



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.*

November, 2009

Save the Dates

Wednesday, Nov. 18 – 7:30 PM
LWVEN General Meeting
Topic: Climate Change/Climate Crisis,
The Facts, The Politics, The Action
Speaker: Andrea Chasen
(See right column.)

Wednesday, Dec. 2 – 7:30 PM
LWVEN Board Meeting
Levittown Library

Town of Hempstead S.T.O.P. Household Hazardous Waste Collection Schedule

8:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Sunday, Nov. 8 – Baldwin Park
3232 South Grand Avenue, Baldwin

Saturday, Dec. 5 – Parking Field 3
Eisenhower Park, East Meadow



Town of Oyster Bay S.T.O.P./Electronic Waste Collection Schedule

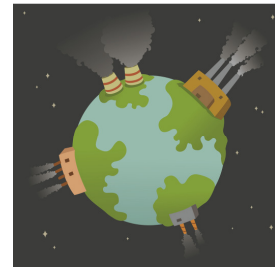
9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Sunday, November 15
Town of Oyster Bay Department
of Public Works Garage
150 Miller Place, Syosset

CLIMATE CHANGE/ CLIMATE CRISIS the FACTS, the POLITICS, the ACTION

Learn the current status
of the ENERGY BILL in Congress
and its various provisions
pro and con.

**ANDREA CHASEN, a trained
presenter from the Climate
Project, founded by Al Gore,
will update us on what we can
do to make the planet livable
for succeeding generations.**



**Wednesday, November 18, 2009
7:30 PM**

**Levittown Public Library
Bluegrass Lane, Levittown**

For information, call: 796-6211 or 221-1948

League of Women Voters® of East Nassau

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County Legislature Meeting Schedule

Monday, Nov. 16 10:00 AM
 Monday, Dec. 7 10:00 AM
 Monday, Dec. 21 10:00 AM

The Nassau County Legislature meets in the Legislative Chamber, 1st floor, 1550 Franklin Ave, Mineola, 571-4252. An admittance pass must be obtained.

Town of Hempstead Meeting Schedule

Tuesday, Nov. 10 10:30 AM
 Tuesday, Nov. 24 7:00 PM
 Tuesday, Dec. 15 10:30 AM

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

Town of Oyster Bay Meeting Schedule

Tuesday, Nov. 10 10:00 AM
 Tuesday, Nov. 24 7:00 PM
 Tuesday, Dec. 1 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 – 2008-2009

OFFICERS

President/Affordable Housing: Barbara Epstein 221-1948
Vice Presidents:
Executive VP/ Judicial Lorraine Newman 735-4876
Liaison/Environment:
Voter Service/HAVA: Norma Schaeffer 489-3133
Bulletin Circulation/ Mary Price 731-0812
Special Events:
Secretary: Shirlee Bergman 249-5276
Treasurer: Barbara Josepher 921-8749

DIRECTORS:

Administrative Assistant: Judy Schmertz 221-1576
Bulletin: Paula Blum 785-3213
Budget/Bulletin Advertising: Lesley Pollak 731-1066
Education: Maxine Stolzer 938-1172
Health Care, Advocacy: Polly Nager 796-6211
Immigration: Carole Goldfarb 626-3338
Membership: Bobby Stim 731-1067
Nat. Res./ Health Care: Anne Ostling 681-8996
Public Relations: Shirley Bard 781-9570
 Dell Smith 520-9366
Voter Service: Claire Gavrin 781-7274
Programs: Janet Spar 735-8673
Special Districts: Mimi Hirsch 822-5086
Students Inside Albany: Judy Schecter 221-5448
Students Inside Albany/ Lillian Broad 781-8685
Special Districts:

In this issue:

