



The Broome-Tioga Voter

Bulletin of the *League of Women Voters of Broome & Tioga Counties*
www.lwv-broometioga.org *Like us on Facebook!*

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of

Broome & Tioga Counties

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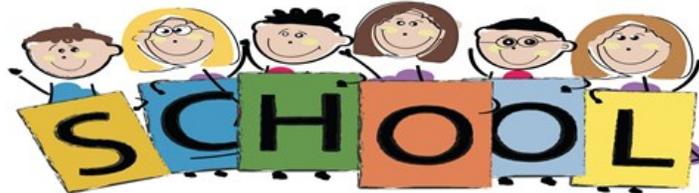
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The League of Women Voters of Broome & Tioga Counties

SEPTEMBER 2015 PROGRAM

ISSUES IN EDUCATION

Speakers:

Dr. Suzanne E. McLeod, Superintendent, Union-Endicott CSD
Kenneth C. Smith, New York State United Teachers Board of Directors
Thomas Snyder, NYSUT Political Action Coordinator

6:45 p.m.

Tuesday, September 22nd, 2015

Vestal Public Library

Join us as our guests provide insights regarding
important public school issues.

We may all learn something!

The Vestal Library is accessible to people with disabilities.

Co-Presidents' Report

On the Horizon

Summer is a time to rest and relax but also a time to plan and organize for the year ahead. The LWVBTC is planning events for the fall which will look at issues affecting public education (Common Core) and Veterans' Services. Those programs will be held at the Vestal Public Library September 22nd and October 27th at our usual times (6:45-8:45 p.m.). We will be looking ahead with the rest of the region to an election for our NYS Senator on November 3rd. The next Naturalization Ceremony will be November 13th. There are many opportunities for members to assist in committees, programs, and voter registration drives. The Board will again be planning a fund-raising trip as our last two events (one to Auburn and Seneca Falls and one to Hyde Park) were fun and profitable. In order to decrease expenses and improve our bottom line, the Board has decided to reduce the number of newsletters produced and mailed to save money. We have heard from the state League that member input will be requested on a concurrence "regarding raising the age that individuals are treated as adults in the criminal justice system from 16 years old to 18 years old; currently, 16 and 17-year olds are considered adults." Two areas that the LWVUS will be considering this fall are the process by which the US Constitution can be amended and the ever concerning issue of "money in politics." Kay Sharp from the Tompkins County LWV has been organizing regional calls that allow League members from around the Southern Tier to share ideas, successes, and concerns. If you would like to participate in the next conference call, please let us know. Members, we need your help and we look forward to your support and interest as summer winds down.

- Sara Wokan and Susan Ruff

Co-Presidents

The League of Women Voters of Broome & Tioga Counties

OCTOBER 2015 PROGRAM

Issues Important to Veterans with a Disability

Panel Discussion and Speakers:

- Jeffrey W. Largue, President of The Military Order of the Purple Heart, also serves as the Commander of local D.A.V., Chapter 60.
- John Peterson, Vice President of the local chapter of Veterans for Peace
- Constance Brown, disabled Army veteran
- Dan Booker, her husband and Veteran Home and Community Based Service Program Caregiver
- Joe Toman, Veterans Peer Advocate at Southern Tier Independence Center

6:45 p.m.

Tuesday, October 27th, 2015

Vestal Public Library



COMING SOON...

Meet Our September Program

Speakers:

Dr. Suzanne E. McLeod, U.E. Superintendent of Schools, will bring us updates and insight into the Common Core. She will explain what it is and what it is not. She will show us the larger picture of why our students must work toward being able to compete in not just the state or national workplace, but on the global stage. She will talk about other education issues of interest, such as improving high school graduation rates, and she will be able to answer your questions about what is going on with education in our area. So come on out to this program and hear a local, top innovator in education, Dr. Suzanne E. McLeod!

