



The League of Women Voters of Scarsdale (LWVS) is a volunteer nonpartisan political organization which promotes political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government. The League is nonpartisan in that it does not support or oppose any candidate for public office; it is political in that it takes positions on selected governmental issues after serious member study and consensus.

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SCARSDALE

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

April/May 2010

May				
Monday	3	9:00 AM	Board Meeting	Village Hall, 3 rd Floor
		10:30 AM	Speaker: Mayor Carolyn Stevens	
Friday	14	11:00 AM	Annual Meeting/Spring Luncheon	Scarsdale Golf Club
Tuesday	18	7AM – 9 PM	School Budget and Elections	SMS
June				
Thursday	3	10:00 AM	LWVW Annual Meeting	Scarsdale Woman's Club
		12:00 Noon	Lunch, Speaker: County Executive Rob Astorino	
Monday	7	9:00AM	Joint New/Old Board Mtg	20 Tompkins Road
			Pot Luck Luncheon	
Fri.- Tuesday	11-15		LWVUS Convention	Atlanta, GA

SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION AND BUDGET VOTE

Tuesday, May 18, 7 am - 9 pm Scarsdale Middle School

To be eligible to vote, one must be qualified and registered. A qualified voter is a US citizen, at least 18 years of age and a resident of the district for 30 days preceding the election. Call the district clerk's office at 721-2414 if you are unsure of your registration status. Absentee ballots may be obtained from the Board of Education at SHS, Brewster Rd.

Congratulations to Jackie Irwin, long time League member and dedicated volunteer, for receiving the 2010 Scarsdale Bowl on April 7th.

PLEASE BRING THIS BULLETIN TO THE ANNUAL MEETING

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

These past few weeks, the League has been doing what it does best: listening, learning, questioning, discussing, deliberating, and ultimately, coming to consensus. As I write, we are in the thick of budget season. Power outages and blocked roadways did not deter us. Despite the havoc wrought by the March storm, our school and village budget portfolio chairs, Barbara Cohen, Angela Manson, Ann Sacher and Kim Meyers persevered and expertly shepherded us through the consensus process. League members convened to review with school and village officials their respective budgets. In our challenging economic environment, members took extra care to consider line items and to wrestle with tough tradeoffs. The silver lining in these wrenching discussions is our keener appreciation for what makes Scarsdale truly unique. Please read our statement on pages 4, 5 and 13.

In short order, the government consolidation meeting followed and produced interesting conversation under the professional guidance of Noreen Fisher, LWV Westchester board member and chair of the statewide study. On May 3 at 10:30 a.m., we will host Mayor Carolyn Stevens as our guest speaker. Our village government engages in essential work on our behalf, and we look forward to an update from our Mayor.

Now, our annual spring luncheon is upon us. This wonderful event caps the year with a review of our efforts and a preview of next year's plans. You will find in this bulletin on pages 6-11 all the materials you need to keep informed. Please review the LWVS in Action to view our accomplishments. Also, please familiarize yourselves with our proposed 2010-2011 local program, budget and slate of officers and directors. We seek your vote on these matters. To our delight, Debra Lagapa, our programming director, has expertly secured another exciting speaker, CBS News medical correspondent, Dr. Jennifer Ashton. Dr. Ashton provided on air coverage of the devastation in Haiti and will share with us her first hand experiences. Please mark your calendars, mail your check, and join us on Friday, May 14, at 11 a.m. at the Scarsdale Golf Club.

As you can see, the League plays an important role in our participatory government, and nothing gives us greater satisfaction than actively engaging in community dialogue. But, we are only as strong as our membership. Within the next several days, you should be receiving your membership renewal request. Please do not delay and continue to show your support. We rely upon your generosity. We need strength in numbers. Of course, we also welcome all contributions of volunteer time.

Looking forward to building upon our momentum with you at our side,

Jane Veron

State News: www.lwvny.org

April 20th- Fair Pay Summit and Advocacy Day in Albany- registration available on the website. The topic is Economic Empowerment of Women & People of Color

May 5th- "Albany on the Record"- come join the crowd and hear what our political leaders will do to reform Albany- sign up on the website- bus transportation available

May 14th- Spring Fling Cocktail Party Fundraiser in NYC- it's not too late to make a reservation on the website
LWVNYS President, Betsey Swan, was invited by Oxfam of America to attend a Sisters on the Planet conference in March in Washington, DC and to become one of approximately 100 Ambassadors of the organization.