1. Save the Dates, S. T. O. P. Dates, Climate Change/Climate Crisis
2. Legislative Meeting Dates, Officers and Directors, Keeping Connected
3. Candidates Forums 2009, Protection from Hate Violence, Consumer Financial Protection, Students Inside Albany, Welcome New Member
4. I Said "Yes," Save Money, Generous Gift, Search the Web and Raise Funds for League, Condolences,
- 5 & 6. Advertisers, *Membership Enrollment Form*,
7. Special Districts in Nassau County
8. Violence Against Women Act, Help Wanted, State Legislation, Health Care Reform

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, vote@lwvofnassaucounty.org



Candidates Forums 2009

Norma Schaeffer

On October 6, we held a Candidate Forum for legislative offices in Nassau County. The legislative districts included were districts 14, 16, 17. In conformance with League's non-partisan policy, candidates of all parties were invited. The participants were requested to submit brief biographies which were read at the start of the meeting. The Plainview-Old Bethpage library hosted the event, as the districts are located within a convenient radius of the library.

Five of the six candidates invited were present. Since three were running for office for the first time, they expressed their appreciation to be able to meet with this well attended audience. They answered varied and provocative questions. The theme running throughout the evening was "too high taxes" which wove itself into questions on the Light House Project, consolidating school district services, and the assessment process. The two incumbents who have been in the County Legislature for many years, expressed their intention to keep the record accurate by explaining some of the financial problems that surfaced over the last two years and how the County Executive, with the legislature attempted to solve them.

The second forum we held was on October 21, at the Levittown library. The audience was evenly divided between League members and the community. Eight candidates were invited from districts 12, 13, 15, 19. Seven accepted our invitation and sent their biographies. As is our practice, all candidates were called two days before the meeting. The responses were all positive. We were disappointed that none of the incumbents actually attended. However, the candidates who did appear were energetic and answered questions enthusiastically. It's always satisfying for us to have the community meet the candidates.

Welcome New Member

Sandra Lebel
East Meadow



Protections from Hate Violence Extended



Twelve years, three US Presidents, and seven sessions of Congress have passed since a hate crimes bill aimed at expanding protections to include additional vulnerable groups was first introduced. Now, thanks to the thousands of letters sent, calls made, and lobby visits attended -- the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act has been signed into law!

(source: NCJW)

Consumer Financial Protection Act



Thanks to thousands of calls, emails, petition signatures and protests, the House Financial Services Committee passed a strong Consumer Financial Protection Act - the first step in creating a watchdog for consumers and investors. In the process, they also defeated Rep. Melissa Bean's (D- Ill.) pro-Wall St. amendment and expanded whistleblower protections for financial sector employees. (source: Public Citizen)

Students Inside Albany

Judy Schecter

This year, the LWV of East Nassau is planning to send a high school student to the LWVNYS *Students Inside Albany* Conference, from April 11 to 14. We were successful last year, when we chose a Kennedy High School senior as our candidate to go to the conference. His experiences were educational as well as enjoyable. He learned about the legislative process in New York State and met many of and senators and members of the assembly who are instrumental in passing legislation.

If you are interested in serving on the committee that chooses this year's student representative, please call me at 221-5448. I promise you some interesting insights into the minds of high school students.

I Said “Yes”

I said “Yes” again
And I couldn’t believe my ears.
Yep, I said “Yes” again, I’m one of the chronic
volunteers.

They asked me for my help
And I thought, who has the time?
The phone calls and those meetings
Just for the fun and not a dime.

So I thought it over,
Do I want to give or take?
I enjoy it all so very much
The decision was easy to make.

I’ve loved every single minute
Of working with the gals
Even when the hour was late
It was always for my pals.

So please don’t try to tell me
Volunteering is a pain.
‘Cause for all the friends I’ve made and all I’ve learned,
I’ll say “Yes, Yes, Yes” again and again!
(Author unknown, submitted by Barbara Epstein)



Save Money



For those who want to save money at the supermarket but do not get the Sunday newspapers, there are terrific sources of money-saving manufacturers’ coupons available on line. Among these are: **coupons.com**, and **smartsource.com**, both of which allow you to select from a variety of products, and just print the ones you want. Give it a try.

