



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.*

June, 2011

## Save the Dates

**Wednesday, June 15 – 6:00 PM**  
**LWVEN ANNUAL MEETING**  
Forest City Community Center  
Business Meeting and Dinner  
See right column.

**Saturday, July 16 – 8AM – 3PM**  
**S.T.O.P. Waste Disposal**  
Parking Field – behind UNIQUE,  
Hempstead Tpk., Levittown

**Sat., August 13 – 8AM – 2PM**  
**Pharmaceutical Disposal, Shredding & E-Cycling Program** - Bring papers to be shredded and watch while they are shredded - behind UNIQUE (formerly Tri-County Flea Market – Hempstead Turnpike) Levittown (If you choose to shred personal information documents yourself – put in plastic bag before putting into garbage.)

*Though there will be no more official meetings for this League year, a lot will be happening over the summer.. If you want to get involved in specific areas of interest, contact Barbara – 221-1948. If not, expect an issue of the VOTER to follow this one in late August, and be prepared for an exciting, challenging, new League year beginning in September.*

**See page 4 for information about our Summer Social at Carole and Ted’s on July 24.**

## The League of Women Voters of East Nassau

### Annual Dinner and Meeting Wednesday, June 15, 2011, 6:00 PM

*Forest City Park Clubhouse,  
3099 Morgan Drive, Wantagh, 783-2513*

#### Dinner and Socializing

Report by Alyssa Micheli,  
East Nassau’s Representative to *Students Inside Albany*

#### Business Meeting

Election of Officers & Directors  
Approval of Budget  
President’s Report  
Important Announcements and Updates

**Cost: only \$18.00**

-----  
**( ) I will attend on June 15<sup>th</sup>. Enclosed is my check for \$18.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to LWVEN, and mail to Barbara Josepher, Treasurer, 339 Cold Spring Road, Syosset, NY 11783. For information, call Lorraine Newman – 735-4876.

*[The] “creative initiative[to crack down on public corruption] announced jointly by the Attorney General and the State Comptroller [in May]will bring light to the shadows where public corruption has flourished involving spending and taxpayer funds. It should also jump start the final push for true ethics reform in Albany, bringing greater accountability to the Capitol and our public officers across the state,” said **Barbara Bartoletti**, Legislative Director of the League of Women Voters of New York State. Look for an ethics wrap-up by Barbara at the end of the current legislative session, covering this issue as well as happenings in the Legislature.*

## League of Women Voters® of East Nassau

**Barbara Epstein, President**  
**Paula Blum, Editor**  
 Tel/Fax: 785-3213/3263  
[paulablum@hotmail.com](mailto:paulablum@hotmail.com)

**Mary Price, Circulation**  
**Lesley Pollak, Advertising**

### County Legislature Meeting Schedule

Monday, June 6                    10:00 AM  
 Monday, July 11                10:00 AM

The Nassau County Legislature meets in the Legislative Chamber, 1<sup>st</sup> 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, June 14                7:00 AM  
 Tuesday, June 21               10:30 PM  
 Tuesday, July 12                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, June 7                    7:00 PM  
 Tuesday, June 21                10:00 AM  
 Tuesday, July 12                10:00 AM  
 Tuesday, July 26                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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<b>President/Affordable Housing:</b>	Barbara Epstein	221-1948
<b>Vice Presidents:</b>		
<b>Judicial Liaison/     Environment:</b>	Lorraine Newman	735-4876
<b>Voter Service/HAVA:     Bulletin Circulation/     Special Events:</b>	Norma Schaeffer	489-3133
<b>Secretary/ Health Care/     Natural Resources</b>	Mary Price	731-0812
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<b>Off Board     Students Inside Albany:</b>	Judy Schecter	221-5448

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8. Letter from LWVUS President to League Leaders

