



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.*

April, 2008

Save the Dates

Wednesday, April 9 – 7:30 PM
LWVEN Board Meeting
Home of Janet Spar – 735-8673
3664 Richard La., Wantagh

Wednesday, April 16 – 7:30PM
LWVEN General Meeting
See right column.

Thursday, April 17 – 12:30PM
AAUW, LWVPW/M
Human Trafficking – NYIT,
Harry Schure Lecture Hall

Tuesday, April 22
EQUAL PAY DAY – See page 3.
12:45 – 2:10 PM - “The Future
of Pay Discrimination”
Hofstra University – 436-5599

Wednesday, April 30 – 7:00 PM
LWVCN, LWVNC, Hofstra -
Forum on Voting Machines
Student Center Theater, Hofstra
University See page 8.

Tues., May 6 – 8:00AM – 4:30PM
Sustainability Conference
Huntington Hilton, Melville
Sustainable Long Island, 873-0230

Wednesday, May 7 – 7:30 PM
LWVEN Board Meeting
Home of Barbara Epstein– 221-1948
221 Tardy La. S., Wantagh

Wednesday, May 7 – 7:30 PM
LWVEN Annual Meeting
See right column.

Wednesday, May 21 – 4:00PM
LWV Nassau County Convention



**Do we expect our government
to protect us against terrorism?**

YES!

**Do we expect our government
to protect our civil liberties?**

YES!



Are these expectations in conflict?

Please join us on **Wednesday, April 16, 2008, at 7:30 PM**, at the **Wantagh Library**, Park Avenue, Wantagh, to hear differing views on this critical topic.

Guest Speakers:

Burton Ryan, Esq. Asst. U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of N.Y.
Dr. Tara Keenan-Thomson, Executive Director, NY Civil Liberties Union, Nassau Chapter

LWV East Nassau Annual Meeting

Wednesday, May 14, 2008, 7:30 PM

Forest City Park Clubhouse
3099 Morgan Drive, Wantagh

Business Meeting: Election of Officers & Directors, Approval of Budget, Discussion of Activities, Important Announcements and Updates

Speaker from Nassau County's new Mental Health Court

Buffet Dinner, \$10.00 (Please use form on page 7 to reserve your place.)

Directions:

Take Southern Parkway to exit 28S (Wantagh Ave.). Take Wantagh Ave. south to Jerusalem Ave. Go right on Jerusalem Ave., After going over Wantagh Parkway overpass, make a right on Douglas Avenue, then take an immediate right onto Murdock Road (which turns into Morgan Drive). If you miss Douglas Avenue, go right on Whitehall and make the next right onto Murdock. Park on Morgan Drive.

League of Women Voters® of East Nassau

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Mary Price, Circulation
Lesley Pollak, Advertising

County Legislature Meeting Schedule

Monday, April 7 10:00 AM
 Monday, April 28 10:00 AM
 Wednesday, May 14 6:00 PM
 (Committee meetings begin at 2:00 PM.)

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, April 8 10:30 AM
 Tuesday, April 22 10:30 AM
 Tuesday, May 6 10:30 AM
 Tuesday, May 20 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, April 8 10:00 AM
 Tuesday, April 29 7:00 PM
 Tuesday, May 13 10:00 AM
 Tuesday, May 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.**



LWVEN Board of Directors – 2007-2008

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8. Forum on Voting Machines, including demonstration

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, www.lwvny-bulletins.org

LWV of Nassau County:

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



Don't Wait for Tomorrow

by Carole Goldfarb

Dozens of East Nassau League members and friends in the community were treated to a dynamic, **eye-opening presentation** last month by **Andrea Chasen**, one of a select group trained by Al Gore to form a network of activists who would raise awareness of the threat of climate change to the environment. I imagine that many in the audience, like myself, were aware of global warming and knew that we should drive less, keep the thermostat set a few degrees lower, and perhaps switch o compact fluorescent light bulbs. However, when Ms. Chasen spurted out the figures on what these and other changes would mean in reduced carbon emissions, she really hit home.

