



*The League of Women Voters of New York State*

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## **STATE BOARD REPORT**

November 2007, Issue #2

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### **Presidents Report**

~Attention: League Presidents

### **Advocacy & Issues**

~Attention: League Presidents and Vice Presidents of Action

### **Membership**

~Attention: League Presidents and Membership Chairs

### **Voter Service**

~Attention: League Presidents and Voter Service Directors

### **Finance and Development**

~Attention: League Presidents

### **Program and Education**

~Attention: League President and Issues/Action Chairs

### **Additional Materials**

~Attention: League Presidents

**STATE BOARD REPORTS ARE AVAILABLE ON OUR  
WEBSITE—[www.lwvny.org](http://www.lwvny.org)**

(Click on *Local League Resources* to get to the link for State Board Reports)

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## **MARTHA'S MEMOS**

To: Local League Presidents  
From: Martha Kennedy, President  
214 Winne Road, Delmar, NY 12054  
Phone: (518) 439-4559  
E-mail: [dkennedy2@nycap.rr.com](mailto:dkennedy2@nycap.rr.com)

“Experience is a teacher that never tells you in advance what your next lesson will be”  
Lou Holtz: Notre Dame football coach.

While I never expected to be quoting a football coach when I took office last spring, I feel the above words should be shared with anyone with an active role in league. The more I experience in my newest position, the more I am certain that the next lesson is on its way...so much for “settling in”. The best part is that I know I am in good company. My suspicion after meeting and talking with a number of League leaders throughout the state and country is that this organization never allows one to become complacent. Another suspicion is that most will agree that this is not a bad thing...we are always learning and growing and meeting those new challenges

Part of my personal opportunity for that next lesson has come from our Ida Trager Regional Training Workshops this fall. With the assistance of other LWFVNY board members, we have been using that opportunity to help bring together the components of our statewide organization and thus ensure the most efficient coordination of resources to enhance the impact of our “one voice”. I encourage you to refer to reports from various board members and off-board specialists in this State Board Report (SBR) to keep that link strong. Please remind your members, both on and off board that this report, along with many other informative items, is available on the league website [www.lwvny.org](http://www.lwvny.org).

In addition, I urge you all to visit the LWFVUS website on a regular basis and consider joining their “LeagueE-Voice Newsletter”. Simply go to the website [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org) and join this service via the box at the top right side of the home page. You will then receive a monthly electronic newsletter from National highlighting that month’s activities as well as upcoming issues of interest. It is an excellent way to keep informed on the work of our National organization.

Finally, remember yet another electronic means to share your knowledge and reap if not the wisdom at least the empathy of other local league presidents. The local league presidents’ listserv is available to all LL presidents to communicate with each other. Simply address your message to [localleaguepresidents@yahoogroups.com](mailto:localleaguepresidents@yahoogroups.com). The experience of other LL presidents may prove invaluable in saving you from the proverbial task of “reinventing the wheel”.

As those of you who are participating in the regional training workshops know, your state board is working to structure our organization for the 21<sup>st</sup> century in terms of financial and personnel resources, utilization of technology, and membership growth. We are

anxious for input in this effort from all local Leagues. Please contact me, any other board member, or the office directly with your thoughts. In addition, the success of voter service activities, implementation of a new state study, youth programs, our annual United Nations briefings day, and the selection of legislative priorities along with other issues and advocacy efforts, remain dependent upon your active participation.

I hope, whether you are a new local League president or have held that position for many years, you still enjoy the thrill of learning from that “next lesson”

The SBR is mailed in Aug., Oct., Dec., Feb., and April to all of the Local League (LL) Presidents via e-mail and posted on our state league website ([www.lwvny.org](http://www.lwvny.org)) in its entirety. In addition, appropriate sections are sent via e-mail to respective LL board members so they will have an update on issues in their area and be encouraged to establish a relationship with the state board member with whom they share an area of responsibility. While the office will provide hard copies to those who request them, in an attempt to reduce the stress on our limited funds, we encourage everyone to find a local contact who can print the parts needed by anyone who does not have computer access. This transition to electronic communication has been difficult for many, but your efforts to support this are most appreciated as we continue to try to curtail expenses.

Within each report, there will be a number of “yellow” pages. These items need your response. We do not need them returned on yellow paper – we simply want to highlight them as items that are to be acted upon. We have wonderfully efficient but very busy office staff, so your help in eliminating the most wasteful activity of repeating requests is most appreciated. We will truly try to keep our “housekeeping” issues to a minimum so we can all spend our valuable time doing the real business of league.

As you will see in Marcia’s Membership Report, there is a liaison program in place to provide telephone opportunity for each LL to voice their concerns and receive verbal reminders about activities, etc. We also encourage you to use our listserves to network directly with other LLs. A summary of those listserve groups is included in this report and your respective board members are encouraged to use the appropriate group to send and receive input on topics in their area. In addition, this provides a way to communicate between SBRs if necessary.

It is critical to our effectiveness as a state and nationwide organization that each LL is aware of opportunities, activities, and action emanating from the state and thus contributes to our collective strength, so please view these communications modes as opportunities rather than burdens.

**REMINDERS:**

Send your **updated board list** to Stephanie. **She does not get this information from National.**

See the attached flyer about the **Ida Trager Regional Training Workshops**. This is our fifth year traveling to regions throughout the state to bring valuable information about the upcoming year as well as providing networking opportunities for area LLs. This year we will discuss the new state study, a new membership recruitment initiative, voter service issues, the relationship between local and state League in terms of the best utilization of services and resources including technology, and an endowment plan to ensure the financial stability of the League in New York State. We have tried to schedule these workshops at times to best accommodate members. Please make sure your League is represented by at least one or two attendees.

**United Nations** briefings this year (Nov. 28) will address the impact of war on women. As always, it promises to be a most informative experience.

Please check our state **League website** [www.lwvny.org](http://www.lwvny.org) often. It is a wonderful resource and continues to grow and improve. In addition to Membership Training, Advocacy, and Voter Service materials, you will find updates on league action, speaker notes, league publications, board updates, and much more.

#### **Inside this State Board Report:**

**Edna Vincenti (1<sup>st</sup> Vice President/Advocacy & Issues)** Reminds us once again to review our legislative priorities from 2007 to come up with our legislative priorities for 2008. She is looking forward to your input for the 2008 Legislative Priorities.

**Georgia DeGregorio (Director, Grassroots Lobby & Off-Board Specialist, Domestic Violence)** Georgia reminds us that when it comes to grassroots lobbying there is power in numbers. She also updates us on what happened in the 2007 legislative session in reference to the issue of domestic violence.

**Lois Haignere (Off-Board Specialist, Pay Equity)** Informs us of the legislative strategies for 2008 on the pay equity issue. *She also continues to rev us up for Gloria Steinem's Albany visit.*

**Gladys Gifford (Off-Board Specialist, Transportation)** Focus' our attention on the announcement of the Thruway Authority about raising tolls by 5% per year through 2011. Why so much, and why now?

