



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NEW CASTLE

PO Box 364, Chappaqua, NY 10514

lww.newcastle@gmail.com

The Voter

November 2009

Marion Sinek

It is with great sadness I enclose the notice of Marion Sinek's death. Despite her illness she never faltered in her commitment and generosity to the League, her valuable input, and her willingness to mentor newer League members, accepting their levels of experience and shepherding them forward with great kindness and humility.



Please share the notice below with your members.

Betsey Swan, President, LWVNYS

We are sad to be spreading the news of the passing of Marion Sinek, beloved mother, grandmother, and friend, and tireless public servant. She believed in the dignity of each human being, respect for all, social justice, and family.

The following text is the formal announcement of her passing:

Marion Sinek passed away peacefully on August 17, 2009 at age 78 after a long illness. She was born in Berlin, Germany, and came to the US just before the beginning of WWII. She graduated from Forest Hills High School and Syracuse University on a full scholarship. After graduate work at the London School of Economics, she worked for Radio Free Europe and the UN Association-USA in NY. Marion became very active in public affairs, serving in various roles for the League of Women Voters, including President of the LWV of NY State. She later ran for office, serving for eight years as a Town Board member in New Castle before becoming its Supervisor from 2000 to 2004. She later worked with Sen. Hillary Clinton's office on election law issues, and remained active in Democratic politics and other organizations. She served on the Compensation Advisory Panel to the Westchester County Board of Legislators, and served on the boards of the Chappaqua Orchestra and the Holocaust and Human Rights Education Center. She lived in Chappaqua for almost 38 years. She was predeceased by her husband Herbert; she is survived by her children Ron and Nicole (Arnaboldi), their spouses Jennifer and Leo, and seven grandchildren. Burial will be private. A memorial will be held in September. In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center.

We know you join us in mourning the passing of a wonderful human being.

Nicole Sinek Arnaboldi
Ron Sinek
Leo Arnaboldi
Jennifer Sinek

Peter Arnaboldi
Brenton Arnaboldi
Andrew Arnaboldi
Heather Sinek

Meg Sinek
Connor Sinek
Adrian Arnaboldi

My Viewpoint...

Susie Maltz, President, LWVNC

I join Lea Barth, Membership Director, and Jennifer Mebes Flagg, Secretary, in inviting each and every one of us to renew and expand the influence of our membership for 2010.

I am advocating that each of us broaden our influence by signing up for a Study Committee, by attending the monthly LWVNC Board meetings at Town Hall and by planning forums that bring our membership, our friends and neighbors together in public dialogue on the issues of our time.

I am advocating that we broaden our influence by always inviting appropriate organizations to join us in co-sponsorship, to work with us in assisting both new and current citizens, and via voter service we encourage everyone to exercise the right to vote.

Please send in your dues payment ASAP! I am advocating that we broaden our influence financially by subscribing to the \$80 family level of membership and by contributing \$20 to our non-profit Citizen's Education Fund.

Where do your dues go? Dues support your membership in the National, State, County and New Castle Leagues. 53% of an individual's dues go to the National League, 33% to the State League, 3.5% to the County League, and 10.5%, to fund our efforts at the local level.

The LWVNC Board thanks you in advance for your continued support of our local league at this important time. I look forward to working together to further the influence of this wonderful organization as we plan ahead. Let me know your viewpoint!

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This first issue of *The ONLINE Voter* is dedicated in memoriam to Marian Sinek, a beloved LWVNC President and a well-respected Town of New Castle Supervisor.

Local Planning Committee

The Local Planning Committee monitors and studies planning issues that affect New Castle. Currently, the committee is studying Summit/Greenfield's proposal to redevelop the Reader's Digest property as a mixed-use campus with 520,000 square feet of office space and 278 residential units, of which 56 would be set aside as senior and workforce affordable housing. The committee has been gathering information, analyzing pertinent documents, and asking questions to help us and the community understand the proposal and its potential impacts. Most recently, we reviewed the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Chappaqua Crossing, and submitted comments in writing and at public hearings held over the summer. Go to <http://www.watpa.org/lwvnc/LWVComments092509ChapCrassingDEIS.pdf> to read the DEIS comments. Among the issues raised were:

- Environmental sensitivity of the property, with steep slopes, wetlands, and location in the New York City Water Supply Watershed;
- Encroachment on the property caused by retaining wall and detention pond systems, and the creation of additional impervious surface;
- Precedent set by a development of this size, and whether it's consistent with New Castle's Master Plan;
- Market for high-end age-restricted units; and the enforceability of the age restrictions;
- Stormwater management and expansion of the sewer district; and
- Impacts on taxes, traffic and the Chappaqua Central School District.

The committee will continue its work as Summit/Greenfield prepares a draft of the Final Environmental Impact for New Castle Town Board review. If you would like more information, or are interested in joining the Local Planning Committee, please contact Sheila Crespi at 238-8994 or asparks4@yahoo.com.