Did you know that?

In the average home, 40% of electricity used to power electronics is consumed while the chargers, ipods and other gadgets are turned off, but still plugged in.

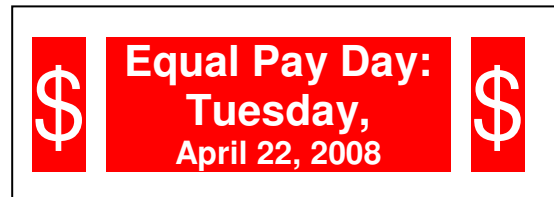
Air conditioners, one of the largest consumers of electricity, often cool empty, unused rooms (while the bills for all that wasted power make you hot under the collar).

Taking the train to work instead of the car for just one day each week could eliminate 800 pounds of greenhouse gases a year (and would give you some time to relax and read the newspaper instead of cursing traffic jams).

Opting for stockholders' annual reports (which often go unread) to be sent online would save tons of trees and eliminate the need for much solid waste disposal. While you're at it, pay your bills online and save the postage.

There was a rush to pick up fact sheets after the talk, and a spark in the air that made me believe that this roomful of people were not only going to make some substantial changes themselves, but were going to reach out to friends and neighbors, as well. That's what this program is supposed to do. What changes are you going to make this week?

We've had some powerful people address our meetings this season. I can't wait to hear **Tara Keenan-Thomson** in April. As Executive Director of the NYCLU's Nassau chapter, she's made many people sit up and take notice. I imagine we'll have a very spirited presentation on whether it's possible to preserve our civil liberties if we expect our government to protect us against terrorism. Or perhaps, is it necessary to preserve our civil liberties in order to protect ourselves from terrorism?



On Tuesday, April 22, 2008 thousands of women across the United States will join in a national day of action against unfair pay, called **Equal Pay Day**. April 22 is symbolic of the point into the new year that a woman must work in order to earn the wages paid to a man in the previous year. On a national level, women are paid only 77 cents for every dollar a man is paid, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. So, because women earn less, we must work longer for the same pay.

At a time when America's economy is facing a downturn, every penny counts! Economist Evelyn Murphy, president and founder of The WAGE Project, estimates that the wage gap costs the average American full-time woman worker between \$700,000 and \$2 million over the course of her lifetime.

Fair pay takes real change! And we can make a difference. Here in Nassau County, we will join hundreds of other organizations across the nation to educate women and men about pay inequity and to offer solutions to wage discrimination.

Wear RED on Equal Pay Day to symbolize how far women and minorities are "in the red" with their pay!

The Hub

By Barbara Epstein,
Director of Housing Alternatives

I recently attended a meeting regarding the HUB development plan. In the future there will be a hearing in the Town of Hempstead which I hope we can get some people to attend. As soon as I have more information, I will let everyone know. I will be making a statement in regard to the housing component.

In addition there are a couple of bills in the NYS Legislature regarding affordable housing. Members willing to write to their legislators in support of these bills should make sure that I have their email addresses. I can be reached at byeppie@aol.com, or 221-1948.



New York State Moves Toward Optical Scan Voting Systems

By Marge Acosta, NYVV
(New Yorkers for Verified Voting)

New York's long delays to implement the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) culminated in a court mandate to place one accessible ballot marking device (BMD) at each poll site by the September 2008 primary, enabling voters with disabilities to vote independently. NY will then be required to replace all lever voting machines by 2009.

BMDs are designed to mark or generate paper ballots, which can then be hand-counted or tabulated by optical scanners. The State Board of Elections, bowing to political pressure, recklessly redefined BMDs to include direct recording (DRE) touch screen voting computers. These DREs, not designed as ballot markers, do not produce "ballots" that comply with NYS law. They are not accessible, reliable or secure, and they entail extravagant costs.

