



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 2008

Save the Dates

Wednesday, March 5 – 1:30 PM

LWVEN Board Meeting
Home of Paula Blum – 785-3213
1385 Lyon Place, Wantagh

Sunday, March 9 – 9:00 am

Cardiovascular Disease & Stroke
Awareness Conference
Sponsor: Nassau Physicians
Foundation - Information: 365-2784
Pathways Womens Health
1350 Northern Blvd, Manhasset

March 16 – 22

Sunshine Week – See page 4.

Wednesday, March 19 – 1:30 PM

LWVEN General Meeting
North Bellmore Public Library
Topic: Climate Change & You
Speaker: Andrea Chasen
See column on right.

Wednesday, April 2 – 9:45AM

Pay Equity Event – Albany
A Gloria Steinem Day for Fair Pay
**To raise the visibility of pay
equity and encourage the
passage of the Fair Pay Bill.**
See page 3.

Thursday, April 10

LWV Suffolk County
Trip to Philadelphia
See page 8.

Wednesday, May 21

LWVNC Annual Convention

June 13 – 17

LWV National Convention
Portland, Oregon

CLIMATE CHANGE AND YOU

**Is the world’s climate really being altered by
human activity?**

**What does it matter to you if the climate
is changing?**

**What can you do, as an individual and a
member of a community, to help reduce
the problems resulting from a warming
atmosphere and climate?**

Please join us on

**Wednesday, March 19, at 1:30 PM,
at the North Bellmore Library**

to learn the answers.



We will hear speaker, **Andrea Chasen**, an environmental activist trained by Al Gore in the science of climate change and global warming and solutions to this global crisis. Ms Chasen was selected and trained along with 1,000 other activists, who have pledged to inform community groups in their regions about what we can all do together, to counter the environmental threats that affect us.

To date, this “cavalry” has presented this information to more than 10,000 groups across the US and other countries.

March is Women’s History Month

League of Women Voters® of East Nassau

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Mary Price, Circulation
Lesley Pollak, Advertising

County Legislature Meeting Schedule

Monday, March 10 10:00 AM
 Wednesday, March 26 10:00 AM
 Monday, April 7 10:00 AM
 Monday, April 28 10:00 AM
 (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, March 4 10:30 AM
 Tuesday, March 25 7:00 PM
 Tuesday, April 8 10:30 AM
 Tuesday, April 22 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 25 7:00 PM
 Tuesday, April 8 10:00 AM
 Tuesday, April 29 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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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

Enough Is Enough

Georgia DeGregorio,
LWVNYS Domestic Violence Specialist

For 20 years, the New York State Senate has refused to pass what is commonly known as the **“Expanded Access to Family Court Act” for Domestic Violence victims**. You have read many League articles in the State Voter about this. Now a new effort has been initiated:

LWVNYS has joined the New York Statewide Coalition for Fair Access to Family Court. Your state board supports this focused attempt to correct a long-standing wrong.

All we are talking about is one simple paragraph:
“...unrelated persons who are or have been in an intimate or dating relationship regardless of whether such persons have lived together at any time. For purposes of this article, neither a casual acquaintance nor ordinary fraternization between two individuals in business or social contexts shall be deemed to constitute a ‘dating relationship’.”

If you have any questions, please call or e-mail me at: georgiatd@frontiernet.net or 585-787-9662.

Editor’s note: Contact your state Senator and Assemblymember and ask them where they stand on this issue, and tell them where you stand.

Dedication Of League Building

The LWVNYS will formally dedicate its new building in Albany after its board of directors meeting at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 15, 2008. Proceedings will begin with a ceremony naming the building after Anne Holtzmann, whose generous help during our original building drive made its purchase possible. The building’s conference room will then be dedicated as a room of honor, in which plaques honoring those who have benefited the League over the years will be displayed. There will be a dinner at the home of Betsey Swan on the evening of May 15 for those who wish to continue the celebration.

