



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.*

August/September, 2009

Save the Dates

**Be sure to join us for
LWV of East Nassau's
2009 Summer Social**

**Sunday, August 23, 2009
11:00 AM – 3:00 PM
At Carole and Ted's
15 Wheatley Road,
Old Westbury**

See page 8 for further information.

August 26, 2009

Women's Equality Day

89th Anniversary of the passage of
the 19th Amendment

**Tuesday, Sept. 22 – 7:30 PM
LWVEN General Meeting**

Topic: *Who's Sick, The Patient or
the System? – Health Care Reform
in the U.S.* (See right column.)

**Tuesday, Oct. 6 – 7:15 PM
Candidates Meeting**

Plainview-Old Bethpage Library
Legislative Candidates from
Districts 14, 16, 17

**Wednesday, Oct. 7 – 7:30 PM
LWVEN Board Meeting**

Levittown Library, Bluegrass La.

**Wednesday, Oct. 21 – 7:15 PM
Candidates Meeting**

Levittown Library
Legislative Candidates from
Districts 12, 13, 15, 19

"To err is human; to really foul
things up requires a computer."



WHO'S SICK? THE PATIENT OR THE SYSTEM?

A Forum on HEALTH CARE IN THE U.S.

Presented by the League of Women Voters of East Nassau

PLAINVIEW - OLD BETHPAGE PUBLIC LIBRARY

999 Old Country Rd.,

Plainview, New York 11803

516-938-0077

Speakers -

Mark Hannay - Metro New York Health Care for All Campaign

Martha Livingston - Physicians for a National Health Program

Deborah Elliott - New York State Nurses Association

Rachel Kreier, Assistant Professor, Economics Dept.

Hofstra University

Tuesday, September 22, 2009, 7:30 PM

Co-Sponsors:

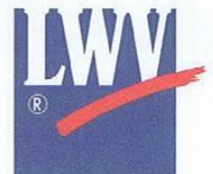
Long Island Coalition for a National Health Plan

Physicians for a National Health Program

Metro New York Health Care for All Campaign

New York State Nurses Association

Reach Out America



*Please join us at this first meeting of the League year. Bring family and friends.
There is so much to learn and discuss on this import topic.*

League of Women Voters® of East Nassau

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Mary Price, Circulation
Lesley Pollak, Advertising

County Legislature Meeting Schedule

Monday, Aug. 10 10:00 AM
 Wednesday, Sept. 9 10:00 AM
 Monday, Sept. 21 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.

Town of Hempstead Meeting Schedule

Tuesday, Aug. 11 10:30 AM
 Tuesday, Sept. 8 10:30 AM
 Tuesday, Sept. 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, Aug. 1 10:00 AM
 Tuesday, Sept. 15 10:00 AM
 Tuesday, Sept. 29 7:00 PM
 Tuesday, October 6 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

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Liaison/Environment:
 Voter Service/HAVA: Norma Schaeffer 489-3133
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 Dell Smith 520-9366
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Students Inside Albany: Judy Schecter 221-5448
Students Inside Albany/ Lillian Broad 781-8685
Special Districts:

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8. ACTION ALERT: Health Care Reform, S.T.O.P. Dates for September & October

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

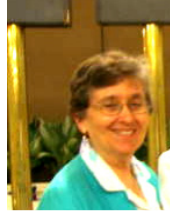
LWVNYS & LWVNYS Education Foundation

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

Barbara's Corner



It's hard to believe we are beginning a new League year of programs and projects. It is an exciting time. I am pleased to welcome **Shirley Bard, Claire Gavrin, Gladys Paige** and **Dell Smith** to our board.

We begin our year with a fantastic health care program on Tuesday, Sept. 22. See page 1 for more information. I hope that you come to our meetings and events as well as get involved in some way.

League members across New York State will soon begin a study of consolidation of government entities/shared services. Join this committee or any other that is of interest to you. I look forward to seeing many of you during the coming year.

