



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.*

March, 2011

Save the Dates

Thursday, March 3 – 4:00 – 6:30 PM
Redistricting Forum – See p.4.

LWVEN 2011 Board Meetings:

Location: Levittown Library

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

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** - See Barbara's Corner, p.3.

Wednesday, May 11 – 11:30 AM

LWVNC will be honored at a luncheon
of the National Council of Jewish
Women for its advocacy work.

**March is
Womens' History Month**
See page 8.

Human Genetic Engineering

The Next Step In Our Evolution

When - March 16th, 2011 - 7:30 PM

Where - Levittown Library, Rooms A-B



Dr. Michael Hadjiargyrou, of Stony Brook University will present a review and update of the historical development of human genetic engineering, the science behind it and applications in basic research, agriculture, livestock, and human medicine.

The ethical, legal and social implications associated with this powerful and life altering biotechnology will be discussed.

Please invite your friends, family and neighbors to hear Dr. Hadjiargyrou (Dr. Mike) discuss this fascinating and controversial subject. As many of our members know, Dr. Mike's talks are always interesting, and he is able to disseminate very technical information in a way that we ordinary people can truly understand.

Celebrate Sunshine Week – March 13 - 19

Sunshine Week is a nonpartisan, non-profit, national initiative to promote a dialogue about the importance of open government and freedom of information. Participants include news media, civic groups, libraries, nonprofits, schools, LWV, and others interested in the public's right to know. Sunshine Week as a national effort is spearheaded by the American Society of News Editors.

Sunshine Week is about the public's right to know what its government is doing, and why. It seeks to enlighten and empower people to play an active role in their government at all levels, and to give them access to information that makes their lives better and their communities stronger. Learn more at sunshineweek.com.

League of Women Voters® of East Nassau

Barbara Epstein, President
Paula Blum, Editor
Tel/Fax: 785-3213/3263
paulablum@hotmail.com

Mary Price, Circulation
Lesley Pollak, Advertising

County Legislature Meeting Schedule

Monday, Mar. 21 10:00 AM
Monday, April 18 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, Mar. 8 10:30 AM
Tuesday, Mar. 22 10:30 AM
Tuesday, April 5 10:30 AM
Tuesday, April 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, Mar. 8 10:00 AM
Tuesday, Mar. 22 10:00 AM
Tuesday, April 12 7:00 PM

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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Voter Service/HAVA:	Norma Schaeffer	489-3133
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Special Districts/ Students Inside Albany:	Lillian Broad	781-8685
Member- at-Large	Shirley Bard	781-9570
Off Board Students Inside Albany:	Judy Schecter	221-5448

In this issue:

1. Genetic Engineering Meeting, Celebrate Sunshine Week
2. Legislative Meeting Dates, Officers and Directors, *Keeping Connected*
3. Barbara's Corner, LWV Meeting with Carolyn McCarthy
4. Working Families Party and Conservatives Sue Over Ballot Configuration, Legislative Redistricting Conference, Health Care
- 5 & 6. Advertisers, *Membership Enrollment Form*
7. LWVUS Legislative Priorities, Save the Date – LWVNC being honored, Keep Our Air Clean
8. Recent History in the Women's Rights Movement

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

Just a reminder that on Feb. 14th we celebrated the 91st anniversary of the League of Women Voters of the United States, and this month we celebrate Women's History Month.

March also is known for Sunshine Week. On Friday March 18th from 12-1:30 pm, the LWVEF (League of Women Voters Education Fund) will co-host its annual Sunshine Week national dialogue. The event, "The Road Forward in Open Government," broadcast is live via the internet. For more information, check out the website: openthegovernment.org.

In addition we are looking for suggestions for a local study for the East Nassau League, to be presented at our annual meeting in June. As an example, we might possibly study ways to reduce school property taxes. Please let me know your ideas via email: byeppie@aol.com, or by phone: 516-221-1948. I am looking for exciting suggestions to get more people involved. Thanks.

