

**THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF BRONXVILLE**

(Serving Bronxville, Eastchester, Tuckahoe, Mt. Vernon and Yonkers)

**SEPTEMBER 2007**

**BULLETIN**

**ISSUE ONE**

*You are cordially invited to our*

*Monthly Coffee Meeting*

*Tuesday, September 18, 2007*

*9:30 AM*



*Bronxville Women's Club  
135 Midland Avenue*

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

As the fall season of the League begins, I'd like to draw your attention to where we can go to inform ourselves and help to make democracy work for all citizens. Educating yourself on issues and learning about the League's statewide studies is a good starting point. As one of the 54 local leagues in New York State, we have access to a great deal of pertinent information on the internet. To find out what is going on within the state and within the county, log on to [www.lwvny.org](http://www.lwvny.org) or [lwvwestchester.org](http://lwvwestchester.org). On the National level, [www.LWVUS.org](http://www.LWVUS.org) is the site to visit. Go to [www.SmartVoter.org](http://www.SmartVoter.org) for all election information. You can get information on the location of your polling place as well as a personalized ballot. Candidates directly enter information about themselves and are able to access the site via password to post campaign materials, including pictures and biographies, endorsements, campaign events, and issue papers. The site is completely free for candidates and voters to use. We will, of course, still be distributing hard copy Voters' Guides as we have done in the past

Our Bronxville League hosts monthly informational coffees for our members and friends at the Bronxville Women's Club each third Tuesday, September through June. Our first guest of the season is District Attorney Janet DiFiore on September 18<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM. In October, we will be hosting an informational program from the Concept Care organization. Our League member Beth Holstein has invited their president Carol Greenberg and consultant Barbara Bernard to address us on Health matters. More programs will be highlighted in coming newsletters.

On October 5<sup>th</sup>, New York State Board members will be appearing at the Scarsdale Public Library for a workshop that all Westchester County League members are invited to attend. A minimal registration fee of \$5.00 covers your attendance and a light lunch. ( See page 4 for details.)

A proposed study that drew much attention at the League's New York State Convention this

May was **Should New York State join the Compact for a National Popular Vote Plan?** The Plan recognizes the inherent power granted to the states in the Constitution to employ the most suitable method for casting their electoral votes. Our LWVUS position on the selection of the president calls for the direct-popular-vote method of electing the president, and therefore, the abolition of the Electoral College, so we will **NOT** be studying whether to elect the president by nationwide popular vote or whether we should eliminate the Electoral College. We **WILL** be studying whether New York State should join the Compact for the National Popular Vote.

What is the National Popular Vote Plan? Each state participating in the plan would award all of their electoral votes to the presidential candidate receiving the most popular votes nationwide (in all 50 states and the District of Columbia). **The National Popular Vote plan would take effect only when the plan has been enacted by states collectively possessing a majority of the electoral votes** — that is 270 of the 538 electoral votes. This guarantees that the presidential candidate receiving the most popular votes nationwide would win enough electoral votes in the Electoral College to become president. The proposed National Popular Vote plan is state legislation in the form of an "interstate compact." An interstate compact is the legal vehicle that the Founders placed in the Constitution to enable the states to address a common problem by coordinated action.

Many of us who attended the State Convention were enthusiastic about joining the study. The study committee plans to have resources available soon, but in the meantime, go to [www.nationalpopularvote.com](http://www.nationalpopularvote.com) to see why this is such an intriguing idea. Then, let me know if you are interested in the topic. I can always be reached by e-mail at: [Adigiorgi@optonline.net](mailto:Adigiorgi@optonline.net) or by phone at 779-1288. I'm looking forward to a great year for all of us in League.

Adelaide

NOTE: A new publication is being launched this week, an e-newspaper about Bronxville and environs. Check it out at: [www.myhometownBronxville.com](http://www.myhometownBronxville.com). It is being put together by Sarah Thornton-Clifford and Marcia Lee.



# Ida Trager Regional Training Workshops

## The State Board and Your Local League (LL) Working Together: Voter Service/Membership/ Financial Support/ State Study on National Popular /Other

See the 2007 schedule below and make your reservation to join members from your state board when they come to your area to facilitate training, dialogue, and an active networking opportunity among local Leagues. **Share information and a light meal** with state League president, Martha Kennedy, VPs Marcia Merrins (membership), Maggie Moehringer (Voter Service), and Betsy Swan (development) as well as other state board members.