**Ruth Bonn & Anne Huberman (Off-Board Specialist, Urban Sprawl)** School us on the importance of curbing sprawl and encouraging compact development to save ourselves from the unthinkable consequences of rapid global warming.

**Marcia Merrins (2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President/Membership)** Provides resources and ideas for membership recruitment and retention and introduces us to the LWVNYS Membership Recruitment Challenge.

**Maggie Moehringer (3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President/Voter Service)** Covers quite a bit of ground in her report on things such as: Voters Guides, February Primary Date, Swearing-In Ceremonies, SmartVoter, and the Voter Service section of our website. Look for the 2007 Voter Service Survey (YELLOW SHEET).

**Betsey Swan (4<sup>th</sup> Vice President/Development)** Gives us more information regarding carrying League into its second century. She talks about Long-Term Planning,

Centennial Fund, Planned Giving Campaign and tax savings for certain League members. Please look for the 2007 Development Survey (YELLOW SHEET).

**JoAnn Ross (Citizen Education Director)** Provides us a LeaderSpark update and requests speaker notes that can be shared with other LL.

Also, JoAnn along with **Lori Dawson (LWVNYS NPV Study Chair)** Update us as to how the preliminary information is coming together for the NPV Study.

PLEASE KEEP IN TOUCH! ... . And remind your president to send an updated board list to Stephanie at the office if that has not already been done.

[Stephanie@lwvny.org](mailto:Stephanie@lwvny.org)



**The State Board and Your Local  
League (LL) Working Together:  
Voter Service/Membership/  
Financial Support/ State Study on  
National Popular**

See the 2007 schedule below and make your reservation to join members from your state board when they come to your area to facilitate training, dialogue, and an active networking opportunity among local Leagues. **Share information and a light meal** with state League president, Martha Kennedy, VPs Marcia Merrins (membership), Maggie Moehringer (Voter Service), and Betsey Swan (development) as well as other state board members.

September 26<sup>th</sup> Western NY 11:00am –3:00pm  
Harlem Road Community Center 4255 Harlem Road, Amherst,  
Y 14226 716-631-7200

October 4<sup>th</sup> Long Island 11:00am – 3:00 pm  
Farmingdale University, 2350 Broadhollow Road  
Farmingdale, NY - Knapp Hall (Peachtree Lounge)

October 5<sup>th</sup> Westchester County 11:00pm - 3:00pm  
Scarsdale Public Library-Olmsted Road and Rt 22

**OCTOBER 20<sup>th</sup> Central NYS 11:00am – 3:00pm**  
Tompkins/Cortland Community College "TC3" Rm.210B  
Off Rt. 13 in Dryden: from No: left @ 1<sup>st</sup> traffic light/  
From So: rt. @ 3<sup>rd</sup> traffic light. Left into 1<sup>st</sup> pkg. Lot.  
1st bldg. by circular drive with flags sculpture &TC3 sign in front.

**November 15<sup>th</sup> Capital Region 4:00pm – 8:00 pm**  
Shenendehowa Senior Citizen Center  
6 Clifton Common Court, Clifton Park, NY 12065

**November 28<sup>th</sup> New York City 4:00pm – 7:30pm**  
45 E33St. (Between Park and Madison Ave) NY.NY 10016, RM.331

**GOALS**

1. Foster strong relationships between the LWWNYS and LWW local Leagues, boards, and members
2. Foster strong relationships among local Leagues within regions.
3. Problem solve among local and state LWWNYS leaders.
4. Identify the best ideas/ people to move LWWNYS forward.
5. Provide a consistent annual platform for open and intimate dialogue, problem solving, and visioning

REGISTRATION IS OPEN TO  
ALL LEAGUE MEMBERS & INTERESTED FRIENDS

Workshops are hosted by area LLs who will make arrangements for food. To show our appreciation for their efforts on behalf of all, please RSVP as soon as possible. Contact the office (see below) if you have any questions. Telephone or written multiple registrations are happily accepted. Thank you!!

PLEASE CLIP AND SEND TO:  
**LWWNYS, 62 Grand Street, ALBANY, NY 12207**  
**Or Fax 518-465-0812 (Credit Card Only)**  
**PHONE: 518-465-4162**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

LOCAL LEAGUE: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

**Workshop I wish to attend**

September 26 <sup>th</sup>	11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Western NY
October 4 <sup>th</sup>	11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Long Island
October 5 <sup>th</sup>	11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Westchester
____October 20 <sup>th</sup>	11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Central NY
____November 15 <sup>th</sup>	4:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.	Capital Reg.
____November 28 <sup>th</sup>	4:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.	New York City

ENCLOSED IS MY REGISTRATION FEE OF \$5  
**My check is enclosed (payable to LWWNYS)**

Charge my:      MasterCard      VISA

Discover      American Express

Cardholder's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



The League of Women Voters of New York State (LWVNYS)  
 in association with  
 The United Nations Department of Public Information  
 AAUW-NYS (American Association of University Women)  
 WBASNY (Women's Bar Association of the State of New York)  
 (additional co-sponsors to be named at a later date)



INVITE YOU TO ATTEND

**BRIEFINGS ON THE EFFECTS OF WAR ON WOMEN AROUND THE WORLD**  
 on Wednesday, November 28, 2007 from \*1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
 \*LWVNYS Registration Desk will be open from 9:00 a.m. until 12:30 p.m.,  
 Briefings will start promptly at 1:00 p.m.\*  
 at the United Nations Headquarters in NYC -- First Avenue at 46th Street

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Day Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Members/Students, Please Select Your Organization

- LWV of \_\_\_\_\_
- HS/College/University
- Zonta International, District 4
- Other Co-Sponsoring Organization \_\_\_\_\_
- AAUW--NYS
- WBASNY

**COST/PAYMENT INFORMATION**

- 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. **Optional** Tour of the UN \$12.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  - 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. **Optional** Lunch Buffet in the Delegates Dining Room \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
*Includes International Buffet, Dessert Bar and Coffee/Tea only*
  - 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. **Briefings Program** in the Dag Hammarskjöld Library Auditorium \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
**\$73 Non-Member \$63 Members of Sponsoring Organizations \$50 Students**
  - Discounted fee to members of sponsoring organization for Tour, Lunch, and Briefing \$ **100**
- TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

My Check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed (make payable to LWVNYS)

Please charge my: \_\_\_\_\_ MasterCard \_\_\_\_\_ VISA \_\_\_\_\_ American Express \_\_\_\_\_ Discover

Card Holder's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE RETURN TO:**

United Nations Briefings/LWVNYS\*\*62 Grand Street \*\* Albany, New York 12207  
 Fax: 518-465-0812 (Credit Card Registrations ONLY)  
 E-Mail: [lwny@lwny.org](mailto:lwny@lwny.org)

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL: 518-465-4162  
 SPACE IS LIMITED, SO RESERVE EARLY

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS NOVEMBER 10, 2007**

For updates on the "Briefings" forum, visit our website: [www.lwny.org](http://www.lwny.org)

TO: Local League Presidents and LL Advocacy & Issues Chairs  
FROM: Edna Vincent, Vice-President, Advocacy & Issues  
99 Elderfields Road, Manhasset, NY 11030  
E-mail: [edna.vincenti@vincenti.com](mailto:edna.vincenti@vincenti.com)

### **ESTABLISHING OUR 2008 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES**

The Issues and Advocacy Committee and the Off-Board Specialists will be meeting in Albany, on November 14<sup>th</sup> to recommend our legislative priorities for 2008. Thank you to all local Leagues who have sent in their priorities. Your responses will determine our “Legislative Priorities 2008”.

