



Green Mountain CITIZEN

Fall 2014

LWVVT Joins VOTE411

For the third time, the League of Women Voters of Vermont is participating in VOTE411, the electronic voter guide.

Launched by the League of Women Voters Education Fund (LWVEF) in October of 2006, VOTE411.org is a "one-stop-shop" for election related information. It provides nonpartisan information to the public with both general and state-specific information on the following aspects of the election process:

- Absentee ballot information
- Ballot measure information (where applicable)
- Early voting options
- Election dates
- Factual data on candidates in various federal, state and local races
- General information on such topics as how to watch debates with a critical eye
- ID requirements
- Polling place locations
- Registration deadlines
- Voter qualifications
- Voter registration forms
- Voting machines

An important component of VOTE411.org is the polling place locator, which enables users to type in their address and retrieve the poll location for the voting precinct in which that address is located. The League has found that this is among the most sought after information in the immediate days leading up to, and on, Election Day.

To use the guide, go to www.VOTE411.org.

Enter your address and click on "done."

Click on "Get Personalized information on candidates and issues."

Con'd on p 5.

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<http://www.facebook.com/pages/League-of-Women-Voters-of-Vermont/193029977406840>

Message from the Board Fall 2014

The lazy days of summer have given way to autumn and we find ourselves in the midst of the election season:

VOTE411, the on-line voter's guide is up and running with League questions for the statewide candidates, Senators and Representatives.

Some members have signed up to register voters on National Voter Registration Day, September 23rd. It only takes one person to do a voter registration event, so let us know if you would like a kit of voter registration materials league@lwvofvt.org. Of course we will continue to register voters right up to the deadline for the November election.

Thanks to Marge Gaskins and Jean Norton, we continue to register new citizens at Naturalization Ceremonies.

The state League hopes to have a candidate forum for the Lieutenant Governor candidates. Champlain Valley will do its "speed date the candidates" for the Chittenden County State Senate Candidates and Central Vermont will be doing a forum for the state Senate candidates in Washington County. See more details in this issue.

Also, there is still time to participate in the State Banking study consensus (see p.6).

One important last note: a gentle reminder that some of you have not renewed your membership for 2014/15. All of our members are important! If you can't be active, your membership helps to bolster our advocacy efforts. Please send in your dues today.

*Sonja Schuyler,
State Board*

Democracy is not a Spectator Sport!



Show your pride in the League. Buy one of our great T-shirts! \$15 plus \$3 S&H. E-mail your order to hertzrader@myfairpoint.net.

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Kate Rader, Editor

Membership in the League includes a subscription.
If you would like to join the League, e-mail, or write:

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9/11 Naturalization Ceremony Held at the State House

The LWV Champlain Valley and the LWV Central Vermont once again registered new citizens to vote after the naturalization ceremony held at the State House on September 11.

Although Vermont holds naturalization ceremonies about once a month, the State House plays host only once a year on September 11. Hosting the Naturalization Ceremony on September 11 was the brainchild of Judge William K. Sessions III as a remembrance of the people who died on September 11 and to show respect for the tradition of keeping the country's doors open.

To celebrate the event, the Central Vermont League hosted a reception in the Cedar Creek Room for the 86 new citizens and their guests. It was the largest group to be sworn in as citizens since the inception of this event.



Judge Sessions presides in the Well of the House

To celebrate the event, the Central Vermont League hosted a reception for the new citizens and their guests in the Cedar Creek Room.



New citizens receive their certificates and congratulations from Judge Sessions, Gov. Peter Shumlin and other officials.



Jean Norton (right foreground) and Marge Gaskins (back to camera) register new citizens to vote.

Alan Dann

It is with great sorrow that we note the passing of Alan Dann of the Southeast Unit. Alan was a member of the League of Women Voters for over three decades. Moreover, he was an active member, participating in League studies, organizing public forums for the League, serving as parliamentarian at annual meetings, and always coming to meetings with pithy, thought-provoking questions.

And, as we all know, he was a thoroughly nice man.

Montpelier's Independence Day Parade Was Cancelled, but We Weren't!

Threatening weather caused the cancellation of the parade at Montpelier's Independence Day celebration on July 3, just as the decorations for the LWVVT truck were completed.



Like many other entries in the parade, however, we unfurled our banner and walked the parade route.



We did take one shortcut, because we knew those holding down the fort at the Democracy Tent were also concerned about the coming storm. When we rejoined the main “parade,” we thought it was great that press photographers had us in their viewfinders. Then realized we were right in front of Bernie

Sanders – a much more privileged spot than our original assignment!

In the meantime, members from the Central VT League were at the Democracy Tent all afternoon, to register voters and provide a spot for candidates to leave their literature or meet their prospective constituents.



Thank you all, for taking part in this high visibility event!

We're on Twitter



The LWVVT has taken another step into the new media age.

Karen Oelschlaeger, a student at the Vermont Law School, has come to us from the LWVNC board, and has been appointed our New Media Specialist.

She has set up a Twitter account, https://twitter.com/lwv_vt, for the LWVVT and is posting frequently to keep us visible. Follow us from our website, www.lwvofvt.org.

Eventually, she will also be an administrator for our FaceBook page, where her experience with social media will help us take better advantage of all that medium has to offer.

Welcome to Vermont, Karen, and thank you!

Just above the map, click on “Find my information.”

Click on “Go to my races” below “Additional Settings.”

Look above the Governor race to click on “All my races.”

VOTE411 allows you to compare candidate's views and to print out a “ballot” to take with you to remind you of your choices.

