



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF EAST NASSAU

Voter

*At local, state and national levels
the League works to influence public policy
through education and advocacy.*

February 2007

Save the Dates

Wednesday, Feb. 7 – 1:30 PM
LWVEN Board Meeting
Home of Judy Schmertz
2428 Kayron Lane,
North Bellmore – 221-1576

Wednesday, Feb. 7 – 4:30 PM
LWVNC Board Meeting
Herricks Community Center
999 Herricks Rd., New Hyde Park

Wednesday, Feb. 14
Valentine's Day
Anniversary of LWVNYS

Wednesday, Feb. 21 – 1:30 PM
LWVEN General Meeting
Topic: Universal Health Care
North Bellmore Library
See right column.

Wednesday, March 7 – 1:30 PM
LWVEN Board Meeting
Home of Paula Blum – 785-3213
1385 Lyon Place, Wantagh

***Tuesday, March 20 – 4:00 PM**
Women's History Dinner
LWVNC – George Washington
Manor. See page 8.

Wednesday, March 21 – 1:30 PM
LWVEN General Meeting
North Bellmore Library
Speaker: Lorraine Deller,
N/S School Boards Assoc.

**February is
Black History
Month**

(See page 2.)

Should the U. S. Have a National Health Plan?

**Come to LWVEN's next General Meeting
Wednesday, February 21, 2007
at 1:30 PM**



**at the North Bellmore Library
to learn more about this controversial topic.**

Our speaker, **Carol Smith Pincus, MD**, President of the Long Island Coalition for a National Health Plan, a member of Physicians for a National Health Plan, and a Board member of the LI Progressive Coalition, will speak about the struggle for universal health care in our state and country. She will discuss actions presently being considered in Albany and Washington. She will also address how interested individuals and organizations can enter into health care activities at all levels.

League members, friends and members of the community are welcome. There will be time for questions and answers.

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5. & 6. VOTER Advertisers, Membership Enrollment Form
7. "Bundled Contributions", LWVNYS 2007 Legislative Agenda
8. LWVNC Women's History Dinner

League of Women Voters® of East Nassau

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Lesley Pollak, Advertising

County Legislature Meeting Schedule

Monday, Feb. 5	10:00 AM
Monday, March 5	6:00 PM
Monday, March 19	10:00 AM

The Nassau County Legislature meets in the Legislative Chamber, 5th floor, One West Street, Mineola, 571-4252. An admittance pass must be obtained on the first floor of the building, at the north elevator.

Town of Hempstead Meeting Schedule

Tuesday, Feb. 6	7:00 PM
Tuesday, Feb. 20	10:30 AM
Tuesday, March 6	10:30 AM
Tuesday, March 20	7:00 PM

The Hempstead Town Board meets at Town Hall, in the Nathan H. Bennett Pavilion, 489-5000.

Town of Oyster Bay Meeting Schedule

Tuesday, Feb. 13	10:00 AM
Tuesday, Feb. 27	7:00 PM
Tuesday, March 13	10:00 AM
Tuesday, March 27	7:00 PM

The Oyster Bay Town Board meets at 54 Audrey Ave., Oyster Bay, 624-6390.

**Call before
attending.
Schedules
are subject
to change.**



Keeping Connected

LWVUS & LWVUS Education Fund

1730 M Street, NW, Suite 1000, Washington, DC 20036-4508
202-429-1965, www.lwv.org, lwv@lwv.org

LWVNYS & LWVNYS Education Foundation

62 Grand Street, Albany, NY 12207
518-465-4162, www.lwvny.org, lwvny@lwvny.org

LWV of Nassau County:

Post Office Box 539, Point Lookout, NY 11569, 516-431-1628
www.lwvofnassaucounty.org, info@lwvofnassaucounty.org

The History of Black History



Americans have recognized black history annually since 1926, first as "Negro History Week" and later as "**Black History Month.**" Though blacks have been in America at least as far back as colonial times, it wasn't until the 20th century that they gained a respectable presence in our history books.

