



League of Women Voters of Smithtown Township

VOTER

The LWV is a non-partisan organization that encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, and influences public policy through education and advocacy

January 2008

website: <http://www.lwv-suffolkcounty.org/smithtown.htm>

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Joyce Rosenthal-265-6463

President

Sondra Irvine-862-4042

1st Vice President, Programs

Lisa Scott- 265-2198

2nd Vice President, Voter Editor

Marie Manginelli-265-1791

Secretary, Membership

Mary Zopf-499-0107

Treasurer, Publications

DIRECTORS

Trudy Gaus-543-1446

Archivist

Sharon Kunz-584-7097

Phone Squad, Court Monitor

Carol McNally-796-3858

PR/Publicity, ATI-Prevention

Carole Samples-439-1041

Health/Social Policy

Beth Verdicchio-584-7522

Library Liaison

OFF-BOARD

Stella Baker-265-3376

ATI, Natural Resources

Victoria Brown-544-4112

Court Reform

June Carlson-979-0776

Finance

Mae Tierney-588-4429

Budget

VACANCIES:

Director

Government Action

WE NEED TO HEAR FROM YOU!

SHARE YOUR VIEWS ON LOCAL PROGRAM ISSUES!

All Smithtown LWV members are invited to a

2008 Program Planning Meeting

to be held at the Mills Pond House on
Monday, **January 7, 2008** at noon.

Tea, coffee, and dessert will be provided,
please bring your own lunch.

*Please read program details on page 3 of this VOTER
to prepare for the meeting.*

Suffolk lawmakers restrict fertilizer use

The Suffolk Legislature voted December 18 to ban nitrogen-based fertilizer use on private property between Nov. 1 and April 1, though the bill exempts county-owned land from the restriction. Legislators voted 14-1, with three abstentions, for the proposal that relies on residents reporting on neighbors who violate the law, and which would go into effect in 2009. The aim is to prevent fertilizer runoff from frozen ground into bays, rivers and drinking water. The bill, which County Executive Steve Levy pledged to sign, includes a maximum fine of \$1,000.

February 5, 2008 is the presidential primary in NYS for registered members of the Democratic and Republican parties. Included in this issue of the VOTER is a report on **Presidential Candidates and their Health Care Plans**, prepared by the Health Committee of the LWV of the Hamptons.

Project Sunlight is a public integrity initiative of the office of the NYS Attorney General. Its mission is to promote your right to know and to monitor governmental decision making. For more details, visit www.sunlightny.org.

President's Message

Best Wishes to all for a Happy New Year. Now that we are beginning a new year it is time to give thought about our purpose. We can resolve to follow our better instincts to make the world a humane place to live or be the pawns of special interest groups.

Should we close our eyes to injustice, loss of civil liberties' or disregard treatment of enemy combatants? Should candidates for the Supreme Court be asked if they can pass litmus test issues that are of interest to a specific group? Is their responsibility to determine if the existing laws are constitutional? Should candidates for the Supreme Court be asked to define which interrogation methods are to be considered torture or is torture obvious when you read about it or see it? Should the government have the right to listen to our phone calls or track us by our cell phones without a court order? Should the religious beliefs of candidates for president be a subject of concern to the voters?

National Security is important to the welfare of the nation. One of the responsibilities of the federal government is to maintain the military to protect the United States from attack from enemies from outside borders. There are existing regulations concerning surveillance of any type within the United States.. The government

should not be exempt from following the law of the land.

The bill or rights states that "Congress shall make no law respecting and establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." That in itself should settle the question of what a candidate for president does or does not believe concerning religion.

Supreme Court Justices should be chosen because they have the ability to interpret the law. They are appointed for life. They are expected to be above party allegiances and special interest groups.

As a group the members of the League of Women Voters should work to get necessary information to the public. In a perfect world candidates would state what they stand for and let the voters chose the best person for the job. Instead we are barraged with all manner of distractions that are of no value or importance to the main issues. A candidate for the Supreme Court has to be able to determine whether the question before the court falls within the guide lines of the constitution not a special interest group. A President must uphold the laws of the land. The president can also ask congress to pass legislation that the president feels is important for the nation. Congress can listen to the president or not.

Joyce Rosenthal

Planned Parenthood Hudson Peconic has announced an event to commemorate the 35th anniversary of the landmark *Roe v. Wade* decision on Wednesday, January 23rd at 6:30 PM at the Congregational Church of Huntington, at 30 Washington Avenue in Centerport.

Dr. Kenneth Edelin, author of the riveting memoir Broken Justice: A True Story of Race, Sex and Revenge in a Boston Courtroom, is the featured guest and speaker. In addition to a talk about his experiences, Dr. Edelin has kindly agreed to hold a book signing at the event. Although the event is free, a donation of \$10 (\$5 for students), to help cover event costs is encouraged. For more information, please call 631-240-1126.



