Call to Annual Meeting and Dinner

Date: Tuesday, May 14, 2019
Time: 5:30 pm
Place: Unitarian Universalist Church
183 Riverside Drive, Binghamton, NY

Guest Speaker: Blair Horner, Executive Director, NYPIRG
(More on Page 11)

Buffet Menu

Salad
Pulled Pork with Buns
Baked Chicken
Cheese Grits
String Beans
Apple Cobbler

Feel free to bring your own bottle of wine.

Dinner price per person: $30

Dinner reservations must be received by May 1st.
Make check payable to League of Women Voters of Broome & Tioga Counties or LWVBTC.
Mail to Janet Gill at 23 Orchard Avenue, Binghamton, NY 13904.
Questions on reservations? Call Janet Gill at 724-7106.
All others: Sara Wokan at sara.wokan@gmail.com

We need help setting up the day of event. Contact Sara Wokan to volunteer.
Welcome to new League members! Hope to see you at the dinner!
PRESIDENT’S REPORT APRIL, 2019

Reflections on the Footprints Left Behind

As we approach the 100th Anniversary of the League of Women Voters, let us reflect upon the work of all the members who have come before us, people with a passion for civic engagement and voting rights. They have left many footprints.

The state League has prepared a history book, A Force to Reckon With, which will soon be available. Marilyn Myers worked on our Broome and Tioga history section of the book.

Our local League started in 1948, but added Tioga to the organizational name in 1998. Over the decades our members worked on permanent personal registration, shared governmental services, an elected county executive form of government in Broome County, protection of local drinking water, recycling, voter registration at Naturalization Ceremonies, publishing and distributing the pamphlet “They Represent You” in both Broome and Tioga Counties, hundreds of educational programs, dozens of candidate debates, and other good government advocacy.

We have some members who have carried the League’s mission and work on their shoulders for decades. As we look ahead at the future of the League, we will need your help. Please support our local League in any way you are able.

As retiring President, it has been an honor to work with some wonderful people over the past few years. I will treasure the memories and look for the new footprints we can make in the coming years.

~Susan Ruff
**2019 1ST VICE PRESIDENT AND VOTER SERVICE REPORT - MARGARET GOODFELLOW**

**Debates**
As reported in the Winter 2019 issue of The Broome-Tioga Voter, we successfully partnered with other groups for the NY 22 Debate broadcast on WSKG and C-SPAN.

**Voter Guides**
Electronic/print copies were distributed. A limited number of guides were available at no cost under the now expired 2018 Organ Donation Grant.

**Vote 411 On Line Voter Guide**
The State League returns to using 411 in 2019. The $9,000 statewide license fee is being paid by a generous donor. Statewide funding for 2020 is not secured. I am a member of a Facebook LWVUS User Group on Vote 411. We have not determined if our League will participate in 2019.

**Website/Facebook**
There were 15,889 requests for the LWVBTC website in Oct/Nov. 2018 a decline from 2017. Facebook activity included posting articles, events and shares. For a short time, the NY 22 debate generated higher Facebook traffic due to WSKG. As of April 1, 2019, we have 207 Facebook followers. Social media platforms are changing rapidly and getting noticed is difficult. We rely on low cost or free advertising by using Facebook, our website, e-mail and media releases. Paid print and online advertising is cost prohibitive. I am a member of a Facebook LWVUS User Group for New Media.

**Students Inside Albany**
Twelve applications were received from eight schools. Our 2019 awardee is Madelyn Reid, a senior from Spencer Van-Etten High School. We awarded each applicant a one-year student membership in the League. Budget shortfalls on the State level and a decline in sponsorships for Students Inside Albany may jeopardize funding in 2020 and beyond. It is possible that in 2020 local Leagues may be asked to bear part or the entire cost towards sending a student, which, at present is $650 plus miscellaneous expenses.

**Voter Registration at Naturalization Ceremonies**
Six ceremonies were held in 2018. During 2018, with our dedicated pool of volunteers, our success rate of registering new citizens was 50%. Since 2016 we have directly provided 558 new citizens with registration packets. It has been an efficient, productive, wise use of League volunteer hours and resources.

The LWVUS Education Foundation has once again awarded us a $700 grant, our second in three years. Funds will support use of First Vote and other materials. Thank you to our member volunteers: Kristen Allen (2018 Students Inside Albany Awardee), Nancy Boyd-Goff, Madeleine Cotts, Bobbi Dean, Janet Denman, Kate Griffith, Katherine Krebs, Mary Belle Mitten, John Restuccia (2016 Students Inside Albany Awardee), Alison Handy Twang, Karl and Sara Wokan, Elaine Cichowski-Doupe, Susan Ruff, Carol Sherwood and Mary Jo Vanderbles. I hope I haven’t missed anyone. Thank you to all who wanted to volunteer but had calendar conflicts. It’s the thought that counts.

