



THE VOTER

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Nancy Marr—730-6556
President, VOTER
 Alice Jach—286-9260
1st V.P., Death Penalty/ Debates
 Allan Aronoff —736-1937
2nd V.P., Transportation/Land Use
 Roberta Fishman—286-0614
Secretary/Special Events
 Renee Stahlman—475-2177
Treasurer
 Edythe Lewis—928-6059
Corresponding Secretary

DIRECTORS

Estelle Auerbach—698-1139
Health
 Edith Embler—474-0983
Housing/Town Observer Corps
 Peggy Olness—751-2655
Know Your Town
 Diana Reaven—689-5865
Environmental Issues
 Gertrude Spiro—475-9351
Health Care
 Ruth Schwarz—286-1236
Immigration

OFF-BOARD CHAIRPERSONS

Joyce Edward—286-3683
Action
 Marilyn McKeown—286-1169
Budget
 Esther Glass—475-3803
New York State Government
 Alice D'Amico—751-0328
Finance
 Reggie Seltzer—286-8849
New York State Government

NEW YORK STATE GOVERNMENT

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN NEW YORK STATE NOW

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 2008

1:30 PM

At Longwood Library
 800 Middle Country Road
 Middle Island

PAGE 2—New priorities for LWV-US

PAGE 3—Report on Meeting on Reduction of CO2

PAGES 4—Trip to Philadelphia

PAGE 5—New York State Government meeting—2/29

PAGE 6--Brunch with Bill Baird

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE—2008 is now in full swing, with unprecedented interest in the National Election. Numerous televised debates have brought all the candidates of both parties into our living rooms frequently enough to make them known quantities—almost. There has been little or no talk about civil liberties, the disparity in incomes, and our approach to Africa and the Israel-Palestine conflict, but the numbers of primary voters of all ages, especially youth, promises that the president in 2008 will be elected by more of America than usual. Whatever their party, citizens are making their vote count. Suffolk County has selected the Optical Scan Machine, although some counties may opt for DRE's with approved ballot marking devices. The League will do its best to assist voters who have questions and to provide information that will help voters make decisions. Two programs for high school students—Leaderspark and Vote 18—are already working with students in Huntington, Bay Shore, and the Hamptons. If you know of a student group or high school that would be interested, or if you would like to become involved in presenting the program, let us know. We are looking for volunteers.

WELCOME NEW MEMBER-

Lynne Serpe—Bellport

Albert and Irene Stahman—Brookhaven

2 0 0 8 L W V U S L e g i s l a t i v e P r i o r i t i e s

At the January LWVUS Board meeting, the Board approved the following legislative priorities for 2008: Campaign Finance Reform, Civil Liberties, DC Voting Rights, Election Administration, Ethics and Lobbying Reform, Global Climate Change, Health Care Reform, and Tax Policy. Given the current political environment, it was determined that the priorities of the first session of the 110th Congress (2007) are relevant for the second session (2008). The addition of Tax Policy is in recognition that income inequality has grown substantially over the last several years and a comprehensive look at tax policy is possible. These priorities will be regularly reviewed and adjustments could be made should new opportunities for effective action emerge. Read more on the Board's decision on the website (www.lwv.org).

OUR CO2 FUTURE = THE WORRIES. WAYS AND WOWS

On January 28, Dr. Richard Sapienza presented his thoughts about the energy crisis and ways we can reduce it. He was concerned that the report from the Council of Foreign Relations on global warming, although it warned the country about it, did not consider any alternatives to fossil fuel. He convinced us that there are easier ways to confront the issue than increasing our use of vegetable materials to create ethanol. It is clear that driving up the cost of corn in order to create ethanol will drive up the cost of food, hurting the people in the US who can afford it the least. There are other sources of ethanol—perhaps even using fats from liposuction!!!!.

Simple solutions exist but the government doesn't seem to be aware of them—investing in wind power, solar power, and new automobiles using electricity—from the hybrid to fully electric cars to cars that run on air. Despite the verbal support for these options by government leaders, funds that would support them have been consistently cut at the federal level.

He recommended repairing and restoring the railroad system. "The infrastructure is lying out there rusting. We could start doing it tomorrow. It would put scores of thousands of people to work... It's something we already know how to do. We don't have to reinvent anything. The fact is we're not talking about it because leaders and the media tell us the American way of life is non-negotiable."

