

# THE CHAMPLAIN VALLEY VOTER

Newsletter of the League of Women Voters of the Champlain Valley

April 2009

CVLWV Board, 2008 - 2009

President	Marge Gaskins	879-0003
Vice President	Irene Wrenner (Voter Editor)	879-0011
Treasurer	Amy Bond	879-0628
Secretary	Jean Norton	879-0872
Director	Mabel Buttolph	863-3990
Director	Sue Golden	985-9524
Director	Jean Hopkins	863-5359
Director	Susan Marks	288-9702
Director	Keri Toksu (Website)	658-0962

## Calendar of Events

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

### Local, Statewide, Regional Meetings

Date	Time	Place	Description
Apr. 23	10:30am	Brownell Library, EJ	<b>CVLWV Board of Directors Monthly Meeting.</b>
May 2	TBA	Noble Hall Vt. College of Fine Arts Montpelier	<b>51<sup>st</sup> Convention of LWV of Vermont.</b> In addition to the regular business meeting, the program will emphasize energy issues, with a keynote speaker and a panel discussion. Please save the date!
May 14	5:30 pm	Wake Robin Shelburne (Directions on pg. 2)	<b>Annual Meeting and Dinner.</b> Please note the change in venue since last month. Also note the switch from prior years to a Thursday this year. We will order dinner off the Wake Robin dining menu. Cost: \$14. Please <b>RSVP by May 10</b> to 879-0011 or imwren@aol.com
May 30-31	TBA	Portsmouth, NH	<b>Quad States Leadership Conference.</b> Featuring a keynote speaker as well as workshops.

### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT - Marge Gaskins

Another year of Champlain Valley League of Women Voters is going by as rapidly as the last one.

And though I am looking forward as happily and hopefully as I did last year, I realize that it is just about time to let someone have this pleasure. Nothing brought it to mind more than the past couple of weeks, sifting through so much of my life in League as I sorted these memories into the recycle bin or the new, larger filing cabinet. For instance, my State Council and Convention records began in 1974 and are now filed chronologically. They were fun to review and interesting to see that many of the same programs refer to issues that are still unsolved.

June Carmichael's recent death stirred memories of so many good times and trying times that I wish I could tell you about them all. I began a project last summer to put together a history of the Vermont League, but when I spent so much time reading of past events, which meant so much to me, I never seemed to find time to write.

It is all still exciting, fun and, of course, hard work to be active and involved in League. I remind myself often that most, if not all of you, have heard the same stories about my life in League of Women Voters,

which taught me so much about Vermont and politics and friendships. I wish for all of you to remember what you learn, what you enjoy, and your value to the special issues that keep you here. We need you all; we want you all to keep us going, to take your turn and your talent to leadership here and upwards. Thanks to all of you for making your board and me look good with your participation and involvement.

I hope to see you all at our annual meeting the 14th of May at Wake Robin - pages 3 - 8 contain relevant documents - and also at the state convention in Montpelier.

### ANNUAL MEETING & DINNER, MAY 14, AT WAKE ROBIN IN SHELBURNE

Members and spouses are invited to our annual business meeting, to be held in a new venue and on a different day of the week. We selected a Thursday this year to assist those with Wednesday conflicts. Please be sure to bring this newsletter with you. Pages 3 - 11 contain info you may find helpful to preview.

Because we are foregoing the pot-luck format and ordering off the menu, would you please **RSVP by May 10** to Irene at 879-0011 or [imwren@aol.com](mailto:imwren@aol.com)? Cost will be \$14 per person.

Here are directions: Take US 7 south. After passing the Shelburne Museum turn right at the light onto Bostwick Road. Proceed 1 mile and turn left onto Wake Robin Drive. [Link to Map](#).

### FEBRUARY MEETING AUDIO - NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE

If you missed the meeting or wish to review the material, audio links are up on our [website](#), with thanks to Keri Toksu for recording the meeting and posting the audio files.

