



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NEW CASTLE

The Voter April 2007

from Maud Bailey
Presidents' Message

As I look out my window, I find it hard to believe that spring is just a few short days away — I am longing for it. Spring will come and along with it a busy time for all of us. Included in this *Voter* are the Local Program and the Proposed Budget for our Annual Meeting. Please take a moment to read and review them both. We hope to see you at the Annual Meeting, Wednesday, May 23. It promises to be a very interesting one with a great speaker, but more on that next month.

On April 19th Northern Westchester Hospital is reaching out to the community and has invited us to take a tour of the hospital's new cancer facility. They want to share their Strategic Plan with community partners and get feedback (for more information see page 6 in this *Voter*).

May 18-20 is our New York State League's Convention, taking place in White Plains. Mark your calendars and plan to attend — it's convenient and a great way to learn more about what the League does at the state level. I hope you can join us at one or all of these events.

If you have any questions concerning the League, please feel free to call or e-mail Jackie and me — we love talking about the League and feedback is the best way to keep getting better.

Maud

Status of Voting Machines



If you didn't make it to the March 21 meeting on this topic, you can read below the fact sheet about what has led up to the current situation on voting machines as provided by speakers Marion S. Sinek, at right above, HAVA advisor to Senator Hillary Clinton, and Laura Porter, electronic voting technology specialist, LWV-Westchester:

Everyone learned a lot as Marion and Laura explained the background, reasoning and compromises that went into some of the items on voting technology listed below. Assembly member Sandra Galef's bill (Item #9 below) urges a uniform voting system statewide with paper-only technology. Optical scanning, while not perfect or tamper-proof, is the best that's out there so far.

The meeting was taped—check www.ncctv.org for schedules.

FACT SHEET

1. The Help America Vote Act (HAVA) was passed by Congress in response to the problems with the 2000 election. It established the Election Assistance Commission (EAC); requires replacement of punch card and lever machines; establishes minimum standards for administration of federal elections, etc.

continued on p. 9

League of Women Voters of New Castle

Annual Meeting and Spring Luncheon
Wednesday, May 23, 2007

with guest speaker Chung-Wha Hong
Executive Director, New York Immigration Coalition

**“The Current State of
the Immigration Debate”**

Crabtree's Kittle House, Chappaqua
Arrival at 10:15am, Meeting at 10:30am
Luncheon and Speaker at 12noon

*Send check payable to LWV of New Castle for \$40pp to
Evelyn Bloom, 5 Woodmill Road, Chappaqua 10514*

**New Castle LWV Program for 2007-2008 to be Presented
for Approval at the May 23 Annual Meeting**

A. LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Monitor, study if needed, and take action on issues affecting government and planning in New Castle:

- a) Plans for Reader's Digest (aka Chappaqua Crossing) redevelopment, with particular emphasis on density and impact on the community.
- b) Plans for the Chappaqua Hamlet.
- c) Plans for the Millwood Fire House.
- d) Plans for pedestrian walkways and bicycle paths.

Monitor, and take action, as needed, on land use policy, in particular as it affects the acquisition and use of open space.

Monitor and take action on town budget, including special districts (fire, sewage, sidewalk, water, refuse, parking, etc.).

B. VOTER SERVICE

Prepare, publish and distribute nonpartisan information on registration, voting, candidates, ballot issues and elections including November general election, December fire districts' elections, and spring school and library board elections.

Outlook for Work:

- a) Produce and distribute:
 - 1) Voters Guides
 - 2) Directory of Officials
 - 3) New Residents Mailing
- b) Organize Candidates' Nights
- c) Collaborate with LWV Westchester on HAVA Implementation

C. SCHOOLS

Monitor and/or study any plans affecting the Chappaqua schools.

Outlook for Work:

- a) Observe and report on School Board meetings.
- b) Publish Voters Guides and organize Candidates' Nights for contested elections; provide voter education for uncontested elections.
- c) Monitor school budget and take action as needed.
- d) Raise awareness of traffic congestion at the schools.

