



HEADLINES

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WHITE PLAINS

PRESIDENT, MADELINE ZEVON

www.lwwvp.org

NOVEMBER 2011

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DESIGN: ROBERTA LAZARUS



FASNY?

Forum on Proposal by

FRENCH AMERICAN SCHOOL OF NEW YORK

for a new school for nursery-age
children through grade twelve

Bring Your Questions & Receive Answers

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 10 7PM

400 Ridgeway

site of former Ridgeway Country Clubhouse

2011-12 LWVWP BOARD

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our two Health Care Forums were extremely informative. We were fortunate to have such outstandingly expert speakers. The audiences were very engaged and the questions and answers took up half the program time. If you missed these programs, they can be viewed courtesy of White Plains Public Access on channel 45 for Verizon subscribers and channel 76 for Cablevision subscribers at 3pm every day until November 3rd. Or, you can view them at any time, in any area, on the internet at wpcommunitymedia.org. This is an important and easy learning opportunity.

At the end of our second Health Care forum, Assemblyman George Latimer said it is important for citizens to get involved and make their voices heard on issues that they care about, by contacting their government representatives, writing letters to the editors or joining together with groups that work to promote issues of vital importance to our well being. This is what the League of Women Voters does and why I'm very proud to be a part of this democratic organization.

Following closely behind these forums was our Candidates Debate for four Common Council seats on October 24th at the White Plains Library. The Debate can be viewed on the City's website, or on Cablevision channel 76 or Verizon channel 47 at 5pm everyday thru November 8. We also distributed 7,000 *Voter Guides*. October has been an extremely busy month for the League.

Upcoming this month is the French-American School (FASNY) Forum at the former Ridgeway Country Club on November 10th at 7pm. This is a topic of great interest to many White Plains residents and I'm sure we'll have a large crowd. Although there have been programs before on this issue, either presented by FASNY or the Neighborhood Associations, this is the first time both sides will be together and it promises to be a good opportunity for residents to get a clear picture of all the issues. Our speakers will be Robert Stackpole of the Gedney Association and Misha Zobotin, Chairman of the Board of the French-American School. We will also have a City official who will briefly go over the time line for the Special Permit, the moratorium and the future process of the FASNY application. The program will be moderated by Carolyn Stevens, our League moderator. Don't miss this opportunity.

Madeline Zevon, President



Voting in Westchester can get very complicated. Each year, as the November elections roll around, the nonpartisan League of Women Voters tries to unravel the labyrinth of the 44 city, town, village or town-village elections that may or may not be taking place this fall, plus the county, state and national offices that occur every two or four years.

The League mission is to promote informed citizens participation in government, since the people we elect will make decisions that will determine the services government provides and how much in taxes you will pay to provide them. Here are League resources that will be available for the Nov. 8 election:

- Voters Guide. About 100,000 copies of the 84-page Guide will be distributed via mail, libraries and other public places starting mid-October. The number is down from about 250,000 copies about a decade ago as more people turn to the internet for information. The Guide, which contains candidate responses to standard questions and other election information, can also be found at www.lwvwestchester.org.

- VOTE411 — An interactive Voters Guide at www.Vote411.org. This sophisticated website enables the voter to enter one's street address and zip code and find one's polling place, a map showing how to get there, the local, county legislative, state Senate and Assembly district, and national congressional and Senate districts and other election information.

In Westchester County, in which a resident's municipality, postal address and school district may be different, the site can be especially helpful. Voter registration forms, an election calendar and other documents can be downloaded.

For both guides, League volunteers reached out to approximately 275 candidates in 122 races.

- Candidate forums. Local Leagues are sponsoring or assisting in nearly two dozen candidate forums this fall, providing moderators who follow League guidelines. Moderators are from outside the candidates' districts. These debates are generally cablecast live and/or replayed on local channels. They are strictly nonpartisan. In the spring, the League sponsors forums for school board and village or town election. See the schedule at www.lwvwestchester.org.

- Election Information. Voters can call the LWV office at 914-949-0507 or e-mail lwvwestchester@verizon.com with questions.

- Fair Campaign Practices Committee. Initiated by the League in 1991 and administered by the League, the Committee operates independently to referee campaign disputes. See www.faircampaignpractices.org.

In addition to election activities, the League also publishes a Directory of Officials. It lists elected and appointed officials in Westchester municipalities and the county and Westchester representatives in state and national officials with contact information.

Besides providing nonpartisan, fair and accurate information, the League studies the pros and cons of public interest issues and takes action on issues members have studied and reached consensus

These include open government, campaign finance reform, equal rights, environmental protection, health care and education. Recent programs have been on health care and dangers of "fracking" to extract gas from shale deposits. Educational programs include "Students in Albany" and "Running and Winning" to educate high school students, particularly young women in the latter program, to engage in politics. Local Leagues study and sometimes take action positions on the workings and issues faced by local governments.