League of Women Voters of Scarsdale Annual Meeting & Spring Luncheon

Friday, May 14, 2010 at 11:00 AM
Following the Annual Meeting

Dr. Jennifer Ashton
CBS News Medical Correspondent
will share her

Personal Experiences in Haiti

*Dr. Jennifer Ashton was one of several journalists and medical personnel who traveled to Haiti in the aftermath of the devastating earthquake in January. She will share with us her personal experiences both as a reporter and a volunteer physician, as well as her insights into the long-term challenges facing the Haitian people. **Come to the LWVS Luncheon to hear her unique and inspirational account of life in Haiti.***

Scarsdale Golf Club, Clubway in Hartsdale \$40 per person (\$45 after May 7th)

To make a reservation, please send check payable to **LWVS**, to Anne Lyons, 82 Greenacres Avenue, Scarsdale, NY 10583. If you have any questions, please contact Jane Veron, JEVATF@aol.com or 472-2933.

PLEASE ARRIVE AT 11 am TO ENSURE WE HAVE A QUORUM

Thank you's

- ❖ **Barbara Cohen, Angela Manson and Ann Sacher** for their commitment to excellence during the entire school budget study and consensus process
- ❖ **Kim Meyers** for her masterful management of the Village budget portfolio
- ❖ **Barbara Jaffe** (chair), **Barbara Cohen, Sarah Wolf Hallac, Anne Lyons, Kim Meyers** and **Debbie Miller** for developing the proposed 2010-2011 budget despite power outages and displacement during the disastrous March storm
- ❖ **Michelle Lichtenberg** (chair), **Stacey Brodsky, Mary Beth Gose, Marylou Green** and **Nancy Michaels**, for their relentless pursuit of fabulous candidates for the 2010-2011 nominating slate
- ❖ **Adie Shore** and **Michelle Lichtenberg** for their diligence in reviewing the Village Component of the Comprehensive Plan and preparing League commentary
- ❖ **Renee Baylor, Ann Sacher, Janice Starr,** and **Sara Werder** for convening to develop a public relations strategy for the League and **Lauri Carey** and **Adie Shore** for their insight.
- ❖ **Renne Baylor** for championing the update of the Impact on Issues
- ❖ **Sarah Wolf Hallac** for her immediate response to all web site requests
- ❖ **Nancy Michaels** for the ease with which she transitions between electronic and printed bulletin management and for her dedication to producing our bulletin

YOUR REPRESENTATIVES IN US CONGRESS

Senators:

Kirsten E. Gillibrand

*US Senate, 478 Russell, Washington, DC 20510
202-224-4451; website: gillibrand.senate.gov*

Charles E. Schumer

*US Senate, 313 Hart Senate Building, Washington, DC 20510
202-224-6542; website: schumer.senate.gov*

Representative:

Nita M. Lowey

*US Congress, 2329 Rayburn HOB, Washington, DC 20515
202-225-6506; website: house.gov/lowey*

April 8, 2010

LWVS Comments on the proposed 2010-11 Scarsdale School Budget

The League of Women Voters of Scarsdale appreciates the opportunity to comment on the proposed 2010-2011 Scarsdale school budget. The League offers sincere thanks to the Administration and members of the Board of Education for participating in our consensus meeting on March 22, 2010 and for responding to our extensive list of questions. Given the current, challenging economic conditions, the League recognizes the difficulty in designing a school budget that retains core educational values while minimizing tax increases. The League appreciates the effort that the Administration and Board put into making information available and reaching out to the community for its input. The League supports the budget presented on March 1, 2010 and encourages the Board to continue to explore creative solutions to control costs, raise revenue and study productivity. The League awaits the District's decisions on managing the tax rate increase given the additional \$400,000 tax revenue deficit.

The League acknowledges and commends the Board and Administration on its historic teacher contract negotiation, which saves the District \$1.9 million over two years. As a result of this agreement, important programs and services will be maintained at their current levels enabling Scarsdale to maintain its core educational values. We note that by extending the contract for one additional year, the district has limited its ability to negotiate other aspects of the agreement that may have generated future savings and concessions greater than those agreed to in this contract revision. Among the concerns are salary levels and cost-sharing of benefits that will be frozen for an additional year, and the inability to lay off teachers except in situations where there is a decrease in student enrollment, which could affect the process by which some programming can be evaluated. The League suggests that because of these constraints, the Board and Administration should take extra care when making new non-tenured staffing commitments.

The League recognizes the need for keeping a 4% budget reserve level and is in favor of doing so in light of the potential for either unanticipated expenses or decreased revenue that might occur next year, particularly due to the uncertainty of future tax certiorari grievances and receipt of state aid. The League has a strong view on tax reassessment, and wishes to reaffirm the need for a countywide and village-wide revaluation/reassessment. We hope that the Board vigorously supports a village plan for revaluation/reassessment within Scarsdale.

