



**LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®**

LWV of East Nassau

Voter

*At local, state and national levels
the League works to influence public policy
through education and advocacy.*

August/September, 2010

Save the Dates

Wednesday, August 18 – 7:30 PM
LWVEN Board Meeting
Levittown Library

Saturday, August 21, 9AM-4PM
S.T.O.P. Day - Hicksville
Fire Department, West John St.

Sunday, August 22, 8AM-3PM
S.T.O.P. Day – Hempstead
Hempstead Village Dept. of Public
Works Parking Lot, 450 Milburn Ave.

Thursday, August 26
WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY
View Iron Jawed Angels with LWV
of Long Beach (See page 7 for details.)

Thursday, Aug. 26, 2PM – 5PM
New Voting Machines
Demonstration by Board of Elections
Levittown Library

Wednesday, Sept. 1 – 7:30 PM
LWVEN Board Meeting
Levittown Library

Tuesday, September 14
PRIMARY DAY

Tuesday, Sept. 21 – 7:30 PM
LWVEN General Meeting
(See right column.)

Saturday, Sept. 25, 9AM - 4PM
S.T.O.P. Day – Old Bethpage
Solid Waste Disposal Complex,
Sweet Hollow Road
S.T.O.P. Day – Bellmore, 8AM – 3PM
Newbridge Road Park

Sunday, October 3, 8 AM – 2 PM
E-Cycle Event
Electronic items brought for recycling.
Newbridge Rd. Park, Bellmore

**Please Join Us
For the Opening Meeting of the
League Year.**

When: Tuesday, September 21, 2010 – 7:30 PM
Where: Plainview/Old Bethpage Library
999 Old Country Road, Plainview, NY 11803
What: Politics 101 (and beyond)
Who: Dan Janison – Political Columnist, Newsday

Mr. Janison joined Newsday in 1997 and has held positions ranging from New York City Hall reporter to Long Island desk Deputy Editor. Born and raised in Brooklyn (as were many of our members), Mr. Janison studied journalism at Columbia College. He began his career at the Staten Island Advance, covering the transportation and state capitol beats. He also worked at The Times Union in Albany, and The New York Post.

Come to the opening meeting and hear Dan Janison discuss the latest in political happenings on LI, in NYS, and beyond. Ask questions about the political issues important to you.

Candidates' Forums

Candidates for the following NYS Legislative offices are being invited to attend, to tell us about themselves, and to answer our questions.

Wednesday, September 29, 2010, 7:15 PM

East Meadow Library
1886 Front Street, East Meadow

Candidates for State Senate Districts 6 and 8
Candidates for Assembly Districts 17 and 19

Monday, October 4, 2010, 7:15 PM

Plainview/Old Bethpage Library
999 Old Country Road, Plainview

Candidates for State Senate Districts 5 and 6
Candidates for Assembly Districts 12, 13 and 15

See **demonstrations of the new voting machines** at Roosevelt Field **September 6th -13th & October 25th - Nov 1st**.
For dates of other demonstrations consult the Nassau County Board of Elections web site. (See p. 4 for more info.)

League of Women Voters® of East Nassau

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County Legislature Meeting Schedule

Monday, August 30 10:00 AM
 Monday, Sept. 20 10:00 AM
 Monday, Oct. 4 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. Call for scheduled committee meeting dates and times.

Town of Hempstead Meeting Schedule

Tuesday, Sept. 7 10:30 AM
 Tuesday, Sept. 21 7:00 PM
 Tuesday, Oct. 5 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, Sept. 7 10:00 AM
 Tuesday, Sept. 28 10:00 AM
 Tuesday, Oct. 5 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 – 2010-2011

OFFICERS

President/Affordable Housing: Barbara Epstein 221-1948
Vice Presidents:
Judicial Liaison/
Environment: Lorraine Newman 735-4876
Voter Service/HAVA: Norma Schaeffer 489-3133
Bulletin Circulation/
Special Events: Mary Price 731-0812
Secretary/ Health Care/
Natural Resources Anne Ostling 681-8996
Treasurer: Barbara Josepher 921-8749

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Public Relations: Shirley Bard 781-9570
Voter Service: Claire Gavrin 781-7274
Programs: Janet Spar 735-8673
Social Policy: Sandra Mintz 868-5578
Special Districts/
Students Inside Albany: Lillian Broad 781-8685
At Large: Mimi Hirsch 822-5086
Off Board
Students Inside Albany: Judy Schecter 221-5448

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8. LWVNYS State News

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



I hope you are having a good summer. We have been quite busy preparing for the year ahead. The program committee has been putting together exciting programs, beginning with our September program described on page 1. We are

very excited to be having **Newsday columnist Dan Janison**. Read his column **SPIN CYCLE**. and be prepared to listen and ask questions. It should be a great evening.

