



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.*

*January 2008*

## Save the Dates

**Wednesday, Jan. 9 – 6:00 PM**  
**LWVEN Holiday Party**  
Café Testarossa  
499 Jericho Turnpike, Syosset

**Saturday, Jan. 12 – 9:00 AM**  
**LWVNC Board Meeting**  
Hempstead Public Library  
115 Nichols Ct. – 481-6990

**Wednesday, Jan. 16 – 1:30 PM**  
**LWVEN Consensus Meeting**  
Topic: Immigration  
North Bellmore Public Library  
1551 Newbridge Road, 785-6260

**Wednesday, Jan. 23 – 6:30 PM**  
**Planned Parenthood ROE v Wade  
Event - Co-sponsored by LWV**  
Congregational Church of Huntington  
30 Washington Avenue, Centerport.  
Speaker: Dr. Kenneth Edelin,  
author of *Broken Justice* (See p. 3.)

**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

**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

## Happy New Year!

*All members are urged to attend our  
first membership meeting of 2008.*

We will be meeting on **Wednesday, January 16, 2008**, at the **North Bellmore Library**, at **1:30 PM**, to attempt to reach consensus on the topic of **Immigration**. The Immigration committee members will be available to provide information necessary to make the decisions we will be asked to make. Our consensus results will be sent to the National League, to be evaluated with the consensus results from all of the other Leagues around the country.

We are hopeful, that as a result, there will be a national League **consensus on Immigration**, which will enable us to take a stand when legislation is proposed, as well as to advocate on this topic as appropriate.

League's consensus process is quite unique. Unlike other organizations, all positions taken by League are decided upon after significant **study and agreement** by the local Leagues. Please come to the meeting and have your voice included.

**Wednesday, January 16, 2008 – 1:30 PM**  
**North Bellmore Library** – 1551 Newbridge Road – 785-6260  
Non-members are invited to attend, but cannot participate in the consensus process.

*Refreshments will be served.*

## League of Women Voters® of East Nassau

**Carole Goldfarb, President**  
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**Mary Price, Circulation**  
**Lesley Pollak, Advertising**

### County Legislature Meeting Schedule

Wednesday, Jan. 2	3:00 PM
Monday, Jan. 14	10:00 AM
Monday, Jan. 22	10:00 AM
Monday, Feb. 11	10:00 AM

The Nassau County Legislature meets in the Legislative Chamber, 5<sup>th</sup> 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, Jan. 8	10:30 AM
Tuesday, Jan. 22	10:30 AM
Tuesday, Feb. 5	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, Jan. 8	10:00 AM
Tuesday, Jan. 22	7:00 PM
Tuesday, Jan. 29	10:00 AM

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

### OFFICERS

**President:** Carole Goldfarb 626-3338

### Vice Presidents:

**Environment/Sprawl** Lorraine Newman 735-4876

**Voter Service/HAVA** Norma Schaeffer 489-3133

**Bulletin Circulation/** Mary Price 731-0812

### Special Events

**Secretary:** Shirlee Bergman 249-5276

**Treasurer/ Membership:** Mimi Hirsch 822-5086

### DIRECTORS:

**Affordable Housing:** Barbara Epstein 221-1948

**Bulletin:** Paula Blum 785-3213

**Budget:** Lesley Pollak 731-1066

**Education:** Maxine Stolzer 938-1172

**Immigration Study** Carole Goldfarb 626-3338

**Issues/Advocacy:** Polly Nager 796-6211

**Membership:** Bobby Stim 731-1067

Elsie Yurasits 292-8045

**Programs:** Janet Spar 735-8673

**Public Relations:** Judy Schmertz 221-1576

**Students Inside Albany:** Judy Schecter 221-5448

## Thank You for Your 2007 Election Work (from LWVUS)

Thank you to Leagues across the country for providing voters with excellent voter service during the 2007 elections. Because of your hard work, over 150 Voters' Guides were promoted through [VOTE411.org](http://VOTE411.org). In the month leading up to Election Day, nearly 100,000 unique visitors viewed over 500,000 pages of local and state election information on [VOTE411.org](http://VOTE411.org). Thanks to Leagues across the country for supporting and promoting VOTE411 and making this year a great success. We congratulate and thank all of you who worked so hard in your communities! We look forward to working together for another year of League successes...!