D. LIBRARY

Monitor and/or study the needs of the Library.

Outlook for Work:

- a) Observe and report on library board meetings.
- b) Monitor library budget and take action as needed.

E. ENVIRONMENT

Monitor and take action on local environmental issues covered by National, State, County and local LWV positions, i.e., air quality, energy, land use, water resources, waste management, and nuclear issues.

Take action on the position from the sewage disposal options consensus.

Monitor the Town's policy on educational programs on the care and maintenance of septic systems.

Monitor the Town's implementation of Stormwater Phase II Regulations, including coordination with the Northern Westchester Watershed Committee.

F. SOCIAL ISSUES

Monitor and take action on local social issues covered by National, State, and County LWV positions, including domestic violence; senior, workforce and other forms of affordable housing; and childcare.

Outlook for Work:

- a) Gather information and engage in educational outreach on community health care centers.

New Castle LWV Budget for 2007-2008 to be Presented for Approval at the May 23 Annual Meeting

The 2007-2008 Budget is presented in the same format as in previous years, including the Combined Fund Balances of the LWV and the Citizens Education Fund at the end of the fiscal year. This presents a picture of the League's operating income and expenses and shows the impact on its fund balances that constitute the League's working capital and reserves against the unexpected. The column headed "2006-07 EST. 6/30" represents our best estimate of income and expenses through the end of the 2006-07 fiscal year, based upon actual results through February 24, 2007.

The individual Budgets for the LWV Regular Fund and our not for profit foundation the Citizen's Education Fund ("CEF") are presented first. These individual budgets are required to maintain appropriate separation of our taxable and tax-exempt operations. Following them is a spread sheet combining both the LWV Regular Fund and the CEF so that one can get an overall picture of our income and expenses.

The expense side the proposed budget is similar to that of 2006-07. Our biggest change is the decision not to continue financially supporting the mailing of County's Fall Voters Guides to communities outside of New Castle and the Chappaqua Central School District ("CCSD"). There are several reasons that the Board relied on in making this decision. First, the cost of printing and mailing the Voters Guides to communities outside of New Castle and the CCSD have increased and are continuing to increase. This puts a large and growing financial burden on our organization and our fundraising. Currently, the County's Fall Voters Guides are the largest expenditure in our budget. Secondly, at the same time as printing and mailing cost increase, it has become easier to obtain a copy of the County's Fall Voters Guide electronically. The County provides a downloadable version and the recent introduction Smartvoter into the County makes obtaining voting information even easier. Thirdly, encouraging the electronic use of the Voters Guide is more environmentally responsible. We propose a \$1,000.00 donation to the County League to be used to educate and promote the electronic availability of the Fall Voters Guide.

Other items worth mentioning on the expense side: Concerning Membership promotion we maintained its 06-07 amount of \$1300.00. This money was not used for a new brochure, although one would be great; this year the money was used to promote our "Members & Friends" coffees. We hope the coffees will increase membership. Delegates and Training has been increased to \$2500.00 to cover the costs of the

National Convention scheduled for Portland, Oregon in June 2008. There is a \$1400.00 item under LWV Regular Fund Overhead to cover the expense of new stationary that will be needed next year.

On the income side of the proposed budget there is a \$10,000 in Fundraiser. This is less than the amount budgeted in past years to reflect the decrease in expenses associated with the change in the County's Fall Voters Guides as discussed above. This spring we hope to initiate a community wide fundraiser to be sent to our CCSD community as an insert in the CCSD Voters Guides. We hope this will become an annual event. However the amount was not included in the projected budget because we only send the School Board Voters Guides in years when there are contested elections. If we produce a School Board Voters Guide this year it will be the first to include the Fundraising Appeal. Based on those results maybe a budget line could be included in future years. The CEF received two very generous and unsolicited donations of \$1,000 each this year.