The celebration of Black History Month, and the study of black history was begun by **Dr. Carter G. Woodson**. Born to former slaves, he spent his childhood working in the Kentucky coal mines and did not enroll in high school until he was twenty. He graduated in two years and went on to earn a Ph.D. from Harvard. He was disturbed that history books largely ignored the black American population-and that when blacks did figure in the picture, it was generally in ways that reflected the inferior social position they were assigned at the time.

Woodson took on the challenge of writing black Americans into our nation's history. He established the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (now the **Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History**) in 1915, and a year later he founded the Journal of Negro History. In 1926, he launched Negro History Week to bring national attention to the contributions of black people throughout American history.

Woodson chose the second week of February for Negro History Week because it marks the birthdays of two men who greatly influenced the black American population, **Frederick Douglass** and **Abraham Lincoln**. However, February has much more than Douglass and Lincoln to show for its significance in black American history. For example:

- February 23, 1868:
W. E. B. DuBois, co-founder of the NAACP, was born.
- February 3, 1870:
The 15th Amendment was passed, granting blacks the right to vote.
- February 25, 1870:
The first black U.S. senator, Hiram R. Revels took his oath of office.
- February 12, 1909:
The NAACP was founded.
- February 1, 1960:

In a civil-rights movement milestone, a group of black Greensboro, N.C., college students began a sit-in at a segregated Woolworth's lunch counter.

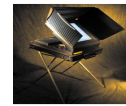
(Source: Elissa Haney, from the InformationPlease Database)



More Delays

But Remember: "The Tortoise Won The Race"

By Judie Gorenstein-Voter Service Chair, LWV Huntington



It is now certain that Board of Elections commissioners will not be choosing a voting machine by March to replace the lever machines in time for the 2007 primaries. The date that the New York BOE has to certify the machines has been moved up to May 4, 2007. The reasons for this most recent delay are twofold. First, the voting machines submitted to the NY BOE for testing and certification are not meeting the requirements set forth in the Federal 2005 Voluntary Voting System Guidelines (VVSG). New York is the first state to require that its machines meet these standards. Secondly, Ciber, Inc., one of the two companies the NY BOE hired to test and to certify the voting machines, was temporarily barred from approving new machines due to its lack of quality control and poor testing practices.

All testing of voting machines in NYS has been at least temporarily halted. Even if it resumes and a couple of machines DO pass the requirements, there certainly will not be enough time for the counties to choose, the state to order, the manufacturers to deliver, the machines to be programmed, and the BOE to train workers to use these new machines by September 2007.

If this seems reminiscent of last year when New York entered into an agreement with the Department of Justice to postpone changing our voting systems in 2006 as it would lead to disruption and disenfranchisement, it is. However, it would be unwise to postpone the change to 2008 since that is a presidential election year when there is the highest voter turnout; and introducing a new voting system could be disastrous. Therefore, we may be looking until 2009 for new voting machines to be in place. Would we then be noncompliant with HAVA? Would we have to renegotiate with the DOJ? Could we possibly lose Federal funding? The answer to all these questions is "yes," but the advantages of delaying a choice are great. It would give the manufacturers time to improve their products so they meet the guidelines. It would allow sufficient time to thoroughly test and certify the machines, as well as give time to the state and counties to develop plans and procedures for the new system. It would also provide time for adequate training of poll workers and staff.

New York has been slow in changing the machines; and in the long run, that has been positive. We have not made the mistakes other states have in selecting machines that are not secure, accurate, or recountable. The LWV continues to advocate strongly for the PBOS (Precinct Based Optical Scan) systems. Wouldn't it be great if New York adopted a single statewide optical scan voting system? In order for this to occur, there would need to be a change made in the New York State election law. Legislation would need to be passed by both the Assembly and Senate and signed by Governor Spitzer. Is this a possibility? We should know more by our next VOTER.

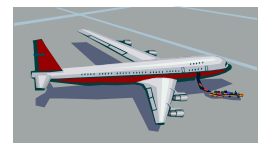
Websites to Check Out:

www.miledonor.com: A nonprofit, free service which provides detailed information on donating frequent flyer miles to charities.

www.americawest.com: Accepts donations of frequent flyer miles for the Red Cross, Angel Flight, Fisher House Foundation and Make-A-Wish Foundation.

www.aa.com: Allows donations for Miles for Kids in Need, which provides free transportation or seriously ill children and their families.

www.redcross.org: Lists major airlines that allow miles customers to donate miles to the Red Cross. The list currently includes Alaska Airlines, America West, Continental, Delta, Northwest and United.



