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THE LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS
of Schenectady County New York

BULLETIN

June 2016

Annual Meeting/ Restaurant Gift Card Raffle

Tuesday, June 7, 5:30- 9 PM

Turf Tavern Restaurant, 40 Mohawk Avenue, Scotia

Speaker- Philip Morris, CEO of Proctors

Schenectady: "The Inside-Out City"

Menu entrée choices: Chicken Florentine, Panko Parmesan Tilapia, or Eggplant Parmesan. Please indicate if you require a gluten-free meal or other accommodation.

Cost \$30.00, **reservations are due by May 31st**, call or e-mail Carol Furman, 346-2746, cfurman@earthlink.net. Cancellations cannot be accepted after May 31st unless a replacement can be found, as we must guarantee the number by that date.

Please bring program statements, budget and slate of officers from March, April and May bulletins to meeting.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday, June 28, 1-4 PM

New/Old Board Meeting

1540 Keyes Ave., Niskayuna
Contact: Carol Furman, 346-2746

July 18-22, 11:45 AM- 1 PM

SICM Summer Lunch Program

Schenectady County Public Library
99 Clinton St., Schenectady
Contact: Helga Schroeter,
helgasasquith@verizon.net

Message from the Steering Committee

Our annual meeting and dinner at the Turf Tavern is coming up soon on Tuesday, June 7th. We have the good fortune of having Philip Morris, CEO of Proctors Theatre, as the featured speaker. Philip will talk about some of the unusual characteristics of the Capital District in “The Inside-Out City”, with the population of a large metropolitan area fragmented into small and very small cities, small towns, suburbs and open land and how it affects politics and the economy. It’s sure to be an interesting talk.

We are also proud to present the 2016 Susan B. Anthony Award to League member Mary Pritchard for her outstanding service to the League and the community. At the dinner, Helen MacDonald will tell us about Mary’s many contributions.

Our fundraiser at the annual dinner this year will be a restaurant gift card raffle with the proceeds to be used for educational activities sponsored by the League, including a CDTA bus ad promoting VOTE411.org. Area restaurants have been very generous, donating \$15-\$35 gift cards, with cuisines ranging from Spanish to BBQ, Italian, Bistro, Thai, American, Moroccan and Asian Fusion. See p.5 for a list of restaurants represented in the raffle. Raffle tickets are 2/\$5 or 5/\$10.

During the business part of our meeting, we will vote on the Schenectady LWV budget and changes to position statements. We will also be electing members to the Board and presenting the many people who have agreed to serve as project coordinators who are appointed by the Board. We could not do the valuable work of the League without these dedicated leaders and we appreciate their willingness to serve.

We will also be voting on the LWVNYS budget at the annual meeting. The LWVNYS budget is posted at http://www.lwvny.org/LLresources/SBR_StateNews/2016/May/Full-Council-Kit-2016.pdf and will be available at the annual meeting.

Don’t forget to bring separate checks (or cash!) to renew your membership, pay for dinner and buy raffle tickets. Between our featured speaker, the Susan B. Anthony Award presentation, the restaurant gift card raffle, the business meeting and friends to reconnect with, we have a great evening to look forward to.

Cheryl Nechamen, Lead

STEERING COMMITTEE

Carol Furman	(346-2746)	Lead for December 2015, January, February, June 2016
Cheryl Nechamen	(346-4820)	Lead for March – May, July 2016
Ruth Bonn	(384-0804)	Lead (completed)

Bulletin Editor: Cheryl Nechamen (346-4820)

Mission Statement: The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan political organization. We encourage the informed and active participation of citizens in government. We work to increase the understanding of major public policy issues and influence public policy through education and advocacy.

SICM Summer Lunch Program

The Schenectady League is once again participating in the Summer Lunch Program during the week of July 18-22, from 11:45 AM to 1:00 PM at the downtown public library. Three volunteers are needed for each day. Please look for a sign-up sheet at the annual meeting or

e-mail your availability to Helga Schroeter at helgasasquith@verizon.net or Sally Knutson at sally-knutson@hotmail.com. You can also contact the SICM office and ask for Dave Taylor for details.

Voter Services Reminders for June

Primary Election Reminder

There will be no Congressional Primary in Schenectady County this June. The next and final primary election in 2016 will be held on Tuesday, September 13th for local and state candidates.

Help Wanted!

Help is still needed for Voter Registration drives on:

Saturday, June 18th, Juneteenth Celebration, Central Park, 11 AM- 2 PM or 2- 5 PM

Saturday, July 16th, Canal Fest, Mabee Farm, 11 AM- 1 PM or 1- 3 PM

Tuesday, September 27th, National Voter Registration Day at various locations, 3 hour shifts

For specific information on locations & times, contact Kay Ackerman 393-5000 or kaydonack@aol.com.

The **Health Committee** will meet with the Falls Prevention Workgroup in June to discuss further opportunities locally for "train the trainer" programs on falls prevention. We will invite a representative from the QTAC Center of Excellence in Aging, SUNY Albany, to discuss

their partnership and opportunities for training. If you are interested in joining the workgroup attempting to reduce falls among seniors in Schenectady County, contact Carol Furman, 346-2746.

Human Rights Commission of Schenectady County Awards Breakfast

This year's celebration on May 19th had thirty different entries in the four categories of individual, group, youth and criminal justice awards. The winner of the individual award was Shirley Readdean (LWV member). Her award was long overdue in terms of the many years of commitment Shirley has given to the community.

