



COUNTY VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WESTCHESTER
White Plains Mall, 200 Hamilton Ave., White Plains, NY 10601
Ph. 914-949-0507 Fax: 997-9354
Email: LWVwestchester@verizon.net
Website: www.lwvwestchester.org

May 2008

CALL TO CONVENTION!

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WESTCHESTER

CONVENTION 2008

THURSDAY, May 8, 2008

Registration and Security Check-in – 9:15 AM

Meeting – 9:30 AM

Lunch - 12 Noon

Speaker: Jeanne Zaino, Ph.D.

Chair & Assistant Professor of Political Science and International Studies, Iona College

“The Good David: Running and Ruling in the American System”

NEW YORK LIFE INSURANCE BUILDING

1 Rockwood Road

Sleepy Hollow

(See inside for directions)

Luncheon Fee: \$25

Send check payable to LWVW to

Kitt Rosenthal, 61 Birchall Drive, Scarsdale, NY 10583

Need further information? Call (914) 723-5126 or 779-1288



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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Convention season is here.

In the next few weeks, in annual meetings and conventions, League members will have the opportunity to evaluate activities of the past year and plan programs for the upcoming year. It's a chance to socialize with other League members, reflect on the past, and become inspired about the future.

The Westchester League's Convention will be held on Thursday, May 8, from 9:30 am until 2 pm at New York Life in Sleepy Hollow. We serve the members of all the local leagues in the county, and we look forward to welcoming you, sharing our ideas and learning from you at convention. As our keynote speaker, we are fortunate to have **Jeanne Zaino**, Assistant Professor and Chair of the Political Science and International Studies Department at Iona College. Specializing in American government, elections and public law, Professor Zaino is an engaging and energetic speaker. Her topic, "*The Great Divide? – Running and Ruling in the American System*," is particularly timely, and she will include analysis of the current Presidential campaigns. Additional information about the convention can be found elsewhere in the newsletter, as well as on our website, www.LWVWestchester.org.

Update on County League activities:

Representatives from the Westchester League attended each meeting of the Compensation Advisory Board (CAB) which had been appointed by the County Board of Legislators to make recommendations about legislator compensation packages. By the time you read this, the CAB will have concluded its work and issued its recommendations. Whatever the results are, the LWV of Westchester commends the members of the CAB, chaired by Bill Mooney of the Westchester County Association, for their open, thoughtful, balanced and fair-minded consideration of the issues.

The New York State Attorney General (AG) issued an opinion about the County Executive's proposed relocation of the Board of Elections (BOE) from White Plains to 450 Saw Mill River Road. As you may be aware, the Westchester League expressed its opposition to this move. The AG's opinion held that the County may not implement its original plan for the building (e.g., move the BOE's Commissioners and most of its public functions, including decision-making board meetings by commissioners, registering voters, providing absentee ballots, accepting petitions from candidates, etc.) without a public referendum. A public referendum is not required, however, if the building is purchased for use as an additional storage and training facility. Because our opposition was also based on questions about the financial aspects of the proposed purchase, we will continue to monitor the County's actions.

Finally, more than 140 people turned out for the excellent Tappan Zee Bridge (TZB) Forum which had been organized by Kristina McCarthy and the TZB Study

Committee. We also hosted a roundtable discussion with the County Legislators, and 12 out of the 17 legislators participated. We greatly appreciated the time that the legislators took to attend this event and their willingness to discuss the issues. The event was videotaped, and we are in the process of distributing the DVDs to local public access stations for airing. If you are interested in viewing this meeting, please let me know.

I hope to see you at our convention.

Wishing you all the best,

Mary Beth

OUR LUNCHEON SPEAKER

Jeanne Zaino is Chair and Assistant Professor of Political Science and International Studies at Iona College, New Rochelle where she teaches American government, research methods, elections and public law. Her most recent research focuses on the implications of the increase in electoral litigation since 2000 and the use of metaphors as a pedagogical tool. She is currently working on a book for Prentice Hall and is co-author of "Adventures in Social Research: Data Analysis Using SPSS" with Earl Babbie and Fred Halley, currently in its 6th edition.