In a housekeeping note, we have added several categories (please see Note 4 of actual budgets) concerning the transfer of funds between the LWV Regular Fund and the CEF and a breakdown of CEF contribution sources. Different monies move from the LWV Regular Fund into the CEF (never the other way) some monies are from our Fund Balance and some are member's contributions. We felt it was clearer to separate the categories. As to the CEF contributions, the committee felt it was useful to see where the monies were coming from, i.e. unsolicited contribution versus Voters Guides.

Our committee felt the League is in good financial health. We felt that decisions have been made this year and need to continue to be made in the future to help this organization stay sustainable. Those decisions include being careful with expenses, but also being mindful to keep fundraising expectations reasonable.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Alvi (Chair)

Lea Barth

Beth Statman

Maud Bailey

Katherine Rothschild

Bonnie Gartner, Treasurer



At the coffee on voting machines, members of the audience, and Peter Pastorelle taping the event for NCCTV.



At the coffee on voting machines, at top: Bonnie Gartner, Pam Alvi; below: Tracy Stein, Ruth Parnes and Mimi Foldes-Leibner

LOBBYISTS NEEDED!!

Ever wanted to talk in depth with your elected officials, in the flesh, about critical issues and legislation? Now's your chance!

Every year representatives from local LWVs meet with our legislators, representatives and senators to discuss the State League's Legislative Agenda. Priorities for 2007 include:

- Reforming State Government
- Equity in School Financing
- Health Care
- Court Restructuring

No expertise required; we have everything you'll need to prepare. It's a rewarding and enlightening experience. Interested? Contact Maud Bailey (238-7577 or maudathalie@aol.com)

Reform New York Day April 23 in Albany

The Reform New York Coalition, which consists of about 35 good government groups, will hold its 3rd annual Lobby Day in Albany on Monday, April 23.

Participants will advocate for three important issues: Campaign Finance Reform, Redistricting Reform, and more Rules changes. Speakers have been invited from the highest levels of NYS government. This will be an enjoyable and worthwhile opportunity to make our priorities known to those who represent us in Albany.

Monday, April 23, 11am-4pm at the Hart Lounge of the Egg, Albany, NY. Buses will leave from Westchester. Contact: Common Cause/NY 212-691-6421.

Observer Notes

The recent Board of Education meetings have been primarily about budget. The budget will be adopted at the April 17 meeting; the May 1 meeting will be a budget information session; the community votes on the budget May 15 (See voting info on p.6). Read the full version of these observer notes on our website (www.lwvnewcastle.org).

Board of Education Feb. 27, 2007, Summary

Mr. Bastian and Ms. Cronin presented an in-depth report about financing the proposed EXCEL Capital Project. Further discussion, including scope of the project, is planned for the next Board meeting.

Dr. Fleishman and several administrators presented an overview of the 2007-2008 budget, which is projected to be a 5.1% increase over last year's budget. They propose a new Transitional Support Program at Greeley, which would require hiring a full-time psychologist. The budget also calls for hiring an additional guidance counselor for Greeley. A music position at the middle schools and a science position at Greeley would be left vacant.

Board of Education March 6, 2007, Summary

The Board continued to review the proposed budget. Assistant Superintendent Dr. McKay presented the budget requests for Curriculum and Instruction. Interim Business Manager Mary Cronin presented the proposed appropriations for the General Fund. Ms. Cronin, Dr. Fleishman, and the Board discussed the scope and financing of the EXCEL Capital Project and decided to ask the community to vote on a bond for EXCEL and a separate bond for bleachers at Horace Greeley High School.

Board of Education March 20, 2007, Summary

The Board continued to review the proposed budget. Athletic Director Steve Young presented the Athletic Department's proposed budget, including a request for a full time athletic trainer. Interim Business Manager Mary Cronin and Building Maintenance Foreman Pepe Leston presented the proposed budget for Operations and Maintenance and also presented information on the Repair Reserve Fund.

