



# Utica/Rome Voter

Issue 68; April 2017

**Newsletter of the League of Women Voters, Utica/Rome Metro Area**

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Email: [league@uticarome.org](mailto:league@uticarome.org)

## Officers 2016-2017

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1<sup>st</sup>Vice-

[President@lwvuticarome.org](mailto:President@lwvuticarome.org)

Shirley Hilts-Adams

724-1277

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President

2<sup>nd</sup>Vice-

[President@lwvuticarome.org](mailto:President@lwvuticarome.org)

Lorrie Wasielewski

736-7425

### Treasurer

[Treasurer@lwvuticarome.org](mailto:Treasurer@lwvuticarome.org)

Nancy Agen

733-1408

### Secretary

[Secretary@lwvuticarome.org](mailto:Secretary@lwvuticarome.org)

Barbara Gibbs

735-8489

### Directors:

[Directors@lwvuticarome.org](mailto:Directors@lwvuticarome.org)

Dianne DiMeo

Carol Fitzgerald

Donna Goodwin

Lucretia Hunt

Karen McBride

Mary Monaco

Donna Rubin

Barbara Shuck

Sally Swierczek

Carole Torok-Huxtable

## ANNUAL MEETING

### Dare Thompson, President LWVNY

- DATE:** Saturday, May 20, 2017
- WHERE:** Hart's Hill Inn  
135 Clinton St., Whitesboro, NY
- SPEAKERS:** Dare Thompson – "My Journey as a Leaguer"  
(Article on page 2 has her bio information)
- SCHEDULE:** 10:30 Registration  
11:00 Luncheon  
11:30 Speakers' Presentations  
12:30 Annual Meeting & Election of Officers
- COST:** \$25/person (includes tax & gratuity)

To make reservations, contact Trudy Kennedy at 733-6244 or  
E-mail: [Reservations@lwvuticarome.org](mailto:Reservations@lwvuticarome.org) by **Tuesday 5/16**

**NOTE:** If you have made a reservation and cannot attend, please  
cancel by **Thursday 5/18**, or full payment will be billed.

\*attendees not wanting meal, may attend free of charge.

**Annual Dues will be collected at meeting, for those wishing to pay  
for 2017-18 year**

### **Nominating Committee:**

[NominatingCommittee@lwvuticarome.org](mailto:NominatingCommittee@lwvuticarome.org)

Mary Monaco

Karen McBride

### **Action Alert Chair:**

Lillian(Trudy) Kennedy

### **Publicity:**

Barbara Shuck

### **Historian/Archives:**

Donna Loomis Rubin

### **Newsletter:**

Dianne DiMeo

## **Dare Thompson – Annual Meeting Speaker**

Dare Thompson is no stranger to the Mohawk Valley. A current resident of Marlboro, NY, Dare lived in the Mohawk Valley and was an active member of the Utica/Rome chapter in the mid-1980's. Her experience in League activity is expansive. She has held board seats in 3 different state leagues - President, LWV Rhode Island, Secretary LWV NYS and Vice-President of advocacy/citizen education, LWV of Ohio. And, she served on the LWVUS Long-Range Planning Committee between 1981-1983.

During her tenure in the LWV Utica/Rome, Dare serviced as President and as Vice-President. Many of our current membership have worked with her, among them being Barbara Gibbs, Carole Torok-Huxtable, Liz Pattengill, Karen McBride, Barbara Shuck, Mary Chapin. She most recently served as President of the LWV Mid-Hudson Region.

We look forward to welcoming Dare "home" to share with us her experiences, her perspectives and thoughts on opportunities for continued advocacy efforts.

## **Items up for Vote at Annual Meeting**

### **I. Slate of Officers**

1st Vice President (2017-19)  
Secretary (2017-19)

Mary Monaco  
Barbara Gibbs

#### **Directors (2017-19)**

Donna Goodwin  
Shirley Hilt-Adams

Karen McBride  
Dawn Laguerre

#### **Nominating Committee (2017-18)**

Anne Popeo

Marianne Buttenschon

Sue Allen

There will be a call for nominations from the floor for any of the open positions during the Annual Meeting

### **Members who will continue in office (elected for 2016-18 terms)**

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President – Lorrie Wasielewski

Treasurer - Nancy Agen

Directors – Dianne DiMeo, Carol Fitzgerald, Lucretia Hunt, Donna Rubin, Sally Swierczek

### **II. Proposed Local Program (2017-18)**

Retain post-study monitoring of local planning, the Oneida County Sewer District Permit Compliance and Abatement Project and water quality measures to further Smart Growth development in Oneida County.

