



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.*

May, 2011

Save the Dates

LWVEN 2011 Board Meetings:

Location: Levittown Library
May 4 – Room 1 – 7:30 PM
June 1 – Room 1 – 7:30 PM
All members are welcome.

Tuesday, May 10 – 7:00 PM
LWV Central Nassau & NAACP
Redistricting Forum – **Impact of**
Census on Nassau County
Kennedy Memorial Park
335 Greenwich St., Hempstead
For information: 481-6142

Wednesday, May 11 – 11:30 AM
NCJW honors LWVNC
Temple Avodah - for info: 569-3660
See April VOTER for information.

Tuesday, May 17 - 6 AM to 9 PM
SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS
Remind your friends and neighbors.

Thursday, June 2 – 4:00 PM
LWVNC COUNTY CONVENTION
Mangia Bene, 526 Middle Neck Rd.
Great Neck – **Please try to attend!!!**

Wednesday, June 15 – 6:00 PM
LWVEN ANNUAL MEETING
Forest City Community Center
Business Meeting and Dinner
See page 8.

Did You Know...

Hybrid cars injure more pedestrians than traditional engine cars. (The chance of hitting a pedestrian is 50% higher for hybrids in areas with speed limits of 35 miles or less. At low speeds, hybrids operate on electric power, so it is harder for them to be heard.)

More than 10,000 children are treated for choking each year in the US. About 17% of these incidents are caused by hotdogs. (source: Bottomline)

Religion and the Public Schools The Supreme Court's Establishment Clause Jurisprudence

What is the relationship between religion and education in our public schools, and what should it be? Join us to hear a discussion of this extremely interesting and controversial topic by:

Professor Thomas Schweitzer
Jacob D. Fuchsberg Law Center of Touro College

Wednesday, May 18, 2011 – 7:30 PM
Levittown Public Library

Professor Schweitzer is a Professor at the Jacob D. Fuchsberg Law Center of Touro College, where he has taught since 1984. (The law school, which was originally located in Huntington, moved to a new campus in Central Islip in 2007). He graduated with an A.B. from Holy Cross College and received M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in Modern European History from the University of Wisconsin. He received a J.D. from Yale Law School in 1977. Before coming to Touro, he worked for a major New York City law firm and the United States Department of Energy.

Professor Schweitzer teaches courses in Property, Trusts and Estates, First Amendment, Law and Religion and Education Law, among others.

League of Women Voters of Nassau County CONVENTION

Thursday, June 2, 2010
4:00 to 8:00 PM

47th Annual CONVENTION & DINNER

MANGIA BENE

526 Middle Neck Road, Great Neck
(\$45.00, \$50.00 at the door)

All League members are invited and encouraged to attend.
An official Call to Convention will be mailed to all members.

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, May 16 10:00 AM
Monday, June 6 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, May 3 10:30 AM
Tuesday, May 17 10:30 AM
Tuesday, June 7 10:30 AM
Tuesday, June 21 7:00 PM

The Hempstead Town Board meets at Town Hall, in the Nathan H. Bennett Pavilion, 489-5000.

Town of Oyster Bay Meeting Schedule

Tuesday, May 3 10:00 AM
Tuesday, May 17 7:00 PM
Tuesday, June 14 7:00 PM
Tuesday, June 21 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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Students Inside Albany: Judy Schecter 221-5448

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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

One of our most important focuses this year in League is **redistricting**. On the state level we are working with various other good government groups to advocate for a non-partisan commission to draw the new district lines.

There is a lot of discussion as to how redistricting will be done in Nassau County. We are following what is happening. Our concern is that the process be transparent, and allow the opportunity for public input. It now appears, however, that the process, which was anticipated to be completed in time for the 2013 election, may be rushed through by the May legislative meeting, to be completed for the 2011 election.

I am hoping that many of you will attend the National Council of Jewish Women's Luncheon on May 11th, when the Nassau County League and East Nassau member Judy Jacobs will be honored. (see last month's bulletin for details). Also, be sure to attend the Nassau County League's Convention on Thursday June 2 (invitation coming in the mail).

Please also note on your calendars that our League's Annual Meeting will be on Wed. June 15th (more information coming).

New National Studies

Privatization Study: The LWVUS Board approved the following as the scope for this study: "The purpose of this study is to identify those parameters and policy issues to be considered in connection with proposals to transfer federal, state or local government services, assets and/or functions to the private sector. It will review the stated goals and the community impact of such transfers, and identify strategies to ensure transparency, accountability and preservation of the common good." The Study Committee will be developing resource materials and preparing consensus questions, to be available in late fall 2011. Local Leagues will have from late fall 2011 until early spring 2012 to complete their study and take consensus.

Education Study: The LWVUS Board has approved the consensus questions for the Education Study. Supporting research information will be posted on the LWVUS website, followed by posting of the consensus questions, a Leaders Guide and additional short papers. The deadline for completing consensus by local Leagues will be the end of November 2011.

