



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

June/July 2007

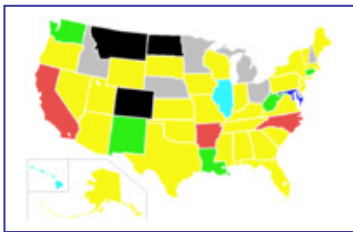
Save the Dates

Wednesday, Aug. 8 – 7:45 PM
LWVEN Board Meeting
Home of Lorraine Newman
2655 Park Circle, East Meadow
735-4876

Wednesday, Sept. 5 – 7:45 PM
LWVEN Board Meeting
Home of Maxine Stolzer
130 Bud La., Levittown, 938-1172

Friday, August 10 – 10:00 AM
LWVNC Board Meeting
Home of Riza Laudin - 897-6850
91 Ivy Lane, Lido Beach

Wednesday, Sept. 19 – 7:45 PM
LWVEN General Meeting
Topic: Stem Cell Research
Wantagh Public Library
3285 Park Avenue, 221-1200



Status of **National Popular Vote Interstate Compact** related legislation acted on in 2007:

- passed into law (1),
- passed in both houses (2),
- passed in one house (2),
- passed in one committee (2),
- failed in the legislature (20),
- introduced (18),
- no legislation pending (5 + DC)

Should New York State join the Compact for a National Popular Vote?

This is the title of the **newly adopted state study**. Although the state Board did not recommend any new studies, the delegate body, after considerable lobbying and persuasion by the LWV of Saratoga, decided to pursue this topic. The study is expected to take from one to one and a half years, beginning in February 2008, when the National Immigration study is expected to reach consensus.

“The **National Popular Vote Interstate Compact** is a proposed agreement between states in the US dealing with their allocation of electoral votes. This interstate compact, if enacted by enough states, would effectively shift the method of election of the President of the United States to a national popular vote system.

By terms of the compact, states agree to give all of their electoral votes to the national popular vote winner, not the winner in their own state. The compact would only go into effect once it was joined by states representing a controlling majority of the electoral college (270 votes in 2000). In the unlikely event of a tie in the national popular vote, the winner would be determined by individual states' electoral votes.

Such a plan was first proposed in 2001 by ... law professors Akhil Amar and Vikram Amar. The plan drew much wider national attention in 2006 when it was endorsed and publicized by the non-profit group National Popular Vote. National Popular Vote's advisory committee consists in part of former US Senators and Representatives, including former Senators Jake Garn, Birch Bayh, and David Durenberger, and former Representatives John Anderson, John Buchanan, and Tom Campbell.

The project has been endorsed by several newspapers, including the New York Times, the Chicago Sun-Times; ...and the Minneapolis Star Tribune arguing that the existing system discourages voter turnout and leaves emphasis on only a few states and a few issues, while a popular election would equalize voting power. An article by Pete du Pont, a former governor of Delaware, in the opinion section of the Wall Street Journal reacted against it, stating it to be an urban power grab that would shift politics entirely to urban issues in high population states and allow lower caliber candidates to run.”

(Source: Wikipedia)

League of Women Voters® of East Nassau

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County Legislature Meeting Schedule

Monday, July 9	10:00 AM
Wednesday, July 18	6:00 PM
Wednesday, Sept. 5	10:00 AM
Monday, Sept. 24	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, July 10	10:30 AM
Tuesday, August 7	10:30 AM
Tuesday, Sept. 4	10:30 AM
Tuesday, Sept. 25	10:30 AM

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

Town of Oyster Bay Meeting Schedule

Tuesday, July 10	10:00 AM
Tuesday, August 7	10:00 AM
Tuesday, August 21	10:00 AM
Tuesday, September 25	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.



