

## Special points of interest:

- Fall Membership Meeting on Oct. 24
- Consensus meeting on Immigration next year—study up now.
- Obituary of Nancy J. Macintyre
- Vote on Tuesday November 6.

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## Fall Meeting October 24 “Managing Solid Waste in Beautiful Rensselaer County”

*Are you concerned about what happens to the stuff we throw away and how much room remains in our landfills? How much it costs our municipalities to handle the piles of waste we generate? How natural resources are degraded and depleted by our reliance on throwaway materials? How solid waste relates to energy use and ultimately, to global warming? Come talk about how we can reduce, reuse and recycle our “garbage”.*

Speakers are: Joanna Decker - Executive Director, Eastern Rensselaer County Solid Waste Management Authority, Laura Haight - Environmental Associate, New York Public Interest Research Group, Debbie Jackson - Environmental Program Specialist, Waste Reduction and Outreach Section, DEC Division of Solid and Haz-

ardous Materials, Meg Morris - Chairman, Federation of NY Solid Waste Associations and Board Member of Go Green Initiative, Inc.

Also invited: local officials involved in solid waste management, representatives from the Rensselaer County Environment Management Council, and members of the Rensselaer County Legislature

**Wednesday, October 24, 2007**

**7:00 to 9:00 P.M.**

**East Greenbush Public Library**

Detailed directions at <http://www.eastgreenbushlibrary.org>.

**Information:** Call Diane Bell at 273-5172.

## Immigration Panel Discussion from Albany LWV

Immigration Reform Implications: A Panel of Experts Potluck dinner Tuesday, September 25 First Congregational Church, 405 Quail St., off New Scotland. Dinner 5:30 pm; Program 7:00 pm. Three experts will provide us with insights into the immigration issue that has become bogged down in Congress. They are: Dina Refki, Deputy Director, Immigrant Women, Center for Women in Government and Civil Society, Rockefeller College. Professor Alethia Jones, Ph.D., Department of Pub-

lic Policy, University at Albany, SUNY. Professor Jones teaches courses in policy analysis, bureaucratic politics and immigrant policy. David Meyers, Esq. Mr. Meyers is in-house counsel for the Immigration Services Program of Catholic Charities, and has immigrant clients in private practice. Their experience with immigration law, as well as dealing with personal issues of immigrants, will help us navigate this complex topic.

### Members of the Board 2007-2008

Co-President **Marcia P. Easterling** 273-5412 [measterling@nycap.rr.com](mailto:measterling@nycap.rr.com) *Board Meetings Agendas/Mail; Maintain Calendar; Board List; New Member Orientation*

Co-President **Gail K. DeMarco** 434-2413 [gdemarco@nycap.rr.com](mailto:gdemarco@nycap.rr.com) *Public Spokesperson; Receive/Distribute State and National Mailings; Arts Center Mail and Phone Calls; New Member Orientation*

Vice President **Mary Muller** 274-0846 [mullers@mac.com](mailto:mullers@mac.com) *"Voter" editor; Public Relations*

Secretary **Margaret Story** 272-1566 [MrgStry@aol.com](mailto:MrgStry@aol.com) *Minutes/ Correspondence*

Treasurer **Irene S. Wynnyczuk** 2799789 [iwynn@nycap.rr.com](mailto:iwynn@nycap.rr.com) *Treasurer; Budget Committee; Co-Chair: Membership/ Finance Drive; Co-Chair: THA Election*

Director **Diane Bell** 2735172 [dbell1@nycap.rr.com](mailto:dbell1@nycap.rr.com) *Web Site; Voter Services: Local Voter Guides and Local Section NYS Voter Guide; General Meeting Program Coordinator*

Director **Anne E. Burton** 283-3499 [aburton@usoncology.com](mailto:aburton@usoncology.com) *Member Interest Data Base; Member Involvement—All Areas*

Director **George W. O'Connor** 2726512 [gandt54@verison.net](mailto:gandt54@verison.net) *Membership Records Management; Prospective Member Mailings; Member Directory/Mailing Labels; Chair: Troy Charter Review; Co-Chair: THA Elections*

Director **Donna Packard-Mahoney** 283-6423 [dmahoney@nycap.rr.com](mailto:dmahoney@nycap.rr.com) *Action; Issues/Advocacy*

