



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SOMERS



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NOVEMBER, 2009

LOOKING BACK AND LOOKING FORWARD; OBAMA'S VICTORY AND THE MIDTERM ELECTIONS OF 2010



A favorite speaker of our branch of the LWV, Dr. Christopher Malone, a Political Science associate professor from Pace University, will give us his insights into the political scene on Monday, Nov. 9th, at 10:30 AM at Somers Library, Reis Park.

His charismatic manner and his humor always add to his knowledge of politics and the upcoming election. Dr. Malone is the Director of the Pforzheimer Honors College NYC, participates in a CSPAN course with the Cable Center at Denver University and George Mason University, and he is an avid writer.

It will be interesting to hear Dr. Malone's opinion about how Obama is doing and how this will be reflected in the elections of 2010. You can expect a complete analysis, unprejudiced, about how the president is doing and its implications for the future.

Those who have heard him speak need no further encouragement to attend; those who have not, are in for a treat.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE—NOVEMBER 2009
STRESS

I open and read each of two newspapers in the morning. I had had a fine night's sleep and was feeling pretty good, that is until I finished with the news. I got a telephone call about a friend who went to a rehab facility to recuperate from a broken-shoulder operation. I took in the mail which contained my monthly bills. I checked my date book, only to find that I had two meetings that day. My bridge partner called to cancel our weekly duplicate game because she had a bad cold. The phone rang again and a friend warned me about swine flu. My granddaughter telephoned to say she still was not able to get a job and felt she had to turn down the kind of job offer she had been waiting for because she thought it unwise to accept because the legislator was under investigation.

It's now 10:30 a.m. and I am completely depressed, completely stressed out, completely exhausted. Some of the above, if not all, has occurred not only to me, but to all of you. What do we do to keep on "an even keel?"

My financial advisor sent the following suggestions from an anonymous lecturer who has suggested some ways of dealing with the burdens of life:

- *Accept that some days you're the pigeon, and some days you're the statue.
- *Always keep your words soft and sweet, just in case you have to eat them.
- *Drive carefully. It's not only cars that can be recalled by their maker.
- *If you can't be kind, at least have the decency to be vague.
- *If you lend someone \$20 and never see that person again, it was probably worth it.
- *Never put both feet in your mouth at the same time, because then you won't have a leg to stand on.
- *Birthdays are good for you...the more you have, the longer you live.
- *You may be only one person in the world, but you may also be the world to one person.
- *We could learn a lot from crayons...some are sharp, some are pretty and some are dull, some have weird names, and all are different colors, but they all have to live in the same box.
- *A truly happy person is one who can enjoy the scenery.

Be happy.

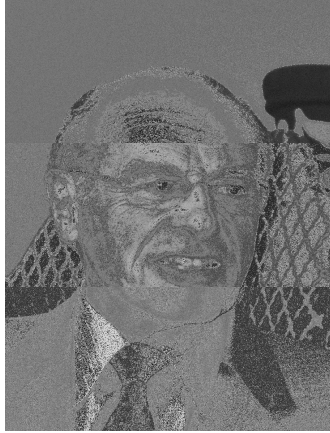
Harriet Leib, President

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HOW CAN WE MOVE WESTCHESTER GOVERNMENT INTO THE 21ST CENTURY?

Al DelBello stated in no uncertain terms that the people of Westchester pay for too much government and that eventually something will have to be done to consolidate various aspects of the many governments. Is this a new problem? Mr. DelBello says that the situation has been studied by the last four or five governors; each has had various recommendations and they have all ended up on the shelf. Spitzer apparently recognized that the problem was implementation, not analysis, but was not in power long enough to get anything accomplished.



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Westchester has 500 taxing entities, more than any other county. But this is a political problem. New York State will have a 23 billion dollar shortfall over the next few years if no changes are made; no state can survive this burden.

Elected officials, however, get votes by spending and they lose votes by cutting the benefits to the population. Legislators want to stay in office forever, collecting their pay and then their pensions. The solution? According to Mr. DelBello we must insist on term limits and elect people who will consolidate redundant offices. He suggests we could eliminate local tax receivers, town clerks, highway superintendents. He also feels that BOCES could do a better job with our school systems by sharing services, buying power and utilizing resources. He feels voters must tell elected officials to give the power to the Commissioner of Education to consolidate school districts.

