



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SOMERS



VOLUME XXIII NUMBER 1

SEPTEMBER, 2009

AL DELBELLO TO SPEAK AT LUNCHEON

Yes, Al DelBello, a name we can all recognize, will be our guest speaker on Monday, October 12th, at a luncheon which will be held at LeFontane, on Route 100, at noon. Al DelBello is a former NY State Lieutenant Governor and a former Westchester County Executive. He brought innovation, vision and practical good-sense administrative ability to all the public offices he has held. Perhaps that is why the subject of his talk is particularly appropriate, "How Can We Move Westchester Government into the 21st Century?"

Al DelBello is well qualified to speak on this topic because of his vast experience. As County Executive he reduced property taxes and achieved the highest investment credit rating. He established offices for the aging, disabled, women and youth. He created the Labor Advisory Board, Consumer Protection Agency, Veterans' Advisory Board, Office for Economic Development and reduced the number of ineligible people on welfare by more than 70%. Part of his accomplishments were the Westchester Medical Center, the Westchester Transit System and Solid Waste System, the Westchester Arts Council, Bicycle Sundays on the Bronx River



(Continued on Page 4)

THE ROLE OF PROBATION IN A CRIMINAL'S LIFE

The speaker at the meeting on Monday, September 13th, at 10:30 AM, at the Somers Library will be Rocco Pozzi, Commissioner of Probation of Westchester County. Formerly Pozzi held this position and was also Commissioner of Correction, a job he filled with noteworthy success. He saved millions of tax dollars by reducing absenteeism. He

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The New York Senate went back into session on July 9 after it stopped doing the job for which it was elected on June 8. Let's examine why these legislators did not come to an equitable agreement sooner and let us examine their possible goals.

The Senate did not function for over thirty days and during that time all legislation came to a halt. Bills did not pass, affecting both small and large municipalities. New York City lost \$60 million in a month because of the lack of action in Albany on budget measures. A freeze was imposed on the 250 police recruits who had been scheduled to enter the Police Academy and they postponed filling nearly 800 other jobs planned for the summer. The city considered cutting the hiring of school-crossing guards and firefighters. Other municipalities were unable to increase their revenue, meaning that their budgets and the resultant deficits would mean possible tax increases and service cuts. Bills that had been passed by the Assembly awaited Senate action. What was going on?

The stalemate continued because both political parties had their eyes on the next election. Who has the power now in Albany decides how money, jobs and influence shape the 2010 election. In all probability, the winners will determine the new district lines after the data from the new census is made available. The new district lines will in all likelihood determine which party will be the lead party. To quote Barbara Bartoletti, NY State League Legislative Chair, "You can gerrymander them (the new districts) to meet your conference's needs for incumbency protection."

The pot of gold, for both the Democrats and the Republicans, is winning the election in November 2010. Incumbents have a re-election rate of an amazing 95%. Is their success based on their thoughtful work, their response to their constituency, or is it helped by the drawn district lines?

It is up to each citizen to examine your legislator's record as well as carefully listen to the opponent's positions. Second, vote for the person whom you believe will follow through on campaign promises and will fulfill the needs of his/her district's people. Third, encourage your children, grandchildren and friends to vote and vote thoughtfully.



Harriet Leib, Co-President

PUBLICATIONS: Addie Hurst, editor,Betty Beardsley, Irma Diamond,
Rita Norman, Carol Sturtz

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also instituted programs that kept the jails safe and protected crime victims.

In July, 2008, he gave up the Commissioner of Correction job to concentrate his full attention to being Commissioner of Probation. He has instituted many programs to reduce recidivism. He has been successful with his many drug and alcohol programs, work and vocational programs, academic and general education programs with BOCES, life skills, pastoral care services, and the development of discharge plans which help incarcerated individuals continue to address their needs in the community upon release.

His latest program is a unique and intensive initiative that uses peer influence to change the behavior of the most violent inmates. Known as Resolve to Stop the Violence, it was begun in San Francisco where 87% of inmates who participated have not returned to violent crime.

A new program that Pozzi has undertaken is called No Second Chances program which discourages young people from taking part in risky behaviors.

Pozzi is a Past president of the American Probation and Parole Association

Whether or not criminals who have served their time can become reliable citizens in the community is an issue in which we can all have an interest. Plan to come to the meeting and hear what is being done.



WE GET VALUE FOR OUR \$2.00!

