



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

Volume 10 Issue 1

February 2010

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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.

Friday, February 26th at 9:30 am—County Legislator, James Maisano will address New Rochelle issues from a county perspective and will respond to questions and comments.

Friday, March 19th at 9:30 am— County Clerk, Timothy Idoni will address how the state of the economy affects the County Clerk's office and subsequently its impact on New Rochelle.

President's Letter

Every January, when I put up my new calendar as another year begins, I take the opportunity for a "fresh start" on the projects and goals that I've been working on. That is the message with which I began our January Board meeting, as I feel it is the time to look at the League's Program items for the year and see where we stand. We are at the mid-way point in the League's year. There are some issues that we have tackled, such as encouraging the Board of Education to use telecommunications technology to inform its citizens (see the letter in this Bulletin) and others, like supporting the city's efforts at environmental sustainability that we are currently pursuing. There are other areas that warrant our attention and we would love to enlist your help. If you are so inclined, go to the websites that are listed elsewhere in this publication and see what is going on at the national, state, county, and local levels. If anything peaks your interest, we welcome your input and participation.

Our annual Holiday Party was held in December and we were happy to see many of you there to socialize with our neighbors, civil servants, elected officials and New Rochelle businessmen and women. This year, at the invitation of the BID, we took the opportunity to utilize the "Top of the Roc" at one of the Avalon buildings and it proved to be a wonderful venue for a party. In addition, the BID arranged for The Little Mexican Café and Coromandel, as well as AOC Wines, to offer us a delicious supper with some superb wines. All in all, it was a festive evening and we were also successful in our collection of food and cash for Hope Community Services. Thank-you to the Party Planning committee of Joan Alexander, Ina Aronow, Susan Fleming and Rachel Hastie who were responsible for such a successful event and to Joan Silverstein for sending the invitations. Joan Alexander had such a good time that she has agreed to serve on our Board as Environmental Chair. Welcome, Joan!

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow board members who are responsible for our various forms of communication to you, our members as well as the public. Ina Aronow coordinates our monthly Cable Show and she is often the intuitive interviewer of her interesting guests.

Joyce Goldklang has the challenging job of recruiting members and renewing current memberships. Her thoughtful and persuasive letters are most important in these times. Our Coffee and Conversation chairwoman is Susan Fleming. Susan does a great job of finding different speakers each month to address relevant topics of interest to the New Rochelle community. These are usually held on the third Friday of the month at the Library. Finally, I would like to acknowledge Ilyse Spertus, the editor of our Bulletins. Ilyse is responsible for "pulling it altogether."

In closing, know that we are reenergized in this New Year and looking forward to accomplishing more before our Annual Meeting in June. In the meantime, we welcome your input whether it is via comments and suggestions or by serving on one of our committees. Get involved today!

*Sincerely,
Cindy Kahn
914-235-2884, CFKahn@aol.com*

**Invitation to the
State of the City Address**

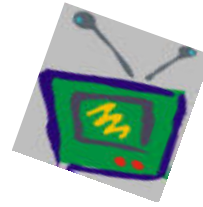
Thursday, March 11th
Davenport Club
400 Davenport Avenue, New Rochelle, NY

Speech begins at 7:45 pm and is free.
Optional dinner is sponsored by the New Rochelle Chamber of Commerce and precedes the speech at 6:00 pm (Dinner is \$35 per person in advance, \$40 at the door))

To make a reservation, please contact
Chamber of Commerce at 914.632.5700

City People and Issues

*The New Rochelle League of Women Voters
Cable Program*



The League of Women Voters of New Rochelle produces a public access cable program *City People and Issues* hosting local political and civic leaders on Cablevision Channel 76, Mondays at 7 p.m. and repeated Wednesdays at 9:30 p.m.

City People and Issues features two new shows for February

- I. **State Assemblywoman Amy Paulin** discusses some of the issues and challenges currently facing state government and explains how her years as a League leader prepared her for public office.

This interview will be shown:

Mondays, Feb. 1, 15, and March 1 at 7 p.m.

