



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF WESTPORT

THE CALL TO THE ANNUAL MEETING

Wednesday, June 6, 2007
8:00 - 10:00 AM

The Three Bears Restaurant
333 Wilton Road

AGENDA

- 8:30 Call to Order- Presidents' Welcome
- 8:35 Recap of Year and Introduction of Vice-Presidents
 - Voter Services
 - Community Services
 - Program Advocacy
 - Member Services
- 8:55 Treasurer's Report
- 9:05 Approval of 2007-2008 Budget
- 9:15 Approval of Bylaws Revisions
- 9:25 Budget Study Summary; Adoption of New Local Position
- 9:40 2007-08 Program
- 9:45 Scholarship Presentation
- 9:55 Election of Officers
- 10:00 Adjournment of Meeting

ANNUAL MEETING RULES

- 1) Members will vote on the rules governing the Annual Meeting (special rules not otherwise provided in the Bylaws). Adoption requires a majority vote. Amendments will be made by a majority vote.
- 2) Debate — only members have the privilege of the floor. No person may speak twice until all who wish to speak have had an opportunity. Debate shall be limited to two minutes each speaker.
- 3) To make a motion—any member, upon recognition by the chair, shall rise and state his/her name before speaking.
- 4) Adoption of item — the recommended and non-recommended items shall be voted upon in the same order in which they are presented to the Annual Meeting.

CONTENTS

Agenda	1
Annual Meeting Rules	1
Comments on the Budget	2
Committee Reports	2
Community Services	2
Voter Services	2
Member Services	2
Program/Advocacy	3
Budget Study Position	3
Summary of By Law Changes	4
Nominations for Board	4
Proposed Budget	

BRING THIS CALL WITH YOU JUNE 6

COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSED BUDGET

The budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2008, projects a shortfall of nearly \$1900 which will be funded from cash reserves. Although we added 39 members in the last year and revenues from dues have increased, National and State League dues are based on membership and 82% of our dues are paid to those groups. Most of League costs are financed by fundraisers.

The League has been operating at a loss for several years and obviously cannot continue indefinitely in this direction. However, we have substantial cash reserves with almost \$11,000 in a savings account and well in excess of \$15,000 in a money market fund. The money market fund was originally set up with a \$10,000 grant to provide self insurance for the league with respect to legal liability. It has grown with reinvested interest over the years and it would appear to be over funded in light of existing directors and officers insurance. This acct will be reviewed in coming year.

Only minor expense reductions have been budgeted for the next year, principally eliminating the league telephone (\$435 per year) which no seems to use any more with the advent of e-mail and the League web site. In an effort to increase revenues, the Board has decided not to raise dues, but rather to ask for voluntary contributions, which have lagged in recent years. Voluntary contributions are tax deductible if paid to the LWV Education Fund. We can draw on the Fund to pay up to 50% of National League dues, as well for educational projects such as "Know Your Town" and the Voter's Guide. It is hoped that the budget shortfall can be made up by such contributions.

Jim Graves, Treasurer

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Community Services continued its work on all the League's activities that extend to the greater Westport community. In the fall we presented the seventh grade civics program to twenty sections of seventh graders at the middle schools, and the high school civics program, The Power of One, to eleven American Government classes at Staples High School. We are currently organizing the first grade recycling program (now in its fourteenth year), and will present the Power of One to second semester American Government students shortly before the Annual Meeting.

The League co-sponsored a community meeting entitled Spotlight on Bridgeport Schools: Why Should We Care? at the Westport Library. We heard from a panel of 3 speakers; Dr. John Ramos, Peter Hurst and Marilyn Ondrasik, and then had a lively question and answer period. Harold Levine moderated this well-attended event. As a follow-up to this meeting, and last year's successful meeting about Bridgeport, the League also sponsored a Volunteer Fair on April 1 at the Center for Senior Activities. A short formal program was followed by the chance to get acquainted with almost twenty different organizations seeking volunteers for community work in Bridgeport focused on children and families.

We also administer the League's contribution to the Staples Tuition Grants Committee and organize our participation in the Memorial Day Parade.

Jane Fraser and Yvonne Senturia, Community Services Vice Presidents

VOTER SERVICES

Voter Services reached out to the community in several ways to promote citizen education and participation in the electoral process. The 2006 Voters Guide was published in the Minuteman Newspaper, and was also made available at various locations in town.

