

THE CHAMPLAIN VALLEY VOTER

Newsletter of the League of Women Voters of the Champlain Valley

March 2008

CVLWV Board, 2007 - 2008

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	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
Mar. 12	Noon to 1 pm	Pickering Room at Fletcher Free Library 235 College Street Burlington	Campaign '08 – The Road Ahead. After the most exciting presidential primary season in the past decade, what have we to look forward to in the upcoming campaign? Join Jon Margolis , long-time political reporter and correspondent, for a lively discussion of the season ahead. <i>Invite a friend!</i>
Mar. 27	10 am	Brownell Library, Essex Junction	CVLWV Board of Directors Monthly Meeting. As always, all are welcome to attend.
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 – with Mary Peterson, Chris Pearson, and Reg Godin – of this important and controversial issue. This meeting was postponed from February, due to inclement weather. <i>Invite a friend!</i>

Message From the President - Marge Gaskins

Whew! ' Nearly the middle of the legislative session in its second year, and some pretty important stuff is still hanging. So far, no discussion on the 4-year term for Governor or any of the other proposed amendments, but I guess they will discuss the self-administered voter's oath soon in the Senate's Government Operations Committee. Somehow, to me, this seems like a "sacred cow" and it shouldn't be changed without a serious discussion of the ramifications of repealing it altogether. No other state has one, and it has been in place, virtually unchanged since it was written in 1777. The only significant change is the title from Freeman's Oath to Voter's Oath. If we don't want it to be an oath, administered by a qualified person, as are other oaths, why not make it truly meaningless and do away with it?

The voter registration deadline change to include Election Day was presented to the Senate committee by the Secretary of State. Too bad it will likely not be on the agenda again this

session. I really believe this is the way to increase participation by the voters. They did move it up a bit, to the Wednesday just before Election Day, but there still will be questions and confusion about the deadline.

The Senate did vote to allow (or require?) "Mobile voting" to go to Nursing Homes or retirement homes to be sure town registrants have an opportunity to vote, or even register if they get there early enough. Of course gas costs lots more than mail, and many towns must pay election workers for their time, so some town clerks may object due to costs and extra administration.

Even though I am overlooking quite a lot of other issues, the property tax (especially to pay for education) still has no solution, but it may be addressed in the budget discussions. And money is the route to solutions on energy costs, health care, affordable housing and higher education.

Because the budget is usually the last compromise between the Legislature, dominated by one party, and the Governor from the other, it will be quite a tug-of-war. There will be no easy or quick fix. Politics in Vermont is not dull. Use that line to get all of your friends to join League!

Jon Margolis Speaks at League of Women Voters Meeting - Keri Toksu

After the most exciting presidential primary season in the past decade, what do we have to look forward to in the upcoming campaign? Join Jon Margolis for a lively discussion on campaign '08, voting issues and more on **Wednesday, March 12**. (See Calendar above for details.)

Jon Margolis, former national political correspondent for the *Chicago Tribune*, has contributed magazine articles to *The New York Times Magazine*, *American Prospect*, *Mother Jones*, and *High Country News*. Currently, Margolis does in-depth reporting for *Seven Days* and teaches at the University of Vermont. Margolis has also been blogging weekly on Vermont Public Television's Vermont Primary Tracker, an on-line forum about the presidential campaign.

For more information about this event, contact Keri at ktoksu@hotmail.com or 802-658-0962.

Help Register Voters this Busy Election Year ... Become a Notary Public!

Our local chapter gets frequent requests to register voters in various venues. Would you please consider helping out? In order to administer the Voters Oath, you must be commissioned as a Notary Public.

If you haven't applied before, head for the Chittenden County Court House at 175 Main Street, Burlington any weekday for an application. The process takes about 10 minutes. The cost is \$20, and your commission is valid until 2/10/11. About a week after submitting your paperwork, you'll receive confirmation in the mail. You can then pick up a stack of Voter Registration Forms from your town clerk's office and hit the streets! Also, please contact Marge Gaskins (879-0003) to be added to her list of Notaries. She'll alert you when we receive an invitation to register voters.

Save a Tree!

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

Happy 88th Anniversary to the LWV! - Maggie Duncan, LWVUS

February 14 was the League of Women Voters' 88th anniversary. Here is a sample of the 1000+ birthday greetings received - a truly heartwarming reminder of the League's impact!

"88 keys on a piano. 88 years of League. Let the music continue."

"You are truly the League with a heart, a voice, and shared information which can create positive change".

"Still the best organization in America! Taught me most everything I know about organizing. Love it with all my heart."

"You are the most under-appreciated national treasure."

"You go, girls...doing a great job!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!"

"When LWV speaks, civic leaders listen. Happy Birthday to a group that has earned respect because of all the hard work of its volunteers."

"With respect, love and gratitude from my grandmothers, my parents, my children, grandchildren - and self."

"From the bottom of my heart, body, mind and political soul - Women can and do change the world. Let's keep it up!"

"I came from Iraq and I was 38 year-old. I was never given the chance to vote. I am a proud member of this league and I am a proud citizen of this country where I was given the chance to vote."

"The League was responsible for two of the biggest things in my life: My business and my marriage. I'll always be grateful to this terrific group of

women."

"LWV is the standard by which I measure all other organizations."

"Without you, we'd be nowhere. Thanks for changing the world."

"League Members are wonders, Without them voters would wane, By not registering to vote, by not standing in the voting lane. So Happy Birthday LWV, Long may you continue to serve, So our voting process continually improves, And never your resolve shall swerve."

"It is great to be associated with this wonderful organization which so many depend on for advice & information, especially in this election year!"

"The League continues to blaze a trail for women's equality. Congratulations!"

"We've come a long way baby!!!! The clothing changed, but not the sentiments!!!"

"AT 88 you still have the 'it factor' and still rock."

"Happy Birthday to a group that still believes in the "high road" and making things transparent, honest, and positive."

"To the best darn organization that ever was created in these United States. Happy Birthday, women. "

"We are so proud to be a small part of this big, beautiful picture of democracy in action."

"MAKE NEW FRIENDS, BUT KEEP THE OLD, ONE IS SILVER AND THE OTHER'S GOLD"

... KEEP OUR CHAPTER GOING - AND GROWING!

Remember to tell your friends about what you've learned, thanks to the League, and invite them along to our next meeting. Word-of-mouth is most effective, so please spread the word!

... ARE YOU A LEAGUE VETERAN OF 25 YEARS OR MORE?

If so, we want to commend you and commemorate you for your long-time support of the League! Please help us compile a list of "25 and counting" members by contacting Irene Wrenner at 879-0011 or imwren@aol.com if you fit the bill.

###

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.