvsyr.org)

Please let us know your email address.

- It is the most efficient way to communicate
- You will be notified of upcoming local events
- LWV National & State Action Alerts

Your e-mail address will not be shared or sold. Please respond to [info@lwvsyr.org](mailto:info@lwvsyr.org)

# MESSAGE FROM THE CO-PRESIDENT

We are honored to host the 2009 State League Convention here in Syracuse, May 16- 18. I wish to thank all of you who have volunteered to give your time to making it a success. Your support will show leagues across the state what good hosts we are and also show them that Syracuse is famous for more than just the amount of snow we get each winter. I also want to acknowledge the Syracuse Convention Bureau for providing us with materials and volunteers.

Please join us for our annual meeting on June 9<sup>th</sup> at the Cavalry Club for dinner, fun and games, and our guest speaker, Mayor Mathew Driscoll. He will update us on state and local issues and his green energy initiatives. We will also hold our annual business meeting - electing officers and enacting a budget and local program for 2009-2010.

As I wind down my second tenure as president and co-president of the Syracuse Metro LWV, I wish to thank all board members and individual members who have made my job easier and enjoyable. I thank you all for your support and dedication to the League.

*Joan Johnson*

## CALENDAR

Thursday, May 14, 2009, 10 AM - 1 PM  
Syracuse Common Council Chambers, City Hall

NYS Senate Hearing on Election Reform  
(see page 7 for details)

May 15 - 17, 2008

LWVNY State Convention

Tuesday, June 9, 2009, 5:30 PM  
Calvary Club, Troop K Road, Manlius

Annual Meeting of the Syracuse Metro League of Women Voters  
Guest Speaker Mayor Matthew Driscoll

### Silent Auction to Benefit the LWV of New York State

With the help of local merchants, the Syracuse LWV has put together two gourmet gift baskets chuck full of goodies from Central New York . They will be auctioned off during the NYS Convention on May 16<sup>th</sup> . You don't have to be present to bid. Bids can be received via email, fax or mail. For more information and a preview of auction items, check out [www.lwvny.org](http://www.lwvny.org)

We would like to thank the following merchants for their generous donations for the gift baskets.

Wegmans

[www.wegmans.com](http://www.wegmans.com)

Syracuse Gift Basket Company

(315)425-9572

[www.syracusegiftbasket.com](http://www.syracusegiftbasket.com)

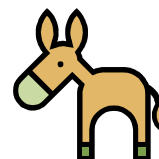
Cedarvale Maple Syrup

(315)469-6422

[www.cedarvalemple.com](http://www.cedarvalemple.com)

PLEASE SUPPORT MERCHANTS THAT  
SUPPORT THE LEAGUE

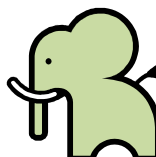
## "All Politics is Local"



**Come to the Annual Meeting and  
Test Your Knowledge of Local Politics**

**Fun & Not So Fun Facts  
About Local Politics**

**Tuesday June 9th at 5:30 PM  
Calvary Club Troop K Rd, Manilus NY**



**SYRACUSE METRO LWV 2009-2010 PROPOSED BUDGET**

<b>INCOME</b>		<b>Budget</b>	<b>Estimated</b>	<b>Proposed</b>
		<b>2008-2009</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Budget</b>
A. Dues	1. Individuals(\$55)	\$2,970	\$2,370	\$2,365
	2. Household(\$80)	\$1,360	\$880	\$880
	3. Friend/Sustainer	<u>\$550</u>	<u>\$700</u>	<u>\$700</u>
	Subtotal	<b>\$4,880</b>	<b>\$3,950</b>	<b>\$3,945</b>
B. Contributions	1. Member	\$1,300	\$850	\$1,000
	2. Nonmember	\$350	\$175	\$300
	3. Business	<u>\$750</u>	<u>\$750</u>	<u>\$750</u>
	Subtotal	<b>\$2,400</b>	<b>\$1,775</b>	<b>\$2,050</b>
C. Elections	1. Election Reporting	\$360	\$155	\$160
	2. Monitoring Elections	<u>\$500</u>	<u>\$450</u>	<u>\$450</u>
	Subtotal	<b>\$860</b>	<b>\$605</b>	<b>\$610</b>
D. Fundraising		<b>\$1,400</b>	<b>\$220</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>
E. Fair Campaign Practice		<b>\$200</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
F. From Reserve	1. NY Education Fund	\$900	\$880	\$890
	2. JMS Savings	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
	Subtotal	<b>\$900</b>	<b>\$880</b>	<b>\$890</b>
H. Grants (2)		<u>\$500</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>\$11,140</b>	<b>\$7,430</b>	<b>\$8,495</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		<b>Budget</b>	<b>Estimated</b>	<b>Proposed</b>
		<b>2008-2009</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Budget</b>
A. Operating Costs	1. General Supplies	\$420	\$0	\$100
	2. Postage	\$150	\$180	\$200
	3. Rent	\$600	\$600	\$600
	4. Capital Expense	\$0	\$0	\$0
	5. Insurance Liability	<u>\$350</u>	<u>\$360</u>	<u>\$360</u>
	Subtotal	<b>\$1,520</b>	<b>\$1,140</b>	<b>\$1,260</b>
B. Board and Admin.	1. President	\$100	\$100	\$200
	2. Board Tools	\$160	\$165	\$200
	3. Fundraisers	\$200	\$350	\$350
	4. Membership	\$580	\$575	\$550
	5. Public Relations	<u>\$200</u>	<u>\$420</u>	<u>\$350</u>
	Subtotal	<b>\$1,240</b>	<b>\$1,610</b>	<b>\$1,650</b>
C. Convention Delegates		<b>\$500</b>	<b>\$610</b>	<b>\$500</b>
D. Per Member Payment	1. National LWV	\$2,115	\$2,115	\$2,000
	2. State LWV	<u>\$1,415</u>	<u>\$1,415</u>	<u>\$1,280</u>
	Subtotal	<b>\$3,530</b>	<b>\$3,530</b>	<b>\$3,280</b>
E. Local Voter	1. Supplies	\$700	\$740	\$800
	2. Postage	<u>\$600</u>	<u>\$480</u>	<u>\$550</u>
	Subtotal	<b>\$1,300</b>	<b>\$1,220</b>	<b>\$1,350</b>
F. Educational Activities	1. Publications	\$150	\$0	\$100
	2. Program	\$1,000	\$70	\$500
	3. Who'sWho	\$200	\$165	\$165
	4. Election Guide	\$100	\$100	\$100
	5. Fair Campaign Practices	\$200	\$0	\$0
	6. VotersGuide	<u>\$100</u>	<u>\$10</u>	<u>\$90</u>
	Subtotal	<b>\$1,750</b>	<b>\$345</b>	<b>\$955</b>
G. To Reserves		<b>\$1,300</b>	<b>\$2,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>		<b>\$11,140</b>	<b>\$10,455</b>	<b>\$8,995</b>

