



League of Women Voters of Central Vermont

Bulletin

Winter 2015

Winter Message

The holidays are upon us and as you gather to spend time with family and friends, I wish you festivity, joy, and some snow!

As we approach this new year of 2016, our calendar for the first quarter is chock-full of activities!

Ring in the year is our New Year Breakfast, scheduled for Friday, January 8th. I'll be sending a quick little survey before Christmas to get your help in selecting a restaurant. Please take a moment to respond and plan on joining us. The breakfast should be a bright spot as we head into the depth of winter – assuming that winter *will* come!

Later in January is the important consensus meeting for the *Money in Politics* study. This will be held Kate's house, 1186 Towne Hill Road, East Montpelier on Tuesday, January 19 at 7:00 p.m. You will find information about the study in December's *Green Mountain Citizen* and on the LWVUS website (www.lwv.org).

On February 2nd, in an effort to engage and recruit new members, we'll be hosting a Happy Hour from 5:30-7:00 p.m. in the downstairs lounge at NECI on Main. We want potential members or anyone curious about the League to share a bite on the way home from work and have a conversation with Leaguers.

Be sure to put March 9, Legislative Day, on your calendar. It will be held at the State House from 8:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m. with coffee and bagels served at 8 a.m., followed by conversations with legislators and a possible meeting with the Governor.

We'll wrap up the first quarter with the movie *Iron-Jawed Angels* on March 10th at 6 p.m. at the library. It is the dramatic story of Alice Paul and Lucy Burns, a group of defiant young suffragists, who put their lives at risk to fight for a constitutional amendment guaranteeing American women the right to vote. We are proud to co-host this with Kellogg-Hubbard Library.

Most importantly, as we come to the close of 2015, I want to thank each one of you for being a member of the League of Women Voters of Central Vermont and your generous support. We look forward to seeing you at a future program event. Happy New Year!!

Kate Rader and Sue Racanelli

Quilt Raffle!

From 2005 through 2014 we have held a quilt raffle to supplement our revenues and keep our dues, with a quilt donated by a member. This year she moved away, and we were looking for other ways to raise funds.

And then an “angel” donated a quilt to our cause, and we are back in business:



Size: 60" square lap quilt or wall hanging

Pattern: Squares Interrupted by Cindy Luby

Machine pieced and home machine quilted in large feather design in 2009; never used.

(The colors are not as yellow as they appear in this picture.)

We'll be sending tickets to our members soon, to sell for a drawing at our Annual Meeting in May.

Help Us with National Program Planning

The LWV national convention is scheduled for June 16-19. As with the biennial LWVVT convention (in odd-numbered years) and our own local Annual Meeting, member input is solicited to help determine what the League will be doing in the next biennium. This is the first step in the program planning process.

League program—local, state and national—derives from our overall mission and reflects League leaders' and members' best assessment of how to allocate resources to advance the mission in a particular period of time. Volunteer time as well as staff and financial resources are limited. Using those resources to have the greatest impact is a key decision at every League annual meeting and convention. National League by-laws define program as "Action to implement the Principles and those governmental issues chosen by the convention for concerted study or concurrence and action..." The League Principles are concepts of government supported by the League and "are the authorization for adoption of national, state and local program." Action to implement those principles guides every League activity. All our work is program and, in planning for the next year or two, all our work is relevant to the decisions that delegates must make.

Program planning is a valuable League tool for identifying issues for focus and for insuring that League resources, human and financial, from our grassroots volunteers to our professional staff, are engaged where they have the most impact.

Input from grassroots leaders is key to developing LWVUS program in every biennium. Given the challenges facing our democracy at every level of government and in every corner of the country, the LWVUS Board believes that, in order for our leaders in local and state Leagues to give thoughtful input, it is important to provide our recommendations and the data on which those recommendations are based at the outset of the program planning process. In doing so, the LWVUS Board is in no way suggesting that these recommendations are set in stone or that input from Leagues will not be a key component in shaping the final recommendations. We are also keenly aware of the many other important issues facing state and local Leagues and that Leagues are actively engaged in making democracy work at every level of government. It is vital that we focus our national programmatic work such that it complements and does not compete with work at other levels.

Nevertheless, when looking at our mission and our positions as a whole, it is clear that a main goal for which we are striving is to *make democracy work*. Voting rights, voter protection and service, and election reform are crucial elements in achieving the goal, and the League is particularly noted for action in these areas.

As part of the current biennium's program, the LWVUS Redistricting Task Force has researched the League's history regarding redistricting and has compiled the 40 existing state League redistricting positions. [You can see Vermont's at <http://www.lwvofvt.org/files/voterrightsandgovernment.pdf>]. Based on these positions, the LWVUS Board is recommending a concurrence with a broad, general statement at Convention 2016. The goal is to enable states without positions to take action and states with positions to continue to work for the reforms that their study process demonstrated works best for their voters.

Your leadership team will be considering national program recommendations at their regular meeting at 10:30 a.m. on Monday, January 11. Please join the discussion at the home of Kate Rader, 1186 Towne Hill Road, E. Montpelier, or let us know your thoughts by phone (229-4737; 225-6032) or e-mail (catherine.rader@myfairpoint.net; iracansue@gmail.com).

*The following is excerpted from the LWV entry in **American Women's History**, by Doris Weatherford, Prentice Hall General Reference (1994). Emphasis added.*

By 1974, "the League had achieved recognition in most communities throughout the nation as the best informed and most technically adept source of information about government. Moreover, in the 1970s, the LWV proved its great effectiveness as a training ground for women who were moving through the process of becoming involved in government. Many obtained their original governmental background in the LWV."



LWV Central VT
1186 Towne Hill Road
East Montpelier, VT 05651

Calendar of Events

Jan.

- | | | |
|---------|----|---|
| Friday | 8 | Post Holiday Breakfast |
| Monday | 11 | 10:30 a.m. - Leadership Team Meeting, 1186 Towne Hill Road, E. Montpelier.
National Program Planning, All members welcome. |
| Tuesday | 19 | 7:00 p.m. Consensus, LWVUS Study of Money in Politics. Home of Kate Rader,
1186 Towne Hill Road, East Montpelier. |

Feb.

- | | | |
|---------------|-----------|---|
| Tuesday | 2 | 5:30-7:00 p.m. - Happy Hour, downstairs lounge, NECI on Main |
| Sunday | 14 | 95th Anniversary, League of Women Voters of the United States |

Mar.

- | | | |
|-----------|----|---|
| Tuesday | 2 | Town Meeting Day and Presidential Primary |
| Wednesday | 9 | 9:00-2:00 - LWVVT Legislative Day, the State House |
| Thursday | 10 | 6:00 p.m. - Movie Night: <i>Iron-Jawed Angels</i> , Kellogg-Hubbard Library |