

THE CHAMPLAIN VALLEY VOTER

Newsletter of the League of Women Voters of the Champlain Valley

April 2008

CVLWV Board, 2007 - 2008

President	Marge Gaskins	879-0003
Vice President	Irene Wrenner (Voter Editor)	879-0011
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Secretary	Sue Golden	985-9524
Director	Amy Bond	879-0628
Director	Mabel Buttolph	863-3990
Director	Jean Hopkins	878-9326
Director	Susan Marks	288-9702
Director	Debbie Ramsdell	425-2027
Director	Bonnie Scott	webmaster@cvlwv.org
Director	Keri Toksu (Website)	658-0962

Calendar of Events

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

Champlain Valley LWV Monthly Meetings

Date	Time	Place	Description
Apr. 9	7 pm	Speeder & Earl's Coffee 412 Pine St. Burlington	Education Financing. There is no "fun" in education funding – but it is one of the most important things we do. Come participate in a lively, informative panel discussion of this important and controversial issue featuring Bill Talbott , CFO of the state Board of Education, Rep. Chris Pearson (P) of the Gov't Operations Committee who participated last year on a summer study committee on education funding, and Rep. Reg Godin (D), Milton School Board member, and a former teacher and principal.
Apr. 17	10:30 am	Brownell Library, EJ	CVLWV Board of Directors Monthly Meeting. All welcome.
May 14	5:30 pm	Mabel Buttolph's home 20 Peterson Terrace So. Burlington	Annual Meeting and Pot-Luck Dinner. Cocktails at 5:30. Dinner at 6 pm. Materials enclosed: budget, minutes of 2007 meeting, nominating committee report, proposed changes to bylaws.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT - Marge Gaskins

Winding down another legislative session. I just heard the Speaker is aiming for May 2nd, which looks a bit ambitious, but it would be nice. Then we can get on to real politics, maybe nail down some candidates and spend the next 6 months listening to the rhetoric and the appeals for your vote and or your dollars.

Speaking of politics and dollars, I'm sure you have heard the Governor has vetoed the latest campaign finance bill, and no surprise, also the IRV bill. There will be a vote to override, but if it doesn't happen, that also will not be a surprise. I have been trying to put this in perspective, (do the voters really care?), but it would be nice to have some guidelines that give every candidate the same opportunity to get their message out.

As for the IRV bill that was put on Gov. Douglas' desk, even I wonder at its purpose. How many close Congressional or Senatorial contests in Vermont do you recall with a winner who got less than

a majority, or who were from a minority party that was within a reasonable distance or even slightly close. Why didn't these legislators begin at the beginning, their seats? Or more importantly, with the contests that constitutionally require a majority, Governor or Treasurer. As I recall, those seats were important to our original statement of support.

Yet ahead, maybe some response to the voters who are hurting from property taxes, the availability of a less costly and reasonable alternative source of energy and/or transportation? And on the same topic, I have heard a lot of wailing and advice on getting rid of VT Yankee, but I haven't heard anyone with a plan to take its place. And that includes not just a non-carbon spewing plan, but also one that will produce the same amount of cost effective power.

I really don't expect a solution to these dilemmas, but I do hope that the lawmakers (including the administration) don't return home and say look how much we've done, and how important we are.

APRIL 9 MEETING on EDUCATION FINANCING

There's no "fun" in school funding, but it is one of the most important things we do. Are you confused about how schools are funded? Unhappy with how they are funded? Think you have a better idea? Join our lively discussion of this issue on **Wednesday, April 9, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m., at Speeder and Earl's**, 412 Pine Street, Burlington. This meeting was rescheduled, due to inclement weather in February.

The legislature and school boards will be represented on a three-person panel that will explain Act 82 (passed last year), discussing what is good about the law and why the School Boards Association is asking for its repeal. Alternatives to the present funding structure will also be discussed, including the use of income tax and taxing rental properties.

Please bring your ideas and questions to what is sure to be an informative and "fun" evening. For more information about this event, contact Susan Marks at 288-9702.

ANNUAL DUES ARE DUE!

Would you please remit annual membership dues (now \$50) to:

Champlain Valley League of Women Voters
PO Box 8266
Essex, VT 05451

Thank you for helping to keep us on a sound financial footing!

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 14.

The following officers and directors are nominated for two year terms expiring in 2010.

OFFICERS:

PRESIDENT: Marge Gaskins
VICE PRESIDENT: Irene Wrenner
SECRETARY: Debbie Ramsdell

*NOTE: The Treasurer has one year remaining in her term.

DIRECTORS: Amy Bond , Sue Golden, Keri Toksu

DIRECTOR FOR ONE YEAR: Susan Marks (replacing Debbie Ramsdell)

*NOTE: Two directors, Mabel Buttolph and Jean Hopkins, have one year remaining in their terms.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Claire Anderson, Chair, and Sherry Worrall

*NOTE: Nominating Committee members serve one year terms.

* NOTE: Additional nominations may be made from the floor at Annual Meeting.

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

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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.