News From *Your* State League

Update from LWVNYS

Barbara Bartoletti Appointed to Transition Policy Development Team on Government Reform!

We are excited to report the appointment of our very own Barbara Bartoletti to the incoming Governor's transition policy development team on government reform. Barbara took that opportunity to offer testimony and expert advice to the team in the area of government reform. What an ideal opportunity for the League! After so many years of advocating for government reform we may finally see some concrete results of the hard work of many League members and friends in New York State.

The Season for Debates

We certainly had a very busy fall! The state League, under the auspices of Voter Services, set an ambitious schedule of debates. Three were successfully held, including a primary debate for Attorney General and two general election gubernatorial debates. We give special thanks to all of you who worked so very hard. The process of debate planning is complicated and necessitates careful timing and the buy in of many different people. The disconcerting reality is that after many long hours of careful planning some debates do not come to fruition. The state League will be conducting a thorough review of our policies related to debates. We welcome comments and suggestions from all local League members.

Voters Guide II

The Voters Guide II was published with a version that gave statewide candidate biographical information and candidate responses to specific questions. Additionally, regional and local versions were available in many areas of the state. Many voters let us know they found these resources helpful. In addition to the traditional hardcopy distribution of Voters Guides across the state, Voters Guide II was offered electronically through the state League website.

We Moved!

After the UN event it was time to orchestrate the move of the state League offices from 35 Maiden Lane to our new home at 62 Grand Street. This process involved many weeks of planning and preparation. We are happy to report that the move was conducted without a single major glitch. Many people generously gave of their time to help us prepare for the move and unpack in our new offices. The staff of the state League is eternally grateful! Thank you!

Farewell to D-Net, Long Live Smart Voter

The inaugural year of the Smart Voter website was met with positive feedback from users. Smart Voter replaces D-Net, which we used a few years ago. Founded by the California League of Women Voters, Smart Voter was adapted for use in New York State. The first year of Smart Voter offered general statewide information and piloted one county, Westchester, for local polling place look-up.

Youth Development Initiative

The Youth Development Initiative, which consists of LeaderSpark and Students Inside Albany, held the first LeaderSpark 2007 training for program coordinators in Albany on September 21. The next set of trainings, geared toward program facilitators, is scheduled for January 2007, with trainings tentatively to be held in the Long Island, Capital, and western New York regions. Students Inside Albany 2007 will be held April 22-25 in Albany at a location to be announced within the next month. Two LeaderSpark graduates per site will be offered the opportunity to attend Students Inside Albany, leaving the additional sixteen spots available to interested local Leagues. As with the 2006 Students Inside Albany conference, local Leagues will determine the process for candidate selection at the local level. Look for detailed information.

Our 2007 Legislative Agenda

We begin the New Year with a new governor and high hopes of seeing real reform in how New York State does business, a comprehensive health care program for all New Yorkers, the beginning of reform in our court system, and fair and adequate funding for New York's school children.

1. Reforming State Government:

- ◆ Ethics
- ◆ Campaign Finance
- ◆ Redistricting
- ◆ Lobbying
- ◆ Budget
- ◆ Public Authorities
- ◆ Legislative Procedure

2. Equity in School Financing

3. Cost Effective & Accessible Health Care

4. Court Restructuring/Judicial Selection

Additional League positions will also be highlighted.

Copies of this Legislative Agenda, along with the Legislative Packet, will be available at the end of January. The Legislative Packet will contain background material on the issues. Plan now to make appointments to visit your state legislators and learn their positions on these issues we care so much about.

United Nations Briefings

The United Nations Briefings on Human Trafficking were very well received. The briefings were informative and included much that was alarming. The event, held at the United Nations, was filled to capacity. Following the briefings, participants could attend a luncheon in the Delegates Dining Room and take a tour of the United Nations.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF NEW YORK STATE

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GET INVOLVED!