The League encourages the Village and School District to continue to look for creative ways to partner to decrease the overall taxpayer burden. The League appreciates the ongoing cost-sharing programs, including facilities and transportation for the summer day camp program, sanitation and fields for recreational activities. We recommend continued evaluation of cost-sharing opportunities, particularly in the areas of health and safety.

The Board has announced that it will be forming an advisory committee, made up of a cross-constituency group, to consider the feasibility of additional sources of revenue. The League commends the Board for taking the initiative to explore different sources of revenue and for doing so in an inclusive manner.

The League acknowledges the thorough process that the Board and Administration have undertaken to evaluate the funding levels for the Youth Services Project and the Teen Center. We look forward to the upcoming analysis being done by the Board on the best method of delivering social support services in the District. The League encourages the Board to continue to find a level at which to support the Teen Center. Though educational programming is the Board's priority and should not be jeopardized, the Board should continue to acknowledge the Teen Center's value to the community.

The League encourages the Board and Administration to continue the process of evaluating the Foreign Language Elementary Schools ("FLES") program, and looks forward to learning the outcome of the assessment. The League understands the rationale for deferring the funding for a Mandarin language program and for reconsidering this initiative when economic conditions improve.

The League has learned that after the Preliminary Proposed Budget was drafted, a \$400,000 reduction in tax revenues was reported due to settled tax grievances. Without further budget adjustments, this revenue reduction will result in a higher tax rate than originally proposed. The League's statement on the proposed budget is based on the information available at the time of the March 22, 2010 meeting. The League may comment on further budget changes as they become available.

In conclusion, we thank the members of the Board of Education, Dr. Michael McGill and the entire Administration for the help that they have given to the League of Women Voters this year in its study of the proposed school budget. The Administration and Board's willingness to listen to community input has made this year's budget process a very inclusive endeavor. We look forward to the continuation of an open budget process again next year.

The League recommends that the community vote "yes" on the proposed 2010-2011 Scarsdale school budget on May 18th, 2010.

Angela Manson, Barbara Cohen and Ann Sacher, LWVS School Budget Committee Co-Chairs

Jane Veron, President, League of Women Voters of Scarsdale

The League of Women Voters of Scarsdale

Invites you to Join Us

on an Insider's Tour of

Stone Barns Center for Food and Agriculture

Friday, May 21st 11:00 am - 12:30 pm

Following up on our successful "Food for Thought" luncheon featuring Jill Isenbarger, Executive Director of the Stone Barns Center, the LWVS has arranged a group outing to the Center. The tour features an intimate, behind-the-scenes view of Stone Barns led by one of the farm or program staff. Join us as we get up close and personal with the livestock, and take a walk through the greenhouse and planting fields. There will be time afterward to dine in the café or shop in Stone Barns' wonderful farmer's market. Comfortable walking shoes are recommended.

Cost: \$15 per person

Space is limited, so if interested please contact Jane Veron, JEVATF@aol.com, or Debra Lagapa, d.lagapa@verizon.net, as soon as possible.

Albany On the Record - May 5th in Albany

Join fellow Scarsdale Leaguers as we trek to Albany to participate in this statewide forum and hear from the state's leading political figures on how we can reform Albany. Current plans are for the event to run from 11am-1pm. Please contact Marylou Green (coopergree@aol.com) to organize car pooling from Scarsdale or we may be part of a bus group organized by LWVNY.

To register email May5@lwwny.org - do it NOW! The locations for the buses will be determined by the number of people from the locations - so sign up now to ensure a bus from your area! This is open to anyone - participants do not have to be League members! Come to register your concern and learn how you can make a difference.

Emailed Bulletins

The principle means of distribution of our bi-monthly Bulletin is now email. Since this past November, we have been sending emailed bulletins to those members for whom we have email addresses. The environmental considerations as well as the expenses associated with production and postal distribution necessitated that we use electronic mail for all our members. For those who haven't as yet provided us with an email address, please do so as not to miss a single LWVS Bulletin. Please send your email address to: IraJanice@aol.com. We hope that you now recognize the email address LWVScarsdale@gmail.com and timely open the emails that arrive.

In Memorium- Amelie Rothschild

The League honors the memory of Amelie Rothschild, former president of LWVS, recipient of the League's 2009 Women's History Month award and esteemed member. As printed in the League's March 12, 2010 Letter to the Editor of the Scarsdale Inquirer, "Amelie leaves a lasting legacy and has inspired us by her life's example. We will strive to carry on her dedication to education, democracy, and service."