Lighthouse Hearing

By Judy Schmertz

Among the thousand people filling the Adams Playhouse at Hofstra University on August 4 were four dedicated League members who attended the Town of Hempstead's public hearing on the Lighthouse draft environmental impact statement. **Barbara Epstein**, whose other hat is that of Director of Affordable Housing on the LWV County Board, was there to make a statement in support of the affordable housing component of the Lighthouse project. League committee members **Rachael Krinsky, Don Skinner** and **Judy Schmertz** also attended.

As you may know, the Lighthouse project is a proposed mixed-use development including residential units, hotel, office buildings, a canal and park, retail space and restaurants. The initial focus will be to rebuild the outmoded Nassau Coliseum in order to keep the Islanders hockey team on LI. Developers Charles Wang, Scott Rechler and Michael Picker, have been promoting the project for some time and it certainly seemed as though they were successful. The audience contained a large number of enthusiastic Islander fans as well as construction workers.

Elected officials and representatives of agencies, unions, neighboring municipalities and civic groups made statements, almost all in enthusiastic support of the project which they saw as a vision for the future of our county and an important source of jobs. There were cheers for Mike Bossy and Bobby Nystrom and even a blessing from Bishop William Murphy. Hofstra President Dr. Stuart Rabinowitz and the President of North Shore /Long Island Jewish Hospital spoke of the synergy that would be created when Hofstra completes its plans for a medical school virtually right next door to the project. They and many other speakers praised the concept of including affordable housing so that our young people will not have to leave Long Island because they cannot afford to live here.

Although few actually opposed the project, some speakers raised the concerns of water resources in the area, air quality, traffic and negative effect on existing small businesses. Residents of minority communities adjacent to the site wanted assurances that they would not be forgotten.

Our members are urged to write in support of the affordable housing part of the Lighthouse project. We support 20% of the housing units designated as affordable, some built in the first phase of construction, and more rental units.

Welcome new members:

Dell Smith
Wantagh

Barbara Synnott
Old Bethpage

Barbara Farr
Massapequa

Cynthia Plotkin
Plainview



"And when the establishment derisively assails you as an agitator, remember this: The agitator is the center post in the washing machine that gets the dirt out."

~Jim Hightower

"The danger is not that a particular class is unfit to govern. Every class is unfit to govern."

~Lord John Emerich Edward Dalberg Acton

Government is too big and too important to be left to the politicians."

~Claire Huchet Bishop



Who are the Uninsured and Underinsured?

As our nation goes through the process of determining what system of health care the country should have, let's take a look at what the current system is like:

Age: One of three people under age 65 were uninsured for some or all of 2007 and 2008; of the total uninsured population, 60.1 million were adults (between 19 and 64 years of age)

Duration: Among the underinsured/uninsured, 74.5 percent were uninsured for nine or more months and one-quarter were uninsured the entire 24 months.

Employment status: 80 percent of individuals who were uninsured were in working families and only 16 percent were not in the labor force (due to disabilities, chronic illness, or serving as family caregivers)

Income: Nearly 60 percent were in families with incomes below the federal poverty level (FPL: \$21,200/year for a family of four); 52 percent with incomes between 100 to 200 percent of FPL went without health insurance in 2007/2008

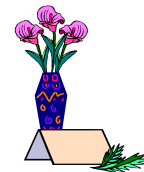
Racial and Ethnic origin: 55 percent of Hispanics/Latinos, 40.3 percent of African Americans and 34 percent of other racial or ethnic minorities had no health insurance in 2007/2008, compared to 25.8 percent of whites. While racial and ethnic minorities are more likely to be uninsured, whites accounted for 49.8 percent of the uninsured

Age breakdown: The likelihood of being uninsured declines with age; 49.5 percent of those 19 – 24 years old, 36.3 percent of those 25 – 44 years old, 32.5 percent of those 45 – 54 years old and 21.2 percent of those 55 – 64 years old were uninsured over this two-year time period. The 55- to 64-year-old age group consumes more health care on average than younger adults.