We are also working on our annual **candidates' meetings**. This year we are happy to be having both the East Meadow and Plainview- Old Bethpage libraries as co-sponsors. The candidates will be those running for NYS Senate and Assembly seats. Come, bring your family and friends. Be informed voters.

Remember, **Tuesday, Sept. 14 is PRIMARY DAY**. The Democratic, Republican, Conservative, Independence and Working Families parties are all having primaries this year. If you expect to be away, get an absentee ballot application; it is new and simplified this year, thanks in part to the LWVNYS.

Redistricting (which will take place in 2011) is a very important issue for League, as it should be for all citizens. Since we will be advocating strongly for nonpartisan redistricting in early 2011, we are looking for people who might be interested in working with us on this issue. The state league will be providing information and materials. There will be a **training session on Sat. Sept. 11th**, at 10:00 AM in NYC to review the materials and learn more about the issue. If interested contact me asap, at 221-1948 or byeppie@aol.com. We can travel into the city together.



Primary Concern

By Wanda Warren Berry

An important primary election looms in September and we can expect the usual protests about the fact that New York holds "closed" primaries, allowing only members of a party to choose its candidates. This policy caused consternation in 2008 for unaffiliated voters who thought they had a right to influence the choice of a party's presidential candidate, as "independents" did in other states. New York's voter registration form has a section that asks the voter to "Choose a party" by checking one of seven boxes. The first five are the largest political parties in the state. Then there is a box for "Other," where one can name a minor party. The last box says: "I do not wish to enroll in a party." Those who check this last option are labeled "Blanks" or "Unaffiliated" in analyses of party registrations.

Some of the confusion about what it means to be

unaffiliated in New York derives from the fact that the third largest political party is named the "Independence Party." Many people do not realize that this is a political party with its own platform and organization and has its own line on the ballot if it endorses candidates. Inasmuch as, across the country, "independent" is used for a voter who is unaffiliated, some mistakenly check "Independence Party," enrolling themselves in this party unintentionally.

Additional confusion results from the fact that in New York one cannot run for office simply as "unaffiliated" or "independent." Ironically, one who wants to run without party affiliation must pass nominating petitions for an "independent party." Such petitions require choosing a name and emblem for this party. Three reasons for such independent lines are: 1) The candidate is unaffiliated and wants to run without major party endorsement; 2) a major party has chosen to nominate a candidate who is unaffiliated and wants to indicate that by also having an independent line; 3) supporters of a candidate aim to offer voters an alternative to voting on a major party line.

In addition, some voters may be confused about the fact that any change in party affiliation between now and the November election will not take effect until after that election. New York law protects political parties from those who might change their affiliation only in order to influence a particular primary.

This raises the question of the role of political parties in a representative democracy. Many are convinced that it is only through parties that good candidates are discovered, encouraged and elected. But there is currently a good deal of criticism of all political parties. As always, the question is: Can one have more influence by working within a party to support candidates who represent one's concerns? Or is there more leverage from outside the parties?

Those who answer these questions by retaining a party affiliation will experience one less confusion at the polls during the 2010 primary. In the past, after signing in, they were given a color-coded slip to give to the inspector so that the lever machine would be set for their party. With the new system, each voter will be given the ballot for his/her own party when signing in; it will be evident immediately if there has been an error.

Of course, unaffiliated voters who show up for the primary will find that there is no ballot for them. Changing this policy would unsettle much that, for good or for ill, has characterized New York's systems.

Wanda Warren Berry is professor emerita of philosophy and religion at Colgate University and is director of New Yorkers for Verified Voting.

2010 *They Represent You* Update (as of 8/10)

The 2010 edition of Nassau County League's "They Represent You, A Directory of Public Officials" was mailed to all members during the winter. Below are updates for that publication, for your information.

Page 7: Mr. Fuschillo's zip code should be 11758

Page 9: Mr. Montesano's zip code should be 11801

Page 12: The email address for Norma Gonsalves is ngonsalves@nassaucountyny.gov

The email address for Rose Marie Walker is rmwalker@nassaucountyny.gov

Pages 17 - 18: New Mayors elected Tuesday, March 16, 2010 New Mayors elected Tuesday, June 15, 2010
South Floral Park: Geoffrey N. Prime Bayville: Douglas Watson
Williston Park: Paul Ehrbar Hewlett Neck: Stewart Troyetsky
Lawrence: Martin Oliner



The Nassau County Board of Elections has been providing demonstrations of the new voting machine systems throughout the county all summer, and will continue to do so, right up until Election Day. Those members who attended the Nassau County League's Convention in May, were among the first to get to see these machines in action. Those who were not there can check out the NC Board of Elections website: www.nassauvotes.com, to find the dates and sites of the demonstrations. If you do not have access to the internet, you can call the Board of Elections: 571-2411 for further information.

