



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF EAST NASSAU

Voter

*At local, state and national levels
the League works to influence public policy
through education and advocacy.*

February 2008

Save the Dates

Saturday, Feb. 2
GROUND HOG DAY

Tuesday, Feb. 5 – 6 AM – 9 PM
Presidential Primary Day
Don't forget to VOTE

Wednesday, Feb. 6 – 1:30 PM
LWVEN Board Meeting
Home of Lesley Pollak – 731-1066
123 Gardiners Ave., Levittown

Thursday, Feb. 14
88th Birthday of the LWVUS
VALENTINE'S DAY

Saturday, Feb. 16 – 9:00AM
LWVNC Board Meeting
Hempstead Public Library
115 Nichols Ct. – 481-6990

Monday, Feb. 18
PRESIDENTS' DAY

Wednesday, Feb. 20 – 1:30 PM
LWVEN General Meeting
North Bellmore Public Library
Topic: The Open Mind, Hitler's
Courts – Betrayal of the Rule of
Law in Nazi Germany

Wednesday, March 5 – 1:30 PM
LWVEN Board Meeting
Home of Paula Blum – 785-3213
1385 Lyon Place, Wantagh

Wednesday, March 19 – 1:30 PM
LWVEN General Meeting
North Bellmore Public Library
Topic: Climate Change & You
Speaker: Andrea Chasen

Hitler's Courts:

Betrayal of the Rule of Law in Nazi Germany

Following the viewing of a documentary exploring the "perversion of law under Nazi rule," we will have the opportunity to hear former NYS Chief Judge **Sol Wachtler**, (currently Adjunct Professor at Touro Law School) and **Lawrence Raful**, Dean and Professor of Law at Touro discuss the film and its ramifications for our times.

Wednesday, February 20, 1:30 PM
North Bellmore Library
1551 Newbridge Road, 785-6260

League members and members of the
community are encouraged to attend this
exceptional program.



February is Black History Month

League of Women Voters® of East Nassau

Carole Goldfarb, President
Paula Blum, Editor
 1385 Lyon Place, Wantagh
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paulablum@hotmail.com

Mary Price, Circulation
Lesley Pollak, Advertising

County Legislature Meeting Schedule

Monday, Feb. 11 10:00 AM
 Monday, Feb. 25 10:00 AM
 Monday, March 10 10:00 AM
 Wednesday, March 26 10:00 AM
 (Committee meetings begin at 2:00 PM.)

The Nassau County Legislature meets in the Legislative Chamber, 5th floor, One West Street, Mineola, 571-4252. An admittance pass must be obtained on the first floor of the building, at the north elevator.

Town of Hempstead Meeting Schedule

Tuesday, Feb. 5 7:00 PM
 Tuesday, Feb. 19 10:30 AM
 Tuesday, March 4 10:30 AM
 Tuesday, March 25 7:00 PM

The Hempstead Town Board meets at Town Hall, in the Nathan H. Bennett Pavilion, 489-5000.

Town of Oyster Bay Meeting Schedule

Tuesday, Feb. 26 7:00 PM
 Tuesday, March 11 10:00 PM
 Tuesday, March 25 7:00 PM

The Oyster Bay Town Board meets at 54 Audrey Ave., Oyster Bay, 624-6390.

**Call before
attending.
Schedules
are subject
to change.**



LWVEN Board of Directors – 2007-2008

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Voter Service/HAVA Norma Schaeffer 489-3133

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Keeping Connected

LWVUS & LWVUS Education Fund

1730 M Street, NW, Suite 1000, Washington, DC 20036-4508
 202-429-1965, www.lwv.org, lwv@lwv.org

LWVNYS & LWVNYS Education Foundation

62 Grand Street, Albany, NY 12207
 518-465-4162, www.lwvny.org, lwvny@lwvny.org, www.lwvny-bulletins.org

LWV of Nassau County:

Post Office Box 539, Point Lookout, NY 11569, 516-431-1628
www.lwvofnassaucounty.org, info@lwvofnassaucounty.org

News Flash!