LWVEN Board of Directors – 2007-2008

OFFICERS

President: Carole Goldfarb 626-3338

Vice Presidents:

Environment/Sprawl Lorraine Newman 735-4876

Voter Service/HAVA Norma Schaeffer 489-3133

Bulletin Circulation/ Mary Price 731-0812

Special Events

Secretary: Shirlee Bergman 249-5276

Treasurer/ Membership: Mimi Hirsch 822-5086

DIRECTORS:

Affordable Housing: Barbara Epstein 221-1948

Bulletin: Paula Blum 785-3213

Budget: Lesley Pollak 731-1066

Education: Maxine Stolzer 938-1172

Immigration Study Carole Goldfarb 626-3338

Issues/Advocacy: Polly Nager 796-6211

Membership: Bobby Stim 731-1067

Elsie Yurasits 292-8045

Programs: Janet Spar 735-8673

Public Relations: Judy Schmertz 221-1576

Students Inside Albany: Judy Shechter 221-5448

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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

Pay Equity Meeting

“The Equal Pay Act of 1963 determined that it is illegal to pay women lower rates for the same job strictly on the basis of their sex. Although the pay gap between men and women narrowed significantly in the decades following the decision, statistics have shown that pay parity has not been reached.

According to the 2006 Census Bureau, women on average earn 77 cents for every dollar paid to their male counterparts. For minority women, the wage gap worsens as African-American women make 66 cents, Hispanic-American women make 55 cents and Asian-American women make 80 cents.

‘It’s supposed to be illegal but the federal law is very weak,’ said Paula Blum, who is a board member of Women on the Job (WOJ) and a member of its task force. She discussed the issue of pay inequity... in a meeting with members from the Business & Professional Women's (BPW) Clubs of District II, Coalition of Staten Island Women's Organizations, the Staten Island Women's Political Caucus, Women's Committee of the Young Democrats of Richmond County and AAUW.

‘The bottom line is the majority of women and minorities in this country have low salaries because of gender and race discrimination. It's a fact that in New York State -- just about anywhere in the country -- there's absolutely no legal protection against salary discrimination for equally evaluated job titles. And there is very little protection against salary discrimination even when the work is the same -- exactly the same,’ Ms. Blum told the group.

She was joined by State Sen. Diane Savino (D-North Shore/Brooklyn) who urged the group to put pressure on Republicans in the state senate to move the bill.”

(From: Staten Island Advance, April 24, 2007)



State Sen. Diane Savino, Paula Blum, Joann Olbrich, and Audrey Barksdale

New Push For Women’s Equality

In yet another attempt to write women's equality into the U.S. Constitution, Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-N.Y.) and Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) introduced the Women's Equality Amendment this spring.

Since the beginning of this country, women have been at a disadvantage because of the lack of any constitutional guarantee of equality. The first equal rights amendment, written by Alice Paul, was introduced into Congress in 1923. A later version passed the House in 1971 and the Senate in 1972. However, despite significant effort by League, NOW and many other organizations and individuals, the ERA was ratified by only 35 states (three states short of ratification) by the June 1982 deadline.

There are many who believe that the passage of an equal rights amendment would lead to the elimination of the pervasive gender discrimination that exists in employment, insurance, health care, education, social security, etc. Also, if we had an ERA, the survival of existing protections, such as Title VII (employment discrimination) and Title IX (equal educational opportunities), would be less likely to be eviscerated by Congress or the courts.

Other members of Congress who have taken the lead on the new Women's Equality Amendment include: Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.), Rep. Jerrold Nadler (D-N.Y.), Rep. John Dingell (D-Mich.), Rep. John Conyers (D-Mich.), Rep. Lynn Woolsey (D-Calif.), Rep. Sheila Jackson-Lee (D-Texas), Rep. Hilda Solis (D-Calif.) and Rep. Yvette Clarke (D-N.Y.).

**WELCOME
NEW MEMBER**

Alice Morganstern
Plainview



Nassau County Legislature Report on May 21, 2007 Meeting

On May 21st a number of members of the Central Nassau League of Women Voters attended the regular session of the Nassau County Legislature. The meeting was called to order at 10:45.

Two new members had been added to the Planning Commission. Ten members agreed; nine voted against.

There was a discussion of sign hanging in the County. This had been discussed at length in committee and a majority agreed that this job should be undertaken by licensed sign hangers for the general welfare of the public. The matter was tabled for two weeks.

A problem still exists regarding the disposable personal property owned by the County. With the exception of museum property, the County can auction off property valued at \$20,000 or less. Museum objects are not included. Museum objects could be sold on the web but should not include pieces of exceptional value. It was reported that Nassau County has not been in compliance with the Museum Association. This matter was also tabled.