Sheila Crespi

The League of Women Voters Is Involved with Health Care Reform on a National, State, County and Local Level

LWVUS states, "The League believes that quality, affordable health care should be available to all U.S. residents. Other U.S. health care policy goals should include the equitable distribution of services, efficient and economical delivery of care, advancement of medical research and technology, and a reasonable total national expenditure level for health care. Furthermore, the League believes that all Americans should have access to a basic level of care that includes the prevention of disease, health promotion and education, primary care (including prenatal and reproductive health), acute care, long-term care and mental health care."

The state and county leagues have supported a single payer national insurance plan, or "Medicare for All." Congress is not considering this option presently but the Public Option is currently in play and the league encourages members to take action and contact their congressional representatives to show their support for this alternative to private insurance coverage.

As the Health Care liaison for LWVNC, I am looking for people to join my committee to study health care on the local, state, national and international levels. How does the quality and cost of care in New York compare to that in Maryland or Massachusetts or Switzerland as an example. How do federally funded community health centers fit into picture?

I encourage you to keep up with the issues by going to league websites and please call me at (914) 238-8342 if you are interested in joining LWVNC Health Care Committee.

Amy McNamara

Help LWV Go Green!

Help us save postage and paper by sending us your e-mail address.

You'll receive LWV New Castle e-mails on events, meetings and news of interest.

Send your e-mail to:
lwv.newcastle@gmail.com

New Town of New Castle
website:

www.mynewcastle.org

Visit Our LWV Website

www.lwvnewcastle.org

Email:

lwv.newcastle@gmail.com

County League Info

LWV of Westchester

200 Hamilton Avenue

White Plains, NY 10601

Phone: 914-949-0507

LWVwestchester@verizon.net

Website: www.lwvwestchester.org

Climate Action Committee

Description/purpose: The purpose of this committee is to connect our local organization and the community to the larger climate action change picture. With the arrival of the new presidential administration a good deal of momentum is developing to seriously address the urgent problems that have resulted from climate "neglect" and "abuse." New policies, legislation and funding have been put in place and many more are being considered. These exist and will continue addressing all levels — federal, state and local.

Ultimately, all of these impact the consumer. Many of these benefit from the input of our community as they develop. There is a need to keep our community informed and engaged, in light of this increasing momentum.

Functions/activities:

- Attend monthly meetings of the New Castle Sustainability Council
- Sponsor/organize/participate in community-oriented programs, e.g. educational awareness of latest developments in new services such as energy audits, home "green" services, tax credits, alternative energy options, etc.
- Monitor and report on county wide efforts re: climate change actions, e.g. the county task force, neighboring municipalities, etc.
- Update the board and the membership of developments by reporting at monthly meetings and through special updates.

Mary Fox

My Viewpoint

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No Matter Where I've Been or Where I Go...

LWVNC study committee meetings
 New Castle Town Board
 Annual Luncheon, LWV Bedford, Katonah, Lewisboro
 Naturalization Court, White Plains
 LWV Westchester office, White Plains
 LWVNC Candidates Night, Town Hall, Chappaqua
 UNICEF NGO Committee Working Group on Girls
 UN NGO conferences & weekly Thursday Briefings.....

LWV Members Make a Difference! Special thanks this month to:

Valerie Castleman — member & Webmaster
 Shelia Crespi — Director, Local Planning
 Linda Kallner — member & Production Director NCCTV
 Shelia Bernson — Voter Service Director
 Lea Barth — Membership Director
 Jennifer Mebes Flagg — Secretary
 Bonnie Gartner — Treasurer
 Harry MacLaughlin — Co-President LWV Bedford, Katonah, Lewisboro.

Susie Maltz, President LWV New Castle

CALENDAR

- 11/09/09 LWVNC & Town Administrator: Highlights of Proposed New Castle 2010 Budget, Town Hall
- 11/10/09 Town Board Meeting 7:45pm
- 11/11/09 Veteran's Day
- 11/12/09 New Castle Board of Fire Commissioners Meeting
- 11/17/09 Chappaqua Board of Education Meeting. The Latest Literacy Research — What Does It Mean for Chappaqua? HGHS
- 11/18/09 LWVNC Board Meeting 9:30am, Town Hall. Meet LWVNYS President Betsey Swan & LWV Westchester President Mary Beth Gose
- 11/24/09 Town Board Meeting 7:45pm. Public Hearing New Castle 2010 Town Budget
- 12/01/09 Chappaqua Board of Education Meeting: Elementary Small Group Instruction, HGHS
- 12/03/09 Millwood Task Force 8pm
- 12/08/09 Annual Fire District Election 6pm-8pm, Bedford Road Fire House (junction of 120 & 117)
- 12/15/09 Chappaqua Board of Education Meeting: 2010 Budget Discussion, HGHS
- 12/16/09 LWVNC Board Meeting 9:30am, Town Hall

Report on UN Conference on Disarmament in Mexico City

The outcome of attending the 62nd Annual United Nations Department of Public Information/Non-Government Organizations Conference on Disarmament in Mexico City, Mexico, 9-11 September 2009, is the NGO Declaration, "which was drafted over several weeks by a Committee of Experts that included NGO representatives and includes many thematic issues" covered by the conference such as nuclear famine; the International Nuclear Weapons Abolition Campaign; using civilian satellites and military hardware to facilitate nuclear disarmament; preventing and ending illicit traffic in light and small weapons; how to create a culture of peace; and the consequences of the flow and management of weapons on the lives and security of women and girls.