By Carole Goldfarb, President LWVEN

Sometimes it seems as if League goals are achievable only down a long road into the future. However, as I sat down to write urging you to continue pressing for optical scan voting machines, I received a news flash from **Aimee Allaud**, NYS League's Off-Board Elections Specialist and **Bo Lipari** (see right column), that the NYS Election Commissioners met in Saratoga Springs and approved three paper ballot markers, for use in the 2008 election, that are compatible with optical scanners.

The machines chosen had to meet Federal HAVA requirements, as well as NY State's insistence on a full-face ballot (all information on a single page) and had to be verifiable by people with disabilities. An independent testing authority will soon begin the certification process and County Commissioners will choose one for use this fall. More than likely, the machines chosen now will be part of the systems used to replace the lever machines in the fall of 2009.

The voting machines we use can mean the difference between accurate, honest election results and outcomes that are a sham. How exciting to know that the NYS League, in partnership with like-minded organizations, has achieved success on such an important issue. Thanks to everyone who has written letters and met with Election Commissioners, we will now have paper ballots for New York's 12 million registered voters.

Another 2008 legislative priority is reform of the cumbersome absentee ballot application process. Keep informed by going to the LWVNY website.

I hope that by the time you receive this you will all have voted in the primary. Whatever the outcome, it saddens me that so much depends on raising money, forcing all candidates to become beholden to special interests. It makes me wonder whether the stands my favorite candidate takes will mean much in the face of crushing debt owed to insurance and financial institutions, health care and pharmaceutical giants, and energy-related companies. Election reform, including public financing, should remain a League priority until we can be sure that our government represents us.

Editor's Note: Additional events have occurred which could change the situation described above. Stay tuned to the ongoing saga of voting machine choice in NYS.

Paper Ballots for NYS!

By Bo Lipari (Executive Director,
New Yorkers for Verified Voting & LWVNY's
Representative on the NYS Citizens Election
Modernization Advisory Committee)

"First they ignore you, then they laugh at you, then they fight you, then you win." -Mohandas Gandhi

I'm pleased to announce that after five years of hard work on the part of voting integrity advocates, **NYS has rejected DREs** and approved only the Automark and the Sequoia ImageCast scanner/marker for use in 2008 polling places. This momentous decision by the State Board of Elections virtually guarantees that NYS will vote on paper ballots and ballot scanners when it finally replaces lever machines in 2009.

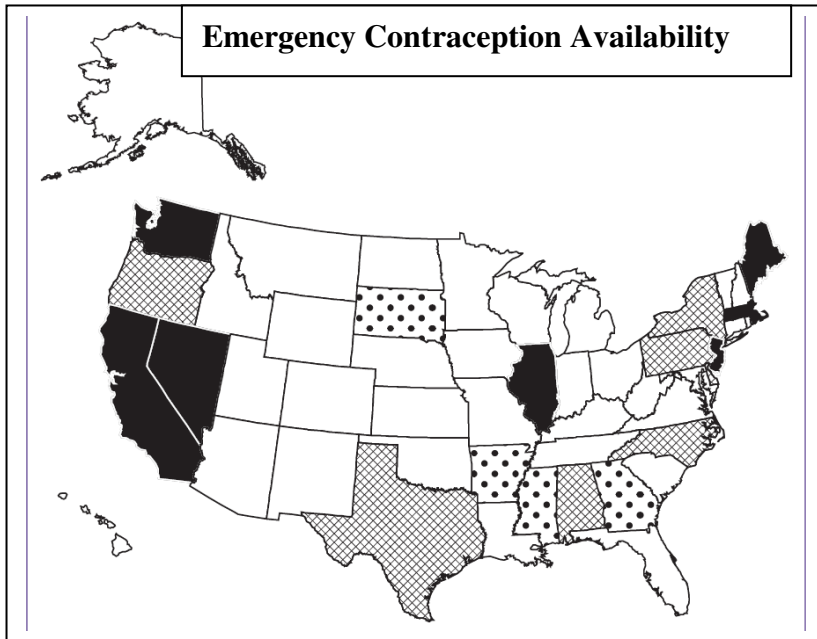
Those of you who were with us at the beginning five years ago know what an enormous victory this is. When I first started traveling, presenting and advocating in NY, election officials, political parties, and the media assumed that NYS was going to be a DRE state. Precinct scanners were not under discussion, and only DREs were offered by vendors. Our experience over these five years reflects the truth of Gandhi's statement - indeed we were ignored, then laughed at, then fought bitterly by the voting machine vendors and their supporters in the election establishment. But finally, truth has prevailed, and what seemed like an impossible dream in 2003 has been made real by our hard work - NYS will be a paper ballot state.




