



Green Mountain
CITIZEN

Fall 2011

Meet the State Board of Directors

The board of the LWVVT was expanded by two members with the appointment of Joanna Cole and Jean Hopkins.

In the absence of a president, it's important for members to know who to go to with questions. To that end, we give below Who's Who on the board and their portfolios/expertise.

Stella Bukanc – **Recorder; Education Finance**

[802-658-7686; stellabukanc@comcast.net]

Terry Bouricius – **Redistricting, Voting Systems, Campaign Finance**

[802-864-8382; terryb@burlingtontelecom.net]

Joanna Cole – **Liaison to Vermont Commission on Women; special assignments**

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Vee Gordon – **Advocacy, Legislative Issues** [802-876-7869; veg.gordon@gmail.com]

Jean Hopkins – **Health Care** [[802-863-5359; seaheidi@earthlink.net]

Frankie Knibb – **Transportation Funding Study**

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Judy Myrick – **Outreach** [802-257-4616; ajmyrick@myfairpoint.net]

Sonja Schuyler – **Convener; Environment** [802-899-3657; sonjapeter@comcast.net]

Off Board:

Ken Hertz – **Treasurer** [802-229-4737; hertzkj@myfairpoint.net]

Kate Rader – **GMC, Website, Facebook; Membership/Leadership Development**

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Message from the Board Fall 2011

This fall several significant activities are planned.*****

The membership recruitment/leadership development initiative is underway and training of League members throughout the state will be the main topic for the Quad State Meeting October 14-16 in Wells, Maine. Members for each local League and the State Board are planning to attend. Registration remains open until September 23rd. See related article on p. 3.

There will be a National Consensus on the Federal Role in Education in November. Local Leagues will have consensus meetings, but members may also send responses to the State Board if they cannot attend a meeting.

The transportation study continues, with the focus on funding for transportation. Brattleboro is hosting an interesting panel which should provide some great background information. Champlain Valley has also scheduled a meeting on the topic for February. With the extensive damage done by hurricane Irene, funding for transportation will certainly be a serious issue for the state.

This issue also provides contact information for the Board and indicates a point of contact by subject area. Please contact us with any concerns, questions, or great ideas.

Sonja Schuyler

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Kate Rader, Editor

Membership in the League includes a subscription. If you would like to join the League, e-mail, write, or call:

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State Study

LWVVT 2011/12 Calendar

- October: 15,16 Quad States Conference,
LWVUS MLD In-state Training,
Wells, ME
- November: Local Leagues Consensus
Meeting on LWVUS Study of
Federal Role in Public Education
- 19 10:30 a.m., LWVVT Board
Meeting & consensus meeting on
LWVUS Study of Federal Role in
Public Education. Location TBD
- December: 10 Senator Leahy's 15th Annual
Women's Economic Opportunity
Conference, VTC, Randolph
Center (Note change in date).
Supreme Court Justice
Sotomayor will speak.
- January 18 All Day, LWVVT Legislative
Day, the State House, Montpelier
- February 11 10:30 a.m., LWVVT Board
Meeting. Location TBD
- 14 **92nd Anniversary of the
Founding of the League of
Women Voters**
- April 16 4:30 p.m., LWVVT Board
Meeting. Location TBD
- May 19 LWVVT Council. Location TBA
- June 8-12 LWVUS Convention,
Washington, DC

The Southeast Unit is presenting a public program in conjunction with the second phase of our transportation study.

A panel discussion, *Stretching Transportation Dollars in Vermont: Finding new money and rethinking the money we have*, will be moderated League member Janet Cramer.

We are fortunate that Sue Minter, Deputy Secretary of the VT Agency of Transportation will be on the panel, in the wake of tropical storm Irene's devastation. Other panelists are State Representative Mollie Burke, member of the House Committee on Transportation and Matt Mann, Senior Planner, the Windham Regional Commission.

The program will be held on Monday, October 3, at 5:30-7:00 in the Brattleboro Selectboard Room, Town Hall.

Anyone interested in participating in the study should contact Frankie Knibb

Quad States Ready for In-State Training

This year the annual Quad States Conference will be devoted to training local and state Leaguers in the proven practices under the national League's Membership/Leadership Development program (MLD, formerly MRI).

The meeting is scheduled for the weekend of October 15 in Wells, ME. LWVUS recommends that attendees arrive on the evening of Friday, October 14. There will be an informal session with your National Board Liaison Judy Davis that night. The membership/leadership training will begin at 9:00 am on Saturday, October 15 and will adjourn at noon on Sunday, October 16.

Up to three representatives from each participating local League, all state board members, and all state coaches are invited to attend. Training will be facilitated by national coaches Eva Rogers and Lottie Fox, and Cheryl Graeve, of the LWVUS support team.

The goals of the training are:

Familiarize local teams and presidents with

membership/leadership best practices;

Strengthen relationships between all three levels of the League and: among local team members; between local teams and state coach; between state coaches and national coach;

Create an action plan for local teams to follow and state coaches to support/mentor on;

Have local teams utilize the best practices (hands-on work);

Allow for networking among local teams and have some fun!