New Yorkers for Verified Voting (NYVV) and the League of Women Voters of NYS, with support from local organizations, have been working for the last 5 years to keep DREs out of New York State to preserve NY elections. If the struggle seemed mercurial at times, it was an absolute roller coaster ride as the final decision for 2008 came close. Six machines were submitted as BMDs to the State Board. After reviewing all six, on Jan 24, 2008 three were accepted, all compatible with optical scan systems. Election integrity activists were elated.

Within 2 weeks, two machines were thrown off the approved list and all rejected vendors filed lawsuits. A state Supreme Court Judge reinstated all original 6 applicants, overruling every decision that the NYSBOE had made, and we were essentially back to square one. The final date for counties to choose machines was February 19th.

The results showed an amazing victory. Only Hamilton County chose DRE technology (11 DREs). The remainder chose optical scan technology. **Nassau and Suffolk Counties selected the Sequoia ImageCast Ballot Marking Device/Scanner combination.** In the end, local commissioners chose paper, not because they had to, but because they wanted to. A list can be downloaded at <http://www.nyvv.org/newdoc/nysbmd/NYSBMDChoice021508.pdf>. All machines chosen were then certified as ballot markers for 2008.

We'd like to thank all of you who helped to achieve this victory. As one county commissioner in NYS said, rarely has community action been this effective. We are also grateful to our LI commissioners who, early on, listened to residents and supported optical scan systems.

This is the beginning of a new era in NY Elections. Let's make it work & continue community participation by getting involved in the implementation. **We desperately need computer savvy poll workers. If anyone is interested, please contact Paula Blum (paulablum@hotmail.com), Debbie Shichtman (drdebbie@aol.com) or Marge Acosta (eacen@aol.com).** We will be giving workshops, demonstrations and presentations. Get involved so that our LI elections are honest, accurate and smooth-running.

Successful Sunshine Week Forum at National Press Club

As part of Sunshine Week 2008, on March 19, the LWVUS co-sponsored a successful forum, "**Government Secrecy: Censoring Your Right to Know.**" More than a hundred attendees came to the National Press Club in Washington, DC, and more than 700 individuals registered to watch the live webcast. The event also was webcast to 22 host sites nationwide, where hundreds participated (some calling in or emailing questions to the panelists). Five of the host site events were sponsored by Leagues. The LWVs of Benicia (CA), Knoxville-Knox County (TN), New Jersey, Palos Verdes Peninsula (CA), and Salt Lake (UT) are applauded for their efforts.

For a summary of the event and associated resources, visit www.openthegovernment.org. The webcast will be available on that Web site soon for unlimited future access, and DVDs of the program will be available for sale.

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

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Membership Form

Yes, I want to support the LWV's work in citizen education and advocacy.

Name: _____ Tel: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

Areas of interest: _____

Please clip and send with your check to: Mimi Hirsch, Treasurer; LWVNY, 84 Victor Street, Plainview NY, 11803; 822-5086
Enclosed is a check for : _____ membership dues (**\$48 Individual / \$75 household**) _____ contribution _____ Total

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<p style="text-align: center;">Laurence M. Stanger Senior Vice President - Investments Oppenheimer & Co. Inc. 115 Broadhollow Rd., Melville, NY 11747 1(800) 446-7300 - laurence.stanger@opcp.com</p> <p>Oppenheimer & Co. Inc. is a Member of all Principal Exchanges and Member SIPC.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">LICIL D.R.I.V.E.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Let's Turn Disability Issues Into Disability Law If Every Nassau County citizen with a disability joined the Disabled Rights Initiative for Voter Empowerment we would be a favorable factor in bringing about legislation fair to all persons with disabilities. Who do you know would like to D.R.I.V.E? Please refer them to www.licil.net to register for membership.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Long Island Center for Independent Living, Inc. 3601 Hempstead Turnpike, Suite 500, Levittown, NY 11756 • Tel: 516-796-0144</p> <p style="text-align: right;"></p>	

2008 Anticipated To Be An Historic Election



League Sees Voter Turnout, Financing & Party Nominees Making History in 2008

Washington, DC – The League of Women Voters recently provided its first in a series of comments on the 2008 presidential campaign, and noted that this election is on pace to make history in several areas.