Most of us will simply be filling out a form (in a privacy booth) and then putting it into a scanner for our votes to be counted, after which the form will fall down into a lock box. The part of the system that is more complicated is primarily for the use of those with disabilities that prevent them from marking the ballots by hand.

Political Calendar Information

Primary Election Day: September 14 – To vote in the Primary, you must be a registered voter. Mail registration applications must be postmarked not later than August 20, and received by the Board of Elections not later than August 25. You may register at the local Board of Elections in person any day of the year, but to vote in the Primary, you must do so no later than August 20.

General Election Day: November 2 – To vote in the General Election, you must be a registered voter. For the General Election, mail registration applications must be postmarked no later than October 8, and received by the Board of Elections no later than October 13. For the General Election, in-person registration must be no later than October 8, unless you are honorably discharged from the military or become a citizen after October 8 and before October 22, in which case, you have until October 22.



Representatives to 2010 LWV National Convention: Rachael Krinsky (LWVNC President), our own Barbara Epstein (LWVEN President), Elizabeth MacNamara (LWVUS President), Nancy Rosenthal & Linda Kollender (LWVSWN).

(See page 3 of the June/July issue of the VOTER for Barbara Epstein's report of what transpired at National Convention.)



Farmers' Markets

Sundays, 11AM - 4PM, July 11th through October 31st
Roosevelt Youth Community Farmers' Market
380 Nassau Road, Roosevelt

Sundays, 9AM – 2PM , June 27th to November 2nd
Kennedy Memorial Park
between Jerusalem Ave. and Broadway, Hicksville

Thursdays, 10AM – 2PM, July 8th – October 21st
Nassau University Medical Center
2201 Hempstead Turnpike, East Meadow

Tuesdays, 7AM – 1PM, June 1st – November 23rd
Supreme Court Bldg. lot off Old Country Rd., Garden City

Health Care Forum

October 7, 2010 – 12:45 PM

Co-sponsored by:

LWV of Huntington & LWV of East Nassau.
Doubleday-Babcock Senior Center
45 East Main Street, Oyster Bay
516-922-1770

Speaker: Diana Graham, of NIICAP
(Health Insurance & Information Counseling &
Assistance Program of Nassau County)

Did You know?

(from Bottom Line)

L-Mail.com - To send an email letter to someone who does not get email, you can use L-Mail.com. You write the message – the site will address, stamp and mail a traditional letter. Prices start at \$1.16, depending on the destination of the letter.

Www.keeptoyou safe.com – Get military-grade encryption for any vital personal information, digital copies of important documents, etc. The basic service is free, and you can access your files on any computer with internet access.

To find out whether a web site is down or if you are having problems with your computer, go to **www.downforeveryoneorjustme.com**. Type in the name of the site and click on “just me?”

Dues are Due

The East Nassau League Year runs from July 1st to June 30th. Therefore, our dues are due now. Please use the form on page 5 to send your check.

NYS Quake Warning



As Haiti and Chile work to recover from devastating earthquakes, NY residents are reminded that NYS has the fourth-highest earthquake risk of all 50 states. The New York Insurance Association (NYIA) said that while NY has never had a “strong” earthquake—between 6.0 and 6.9—the state does have a history of moderate quakes with magnitudes between 5.0 and 5.9.

The most recent such earthquake was a 5.1 magnitude earthquake that struck near Plattsburgh in April 2002, causing damage to walls, foundations and chimneys. The largest was a 5.8 magnitude quake in the greater Massena, N.Y., area in 1944, which caused \$2 million in damage, equivalent to \$24.4 million in today’s economy. Others included a 5.2 magnitude earthquake in Attica, NY in 1929, and a 5.5 magnitude earthquake that struck NYC in 1884—the most forceful event on record for the city.

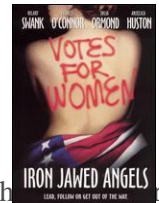
According to the NYIA, the earthquake hazard for NY is considered moderate, but experts view NY’s risk to be relatively high due to densely populated areas and an abundance of older unreinforced masonry, “typically brick structures, which are particularly prone to earthquake damage.” A 2008 Federal Emergency Management Agency study ranked NYS the fourth highest state for earthquake risk.