### APRIL MEETING CANCELLED

We had planned to meet with an expert on the Economy but must reschedule for a future date.

### HEALTH CARE - Jean Hopkins

The H.100 and S.88 bills on universal health care are still in committee, but S.129 - "Containing health care costs by decreasing variability in health care spending and utilization" (mainly by hospitals) was discussed in the House Health Committee this past week. Are you interested in the May 1st day of action in Montpelier for universal health care as a human right? Is there other health legislation that interests you? If so, please call 863-5359 or email [seaheidi@earthlink.net](mailto:seaheidi@earthlink.net).

### GLORIA STEINEM speaks at "Vermont Woman" Event

Interested in seeing this feminist activist, author, and founder of Ms. Magazine? Gloria Steinem will speak on June 11 at 7 pm at the Burlington Hilton. Tickets are \$30 and must be reserved in advance. Call 372-3201 or order online at <https://www.vermontwoman.com/speakers.shtml>.

PROPOSED BUDGET - Amy Bond, Treasurer

**CHAMPLAIN VALLEY LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS**  
**PROPOSED BUDGET - 7/1/09 - 6/30/10**

	<b>INCOME</b>	<b>BUDGET</b>	<b>ACTUAL</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>ESTIMATE</b>	<b>PROPOSED</b>
		<b>2008 -</b>	<b>2007-</b>	<b>7/1/08 to</b>	<b>7/1/08 to</b>	<b>2009-2010</b>
		<b>2009</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>3/31/2009</b>	<b>6/30/2009</b>	
1	Dues	\$3,200.00	\$2,375.00	\$2,340.00	\$2,450.00	\$2,550.00
2	Contributions	\$200.00	\$140.00	\$82.50	\$160.00	\$180.00
3	Annual Meeting	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
4	LWVUS Support	\$65.00	\$60.00	\$65.00	\$65.00	\$50.00
5	Grants	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
6	Legislative Prev. Dinner	\$400.00	\$375.00	\$520.00	\$520.00	\$500.00
7	Reserves	\$1,215.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,350.00	\$2,350.00
8	Miscellaneous	\$0.00	\$0.33	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$0.00
9	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$5,680.00</b>	<b>\$2,950.33</b>	<b>\$3,017.50</b>	<b>\$5,655.00</b>	<b>\$5,730.00</b>
				FY 2009	FY 2009	
	<b>EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>BUDGET</b>	<b>ACTUAL</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>ESTIMATE</b>	<b>PROPOSED</b>
		<b>2008 -</b>	<b>2007-2008</b>	<b>TO</b>	<b>TO 6/30/09</b>	<b>2009-2010</b>
		<b>2009</b>		<b>3/31/09</b>		
10	US PMP	\$1,400.00	\$1,487.00	\$1,400.00	\$1,400.00	\$1,431.00
11	VT PMP	\$600.00	\$666.00	\$600.00	\$600.00	\$588.00
12	US Conv.(10)/Council(09)	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
13	VT Council(10)/Conv.(09)	\$500.00	\$248.00	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$1,000.00
14	Champlain Valley Voter	\$250.00	\$73.00	\$42.20	\$100.00	\$150.00
15	Member Meetings	\$100.00	\$427.00	\$48.00	\$55.00	\$100.00
16	Annual Meeting	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
17	Voters Service	\$500.00	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$30.00	\$60.00
18	Advocacy/Study	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$50.00
19	Legis.Preview Dinner	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$466.15	\$466.15	\$500.00
20	Membership Committee	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$18.51	\$25.00	\$50.00
21	Web Fees	\$160.00	\$160.00	\$160.00	\$160.00	\$160.00
22	Pres./Board Expense	\$600.00	\$0.00	\$32.00	\$50.00	\$320.00
23	Reserves	\$310.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$121.00
24	Grants	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
25	Miscellaneous	\$10.00	\$14.00	\$66.90	\$67.00	\$100.00
26	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$5,680.00</b>	<b>\$3,095.00</b>	<b>\$2,853.76</b>	<b>\$3,253.15</b>	<b>\$5,730.00</b>