Voter Services held a local candidate forum for State Senator District 26 as well as State Representative Districts 133 and 136 in October 2006. The forum was held at Westport Town Hall, broadcast live on public access television and rebroadcast the following weekend. The PTA Council, the Y's Men, the Y's Women, and the Westport Woman's Club co-sponsored this year's forum.

Voter Services helped arrange visits at Town Hall for a U.S. State Department visiting professor from the Chinese University of Hong Kong to learn about grass roots electoral campaigns in the United States.

A Regional 4th Congressional Debate was co-sponsored with other Fairfield County Leagues and held at Wilton High School. Westport LWV also participated in a U.S. Senate Debate in Stamford in conjunction with the Business Council of Fairfield County.

This year a successful new Get Out the Vote campaign was initiated, with over 60 establishments in town participating by having employees wear "Did You Vote Today?" stickers. As in past years, "I Voted, Did You?" stickers were distributed to voters exiting polling stations on Election Day. Once again the LWV banner was displayed on Main Street to remind and encourage people to vote.

To cap off the year, the League's annual High School voter registration drive took place in May at Staples High School and Greens Farms Academy, in conjunction with the Registrars of Voters.

Sally Galan and Jackie Gordon - Voter Services Vice Presidents

MEMBER SERVICES

The primary focus of Member Services is to increase and retain members. We work to help all members find their place in our organization by assigning a mentor to each new member. This mentor encourages newcomers to participate in League activities with personal invitations and reminders. As a regular practice, we encourage every member, new or long-term, to assist us in this dual job of membership recruitment and retention.

At this writing our membership is at an all-time high of 260. Our events have been filled with good conversation and characterized by gracious hosts and excellent League food. The year began with the annual Fall Brunch Fundraiser held in Rene and Joe Corcoran's home and patio, chaired by Susan Voris and Pat Voris. We held our Post Election Coffee at the home of Claudia and

MEMBER SERVICES (Continued)

Michael Saunders. It was co-chaired by Luisa Fancoeur and Alison Rivard. Our Holiday Luncheon, co-chaired by Karen Curtis and Sally Galan, was held at Jackie Cutrone's home. The Winter Warm-up Dinner was hosted by Liz-Ann Koos and arranged by the Board of Directors. Still to come are the Annual Tag Sale, chaired by Jackie Gordon and Jackie Cutrone, and finally our Annual General Meeting in June. The committee is continually engaged in record keeping for the mailing of the *Voter*, updating the Member Handbook and data base of member interests and skills, maintained by Kitty Graves. Kitty also oversees the "email tree" for notifying the membership of timely news as well as a telephone tree, activated when needed. Jane Eyes publishes the monthly *Voter* and Marilyn Bakker designed and manages our website, providing user friendly information to LWV members and the public at large. Last but not least, the committee is especially grateful for the unflagging care and attention of Kitty Graves who produced this year's Member Handbook and Joyce Netherton, our Membership Administrator, who works behind-the-scenes maintaining our records with the National League.

Athena Ploumis Bradley and Helene Crawford, Member Services Vice Presidents

PROGRAM/ADVOCACY

PROGRAM:

Study of Town Budget Process: The League completed its study of the budget process for the town budget and the education budget. Two consensus meetings were held in March. A position was drafted by the committee and will be voted on at the Annual Meeting in June. (See enclosed.)

State Program Planning: The League reviewed several State Positions and recommended that the Water Resources Position and Housing Position be updated.

Local Program Planning: The Local Program Planning meeting was held on April 25, 2007. There was consensus to focus League local efforts over the next year on taking action under existing positions, particularly as the positions relate to components of the new Town Plan of Conservation and Development.

National Immigration Study: LWVUS has begun a two-year study of the implications of immigration at the local, state and federal level. Over the summer, the Westport League will begin its participation by reading background papers and reviewing other resources developed by the national study committee.

ADVOCACY:

Observer Corps: The Observer Corps continues to follow Town Commission, Board and Committee meetings. Thanks to all who have participated this year, and a special thanks to Peg Bishop, who is retiring after covering the Flood and Erosion Control Board for many years.

Action Committee: This committee continues to follow up on issues of interest from the Observer Corps meetings. Action was taken on several issues, including Text Amendment 562, which would create intense housing coverage and density within the town, the Historic District Commission's request to hire an administrative assistant, town funding of restoration and rehabilitation of the Emily McLaury House and a request from the Parks and Recreation Department to hire a Parks Planner.