A lively discussion ensued between the legislature and the Parks Dept. Together with the Friends of Nassau County Recreation, Inc., about half the money for games, etc. comes from individual donations made to the Friends. The County wants control of all the funds as they provide the other half. The Friends objected because their money often goes for immediate needs when games are about to begin. County funds would not be so quickly forthcoming. More discussion is sure to take place on this subject.

The meeting was adjourned at twelve noon.

Respectfully submitted,
Lillian M. Wirth
LWV, Central Nassau

"It has become appallingly obvious that our technology has exceeded our humanity."
Albert Einstein

LWVNYS Opens Doors of New Office to the Community

On Saturday, June 2, 2007 Leaguers showed their support with their beautiful blue shirts at the Community Walk! In attendance were also runners and their children from the Freihofer's race.

LWVNYS took this opportunity to open the doors of our new state office to Leaguers from throughout the state and to the Albany community! One of our neighbors was nice enough to share with us his experiences as a student in the Students Inside Albany program (before it was named that) from back in 1991.

Because the Community Arts Center at St. Anthony's Church had their open house the same day as ours, we were able to scoot people from one open house to the other.

Thanks to Don Kennedy, Martha Kennedy (Albany LWV & LWVNYS President), Maki Jackowitz (Saratoga LWV), Barbara Thomas (Saratoga LWV), and Aimee Allaud (Albany LWV) the office now has a beautiful garden-----this has really drawn attention to the office, more neighbors stop to admire their beautification efforts and to find out who we are and what we do.

(from LWVNY.org)



Newly elected President of LWVNY, Martha Kennedy stands outside new LWVNY office at 62 Grand Street, Albany.

Maggie Moehring, LWVNY Voter Service VP and Martha Kennedy, LWVNY President participated in the Freihofer's Community Run and Walk.



State Convention 2007 Reaching Out – Reaching In

Because the 2007 LWVNYS Convention was in nearby White Plains, several of our members attended as volunteers, and joined the delegates for lunch and an inspiring speaker.

The delegates, including **Carole Goldfarb** and **Barbara Epstein**, who represented East Nassau, spent most of the time on the business at hand: electing a new Board and approving the budget for the next two years, which includes no increase in PMP (per member payments). The state Board and staff have been hard at work raising money, to avoid the need to increase PMP.

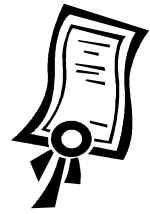
The **State Finance** position was updated, based on the results of our recent state-wide consensus on State Finance and Education, and the **Social Policy** positions are now combined under: Women's Issues/Social Policy

No new study was recommended by the board because none that were suggested by local Leagues had more than a couple of Leagues recommending them, and because the board did not want to burden Leagues, feeling that the current national study of **Immigration** was paramount at this time. However, the Saratoga League, which was very strongly interested in one of the potential studies lobbied hard – had caucuses, etc., and convinced the delegates that we should have a study on **whether NYS should join the Compact for a National Popular Vote**. There have been articles on this topic in previous issues of the VOTER, and more are forthcoming (see page 1, column 2).

The need to get local Leaguers to have their county Legislatures issue either a resolution or a “sense of the Legislature” in favor of optical scan voting machines was stressed. We should contact our county legislators on this issue.

See the column to the right to learn about the awards received by LWVEN and LWVNC at convention.

LWVEN Receives Two Awards at State Convention



At the LWVNYS State Convention in May, the LWV of East Nassau and the LWV of Nassau County received the **ACTION AWARD** for their work on Affordable Housing in Nassau County.

The awards were earned by our own **Barbara Epstein** and her housing committee: **Sandy Mintz, Judy Schmertz, Marion Schurade, Suzy Gell, Barbara Josepher, Elsie Yurasits, Barbara Levine** and **Thelma Rosenthal** from East Nassau; **Don Skinner** and **Rachael Krinsky** from Central Nassau; and **Ellie Newman** from Long Beach. The committee studied the issue at the local level initially, in the Towns of Hempstead and Oyster Bay. After East Nassau came to consensus, Barbara and her committee presented the information to the other Leagues in the county, and the LWVNC concurred with our consensus.

Once concurrence was reached on the county level, the committee began their real work. They have testified before the **Nassau County Legislature** and the **Town Board of Hempstead** and co-sponsored a **Community Forum on Next Generation/Workforce Housing**. They are monitoring actions of the towns, cities and villages, and are working to promote positive action for affordable housing with other organizations. Anyone wishing to join them in their efforts can contact Barbara Epstein, Housing Alternatives Director, at 221-1948.

