



League of Women Voters of Central Vermont

Bulletin

Summer 2016

**Join Montpelier's
INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION
Sunday, July 3**

**Democracy Tent
and
Parade**

Be a part of it!

As in past election years, the LWVVT is partnering with the City of Montpelier to host the Democracy Tent at Montpelier's Independence Day celebration on July 3. At the tent, we will register voters and provide election information, as well as providing a place for candidates to meet their constituents and leave campaign materials. Later in the afternoon we will march in the parade, making the League even more visible to the thousands who attend this popular event.

Please be a part of it! Sign up to help at the tent on the State House lawn, and join us in the parade – the most fun you'll have in the whole League year. Contact me at catherine.rader@myfairpoint.net or 802-229-4737 if you can help.

We have more plans for this year as well: candidate forums for State Representative for Barre Town and East Montpelier/Middlesex, partnering with the VCW and BPW to bring a gubernatorial debate in the State House (as well as registering voters there), and registering voters at Norwich University and other venues on National Voter Registration Day. Watch for details to learn how you can help.

Here's to the beginning of another great year in League!

Kate Rader

12th Annual Meeting Learns About Human Trafficking

The LWVCEN held its 12th Annual Meeting on May 4th at NECI on Main. We thank NECE for accommodating us on short notice after some confusion about our original venue.

No new study was recommended. In this Presidential election year, activities will be centered on voter service: voter registration, candidate forums (see following story), and hosting the Democracy Tent at the Montpelier Independence Day festivities.

Sue Racanelli will complete her two-year term on our Leadership Team. Kate Rader accepted another two-year term as Secretary/Treasurer and will continue as editor of the *Bulletin*. At least two additional team members are needed, and recruitment efforts will continue.

In Directions to the Board, the board was asked to give special attention to registering eligible students in area high schools. Guest David Orrick, faculty member at Norwich University in Northfield, reported that students there need guidance on voting on campus or at their home, and suggested we register voters there. We have a contact there, Ann Buttimore, and Rader volunteered follow up. The state League is investigating registering incarcerated felons to vote (Vermont and Maine are the only states allowing prisoners to vote), and Dottye Ricks will look into the protocols of the Department of Corrections.



Asst. U.S. Atty. Heather Ross addresses Annual Meeting

Following the dinner, Assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of Vermont Heather Ross spoke to us about human trafficking in Vermont, with its links to drug trafficking. Trafficking in immigrant labor is also an aspect of the problem, and one that is difficult to address, because of victims' fear of law enforcement.

Interest in human trafficking was piqued by the LWVVT program on the topic last March. The state League will pursue this topic with our new Attorney General after the election in November. Let LWVVT board member Jean Hopkins (seaheidi@earthlink.net) if you are interested in working on the issue.

Voter Service Takes the Spotlight in 2016

This has turned out to be just about the most exciting election year in most of our memories. The national level speaks for itself. But there will be a lot of turnover here in Vermont, with leadership in the State House changing, and a number of veteran legislators leaving.

Central Vermont is in the midst of this change. Seven candidates are in the running to fill Tony Klein's seat representing Washington County District 5 (East Montpelier/Middlesex). For Washington 2 (Barre Town), incumbents are facing a challenge for a seat in this two-member district.

LWVCEN is hosting pre-primary candidate forums for these two races: Washington 5 prospects will meet on Tuesday, July 12 at 5:00 p.m. at the Kellogg-Hubbard Library; the Washington 2 candidates' forum is scheduled for Thursday, July 14 at the CVTV studio, 386 North Main Street in Barre. Both events are open to the public and will be recorded and aired by the respective community access TV stations.

On July 19 at 7:00 p.m., the Central Vermont League will assist the LWV of Vermont in presenting candidates for Lt. Governor co-hosted by Kellogg-Hubbard Library. This forum will

also be open to the public, and will be recorded and also carried live by Montpelier's Onion River Community Access.

Consideration is being given for a further, post-primary forum for Washington County Senate candidates.

Another general election debate is scheduled for Wednesday, September 14, when the LWVVT partners with the Vermont Commission on Women and Business and Professional Women to hear the candidates for Governor. The League will also be registering voters at that event, at noon at the State House.

More voter registration is in the offing, including registering students at Norwich University in Northfield this fall, and joining the LWVVT on September 22 to participate in National Voter Registration Day.

There's a busy election season ahead. At its convention this month, the LWVUS focused on protecting voter rights and chose the theme Making Democracy Work for All for the next biennium. Vermont has been spared the voter suppression laws passed in several states since the Supreme Court weakened the Voting Rights Act. But by choosing to educate voters, register voters, and get out the vote, we are doing our part to make democracy work here.

Time to Renew Your Membership!

Renewal notices have gone out, including materials about our new quilt raffle and a survey of your interests.

Renew your membership and spread the word about the League to all and sundry. The LWVUS has reduced the eligibility for full membership to anyone 16 or over, so connect your high-schoolers with the League. Let's start young to Make Democracy Work!

[Complete the survey, too. We need to know your interests and concerns in order to have strong grass roots.]

LWVCEN Calendar 2016/17

July

- 3 Noon-7:00 p.m. Montpelier Independence Day: Democrac Tent and Parade
- 12 5:00-7:00 p.m. E. Montpelier/Middlesex State Rep. Candidate form, Kellogg-Hubbard Library
- 14 7:00-8:00 p.m. Barre Town State Rep. Candidate Forum, CVTV studio

August

- 8 10:30 a.m. Leadership Team meeting
- 9 State Primary Election Day
- 18 5:30-7:00 p.m. Social event, marking passage of 19th Amendment. NECI on Main

September

- 14 Noon Gubernatorial Candidate Debate, State House, sponsored by VCW, LWV and BPW. League to register voters.
- 22 National Voter Registration Day

October

- 10 10:30 a.m. Leadership Team Meeting
- TBD Washington County State Senate debate (tentative)
- 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 *EB5 Program in Vermont*, co-hosted with Kellogg-Hubbard Library
- 13 10:30 a.m. Leadership Team meeting

April

- TBD Quad States Leadership Conference
- 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



LWV Central VT

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