LWW LIST OF OFFICERS – 2007-08

President	Mary Beth Gose
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2 nd VP	Open
3 rd VP	Kitt Rosenthal
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Secretary	Ricki Gardner
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	Mary Beth Evans
	Laura Fratt
	Janet Jaidi
	Kristina McCarthy
	Laura Porter
	Claire Prohl
	Karen Schatzel
	Barbara Strauss
	Selma Thackeray
Nom. Comm. Chair	Susan Schwarz

LOCAL LEAGUES NEWS

Bronxville LWV – Monthly coffee meeting, Tuesday, May 20th 2008, 9:30 AM at the Bronxville Women’s Club, 135 Midland Ave. Prof. Karen Burstein, Pace University, will speak about New York State government.

LWVs of Larchmont/Mamaroneck, New Rochelle, Rye/Rye Brook/Portchester Luncheon on Friday, May 2, 2008, 12 noon, Davenport Club, 400 Davenport Ave., New Rochelle. Luncheon Fee: \$45, Mail checks to LWV, PO Box 811, Larchmont, NY 10538. Questions: lww10538@aol.com Featured speakers Michael Edelman and Lawrence Otis Graham of Channel 12 News. “The Press and the Election: Who Is Manipulating Whom?”

Scarsdale LWV Luncheon, Thursday, May 15 at noon. Margie McHugh, Co-Director of the Migration Policy Institute’s National Center on Immigrant Integration Policy, will be the speaker. “Immigration Justice in the Post 9/11 Era”. Luncheon Fee: \$40 before May 1, \$45 after May 1.

To reserve, please send checks payable to LWVS to: Anne Lyons, 82 Greenacres Ave., Scarsdale 10583

LWVNYS NEWS

LOBBYING DAY IN ALBANY FOR SINGLE PAYER HEALTH CARE, TUESDAY, MAY 6, 2008. Contact the Hunger Action Network to register: 518-434-7371, ext 1#. Dunleamark@aol.com. 9:40 AM meet at Emmanuel Baptist Church, 275 State Street, Albany. 10 AM – introductions and update on single payer health care as well as information on the legislative lobbying process. 11 AM – begin legislative visits. 12 noon – rally on west side of the State Capitol. From 1 PM to 3:30 PM – continue legislative visits.

REDEDICATION OF LWVNYS BUILDING AT 62 GRAND STREET. The dedication will be to Anne F. Holtzmann (to whom the Maiden Lane building was dedicated). Thursday, May 15th at 4 PM. RSVP 518-465-4162, lwwny@lwwny.org

OTHER NEWS

UNA-USA Westchester, Sunday, May 4th from 2 to 4 PM at the Scarsdale Public Library, 52 Olmstead Ave (off Rt. 22)

“An Insider’s Guide to the UN” – Linda Fasulo, UN correspondent for NBC News and MSNBC and frequent reporter for National Public Radio. Wine and cheese reception to follow. For info: Doris Benson, dwbenson@us.ibm.com, 914-961-6554 or www.unawestchester.org.

Regional Meeting for Westchester and Lower Hudson Valley on UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE REFORM, Monday, May 19, 4 to 6 PM, White Plains Library. Organized by Health Care for All New York (HCFANY)

LWV ANNOUNCEMENTS

Watch for the June issue of Parent Guide News for an article about the League by Ina Aronow. The 1,000 word article includes photos and quotes from members.

CONGRATULATIONS to LWVW’s Housing Co-chair, Jean Pollak, who has been appointed to the group that will be drafting the Westchester County Housing Land Trust’s by-laws and creating the organizational structure for the new entity. Jean is also a long-time board member of the Housing Action Council and has served on the Housing Opportunity Commission since its inception. She also heads up the White Plains Affordable Housing Committee, which has been enormously successful in its efforts to promote affordable housing in that city.

