

Expanding Voter Registration

In associative partnership with the Utica-Rome Chapter of the League of Women Voters (LWV), the Committee for Voter Registration Expansion (CVRE) reports that it has brought on-board several non-profit agencies that are now engaged in conducting non-partisan new voter registration and updates as an integral part of the services they offer. Active registration agencies include: OnPoint for College, RCIL, Thea Bowman House Food Pantry. Several others are in process of making internal arrangements for becoming part of the Project, including the YWCA, MVCC, RPCN Utica Community Health Ctr., and the Utica Public Library. At least two more agencies have expressed interest and are in the process of learning more about the Project, including Kirkland Town Library and Grace Episcopal Church.

The Committee's Mission has been to enlist non-profit agencies serving in areas where registration is lower than usual, starting with inner-city neighborhoods of Cornhill and West Utica, aiming to make voter registration an integral and routine part of each non-profit's application and service delivery system.

Recently, members who serve as Liaisons from the Committee to the agencies, discovered that a new wrinkle might need to be added to their mission. They have discovered several agencies such as churches, with more limited staff and service offerings, interested in expanding their registration efforts. In response, the Committee is forming a component of highly qualified and experienced trainers who will work with just such smaller service agencies to prepare them for conducting on-going but more periodic voter registration. If you have an interest in hearing more about the opportunities related to this unique project, please contact CVRE@lwwuticarome.org