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) or Barbara: (byeppie@aol.com)

New USPS® Postage Rates

New rates for Shipping Services, including Priority Mail® and Express Mail®, took effect January 2, 2011.

New prices for First-Class Mail®, Standard Mail®, and other Mailing Services products took effect April 17th.

Highlights of Postal Rates	
Shipping Services	
Priority Mail® – Flat Rate Envelope (Retail)	\$4.95
Mailing Services	
First-Class Mail®	
One-ounce letter	\$0.44
One-ounce flat	\$0.88
One to three ounce parcel	\$1.71
Each additional ounce (letters and flats)	\$0.20
Each additional ounce (parcels)	\$0.17
Postcard	\$0.29
Other Rates	
Standard Mail® Letter — 3-Digit Automation	\$0.255
Certified Mail™	\$2.85
Electronic Return Receipt	\$1.15

S.T.O.P. Programs

TOWN OF OYSTER BAY

Sunday, May 15 - 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

**PRESCRIPTION DRUG/OVER THE COUNTER
MEDICATION DROP-OFF**

SAFE disposal of unwanted drugs and medications.
TOB Dept. of Public Works, 150 Miller Place, Syosset
(north service road of LIE, just west of So. Oyster Bay Rd.)

For more information, call 677-5943. ***Please note: NO
LIQUID MEDICATIONS accepted.**
(Thanks to Barbara Sullivan Parry for the alert.)

TOWN OF HEMPSTEAD –

Sunday, May 15th – 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM - E-Cycling,
Pharmaceutical Disposal, & Shredding Program

Protect your identity: Bring personal information
documents and watch while they are shredded.
(If you choose to shred documents yourself at home, put the
shreddings in a plastic bag before putting them into the garbage.)

Regular S.T.O.P. waste disposal program
8:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Sunday, May 22 - TOH Sanitation transfer facility,
Newbridge Road Park,

Saturday, July 16 - Levittown Parking Field – behind
UNIQUE (formerly Tri-County), Hempstead Tpk.

HELP WANTED:

Members (and/or non-members) interested in being
part of a study group on Privatization.

This is a new National League study, and if several
people are interested, we can plan to have a county-
wide study on the issue, which could be a significant
issue in the near future in Nassau County. If interested,
contact Paula: 785-3213 or paulablum@hotmail.com.

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) or
Paula: 785-3213 (paulablum@hotmail.com).

Safety is No Accident

The week of April 4th was - National Public Health
Week 2011. “Safety is No Accident: Live Injury-Free”
was this year’s theme, but safety should be on our minds
all the time.

We should all work to help Americans live injury-free in
all areas of life throughout the year, whether it's at work,
at home, at play, in the community, or anywhere people
are on the move.

Creating a healthier nation starts with creating a safer
nation and that means taking steps big and small to
protect neighbors, families and communities from harm,
and what better place to start than “safety at home.”
Here are some tips to get you started

Start small...

- Assess your home for potential hazards such as poor
lighting and uneven surfaces to prevent falls.
- Install and maintain smoke alarms and carbon
monoxide detectors in your home.
- Establish a plan for how you would evacuate from your
home in the event of an emergency.
- Store cleaning supplies and medicines in locked
cabinets out of the reach of children.

(source: APHA (American Public Health Association))

The Top 10 Things Every Voter Should Know About Money-in-Politics

1. Money follows Power
2. Incumbents nearly always win
3. Most races for Congress are not even
competitive
4. Small donors make good press, but big donors
get you reelected
5. Interests behind the \$\$ are predictable
6. Donors seek a long term relationship
7. The Fund-raising never stops
8. Enforcement of campaign laws is weak
9. All hell broke loose in the 2010 Elections
10. They don't have to be crooks, just human

PS Money Isn't Everything

(from the new OpenSecrets "Dollarocracy" iPhone app)

ReShapeNY: NONPARTISAN STATEWIDE REDISTRICTING REFORM CAMPAIGN REFUTES CLAIMS THAT REDISTRICTING LEGISLATION IS NOT CONSTITUTIONAL

*Campaign Unveils Legal Memo by Respected
International Law Firm Exposing False Assertions*

ReShapeNY, a campaign to achieve redistricting reform organized by Citizens Union and other good government groups, New York Public Interest Research Group and League of Women Voters New York State, released a detailed legal memo from a distinguished law firm today showing that, despite claims to the contrary, the current redistricting reform bills, including Governor Cuomo's, are constitutional. ReShapeNY also revealed record majority support from both Democrats and Republicans for action on redistricting reform within the Assembly.

The legal memo written pro-bono by the prestigious international law firm Weil, Gotshal and Manges LLP concluded that the Cuomo redistricting reform bill (S. 3419/A.5388) is constitutional, noting that the bill is consistent with the legislature's ability to delegate its powers in a circumscribed manner and does not violate the separation of powers between different branches of government. While the Senate Majority has raised legal questions about the constitutionality of the bill after committing to pass nearly identical redistricting reform during the 2010 campaign season, members of the Assembly are overwhelmingly backing the reform legislation...