“From what we have seen so far, the **2008 presidential election will be in the history books** for several compelling reasons,” said national League president Mary G. Wilson. “Americans are energized about this campaign and we are seeing that reflected in the high voter turnout and record amount of funds being raised from millions of voters.”

“We’ve been watching closely, along with the rest of the country, and see trends developing - both good and bad,” Wilson stated. “There have been lots of candidates, with lots of views and perspectives in the campaign. A healthy exchange of ideas is democracy at its best.”

“Many have worked for years to counter embarrassingly low rates of civic participation in America. This year, it seems we are on track to make significant improvements in that arena. Participation is on the upswing – and that is evident in the high turnout rates this primary season and the many Americans who have signed up as poll workers.”

“This is the first election since 1928 where neither an incumbent president nor vice president is seeking nomination for the highest elected office in the U.S. This diverse field of candidates from all parties has led to an elevated sense of excitement and a newness that is drawing more people into the system,”

Leagues around the country have been educating voters

throughout the 2008 primaries and caucuses and are prepared to do the same in the fall. Members are working in communities across the country to be sure the elections systems work as well as they can for voters, candidates and elections officials. Our online election resource, www.VOTE411.org, educates millions of voters about the election and helps them locate their polling places.

“Leagues are also working throughout the country to help election officials and others prepare for what could be a record turnout in November, and to make sure all election workers have the resources they need to ensure things run smoothly at the polls.”

“We are less enthusiastic about the trends we see developing on the financing of this election,” Wilson noted. “While it is inspiring to see so many new individuals giving small contributions to the campaigns, we continue to call on all the Presidential candidates to commit to using the public financing system for the general election if they become their party’s nominee. Recent comments by the candidates suggest that they will not stand behind their commitment to use public funds this fall. This is disappointing.”

“While pundits will dissect the ups and downs of individual candidates for months to come, League hopes that voters will continue to stay engaged throughout the campaign. We will be working to ensure that the election system works for all voters, and want to urge all Americans to get registered and vote this fall! While you’re at it, make sure your friends and loved ones are registered by sending them to www.VOTE411.org to get started.

Please join us at the LWV of East Nassau Annual Meeting & Buffet Dinner

Wed., May 14, 2008, 7:30 PM - Forest City Park Clubhouse, 3099 Morgan Drive, Wantagh, NY

Please reserve ___ place(s) @ **\$10.00** for the LWV of East Nassau Annual Meeting & Buffet Dinner.

My check for \$_____ is enclosed.

Name _____ Email address _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Please clip and return this form, with your check payable to LWVEN, on or before May 2,
to: Mary Price, 3930 Kingsberry Road, Seaford, NY 11783, 731-0812



**THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF CENTRAL NASSAU**

**Protecting Your Vote!
New Voting System for Long Island**

Join us to learn about the transition from lever machines to an optical scan system, and what that will involve for Nassau County.

Speaker: **Marge Acosta**, LI Representative, NYVV (New Yorkers for Verified Voting)
Member, LWV Huntington

Panel and Demonstration:

Marge Acosta - NYVV

Paula Blum, Co-President, LWV Nassau County

Mike Godino, President, American Council of the Blind of NY, Inc.

Dr. Deborah Shichtman, Co-President, LWV Nassau County

Edna Vincenti, HAVA Director, LWV Nassau County

Representatives of the Nassau County Board of Elections

Representatives of Sequoia/Dominion

Demonstration of the system chosen by the Nassau and Suffolk County Boards of Elections for use by voters with disabilities in 2008, which contains the scanner anticipated to be used for all voters on Long Island in 2009.

The forum will take place at:
***Student Center Theater
Hofstra University
April 30, 2008
7:00 PM (Sharp) – 9:00 PM***

Everyone is welcome.

The facility is wheelchair accessible.

For further information, contact: Don Skinner, 516-775-6576

**Presented in cooperation with:
The LWV of Nassau County
Hofstra University**