This is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate League history, renew old friendships, and sow seeds for the future. Members from around the state are invited to attend the board meeting and stay for the dedication. Overnight accommodation will be provided upon request. Please call Stephanie at the League office if you will be able to attend.



Gloria Steinem’s Albany Visit

Lois Haigner,
LWVNYS Pay Equity Specialist

NYSPEC (NYS Pay Equity Coalition) has devoted most of its energies since the fall to planning a day of events with Gloria Steinem on **April 2, 2008**. These activities will raise the visibility of pay equity and **encourage the passage of the Fair Pay Bill**.

In the morning from 9:45 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. we will host an educational program featuring Gloria Steinem speaking on pay equity in *the Well of the Legislative Office Building*. This session, moderated by Dr. Helen Desfosses, will also include a press event. The Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, the legislative leadership, and the bill sponsors have been invited to speak. *Now that we are getting the attention of the Republicans as well as the Democrats in the Senate, please do what you can to get League members to this April 2nd event.*

Participants who attend the morning session will be encouraged to visit their State Senator and Senate Majority Leader, Joseph Bruno during the day, to urge them to allow the Fair Pay bill on to the floor for a vote. At 12:30 p.m. there will be a **fundraising luncheon** (limited to 60 guests) featuring Ms. Steinem at 74 State Street, a boutique hotel in downtown Albany. Cost to attend - \$150 (\$100 of which is tax deductible.) Your donation will help to cover the expenses of this day. To make a reservation – *haigner@nycap.rr.com*, or 518-464-0991.

At 5:30 p.m., there will be a Town Hall meeting free and open to the public at the First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany, 405 Washington Avenue. Ms. Steinem will participate in a panel discussion “Feminist Perspectives on Work, Immigration, and Health Care.”

Editor’s note: WOJ (Women on the Job) is planning to have a bus leaving from LI for these events. If you are interested in going, call Paula at 516-785-3213.

LWVNYS is seeking anecdotes about Anne Holtzmann and League history over the past 25 years to share during the building dedication (see column at left). Please send to Betsey Swan at the League office or e-mail to *faircamp@nycap.rr.com*. People are also invited to speak at the dedication. If you would like to do so, please contact the state LWV office: *lwvny@lwvny.org* or 518-465-4162.

Welcome to the League's Action Center!

Here you'll find all the tools, tips and information you need to advocate for the League's priority issues. To receive National League's free email action alerts on urgent issues, you can join the [Grassroots Lobby Corps](#). Go to the National League website: www.lwv.org, and check out the Action Center.

How Are Your Members of Congress Voting on Key Good Government Issues?

One of the best ways to arm yourself for taking action on key issues is to understand how your elected officials have reacted to important legislation. The League has compiled the results of recent congressional votes including nine Senate votes and six House votes on key legislation ranging from ethics reform to civil liberties, from children's health care to global climate change. This includes a list of each member of Congress and his or her votes on the League's priority issues.

The **Key Votes page** provides you with the opportunity to enter your zip code and find out how your Representatives and Senators have voted on key legislation. Additionally, you can click on any of the key votes to understand more about the legislation, as well as to use a map of the country to find out how all the members of Congress from each state voted.

The **House Votes page** provides a comprehensive chart of key legislation that is important to the League's priorities in the House, and the **Senate Votes page** provides a comprehensive chart of key legislation that is important to the League's priorities in the Senate.

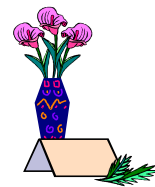


Sunshine Week 2008





Sunshine Week is March 16-22, 2008. This is a national initiative to open dialogue about the importance of open government and freedom of information. Journalists, civic groups, libraries, schools and others interested in the public's right to know have banded together to help promote this nonpartisan effort to enlighten and empower individuals to play an active role in their government at all levels, and to give them access to information that makes their lives better and their communities stronger. 2008 will be the 3rd year that LWVUS has been actively promoting Sunshine Week.