Wednesdays, Feb. 3, 17 and March 3 at 9:30 p.m.

- II. **Rosemarie Fogarty, a information specialist for the Census Bureau, and Pastor David Holder**, partnership specialist for New Rochelle for 2010 will discuss the importance of the 2010 census, how New Rochelle was listed as an undercounted city in 2000, and the effort to obtain a complete and accurate count in order to make a difference in federal funding allocated to the city.

This interview will be shown:

Mondays, Feb. 8, 22 and March 8 at 7 p.m.

Wednesdays, Feb. 10, 24 and March 10 at 9:30 p.m.

Coming next month...

Interviews with **Carole Troum of Hope Community Services** and **Sydelle Herzberg (LWVNY historian)** on Women's History Month.

City People and Issues is recorded in the New Rochelle Cable Television studios. Producer is Ina Aronow, assisted by Leona Newman and Sylvia Kain.

For further information or to participate, contact Ina Aronow at 636-6271.

VOTER SERVICE

School and Library Board Election and Budget Votes May 18, 2010

Voters will go to the polls to vote on whether to approve the budgets for the school district and public library for fiscal year 2010-2011.

Voters will also vote on candidates for two of the nine school board seats and one of the five library board seats. Members of both boards serve five year terms.

Citizens who wish to run for either board have until April 28, 5 p.m. to file petitions. . To obtain nominating petitions, call the office of the School District Clerk, at 576-4219, or e-mail lsaraiva@newrochelle.k12.ny.us

School and Library Board Candidate's Forum May 10, 2010 Eve New Rochelle Public Library (Auditorium)

All candidates for the two school board and one library board positions will be invited to participate. Citizens who attend will have an opportunity to ask questions of the candidates. The forum will be recorded and shown on local cable television.

Sponsored by The LWV of New Rochelle .

Voter Registration

For persons who have not registered to vote, registration forms are available at the offices of the School District and City Clerk, all local public schools, New Rochelle Public Library and the Westchester County Board of Elections. Persons must register by May 4 to vote the May 18 election.

LEAGUE ADVOCATES CABLECASTS OF SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS

The League of Women Voter has been urging the Board of Education to televise its board meeting as a way of keeping taxpayers informed about the district. The following letter was sent to the Board of Education by LWVNR President Cindy Kahn with board approval in keeping with our position to promote the use of technology for communication.

Dear Ms. Richmond, and fellow Board members:

As you know, the League of Women Voters of New Rochelle has for several years sought live cable coverage of your meetings. We now understand that the board has embraced the goal of rolling out live coverage as part of your overall use of technology and has begun to cablecast recorded meetings. Since it has received no publicity, and needs enhancing, we assume you are still at the experimental stage. However, we commend the board for this action as it will be a major step in informing the public, offering them the opportunity to observe the board meetings and the deliberations that lead to policy decisions.

As we have stated previously, we feel it is to the Board's advantage to televise live meetings to keep the public better informed. More transparency, showing skeptical and over-taxed citizens how much time and effort you exert, can only bring additional support for the schools. It may also inspire citizens to volunteer their skills or make valuable suggestions as they become aware of the multitude of issues the board confronts. Repeat broadcasts and streaming will broaden the audience.

While we appreciate your efforts to visit different schools and the insights you gather there, these visits should not include policy making. Policy discussions and decisions should be made in your official meeting place. This is where your investment in the technology to televise meetings should be put. Every visit to one school simply makes it more difficult for parents at more distant schools to attend. Often, many interested people cannot attend a meeting because of babysitting, illness, lack of time, weather or other problems.

We are very supportive of your adopting this additional technology, but we would like to further understand your goals. We respectfully ask that you provide us and the public with specifics of your technology plans, including a timeline for enhanced televising and possibly web streaming your board meetings. Since many school districts already televise their meetings, we believe that you can benefit from their experience on how to proceed and reach your goals in a timely fashion.



Mrs. Cindy Kahn
144 Vaneck Drive
New Rochelle, NY 10804

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