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SCARSDALE IN ACTION 2009 - 2010

VOTER SERVICE

A committee with three subcommittees: *Voter's Guide* and Smart Voter, Candidates Forum and Publicity. Provided year-round voting and registration information to *The Scarsdale Inquirer*, cable TV, the LWVS Bulletin and LWVS website. Assisted in preparation and mailing of the county-wide general election *Voter's Guide* & Smart Voter over the summer and for the local elections in March. Distributed *Voter's Guides* to all Scarsdale schools, Village Hall, the Scarsdale Public Library as needed. Distributed absentee ballot applications upon request. Arranged for banners to be hung in village to remind residents to vote. Candidates Forum held in October. County Board of Legislators candidates participated. Updated *They Represent You* pamphlet in January with a reprint in February and updates posted to the LWVS website after each election. Copies of the February printing were sent to each member. Pamphlets were also distributed to Scarsdale social studies teachers. Attended county LWV Voter Service meetings.

PROGRAM

LOCAL:

VILLAGE ELECTION SYSTEM: Communicated with the incoming chair of the Procedure Committee in the spring to review the League's recommendations regarding the Citizens Nominating Committee (CNC) election process. Communicated with the Chair of the Procedure Committee to schedule a date for the League consensus meeting following the election for the Nominating Committee. Placed reminder in the Bulletin regarding the CNC elections and the LWVS's general membership consensus meeting to evaluate the CNC election process; also sent reminders by email. Held general membership consensus meeting to evaluate the CNC election process and provided recommendations to the chair of the procedure Committee.

SCHOOL ELECTION SYSTEM: Communicated with the chair of the Administrative Committee in the spring to review the League's recommendations regarding the School Board Nominating Committee (SBNC) election process. Touched base with the chair in the fall to get an update on potential candidates, public relations and issues regarding the SBNC elections. Placed reminder in the Bulletin regarding the SBNC elections and the League's general membership consensus meeting to evaluate the SBNC election process; also sent reminders by e-mail. Held general membership consensus meeting to evaluate the SBNC election process and provided recommendations to the chair of the Administrative Committee.

SCHOOL BUDGET: Attended school budget forums provided for the community by the Board of Education (BOE). Obtained the school budget calendar from the BOE website and attended or watched all budget-related sessions open to the public. Communicated with the BOE to ensure that both members of the BOE and school administration would be able to attend the League consensus meeting. Conducted the League's general membership consensus meeting to evaluate the school budget. Developed and read the League's statement on the school budget at the BOE meeting. Placed reminder in the Bulletin about both the League consensus meeting and the school budget election.

VILLAGE BUDGET: Attended budget briefing sessions conducted by Village officials. Reviewed many village budget financial documents prior to and subsequent to those budget briefing sessions. Forwarded budget questions to the Village Managers and Trustees in preparation for the consensus meeting. Held general membership consensus meeting on proposed budget. Prepared consensus statement, which was presented at Village budget hearing. Attended Village Board hearing where statement was read.

PLANNING AND ZONING: Studied the Update to the Village Center Component of the Village of Scarsdale Comprehensive Plan. Attended Planning Board and Village Land Use meetings related to the Plan. Conducted a general membership consensus meeting on the proposed Plan. Read consensus statement at both the Planning Board and Village Trustee meetings.

ENVIRONMENT: Attended school district-wide sustainability meetings and strived to join with the schools in bringing more educational programs to the community. In an outreach effort, the school district-wide sustainability representatives were invited to attend the League's Fall Food for Thought Luncheon featuring Jill Isenbarger, Executive Director of the Stone Barns Center for Food & Agriculture.

EDUCATION FOUNDATION STUDY: Study continued. Additional information collected. Information updated and summarized.

GOVERNMENT CONSOLIDATION STUDY: Participated in a LWNYS study of government consolidation. Information was provided to membership via the Bulletin and LWNYS website. Held general consensus meeting and forwarded responses to the LWNYS.

COUNTY:

Served as liaison between the LWVW and the LWVS. Attended and reported on LWVW Board and membership meetings. Active items highest on LWVW agenda include: Voter Service (including print and on-line voting information via www.Smartvoter.org), Government (monitoring and commenting on county election operations and HAVA compliance), Westchester County budget (monitoring and commenting on expenditures and procedures in government actions by the Westchester County administration and the Board of Legislators), LWVUS coordination of local efforts in NPV study. Additional active portfolios are natural resources (water, land use, environment), housing, tax reassessment, children's issues, welfare policies, and naturalization court. In its effort to raise money to fund the LWVW program, it produces and sells an annual "Directory of Officials: Westchester County Cities Towns and Villages".

OTHER ACTIVITIES

BULLETIN: Edited submissions to the Bulletin and arranged for distribution according to predetermined schedule. Worked with President to ensure Bulletin is comprehensive and timely in regard to materials. Bulletin contains calendar of events, President's message, consensus statements, League positions, information on registration, voting, local programs, and County, State and National news when available. The September/October and April/May Bulletins were mailed annually. Other bulletins were written and distributed electronically via Constant Contact.