**The Broome-Tioga Voter**
A grateful thank you for the assistance of Alice Brooks and Linn Underhill. Linn’s art background is so appreciated, and her hearty laughter always puts a bad computer day in perspective. With an art career most people can only dream of, having her in our corner is an honor. I am blessed to have both Alice and Linn as friends and volunteers. Another thanks to my friend, Aaron Phelps, who has assisted with software, format and graphic glitches. Aaron is a librarian at SUNY Broome and a Training Specialist at Binghamton University. I admit it, I have called upon him in panic mode on more than one occasion.
Nominating Committee Report

Part 1 – Proposed Slate of Officers and Directors

The Committee nominates the following slate of officers and directors with thanks to those who have agreed to serve.

President
Empty

2nd Vice President
Sara Wokan (2 year-term)

Secretary
Diane Albrecht (2-year term)

Directors-At-Large
Joanne Gee (2-year term)
Alice Brooks (2-year term)
Sandra Garufy (1-year term)

Board Members continuing their terms:
1st Vice President
Margaret Goodfellow

Treasurer
Patricia Giglio

Directors-At-Large
Kris Gilbert

Nominating Committee for 2019-2020:
Chair:
Clare Simeone

At-Large Members
Anne Kalayjian
Susan Ruff

Immediately following the presentation of the report at the Annual Meeting, any voting member may make nominations from the floor, provided that consent has been secured from the person(s) being nominated.

Part 2 – Proposed One-Year Restructuring

Since attempts to secure a nominee for president were unsuccessful and in light of other concerns about personnel resources, the Committee recommends that the following be considered:

- that the LWVBTC switch to a steering committee structure for one year for the purpose of redefining/revitalizing LWVBTC’s structure and operations,
- that all currently committed or recruited members of the board remain as members of the steering committee but without their current programmatic titles (except chair, secretary, and treasurer),
- that a well-defined and realistic set of goals be identified, and a manageable calendar of events/activities be produced, and,
- that implementation be considered successful if participation in activities is increased and if non-committee members assume some of the tasks.

This governance option is permitted by LWVUS so that Leagues can make any necessary changes and update bylaws when the changes are actually being implemented.

The Board voted to recommend that the proposed structural change be approved by the membership for the 2019-20 year. Jane Park has volunteered to chair a steering committee for one year.

Respectfully submitted,
2018-2019 Nominating Committee
Carol Oestrich, Chair
Diane Albrecht
Anne Kalayjian
Jane Park
Clare Simeone
# Proposed Budget 2019-2020

## INCOME

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**TOTAL INCOME**

$11,213.00 $11,113.00 $8,806.84

## EXPENSES

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**Total Operating Costs**

$915.00 $830.00 $778.68

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**Total Board and Administration**

$1,090.00 $1,065.00 $683.30
### THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF BROOME & TIOGA COUNTIES
#### PROPOSED BUDGET
#### 2019-2020

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<td>($2,571.63)</td>
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NOTES ON PROPOSED 2019 – 2020 BUDGET

INCOME:

B. Contributions – Members: We depend upon contributions from our members to help support our activities and pay for the expenses of the organization. These contributions have been lower than budgeted in the past fiscal years.

C. Grants: Grants are a relatively new source of income. We have been awarded two grants in the past three years from the LWVUS Education Foundation to support voter registration at naturalization ceremonies including one in 2019 in the amount of $700. The Board may consider future grant opportunities.

E. Education Foundation: These are funds collected by the local League which can be used to pay for educational expenses as well as a portion of our dues to the National and New York State Leagues.

EXPENSES:

A.1 General Supplies: This line item covers a variety of expenses from bank service charges to general office supplies. This cost has risen over the past few years.

C. Delegate Conventions: Next year’s convention will be a National one which is more expensive than the State convention. We hope to send one delegate instead of two to save money.

D. National and State Per Member Payment (PMP): The League pays the New York State and National Leagues’ dues for all of its members. The proposed budgeted amounts are based on New York State’s current PMP of $20 and National PMP of $32 a person.

E. “Member Communication” is a new category title, replacing the former category of “Broome-Tioga Voter” as the League utilizes more than one method to communicate with its members. “Voter” expenses have decreased dramatically since adopting an email method of distribution.