For all ethnic and racial groups, lower-income families and individuals were more likely to be uninsured than lower-income whites. This disparity continues even as incomes rise in all groups. (Source: Janis McMillen – info. rec'd via email)

Please come to our Health Care Forum on September 22, learn more, join in the discussion. See first page.

*Our wishes are for
a very speedy recovery
for*



Barbara Sullivan-Parry
George Nager

Keeping it Green

More and more, we are being told how we can make less of a negative impact on the environment. One way that I am reluctant to embrace yet is to switch completely from paper to electronic bills, statements and payments. It appears that the average household gets 19 bills, statements, etc. every month in the mail, not to mention the payments that are subsequently sent out at 44 cents each.

By switching to electronic bills, statements, and payments, every year the average household can:

- Save 6.6 pounds of paper
- Save 0.079 trees
- Avoid use of 4.5 gallons of gasoline to mail bills, statements, and payments
- Avoid release of 63 gallons of wastewater into the environment
- Avoid producing 171 pounds of greenhouse gas emissions



Saving this amount of greenhouse gas emissions is the equivalent of:

- The emissions avoided by not driving 169 miles
- The emissions avoided by not consuming 8.8 gallons of gasoline
- Planting 2 tree seedlings and allowing them to grow for 10 years
- Preserving 24 square feet of forestland

If just 2% of households would make the switch, more than 15 million pounds of paper would be saved (more than 181,000 trees), more than 143 million gallons of wastewater would not enter the environment, emissions of more than 390 million pounds of greenhouse gases would be stopped.

Are you ready to make this commitment? Do you want to learn more about it? Go to payitgreen.org to find out what kind of an impact you can make.



State News

The League of Women Voters of New York State

August 2009

President's Message

It has been a busy three months since the excitement of the convention, and we all have been multi-tasking nonstop, both to ameliorate the League's financial problems and to implement a full and diverse program for the upcoming year. As an incoming President I would like to share my goals, which include bridging the divide between state and local Leagues, putting us all on a better financial footing, and bringing a new level of dynamism to League operations. For more concrete information, see pp. 2-6 of the August SBR. I welcome and need your input. Feel free to call me at 518-426-3711 or e-mail me at betsey@lwvny.org.

Election Season 2009

Election season 2009 is around the corner with Primary Day on September 15th and Election Day on November 3rd. Voter's Guide Part I is now available and provides general info on voting requirements and info on the new voting machines; Part II will include info on the proposed constitutional amendment and judicial elections and will be available in September. To order Voter's Guides, Part I, Part II, and the *Your Right To Vote* series (with voting info for special populations such as college students, homeless individuals and others), contact the office.

Youth Leadership Initiative

The League is planning to develop its own youth leadership initiative to replace the LeaderSpark program in NYS. It will contain modules on civic education, financial education, and leadership skills. The modular approach will provide greater flexibility, allowing local Leagues to tailor the program to the needs of all the state's diverse students and also enabling more Leagues to participate.

Free State Board Reports

The State Board Report is published six times a year and provides vital information on all activities and actions of the State Board. To sign up for your free electronic version of the SBR, contact Stephanie at Stephanie@lwvny.org.

Government Consolidation/ Shared Services Study

We are pleased to announce Noreen Fisher, former Mayor of the Village of Scarsdale and member of the Scarsdale League as chair of the government consolidation / shared services committee. More information will follow shortly.

Financial Update

The generous donations of local Leagues and individual League members enabled us to reduce the 2008-2009 deficit to approximately \$3,000. Our heart-felt thanks to all for their incredible generosity.

In looking at League budgets longitudinally, it becomes apparent that the largest decrease in income over the past decade has been in the area of corporate support and foundation grants. To avoid future shortfalls, we are now actively engaged in seeking outside sources of income. The NYS Bar Association has published the *Your Right To Vote* series of specialized Voters Guides, and CSEA will print the revised *Welcome to the League* shortly. We have applied for a mock election grant from the Election Assistance Commission, which, if funded, would provide approximately \$75,000 over a 2 year period to develop a series of lesson plans for use in Participation in Government classes. We are also in the process of soliciting corporate / foundation sponsorship for governmental consolidation/shared services forums and the new youth development leadership initiative.