DEVELOPMENT: Worked with subcommittee to create a development plan for the LWVS based on the financial needs of our League. Organized the January fundraiser that was held at the home of a League member. Board donated beverages and food for this event.

FINANCE DRIVE: Prepared and distributed a letter to solicit funds from an expanded targeted list comprised of past donors and League members. The drive resulted in a 52% increase over last year's contributions. Funds raised helped defray the cost of LWVS activities including education and advocacy, resulting in informed citizen participation in government. A letter of thanks was sent to all contributors

LUNCHEONS: Held fall "Food for Thought" luncheon featuring Jill Eisenbarger, Executive Director of the Stone Barns Center for Food and Agriculture, who shared her insights on sustainability and healthy eating. Organized follow-up tour of the Stone Barns Center. Coordinated spring annual meeting and luncheon with featured speaker, Dr. Jennifer Ashton, Medical Correspondent for the CBS Early Show. Dr. Ashton spoke of her personal experiences as a volunteer doctor in Haiti in the aftermath of that country's devastating earthquake

MEMBERSHIP: Continued to recruit new members and urged other LWVS members to recruit new members. Conducted large-scale membership mailing to support membership growth targets. Built comprehensive prospect list. Conducted renewal mailings and telephone renewal reminders. Continued membership outreach initiative with October informational coffee. Encouraged members to invite prospects to regular League events to support outreach efforts. Began efforts to integrate new members into the League as active participants. Submitted articles to Bulletin and publicity chair regarding membership.

OTHER LEVELS OF LEAGUE: Invited LWVNYS president, Betsey Swan, and VP Issues & Advocacy, Sally Robinson, to update LWVS on state efforts. Reported news from other levels of League to members at board meetings and through Bulletin articles. Publicized LWVNYS and LWVW initiatives and fundraising events

PROGRAM: Prepared calendar for all meetings and League events. Reserved rooms for board meetings and special events. Held and conducted general membership consensus meetings on State, County and Local Programs. Prepared reports on each meeting. Prepared packet for annual meeting, including this summary of activities.

PUBLICITY: Wrote press releases for League activities, such as general membership/consensus meetings, candidate forum and luncheons. Took photos of speakers at luncheons and attendees at all events. Sent press releases and selected photos to LWVS Website Chair, *The Scarsdale Inquirer*, www.scarsdale10583.com, www.patch.com and Cablevision Channel 75/FIOS Channel 43. Provided photos for year-end slide show. Prepared article for *The Scarsdale Inquirer's* Progress Edition in January. Met with Publicity Committee to select additional PR activities for 2010-11. Maintained files of press releases, articles and announcements relating to the League. Maintained local public relations contacts list.

WEBSITE: Posted on the website information about the LWVS including: the current calendar of meetings and events, current Board list, consensus statements, voting information, *They Represent You* (with updates), membership forms, bulletins, relevant links and photos.

ATTENTION LWVS BOARD MEMBERS:

*Please join us for our Joint New/Old Board Meeting and Pot Luck Luncheon on Monday, June 7 at 9:00 am
at Jane Veron's home, 20 Tompkins Rd.*

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SCARSDALE
ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING
FRIDAY, May 14, 2010 11:00 a.m.
Scarsdale Golf Club**

AGENDA

- CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME TO ALL JANE VERON
- Introduction of Parliamentarian
 - Introduction of Secretary
 - Adoption of Order of Business
 - Motion to have Annual Meeting minutes adopted by the LWVS Board
- PRESIDENT'S REPORT JANE VERON
- TREASURER'S REPORT DEBBIE MILLER
- BUDGET PRESENTATION 2010-2011 BARBARA JAFFE, CHAIR
- Budget Adoption
- LOCAL PROGRAM PRESENTATION 2010-20011 LAURI CAREY
- (No Non-recommended Items)
 - Adoption of Local Program
- REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE MARY BETH GOSE
- Nominations from the floor
- ELECTION & INSTALLATION OF 2010-2011 OFFICERS, DIRECTORS AND NOMINATING COMMITTEE
- DIRECTION TO THE BOARD
- OTHER BUSINESS
- ANNOUNCEMENTS
- ADJOURNMENT

It's time to Renew your Membership for the 2010-2011 Year!

You will be receiving membership information in the mail soon or you can renew on our website: www.lwvs.org

If you have any questions, please call Janice Starr at 914-472-8851 or email her at irajanice@aol.com

Thank you for your support!