## Keeping Connected

### LWVUS & LWVUS Education Fund

1730 M Street, NW, Suite 1000, Washington, DC 20036-4508  
 202-429-1965, [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org), [lwv@lwv.org](mailto:lwv@lwv.org)

### LWVNYS & LWVNYS Education Foundation

62 Grand Street, Albany, NY 12207  
 518-465-4162, [www.lwvny.org](http://www.lwvny.org), [lwvny@lwvny.org](mailto:lwvny@lwvny.org), [www.lwvny-bulletins.org](http://www.lwvny-bulletins.org)

### LWV of Nassau County:

Post Office Box 539, Point Lookout, NY 11569, 516-431-1628  
[www.lwvofnassaucounty.org](http://www.lwvofnassaucounty.org), [vote@lwvofnassaucounty.org](mailto:vote@lwvofnassaucounty.org)



## Barbara's Corner

As we come to the end of our year, I hope that many of you will join us for our annual meeting on Wed. June 15. Not only will we elect our officers for next year, but it gives us a chance to socialize as the summer begins. We will also hear from the student we sent to Albany as part of the State League's Students Inside Albany program.

As the Affordable Housing Director of the Nassau County League, I am looking for more people to get involved with our committee. There are so many possible housing proposals all over the county. Our goal is advocacy. If interested, contact me at [byeppie@aol.com](mailto:byeppie@aol.com) or 221-1948.

I want to thank the board and all who have participated in some way this past year. We couldn't have had such a great year without you.

*Please note: The **farmers' market** in Hicksville is now open on Sundays from 9am to 2pm (near the Hicksville LIRR station at Kennedy Memorial Park, between Jerusalem Ave. and Broadway).*

## East Nassau Leaguers Visit Senator Marcellino

(by Lillian Broad)

The visit to Senator Marcellino was interesting. He said he would give us 30 minutes and ended up talking with us for almost 2 hours. Below are his responses to our questions.

He discussed the painful work of the budget process. He is optimistic about the future. He voted for the proposed Senate Constitutional Amendment on redistricting.

Senator Marcellino opposes public campaign financing, and supports full disclosure of legislators' financial records. He feels that natural gas drilling using the horizontal fracturing process should not be employed until the Dept. of Environmental Conservation has completed its study. He suggested that it can be employed using safe technology.

When asked about unfunded mandates, he did not comment on which mandates should be continued or discontinued.

In regard to consolidation of districts, he discussed education, local control, and powers of the school board. He was a member of a school board. He did not discuss other kinds of districts, although he was asked.

Among the Senator's legislative priorities is an examination of the MTA's \$4.5 billion deficit. He is Chair of the Senate Committee on Investigations and operations. He discussed his Public Infrastructure Act, the Smart Growth Award that addresses pocket communities, etc.

When asked what the League could do, he indicated that his concern is voter fraud. He favors the use of a photo ID. He also feels we should encourage voting.

He thinks that the use of personal income taxes as an alternative means of school funding would need to be studied before being considered.

(printed with permission from the Senator's office.)

### HELP WANTED:

Bulletin Editor needed.

Solid Knowledge of Microsoft Word required.

Experience helpful, but not essential.

For further information, contact

Barbara: 221-1948 ([byeppie@aol.com](mailto:byeppie@aol.com)) or

Paula: 785-3213 ([paulablum@hotmail.com](mailto:paulablum@hotmail.com)).

## Nassau County Staying Tight-Lipped on LI Bus Privatization Bids

Although Nassau County and the MTA together had been paying over \$30 million of LI Bus' \$140 million annual budget, Nassau officials have claimed that a bus system can be run with as little as \$2.1



million in county funds, as part of a privatization plan. Because of the apparent implausibility of the county's position, the TSTC (Tri-State Transportation Campaign) submitted a Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) request for copies of the proposals and related documents received by the county when it solicited bids from private companies to operate Long Island Bus. The County has denied both that request and TSTC's appeal. (source: TSTC)

### HELP WANTED:

Secretary or Co-Secretaries needed to take minutes at board meetings. No experience needed.

