



League of Women Voters of Central Vermont

Bulletin

July 2010

Co-Presidents' Message

We're deep into July, can you believe it? The summer months go by too fast.

A lot has happened since our last bulletin. We held our Annual Meeting in May and there were a few changes to the makeup of the board. We thank Joanne Bair for serving on the board and for graciously hosting board meetings at her home with the help of Tinkerbell, her gorgeous Newfoundland. We welcome Mary Alice Bisbee to the board. Mary Alice is an important community member and activist and we are lucky to have her on our board. Mary Alice serves as Vice President of the board for the Central Vermont Council on Aging and the President of the Funeral Consumers Alliance of Vermont, a nonprofit dedicated to a consumer's right to choose a dignified, meaningful and affordable funeral. Mary Alice is also a fierce advocate for a single-payer health care system. We are happy and honored to welcome her to the board. Other board changes include Kate Rader taking on the role of Secretary and Gia Biden becoming Co-President with Nancy Lynch. Sally Schober was missed at this year's Annual Meeting; she passed away on March 1 of this year.

Our presenter for this year's Annual Meeting was Kim Greenwood, Water Program Co-Director and Staff Scientist for the Vermont Natural Resources Council (VNRC). Kim's presentation on the water crisis was well-researched and served as an excellent tie-in to our groundwater study and preview of the Maude Barlow event on July 29. Ms. Barlow is a world water expert, United Nations Special Advisor on Water and author of *Blue Gold* and *Blue Covenant*. We drew heavily upon Ms. Barlow's writing and philosophy for our groundwater study and our position that water must be preserved as a public trust. On July 29, VNRC, the Community Sailing Center and Vermont Peace and Justice Center are co-hosting Ms. Barlow for an evening event at the Main Street Landing Film House and Lobby. It's a privilege to have the opportunity to hear Ms. Barlow speak. You won't want to miss it!

At the end of May, we were fortunate to attend the Quad States Conference in Wells, Maine with Terry Bouricius, Kate Rader, Vee Gordon and Jean Norton. We won't go into detail about the conference here, since Kate covered it well in the Summer 2010 issue of the Green Mountain Citizen. We can be proud since two of the three workshops were led by Vermont Leaguers (Terry and Nancy). It was wonderful having interactions with Mary Wilson, former President of the LWVUS, who was replaced by Elizabeth McNamara in June. Another highlight was the Climate and Clean Energy Leader Awards presented to Maine's congressional delegation, whose commitment to the environment is inspiring.

Although the summer is quieter for League activities, we're looking forward to the Naturalization Ceremony on August 20 and starting up our film series again in the fall. The Naturalization Ceremony is always inspiring as we witness people become citizens of the United States; people who have worked hard to be here and stay here and who are freely choosing to become citizens and take that responsibility seriously. We have a lot to learn from them.

Please let us know if you have recommended movies for the film series. So far, we have shown "Blue Gold" about the world water crisis, "Iron-Jawed Angels" about the suffrage movement and "Nuclear Tipping Point" about nuclear disarmament.

This summer, let's work to sell as many raffle tickets as we can, since it's our only non-membership fundraiser of the year. The quilt's gorgeous, as always, so it's an easy sell. Thanks again to Polly Ellerbe for donating the quilt.

As a final note, it's an interesting election year. The primary was pushed up from September to August 24. Let's do all we can to encourage voter turnout.

In celebration of democracy, Nancy Lynch & Gia Biden

Naturalization Ceremony set for August 20

One of the highlights of our League year is the annual 9/11 naturalization ceremony held at the State House in the Well of the House. This year it is scheduled for Friday, August 20 at 10:00 a.m.

Traditionally, the LWV Champlain Valley and the LWV Central Vermont register the new citizens to vote in the Card Room immediately following the ceremony.

The two Leagues also host a reception in the Cedar Creek Room for the new citizens and their accompanying friends and families .

In addition to registering the new voters, the LWVCEN provides the cookies for the reception, while the LWVCV is responsible for beverages.

Please bring your cookies to the Cedar Creek Room between 9:00 and 10:00 a.m., or to Kate's (1186 Towne Hill Road, E. Montpelier) the day before. You are welcome to watch the ceremony as well, but if you wish to, come early to assure a seat.

If you can help with voter registration or with service at the reception, please let Kate know (229-4737 or catherine.rader@myfairpoint.net).

Sell Those Tickets!

You recently received your membership renewal notice as well as a packet of raffle tickets for the beautiful quilt contributed by LWVCEN member Polly Ellerbe.

The \$40 you pay for our local League dues do not cover the combined per-member-payments assessed by the state and national Leagues.

The proceeds from the quilt raffle make up the difference and support our local activities. This year we hope to sponsor a candidate forum for those running for the state legislature. That costs money.

So, Sell those tickets!!

