



League of Women Voters of Central Vermont

Bulletin

June 2011

Greetings from the Board of the LWVCEN!

This is our first newsletter since our annual meeting and we wanted to update those of you who were not able to make it. First, we'd like to thank Representative Chris Pearson for taking the time to come to our meeting and update us on the happenings of this past legislative session, including passage of H.202, the healthcare bill, and S.31, the National Popular Vote bill. These are issues near and dear to our hearts—and ones we have positions on! We support both!

At our annual meeting, we decided to adopt a change in board structure. While we will still have directors, we are adding more descriptive titles and functions for our board, including a spokesperson/convener, a member coordinator, a treasurer, and a social media/IT person. Kate Rader will be treasurer, and co-presidents Gia Biden and Nancy Lynch will retain their positions.

This move comes as part of a larger effort at the national level to help local and state leagues increase membership and visibility. The state league is participating in this endeavor, called the Membership Recruitment Initiative, and our local league voted at our annual meeting to make this our program this year. We will be attending a meeting this fall, our quad states meeting with other New England states, to learn more about how to implement this program.

Recently, we helped with a state league fundraiser by baking goodies and tabling at the Williston Rest stops (northbound and southbound) and had a good deal of fun meeting people, talking up the league, and raising some cash! We plan to participate again next year! Perhaps you will consider joining us!

Finally, the Montpelier Independence Day Parade is fast approaching - July 3rd! We will be tabling, registering voters and disseminating information about the league. We will also be in the parade, dressing up as suffragettes to increase our visibility. Parade goers tend to love our presence and we get a lot of waves and attention from the crowd. Please consider joining us! It is so much fun!

We hope you are enjoying the beginnings of summer and hope to see you at one of our events very soon!

The LWVCEN Board

Annual Meeting Introduces a New Kind of Board

Under our current bylaws, terms for elected officers are two years. One Co-President and the Secretary are elected in even-numbered years and the second Co-President and Treasurer in odd-numbered years. Of the prescribed six elected directors, three are elected in even-numbered years and three in odd-numbered years.

As is the case with many local Leagues, the LWVCEN has had difficulty filling leadership positions. In recognition of this problem, the LWVUS appointed a committee to “streamline” the League. Among their proposals is to streamline the management structure of a League by replacing the traditional Board with a Leadership Team. The streamlined Leadership Team structure makes it possible for as few as four League leaders to simply manage the work of the League. The suggested basic Leadership Team positions include: Spokesperson/Convener, Money Person/Treasurer, Webmaster, and Member Coordinator.

The motion was made and seconded to adopt this alternative organization for at least a trial year. No immediate changes in the bylaw are required. Members elected to the new Leadership Team are: Nancy Lynch, Spokesperson/Convener; Kate Rader, Secretary/Treasurer; and members at large Gia Biden, Flo Young, Neely Washington and Hedi Ballantyne. Rader will remain as editor of the *Bulletin*.

No new study was recommended. Instead, the board recommended full and active participation in the Membership Recruitment/Leadership Development program developed and supported by the LWVUS. Kate Rader, state coach for

Learn more about this program in the June Green Mountain Citizen, due out soon.

Vermont, described the program and urged the membership to send at least two representatives to the in-state training session held in lieu of the regular Quad States Conference on the weekend of October 15 in Wells, ME. Motion was made and seconded to make this program our focus for the

year. Gia Biden and Nancy Lynch were named to represent the LWVCEN in October.

Following the business meeting, Chris Pearson, state Representative from Burlington told the group about the process behind the recently-passed health care bill. He also gave us a clear description of how the National Popular Vote Compact, supported by the LWVUS and passed by the Vermont Legislature this session, would work. More information about the NPV can be found at <http://www.nationalpopularvote.com/pages/explanation.php>.

It's Raffle Time Again

With the beginning of a new League year comes the quilt raffle. Once again, Polly Ellerbe has generously provided the quilt.

You'll be sent tickets (\$1 ea., 6/\$5) and a picture of the quilt with your membership renewal notice soon.

!! We Love a Parade !!

After a year's hiatus, we'll be in the parade again to celebrate Independence Day with Montpelier.

Join the party. *Help us decorate the float (Gia's truck), then come along and enjoy the applause of the bystanders. This year we'll be right behind the Secretary of State, spreading the word about the importance of civic participation.*

Our theme will be Suffragists in Vermont. Details are forthcoming.

Before and after the parade (until it gets dark), we'll also be registering voters on the State House lawn, and offering raffle tickets for this year's beautiful quilt.

Let Nancy (498-5020; nancyt1213@gmail.com), Gia (498-5018; gia@ksefocus.com) or Kate (229-3737; catherine.rader@myfairpont.net) know if you can help out. Decorating the float and the parade usually runs from about 5:00 -7:30 p.m. The table schedule is looser – if you could put in a couple of hours between 11:00 a.m. 'til dark it would be a big help. We have to keep the League out there!

LWVCEN 2011/12 Calendar

(Public events are in boldface)

June

Wednesday 22 7:00 p.m. LWVCEN Board Meeting. Location TBA. All members welcome.

July

Sunday 3 **Montpelier celebrates Independence Day!** Join the LWVCEN in the parade and register voters (and sell raffle tickets) at our table on the State House lawn.