



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.*

March 2007

Save the Dates

Tuesday, March 6 – 7:00 PM
NC Bar Association
Topic: Next Generation Housing
Speaker: Matt Crosson
President, LI Association
NC Bar Assoc. Bldg.
15 St. and West St., Garden City

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

Tuesday, March 20 – 5:00 PM
Women’s History Dinner
LWVNC – George Washington
Manor (See right column.)

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

Wednesday, April 11 – 7:45 PM
LWVEN Board Meeting
Home of Mimi Hirsch
84 Victor St., Plainview, 822-5086

Wednesday, April 18 – 7:45 PM
LWVEN General Meeting
Speaker: Lorraine Kaplan, NAMI
(National Alliance for Mental
Illness) - Wantagh Library

Tuesday, April 24
EQUAL PAY DAY

The day this year on which women’s salaries in this country reach the same point that men’s did on Dec. 31 of last year. Learn more about this in the April issue.

You are cordially invited to attend
LWVNC’s Women’s History Month Dinner

KEYNOTE SPEAKER
Kathleen Rice
Nassau County District Attorney



Honorees:

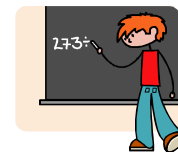
**Circulo de la Hispanidad, Inc., Erase Racism,
Interfaith Nutrition Network (INN)**
Sarah J. Meyland, Esq., Lisa Tyson, Patricia Wood
(Guest Appearance by Shirley Romaine, Actress and TV Host)

Tuesday, March 20, 2007 - 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM
George Washington Manor , 1305 Old Northern Boulevard, Roslyn
(\$50 in advance/\$55 at the door)
(See page 8 for reservation form.)

Please join us on Wednesday, March 21, at 1:30 PM
At the North Bellmore Library
Newbridge Road and Bellmore Ave.

Lorraine Deller, of the Nassau-Suffolk School Boards Association will speak about the

Myth vs. Reality
Long Island School Costs
and Student Outcomes



All are welcome.
There will be a question and answer period during which the audience can get their concerns addressed.

League of Women Voters® of East Nassau

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Mary Price, Circulation
Lesley Pollak, Advertising

County Legislature Meeting Schedule

| | |
|---------------------|----------|
| Monday, March 5 | 6:00 PM |
| Monday, March 19 | 10:00 AM |
| Wednesday, April 11 | 6:00 PM |
| Wednesday, April 25 | 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, March 6 | 10:30 AM |
| Tuesday, March 20 | 7:00 PM |
| Tuesday, April 17 | 10:30 AM |
| Tuesday, April 24 | 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, March 13 | 10:00 AM |
| Tuesday, March 27 | 7:00 PM |
| Tuesday, April 17 | 10:00 AM |
| Tuesday, April 24 | 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.**



2007: We're Off to a Running Start

President, Carole Goldfarb



With so many important items on the League agenda, it's hard to decide which to tackle first. At our February general meeting, **Dr. Carol Smith Pincus** gave us facts and figures that show how a single payer health plan can avoid millions of dollars in administrative costs and excessive private profits, while maintaining a high level of care and technological innovation; and provide health care for all without raising costs. Did you know that the Canadians, and others, have a longer life span than we do? That we pay 28% of our medical costs for administration, while Medicare costs only 2 to 3% to administer?

LWVUS supports universal health care. You might want to write to your Congressperson to ask that (s)he become a co-sponsor of HR 676, John Conyer's bill for Expanded and Improved Medicare for All.

One of the top 4 priorities of LWVNY is Cost-Effective and Accessible Health Care. Sometimes we have to approach an issue from more than one direction to accomplish our goal.

In March, we'll get a new perspective on a topic we've studied for quite a while when **Lorraine Deller** of the Nassau-Suffolk School Boards Association addresses our general meeting. We always have a question period after we hear from a speaker, so you'll have a chance to have her speak to your concerns.