The Sunshine Week initiative originated from the work of several newspapers, and it has grown, in large part, because of the media's continued support. Journalists around the country are being encouraged to report on government transparency issues during this week, and we thought that it would be a great opportunity for Leagues to engage reporters in their area. More information about the history of Sunshine Week is available at www.sunshineweek.org.

Congratulations
to LWVEN member
Sarah Miller
on her promotion to
Vice President of Public Affairs and Education
at Planned Parenthood of Nassau County.



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.

<p>NEW YORK STATE SENATE</p> <p>SENATOR KEMPHANNON 6TH DISTRICT - NASSAU COUNTY</p> <p>225 SEVENTH STREET, 2ND FLOOR GARDEN CITY, NEW YORK 11530 (516) 739-1700 □□□:□□□□:~/□□□-□□□□□□□□□□-□□□</p> <p>LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING ALBANY, NEW YORK 12247 (516) 455-2200 E-MAIL: hannon@senate.state.ny.us</p>		 <p>TEL: (516) 571-6216 FAX: (516) 571-6287 E-MAIL: jjacobs@nassaucountyny.gov</p> <p>My very best wishes to everyone for a New Year filled with Good Health, Happiness and Peace!</p> <p>Judy Jacobs Nassau County Legislator 16th L.D.</p>
<p>NEW YORK STATE SENATE</p>  <p>SENATOR CARL L. MARCELLINO FIFTH SENATE DISTRICT</p> <p>LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING ALBANY, NY 12247 (518) 455 2390 email: marcelli@senate.state.ny.us</p> <p>250 TOWNSEND SQUARE OYSTER BAY, NY 11771 (516) 922-1811 FAX (516) 922-1154</p>	<p>15TH DISTRICT</p>  <p>ROB WALKER MEMBER OF ASSEMBLY</p> <p>111 LEVITTOWN PARKWAY HICKSVILLE, NEW YORK 11801 (516) 937-3571 FAX: (516) 937-3632 e-mail: walkerr2@assembly.state.ny.us</p> <p>633 LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BLDG ALBANY, NEW YORK 12248 (518) 455-4684 FAX (518) 455-5477</p>	
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<p>Richard V. Guardino Jr. Vice President for Business Development Executive Dean, Wilbur F. Breslin Center for Real Estate Studies Tel 516.463.4069 Fax 516.463.3907 richard.v.guardino@hofstra.edu</p>  <p>145 Hofstra University Hempstead, NY 11549-1450 www.hofstra.edu</p>	 <p>(516) 489-5000</p> <p>KATE MURRAY SUPERVISOR</p> <p>TOWN OF HEMPSTEAD OFFICE OF THE SUPERVISOR</p> <p>ONE WASHINGTON STREET HEMPSTEAD, NY 11550-4923</p>	 <p>(516) 571-6213 Fax (516) 571-6746</p> <p>NORMA L. GONSALVES LEGISLATOR, DISTRICT 13</p> <p>NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE ONE WEST STREET ROOM 126 MINEOLA N.Y. 11501</p>
<p><i>George Nager</i> <i>Attorney-at-Law</i> 231 Mineola Blvd. Mineola, NY 11501 (516) 742 0700</p>	 <p>(516) 571-2660 Fax: (516) 752-4099</p> <p>MAUREEN O'CONNELL COUNTY CLERK</p> <p>NASSAU COUNTY OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK</p> <p>240 OLD COUNTRY ROAD MINEOLA, NY 11501</p>	 <p>(516) 571-2386 Fax: (516) 571-5900 E-MAIL: hweitzman@nassaucountyny.gov</p> <p>HOWARD S. WEITZMAN NASSAU COUNTY COMPTROLLER</p> <p>NASSAU COUNTY OFFICE OF THE COUNTY COMPTROLLER</p> <p>240 OLD COUNTRY ROAD MINEOLA, NY 11501-4247</p>

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; LWVEN, 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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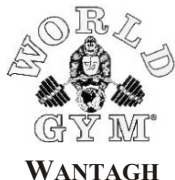
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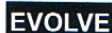
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If Every Nassau County citizen with a disability joined the
Disabled Rights Initiative for Voter Empowerment we would be
a favorable factor in bringing about legislation fair to all persons with disabilities.
Who do you know would like to D.R.I.V.E?
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Long Island Center for Independent Living, Inc.
3601 Hempstead Turnpike, Suite 500, Levittown, NY 11756 • Tel: 516-796-0144

LWV Opposes Requiring ID and Documentary Proof of Citizenship

The League supports full voting participation by all eligible American citizens and opposes efforts to create new barriers that block citizen voter participation.