## Keeping Connected

### LWVUS & LWVUS Education Fund

1730 M Street, NW, Suite 1000, Washington, DC 20036-4508  
 202-429-1965, [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org), [lwv@lwv.org](mailto:lwv@lwv.org)

### LWVNYS & LWVNYS Education Foundation

62 Grand Street, Albany, NY 12207  
 518-465-4162, [www.lwvny.org](http://www.lwvny.org), [lwvny@lwvny.org](mailto:lwvny@lwvny.org), [www.lwvny-bulletins.org](http://www.lwvny-bulletins.org)

### LWV of Nassau County:

Post Office Box 539, Point Lookout, NY 11569, 516-431-1628  
[www.lwvofnassaucounty.org](http://www.lwvofnassaucounty.org), [info@lwvofnassaucounty.org](mailto:info@lwvofnassaucounty.org)

## LWV and American Express Join Forces to Help America Vote

The LWVUS Education Fund announced that the American Express Company has awarded League a major grant to support a program entitled **Helping America Vote**. Through Helping America Vote, American Express will support voter registration and education activities in sixteen communities leading up to the 2008 general election and encourage American Express employee participation in election related activities, such as serving as poll workers on Election Day, voter registration drives and other voter education activities. The communities include Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Dallas, South Florida, Greensboro NC, Houston, Los Angeles, New York City, Philadelphia, Greater Phoenix, Portland OR, Salt Lake City, San Diego, San Francisco and Seattle.

American Express Foundation President Timothy J. McClimon says of the grant, "Throughout our 157 years, our customers have trusted American Express to do business with integrity and responsibility. American Express is proud today to support the critical civic engagement work of the League of Women Voters, an organization that Americans have trusted for 87 years to provide them with accurate, unbiased information about our democratic system of government."

### ROE v WADE 35<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY EVENT

Hosted by Planned Parenthood Hudson Peconic  
and Planned Parenthood of Nassau County  
Co-Sponsored by LWV

Featuring a discussion  
with author and activist

**Dr. Ken Edelin**

Wednesday, January 23, 2008  
6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

Congregational Church of Huntington  
30 Washington Drive, Centerport, NY

Suggested donation \$10 - Student donation \$5  
RSVP by January 18: (516) 750-2666

## Political AND Non-Partisan

By: Polly Nager

New members of League often become confused when they learn that we are POLITICAL and NON-PARTISAN. Can we be both? Of course. Let's explore.

"Political" connotes POLITICS. Here's a dictionary definition of POLITICS:

- a) the art or science of government;
- b) the art or science concerned with guiding or influencing governmental policy.

League is immersed in politics. We study the structure of government and become familiar with how bills go through legislatures and become laws. We follow bills that we believe conform to League's agenda and lobby our legislators to bring those bills into laws. We learn all about political processes because that's our prime business!

In 1920 the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment gave women the right to vote. For those who fought hard for this right their first thoughts were "now we must learn government." And shortly thereafter the League was formed.

We are not mere spectators of government, we are PLAYERS. We keep our eyes on what our various governments do. We advocate for integrity in government and for issues of compelling importance throughout the decades. (Read the League's "Impact on Issues" for the issues of our times which are concluded and ongoing.)

NON-PARTISAN – In the name of the League of Women Voters we NEVER endorse a candidate or political party. The non-partisan policy allows League to lobby legislators in all parties with the dignity that neutrality brings, and has earned us enduring respect.

### Editor's Note:

Have you ever wondered what other Leagues around the state or the county are doing? Did you misplace an old copy of our bulletin and want to look something up in it?

If so, just go to [www.lwvny-bulletins.org](http://www.lwvny-bulletins.org), where you will find LWVEN's bulletins going back quite a while, as well as others from around the state. These are online thanks to Suffolk County League member Adam Gaus. (Many Thanks Adam!!)