The LWVVT board and the LWVVT Education Fund are proud to offer this service to Vermont voters. Spread the word.



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SPOTLIGHT

ON ISSUES



August: Universal Recycling Bill, Jean Hopkins interviews Josh Kelly, ANR. See it at <http://vp.telvue.com/preview?id=T01221&video=206972>.

October: Washington County State's Attorney Candidate forum with Lindy Biggs, LWVCEN (tentative).

November: Campaign Finance.

League Candidate Forums Scheduled

Several candidate events have been scheduled by our local and state Leagues:

LWV Champlain Valley

Speed Dating with State Senate Candidates
Saturday, October 18, 11:00 am – 1:00 pm
Miller Community Center
130 Gosse Court
Burlington

The goal of a Speed Dating Forum is quick questions, short answers, up close and personal! The event will be video taped by Ch17/Town Meeting Television and widely rebroadcast throughout Chittenden County of public access TV.

LWV Central VT

Washington County State Senate Candidate Forum
Tuesday, October 14, 7:00-8:30 pm
Old Labor Hall
46 Granite Street
Barre, VT 05641

This event will be in the classic League forum tradition, with candidates on stage and a moderator. Onion River Community Access Television (ORCA) has been asked to cover this event.

Washington County State's Attorney Candidate Forum (tentative), date to be determined.

This event will diverge from tradition, in that it will be held in the ORCA studio, without an audience and without call-in questions.

LWVVT

Lieutenant Governor Candidate Forum (tentative)

Tuesday, October 21, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.
Old Labor Hall
46 Granite Street
Barre, VT 05641

The three candidates have been invited to participate. At least two must accept our invitation in order for the event to proceed.

Banking Study Consensus Redesigned

The Public Banking Study Committee has finished its task, but the membership still has work to do.

An earlier attempt to reach a consensus through discussion failed for lack of participation. In order to reach a valid consensus position, at least 15% of our state membership must weigh in. Therefore, we are changing tack and providing the opportunity to respond to a more easily completed mail-in format.

Watch for the new questions, which will be sent by and may be returned by e-mail. Hard copy will be mailed to members not on our e-mail list.

Please do respond when you receive your questions. The League's deliberative process, which includes all our members, is what gives the League its well-earned credibility in advocacy.

Champlain Valley League Reorganizes

At its Annual Meeting in May, the LWV Champlain Valley voted to adopt the "Streamlined League" form of organization in place of the classic board of directors.

The new model was designed by a committee of the LWVUS and approved in 2010. It calls for a more flexible administration, focussed on mission-critical, year-round activities that increase a League's community involvement, generate visibility, build community awareness of the League's mission, and attract an expanding membership.

Members of the new Leadership Team are Marge Gaskins, Jean Hopkins, Jere Levin, Sonja Schuyler, and Lea Terhune.

The team is already at work on plans for a "Speed Dating" event for Chittenden County State Senate candidates (see p. 5).

Congratulations and smooth sailing to the new LWVCV!

A bit of history from the VPR website:

In the latter half of the 19th century, states began gradually loosening restrictions on voting rights for women. Wyoming was the first state to grant women the full right to vote, which it did when it gained statehood in 1890.

The first national constitutional amendment was proposed in Congress in 1878, and in every Congress session after that. Finally, in 1919, it narrowly passed both houses of Congress and was sent to the states to be ratified.

Most Southern states opposed the amendment, and on August 18, 1920, it all came down to Tennessee. The pro-amendment faction wore yellow roses in their lapels, and the "anti" faction wore red American Beauty roses.

It was a close battle and the state legislature was tied 48 to 48. The decision came down to one vote: that of 24-year-old Harry Burn, the youngest state legislator. Proudly sporting a red rose, he cast his vote *...in favor* of ratification.

He had been expected to vote against it, but he had in his pocket a note from his mother, which read: "Dear Son: Hurrah, and vote for suffrage! Don't keep them in doubt. I noticed some of the speeches against. They were bitter. I have been watching to see how you stood, but have not noticed anything yet. Don't forget to be a good boy and help Mrs. Catt put the 'rat' in ratification. Your Mother."



*Carrie Chapman Catt,
founder of the LWV.*

September 23 is National Voter Registration Day

Voting is the most powerful way to have your voice heard, and it is the core of our democracy. It's your chance to stand up for what matters most to you and have an impact on the issues that affect you, your community and your future.

The League works all year, every year, to empower all eligible voters to participate in our political system. Our work especially seeks to aid those from traditionally underrepresented or underserved communities, including first-time voters, non-college youth, new citizens, minorities, and low-income Americans. Hundreds of local volunteer teams work year-round to register, inform and mobilize hundreds of thousands of voters in the lead-up to Election Day. The League also serves millions of voters through VOTE411.org, our one-stop elections information hub.

League volunteers hold thousands of voter registration drives across the country each year and actively encourage all citizens to vote. We concentrate our registration drives at locations that reach large numbers of unregistered voters, including high schools and community colleges, sporting events, naturalization ceremonies and more. We also register thousands of voters through the LWVUS online registration tool at VOTE411.org. Since 2012, the League has been the single-largest on-the-ground partner of [National Voter Registration Day](http://NationalVoterRegistrationDay.org) (NVRD).

Leaguers from around Vermont are participating in NVRD. We hope you are among them. It's not too late to join up. Contact Sonja (state-wide, sonjapeter@comcast.net; 802-899-3657), Lea (Champlain Valley, leaterhune44@gmail.com; 802-658-1908) or Kate (central VT, catherine.rader@myfairpoint.net; 802-229-4737) for information and materials.



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