While technically it is possible for a DRE vendor to submit and win approval for the 2009 lever machine replacement, this is highly unlikely as at least half of the HAVA funds will be spent on scanner compatible ballot markers. Since all the approved systems are components of a precinct based scanner system the least expensive path, and the only sensible one, is for the counties to complete their HAVA implementation with paper ballots and scanners. We've learned to never be complacent, but this time we have reason to be confident that the scanner compatible choices of today will lead to paper ballots for all New York voters tomorrow.

Buyer Wanted

MUST SELL - CONDO

*First floor - 2500 sq ft, upgraded kitchen & baths
- new 55+ community - clubhouse, fitness center,
pool. Plainview - \$550,000 - 516 626-3338
Owner (League member)*



-  State has a policy requiring pharmacies or pharmacists to provide medication
-  State has a policy prohibiting obstruction or refusals to transfer/refer
-  State has a policy permitting refusals to dispense without any patient protections

(Source: National Women’s Law Center)

Roe v Wade – 35th Anniversary

January 22, 2008 marked the 35th anniversary of the landmark Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion in the United States. Since that time, courts and legislators have steadily chipped away at our fundamental rights to safe and legal abortion.

To commemorate the 35 years of women fighting to uphold the legal right to choose, Planned Parenthood of Nassau County and of Hudson-Peconic, with the co-sponsorship of many LI organizations, including our League and the Nassau and Suffolk ILOs, presented a program at the Congregational Church of Huntington, on January 23. The main speaker was **Dr. Ken Edelin**, author of *“Broken Justice: A True Story of Race, Sex, and Revenge in a Boston Courtroom,”* which details the events of his life when, shortly after the decision in *Roe*, anti-choice officials in Boston prosecuted him for performing a legal, second semester abortion. “The book is not only a personal account of *Commonwealth v Edelin*, the case ultimately overturned by the Massachusetts Supreme Court, but also a stark reminder of the mayhem that can ensue when politics interferes with the provision of health care.” Dr. Edelin read passages from his book which chronicles the 70s, a turbulent time for women, African-Americans and the reproductive rights movement.

Several League members from Nassau and Suffolk attended, including **Barbara Josepher** and **Paula Blum** from LWVEN, and were privileged to hear from this “powerful, outspoken champion of reproductive rights.”

Women on the Job Joins LIFWG

The Long Island Fund for Women and Girls (LIFWG) was established nine years ago. It’s mission includes building women’s leadership by supporting community nonprofits led by women and developing programs around women’s issues. The Fund looks at women’s leadership as a three-pronged effort: community, political and corporate, and has expanded its model to include projects that benefit women and girls of all ages and stages of life.










As part of the Fund’s expanded perspective, **Women on the Job (WOJ)** has become its newest program. LIFWG plans to further WOJ’s mission and take it to the next level. The Fund’s eight-year Gender Equity in Education project dovetails with WOJ’s efforts to expand employment opportunities.

The Fund’s leadership efforts also include assisting women to achieve CEO positions and service on corporate boards. The Fund will work with other organizations, such as The White House Project, to bring WOJ’s **Where are the Women** initiative to a national level. The White House Project is designed to engage women in the political process as voters, activists and candidates through training, inspiration and networking.