(Note: If your league did not submit its “Legislative Priorities”, you may submit them to the State office by e-mail: [stephanie@lwvny.org](mailto:stephanie@lwvny.org) or by fax: 518-465-0812 or snail mail to 62 Grand Street, Albany, NY 12207. All forms must be received by November 10<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Citizen Action Toolkit (CATT)**

To access the Citizen Action Toolkit, you must go to our website: [www.lwvny.org](http://www.lwvny.org), click on TAKE ACTION which is on the banner at the very top of the home page. This is a great tool and the quickest and easiest way to reach your state representatives.

**You can sign on to receive “Action Alerts” automatically!** You will then receive the action alerts immediately. You are given a background of the issue, the League’s position, and a letter to be sent to your representatives when you click “send.” You may write your own letter if you wish. Urge your members to sign on to the Action E-List. Publicize the site in your local newsletter or bulletin. Remember this tool it is not only for League members, but for the public also.

#### **After the Election...**

After the November elections, you might send a congratulatory letter to your newly elected officials and follow up with lobby visits about unfinished business in Albany, such as reform, redistricting, voting machines, health care, etc. This is a good time to listen to the elected reps and find out their priorities.

Please write a short report of these visits and send a copy to Barbara Bartoletti and to me.

TO: Local League President; Advocacy & Issues Directors  
FROM: Lois Haignere, Off-Board Specialist, Pay Equity  
28 Bentwood Court, Guilderland, NY 12203  
E-mail: [haigner@nycap.rr.com](mailto:haigner@nycap.rr.com)

### **PAY EQUITY UPDATES**

Background – This SBR focuses on the activities of the NYS Pay Equity Coalition (NYSPEC), of which the LWVNY is a primary member.<sup>1</sup> With League guidance, NYSPEC takes actions to provide pay equity for equally evaluated job titles and equal pay to employees in New York State.

#### **Legislative Strategies for 2008**

In preparation for the 2008 legislative session NYPEC has consulted with UUP, NYSUT, and Senate counsel on Senator Malcolm Smith's staff. We have been encouraged to try to obtain Republican support for the Fair Pay Bill. During the first two weeks of October we have organized constituents in his district to write letters, call, and e-mail his district office to urge that Senator Maziarz to either support the Fair Pay bill and move it out of the Labor Committee or indicate what pay equity legislation he could support. (The Senator's office has indicated that he is in favor of pay equity, just not this bill.) At the end of this concentrated period of constituent contacts, Alan Lubin, NYSUT's executive vice president in charge of legislative and political action programs, will speak to Senator Maziarz about the importance of enacting pay equity protection in New York State.

Senator Malcolm Smith's office is quite supportive of the bill. His staff members have met with Women on the Job on Long Island about the NYS Fair Pay Bill. We are in dialogue with his staff about effective legislative strategies for 2008.

#### **Long Island Fund for Women and Girls**

Women on the Job Task Force (WOJTF), the organization that founded the NYS Pay Equity Coalition and is our fiscal sponsor, will officially become a subsection of the Long Island Fund for Women and Girls in December 2007. To help make this a smooth transition, we met with Diane Cohen, executive director of the Long Island Fund for Women and Girls on September 4, 2007. We look forward to a productive collaboration with the Fund and expect to be meeting again with Diane toward the middle of October.

#### **Excitement is Building for Gloria Steinem's Albany Visit**

We continue to organize for a series of exciting events on April 2, 2008, when Gloria Steinem comes to Albany to bring attention to pay equity. We have begun to circulate a save the date notice and flyers announcing her visit to our member organizations as well as to other Capital Region groups and institutions. We have consulted with UUP,

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<sup>1</sup> Other organizational members include NYSPEC's founding organization, Women on the Job Task Force (based on Long Island), many unions including NYSUT, UUP, UPSEU, SEIU, and DC37, many women's and civil rights organizations such as AAUW, NOW, BPW, and NAACP, Girl Scouts of America, Women's Sports Foundation, Capital District Labor and Religion Coalition, the NY Women's Agenda and the National Association for Female Executives (NAFE).

NYSUT, and Women on the Job about how best to utilize Ms. Steinem's time during her visit. We are also inviting member groups to sponsor the day with monetary and in-kind support. PEF has already become a sponsor and made a generous donation. At this time, we are planning a legislative event, a luncheon fundraiser, a press event, and a town hall meeting. We began working with an event planner in September and we are actively exploring different locations for the events planned.

Want to know more about this issue and how it relates to equal pay? A PowerPoint presentation is available, as well as speakers.  
Call 518-464-0991

TO: Local League Presidents and Chairs of State Issues, Natural Resources,  
Land Use, Sprawl, Local Government and Others  
FROM: Gladys Gifford, Off Board-Specialist, Transportation  
174 Capen Boulevard, Buffalo, NY 14226  
E-mail: [schuford@earthlink.net](mailto:schuford@earthlink.net)

### **TRANSPORTATION**

Statewide transportation attention currently is focused on the announcement by the Thruway Authority, raising tolls by 5% per year through 2011. Local Leagues should raise questions with their state representatives: why so much, and why now?

A reminder to all local leagues, your transportation decisions flow through either a regional Metropolitan Planning Organization (population density of more than 200,000) or through the NYS Department of Transportation. In either case, public input is required for projects that spend large amounts of public dollars. Here is where Leaguers may have a direct impact on the quality of life in our communities. Learn what projects are in the process of being constructed. Insist that the public have a voice in what projects are approved and how they are built.

At the LWVNYS, my examination of our Impact on Issues shows that transportation is not identified directly as an element in those issues that form the core of our work. At the November 14 Board meeting, I intend to raise up transportation as an essential part of Impact on Issues. I will suggest that the LWVNYS could explore the need for everyone in the State to have adequate transportation, such that those who cannot use cars for whatever reason are still fully functioning members of society. Lack of transportation equals lack of self-determination in how one chooses to order their life.

