

United Nations Event – Nov. 9

Join League members and friends from around the state for the annual United Nations briefing on **Tuesday, November 9**, from 2:00-4:30 pm in New York City. This year's topic will be Microfinance: From Struggle for Survival to Planning for the Future. Because the UN building is under renovations, the briefing will be held across the street in the Church Center of the United Nations (777 United Nations Plaza); speakers will be arranged by the United Nations Department of Public Information. A optional tour of the UN and reservations for lunch at area restaurants are also available. Registration form is on our website.

Fall 2010 Debates/Voters Guides

State League is currently tussling with trying to schedule candidates for debates and to get their input for the Voters Guide. In coordination with the Association of Public Broadcast Stations, we are hopeful that we will organize at least one debate for each the Gubernatorial race and the two US Senate seats. Please bear with us!

The electronic voters guide, www.smartvoter.org, is up and running. One of the Smart Voter's biggest benefits is that voters can quickly find individual candidate information, including their positions on important issues. The hardest part, though, is getting candidates to provide us with the information. That's where we could use help from local Leagues all around the state. *Can you volunteer a little time to help make Smart Voter a complete information resource this November?* If you can help contacting your local candidates, please send an email to bo@bolipari.com. And, continue to watch on Smart Voter for updates.

Students Inside Albany Conference

The 2011 *Students Inside Albany* Conference will be held on April 10-13 in Albany. Sample flyers, applications and suggested methods of finding students will be available next week. Start thinking about ways to select a student from your League to join this conference on leadership and lobbying.

Redistricting Reform

Over 50 members from many local Leagues participated in the training session on the issue of redistricting on September 11 in New York City, Albany, by conference telephone or by computer webmeeting

We have asked all local Leagues to organize a community forum on the issue of redistricting. We have created a power point presentation and handouts so that local Leagues can hold these forums and have a ready-made program for them. All the materials will be distributed and also will be available on our website. Encourage or help your local League to organize a forum on this important issue.

2011 Legislative Agenda

Last year the State Issues Committee and the Issues Specialists decided to focus the 2010 Legislative Agenda on making the State Legislature cleaner and more competitive through emphasizing campaign finance, redistricting and other good government legislative and election reforms. Some election reforms were passed last year, in particular simplifying the absentee ballot, but no progress was made on the other areas. Therefore, we are recommending that the 2011 Legislative Agenda be very similar to last year's. We ask for your comments on this recommendation (see SBR on website). We will also continue to take action on issues covered by the League's additional positions included in Impact on Issues as they arise.

State Convention: May 20-22, 2011

The State Convention will be held at the Desmond Inn in Albany from May 20-22, 2011. We will again host a series of pre convention workshops on Friday, May 20, which are open to any League member – even if you are not attending Convention. We are once again organizing a Silent Auction which will be available online and at Convention so everyone, not just attendees, can participate. Start thinking of donations; be creative and think of some new items or services that can help raise funds for the League. Donations forms are available by calling the state office.

Call for Board Nominations

Every two years, members of the LWNYS elect their leaders for the next board term at the State Convention. The nominating committee invites, welcomes, and depends on nominations by League members and local League boards. Send your recommendations by November 15 to Janalyn Travis-Messer, Nominating Committee Chair, PO Box 919, Shelter Island, NY 11964.

Youth Program Survey

The new state Youth Program Directors have distributed a survey to all local Leagues asking about local programs for youth. Only 11 Leagues have responded so far – so encourage your League to respond. The goal is to develop a list of programs and contacts which can be shared around the state – and all Leagues can “copy” these League programs and services and all youth can benefit!

Lobby Corps

The League is developing a group of trained volunteers who will communicate the League's position on proposed legislation in person directly to the members of the state Senate and Assembly. It would be expected that the Lobby Corps volunteers would agree to lobby on a regular basis as assigned in Albany. Come try something new in the League! Contact the state office for more information.

1919 Society

Don't forget to include the state League in your will - and join the 1919 Society. If you already have included the League in your will, just let us know and we'll add you to the members of the Society. ***We already have two members – and we're hoping for many more!*** We will not ask for either proof of the bequest or its amount - we just want to honor your future support. As a member, your name will be engraved on a plaque in the state League office, listed in the *State Voter*, and on the website.