July 3rd: Montpelier Celebrates

On a picture-perfect day, we registered several newcomers to Montpelier to vote, and made a little money for our quilt raffle.

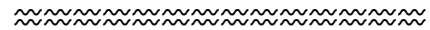
Thanks to Hedi Ballantyne, Susan Clark and Neely Washington for their help. And thanks to Claudette Sortino for the use of her patio umbrella, which provided perfect protection from the day's bright sunshine.

Rally Day is Coming

We will have a table at East Montpelier's Rally Day on September 11, starting at 12:30 p.m.

In addition to registering voters, we have been granted permission to sell tickets for our quilt raffle. For the past couple of years, this has been our most successful venue for the raffle.

Please let Kate know if you can help out for an hour or two on a family-oriented Saturday afternoon. See contact information above.



**The Vermont Natural Resources Council,
the Vermont Peace and Justice Center and
the Community Sailing Center
proudly present:**

***Author, activist and United Nations
Special Advisor on Water Issues***

Maude Barlow

**Thursday, July 29, 6:30 p.m.
Main Street Landing
Burlington, VT**

Reception at 5:30 p.m.

What is the League of Women Voters? 2010: 90 years of a good idea.

[The LWVCEN is only six years old, and it has occurred to us that many of you who just recently came to the League are not really familiar with the full breadth of its history and mission. Therefore, we are reprinting here the press release we sent out for the 90th anniversary of the League.]

The LWV was formed in 1920, after a 72-year struggle, just months before the ratification of the 19th Amendment, which extended the right to vote to women. Founded by Carrie Chapman Catt, the League was a “mighty political experiment” meant to encourage the 20 million newly eligible voters to participate in the shaping of public policy using their new power. In 1974, full membership was extended to all citizens over the age of 18, regardless of gender.

LWV founder Carrie Chapman Catt, a close associate of Susan B. Anthony, urged the new organization to “finish the fight” and to work to end all discrimination against women. Initially, the LWV was primarily concerned with the status and rights of women and women's issues, but interests were gradually expanded to include issues affecting men as well as women. Today, the LWV works to effect change on a wide variety of issues in the areas of Representative Government, International Relations, Natural Resources and Social Policy.

As the organization celebrates its 90th anniversary, it has much to look back upon, but the work is not yet complete and there is much to look forward to. The LWV continues to work toward meaningful citizen participation in the governmental process. “For nine decades, the League has worked to ensure our democracy is transparent, effective, and truly representative,” said LWVUS President Mary G. Wilson. “Those challenges are as real today as they were for our suffragist foremothers who struggled for their right to vote so many years ago.”

The LWV is organized on three levels – national, state and local. The national organization has headquarters in Washington, D.C. Fifty state Leagues are mostly headquartered in state capitals. Vermont has two local Leagues, the LWV Champlain Valley and the LWV Central Vermont, a unit in Brattleboro, and members in the bi-state LWV Upper Valley, as well as members at large throughout the state.

The nonpartisan LWV never supports or opposes candidate or parties, but it is political and takes stands on issues. The process by which the LWV takes a stand is its hallmark: Leagues choose issues to study, present the findings of the study committee, arrive at a consensus opinion, and then take action on the new position, ranging from informal conversations to lobbying at all levels of government. Here in Vermont that process played a pivotal role in the school funding debate. The state League studied education funding for two years, lobbied for legislation, and then traveled throughout the state after the passage of Act 60, providing informational forums on the details of the new law. The League is currently working for meaningful health care reform and climate change action at both the state and national levels.

The League is a nonpartisan political organization that works to improve our system of government and impact public policies through citizen education and advocacy.

All are welcome to join the League of Women Voters and become part of our respected and effective organization. The League is where hands on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement. For more information about the League of Women Voters, go to www.lwv.org or www.lwvofvt.org.

Calendar of Events

<u>July</u>	Thursday	29	6:30 p.m., Author, activist and UN Special Advisor on Water Issues Maude Barlow, Main Street Landing, Burlington. Sponsored by VNRC, the VT Peace and Justice Center and the Community Sailing Center. Reception at 5:30.
<u>August</u>	Tuesday	17	6:30 p.m., LWVCEN Board meeting, 1186 Towne Hill Road, East Montpelier. We will be discussing possible candidates' forum. All members are encouraged to attend.
	Friday	20	10:00 a.m. Naturalization Ceremony, Voter Registration and Reception, The State House
	Tuesday	24	Primary Election Day 7:00 p.m., Celebrate the 90 th anniversary of the 19 th Amendment and the League of Women Voters at the State House with Judith Black as abolitionist and suffragist Lucy Stone. Co-sponsored by the LWVVT, Vermont Women's Foundation and the Vermont Humanities Council.
<u>September</u>	Saturday	11	12:30 p.m. Tabling at East Montpelier Rally Day. Register Voters and sell raffle tickets!