The League of Women Voters of Westchester CONVENTION 2010

Thursday, June 3rd, 2010

Scarsdale Woman's Club- 37 Drake Road- Scarsdale

Meeting- 10:00 am Lunch and Speaker- 12:00 noon

Speaker and Honored Guest: County Executive, The Honorable Rob Astorino

Luncheon fee: \$40.00- send check (to LWVW) to Kitt Rosenthal, 61 Birchall Dr., Scarsdale

All are welcome to attend this Luncheon

LOCAL PROGRAM FOR 2010-2011

The following Local Program for 2010-2011 is a listing of issues the LWV Scarsdale will monitor, study and take to action. The LWV has local, county, state and national positions, which are the basis for League action. Local Program supports these League positions.

The purposes of LWVS shall be to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government and to act on selected governmental issues.

VOTERS SERVICE

Basic to all League work is building understanding of the essentials of representative government; providing nonpartisan factual information on registration, voting, candidates, issues and public officials; and promoting citizen participation and voting in primaries and elections.

LOCAL PROGRAM

I. Village of Scarsdale

A. Planning and Zoning

Study and action on Scarsdale's planning and zoning with emphasis on land use, open space and implementation.

Outlook for Work: Continuing evaluation of and action on:

- * downtown development
- * zoning
- * land use
- * open space
- * housing, including accessory, affordable, workforce, age restricted and senior
- * safety
- * recreation and
- * parking.

B. Environment

Study and action on Scarsdale's environmental issues.

Outlook for Work: Continuing evaluation of and action on:

- * sustainability
- * energy conservation
- * health and wellness
- * recycling and solid waste management, including leaf collection and disposal
- * pesticide use
- * preservation of natural resources, including trees
- * air, noise and water pollution, including drinking water quality and storm water

C. Village Administration

Study and action on the structure and operation of the Village government.

II. Budgets

A. Village

Study and action on the Village budget and financing.

Outlook for Work: Continuing evaluation of and action on one or more areas affecting or appearing in the budget.

B. School

Study and action on the School budget and financing.

Outlook for Work: Continuing evaluation of and action on one or more areas affecting or appearing in the budget.

III. Village and School Elections

Study and action on the elections.

Outlook for Work: Continuing evaluation of and action on each election and nominating process.

LWV SCARSDALE PROPOSED BUDGET

JULY 2009-JUNE 2010

	7/07-6/08	7/08-6/09	7/08-6/09	7/09-6/10	7/09-3/10	7/10-6/11	Comments
	Actual	Estimated	Actual	Estimated	YTD Actual	Proposed	
INCOME							
Dues (1)	12,730	13,000	13,758	13,320	4,270	11,500	
DEVELOPMENT							
Contributions	915	400	555	500	30	0	Member and Non-Member
Finance Drive (2)	2,746	3,000	1,188	1,200	2,245	2,000	
Donations thru Voters Guides	0	1,000	10	50	0	0	Tear-off and/or inserted envelope in Guides
EF Grants (for PMP) (3)	5,505	5,418	3,285	2,666	2,660	2,427	Allowance is 50% PMP State & 50% Nat'l
Fundraisers (4)	843	1,000	1,543	1,200	2,198	1,500	Cocktail party,LWVNYS raffles,Let's Dish
Other Grants							
Total Development	10,009	10,818	6,581	5,616	7,133	5,927	
Sales Tax	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Misc.	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Interest	11	15	5	5	3	5	Chase Bank Savings
EDUCATION							
Fall/winter Luncheon	1,865	1,800	1,425	1,500	2,655	1,500	
Spring Luncheon	1,400	2,000	2,085	1,500	0	1,500	
Voter Service Grant (EF)(5)	427	500	60	500	0	200	
Student Program Grant	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Total Education	3,692	4,300	3,570	3,500	2,655	3,200	
GROSS INCOME	26,442	28,133	23,914	22,441	14,061	20,632	
Account Balances	6/30/2008		6/30/2009		3/8/2010		
Cash-Chase Accounts	35,105		35,838		36,347		===== savings: \$20,475.53
Postal Account	546		357		273		checking: \$15,871.78
EF Balance	3,141		3,391		2,756		
Total	38,792		39,586		39,376		

NOTES-Income

(1) Membership dues increased to \$60 per individual and \$85 per household in '09-'10. Dues are counted as income in the fiscal year in which they are received. The fiscal year begins July 1.. The membership drive for the upcoming year starts in April/May. Dues received in May and June for the upcoming year are counted as income in the current year.

(2) Income shown on the 'Dues,' 'Finance Drive' and 'Contributions' lines include only funds directed to the LWVS. Tax deductible funds received that are designated for the LWVNYS Educational Fund (EF) become part of the League's EF Balance, but will only appear as income for the League when the League requests a credit ("Grant") from the LWVNYS EF Fund.

(3) PMP (Per Member Payments) are dues paid to Westchester, New York State, and National LWVs. The Scarsdale LWV is allowed (since '05-'06) to request grants for up to half of the State and up to half of the National PMP expenses from the EF fund.

