



## Green Mountain CITIZEN

Winter 2010

### Legislative Day Set for March 15

The LWVVT Annual Legislative Day has been scheduled for Tuesday, March 15. **Note the change of date.**

Before this session of the Legislature started, it looked like everything would be budget, budget, budget. Well, there certainly is a lot of that, as there must be. That, however, is not where the excitement lies.

Beginning with Dr. William Hsiao's presentation on potential real health care reform in Vermont, it seems like legislators have been invigorated. The committee schedules are full of hearings on aspects of the big health care bill, H.202, An Act Relating to a Single-Payer and Unified Health System. There will surely be at least one hearing on this bill while we are there, if not more.

There are two bills dealing with campaign finance. H.199 reduces the size of campaign contribution that must be reported. The financing of election campaigns is outlined in S.20. Also of interest, though not an issue that the League can take a stand on, is JRS.11, submitted by Sen. Ginny Lyons. It would ask Congress to "propose an amendment to the United States Constitution for the states' consideration which provides that corporations are not persons under the laws of the United States or any of its jurisdictional subdivisions." Companion bills S.31 and H.103 would have Vermont join the National Popular Vote Compact, which, when enough states have joined the compact to have 270 Electoral votes, would result in the popular election of the President. The League adopted a position in favor of the NPV Compact at its national convention last June.

The big energy bill of 2011 is H.56. Like the health care bill, this is one that is ubiquitous on the committee schedule.

There are also (as of February 15) 31 bills related to education, covering finance, governance and policy.

Copies of bills under consideration are available outside the Legislators' Lounge. Because of budget constraints, however, the number of copies is limited. Therefore, it would be helpful to others if you would download any of interest from the Legislative website (<http://www.leg.state.vt.us/>), and print them yourself. Committee schedules are available there as well.

The State House is rocking this year, and it's fun to be there. Please contact your legislators to let them know we will be there on the 15<sup>th</sup>, and want to talk with them. Lunch will be served in Room 10 at noon. Information about the menu and price will be posted soon on the website. Please let Kate know if you and any of your legislators will be there for lunch by March 10, so we will have a reasonably accurate number for the caterer.

*Because some attendees have a long drive to Montpelier, there is no set starting time, and we don't formally gather until noon. You may go directly to the committee room of interest, or to the House or Senate Chamber if in session. A League member will be in the lobby until 10:00 to direct you to your desired destination.*

## President's Message

Spring 2011

Until the week of this writing, it has been a spectacular year for snowshoeing. I really enjoy that activity because (1), it's slow and (2) I can do it. Then, of course, there's the pleasure of being out in the woods, in places that are inaccessible at other times.



Another place that becomes wonderfully accessible in the winter is the State House. There's more excitement up there this year than I can remember in the time I've been here. Check out the Legislative website (<http://www.leg.state.vt.us/>) to see what's on offer. There's clearly something of interest for everyone. I hope all of you who are able will show up for Legislative Day on March 15.

In January I met with Olivia Gay, Civics Education and Voter Outreach Coordinator in the Secretary of State's office. We talked about ways the League can work with her office, in particularly with voter registration in the high schools. Gay shares our concern about the lack of formal civics education at every level in our schools. Her office does what they can, through providing a variety of resources at every level, to the schools. We shared disappointment in the elimination of the position of Social Studies Coordinator, reinstated in the Department of Education only a few years ago.

I usually put in a pitch for the Quad States Leadership conference in this issue of the GMC. Every year, finding a date in May or June that fit everyone's schedule, working around weddings, graduations, etc., has been difficult. This year it turned out to be impossible, as only one date worked, and it turned out we couldn't find appropriate accommodations. Therefore, we decided that in future, this will be a fall, rather than spring affair.

While that change is intended to be permanent, this year also has a different agenda and purpose. With the encouragement of our LWVUS liaison and staff, we have decided to use this occasion for the “in-

state” training step in the Membership Recruitment Initiative (MRI). All the Quad States, plus MA and CT are participating in this effort. Doing it at our annual conference instead of by individual states is efficient and adds the increased vitality that several Leagues, gathering and working together, can provide. You'll hear more about the MRI at convention.

