



THE HUNTINGTON VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF
SUFFOLK COUNTY AND HUNTINGTON

P. O. Box 20693
Huntington Station, NY 11746
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June-July 2008
Katherine Hoak & Marcy Emerson, Co-Editors

Marilyn Brown & Judie Gorenstein,
Co-Presidents

ANNUAL MEETING and DINNER Thursday, June 19, 2008

Bonwit Inn

1 Vanderbilt Motor Parkway

Commack Road & Vanderbilt Motor Parkway

Commack, NY

- | | |
|------------|---------------------------------------|
| 6:30- 7:00 | Registration, cocktails (cash bar) |
| 7:00- 7:30 | Speaker – Legislator Wayne R. Horsley |
| 7:30- 8:30 | Dinner |
| 8:30-10:00 | Business Meeting |

Cost: \$40 in advance, \$45 at door

Send checks made out to the LWV of Huntington to

Mary McLaughlin

2 Beach Drive, Huntington Bay, NY 11743

Phone: 631-427-1925

HUNTINGTON BOARD

2007-2008

Officers

Co-President: Marilyn Brown

Co-President: Judie Gorenstein*

Vice President: Irene Ferrand*

Vice-President: Katherine Hoak

Treasurer: Mary McLaughlin

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Off-Board

Dorothea Cappadona (Dr.)

Marcy Emerson

Marion Hanna

*Term ends June 30, 2009

MESSAGE FROM THE CO-PRESIDENT

This past year has been one of varied activities; i.e., holding candidates' meetings; providing voter information at fairs, schools, and businesses; moderating elections for local organizations; working with seniors of different high schools on a program called "Vote 18"; presenting meetings for members and the public on such topics as affordable housing, the economic impact of Hispanic residents, a suggested plan to elect the President of the U.S. by popular vote; and in May, we heard about "Cool Cities," a project of the Sierra Club to encourage cities to respond to the threat of global warming and what Huntington has been doing about it. One of our members attends Huntington Town Board meetings, and reports on these in our Voters.

To prove we are not always serious, some of us meet once a month at the Cinema Arts Centre of Huntington for an afternoon movie and snack. All of this involving our members who choose what interests them and what they have time for. To those who can't be active, we welcome your support by taking out a membership (this will entitle you to receive Local, State and National news about the League's issues).

Now that spring has come, our Board's thoughts are turning to preparations for our Annual Meeting and Dinner. Be sure to save the date: Thursday evening, June 19, from 6:30 p.m.-10 p.m. It will be at the Bonwit Inn, a lovely restaurant on Vanderbilt Parkway, off Commack Road, in Dix Hills (see cover page). Judie Gorenstein, co-president, has arranged for a delicious dinner. Suffolk County Legislator Wayne R. Horsley will speak on the need to revise regulations for absentee ballots to make them more accessible to voters.

A special mailing has been sent out to members to advise them of the new proposed slate of officers and other items to be voted on at the Annual meeting to be held after dinner. Please bring it with you for reference.

We hope you will join us for what promises to be an enjoyable evening, getting together with other members, hearing a thought-provoking talk, and enjoying good food - a pleasant way to end our fiscal year and to look forward to the beginning of another year of interesting events.

Marilyn Brown, Co-President

Voter Service Committee Report

What a difference a year makes! Last year at this time, the Voter Service Committee initiated "Vote 18." By last May, we had presented Vote 18 to 100 students. Now, a year later, we have presented 50 lessons in eight high schools to over 2,400 students, as well as to 130 future teachers, Master's level students in Education. We have taught the program to classes of as few as 17 students and to as many as 150.

Our presentations have been well received by students, teachers, and administrators in Brentwood, Half Hollow Hills, Islip Learning Center, Lindenhurst, South Huntington, West Babylon, North Babylon, and Long Island University. As important as the increase in numbers of lessons taught is the increased enthusiasm shown by the students this year. There is definitely a turn to voting.

We plan to keep the momentum going and to continue to do outreach to other schools. Thanks once again to Marge Acosta, Dorothea Cappadona, Libby Hubbard, Linda Lessing, and JoAnn McCarthy who have done the presentations, and to Donna Mears and Diane Slavin who have assisted. Nothing breeds success like success! We believe we will be doing a lot more presentations in the future and welcome anyone who would like to be part of this wonderful program.