Vote 18: A Civic Engagement Program for Students

Vote 18 is a fun, fast-paced interactive game taught at high schools during one class period. It teaches students the history of voting, makes it relevant in their lives, and engages them in the world of politics. For information on how your local league can sponsor a Vote 18 program, or to receive training in the Vote 18 program, contact the League office.

Check Out Our New Website

Our website has undergone exciting new changes - and everything mentioned in State News is also available on the website. Send us your local league photos and announcements and we'll include them. More changes to follow.

Capitol Beat – The Saga Continues

The stalemate that paralyzed the New York Senate ended on July 9th when Senator Espada who had defected to the Republicans returned to the Democrat caucus giving them the majority they needed to control the chamber. The new leadership arrangement appears to be Espada as majority leader, John Sampson as leader of the democratic caucus and Malcolm Smith as Senate president pro tem.

In a surprise move, on July 8th Governor Paterson appointed Richard Ravitch as lieutenant governor. His legal authority to make this appointment was immediately challenged and is the subject of an ongoing court battle that is expected to end up in New York's highest court.

Before leaving on July 17th the Senate passed a number of bills that were time sensitive and adopted senate rules changes that the League views as a step forward in making the Senate more open and accountable. However, these rules also codify an inequitable distribution of both resources and member items between the majority and minority parties. For more details see the rules reform press release put out by the League and its reform coalition partners on July 16th.

The Senate returned for one day on August 6th to deal with New York City school issues and pass Mayoral control.

The state legislature is expected to return sometime during this summer or fall to deal with the burgeoning state deficit.

In the meantime please use the Stick with Reform press release sent on July 16th to continue to press for action on our Albany reform priorities. The press release is located the League's website as http://lwvny.org/press/statement_SenateRulesChanges071609.pdf. If you have any questions, you can call the office or e-mail Sally Robinson at robintwins@gmail.com.

ACTION ALERT: Support Strong Health Care Reform Legislation

America is facing a health care crisis caused by a combination of skyrocketing costs and an insurance system that leaves 47 million of us without any coverage. The current health care system is endangering both our economy and our health, and voters have made it clear that they want change. Business as usual is not an option.



LWV urges Congress to pass strong health care reform legislation that guarantees quality, safe and affordable health care to all U.S. residents, including the choice of a public insurance plan. It is universal coverage that will determine the humanity of our system. The legislation must include a benefits package that includes the prevention of disease, health promotion and education, primary care, acute care, long-term care, and mental health care. In addition, any health care package must include prescription drug coverage and allow for pre-existing conditions.

Legislation must establish a system-wide program to coordinate information, establish best practices and provide consumers the information they need to protect themselves and their families. It is essential that comparative data on treatments, benefits packages and medical outcomes be made publicly available so that individuals can make informed health decisions and so costs can be controlled.

Cost containment measures must take place in the context of overall health care reform. We must reduce or eliminate the cost-shifting that currently exists in health care financing and work to streamline the system. Legislation must provide effective cost controls, equitable distribution of services and allow for efficient and economical delivery of care. Take action today to encourage your Senators and Representatives to support strong health care reform legislation!

(Source: LWVUS website)

Town of Hempstead S.T.O.P. Household Hazardous Waste Collection Schedule

8:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Saturday, September 12 – Newbridge Road Park
2600 Newbridge Road, South Bellmore

Sunday, October 18 – North Woodmere Park
Branch Boulevard, North Woodmere



Town of Oyster Bay S.T.O.P./Electronic Waste Collection Schedule

9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Saturday, September 12 – Solid Waste Disposal Complex
Sweet Hollow Road, Old Bethpage

Saturday, October 17 – Town Hall South
977 Hicksville Road, Massapequa