**SEPTEMBER 26 Western NY 11:00am – 3:00pm**  
Harlem Road Community Center 4255 Harlem Road,  
Amherst, NY 14226 716-631-7200

**October 4 Long Island 11:00am – 3:00 pm**  
Farmingdale University, 2350 Broadhollow Road  
Farmingdale, NY - Knapp Hall (Peachtree Lounge)

**October 5 Westchester County 11:00pm - 3:00pm**  
Scarsdale Public Library-Olmsted Road and Rt 22

**OCTOBER 20 Central NYS 11:00am – 3:00pm**  
Tompkins/Cortland Community College "TC3" Rm.210B  
Off Rt. 13 in Dryden; from No: left @ 1<sup>st</sup> traffic light/  
from So: rt. @ 3<sup>rd</sup> traffic light. Left into 1<sup>st</sup> pkg. Lot. 1st bldg.  
by circular drive with flags sculpture & TC3 sign in front.

**November 15 Capital Region 4:00pm – 8:00 pm**  
Shenendehowa Senior Citizen Center  
6 Clifton Common Court, Clifton Park, NY 12065

**November 26 New York City 4:00pm – 7:30pm**  
45 E33St. (Between Park and Madison Ave) NY,NY 10016  
RM.331

### GOALS

1. Foster strong relationships between the LWVNYYS and LWV local Leagues, boards and members
2. Foster strong relationships among local Leagues within regions
3. Problem solve among local and state LWVNYYS leaders.
4. Identify the best ideas/ people to move LWVNYYS forward
5. Provide a consistent annual platform for open and intimate dialogue, problem solving and visioning

Workshops are hosted by area LLs who will make arrangements for food. To show our appreciation for their efforts on behalf of all, please RSVP as soon as possible. Contact the office (see below) if you have any questions. Telephone or written multiple registrations are happily accepted. Thank you!

OPEN TO INTERESTED LEAGUE MEMBERS & FRIENDS

PLEASE CLIP AND SEND TO:  
**LWVNYYS, 62 GRAND STREET  
ALBANY, NY 12207**  
Or Fax 518-465-0812 (Credit Card Only)  
Phone: 518-465-4162

NAME:

LOCAL LEAGUE:

ADDRESS:

CITY:

STATE:

ZIP:

TELEPHONE:

EMAIL ADDRESS:

### WORKSHOP I WISH TO ATTEND

September 26 <sup>th</sup>	11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Western NY
October 4 <sup>th</sup>	11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Long Island
October 5 <sup>th</sup>	11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Westchester
October 20 <sup>th</sup>	11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Central NY
November 15 <sup>th</sup>	4:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.	Capital Region
November 26 <sup>th</sup>	4:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.	New York City

### ENCLOSED IS MY REGISTRATION FEE OF \$5

My check is enclosed (payable to LWVNYYS)

Charge my:    Mastercard    VISA  
                  Discover        American Express

Cardholder's Name:

Exp. Date:

Card Number:

Signature:



A Debate Moderated by  
The League of Women Voters

► Thursday, October 11th, 7:00 pm

Sarah Lawrence College  
Reisinger Auditorium

Format: three questions from the League  
followed by questions from the audience.

Appearing will be candidates  
for the offices of  
Yonkers Mayor  
and City Council,  
5th City Council District

*This event has been organized especially for the east Yonkers neighborhoods of Armour  
Villa, Cedar Knolls, Longvale, and Lawrence Park West by The League of Women Voters  
in cooperation with these communities.*

► *For additional information, contact:  
Sue Weisfeld 779-8354 or [sweisfeld@juno.com](mailto:sweisfeld@juno.com)*

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## HEALTH ISSUES - SEPTEMBER, 2007

Summers seem so very short each year, even the slow and quiet ones. Then - all of a sudden - we're into another season. It's brisk temperatures, fresh winds, and familiar places, and coming back to the League, to the pleasures of old friends and new projects. Hello, everyone and welcome back!

With respect to health care, we have usually reported on current issues, like the on-going flap over the Children's Health Insurance Program (more on that later). This year, we'll be doing something else as well. In a casual exchange with some members of the Rivertowns League who are active in, or retired from, the health care field, we all realized how much more we could do by combining forces.

