

# THE CHAMPLAIN VALLEY VOTER

Newsletter of the League of Women Voters of the Champlain Valley

June 2007

## CVLWV Board, 2006 - 2007

|                |                              |                     |
|----------------|------------------------------|---------------------|
| President      | Marge Gaskins                | 879-0003            |
| Vice President | Irene Wrenner (Voter Editor) | 879-0011            |
| Treasurer      | June Carmichael              | 878-8360            |
| 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 (Website)       | webmaster@cvlwv.org |
| Director       | Keri Toksu (Programs)        | 658-0962            |

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### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT - Marge Gaskins

Our annual meeting last month was productive. We had some new members attending, and I hope they will stay involved and attend our regular meetings.

We elected new board members **Susan Marks** and **Debbie Ramsdell**. If they are as willing to work and help keep us as vibrant as last year's new members were, I may not be able to keep up.

**June Carmichael** is our newly-elected Treasurer. June is also the state League Treasurer, as well as the treasurer for the League Education Fund. Although that may seem like a lot of work, she has the system and communications efficiently organized, and the answers quickly available. Our Treasurer plans to show **Jessica Workman** the ropes, as she may help June out from time to time.

And speaking of the treasury, **members voted to raise our dues to \$50, effective immediately**. I hope the extra \$10 doesn't overburden anyone, but the discussion was that we should realistically reflect our costs, and effectively get information to our members and the public. So expect an active and productive year for Champlain Valley League.

I particularly want to thank all of the Board members who have contributed so much. Most of them will be staying on board and continuing their involvement.

**Amy Bond** was a very competent Treasurer for several years, and also serves as Education Finance committee chair. She lends her League expertise in so many ways, having served as co-President when we needed her. Her many years of membership and familiarity with the by-laws help us all to do it "right".

**Keri Toksu** has been chairing our membership efforts, program, publicity, and our meeting locations. Perhaps this year we will be able to spread the efforts around with some new board

members. Keri gave us a list of proposed programs for the year, which we discussed at some length. What a good beginning!

**Bonnie Scott** researched and programmed our new and upgraded website. She makes sure the information is kept up-to-date with our calendar, programs and information for the viewers. This is not in my realm, so it is great to have someone else who knows it.

**Irene Wrenner** stepped in as vice-president, and has been a huge resource for me. She also took over the newsletter last fall. Just keeping the names and addresses of the recipients correct is a large job, and she does it while taking care of her family, running for and serving on the board of selectmen in Essex, and working part-time.

**Sue Golden** is Secretary. She not only takes minutes of the meetings, she makes sure the postcards get out for our regular meetings. She is the only one we have to get a substitute for when she is absent for even one meeting. She is a very important person.

**Barbara Bowen**, former Voter editor, was instrumental in ensuring a smooth transition of this newsletter to our new editor and has proofread numerous issues before publication.

**Jean Hopkins** chairs our Health Care Committee. She keeps us informed on this issue and supports us with her helpful comments and votes on all of our issues, as does **Mabel Buttolph**.

I am glad you are all staying on Board. I couldn't begin to do it without you, and I am looking forward working with our new board members in the coming year.

You certainly make my role easier.

Be sure and check out the additional notes on the annual meeting. In all, we had a delicious dinner with some very interesting conversations, plus an opportunity to meet new members and to set league policy.

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#### **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!

## PROPOSED MEETING TOPICS 2007-08

Meetings will alternate between noon and evenings on the second Wednesday of each month, September through May, except where noted.

Please contact Keri Toksu with questions or suggestions for speakers.

| Month     | Description  |
|-----------|--|
| September | Affordable Housing (not to be held on the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday) |
| October   | Transportation: Issues & Innovations                                 |
| November  | Renewable Energy   |
| December  | Meet Your Legislators Dinner   |
| January   | School Funding   |
| February  | Voting: IRV and Same-Day Voter Registration                          |
| March     | Sunshine Week  |
| April     | Lake Champlain   |
| May       | Annual Meeting   |
| June      | Aging in Vermont   |
|           | <b>Other topics under consideration:</b> Immigration, Health Care    |

### LWVUS Council 2007 - Keri Toksu

The League of Women Voters of Vermont was represented by Keri Toksu at the 2007 League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) national Council meeting, held June 8-11 in Washington, DC. Council is a biennial meeting of League leaders, where delegates have the opportunity to discuss issues important to Leagues and citizens nationwide.

At Council, delegates attended sessions that addressed the League's agenda for the coming year, were exposed to training on a number of important topics and programs, and passed the organization's budget. Additionally, they had the opportunity to attend "Immigration Policy in the 21st Century," a panel discussion led by distinguished experts in the field of U.S. immigration policy.

"It was exciting to attend Council," Keri said. "I met many interesting people and heard about their initiatives and experiences. I also learned new skills and approaches to membership and program planning that we'll be implementing. This is going to be a great year for our League!"

To see reports from Council or to watch/listen to the Immigration panel discussion, go to:

[http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Council\\_and\\_Convention&Template=/TaggedPage/TaggedPageDisplay.cfm&TPLID=138&ContentID=8763](http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Council_and_Convention&Template=/TaggedPage/TaggedPageDisplay.cfm&TPLID=138&ContentID=8763)

**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.

**2007 MEMBERSHIP LIST!** If you have joined the League of Women Voters by paying dues this year, please contact [imwren@aol.com](mailto:imwren@aol.com) to request a membership list to be sent to you via e-mail.

**SAVE A TREE!** Due to the cost of postage and labor, we encourage members to obtain this newsletter electronically. Please let the editor know if you can make the switch from paper to (colorful) pixels. Reach her at [imwren@aol.com](mailto:imwren@aol.com). Thank you!

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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.