

THE CHAMPLAIN VALLEY VOTER
Newsletter of the League of the Women Voters of the Champlain Valley
February 2008

CVLWV Board

2007 - 2008

President - Marge Gaskins, 879-0003
Vice President - Irene Wrenner (Voter Editor), 879-0011
Treasurer - June Carmichael, 878-8360
Secretary - Sue Golden, 985-9524
Director - Amy Bond, 879-0628
Director - Mabel Buttolph, 863-3990
Director - Jean Hopkins, 878-9326
Director - Susan Marks, 288-9702
Director - Debbie Ramsdell, 425-2027
Director - Bonnie Scott (Website), webmaster@cvlwv.org
Director - Keri Toksu (Programs), 658-0962

Calendar of Events

We sponsor meetings and events for the public and League members.

Legislative Day

Feb. 6 from 9 am - 1 pm

Vermont State House
Montpelier

An opportunity to greet other LWV members, chat with your legislators, attend committee meetings, and more!
Contact Kate Rader via radercatherine@verizon.net or 802-657-0242 by Friday, Feb. 1, if you wish to reserve a \$12 lunch at the Thrush Tavern. And don't forget to ask your legislators to join in our lunchtime conversation. Please note that we would like to see you at the State House even if you can't join us for lunch. More info about current legislation of interest may be found here: <http://www.lwvofvt.org/Lobby.html>.

Education Financing -- New time and place!

Feb. 13 from 7 pm to 8:30 pm

Speeder & Earl's Coffee
412 Pine St.
Burlington

There is no "fun" in education funding - but it is one of the most important things we do. Come participate in a lively, informative panel discussion of this important and controversial issue featuring **Rep. Mary Peterson** (D) of the Ways and Means Committee, **Rep. Chris Pearson** (P) of the Gov't Operations Committee who participated last year on a summer study committee on education funding, and **Rep. Martha Heath** (D), Westford School Board member and Chair of the House Appropriations Committee. *Invite a friend!*

CVLWV Board of Directors Monthly Meeting

Thursday, February 14 at 10 am

Brownell Library
Essex Junction

As always, all are welcome to attend.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT - Marge Gaskins

The Legislature is underway, and the political disagreements have begun. Hopefully another year will not go by with that being the primary accomplishment. Certainly there are enough important issues needing consideration and thoughtful discussion to keep everybody busy before the electioneering begins.

Topping the list may be the 4-year term for Governor and Lt. Governor without spending a lot of time debating the inclusion of the legislators. If they don't vote on it this year, it cannot be considered again for at least 4 years. The League position is firmly in favor of this proposal, but there is no assurance that the bill will even make it through the committee. We may also see the government operations committee address campaign finance, with or without public funding, and IRV.

Other serious issues such as school funding, required civics education, voter registration on election-day, energy efficiency and costs, and health insurance for all will need some ideas and resolutions. Perhaps when everyone starts running for office, the hard questions will get asked, and maybe answered.

The Champlain Valley LWV must have the opportunity to address these issues with the candidates, perhaps with a voter's guide, forum or debate. If you have an interest in sharing your ideas and working on such possibilities, please let me know as soon as possible. We have no specific voter service committee appointed, but if this is your interest, let's get started.

VERMONT PRIMARY TRACKER FEATURED ON RADIO SHOW

Ann Curran, Vermont Public Television's community relations director, and Keri Toksu representing the League (a coalition member), shared the mike with Sarah Lemnah, as she hosted a discussion of Vermont Primary Tracker in her radio show called "Aging Matters". Ms Lemnah is the Development and Communications Director for the Champlain Valley Agency on Aging. The show they taped will air on February 3rd at the following times:

WJOY AM 1230 8:33am
WKOL 105 7:30am
WOKO 98.9 9:30pm
WIZN 106.7 7:30am
WBTZ 99.9 7:30am

An Online Discussion about the March 4 Presidential Primary ... Join Vt. Primary Tracker Now!

Log on to Vermont Primary Tracker, an online information exchange and resource to keep you up-to-date with the March 4, 2009 Presidential Primary. This website helps Vermonters engage in discussion and interactive exchange about the upcoming election and how it affects our lives.

Features:

- + Candidate information and position papers
- + Discussion areas
- + Polls
- + Live web chats
- + Video on Demand
- + Updates and reminder e-mails

Log on and load up with information and ideas:

- + Share your thoughts as we head toward the March primary
- + See what your friends, neighbors and fellow Vermonters are thinking

Stay up-to-date with the most current information. Visit: www.vpt.org

Vermont Primary Tracker is a community outreach project made possible in part by a grant to Vermont Public Television from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

Coalition members are:

AARP Vermont, LWV of Vermont, The Snelling Center for Government, American Association of University Women, Vermont Maturity, Vermont Area Agency on Aging, Vermont Office of the Secretary of State, Vermont Public Television

NOTE: CHANGE IN VENUE / TIME

**There's No "Fun" in School Funding
League of Women Voters Hosts Panel Discussion**

There's no "fun" in school funding, but it is one of the most important things we do. Are you confused about how schools are funded? Unhappy with how they are funded? Think you have a better idea? Then join the League of Women Voters of the Champlain Valley for a lively discussion of this issue on **Wednesday, February 13, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m., at Speeder and Earl's**, 412 Pine Street, Burlington.

The legislature and school boards will be represented on a three-person panel that will explain Act 82 (passed last year); discuss what is good about the law and why the School Boards Association is asking for its repeal. Alternatives to the present funding structure will also be discussed, including the use of income tax and taxing rental properties.

Please bring your ideas and questions to what is sure to be an informative and "fun" evening.

The League is a non-partisan political organization that encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and the influencing of public policy through education and advocacy.

To find out more about the Champlain Valley League of Women Voters, visit our website at www.cvlwv.org, email info@cvlwv.org, or call 657-0242.

For more information about this event, contact Keri Toksu at ktoksu@hotmail.com or 658-0962.

**"MAKE NEW FRIENDS, BUT KEEP THE OLD,
ONE IS SILVER AND THE OTHER'S GOLD"**

... KEEP OUR CHAPTER GOING - AND GROWING!

Remember to tell your friends about what you've learned, thanks to the League, and invite them along to our next meeting. Word-of-mouth is most effective, so please spread the word!

... ARE YOU A LEAGUE VETERAN OF 25 YEARS OR MORE?

If so, we want to commend you and commemorate you for your long-time support of the League! Please help us compile a list of "25 and counting" members by contacting Irene Wrenner at 879-0011 or imwren@aol.com if you fit the bill.

###

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Membership in the League is open to men and women citizens of all ages. With more than 86 years of experience and 850 local and state affiliates, the League is one of America's most trusted grassroots organizations.