Director **Fred D. Stein** 663-5230 [fstein@nycap.rr.com](mailto:fstein@nycap.rr.com) *Chair: Natural Resources; Rensselaer County government; State Prog.: Financing Education*

### MESSAGE FROM THE CO-PRESIDENTS

Mark your calendars for two important up-coming events. On October 3 the Candidates Forum for District Attorney will take place at the East Greenbush Library. Thanks go to Ann Burton for making the arrangements. On October 24 the Fall Membership Meeting will take place at the East Greenbush Library from 7 to 9 pm. Diane Bell, Ann Burton and Fred Stein have worked hard to bring together a number of local experts on the subject of Solid Waste.

Election time is at hand. The Primary Election Day is Tuesday, September 18. Polls will be open from noon until 9 pm that day.

Once again the LWVNYS Voters Guide is in two parts. The familiar first part on elections is now available in local libraries. Part 2 on the propositions on the November ballot will also soon be available. Election Day is Tuesday, November 6.

Between November 1 and November 20 the Votesmart National Bus Tour bus will be in New York state. As yet we are unsure whether we will be able to sponsor a stop in our area. Watch the LWVRC website in October to find out about any future developments.

Between September 26 and November 29 the LWVNYS is hosting the Ida Trager Regional Training Workshops and the Capital Region workshop will take place on November 15 from 4 to 8 pm at the Shenendahowa Senior Citizen Center in Clifton Park. Topics to be covered include Voter Service, Membership, Financial Support, and the State Study on National Popular voting. Among the various presenters will be state League president Martha Kennedy as well as Marcia Merrins, Maggie Moehringer, and Betsey Swan. See the LWVRC website for further information.

Marcia and Gail

# Election Night Reporting Volunteers

Once again this year the Rensselaer County Chapter of the League of Women Voters has been contracted to provide unbiased poll reporting on election night. Many League members find that observing the counting and results announcement at local precincts and then phoning in the results to the official media reporting service is a satisfying and useful way to support the voting process and to ensure fair elections. This activity also

earns some money for our chapter. Anyone interested in participating in Election Night Reporting this year should contact Jane Ducatt. Jane has administered this project for many years and is happy to brief members on what is required and to match members with polling places. Call her at 272-1195 or send her an email at [jducatt@nycap.rr.com](mailto:jducatt@nycap.rr.com). Every year we have more polling places to cover than we have volunteers.

**East Greenbush Library will be the site of the only debate between D.A. candidates this election season**

## Candidates Forums Planned

There are two Candidates Forums planned for Rensselaer County so far this election season, and the League is involved with both. October 3 there will be a Forum at the East Greenbush Library for District Attorney and East Greenbush town office candidates. This forum will be from 7 to 9

p.m., contact League member Anne Burton. There will also be a Forum for Nassau Town Supervisor and Town Board candidates, date and location are still to be announced. Contact League member Gail DeMarco for information on this one.

## In Memoriam: Nancy J. Macintyre

Nancy J. Macintyre, R.N., M.A., Ph.D., and long time, faithful member of the League of Women Voters of Rensselaer County, passed away July 23, 2007. Nancy was a leader in the nurse practitioner movement in New York State, she was the director of that program at Albany Medical College from 1977 to 1982 and co-authored the book "A Few Strong

Women" on the history of that movement. A memorial service was held for Nancy on August 31. Contributions can be made in her memory to the Alzheimer's Center of Albany Medical Center, New Scotland Ave., Albany, NY 12208, Community Hospice Albany, 445 New Karner Rd., Albany 12205, or NENY Alzheimer's Assoc, 85 Watervliet Ave, Albany 12206.

# **Rensselaer County Political Calendar 2007**

Primary Election September 18  
**General Election November 6**

## **Voter Registration Primaries:**

August 24: Registrations for Primary voting must be mailed, and received by Aug. 29

August 24: In Person Registrations to vote in Primary

August 29: Notices of change of address from registered voters received

## **Voter Registration General Election:**

October 12: Applications postmarked no later than, and received by October 17

October 12: In Person Registration to vote in General Election

October 17: Notices of change of address from registered voters received

## **Voting by Absentee Ballot : Primary**

September 11: Last day to postmark application for ballot

September 17: Last day to apply in person for ballot

September 17: Last day to postmark ballot Must be received by September 25

September 18: Last day to deliver ballot in person to the county board.

