

# THE CHAMPLAIN VALLEY VOTER

Newsletter of the League of Women Voters of the Champlain Valley

November 2009

CVLWV Board, 2009 - 2010

President	Marge Gaskins	879-0003
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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

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## Calendar of Events

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

### Local, Statewide, Regional Meetings

Date	Time	Place	Description
Nov. 5	10:30am	Brownell Library	<b>Board Meeting</b>
Nov.10	Noon	Wake Robin	<b>Sustaining Our Membership Meeting</b>
Nov.12	7-8:30pm	Speeder&Earl's 412 Pine st. Burlington	<b>Transportation Study</b>

### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT - Marge Gaskins

Hello all:

On Tuesday, Nov. 10th, we will be having a meeting at noon at Wake Robin. Hopefully, a lot of you can make it.

The agenda will be about the League, specifically how we can sustain what we are, what we have done/ are doing right, what we need to change or stop doing at all.

I can't avoid all of my prejudices so you can expect some of that, but you also must participate, tell us what you can and will do to keep the League of Women Voters a viable organization in politics. We always describe the League as a grass-roots group, that is all of our ideas and actions come from you and our members, and we can impact political leaders directly because we are talking to our government leaders with the power of many voices. But we need people willing to express those voices and their messages.

So come and let me tell you about my 40 years in League. Many of you will have much of the same story, but I am asking you to remember some of those years and help us persuade others who still have a lot of years to give that our history and that of other American men and women still has a long way to go and only they can do it.

Please remember that we do not all have to agree on every detail of an issue, or even agree on every detail of how to accomplish the goal. What we do have to agree on is that it needs to be done, it can be done and we can do it whether we are Democrat, Republican, Progressive, Green or Gray, Conservative or Liberal or whatever title we want to carry.

Marge

PS: We are hoping our dinner with the legislators will be January 14th. Let's let them know what the League thinks they should be concerned about, not just their political "wars". It will be, once again, at the Eagles Club on Shelburne Road

### Membership Sustainability Meeting

Sustainability of the CVLWV  
Brown Bag Lunch and Discussion \*  
Tuesday, November 10, 12 - 1:30 PM  
Wake Robin, 200 Wake Robin Drive, Shelburne  
Butternut Lounge #1

Please join us for a brown bag lunch and important discussion about the future and sustainability of the CVLWV.

\* Coffee and tea will be provided.

We will begin by brainstorming about what other organizations are doing and how this impacts the League's activities — Are we duplicating the efforts of other organizations? Does this make sense? What do we do better than other organizations? Then, keeping in mind the realities of decreasing membership and increasing demands on people's time for volunteer activities, we'll discuss such questions as: Should we consolidate local efforts with statewide efforts in Vermont?

How do we balance our goals/plans with the reality of the limited number of active members? Should we focus our efforts to create the greatest impact — on voter registration, on studies (just to name two possible options)?

Please think carefully about these questions and issues in advance and come prepared to share your point of view.

### Transportation Meeting

Public Meeting on Transportation

Thursday, November 12<sup>th</sup>, 7-8:30pm

Speeder & Earl's, 412 Pine St., Burlington

The state League Transportation Study Committee is hard at work. League members from around the state - Brattleboro, NE Kingdom, Middlebury and more - are participating.

Vee Gordon will bring Champlain Valley members up-to-date on what needs to be done. She will let us know what is going on in towns across our region as well as groups that have formed around transportation issues. It is a huge topic. Voice your thoughts this month.

If you miss this meeting you can think about how to get to Brattleboro for their transportation meeting on Monday, Nov. 16<sup>th</sup>.

Consensus is a long way off. We're just gathering information now. Let's get to it.

### Health Care Reform

Nationally, the House and Senate are still trying to decide on the inclusion of a public option to compete with private insurance companies. To keep up-to-date at the national level you could spend a lot of time going to [www.C-Span.org/healthcare](http://www.C-Span.org/healthcare) or [www.healthreform.gov](http://www.healthreform.gov) to see how H3200 is evolving.

Dr. Deb Richter, Richard Davis of Vermont Citizens' Campaign for Health and many other Vermonters would say this is nowhere near a universal single payer system that would include everyone. Here in Vermont the state League has partnered with the Vermont Workers Center for the Health Care is a Human Right campaign. Over 3,000 postcards have been collected from Vermonters asking our legislators

to pass H.100 and S.88 to lead this state toward universal health care. These cards will be presented to the legislature the first week in January at the start of the legislative session. The goal is to collect 3,000 more. If you would like to help, call league member, Jean Hopkins, at 863-5359 or go to [www.workerscenter.org](http://www.workerscenter.org) Public health forums are taking place all over the state and Jean was glad to see other League members at the forums in Burlington with our county legislators and in Williston with Rep. Peter Welch. There will be another forum on Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>, Sunday, from 2-4 at Ohavi Zedek Synagogue in Burlington.

### League Websites

A way to keep up-to-date on League issues is to check our state website [www.lwvofvt.org](http://www.lwvofvt.org) which will direct you to our local website and the national website. If you've ever belonged to a League elsewhere in the country you might also be able to access to their newsletter via the national website.

Bookmark <http://champlainvalley.vt.lwvnet.org> for quick access to info on our local league activities.

### Dues are due!

Check with Amy Bond, our Treasurer, if you can't remember paying it, or send a check for \$50.00 made out to Champlain Valley League of Women Voters or simply CVLWV and mail it to

P.O. Box 8344

Essex, VT 05451

Note - This is a new P.O.Box number.

Democracy requires all citizens to participate.