Speaking of Quad States, those who attended last year remember Terry Bouricius' lively workshop on IRV and how it works. On the strength of that presentation, Terry was asked to make the presentation at League meetings around the state of Maine.

The Second Call to Convention is included in this issue. Please note the sorry state of the board slate, despite the heroic efforts of our nominating committee. And please consider what you might do to remedy the situation. The life of the League depends on its members' willingness to do their part.

On a much happier note, I want to announce the birth of Mary Elizabeth (Molly) Rogerson, born on Sunday, February 20 to our Treasurer, Tara Rogerson. Welcome, Molly!

Kate

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Kate Rader, President  
Kate Rader, Editor *pro tem*

Membership in the League includes a subscription.  
If you would like to join the League, e-mail, write,  
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**The 52<sup>nd</sup> Convention of the League of Women Voters of Vermont**  
**Saturday, May 21, 2011**  
**T.W. Wood Gallery**

Board Recommended Program

No new study was proposed by members nor by the board. It is the recommendation of the board that our energies be devoted to the Membership Recruitment Initiative.

Proposed Bylaw Change (submitted by Susan Mock)

**Article IV, Section 4. Meetings.** There shall be at least ~~six~~ four regular meetings of the Board of Directors annually. The President may call special meetings of the Board of Directors and shall call a special meeting upon the request of five members of the Board.

Proposed Transportation Position

How we address our transportation challenges impacts our health, climate, energy efficiency, environmental quality and foreign policy. Therefore,

The League of Women Voters of Vermont supports:

Alternative modes of transportation that promote good health and environmental quality, such as bicycle and walkways, and provision for electric-powered vehicles. Recognizing the needs of this predominately rural state, the League supports efforts to move to shared and public transportation where feasible.

Geographic and intermodal connectivity, recognizing that transportation policy is a means of strengthening local communities. The League also supports the creative and increased use of existing resources.

The concept that all forms of transportation are the shared responsibility of local, state, and federal government.

Add Quad States 1998 Position on Transportation to LWVVT Advocacy Positions

The LWV 1998 Quad States Council (including the four state delegations from LWV-ME, NH, VT, RI) support action to encourage participation and cooperation in promoting regional transportation initiatives. The goal is regional planning and implementation of integrated transportation systems throughout New England. Specific objectives include:

Construction of the North/South rail link in Boston, Massachusetts

Passenger rail links to Canada with improved border crossings

Measures to reduce vehicular pollution

More energy efficient transportation system

Passenger rail service linking all of New England

Adopt by concurrence the LWVCEN position on groundwater protection

The LWVCEN supports:

Municipalities developing their own local groundwater withdrawal regulations, not less restrictive than the state law.

Encouraging public participation through well-publicized official informational meetings early in the permitting process, as well as informal community meetings.

Local officials taking the following into consideration when formulating groundwater withdrawal regulations:

Reasonable or Beneficial Use, meaning the use is evaluated based on purpose, the amount of use and the place of use.

Preferred Use, meaning that during times of shortage or drought, domestic and household consumption would take precedence over so-called artificial uses.

Public Interest.

*The study report can be found on the LWVVT website, at <http://www.lwvofvt.org/Local.html#LWVCEN>.*

## **LWVVT to Participate in LWVUS Membership Recruitment Initiative**

First unveiled at the 2006 National Convention, the Membership Recruitment Initiative is a successful partnership between the local, state and national Leagues to recruit new members at the grassroots level. By combining outreach strategies, focusing on a target demographic, and establishing a network of coaches, the participating local Leagues (as a group) have experienced net membership growth, as well as have increased visibility; improved relationships with the media and other community organizations; and implemented strategic plans for organizational growth. LWVUS is working with states individually to implement the initiative locally – bringing on one state at a time.

Kate Rader will receive training as a state coach at the end of March. This will be followed in with LWVUS-led local League training at Quad States Conference, held this year in October rather than in the spring.

More information about the Initiative will be presented at the LWVVT Convention on May 21.

## **LWVVT Co-sponsors Oxfam Hunger Banquet**

This year marks the 100th Anniversary of International Women's Day. To celebrate our global efforts to empower women, Oxfam America - an international development and relief organization that creates lasting solutions to poverty, hunger and social injustice--will organize 100 events over 100 days.