The LWV of East Nassau also received the **VOTER SERVICE AWARD** at the state convention. This award was received as a result of the efforts of **Polly Nager** and her group of Voter Registration volunteers: **Mary Price, Bobby Stim, Norma Schaeffer, Lorraine Newman, Barbara Levine, Janet Spar, Lillian Broad, Judy Schechter, Connie Kanarek** and **Shirley Bard** from LWV East Nassau, as well as members from the Central Nassau and Greater Five Towns Leagues, and AAUW.

Before registering students at **Hofstra University** with her committee, Polly built upon her experience registering students in 2004, and researched the requirements for registration for other parts of NYS and for other states in the US, since many, if not most, of the students at Hofstra are not local students.

Those helping the students to register were able, therefore, to explain to the students that they could register to vote in Nassau County, where the college is located, or by absentee ballot in their home towns, and to give them the information on the requirements of their home states, as well as the websites where they could get the needed materials and additional information. They were also prepared to answer the myriad of questions presented by the students. They held 2-hour registration sessions on 12 different dates, and helped to register approximately 400 students.

Of course, our members also registered students at other universities and colleges, as well as other non-student residents, and will continue to do so this year. Anyone interested in registering voters can contact **Norma Schaeffer, Voter Service Director**, at 489-3133.

**Town of Hempstead
S.T.O.P. Household Hazardous Waste
Collection Schedule**

8:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Saturday, July 21 --Town Parking Field
Division Avenue, Levittown

Saturday, August 18 – Greenfield Cemetery Garage
Milburn Avenue entrance, Uniondale

Sunday, September 9 – Newbridge Road Park
2600 Newbridge Road, Bellmore



**Town of Oyster Bay
S.T.O.P./Electronic Waste
Collection Schedule**

9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Saturday, July 14 – Dept. of Public Works Garage
Altamont Avenue, Sea Cliff

Saturday, August 18 – Fire Department
West John Street, Hicksville

Saturday, Sept. 15 – Solid Waste Disposal Complex
Sweet Hollow Road, Old Bethpage

Recycle

Sign up with www.freecycle.org

You can sign up for a group in your area. When you have something to give away, you send an email to your group. You also receive emails from others in your group when they have things to give away.

This is a good way to give away things you don't want and to get things that you can use. There are over 3 million members in 4041 communities in the country. The Nassau County group has over 5000 members.



Protecting the Planet While Protecting Your Health

Buy local organic food.

It's healthier and it cuts down on the use of fossil fuels.

Check labels to see how far your food has traveled.

Food brought from foreign nations and distant states are less fresh and require greater carbon emissions to arrive.

Stop using toxic lawn pesticides.

Use natural lawn products and lawn care products whenever possible. Go to www.ghlp.org for information and to locate retailers and lawn care companies.

Drink safely.

If you are concerned about your drinking water, filter it. A whole house filter and a reverse osmosis filter on your kitchen sink will do a rather good job of removing unwanted pathogens and chemicals.

Use green cleaning products.

Many grocery stores now carry non-toxic cleaning products. For a list of safe products, go to www.grassrootsinfo.org.

Freshen your home.

Scented candles and air fresheners actually fill the air with harmful chemicals which can trigger asthma or allergic reactions. Instead, open the windows and buy some beautiful house plants to keep the air clean and fresh. Ask your garden center which plants do the best job of cleaning the air.

Plan a week's worth of errands geographically.

Save fuel, save money and save time.

Wash clothes on the cold cycle.

Save money on your heating bill and spare the planet 6.5 emissions per load. Wash only full loads.

Reduce exposure to car and bus exhaust.

There is no safe level of exposure to diesel exhaust. Don't drive when you can walk or bike, drive a hybrid car, and get your locality to adopt a no-idling school bus policy.

Avoid using plastic to store and microwave food.

Chemicals in plastic wrap, containers and bottles can leach into food or liquid, especially those with a high fat content. Store leftovers in glass, stainless or ceramic containers. Never put plastic in the microwave, even if it says "microwave-safe," which just means that it will not melt. Also, plastic is made from oil and it takes a long time to break down in the environment when it is discarded.

(Sources: www.grassrootsinfo.org, USA Weekend)