



THE VOTER

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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 Alice Jach—286-9260
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 Roberta Fishman—286-0614
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 Edythe Lewis—928-6059
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 Edith Emblar—474-0983
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 Peggy Olness—751-2655
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 Diana Reaven—689-5865
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 Gertrude Spiro—475-9351
Health Care
 Ruth Schwarz—286-1236
Immigration

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Action
 Marilyn McKeown—286-1169
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 Esther Glass—475-3803
New York State Government
 Alice D'Amico—751-0328
Finance
 Reggie Seltzer—286-8849
New York State Government

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION IN SUFFOLK COUNTY

Speaker: ROBERT SHINNICK
 Director of Transportation Operations

MONDAY, MARCH 24, 2008

1:30 PM

At Comsewogue Library
175 Terryville Road
Port Jefferson Station

PAGE 3—Meeting on New York State Government reform
 PAGE 4—Article about Transportation Worker Identification Credential
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE—Thanks to all those who renewed their memberships, and some new women and men, we now have 101 members—a great way to celebrate the League's 88th birthday, and acknowledge how important the League is to the democracy we live in. We are pleased to announce that Paul Pontieri, Mayor of Patchogue, will be our guest at the luncheon on April 11. He is leading the way to make the Village a model for Long Island. We look forward to hearing what he plans and how he has accomplished it on April 11 at the South Shore Restaurant.

On Monday, March 24, Robert Shinnick, Director of Transportation Operations for Suffolk County's Department of Transportation will talk about the changes that have been put in place to meet the increased demand on the county public transportation system. See page 6 for a description of the Department's operations.

Our 88th Birthday Today! (NEW)

From Mary Wilson, President, LWV US

Dear League Members,

Today we celebrate the League and its 88 years of proud service! As we laud the generations of Leaguers who made our communities better, I also want to celebrate all of you, the current generation of League leaders, and our members. You are confirmation of our legacy as you continue to provide trustworthy and balanced resources to citizens and lawmakers, particularly in this presidential election year making sure voters are registered, educated and confident in the political process. I believe our democracy is stronger because of the League's work and perseverance. Happy Birthday and thank you for all you do.

An Additional Note From Assemblywoman Eddington, on Redistricting:

Currently the Legislative Task Force on Redistricting is meeting and will be making recommendations on how to move forward. I understand one option being looked at is whether to continue with the bipartisan commission, where the plans would be done legislatively and approved by the Governor or to create an independent commission for redistricting. The Independent commission for redistricting would be created by bill A.5413 introduced by Assemblyman Deaneries. If A.5413 comes before me during this legislative session, I will support it.

NEW YORK STATE GOVERNMENT UPDATE

On February 28, we focused our attention on our state government, and some of our concerns—campaign finance, redistricting, oversight of public authorities, the budget process, legislators' attendance. Michael Ortiz, Aide to Senator Trunzo, did an excellent job of reviewing the issues we raised, and others he knew of. He pointed out that the budget is not made by three men in a room, but reflects the needs of each of the elected officials through their legislative leaders. The budget proposed for this year does not include enough money for local schools; Mike talked about proposals being talked of to shift school financing from local districts to the state—at some time in the future. The Senator is concerned about how to help students in the state colleges whose tuition will be raised. The system of voting without being present has been abolished in both the Senate and Assembly, with good results. Legislation for campaign finance reform has been proposed by both the Senate and Assembly, but no action has been taken. And last, he foretold that in about ten years, amphibious buses will be available—in case of flooding.

Assemblywoman Eddington, who was ill on the day of our meeting, has sent us this information about state government.

"This year the Assembly passed A9296 which would build on the Public Authority Accountability Act of 2005. This legislation creates an independent office that will be charged with ensuring that public authorities are operating efficiently. The Independent Office of Public Authority Accountability (IOPAA) will develop guidelines for authorities to abide by, warn and censure non-compliant entities, determine if certain authorities can be combined to save taxpayer money, and make comprehensive reports to the governor and Legislature regarding the performance, practices and finances of public authorities. The bill also:

Requires public authorities to disclose information to the IOPAA, including audited financial statements, operating and financial risks, grant and subsidy programs and current bond ratings;

Mandates referrals by the IOPAA to the proper law enforcement authorities if there is reasonable belief of crime, abuse or waste;

Established limitations on the formation of new subsidiary corporations;

Prohibits the issuing of false debt to end corrupt practices;

Provides for the state Comptroller to review certain public authority contracts ;

Extends minority-and women-owned contract protections to all state authorities.