*Barbara Myers, Observer
See full notes on our website www.lwvnewcastle.org*

Voters Service**School/Library Election May 15***On the ballot:*

2 School Board seats
 School Budget
 1 Library Board seat
 Library Budget

Election info:

Tuesday, May 15
 7am-9pm at HGHS gym

Poll volunteers needed (two-hour shifts); contact Josie Ganek (238-8926 or ganekjo@hotmail.com) for more information on volunteering.

**For Info about Candidates
Go to SmartVoter.org**

School District Election information will be available on smartvoter.org for the first time this spring. All the candidates in those elections will be invited to directly enter information about themselves as well. SmartVoter has unlimited capacity for candidate information. Candidates can link to other websites and are able to make changes and additions until 24 hours before the election. Your Local and County Leagues work together to bring you this information on www.SmartVoter.org, a League of Women Voters Education Fund website.

Keeping an Eye on the Bridge**Tappan Zee Bridge Forum Tuesday, April 10**

The League of Women Voters Westchester will cosponsor a meeting on the Tappan Zee Bridge with Michael Anderson, P.E., Project Team Leader of the New York State Department of Transportation. Mr. Anderson will give us a close look at the results to date of the ongoing preliminary engineering work for all six alternatives under consideration in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) — including new findings just released from the last study. We will hear about specific highway and transit features of each alternative. Transportation and environmental considerations, including factors such as existing infrastructure, topography, etc., are being addressed at this intermediate point in the project's design analysis phase. Mr. Anderson will address questions and concerns from the audience.

The event will be held at Tarrytown Village Hall, 21 Wildey Street, right off route 9 (South Broadway) near the library. League members and guests interested in the future of our county are urged to attend. *For information, email Kristina McCarthy c/o luvwestchester@verizon.net.*

NW Hospital Invites Leaguers April 19

Northern Westchester Hospital has recently completed its Strategic Plan titled Vision 2012. As part of an ongoing planning and education process, senior hospital leaders are reaching out to community partners and organizations to review their plans and seek feedback.

The LWV will meet with hospital leaders April 19th at 10am in the new Cancer Wing. The session will consist of a 20-30 minute presentation followed by questions and answers, and a tour of the new wing.

The sessions are requested to be as interactive as possible. All League members are invited! Bring a friend, too.

If you plan to attend, RSVP to Joanne Knight (joanne.knight@verizon.net.)

When you arrive at the hospital, park in the visitors lot. You will get a parking ticket that will be validated for you. Enter through the main lobby. At the reception desk ask for Suzy at x1303.



At the coffee on voting machines left to right: County League President Rosemary MacLaughlin, Scarsdale LWV President Michelle Lichtenberg, New Castle Co-President Jackie Rider, Joy Rosenzweig, Susan Schwarz, and Loretta Robbins.

Status of Voting Machines

continued from page 1

2. N.Y. State passed the Election Reform and Modernization Act (ERMA) of 2005 to implement HAVA in NY. It calls for replacing lever machines by the primary election of 2007 to comply with requirements to make voting machines accessible to handicapped voters and meet other HAVA standards.

3. ERMA, among other things, called for the Election Commissioners of each county to select the machine for that county from among voting machines certified by the State Board of Elections (SBOE).

4. ERMA and the subsequently adopted standards expanding on the legislation, comprise the toughest standards of all US states, including a Voter Verified Paper Trail (VVPT); stringent audit requirements and requiring vendors to put into escrow the software codes of their machines. NYS was the first to require compliance with the newly adopted EAC standards for voting machines.

5. Certification of machines by the SBOE became problematic because vendors had trouble meeting the stringent standards set by NY law. As of February 2007 only two or three machines appeared to be close to receiving certification. These include the Liberty DRE, a Diebold Scanner and a Sequoia scanner.

6. Two types of machines are included in consideration: Precinct Based Optical Scanners (PBOS) supplemented by ballot marking systems for handicapped accessibility and Direct Recording Electronic (DRE). Many lobbying organizations, including the LWVNY, favor the PBOS systems because it is a paper ballot based system, easy to recount and verify, is less prone to security flaws and is deemed to be cheaper and easier to store.

