

News From *Your* State League

Update from LWVNYS

March 2008

Convention 2008

LWVUS Convention 2008 will be held in Portland, Oregon, June 13-17th. Not only is representation important for your local League, the experience will be personally rewarding and worth the trip. Consider representing your League as a delegate.

National Popular Vote: Update

Members of the former Compact for National Popular Vote study committee have been talking with local Leagues and other state Leagues on the possibility of proposing adoption at Convention 2008 of a National Study entitled "The Advisability of Using the National Popular Vote Compact among the States as a Method for Electing the President." This action comes in the wake of the decision by LWV that "LWVNYS could not take action on any position adopted as a result of that study since the election of the president is a national issue," and the LWVNYS board's subsequent direction to the study team to assess interest in furthering the issue at Convention 2008.

It will officially be introduced as a recommended program item by the state and local Leagues in New York State to bring it to the attention of the national board. If it is not recommended, it will then be on the radar to take further action whether it is to recommend the national study or to make a possible resolution to address the issue.

The LWVNYS website www.lwvny.org is a source of valuable information on this topic.

Centennial Fund News

The draft of the Centennial Plan is currently being reviewed by the LWVNYS board and development committee and will be circulated to local Leagues for their input. The main emphasis of the plan is a document that will serve as a roadmap for the League's future programmatic and financial development. A focus of the plan is to raise an endowment, which when fully funded, will allow the state League to

assist local Leagues with some of the administrative functions for which local Leagues are finding it increasingly difficult to recruit volunteers.

To date, the state League board has pledged \$38,750 to the Centennial Fund with an additional \$3,000 pledged for the benefit of two local Leagues.

Anne Holtzmann Dedication

On Thursday, May 15, 2008, the League will formally dedicate the new building at 62 Grand Street in Albany as the Anne Holtzmann Building. The generous support by Anne Holtzmann during the original building drive made the current purchase possible. A dinner will also be held that evening at the home of Bestey Swan for anyone interested in networking.

Please contact the League office at 518-465-4162 or lwvny@lwvny.org for more information. Anecdotes about Anne Holtzmann and League history are also being sought. Please contact Betsey Swan at the League office or at faircamp@nycap.rr.com to assist with this endeavor.

Domestic Violence

The LWVNYS has joined the New York Statewide Coalition for Fair Access to Family Court. This is a focused attempt to correct a long standing wrong in the failure on the part of the New York State Senate to pass the "Expanded Access to Family Court Act" for domestic violence victims.

Gloria Steinem To Visit Albany

Gloria Steinem Day for Fair Pay will be held on Wednesday, April 2, 2008. A rally will be held in the well of the Legislative Office Building from 9:30 to 11:30 AM in support of pay equity. Attendance is free. You may also dine with Gloria Steinem at the 74 State Street from 12:30-2:00 PM. There is a cost of \$150 for the luncheon of which \$100 is tax deductible. Additionally, you may hear Ms. Steinem at a Town Hall Meeting from 5:30-7:30 PM at the First Unitarian Society, 405 Washington Avenue, Albany NY.

Students Inside Albany

Students Inside Albany 2008 is scheduled for April 27-30 at the Hampton Inn and Suites, downtown Albany. For more information on how to participate in the Students Inside Albany Conference or to initiate a LeaderSpark Student training program in your area for 2008-2009 contact: LWVNYS office at 518-465-4162 or email: lwvny@lwvny.org

Take Action

The Legislative Brochure has been printed and sent to local Leagues and will be distributed to legislators during March and April.

The Legislative Packet will soon be available and should be used as a manual for meeting with your legislators. The packet contains all of the background information on the legislative priorities.

Judicial Decision

The U.S. Supreme Court recently decided that New York State's current party judicial convention system for nominating candidates for state Supreme Court Justice does not violate the US Constitution. Debate continues as to whether it is a wise policy or a good law. The League will continue working toward its position to establish a commission-based appointive system, (merit selection) for the state's judges.

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