The following statistics reflect those individuals who do not have photo identification:

11% or as many as 21 million Americans
36% of voters in Georgia over the age of 75
18% of Americans over 65 (6 million)
25% of African Americans
10% or 40 million people with disabilities
15% of low income voters

What is wrong with having to show an ID? Doesn't everybody have one? Not everyone has ID that meets the requirements of some states. Indeed, ID requirements disproportionately affect the elderly, young people, racial and ethnic minorities, persons with disabilities and the poor.

As many as 11 percent of United States citizens – more than 21 million individuals – do not have government-issued photo identification. Eleven percent of American citizens surveyed said they do not have current, unexpired government-issued identification with a photograph, such as a driver's license or military ID. Using 2000 census calculations of the citizen voting-age population, this translates to more than 21 million American adult citizens nationwide who do not possess valid government photo ID. Source: *NYU and Brennan Center Survey*

In Georgia, The Secretary of State estimated that over 650,000 registered Georgians do not have drivers' licenses

Elderly: In 2006, the Missouri Secretary of State estimated that almost 200,000 Missourians of voting age did not have a state-issued photo ID. This includes at least 16 percent of Missouri's seniors. According to the AARP, 36% of citizens in Georgia over the age of 75 do not have driver's licenses.

Survey results indicate that seniors disproportionately lack photo ID. Eighteen percent of American citizens 65 and above do not have current government-issued photo ID. This amounts to more than 6 million senior citizens. Source: *NYU and Brennan Center Survey*

Minority Communities: The US Census reports that Americans have an annual mobility rate of 14 percent. Hispanics and Blacks, however, have an annual mobility rate of 18 percent, while those with incomes below the

poverty level are almost twice as likely to move (24 percent) as those with incomes above the poverty level (13 percent). Consequently, people of color and poor people are less likely to have photo identification showing a current address, even if they have a photo ID.

According to the survey, African-American citizens also disproportionately lack photo identification. Twenty-five percent of African-American voting-age citizens have no current government-issued photo ID, compared to eight percent of white voting-age citizens. Using 2000 census figures, this amounts to more than 5.5 million adult African-American citizens without photo identification. The survey indicated that sixteen percent of Hispanic voting-age citizens had no current government-issued photo ID, but due to a low sample size, the results did not achieve statistical significance. Source: *NYU and Brennan Center Survey*

People with disabilities: According to disability advocates, nearly ten percent of the 40 million Americans with disabilities do not have any form of state-issued photo identification. Source: *Center for Policy Alternatives*

Low income people: Citizens earning less than \$35,000 per year are more than twice as likely to lack current government-issued photo identification as those earning more than \$35,000. The survey indicated that at least 15 percent of voting-age American citizens earning less than \$35,000 per year do not have a valid government-issued photo ID. Source: *NYU and Brennan Center Survey*

Current laws work and ensure the process is Fair, Just, Secure and Accessible to all. There is no evidence that voting by non-citizens is occurring in significant numbers. Indeed, since these activities are illegal in every state for federal elections, reports of prosecution and convictions would abound if significant numbers of people were voting illegally.

Evidence proves that illegal voting is extremely low. At the Federal level only 24 people were convicted of voter fraud between 2002 and 2005. Americans are twice as likely to get hit by lightning as to have their vote cancelled out by a fraudulently cast vote.