So saying, we had a preliminary meeting in July, to which reps of all the Westchester leagues were invited. Five of us came. We decided to explore a few defined aspects of health care, in depth, over the course of the coming year, with each of us selecting an area of particular personal interest on which to focus. And by so doing, we founded an ad hoc study group which we hope many others will join. At this point, it includes only our group and those from the Rivertowns League. We will have another, full meeting in late September or early October. Meanwhile, the first topics are listed below. (Please contact me for more information [Szold812@yahoo.com](mailto:Szold812@yahoo.com))

<b>WHO criteria of health .....</b>	<b>Mary Kaufman</b>
<b>Evidence-based treatment in Women's Health .....</b>	<b>Chris Verber</b>
<b>Inequalities in accessing treatment .....</b>	<b>Emma Lou Louis</b>
<b>Our system compared to the British and Canadian ....</b>	<b>Edith Szold</b>
<b>Where our health care dollar goes .....</b>	<b>Susan Goodwin</b>

Re: CHIP - This is a program with strong bipartisan Congressional and public support which is set to expire on Sept. 30th. It was designed to ensure low income children access to medical care. The federal government is currently spending 5 billion per year, or 25 billion over the next five years. The Senate bill would provide an additional 35 billion over five years, and the House, an additional 50. The President condemned these as "the path to government-run health care for every American" making the difference in social philosophies crystal clear. This is not about turf wars or political advantage, but about the functions of government and concepts of social responsibility. That's what we must always keep in mind.

**Edith Szold, Health Issues Chair**

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### IN MEMORIAM

Tuckahoe has lost a great citizen, Michael F. Pinto, Sr., father of our County Legislator, Vito Pinto, a longtime League member. Mr. Pinto lived to the ripe old age of 99 and was a former trustee, World War II veteran and 70 year member of the volunteer Tuckahoe Hose Company Engine #2. He was a lifelong Tuckahoe resident and considered "as classic as Tuckahoe marble." He worked diligently for local veterans' causes and was instrumental in the building of the Depot Square World War II Monument. He served three terms as a commissioner in the Eastchester Fire Dept. Mr. Pinto was memorialized at Assumption Church and then laid to rest at Gates of Heaven in Valhalla.

## B. Y. O. B.

In the past few months there have been quite a few articles about the iniquities of plastic bags and what to do about them. They talk about how the idea of buying reusable plastic or cloth bags is really catching on, but I have not seen much evidence of it in local stores and markets. The markets are indeed selling these bags, and for very reasonable sums (from 99 cents at Trader Joe's to a bit more in the A&P), but I see very few people actually carrying them. Their shopping carts are loaded with dozens of (non-biodegradable) plastic bags most of which end up in landfills. According to Worldwatch Institute, Americans throw away 100 billion plastic bags a year and only about 1% get recycled. They are made from a petroleum derivative and take hundreds of years to break down. The damage they do to wildlife which ingest them or get caught in them is enormous.

In spite of a number of efforts around the country to pass laws and educate people about the problem, such as San Francisco's banning of non-biodegradable plastic bags, many other countries around the world are way ahead of the U.S. in addressing the issue. Numerous countries either ban them outright, tax them or charge for them in stores. Reusable bags are encouraged and provided for nominal fees – and sometimes for free. By the end of this year, plastic bags will be banned in Paris and by 2010 in the rest of France. Now that's something! And if the French can do it.....

Passing laws banning these noxious contraptions is difficult in this country due to politics. The manufacturers have strong lobbies against any laws that interfere with their profits. They say it's up to shoppers to change their ways – and to a certain extent, I agree with them. Educating the public can be even more difficult but would be very rewarding in the long run. It's always better to do things because you believe in their worth rather than just because it's the law. So, how do we go about it?

The most often heard complaint is: it's inconvenient, too much trouble to bring bags to the market. Why? If your car has enough room for full bags of groceries, it certainly has room for a flat pack of empty ones. It's a simple matter to place them in the shopping cart before heading down the aisles. As for the little bags needed for produce, your newspaper comes wrapped in one every day – make use of it. And if you must occasionally take new bags from a store, make sure to return with them the next time and reuse them. Once you get into the habit, it's very easy -- and not inconvenient at all!

Janet Jaidi  
League Curmudgeon

The above is dedicated to the memory of the late Barbara Donohue, a greatly missed leader of the League and a committed environmentalist. Think of her next time you shop.

# BULLETIN

League of Women Voters of Bronxville  
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Editor: Janet Jaidi

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## IMPORTANT DATES

Sept 11	9:30 AM	Bronxville LWV Board Meeting	Bvl Women's Club
Sept 18	All day	Primary Election Day	Usual Polling Places
Sept 18	9:30 AM	Monthly Coffee District Attorney Janet DiFiore	Bvl Women's Club
Oct 5	11AM/3PM	Ida Trajer Workshop	Scarsdale Library
Oct 9	9:30 AM	Bronxville LWV Board Meeting	Bvl Women's Club
Oct 11	7:00 PM	Candidates Forum Yonkers Mayor and Council	Reisinger Hall Sarah Lawrence College
Oct 16	9:30 AM	Monthly Coffee Topic: Health Care	Bvl Women's Club

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