



League of Women Voters of Central Vermont

Bulletin

Winter 2014

December Message - A Time For Reflection

The holiday season is a time for us to reflect on the past year and review what can be improved in the coming year. As we look back at our successes and challenges, given our resources, it is encouraging to see our accomplishments.

2014 marked our tenth anniversary – a decade of nonpartisan activism in Central Vermont. With assistance from you, our members, we concluded a study on public banking and organized a panel discussion, participated in a march to support paid sick leave, welcomed new citizens at the State House, conducted voter registration drives, held candidate forums, and put the spotlight on electoral and social issues courtesy ORCA Media.

We were proud to welcome seven new members, recognize the commitment of our 50-year members, Hedi Ballantyne and Flo Young, and thank all of you for your involvement and support. However, our greatest challenge is, and continues to be, the recruitment of new members.

Our wish for the New Year is to have a membership that continues to grow...so, let's roll up our sleeves and make it our New Year's resolution talk to a friend or family member about joining the League.

The League is a venerable organization, faithful in its mission to educate, engage, and protect the rights of voters and calling for action on the environment, reforming immigration, advancing healthcare, gun safety, improving government, and global democracy. It is also an opportunity to meet people, make new friends, share interests, develop leadership skills, and have fun.

We wish you all the joys of the Holiday Season and are most grateful for all you do. May 2015 bring health and happiness to you and your family

Sue Racanelli

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LWVCEN Has Successful Election Season

The LWV Central Vermont sponsored two successful candidate forums in October, and worked with the LWVVT on a third.

The first was an exploration of the role of State's Attorney, and the candidates' views on how to best fulfill the functions of the job. LWVCEN member Lindy Biggs moderated the discussion between incumbent Tom Kelly and challenger Scott Williams in the studio of Onion River Community Access (ORCA), before a live audience. The program can be seen at <http://vp.telvue.com/preview?id=T01221&video=212800>



Lindy Biggs (left) moderated the debate between State's Attorney candidates Scott William (center) and Tom Kelly.

On October 14 the Central Vermont League hosted a traditional forum for Washington County Senate candidates Sen. Ann Cummings, Sen. Bill Doyle, Sandy Gaffney, Dexter LeFavour, Pat McDonald and Sen. Anthony Pollina. Susan Clark, Middlesex Town Meeting Moderator and LWVCEN member moderated the event. It was recorded at Barre's Old Labor Hall by ORCA and aired several times before the election. It can be found at orcamedia.net under the 2014 Election Coverage playlist.

A week later, the LWVVT, with the assistance of LWVCEN hosted another forum at the Old Labor Hall for the candidates for Lt. Governor. Candidates Marina Brown, Dean Corren and Lt. Gov. Phil Scott were moderated by Steve Pappas,

Editor of the Barre-Montpelier Times Argus. This event was also recorded and aired by ORCA.



State Senate Candidates (left to right). Dexter LeFavour; Pat McDonald, Sen. Ann Cummings, Sen. Anthony Pollina, Sandy Gaffney and Sen. Bill Doyle. Moderator Susan Clark stands at the podium.



Dean Corren (left) and Lt. Gov. Phil Scott (right) listen as Marina Brown responds to a question.

It's Program Planning Time

The LWV is a grassroots organization and each year we ask our members to make recommendations for local and state or national program for the coming year(s). Watch for information on our website and by email about our local (January 12) and state (March 9) planning meetings, and try to join us for this important activity.

LWVCEN Joins National Voter Registration Day

Central Vermont Leaguers worked to register voters at several venues on and around National Voter Registration Day (September 23). We tried to focus on underrepresented populations.

Hedi Ballantyne, Mary Alice Bisbee, Sue Racanelli and Kate Rader covered the Berlin Mall for most of the big day.



A month earlier, Kate and Sue registered voters at the Twin Valley Senior Center flea market. On September 24, Fran Krushnick was at the Montpelier Food Pantry, and on October 10 Sue and husband (and League member) Chris Racanelli registered new voters at U32 High School.



All of this was in addition to our usual new voter registration following the annual September naturalization ceremony at the State House.

Holiday Tea Benefits Food Pantry

We started what we hope will be a new tradition of hosting a holiday event for our local League members and others on December 14. The informal gathering provided the rare opportunity to become further acquainted with our fellow Leaguers, and for nonmembers the chance to learn about the League.

Attendees were asked to bring a nonperishable food items for the Montpelier Food Pantry, and their contributions were delivered later in the week.

The highlight of the event was the drawing for our raffle quilt. This year's winner was Paulie Coburn, of East Montpelier. She is a member of the board of the Four Corners School, and contributes recipes to the East Montpelier Signpost. Congratulations Paulie! Enjoy your prize.



Paulie Coburn with her 2014 raffle quilt.

To wrap up the event, we welcomed new members Scott Hess and Amy Willis of East Montpelier.



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

Calendar of Events

January

12 Monday 10:30 a.m. - Leadership Team meeting, location TBD; State Program Planning

February

18 Wednesday 8:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. LWVVT Legislative Day, The State House.

March

3 Tuesday Town Meeting Day

9 Monday 10:30 a.m. - Leadership Team meeting, location TBD; Local Program Planning

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