LIFWG is now in the second year of its “The Early Years Matter” initiative. Recognizing the universal need for quality early care for children ages 0 to 5, this three-year campaign seeks to build a wide, diverse constituency for quality early care and education, and strengthen family support by connecting existing resources.

Although **Lillian McCormick** has resigned as Executive Director of WOJ, she will remain a consultant to the Fund. Paula Blum will continue to be League’s representative on the WOJ Task Force, and looks forward to working with LIFWG’s Executive Director, **Diane Cohen**, to further the work of the Task Force.

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

<p>NEW YORK STATE SENATE</p> <p>SENATOR KEMP HANNON 6TH DISTRICT - NASSAU COUNTY</p> <p>225 SEVENTH STREET, 2ND FLOOR GARDEN CITY, NEW YORK 11530 (516) 739-1700 □□□:□□□□:~/□□□-□□□□□□□□□□-□□□</p> <p>LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING ALBANY, NEW YORK 12247 (516) 455-2200 E-MAIL: hannon@senate.state.ny.us</p>		<p></p> <p>TEL: (516) 571-6216 FAX: (516) 571-6287 E-MAIL: jjacobs@nassaucountyny.gov</p> <p>My very best wishes to everyone for a New Year filled with Good Health, Happiness and Peace!</p> <p>Judy Jacobs Nassau County Legislator 16th L.D.</p>
<p>NEW YORK STATE SENATE</p> <p> SENATOR CARL L. MARCELLINO FIFTH SENATE DISTRICT</p> <p>LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING ALBANY, NY 12247 (518) 455 2390 email: marcelli@senate.state.ny.us</p> <p>250 TOWNSEND SQUARE OYSTER BAY, NY 11771 (516) 922-1811 FAX (516) 922-1154</p>	<p> 15TH DISTRICT</p> <p>ROB WALKER MEMBER OF ASSEMBLY</p> <p>111 LEVITTOWN PARKWAY HICKSVILLE, NEW YORK 11801 (516) 937-3571 FAX: (516) 937-3632 e-mail: walkerr2@assembly.state.ny.us</p> <p>633 LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BLDG ALBANY, NEW YORK 12248 (518) 455-4684 FAX (518) 455-5477</p>	
<p> CHARLES D. LAVINE MEMBER OF ASSEMBLY 13TH DISTRICT</p> <p>325 LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING ALBANY, NEW YORK 12248 (518) 455-5456 FAX: (518) 455-5467</p> <p>70 GLENN STREET, SUITE 100 GLEN COVE, NEW YORK 11542 (516) 676-0050 FAX (516) 676-0071</p>		<p></p> <p>(516) 571-6219 FAX: (516) 571-3907 E-MAIL: ddenenberg@nassaucountyny.gov</p> <p>DAVID W. DENNENBERG LEGISLATOR, DISTRICT 19</p> <p>NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE ONE WEST STREET MINEOLA, N.Y. 11591</p>
<p>Richard V. Guardino Jr. Vice President for Business Development Executive Dean, Wilbur F. Breslin Center for Real Estate Studies Tel 516.463.4069 Fax 516.463.3907 richard.v.guardino@hofstra.edu</p> <p></p> <p>145 Hofstra University Hempstead, NY 11549-1450 www.hofstra.edu</p>	<p> (516) 489-5000</p> <p>KATE MURRAY SUPERVISOR</p> <p>TOWN OF HEMPSTEAD OFFICE OF THE SUPERVISOR</p> <p>ONE WASHINGTON STREET HEMPSTEAD, NY 11550-4923</p>	
<p><i>George Nager</i> <i>Attorney-at-Law</i> 231 Mineola Blvd. Mineola, NY 11501 (516) 742 0700</p>	<p> (516) 571-2660 Fax: (516) 752-4099</p> <p>MAUREEN O'CONNELL COUNTY CLERK</p> <p>NASSAU COUNTY OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK</p> <p>240 OLD COUNTRY ROAD MINEOLA, NY 11501</p>	<p></p> <p>(516) 571-6213 Fax (516) 571-6746</p> <p>NORMA L. GONSALVES LEGISLATOR, DISTRICT 13</p> <p>NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE ONE WEST STREET ROOM 126 MINEOLA N.Y. 11501</p>
<p> (516) 571-2386 Fax: (516) 571-5900 E-MAIL: hweitzman@nassaucountyny.gov</p> <p>HOWARD S. WEITZMAN NASSAU COUNTY COMPTROLLER</p> <p>NASSAU COUNTY OFFICE OF THE COUNTY COMPTROLLER</p> <p>240 OLD COUNTRY ROAD MINEOLA, NY 11501-4247</p>		