“While there is a low probability of building collapse for typical structures in moderate-sized earthquakes, significant damage is not uncommon, which can result in costly repairs,” said Daniel O’Brien, geographic information systems and earthquake program manager for the State Emergency Management Office. Loose, softer soils in NY could amplify ground shaking, and the state contains bedrock that transfers seismic energy greater distances than in the western parts of the country. “This raises the potential for wider regional impact,” he said. “For instance, the 2002 earthquake near Plattsburgh was felt over 150 miles away by residents in Albany.”

(Source: National Underwriter Company)

Celebrate Women’s Equality Day!

Join the LWV of Long Beach in celebrating the **75th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment**, and paying tribute to those who fought for justice and equality, at a viewing of the spectacular film, **Iron Jawed Angels**, **Thursday, August 26th, 7:00 PM**, at the **Long Beach Library**, 111 West Park Avenue, Long Beach. Call Barbara @ 221-1948, if you want to carpool.



SAVE THE DATES

United Nations Event

Nov. 9 – NYC

2011 Students Inside Albany

April 10-13 – Albany

2011 State Convention

May 20-22 - Albany

United Nations Event

The state League is pleased to offer the United Nations Event this year. It will be held on Tuesday, November 9 in New York City. Although the UN building is under renovations, we continue to offer the tours of the UN, lunch and a briefing by UN affiliate agencies. The topic this year will be women and microfinancing. Watch from more details in September.

Fall 2010 Debates

The New York City LWV requested and received permission from LWVNYS to co-sponsor a debate with WABC for the Democratic primary candidates for Attorney General. It was aired on July 18th. You can view it at <http://abclocal.go.com/wabc/story?section=news/politics&id=7561181>.

2010 LWVNYS Council

The 2010 proposed budget was adopted by the local Leagues through the Council Kit. The Leagues also approved the proposed concurrence on Marriage Equality, but with the approval of the concurrence at the National Convention on this issue, NYS will not need to adopt its own position (see Convention summary). The local Leagues also provided numerous Directions to the Board which can be found in the July SBR on the website.

New State Board Members

The League State board has appointed two new members: Judie Gorenstein (Huntington) as Director of Citizen Education and Youth Programs and Bo Lipari (Tompkins Co.) as Director of Technology. Assisting Judie with the Youth Programs (off-board) will be Judi Roth (Hamptons) and Lisa Scott (Smithtown). Welcome!

Students Inside Albany Conference

The 2011 *Students Inside Albany* Conference will be held on April 10-13 in Albany. More information will be available soon but start thinking about ways to select a student from your League to join this conference on leadership and lobbying.

Redistricting Reform

Redistricting reform is the crucial reform effort on the immediate horizon in NYS. Every League has an important role to play in this effort. By raising public awareness of the need for reform and the consequences of not acting in time for post - 2010 census redistricting, local Leagues can help put our state on the right path for the future. We need to stop legislators from choosing their voters, not the other way around.

Toward that end, we have asked each local League to organize a community forum on the issue of redistricting this fall. The state League will provide all the materials and information for the meeting. If you are interested in this topic, tell your local League President and help develop this forum in your area. Look for more information on this issue on our website.

Local Consolidation Study

The state League board approved the results from the statewide study on local consolidation and shared services at the July meeting. Check out the full position on the League's website

The League of Women Voters of New York State (League) supports the efficient and effective operation of government. Consolidation of governmental units and the sharing of major governmental services may be a way of promoting the efficient and effective operation of government. In achieving this goal, the League supports a cooperative and transparent process, in which citizens have sufficient and timely information with which to make informed decisions about proposed actions, and well-defined channels for citizen input and review.

LWVUS National Convention

Much has been written about the wonderful speakers and the ambitious program that was in large part moved forward by New York State delegates at the national Convention. The delegates adopted **two new studies – one on the role of the federal government in education and the other on privatization of governmental functions.** Many thanks to **Tomkins County League member Kay Wagner**, who spearheaded the successful resolution to expand the LWVUS' global warming legislative priority to encompass mineral extraction, **Tompkins County League member Rebecca Elgie**, who put forward the successful Medicare for All resolution, **Saratoga County League member Lori Dawson**, who was instrumental in both the National Popular Vote and Marriage Equality concurrences. While states are not required to actively support nationally adopted concurrences, they cannot act in opposition to them. At its July meeting, the LWVNYS board determined to act in accordance with the national concurrence. For more information about the Convention, see the League's website (national or state).

1919 Society

Don't forget to include the state League in your will - and join the 1919 Society. If you already have included the League in your will, just let us know and we'll add you to the members of the Society. We will not ask for either proof of the bequest or its amount - we just want to honor your future support. As a member, your name will be engraved on a plaque in the state League office, listed in the *State Voter*, and on the website.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NEW YORK STATE

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