



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.*

February, 2011

Save the Dates

LWVEN 2011 Board Meetings:

Location: Levittown Library
February 2 – Room A – 1:30 PM
March 2 – Room A – 1:30 PM
April 6 – Room 1 – 7:30 PM
May 4 – Room 1 – 7:30 PM
June 2 – Room 1 – 7:30 PM
All members are welcome to attend Board Meetings.

LWVNC Board Meeting:

Location: Hempstead Library
Tuesday, March 8 – 6:45 PM

Thursday, March 3 – 4:00 – 6:30 PM
Redistricting Forum - Co-Sponsored by LWVNC and Hofstra University
See right column.

Wednesday, March 16 – 7:30 PM

LWVEN General Meeting

Speaker: Dr. Michael Hadjiargyrou
Topic: Human Genetic Engineering
Levittown Library, Rooms A & B

Sunday, March 13 - 8:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Pharmaceutical disposal and paper shredding Town Parking Field L2, Division Ave., Levittown (behind Tri-County Flea Market).

Wednesday, May 11 – 11:30 AM

LWVNC will be honored at a luncheon of the National Council of Jewish Women for its advocacy work. See p.8 & next VOTER for further information.

Also in May:

LWVNY State Convention

And in June:

LWVNC County Convention

**February is
Black History Month**

Do You Really Choose Your Legislators, Or Do They Choose You?



Find out by attending a
Forum on Redistricting

Co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters
of Nassau County and Hofstra University

DRAWING THE LINE: LEGISLATIVE REDISTRICTING IN NEW YORK STATE

Thursday, March 3, 4:00 – 6:30 PM

Leo A. Guthart Cultural Center

Joan and Donald Axinn Library, First Floor, South Campus, Hofstra University

The forum will include a panel discussion of the redistricting process used in NYS, how it is done in other states, what changes are being recommended, pending legislation, etc.

One member of the panel, our own Barbara Bartoletti (Legislative Director of the LWVNY) will be presenting League's position on the issue.

Since redistricting will take place in 2011, and will significantly affect the 2012 elections, this is an important forum for all to attend.

Admission is free. Registration is recommended.

**For more information, and/or to register, call: 516-463-5616,
or go to www.hofstra.edu/redistrict, and register online.**

Human Genetic Engineering

The next step in our evolution

Come to the Levittown Library at 7:30 on March 16 to hear Dr. Michael Hadjiargyrou, of Stony Brook University explain this fascinating subject.



Look for more information in the March VOTER.

**League of Women Voters®
of East Nassau**

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Lesley Pollak, Advertising

**County Legislature
Meeting Schedule**

Monday, Feb. 28 10:00 AM
Monday, Mar. 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. Call for scheduled committee meeting dates and times.

**Town of Hempstead
Meeting Schedule**

Tuesday, Feb. 8 7:00 PM
Tuesday, Feb. 22 10:30 AM
Tuesday, Mar. 8 10:30 AM
Tuesday, Mar. 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, Feb. 1 10:00 AM
Tuesday, Feb. 15 10:00 AM
Tuesday, Mar. 8 10:00 AM
Tuesday, Mar. 22 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

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President/Affordable Housing: Barbara Epstein 221-1948
Vice Presidents:
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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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Member- at-Large Shirley Bard 781-9570
Off Board
Students Inside Albany: Judy Schecter 221-5448

In this issue:

1. Save the Dates, Redistricting Forum, Genetic Engineering Meeting
2. Legislative Meeting Dates, Officers and Directors, *Keeping Connected*
3. Barbara's Corner, Welcome New Members, News of Our Westbury Neighbors
4. Proper Disposal of Drugs
- 5 & 6. Advertisers, *Membership Enrollment Form*
7. Election 2010: Secret Money, Incivility, Leave Lasting Impact
8. County Corner, Check Out That Special Day in February, Did You Know?

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 want to thank Lorraine, Mary and Mimi for putting together a great post holiday luncheon. Those of us who attended enjoyed ourselves thoroughly.

Our nominating committee will be meeting very soon. We are seeking interesting and interested people who enjoy participating in meaningful dialogue to join our board.

