



Fall 2008

# Voter Highlights

Newsletter of the League of Women Voters of the Upper Valley

## Mission

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

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## President’s Note

With our wonderful new board, fresh faces and fascinating election season, we are off to a busy start for the year. We have established a new organizational structure that is beginning to pay off. Forming subcommittees -- Membership/Development, Voters Service, Program, and Communications – is encouraging wider participation and freeing the Board to deal with larger issues.

This newsletter includes a program outline for the coming year (bright green insert). Starting with a membership potluck in September and a series of candidate forums in October, we move on to discuss who makes our medical care decisions in November and priority issues for New Hampshire and Vermont Leagues in December. Keep your eye on our website for details about these meetings. Also, since we distribute newsletters only three times during the year, please **save the enclosed insert** and mark your calendars!

*Barbara McIlroy*

## Membership/Development

Our total membership is 175, of which 31 are from Vermont. Eleven have joined since May. Five are transfers from the National to the New Hampshire League -- Jean Allen, Alice Colonna, William Doyle, Joan Goldburgh, and Martha Wiencke. Six are completely new -- Chrysanthi Bien, Judi Colla, Mary Fillinger, Mary Kukowski, Bill Mlacak, and Ellis Rolett. Welcome all!

## Fall Membership Meeting

Our fall membership meeting and potluck is Wed Sept 24<sup>th</sup>, 5 PM at the Black Community Center (opposite Hanover High School on Lebanon Street). The topic is “Diet for a Warming Planet” or “Are there ways to reduce the climate impact of the food we eat (and still have fun and eat well)?” Our two speakers come from the Hanover Food Coop. Tony White, buyer of produce, will discuss the recent increase and logistics in the Coop ‘local food’ program. Emily Neuman, Sustainability Coordinator, will give us some tips on how to eat with a lighter conscience and reduced “carbon footprint”. Please join us and bring a guest. Also, please contact Eve Templeton (voice mail at 603.643.4570). Give her your name, number of guests, and some idea of what you are bringing (i.e., salad/main course/dessert).

*Evelyn Spiegel*

**Officers**

**President**

*Barbara McIlroy*

**Vice President**

*Margaret Powell*

**Treasurer**

*Ellen Blumberg*

**Secretary**

*Alice Conkey*

**Board  
Meetings**

Howe Library  
Murray Room  
1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the  
Month, 10 AM  
All Welcome!

Oct 6<sup>th</sup>  
Nov 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Dec 1<sup>st</sup>

**Voters Service**

As the area's primary nonpartisan organization concerned with voter education, the League of Women Voter's of the Upper Valley (LWV-UV) believes that citizens must have the opportunity to hear and consider those candidates who wish to lead our states. The Voters Service committee has invited candidates to participate in public forums to be held between Oct 8<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>, 2008 so that they can state their positions in nonpartisan settings and voters of the Upper Valley can observe them and express their concerns face-to-face. These invitations have generated interest and we are now trying to establish exact dates.

The LWV-UV intends to sponsor forums for candidates in New Hampshire running for the United States Senate, the United States House of Representatives, governor and Senate District 5. It also intends to sponsor forums for candidates in Vermont running for the United States House of Representatives and governor.

Forums will be held in the auditoriums of local high schools between 7 and 9 PM. The LWV-UV is arranging for coverage by local TV cable services and newspapers and inviting support from students and community groups. For more information or to volunteer to help, please contact Nina McCall at 603.643.6620 or Margaret Powell at 603.643.6433. For emerging details, check the LWV-UV website ([www.uppervalleyleague.org](http://www.uppervalleyleague.org)) or the Valley News.