Furthermore, failure to provide adequate transportation means that citizens cannot fully participate in their democracy. Please share your ideas along these lines with me, using the subject line: "LWVNYS transportation" at [schuford@earthlink.net](mailto:schuford@earthlink.net), so that I may carry your views with me to the Board meeting.

TO: Local League Presidents and Advocacy & Issue Chairs  
FROM: Off-Board Specialists for Urban Sprawl  
Ruth Bonn, 47 Spruce Drive, Alplaus, NY 12008  
E-mail: [rooty@nycap.rr.com](mailto:rooty@nycap.rr.com)

Anne Huberman, 303 Highland Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14222  
E-mail: [anne.huberman@gmail.com](mailto:anne.huberman@gmail.com)

### **REPORT ON SPRAWL AND LAND USE ISSUES**

A reminder: Our state position on land use and sprawl is

*In order to conserve natural resources and improve the quality of life for its residents, New York State should take a proactive role in regional land use planning, enhancing urban neighborhoods, containing urban sprawl, and protecting agricultural land, open space, watersheds and other sensitive areas.*

#### **Growing Cooler: The Evidence on Urban Development and Climate Change**

In 2000, when the State League adopted the position stated above, global warming was not the hot topic that it has become today. Although scientists and many others were aware of the likelihood that human activity was causing climate change, Al Gore and Leonardo DiCaprio had not yet popularized the idea, and there were still many people, especially in the government, who questioned it. Now almost everyone recognizes global warming as a serious problem that must be addressed immediately.

One important way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions is to find ways to limit the total number of vehicle miles driven.

In *Growing Cooler: The Evidence on Urban Development and Climate Change*, a 2007 book published by the Urban Land Institute, a team of leading urban planning researchers report that the key to mitigating climate change is less auto-dependent development, and that key changes in land development patterns could help reduce vehicle greenhouse gas emissions.

They warn that if sprawling development continues to fuel growth in driving, the projected 59 percent increase in the total miles driven between 2005 and 2030 will overwhelm expected gains from vehicle efficiency and low-carbon fuels.

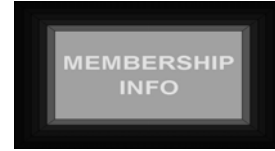
We have argued all along that curbing sprawl helps to preserve farmland and open space, protect water quality, improve health by providing more opportunities for physical activity, reduce pollution from automobile emissions, reduce the isolation of those who can't drive, and save taxpayers money by reducing the costs of infrastructure.

This report raises the stakes even higher. We must curb sprawl and encourage compact development in order to save ourselves from the unthinkable consequences of rapid

global warming. Our position mentions our desire to “improve the quality of life” of New York State residents. What an understatement that has become!

To learn more about the report, go to <http://www.smartgrowthamerica.org/gcindex.html>. You can download it from this site.

TO: Local League Presidents/Local League  
Membership Chairs  
FROM: Marcia A. Merrins, Vice President, Membership  
42 Rosalyn Court, Fredonia, NY 14063  
E-mail: [mmerrins@netsync.net](mailto:mmerrins@netsync.net)



### **MEMBERSHIP MINUTE**

**Recycling can work!** I just looked at a copy of a membership development video (remember VHS?) It was produced in 1992 and just 12 minutes long. It talks about strategies! If you would like a copy, call or email me and I will send it along. All you have to do is return it!

**Bummer (!? #@)** Just in case you haven't read it somewhere, LWVNYS was not one of the states selected by LWVUS to participate in the membership recruitment initiative. However, since we are New Yorkers, we have set a challenge for each local League to gain 5% increase in locally recruited members. If your League has decided not to take on the challenge I hope you will succeed in raising membership 5%. At the end of this report are membership challenge forms that you can give to members that attend your events, which I know, are well publicized. I do think it's important to look at your community. Talk about these aspects and see if you can tap new avenues for membership development.

#### **In your community:**

- Characteristics (large urban, small urban, suburban, rural)
- Potential allies that can be beneficial to you in this effort (a list of civic & ethnic groups that might involve women between the ages of 50-65) & the League's connection and/or relationship to them.
- Major employers in your community & League's connection to them (corporations, universities)

#### **What are your League's membership characteristics:**

- Size of your League as of the January 2007 count.
- Average number of members per year over the past 5 years
- Average age of all members and the range of ages of members
- Average length of membership in League
- Previous membership recruitment efforts & their results
- How most members come into your League

#### **Members Are Important**

Members are the most important part of any organization. Without them, we would not exist. Your meetings would be empty, silent. Your leaders would stand alone, without the followers they must have if they are to carry out their duties. All of your resolutions would be reduced to so many words, lacking the human factor that gives them life. Members make an organization.

There are two kinds of members, new and old. Each has a definite place in the League. Each has a particular contribution to make and each requires special handling.

### **How to Recruit Members**

Every community has its own membership potential. This should be carefully analyzed and explored by the Membership Chairman and her committee. Every angle should be thoroughly appraised.

- Newly retired teachers may be eager to join League once they know about us.
- Consider first the relatives and friends of your present membership. Since they are already familiar with the aims and purposes of your League and know about the work you are doing, they are probably inclined to be sympathetic. These should be included in your very first canvass.
- There is the "younger generation". Recent college or university graduates, "just married" women, should be contacted, welcomed, and invited to your next meeting. NEVER let age or youth become a barrier to membership.
- Have you considered changing your meeting hours? Would you get new members that would attend an evening meeting or a weekend meeting?
- Watch "People in the News" columns in newspapers for people newly promoted who could be prospects.
- Deterrent to membership growth are attitudes and inertia. Change them.
- Publicize your League and its projects. HAVE A BIAS TOWARDS MARKETING!
- Have the members fill out a prospective member card at a meeting.
- If a member claims he or she cannot think of a single person who could be a good member, ask the member to keep a 24-hour diary on an index card. Ask the member to write down the name of every person he or she meets or speaks to in that 24-hour period.

### **Handle With Care**

When Mrs. New has accepted your invitation and joined League. It is not enough to have her on your membership list and a check for dues. Now you must make sure that you have HER, too - that her interest not wane, that she continues to relate herself to League activities.

Make definite plans to orient ALL members - Mrs. New as well as Mrs. Old-timer, Who frequently needs to have her own interest revitalized. This can be done at special meetings: a luncheon, a tea, an annual meeting, through interviews, or by means of a chatty and informative leaflet.

### **Placement of Members**

USE ALL YOUR MEMBERS. Jobs and assignments should be broken down and apportioned among several in the group, instead of being held tenaciously by two or three members. Don't perpetuate the same officers, directors, boards, and committees. Make your League a democracy with equal opportunity for each member to be active - not a dynasty where only the same select few ever get a chance.

### **Retaining and Regaining Members**

New members must be made to feel wanted and needed as soon as possible. A welcoming letter from the President is an effective way of making a new member feel welcomed.