League membership is open to all citizens of voting age and associate membership to noncitizens and students. Both active members and League supporters are welcome and appreciated. For information, call the League office at 914-949-0507

Marianna Stout-Voter Service Chair
Ina Aronow-Communications Director
League of Women Voters of Westchester
(reprint of article to the *Journal News*)



HEALTH CARE FORUMS



WP LWV president Madeline Zevon



NYS Assemblyman George Latimer



Charles Bell, Consumers Union (left)
& Assemblyman George Latimer (right)



Dr. Elisabeth Rosenthal,
Physicians for a National Health Program

OCTOBER 16 & 23



HEALTH

CARE SYNOPSIS

Health Care is a Human Right, featuring speakers Assemblyman Richard Gottfried and Dr. Elisabeth Rosenthal, was the first of two forums sponsored by the Westchester LWV related to Health Care Reform, which took place at the Lubin Graduate School of Pace University. Madeline Zevon, President of the WP LWV and Healthcare Chair for Westchester LWV, acted as moderator of the session, and pointed out that LWV had first endorsed the Single Payer policy in 1993.

NYS Assemblyman Gottfried, sponsor of the NYS Assembly Single Payer bill, spoke first and emphasized that UNIVERSAL is the strong point. The State plan, New York Health for All, allows for thoroughly comprehensive coverage for every resident of the state; and would be run by a broadly appointed Board accountable to all New Yorkers. It would be funded by broad-based taxes based on the ability to pay. The health system today is driven by insurance companies and is very regressive. The New York Health bill would call on the Board to expand and develop long term care. Assemblyman Gottfried feels that on a state level this is doable and can be accomplished. He pointed out that Canada, as an example, had started universal care in the provinces. And in the USA, Vermont has passed a Single Payer bill that will go into effect in 2017.

Dr. Rosenthal, a physician in private practice (associated with Physicians for a National Health Program) emphasized that the health care system in the US, which keeps private for-profit health insurance companies front and center, are able to increase prices at will, is morally reprehensible, often causing health costs to rise to a level of bankruptcy for many families. In fact, 50% of the bankruptcies in this country are due to medical debt. She emphasized the solidarity principle, pointing out the growing struggle by nurses and physicians groups to gain a national health program and emphatically stated that the US government has a responsibility for each of its citizen's lives.

The second Forum on health care reform, Understanding the Affordable Care Act, took place on October 20th and featured Charles Bell of Consumers Union and Assemblyman George Latimer, both of whom discussed the need for a health care system that afforded coverage for all New Yorkers.

Charles Bell addressed the problems that have given rise to a new direction for health care:

- 1) lack of access, with over 50 million Americans who presently have no health care
- 2) growth in the cost of health care premiums
- 3) high out-of-pocket costs for preventive care
- 4) hikes of costs for insurance contracts
- 5) outside of New York, if you lose your job, you may become uninsurable

He gave specific examples of sick children who were denied coverage for pre-existing medical conditions, the need for extending health coverage to teenagers and young adults, the need for small business owners to be able to give affordable health care benefits to employees, etc. He stated that it is a barrier to individual liberty if someone cannot get insurance, and this is unacceptable.

Assemblyman Latimer, speaking of the New York State health care law which has not as yet been implemented, primarily because of political differences, asked the fundamental question: Is health care a social need or an individual service based on the ability to buy care. This, he said, has been the philosophical gap towards implementation of the bill. The deadline for implementation is 2013 or the Federal Government will set up a plan, and the State will miss getting federal reimbursement for its State plan. This means that New Yorkers must make their voices heard, loud and clear, by notifying their legislators in E-mails, letters, phone calls to vote for the bill.

In answering questions from the audience, both speakers felt that the New York State plan would pass, and would still be viable, even if changes in the Federal Health Plan were to come about as a result of a Supreme Court decision.

For re-broadcast, tune into Cablevision channel 76 or Verizon channel 45 at 3pm every day thru Nov. 3; or internet access at www.lwvwestchester.org or www.lwvwp.org

Harriet Slivka,
Health Care Chair for WP LWV



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WHITE PLAINS NON-PARTISAN POLITICAL POLICY FOR BOARD MEMBERS

“The League shall not support or oppose any political party or any candidate” Article 11, Section 2 LWVUS By-Laws.

Following are the limitations to be placed on the partisan activities of members of the Board of Directors of the League of Women Voters of White Plains, New York.

APPROPRIATE ACTIVITIES

1. Contributions of a financial nature to candidates and/or political parties.
2. Participating in behind-the-scenes efforts for candidates, such as telephoning, stuffing envelopes, writing position papers, etc.
3. Serving as an election inspector.
4. Signing nominating petitions.
5. Attending coffees or other gatherings to meet candidates.
6. Attending fundraising functions for candidates of political parties (except for Voter Service Director and President).
7. Holding office in another organization that supports or opposes political parties or candidates.