Knowledge of Microsoft Word and ability to email minutes to board members required.

Contact Marion ([mschurade@aol.com](mailto:mschurade@aol.com)) or Barbara: ([byeppie@aol.com](mailto:byeppie@aol.com))

## Message from NYS Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver – re: Hydrofracking

I want to update you on our efforts to protect New York State's drinking water from contamination by oil and gas drilling.

[May 17], the Assembly Environmental Conservation Committee voted out of committee a bill ([A.7400](#)) that would prohibit the issuance of new permits for the controversial drilling practice known as hydraulic fracturing until June 1, 2012.

This is another crucial step in protecting our environment, particularly our water, from being polluted by the toxic chemicals that are often used in this drilling process, also known as "hydrofracking."

Both the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency are studying the safety of hydrofracking and when those studies are complete, we must carefully consider the results as we develop future policy on this issue. Shortly, the Assembly is expected to vote on the one-year prohibition during the current legislative session.

We will do all that we can to make sure all New Yorkers have clean, safe water and we remain committed to leaving our children a healthier, more sustainable environment. Thank you for your interest in this issue. I will continue to keep you updated on our progress in protecting our drinking water.

Sincerely,  
Sheldon Silver



*Nassau County Leagues' delegates to the LWVNY Biennial Convention in Albany, May 20 – 22: Paula Blum (LWV East Nassau), Rachael Krinsky (President, LWV of Nassau County), Betsey Swan (President, LWVNY), Jane Thomas (President, LWV Port Washington/Manhasset), Nancy Rosenthal (LWV Southwest*

## East Nassau Leaguers Visit Assemblymember McKevitt

(by Norma Schaeffer)

On May 13, 2011, **Barbara Levine** and I lobbied Tom McKevitt, from the 17 AD, at his office in Garden City. This is about the fifth consecutive year that we visited him.

He was above and beyond being just cordial. We saw pictures of his young children, at our request. He told of the hardship of traveling back and forth from Albany in light of the price of gas. It has resulted in his cutting out one trip and seeing less of his family.

Now for the business at hand. We spent one hour with him, and as always, Mr. McKevitt was forthcoming with whatever was asked. Barbara asked him about a new ethics bill. He was in agreement with the League's positions regarding oversight bodies, barring lobbyists from serving on ethics oversight bodies, and transparent financial disclosures.

He was not told about, nor had he seen, the ethics bill that the Governor is presenting. Barbara followed up with campaign finance reform. There was no disagreement on any of the League's positions and goals.

The last and hottest issue I presented was redistricting. He strongly favors an independent redistricting commission to draw state and congressional district boundaries for the 2012 elections. We were shown a map of Mr. McKevitt's district, 17 AD. It appears unbelievably gerrymandered [my comment]. If not redistricted by an independent body in a fair manner, a small section from the north, south, east or west can easily be taken away and put with another district..

League would like to see districts as compact and contiguous, and as equal in population as possible, with racial and language minorities having effective representation.

(printed with permission from the Assemblymember's office.)

Please Join Us

**LWV East Nassau  
SUMMER SOCIAL**

**Sunday, July 24, 2011, 11:00 AM**


**Home of Carole Goldfarb & Ted Goldstein**  
15 Wheatley Road, Old Westbury  
(626-3338 for directions)

Call Mary to let her know if you are coming, and to let her know what dish you plan to bring: 731-0812.

Cost: \$5/person

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.

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Thank You  
**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS** of East Nassau  
for your dedication and commitment to the residents of Nassau County

*There is no better time than now to express my deepest appreciation and gratitude for giving so freely of yourselves. "Unless someone like YOU cares a whole awful lot - nothing is going to get better. It's not." Dr. Seuss*

**Nassau County Legislator**  
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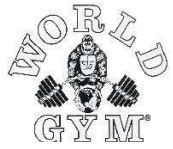
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of The League of Women Voters. Call us for details.**

## Nassau Leaguers Attend State Convention

Four League members from Nassau County attended the LWNYS biennial convention in Albany, held from May 20 to 22, as delegates.