- It is extremely important to get new members active in League activities immediately. Involvement creates interest.
- Regular members who failed to renew their membership should be contacted, followed by personal phone calls if necessary. Let them know they have been missed. Regular members who have missed a meeting should also be called and told: "We missed you." This should encourage them to return.
- Members who have been active in the past might be persuaded to become active again with a personal telephone call or by being asked to do a specific job.
- Perhaps if contacted, former members might like to rejoin.
- Form an active telephone committee to remind members of meetings and arrange for transportation if needed.
- Remember to give credit to committee chair and members. A "thank you" is always appreciated.
- Assign a hostess/mentor for each new member for a few meetings, so that she has someone to sit with.

### **Change Renewal Date!**

Choosing the time for membership renewal can be viewed as a great "recruiting" tool. One League changed their dues renewal date to Sept. 1 for all members. In reality, this gives membership committee & other board members at least 3 months to actually collect the dues before having to turn in the official membership count in to LWVUS in mid-January.

### **Trail Membership!**

Beginning immediately after those numbers are submitted to LWVUS in January, they ran a promotional campaign to recruit members for trial memberships. They offered these for \$20 - \$25 and sent letters to as many persons as they could think of including all those on a potential member list. The letter is very upbeat and offered them an opportunity to "try League out" at this reduced rate. The also mentioned that they will be given an opportunity to join in September at the regular rate. The offer runs from mid-January thru March.

Members who join after March pay the regular dues rate, but they don't pay again in Sept. so they get a few months free (not much happens during the summer months in many Leagues, so this is OK).

The special "trial" offer is a combined fundraiser/recruiting effort. The money collected from these persons is stay within the local league--no PMP to state or national.

The first year these trial memberships were offered for \$20, 32 people joined – an income for the treasury. The best part of all is that a high percentage of those people renewed in

September, and a few were asked and accepted positions on the board in July of that year while they were still "officially" trial members--one of the best ways I know to guarantee that they'll renew is to get them on board!!

I believe this is an example of a perfect opportunity for local/state/national to join together in a recruiting effort. When these people join at this special rate, immediately complete the MICF forms to get them listed in our state/national membership databases so that they can receive at least 1 or 2 copies of the state & national Voters.

IMPORTANT: enter their expiration date as 09/01/200x (current year) on the MICF form. The Voters from both state and national are excellent publications and one of the most important recruiting tools available to local League membership chairs.

**LWVNYS MEMBERSHIP CHALLENGE**

LWV \_\_\_\_\_ wants to meet the challenge from the LWVNYS of attaining a net growth of at least 5% in locally recruited members.

Please help us by filling in the enclosed coupon with at least 4 names and addresses of prospective members: people in our community, place of worship, grocery, clubs, etc.

**WE WILL FOLLOW-UP.**

**PROSPECTIVE LEAGUER**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_

**PROSPECTIVE LEAGUER**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_

**PROSPECTIVE LEAGUER**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_

**PROSPECTIVE LEAGUER**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_

TO: Local League President, Voter Service Directors  
FROM: Maggie Moehringer, Vice President, Voter Service  
12 Coventry Road, Glenmont, NY 12077  
E-mail: [mmoehrin@nycap.rr.com](mailto:mmoehrin@nycap.rr.com)

## **VOTER SERVICE REPORT**

### **Voters Guides**

We tried this year to make Part I and Part II of the Voters Guides look visually different, since many Leagues had a problem with their looking so much the same in 2005 (2006 had many statewide races and hence a different format from the pamphlets we have done for local election years). This took the form of a different color for the lettering and graphics on the front, but admittedly that might not have been the vast visual difference that some might have hoped for. Within the confines of time and cost, however, this was what we could do this cycle. You have the opportunity to weigh in on the Voters Guides in the **Voter Service Survey** (yellow sheet) included in this SBR.

### **February Primary**

We have a presidential primary in February for the first time, falling on February 5<sup>th</sup> in 2008. One of the Leagues reminded us that in order to change party, voters must file a new registration form by the general election to have the change take effect in time for the primary.

### **New Citizen Voter Registration**

Many thanks to all Leagues that completed the survey concerning your voter registration activities for new citizens. They are still trickling in, and we will summarize them for a later SBR. The most frequently asked question by Leagues that don't currently do voter registration activities for new citizens is:

#### **Where are swearing-in ceremonies held, and when?**

When a prospective new citizen applies for naturalization, they are sent a notice of where and when they will take the oath by the USCIS. The Federal Courts have authority to administer the oath. While these ceremonies typically are presided over by judges and take place in federal courthouses, they have taken place also in hospitals, on boats, at Disney World, at parks and theaters, etc. and can take place in other courts.

The district court web sites are sometimes helpful about the scheduling. For example, the Eastern District web site states that several times during a week, a hundred or so prospective new citizens take the oath on the 2nd floor of the Brooklyn Federal Court. They are always held in courtroom #3, the Ceremonial Courtroom, and are open to the public. The Southern District main office in New York City holds ceremonies each Friday at the Pearl Street Courthouse approximately at 11:00 a.m.

For information about the Federal District Court in your area, go to <http://www.uscourts.gov/courtlinks/>

Here is contact information for the district courts in New York:

New York Eastern District Court Main Office  
118S United States Courthouse  
225 Cadman Plaza East  
Brooklyn, NY 11201-1818  
Phone: 718-613-2600  
<http://www.nyed.uscourts.gov>

New York Eastern District Court Central Islip  
Divisional Office  
Alfonse M. D'Amato United States Courthouse  
100 Federal Plaza  
Central Islip, NY 11722  
Phone: 631-712-6000  
<http://www.nyed.uscourts.gov>

New York Northern District Court Main Office  
PO Box 7367  
Syracuse, NY 13261-7367  
Street Address:  
James M. Hanley Federal Building, 7th Floor  
100 South Clinton Street  
Syracuse, NY 13261-7367  
Phone: 315-234-8500  
<http://www.nynd.uscourts.gov/>

New York Northern District Court Albany  
Divisional Office  
509 James T. Foley United States Courthouse  
445 Broadway  
Albany, NY 12207-2936  
Phone: 518-257-1800  
<http://www.nynd.uscourts.gov/>

New York Northern District Court Binghamton  
Divisional Office  
Federal Building, 2nd Floor  
15 Henry Street  
Binghamton, NY 13901  
Phone: 607-773-2893  
<http://www.nynd.uscourts.gov/>

New York Northern District Court Utica  
Divisional Office  
Alexander Pirnie Federal Building, 3rd Floor  
10 Broad Street  
Utica, NY 13501  
Phone: 315-266-1189  
<http://www.nynd.uscourts.gov/>

New York Southern District Court Main Office  
120 Daniel Patrick Moynihan United States  
Courthouse  
500 Pearl Street  
New York, NY 10007-1312  
Phone: 212-805-0136  
<http://www.nysd.uscourts.gov>

