



THE GENEVA LEAGUER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF GENEVA, NY

<http://geneva.ny.lwvnet.org> NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2008

CALENDAR

November 4
General Election
Exercise your right to Vote!

November 11
Lunch with the League
Green Building
11:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Geneva Presbyterian Church

November 12
Court Watchers
1:15-2:15pm
Geneva Presbyterian Church

November 12
League Night Out
7:00-9:00 p.m.
Home of Merry Henry
499 Castle St. Geneva

December 2
Lunch with the League
11:45-1:00pm
Geneva Presbyterian Church

December 2
LWVNYS trip to the United Nations
Register by November 28

December 12
Court Watchers
1:15-2:15pm
Geneva Presbyterian Church

Lunch with the League: November 11th

Green Building and Advocacy Presentation by Sabrina Wells

Presenter Sabrina Wells, Environmental Program Associate and Green Building Coordinator for CEC, has broad experience in environmental advocacy and non profit work. Her commitment to environmental and social justice has shaped her career and educational choices and she has long advocated for policy changes that address pollution, climate change, and water quality issues.

Sabrina is a 2008 Fellow for Women and Public Policy through the Center for Women in Government and Civil Society. During her fellowship she worked at the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation in the General Counsel's office where she researched and completed projects on the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative and environmental justice.

The catered lunch costs \$8 and reservations are required by November 7. For reservations call Kim Aliperti at (315)789-7395 or send an e-mail to aliperti@Verizon.net. Please join us as we share good food and interesting discussion...and bring a friend!



Invite a friend to have Lunch with the League next month. *Better yet, treat a friend to lunch!* What better way to introduce your friend to the works of the League of Women Voters than over lunch – and you'll both be learning more about what affects voters today.

Membership Reminder

Our Board of Directors recently agreed to December 1, 2008 as the final date for submission of 2008-09 League membership. Membership dues are \$49 for individual, and \$70 for family. Forms can be found on our website or contact Marty Davis, 310 Lafayette Ave. in Geneva or call 585.943.3563. Additional donations to League of Women Voters of Geneva help support all our local programming.

President's Message

Greetings Leaguers and Would Be Leaguers,

I will be temporarily filling in as Acting President for Judy Curtis who has recently lost her husband David. We all send our sincere condolences to her and her family.

There is much anticipation for the upcoming election and we have delivered our Facts for Voters to local locations in Geneva. This is one of the many important informational materials the league sends out to the public and your dues help to make this possible. We bill annually and know that prices for everything are continually increasing and we are grateful for your continued support as a member.

The Lunch with the League will be on November 11th as the 4th is election day. As usual we will meet at the Presbyterian Church at 11:45. We are also planning a League Night Out at my house, 499 Castle St., November 12th or 13th at 7 pm. We are assembling a panel of local political experts to discuss the post election results. Please consider joining us for what I expect will be a very lively discussion.

We are also considering being a part of the State League study this year which will be focusing on the Popular Vote. To find out what this study is about please go to the state web site:

lwvny@lwvny.org I have had many people say they are interested but I will need firm commitments by interested members no later than November 15th. The consensus we reach will help to determine the state and national league's position on this issue. I personally look forward to learning more about our electoral process and hope you will join me in this study.

Sincerely,

Merry Henry
Acting President LWV



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Geneva League – Who to Contact

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Acting President/ Membership

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More information on the Geneva League of Women Voters, including 501(c)3 status, can be found at:
<http://geneva.ny.lwvnet.org>

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

LWV National Popular Vote Study

The LWVUS is conducting a study regarding the National Popular Vote. The Geneva LWV would like to take part in this study. Below is brief history of the current way we vote for President and the proposed National Popular Vote legislation.

The Electoral College is a process established by the founding fathers as a compromise between election of the president by Congress and election by popular vote. The people of the United States vote for the electors who vote for the President. Each State is allocated a number of electors equal to the number of its U.S. Senators (always 2) plus the number of its U.S. Representatives based, in turn upon the number of people in the state, which is determined by the Federal census.