We are pleased that two members of New York State United Teachers will participate in our September program on educational issues, Kenneth C. Smith from the board of directors and Thomas Snyder, political action coordinator. Kenneth C. Smith has been active in NY-SUT for seventeen years and currently serves on its board of directors. Mr. Smith worked for many years as a business representative for the Carpenters' Union but says that he always had an interest in education and a desire to be a teacher. He returned to college to take the necessary course work, earning a master's degree in adult education from Buffalo State and certification in school administration from SUNY-Cortland. Mr. Smith taught carpentry at BOCES for twelve years and has been serving as a work experience coordinator at BOCES for the past four years.



A service of the League of Women Voters Education Fund VOTE411.org is a “one-stop-shop” for election related information, providing nonpartisan information with both general and state-specific information on all aspects of the election process.

At www.vote411.org, you just enter your address and up comes information about all the different districts you live in AND candidate information and responses to questions the League has asked. You can even print out your choices to use as a reference when you go to the polls.

Look for candidate responses for statewide and local offices.

Watch your e-mail for notification that the races are “live.”



www.lwv.org

www.vote411.org

In Rural New York, Child Care Is Getting Harder To Come By

Good day care can be hard to find, especially in rural areas. Low population density means commercial day care centers are rare, so a lot of parents rely on smaller child cares run out of peoples' homes. In one New York county, those family-run establishments are disappearing.

Teri Brogdale lives on a quiet street, near the edge of town. But inside, her house is pretty lively — she runs a day care called Teri's Little Angels.

Brogdale has been at this for almost 23 years. But now she's getting out of the day care business. She's ready to retire.

"I'm burned out. Twenty-three years — I'm ready. I'm tired," she says.

In rural Tioga County where Brogdale lives, many of the day care providers are just like her — they've been at this a long time, and they want to retire. But very few new family child cares are starting up to replace the ones that are closing.

That's the case elsewhere in the U.S., too. The number of family child care facilities dropped about 12 percent between 2013 and 2014, according to a recent report. Over the same period, commercial day cares also declined by about 4 percent.

Even with the recent economic rebound, the day care industry still struggles. As people started going back to work, women in particular were finding low-wage work — "shift work, hospitality jobs that weren't affording them the high price of child care," says Mary Beth Testa, a lobbyist for the National Association for Family Child Care.

Testa says tight budgets hit family child cares especially hard because they're so small. Lynette Brind knows all about that. She's one of the brave few starting a new family child care in Tioga County. Right now she has one customer and no other income beyond child support for her three daughters.

"I run the house on \$200 a week. We go without," she says, "but we make it work."

It was an eight-month ordeal to start her day care. She had to get her water tested, and undergo a radon test — and she failed both.

"You have to bleach your system when the water test fails, and it ruined my hot water heater so I had to spend five days replacing this element that exploded in the bottom," she says.

It's common for regulatory hurdles like these ones to discourage potential newcomers, says Ann Shear, Tioga County's liaison for day care providers. Many states, including New York, have tightened the rules for family child care lately.

"The application keeps getting bigger and bigger and longer and longer, and it's a little bit overwhelming when they open up that booklet and see 60 pages," she says.

But Shear says the county really needs people who are willing to follow the rules and then some. The area needs quality programs, not simply a place to take kids.

Shear says demand for child care is holding steady. And if she can't find new ways to recruit those quality providers, the county could have a real crisis on its hands.

Reprint permission—WSKG.

- http://www.npr.org/2015/07/14/420919246/in-rural-areas-parents-struggle-to-find-day-care-for-kids?utm_source=News+eNewsletter&utm_campaign=6da8955b94-0715157_15_2015&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_e

~ You're Invited ~

The League of Women Voters of Broome and Tioga Counties

cordially invite you to our

Annual December Brunch

featuring sundry delicious delectables!

Albany Update

Guest Speakers:

Assembly Member, 122nd District, Clifford Crouch

Assembly Member, 123rd District, Donna Lupardo

9:30 a.m.—11:30 a.m.

Saturday, December 5, 2015

Location to be announced by email.

Guest Viewpoint

Hey, Albany!

What happened to ethics reform?