That was the bottom line of Mary Beth Gose's discussion at the August 10th meeting of the League. She has been president of the county League since 2007 and easily met the challenge we had set for her of justifying the expenditure. Among the many jobs that the County League does, the first is to serve local leagues. They also monitor and act as watch dog for the County Board of Legislators. The county tries to keep the League prominent; trains and provides moderators for candidates nights, holds two brainstorming sessions a year with the Advisory Committee and holds a spring breakfast with the County Legislator. Our funds help to maintain the office in White Plains "manned" by a part time administrator.

Ms. Gose says that Westchester County LWV is the strongest in New York state with one fourth of the total membership. She says that the board promotes diversity, tries to attract younger members, and relies on the expertise of its more experienced members. She also commended Claire Pohl of our League who has single-handedly developed their web site.



Parkway, Muscoot Farm Park and so much more.

Presently he is a member of one of the largest law firms in White Plains, serves on the Signature Bank Board of Directors and is Chairman of the Westchester County Association.

His topic, "How Can We Move Westchester Government into the 21st Century" is particularly appropriate at this time. Our League is beginning a study of how our governments could consolidate so that we don't have redundant services. This would make governments much more cost efficient.

It is our understanding that Mr. DelBello is a particularly wonderful speaker, humorous and has complete understanding of this topic.

In addition members who attend will enjoy a wonderful lunch at Le Fontane which is conveniently located at the intersection of Rtes 100 and 139. The cost of the luncheon is being maintained at the same \$34.



MENU

- Fontane Salad
- Choice of
- Chicken piccata
- Salmon in white wine
- Pasta with eggplant and tomato
- Choice of
- Italian cheese cake
- Fruit cup
- Chocolate mousse cake
- Coffee, tea
- Open bar for drinks and sodas

LWV of Somers, Box 341, Somers, NY 10589

_____ will attend the luncheon at LeFontane on Mon., 10/12 and I am enclosing my check for _____. I would like to have:

Chicken () Salmon () Pasta ()

Italian cheese cake () fruit cup () Chocolate mousse cake ()

I would like to be seated with _____

CALENDAR

THURSDAY, SEPT. 3RD

**Trip to the Peter Brant Gallery
of Contemporary Art**

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14th

9:30 AM Meeting
10:30 AM Speaker: Rocco Pozzi,
Westchester Probation Commissioner
“The Role of Probation in a Criminal’s
Life”
Somers Library, Reis Park

MONDAY, OCTOBER 12TH

**LUNCHEON WITH
AL DEL BELLO, guest speaker
AT LE FONTAINE
(see articles page 1 and 4 and
Reservation form on page 4)**

MONDAY, OCTOBER 26TH

Candidates Night
7:30 PM
Somers Library
Reis Park

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9TH

9:30 AM Open Board Meeting
10:30 AM Dr. Chris Malone,
Professor of Political Science
Pace University
Somers Library

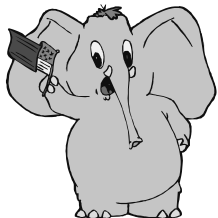
MONDAY, DECEMBER 14TH

9:30 AM Open Meeting
10:30 AM To be announced

ARE YOU DOING THE RIGHT THING?

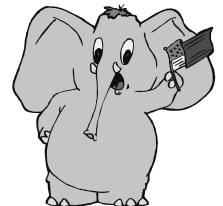
The nutritional insurance prescription medication you’re taking for your diabetes or osteoporosis may be doing wonders for your underlying conditions, but long term use of other drugs can interfere with your body’s ability to absorb and metabolize nutrients. That makes it even more important to eat well and perhaps even take a supplement. As always check with your doctor before combining prescription medications with vitamins or herbal supplements.

Family Issues Chair, Rita Gottfried



LOCAL NEWS

We thank all of our members for sending in their dues!
We would also like to welcome new members Bea Bartner
and Laurie Brill.



October is the time to renew your Benefactor contribution.
If you would like to be a Benefactor, or to renew your being
a Benefactor, send your check for \$25.00 made out to “LWV Educational Fund” ...and this is a
tax deductible item. We already have several new contributors and renewals. Wouldn’t you like
to join the Benefactors?



**THE LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS
OF SOMERS**

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Somers Exxon Mart	Route 100, Somers
Somers Pharmacy	Rte. 100, Somers
Stomping Grounds Cafe	6 Heritage Hills 202, Somers
Strathmore Bagels and Deli	Somerstown Center, Somers
Sweet Delites	119 Somerstown Center, Somers
T.J.'s Auto Repair	PO Box 589, Route 202, Somers
Val Ben's Heritage Market	8 Heritage 202 Center, Somers



**SUPPORT OUR
SUPPORTERS!!**

Democracy is not a spectator sport!

The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan organization that does not support or oppose candidates or political parties.