Membership Form

Yes, I want to support the LWV's work in citizen education and advocacy.

Name: _____ Tel: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

Areas of interest: _____

Please clip and send with your check to: Mimi Hirsch, Treasurer; LWVEN, 84 Victor Street, Plainview NY, 11803; 822-5086
Enclosed is a check for : _____ membership dues (\$48 Individual / \$75 household) _____ contribution _____ Total

County Corner

As many members are aware, in addition to the three levels of League throughout the country, National, State and Local, there are three counties (Nassau, Suffolk and Westchester) that also have an ILO (Inter-League Organization). Our ILO, LWV of Nassau County, serves as a coordinating body, and enables us to study county-wide issues, lobby and take action on a county level.

Due to various circumstances, there has been a change in leadership at the Nassau County ILO, and the county League is in the process of re-structuring in order to be able to accomplish as much as possible with the limited resource available. The new Co-Presidents of LWVNC are Paula Blum (East Nassau) and Debbie Shichtman (Great Neck), and the new Treasurer is Riza Laudin (Long Beach).

LWVNC's **priorities** for the rest of the year are:

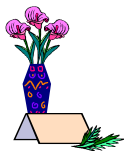
- **Voter Service/Education** – including the Voters Guide, training and education regarding HAVA and the new voting machines, publication of They Represent You , Speakers' Bureau,
- **Advocacy** – Optical Scan Voting Systems, Affordable Housing, Health Care, Environmental Issues, Women's Issues,
- **Fundraising** – in order to do all of the above.

The County League needs the help of the local Leagues and their members to accomplish our goals. Anyone willing and able to help can contact Paula: 785-3213, paulablum@hotmail.com. **Also needed are contributions** to the county League, which can be sent to: LWVNC, PO Box 539, Point Lookout, NY 11569.

LWVEN was disheartened to hear of the passing of a long-time League member and leader in Nassau County, Leona Weiss.

Leona was President of the Oyster Bay League for many years, then joined the East Nassau League when LWVOB disbanded. Leona was active on the county level as well, and we all missed her when she moved out-of-state to live closer to her family.

Our sincere condolences are extended to her family and friends.



News from National

It's a new year--and a new opportunity to make an impact in our community! League members everywhere are rolling up their sleeves and getting started on the important work of making sure voters are ready for a landmark year. This election will affect everything from the future of education and healthcare, to the state of civil liberties in our country--so make sure your friends and neighbors get registered to vote! Read some of our national highlights below, and contact League to see how you can help.

NEWS: Supreme Court Hears Arguments in Voter ID Case - This month, the League worked to put names and faces on the people negatively affected by an Indiana statute under review by the Supreme Court. The strict Voter ID requirement, argued in January, is among several state laws that disproportionately discourage minority, elderly, and poor voters from exercising their rights.

NEWS: LWV Stands Up for Voters' Rights - Phase II of the League's Public Advocacy for Voter Protection Project is moving full steam ahead in key states this election year. The project, focused on preventing the disenfranchisement of eligible citizens through state-based advocacy, serves to educate citizens and impact change to make sure all eligible voters, especially underserved populations, are granted the rights they deserve. Learn more about our areas of focus at www.lwv.org/PAVP.