The subject of property reevaluation was also addressed. Mt. Vernon properties have not been assessed since the 1830's! The disparity of property valuations is great and should be corrected on the county level.

In conclusion, Mr. DelBello stated that we should have only two elections a year, one in May and one in November; this would do away with the expense created by having school elections, fire district elections, etc.

From left to right—



Neddie Good— founder of our branch

Betty Beardsley, Nancy Vannucci and Lucille Williams, our faithful Bulletin mailers

Joan Hecht, Chair of the luncheon

LUNCHEON— A RESOUNDING SUCCESS

The luncheon held at LeFontane on Monday, October 12th, was very successful by any measure. There were 48 guests, including the husbands of many members, and the League made a profit of \$329 on the day. The dining room was flooded with sunshine; each table was festooned with a lovely floral arrangement, autumn leaves, and candy corn.

Everyone seemed to enjoy the food — from the delicious Fontane Salad to the desserts. The service staff was so cooperative. It seems that Mr. DelBello had obligations elsewhere and wished to give his speech right away, before lunch was served. The waiters and waitresses served and cleared the salads and main courses so quietly that everyone could hear him speak.

HOW WILL YOU VOTE ON THE PROPOSITIONS?

Proposition 1: The proposed amendment would authorize the Legislature to convey up to six acres of forest preserve land along State Route 56 in St. Lawrence County to National Grid for construction of a power line. In exchange, National Grid would convey to the State at least 10 acres of forest land in St. Lawrence County, to be incorporated into the forest preserve. The land to be conveyed by National Grid to the State must be at least equal in value to the land conveyed to National Grid by the State. Shall the proposed amendment be approved?

Proposition 2: The proposed amendment would authorize the Legislature to pass legislation to permit inmates in state and local correctional facilities to perform work for nonprofit organizations. Shall the proposed amendment be approved?

These two propositions will appear on the ballot on November 3rd. As of the writing of this bulletin, there is no further information available about them. It is hoped that there will be discussion in the newspapers or on line about them so that voters will make informed choices.

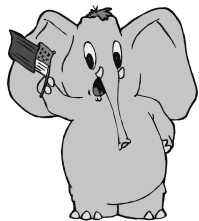
CALENDAR
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3RD
ELECTION DAY
POLLS OPEN 6 AM TO 9 PM

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9TH
9:30 AM Open Board Meeting
10:30 AM Dr. Chris Malone,
Professor of Political Science,
Pace University
“Looking Back and Looking Forward;
Obama’s Victory and the Midterm
Elections of 2010”
Somers Library, Reis Park

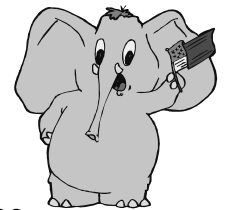
MONDAY, DECEMBER 14TH
9:30 AM Open Board Meeting
10:30 AM To be announced

HOLIDAY PARTY?

All information about the possibility of a Holiday Party is being researched right now. Look on the Calendar for news in next month’s bulletin.



LOCAL NEWS



We welcome new members Shirley Kalikow, Sylvia Kandel, and Audrey Hoffnung

The Development Committee is seeking your input in locating homes with unusual collections or of special interest. If you know of any, please call Selma, Development Chair, at 277-8719.

Have you become a Benefactor for this year? If you wish to continue helping to fund important projects, please make out your check to the “LWV Education Fund” and mail it to LWV.@ Box 371. And remember to include it with your tax deductible items when it is time to fill out your income tax forms!

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO ABOUT THE FLU?*

By now most of you should have gotten your annual flu shot, or have signed up to get one soon. It is especially important for those who are 65 or older; they are at increased risk of serious complications from flu.

You should check with your doctor about whether or not you should get the swine flu vaccine. Older men and women seem to have some immunity to this virus.

If you develop a fever, sore throat, body aches, cough and runny nose, stay home and get plenty of rest and fluids. If symptoms are severe or you are at high risk of complications, contact your doctor. The test for swine flu is currently reserved for seriously ill patients, but that could change. Even without testing, doctors could prescribe an antiviral medication like Tamiflu to soften the virus’s effects. Most people, though, have recovered from both types of flu without treatment.
(AARP bulletin suggested by Beverly Jacobson)

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The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan organization that
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