Does this sound like a group that might interest you?

An experience to remember: demanding, rewarding, challenging, satisfying...join the LWVEN Board of Directors to be part of a dynamic, fun group of people.

You will be able to:

- build your leadership skills
- learn to use your skills to make things happen for the League and for your community
- help to set the direction for LWVEN
- expand your commitment to the League
- raise your visibility

If this sounds like an opportunity you or someone you know might want to pursue, please contact **Marion Schurade** (868-5121 or mschrade@aol.com), Nominating Committee Chair.

Welcome New Members

Francesca and Bruce Carlow
Plainview

Judy Ruderman
Plainview

Welcome Back

Sarah Miller
Roslyn Heights

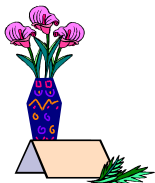
Rosalie Kuras
Levittown

Welcome Former National Members to our Local Roster

Gemma Bartholemew
Freeport

Dania Smith Feinberg
Wantagh

Cynthia Plotkin
Plainview



News of Our Westbury Neighbors

Carole Goldfarb

As many know, the Westbury League was disbanded a couple of years ago. For the last year, a group in Westbury has been working on starting up a new Westbury League.

The group had quite a successful meeting on Monday evening, November 29, 2010 at the Westbury Senior Center, as it moved to meet requirements for becoming a Member-at-Large Unit of the NYS League. President Angela Jenkins, who ably chaired the business meeting, made clear the roles and responsibilities of its leaders and members. She also voiced thanks to our own Paula Blum for her help in getting them off to a good start. The Board and others present, involved and articulate members of the community, discussed issues facing many local Leagues; finances, diversity, meeting places. Free meeting space in the community is scarce. In order to attract members from all parts of the Greater Westbury area, they intend to have meetings in different neighborhoods.

An informative program on the Star and Enhanced Star Programs, presented by Charles Berman, Receiver of Taxes of the Town of North Hempstead, was co-sponsored with the NAACP.

If you have not yet provided LWVEN with your email address please do so as soon as you can. Much national, state, county and local League information is now disseminated via email. When you provide your email address, tell us for what it can be used: just local information? all League level information? just action alerts? just meeting notices? We promise not to abuse this information. It will never be given to any other organization, or used for a non-League purpose. Email it to byeppie@aol.com.

The members of the
LWV of East Nassau
mourn the passing of our member
Toni Swalgen.



Proper Disposal of Drugs



We were told, in the past that it was best to flush medications, is that still the recommendation?

This is no longer the case. Increasing awareness about the potential effects of medications on aquatic life has led us to believe that the best way to dispose of drugs is in the trash.

How long has it been known that there are pharmaceuticals in our waters?

Some information about pharmaceuticals in our surface waters has been available for more than a decade. Recent advances in analytical chemistry have allowed researchers to detect pharmaceuticals in surface waters at much lower levels.

If prescriptions and other medications are expired, why should we be concerned that they might harm the environment?

Expired medicines and prescriptions may or may not be at full potency. Even if some of the expired products are not at full strength, they may still be potent enough to affect fish and other organisms.

Can anything be done to remove pharmaceuticals from our waters?

In general, wastewater treatment plants are capable of removing some of the pharmaceuticals in the waste stream; however, they were not designed to remove these compounds. Due to the number of pharmaceuticals and the different types of wastewater treatment plants, it is difficult to know the performance of every plant with every pharmaceutical.

What happens to pharmaceuticals once they are discharged into the environment?

Some natural processes are able to break down or degrade these substances and/or dilute their

concentrations. Animals and plants can consume or absorb pharmaceuticals and accumulate them in their tissues. More research is needed before we fully characterize what happens to pharmaceuticals in the environment.

Are these chemicals in our drinking water?

In general, concentrations of pharmaceuticals found in sources of drinking water were many times lower than therapeutic doses and well below levels associated with human health effects. Although a recent study showed the presence of pharmaceuticals in finished drinking water, the concentrations were less than or similar to concentrations in the source water and not considered a health risk. [Further studies, however, could prove otherwise.]