New York Southern District Court  
White Plains Divisional Office  
United States Courthouse  
300 Quarropas Street  
White Plains, NY 10601-4150  
Phone: 914-390-4100  
<http://www.nysd.uscourts.gov>

New York Western District Court Main Office  
304 United States Courthouse  
68 Court Street  
Buffalo, NY 14202-3328  
Phone: 716-551-4211  
Internet Web Site:  
<http://www.nywd.uscourts.gov>

New York Western District Court  
Rochester Divisional Office  
2120 Kenneth B. Keating Federal Bldg  
100 State Street  
Rochester, NY 14614  
Phone: 585-613-4000  
<http://www.nywd.uscourts.gov>

**USCIS Field Offices** may be able to provide more information about where and when swearing-in ceremonies might take place. Here is the contact information for the offices and the counties they serve:

**New York City** (Jacob Javits Federal Building, 26 Federal Plaza, 3rd Floor, Room 3-310, New York, NY 10278) serving Bronx, Kings, Nassau, New York, Orange, Putnam, Queens, Richmond, Rockland, Staten Island, Suffolk, Sullivan, Ulster, and Westchester.

**Albany** (1086 Troy-Schenectady Road, Latham, NY 12110.) serving Albany, Broome, Chenango, Clinton, Columbia, Delaware, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Greene, Hamilton, Herkimer, Madison, Montgomery, Oneida, Otsego, Rensselaer, Saint Lawrence, Saratoga, Schenectady, Schoharie, Tioga, Warren, and Washington.

**Syracuse** (412 South Warren Street, Syracuse, NY 13202) serving Alleghany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Chemung, Erie, Genesee, Lewis, Livingston, Monroe, Niagara, Ontario, Orleans, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Wayne, Wyoming, and Yates.

**Rochester** (100 State Street, Room 418, Rochester, NY 14614) serving Allegany, Chemung, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Wayne, Yates. This office also serves the following counties that lie within the jurisdiction of the Buffalo District Office: Cattaraugus, Cayuga, Chautauqua, Cortland, Erie, Genesee, Jefferson, Lewis, Niagara, Onondaga, Orleans, Oswego, Tompkins, Wyoming.

**Buffalo** (Federal Center, 130 Delaware Avenue, First Floor, Buffalo, NY 14202) serving Alleghany, Cattaraugus, Cayuga, Chautauqua, Chemung, Cortland, Erie, Genesee, Jefferson, Lewis, Livingston, Monroe, Niagara, Onondaga, Ontario, Orleans, Oswego, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Tompkins, Wayne, Wyoming, and Yates.

**Ida Trager Regional Training Workshops: Technology and Voter Service**

The Ida Trager Regional Training Workshops are in full swing, and we hope to meet and speak with many of you in the weeks to come. One of the topics is technology in general, and in the Voter Service area specifically.

**SmartVoter**

Our Westchester League has forged the path with SmartVoter. There is a question on the survey concerning your local voters guides – whether or not you do one, how you fund it, issues with producing it, etc. Westchester has found that at least for now, they are doing guides in SmartVoter and producing paper guides – a double whammy that might not be sustainable for long. You may also find your League in the same position in trying to transition to SmartVoter, but for those of you who don't or who no longer can manage to fund, put together and distribute a voters guide, SmartVoter might be a great alternative. You will see much more from us about support for transitioning to SmartVoter should you elect to do so, and we hope to identify Leagues that are prime candidates for some more intense technical and transitional support.

**Improvements to the LWVNYS Web Site**

Right now, Voter Service related information on the web site includes the following:

- A link to SmartVoter, where some statewide info is posted with a link to Westchester's information
- The "Voters Guide" in PDF pamphlet format
- "First Vote" in PDF Pamphlet Format
- League Policy on candidate eligibility to participate in League debates
- "College Voting Guide"

- FAQ about ID requirements
- “VOTE” in pamphlet format
- “Judicial Facts for Voters” in PDF pamphlet format
- The elections calendar from the BOE in PDF pamphlet format
- Links to the NYS and County BOE web sites
- Voter Registration and Absentee Ballot forms
- Three parts of “Road to the Voting Booth” in PDF format.

We have spoken in the Ida Trager Regional Training Workshops about:

- Providing the documents in a more readable format, along with the pamphlet format
- Dividing the large documents up, particularly Road to the Voting Booth, with links to individual sections and chapters
- The possibility of providing guidance related documents and chapters in a format that would be useful for organizations that wish to conduct voter service related activities.

This last initiative will take some discussion, and we welcome your input. The League wants to get credit for our work, clearly brand it as League, and to continue to be a central participant in voter service activities.

We have also spoken of providing the very best compendium of voter related links for statewide sites, that local Leagues can in turn link to, that will be dependably updated and attractive, so that local Leagues do not have to cover those information sources on their own web sites; we would encourage other non-partisan organizations to use these links also.

Please use the Voter Service Survey to tell us your ideas for web-based voter services, and for improvements to the information that is already there. Thanks for all you do!

**2007 VOTER SERVICE SURVEY**

League \_\_\_\_\_ Responder \_\_\_\_\_

Please participate in this statewide voter service survey to gather information about this fall’s activities and to celebrate the League’s impact on local communities. Please use extra pages if necessary to complete this form.

**CANDIDATE FORUMS/DEBATES**

1. Did you conduct forums/debates in your local area? If so, how many different events? For which offices? Together with other Leagues? Co-sponsored with other organizations? If so, which organizations? Who moderated?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Please send copies of your publicity with this report.**

2. Were all parties included or did you use your Debate Policy/Guidelines to exclude some candidate(s)? If so, did this exclusion cause any problems?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. What was the attendance at your event(s)? \_\_\_\_\_

4. What format(s) did you use for your event(s)? Traditional? (Opening statement, closing statements? Cumulative time? Panels? Cross-questioning? Candidates’ Fair? Empty chair?) \_\_\_\_\_

If you used a combination of formats, please elaborate.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Did questions come from the audience? Were they written and screened? Were questions asked by individuals at a microphone? Were there any problems during the question and answer period?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. Was the event(s) televised? If so, how many times was it broadcast? Did the media cover your event?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. What was the most significant accomplishment in putting your event(s) together?  
What was the biggest challenge/problem?

7. Did your League provide any services such as moderating or timekeeping for an event sponsored by another organization? If so, did you request payment for this service? How much?

**VOTERS GUIDES**

1. Did your League use the State Voters Guides?

For information about registering and voting? For information about the statewide ballot proposal? As part of your League's Voters Guide? To publicize the League?

2. How many did you distribute? Where were they distributed? Were they distributed free? Did you charge for them? If so, how much?