**Rachael Krinsky**, from the Central Nassau League represented the Nassau County ILO (inter-league organization), **Paula Blum** represented East Nassau, **Jane Thomas** represented Port Washington/Manhasset, and **Nancy Rosenthal** represented Southwest Nassau.



In addition to attending the Plenary sessions, at which the state League's business was conducted, the delegates attended workshops and caucuses to learn how to better prepare their local Leagues for the years to come. Jane found that the workshop on membership presented many ways that Leagues around the state are trying to attract new members, retain older members and keep in communication with all of them. Some methods used may work for the Nassau County Leagues, but she wondered whether we are ready for some others, given our less than up-to-date skills with computerized ways of contact.

Jane Thomas reports that at the membership workshop, several women from various leagues spoke about **electronic newsletters** as having an effect and something called "**streamlining**," which we can try to learn more about. One league had a **Facebook** page and it seemed to be working out very well. Another said that they have "gone electronic" with approximately 90 percent of their materials delivered electronically and 10 percent by hard copy. One recommended that we use something like "**Google Blogger**" to attract new members. Another used a "**flip camera**" to record all league programs and then ran them on "**Vimeo**," a hosting site for these kinds of videos. They put all candidates' forums on the Vimeo website and put this in their publicity. Streamlining seemed to entail a lot of communication by phone, but this might mean online camera meetings rather than face-to-face. The person describing it said that we could use fewer board members to get all the business done this way. Also, this would be a way of conducting issue-oriented meetings whereby, for example, a statewide hydrofracking committee could meet online and get their advocacy done by home computer! Jane felt that it was all very exciting, but that the Nassau County Leagues might not be ready yet to give up most of our face-to-face activities.

It is time to try some new things, and perhaps more electronic contact is the way, but first we need people who are comfortable with the new media approaches. We are not necessarily ready to give up contact via paper and actual meetings. Any comments or input on this topic would be appreciated – contact Barbara with your thoughts: [byepppie@aol.com](mailto:byepppie@aol.com), 221-1948. (More about state convention in the next issue of the *VOTER*.)

## Redistricting? Gerrymandering?

If you have been following the articles (Newsday, The Long Island Press and the NY Times have been covering the situation well) you know that Peter Schmitt and the attorney for the Legislature decided that it is necessary to redistrict the entire county in time for the 2011 election, and then do it again, the right way, for the 2013 election, because the populations of the districts have changed, and one district is above the maximum allowed.



Mr. Schmitt authorized the county attorney to draw up a new district map, which his office did, with the help of two consultants. The new plan would cause over 500,000 residents of the county to have their districts changed, two districts would contain two democratic incumbents each, and there would be two districts (one of which is entirely new) to be without an incumbent. The claim is that one of the new districts would allow for a minority candidate to have a good chance of being voted into office.

The Democrats in the Legislature apparently disagreed with the decision, and sued. A judge placed an injunction to prevent the vote on, and the implementation of, the plan. Another judge put a stay on the injunction. The Legislature voted on May 23, with the 8 Democrats in attendance against the plan, 10 Republicans for it, and one Republican abstaining (though the newspapers incorrectly said that she voted no). The case was heard in court on May 26. That judge held the case over until May 31, at which time he determined that it could not be used for the 2011 election. That decision was stayed by an appellate judge on June 2. **The next hearing is scheduled for June 8**, when it will be heard by a four-member Appellate panel.

The NAACP also disagreed with the stated need for immediate redistricting, and with the new map. Attorney Fred Brewington presented a different map, at the May 16 meeting of the Legislature, which met the requirements of the Voting Rights Act and met the population requirements, without having to move many residents into different districts. He also indicated that there is no need for a new minority district without an incumbent, and that in fact, the district supposedly designed for that purpose would have fewer minority voters than the previous one had.