Reminder: APRIL 22 IS EARTH DAY.(more in next months issue)

And, *the next pharmaceutical disposal and shredding date in our area will be on Sunday, March 13, 8:00 AM – 2:00 PM - Town Parking Field L2, Division Ave., Levittown (behind Tri-County Flea Market).*

LWV Meeting with Carolyn McCarthy

Norma Schaeffer

On February 1, with two women from Central Nassau, one of whom was Lenora Long, the president of the LWV of Central Nassau, I attended a lobbying meeting with Representative Carolyn McCarthy, at her Garden City office. She was very cordial and forthcoming with her answers to questions asked.

Upon entering she stated that she had heard that a bill had been introduced in the house redefining the word "rape" to read "forcible rape." At the time, 173 House members had already signed on. She expressed anger at such an attack on women's health rights.

In the days following the meeting, I read in the media about further efforts to dismantle women's health rights by preventing women from using their own money to purchase insurance that includes abortion coverage, and about hospitals that would not perform abortions even if it meant saving the life of a pregnant woman.

My question for Representative McCarthy was, "What are your major priorities for the 112th Congress?" Along with her signature issue of gun violence, she introduced a bill to ban magazines that can hold more than 10 rounds. They were once illegal but Congress let the law expire in 2004. She has said repeatedly she is not against gun ownership.

Representative McCarthy is on the Education Committee and strongly believes that educating young adults by bringing them together in discussion groups and social networking would enable them to have positive feelings of belonging and feel good about themselves, rather than resorting to gangs and weapons to fill that void. The talk of cutting 40% to education, in the new Congress, would negate efforts to change the culture.

She is a recent member of the "International Monetary Policy" committee which supplies money to developing countries to start businesses.

Another issue for the 112th Congress is immigration. She strongly favors reform and a path to citizenship, saying: "something has to be done for millions of immigrants who are currently living in this country, who are working, paying taxes, etc."

Representative McCarthy is against school vouchers, but left some wiggle room for minority communities who feel vouchers would help their children get the additional help they need. She supports "Cap and Trade" but time prohibited further discussion of it.

As you can see our meeting was very informative and satisfying in every respect. I would have liked to spend a day with her.

Working Families Party & Conservatives Sue Over Ballot Configuration

“This is a case of strange bedfellows for sure, but the Working Families and Conservative parties both are suing to change the state’s “double voting” policy which has been brought to the fore by the advent of optical scan voting machines in which voters can conceivably mark more than one candidate’s bubble.

If someone, for example votes for the same candidate who is running on the WFP and Democratic lines, the vote automatically goes to the higher line on the ballot, which is the larger party. Thus, such mistakes would automatically toss more votes to the Democrats. By the same token New Yorkers who vote for a candidate on the Republican and Conservative lines would see their votes go to the Republicans.

The minor parties argue this puts them at an unfair disadvantage and they are suing to overturn the system. How this would be remedied isn’t totally clear, although one could see how machines could be programmed to reject double votes. (The old lever machines prevented this error in the first place since voters could only pull one lever in a given race).

The WFP and Conservatives are pushing ahead, now that a federal judge has recently denied the state Board of Elections move to dismiss the suit.

Interestingly, this cannot happen in most states, since most do not allow “fusion voting,” better known to New Yorkers as cross-endorsement...”

(source: Capitol Confidential – posted by Rick Carlin)

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

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

Health Care



“The League believes that the Affordable Care Act is a major step forward in guaran care for all. It has already made a difference by improving health care access and coverage for millions of Americans. Repealing it now would be a step in the wrong direction.

We have a health care crisis in America. Too many citizens lack adequate health insurance coverage and rising costs threaten everyone. Since its passage, the Affordable Care Act has brought about positive changes: children are no longer denied coverage for pre-existing conditions, insurers can no longer impose lifetime limits on coverage, adult children can stay on their parents' health plans up until age 26, and Medicare recipients can have a number of preventive and well-care services without being charged a deductible, co-pay, or coinsurance.