Public transportation produces 85% less carbon monoxide, 80% less in volatile organic compounds and nearly 50% less carbon dioxide and nitrogen oxide per passenger mile than private vehicles. His presentation was lively and interesting, and food for a lot of thought.

: Note: we are scheduling a speaker on transportation for March

NEW YORK STATE GOVERNMENT

Come to our meeting Friday, February 29, 1:30 at Longwood Library

Three years ago, when Esther Glass and Reggie Seltzer agreed to lead the effort to look at New York State Government, they concluded that there were five problems that effected its effectiveness. They were:

Dysfunction of legislative committees

Barriers to consideration of legislation, by Senate and Assembly
 No adequate review of proposed legislation via debate or amendment
 Conference committees
 Legislative inefficiency—resulting in a high cost to the public

On February 29 we have scheduled another look at the state government. It will be held on a Friday to accommodate legislators who are in Albany the rest of the week, and we have invited each of our state senators and assemblypersons to come or send an aide to share their views on today's state government. Improvements have certainly been made. We no longer have budgets that are months late. Come to hear what our legislators think about our government.

COMMUNITY NEWS

ABCO, Association of Brookhaven Civic Organizations, has a new website! Thanks to ABCO President MaryAnn Johnston for spearheading this initiative and bringing it to fruition: <http://www.abcoonline.org/> It is updated often and provides information on a variety of topics of interest to Brookhaven civic organizations such as the Yaphank project, Tallgrass, Broadwater, the EPCAL proposal, and more.

There is also information on the upcoming 2030 Comprehensive Plan ECOS workshops that will be held in the spring. The Town will be continuing to seek input from residents throughout the town in order to draft a new master plan that will:

- **Preserve** important resources;
 - **Guide** future development;
 - **Enhance** community character; and
 - **Promote** quality of life for the citizens of the Town of Brookhaven.
- For more information, check out the Brookhaven Town website (www.brookhaven2030.org)

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE

The Brookhaven League's Annual Luncheon will be held Friday, April 11, at noon at the South Shore Restaurant, on Route 112 just north of Sunrise Highway. We promise a delicious lunch and an excellent speaker, as well as a chance to relax with other League members and guests.

PRESS RELEASE

Huntington, New York. The League of Women Voters of Huntington will present a film about the death penalty entitled "*The Exonerated,*" on Thursday, February 21, 2008, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., at the Dolan Family Health Center, Murcott Conference Room, 284 Pulaski Road, Greenlawn. The film dramatizes the riveting stories of six people wrongfully convicted of murder but were later exonerated and freed after varying years of imprisonment. A discussion after the movie will be led by Susan Schindler, New York City Organizer for New Yorkers Against the Death Penalty, who's been a tireless abolitionist for decades and has received the NCADP award for outstanding Community Service. Attendance is free and refreshments will be served. Call the LWV at (631) 421-5164 for additional information.

DATES TO REMEMBER

FEBRUARY

- Thurs Feb 7 BROOKHAVEN LWV BD MEETING, Edie Embler's, 12 noon
- Wed Feb 20 Suffolk County LWV Board Meeting, Riverhead Library, 10:30 am
- Fri Feb 29 MEETING ON NYS GOVERNMENT, local NYS representatives, Longwood Library, 1:30 pm

MARCH

- Thurs Mar 6 BROOKHAVEN LWV BD MEETING, Alice Jach's, 12 noon
- Mon Mar 24 MEETING ON TRANSPORTATION, Comsewogue Library, 1:30

APRIL

- Thurs Apr 3 BROOKHAVEN LWV BD MEETING, Alice Jach's, 12 noon
- Thurs Apr 10 SC LWV Bus Trip to Philadelphia APRIL 10 7:00 AM
- Fri Apr 11 ANNUAL LUNCHEON—SOUTH SHORE RESTAURANT- 12 NOON

Directions to Longwood Library: Longwood Library is on Route 25 (Middle Country Road) just west of Yaphank-Rocky Point Road—or it can be reached by going east from Route 112 or west from William Floyd Parkway.

Directions to Comsewogue Library: Directions to Comsewogue Library (170 Terryville Road, Port Jefferson Station, 928-1212) - from the west, on Nesconset Highway, turn onto Terryville Road at the Sunoco Station, before Route 112, *and* From the east, on Nesconset Highway past Route 112, turn right at the Sunoco Station. From Port Jefferson, take Terryville Road right from Route 112/Main Street.