CONGRATULATIONS to former LWVNYS President Marcia Merrins who has been nominated to the LWVUS Board of Directors. She will be busy at the National Convention promoting the National Popular Vote (NPV) study and voting for a homestate director. All NY State local leagues are encouraged to send delegates to this very important biennial event.

COMPOST BIN SALE!!! Saturday, May 17th, 9 AM to 2 PM – rain or shine. Saxon Woods Pool and Park, White Plains. Choose from 2 types of composting bins, wholesale priced at only \$20 and \$40 for this event – while supplies last! FREE COMPOST and professional advice for your garden. The Westchester LWV has supported this environmental cause for many years and urges you to start composting - it’s easy! To reserve a bin and for more information, call the Westchester County Recycling Helpline at (914) 813-5420 or visit www.westchestergov.com/recycling.



**THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF WESTCHESTER**

PROPOSED PROGRAM 2008-2009

VOTERS SERVICE

Prepare, publish and distribute nonpartisan information on registration, voting, candidates, ballot issues and elections.

OUTLOOK FOR WORK

1. Coordinate, conduct, and/or review: voter registration; and education when requested.
2. Train local League members to organize and moderate candidates meetings.
3. Coordinate assignment of moderators for candidates meetings sponsored by local Leagues and other qualified organizations.
4. Coordinate gathering of candidate information by local Leagues for inclusion in Voters Guide.
5. Prepare and distribute the Voters Guide.
6. Consider various options for distribution of the Voters Guide, in terms of effectiveness (readily available for voters who need and will use them), cost, expected level of financial help, number of volunteers available, League image, etc.
7. Consider less expensive options for data entry of the Voters Guide information. Develop a process to integrate the gathering and processing of information for the Voters Guide with that of SmartVoter.
8. Utilize the SmartVoter website (www.smartvoter.org) as an additional service for voters in the following elections in Westchester County: Primary Elections; General Election in November; Village Elections in March; School District Elections in May.
9. Help plan and sponsor candidates meetings for countywide offices.
10. Continue as a liaison to and support for the Fair Campaign Practices Committee for Westchester County.

NATURALIZATION COURT

Coordinate attendance at Naturalization Court to welcome and distribute voter information to new citizens.

ISSUES

The following items are in alphabetical order. Neither that order nor the numerical order of the Outlooks for Work denotes priority, thus leaving LWVW the flexibility to act as the situation warrants.

I. GOVERNMENT

A. COUNTY BUDGET

Analyze, review and take action on the Westchester County Budget as a fundamental tool for implementing County Government policy, with particular emphasis on the parts that pertain to County League program.

OUTLOOK FOR WORK

1. Examine methods of cost containment with emphasis on consolidation of both the departmental services within Westchester County and between government and municipal services.
2. Examine new or proposed revenue sources for Westchester.
3. Continue to urge improvements to the County Operating and Capital Budgets, including improvements to the documents' formats and earlier release dates.
4. Monitor the impact of proposed budget allocations on government programs, essential human services, the environment and proposed plans for the consolidation of sewer districts in Westchester County.
5. Monitor the Westchester Medical Center budget as it relates to the County Budget.
6. Monitor the budget adoption process, including proposals to impose super-majority requirements to raise taxes.
7. Continue to urge the Administration and the Board of Legislators to insist on periodic, audited reports from the MTA (Metropolitan Transit Authority) detailing where the County's money is being spent.

B. WESTCHESTER COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Monitor and take action on the operation of the Westchester County Government with particular attention to Election Process Reform and the issues listed below. Continue to monitor campaign finance reform, redistricting, lobbying, environment and housing issues.

OUTLOOK FOR WORK

1. Monitor all aspects of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) implementation, including the September 2008 implementation of precinct-based optical scan voting systems with ballot marking devices for the disabled. Continue to advocate for precinct-based optical scan voting systems with ballot marking devices for all voters of voting systems.