3. Please make suggestions about how the State Voters Guides could be improved.

4. Did your League publish a local Voters Guide? \_\_\_\_\_  
**If so, please send a copy with this report.**

5. How did you publish your local voters guide? Through local newspapers? As a self-supporting publication? On your website? Other?

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6. When, where and how did you distribute your voters guide? How many did you print?

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**VOTER REGISTRATION**

1. Did your League conduct voter registration drives? If so, how many and where?

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2. How many voters did you register? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Did you distribute absentee ballot applications? \_\_\_\_\_ If so, how many? \_\_\_\_\_

**GET-OUT-THE-VOTE EFFORTS**

Did you use appearances on TV or radio? Letters to the editor? PSAs? Other?

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**OTHER SUCCESSES, CHALLENGES, IDEAS, QUESTIONS?**

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**PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO THE STATE LEAGUE OFFICE BY  
DECEMBER 1, 2007 BY FAX: 518-465-0812 / EMAIL: [lwvny@lwvny.org](mailto:lwvny@lwvny.org) / OR  
SNAIL MAIL: LWVNYS, 62 Grand Street, Albany, New York 12207**

TO: Local League Presidents, Development Chairs  
FROM: Betsey Swan, Vice President, Development  
10 Norwood Drive, Menands, New York 12204  
E-mail: [faircamp@nycap.rr.com](mailto:faircamp@nycap.rr.com)

## **DEVELOPMENT REPORT**

### I. U. N. BRIEFING ON THE EFFECTS OF WAR ON WOMEN

The League's annual United Nations briefing will be devoted to the particularly timely topic of the Effects of War on Women. To make it easier on those who must travel to attend, we will start this year's November 28th briefing at 1:00 p.m., rather than before lunch.

### II. IDA TRAGER REGIONAL TRAINING WORKSHOPS

The League has finished the Ida Trager Regional Training Workshop in western New York. This year, we are devoting a major amount of time to planning for the League's future. A list of questions, encompassing the following topics, form the basis for these planning discussions:

- How can the state League better support local Leagues
- What role should technology play in the League of the future
- Given the movement of women into the workplace, should the LWVNYS begin to plan for a movement to replace volunteers with paid employees? What positions should be paid and what should continue to be staffed with volunteers
- As the LWVNYS makes plans to launch the Centennial Fund, its campaign for a \$1.5 million endowment, should it share funds raised with local Leagues?

### III. LONG-TERM PLANNING

Once the Ida Trager Regional Training Workshops are complete, the results will be formulated into a long-term plan, which will guide the League's development efforts for the next ten years

### IV. CENTENNIAL FUND AND PLANNED GIVING CAMPAIGN

Coterminous with the Ida Trager Regional Training Workshops and develop of the long-term plan is work to organize the Centennial Fund and a planned giving campaign for League members. We are working with both our brokers and the LWVUS to put the necessary materials in place for a 2008 launch of our campaign.

### V. *DEVELOPMENT MATTERS* – ELECTRONIC DIALOGUE

Although the position of director of development traditionally related to raising money, development of necessity encompasses a constant assessment and reassessment of operations, with the goal of development and implementation of short and long-term plans to make us the most effective and efficient organization we can be. I am very excited by the willingness of my fellow board members to engage in this process; I look forward to establishment of a similar dialogue with local Leagues.

To facilitate this dialogue, I suggest a “Development Matters” list-serve, which will create an ongoing electronic conversation about League planning and development. It will encompass informal strategizing and sharing of ideas, as well as providing a forum in which to voice grievances. League Presidents, Directors of Finance or Development, and other interested League members are asked to join by e-mailing the LWVNYS office at [lwny@lwny.org](mailto:lwny@lwny.org) or Betsey Swan at [faircamp@nycap.rr.com](mailto:faircamp@nycap.rr.com).

#### VI. TAX SAVINGS FOR CERTAIN LEAGUE MEMBERS

A little-known tax break may enable certain League members to minimize their federal taxable income while contributing to the LWVNYS Education Foundation. The rub is that this provision is set to expire on December 31, 2007.

League members who are at least 70 ½ years of age by December 31, 2007 and who must take a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) may be able to lower their taxable income by requesting that the IRA administrator make some or all of the required distribution to the LWVNYSEF. Here is how it works. Individuals 70 ½ years of age or older during a tax year must take RMDs from their IRA accounts or face tax penalties. These distributions are normally subject to income tax. By having the IRA’s custodian make a distribution directly to a charity, the amount distributed to the charity is counted in the RMD requirements but is not subject to federal income tax. For individuals who do not itemize deductions and therefore cannot deduct charitable contributions, this provides the opportunity to reduce tax liability through donations to their favorite charities. For higher income individuals who do itemize deductions, a QCD may serve as a tax-planning device that would reduce income and thus preserve the full value of other charitable deductions.

If you would like more information about this little known provision, contact Betsey Swan at 518-426-3711 or [faircamp@nycap.rr.com](mailto:faircamp@nycap.rr.com). We would be happy to work with attorneys or accountants to maximize the use of this benefit before it expires.

**TAX PLANNING FOR THE LEAGUE'S FUTURE**  
**DIRECT DISTRIBUTION FROM AN IRA**

Would you like to help secure the League's future through a donation to the Education Foundation? A little-known tax break may enable you to do so, while minimizing your own tax liability. The rub is that this provision is set to expire on December 31, 2007.

The Pension Protection Act of 2006 allows some individuals to have a distribution of income from an IRA, a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) made directly to one or more charities of their choice. Here is how it works. Individuals 70 ½ years of age or older during a tax year must take required minimum distributions (RMDs) from their IRA accounts or face tax penalties. This distribution is normally subject to income tax. By having the IRA's custodian make a distribution directly to a charity, the amount distributed to the charity is counted in the RMD requirements but is not subject to federal income tax. For individuals who do not itemize deductions and therefore cannot deduct charitable contributions, this provides the opportunity to reduce tax liability through donations to their favorite charities. For higher income individuals who do itemize deductions, a QCD may serve as a tax-planning device that would reduce income and thus preserve the full value of other charitable deductions.

If you would like more information about this little known provision, contact us at 518-465-4162 or [lwwny@lwwny.org](mailto:lwwny@lwwny.org). We would be happy to work with your attorneys or accountants to maximize the use of this benefit before it expires.

**GO GLOBAL WITH A LEAGUE-SPONSORED**  
**UNITED NATIONS BRIEFING ON THE EFFECTS OF WAR ON WOMEN**

As we wend our way into fall, it is time to plan for the League's annual United Nations briefing to be held on November 28. This year's topic is the most timely and equally tragic Effects of War on Women.

In a departure from tradition, the League is catering to individuals who travel by holding the briefing after lunch. The day will begin with a tour of the United Nations at 10:00 a.m., followed by a gourmet international buffet luncheon in the elegant Delegate's dining room, at 11:30 a.m. The briefing will begin at 1:00 p.m. Thus, those who prefer the comforts of bed to traveling through the night can begin their trips at a more reasonable hour.

