

THE CHAMPLAIN VALLEY VOTER

Newsletter of the League of Women Voters of the Champlain Valley

March 2010

CVLWV Board, 2009 - 2010

President	Marge Gaskins	879-0003
Vice President	Irene Wrenner	879-0011
Treasurer	Amy Bond	879-0628
Secretary	Jean Norton	879-0872
Director	Mabel Buttolph	863-3990
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
Mar.8	5:00pm	Burlington City Hall	International Women's Day 5:30 Walk down Church St. to UU Society for program
April 15	10:30am	TBA	Champlain Valley Board Meeting All members welcome
May 1		State House Montpelier	Rally for Single Payer Health Care
May 13	Evening	TBA	Annual Meeting

Remember that March is Women's History Month

The League is also celebrating our 90th anniversary as an organization to protect the voting rights of all citizens.

Go to www.lwv.org for happenings.

New Voter Service Project starting soon

CHITTENDEN COUNTY VOTES:

A League Sponsored Non-Partisan Effort Aimed Toward Reducing the Gap Between the Number of Registered Voters and the Number of People Who Actually Vote. See next page for information from Louise Ransom.

A group of members temporarily called the League Explorers, under the direction of Louise Ransom, has proposed a program geared toward the critical 2010 November elections, local, state and national. We hope to have the program, outlined below, up and running by this summer.

The program will be confined solely to Chittenden County which is composed of 25 Election Districts all under the jurisdiction of Town and City Clerks, whose responsibilities include managing general elections. Our aim is to assist and enhance the work of these Clerks, whom we have been told will very much appreciate our efforts.

Each District will have the same structure. The first step, after conferences with all the Town and City Clerks and members of the Boards of Civil Authority, will be to recruit three volunteers from each Voting District who will each be responsible for one of the three aspects of the voting procedures in their own District: 1) Registration; 2) Voter Education; 3) Voter turn-out. The three volunteers in turn will each be asked to recruit ten volunteers to help with their respective tasks. The theory behind this is the pebble-in-the-pond syndrome whereby we hope that the work can best be accomplished by a lot of people doing a small job, rather than the reverse, a lot of work by a few people.

The volunteers do not have to be League members, although of course they may be. Each volunteer will be asked to contribute \$10 to cover the cost of materials.

The League will be responsible for creating job and goal descriptions to all volunteers, and providing them with the necessary information relative to the successful approach to the accomplishment of their specific goals.

We are hopeful that our League's sponsorship of this non-partisan grass-roots approach will result in many more citizens letting their voices be heard in November. If so, maybe we would be creating a model that could be used throughout the state.

If you are interested in this project, call Louise after April 1st at 985-8706.

Transportation Study

At least 8 interviews have been held with transportation officials. If you would like to see the notes from these meetings, go to the state League website.

Health Care Reform

In spite of the quandary that the White House and national legislators appear to be in, our legislators in Montpelier are looking at bills that could bring us single-payer health care. You can go to the Legislative Bill Tracking system to see what's happening with S.88, H.100, H.372, H.491 and H.510.

Vermont for Single-Payer, Dr. Deb Richter's group, held a very well-attended meeting Weds. March 3rd in Memorial Lounge at UVM's Waterman building. CV League members Jean Hopkins and Laura Middleton attended and would love to talk with you about it.

The Vermont Workers' Center is making plans for a rally on Saturday May 1st at the State House. Sign-up sheets are being distributed. Call Jean at 863-5359 if you would like to go or if you know of a group of people who would like to sign up. Buses will be available.

You will find a tribute to June Carmichael on the next page

Tribute to June Carmichael from the Town of Essex Annual Report

DEDICATION

This Annual Report is dedicated to

June Miles Carmichael

April 19, 1938 – March 27, 2009

June Carmichael was born in Montreal, Quebec and lived, worked, loved, and managed Vermont in her involvement with the Town of Essex. As a person, June was loyal, honest, caring and brave. Whatever the situation or political issue, June acted in the best interest of the majority of her constituents. She was an intelligent and compassionate leader who represented individuals or groups in the Town with integrity whether serving Essex, the League of Women Voters or the League of Cities and Towns. June did not miss meetings; she was thoroughly prepared yet observed and listened much more than she spoke. However, when some issue needed her comments, she was clear and concise with her message.

As a Selectman, June was the embodiment of an empathetic political leader. June voted with her heart, conscience and mind and in so doing, guaranteed that the citizens came first. She equally represented all citizens of Essex yet was devoted to the concept of the greatest good for the greatest number. Her detail orientation translated into precise meeting minutes for all meetings at which she attended, error free annual reports, memos and public documents. She was the grammarian's grammarian.

June served on the Town of Essex Planning Commission from 1975 through 1986; the Economic Development Commission from 1986-1987 and the Town of Essex Selectboard from 1987-1999. June was an active member of the Vermont League of Cities and Towns as a League Director and in 1985 was recognized as the Vermont Municipal Person of the Year. She was a member and longstanding treasurer for the Vermont League of Women Voters from 1972 through 2009. She wrote and edited "The Vermont Citizens Guide to Government in Vermont" in 1993 and 2004, a document widely used by libraries, schools, attorneys and others.

Although June is physically absent, her voice, legacy of compassion and clear understanding of her role in a representative democracy, lives on in all of us who knew her. She lead by example, spoke when necessary, and with each vote, placed others first. She avoided the spotlight even when she deserved to be its focus. Her humility was legend; her accomplishments were shared with everyone. She was generous with her praise and kind with her corrective suggestions of change. She will be missed.