# LWV's Impact on American Elections



The 2008 presidential race may have the shortest nominee selection process since the effective demise of the convention, but it could also be known as the election with the longest debate season. After a full year of candidates running before ever a vote is cast, the selections of the major parties could be over in the first five weeks of 2008.

To many Americans, debates “R”Us -- the League of Women Voters. We lost the opportunity to organize presidential debates in the 1980s, but state and local Leagues have been doing them since we got the vote and have stayed the course. According to a paper by Mary Ann Guyol, a former LWVUS staff member, we initiated many of the most significant voter educational practices now in use.

The women who fought for suffrage were just as committed, passionate, and heroic in taking the next steps of assuring an educated electorate. We didn't chain ourselves to fences, but the path was hardly smooth. Every League member who has ever organized a debate knows how difficult it is to referee that particular struggle for power. One early League president is said to have broken five gavels trying to keep order in a debate. Maybe that's how we began pounding home our reputation for integrity and fairness!

Maud Wood Park, the League's first president, came up with the idea in 1920 of questionnaires to be posed to candidates for Congress that would reveal how they compared on the League's priorities. As she put it “Women are accustomed to asking questions when they shop. They want to get the most for their money. Likewise, they want to get the most for their votes.” Leagues across the country asked questions such as “Are you in favor of an audit of the gold at Fort Knox,” addressed issues of child labor, appropriations for the Children's Bureau, and legislation affecting maternity and infancy....[etc.] Sometimes, it was just a question of keeping order. One moderator told a heckler that if he didn't quiet down, she would tell his mother in the morning.

The League was not universally applauded for its efforts. One editorial asked “What business is it of these women how these candidates think *now* on these subjects? These issues arise in the legislature and they will be all more or less party matters and the candidates will then vote in accordance with party

theory.” Not a far-fetched notion when the parties controlled the nomination of candidates, but there were other complaints. One candidate called to say that he'd just received the questionnaire and didn't like it at all. “Why, you've asked me to answer questions I've never heard of .... Why, lady, I venture to say that there isn't a candidate running who could answer these questions. I've asked three officials at city hall and they couldn't answer them .... You've asked my attitude on the ratification of the Child Labor Amendment. I never heard of such an amendment. You want to know whether I am in favor of reapportionment of funds to take advantage of federal aid for the Sheppard Towner Maternity Act. Now, I don't know what the Sheppard Towner Act is.” Some thought we should just tell them what we wanted them to do and not go to the trouble of asking what they thought.

The parties complained that it was “mortifying” when people came to the state committee headquarters asking for such information and -- when told it could not be furnished -- to be asked “Why not? The League of Women Voters has it.”

We called for election law reform; citizen education about elections and campaigning; candidate fairs, debates; permanent registration; accessible polling places, absentee voting; the Australian ballot; and opening up the presidential nominating process through caucuses and primaries. We opposed poll taxes. We formed coalitions, went to court, and lobbied in city halls and state legislatures, to say nothing of Congress and the Executive branch.

Sometimes we were praised; often we were called interfering women. We sponsored over 1500 “citizenship schools,” in our first decade, often in conjunction with universities. One U.S. senator explained how broad-minded he was and, when handed a paper ballot, said “I always take out my pen and I always check carefully the people I vote for.” Someone asked him about the pen, noting that the regulations required the use of a little blue pencil in the voting booth. One hopes she maintained a League-like demeanor when pointing out his vote never counted....

What is most extraordinary about the impact of the League of Women Voters is the continuity of our mission, the shortness of our history, and how much we have contributed to American elections.

(from the draft of a paper by Mary Ann Guyol in 1984, titled “Opening the System: the Impact of the League of Women Voters on Elections.”)

## WOJ Joins LIFWG



As of December, **Women on the Job** became a project of the **Long Island Fund for Women and Girls** under the leadership of executive director, **Diane Cohen**.

**Lillian McCormick**, founder and Executive Director of WOJ for 25 years has retired. The WOJ board of directors recognized that McCormick could not easily be replaced and sought a like-minded organization to which the torch could be passed

“I’m thrilled that we were able to come together and that Women on the Job looked to the Fund as a home for their program. It is so much in line with what we care about and our mission in terms of the empowerment and progress of women,” responds Cohen. “Lillian’s work has been spectacular.”