The hot topic locally is affordable, or next-generation housing. We've made great inroads, but there's still time to get in touch with Barbara Epstein to hook up with other groups on the Island who are pushing so hard for this to happen. My own pet concern is Immigration. Most of the plans for solving this complex problem seem to stem from self-interest on one side or the other. I'm going to chair our League's committee to study the scope of the issue, its impact on the global economy and culture. I hope some of you will join me.

This month some of us are going to pay a lobbying visit to our State Senators and Assemblymen. Let me know if you'd like to come along when we go to your legislator.

In This Issue...

1. Save the Date, Women's History Dinner Invitation, LWVEN March Meeting Information
2. County and Town Legislative Schedules, Message from the President
3. The History of Women's History, DC Voting Rights
4. Voting Machines, In Memoriam
5. & 6. VOTER Advertisers, Membership Enrollment Form
7. National Popular Election
8. Keeping Connected, LWVEN Officers & Directors, Women's History Dinner Reservation Form, Town S.T.O.P. Schedules

The History of Women's History

“The public celebration of women's history in this country began in 1978 as "Women's History Week" in Sonoma County, California. The week, including March 8, [International Women's Day](#), was selected. In 1981, Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) and Rep. Barbara Mikulski (D-Md.) co-sponsored a joint Congressional resolution proclaiming a national Women's History Week. In 1987, Congress expanded the celebration to a month, and March was declared Women's History Month.”

“Women's history was also part of a larger movement that transformed the study of history in the United States. "History" had traditionally meant political history—a chronicle of the key political events and of the leaders, primarily men, who influenced them. But by the 1970s "the new social history" began replacing the older style. Emphasis shifted to a broader spectrum of American life, including such topics as the history of urban life, public health, ethnicity, the media, and poverty.”

International Women's Day

“IWD was commemorated in the United States during the 1910s and 1920s, but then dwindled. It was revived during the women's movement in the 1960s, but without its socialist associations. In 1975, the U.N. began sponsoring International Women's Day. International Women's Day is now an official holiday in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bulgaria, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Macedonia, Moldova, Mongolia, Russia, Tajikistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, and Vietnam. In addition, events are held all over the world.”

The United Nations' theme for International Women's Day in 2007 is "Ending Impunity for Violence against Women and Girls."

(Source: Information Please Database)

Celebrate Women's History Month with LWV of Nassau County on March 20. See pages 1 and 8 for more information.

DC Voting Rights

With new leadership in the U.S. House of Representatives, legislation to provide voting rights in the House for citizens of the District of Columbia, H.R. 328, can go to the floor for passage early this year.

The DC Voting Rights Act was ready to go to the floor late last year, but the leadership at that time decided not to proceed. With new leadership which is more attuned to voting rights issues, we have an historic opportunity to take another step in the long struggle for full voting rights for every citizen in our nation.

Keep the momentum going! Please contact your Representative now and urge her or him to support quick enactment of H.R. 328, the DC Fair and Equal House Voting Rights Act of 2007.

Citizens of the District of Columbia pay U.S. taxes, fight and die for the U.S. during wartime, and are governed by the laws that Congress passes. And yet they have no voting representation in Congress. They have only a non-voting delegate in the House of Representatives.

The “DC Fair and Equal House Voting Rights Act,” sponsored by Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton (D DC) and Representative Tom Davis (R VA), would right this wrong. The legislation provides voting representation in the House for DC citizens by increasing the size of the House by two seats – one for DC and the other for the state of Utah, which is entitled to the next seat by size of population. This balanced approach provides voting rights for District citizens without upsetting the partisan balance of the House.

Americans living in the nation's capital deserve to have voting representation in the body that makes their laws, taxes them and can call them to war. Only Congress can ensure that the democracy Americans have espoused and fought for across the globe becomes a reality in the nation's capital.

TAKE ACTION

1. Contact your Representative now, by phone and by email, and urge her/him to support quick enactment of the bipartisan bill to provide representation in the U.S. House of Representatives to the citizens of the District of Columbia. Tell your Representative to cosponsor and vote for H.R. 328, the Norton-Davis bill, to provide for DC voting rights.