**NOTES**

- 1D: Includes dues paid before 7/1/08 not in treasurer's report but intended for FY 08-09.
- 1,2D: Not clear who paid, for whom, when, and whether dues or donations.
- 4F: \$5 x 10 national members
- 10F: 49 Member equivalents x \$29.20
- 11F: 49 Member equivalents x \$12.00
- 12F and 13F: US Convention and Quad. State

## ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA - Marge Gaskins, President

Minutes of 2008 annual meeting

Review and Vote on By-laws Revisions, 2008 - 2009

Proposed Budget and Adoption, Vee Gordon

Nominating Committee Report and Elections, Claire Anderson

Program, Marge Gaskins

- Support and Emphasis for Pending Legislation on Vermont Positions
- Report from 2008 program adoption

Unfinished Business

New Business

President's Remarks - League Priorities, 2009-2010, Marge Gaskins

Sustainability and Leadership of Champlain Valley League:

- Membership
- Fundraising
- Program

Adjournment

## MEETING MINUTES - Sue Golden, Secretary

CHAMPLAIN VALLEY LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
Annual Meeting  
May 14, 2008

The meeting, held at the home of Mabel Buttolph, was called to order by President Marge Gaskins at 7:45pm, with 15 members in attendance.

Minutes: The minutes of the 2007 Annual Meeting were approved as presented.

Budget: Committee chair Vee Gordon presented the proposed budget for 2008-2009.

Ways to save on postage were discussed, including using e-mail as the default method of delivering member meeting reminder postcards.

The budget was accepted by unanimous vote.

Proposed Bylaws Revisions: Amy Bond presented revised Bylaws to update those adopted in 1995. The primary change is moving the beginning of the fiscal year to July 1. After discussion, the previously circulated revisions to the Bylaws were approved unanimously.

Nominating Committee Report and Elections: Jean Norton, chair of the nominating committee, presented the proposed slate of officers.

The role of a "duly appointed assistant" to the treasurer was discussed, and the Board was instructed to work out details.

The secretary was instructed to cast a unanimous ballot for the slate as nominated:

President	Marge Gaskins
Vice President	Irene Wrenner
Treasurer	June Carmichael *
Secretary	Debbie Ramsdell
Directors	Amy Bond
	Mabel Buttolph *
	Sue Golden
	Jean Hopkins *
	Susan Marks **
	Keri Toksu
Nominating Committee	Claire Anderson (chair)
	Sherry Worrall

\* Continuing on board; completing two-year term begun in 2007

\*\* Serving remaining year of Debbie Ramsdell's term begun in 2007

Program Proposals: Improved public transportation and mental health issues were discussed as possible study items. A motion proposing a study to increase public transportation to medical facilities in the Burlington area was passed with one dissenting vote.

New Business: Susan Marks and Keri Toksu introduced a discussion of how attendance at member meetings might be improved. Ideas explored included a questionnaire to be sent to members (Jean Norton would assist Susan Marks); increasing membership; coordinating with other organizations depending on topic for meeting; hold bi-monthly or quarterly (rather than monthly) meetings; focusing exclusively on the upcoming elections until November; having a member meeting to discuss how to address the 2008 election.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10pm, with thanks to Mabel Buttolph for opening her home to members and their guests for the evening.

### **NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT 2009 - Claire Anderson**

The Nominating Committee submits the following slate to be voted on by the membership of the LWVCV at the membership at the Annual Meeting on May 14. All terms are for two years, except for the Nominating Committee terms at one year each:

Treasurer: Amy Bond

Directors: Mabel Buttolph, Jean Hopkins, Susan Marks

2010 Nominating Committee: Louise Ransom, Chair; Alice Bassett

We thank everybody who agreed to have their names submitted for nomination.