WOJ was established by McCormick and long-time League member **Charlotte Shapiro** in 1981. McCormick noted that she is not only turning over the WOJ program, but also its assets and “some very fine board members.

Much of WOJ’s success can be traced to its Task Force, a coalition of more than 60 business, civic, labor, social service, civil rights and advocate organizations. The Task Force provides a forum for women to present workplace problems, engages speakers for interested groups, acts as a watchdog to ensure labor law enforcement, advocates for women’s rights on pay equity, non-traditional jobs, and discrimination, and provides leadership to the New York State Pay Equity Coalition seeking equal pay for work of equal value. **League** has been a member of the WOJ Task Force since its inception, represented by **Charlotte Shapiro, Judy Schmertz**, and for the last several years, **Paula Blum**, who was also a member of the WOJ Board until the recent takeover by LIFWG.

For the past quarter-century, McCormick pioneered a women’s workforce agenda to achieve equal employment opportunities for women including opportunities in the trades, to address patterns and practices of gender discrimination, and to educate women about their rights. WOJ’s emphasis on education gives women the skills to negotiate salary, stop sexual harassment before it starts and advocate for themselves as they move up the career ladder.

Under McCormick, WOJ developed an **Equal Pay Day** program that is a model for women’s workforce groups around the country. Equal Pay Day, originated by the National Committee on Pay Equity in 1996 and observed on a Tuesday in April, symbolizes how far into the year a woman must work, on average, to earn as much as a man earned the previous year. Last year, WOJ partnered with 10 colleges and universities on Long Island to distribute Hershey’s “Pay Day” bars and informational materials.

In addition to expanding opportunities for women in the workplace and helping them stay on the job, WOJ works to move women up the ladder and into leadership positions as CEOs and members of corporate boards of directors through its **Where are the Women** project. Statistics show that women hold board seats on the top 10 performing companies of the Fortune 500. Yet, they occupy just 15.7% of Fortune 500 board seats overall. On Long Island, the percentage of women serving on corporate boards drops to 4.

WOJ’s new website, [www.womenonthejob.org](http://www.womenonthejob.org), created new opportunities for the project on a national level. WOJ recently moved, along with LIFWG to their new home in the Elias Hicks House - 1740 Old Jericho Turnpike in Jericho.

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## Voting Machines for NYS

It appears that New York State might be forced by the federal government to replace the current lever machines by the 2008 election. The NYS Leagues, as well as **New Yorkers for Verified Voting** (NYVV) and many others believe that this is a mistake. The Presidential election is not the time for people to adjust to new machines, and the machines that are currently available do not meet New York State’s standards. Apparently, the feds feel that we should not have the right to expect voting machines to be secure, accurate, recountable and reliable, as long as they are accessible to the disabled.

The NYS Leagues have been very clear that we believe optical scan voting machines are the ones NYS should use to replace the lever machines. This is more important than ever, if we have to make the change by 2008, because they are so much easier to use, and to train poll workers to use, than the touchscreen machines; in addition to being less open to tampering, breakdown, etc. So, now is the time to let those in charge hear from us again. Contact any or all of the following: Nassau County BOE Commissioners William Biamonte and John DeGrace, Governor Elliot Spitzer, and your local Nassau County legislator (Judy Jacobs, Peter Schmitt, Norma Gonsalves, Dennis Dunne, Edward Mangano, Diane Yatauro or David Dennenberg).

## LWV of East Nassau Memories

### **Congressional Debate**

Peter King vs David Mejias  
With moderator Debbie Shichtman

A rainy night brought a crowd far too large for the room at the Levittown Library, but everyone cooperated, and the debate went on as scheduled.



### **Leaguers attend Planned Parenthood Annual Symposium**

Carole Goldfarb (LWVEN President & Lorraine Newman  
Barbara Josepher, Paula Blum, & Barbara Bartoletti (LWVNYS  
Legislative Director and panelist at the symposium.)