Environment Committee: In response to member interest, an Environment Committee was formed in late 2006. The current focus is Nonpoint Source Pollution—protecting Long Island Sound and other water bodies from polluted runoff— with an emphasis on educating the public about septic systems.

Pie and Politics: Senator Judith Freedman and Representatives Joe Mioli and John Stripp attended this successful informal discussion, in which many topics of interest were addressed.

Pippa Bell Ader and Alison Rivard, Program/Advocacy Vice Presidents

PROPOSED BUDGET POSITION

The LWV believes that Westport's budget process should produce budgets, both Town and Education, that meet the needs of the town as a whole. The budget process should:

- be transparent
- afford opportunity for resident participation
- reflect long-term planning
- result in the adoption of a budget in a timely fashion

Explanation:

The LWV of Westport advocates a transparent planning and budget process for the Town and Education budgets in order to encourage more direct participation by the public. To accomplish this, Town departments should discuss their short- and long-term goals with their respective boards or commissions (where applicable) and RTM Committees early in the fiscal year. The Town's Annual Meeting should include a presentation of Departments' short- and long-term goals and objectives. The public should be informed as to the purpose and significance of the Five-year Capital Forecast. The Town should explore additional opportunities for public out-reach about the planning and budget process. To maximize opportunity for public education and participation, decisions that significantly impact the Town or Education budgets should not be made or deliberated during vacations or religious holidays.

The LWV supports measures to encourage the Board of Education and the Town to communicate their priorities and projected budget increases in order to facilitate long-term, town-wide planning. These measures should include a public planning and budget meeting in the fall where town departments and the Board of Education identify and coordinate their priorities.

PROPOSED 2007 BYLAWS AMENDMENTS

SUMMARY OF CHANGES

Complete text of changes is available on our website at lvwestportct.org and will be available at Annual Meeting. Please contact either Eileen or Laura for a hard copy of the proposed changes if you do not have internet access.

The proposed revised bylaws make the following changes:

Article II: The first three articles of our bylaws must be consistent with National's bylaws. The proposed changes to Article II make our bylaws consistent by removing the reference to "citizen" participation. A few non-substantive clarifying changes are also proposed.

Article III: To conform this Article to National's, this Article is changed by removing the residency requirement for membership and changing the designation of 50-year life members to "honorary" life members. They remain full voting members.

Article IV: This Article is changed to eliminate the requirement that the board appoint at least 3 additional directors, and therefore gives the board the flexibility to appoint fewer directors. In recent years, having Co-Presidents and Co-Vice Presidents has increased the size of the board and may eliminate the desirability of increasing the size beyond the officers and the three elected directors. For consistency, the proposal also specifies in 1.A. that there shall be "at least" three elected Directors, which is already stated in 1.B. of this Article. This Article is also changed to update the bylaws to expressly permit the League to have Co-Presidents and Co-Vice Presidents with alternating two-year terms, which has been the practice for several years.

Article V: This article carries over the same changes described above under Article IV.

Article VII: This Article retains the requirement that members at Annual Meeting adopt a budget, but removes the vague requirement that such budget be "adequate." The Article is changed to reduce the quorum requirement for Annual Meetings to 20% from 25% and to clarify the name of the membership meetings.

Article IX: This Article is rewritten to state that our Action Committee determines priorities for League action, taking into account input by League members expressed at Annual Meeting in adopting program, and expressed at Local Program Planning meetings, Board of Director meetings and Action Committee meetings. It also clarifies what is meant by the "study" portion of program and clarifies the procedure for adopting and changing program. A few non-substantive typos and clarifying changes are also made.

NOMINATIONS FOR BOARD 2007 — 2008

Co-Presidents	Pippa Bell Ader and Eileen Flug
Past President	Laura Gallagher
Treasurer	Jim Graves
Secretary	Joyce Orkand
Vice-presidents	
Community Services	Jill Green berg and Yvonne Senturia
Member Services	Athena Ploumis Bradley and Helene Crawford
Program/Advocacy	Jane Eyes and Allison Rivard
Voter Services	Jackie Gordon and Liz-Ann Koos
Directors	Jackie Cutrone Pam Davis Claudia Saunders Doris Skutch
Nominating Committee	Karen Curtis Jane Fraser Pat Porio