Respectfully submitted,

Claire Anderson, Chair, and Sherry Worrall

**BYLAWS  
OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE CHAMPLAIN VALLEY, VERMONT**

**ARTICLE I**

**Name.**

The name of this organization shall be League of Women Voters of the Champlain Valley, hereinafter referred to in these bylaws as LWVCV. This area League is an integral part of the League of Women Voters of the United States and of the League of Women Voters of Vermont, referred to in these bylaws as LWVUS and LWVVT respectively.

**ARTICLE II**

**Purposes and Policy.**

**Sec. 1. Purposes.** The purposes of the LWVCV are to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation in government and to act on selected governmental issues.

**Sec. 2. Political policy.** The LWVCV shall not support or oppose any political party or candidate.

**ARTICLE III**

**Membership.**

**Sec. 1. Eligibility.** Any person who subscribes to the purposes and policy of the LWVCV shall be eligible for membership. The treasurer shall collect the appropriate level of dues as determined by the LWVCV board of directors.

**Sec. 2. Types of Membership.**

**a. Voting Members.** Citizens at least 18 years of age who join the LWVCV shall be voting members of the LWVCV, the LWVVT, and the LWVUS. Those who have been members for fifty years or more shall be honorary life members excused from payment of dues.

**b. Associate Members.** All others who join the LWVCV, such as non-citizens, shall be non-voting associate members.

**ARTICLE IV**

**Local Leagues.**

Members are organized into local Leagues in order to promote the purposes of the League and to take action on local governmental matters. The board of directors of the LWVUS may grant full local League recognition to groups that have fulfilled requirements of their state boards and those adopted by the national convention. Only one local League shall be recognized in any community.

**ARTICLE V**

**State Leagues.**

**Responsibility.** State Leagues shall assume responsibility for the organization, development, fulfillment of state and national requirements, and promotion of program for local Leagues.

## **ARTICLE VI**

### **Withdrawal of Recognition.**

The national board may withdraw recognition for a local League's recurrent failure to fulfill requirements. The local League may appeal for reinstatement at the next national council or convention. Upon dissolution for any reason, a local League's unexpended funds and other assets shall be sent to the LWVVT.

## **ARTICLE VII**

### **Officers.**

**Sec. 1. Enumeration, Qualifications, Term and Election.** The officers of the LWVCV shall be a president, a vice president or copresident, a secretary and a treasurer who shall be voting members of the LWVCV. They shall be elected for terms of two years by the general membership at an Annual Meeting. They shall take office on July 1 of the year of their election and shall hold office until the conclusion of their two year term or until their successors have been elected. The president, vice president or copresident, and the secretary shall be elected in even numbered years. The treasurer shall be elected in the odd numbered years.

**Sec. 2. The President.** The president shall preside at all meetings of the organization and of the board of directors or designate another member to do so. The president may, in the absence or disability of the treasurer, sign or endorse checks, drafts and notes. The president shall be, ex officio, a member of all committees except the nominating committee. The president shall have such usual powers of supervision and management as may pertain to the office and perform such other duties as may be designated by the LWVCV board of directors. In the event of the absence, disability, resignation, or death of the president the vice president shall assume the office. If the vice president is unable to serve the board shall fill the vacancy from among the elected directors.

**Sec. 3. The Vice President.** The vice president shall, in the event of absence, disability or death of the president, possess all powers and perform all duties of that office until the return of the president or until such time as the Board of directors shall elect one of its elected members to fill the vacancy. The vice president shall perform such other duties as the president and the LWVCV board of directors may direct.

**Sec. 4. The Secretary.** The secretary shall keep minutes of all meetings of the LWVCV and of all meetings of the board of directors. The secretary shall notify all officers and directors of their elections. The secretary shall sign, with the president, all contracts and other instruments when so authorized by the board of directors and shall perform such other functions as may be incident to the office.

**Sec. 5. The Treasurer.** The treasurer or duly appointed assistant shall collect and receive all moneys due. The treasurer shall be the custodian of these moneys, shall deposit them in a bank designated by the board of directors, and disburse the same only upon order of the board of directors. The treasurer shall present periodic statements to the board of directors at their regular meetings and an annual report at the Annual Meeting.