## **Voting by Absentee Ballot: General Election**

October 30 Last day to postmark application or letter of application for ballot

November 5: Last day to apply in person for ballot

November 5: Last day to postmark ballot. Must be received by November 13

November 6: Last day to deliver ballot in person to board of elections.

(source: Political calendar 2007 Rensselaer County Board of Elections <http://www.elections.state.ny.us/NYSBOE/law/2007PoliticalCalendar.pdf> )

## **The LWVUS Two-Year Immigration Study Timeline**

**September 2006 to January 2008** – Local Leagues help educate members and communities about immigration issues

**September 1, 2007** – The LWVUS distributes a Leader's Guide that includes consensus questions

**September 2007 to January 2008** – Local Leagues take consensus

**February 1, 2008** – Deadline for the LWVUS to receive consensus response forms

**February 1, 2008 to March 20, 2008** – Using consensus responses, the LWVUS Immigration Study Committee formulates the position

**Late March/early April 2008** – The LWVUS Board adopts the position

## **Immigration Reform Update**

By Marcia Easterling

On June 28, the Senate voted for cloture on S1348, the Comprehensive Immigration Reform Act of 2007. It now seems unlikely, given the controversial nature of the bill, that the 110th Congress will move to reintroduce such a bill with the election of 2008 just over a year away. The LWVUS Immigration Study goes on (see timetable) and there will be a meeting hosted by LWVNYS on September 25 at which a panel of immigration experts will speak. (see separate notice with details)

League members interested in some background reading should read the Immigration Study Briefs #1 and #2 which appeared in the June 2007 issue of the **National Voter**. These are also available on line. Members who wish to read the full background papers on which these two are based can find them at the LWVUS website. These papers include full citation of sources. In addition, there are also articles on federal immigration policy and proposed reforms on the website.

All members should see the LWVUS Immigration Study Consensus Preview questions on the website. Reading, discussing and answering these for ourselves will help us answer the consensus questions later on.

## **Fund for Modern Courts: Volunteer Opportunity**

Be apart of a unique court monitoring program focused on town and village courts in the Capital District this fall (late September though November) Local town and village justice courts hear both civil and criminal matters— not just traffic tickets. Town and village justice courts deal with issues such as domestic violence, evictions, consumer rights, DWIs, and the Fifth Amendment right to counsel for criminal defendants. In New York State there are over 1,200 Town and Village Justice Courts. In most cases records for these cases are impossible to view (because inmost cases they do not exist) but local citizens can watch the courts, review the proceedings and have their observations heard.

Modern Courts is a statewide court reform organization, committed to improving the judicial system for all New Yorkers. Our court monitoring, advocacy and citizen's jury projects identify problems that affect our state's residents' equal access to the courts. Our public outreach and lobbying efforts work to address these problems statewide. By building relationships with state and local government and community members, Modern Courts works with all who want to ensure an independent and highly qualified judiciary.

For more information, to let us know that you would be willing to help out with this project , send an email to Kim Robinson at [robinson@moderncourts.org](mailto:robinson@moderncourts.org) or call her at 212-541-6741, extension 111. Or go to the website at [www.moderncourts.org](http://www.moderncourts.org) and click on "monitoring". Additional information regarding a September orientation and luncheon for this special monitoring project will be sent out later in September. Justice may be blind, but someone should be watching!

## **Help Recruit New Members**

We have always had a Finance Drive in the Fall when we solicit contributions for League activities. For the past couple of years we have added the option of becoming a member in the letter and return form. This has been quite successful. Also last year we offered the option of the contribution to be tax-deductible.

**I am asking you to send me the names, addresses and phone numbers (if available) of friends, neighbors or people that you know in the community who would be either potential contributors to or possible members of the League of Women Voters of Rensselaer County.**

I will be working on the project with Mary Abbott, we will start putting things together around the beginning of October.

Many thanks, Irene Wynnyczuk





**League of Women Voters  
Rensselaer County**

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Troy, NY 12180

<http://lwvrc.org>