



League of Women Voters of Central Vermont

Bulletin

Fall 2016

Fall Message

This has been our busiest summer ever – a season that we typically a slow time for the League.

This year we have so far hosted two House candidate forums and cohosted, with the state League, a preprimary candidate forum for Lt. Governor.

Labor Day brought no respite. On September 9 we registered new citizens to vote following the annual naturalization ceremony at the State House, and served refreshments in the Cedar Creek Room. Still ahead is cohosting a gubernatorial debate at the State House on September 22, and on the 27th observing National Voter Registration Day by registering Norwich University Students in Northfield.

The remaining calendar for the year is on p. 5. Take special notice of the bimonthly series of panel discussions cosponsored by Kellogg-Hubbard Library, starting on October 13.

In closing I want to thank everyone who has helped make all these events possible, the timekeepers and runners for our candidate forums, to those who helped (and will help) at voter registration events, to our forum moderators Susan Clark, Michael Duane and Steve Pappas, and special thanks to Onion River Community Access and Central Vermont TV for carrying our candidate forums.

On behalf of your Leadership Team

Kate Rader

Preprimary Candidate Forums Dominate Summer Calendar

This has been a banner year for the League's voter service activities.

The LWV of Central Vermont participated in three preprimary candidate forums in July, one in partnership with the state League.

An overflow crowd came to the Kellogg-Hubbard Library to hear the seven candidates hoping to claim Rep. Tony Klein's seat for the Washington 5 District.



SRO in the Hayes Room at Kellogg-Hubbard Library in Montpelier



Moderator Michael Duanne and candidates Kimberly Jessup, Ginny Burley, Matt Swenson (behind Burley), Kim Swasey, Dexter Lafavour, Carl Etnier, and (n screen) Ben Kaplan.

One candidate participated remotely from Washington DC. The event was recorded, and the remote connection was facilitated by Onion River Community Access TV.

East Montpelier Town Moderator Michael Duane presided.

The following week the second House candidate forum was held in the studios of Central Vermont TV in Barre. Candidates from Barre Town (Washington 2 District). Times Argus editor Steven Pappas moderated this event for three candidates vying for two seats.

This event was broadcast live and recorded for later airings.

The final July event was a forum for primary candidates for Lieutenant Governor, co-sponsored by the LWVVT and the Kellogg-Hubbard Library.



Moderator Susan Clark and candidates for Lt. Governor David Zuckerman, Kesha Ram, Shap Smith and Randy Brook.

LWVCEN member Susan Clark moderated. The forum was recorded by ORCA and live-streamed through Youtube. Once again the Hayes Room of the library had a standing-room audience.

One further forum, co-sponsored by the Vermont Commission on Women, Business and Professional Women – VT and the LWVVT has been scheduled for noon on September 22. Candidates for Governor will hold forth in the House Chamber at the State House.

LWVCEN Celebrates The 19th Amendment

Eighteen League members and guests gathered at NECI on Main to celebrate the passage of the 19th Amendment, granting suffrage to American women.



Carl Etnier and Ashley Hill celebrate Women's Suffrage with Kate Rader

This was one of two Happy Hours the League will host every year, one in observation of the 19th Amendment and the second, in February to mark the anniversary of the League of Women Voters, founded on February 14, 1920.

Votes for Women pins were awarded to those who did best in our suffrage quiz, though no-one answered all the questions correctly. How would you do? Answers are on p. 5.

In what year did women in the USA win the right to vote?

1903 1917 1920 1932

**Which state was the first to allow women to vote?
Colorado Wyoming California Vermont**

Which state cast the final vote to ratify the 19th Amendment?

Tennessee Virginia New Hampshire Ohio

How many women voted in the first election after getting the right to vote?

1 million 3 million 5 million 8 million

**Who founded the League of Women Voters?
Susan B. Anthony Carrie Catt Lucy Burn
Eleanor Roosevelt**

We hope you will join us at our 97th anniversary party in February.

New Citizens Welcomed on September 9

The League of Women Voters of Central Vermont registered 30 new citizens to vote after they were sworn at the naturalization ceremony at the State House on September 9.

Forty-three petitioners from 21 countries took the official oath of citizenship, administered by The Honorable William K. Sessions III. Each new citizen is immediately eligible to register to vote. Getting new Americans registered to vote is critical to the goal of immigrant civic integration and LWV has a long tradition of engaging new voters and assisting them in voter registration.

Following the ceremony, LWV hosted a special reception of cookies and punch in the Cedar Creek Room to welcome the state's newest citizens and their guests.