Why don't most household hazardous waste collection days accept medications?

The collection of pharmaceuticals at a HHW event requires special staffing, including a licensed pharmacist who can identify, sort, and log the pharmaceuticals accepted. In addition, to ensure that controlled substances (narcotics) are properly disposed of, the collection must also occur separately from the other HHW and a law enforcement official must be present to take possession of those drugs.*

Should I save my unused or unwanted medications for the next household hazardous waste collection day?

No. It is not recommended to accumulate medications unless a collection day is imminent. If you are awaiting a collection day, keep medicines in a secure place in your home out of reach of children. If a collection day is not available, dispose of them in the recommended manner when they are no longer needed.

(Editor's note: the source of the above information is not known.)

****The next pharmaceutical disposal and shredding date in our area will be:***

Sunday, March 13, 8:00 AM – 2:00 PM - Town Parking Field L2, Division Ave., Levittown (behind Tri-County Flea Market).

Cost cutting ideas:

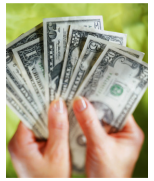
Dial 1-800-GOOG-411 to find a business listing. If you call 411, you will have to pay an additional fee of \$ 1.25 to \$2.00 in addition to your regular minutes. If you call 1-800-GOOG-411, you will not.

Ask your carrier if they will send you a phone or text message when you approach your plan's monthly limit. (The FCC is considering making this mandatory, but it is not so far.

If you are close to your limit, check your voicemail from a landline and avoid the per minute cost. When using a regular touch-tone phone, dial your cellphone number, press * or # (check with your provider as to which that company uses) and then enter your passcode.

Election 2010: Secret Money, Incivility, Leave Lasting Impact

League Calls on Congress to Fix Secret Cash in American Elections



The League of Women Voters of the U.S. reflected on the midterm elections... expressing grave concern about the conduct of the 2010 elections.

"The impact of election 2010 goes far deeper than which party controls the House or the Senate," said Elisabeth MacNamara, national League President. "The tens of millions of dollars in secret money spent in this election are a recipe for scandal. Voters were overwhelmed by millions of dollars in negative ads but didn't know who paid for many of them. Pay-to-play politics won't change until we know who the special interests are who are pouring money into our elections," she said.

"This election demonstrated the critical need to improve our governmental structures," said MacNamara. "Because of the failure of Congress to act, there are no disclosure requirements governing the huge amounts of money that the Supreme Court recently turned loose in American politics. Voters will be hard pressed to know if their elected officials are in Washington to serve the public interest or the special interests."

"The incivility and tone of the 2010 campaign reached a disturbingly new low in American politics," added MacNamara. "Not only was this evident in the advertising, but we also saw it in candidate debates and forums and in the public discourse."

"The League calls on Congress to pass the DISCLOSE Act, which would restore transparency to U.S. elections by requiring disclosure of corporate and union spending in candidate elections. We also call on Congress to preserve and extend ethics enforcement. With the election awash in special interest money, it is no time to cut back on the enforcement of ethics standards in Washington."

"The money poured into recent elections has been unprecedented. The League believes that voters, not money, should be at the center of our democracy," concluded MacNamara. "We will continue our decades of work in helping citizens debate the issues in a civil and effective way and fighting for transparency, accountability and disclosure in America's elections."

I couldn't be prouder of the League this election season. During my travels to nine states before the elections, I saw firsthand the incredible work done by local Leagues and their volunteers — registering tens of thousands of new voters, providing nonpartisan information on the candidates through millions of printed and online voters' guides, and holding hundreds of candidate debates seen and heard by thousands over the course of the campaign.

Our examination of this year's election has brought to light two major players during this election season that demand our immediate attention: secret money and incivility.

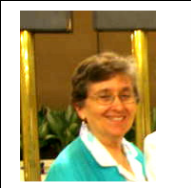
When the Supreme Court ruled on the *Citizens United* case earlier this year, huge amounts of secret money were turned loose in American politics. Congress' failure to act and pass the DISCLOSE Act only added to this problem.

