



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.*

November, 2008

Save the Dates

Wednesday, Nov. 5 – 7:30
LWVEN Board Meeting
Home of Norma Schaeffer
614 Pine La., E. Meadow, 489-3133

Thursday, Nov. 6 – 12 Noon
LWVNC Post Election Lunch
Coral House - Baldwin

Wednesday, Nov. 19 – 7:30 PM
LWVEN General Meeting
Speaker: Kathleen Rice,
NC District Attorney
See right column.

Tuesday, December 2
League Day at the UN
1:30 AM – 4:00 PM
See right column.

Wednesday, Dec. 3 – 7:30 PM
LWVEN Board Meeting
Home of Polly Nager
47 Kingfisher Rd., Levittown, 796-6211

Wednesday, Jan. 21 – 1:30 PM
LWVEN General Meeting
Dr. Michael Hadjiargyou,
SUNY Stony Brook
Topic: Genetic Research
Levittown Library

Reminder:

If you have not yet renewed your membership, please do so now. Your membership helps us to work towards improving the quality of life for everyone. Please use the membership form on page 5.

The Glass Ceiling and Law Enforcement

Please join us on

Wednesday, November 19, 2008, at 7:30 PM

Wantagh Library, Park Avenue

Our speaker for the evening will be
Nassau County District Attorney
Kathleen Rice.



Learn all about what is happening in the
DA's office. Ask the questions you've been wanting to
ask. Members of the community are welcome.

League Day at the UN

**Briefings on the Impact of Global Warming on
Women and Children Around the World**

**Sponsored by LWVNYS & The UN Dept. of Public Information
Tuesday, December 2. UN Headquarters – 1st Ave. & 46th St.**

Briefings Program - 1:30 – 4:00 PM - \$55.00 for League members
Optional Tours of UN – 10:00 AM or 4:30 PM - \$12.00
Optional Lunch Buffet – 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM - \$40.00

Call LWVNYS office: 518-465-4162, or go to lwny.org.

Space is limited – Reserve early

Deadline: November 18, 2008

A registration form can be found on page 8 of the October VOTER

League of Women Voters® of East Nassau

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Mary Price, Circulation
Lesley Pollak, Advertising

County Legislature Meeting Schedule

Monday, November 17 10:00 AM
 Monday, December 1 10:00 AM
 Monday, December 15 10:00 AM

The Nassau County Legislature meets in the Legislative Chamber, 1st floor, 1550 Franklin Ave, Mineola, 571-4252. An admittance pass must be obtained on the first floor.

Town of Hempstead Meeting Schedule

Tuesday, November 18 10:30 AM
 Tuesday, December 9 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, November 18 10:00 AM
 Tuesday, November 25 7:00 PM
 Tuesday, December 16 10:00 AM

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 – 2008-2009

OFFICERS

President:	Barbara Epstein	221-1948
Vice Presidents:		
Environment:	Lorraine Newman	735-4876
Voter Service/HAVA:	Norma Schaeffer	489-3133
Bulletin Circulation/ Special Events:	Mary Price	731-0812
Secretary:	Shirlee Bergman	249-5276
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Administrative Assistant:	Judy Schmertz	221-1576
Affordable Housing:	Barbara Epstein	221-1948
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Membership, PR:	Elsie Yurasits	292-8045
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Special Districts Study:	Mimi Hirsch	822-5086
Students Inside	Judy Schecter	221-5448
Albany/Civics:	Lillian Broad	781-8685

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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, vote@lwvofnassaucounty.org

Public Transit Finance at Risk Despite Recent Successes

Recent trends show that the public is traveling on public transit in droves, at levels of ridership not seen in five decades. The American Public Transportation Association (APTA) reported that “Americans took more than 2.8 billion trips on public transportation in the second quarter of 2008” – almost 140 million more than during the same time period the year before. On the other hand, vehicular miles traveled declined by 3.3% in the second quarter of the year.

This type of success should be rewarded, the national and state governments should support public transportation enthusiastically. Increased use of public transportation is good for economic productivity, environmental protection, energy conservation, public health, etc. So, why are cuts in the transportation sector imminent? Why are we hearing about the possibility of fare increases?

When we speak to our representatives – national, state and local, let’s urge them to increase, not decrease funds for public transportation – as a way to help improve both the economy and the environment.

Health Matters

If you are taking the following medications, check with your doctor regarding the risks of food-drug interactions:

Lipitor, Vytorin, Zocor, Lovastin, Simvastatin

Can interact with grapefruit, grapefruit juice and foods high in fat or cholesterol.

Lisinopril, Prinivil, Zestril

Can interact with salt substitutes, potassium supplements and foods high in potassium, such as bananas, milk, oranges, orange juice, potatoes, prunes, tomatoes.

