



# THE HUNTINGTON VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF HUNTINGTON

P. O. Box 20693

Huntington Station, NY 11746

(631) 421-5164

December 2008 – January 2009

Katherine Hoak & Marcy Emerson, Co-Editors

Judie Gorenstein, President

## ORIENTATION MEETING

*Brian Herrington*

*Asst. Director of Intergovernmental Affairs  
Office of the Attorney General*

Attorney General Andrew Cuomo's  
Project Sunlight website



<http://www.sunlightny.org>

A Breakthrough for Transparency in Government

January 12, 2009

1 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Harborfields Public Library

31 Broadway, Greenlawn, NY 11740

Phone: (631) 757-4200

Fax: (631) 757-7216

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

### HUNTINGTON BOARD

2008-2009

#### Officers

**President: Judie Gorenstein\***

**Vice President: Irene Ferrand\***

**Vice-President: Katherine Hoak**

**Treasurer: Mary McLaughlin**

#### Directors

**Dianne Slavin (Dr.)**

**Marilyn Brown**

**Arlene Forward**

**Linda Lessing\***

**JoAnn McCarthy\***

**Marcia Robbins**

**Rosemarie Sepanski\***

#### Off-Board

**Dorothea Cappadona (Dr.)**

**Marcy Emerson**

**Janet Allen-Spencer**

**\*Term ends June 30, 2009**

*The holiday season is a time for giving thanks. As President of the LWV of Huntington, I have so much to give thanks for. First, I want to thank my wonderful Board members: Irene Ferrand, for keeping us up to date on membership; Mary McLaughlin, for her astute attention to our budget; Katherine Hoak, for all her work with the county legislators, as well as being Co-Editor of the Huntington Voter; Dianne Slavin, for not only volunteering to be Voter Service Chair, but for doing an excellent job in coordinating our Meet The Candidates Night; Joann McCarthy, for her presence and reports of the Huntington Town Board meetings; Marcy Emerson, for her commitment as Co-Editor of the Huntington Voter, and for handling our publicity timely; and Dorothea Cappadona, who planned November's program on the wetlands. Special thanks goes to our Ex-Presidents: Arlene Forward, who has begun chairing a newly formed legislative committee; Rosemarie Sepanski and Marilyn Brown, as well as the rest of our Board, Linda Lessing, Marcia Robbins, and Jan Allen-Spencer, who continue to help in every way they can. I also am extremely thankful to our new members: Debbie Adams-Kaden, JoAnn Alario Paulsen, Barbara Magaliff, Brenda Reiss, Bonney Schaub, and Louis Verardo who have already volunteered their time and effort. Lastly, I want to thank each and every member of our League for your commitment to be an educated and concerned citizen.*

*We can all be so proud of our League. We have accomplished so much this year. Next year will be a time of change for our country and a time of continued growth for our chapter. We will have a legislative committee, a study group on the Compact for a National Popular Vote, and an open meeting on the judicial system. On January 12<sup>th</sup>, we will have an Orientation Meeting at the Harborfields Public Library where Brian Herrington, Assistant Director of Intergovernmental Affairs of the Office of the Attorney General, will be our guest speaker. He will show how the Project Sunlight website has brought transparency to Albany. This meeting will not only give members an opportunity to meet other members and learn more about their chapter, but will also inform them about some of the good changes that are taking place in government. As members of the LWV, we can be instrumental in helping bring about positive change. We know democracy is not a spectator sport.*

*As I look back and look ahead, I am so thankful for having the opportunity to be President of the LWV of Huntington. Please join me and the Board in honoring and giving thanks to Marilyn Brown and Arlene Forward for their years of dedication and service at a brunch on Sunday, January 11<sup>th</sup>, at the Thatched Cottage on 445 East Main Street, Centerport, from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. The cost is \$40.00 per person. Reservations need to be made by December 31<sup>st</sup>. Please send your checks made out to the LWV of Huntington to Mary McLaughlin, 2 Beach Drive, Huntington Bay, NY 11743. If you have questions, call Mary at 427-1925 or me at 491-3177. We wish you all a very happy holiday season and are looking forward to seeing you in January!*

**Judie Gorenstein, President**

## Legislative Committee Report

Our newly formed team held its first meeting in November. We are preparing to interview our local re-elected state representatives on League issues in their home district offices after the '09 New York State legislature convenes.

The committee discussed advocacy/lobbying; "getting to know our representatives" and the resources available. The Bigger, Better, Bottle Bill, ground water and storm runoff and the 2010 Census are examples of subject matter for the interviews.