Although Vermont holds naturalization around the state ceremonies about once a month, the State House plays host only once a year. Hosting the Naturalization Ceremony on September 11 was the brainchild of Judge Sessions as a remembrance of the people who died on 9/11 and to show respect for the tradition of keeping the country's doors open. Since September 11, 2016 was a Sunday, the ceremony was held the previous Friday.

Thank you to LWVCEN members Mary Alice Bisbee, Scott Hess, Madeline Motta and Kate Rader for registering the new voters. Further thanks to Joanne Bair, Hedi Ballantyne, Mary Alice Bisbee, Mary Jane Harris, Scott Hess, Sue Racanelli and Kate Rader for the refreshments and Joanne and Sue for being gracious hostesses at the event.

Picture on p.5



*Every vote counts and
every vote must be counted*

~ Senator Barbara Mikulski, Maryland

We are all familiar with the slogan, *Every Vote Counts*, and probably shake our heads figuring the odds our vote will actually affect the outcome of a given election is very, very, very slim.

Well, the recent Washington County Democratic Senate August 9 primary had Francis Brooks and Ashley Hill four votes apart. Miss Hill requested a recount.

I was part of the recount team and consider the experience an absolute testament to democracy. Over two days, 22 of us divided in two teams, went through sealed ballot bags from 20 towns, isolating each and every Democrat ballot in stacks of 50, recounting each pack three times before running it through tabulators. Ballots with write-in names as well as those not read by the tabulator were visually inspected and signed off.

In the end, we found four questionable ballots where it was impossible to determine voter intent. These were given to Superior Court Judge Timothy Tomasi, who, based on a disputed ballot from Worcester, ruled that Brooks defeated Hill by one vote, 3709 to 3708. Tired, but in awe at the methodical thoroughness, this was an extraordinary process! The irony was that more than 5,000 voters did not indicate their preference for either candidate.

I also came away seeing that we mark the ovals in our ballots in several different ways - checks, dots, "X", circling candidates' names but not the oval, crossing names out yet filling the ovals, and one where the voter filled the oval, ran three diagonal lines through and initialized it. There is only **ONE correct way** - we are asked to

completely fill in the ovals next to our choice.

At the polls, if you make a mistake, change your mind, or accidentally vote for the wrong candidate, not to worry. Tell a poll worker and you will be given a new ballot. If you are completing an early ballot, call the Town Clerk and a replacement will be sent.

Every vote Counts. While it can be difficult to gather information critically needed to guide us past the overwhelming stimuli, the League's www.VOTE411.org is a good place to start. Attend some of the candidate forums being held by the League around the state to hear candidates state their positions. I encourage you to gather the facts, ask questions, and make responsible decisions as we exercise our right to vote on Tuesday, November 8th.

Sue Racanelli

League Celebrates Independence Day

Members from Central Vermont, the Champlain Valley and the Northeast Kingdom marched for the League in Montpelier's Independence Day parade on July 3.



Kate Rader, Dotty Rick, Karen Bufka, Madeline Motta and Sonja Schuyler, ready for the parade.

Earlier in the day, the LWVCEN hosted the Democracy Tent on the State House lawn, where we registered voters, provided election information, and had space for candidates to leave campaign information.

LWVCEN Calendar 2016/17

September

- 22 Noon Gubernatorial Candidate Forum, State House, sponsored by VCW, LWV and BPW. *LWV to register voters.*
- 27 National Voter Registration Day

October

- 10 10:30 a.m. Leadership Team Meeting
- 13 7:00 p.m. *Immigration and Refugees*, co-hosted with Kellogg-Hubbard Library

November

- 8 ELECTION DAY
- TBD LWVCEN Quilt Drawing

December

- 12 10:30 a.m. Leadership Team meeting

January

- TBD LWVCEN New Year breakfast
- 12 7:00 p.m. *Health Care: Universal Primary Care?*, co-hosted with Kellogg-Hubbard Library

February

- ~14 5:30-7:00 p.m. Social event, marking founding of LWVUS

March

- 7 Town Meeting Day
- 9 7:00 p.m. *EB5 Program in Vermont*, co-hosted with Kellogg-Hubbard Library
- 13 10:30 a.m. Leadership Team meeting

April

- 7-9 Quad States Leadership Conference, Wells, ME
- 11 10:30 a.m. Leadership Team meeting

May

- 10 LWVCEN Annual Meeting
- 11 7:00 p.m. *Privacy*, co-hosted with Kellogg-Hubbard Library

June

- TBD LWVVT Convention



New citizens line up to register to vote at the State House. (Story on p. 3.)

Answers to 19 Amendment Quiz:

1. 1920
2. Wyoming
3. Tennessee
4. 8 million
5. Carrie Catt



LWV Central VT

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