

## INDIVIDUAL PROJECT/ PROGRAM/ EVENT:

**Note: Any program since last year's deadline is eligible.**

**Category: (Please circle or highlight the category for which this program is being submitted.)**

- Women - Education - Community - International - Cultural - Diversity - Public Policy

**Title:** "Meet the Candidates Forum"

**Part I:**

2 **Other community groups involved, if any (list):** (5 points) Skaneateles Area Chamber of Commerce, Skaneateles Rotary Club

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15 **Number of members involved in planning or putting on the program** (5 points) \_\_\_\_\_

15 **Number of nonmembers involved in the program** (5 points) \_\_\_\_\_

30 **Number of members who attended or benefitted** (5 points) \_\_\_\_\_

200 **Number of nonmembers who attended or benefitted** (5 points) \_\_\_\_\_

1 **Number of new members who joined (if any)** (5 points) (and another possible)

**Part II:**

**Describe your project/ program/ event in 75-150 words. Be sure to include:**

- ✓ **how the project addressed AAUW's mission** (15 points)
- ✓ **branch goals** in doing this program (10 points)
- ✓ **specific action steps** in planning this program (15 points)
- ✓ **steps taken for community visibility** (Attach newsletter and newspaper articles.) (10 points)
- ✓ **measurable impact on the community** (10 points)
- ✓ **lessons learned** for future programs/ projects/ events (10 points)

**“Meet the Candidates Forum”**

**Monday, October 19, 2009**

- This project, planned by our Programs VP, Cynthia Loring MacBain, and Public Policy VP, Gail VanderLinde, addressed AAUW’s mission of promoting education. For the first time our town had a female candidate for town supervisor and we wanted to give her and all candidates the opportunity to explain their positions. (She won the election!)
- Branch Goal: Co-sponsoring the forum provided an opportunity for increased visibility for our branch among our community.
- Action steps involved: Meeting with candidates and co-sponsors; securing a venue; securing a moderator who was well-known (local TV news anchor, Carrie Lazarus); arranging publicity in multiple newspapers; distributing flyers and posters; compiling questions for candidates.
- Good press coverage resulted (see enclosed clippings.)
- Community impact: Based on feedback, the community appreciated the opportunity to question candidates and hear them address issues of community importance and concern.
- This is the third election year forum we have sponsored and each time we learn something new: to have unbiased moderators, a large enough venue, compilation of questions beforehand, and plenty of publicity. Also, having a co-sponsor increases attendance.

## TOWN

# Candidates face off

### Residents seeking town elected offices, county legislature share perspectives, answer questions during forum

**John Turner**  
Skaneateles Journal

SKANEATELES — Candidates involved in campaigns for the Nov. 3 town county legislature election had the opportunity to answer questions about local issues Monday at a Meet the Candidates Forum at Waterman Elementary School.

The forum featured candidates in races for county legislator, town supervisor, two town board vacancies, town clerk, highway superintendent and tax collector. The Skaneateles Area Chamber of Commerce and the local chapter of the American Association of University Women sponsored the session.

The evening consisted of candidates' timed two-minute responses to questions read by moderator Carrie Lazarus, a Skaneateles resident and news anchor on Syracuse station NewsChannel 9, WSYR.

Before the forum, most candidates distributed campaign literature in the school's hallway to the nearly 60 guests attending the event.

such as the ongoing truck traffic controversy, the Skaneateles Lake millfoil removal efforts and the ownership and management of the Skaneateles Community Center.

Lazarus first queried Democratic Onondaga County Legislature candidate Karen Hanford and Republican incumbent Jim Rhinehart on their views of the truck traffic issue, which Lazarus said "still seems deadlocked" in the state legislature.

"(The trucking companies) face the same drama we all do — how to make ends meet in a challenging economy with rising fuel costs," Hanford answered.

The best solution, she explained, would be a state-sponsored program whereby large trucks would receive discounted Thruway tolls that would allow them to "stay on the major highways while remaining cost-effective."

"Karen's exactly right; the issue comes down to economics," Rhinehart said in response.

Statistics provided by the state Motor Truck Association, he explained, show that truckers traveling from New York City to the Seneca Meadows landfill in Seneca



Steve Datz, center, candidate for Skaneateles Town supervisor, speaks during a candidates forum Monday evening at Waterman Elementary School. Also pictured are, from left, Onondaga County Legislature candidate Karen Hanford and incumbent candidate Sam Tannay / Skaneateles Journal

**SKANEATELES ELECTION CANDIDATES**  
**COUNTY LEGISLATOR - 6TH DISTRICT**

- Karen Hanford (D), Marcellus
- James Rhinehart (R, 1 C), Skaneateles
- Terri Roney (R, 1 C), Skaneateles
- Stephen McGlynn (R, 1 C), Skaneateles
- Jim Williams (D), Skaneateles
- Stephen Scott (D), Elbridge
- Janet Aaron (R, 1 C), Skaneateles
- Lori Milne (R, 1 C), Skaneateles

**TOWN SUPERVISOR**

- Steve Datz (D), Skaneateles

**TOWN COUNCILOR (two vacancies)**

- Rick Keyes (R, 1 C), Skaneateles
- Mary Sennett (D), Skaneateles

**HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT**

- Jim Card (R, 1 C), Mottville

**TOWN CLERK**

- See ELECTION, Page A4.