You can also check out **refundcents.com** and **moneysavingmom.com**, or go to **neverpayretailagain.net**, where daily updates are posted relating to sales, group buys and links to coupons. (source: USA Weekend)

If you have other ways of saving money that you are willing to share with our readers, email them to the editor at: paulablum@hotmail.com. Ideas for helping the environment will be greatly appreciated as well.

Generous Gift

to LWVUS from former Long Island Leaguer

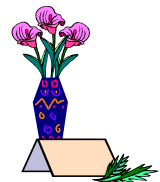
LWVEF recently received a very generous charitable gift from a dedicated League member, Walter Shur, of Pittsboro, NC (previously, for many years, of Port Washington, NY). Walter made this special gift in memory of, and as a lasting tribute to, his wife and long-time League member and leader Ruth S. Shur, and as a testament to Ruth and Walter's shared belief in the importance of a strong League of Women Voters. The contribution will create and endow the **Ruth S. Shur Leadership Institute**, which will develop and sustain a "national coaching team" to help state and local Leagues develop new leaders, recruit new members and increase League visibility. This extraordinary gift will make it possible for hundreds of other League leaders, now and in future generations, to continue to build on the example of leadership Ruth set during her many years of service to the League.

Search the Web and Raise Funds for League!

Earn money to support the LWV Education Fund (LWVEF) every time you search the web! Simply log onto **www.goodsearch.com**; designate the League of Women Voters Education Fund - LWV (Washington, DC) as your charity of choice; and start using GoodSearch as your primary search engine. Each time you search, 50 percent of the advertising revenue (about a penny per search), will automatically go to the LWVEF. GoodSearch is powered by Yahoo!, so you'll get the same high quality search results you're used to.

Sincere Condolences to
Sandra Brot,

on the recent
passing of
her sister,
Marcia Gittleman.



Special Districts In Nassau County - - - An Overview

(By Phoebe Goodman, Director
LWVNC Special Districts Committee)

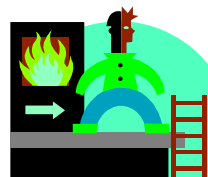
What is now Nassau County was a part of Queens County until January 1, 1898. On that date, the New York State legislature created the City of Greater New York. The three eastern townships of Queens – Hempstead, North Hempstead and Oyster Bay – refused to become part of New York City and so were left out of the legislation. One year later, those towns, including their incorporated villages and unincorporated areas, officially became Nassau County.

Nassau County was largely rural in those days, with a few centers of population handling the collection and trans-shipment of farm produce. Where no municipality existed to provide needed services, the New York State constitution made provision for the establishment of special districts to provide such services as fire protection, fire hydrant rental, water supply, water pollution control (sewers), lighting, garbage collection, parks, parking, libraries, library funding, police, disposal, drainage, sidewalks, business improvement, and eventually, even a moving staircase district at an elevated LIRR station. Special districts could be set up by the Town Board or on petition by the residents of the area affected.

These **special districts**, which often overlap town and village lines are agents of the town in which they are located. They are semi-autonomous, quasi-governmental bodies, empowered to request that the town issue bonds on their behalf and to levy taxes provided that the town approves their budgets. Taxes and bonded indebtedness, while approved or issued by the town, are paid for only by the properties served, and only for specific services.

Districts prepare their budgets, which are presented to the town for acceptance at a **public hearing**. The town has the power to refuse to accept the budget pending revision, usually in response to objections voiced by residents at the hearing. The districts levy taxes and assessments for capital improvements and for operations and maintenance (O & M). Since 1938 all new special improvement districts are town run and do not have commissioners. The towns are permitted to charge an administrative fee for managing a district and this fee is sometimes higher than the cost of commissioners' annual fees. Existing special districts were permitted to hold referendums in which district residents could decide to maintain the commissioner-run district structure. This led to the continuing existence of many **commissioner-run special districts in Nassau County**.