Message to Congress to Require Lobbyists to Disclose "Bundled" Contributions

January 23, 2007 – "Our organizations strongly urge House Members to co-sponsor and vote for the essential lobbying transparency legislation being introduced today by Representatives Chris Van Hollen (D-MD) and Marty Meehan (D-MA). The organizations include the Campaign Legal Center, Common Cause, Democracy 21, the League of Women Voters, Public Citizen and USPIRG.

The Van Hollen-Meehan legislation would require lobbyists to disclose the amount of contributions they collect or arrange for federal candidates, leadership PACs and party committees. These contributions are known as "bundled" contributions. The Van Hollen-Meehan legislation is the House companion of the Senate "bundling" disclosure amendment introduced by Senators Barack Obama (D-IL) and Russell Feingold (D-WI) and successfully incorporated into the lobbying disclosure reform bill that passed the Senate last week.

Support for the Van Hollen-Meehan reform proposal is a fundamental test for House members of whether they support real lobbying disclosure reform. The proposal will be considered when the House takes up lobbying reform legislation. The Van Hollen-Meehan bill addresses a critical lobbying transparency issue - the ability of citizens to know the total amount of contributions that a lobbyist is collecting or arranging for a member of Congress, a presidential candidate, a party committee or other recipients of these funds.

Information about all of the campaign contributions being provided by lobbyists to lawmakers -- including the total amount that they collect or arrange for a member of Congress -- is directly related to the activities lobbyists conduct and the influence they wield in Congress. There is no credible basis for failing to make this essential lobbying information available to citizens. Currently, however, only the direct contributions by a lobbyist to a member of Congress are disclosed while the generally much larger total amount that a lobbyist may collect or arrange for a Member is not made available to the public.

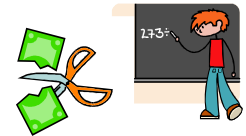


LWVNYS Legislative Agenda

*The LWVNYS 2007
Legislative Agenda
will place emphasis on:*

Reforming New York State Government including:

*Ethics
Campaign Finance
Redistricting
Lobbying
Budget
Public Authorities
Legislative Procedure*



Equity in School Financing

Cost-Effective and Accessible Health Care



Court Restructuring/Judicial Selection



Members will be making appointments with their State Legislators to discuss these issues very soon.

If you are interested in joining other League members when they visit your State Senator and/or Assemblymember, contact Polly Nager: 796-6211.

Disclosure of this information is critical in order for the public to know the role being played by lobbyists in Congress. From the public's point of view, there is no difference between a lobbyist making a direct contribution to a member of Congress and a lobbyist collecting or arranging a number of contributions and providing them to a Member. It all represents money provided by the lobbyist to the Member, and the lobbyist will get credit from the Member for the total amount received..."

(Editor's note: Contact your Congressional Representative and urge him/her to co-sponsor the Van Hollen-Meehan legislation and to vote for this essential lobbying transparency proposal when lobbying reform legislation is considered by the House.)

Congratulations to Howard Schmertz on being inducted into the Millrose Games Hall of Fame.



*You are cordially invited to attend
 The League of Women Voters® of Nassau County's
 22nd Annual Women's History Month Celebration / Dinner
 "Making a Better World"*

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Kathleen Rice

Nassau County District Attorney

Honorees:

Circulo de la Hispanidad, Inc.

Erase Racism

Interfaith Nutrition Network

Sarah J. Meyland, Esq.

Lisa Tyson

Patricia Wood

Tuesday, March 20, 2007 - 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM

George Washington Manor

1305 Old Northern Boulevard, Roslyn, NY

(\$50 in advance/\$55 at the door)

*To R.S.V.P. or for further information, please contact: Sarah Nicholas, LWV of Nassau County,
 516-431-1628, e-mail: info@lwvofnassaucounty.org*

LWV of Nassau County, PO Box 539, Point Lookout NY 11569

Enclosed is my check for _____ for ____ reservations
 for the LWVNC Women's History Dinner on March 20, at 5:00 PM.

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

_____ Zip Code: _____ Phone: _____

Please seat me (us) with: _____

(We will do our best to accommodate seating preferences if paid reservation is received before March 1.)

To place a journal ad, please use the form in the invitation which was mailed to all members.