**JOIN THE DEVELOPMENT MATTERS DISCUSSION**

Connect with other Leagues. Strategize for your League's future. Share what works and what does not. Vent your pet peeves. Take a ride on the electronic highway. Get to know your fellow League members around the state through their thoughts and words. Join the DEVELOPMENT MATTERS list-serve.

The LWWNYS is establishing an informal (and hopefully informative and fun) electronic network to discuss League operations and finances. We hope it will function as a way for

local Leagues to communicate with each other, to learn what works and what does not, to move forward without the need to reinvent the wheel. We also hope it will result in increased dialogue between state and local Leagues, both to give local Leagues input into state League operations, to share ideas for innovation and reform, and to provide an informal forum for airing gripes.

To sign up, call or e-mail Stephanie Lopez at the LWVNYS office. Local League Presidents and Directors of Finance, and members throughout the state who wish to form ties with fellow League members and participate in this exciting and informal dialogue are encouraged to join. We hope to hear from you soon.

**2007 DEVELOPMENT SURVEY**

League: \_\_\_\_\_ Responder: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone #: \_\_\_\_\_

In the spirit of sharing League successes, we would appreciate if you would take a few minutes to respond to the 2007 Development Survey.

1. What fundraising activities and/or events has your League participated in?

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2. Are these annual or one-time activities?

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3. Please share your fundraising successes and challenges.

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**PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO THE STATE LEAGUE OFFICE BY  
DECEMBER 1, 2007 BY FAX: 518-465-0812 / EMAIL: [lwny@lwny.org](mailto:lwny@lwny.org) / OR  
SNAIL MAIL: LWVNYS, 62 Grand Street, Albany, New York 12207**

TO: Local League Presidents, Program/Education Chairs and SIA/LeaderSpark Coordinators  
FROM: JoAnn Ross, Citizen Education Director  
116 Cranburne Lane, Williamsville, New York 14221  
E-mail: [jross18@roadrunner.com](mailto:jross18@roadrunner.com)

### **CITIZEN EDUCATION REPORT**

#### **LeaderSpark Update**

Preparations for the 2007-2008 LeaderSpark programs are underway. Two Facilitator training sessions were conducted in October. On October 2, 2007, Karen Dawson, Director of LeaderSpark Inc., and Kris Hansen-Myers, LWNYS Executive Director, conducted a dialogue-based training in Albany. Participants had an opportunity to brainstorm, discuss ideas for funding opportunities and community collaborations, share best practices and also discuss any barriers they had encountered. On October 3, the formal Facilitator/Coordinator training was held in Syracuse. Attending were LeaderSpark representatives from the Schenectady County League, the Geneva League along with Geneva LeaderSpark Partner, the Red Cross, and a new participant, the Buffalo/Niagara League.

Next on the schedule is Facilitator Training by region. The first of these sessions will be held for the Western New York region on December 5, 2007 at the Town of Amherst Harlem Road Community Center. The other regional training sessions are still in the planning process and will be held in the Capitol Region and in Long Island.

#### **Speaker Notes**

Have you been asked to speak before a group, sit on a panel, or write a letter to the editor regarding a subject of interest to the League but feel that you have to “reinvent the wheel,” although you just know that someplace in New York State other League members have addressed the same subject? Do you often wish you could view the notes that they used, read the outline from which they spoke, see what they wrote, or view their approach to the issue? One of the goals of the Citizen Education program is that you’ll soon be able to do just that--and more!

The Speaker Note project will enable us to share information about the issues of concern to us as a League so that we can communicate with a more unified voice on those issues. Hopes are that we can create a library or central repository of notes, outlines, speeches, letters to the editor, and similar documents that will be available online on the State League website. Over time, this can become a rich source of information for members across the state. Even more than that, this project will give us an opportunity to see the kinds of projects our local leagues are engaged in and how they’re approaching these projects, giving us ideas for projects of our own.

But State League needs your help! Please forward copies of your speeches, notes, outlines, letters and other such documents on League issues that you believe would be of interest to other league members in New York. By all means, tell us about your projects-

-and don't spare any detail because the richer the detail the richer will be the information that can be shared with other Leagues.

Your information can be emailed to the state league office at: [lwvny@lwvny.org](mailto:lwvny@lwvny.org) or to JoAnn Ross at: [jross18@roadrunner.com](mailto:jross18@roadrunner.com).

TO: Local League Presidents, Local Study Committee Chairs,  
Action and Issues Chairs

FROM: Lori Dawson, LWVNYS NPV Study Chair,  
4 Marion Place, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866  
E-mail: [lddawson@skidmore.edu](mailto:lddawson@skidmore.edu)

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### **SHOULD NYS JOIN THE COMPACT FOR A NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE?**

#### **NPV Study Committee and Draft Outline for Study Guide**

The Study Committee is reviewing the information to be included in the NPV study guide. Check the web site for updates. So far, it looks as though the chapters will include not necessarily in this order:

- a. History of Electoral College & how it works
- b. Problems resulting from the Electoral College
- c. LWVUS position on Selection of the President  
Complete text of history and position available at:  
[http://www.lwv.org/Content/ContentGroups/ImpactIssues/2006\\_Impact\\_web.pdf](http://www.lwv.org/Content/ContentGroups/ImpactIssues/2006_Impact_web.pdf)
- d. Explanation of NPV compact  
Complete text of law - "Agreement among the States to Elect the President by Nationwide Popular Vote" and NY Assembly bill summary available at  
<http://www.lwvny.org/npv.html>
- e. Benefits of NPV proposal
- f. Downsides of NPV proposal
- g. Article V. Amending the Constitution  
Complete text of Article V. available at  
<http://www.usconstitution.net/const.html#Article5>
- h. References  
Available at <http://www.lwvny.org/npv.html>

#### **Program & Education List Serve**

A reminder that the Program & Education list serve will be used to communicate information about the NPV study as it progresses. In order to get on this list serve, be certain to send an email to Stephanie Lopez, LWVNYS Administrative Assistant at: [stephanie@lwvny.org](mailto:stephanie@lwvny.org) with the following information: Name of local League, NPV study chair name, address, e-mail & telephone.

#### **Final Word**

We need to have wide participation in order for the consensus to be valid. State study guidelines and consensus policies are on the LWVNYS web site on the NPV study web page at: <http://www.lwvny.org/npv.html> The study guide booklet should include everything local Leagues need to examine the NPV compact. We anticipate that the

study will be fairly easy for Leagues to undertake and we encourage all local Leagues to participate. We also want to remind local Leagues that this study has the potential to attract new members – especially younger people. Therefore, we encourage you to publicize the study widely and hold your meetings at times when working people are able to attend.

Thank you to the NPV study committee and everyone at LWVNYS for everything you have been doing to move this study forward.