Euthyrox, Levothroid, Levothyroxine, Levoxyl, Synthroid, Tirosint, Unithroid

Can interact with walnuts and high fiber foods, including fruits, nuts, vegetables, whole grains, cereals, pastas, beans, seeds, and should be taken on an empty stomach 30-60 minutes before eating any of these foods.

Coumadin, Jantoven, Warfarin

Can interact with alcoholic beverages and foods high in vitamin K, such as broccoli, cabbage, green leafy vegetables, soy products, cranberry, cranberry juice products.

Kudos for Levittown Library Display

The picture below depicts the display that LWVEN prepared for the Levittown Library prior to the election. We would like to thank the four members and one relative of a member for their hard work. It certainly paid off. Thanks to: Lesley Pollak, Janet Spar, Carole Goldfarb, Lorraine Newman and Lara Blum.



Barbara's Corner

I want to thank **Norma Schaeffer** and **Polly Nager** and the rest of our Voter Service team for doing such a great job registering people, giving talks, etc. This year was bigger and better than before.

We are looking for someone(s) to observe the Town of Hempstead board meetings, which are held on Tuesdays at 10:30 AM, at the Nathan LH Bennett Pavilion in Hempstead. The next one is scheduled for Tues. Nov. 18th.

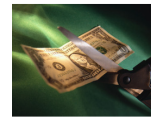
In addition, **two new workshops** are being formed. One is for the National study item on the **Compact for a National Popular Vote**. We have a few people interested so far. The other is the County study item on **Special Districts**. Please call me at 221-1948 or email me at byeppie@aol.com if interested in any of the above.

I am very pleased to report that we have many new members. We want to extend a very warm welcome to all of you. I hope that many of you would like to become more involved, whether in something that takes a little bit of time or something more involved. **WE NEED YOU**. For those members who are snowbirds, I wish you a terrific winter wherever you go. See you next year.

For the rest - see you soon.

Barbara





The Gender Pay Gap

In 1963, when President Kennedy signed the **Equal Pay Act** (EPA) into law, making it illegal for employers to pay unequal wages to men and women who perform equal work, women were earning 59 cents for each dollar earned by men. Today, women earn 77 cents to every dollar that men earn.

The **Institute of Women's Policy Research** found that this wage disparity will cost women from \$400,000 to \$2 million in lost wages over a lifetime. In contrast to previous slowdowns, the current economic downturn "is hitting women harder than men. They are suffering more job losses and larger reductions in wages than the general population. The marketplace, on its own cannot correct the injustice -- we need a legislative solution."

While the wage gap narrowed throughout the 20th century, gender-based financial disparities are, in many cases, growing. Unmarried women, earn only 56 cents for every dollar that married men make. As women get older, the wage gap broadens: females aged 45 to 64 earn only 71 percent of what men earn, a pain exacerbated by the necessity to prepare for retirement.

Rep. John Dingell (D-MI) noted, "Between 1963 and now, the wage gap has narrowed by less than half a cent a year. At this rate, it would take about another 50 years before men and women reach parity in pay in this country." Currently, there is not a single state in which women have gained pay equality with men.

The **Paycheck Fairness Act** would close loopholes that have allowed employers to avoid responsibility for

discriminatory pay, and strengthen accountability in the workplace. The legislation increases penalties for sex and other forms of wage discrimination, unless the company has a business-related reason for the inequality in wages. The PFA puts gender discrimination sanctions on equal footing with race, disability, or age, allowing women to file lawsuits for compensatory and punitive damages. The bill also prohibits employers retaliating against employees who share salary information with their co-workers.

The Act requires that the Department of Labor "improve outreach and training efforts to work with employers in order to eliminate pay disparities" and "creates a new grant program to help strengthen the negotiation skills of girls and women."

Congressional conservatives claim the Paycheck Fairness Act is unnecessary because the Equal Pay Act "already makes wage discrimination illegal" and complain about "increased litigation costs." They seem to be worried about employers being required to pay women a fair wage.

PFA simply closes loopholes in existing law so that fair pay laws can be better enforced. While the bill has the support of 230 House co-sponsors and 22 Senate co-sponsors, conservatives have consistently mounted vigorous efforts to stall equal pay legislation. In April, Senate conservatives blocked cloture on the Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, which would have rectified the Supreme Court decision in Ledbetter v. Goodyear "that made it so much harder for women and others to pursue pay discrimination claims."



Voter Registration

Norma Schaeffer

On September 25, in the very early AM, **Barbara Epstein** and **Mimi Hirsch** were at the Wantagh Train station handing out **voter Registration forms** to commuters. The next morning they were scheduled for the Hicksville station, but the weather was awful, so their tour of duty was rescheduled to the following Monday. Mimi and our new participant, **Diane Worden** performed their duties admirably. The League is very grateful for their efforts.

