



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF
NEW ROCHELLE BULLETIN**

Volume 8 Issue 2 January 2008

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Board Meetings

- Feb 13* 42 Stony Run (Mimi Lewinger)
- Mar 12* 23 Pebble Way (Ina Aronow)
- Apr 9* 17 Eck Place (Liz Richman)
- May 14* 68 Sara Lane (Leona Newman)
- June* Annual Meeting (TBA)

All members are welcome to attend board meetings.

Spring luncheon May 2 see pg. 3.

Coffee and Conversation



Coffee and Conversation is sponsored by the New Rochelle League of Women Voters and is part of an ongoing series of informal conversations between local leaders and the public in an informal setting. Coffee and conversation is held at the New Rochelle Public Library located on Lawton Street between Huguenot and Main Streets.

2/15 Jeanne Zaino, Ph.D. Assistant Professor of Political Science & International Studies, Iona College

3/14 Richard Organisciak, Superintendent of Schools,

4/18 Tom Geffino, Director of New Rochelle Public Library

President's Letter

LWVNR experienced a lot of activity this past fall and I would be remiss if I did not express my appreciation to the many members who "made it happen."

Let me begin by thanking Rhoda and Alvin Kahn for so graciously opening their home and hosting the Annual Holiday Party. Over 50 people attended, including Mayor Bramson, current and new council members and other civic officials. Everyone enjoyed the warmth and the ambiance, as well as the food, drink, and good conversation.

The televised debates that took place at City Hall in late October were very well received by the candidates themselves and the public at large. Special thanks to everyone involved. That list includes our own Ina Aronow, Angela Stenroos, Cindy Kahn, and Alice McNamara; LWV moderators Susie Rush and Joyce Whalen; City Council and the City Manager's office; cable coordinator John Micewicz and his crew. Extra thanks to Cindy Kahn for gathering local candidate information for the countywide Voters Guide and for coordinating its distribution. It would be impossible to mention everyone who distributed the Voters Guides, but not impossible to thank them as well.

The debates, of course, preceded the November elections which resulted in Lou Trangucci, Al Tarrantino and Richard St. Paul now representing Districts 1, 2, and 4 respectively. Both incoming and outgoing members must be commended for their commitment to the city. I thank Mike Boyle, Chris Selin and Roberto Lopez for their years of service. Best wishes to all, past and present, in their new endeavors.

This New Year with a new Council will bring new questions and discussion to the table. Some on-going issues, such as relocation of City Yard, use of Ward Acres, and Echo Bay development will be revisited, just as new issues and development projects will be introduced. Keep informed. City Council proceedings are broadcast live on Channel 75 the second and third Tuesdays of the month, and replayed at noon and 7:00 p.m. the following Friday through Monday.

LWVNR continues to present two regular programs, City People and Issues, the League's cable television show, and Coffee and Conversation at the library. I thank Ina Aronow, Leona Newman, Sylvia Kain, and Theresa Kump Leghorn for their cable expertise. And huge thanks to Liz Richman who single-handedly takes care of all the details to coordinate C & C.

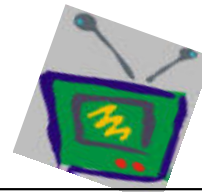
I am deeply grateful to Ilyse Spertus who is now editor of this Bulletin. And last, but not least, thanks to all of you for your support. Remember, I am still trying to increase membership, and active participation. Your thoughts and suggestions are always welcome. Contact me at 632-5799 or joan.silverstein2@verizon.net.

Cordially,

Joan Silverstein

City People and Issues

*The New Rochelle League of Women Voters
Cable Program*



LWVNR Cable Show Focuses on School District Enrichment Fund and Black Authors

The League of Women Voters Cable Program “City People and Issues” will present two new half hour interview shows in February on Cablevision Channel 76 shown on Mondays on 7 p.m. and repeated Wednesdays at 9:30 p.m.