**SYRACUSE METROPOLITAN LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT  
For the 2009 – 2010 term**

**Officers to be elected at annual meeting:**

Co-President	Rae Rohfeld	1 year term
Co-President or VP	<b>Vacant</b>	2 year term
Treasurer:	Don Maclaughlin	1 year term
Secretary:	Karen Smith	2 year term

**Directors to be elected at annual meeting:**

Finance	Joe Sammarco	1 year term
Program:	Clyde Ohl	1 year term
Membership	Mary Lou Green	2 year term
Public Relations	<b>Vacant</b>	1 year term
Advocacy	Hilda Pato-Krol	2 year term
Voter Service:	Susan Bush	2 year term

**Continuing Officers and Directors:**

Nominating Committee	Roberta Millert	3rd year of a 3 year term
	Joan Durant	2nd year of a 3 year term

**Off Board Positions to be elected at annual meeting:**

Budget Director:	Rhonda Hungerford	
Onondaga Lake Partnership:	<b>Vacant</b>	
Publications:	Open	
Nominating Committee	<b>Vacant</b>	3 year term

*“Thanks to Board Members, Officers and Committee Members Past and Present.”*

***Respectfully submitted by the Nominating Committee:***

Roberta Millert, Chair, Joan Durant, Susan Bush, Don MacLaughlin, & Eleanor Feitler

***We Need Your Help***

**The Local League Board**

Now is the time when our local League nominations committee looks for new members to serve on our League Board. Serving on your local League Board or serving in any other capacity, is an amazing opportunity. The Board plays a major role in defining the League, not only to its members but also to the community at large.

Yes, you will be serving the League when you serve on the Board. But you will also be gaining personally. You will be learning from more experienced members how to do the many tasks that make the League work ***and the Syracuse Metro LWV has been working since 1920!***

We need your support to complete our Board and to serve on various committees. By joining the Board or serving on a committee you will develop expertise that will carry over into your work on other issues with different organizations. With the self-confidence you'll develop, you will become a force to be reckoned with! Please give us a call at 448-7199 or talk to any member of the Board and learn how you can keep our momentum going. We thank you and we know you will benefit from your involvement in the League of Women Voters.

## **LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS SYRACUSE METROPOLITAN AREA**

### **2009-2010 PROPOSED LOCAL ISSUES/POSITIONS**

#### **MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK**

- Promote greater citizen participation in the political process by encouraging citizens to become knowledgeable about the issues and to actively lobby elected officials.
- Encourage individuals to exercise their right to vote especially among under represented populations.

#### **LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

- Study and support, where appropriate, legislation which promotes proposals to modernize local government by sharing services among villages, towns, public schools, the city of Syracuse, and Onondaga County.
- Support efforts to contain sprawl with planned growth throughout Onondaga County

#### **SOCIAL POLICY**

- Monitor the state school aid formula and its implications for upstate school districts and the Big 5 districts.
- Promote educational efforts dealing with domestic violence and the Integrated Domestic Violence Court in Onondaga County.
- Promote opposition to the Death Penalty in support of the LWVNY position.

#### **NATURAL RESOURCES**

- Support efforts of the Onondaga Partnership to facilitate improvement projects for the lake and its watershed.