In addition to the training workshops, there will be discussion of how the League can be (and be perceived to be) political without being partisan.

AGENDA

Friday, October 14.

Evening: Participants arrive/Check In to hotel.
Informal time

Saturday, October 15, -

9:00 am Registration
9:30 am Welcome & introductions
10:00 am Membership/Leadership Overview
10:30 am Leadership Styles Exercise (Medicine wheel activity)
11:30 pm Leadership Session: The Leadership Ladder
12:30 pm Lunch
1:15 pm **LWV Voice - Political but not Partisan**
2:15 pm The Best Practices: Direct Outreach & The ASK Activity
3:30 pm Break
3:45 pm Allied & Media Outreach
5:00 pm Break
6:00 pm Dinner
Evening: Socializing/Informal Time

Sunday, October 16

8:00 am Team building exercise
8:30 am Binder Review
9:15 am Event Activity-Planning Checklist/Local League planning with state coaches
11:15 am What's next? Mechanics of the Coaching Relationship
11:50 am Final Q&A/ Housekeeping
12:00 Adjourn

The Federal Role in Education

Consensus to be Scheduled

The LWVUS is completing the research phase of the role of the federal government in public education. Local Leagues should be scheduling their consensus meetings for November. The state board will be holding their own consensus meeting at their November board meeting.

Background information and the consensus questions can be found on the LWVUS website: www.lwv.org. Click on For Members, then Projects and Programs. There you will find a link to the study materials.

Individuals may not respond online. The consensus (or not) of each local League will be electronically submitted for the group. However, MALs and others who cannot attend a consensus meeting can download Word or PDF versions of the questions, add your answers and send your response to the LWVVT board, c/o Kate Rader, Editor, GMC, 1186 Towne Hill Road, East Montpelier, 05651. Submitted responses will be compiled by the board and submitted by the Board as the LWVVT.

This is an important study, as evidenced by the response to No Child Left Behind and The Race to the Top. It will be valuable for the League to have an advocacy position on the issue. Please educate yourself and participate in the consensus process.

An article on the history of federal involvement in education is included on p. 6 of this issue.

LWVVT Is Now on Facebook!

We have joined Facebook. Go to the LWVVT website (www.lwvofvt.org), scroll down to the bottom of the Home page, and click on the Facebook logo. Check it out frequently, and be sure to click on "Like" when you go there. You don't have to be on Facebook yourself to see what's there, but you can't add any comments unless you are. **Spread the word.** We want a lot of people to know what the League in Vermont is doing.

LWVUS Privatization Study Underway

Scope of the Privatization Study: The purpose of this study is to identify those parameters and policy issues to be considered in connection with proposals to transfer federal, state or local government services, assets and/or functions to the private sector. It will review the stated goals and the community impact of such transfers, and identify strategies to ensure transparency, accountability, and preservation of the common good.

In late summer, there will be a Privatization Study List for all interested League members and study materials will begin to be posted.

The committee will provide a history and background of privatization, a glossary of terms, legal issues to be considered when privatizing at different levels of government, current state regulations on privatizing and case studies on successful and unsuccessful privatizing efforts. Finally, the committee will provide suggested policies and parameters to be considered when privatizing.

Consensus will be ready for LWVUS Convention's vote in June, 2012

Recommended Reading:

[Government Privatization: History, Examples, and Issues](#)

Paul Starr, "[The Meaning of Privatization](#)," *Yale Law and Policy Review* 6 (1988): 6-41.

[Privatization: A Seattle League Study](#)

Report from LWVUS Council 2011

Marge Gaskins and Jean Hopkins

The first item addressed was the controversy that ensued after the LWVUS ran television ads in MA and MO criticizing two of their senators for opposing the control of air pollution by corporations. These ads appeared to be against the League's policy of non-partisanship because the ads named the senators. They were produced, however, to support the League's long-standing position for the clean air acts.

We then heard presentations by Celinda Lake of Lake Research who praised the League's work with health care reform and protection of the environment. She encouraged us to look at our priorities and assured us that people are tired of politics, but not necessarily of government. The second speaker was Tammy Gordon of AARP who encouraged us to use more social media such as Face Book and Twitter. The message clearly is that we need to be more visible.

The rest of Council was a wonderful opportunity to meet with about 120 League members from across the nation. We were able to also speak personally with President Elizabeth McNamara and the staff from the national office who met with us in small group meetings to answer our questions about the budget and national programs.

The main purpose of Council is to approve a budget for the following year beginning July 1. Since membership dues provide only 18% of the income, it's not surprising that a lot of Council was about marketing the League. It became obvious how much work the national office does to raise the other 80% with grants (38%) and fundraising.

We came together once a day in plenary session, and on Sunday to discuss and pass the budget. The rest was spent in smaller group work sessions. Each of us was given a notebook that included over 50 pages on the budget. Other information was suggested notes improving membership recruitment, retention, involvement and leadership. Marge and I will be presenting the campaign we designed for Vermont's membership activation.