F.2c Other Voter Service Expenses. Expenses are estimated to remain on budget.

G.1 Brochure Printing and Distribution: The League is in need of printing our "Be Part of the Action" brochure.

Respectfully submitted by the Budget Committee:

Alice Brooks
Joanne Gee
Pat Giglio
Margaret Goodfellow
Carol Sherwood
Karl Wokan, Chair
Membership Report

The LWVBTC has 2 new members this year as of the required Feb. 1st cutoff date:

Sandra Garufy
Janet Oliver

And an additional eleven new Student members since the cutoff date:

Caitlin Aranda
Camille Brock
Sydney Christensen
Casey Ciulla
Kira Krohmalney
Jesseenia Meekins
Brianna Attey Mouanjo
Madelyn Reid
Violett Robertson
Alyssa Rounds
Alexander Umiker

Please join the Board in welcoming our new members at the annual dinner.

Our current membership total as of Feb. 1st is 103.

The breakdown of membership is:

78 primary – 9 additional – 14 students – 2 honorary

Joanne Gee
Membership Database

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In Memoriam

Honoring members who have passed since our last annual meeting.

Patricia Donohoe
Social Justice Activist

Photo Credit: Press and Sun-Bulletin
Pat listening to Rep. Maurice Hinchey discuss Social Security during a community forum at Binghamton City Hall in 2005.

Lester Platt
Environmental and Recycling Advocate

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Naturalization Ceremony
Schedule Remainder of 2019

May 3, July 26, September 20, November 22

Broome County Courthouse, 11 am

Voter Registration After Ceremony.
Volunteer Today!

Margaret Goodfellow-607-655-1929
Sara Wokan-785-6703

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If you just set out to be liked, you would be prepared to compromise on anything at any time, and you would achieve nothing.

Margaret Thatcher
Britain’s First Female Prime Minister
Meet our 2019 Awardee

Madelyn Reid

Madelyn Reid is a senior at Spencer-Van Etten High School, who recently moved from Vestal High School. Madelyn is on the school’s Varsity Track and Field team and previously participated on school and community field hockey teams. Throughout high school, she has been involved with Interact Club, Rotary International, SADD Club, Binghamton’s Citizen Action, Vestal’s Mock Trial team, and Spencer-Van Etten’s Quiz team. Madelyn has interned at a Binghamton law firm which sparked her interest in political science and law - her intended college majors. She is excited to attend the Students Inside Albany Conference to learn more about governments and the differences that can be made in various government positions.

The Conference will be held May 19-22, 2019. Madelyn will attend workshops and lectures on the budget process, lobbying on the legislative process, public policy, citizen’s right to access government information and reform. She will shadow her representative Senate and Assembly Member for an afternoon while in session on the Chamber floor. Upon Madelyn’s return, we look forward to learning of her impressions and analysis of her experiences.

2019 Fran Garside Awardee

Ariel Lynch

Ariel Lynch is a freshman at SUNY Broome. She is on the Dean’s List and currently a member and Vice President of Honors-in-Action in Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, the SUNY Broome P.E.P. Squad and Vice President of the SUNY-Broome Step Team. Ariel coordinates the SUNY Broome Ecology Club and is a chemistry tutor for the SUNY Broome Tutoring Center. In her spare time she helps build community gardens with VINES, participates in neighborhood clean-ups, and volunteers at Binghamton’s annual Heart Walk and SUNY Broome Convocation Day. Throughout high school she was on high honor roll, in National Honor Society, and was a science fair competitor. She won many awards and medals for her project on a model organism called Tetrahymena. She was the Vice President of the Science Club and Secretary of the Dance Team.

This one-time $500 award honors the late Fran Garside, a distinguished member of the Broome-Tioga League, who worked on many local committees and task forces to preserve and protect our environment and was the Solid Waste Issues Specialist for the League of Women Voters of New York State. It provides funds for school costs other than tuition with the objective of helping to maximize a student’s ability to obtain a degree and does not replace state or federal financial aid.
WOMAN OF ACHIEVEMENT AWARD, 2019

REPRESENTING THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
ALICE BROOKS

The League of Women Voters of Broome and Tioga Counties is proud to honor Alice Brooks as our 2019 Woman of Achievement. Alice Brooks joined the League of Women Voters in 1997 after retiring as a caseworker for children and youth. She soon became a member of our board of directors, serving as secretary for three years and later as treasurer for eleven years. In addition to skillfully handling these jobs, she has volunteered for many other projects and activities, representing the League at naturalization ceremonies, participating in election night reporting, proofreading publications, attending three state conventions as a delegate, organizing programs, and working on various committees. Alice is always willing to accept any responsibilities asked of her.

