

News From *Your* State League

Update from LWVNYS

November 2008

Resources for Local League Leaders

Are you hesitating to take on a leadership role in your local League because you don't know how to do the job? In fact, League work is easy to learn with the many resources available. National and NYS Leagues provide how-to manuals with general information for leaders as well as specifics for most jobs. The state League website is continually updated with background material as well as the latest information about ongoing projects. It also contains the complete text of State Board Reports, including the latest issue. The SBR contains issue updates as well as such organizational data as the bulletin exchange and contact information for the LWVNY Board and portfolio chairs. In addition, listserves and contact with regional directors, state board members, fellow Leaguers you meet at Convention and fall leadership workshops, and LWVNY office staff can help direct you to the information you need. When a report is due, the necessary form is included in the SBR early enough to give you plenty of time to complete it. The State League recognizes the challenges involved in being an active League leader and wants to help. Take them up on their offer and accept the challenge of League leadership.

Citizen Court Monitoring

This program began in 1975, when non-lawyer volunteers were recruited to observe court proceedings and report on their findings and recommendations. The program has been influential in solving many of the problems that ordinary citizens face when dealing with the courts. It has been highly successful at achieving numerous public-interest objectives. Modern Courts wants to expand its monitoring program of local town and village justice courts into additional counties throughout the state. They hope to partner with local Leagues in identifying volunteers for this program. If you're interested, ask your local League president to contact the state League office and find out about joining the program.

Convention 2009

The next LWVNYS Biennial Convention will be May 15-17 at the Doubletree Inn in Syracuse, NY. The Convention theme will be "Fair, Vibrant and Strong". In addition to the usual outstanding speakers, presentations, and entertainment, this Convention will introduce a pre-convention training workshop on Friday afternoon, May 15. This Training will provide more extensive opportunities for training and sharing of experiences in areas most often identified as challenging. While aimed at the new Leader, there will be modules geared specifically to the seasoned Leader. Consider coming to Syracuse early to participate in this new Training.

League Day at the UN

This year's annual UN Day will be on Tuesday, December 2, 2008. The topic will be the *Impact of Global Warming on Women and Children Around the World*. In addition to the main presentation, the day's schedule will include an optional tour of the UN and an optional buffet lunch in the Delegates Dining Room. Be sure to register early – space is limited and seating is on a first come-first serve basis. You can find the registration form on the LWVNYS website at: <http://lwvny.org/un/UNregistrationForm2008.pdf>.

Membership: 'Tis the Season

An Election year is an especially good time to talk to your friends about joining the League. People turn to the League for information so they can cast an informed vote. They look to League-sponsored debates and forums for their non-partisan fairness. They also consult our "Facts for Voters" for reliable information on where state-wide and national candidates stand on the issues they care about. And at a time when the entire nation seems even more partisan than usual, the League's non-partisan approach is a refreshing change.

National Popular Vote Study

At the LWVUS Convention in Portland, OR, in June, the delegates voted to adopt a national study titled "The Advisability of Using the National Popular Vote Compact Among the States as a Method for Electing the President". To keep informed of the progress of the study, join the email discussion list. Just go to the "For Members" section of the LWVUS website (www.lwv.org), click on "Programs and Projects", then "National Popular Vote Compact", and finally "NPV Study Discussion List". There you can give the email address at which you want to receive list mailings. You will need to reply to an email confirming your desire to sign on to the list. That's it – you're on! Or watch the state League website for updates.

Victory: Great Lakes Compact

The Great Lakes are a unique and precious resource, providing fresh water for the 40 million people who live within the basin. Each year, rainfall and snowmelt replenish only about one percent of the water in the basin; the remaining 99 percent is finite and nonrenewable. The Great Lakes Compact, for the first time ever, treats groundwater and surface water as one system subject to the same standard; considers the Great Lakes and their tributaries to be one ecosystem; establishes protection of Great Lakes ecosystems and economies as priorities everywhere in the basin; and ensures that every Great Lake state will have the same fair set of rational protections, while allowing each state flexibility. The U.S. Senate and House have approved the Compact and the President has signed it into law.

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