

# THE CHAMPLAIN VALLEY VOTER

Newsletter of the League of the Women Voters of the Champlain Valley  
April 2007

## CVLWV Board, 2006 - 2007

President	Marge Gaskins	879-0003
Vice President	Irene Wrenner (Voter Editor)	879-0011
Treasurer	Amy Bond	879-0628
Secretary	Sue Golden	985-9524
Director	Barbara Bowen	985-9754
Director	Mabel Buttolph	863-3990
Director	Jean Hopkins	878-9326
Director	Bonnie Scott (Website)	webmaster@cvlwv.org
Director	Keri Toksu (Membership)	658-0962

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## Calendar of Events

*We sponsor meetings and events for the public and League members.*

### Champlain Valley LWV Annual Meeting

Date	Time	Place	Description
Wednesday, May 9, 2007	5:30 pm	Mabel Buttolph's home 20 Peterson Terrace So. Burlington	<b>Annual Meeting and Pot-Luck Dinner.</b> Cocktails at 5:30. Dinner at 6 pm.

**LWV-Vermont Biennial Convention**, May 19, Noble Hall, Vermont College, Montpelier.

**LWV Quad States Leadership Conference**, June 2-3, Hampton Inn, Saco, Maine.

For details on these regional events, please go to <http://www.lwvofvt.org/calendar.html>.

### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT - Marge Gaskins

Hello everyone:

Preparing for the annual meeting again reminds me of how fleeting is time. It seems just a short time ago I was elected president of Champlain Valley League, after serving the previous four years as LWVVT president.

I mistakenly thought this would be easier, and in some ways it is (only because of the excellent, involved board members), but I also had to decide what responsibilities belonged locally and what we could expect from the state league. We still have a couple of board seats open, so if you would like to join us, please let me know.

Our meetings this past year were very interesting. I do wish there was a solution so that everyone could have attended both at noon and at night. I wonder if, on occasion, we could host the same meeting at both times. There may be some programs that this would be possible, and important. It might be particularly helpful if we decide to work on a new study.

Note that new programs will be considered at the annual meeting. The proposed transportation study, though not totally new, would certainly be in order with gas at \$3.00 a gallon. If there is

any area in Vermont that could logically consider mass transit options, the Champlain Valley is it. Also, we will vote on whether to increase local dues to equal the state dues.

We hope you all can make the annual meeting, a potluck and business meeting at Mabel Buttolph's. If you need directions, please call a board member (directory at top of first page).

## PROPOSED BUDGET - Amy Bond

### CHAMPLAIN VALLEY LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

June 1, 2007 to May 31, 2008

	Approved Budget 2006-07	To date March 31 2007	Estimate to May 31 2007	Proposed Budget 2007-08
<b>INCOME</b>				
Dues	\$2300	\$2335.00	\$2335	\$2524
Contributions	100	201.00	201	200
Annual Meeting	150	.0	50	100
LWVUS support	50	50.00	50	50
LWVVT support	0	0	0	50
Interest	0	0	0	0
Savings	0	0	0	0
Carry over from prev. yr.	2440	3102.98	1996	1996
Legis.Prev. Dinner	0	525.00	525	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$5040</b>	<b>\$6213.98</b>	<b>\$5157</b>	<b>\$4920</b>

### EXPENSES

LWVVT PMP	\$ 690	\$690.00	\$690	\$666
LWVUS PMP	1450	1512.25	1512	1545
Annual Meeting	200	0	50	100
VT Conv./Quad. St.	350	0	50	450
US Conv. /Council	400	0	700	450
Champ. Valley Voter	200	236.90	240	250
Member Programs	300	625.79	630	700
Advocacy/study	0	0	0	50
Mailing and copying	100	0	50	50
Voters service	100	0	0	50
Membership	50	16.95	20	25
Website	0	276.00	276	160
Savings	1200	0	0	0
Other	0	58.10	59	424
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$5040</b>	<b>\$3416.99</b>	<b>\$4277</b>	<b>\$4920</b>

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT - Jean Norton, Chair

The Nominating Committee submits the following slate of officers and directors to be voted on by the membership of the Champlain Valley League of Women Voters at Annual Meeting on May 9<sup>th</sup>. All positions are for a two year term, expiring in 2009.