7. As part of HAVA each state is entitled to federal monies to fund these improvements. NY received about \$220 million, of which \$50 million was for machine replacement. Since the original HAVA deadline of 2006 has not been met the Department of Justice and the EAC are moving to ask the state to refund the \$50 million. Efforts are under way to keep the funds because NY is making a strong effort to comply as soon as possible and there have been unusual factors involved. The outcome of this process is not yet clear.

8. Timing has been a critical problem. The original intent was to have machines certified by late 2006, ready for ordering and delivery by early 2007. This turned out to be unrealistic. Vendors did not submit their machines in time due to the difficulty in meeting the new standards and the company hired by NY for \$3 million to do the technical testing, Ciber, Inc., failed to receive authority from the EAC to certify voting machines and therefore NY suspended further testing by Ciber in January 2007. As a result the State Election Commissioners Association passed a resolution calling for implementation to be deferred to 2009.

9. A05170 was recently introduced by Assembly member Galef, with significant support, calling for implementation of paper only ballot technology in a uniform statewide system. It is not clear whether Senate leadership will support a companion bill.

2006/2007 Membership

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NEW CASTLE
PO BOX 364, Chappaqua, NY 10514

Membership Dues: to June 30, 2007
For new members joining now, June 30, 2008
Individual \$55; Family \$80; Student \$21
Check payable to LWV of New Castle

I enclose for membership \$_____

I am adding a tax-deductible contribution
to the LWVNC Citizen Education Fund \$_____

Total \$_____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

Email _____

I would like to work on:

| | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Local Issues | <input type="checkbox"/> Voter Service |
| <input type="checkbox"/> State/National Issues | <input type="checkbox"/> TV Production |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Schools | <input type="checkbox"/> Observe Public Meetings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Call me to discuss what I can do | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I cannot be active at this time, but I want to support LWV goals with my membership. | |

April 2007



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF NEW CASTLE**
P.O. BOX 364
CHAPPAQUA, NY 10514

**NONPROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
WHITE PLAINS, NY
PERMIT NO. 1430**

www.lwvnewcastle.org
lwvnewcastle@optonline.net

CALENDAR

| | |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Tuesday, Apr. 10th 7:45pm | Town Board Town Hall |
| Tuesday, Apr. 17th 8:15pm | Board of Education Bell School (adopt budget) |
| Tuesday, Apr. 17th 7:30pm | Library Board Chappaqua Library |
| Thursday, Apr. 19th 10am | Meeting at N.W. Hospital Discussion and tour (see p.6) Northern Westchester Hospital |
| Tuesday, Apr. 24th 7:45pm | Town Board Town Hall |
| Tuesday, May 1st 8:15pm | Board of Education Bell School (budget info session) |
| Tuesday, May 8th 7:45pm | Town Board Town Hall |
| Wednesday, May 9th 9:30am board meeting | LWV Board Meeting Home of Robina Ramsay 3 Bedford Rd., Chappaqua |
| Tuesday, May 15th 7am-9pm | School and Library election HGHS gym |

Inside

Presidents' Message 1
 Voting Machines 1
 Next Year's Program..... 3
 Budget Letter 4
 Budget 2007-2008..... 5
 Combined Budget 2007-2008 6
 Lobbyists Needed 7
 Reform NY Day April 23 7
 Observer Notes 7
 Sch.Bd Election/SmartVoter 8
 Tappan Zee Forum April 10 8
 Leaguers to NWHC April 19 8

School/Library Election

Poll volunteers needed for two-hour shifts; contact Josie Ganek (ganekjo@hotmail.com or 238-8926)

Observers Needed!

School, Town, and Library boards are working on interesting issues from hamlet plan to foreign language curriculum. Please consider observing even if you can't do it regularly. Contact Coordinator Cory Ethridge at coral.ethridge@verizon.net.