As the selected representative of LWVUS (which was facilitated by Doris Schapira, LWVUS UN Observer) I volunteered to participate, attending various workshops, many organized by the LWVUS Arms Control Task Force. The attending Chairperson for the ACTF is Ann Lakhdir, a long time LWV member whose research and study topic is Understanding Treaties: Past and Present.

I invite you to go to the conference website to view the NGO Declaration document, the video of the conference itself and plans for the 63rd Annual UN DPI/NGO Conference in Australia:
<http://www.un.org/dpi/ngosection/conference/>.

Suzie Maltz

MEMBERSHIP

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NEW CASTLE

PO BOX 364, Chappaqua, NY 10514

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"/> Environment
<input type="checkbox"/> State/National Issues	<input type="checkbox"/> Voter Service
<input type="checkbox"/> Schools	<input type="checkbox"/> TV Production
	<input type="checkbox"/> Observe Public Meetings

Call me to discuss what I can do

I cannot be active at this time, but I want to support LWV goals with my membership.

November 2009

The LWVNC Board has a new home...

Please note our LWVNC monthly Board meetings are now at New Castle Town Hall. All members are welcome. Our next Board meeting will be Wednesday, November 11, 2009, 9:30am. LWVNY President Betsey Swan and LWV Westchester President Mary Beth Gose will update us on all aspects of current League affairs.



Candidates Night at Town Hall October 21, 2009. Members of the public questioned Town Board candidates.

Voter Service

The Voter Service chair is responsible for all activities related to elections and may include the following activities: providing information about registration and voting, organizing voter registrations and trying to engage voters who do not usually vote in an election, publishing the Voters Guide, organizing and sponsoring candidate meetings, debates and interviews, and/or providing speakers on election issues.

Voters Guide

During the summer and fall, I worked together with the Westchester County League to gather information on candidates for the fall Voters Guide. This work involves contacting candidates (whose names are supplied to Voter Service chairs by the County League) and sending them questionnaires to be returned to me so I can write up their information according to League directions and send it back to the County League. The Voters Guide is a very valuable publication that contains balanced information about all candidates who return the questionnaires, together with any Propositions and Referenda that will appear on the November ballot. A sample ballot appears in the centerfold of the publication. I also helped to gather information for Smart Voter, the League's online election information site.

Candidates Nights

This fall the New Castle League sponsored a Candidates Night on October 21, 2009 at the New Castle Town Hall. The following candidates were present to respond to questions from the audience: Barbara Gerrard, running unopposed for New Castle Town Supervisor; John Buckley and Robin Stout, both running unopposed for two seats on the New Castle Town Board. In addition, Gregory Kane and Michael Kaplowitz, running for one position as County Legislator for the 4th Legislative District, were present. The moderator was Harry MacLaughlin, co-president of the Bedford, Lewisboro, Katonah League of Women Voters. The evening was quite lively with a great deal of interest generated by the recent county decision to endorse an affordable housing settlement.



Candidates Night at Town Hall October 21, 2009. Members of the public questioned County Legislator candidates.

New Residents Mailing

Another function of Voter Service is to send the New Residents Mailing to all households that have been bought/sold in New Castle within the last year. The mailing consists of informational material, including the flier "These Officials Represent You" and LWVNC information. Other League materials, such as Voters' Guide Part I, may also be included.

Voter Registration

The League also conducts Voter Registration drives, both for the general public and in area high schools.

The next elections in 2009 will be the Firehouse elections, which occur on the second Tuesday in December. Each fire district has five commissioners serving five-year terms; one commissioner is up for election each year. In New Castle, there are two fire districts: Millwood and Chappaqua. If needed, a Candidates Night will be organized, and a local edition of Voters Guide will be published and distributed.

School & Library Board Elections

In the spring, elections for the Chappaqua Central School District School Board and the Chappaqua Library Board are held, usually the third Tuesday in May. Candidates Nights may be held, and a special edition of the Voters Guide may be published and mailed in connection with this election. In these elections, residents of the CCSD vote on the school and the library budgets, and they elect members to the school and library boards. The PTA and LWV both provide volunteers at the polling station. PTA volunteers sit at the tables where the voters check in. LWV Volunteers are called "election inspectors" and stand by the election machines to check people in and out.

The work of this committee tends to intensify around election time.

Volunteers Needed!

The Voter Service chair can always use a few extra hands, particularly during the rush to get the Voters Guide published and Smart Voter information collected and posted. For Candidates Night events, it would be helpful to have help in organizing publicity, the posting of announcements, and presence at the Candidates Night to meet and greet people in the audience.

The Voter Service team is a very important one for the League as it provides valuable services to the community and is an important vehicle for showcasing the work of the League.

Sheila Bernson