Marge and I were the two representatives from Vermont along with the nine other northeastern states. Unfortunately, RI, a member of our Quad State group, was not present. We did have extensive conversations with members from NH, ME, CT and PA.

Sunday evening Jean was able to meet with members from across the country who are interested in health care reform and participate in monthly HCR4US conference calls. Once again it was wonderful to speak in person with these individuals.

The conversations and meeting facilities lived up to our expectations of convenience and stimulation. We can't wait to tell you all about it personally, and hope next year's Convention inspires you all to want to participate and go. The League of Women Voters annual meetings will remind you why you became a member and how you can inspire others to become one too.



The History of Federal Government in Public Education: Where Have We Been and How Did We Get There?

Where Have We Been?

From the very beginning of our Republic, a well-educated citizenry was thought to be essential to protect liberty and the general welfare of the people. Even before the Constitution was established, the Land Ordinance of 1785 and the Northwest Ordinance of 1787 included responsibilities of the nation for an education system.

Education has long been considered a national concern by the federal government. Through federal action, education has been encouraged and financially supported from the first Northwest Ordinance in 1785 to the present. Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution granted Congress the power to lay and collect taxes to provide for the general welfare of the United States. It is under this “general welfare” clause that the federal government has assumed the power to initiate educational activity in its own right and to participate jointly with states, agencies and individuals in educational activities.

During the first century of our new nation, Congress granted more than 77 million acres of the public domain as an endowment for the support of public schools through tracts ceded to the states. In 1841, Congress passed an act that granted 500,000 acres to eight states and later increased land grants to a total of 19 states. The federal government also granted money, such as distributions of surplus federal revenue and reimbursements for war expenses, to states. Though Congress rarely prescribed that such funds be used only for schools, education continued to be one of the largest expenses of state and local

governments so the states used federal funds whenever possible for education.

Two of our constitutional amendments played an important role in public education. In 1791, the 10th Amendment stated, “The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.” Public education was not mentioned as one of those federal powers, and so historically has been delegated to the local and state governments.

In 1868, the 14th Amendment guaranteed rights to all citizens by stating, “all persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens in the United States and of the state wherein they reside. No state shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any state deprive any person of life, liberty or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the law.”

Included below is a brief historical overview of federal involvement in public education.

*Produced by the LWWUS The Education Study:
The Role of the Federal Government in Public
Education*

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History of the Role of the Federal Government in Public Education: Timeline

Event	Date	Explanation
Land Ordinance & Northwest Ordinance	1785/1787	Requirement of a system of public education to be established in each township formed under a specified formula. Regulated monies raised via taxes and selling or renting land.
Land Grants	1841/1848	Congress granted 77+ million acres of land in the public domain as endowments for support of schools. Federal government also granted surplus money to states for public education.
Early philosophy – first six presidents		Discussion of a national university and urging of federal involvement in public education. Seen as critical to preparation for citizenship in a republican form of government.
First Morrill Act otherwise known as the Land Grant Act	1862	Donated public lands to states to be used for the endowment to support and maintain at least one college with specific purpose of teaching branches of agriculture, mechanic arts and industrial education.
The original Department (Office) of Education established	1867	Began to collect data – information on schools and teaching that would help states establish effective school systems.
Second Morrill Act	1890	Gave the Office of Education responsibility for administering support for the original system of land-grant colleges.
Smith-Hughes Act	1917	Promoted vocational schools
Lanham Act	1941	Eased the burden on communities affected by presence of military and federal installations: payments to school districts.
Impact Aid laws	1950	
GI Bill	1944	Provided post secondary education assistance to GIs returning from World War II
George-Barden Act	1946	Provided funding for agricultural, industrial and home economics training for high school students
National Defense Education Act	1958	In response to Soviet Sputnik. NDEA included support for loans to college students in science, mathematics and foreign languages.
Elementary and Secondary Education Act	1965	Established comprehensive set of programs including Title I of federal aid to disadvantaged.
Title IX	1972	Prohibited discrimination in education based on gender.
Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act	1973	Prohibited discrimination based on disability.
Department of Education cabinet level agency	1980	Recognized the important role of public education in our country.
Educational Testing Service (ETS) and NAEP	1983	Federal government transferred responsibility for administering the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) to ETS: the nation's report card.
Nation at Risk	1983	Report indicating that the USA was falling behind in education achievement.
President G.H. Bush	1989-1992	“Indian Education Bill of Rights” K-12 Drug awareness model Advisory committee on Hispanic education America 2000 education reform program Work began on national standards
President W. Clinton	1993-1999	Academics 2000 offered grant to states / local school districts for innovation. Teach for America.
President G.W. Bush	2001-2008	Reauthorization of ESEA –No Child Left Behind.
President Barack Obama	2009 -	President Obama's Blueprint for Reform – Reauthorization of ESEA. Race to the Top: Grants awarded to states with innovative ideas

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