The 2015 legislative session wrapped up a week later than scheduled. During the last two weeks of session, nearly 540 bills passed both houses. But the big story was the last bill approved — the "Big Ugly."

What's a "Big Ugly"? The Big Ugly is an amalgamation of smaller proposals lumped together into one "big" bill. In this case, the 72-page bill covered a wide range of topics, including: extension of rent control largely for New York City tenants; extension of tax credit programs for developments in New York City; expansion of charter schools in New York City; \$250 million in aid for nonpublic K-12 schools; aid for the city of Yonkers; and an extension of the state's property tax cap.

All in one piece of legislation. Ugly.

And the legislation was slapped together and made public a mere few hours before the Legislature voted on the legislation, which — by the way — was around midnight. The process was ugly too.

Hence, the "Big Ugly."

And to add insult to injury, the governor and state lawmakers ignored the elephant in the room — the swelling number of scandals and indictments that have plagued Albany.

It really was remarkable: lawmakers were complaining that they were having a hard time negotiating agreements because the U.S. Attorney was watching. They said that his indictments of the former Assembly Speaker and Senate Majority Leader complicated the session.

It's not surprising that the indictments had some impact on the session. But you can't have it both ways: complain that the U.S. Attorney is watching after the arrests of the legislative leaders and then ignore reforms that could help restore the public's trust in their own government.

But they did just that.

The few reforms that were approved came in the state budget agreement, but were widely criticized as

"inadequate" to solve the massive scandals that have plagued the Capitol. The failure to enact any other needed changes was indefensible and shockingly irresponsible.

Instead, the governor and the legislative leaders should have taken steps to:

- Strengthen the state ethics watchdogs to bolster their independence and public accountability.
- Place real limits on lawmakers' outside employment.
- Appoint an independent executive and legislative compensation commission.
- Close the LLC loophole created by the Board of Elections, in addition to other critical campaign finance reforms.

Any ethics agreement is only as good as the agencies charged with its enforcement. New York's ethics enforcement entities — JCOPE and the Legislative Ethics Commission — require substantial improvement.

New Yorkers deserved a serious response before the end of session in this year of unending corruption scandals. Inaction and deflection in the face of the continuing ethics scandals is unacceptable. New York's political leadership must strengthen regulation, oversight and the enforcement of the state's ethics laws. New Yorkers across the state are demanding no less.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo and the state's legislative leaders shouldn't blow off their responsibility to strengthen the state's ethics. The governor in particular has to take the lead: the governor should convene a special session to tackle ethics reforms before the end of the calendar year.

The "Big Ugly" must not be the final word on the 2015 legislative session.

- Blair Horner, legislative director for the New York Public Interest Research Group.

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-<http://www.pressconnects.com/story/opinion/2015/07/13/guest-viewpoint-ethics-reform/3009301>



Voter Services

We are once again participating in Vote 411 covering selected statewide and local races, as well as candidate events and voter registration.

This year, for the first time, we have applied to table at “**Applefest**”, on September 19th from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Washington Avenue in the Village of Endicott. We’ll be conducting voter registration. If you are interested in helping out at the table for an hour or so, please contact me at 655-1929, e-mail mgoodfel@binghamton.edu. The fest includes live music, vendors and plenty of apples! If you can’t help out, visit the festival anyway and stop by to say hello.

In October, I’ll be tabling at the Community Service Event at Binghamton University. I participated last year and had lots of fun, as well as recruited a couple of students along the way.

As summer ends, I couldn’t help but notice how busy our League Members are and how much they contribute to the community. Barbara Shope had a showing in August of her paintings at Gallery Forty-One in Owego. I ran into Sue Garing at the American Civic Association’s Garlic Fest selling her honey and garlic (of course). I stocked up on both. Loved the table signage. “Honey made from Broome County Bees”. Can’t buy more local than that!