(4) Fundraisers include the Winter Cocktail party and LWVNYS raffles for '06-'07, '07-'08, '08-'09 and Let's Dish '07-'08

(5) In '08-'09 we received \$60 from Candidate Forum Co-Sponsor LWVWP (not an EF grant)

	7/07-6/08	7/08-6/09	7/08-6/09	7/09-6/10	7/09-3/10	7/10-6/11	Comments
	Actual	Estimated	Actual	Proposed	YTD Actual	Proposed	
EXPENSES							
OPERATING EXP.							
Equip.	100	100	0	100	0	0	
Supplies	251	350	114	250	0	850	
PO Box Rental	86	86	92	90	0	92	Box 495
Bulk Mail Account	175	975	380	350	0	0	
Email Communications				130	0	150	
Misc. Postage	35	50	8	25	0	25	
Web Site	100	100	100	100	65	100	
Total Operating Exp.	747	1,661	694	1,045	65	1,217	
ADMINISTRATIVE EXP.							
President	48	100	348	100	0	100	gift basket & tree
Board (rent,food)	581	500	444	500	395	500	Rent,coffee,food
Finance Drive	70	3,000	0	200	0	100	Includes postage
Membership Drive	276	700	810	700	0	1,200	and printing
Total Admin. Exp.	975	4,300	1,602	1,500	395	1,900	
CONVENTIONS/MTGS							
National	1,387	0	0	1,500	0	0	
State	0	1,000	468	0	0	1,000	
Total Meeting. Exp	1,387	1,000	468	1,500	0	1,000	
PYMTS.TO OTHER LWV's(1.)							
National	6,556	6,570	6,570	6,568	4,923	6,064	
State	4,455	4,266	4,266	4,077	3,058	3,645	
County	495	474	474	458	453	405	
Total PMP	11,506	11,310	11,310	11,103	8,434	10,114	
BULLETINS/POSTCARDS(2.)	2,540	2,700	3,786	1,100	587	1,400	Printing
EDUCATION							
Fall/Winter Luncheon	1,335	1,500	1,222	1,500	1,927	1,200	
Spring Luncheon	1,582	2,250	1,788	1,750	0	1,500	Incl ann meeting.
Special Programs		550	11	0	0	0	Speaker series
Honoraria	0	100	100	100	50	100	
Student Programs	0	200	221	0	0	0	Pres. Pursuit
Voter Svc./Educ.	1,935	3,000	1,884	1,800	2,030	2,000	
Sales and use tax	60	60	45	60	65	65	
Total Education	4,912	7,660	5,271	5,210	4,072	4,865	
DEVEL./SPEC. PROJ.							
Fundraisers	0	0	123	125	0	0	
Education Foundation Study	0	200	0	0	0	0	
Teen Center Study	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Online Voting Study		200	0	0	0	0	
Total Dev/Spec Project	0	400	123	125	0	0	
TOTAL EXPENSES	22,067	28,031	23,254	21,583	13,553	20,496	
Note:Inc.-Exp. Net	4375	102	660	858	508	136	

NOTES- Expenses

1. The National PMP increased \$2.50 per individual and \$3.75 per household in '06-'07. An additional \$.50 per individual and \$.75 per household was added in '07-'08. An additional \$1.20 per individual and \$1.80 per household was added in '08-'09, and another \$1.20 per individual and \$1.80 per household was incurred in '09-'10. National PMP will increase \$.60 per individual and \$.90 per household in '10-'11 and then \$.40 per individual and \$.60 per household in '11-'12. (The last State PMP increase and previous National increase was \$2 per individual and \$3 per household in '03-'04).

2. Beginning 09-10 there will be two bulletins printed (fall and spring) and no postcards & beginning '10-'11 printing costs will include postage.

April 13, 2010

LWVS Comments on the proposed 2010-2011 Village Budget

The League of Women Voters of Scarsdale (the "League") held its annual membership meeting on April 5, 2010 to evaluate the proposed Scarsdale Village budget for 2010-2011. We thank Mayor Carolyn Stevens, Village Manager Al Gatta and Village Treasure Mary Lou McClure for participating in our meeting and for addressing our specific questions related to the development of the 2010-2011 budget. We also appreciate the presence of Trustee David Irwin and former Trustee Dan Hochvert at the meeting.

The League supports the proposed FY 2010-2011 budget and is pleased to note that the budget will not result in any service reductions. Given current economic conditions, the League recognizes the challenges faced by the Village to maintain basic services and infrastructure needs while controlling expenses and the overall tax levy. The League commends the Mayor, Village Manager and entire village staff for its continued fiscal acumen. Since September 2008, vigilant measures have been taken to evaluate and reduce all controllable departmental expenses. The League notes that non-union salaries have held steady, headcount has been reduced and many capital projects and equipment purchases have been deferred.