- I. An interview with **Linda Tarrant-Reid**, author and vice-president of the New Rochelle Council of the Arts focuses on three African-American authors who will talk about their books at a program at New Rochelle High School (An African American Writers’ Symposium on February 26th at 7:30 pm at the Linda Kelly Theater at New Rochelle High School).

Theresa Kump Leghorn conducts the interview, which will air

- ◆ Mondays February 11 and 25 at 7 p.m.
- ◆ Wednesdays, February 13 and 27 at 9:30 p.m.

- II. The **Fund for Educational Excellence** raises money to support enrichment programs that the New Rochelle School district could not otherwise afford. **Susan Weisman**, executive director of the Fund, and **Theresa Kump Leghorn**, director of the **Museum of Art and Culture**, which is supported by the Fund, talk about the Fund’s activities.

Liz Richman conducts the interview, which will air

- ◆ Monday, March 3, at 7 p.m.
- ◆ Wednesdays, February 20 and March 5 at 9:30 p.m.

For further information, contact Ina Aronow at 636-6271

Save the Date! Spring Luncheon

*Enjoy the first days of spring with a lunch overlooking Long Island Sound and a chance to hear political analysts Mike Edelman and Lawrence Graham who will be our speakers. We will once again be joining the Larchmont-Mamaroneck League and the Rye League at the Davenport Club in New Rochelle, at noon on **Friday, May 2nd**. More details in next bulletin.*

New Rochelle School & Library Board openings

Elections for one school board member and two library board members will take place on **May 20th, 2008**.

School Board

There will be one opening on the board to replace Mary Jane Reddington, as her term expires on June 30th, 2008.

School board members serve 5 year terms. There are 9 members on the board. Members of the board are elected at large, not representing a specific district. Usually the board meets the first and last Tuesday of each month.

To get on the ballot

- ◆ Prospective candidates need to file a nominating petition with the school district clerk by April 30th, 2008.
- ◆ Petitions require 100 signatures of qualified voters (i.e. someone over the age of 18 years, US citizen, resident of the state of NY and city of NR for 30 days preceding the election).

Eligibility

- ◆ No person shall be eligible who is not a qualified voter, or been a resident for at least 1 year preceding the election.
- ◆ No person shall hold at the same time a city office position other than a police officer or firefighter.

Specific responsibilities of School Boards include:

- ◆ Planning and goal setting
- ◆ Employing and evaluating the superintendent
- ◆ Setting district policy
- ◆ Adopting an annual operating budget
- ◆ Making decisions about placing levies and bonds before voters
- ◆ Approving the instructional program
- ◆ Ratifying contracts renegotiated with local bargaining units.

School Boards: Top 10 Responsibilities:

1. Determine school's mission and purpose
2. Select the head of school
3. Support the head and assess performance
4. Ensure effective organizational planning
5. Ensure adequate resources (financial, human, facilities, and time)
6. Assure effective management of resources
7. Determine, monitor, and strengthen school's programs and services
8. Enhance school's public standing

Library Board

Library board members serve 5 year terms. The Library Board of Trustees meets at the Library on the second Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. Meetings are open to the public with public discussion following the Committee reports.

What is a Library Board of Trustees?

A library board of trustees is a group of citizens responsible for the governing of a public library. Board members are the vital link between the library and its community. Trustees serve as library advocates and leaders in developing responsible and creative service to all members of the public.

Public library trustees are volunteers who serve their community with no financial compensation. Members may be reimbursed, however, for any reasonable and necessary expenses incurred in the

Responsibilities of a Library Trustee

As a library trustee, your primary role is that of a provider. You provide input into the planning process to develop library service. You see that sufficient funds are provided to implement the library services your constituents say they want. You provide the policies necessary for the operation of your library facility. And you provide a qualified librarian to administer the day-to-day operations of your library, implement the policies you have set in place, and administer the annual budget you have adopted.