Besides Vote 18, the Voter Service Committee has begun to do voter registration drives. We have been contacted by both Farmingdale University and Suffolk Community College. On April 29, we had a voter registration table at Rock-the-Vote at Farmingdale University. On May 7, we were at Suffolk Community College for a voter registration party. It was a great opportunity to meet the young voters of these communities.

"It's now official. Liberty Election Systems has withdrawn their DRE from the New York State and has informed the State Board of Elections that it will not pursue further certification testing or fill its current order. LibertyVote/Nedap was the only remaining vendor offering a DRE in New York. The move represents the end of an era in New York State and could be a harbinger for what lies ahead in the rest of the nation..." So, optical scanners are the choice for NYS voters, finally!

There is still a lot to do. Now more than ever, it is important that we lobby for reform in our absentee ballot format. The mission of the LWV is to encourage informed and active participation of citizens in government and influence public policy through education and advocacy. The restrictions posed by New York State on the use of the absentee ballot disenfranchises many of our citizens. Learn more about this critical issue at our annual meeting on June 19th when our guest speaker, Legislator Wayne Horsley, will address the need for reform.

Democracy is not a spectator sport, and your Voter Service Committee members are definitely not spectators! On May 13, Rosemarie Sepanski was the moderator for the Meet the

Candidates' Night for the School Board of Northport/East Northport. Libby Hubbard moderated the event for Half Hollow Hills. Dorothea Cappadona, Mary McLaughlin, and Diane Slavin were the time keepers. On Monday, October 27, we will again be sponsoring a Meet the Candidates' Night at the Harborfields Public Library. At our annual meeting, you will have the opportunity to meet Carol Albano, the Director of that library, who will be receiving an honorary membership in the LWV of Huntington. At that dinner, you will also have the opportunity to nominate members to either chair or co-chair the Voter Service Committee. That Committee has had a wonderful, rewarding year!

Judie Gorenstein

MEMBERSHIP

We welcome four new members to the Huntington League:

Dr. Louis Verardo
Sara Bluestone
Debbie Adams-Kaden
Bernard Lessing

Irene Ferrand, Membership Chair

CALENDAR

June 19, 6:30-10 PM - Bonwit Inn, Annual Meeting & Dinner

Board Meetings

June 6, 1 PM - Linda Lessing's home

Reform Day 2008

Andrew Cuomo addressing delegates

Judie Gorenstein on bus to Albany

Reform Day in Albany was a successful introduction to the vast amount of effort and planning it takes to move government forward. Kudos to Common Cause for its pivotal role in coordinating this much needed event. Four members from our local League, Judie Gorenstein, JoAnn McCarthy, Katherine Hoak and I, Marcia Robbins, boarded a bus, along with an ever-growing contingent of League colleagues from Long Island. With this growing participation, you can imagine the excitement we felt as we headed north in the early morning hours of a day set aside to meet our desire for leaning and interaction. The day ran very smoothly, except for the ever present time factor. We not only came away learning but also felt a sense of accomplishment.

The highlight for me was our meeting with our state legislators. The "lobbying" of our Reform Day Agenda was for my group of four Leaguers quite edifying. We were set up to meet four legislators in a two-hour period. My group was lucky enough to actually meet with three legislators and one aide. One observation generally agreed upon in review of our day was that we need to emphasize to Common Cause the significant difference we found in meeting with the legislators themselves vs. meeting with their aides. There appeared to be a polite hesitancy on the part of the staffers to voice too strong or detailed a position for the legislator they represented. These meetings were more generalized and, therefore, almost by definition, less dynamic! However, the information the staffer will bring to his legislator from us is nonetheless important. We realize that "things happen," and it is sometimes difficult to avoid late changes in the legislators' schedule; but the meeting was so significantly better with legislators. Maybe we can do our part next year by having even greater numbers of League members participate.

Another suggestion was offered that the legislators we meet with be from our League's districts. This would add another level of energy as well as cogency.

For those lucky enough to be able to make the bus next year, keep in mind that no matter how much we are prepared with our "talking points," the legislators are the professionals; and they are going to attempt to convey to us the efficacy of their positions. So if we see a smile, a relaxed pose, a "that's an interesting point..." we will have accomplished something - and that we did!

Marcia Robbins