Nevertheless, revenue shortfalls continue to outpace cost cutting measures. Specifically, the following key revenues items are under pressure:

- **Mortgage Taxes** – projected to show only a slight increase due to continued weakness in the housing market;
- **Interest Income** – projected to be \$280,000 versus \$1.15 million in 2007-2008 due to historically low interest rates;
- **Sales Tax** – projected to improve only slightly in 2010-2011.

In FY 2010-2011, the Village will also incur nearly \$500,000 in additional salary expenses associated with pre-negotiated union contracts, \$500,000 in debt service, \$145,000 in health insurance increases and an \$843,234 New York State pension assessment that will be amortized over the next six years. These factors have all contributed to a proposed tax increase of 5.95 percent for the FY 2010-2011.

Due to the weak revenue outlook, it is unlikely that the Village will be in a position to fund large capital projects through its operating budget. The League fully supports the Village's plan to seek alternative sources of funding such as federal, state or county grants, bond issuances and possible cost sharing collaborations with the Scarsdale Board of Education, BOCES and other municipalities. Furthermore, the League notes that various Village union contracts are currently under negotiation. Considering nearly 70% of expenses are associated with salaries and benefits, the settlement will have significant impact on future finances. The League urges the Village to maintain its firm stance during the upcoming contract negotiations.

The proposed budget utilizes \$800,000 of the general surplus fund balance to provide taxpayer relief. Given the challenges faced in this budget year, the League supports the Village's allocation of these funds. However, the drawdown leaves approximately \$5.1 million in the account balance or approximately 11 percent of the proposed budget. Historically the Village aims to maintain a capital fund balance of at least 10 percent of its operating budget in order to ensure adequate contingency dollars (for instance, the Village incurred \$400,000 in unexpected expenses associated with the recent storm) as well as to protect its AAA bond rating. Any downgrade would obviously have a significant negative impact on the Village's future interest and debt expenses and ultimately, its ability to fund capital projects. Therefore, the League notes that ongoing use of the fund balance, particularly of this magnitude, for the purpose of tax relief is a tenuous plan at best.

The Village continues to face a reduction in its total taxable assessed valuation and a spike in certiorari filings by homeowners challenging their property taxes. The League has a longstanding position supporting an equitable and uniform system of assessing real estate. We applaud the Village's prominence in advocating for a county-wide revaluation. We urge Scarsdale Village to continue its efforts in collaboration with other municipalities.

Going forward, the League is particularly concerned with the process by which the Village intends to inform its citizenry about future budget issues. In his presentation, Mr. Gatta stated that the "Village is at a crossroads." Mr. Gatta also referred to maintenance, repair and capital projects that have been deferred due to severe cutbacks. Based on his comments, it is our understanding that any further cuts in expenses without significant concomitant tax increases, would lead to reductions in Village services. The League would like to better understand the level of severity associated with various deferred infrastructure repairs and capital projects and under what circumstances the Village would be able to address these projects.

If, in fact, the Village is considering deep service cuts or complex issues such as how Scarsdale can maintain self governance or "Home Rule" as defined by New York State, or any other ways in which the Village might consolidate services with other municipalities, the Village board has an obligation to develop a formalized outreach program. Decisions of this nature would constitute major shifts in the way Scarsdale Village has functioned to date and therefore, community input and support are essential. Although the Village holds public briefing sessions for the budget review, these meetings do not take place until late February into early March. Furthermore, community groups are often invited to observe budget discussions, but these are rarely venues that encourage or seek feedback from the public. The League recommends that the Village reconsider its community outreach efforts and initiate open dialogue with the entire Village as early as September 2010 to better educate the public and to create an environment where the entire Scarsdale community has an opportunity to learn, to voice priorities and to recommend alternatives.

The League appreciates the opportunity to comment on the proposed FY 2010-2011 budget. We thank all the Village officials and administrators for the help they have given the League this year in its study of the proposed Village budget. We trust that you will consider our recommendations as you continue to refine and finalize the budget and initiate planning for the next fiscal year.

Sincerely

Kim Meyers
LWVS Village Budget Chair

Jane Veron
LWVS President



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THEY REPRESENT YOU 2010
Changes effective April 2010
VILLAGE OF SCARSDALE

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Katherine Eisenman (CP)
... 1st term ends April 2012
Miriam Levitt Flisser (CP)
2nd term ends Apr. 2011
David Irwin (CP)
2nd term ends Apr. 2011
Jonathan Mark (CP)
1st term ends Apr. 2012
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1st term ends Apr. 2011
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1st term ends June 2012
Joel Gurin
Resigning as of June 2010
Elizabeth Guggenheimer
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