



LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®

LWV of East Nassau

Voter

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

May, 2010

Save the Dates

Wednesday, May 5 – 7:30 PM
LWVEN Board Meeting
Levittown Library

Tuesday, May 11 – 6:15 PM
LWVNC Board Meeting
Hempstead Library Board Room

Wednesday, May 12 – 7:30 PM
LWVEN General Meeting
Strategies to Forge a Strong
Economic Future for Women
Speaker: Beverly Cooper Neufeld,
VP, NY Women’s Agenda,
Coord., NYC Equal Pay Coalition
Levittown Library

Wednesday, May 26 – 4-8 PM
LWV of Nassau County
Annual Convention & Dinner
Coral House, Baldwin
See enclosed Call to Convention & p.8.

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

Wednesday, June 23 – 6:30 PM
LWVEN Annual Meeting
Forest City Park, Wantagh
See the June VOTER for more
information.

Wanted:
**Your email address, so
that we can send you
important League
information** (honestly,
nothing but important
League information).

**Please send your email
address to Bobby Stim:**
bobbystim@optonline.net.

Strategies to Forge a Strong Economic Future for Women

(Equal Pay, Access to Power, Capital & Sustainable Jobs)

Wednesday, May 12, 2010
7:30 PM
Levittown Library



Our speaker, **Beverly Cooper Neufeld**, is Vice President of the New York Women’s Agenda, and Coordinator of the New York City Equal Pay Coalition.

Many organizations, including League have been working for years and years to get Equal Pay for women, not just for jobs with the same title, but for jobs of comparable worth. We have made some progress, but not nearly enough. April 20, 2010 was Equal Pay Day, the day in 2010 that women’s pay in our country reached the point that men’s did as of December 31, 2009. (That means that it took from January 1, 2009 to April 20, 2010 for women’s pay to reach the same level as men’s did from January 1, to December 31, 2009).



Barbara’s Corner

We are very excited to be having a traveling library display in several libraries over the next few months to commemorate League’s 90th birthday. Look for our exhibit in **Merrick** in May, **Levittown** in June, **East Meadow** in July, **Wantagh** in August, and **Plainview** in September. Please visit the exhibit in any (or all) of the libraries and if you deem it appropriate, make a positive comment to the staff. *Special thanks to Bobby Stim and her committee for putting this together.*

Although Equal Pay Day has passed, come to our May 12th meeting and hear our speaker discuss not just pay equity, but the importance of women in the workplace and what else needs to be done.

Enclosed with this VOTER, you will find the “**Call to Convention**” for the Nassau County LWV Convention, which will take place on May 26. (On the reverse side, are the proposed slate and budget for the coming year.) I encourage you to attend convention and see what happens at the county level.

League of Women Voters® of East Nassau

Barbara Epstein, President
Paula Blum, Editor
 1385 Lyon Place, Wantagh
 Tel/Fax: 785-3213/3263
paulablum@hotmail.com

Mary Price, Circulation
Lesley Pollak, Advertising

County Legislature Meeting Schedule

Monday, May 3	10:00 AM
Monday, May 17	10:00 AM
Monday, June 7	10:00 AM
Monday, June 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. Call for scheduled committee meeting dates and times.

Town of Hempstead Meeting Schedule

Tuesday, May 4	10:30 AM
Tuesday, June 8	10:30 AM
Tuesday, June 22	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, May 11	10:00 AM
Tuesday, June 8	10:00 AM
Tuesday, June 22	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 – 2009-2010

OFFICERS

President/Affordable Housing:	Barbara Epstein	221-1948
Vice Presidents:		
Executive VP & Judicial		
Liaison & Environment:	Lorraine Newman	735-4876
Voter Service & HAVA:	Norma Schaeffer	489-3133
Bulletin Circulation & Special Events:	Mary Price	731-0812
Secretary:		
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 & Students Inside Albany:	Lillian Broad	781-8685
Students Inside Albany:	Judy Schecter	221-5448
At Large:	Mimi Hirsch	822-5086

In this issue:

1. Save the Dates, Meeting – Strategies to Forge a Strong Economic Future for Women, Barbara's Corner
2. Legislative Meeting Dates, Officers and Directors, *Keeping Connected*
3. Good News, Celebration of Life for Shirlee Bergman, Town S.T.O.P. Days
4. What is IRV, Students Inside Albany Conference Report, Free Legal Advice Online
- 5 & 6. Advertisers, *Membership Enrollment Form*
7. Go Green, Safer Household Products, Large Shade Trees Given to Nassau County School Districts, Fontifier.com
8. LWV of Nassau County Proposed Program 2010 - 2011

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

Good News

All of the NYS bills indicated below passed, with Democrat and Republican support. On S2868B, (see description of bill below) Senator Fuschillo was one of our local Senators who voted in favor of the bill. Hooray! Send Senator Fuschillo a thank you for this vote.

The bill will be sent to the Governor from the Assembly (Galef) because they passed it first. All of the following bills, which will make the voter registration process easier, passed.

S4960B/ Krueger, allows voters to request an absentee ballot by fax for the first time ever (a similar bill passed the Assembly in 2009) The vote was **40-22**.

S2868B/ Addabbo, simplifies the absentee ballot application process through shortening the actual application and eliminating private and superfluous requirements (passed Assembly in 2010) The vote was **35-27**.

S5988/ Klein, provides for a dual affidavit ballot, voter registration and change of enrollment form (passed Assembly in 2010) The vote was **42-20**.

S3252/ Addabbo, includes a space for email address on voter registration forms (passed Senate in 2009) The vote was **62-0**.

S6910/ Addabbo, promotes administrative efficiency by allowing the Board of Elections to determine how changes to mailing addresses are made (Departmental, similar to an Assembly bill) The vote was **62-0**.

There will be a "**Celebration of Life**" for Shirlee Bergman on Saturday, June 12th at 2PM, at 18 Lesley Lane, Old Bethpage.

(Lesley Lane is located one block south of Haypath Road between East Park Drive and West Park Drive.)

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

8:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Sunday, May 16 – Newbridge Road Park
2600 Newbridge Road, South Bellmore

Saturday, June 19 – Bay Park
First Avenue, East Rockaway

Saturday, July 31 – Town of Hempstead Parking Field L2
Division Avenue, Levittown



Town of Oyster Bay S.T.O.P. Electronic and Household Hazardous Waste Collection Schedule

9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Sunday, May 16 – TOB Dept. of Public Works Garage
150 Miller Place, Syosset
*(Unwanted and expired drugs can also be brought
on this S.T.O.P. day)*

Saturday, June 19 – Town Hall South
977 Hicksville Road, Massapequa

Saturday, July 17 – Dept. of Public Works Garage
Altamont Avenue, Sea Cliff

Each town has slightly different lists of items which are acceptable or not acceptable at their S.T.O.P. collections. Therefore it is advisable to check with your town before bringing your hazardous waste to the collection point.

Among the items both towns accept are: most pesticides, wood preservatives, photography chemicals, enamel, oil based, and latex paint, spot removers, aerosol cans, household batteries, car batteries, drain cleaners, oven cleaners, paint strippers and paint thinners, antifreeze, automobile tires (in Hempstead, they must be off the rim), and compact fluorescent bulbs.

Among the items not accepted by either town are: explosives, fireworks, radioactive materials, infectious materials, medical waste or unlabeled materials.



What is IRV?

Instant runoff voting (IRV) is a voting system in which voters rank candidates in order of preference. It is most commonly utilized in single-winner elections. It offers an alternative to plurality and runoff elections. In plurality elections, the highest vote getter wins even if she or he receives less than 50% of the vote. In a runoff election, two candidates advance to a runoff if no candidate receives more than 50% in the first round.

With IRV, *Voters rank candidates in order of choice: 1, 2, 3 and so on.*

It takes a majority to win. If anyone receives a majority of the first choice votes, that candidate is elected. If not, the last place candidate is defeated, just as in a runoff election, and all ballots are counted again, but this time each ballot cast for the defeated candidate counts for the next choice candidate listed on the voter's ballot. The process of eliminating the last place candidate and recounting the ballots continues until one candidate receives a majority of the vote. With modern voting equipment, all of the counting and recounting can be done rapidly and automatically.