### III. Proposed Budget (2017-18)

<b>Income</b>	
Dues	2910
Contributions/Gifts-including gifts to Educ. Fund	200
General Membership Meetings	2000
Utica/Rome Voter Sponsor Ads	315
Election Reporting	250
Organ Donation Stipend	375
Interest from Savings & CD's	80
Items for Resale	250
Miscellaneous Income	250
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 6,630</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Per-Member Payments for LWVUS	1552
Per-Member Payments to LWVNYS	970
General Membership Meeting Expense	2000
Voter Guides and Voter Services	275
Utica/Rome Voter Newsletter	100
Use of space – NHPL & Forum Sites	150
Website	250
Conferences & Conventions	600
Gifts for Speakers/Promo Items	100
Membership Expense	30
Admin Expense	78
Publicity & Advertising	100
Vote 411 Expense	0
Youth Services	150
Program & Education	0
Items for Resale	175
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 6,630</b>
<b>Net Income(Loss)</b>	<b>-</b>

### MEETING SUMMARIES

Board - March 4 - Minutes of 2/17 approved as e-mailed. Financial report for January accepted and filed for audit. Committee meeting scheduled to conduct 7/1/15-6/30/16 fiscal audit. Draft reports re: Con Con Forum and our LWVNY 2017-19 program recommendations were reviewed and approved for Karen McBride to forward to the state office. Marianne Buttenschon will Chair the 2016-18 Nominating Committee; Mary Monaco and Karen McBride will represent the Board for the one year terms ending with 2017 Annual Meeting.

Board – April 1 – Minutes of 3/4/17 approved as emailed. Financial report for February accepted and filed for audit. Report of the Annual Audit Committee (Shirley Hilts-Adams and Donna Goodwin) for the year ending 6/30/16 was accepted. Budget and Nominating Committee reports and the local program item were approved for the Notice of the Annual Meeting. Two new members reported by Lorrie Wasielewski. In addition to the main calendar page, Nancy Agen is adding a suffrage information page on our website. League was represented by Barbara Shuck on the O-D Reader Panel. She noted it was an excellent meeting and tour. Board made a unanimous agreement to extend Students Inside Albany eligibility to 10<sup>th</sup> grade applicants next year.

March General membership meeting cancelled due to conflict with rescheduled St. Patrick's Day parade in downtown Utica.

## Utica/Rome League Supports Citizenship Effort

Our League should be very proud of the role we play a role in supporting new citizens that are being naturalized by registering them to vote. Honoring and abiding by the tenets describing what it means to be a United States citizen is something the League has promoted from its beginnings. County- and federal-sponsored naturalization ceremonies locally have increased to twelve (12) as opposed to the normal ten (10) ceremonies per year. This is a reflection of more refugees striving to become American citizens for a variety of reasons. In an article published Sunday, April 16<sup>th</sup> in the Observer-Dispatch, a recently naturalized citizen from Kenya indicated she is registering her children for citizenship, because “life will be better” for them; and, so that they have “the stability of being a citizen.” According to Shelly Callahan, Executive Director of The Mohawk Valley Resource Center for Refugees, there has been an uptick in applications for citizenship. She states, “In March the number (of applications) jumped from our norm of about 20 citizenship applications per month to 30. This is a new phenomenon, but this is significant.” While immigration policy nationwide is still being formulated, new arrivals to this country, along with those already settled in the area, are reviewing their status and opting to pursue citizenship. Further in the article, local attorney Mark Wolber states: “Another aspect that often falls into the cracks when it comes to citizenship is that there are many children who may have been brought to the country at a young age and proper legal citizenship channels were never tapped.” There is a new awareness of the real importance and continuing benefits of being naturalized. Our League, along with the other good government and fraternal organizations that assist faithfully at every naturalization ceremony, can take heart that we are fulfilling a vital role in what the League promotes: “making democracy work.” If you are contacted to register the new citizens to vote in one of the upcoming naturalization ceremonies, please do not hesitate to say, “Yes.”

