

THE CHAMPLAIN VALLEY VOTER

Newsletter of the League of Women Voters of the Champlain Valley

April 2010

CVLWV Board, 2009 - 2010

President	Marge Gaskins	879-0003
Vice President	Irene Wrenner	879-0011
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Director	Sue Golden	985-9524
Director	Vee Gordon	876-7869
Director	Jean Hopkins (Voter editor)	863-5359
Director	Keri Toksu (Website)	658-0962

Calendar of Events

We sponsor meetings and events for the public and League members.

Local, Statewide, Regional Meetings

Date	Time	Place	Description
April 15	10:00am	23 Forest Rd. Essex	Champlain Valley Board Meeting All members welcome
May 1	Noon	State House Montpelier	Rally for Single Payer Health Care
May 13	5:30pm	Wake Robin Shelburne	Annual Meeting
May 22-23	2 days	Wells, ME	Qaud State Conference

President's Message

Time is getting short in my 4th year as president of Champlain Valley League, but in saying good-bye to that office, I would like to add a few more words.

Foremost in my mind, I would like you all to know how much the League and the many friends I have made through the League mean to me. Some of them I have had to say good-bye to forever...June Carmichael, Sally Schober, Gail Cooper, Janet Smith and recently, former state senator, Bill Daniels, a good friend and mentor of League. There have been others throughout Vermont who contributed a lot to my development as a League member and officer, and there are still many that I will be grateful to as friends and colleagues in my current and future continued membership in this great organization.

When I think of my past 40 years here, nine of them as state president, 2 (or 4) as Essex president, and 4 at Champlain Valley, I am proud of the accomplishments of League through those years. Some of those achievements significantly changed Vermont...the billboard ban, Act 250 and other land use legislation, zoning and planning laws, the rewrite and continued changes in voting laws, recycling and the bottle deposit law, transportation and bike paths, clean water and air, special education and kindergarten, and campaign finance changes. Still underway, education finance, fair reapportionment, instant runoff voting and renewable energy. Some issues we will continue working on are nuclear waste disposal (high and low level) and acid rain. And we must continue our vigilance to prevent slipping backwards in these tough economic times on all of the above. Do you know that these are all League issues? Not just registering voters, urging all to vote and promoting good candidates to run for office, even though these are what made the League famous.

I do hope to see all of you at the Champlain Valley annual meeting May 13th. Whoever becomes president and agrees to serve on our board deserves your support from the very beginning. Once again it will be held at Wake Robin in Shelburne where many of our special older members live. Thanks to them we have an opportunity to share a good dinner and pleasant location for that evening.

Marge Gaskins

PS: Hope you all will consider participating in some of the activities in League both in the Champlain Valley and Vermont.

Annual Meeting

ANNUAL MEETING & DINNER, MAY 13, AT WAKE ROBIN

Members and spouses are invited to our annual business meeting, to be held again this year at Wake Robin in Shelburne. Please be sure to bring the agenda and meeting info with you. This information and directions will be provided in another email (or mailing if you don't receive emails) to League members.

Quad State Conference

This is a regional meeting for League members from the 4 states in New England that have smaller populations: Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont.

This year's conference is being held in Wells, Maine the weekend of May 22-23rd. Contact our state President, Kate Rader, if you would like to attend. Catherine.rader@myfairpoint.net or 802-229-4737

More information on Quad State

Keynote Speaker:

Jim Melchior, UME Farmington - Political civility in the U.S.

Workshops:

Alternative Voting Systems - Terry Bouricius of FairVote and CVLWV

Get Out the Vote/Voter Service - Judy Davis LWVUS Board Liaison

Social Networking (Facebook, Twitter, etc.) - Nancy Lynch, Central VT LWV and Exec. Dir. of Peace and Justice Center, VT

Registration is still \$20.00. Lodging at Hampton Inn is \$89.00.

Restaurants will be recommended for Saturday night's dinner.

Go to the Spring [Green Mountain Citizen](#) for the registration form and www.lwvofvt.org for updates.

Health Care Reform in Vermont

It looks like the rally at the State House on May 1st may be a celebration. S.88 was passed 28-2 by our Senators and House members are speaking encouragingly of it being passed in the House by the end of this legislative session.

The House Health Care Committee took testimony from nearly a dozen officials, professionals and organization representatives on April 12th.

They're trying to see if there's some way they can improve the bill.

Let's hope they all agree on something that will benefit all of us.

According to the health committee's calendar they are dedicating most of the week to discussion of S.88. Check the legislative calendar and send encouraging words to your representatives.

News from other members

Lois Farnham, one of our newer members, volunteered in Haiti from March 10-24. She stayed in Port au Prince and worked in hospitals and clinics which were very close to the epicenter. Therefore she saw a lot of the damage that had occurred there. If you'd like a new perspective on life, call Lois at 862-5632.

Voter Education and Services

In last month's Voter Louise Ransom reminded us of the League's primary mission - encouraging citizens to become informed and vote! This might be the last Voter before summer break so if you have some time this summer to help improve our voting system, please call Louise at 985-8706. We're also exploring the idea of registering 18 yr. old high school students close to the date of their graduation.