The legislation builds on the Public Authority Accountability Act of 2005, which improved oversight and management through the creation of an inspector general and authority budget office, mandated training of board members and improved standards for independent audits.

Mrs. Eddington added: Please contact me to arrange another opportunity to meet with the League, as I look forward to discussion.

• **A CAUTIONARY NOTE FROM MARY ARMSTRONG, LWVLA**

- Most people have not heard of the Transportation Worker Identification Credential, or TWIC for short. Every person working in an area which is required to submit a security plan to the Dept. of Homeland Security, will have to have a TWIC. These employment areas are Towboats, Barges, Offshore Drilling, Support Services to these industries, Ports, Dockworkers, Passenger Vessels, Fleeting Facilities and Chemical and Petrochemical facilities and their sub contractors. When the plan was being written, it was estimated that in the Baton Rouge area there would be only 6500 applicants. That has now reached over 65,000 in Baton Rouge alone. If you have any type of criminal activity in your background you may be denied the card, which in turn denies you employment. There is no grandfather clause for existing workers. The Maritime employees and Teamsters have never been mistaken for alter boys. Many of these people have criminal records and having paid their debt to society by serving their time are now working in good paying jobs in the maritime industry.

You must have the Transportation Worker Identification Credential by September 2008 to be employed in the prescribed areas as listed above, after a background check costing \$132.50 each.

- Permanently disqualifying issues are murder, terrorism, treason, explosives and weapons convictions. Issues which may cause you to have to apply for an adminis

- trative law judge hearing to determine if you are qualified are robbery, rape, burglary, money laundering, assault, drug charges, etc. This is only being introduced to the maritime community first. The rail, air, and trucking are planned, with statements from TSA indicating that anyone in the country involved in the handling of people, petroleum, chemicals, or hazardous chemicals, including taxi drivers and bus drivers will eventually be required to have the card.

This tramples on the 1st and 9th amendment, freedom of choice, freedom of association, and if you view your job as your property, it infringes on your property rights (think in terms of intellectual rights). If you are an individual and own a vessel or facility, you will have to ask the government to issue you a card before you can enter your private property unescorted. It goes against the UN 1948 declaration that a person is free to choose his employer (which the US was instrumental in wording). And it is a profile. It will be especially onerous on minorities who tend to have more criminal convictions. Beyond that, the Declaration of Independence sets out the premises that we have certain rights of "life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness", and being able to choose my employer or employees should fall into one of those categories. Anything else?

What can the LWV do to educate the public about TWIC? Do you feel that this program comes under LWV current positions?

**BROOKHAVEN LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
ANNUAL LUNCHEON**

WHEN: FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 2008, 12 NOON

WHERE: SOUTH SHORE RESTAURANT, 388 MEDFORD AVENUE, PATCHOGUE
JUST NORTH OF SUNRISE HIGHWAY

WHAT: SOUP OR SALAD, CHOICE OF ENTRÉE, DESSERT CART
\$30.00 EACH (INCLUDES TAX & GRATUITIES)

SPEAKER: PAUL PONTIERI, MAYOR OF PATCHOGUE VILLEGÉ
HOUSING—HOTELS—THEATER—RESTAURANTS

**IF YOU WISH TO REGISTER, PLEASE SEND \$30 AND THE FORM BELOW TO
ROBBIE FISHMAN, 17 MOTT LANE, BROOKHAVEN, 11719, OR CALL ROBBIE
AT 286-0614**

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

E-MAIL _____

GUESTS ARE WELCOME AT THE SAME PRICE AS MEMBERS. IT IS A GOOD OPPORTUNITY
TO INTRODUCE PEOPLE TO THE LEAGUE.