-- Submitted by: Karen McBride, Voter Service

### **SCHEDULED NATURALIZATION CEREMONIES**

<b>2017 NATURALIZATION CEREMONIES</b>		
<b>Oneida County Sponsored (All Fridays)</b>	<b>LOCATION - <u>ARRIVE</u> by 9:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Ceremony Begins at:</b>
<b>April 28, 2017 (LWV to host reception)</b>	Oneida County Office Bldg., 10 <sup>th</sup> FL.	10:30 a.m.
September 22, 2017	Oneida County Office Bldg., 10 <sup>th</sup> FL.	10:30 a.m.
November 3, 2017	MVCC Info. Technology Bldg. Aud., Utica	10:30 a.m.
<b>Federal Sponsored</b>	<b>LOCATION - <u>ARRIVE</u> by 10:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Ceremony Begins at:</b>
Apr 19, 2017 (changed to Wed)	Pirnie Fed. Building, 3rd FL. Courtroom	11:00 a.m.
May 18, 2017	Pirnie Fed. Building, 3rd FL. Courtroom	11:00 a.m.
June 15, 2017 (changed from June 4 <sup>th</sup> )	Pirnie Fed. Building, 3rd FL. Courtroom	11:00 a.m.
July 20, 2017	Pirnie Fed. Building, 3rd FL. Courtroom	11:00 a.m.
August 17, 2017	Pirnie Fed. Building, 3rd FL. Courtroom	11:00 a.m.
September 14, 2017	Ft. Stanwix, Rome, NY	11:00 a.m.
December 7, 2017	Pirnie Fed. Building, 3rd FL. Courtroom	11:00 a.m.



Nakiesha Newton has been selected by the LWV/Utica-Rome for this year's Students Inside Albany Conference sponsored by the LWVNYS Education Foundation. The conference

will take place May 21-24 and includes 60 high school students from across New York State. Attendees will be given the opportunity to shadow local legislators and learn the legislative process works.

Currently a senior at Proctor High School, Nakiesha holds a 94.5 GPA, is a varsity sports athlete, is a talented musician and is fluent in Mandarin. Despite her rigorous schedule, Nakiesha finds time to volunteer in the community and is an active member of her church. Her career goal is to become a civil rights attorney.



We are excited about the talents that Nakiesha will bring to Albany to represent the Mohawk Valley.

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### Clothing and textile recycling

As we swing into spring and the usual cleaning of homes and closets, the disposal of some items can result in questions of how and where? "These jeans and tops have some wear left in them and I hate to throw them out. Where can I take them?" or "These items are thoroughly worn out. I've already got enough rags, I'll just toss these." The Oneida-Herkimer Solid Waste Authority has a Clothing Drop Off Box at the Residential Convenience Stations in Utica and Rome for clothing, shoes, sneakers, belts, purses, blankets, sheets, drapes, pillowcases and stuffed animals. There are other drop-off locations for textile recycling that can be found at <http://www.ohswa.org/recycle-category/view/14/602?q=shoes> in villages and towns outside of the Rome and Utica Metro areas.



LWVNYS has recently launched a new campaign – *Be Earthwise*. This initiative is designed to help citizens be more aware of impact they have on our environment. There are 2 phases of the campaign. First is to take a pledge to Be Earthwise, by committing to respect the environment and addressing climate change in daily lives. Part two provides details on actions that citizens can take, with Earth Day on April 22. To learn more, visit: <http://lwvny.org/earthwise/>

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### Women of the Year Photo includes 3 members of the League of Women Voters



Mary Chapin, Dawn Laguerre, Lucretia Hunt



# Save The Date

April 25 –LWVNYS **Lobby Day** in Albany, 10-5

Great Decisions programs held at Unitarian-Universalist Church (Higby Rd., Utica) @ 7:00 pm

May 4 - International Trade Policy; speaker - Rishi Sharma, Colgate University Assistant Professor

May 11 – Nuclear Security; speakers Peter & Diane Swords of Peace Action, Fred Fiske of Syracuse Post Standard and Carol White, area United Nations Association president

June 9-11 – LWVNYS 57<sup>th</sup> **Biennial State Convention**, Liverpool, NY.

Members are encouraged to participate.

<http://www.lwvny.org/programs-studies/concon/2017/Registration-Kit-2017.pdf>).

June 9 – LWVNYS has organized a **field trip to Seneca Falls** the day before the convention

begins. <http://www.lwvny.org/programs-studies/concon/2017/Suffrage-Tour-Registration-Form.pdf>)

November 6, 2017 – 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Woman Suffrage in NYS. LWV of Utica/Rome is organizing an event on this date to celebrate and recognize this milestone. Watch for more to come on the details.

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Send this form along with membership dues (\$25 for a student membership, \$60 for a single membership or \$90 for a household membership) to:

League of Women Voters  
Membership Chair  
PO Box 24  
Washington Mills, NY 13479

Questions can be emailed to: [league@uticarome.org](mailto:league@uticarome.org)