Treasurer: June Carmichael  
Directors: Amy Bond, Mabel Buttolph, Jean Hopkins, Debbie Ramsdell  
Nominating Committee: Gail Feitelberg, Chair

- \* Note: Additional nominations may be made from the floor at Annual Meeting.  
We need additional members to serve on board. Please volunteer if you are able to serve.
- \*\* Note: The President, Vice President, Secretary and three current directors have one year remaining in their terms.

We thank all those who agreed to allow their names to be presented for nomination.

## TOWN MEETING SUMMARY

At our March 14 meeting on Open Government, we shared highlights from several town meetings. Here's another from Joanna Cole:

**Tuesday, March 6, 2007**

Brrrr- it was cold. In Burlington, Town Meeting Day is simply an election for City Councilors, School Commissioners, Ward clerks and inspectors and any ballot issues the City Council has put forward. Eighteen people ran for eight available council seats; and only ward 7 was close to needing a run-off election. The school budget passed city-wide but not in the New North End (wards 4 and 7). The only other ballot issue this year was an advisory asking for a re-investigation of 9/11 which was voted down.

We had a relatively quiet, uneventful Town Meeting Day. As I traveled to the polling places for the seven wards, other Board of Registered Voter members were saying the same thing: quiet, very few problems to solve. The problem files (incomplete voter registrations) were the same ones to take and return. Perhaps those people will come out for the next presidential election. About the only changes were some changes of addresses.

It would be great if our League of Women Voters could put out a brochure telling who is running for office and a little description about them. Let's get more voters out!

## NOTES ON A LEGISLATURE - Vee Gordon

The League has been tracking several committees this session: Senate Education, Senate Government Operations, House Education, and House Natural Resources.

Senate Government Ops has focused on same-day voter registration, instant runoff voting (IRV), and campaign finance. We testified on the two main voter bills and submitted a statement with Common Cause on S.164, the campaign finance bill that recently passed in the Senate. Same-day registration ended in a frustrating draw, resulting in the Chair directing the Secretary of State to set up a special committee to work out a compromise. IRV faces objections from small-town clerks worried about burdens on voting day, plus two reports conflict on the cost of using IRV: one report is from the Secretary of State's office, the other from FairVote.

Senate Education passed S.119 (an act relating to a civics educator in the legislative council) unanimously and sent it on to Senate appropriations. Considering the hesitancy to spend money, the bill may now sit there. It only calls for \$37,500 to cover a part-time salary and supplies, telephone, mailings, etc. We had permission from the Sergeant at Arms office to put that sum and the job under its banner. We have found a person for the position, who has an office already and

has been working with the Secretary of State and the D.O.E. on projects for schoolchildren. All we need now is for the appropriations committee to act.

House Education worked hard on H.526 (an act relating to education quality and cost control), now being reviewed by their counterparts in the Senate. We are due to testify on IRV again, it appears. And a portion of campaign finance not covered in 164. More fun.

**ARE YOU A NOTARY?** If so, please let us know by replying to this e-mail ([imwren@aol.com](mailto:imwren@aol.com)) or phoning 879-0011. When we have an opportunity to register voters, we may let you know.

**WEB ACCESS** Here's our easy-to-remember web-address. Visit us on-line now at <http://www.cvlwv.org> for information on meetings, voting and candidates.

### **SUBMIT YOUR STORY TO THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS' STORYBANK!**

Do you have a League story to tell? There's no better way to explain the benefits of membership to potential members than to share stories from current LWV members -- and we want to hear yours. Submit a story now! (<http://www.lwv.org/Storybank/>) For more information about the Storybank and how your story may be used, contact [storybank@lwv.org](mailto:storybank@lwv.org), or click here:

[http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=League\\_Storybank&Template=/TaggedPage/TaggedPageDisplay.cfm&TPLID=36&ContentID=7296](http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=League_Storybank&Template=/TaggedPage/TaggedPageDisplay.cfm&TPLID=36&ContentID=7296).

To read some examples of stories already submitted, click here:

[http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=League\\_Storybank&Template=/TaggedPage/TaggedPageDisplay.cfm&TPLID=4&ContentID=7297](http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=League_Storybank&Template=/TaggedPage/TaggedPageDisplay.cfm&TPLID=4&ContentID=7297).

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The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Membership in the League is open to men and women citizens of all ages. With more than 86 years of experience and 850 local and state affiliates, the League is one of America's most trusted grassroots organizations.