Prime responsibilities of Library Trustees

- ◆ To employ a competent and qualified librarian.
- ◆ To determine the purpose of the library and to adopt written policies to govern the operation and program of the library.
- ◆ To secure adequate funds to carry on the library program.
- ◆ To assist in the preparation of the annual budget and approve the final document.
- ◆ To know local and state laws and to actively support library legislation in the state and nation.
- ◆ To establish library policies for dealing with books and materials selection.
- ◆ To attend all board meetings and see that accurate records are kept on file at the library.
- ◆ To establish policies that encourage use of system services.
- ◆ To be aware of the services of the Westchester Library System.
- ◆ To report regularly to the governing officials and the general public.

LWV of New York State

Help America Vote Act (HAVA) Update

On November 5, the DOJ filed a Motion with the Court to require that New York must replace all lever voting machines by September 2008 (first federal election) and must expand ballot marking devices (BMDs) for the presidential primary in February 2008. The crux of their argument is that New York must comply with the federal law, has already received an extension of the 2006 deadline and further, that while New York may impose higher standards for state elections, it has no right to impose higher standards for voting machines than are called for under the HAVA statute.

The LWVNY in conjunction with other advocates, issued a press release deploring the position of the Justice department on the grounds that the safeguards written in the NYS HAVA implementation statute would be endangered by the imposition of a 2008 deadline and would risk electoral chaos in a presidential election year.

The Court accepted several Amicus briefs including that of the Leagues, which argues that to require HAVA compliance by the 2008 presidential election would impair the very rights HAVA is trying to protect: compliance should be phased in and continued use of lever machines permitted until 2009.

Excerpt taken from LWVNY state board report Jan. 2008

LWV of Westchester

League of Women Voters of Westchester's annual

**BREAKFAST WITH THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE
THE HONORABLE ANDREW J. SPANO**

*Wednesday, February 13, 2008 9:30 AM
WHITE PLAINS PUBLIC LIBRARY
Auditorium, Second Floor*

Mr. Spano will discuss important issues facing Westchester County and will answer questions from the audience

Coffee and a light breakfast buffet available

This event is FREE of charge

Please join us and bring your questions

LWV Westchester News brief

LWVW comments on proposed 2008 Westchester budget:

Board of Legislators (“BOL”) Budget: The League is still concerned about the fact that, unlike other departments, the Board of Legislators does not list its personnel and salaries in the operating budget. By way of comparison, the budgeted amount for the BOL (\$4.6 million *before fringe benefits*) is \$1.0 million greater than the amount expended in 2006 (\$3.6 million). Although the BOL represents a tiny fraction of the budget, the lack of information provided in the BOL’s section of the budget (e.g., no mission statement, number of personnel positions, salaries, etc.) raises questions about its willingness to be accountable to the tax-paying residents of Westchester. Although some members of the BOL have indicated that they plan to scrutinize the budgets of other County departments, which includes staffing, they have not indicated that they will apply the same level of analysis to their own departmental budget, despite the recent significant increases. This oversight must be corrected in the 2008 and future budgets.

HAVA (“Help America Vote Act”) – LWVW recommends use of precinct-based optical scan machines with a verifiable paper trail as the most reliable and least expensive voting machines available

MTA (Metropolitan Transit Authority) – MTA does not provide information on how it spends the funds it receives from the County (\$146 million in proposed budget)

Department of Corrections - LWVW is concerned about significant increase of \$9.7 million in proposed budget from \$110.4 million to \$120.1 million

Day Care – LWVW supports proposed increase of 298 in the number of low-income day care slots that are available, bringing total to 2,039 slots

To see the full comments go www.lwvwestchester.org

LWVUS

National Convention

*The 48th LWVUS National Convention will be held at the Hilton Portland Oregon, from Friday, June 13 through Tuesday, June 17, 2006. The theme for the 2008 LWVUS Convention will be “**Reaching New Heights Together.**”*



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