NON-APPROPRIATE ACTIVITIES

1. Publicly supporting, in writing, a candidate for partisan political office.
2. Serving as a committeeman/woman.
3. Holding office in a political party.
4. Circulating nominating petitions for candidates seeking political or non-partisan office.
5. Holding coffees for candidates seeking political office.
6. Holding coffees for candidates seeking non-partisan office.
7. President or Voter Service Director may not attend fundraising functions for candidates or political parties.
8. Running for elective office.
9. Accompanying candidates on door-to-door canvassing visits.
10. Displaying campaign posters or signs on one’s personal property.
11. Publications or other material published by anybody other than the League shall not be distributed at any League meeting without prior authorization by the Executive Committee or by the President and Voter Service chair.

OTHER

“Empty Chair” debates. When more than one candidate for state, county or local office is on the ballot, and an invited candidate for state, county, or local office does not respond or accept an invitation to the White Plains LWV candidates’ forum, or when a candidate accepts but does not appear at the forum, the present opposing candidate may only make a statement and answer prepared League questions as long as this situation is made clear to the audience. The moderator will be permitted to announce that the absent person(s) is a candidate for that office. No substitutes will be permitted to take the place of the candidate, nor will statements of the absent candidate’s views be presented in any form.

Adopted, May 1985
Revised, September 1989
Revised, May 1996
Revised, October 2011



KATE WEINER

White Plains High School Winner of the 2011 WPLWV Scholarship Award



Kate is currently a freshman at Wesleyan University, where she plans to double major in Latin American Studies and Spanish, with a goal to building and teaching in schools in South America. Her course work includes a writing class that is expected to be a big part of her future as well.

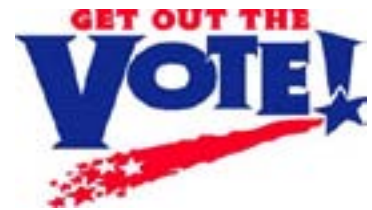
In high school, Kate was very active in Youth and Government, attaining the position of Deputy Attorney General. She was 1 of only 4 students to achieve Best Attorney Courtroom IV and 1 of only 20 Justice Exemplars. She also received the White Plains Retired Educators Organization Scholarship in recognition of her teaching goals, the Oberlin College Alumni Book Award for Excellence in the Humanities and Excellence in World History, and the Gold Star Community Service Award for more than 350 hours of community service. Kate was president of Advocates for the Earth in 10th, 11th, and 12th grades. She was also co-treasurer and vice president of SEED (Seeking Equity and Educational Diversity) as well as treasurer for Students for a Democratic Society.

We wish her well in her continued endeavors for excellence in so many areas.

Submitted by Libby Hollahan



MEMBERSHIP



Membership in the White Plains League of Women Voters is a sign of your support for our goals and activities to educate and inform the White Plains community. It takes the power of many to accomplish this. Whether you wish to be an active member or simply provide the important financial membership dollars, WE NEED YOUR HELP. To join our League, get questions answered, or suggest someone interested in League membership, contact Membership Chair:

DORIS DINGOTT 4 Macy Avenue, White Plains, NY 10605

Ddingott@gmail.com 289-0869

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Email _____

Tel # _____

Check your interest in the following areas.

- Voter Service
- Environment
- Health Care
- Youth
- Other

Enclosed is my membership check : \$55 for individual or \$80 for 2 person household. We are a non-partisan, non-profit organization. Because we lobby on issues, your membership dues are not tax deductible.

Checks should be made payable to LWV White Plains

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
17 DUPONT AVENUE, WHITE PLAINS, NY 10605
Address service requested

Non-profit Org.
PSRT STD
WHITE PLAINS. NY
Permit #235

2011-2012 CALENDAR

Tues. Nov. 8	Election Day
Thurs. Nov. 10	Forum on proposed French American School
Sun. Jan. 29	Annual Winter Party and Fundraiser
Wed. Mar. 14	Tour of Open Door Health Center
Sun. May 6	City Budget Brunch
Tues. May 8	School Board Candidates Meeting
Wed. May 30	Annual WPLWV Meeting
Wed. June 20	Picnic

NOVEMBER 2011 CALENDAR

Tues. Nov. 7	Common Council 7:00pm City Hall Citizens to be Heard 7:30pm Regular Monthly Meeting
Tues. Nov. 8	Election Day 6am – 9pm
Wed. Nov. 9	LWV Board Meeting 1:30pm at the home of Carol Heller 6 Kenneth Road
Thurs. Nov. 10	Forum on proposed French American School 7:00 pm 400 Ridgeway (at old Clubhouse)
Mon. Nov. 14	Board of Education 7:30pm Education House