#### **LOCAL SUPPORT FOR STATEWIDE ISSUES/STUDIES**

- Promote improved reforms for HAVA; including improved training for poll workers; adequate staffing at polling places; the use of split shifts for election workers and citizen education and training for replacement machines.
- Promote improved election processes which extend and encourage voting, including no-excuse absentee balloting and Election Day registration.
- Promote and encourage meaningful campaign finance reform.
- Promote the creation of an independent redistricting commission.
- Promote the creation of an independent ethics commission.
- Promote meaningful reform of public authorities.
- Promote additional legislative rules reform.
- Promote and encourage meaningful property tax reform.

## NEWS AND NOTES

### 2010 CENSUS

The 2010 Census is an enormously important government effort that sets out to count all Americans and the League is joining this effort as a national partner according to Mary G Wilson, President of LWVUS.

Why does the Census matter? At stake is more than \$300 billion a year in federal and state funds for schools, public transportation, hospitals, highways and other services. The Census also determines how many Congressional seats a state has and more representation in Congress means greater influence for a state.

New York will likely lose a seat once the Census is completed. That is why it is important to count everyone. In 2000 only 67% of Americans completed and returned their data.

The goal of the League of Women Voters is to work with others to eliminate the 'undercount' that occurs, particularly within low income and minority populations.

The 2010 Census will also be used in the redistricting and apportionment that will take effect for the 2012 elections. The League can help by drawing public attention to the process and taking action on relevant League positions.

For additional information on the 2010 Census go to [www.2010.census.gov/2010census](http://www.2010.census.gov/2010census).

### LWVNYS TIGHTENS BELT

The LWVNYS will suspend publication of the hard copy paper version of the *State Voter*. The Staff and Board are doing their part to minimize expenditures. There has been a significant decrease in funds to support state league activities. LWVUS has also suspended hard copy publication of the *National Voter*.

Although we will miss receiving the hard copy, we are pleased that the LWVNYS website: [www.lwvny.org](http://www.lwvny.org) has been updated. Everyone who logs on will be greeted with a visually more appealing and user friendly home page. It also includes a search engine to help you find what you are looking for. Check the website for future copies of the State Voter and don't forget our local website: [www.lwvsyr.org](http://www.lwvsyr.org) and the national website: [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org).

### NYS SENATE HEARING ON ELECTION REFORM

The State Senate Committee on Elections, chaired by Senator Joseph P. Addabbo, Jr. will conduct a public hearing at City Hall on **May 14**, (see calendar, page 3). Scheduled for comment are several proposed laws that would make the voting process easier and more democratic. The proposals include early voting (casting a ballot at the BOE up to 14 days prior to election day); no-excuse absentee voting, the elimination of personal information on why you wish to vote absentee and requirements to make all voting locations accessible to the disabled. Proposed legislation would also make poll workers jobs easier by providing half-day shifts and providing information maps and address finders for voters who have gone to the wrong polling location.

### HAVA UPDATE - WILL WE STILL BE USING LEVER MACHINES THIS FALL?



At the NYS Board of Elections commissioners meeting on April 7, a report of the conference between the Court, the Department of Justice (DOJ) and the NYS Board of Elections (BOE) was given. It was agreed upon by the parties that the BOE would prepare a formal application for an extension until 2010 for the replacement of voting machines and submit it to the DOJ. If the DOJ and the NYSBOE cannot come to an agreement the Court will "take action." If the Department of Justice and the State cannot come to an agreement, the court could order compliance by requiring the counties to purchase uncertified voting systems. The NYSBOE presumably will present the chronology of the State's attempt to comply and the reasons why a 2009 implementation using certified voting equipment is not possible. SysTest, the now re-certified testing lab, projects a completion date of testing by November 30, 2009 well after the primary and general elections.

*Aimee Allaud, LWVNY Off-Board Specialist  
Elections/Government*

### Election 2009

The 2009 elections are "off year" elections with only local elections taking place. In Onondaga County we will elect two Supreme Court judges, a County Court judge, nineteen county legislators and officials in all nineteen towns. City of Syracuse residents will elect a mayor, common council president, two councilors-at-large and five district councilors along with three commissioners of education.

**Primary Day - Tuesday, September 15, 2009  
Election Day - Tuesday, November 3, 2009**

**League of Women Voters  
Membership Application**

8

*Democracy is not a spectator sport  
It's efficient activism  
It is a way to make your voice count  
It is a way to make politics a process for the people*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ **Individual Level....\$55**

\_\_\_ **Household Level\*....\$80**

**Please make check payable to:  
Syracuse Metro Area League of Women Voters  
P O Box 11866**

\_\_\_ **Student Level \*\*....\$25**

\* *Two members in the same household*

\*\* *Full time student under 25*

**Syracuse, NY 13218**

\_\_\_ ***I would like to support the League with a donation.***

**For more information call us at (315) 448-7199 or visit us at [www.lwvsyr.org](http://www.lwvsyr.org)**



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
SYRACUSE METRO AREA  
PO Box 11866  
SYRACUSE, NY 13218**

**MAY 2009**

**Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Syracuse, NY  
Permit no. 372**

**LWV ANNUAL MEETING  
JUNE 9, 2009**