The next meeting is December 18. Members will report their "getting to know" findings and we will define more issues for the interviews. Thank you to Dorothea Cappadona, Judie Gorenstein, Pat Klein, Linda Lessing, Barbara Magaliff, Joanne McCarthy and Bonnie Schaub for a great start. We welcome other members to join us on December 18<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m. at Barbara Magaliff's home. Refreshments will be served. Please call Barbara at 421-2455 for directions.

*Arlene Forwand*

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### MEMBERSHIP

We are most happy to welcome our new members:

Bonney & Richard Schaub

Arlene A. Handel

Jo-Ann Alario-Paulsen

Richard Kopp

We hope to meet them shortly at our meetings and presentations.

*Irene Ferrand*

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### Voter Service Report

In the buildup to Election Day, the Voter Service Committee was busy with a variety of events:

- **Vote 18** was presented by Judie Gorenstein and Marge Acosta. The first was on October 7<sup>th</sup> at the Bellport High School to 280 students over a three-hour presentation. The second was on October 20<sup>th</sup> at C. W. Post by Judie alone, to 36 students, also during a three- hour period.

- Judie made three one-hour **voting and elections** presentations. On October 2<sup>nd</sup>, she spoke to the Amityville Chamber of Commerce. On October 14<sup>th</sup>, her presentation was to the Dominican Village Assisted Living residents. The third was on November 1<sup>st</sup>. to the Grey Panthers at the West Islip Library.
- **Meet the Candidates Night**, held on October 27<sup>th</sup> at the Harborfields Public Library, was a great success. Nine of the ten invited candidates participated. The turnout was substantial. Thanks to Huntington members Judie Gorenstein, Pat Klein, Donna Mears, Marcia Robbins, Marcy Emerson, Dr. Dot Cappadona, Libby Hubbard, new member, Dr. Louis Verardo, and to Smithtown League members Mary Zopf, who was the Moderator, and Carol McNally, the Timekeeper.

*Dianne Slavin*

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### History Making Election 2008

Election Day, November 4, 2008, was a defining day in the history of the United States of America. I have worked as election inspector for the Suffolk County Board of Elections for several years. Working as an election inspector has been my way of saying thank you to our founding fathers and mothers. Through their hard work, dedication and perseverance, we are allotted the privilege of casting our votes and making a difference in the course our country will take.

In this election, I am sure those that came before us would have been very proud to see the excitement, enthusiasm, and pride each voter displayed as each cast the ballot to make his/her voice heard. First time voters, experienced voters, voters physically challenged and needing assistance, were all proud and determined to do their part. Americans came to the polls in record numbers.

For me, as a poll worker, it was an honor and a great privilege to participate in such a special day in the history of our country.

My hope is that the excitement, enthusiasm and pride displayed on this special Election Day will continue. Let us never forget: we are all citizens of the United States of America, and our vote makes a difference.

*JoAnn Alario-Paulsen*

**New York's Road to HAVA is Fraught  
with Obstacles**

The last chapter in the saga of New York's marathon to implement the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) left us at the victorious point in which every NY county had chosen and purchased an optical scan system component as its ballot marking device for use in the 2008 fall elections.

The NYS BOE had resumed its certification testing, this time with SysTest Laboratories, Inc. Ciber, Inc.'s contract had been terminated after being decertified federally; and in spite of the numerous flaws in the machines being tested, there was a slim hope that NY might still comply with its court ordered schedule to implement new voting machines for the 2009 primary.

Meeting this deadline is crucial since Judge Sharpe had stated that the NYS BOE should, if necessary, bypass all the rigorous NY regulations that advocates fought so hard to secure, as long as the voting machines complied with the same *federal* regulations that permitted the flawed systems implemented and often abandoned by other states.

However, with the finish line in sight – you can't make these things up – NY is now confronted with a new obstacle: on October 29, 2008, the EAC announced its plans to suspend SysTest's accreditation due to its "*failure to create and validate test methods, improper documentation of testing and unqualified personnel.*"

What does this mean for NY?

Voting machines submitted are already having problems passing NY's tough certification testing. SysTest's suspension virtually guarantees that machine certification to New York's superior standards won't be completed in time for the September 2009 implementation. Will Judge Sharpe mandate that NY institute inferior voting systems with the same security and quality flaws that have caused them to fail at alarming rates in other states, or will he give NY yet another extension to overcome the latest obstacle?

This is an issue that bears watching. Our efforts for a superior voting system are far from over.

**Marge Acosta**

**Mary McLaughlin at recent  
Long Island Fall Festival in Heckscher Park**