Phone calls are helpful and can be made through the Capitol Hill switchboard at 202-224-3121 or 202-225-3121.

Stay informed, Sign up to receive Action Alerts from LWVUS directly by email. It's easy to sign up and the League will never share your email with others: <http://takeaction.lwv.org/lwv/mlm/signup/>. (Source: LWVUS)

What's Happening Re: Voting Machines



(From: New Yorkers for Verified Voting Newsletter #3 February 16, 2007)

Assembly Members Galef and Lifton introduce NY State bill requiring a single, statewide paper ballot based voting system

Mecklenburg, NY February 16, 2007: New York Assembly members Sandy Galef and Barbara Lifton have introduced a bill to implement a state-wide voting system based on paper ballots counted on precinct based scanners. They were joined at yesterday's press conference by the League of Women Voters, New Yorkers for Verified Voting and other good government groups...

New Rush Holt Bill (HR811) raises questions among voting integrity groups

New Yorkers for Verified Voting has joined a coalition of voting integrity organizations calling attention to the shortcomings of the "Voter Confidence and Increased Accessibility Act of 2007," HR 811. The groups represent a broad cross section of the grassroots voting integrity movement working on the ground in states all over the United States. They have released a statement listing areas where the bill needs improvement, and urge that specific amendments be made to the bill before it is brought up for a vote.

"While well intentioned, HR 811 has enough holes to drive a truck full of DREs through." said Bo Lipari, Executive Director of NYVV. "It will encourage states to throw good money after bad as they move to modify failed touch screen voting machines. Congress needs to wake up and smell the coffee – DREs can't be 'fixed'."

Village of Altamont passes PBOS resolution

On February 6, 2007 the Board of Trustees of the Village of Altamont in Albany County passed a resolution calling for adoption of paper ballots, precinct count scanners and accessible ballot markers as the county's voting system.

One of the Trustees who approved the resolution, Harvey Vlahos, wrote a message which eloquently describes why resolutions are important, and what citizens can do at the local level to work adopt them. It is reproduced with permission below.

"Like a growing number of Americans I was both appalled and alarmed at the erosion of one of the basic rights of our democracy, the right to vote and have it be counted. There's been a groundswell of support to not let corporate interests take over this foundation upon which everything America stands for is built...."

Strong Support for PBOS at NY City Hearings

New York City activists participated in two big hearings in January. At the NYC Board of Elections hearing on Jan. 23, 2007, 60 out of 65 speakers supported PBOS. Less than a week later, at the Jan. 29 joint hearing of the City Council's Governmental Operations Committee and Technology in Government Committee on Resolution 131, over 20 speakers supported PBOS and no one supported DREs. More contact is needed with City Council Speaker Christine Quinn, who is said to be blocking the PBOS resolution from coming for a vote. It has 43 of 49 current council members as sponsors, as well as sponsorship by Betsy Gotbaum, New York Public Advocate.

In Memoriam

The League of Women Voters of East Nassau mourns the loss of two long time board members.

Thelma Rosenthal

Thelma was the heart and soul of our Voter Service program for many years, as well as our resident expert on Health Care.

Billie Hyman

Billie always seemed to know how to get the job done, and she never took no for an answer.

Nationwide Popular Election Would Give A Voice To Small States

Part IV in a series on the plan to implement a national popular vote through having states enter an interstate compact called the “**Agreement Among the States to Elect the President by Nationwide Popular Vote.**” Based on materials Barbara Thomas (LWV Saratoga) excerpted from National Popular Vote. Arguments against the plan will be presented in a future issue of the VOTER.

It is sometimes asserted that the current system helps the nation's least populous states. It is also sometimes asserted that the small states confer a partisan advantage on one political party. In fact, neither statement is true.