SUFFOLK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

General Responsibilities

Transportation Planning and Programming

Long and Short Range Transportation Planning- as a member of the New York Metropolitan Council (NYMTC), Suffolk County is responsible for supplying pertinent data as related to the Suffolk element of the Regional Transportation Plan for the New York Metropolitan area. Every urbanized area in the United States of more than 50,000 persons must have a designated Metropolitan Planning Organization in order to qualify for Federal highway and transit funds. NYMTC is the MPO for the downstate New York area. The Transportation Division serves as the County's liaison to the Council.

Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and Transportation Coordinating Committee (TCC). The TIP is a three to five year programming document which includes all the regions' transportation projects which are seeking federal funds. The local planning for the TIP occurs through the Nassau/Suffolk TCC. Suffolk County participates in and is a voting member of the N/S TCC. The transportation division represents the County on the TCC.

Commuter Assistance Program (CAP)- a voluntary program to encourage reductions in single occupant vehicles.

Program Administration

Public Transportation Information

Telephone Hotline Tel.631.852.5200, is available weekdays 8:00AM to 4:30PM to provide travel information (including bus schedule, route and fare info) for SCT and other local public transportation in Suffolk County.

SCT Website [www.sct-bus.org./](http://www.sct-bus.org/) provides bus route & schedule info, fares, and other general information including SCAT

Suffolk County Transit (SCT) public transit bus system; SCT is a local public bus system consisting of 50 bus lines extending from the Nassau/ Suffolk County line on the west to Montauk Point and Orient Point on the east. The bus system is County owned, planned and managed. It is operated by privately owned companies under contract with the County. The Transportation Division provides planning and oversight in these areas.

Suffolk County Accessible Transportation (SCAT); The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) mandates that SCT provide as part of its bus system a curb to curb transportation service for people with disabilities who cannot use regular SCT buses under certain conditions. SCAT is operated pursuant to federal guidelines and is intended to offer roughly equivalent travel opportunities to the disabled community as would be available on SCT bus lines to the non-disabled public. SCAT is a par transit service available to all disabled persons who qualify under the ADA and have registered with the County. It is a reservation service available on a first come first served basis. Passengers can call for reservations for next day trips or up to 7 days in advance.

THE U.N. BRIEFING ON WOMEN AND WAR

Our annual trip to the UN focused on the issue of women and war—particularly on how we can change the role of women in peacekeeping. War has a different effect on women than it did in the past—women serve as combat soldiers, and they suffer from the trauma of war as civilians, as more wars are fought where people live. We have heard the stories of rape and torture of women not only by the invaders, but also by their countrymen and peacekeeper soldiers. Violence against women is considered as a weapon of war, not a war crime. The UN Human Development Report calls for “a new world order that would embrace full equality of opportunity between men and women as a basic concept.”

The UN is increasing the effort to raise the living standard of women; of 1.3 billion people in poverty, 70 percent are women. Women are an untapped potential for development and peace, but they must be empowered through infrastructural improvements, employment opportunities, and financial services.

In 2000 the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security. It recognized that women and their skills have been undervalued in conflict prevention and peace-building, and asked that all nations make it possible for women to be represented at all decision-making levels.

In the words of an early League member in support of the League of Nations, “Men will not get peace for the world. Women must.”

DATES TO REMEMBER

MARCH

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| Thurs | Mar 6 | BROOKHAVEN LWV BD MEETING, Alice Jach's, 12 noon |
| Wed | Mar 19 | SUFFOLK COUNTY BOARD MEETING, Riverhead Library, 10:30 AM |
| Mon | Mar 24 | MEETING ON TRANSPORTATION, Comsewogue Library, 1:30 |

APRIL

- | | | |
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| Thurs | Apr 3 | BROOKHAVEN LWV BD MEETING, Gertrude Spiro's, 12 noon |
| Fri | Apr 11 | ANNUAL LUNCHEON—SOUTH SHORE RESTAURANT- 12 NOON |

Directions to Comsewogue Library: Directions to Comsewogue Library (170 Terryville Road, Port Jefferson Station, 928-1212) - from the west, on Nesconset Highway, turn onto Terryville Road at the Sunoco Station, before Route 112, *and* From the east, on Nesconset Highway past Route 112, turn right at the Sunoco Station. From Port Jefferson, take Terryville Road right from Route 112/Main Street