A special, special, thank you to **Elsie Yurasits**, who sent notices to the papers in the above communities. We discussed her humor at the last board meeting and laughed once more at her choice of words.

Food for Thought

If you want to understand your government, don't begin by reading the Constitution. (It conveys precious little of the flavor of today's statecraft.) Instead, read selected portions of the Washington telephone directory containing listings for all the organizations with titles beginning with the word National.
~George Will

Under capitalism man exploits man; under socialism the reverse is true. ~Polish Proverb

Our political institutions work remarkably well. They are designed to clang against each other. The noise is democracy at work. ~Michael Novak

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 KEMP HANNON 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></p> <p>TEL: (516) 571-6216 FAX: (516) 571-6287 E-MAIL: jjacobs@nassaucountyny.gov</p> <p>JUDITH A. JACOBS Nassau County Legislator 16th District Chair: Budget Review Vice Chair: Aging, Planning & the Environment Member: Rules Minority Affairs Public Works Education Health and Social Services</p>
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<p></p> <p>KATE MURRAY SUPERVISOR</p> <p>TOWN OF HEMPSTEAD OFFICE OF THE SUPERVISOR</p>	<p>(516) 812-3255</p> <p>ONE WASHINGTON STREET HEMPSTEAD, NY 11550-4923</p>	<p></p> <p>(516) 571-6213 Fax (516) 571-6746</p> <p>NORMA L. GONSALVES LEGISLATOR, DISTRICT 13</p> <p>NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE 1550 FRANKLIN AVE. MINEOLA N.Y. 11501</p>
<p>Richard V. Guardino Jr. Vice President for Business Development Executive Dean, Wilbur F. Breslin Center for Real Estate Studies Tel 516.463.4694 Fax 516.463.3907 richard.v.guardino@hofstra.edu</p> <p></p> <p>128 University College Hall 250 Hofstra University Hempstead, NY 11549-2500 www.hofstra.edu</p>	<p></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></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: Barbara Josepher, Treasurer; LWVEN, 339 Cold Spring Road, Syosset NY, 11791
Enclosed is a check for : _____ membership dues (\$50 Individual / \$75 household) _____ contribution _____ Total



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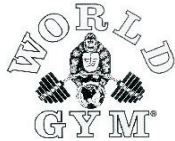
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You will find a
membership form
on page 5.

Please share it
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we represent,
the more powerful
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Disabled Rights Initiative for Voter Empowerment we would be
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Election Simulation Day at Calhoun High School

by Barbara Levine



On October 29, 2008 Calhoun High School in Merrick staged an all day Election Simulation Day, complete with rallies, speeches from the two main "candidates," and guest speakers.

Norma Schaeffer was invited to speak to two assemblies about the importance of voting. Although most of the students are not old enough to actually vote, a "mock" election is planned for October 30. The students were required to fit the time to vote into their regular schedules.

In a very well thought out speech, Norma told the students why voting is so important. She cited several important issues and in each case gave an example that the students could relate to:

-Health Care - Grandparents needing care, their parents caring for the older generation, What can we expect in the future?

-College- A study shows that 46% of full time students are now going part time because of cost. Can you go away to school? Do you need to stay closer to home to save on cost? What about student loans and the ability to pay them back? Will the money be available?

-Downsizing- Because of the economy, parents could be losing jobs, possibly having to relocate.

-The Military- What will be done for returning veterans if students should choose to go into the military?

-The Supreme Court-The next president will probably be able to appoint at least one new Judge to the Court, as well as making other judicial appointments. This could affect the country for many years to come.

Stating that Democracy is not a spectator sport, Norma stressed the importance of each vote in making a difference and urged everyone to vote each time they can. Young people are registering and voting in this election in unprecedented numbers. The students cheered this statement. They were amazingly attentive and enthusiastic throughout the entire program.

Norma also spoke to another group of students in the gym who responded with great enthusiasm. Based on what we saw and heard we came away very hopeful that these students will take an active part in the electoral process and register to vote as soon as they can. We hope we motivated them to make a real difference in the future.

Leagues Worked Tirelessly to Protect Voters

In the last weeks of October, the National League had several victories against voter suppression. One such success was in New Mexico, where the State Supreme Court ruled in favor of the League of Women Voters in a case against the Secretary of State involving how "improperly" marked ballots (such as ballots that had a circle or a check mark next to a name instead of an X, etc.) should be counted in the general election. The League continued to work with states to address voter suppression issues as they came up.