**Training for Moderators**

On Tues Oct 23<sup>rd</sup>, Noon to 2 PM at the Howe Library, Sybil Williamson will train moderators for the upcoming candidate forums. Anyone who wishes to moderate should attend this session for training or review. We especially would like League members from Vermont as we need them to moderate New Hampshire events. This is a wonderful opportunity for League members to get equipped with the tools for moderating not only the current League programs but also any forum in the future. Do come to see live examples of handling an audience and competing candidates and play the role of meddlesome questioner! For questions, contact Margaret Powell at 603.643.6433.

**Questions for Candidates**

During this past summer ILEAD offered a series of talks on crises facing America today called Positive Solutions. After each lecture, members of the LWV-UV met for lunch and formulated questions for political candidates. Edited by Nita Norman, these questions can be found on our new website at [www.uppervalleyleague.org](http://www.uppervalleyleague.org). Check them out. They may trigger a few questions of your own!

*Nina McCall*

## Program

In addition to our formal programs (insert), we are considering a book group, perhaps in cooperation with the Howe Library, that focuses on public policy issues and relates to our program. To start off, on December 17<sup>th</sup>, just before the shopping season, we are planning to discuss *A Year Without China* by Sara Bongiorni. For more information, contact me at 603.643.4069.

*Maureen Bolton*

## Communications

### New Website

Webmaster, Bill Mlacak, has done a great job of organizing space for our new website: [www.uppervalleyleague.org](http://www.uppervalleyleague.org). We plan to have more election information on the site in the next few weeks, well ahead of November 4<sup>th</sup>.

### Help Wanted!

Anyone eager to learn how to insert updates to our website, please contact Bill Mlacak at 603.643.8156. Anyone wishing to help with communications in general (website, newsletter, press releases, contacting the media, etc.), please contact Judi Colla at 603.643.9274.

### Food for Thought

*To put the world right in order, we must first put the nation in order; to put the nation in order, we must first put the family in order; to put the family in order, we must first cultivate our personal life; we must first set our hearts right. (Confucius)*

*Too bad that all the people who really know how to run the country are busy driving taxi cabs and cutting hair. (George Burns)*

*Voting is one of the few things where boycotting in protest clearly makes the problem worse rather than better. (Jane Auer Bowles)*

### Winter Newsletter

**Deadline for Submissions is January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

*Judi Colla*

## Board of Directors 2008 – 09

*(Continued)*

### Membership

*Evelyn Spiegel*

### Development

*Ellen Gitomer*

### Voters Service

*Nina McCall*

### Program

*Maureen Bolton*

### Communications

*Judi Colla*

*Estelle Diamond*

*Joyce Fieldsteel*

*Marilyn Lieto*

*Josette Malley*

*Margaret Robinson*

*Marisa Smith*

*Barbara Taylor*

*Eve Templeton*



LLWV-UV  
PO Box 423  
Hanover, NH 03755

## Program 2008 – 2009 – Fall Events

### September

#### Fall Membership Potluck

*“Diet for a Warming Planet: Are there ways to reduce the climate impact of the food we eat (and still have fun and eat well)?”*

**Wed Sept 24<sup>th</sup>, 5 PM**  
Black Community Center

Tony White, Produce Buyer, and  
Emily Neuman, Sustainability Coordinator, Both  
from the Hanover Food Coop

### October

#### Candidate Forums

**Oct 8<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>, 7 to 9 PM**  
Local High School Auditoriums

Exact Time and Locations TBA  
Check LWV-UV website and Valley News

### November

#### Social Policy Brownbag

*“Who Makes Your Medical Decisions - You, Your Physician or the Insurance Company?”*

**Wed Nov 12<sup>th</sup>, Noon**  
Howe Library

Julie Lewis, Dartmouth Institute for Health  
Policy and Clinical Practice; Julie Bynum,  
Dartmouth Medical School, and Richard Davis,  
Vermont Citizens Campaign for Health.

### December

*“Priority Issues of New Hampshire and Vermont  
Leagues”*

**Wed Dec 10<sup>th</sup>, Noon**  
Howe Library

Jane Armstrong, President, LWV – NH  
Catherine Rader, President LWV - VT