

THE CHAMPLAIN VALLEY VOTER

Newsletter of the League of Women Voters of the Champlain Valley

October 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

Calendar of Events

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

Local, Statewide, Regional Meetings

Date	Time	Place	Description
Oct. 1	7pm	Imani Center	Health Care Forum
Oct. 8	10:30am	Brownell Library Essex Junction	CVLWV Board Meeting
Oct. 15	Noon	Fletcher Free Library	Public Meeting on Fighting Fraud
Nov.10	Noon	Wake Robin	Sustaining Our Membership Meeting
Nov.12	7-8:30pm	Speeder&Earl's 412 Pine st. Burlington	Transportation Study

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT - Marge Gaskins

We are on our way to another busy year in League, and though it seems very early to begin campaigning for next year's elections, it has begun. If ever Vermont's two year terms seem less than ideal, it's now. Will the legislative session that continues in January be productive for all that still needs done? I'm thinking of issues like stemming the deficit, providing health care and food and jobs for our residents who need them, and eliminating the pests that are polluting the lake and destroying the maples needed for our maple industry, and on and on. Will the current legislature and administration focus on the problems, or will it be, "politics as usual"?

We need real leadership with less partisanship and fewer expensive political ads. We need organizations like the League of Women Voters, with our reputation and our values to remind our politicians they must answer the questions and address the critical issues with which we are concerned. We need to remind them their power derives from us, the governed. And unless we have the members and leadership to do that, we aren't doing what we do best.

We are having a meeting at Wake Robin, November 10th to talk about sustaining our membership and leadership. We want to continue to be viable as a political organization not focusing on partisanship or our own power, but helping every citizen understand and participate in keeping our country and Vermont strong, independent and useful. We will answer questions you may have and talk about issues on which we have positions, and perhaps some we may want to consider.

Your ideas are important and your participation is essential. If you need a ride, let us know, but please try to be there.

Marge

P.S. Bring a bag lunch if you like. We will have coffee or afternoon tea and cookies.

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.

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.

Public Forum on Health Care

Health Care Forum with Chittenden County State Legislators

Thursday, October 1st, 7-8:30pm

Imani Community and Youth Center

294 N. Winooski Ave., Burlington

These forums are being held around the state by the Vermont Workers Center for discussion of health care reform. Go to www.workerscenter.org/healthcare

Parking next door but car-pooling is encouraged. Jean Hopkins will be going so if you would like to car-pool or need more information you can call her at 863-5359.

Public Meeting on Fighting Fraud

Fighting Fraud Workshop

Thursday, October 15, 12 - 1 PM

Fletcher Free Library, Pickering Room

235 College Street, Burlington

Fraud occurs in Vermont. And when it happens, it can have a devastating impact. This impact is felt by the person defrauded, their family, as well as by the entire community. The FINRA Investor Education Foundation, Vermont Public Television, AARP VT and the State of Vermont have launched an antifraud campaign to combat investment fraud in Vermont. As part of this project, the Foundation has developed a research-based curriculum to present to small and large groups. The presentation teaches Vermonters that they can be at risk for financial fraud, how to spot the "tactics" that fraudsters use in defrauding people, and the simple tools they can use to defend themselves against investment fraud. We are especially concerned about Vermonters aged 55+ who are specifically targeted. For more information about the program, go to www.saveandinvest.org

Presenter: William Carrigan, Securities Examiner, Investor Education Coordinator, Vermont Securities Division, BISHCA (Department of Banking, Insurance, Securities and Health Care)

Transportation Meeting

Public Meeting on Transportation

Thursday, November 12th, 7-8:30pm

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

Vee Gordon will be presenting the state League study. Bring your suggestions. More information in next month's Voter.