The Weil, Gotshal and Manges memo provides a point-by-point refutation of legal arguments made by the Senate majority that the bill is unconstitutional. The lynchpin of the firm's argument is the ability of the legislature to create administrative entities to help with establishing policy by fulfilling broader statutes passed by the legislature. The legislature's authority in this regard is evident in the Cuomo bill, which authorizes an independent redistricting commission to propose district boundaries and directs the legislature to consider or vote on them. In passing the bill, the legislature would specify the criteria and the process for drawing district lines, which the independent commission would adhere to in drawing the maps. Thus the independent commission would be completing the details of the broader parameters established in statute by the legislature...

The degree to which the legislature delegates power envisioned in the Cuomo bill is commonly done at both the federal level, as was the case with the Military Base Commission, and at the state level, where recent examples in New York State include the Judicial Pay

Commission (which made recommendations on judicial salary increases to the legislature that barring changes by the legislature, went into effect) and the Commission on Healthcare Facilities in the 21st Century (which provided a plan for hospital closures to the Assembly and Senate that unless rejected, became law).

The Weil memo further explains that gubernatorial appointees to the nominating pool for the independent redistricting commission does not violate the limited ability of the legislature to delegate its powers, as it is common for the governor to make appointments to bodies with investigative and advisory functions that make recommendations to the legislature. Furthermore, legislative leaders in redistricting reform legislation ultimately choose the apportionment commission members that actually draw district lines. The governor only appoints members who choose a pool of candidates which the legislative leaders finally select from.

The criteria imposed by the Cuomo bill on the legislature in drawing district lines, should it choose to reject the plans submitted by an independent commission, are also not a violation of the separation of powers doctrine, as the legislature is not granting its authority to do so to any other branch of government. Instead the legislature is simply adhering to criteria that it passed into law, and may change that criteria as it wishes consistent with federal law and the state constitution.

ReShapeNY's data on support for redistricting reform in the Assembly indicated, in addition to majority support from both parties for the Cuomo bill, that nearly two-thirds, or 98 members support either the Cuomo or Jeffries bill, the major reform bills in that house. Sixty-eight members have cosponsored both bills in a strong statement of the need for redistricting reform. Eight of 11 members in the Assembly Governmental Operations committee where the Cuomo bill now resides have cosponsored the bill (including one still in processing), while the Chair RoAnn Destito also supports the legislation.

The ReShapeNY coalition is led by Citizens Union, the League of Women Voters New York State, and New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG) with support from over 30 organizations...

*For more information about ReShapeNY or redistricting, go to
...www.reshapeny.org.*



Secretive Ethics Reform

Published in April 16, 2011 edition of N Y Times

To the Editor:

As you noted in an April 9 editorial, “three men in a room” is no way to negotiate ethics reform. Since Albany’s similarly secretive effort at ethics reform in 2007, which resulted in a deeply flawed bill, 11 legislators have been indicted or convicted of crimes committed while in office.

The League of Women Voters of New York State has spent decades working for ethics reform in this state. We believe that all New Yorkers deserve to see whether the terms of any proposed new ethics reform accomplish full disclosure, independent enforcement and meaningful penalties for misbehavior.

It is time for legislators, regardless of party affiliation, to vote for meaningful reform. Public officials are elected to uphold the public trust. New Yorkers should insist on transparent ethics regulation through an independent ethics commission.

BETSEY B. SWAN
President, League of Women Voters of New York State

We could certainly slow the aging process down if it had to work its way through Congress. ~ Will Rogers

Don't worry about avoiding temptation. As you grow older, it will avoid you. ~ Winston Churchill

League of Women Voters Of East Nassau

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

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

Business Meeting, Dinner and Socializing

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



Cost: only \$18.00

() I will attend on June 15th. 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.

NC Leaguer Receives Women's History Month Honor

Congratulations to LWV Port Washington President, Jane Thomas, who was chosen to be part of the 2011 May W. Newburger Women's Roll of Honor, in recognition of her "dedication and achievements."

Students Shadow Legislators to Learn Roles in Legislative Process

The 2011 Students Inside Albany Conference, an intensive three day program held April 10-13, was attended by 35 high school students from across New York State, to immerse the students in the process by which public policy is proposed, enacted and changed in the State and give them the tools they can use to influence and affect this process.

While in Albany the students heard numerous speakers including elected officials, journalists, good government organizations, and LWV experts, who spoke on varying topics from lobbying to an overview of NYS government, and from transparency in government to the role of media in politics, and much more. Role playing as lobbyists with Assembly Members Teresa Sayward and Catherine Nolan actively engaged the students in the process.

In addition to listening to speakers, all students toured the NYS Capitol and shadowed their Assembly Members and Senators. The students were all introduced on the floor of the Assembly and watched a bill on pay equity be introduced, debated and voted on. The students were also invited onto the floor of the Senate when a bill concerning school suspensions was debated and voted on. Meeting personally with their own legislators and being a part of the process is always a highlight for the students.

Special thanks to co-sponsors: CSEA, Golub Foundation, NYSUT, and Stewart's Shops.