Members of the LWNVC testified at the hearing held on May 9, at the Legislature's regular meeting on May 16, and the special meeting held on May 23. For copies of the testimony, email [paulablum@hotmail.com](mailto:paulablum@hotmail.com), and you will receive them by return email. Our position is that there is no need to redistrict until the 2013 election, since the county charter says the redistricting should be done every ten years, and the last time was for the 2003 election; also that it should be done by a duly authorized commission, as the charter requires, with plenty of time for public input.

Watch the papers for new developments. It appears that this will continue to be played out to the very last possible minute.



## Letter to League Leaders from LWVUS President Elisabeth MacNamara

“Don’t be afraid to get in trouble and to get in the way.” When John Lewis addressed this remark to Convention 2010 in Atlanta, he could not have directed it to a more appropriate audience.

The League of Women Voters was founded to finish the fight for suffrage. If our founders had not gotten in the way, women would not be voting today. Suffragists had one goal in mind, to get the vote for millions of women. To achieve that end, they were not afraid to get in trouble, they were not afraid to call out elected officials by name, up to and including President Woodrow Wilson. But achieving the vote was not an end in itself. The League was not founded solely to bring newly enfranchised women into the political process. **The League was created, in the words of Carrie Chapman Catt, to making democracy safe for the nation.**



Last Friday, in Massachusetts and Missouri, the League began running television ads pointing out recent votes of Senators Scott Brown and Claire McCaskill to delay or eliminate the ability of the EPA to enforce the Clean Air Act. These ads are hard hitting and factual. They can be viewed on our website [lww.org] and at the People not Polluters website. These ads were made possible through the support of trusted partners in the environmental and public health community and were not paid for by PMP [per member payments]. Because the ads are powerful, they have provoked a response, including accusations of partisanship.

Democracy cannot be safe if the voices of citizens, telling the truth to elected officials, can be silenced by mere accusations or by creating the mirage of a never-ending election campaign. If votes in Congress on issues as important to the American public as clean air can only be addressed on television by members of a political party, then democracy is not safe. If the only time our representatives can be held accountable is every two, four or six years, democracy is not safe. If we accede to the media fixation on the horse race, then we abandon all hope of ever engaging each other on the facts.

The message being sent in Massachusetts and Missouri is that votes in Congress have consequences, sometimes to the public health and the well-being of the people of America. The medium we have chosen makes that message disturbing to some. It does not make it less true.

As we urge mainstream America to assume the responsibilities of citizenship by continually holding elected officials accountable, it may be necessary from time to time, on issues as important to the country and as cherished by our members as this one is, to use the biggest megaphone we can find to reach those we have elected to govern our affairs. If we don’t get in the way on clean air, what good is the power of the vote?

### **ACTION ALERT:**

The LWVNY, YWCA, New York Women's Agenda, Equal Pay Coalition NYC and the New York State Pay Equity Coalition (NYSPEC) need your help to end wage discrimination in New York.

The New York State Fair Pay Act (A.6130/S.2200) was passed by the Senate Labor Committee this session and sent on to the Senate Finance Committee. Please ask your state senator to support this civil rights bill so as to reduce wage disparity based on the centuries old bias against “women’s work.” Passing this Act will ensure that equivalent jobs are paid fairly despite the gender and/or race of those performing the work. It will also provide worker protections by prohibiting employers from firing or reprimanding employees who share salary information.

It is important to demonstrate public support for this issue, now, in our continuing struggle to end wage discrimination in New York State. Please contact your State Senator and help ensure that the New York State Fair Pay Act moves through the Senate Finance Committ

Thank you,  
Barb Thomas & Lois Haignere  
LWVNYS Issue co-Specialists for Pay Equity