According to the Nassau County Comptroller's office, there are approximately 213 special districts in Nassau County, operated by either the relevant town or by commissioners. Most towns seem to have chosen not to consolidate or dissolve their town-run districts. Many commissioner-run special districts remain because of the appeal of local control to the residents. Some of these special districts function quite efficiently in terms of cost and service. Others, unfortunately, have succumbed to abuses, leading to escalating costs, and causing dissatisfied taxpayers in these area to demand change.



History Made 15 Years Ago: Passage of The Violence Against Women Act

After years of dedication and hard work by countless advocates like the League and by our Vice President, then U.S. Senator Joe Biden, and U.S. Senator Orrin Hatch, the landmark legislation now known as VAWA was signed 15 years ago. Essentially this Act provides federal funding for communities to address the needs of survivors and hold offenders accountable.

How significant was this? To quote a statement from the national Office on Violence Against Women, “thirty years ago, when a law enforcement officer responded to domestic abuse, it was considered a *family matter*. Spousal rape was not a crime.” Many States did not have domestic violence shelters, rape crisis centers, or hotlines.

“Thirty years ago, programs for culturally and linguistically special groups were unheard of. Disabled women and women in later life were not thought to be vulnerable to abuse. We had little understanding of the dynamics of teen relationships and the potential for sexual assault and intimate partner violence. We did not recognize the co-occurrence of child maltreatment, and sexual and domestic violence nor did we understand the devastating impact of early victimization and exposure to violence.”

Fifteen years ago the League was there, having developed a position against violence both at the state and national levels. Today we continue to advocate for victims of domestic violence by supporting legislation and educating the public through forums throughout the state. Today we know this is a “community” matter. We all suffer from these crimes in both obvious and more subtle ways.

To learn more about what is being done at the national level, go to: www.ovw.usdoj.gov/vawa15.htm.

(Source: Georgia DiGregorio, Issue Specialist, LWVNYS)

Help Wanted:

Committee members needed to plan a program or special event to commemorate **League’s 90th Anniversary** (2/14/2010).

Committee members needed to design and implement a library display to commemorate the **90th anniversary of the 19th amendment**, which gave women the right to vote.

Social Policy Director needed.

For information on what is involved in these positions, and/or to volunteer, call Barbara Epstein: 221-1948

State Legislation Passed During the Summer

Essentially if it would cost money, the governor vetoed it...regardless of the merits of the legislation.

Passed and signed by the governor:

1. A.755A/S.958B Anti-discrimination in Employment (Hiring and Firing)

2. A.3468/S.4334 Privacy Protections in Name Change: seals records

3. A.7561/S.2851 Health Insurance Notification in Divorce Cases: both parties be notified a party’s eligibility under the other’s insurance.

4. A.2004/S.5697 Amended last year’s law requiring review of registry of orders of protection and arrest warrants before issuing an order of protection to apply only to checks to family court warrants.

5. A.3657/S.2091 Eligibility Requirements for child care assistance: although encouraged to apply for child support, not required to do so as condition of eligibility for child care assistance.

(Source: Georgia DiGregorio, Issue Specialist, LWVNYS)

Health Care Reform



“The LWV believes it is imperative for Congress to send real health care reform to the President for his signature as soon as possible. The current health care system is endangering our economy and our health. Congress needs to pass comprehensive health care reform, and the public option is a vital component. All Americans must have health care coverage, including the choice of a quality, affordable public insurance plan. The public option will make it possible for Americans who cannot obtain coverage through traditional employer-sponsored plans to find coverage at a reasonable price.

In addition, we need to provide for quality and safety in the health care system. Health care legislation must establish a system-wide program to coordinate information, establish best practices and provide consumers the information they need to protect themselves and their families. It is essential that comparative data on treatments, benefits packages and medical outcomes be made publicly available so that individuals can make informed decisions and so costs can be controlled.”

(Mary Wilson, President, LWVUS)