IRV acts like a series of runoff elections in which one candidate is eliminated each election. Each time a candidate is eliminated, all voters get to choose among the remaining candidates. This continues until one candidate receives a majority of the vote. The term "instant runoff" is used because the method is said to simulate a series of runoff elections tallied in rounds, as in an exhaustive ballot election.

(sources: Wikipedia, FairVote.com)

Do you have any ideas for a local study for our League for next year. (Our League year begins in July.) If you do please either call or send me an email: (516-221-1948, byeppie@aol.com) with your suggestions. *Barbara Epstein*

Students Inside Albany Conference Personal Experience

Nicole Chun (H. S. student sponsored by LWVEN)

The Students Inside Albany Conference was a truly eye-opening and educational experience which has truly enlightened me and will remain in my memories forever.

Before attending this conference, I had already been interested in public policy and a frequent reader of newspapers. However, despite my interest in the news, politics, and government, one topic I never had the opportunity to learn about was state legislature, specifically New York State legislature. So, when I found out I had been selected as one of the students who would be attending this conference, I was really excited that I would finally be able to learn more about this subject.

While this conference did increase my understanding of the New York States legislative process through legislative shadowing experiences, of the framework through which public policy is determined in New York State, and of the roles of various forces seeking to impact New York State legislation and policy development, this conference also made me realize the great responsibility we have as American citizens in representative government and how valuable our participation in government is.

I believe this conference is a worthwhile experience and I hope it continues to run for many years to come so that many other young adults can realize the importance of their individual role in civic participation and take on the responsibility given to all American citizens for the sake of America's future and our futures.

Free Legal Advice Available Online

Lawyers.com – topics include civil rights, consumer protection, criminal law, employment, family law, immigration, malpractice, personal injury, real estate, Social Security. This site also offers the ability to search for lawyers in your area.

Public.FindLaw.com – From accidents and divorce to real estate and taxes.

Nolo.com – Also a leading publisher of plain-English law books.

LegalConsumer.com – Information on bankruptcy – how to file, links to federal forms, state bankruptcy exemption laws and free “means test” calculator to determine eligibility.

ElderLawAnswers.com – Includes information about Medicare, long term care insurance, Social Security, disability planning, etc.

Estateplanninglinks.com – Has links to various sites related to estate planning.

(source: **Bottomline**)



Go Green! Bring back your WIRE HANGERS

Millions of hangers end up in landfills every year. Your cleaner can *reuse* them and spare our planet of tons of wasted metal that will take a life time to decompose.

REDUCE ~ REUSE ~ RECYCLE



Thank you for caring!
Every little bit helps!

(Source: Reach Out America)

Safer Household Cleaners

When possible, why not use cleaners made from non-toxic, vegetable based ingredients rather than those with potentially dangerous chemicals?

All purpose cleaners: Many all-purpose cleaners contain *alkylphenolic* compounds, which can interfere with hormones, and *butyl cellosolve* and *morpholine*, which can have a negative impact on the liver and kidneys. Instead, you can get effective cleaners such as *Seventh Generation All Purpose Cleaner*, *Ecover All Purpose Cleaner*, *Bi-O-Kleen Super Concentrated All Purpose Cleaner & Degreaser* and *Imus' Greening the Cleaning All Purpose Cleaner*, at Trader Joe's and other local stores.

Laundry Detergent: Many laundry detergents contain such chemicals as: *chlorine bleach*, *phenol* and *alkyl-phenolic compounds*. These can affect our respiratory systems and hormones, not to mention the skin reactions that some sensitive people can experience. Other options include products from the same companies listed above.

Glass Cleaners: Most glass cleaners contain *ammonia*, which can cause both respiratory and skin reactions. Safer alternatives include products by the companies listed above, as well as my mother-in-law's favorite – vinegar and water applied in a spray bottle, and wiped off with crumpled newspaper.

Wood Floor Cleaners: Wood floors can be washed with a mixture of three parts warm water to one part distilled white vinegar.

