Lunch with the League

Assistant Attorney General to Speak on "Project Sunlight"

The next Lunch with the League will be Tuesday, March 3, 2009 at the Presbyterian Church in Geneva. Our speaker will be Assistant Attorney General, Debra Martin. Ms. Martin, who is in charge of the Rochester Regional Office, will be speaking to League members and the public on "Project Sunlight", a website created by the New York State Attorney General's Office to promote government disclosure and to increase state government's transparency and accountability.

Lunch will be served beginning at 11:45 a.m. The formal program begins at 12:15 p.m. The catered lunch costs $8 and reservations are required. For reservations contact Kim Aliperti by Saturday, February 28th at 789-7395 or aliperti@verizon.net.

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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!
President’s Message

Happy New Year! We are looking forward to another productive year in the league.

The Popular Vote study met at my house Sunday, January 11th. It has been very interesting to learn how and why the Electoral College was formed and to look at the issue from different points of view. Please feel free to join us for the next meeting on March 11th. They are held at my house at 7pm and there is no reading required. If you would like to brush up on the issue before you come go to: lwvny@lwvny.org where there are many articles with varying views available. All you need to do is type in Popular Vote Study.

Our next lunch with the league is, as always, on the 1st Tuesday of the month. We will be meeting at the Presbyterian Church, March 3rd at 11:45 on Pultney Park. Our speaker will be Debra Martin, Assistant Attorney General and the topic of discussion is “Project Sunlight”. Look for fliers advertising the event.

By the way, we would like to thank Kathy Garcia, one of our newer members, who does the publicity for the local league. We appreciate the time she puts into writing and printing the fliers and making sure we are advertised in the “About Town” section of the Finger Lakes Times. Check it out to make sure you don’t miss out on our current programs.

Sincerely,

Merry Henry
President
ANNUAL MEETING  
LWVNY National Vote Study: Popular Vote or Electoral College

The annual meeting will take place on Tuesday, April 21, 2009 at 7pm at Billsboro Winery, West Lake Road, Geneva. Board members and Popular Vote Study committee members Meredith Aldrich and Rob Kriss will be presenting different points of view on this issue. Meredith will speak on behalf of keeping the Electoral College and Rob will discuss changing to a popular vote system.

Questions and answer period will follow with a final group vote and consensus opinion to send to our state League of Women Voters. The league’s annual meeting will provide you with the opportunity to learn more about how our election process works and discuss why this issue is important to the voters of our country. Please read the section in this month’s leaguer explaining the Popular Vote study. Kim Aliperti has generously donated space at Billsboro Winery on 4760 West Lake Road for our annual meeting. Thank you Kim!

Refreshments will be served and the public is welcome to attend.  Immediately following this discussion, we will be holding our annual meeting to elect officers and approve our 2009-2010 budget. Please join us as we celebrate another successful League year!
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.
LeaderSpark Session to Begin Soon!

The League and American Red Cross in the Finger Lakes are co-sponsoring LeaderSpark this spring. This six-week leadership development program begins Sunday, March 1, 2009 and runs through April 5, 2009. High school students have the opportunity to learn leadership skills through interactive skill building workshops. Participants identify their own goals to utilize in the program.

LeaderSpark is organized around topics covered in sessions of the program.

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<tr>
<th>Topics</th>
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<tr>
<td>Qualities and Styles of Leadership</td>
<td>Assessing own leadership qualities and types</td>
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<td>Working with Groups</td>
<td>Relating leadership style to group tasks and running meetings</td>
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<td>Planning Projects</td>
<td>Identifying strategies, tasks and resources to reach a goal and developing an action plan</td>
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<td>Dealing with Conflict</td>
<td>Practice problem-solving and conflict resolution skills</td>
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<tr>
<td>Presenting Yourself: Public Speaking and Interviewing</td>
<td>Define the purpose, analyze the audience, prepare and practice</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recognition and Celebration</td>
<td>Presentations by participants to their family and guests and recognition of contributions</td>
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Volunteer facilitators are needed to work with the students in both large and small group exercises. This is a wonderful opportunity to work with young people. Facilitators are provided with all necessary materials and training and may participate in as many sessions as they wish. Please contact Kim Reisch (789-7104 or kreisch@rochester.rr.com) for more information.
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