Around the world--from Vermont to Mali--women are leading efforts to find and implement positive solutions to complex challenges related to food security and agriculture. These solutions include support for sustainable agriculture, women's empowerment, and social and economic justice. To raise awareness about these efforts, Oxfam America will be hosting a Hunger Banquet® in Burlington.

For this event, the LWVVT is partnering with Oxfam America and other groups and individuals

from the Vermont food and agriculture community, local businesses, political leaders, students at UVM, community activists, to focus attention on the courageous role of women - as an example to us all - to be able to come together, stand up for our rights, and work together to create a better future.

Please join us at Main Street Landing in Burlington on Saturday, March 5 at 5:00 p.m. The goal of this event is to raise awareness about the important role of women farmers in developing communities, with a focus on food security and women's entrepreneurship.

The LWVVT's participation in this event is supported by a grant from the LWVUS Education Fund.

Read more about Oxfam America Hunger Banquets® at <http://www.oxfamamerica.org>.

Please join us at Main Street Landing in Burlington on Saturday, March 5 at 5:00 p.m.

## **See *Gerrymandering* at the Green Mountain Film Festival**

Democrats and Republicans collude to maintain total control over the ultimate political weapon: the ability to directly determine the outcome of elections. Why bother stuffing ballots when they can just redraw districts? The secrets of perhaps the most effective form of manipulating elections is exposed in Jeff Reichert's riveting – and sometimes very funny – documentary about a subject that would seem unlikely to be either. Howard Dean is one of the officials discussing the difficulties of changing the status quo.

The film will be shown twice on Saturday, March 15: at Noon: in the Pavilion Auditorium, 109 State Street (enter at rear) and at 3:30 p.m. at the Savoy Downstairs, 26 Main Street. In Montpelier

Post-film event: director Jeff Reichert will discuss the film at both showings.

The League of Women Voters of Vermont and Vermont Public Interest Research Group are community partners for this event..

Web site <http://www.gerrymanderingmovie.com/>

**52<sup>st</sup> Convention of the  
League of Women Voters of Vermont  
Saturday, May 21, 2011**

**T.W. Wood Gallery, Vermont College of Fine Arts  
Montpelier**

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|---------------|--|
| 9:00-9:30     | Registration   |
| 9:30 – 10:45  | Morning Business Session                                   |
| 10:45 – 11:00 | Break  |
| 11:00 – 12:00 | Campaign Finance Panel (tentative)                         |
| 12:00-1:30    | Luncheon   |
| 1:30-2:45     | Afternoon Business Session                                 |
| 3:00          | Keynote Speaker: Dr. Deb Richter, Vermont for Single Payer |

Directions to the campus: Take Exit 8 from I89 and follow the signs for the Statehouse. Continue east on State Street, through the intersection with Main Street. East State Street ends at College Street, immediately opposite College Hall. The T.W. Wood Gallery is on the second floor of the original College Hall, on the green (36 College Street).

If anyone would like to come the night before, please contact Kate Rader, 229-4737 or [radercatherine@myfairpoint.net](mailto:radercatherine@myfairpoint.net)

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**REGISTRATION for the meeting is \$40, payable to the LWV of VT. Luncheon Guest or Non-Member: \$25. Return form and check to Tara Rogerson, Treasurer, P.O. Box 94, Cabot, VT 05647**

**DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION IS May 14, 2011.**

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Name

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Address

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Phone

# GREEN MOUNTAIN CITIZEN

**League of Women Voters of Vermont**

Post Office Box 94

Cabot, VT 05647

## **LWVVT Calendar 2010/11**

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|--------------|----|---|
| <u>March</u> | 16 | Legislative Day, The State House, Montpelier. Details will be in the March GMC and on the website. Save the date. |
| <u>April</u> | 11 | Monday, 4:30 p.m., LWVVT Board Meeting, Kellogg-Hubbard Library, Montpelier. All members welcome.                 |
| <u>May</u>   | 21 | LWVVT Convention, T.W. Wood Gallery, on the campus of Vermont College of Fine Arts, Montpelier                    |