

News From *Your* State League

Update from LWVNYS

September 2007

Election Season 2007

Election season 2007 is around the corner with Primary Day now just over a month away. Remember that Primary Day has been changed to September 18th and Election Day 2007 is November 6. Leagues across the state are gearing up for a busy season by preparing and distributing Voter Guides, planning debates and forums, and holding other voter service activities.

First Vote Update

First Vote has been updated and is available immediately. It is free with local Leagues paying only the cost of shipping. If you plan to be in Albany, please stop by the state League office and pick up a box or three! Please plan to distribute this important resource through your local voter service activities. As mentioned in *First Vote*, beginning in 2008, the New York State Presidential primary is being moved to February. Fall voter service activities are an ideal venue to begin reminding voters of that fact.

Smart Voter for Election 2007

The state League staff will be working to bring Smart Voter current for the 2007 elections over the next couple of weeks. Since there are no elections to be covered specifically by the state League for 2007, the state page will focus on general voter information, important links, and information on the proposed ballot issues.

There are two ways for local Leagues to begin to utilize Smart Voter. The first way is free and part of the franchise fee paid by the state League! You can send us links for your county. Your county page should, at minimum, be linked to all of the local Leagues in your county, the county board of elections, and other offices that will be helpful to voters. The second way to use Smart Voter involves the personalized ballot/local look-up feature. This path requires two vital components. They are human resource time for data entry and server costs.

If your local League, or a group of local Leagues in one county, want to pursue this option please give the state League office a call to talk. Let's brainstorm ways to get this fantastic voter resource tool implemented in your area!

Youth Development Initiative

The Youth Development Initiative, consisting of *LeaderSpark* and *Students Inside Albany*, held the *LeaderSpark* 2007-2008 Orientation Training by telephone on August 1. Three local Leagues new to *LeaderSpark* were on that call as well as a representation of seasoned *LeaderSpark* programs. A training is being scheduled for September or early October 2007 for *LeaderSpark* Coordinators, likely to be held in Syracuse. Regional Facilitator trainings will be held in January in the Long Island, Capital, and western New York regions. Local Leagues generally run programs during the period of February through April, though some have experimented successfully with summer sessions and one is running a fall 2007 session. If your local League is interested there is still time to participate. Contact your state League office.

Liability Insurance for Your Events

The state League pays the annual cost of a liability insurance policy that covers the LWVNYS, LWVNYSEF, and local Leagues. The limit of liability is \$1,000,000 per occurrence and covers the League for liability, personal injury, non-owned and hired auto liability, and medical payments of \$5,000 per person. The League of Women Voters and all local Leagues are covered for the amounts, which they become legally obligated to pay as damages because of bodily injury, and property damage from covered perils, up to the policy limit, except for certain exclusions as listed on the policy. The policy will also pay the cost to defend such suits.

This policy does not cover any office or premises that a local League may own, lease, rent, or occupy on a long-term basis. If the local League

rents office space, or a storefront to operate a second-hand shop, no coverage is offered by this policy. There is also no coverage if the local League purchases a building and then leases it to another party for any purpose.

At times insurance certificates are requested when local Leagues meet at schools, libraries, malls, etc. These certificates are proof of our insurance. The state League provides proof of insurance to local Leagues at no charge but you need to provide the following information in order to obtain a certificate of insurance:

- 1.DATE & TIME OF THE EVENT
- 2.LOCATION: the must be the exact physical address of event, including the zip code.
- 3.TYPE OF EVENT: List if it is a Candidate Forum, Membership Meeting, Garage Sale, Debate, Informational Seminar, LeaderSpark Meeting, etc.
- 4.PROOF NEEDED BY: This must be a complete address, the answer to this question could be the same as the answer to #2, but there are exceptions, such as when events are held at High Schools, and the School District is the entity that requires proof of insurance.
- 5.ADDITIONAL INSURANCE: This requires a YES/NO answer. Sometimes the person requesting the certificate asks to be listed as an additional insured. If you answer **YES**, you must provide a complete address, again, this could be the same answer as #2 or #4.
- 6.PROOF SHOULD BE MAILED TO: Once again, a complete address must be provided.

This service is free to local Leagues. Please use it, but follow the above format when making requests to the state office. You can email, mail, or fax the information in the above format.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NEW YORK STATE

62 Grand Street
Albany, NY 12207-1403
(518) 465-4162

Fax (518) 465-0812

Web Address: www.lwvny.org

e-mail: lwvny@lwvny.org

GET INVOLVED!