**TAX COLLECTOR**

- See ELECTION, Page A4.

# Election

Continued From Page A1

Marketing director, Navigation, was one of the guests who attended. Like other people, I'm here to hear about the issues — just what they are, and who thinks what way about them," Willes said just before the forum began.

After brief introductions of the candidates by chamber Executive Director Sue Dove, Lazarus began asking the questions.

The candidates for each position answered from three to five questions on a variety of issues

Falls save an average of \$120 per round trip by traveling on rural routes.

"I think it's up to Sen. (Charles) Schumer and other legislators to provide incentives to make the trucks want to stay on the Thruway and on the toll roads," Rhinehart added.

Willes said she was curious to hear more about candidates' ideas whether the town and village should consolidate, and how that merger would happen.

Lazarus asked town supervisor candidates Republican Terri Roney

would be, and a referendum to find out whether the voters agree (to a merger)."

"I think it's way down the road to even consider that," she added.

Later, the four town board candidates were asked if they would look for ways to purchase lakeside properties that would provide public lake access. If so, they were asked to explain how to finance those purchases.

"I would love to see us have lakelake access for town parks and recreation," Republican candidate Jim

**POLLING PLACES**

Skaneateles residents can vote from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. Nov. 3, at Districts 2 and 3: Skaneateles Fire Hall, 77 W. Genesee St. Districts 5 and 6: Mottville Fire Department, 4149 Frost St. Districts 1, 4, 7 and 8: Skaneateles Community Center, 97 State St.

Keyes said, "but the problem is that for private developers, lakelake property are expensive."

"What I'd like to see us do... is take a look at the state and federal (agencies) and see what's available from a grants standpoint," he said.

Democratic candidate Jim Datz said, "I think it's way down the road to even consider that," she added.

Later, the four town board candidates were asked if they would look for ways to purchase lakeside properties that would provide public lake access. If so, they were asked to explain how to finance those purchases.

"I would love to see us have lakelake access for town parks and recreation," Republican candidate Jim

thing residents "want, as opposed to need."

"If it's something we want," he clarified, "we definitely need to make a plan that would benefit everyone involved."

Meanwhile, Republican candidate Stephen McGlynn said he would have to see what the residents would support.

"I don't believe a majority of taxpayers would support (a tax increase) to purchase lakelake property," McGlynn acknowledged.

"If the proposal came before the town board, we'd definitely need a referendum because we can't assume to know how the taxpayers feel," Democratic candidate Mary Sennett noted that public access to the lake would be wonderful. She suggested fundraising efforts could pay for the property.

"And we'd need to examine the sustainability of properties we'd purchase — how it would be maintained, and how to handle the parking requirements."

"Is consolidation possible? Yes, if you want it. Is it desirable? I don't know at this point," he added.

Roney shared a different viewpoint.

"The water and highway departments in the town and village cooperate informally on a regular basis," she said. "You'd have to have a study... to show what the benefits

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### Plenty of thanks to go around in Skaneateles

To the Editor:

On behalf of the Skaneateles Democratic Committee and as a candidate myself, I want to sincerely thank everyone who helped make the 2009 election happen.

We are extremely grateful to the Chamber of Commerce, the Skaneateles Chapter of the AAUW and the Rotary Club for providing voters with the opportunity to meet and hear from candidates. We also have the benefit of three local newspapers that serve our community. We sincerely appreciated the extensive election coverage.

The folks who work at the polls deserve a special thank you this year as they helped us cope with new voting machines. I have not heard much positive about those machines, but our neighbors working at the polls did a good job explaining the process.

Despite the fact that our local candidates did not win, we achieved many successes. We ensured that voters had choices at the polls. Democrats make up just more than 25 percent of the registered voters in Skaneateles, but our candidates each received well above 25 percent of the vote. Our candidates work to gain support of voters regardless of party affiliation and we obviously did that in this election — a very special thank you to the many voters who supported us.

I was disappointed by the low voter turnout. But what it means to me is that we have to do more to engage people and help them understand that their vote matters. Many thanks, and we look forward to the next election.

**Jim Williams**  
chair, Skaneateles Democratic Committee

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2009

## Candidates' meetings help voters

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