## **ARTICLE VIII**

### **Board of Directors.**

**Sec. 1. Number, Selection, Qualifications and Term.** The board of directors shall consist of the officers of the LWVCV, six elected directors and not more than six appointed directors. All directors shall be voting members of the LWVCV. Three of the elected directors shall be elected by the general membership at each Annual Meeting and shall serve for a term of two years, or until their successors have been elected. The elected members shall appoint such

additional directors, not exceeding six, as they deem necessary to carry on the work of the LWVCV. The term of office of the appointed directors shall be one year and shall expire at the conclusion of the next Annual Meeting.

**Sec. 2. Vacancies.** Any vacancy other than the presidency occurring in the board of directors by reason of the resignation, death or disqualification of an officer or elected director may be filled, until the next Annual Meeting, by a majority vote of the remaining members of the board of directors.

**Sec. 3. Absenses.** Three consecutive absences from a board meeting of any member without a valid reason shall be deemed a resignation.

**Sec. 4. Powers and Duties.** The board of directors shall have full charge of the property and business of the organization, with full power and authority to manage and conduct same, subject to the instructions of the general membership. The board of directors shall plan and direct the work necessary to carry out the Program as adopted by the National Convention, the State Convention, and the Annual Meeting. The board of directors shall create and designate such special committees as it may deem necessary.

**Sec. 5. Meetings.** There shall be at least nine regular meetings of the board of directors annually. The president may call special meetings of the board of directors with at least two weeks advance notification, and shall call a special meeting upon the request of five members of the board.

**Sec. 6. Quorum.** A majority of the members of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum.

## **ARTICLE IX**

### **Convention and Council.**

**Sec. 1. LWVUS Convention.** A convention of the LWVUS is held biennially at a time and place determined by the national board, for the purpose of adopting national program, electing officers and directors, adopting a budget, and transacting other appropriate business.

**a. Delegates.** All delegates shall be voting members of the League. The LWVCV, at a meeting before the date on which the names of delegates must be sent to the national office, shall select delegates to that convention in the number allotted under the provisions of the bylaws of the LWVUS. Each local league is entitled to at least one delegate.

**b. LWVUS Council.** Delegates to Council are chosen by the LWVVT board. Local Leagues may make suggestions to the LWVVT for delegates to the LWVUS Council.

### **Sec. 2. LWVVT Convention and Council.**

**a. State Convention.** The members (or the board of directors) at a meeting before the date on which the names of delegates must be sent to the state, shall select delegates to that convention in the number allotted the LWVCV under the provisions of the bylaws of the LWVVT.

**b. State Council.** The members (or the board of directors) at a meeting before the date on which the names of delegates must be sent to the state, shall select delegates to that Council in the number allotted the LWVCV under the provisions of the bylaws of the LWVVT.

## **ARTICLE X**

## **Nominations and Elections.**

**Sec. 1. Nominating Committee.** The nominating committee shall consist of three members, one of whom shall be a member of the board of directors. The chairman and one member, who shall not be members of the board of directors, shall be elected at Annual Meeting. Nominations for these offices shall be made by the current nominating committee. The other member shall be appointed by the board of directors immediately following the Annual Meeting. Any vacancy on the nominating committee shall be filled by the board of directors. Suggestions for nominations for officers and directors may be sent to this committee by any voting member.

**Sec. 2. Report of the Nominating Committee and Nominations from the Floor.** The report of the nominating committee of its nominations for officers, directors and the members of the nominating committee shall be sent to all members one month before the date of the Annual Meeting. The report of the nominating committee shall be presented to the Annual Meeting. Immediately following the presentation of this report, nominations may be made from the floor by any voting member provided the consent of the nominee shall have been secured.

**Sec. 3. Elections.** The election shall be by ballot, provided that when there is but one nominee for each office, the secretary shall be instructed to cast a ballot for every nominee. A majority of those qualified to vote and voting shall constitute an election. Absentee or proxy voting shall not be permitted.