Twelve of 13 smallest states are almost totally ignored in presidential elections because they are politically non-competitive. Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Alaska regularly go Republican, and Rhode Island, Delaware, Hawaii, Vermont, Maine, and DC regularly go Democratic. These 12 states together contain 11 million people. Because of the two electoral-vote bonus that each state receives, the 12 non-competitive small states have 40 electoral votes. However, the two-vote bonus is an entirely illusory advantage to the small states. Ohio has 11 million people and has "only" 20 electoral votes. As we all know, the 11 million people in Ohio are the center of attention in presidential campaigns, while the 11 million people in the 12 non-competitive small states are utterly irrelevant. Nationwide election of the President would make each of the voters in the 12 smallest states as important as an Ohio voter. In fact, the vote of every person in the United States would become equally important under the proposed compact.

The fact that the bonus of two electoral votes is an illusory benefit to the small states has been widely recognized by the small states for some time. In 1966, Delaware led a group of 12 predominantly low-population states (North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming, Utah, Arkansas, Kansas, Oklahoma, Iowa, Kentucky, Florida, Pennsylvania) in suing New York in the U.S. Supreme Court, arguing that New York's use of the winner-take-all effectively disenfranchised

voters in their states. The Court declined to hear the case (presumably because of the well established constitutional provision that the manner of awarding electoral votes is exclusively a state decision). Ironically, defendant New York is no longer an influential battleground state (as it was in the 1960s). Today, New York suffers the very same disenfranchisement as the 12 noncompetitive low-population states because it too has become politically non-competitive. A vote in New York is, today, equal to a vote in these small non-competitive states—*all are equally worthless and irrelevant in presidential elections.* In a 1979 Senate speech, Senator Henry Bellmon (R-Oklahoma) described how his views on the Electoral College had changed while he had served as Governor, Senator, National Campaign Director for Richard Nixon, and a member of the American Bar Association's commission studying electoral reform.

"While the consideration of the electoral college began—and I am a little embarrassed to admit this—I was convinced, as are many residents of smaller States, that the present system is a considerable advantage to less populous States such as Oklahoma ... As the deliberations of the American Bar Association Commission proceeded and as more facts became known, I came to the realization that the present electoral system does not give an advantage to the voters from the less populous States. Rather, it works to the disadvantage of small State voters who are largely ignored in the general election for President."

A nationwide popular vote is the only way to make every vote equal throughout the United States. The current winner-take-all rule negates the influence of every voter (of both the winning and losing political party) in every non-competitive state (small, medium, or large).

For more information, visit: www.NationalPopularVote.com

When I started working on women's history about thirty years ago, the field did not exist. People didn't think that women had a history worth knowing.

Gerda Lerner, [Women and History](#) (1986; 1993)

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

LWVEN Board of Directors – 2006-2007

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| Voter Service/HAVA | Norma Schaeffer | 489-3133 |
| Bulletin Circulation/ Special Events | Mary Price | 731-0812 |
| Secretary: | Shirlee Bergman | 249-5276 |
| Treasurer/ Membership: | Mimi Hirsch | 822-5086 |

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| | Elsie Yurasits | 292-8045 |
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| | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|----------|
| Pharma/Water Study | Barbara Sullivan-Parry | 802-3183 |
| Nominating Committee | Judy Schecter | 221-5448 |

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

8:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Saturday, March 24 – Parking Field 3
Eisenhower Park, East Meadow



Sunday, April 22 – City Hall Parking Lot
Centre Street, Long Beach

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

9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Saturday, April 21 – John J. Burns Town Park,
Merrick Road, Massapequa

LWV of Nassau County, PO Box 539, Point Lookout NY 11569, 516-431-1628

Enclosed is my check for _____ for _____ reservations
for the LWVNC Women's History Dinner on March 20, 2007, at 5:00 PM.

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

_____ Zip Code: _____ Phone: _____

Please seat me (us) with: _____

I am unable to attend. Enclosed is my contribution of _____ to help LWV with its work in Nassau County.

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