What if the State pays for the ID? Isn't that sufficient? No, costs can be a significant barrier to obtaining photo ID. Even when the ID itself is free, there are hidden costs, such as transportation to various agencies and fees related to acquiring supporting documents like birth certificates. Support for these programs is subject to the mercy of the annual appropriations process. To receive a passport the total cost is \$97. Birth certificate costs vary by State. Costs include fees to the states as well as time off work.



County Corner

Our County Convention is tentatively scheduled for May 21, late afternoon into evening. Please be sure to **save the date**. We will have a business meeting, at which our Officers and Directors for 2008 – 2010 will be elected, and we will vote on our program for the coming year. One suggested study item for next year is a **study of special districts**. Would you like to be in a study group on this topic, which is so relevant and has such a strong effect on our taxes? Or, can you recommend another topic that we should be looking into?

All members of all Nassau County Leagues are invited to attend the Convention’s business meeting. The number of voting delegates for each League is determined by membership numbers as of February 1.

After the business meeting, the Convention Dinner will be open to the public. NYS Comptroller, Tom DiNapoli, has been invited to be our keynote speaker. The Adele Fox Award for Service to the NC League will be presented to Debbie Shichtman.

“**They Represent You, A Directory of Public Officials,**” is expected to be printed by the time this bulletin is received. We are extremely thankful for the support of this year’s sponsors: **National Grid, News12, and the NC Vietnam Veterans of America**.

Next, we will begin to work on the **2008 Voters Guide**. We have a committee ready to gather the information, but we need help to get **sponsors** for this important endeavor, and to work on **distribution**. Anyone willing to help, please call Paula 785-3213 or Debbie 466-3126. If you have a contact in an organization that might become a sponsor, let us know as soon as possible. The costs for these projects keep increasing, and our funds keep decreasing.

Individual contributions to the League of Women Voters of Nassau County are also needed and greatly appreciated. How about honoring a relative’s or friend’s birthday with a contribution to League? A note will be sent to the honored person.

The Nassau County ILO is planning to work together with the Suffolk County ILO on programs and projects of mutual interest and concern. We will also be sharing information on our various activities. Coming up soon in Suffolk County is their trip to **Philadelphia on April 10th**. There will be a bus going, and the cost is \$50 (members) \$60 (non-members). If you are interested, please call 631-324-6144.

NC Mental Health Court

by Lorraine Newman

LWV East Nassau and **LWV Nassau County** (the Inter-League Organization) have become involved in the newly formed Nassau County Mental Health Court, in our role as community activists.

We will attend meetings and hearings at the court, and disseminate information to League members and the public. The East Nassau League was active in the Community Court, an earlier innovative approach to alternatives to incarceration taken by the District Court.

Paula Blum and **Carole Goldfarb** attended the planning session, after which **Lorraine Newman** was appointed to be the Judicial Liaison for the Nassau County Leagues. She will report at County board meetings, so that the information will get back to all local Leagues.

The Court is now in session, and reports are that it has been a positive and effective approach to dealing with people with emotional problems who end up in the penal system.

At LWVEN’s Annual Meeting, on May 14th, a representative of the Mental Health Court will discuss the Goals and Key Principles, and update us on the progress of this humane and cost-effective undertaking. The Voter will publish the Fact Sheet for your information.

Wish You Were There?



LWVEN’s General Meeting on Feb. 20, the topic of which was: “**Hitler’s Courts, Betrayal of the Rule of Law in Nazi Germany,**” brought over 80 people to the North Bellmore Library. The film was compelling, enlightening, and frightening. We learned that Hitler began the evisceration of the previously very effective legal system, as a “temporary” measure, as a reaction to the “terror” visited on the country when the Reichstag was burned down. The Nazis then swept aside all legal barriers to their control, in incremental steps. The lawyers and judges relinquished their power to balance that of the Executive branch.

The subsequent discussion led by **Dean Lawrence Raful**, of the **Touro Law School** was terrific, but seemed very short because of all that we wanted to discuss. The parallels noted between what occurred in Germany and what has happened in the US in recent years was a wake-up call. We must be ever vigilant. It can happen anywhere people don’t stand up for their rights and the rights of others.