NEWS: League Files Amicus Brief in North Carolina Redistricting Case - The League recently filed an amicus brief urging the Supreme Court to take on a redistricting case that will determine how the Voting Rights Act applies in areas with large minority populations. Some courts have required a minority to constitute more than 50 percent of a district, others have not applied a rigid rule. The League has long been a leader in seeking to ensure that redistricting promotes full and fair political participation, and feels strongly that the Court should address this issue before the 2010 national census.

NEWS: League Urges Speaker Pelosi to Enforce Ethics Rules - The League is pressing House Speaker Pelosi to act swiftly and create an independent and professional entity to ensure the new congressional ethics rules are enforced properly.

News From Our State League

National Popular Vote: Update

Last May, delegates at the LWNYS State Convention voted to study the question: *Should NY State join the Compact for a National Popular Vote?* On October 31, we were informed by our LWVUS liaison, Xandra Kayden, that we “would not be able to take action on any position resulting from the study.” Because of enthusiasm across the state, two members of the former study committee were directed to lobby Leagues across the country to recommend adoption, at National Convention, of a study entitled “The Advisability of Using the National Popular Vote Compact among the states as a method for Electing the President.”

The LWNYS website (*lwny.org*) is a source of valuable information on this topic. It includes an explanation of the National Popular Vote compact and the history of the Electoral College and how it works.

Legislative Priorities 2008

The LWNYS Advocacy and Issues Committee thanks local Leagues for their input into the Legislative Priorities process. The Board of Directors approved the following as Legislative Priorities in NYS for 2008:

- *Good Government*
 - Redistricting, Campaign Finance Reform
 - Legislative Procedures
 - Election Law & Procedures
 - Voting Technology
 - Court Restructuring/ Judicial
- *Cost Effective & Accessible Health Care*
- *Energy & the Environment*

A brochure describing these priorities is available. It can be an invaluable tool when lobbying legislators and is an excellent brochure to provide information to current and prospective members.

Lead Poisoning

The State Coalition to End Lead Poisoning has achieved passage of the *Childhood Lead Poisoning Primary Prevention and Safe Housing Act* in the state Assembly, and is garnering support of the bill in the state Senate (S6350). Today, lead poisoning must be fought on a new front – lead contamination of toys and other children’s products. Many have been found to have lead levels above the maximum recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics.

We need to get the offending products off store shelves. Parents and grandparents must read labels to see where

items are made, and be very wary of those made where standards are questionable.

Smart Growth Cabinet for NYS

Governor Eliot Spitzer has created a *Smart Growth Cabinet* to review state energy spending and policies to determine how best to discourage sprawl and promote smart land use practices. It will coordinate cross-agency activities and develop smart growth policies that cater to New York’s unique regional needs.

Statewide Voter Service Source

The 2007 Ida Trager Regional Workshops included discussion of how the state League website might include comprehensive Voter Service information. If it can be linked easily from local League websites, we will be able to access excellent Voter Service resources without duplication of effort.

Alternatives to Incarceration

The LWV has a position against mandatory minimum sentencing for non-violent drug offenders. Currently, NYS had a wide variety of programs that divert such offenders into treatment programs as an alternative to incarceration.

The Federal Supreme Court recently ruled that the disparity in sentencing between drug offenders sentenced for crack as opposed to powdered cocaine is unconstitutional. Many federal prisoners are now eligible, therefore, for immediate relief.

The League continues to support drug law reform and the elimination of mandatory minimum sentencing for non-violent drug offenses.

Education

Marian Bott, LWNYS’ Off-Board Specialist for Educational Finance, discovered that the LWV was part of a broad policy network that assisted the Ford Foundation in the formative years of school finance litigation. The League is cited in academic publications, such as *Policy Studies Journal*, noting that four state Leagues were chosen by National to participate in school finance reform efforts in the 1980s. Marian would love to hear from any Leaguers who were involved in any way in these efforts. She can be contacted through the state League office.

Did you know:

The Broad Foundation and the Gates Foundation have formed “ED in ’08,” a national initiative to encourage, in a bipartisan way, national presidential candidates to consider public education as an important issue.