As a result, not surprisingly, voters were overwhelmed by millions of dollars in negative ads this year but didn't know who paid for many of them. Leagues across the country have been calling on their elected officials to support the DISCLOSE Act, which would require corporations and unions to disclose the dollars they spend in elections.

With the 2012 presidential election season having already begun on November 3, the League will continue to address the other major issue this election season — incivility. The tone of the 2010 campaign exhibited a disturbingly new low in American politics. Not only was this evident in the expensive advertising, but we also saw it in candidate debates and forums and in the public discourse.

As we have for the past 90 years, the League will continue to help our fellow citizens discuss the issues in a civil and fact-based way and fight for transparency, accountability, and disclosure in America's elections! Voters, not money, should be at the center of our democracy.

Elisabeth MacNamara, President, LWVUS



County Corner

For those members who are new to League, and those who have forgotten:

When you join LWV at the local level, you become a member, not only of the local League (in our case, the League of Women Voters of East Nassau), but also of the state (LWVNYS) and national (LWVUS) Leagues. Additionally, some areas, such as Nassau, Suffolk and Westchester Counties, in NYS, also have Inter-League Organizations (ILOs). If you live in one of these areas, you also become a member of the ILO – which in Nassau is the LWV of Nassau County.

As a member, you are always welcome to attend the meetings of the Nassau County ILO, the dates of which are usually indicated on the first page of the VOTER, and which are usually held at the Hempstead Library. If you plan to attend, check with Barbara (221-1948), to make sure that there was no last minute change in the date, time or location.

Many members are aware of the activities of their local Leagues, but are not familiar with what the county League does. The LWVNC publishes an annual Voters Guide in the fall, and a Directory of Public Officials in the winter. The Voters Guide is mailed to our members, and is available at most local Libraries. It is mailed to most elected public officials and is purchased by some individuals and organizations. The directory is currently being completed and will be mailed to you in March.

The county League has worked together with the Nassau County Board of Elections for the last couple of years, to insure the smooth transition of the county voters to the new optical scan voting system. When League issues are at stake, LWVNC testifies at public hearings and arranges for members to lobby their legislators.

The county League provides moderators for candidates' forums and speakers to organizations. It maintains a year-round voter information telephone, which provides non-partisan information to the public which is rarely available elsewhere. The LWVNC hosts Post Election events and Womens' History events, which are both interesting and informative. Members from all of the local Leagues in Nassau, as well as the public are encouraged to attend these events.

On March 3, the LWVNC is having a very informative forum on redistricting, in conjunction with Hofstra University. Please see the information on page 1, and plan to attend.

Check out that special day in February and learn what happened in history!



February 1

•Underground Railroad established, 1838

February 2

•New Amsterdam (NYC) incorporated, 1653

February 4

•George Washington appointed President of the Constitutional Convention, 1782

February 6

•Massachusetts entered the Union, 1788 (6th)

February 12

•President Abraham Lincoln born, 1809

February 14

•Oregon entered Union, 1859 (33rd)

•Arizona entered Union, 1912 (48th)

February 15

•Susan B. Anthony born in Adams, MA 1820

February 20

•President George Washington signed act creating the US Post Office, 1792

•Astronaut John Glenn, first American to orbit Earth aboard *Friendship VII* Mercury capsule, 1962

February 22

•President George Washington born, 1732

February 28

•Republican Party formed in Ripon, Wisconsin, 1854

Did You Know?

The **New Airline Passengers' Bill of Rights** requires domestic carriers to allow passengers to disembark if a plane has been sitting on the tarmac for three hours. US airlines operating domestic flights must provide working toilets and must provide food and water within two hours of the delay. This went into effect as of April 29, 2010. If airlines do not adhere to it, they face fines of \$27,500/passenger.

Your home may be overinsured. If your home has lost value because of the economic downturn, you should get an estimate of its current value (www.zillow.com or www.cyberhomes.com). If your insurance is for more than the current value, contact your insurance company and negotiate a lower premium. Your policy usually is based on replacement cost – what it would cost to rebuild or repair – based on current construction costs. (source: **BottomLine**)