Check out the websites of the abovementioned companies: biokleenhome.com, www.ecover.com, www.seventhgeneration.com, www.imusranchfoods.com.
(sources: bottomlinesecrets.com, and Paula's mother-in-law)

Large Shade Trees Are Given to Nassau County School Districts

Greening of Nassau II coordinated by Cornell Cooperative Extension of Nassau County, once again has arranged, in cooperation with Nassau County Legislator Norma Gonsalves and Nassau County Commissioner of the Department of Public Works, Shila Sha-Gavnoudias to provide large, beautiful shade trees to Nassau County School Districts.

All but one Nassau County School District accepted their donated tree. These are 8' stunning Zekova Shade Trees that will instantly enhance the natural beauty so needed at our local schools. Zekova trees are upright, vase shaped trees that live to a great age. The Zekova tree has been providing a shady resting place to countless communities through the years.

This effort has been spearhead by **CCE of Nassau** with the support of, Nassau **Boces, Plant Health Care, DEC, the League of Woman Voters, and the USDA.**

The elegant Zekova tree is ideal for planting as part of an Earth Day, Arbor Day or Ecological celebration. All districts have received instructional materials to assist in developing students' understanding of the importance of trees in reducing air pollution, protecting soil, lowering the volume, shelter for animals, keeping it cool, and adding beauty to our environment.

CCE of Nassau is motivated, along with the educational component, to arrange these plantings to ensure the long term sustainability of mature trees through Nassau County, Our lives would be much different if our parents and grandparents had not taken the time to plant trees.

For further information, contact Julie Seghrouchni, CCE Horticulture Educator at Js565@cornell.edu.
(source: **Cornell Cooperative Extension**)

Fontifier.com – allows you to use your own handwriting as a font for email and word processing. When you go to the site, you print out a template for letters, symbols and numbers. You do each as you normally write, scan the page and mail it to them. You get to preview your font, and if you approve, you buy it for \$9.00 and download it to your computer.



League Of Women Voters Of Nassau County PROPOSED PROGRAM 2010-2011

1. Nassau County Board of Elections:

- (a) To work in cooperation with the Nassau County Board of Elections and the League of Women Voters of New York State to assure conformance with the National Voter Registration Act and the Help America Vote Act.
- (b) To assure an improved system of recruitment and training of election personnel.
- (c) To assure the acquisition and implementation of optical scan voting machines to replace the lever machines.
- (d) To assure a smooth transition in the implementation of the new voting systems
- (e) To assure adequate funding to achieve a fair and proper election process

2. Affordable Housing in Nassau County: To meet the current and future housing needs of residents, regardless of economic circumstances, with diversity of affordable housing opportunities and types of ownership, rentals, single and multiple dwellings.

- (a) The LWV of Nassau County encourages the County to coordinate with Towns, Villages and School Districts when making decisions relative to infrastructure, taxes, incentives for economic development, public transportation and location of facilities.
- (b) Because collaborative community-based planning for long-term land use is essential, the League supports county initiatives that would encourage affordable homes through acquisition of previously developed sites for the purpose of redevelopment, and the sale or transfer of county-owned tax defaulted properties to towns and villages for the purpose of affordable housing.

3. Natural Resources: To promote action on State and National League environmental policy positions as they apply to Nassau County, with emphasis on:

- (a) active League participation in planning, decision-making and implementation of environmental quality and land use issues.
- (b) community education and action on measures that protect groundwater.

4. Nassau County Legislature: To monitor the County Legislature, its regular sessions and the committee meetings, by attendance of a League Representative.

5. Equal Employment Opportunities for Women: To support equal employment conditions including freedom from sexual harassment and equal pay for comparable work.

6. Immigration: To support League's national position on immigration.

7. Social Policy: To support state and national positions, including welfare reform, child care, health care reform, domestic violence prevention, and reproductive rights, as they apply to Nassau County.

8. Transportation: To support the concept of mass transit as a public service with operating costs subsidized as they are for all public services and shared by all levels of government.

9. Special Districts: To continue the study of the various special districts in Nassau County, and educate the public through literature and public meetings.