



The Beacon

The League of Women Voters of Long Beach Newsletter

The League of Women Voters of Long Beach

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East Atlantic Beach Long Beach Lido Beach Island Park Point Lookout

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- Jan. 18 6:00 pm **Celebrate Choice** Planned Parenthood of Nassau County and Hudson Peconic invite you to an “Evening of Film and Conversation” at the Cinema Arts Centre, 423 Park Avenue, Huntington. Come mark the 34th Anniversary of the Landmark Roe Decision. Tickets are \$20/\$10 for students. Call 516-750-2666 for information or to RSVP.
- Mar. 11 12:00 – 3:00 pm **LWVLB’s Women’s History Month Celebration** Join us for a luncheon celebrating “Women at Work in the Long Beach Community” at Lambrou’s Restaurant in Island Park. We will be honoring Jo Eisman, DC; Theresa Lanzone, MD; Hon. Barbara Mosca; Helen Sarafianos; Lisa Schwartz; Joan Whitbread; and Brenda Young, Principal of Lido Elementary School. The keynote speaker will be Madeline Singas, Esq; Nassau County Assistant District Attorney. Please join us to pay tribute to these wonderful women. See insert for your reservation form.
- Mar. 20 5:00 – 8:00 pm **LWV of Nassau County** celebrates National Women’s History Month with a dinner at the George Washington Manor in Roslyn. Nassau County District Attorney Kathleen Rice will be our guest speaker. Watch the mail for your invitation!

Watch for...

Women’s History Month

March is National Women’s History Month!

According to the Women’s History Project, “March was designated as Women’s History Month to ensure that information about the myriad ways that generations have moved history forward would be a part of our children’s education.” Watch for more about Women’s History month in our next issue.

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences the public policy through education and advocacy.

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Of Long Beach
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Special thanks to Estelle Sealine for
all her help on The Beacon!



MEMBER NEWS

Matty Tassler and **Julia Moonitz** are members of the Program Advisory Committee (PAC), which advises the Senior Advisory Committee of the Magnolia Senior/Community Center as to the introduction of new programs and crafts.

Sara Posner has begun a book review program as JASA. Call JASA at 432-5555 for the date, time and title of the next book to be discussed.

Merle Fisch's grandson was recently bar mitzvahed. Congratulations!

Rosalie Weinberger's granddaughter, Sindy, is studying in Paris. Lucky girl!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We welcome new member, **Veronica Rose**, who has been living in Long Beach since 1983. She and her husband have raised five children. Veronica is an electrician who owns and runs a construction business in New York City. She says that at this stage of her life she wants to do something for our country; that's why she joined LWV.

We welcome back members **Eileen and Marty Lilly!** It's always great to see old friends!

Update on...

Campaign for Fiscal Equity

By Estelle Sealine

CFE, an umbrella organization of parents, teachers, community school boards and advocacy groups (including LWVNY), filed a school financing lawsuit in 1993. The group claimed that the state had failed to provide a sound, basic education for New York City students as guaranteed by the state constitution. The lawsuit was later expanded to include all students in New York State.

CFE asked for \$4.7 billion per year to address pre-k through high school programs. In November 2006, the Court of Appeals overturned lower court rulings and said that \$1.9 billion per year, adjusted for inflation, was enough. Programs which will have to be prioritized are full-day, universal pre-k, reducing class sizes, funding for lead teachers in math and science, the expansion of small high schools, special education classes and classes for those students at risk of dropping out, and better college and career counseling.

In his campaign, Governor Eliot Spitzer promised to spend up to \$8.5 billion more on needy school districts statewide, including more than \$4 billion for New York City. Reaching a deal with the State Legislature could be tough, but strong constituencies, like the city teachers' union will push Governor Spitzer to keep his pledge.

Long Beach City Council Meeting Schedule

Tuesday, Jan. 2 8:00 pm
Tuesday, Jan. 16 8:00 pm
Tuesday, Feb. 6 8:00 pm
Tuesday, Feb. 20 8:00 pm

The Long Beach City Council meets at City Hall, 6th Floor, One West Chester Street, 431-1000 x264. Public sessions for City Council meetings are from 6:00-7:30pm. Citizens listen to deliberations of council but may not speak. Citizens may speak on Agenda items during meeting.

Good & Welfare sessions are on the 1st meeting of the month. Council agendas are available in City Clerk's office, 3rd floor, and the library.

Nassau County Legislature Meeting Schedule

Monday, Jan. 8 10:00 am
Monday, Jan. 22 10:00 am
Monday, Feb. 5 10:00 am

The Nassau County Legislature meets in the Legislative Chamber, 5th Floor One West Street, Mineola, 571-4252. An admittance pass must be obtained on the first floor of the building, at the north elevator.

Town of Hempstead Board Meeting Schedule

Tuesday, Jan. 9 7:00 pm
Tuesday, Jan. 23 10:30 am
Tuesday, Feb. 6 7:00 pm
Tuesday, Feb. 20 10:30 am

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

A special initiative of the League of Women Voters to restore our democracy...

Election Reform Agenda

The League of Women Voters is the only national organization with the determination, know-how and the reputation to tackle the interrelated problems that are threatening our democracy. As a staunchly nonpartisan organization, the LWV has taken a special initiative to restore our democracy by:

Protecting the right to vote The League is working to protect the fundamental right to vote by:

1. Actively opposing efforts that would systematically disenfranchise voters.
2. Expanding and promoting our new voter information website, www.VOTE411.org, to provide voters with easy access to election info.
3. Stepping up outreach to new citizens.
4. Preventing problems at the polls on Election Day.

Combating corruption in campaign financing The League is working to reduce the role of money in politics by:

1. Advancing reforms at the state level.
2. Advocating for public financing of congressional elections.
3. Working to create independent enforcement mechanisms for ethics compliance.

Working to end partisan gerrymandering The League is playing a leadership role in redistricting reform efforts at the national and state levels by gearing up to:

1. Provide technical and financial assistance to state Leagues actively engaged in redistricting reform efforts.
2. Develop materials for use by state and local Leagues.

Log onto www.lwv.org for more information regarding this important initiative.

“Radical Overhaul” Urged for NYS Ethics Law

2007 is the 20th anniversary of the New York State ethics law. In what they are calling a “once-in-a-generation” opportunity, leading civic groups have urged Governor Spitzer and state legislative leaders to embrace a package of ethics reforms in the 2007 legislative session. The group, including the LWV, the Brennan Center for Justice, Common Cause and NYPIRG, called for action after a series of controversies and scandals involving state lawmakers. The groups wrote,

As you know, the last few years in Albany have been marked by a series of lowlights. Three members of the Assembly, one Senator and one cabinet-level agency head have been convicted of political crimes. Two Assemblymembers and two Senators are currently under investigation. And the state Comptroller has been forced to resign.

Lawmakers would normally respond to such controversies by holding hearings, drafting legislation and advancing reforms. Yet, in Albany, little significant change has occurred. The groups urged action on a package of reforms that would create an independent ethics watchdog to replace the current State Ethics Commission's and the Legislative Ethics Committee's oversight of state law; ban “pay to play” activities, strengthen ethics guidelines and boost openness. For a summary of the proposals, log onto www.lwvny.org.