In addition to League activities, Alice has been active in other organizations. While living in Chicago, she did volunteer work in a children's hospital auxiliary, raising funds for special projects and working in the children's library. At churches in various places, she volunteered as a youth group leader, church school teacher, missions committee chair, hand bell choir member, and library assistant. She served six years on the board of directors of the Protestant Cooperative Ministry at Cornell University.

Alice grew up in Otsego County and met her husband Fred in Cooperstown High School. Since their marriage 65 years ago, Alice and Fred have lived in several beautiful parts of the country, Connecticut, Illinois, and Oregon, but were happy to return to upstate New York in 1980. They have lived in Vestal since 1985.

Alice enjoys traveling with Fred to scenic and historic sites, and especially to visit their two married sons and three grandchildren. She enjoys reading well-written mysteries and local history, playing the piano, and completing crossword puzzles. Alice values her membership and the friends she has made in the League of Women Voters.
We are very pleased to once again have Blair Horner return as our guest presenter.

Blair last visited us in December 2017, and members were very pleased with his information and insights about Albany and the state of issues that are important to us all.

NYPIRG helps bring the voices of average New Yorkers to public policy debates by examining important issues, producing studies, and engaging New Yorkers. NYPIRG’s focus is in enhancing the rights of consumers and voters, environmental protection and public health. [https://www.ny-pirg.org/about/](https://www.ny-pirg.org/about/)


Blair will provide us with an update on the consequential happenings in Albany this past legislative season, as well as some insights on where we might focus our efforts in the coming months and years.
Women of Achievement Luncheon March 30, 2019

Alice and Fred Brooks and Family

2019 WOA Community Honoree
Broome County Arts Council
Executive Director, Nancy Barno Reynolds
with Alice Brooks

2011 Awardee, Anne Taft    2018 Awardee, Joanne Gee

Amy Fleming and Fred Brooks

League Members, Elizabeth and Charles Stieglitz
STATUS OF WOMEN COUNCIL REPORT  
2018-2019

The LWVBTC is a member of the Status of Women Council in which we cooperate with delegates from eleven other organizations to highlight the importance of women’s contributions in our community. In September the Council held its annual tea to honor presidents of member organizations. Guests were given an opportunity to speak about their activities and to describe their plans for the coming year.

At the November meeting Council president Carol Grippen presented an update on the Workers Center of the Southern Tier. The Workers Center, established in 2016, is a volunteer effort to provide information, referrals, and advocacy to workers who believe they have been treated unfairly at their jobs.

To honor Women’s History Month for the third year, the Status of Women Council provided a symbolic flag, which was flown at the municipal complex in Binghamton during the first week of March. We expect this to continue as an annual observance.

For many years the Council’s Women of Achievement dinner was one of the largest affairs honoring women in this area. In 2018 instead of a dinner, a luncheon was held at the Riverdale Banquet Hall in Endwell. The new time and place were popular, and again this year the event was a luncheon at the Riverdale, held on March 30th. Our League was pleased to honor Alice Brooks, who joined the League in 1997. Alice has been on our board as secretary and as treasurer and has volunteered for many committees and activities.

Each year the Council gives an award to a high school senior who is planning to attend college in the fall. This year's Young Woman of Achievement is Alexis Green, a student at Windsor High School. When she was in the seventh grade, Alexis started a program called Knight Pack to provide food on weekends for students in need. The program has grown and continues to be active in the Windsor schools. In addition to her work with Knight Pack and other school activities, Alexis has maintained high grades and is valedictorian of her class. She has been accepted in the Binghamton University nursing program and hopes to become a nurse practitioner in oncology.

An Adult Education Achievement Award is given each June to a woman who has overcome significant obstacles to earn a high school equivalency diploma. The 2018 honoree was Rajahnee Smith, who worked at a food pantry while attending classes and raising a family. The 2019 award will be announced and presented this June.

Eva Anderson, Delegate  
Alice Brooks, Alternate
The Broome-Tioga Voter

The League of Women Voters of Broome & Tioga Counties
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### Calendar
Visit lwv-broometioga.org for the latest event details.

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<td>LWV Broome and Tioga Counties Annual Dinner and Meeting, 5:30 pm Unitarian Universalist Church Binghamton, NY</td>
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