## **ARTICLE XI**

### **Meetings.**

**Sec. 1. Member Meetings.** There shall be at least three meetings of the members each year. Time and place shall be determined by the board of directors.

**Sec. 2. Annual Meeting.** An Annual Meeting shall be held between May first and June first, the exact date to be determined by the board of directors. The annual meeting shall:

- a. adopt a local program for the ensuing year;
- b. elect officers, directors and members of the nominating committee;
- c. adopt an adequate budget; and
- d. transact such other business as may properly come before it.

**Sec. 3. Quorum.** Fifteen percent of the voting members shall constitute a quorum at all meetings of the LWVCV.

## **ARTICLE XII**

### **Principles and Programs.**

**Sec. 1. Principles.** The principles are concepts of government supported by the League and are the authorization for adoption of national, state and local program.

**Sec. 2. Program.** The program of the LWVCV shall consist of those governmental issues chosen for sustained attention, study, and/or action.

**Sec. 3. Action by Annual Meeting.** The Annual Meeting shall act upon the program using the following procedures:

- a. The board of directors shall consider the recommendations sent in by the voting members two months prior to the Annual Meeting and shall formulate a proposed program.
- b. The proposed program shall be sent to all members one month before the Annual Meeting.
- c. A majority vote of voting members present and voting at Annual Meeting shall be required for adoption of subjects in the proposed programs presented to the Annual Meeting by the board of directors.

d. Recommendations for the program submitted by voting members two months prior to the Annual Meeting but not recommended by the board of directors may be considered by the Annual Meeting provided that: (1) The Annual Meeting shall order consideration by a majority vote and (2) The Annual Meeting shall adopt the item by a two-thirds vote.

**Sec. 4. Changes in Local Program.** Changes or substitutions in local program may be made by majority approval of the board of directors upon application to the board of directors by the unit directly involved after the proposal has been approved by a majority vote by that unit pursuant to a twenty day written notice of that meeting and program proposal. Units are defined by the board of directors.

**Sec. 5. Member Action.** Members may act in the name of the of LWV only when authorized to do so by the proper board of directors.

### **ARTICLE XIII**

#### **Fiscal Administration.**

**Sec. 1. Fiscal Year.** The fiscal year of the LWVCV shall commence on the first day of July each year.

**Sec. 2. Dues.** Annual dues shall be payable July first. Any member who fails to pay dues within six months after they become payable shall be dropped from the membership rolls. The level of dues support shall be decided at Annual Meeting in connection with approving the budget. When two or more members reside at the same address in a common household the dues shall be full payment for the first member plus one-half payment for each additional member. Student membership shall be one-half the full membership.

**Sec. 3. Budget.** A budget for the ensuing year shall be submitted by the Board of Directors to the Annual Meeting for adoption. The budget shall include support for the work of the League of Women Voters as a whole.

**Sec. 4. Budget Committee.** A budget committee of at least three members, including the treasurer and a chairman, shall be appointed by the Board of Directors at least two months prior to the Annual Meeting to prepare a budget for the ensuing year. The treasurer shall not be eligible to serve as chairman of the budget committee. The proposed budget shall be sent to all members three weeks before the Annual Meeting.

### **ARTICLE XIV**

#### **Parliamentary Authority.**

**Sec. 1. Parliamentary Authority.** The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the organization in all cases to which they are applicable and not inconsistent with these Bylaws.

### **ARTICLE XV**

#### **Amendments.**

**Sec. 1. Amendments.** These Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the voting members present and voting at the Annual Meeting, provided the amendments were submitted to the membership in writing at least three weeks in advance of the meeting.

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Art. VI, Sec. 2, amended 1972, 1974, 1977, 1978

Art. IX, Sec. 3 and 4 amended 1978

Revised and adopted May 10, 1995.

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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.

**THE CHAMPLAIN VALLEY VOTER**

League of Women Voters

P.O. Box 8266

Essex, Vermont 05451-8266