Holiday Wish List

The following **donations** would be greatly appreciated by the **Interfaith Nutrition Network (INN)**:

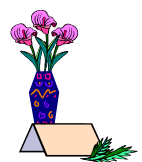
- canned soup, vegetables, fruit, tunafish, pasta, pasta sauce, peanut butter, jelly
- new toys for children of all ages (collected throughout the year for distribution at holiday time)
- hygiene products (soap, shampoo, sanitary napkins, etc. in small travel sizes where available)
- metro cards
- jeans in good condition, khakis, work boots, sneakers, shoes
- any clothing in sizes 3X, 4X and 5X
- disposable diapers (newborn, sizes 1 & 2, 4 & 5, pull-ups)
- baby lotion, baby powder, baby shampoo, baby wipes
- new and gently used bed linens, blankets, towels, washcloths

Donations can be brought to the Mary Brennan INN, 100 Madison Avenue, Hempstead. Call 516-486-8506, X114 for further information, directions, etc.

A Special Welcome to New Members

**Marjorie Ackerman
Carolyn Lettieri**

*We are so glad you
decided to join
LWV East Nassau.*



News From *Your* State League

Update from LWVNYS

November 2008

Resources for Local League Leaders

Are you hesitating to take on a leadership role in your local League because you don't know how to do the job? In fact, League work is easy to learn with the many resources available. National and NYS Leagues provide how-to manuals with general information for leaders as well as specifics for most jobs. The state League website is continually updated with background material as well as the latest information about ongoing projects. It also contains the complete text of State Board Reports, including the latest issue. The SBR contains issue updates as well as such organizational data as the bulletin exchange and contact information for the LWVNY Board and portfolio chairs. In addition, listserves and contact with regional directors, state board members, fellow Leaguers you meet at Convention and fall leadership workshops, and LWVNY office staff can help direct you to the information you need. When a report is due, the necessary form is included in the SBR early enough to give you plenty of time to complete it. The State League recognizes the challenges involved in being an active League leader and wants to help. Take them up on their offer and accept the challenge of League leadership.

Citizen Court Monitoring

This program began in 1975, when non-lawyer volunteers were recruited to observe court proceedings and report on their findings and recommendations. The program has been influential in solving many of the problems that ordinary citizens face when dealing with the courts. It has been highly successful at achieving numerous public-interest objectives. Modern Courts wants to expand its monitoring program of local town and village justice courts into additional counties throughout the state. They hope to partner with local Leagues in identifying volunteers for this program. If you're interested, ask your local League president to contact the state League office and find out about joining the program.

Convention 2009

The next LWVNYS Biennial Convention will be May 15-17 at the Doubletree Inn in Syracuse, NY. The Convention theme will be "Fair, Vibrant and Strong". In addition to the usual outstanding speakers, presentations, and entertainment, this Convention will introduce a pre-convention training workshop on Friday afternoon, May 15. This Training will provide more extensive opportunities for training and sharing of experiences in areas most often identified as challenging. While aimed at the new Leader, there will be modules geared specifically to the seasoned Leader. Consider coming to Syracuse early to participate in this new Training.

League Day at the UN

This year's annual UN Day will be on Tuesday, December 2, 2008. The topic will be the *Impact of Global Warming on Women and Children Around the World*. In addition to the main presentation, the day's schedule will include an optional tour of the UN and an optional buffet lunch in the Delegates Dining Room. Be sure to register early – space is limited and seating is on a first come-first serve basis. You can find the registration form on the LWVNYS website at: <http://lwvny.org/un/UNregistrationForm2008.pdf>.

Membership: 'Tis the Season

An Election year is an especially good time to talk to your friends about joining the League. People turn to the League for information so they can cast an informed vote. They look to League-sponsored debates and forums for their non-partisan fairness. They also consult our "Facts for Voters" for reliable information on where state-wide and national candidates stand on the issues they care about. And at a time when the entire nation seems even more partisan than usual, the League's non-partisan approach is a refreshing change.

National Popular Vote Study

At the LWVUS Convention in Portland, OR, in June, the delegates voted to adopt a national study titled "The Advisability of Using the National Popular Vote Compact Among the States as a Method for Electing the President". To keep informed of the progress of the study, join the email discussion list. Just go to the "For Members" section of the LWVUS website (www.lwv.org), click on "Programs and Projects", then "National Popular Vote Compact", and finally "NPV Study Discussion List". There you can give the email address at which you want to receive list mailings. You will need to reply to an email confirming your desire to sign on to the list. That's it – you're on! Or watch the state League website for updates.

Victory: Great Lakes Compact

The Great Lakes are a unique and precious resource, providing fresh water for the 40 million people who live within the basin. Each year, rainfall and snowmelt replenish only about one percent of the water in the basin; the remaining 99 percent is finite and nonrenewable. The Great Lakes Compact, for the first time ever, treats groundwater and surface water as one system subject to the same standard; considers the Great Lakes and their tributaries to be one ecosystem; establishes protection of Great Lakes ecosystems and economies as priorities everywhere in the basin; and ensures that every Great Lake state will have the same fair set of rational protections, while allowing each state flexibility. The U.S. Senate and House have approved the Compact and the President has signed it into law.

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF NEW YORK STATE**
62 Grand Street
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