- 1.
2. Continue to monitor and take action on proposed housing legislation and programs for workforce housing, low income housing and housing for the homeless, and advocate for further development in these areas. Monitor the development and implementation of the Westchester Housing Land Trust and take action to educate the public as to its applicability.
3. Continue an active observer corps to monitor legislative programs and policies.
4. Support legislative districting measures to preserve municipal boundaries, standards of compactness, and contiguity, consistent with federal requirements for population equality.
5. Support property tax reassessment countywide and in individual communities.
6. With the assistance of the Executive Committee, continue a student education program, e.g., Student Legislative Day.

II. ENVIRONMENT

A. ENVIRONMENT

Promote an environment beneficial to life through the wise management of natural resources in the public interest by recognizing the interrelationships of air quality, energy, land use, waste management and water resources.

OUTLOOK FOR WORK

1. Through the League's annual county budget review process, promote acquisition and preservation of open space by the County which will not compete with land for low income and affordable housing.
2. Monitor and take action on any proposal for the consolidation of sewer districts, the creation of septic districts, or the creation of any entity to address sewage and/or stormwater management.
3. Promote public education on water quality issues with emphasis on stormwater management, septic systems and sewers.
4. Advocate for a countywide septic management plan.
5. Take action to address Global Warming and Sustainability issues with special attention to energy use, the Indian Point Nuclear Plant, and mass transit on the Tappan Zee Bridge.
6. Promote pollution prevention and reduction with emphasis on:
 - Support for the county pesticide reduction law.
 - Distribution of the League/NYPIRG organic resource guide of garden and lawn care products.
 - Sponsor compost bin and native plant sales.
7. Observe meetings of the Board of Legislators Committee on the Environment and Energy; publish observer notes on the League's website.

B. TAPPAN ZEE BRIDGE

Study options for the rehabilitation or replacement of the Tappan Zee Bridge and come to consensus on what is the best option, taking into consideration environmental consequences, quality of life and economic impact on the region.

OUTLOOK FOR WORK

1. Continue the meetings of the committee to study the options to replace or rehabilitate the bridge.
2. Continue to disseminate information to League members and the public through articles in the County Voter.
3. Continue to disseminate information to League members and the public through additional meetings with Michael Anderson's Project Group, and other stakeholder groups, such as the TZB Task Force.
4. Continue the process of attending the stakeholder Advisory Working Groups meetings on a bi-monthly basis and report the progress back to the League study group.
5. Hold a consensus meeting within a reasonable period of time.

III. HUMAN RESOURCES**A. CHILDREN'S ISSUES**

Monitor and take action on issues concerning children's development, health, safety and welfare.

OUTLOOK FOR WORK

1. Support initiatives aimed toward improving children's health and safety, such as reducing gun violence, reducing targeted marketing to children, and enhancing nutritional standards.
2. Alert members to, and support, childcare initiatives to improve availability and quality of services to the disabled population, as well as developing youths.
3. Cooperate with other organizations and coalitions dedicated to improving the lives of children throughout the county.
4. Endeavor to be a liaison between public officials and the League in order to be informed of pressing needs and proposed legislation.

B. DIVERSITY ISSUES

Monitor and take action on issues concerning the health, safety and well-being of members of diverse groups. Support measures to reduce discrimination involving bias against a person's race, color, ethnicity, religion, gender, age, sexual orientation, or disability.



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League of Women Voters of Westchester
White Plains Mall, 200 Hamilton Ave., White Plains, NY 10601

IMPORTANT DATES

MAY 1	9:30 AM	LWVW Executive Board Meeting	Com. Unitarian Church 468 Rosedale Ave, Wh.Plns
MAY 6	All day	Lobbying for Single Payer Health Care	Albany
MAY 8	9:15 AM	LWVW Convention	NY Life Ins. Bldg 1 Rockwood Road Sleepy Hollow
MAY 17	9AM/2PM	Compost Bin Sale	Saxon Woods Park White Plains