The League of Women Voters believes that as provisions of the Affordable Care Act continue to be implemented, more and more Americans will have health care coverage while health care costs are reduced for individuals, businesses and communities. In contrast, the Congressional Budget Office estimates that repeal of the Affordable Care Act would add \$230 billion to the national deficit over the next ten years and leave about 54 million Americans without insurance.

As an organization that has worked for 90 years to improve government procedures, educate the electorate, and make government at all levels more accessible and responsive to citizens, we are deeply concerned that opponents of the Affordable Care Act have adopted a strategy of fear and obfuscation in attempting to repeal the law.

Medicare was enacted over strong opposition from those who opposed “socialized medicine.” Social Security was adopted despite loud and prolonged complaints.

Yet, both these systems are now sacrosanct. Many other accomplishments, from civil rights to voting rights, were controversial when first adopted but have proven to be critical steps forward. The Affordable Care Act is part of that tradition.”

The League of Women Voters has urged Congress to oppose repeal of the Affordable Care Act and support health care coverage for all Americans.

(Elisabeth MacNamara, Pres., LWVUS)

LWVUS

Legislative Priorities for 2011

The LWVUS Board adopted the following Legislative Priorities for 2011 at its meeting in January:

Clean Air Defense;

Health Care Defense;

Money in Elections (campaign finance reform); and
Voter Registration and Election Administration.

The Legislative Watch List* is as follows:

CEDAW (Convention on the Elimination of
Discrimination Against Women);

Climate Change;

Ethics;

Immigration; and

Safe Drilling and Mining ("Fracking").

**The Watch List means that if an opportunity arises on these issues and does not interfere with action on an advocacy priority, the LWVUS may take action if it appears we can make an impact.*

The Board discussed many issues and the responses from members suggesting Legislative Priorities. The decisions were made based on what issues are likely to come before the 112th Congress, the opportunities to make an impact, program decisions made at the 2010 Convention, member interest and resources available to manage these priorities effectively. The Board reviews these priorities throughout the year, making changes if warranted.

Save the Date

National Council of Jewish Women Long Island Section's Annual Luncheon

WOMEN + ADVOCACY = POWER

Honoring

League of Women Voters of Nassau County & Judy Jacobs, Nassau County Legislator

Wednesday, May 11, 2011

11:30 AM

Temple Avodah, Oceanside

\$36 Couvert

For information call: 516-868-5578

Keep Our Air Clean

The House of Representatives is expected to consider legislation that would block urgently needed new pollution controls under the Clean Air Act or defund programs that control life-threatening pollution. For decades, the EPA has protected the health of children, seniors and all the rest of us from dangerous pollutants through the Clean Air Act. In just the last twenty years carbon monoxide, which negatively affects those with heart and lung diseases, has been cut by seventy percent.

The LWVUS is asking us to take action now. Contact your Representative and ask him/her to oppose any legislation that would block or prevent action to clean up our air and protect the most vulnerable Americans.

Our health and environment are under attack by big polluters and their congressional supporters. We can't let them stop EPA's efforts to clean up life-threatening pollution like mercury, carbon dioxide, ozone and soot, which will save thousands of lives and improve the quality of life for millions more.

TAKE ACTION

1. Contact your Representative now. You can call your Representative at 202-225-3121, or you can go to her/his website.
2. Share this alert with other concerned citizens -- your friends, relatives and coworkers. Encourage them to contact their elected leaders.



Recent History in the Women's Rights Movement



1970 - In *Schultz v. Wheaton Glass Co.*, a U.S. Court of Appeals rules that jobs held by men and women need to be "substantially equal" but not "identical" to fall under the protection of the Equal Pay Act. An employer cannot, for example, change the job titles of women workers in order to pay them less than men.

1971 - *Ms. Magazine* is first published as a sample insert in *New York* magazine; 300,000 copies are sold out in 8 days. The first regular issue is published in July 1972. The magazine becomes the major forum for feminist voices, and cofounder and editor Gloria Steinem is launched as an icon of the modern feminist movement.