There is no Constitutional provision or Federal law that requires electors to vote according to the results of the popular vote in their States nor does the Constitution require that electors be completely free to act as they choose. 48 out of the 50 States award electoral votes on a winner-takes-all basis (as does DC). For example, all 55 of California's electoral votes go to the winner of that State election, even if the margin of victory is only 50.1 percent to 49.9 percent. As a result, the winner of the nation-wide popular vote is not necessarily the winner of the election. If no candidate receives a majority of electoral votes, there is a complicated process by which Congress selects the President and Vice President.

There are three areas in which the practical effect of the Electoral College has been found to be objectionable. First, a person who has not received the majority of votes of the citizens of this country can be elected President and, this indeed happened in 2000. Secondly, it is thought that the Electoral College system can discourage voter turnout if a voter feels that his choice will not win the popular vote in his state. Thirdly, there is a great deal of evidence that the Electoral College system has created an election process in which the candidates only campaign in the "battleground" states which are not traditionally associated with one party or another.

The Proposed Solution-The National Popular Vote

The National Popular Vote (NPV) legislation provides that the electors of each state which has enacted the law will vote for the Presidential and Vice-Presidential candidate who wins the majority of votes nationally.

To learn more about the details of how the National Popular Vote legislation would work go to: www.lwv.org
If you think you would like to be take part in this study please contact Merry Henry at 719-5959 or MerryHenry30@hotmail.com

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League Night Out

Mark your calendars! At 7 pm on November 12, Merry Henry is hosting the League Night Out at her home, 499 Castle Street, Geneva, featuring the 'Election '08 Wrap Up'. League Members are invited to bring a friend and enjoy a lively

discussion about the historic 2008 election and speculate as to what we might expect from the new administration. RSVP by November 7, to Merry at (315)719-5959.

Election 2008

Exercise your right to vote! Polls are open from 6:30am-9:00pm on November 4, 2008.

Verify your voter registration and polling place by visiting NYSVoter Public information at <http://www.geneva.ny.lwvnet.org/calendar.html>.

STUDIO SALON

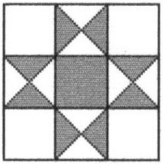
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December Lunch with the League

The League of Women Voter's will be having a luncheon on December 2 at the Geneva Presbyterian church. Please make reservations by November 28 to Kim Aliperti at (315)789-7395 or send an e-mail to aliperti@Verizon.net.

LWVNYS Trip to the United Nations

The League of Women Voters will be traveling to the United Nations to get a briefing on the impact on the effects of Global Warming on Women and Children. Please register by November 28 to LWVNYS by calling (518)465-4162 or On-line at www.lwvnys.org

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Observer Corps of the Geneva League of Women Voters

The Observer Corps of the GLWV finds its direction and mission in the NYS Open Meetings Law. Besides observing the letter of the law, the Corps incorporates the legislative intent that citizens be fully aware of public proceedings, can identify who the public officials are and can comfortably attend and listen to public meetings in order to be fully informed.

As used in the Open Meetings Law "a meeting" means the official convening of a quorum of a public body for the purpose of conducting public business. In a nutshell, the Open Meetings Law requires proper notice of all public meetings, the taking and posting of minutes and barrier free physical access.

The immediate mission of the local branch of Observer Corps is to observe regular Geneva City Council Meetings on the first Wednesday of the month and to observe the Finger Lakes TV video broadcast of the same meetings. The meetings are observed to insure public access, public disclosure and public education into the operation of Geneva City Government as communicated to the public through its City Council Meetings. The first 6-month report was recently presented to the Geneva League Board of Directors, who edited and approved the report with a recommendation that the current activities of the Observer Corps continue at the same level for the next six months. The implementation of future projects is limited by the group's small size.

The GLWV Observer Corps is currently seeking additional members. Membership requires an impartial and open mind and the commitment to observe one Geneva City Council Meeting a month and to attend one Observer Corp group meeting per month. For more information, please contact the Coordinator, Chris Hoffman at (315)521-2566 or choffmanlmt@rochester.rr.com.



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