The League nominated SAFE, Inc. for the group award, but it was not the final winner. Each one

of the nominees received extensive recognition and coverage. It was also very encouraging to see so many youths recognized for their individual or group efforts in the community. The Judicial Award was given to the Schenectady County Drug Court Team. Supreme Court Justice Vincent Reilly had nominated them; the Schenectady League had been very involved in the Drug Court's establishment in past years.

Annual Meeting and Restaurant Gift Card Raffle

Tuesday, June 7, 5:30- 9 PM

Turf Tavern Restaurant, 40 Mohawk Avenue, Scotia

Speaker- Philip Morris

CEO of Proctors

Schenectady: the “Inside-Out City”

We usually think of the Capital District as a *region* of four small cities (Albany, Schenectady, Troy, and Saratoga), some very small cities (Cohoes, Watervliet, and Scotia), some small towns, some open land, and many suburbs. The region is a complex matrix, rich in history, but hard to wrap one’s arms around as a planner. And it certainly makes for fragmented politics.

What if we thought of it as one city? How big would it be? Are there advantages to looking at things this way? Mr. Morris will un-wrap these sorts of questions in a wide ranging and informative talk which should not be missed by anyone with an interest in our area.

Who’s Who

The 2016-2017 Who’s Who is hot off the press and will be available at the annual meeting. We will not be mailing the guide this year so feel free

to pick up extra copies to distribute. Thanks to Judy Middelkoop for all of her hard work compiling the Who’s Who.

Schenectady BOE Candidate Forum

A big thank you to everyone who helped with the Schenectady Board of Education Candidate Forum on May 12th. Vickie McGowan organized the forum; Carol Furman (moderator), Peggy King and Maxine Borom (question checkers),

Mike Horan and Skip Darcy (timekeepers) and Cheryl Nechamen (question collector) did a great job letting the public question the candidates running for the School Board: Cathy Lewis, Ann Reilly and Will Rivas.

LWV Lobby Day

Several Schenectady LWV members joined Helga Schroeter to attend a “Raise the Age” press conference on Lobby Day, May 11th. It was a very moving event featuring a group of mothers who reported on their individual experiences with their children who had been charged as adults in our current NYS system.

One case even ended in a suicide by the young man affected by his treatment in adult prison. Our team also spoke briefly to Senator Amedore and Assemblyman Tedisco, but much more follow-up needs to be done on this issue. It is not likely to get passed during this legislative session.

Restaurant Gift Card Raffle at the Annual Meeting, June 7th

The Restaurant Gift Card Committee has worked hard to solicit donations from these fine restaurants. Thank you Kay Ackerman, Betsy Chase, Carol Fischer, Ann Hatke, Judy Middelkoop, Johanna Petersen, Flora Ramonowski and Connie Young!

Participating Restaurants:

Ambition Café
Cella Bistro
Charlton Tavern
Ferrari's Ristorante
Garden Bistro 24
Glenville Queen
Jade Bistro
LT's Grill
Peter Pause

Pho Queen
Scotti's Restaurant
Tara Kitchen
Tesoros Cafe
Tops American Grill
Turf Tavern
Villa Italia
Water's Edge Lighthouse Restaurant
Zen Asian Fusion Lounge

Clean Power Plan Moving Forward in Many States

Many states are still moving forward with complying with the Clean Power Plan at the state level despite a stay of the regulation by the U.S. Supreme Court. It's important for Leagues to have a voice in the development of the state implementation plans of this important regulation. The Climate Action Toolkit now includes a section (http://participate.lwv.org/c/9217/p/salsa/web/common/public/content?content_item_KEY=10158) outlining what Leagues and League members can do to help build

support for, and promote compliance with, the Clean Power Plan. Included are suggestions of state and local organizations that could be good partners for League action efforts as well as ideas for education and advocacy initiatives. The toolkit also includes basic background information about the Clean Power Plan itself.

Excerpted from LWVUS League Update May 12, 2016

Take Action: Fix the Federal Election Commission

Based on our new position on Money in Politics, the League has endorsed legislation by Senator Tom Udall (D- NM) that would create a new independent agency to replace the Federal Election Commission. The Federal Election Administration Act of 2016, would restructure the Federal Election Commission (FEC) as a five-member commission. The League sent a

letter to the U.S. Senate in support of this bill and members of the Lobby Corps will be visiting Senate offices throughout May. League members can also contact their members of Congress to address this issue using our latest action alert.

Excerpted from LWVUS League Update May 12, 2016

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Our League goals are to educate citizens about government and public policy, encourage citizen participation in elections, and influence public policy relating to issues we've studied. Dues money makes working on our goals possible.

DUES for July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017 (half-year dues reduction available- contact Connie Young at 393-7061)

Return to: LWV of Schenectady County, P.O. Box 9135, Schenectady, NY 12309

New or Renewing Members Please Confirm this Contact Information

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

_____ \$60 Individual _____ \$85 Household _____ \$20 Full-time student

_____ Additional support for the League, dues plus \$10 contribution (\$70 or \$95 – circle one)

(Confidential arrangements for special payment or partial assistance can be made. Contact Connie Young at 393-7061 with any questions. Dues and contributions are not tax deductible.)

.....
_____ *I am sending my membership dues payment, but please consider me an **INACTIVE member**.*

.....
ACTIVE MEMBERS: The League depends upon the work of its members, even for a short task. Please check any activities that interest you. We appreciate your help.

Committees Judicial _____ Health _____ Membership _____ Fundraising _____
Environment _____ Observer Corps _____ Education _____

Voter Services Voter Registration _____ Candidate Forums _____ Voter Information _____

Computer Skills Graphics/Layout _____ Databases _____ Website Work _____

Facebook _____ Electronic Publicity _____

Other Technical Skill? (Describe) _____

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