

THE CHAMPLAIN VALLEY VOTER

Newsletter of the League of Women Voters of the Champlain Valley

September-October 2011

Contact: Vee Gordon, President 876-7869 Jean Hopkins, editor 863-5359

Calendar of Events

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

Date	Time	Place	Description
Oct. 14-16		Hampton Inn Wells, Maine	Quad State. Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont state Leagues meet to decide on policies. For more info, see http://lwvofvt.org/Publications.html .
Nov. 16	10:30 am	TBD	CVLWV Board of Directors Monthly Meeting. All members are welcome to consensus on National Study on the role of the Federal Government in Education.

Message from the Vice President

Seek, and Ye Shall Find ...Observe, and Ye Shall Learn, Decipher, Reveal

League members who have been part of an Observer Corps in the past know just how much you can learn by watching public officials in action. Your presence at a meeting can also change the behavior of those being observed. No one operates best in a vacuum and democracy was designed with such participation in mind.

Google your favorite town, such as "Essex, VT", and click thru its government website to find when there's a board or committee meeting that interests you. Become a "regular," and I'll bet you'll learn a lot more than you bargained for!

When you observe something noteworthy, jot it down, and share it with other League members thru the VOTER by contacting our editor at seaheidi@earthlink.net.

Thank you!

~Irene Wrenner

Registering Voters at Naturalization Ceremonies

LWV Participation at the Naturalization Ceremony August 15, 2011

The candidates from 22 countries speak our language well and these 30 men and women are more knowledgeable of the US Government than many of us.

The new citizens were on time for their ceremony at the US District Court, turned in their green cards and happily took their oath of allegiance.

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They listened attentively to the remarks by Honorable John Conroy, US Magistrate Judge and, when they received their certificates, beamed for the cameras. Added to the special ceremony were the color guard and patriotic songs sung by a Rice High School student.

It was a true pleasure to observe this ceremony and know that the league members were available to make the day complete by registering new voters.

Marge Gaskins and Jean Hopkins showed patience and professionalism as the men and women were thrilled to know that they now can fully participate in our democracy.

Judge Conroy reminded them that they not only are able to vote now but also could be a candidate for a political office!

~Nancy Tracy

Help with New-Citizen Voter Registration

Volunteer to be a voter registrar! The naturalization ceremonies at the Burlington Federal Building, next to the Post Office on Elmwood Ave. are usually held on Monday once a month at 2pm. If this time is good for you, call Jean Norton at 879-0872 for more information.

Health Care Reform

Governor Shumlin has now appointed the 5 members of the Green Mountain Care Board. They are responsible for seeing that Act 48 is implemented. The five members are: Chair Anya Rader Wallack, Ph.D. of Calais who has served as Gov. Shumlin's Special Assistant for Health Reform, Karen Hein, M.D. of Jacksonville, Con Hogan of Plainfield, Allan Ramsay, M.D. of Essex Junction and Al Gobeille of Shelburne

Dues are Due!

If you haven't renewed your League dues for the current fiscal year (July 2011-June 2012), would you please remit \$50 payable to:

"Champlain Valley League of Women Voters" and mail to our treasurer, Irene Wrenner, 15 Thrush Lane, Essex Jct, VT 05452.

Our per-member-premiums are due, in turn, to the national and state leagues, so your prompt payment is very much appreciated.