STAC
Smithtown Township Arts Council

Mills Pond House
660 Route 25A, St. James, NY 11780
631-862-6575 fax 631-862-8730

**The League of Women Voters of Smithtown thanks
Allison J. Cruz, Executive Director
and the staff of the Smithtown Township
Arts Council/ Mills Pond House Gallery
for its support of the League.**

***We encourage all Town Residents to support the Arts
Council, participate in its cultural programs,
and visit the historic Mills Pond House in St. James.***

LWV-Smithtown Program for 2007-2008

A. Voter Service and Citizen Education

Voter Service is a primary function of the LWV of Smithtown. We will serve as a non-partisan source of information and education for voters and take action by:

1. Conducting voter registration drives throughout the community and encourage all eligible citizens to vote
2. Organizing as needed and providing trained moderators to serve for candidates forums to give every citizen the opportunity to hear the candidates views on important issues
3. Conducting educational forums about the local government process in order to promote greater citizen awareness
4. Training speakers as needed
5. Developing ideas for community service projects for students and youth organizations

B. Library

We will observe and report on the development of a long range plan for our public library and will help to inform the public about issues related to our library system.

C. Natural Resources Preservation

Under the Natural Resources position for preservation of open space and wetlands of the LWVNYS, we will continue action in support and enforcement of measures for preservation of the waterfront, wetlands, bird sanctuaries and open space usage of properties within Smithtown township, including the former Kings Park Psychiatric Center property and others as they become available.

D. Township Development

1. We will support an updated Master Plan to provide for controlled growth within the Township and revitalization of downtown Smithtown within the context of our present and projected economic conditions.
2. We will explore and address other items of concern relating to the welfare of the Township and its residents as they may arise.

Report on Immigration at LWV Huntington Meeting

Dr. Luis Valenzuela was the guest speaker at the November meeting of the LWV of Huntington. His subject was "The economic Impact of Hispanic Immigration on Long Island". One of his sources was "A Research Report Prepared for the Horace Hagedorn Foundation".

According to the 2004 Census information there are 329,227 people of Hispanic origin living on Long Island. Of that number 178,846 live in Suffolk County. The breakdown of country of origin for Suffolk County is as follows Puerto Rican 51,152, Dominican 13,319, Mexican 5,965, Salvadoran 28,998, Honduran 17,994, Guatamalan 7,226, Other Central American 6,403, Ecuadorian 7,343, Colombian 7,835, Other South American 15,357, Other Hispanic 17,254.

All individuals born in Puerto Rico are United States Citizens. 87,433 of the Hispanics were born in the United States, 13,525 were born outside U.S. Citizens by birth, and 77,888 are Foreign Born. Many of the Foreign Born have special immigration status under special temporary immigration programs protecting refugees from civil strife or devastating natural disasters. Others have gained legal permanent residence by means of family ties, the granting of political asylum, the permanent residency lottery system and the liberal amnesty rules under the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986. It is believed that there is a very substantial undercounting of Foreign Born Hispanics on L.I.

continued on next page

continued from previous page

Many foreign born enter the country on visitors or work visas and overstay their visa. These individuals have the right to apply for extensions, or permanent status. They and others are generally referred to as "illegal". Use of the term "illegal" has a criminal connotation. These individuals are often called "illegal aliens" which sounds even worse than merely "illegal". They should more rightly be called undocumented. The process to become documented often takes a great deal of time. All individuals who do not have proper documentation are considered, by law, undocumented.

In 2004 Hispanics paid \$132,690,914 in state taxes and \$197,487,439 in federal taxes. A great number of the men and women are between 18 and 44, the prime working age. These individuals have a very high rate of employment. The men have a higher rate of employment in food preparation, Construction, Transportation/Material Moving, Office & Administrative Support and Production than the gen-

eral male population. The women have a higher rate of employment in Office & Administration support, Production, Food Preparation & Serving Related jobs, Building and Grounds Cleaning than the general female population.

\$500,000,000 has been paid into social security that will never be paid to individuals with improper documentation. There is a myth that the undocumented are overtaxing the Medicare System. The truth is that most of the Medicare payments go to Nursing Homes.

Hispanics who live in Suffolk County have a high rate of employment for both men and women. Most are citizens of the United States; many more are here with proper documentation. Of those who are undocumented many are in the process of getting documented. They pay Federal, State and local taxes. The majority are in the prime working age that would make them productive income earning individuals for many years.

Joyce Rosenthal

Town Board Meetings

December 4, 2007 - All members were present at both the morning and afternoon meetings.

Morning: There were two site plans submitted in the morning -the first was for 75 parking site in a light industrial zone for 75 Verizon work vans which was approved. The second site at Smithtown Blvd. and Nichols Rd. was an application for two adjoining drive-thru lanes for the Bank of Smithtown and Starbucks in an office building. There was some discussion about traffic control and sufficient parking but the planning director, Frank DeRubeis, said the town can go back to this issue in case of problems.

