



League of Women Voters of Central Vermont

Bulletin

September 2010

Co-Presidents' Message

Happy Election Season!

This is a very exciting time of year for the League of Women Voters! The excitement started building earlier this year with the primary in August rather than September. And then there was the recount of votes for the Democratic gubernatorial candidate, which added a whole other element of intrigue. Now, let the debates begin!

The Central Vermont League is proud to announce that we will be hosting a Candidates' Forum for the Washington County Senate Race. It will take place on Wednesday, October 6 at 7:00 p.m. at the Old Labor Hall in Barre. The candidates responded enthusiastically and immediately following our invitation. Join us that night to ask a question, hear about the issues important to Central Vermonters and listen to the candidates as they express their views and differentiate themselves from one another. The forum will be exciting, especially since it's taking place at the Old Labor Hall, a place rich with history. The League's history of hosting debates is also long and rich!

Elections allow us to exercise one of our many rights in a democratic society. It's something the League takes very seriously. We work very hard to foster people's enthusiasm about taking advantage of that right. In 1971, the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts established an educational trust named after Lotte E. Scharfman, a former League president and refugee of Nazi Germany, who devoted her life to the democratic process and giving citizens access to government. Scharfman is credited with the phrase, "Democracy is not a spectator sport." This is a mantra of one of our longtime board members, Flo Young, and we love it. We would also add that politics is not for the faint of heart.

This election cycle, do not sit on the sidelines! Learn about the issues that are important to Vermonters and the candidates; listen and watch the debates; ask the tough questions. It's an exciting year in Vermont and nationwide. Our state is without an incumbent governor. Our nation is facing redistricting. Hot-button issues are flaring. States continue to grapple with budget deficits and tough decisions. It's not a time to bury your head in the sand. Join us in our enthusiasm. If you're not currently energized, start talking and listening to the debates. Join the League of Women Voters; renew your membership; attend our forum.

One of the great aspects of the League is that it is non-partisan. Its mission is to promote democracy, civic participation and policies that are not single-party driven. In an age of divisive and polarizing politics, the League is an important and sane voice. Join us and let that voice be heard!

Nancy T. Lynch & Gia Biden, Co-Presidents
League of Women Voters of Central Vermont

LWVCEN to Host Washington County Senate Candidates Forum

Seven Washington County Senate candidates have agreed to participate in a forum sponsored by the LWVCEN on Wednesday, October 6, at 7:00 p.m. at the Old Labor Hall in Barre.

Organizers are pleased that all the candidates running for one of the three Washington County Senate seats have accepted our invitation. They are: Gaelan Brown (I-Fayston), Sen. Ann Cummings (D-Montpelier), Sen. Bill Doyle (R-Montpelier), David Harrington (R-Barre Town), Ed Larson (R-Montpelier), Donny Osman (D - Plainfield), and Anthony Pollina (D-Middlesex).

Middlesex Town Moderator and LWVCEN member Susan Clark will moderate the event.

Now here's where you come in: runners (to pass out and collect audience question cards), screeners (to review audience questions for duplication, clarity, and tone), and a timekeeper are needed to help at the event. We will have light refreshments available, and therefore we would appreciate contributions of cookies from our members. We'll be setting up starting at 3:00 that afternoon, and helpers there will be appreciated as well.

If you are able to help out in any way, please let Nancy (498-5020; nancyt1213@gmail.com) or Gia (498-5018; gia@ksefocus.com) know.

If you can't participate in an active way, we most certainly still hope to see you there!

Note of Thanks

Thanks to Joanne Bair, Hedi Ballantyne, Mary Jane Harris, Joan Witham and Flo Young for their help at the Naturalization Ceremony reception and voter registration on August 24 at the State House. Read more about this event in the Fall issue of the Green Mountain Citizen, coming soon.

Rally Day

Thanks to Hedi Ballantyne, Kate Rader and Flo Young for representing the League at our table on East Montpelier's Rally Day.



Flo and Kate admire our 2010 raffle quilt.

It seems as though every eligible voter in East Montpelier is already registered to vote, but we did register the elementary school's new principal. And we sold raffle tickets to the tune of \$63. That didn't match our first year's \$90 or so, but was in line with our take in subsequent years.

Richter to Speak on Health Care

Dr. Deb Richter, Vermont physician and founder of Vermont Health Care for All will speak on the federal *Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act* on Tuesday, March 22 at the Montpelier Library.

At our national convention in June, the members of the LWVUS reinforced our position on health care, and voted to strengthen our advocacy efforts on Capitol Hill. The League worked hard in the Congress in support of the *Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act* as a step toward single payer, and are encouraging Leagues across the country to educate the public about the Act.

Richter will talk about the impact of the new federal law, Senator Sanders's efforts to grant waivers for states working on their own versions of universal, affordable coverage, and Vermont's place

in that picture.

LWVCEN 2010/11 Calendar (Public events are in boldface)

October

Wednesday 6 **7:00 p.m. Washington County Senate Candidates' Forum, Old Labor Hall, 46 Granite Street, Barre**

November

Tuesday 2 **Election Day**

Wednesday 10 7:00 p.m. Board meeting, home of Joan Witham, 1470 Center Road, Montpelier. *All members welcome.*

January

Wednesday 12 7:00 p.m. State and Local Program Planning, home of Hedi Ballantyne, 20 Kent Street, Montpelier. *This is your chance to make your official opinion known about what you want your state and local Leagues to do in the next year/biennium. Please save the date, and make every effort to be there!*

Wednesday 26 7:00 p.m. State Transportation Study Consensus Meeting, home of Kate Rader, 1186 Towne Hill Road, East Montpelier. *This is the culmination of the state League's two-year study. Help us reach an advocacy position on getting people around our rural state.*

March

Wednesday 9 7:00 p.m. Board meeting, home of Kate Rader. *All members welcome.*

Wednesday 16 LWVVT Legislative Day, State House

Tuesday 22 **6:30 p.m. Dr. Deb Richter, speaking on the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, Kellogg-Hubbard Library, Montpelier.**

May

Wednesday 11 6:00 p.m. LWVCEN Annual Meeting, location TBA

Saturday 21 LWVVT Convention

NB: We would like to continue our public movie series. If you have any suggestions for an issue-oriented film, please let Nancy (Nancyt1213@gmail.com) or Gia (gia@ksefocus.com) know.



At www.VOTE411.org you can access:

- Election dates
- Factual data on candidates in various federal and state elections
- Candidates' answers to key issue questions
- Polling place locations
- Registration deadlines and absentee ballot information
- Voter qualifications
- Voter registration forms

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government.