1972 - The Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) is passed by Congress and sent to the states for ratification. Originally drafted by Alice Paul in 1923, the amendment reads: "Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex." The amendment died in 1982 when it failed to achieve ratification by a minimum of 38 states.

In *Eisenstadt v. Baird* the Supreme Court rules that the right to privacy includes an unmarried person's right to use contraceptives.

Title IX of the Education Amendments bans sex discrimination in schools. It states: "No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any educational program or activity receiving federal financial assistance." As a result of Title IX, the enrollment of women in athletics programs and professional schools increases dramatically.

1973 - As a result of *Roe v. Wade*, the Supreme Court establishes a woman's right to safe and legal abortion, overriding the anti-abortion laws of many states.

1974 - The Equal Credit Opportunity Act prohibits discrimination in consumer credit practices on the basis of sex, race, marital status, religion, national origin, age, or receipt of public assistance.

In *Corning Glass Works v. Brennan*, the U.S. Supreme Court rules that employers cannot justify paying women lower wages because that is what they traditionally received under the "going market rate." A wage differential occurring "simply because men would not work at the low rates paid women" is unacceptable.

1976 - The first marital rape law is enacted in Nebraska, making it illegal for a husband to rape his wife.

1978 - The Pregnancy Discrimination Act bans employment discrimination against pregnant women. Under the Act, a woman cannot be fired or denied a job or a promotion because she is or may become pregnant, nor can she be forced to take a pregnancy leave if she is willing and able to work.

1984 - EMILY's List (Early Money Is Like Yeast) is established as a financial network for pro-choice Democratic women running for national political office.

The organization makes a significant impact on the increasing numbers of women elected to Congress.

1986 - *Meritor Savings Bank v. Vinson*, the Supreme Court finds that sexual harassment is a form of illegal job discrimination.

1992 - In *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*, the Supreme Court reaffirms the validity of a woman's right to abortion under *Roe v. Wade*. The case successfully challenges Pennsylvania's 1989 Abortion Control Act, which sought to reinstate restrictions previously ruled unconstitutional.

1994 - The Violence Against Women Act tightens federal penalties for sex offenders, funds services for victims of rape and domestic violence, and provides for special training of police officers.

1996 - In *United States v. Virginia*, the Supreme Court rules that the all-male Virginia Military School has to admit women in order to continue to receive public funding. It holds that creating a separate, all-female school will not suffice.

1999 - The Supreme Court rules in *Kolstad v. American Dental Association* that a woman can sue for punitive damages for sex discrimination if the anti-discrimination law was violated with malice or indifference to the law, even if that conduct was not especially severe.

2003 - In *Nevada Department of Human Resources v. Hibbs*, the Supreme Court rules that states can be sued in federal court for violations of the Family Leave Medical Act.

2005 - In *Jackson v. Birmingham Board of Education*, the Supreme Court rules that Title IX, which prohibits discrimination based on sex, also inherently prohibits disciplining someone for complaining about sex-based discrimination. It further holds that this is the case even when the person complaining is not among those being discriminated against.

2006 - The Supreme Court upholds the ban on the "partial-birth" abortion procedure. The ruling, 5-4, which upholds the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act, a federal law passed in 2003, is the first to ban a specific type of abortion procedure. Writing in the majority opinion, Justice Anthony Kennedy said, "The act expresses respect for the dignity of human life." Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who dissents, called the decision "alarming" and said it is "so at odds with our jurisprudence" that it "should not have staying power."

2009 - President Obama signed the Lily Ledbetter Fair Pay Restoration Act, which allows victims of pay discrimination to file a complaint with the government against their employer within 180 days of their last paycheck. Previously, victims (most often women) were only allowed 180 days from the date of the first unfair paycheck. This Act is named after a former employee of Goodyear who alleged that she was paid 15-40% less than her male counterparts, which was later found to be accurate.

source: *Women's Rights Movement in the U.S.: Timeline of Events*
<http://www.infoplease.com/spot/womenstimeline3.htm#ixzz1EFoBP9tV>