Afternoon: In the public portion all the discussion concerned the widening of Edgewood Ave. by taking some of Dr. Adler's property on Landing Ave. by an "easement" he had previously granted. The first speaker was Dr. Albert Adler himself. He said he had taken a survey of his first hundred patients on the potential problems with this widening and 86 felt this would be very dangerous. The second speaker, Lucille Alberti, said there was a large piece of property on Edgewood and asked Councilman McCarthy if he had any commercial interest in that property. Councilman McCarthy denied any interest. The last person to speak, Lenore Cernitz, asked for what secret opportunity is Edgewood Rd. being widened and whose interests are being represented by some people on the Town Council.

December 18, 2007 - All members present at the afternoon meeting.

Peter Johnson, the Deputy Assessor, announced an addition to Veterans' exemption from town taxes for veterans of the Cold War who served from September 1945 to November 1991. Lenore Cernitz praised Councilwoman Joanne Gray on her last meeting as councilwoman. Cernitz said it "was a sad day for open and transparent government". Don Cantwell presented Gray with a plaque from the Smithtown Ronald Regan Club for her accomplishments.

Mary Zopf, Observer

Smithtown Town Board Meeting Schedule

*Tuesday: **January 8 9:30 am** work session **2:00 pm** regular meeting
Smithtown Town Hall Second Floor Board Room*

*Thursday: **January 24 7:00 pm** regular meeting
Eugene A. Cannataro Senior Citizen Center located at 420 Middle Country Road, Smithtown, NY.*

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS
They Support Us!


JOURNEY TRAVEL & EVENTS

Marie Roman Sesti

Formerly Aventura Travel

631-360-3600
 631-724-9085 (Res)
 Fax: 631-360-3682

106 E. Main Street
 Smithtown, NY 11787
 e-mail: journeyaa@aol.com




532 Rte. 25A
 (North Country Rd.)
 St. James, NY 11780
 631.862.6660

Salon Dee La Rosa



www.salondeelarosa.com
 Email: info@salondeelarosa.com

Catherine Nilsen
 Licensed Sales Associate
 cathynilsen@optonline.net




Prudential


Douglas Elliman Real Estate
 996 Jericho Tpke., Smithtown, NY 11787
 220 Lake Ave., St. James, NY 11780
 Direct 631 858-6904 Fax 631 543-9481
 Cell 631 697-8040

An independently owned and operated member of Prudential Real Estate Affiliates, Inc.





Martin Rouse
 Licensed Sales Associate
 mrouse0805@optonline.net




Prudential

Douglas Elliman Real Estate
 996 Jericho Tpke., Smithtown, NY 11787
 220 Lake Ave., St. James, NY 11780
 Direct 631 858-6905 Fax 631 543-9481
 Cell 631 921-5070

An independently owned and operated member of Prudential Real Estate Affiliates, Inc.



League of Women Voters of Smithtown
Membership Registration

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Telephone # _____

Email _____

Even if you do not have time for active participation, your membership alone will strengthen our voice.

Individual Membership	\$50.00
Household (2 at same address)	70.00
Student Membership	20.00
Additional Contribution	_____
Total	\$_____

Make checks payable to LWV of Smithtown and mail to:

LWV of Smithtown
 c/o Mary Zopf
 21 Greene Drive
 Commack, NY 11725

*Please note:
 Additional tax-deductible donations to the League beyond the dues amount may be made by writing a separate check to "LWVNYS Education Foundation"*



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS ®
OF SMITHTOWN**

**322 River Road
St. James, NY 11780**

Address Correction Requested

**POSTMASTER:
DATED MAIL-
Please Rush!**

DATES TO REMEMBER

January 2008

Mon.	Jan. 7	LWV Smithtown Program Planning Meeting, Mills Pond House, 12 noon
Tues.	Jan. 8	Town Board Meetings, 9:30am-Work Session; 2pm-Regular Meeting, Town Hall
Wed.	Jan. 16	LWVSC Board Meeting 9:15am and SC Health Speaker 11am, Riverhead Library
Wed.	Jan. 23	Planned Parenthood Reception/Speaker 35th Anniv. Roe v. Wade Centerport, 6:30pm
Thurs.	Jan. 24	Town Board Meeting, Senior Citizens Center, 7pm
Mon.	Jan. 28	Restorative Justice Conference, SUNY Stony Brook, 7:15am - 4pm

February 2008

Tues.	Feb. 5	NYS Presidential Primary
Tues.	Feb. 5	Town Board Meetings, 9:30am-Work Session; 2pm-Regular Meeting, Town Hall
Mon.	Feb. 11	LWV Smithtown Board Meeting, Mills Pond House, 7pm
Wed.	Feb. 20	LWVSC Board Meeting, Riverhead Library 10am
Thurs.	Feb. 28	Town Board Meeting, Senior Citizens Center, 7pm