Judy Arnold submitted an interesting letter to the editor of the Binghamton Press and Sun-Bulletin published August 6th on the subject of international tax laws for corporations. It is reprinted in full below. Permission granted by Judy Arnold.
~Margaret Goodfellow

Legislators out of touch with taxpayers

Your editorial of July 29th plays to more budget diets and misses a major root cause of local cuts to public services. New York State routinely refunds taxes on Wall Street trading. Because of the

carried interest loophole, the top marginal tax rate on hedge fund manager investment earnings is 20 percent, instead of the top tax rate of 39.6 percent on ordinary income — earnings from labor.

Now, the Schumer-Portman tax reform framework is a new giveaway to big corporations, many of whom do not pay any taxes. A deemed repatriation tax rate of only 14 percent on the current \$2.1 trillion in U.S. corporate offshore profits that have not been taxed here at home is again way too low. Another giant new tax loophole, known as a patent or innovation box, will exacerbate the current massive tax avoidance by high-tech and pharmaceutical companies.

This is compounded injury to ordinary, taxpaying residents when our federal senators and representatives fail to hold the wealthy and corporations to fair taxation. We want our federal dollars used locally. The state and federal legislators are out of touch with the average American taxpayer---yes, Payer, no more dodge ball, play fair.

Heed the words of John Adams: “Government is instituted for the common good; for the protection, safety, prosperity, and happiness of the people; and not for profit, honor or private interest of any one man, family, or class of men...”
-Judith Arnold, Johnson City



Former state legislators John Faso and Richard Brodsky at the LWVNY State Convention June 6th. Photo credit to Sara Wokan.

Update on Finances

At the end of June 2015, our total assets were somewhat higher than they were one year earlier, including a healthier balance in our checking account and in our Education Foundation account. The board is pleased to report that we did not need to withdraw any funds from our reserves in Fiscal Year 2014-2015.

We were able to save money this year by sending only two delegates to the State Convention, instead of the usual four, and by having delegates who were willing to travel to Albany at 5:30 a.m. to avoid two nights in a hotel. We cannot count on saving money on conventions this way every year.

The Board is now considering other ways of reducing our expenses. This year we will be mailing fewer issues of the Voter and will rely more on email to communicate. Also, we are exploring a different, less expensive phone service.

The most important reason for improved finances, however, was the success of our two fund raisers, the trips to Seneca Falls in the autumn and to Hyde Park in the spring. Many thanks to our members and friends who supported these events!

Many members will recall that we once had an annual fund raiser by assisting the Board of Elections with election night reporting. This activity raised about \$1,000.00, and more whenever a primary was held, and we depended on it to balance our budget. In 2012 the Board of Elections instituted a new system, which did not include the League. We have been in need of other fund raisers since then.

We do not wish to raise our dues, but we do need to continue holding fund raisers. We would welcome new ideas for them. The Board will also be considering ways of encouraging more financial support from members who are able and from the community at large.

- LWVBTC Board of Directors



The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan, grassroots political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Men and women of voting age are welcome to join.

Be Part of the Action—Join Today!

Membership Application

- Individual membership \$50/yr.
- Household membership \$75/yr. (2 people)
- Student membership \$20/yr.
- Send me information about the League.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Make checks payable to LWVBTC and mail with this coupon to LWVBTC, PO Box 944, Vestal, NY 13851-0944.

I would like to support the League with a tax deductible contribution to the LWVNYS Education Foundation \$_____.

Make checks payable to “LWVNYS Education Foundation” and mail with this coupon to LWVBTC, PO Box 944, Vestal, NY 13851-0944.

The Broome-Tioga Voter

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Calendar

Visit lwv-broometioga.org for the latest event details.

<i>2nd Tuesday</i>	<i>LWVBTC Board Meeting, open to the public, 6:30 pm, Note new location: ETM Solar Works, 300 North Street, Endicott, NY</i>
September 8	LWVBTC Board Meeting
September 19	Endicott Apple Fest Voter Registration
September 22	LWVBTC Program on Issues in Education at Vestal Public Library
October 27	LWVBTC Program on Veterans' Issues at Vestal Public Library
December 5	LWVBTC Annual December Brunch

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