



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF WESTPORT

THE CALL TO THE ANNUAL MEETING

Wednesday, June 3, 2009
8:00 - 10:00 AM

Christ and Holy Trinity Church
Community Room
55 Myrtle Avenue

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
- 9:00 Approval of 2009-2010 Budget
- 9:15 2008-2009 Program
- 9:25 Scholarship Presentation
- 9:30 Election of Officers
- 9:35 Sixtieth Anniversary Observance/Recognition of 50 year members
- 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.

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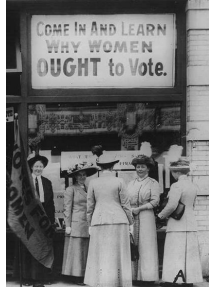
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BRING THIS CALL WITH YOU JUNE 3

Sixtieth Anniversary Celebration

"We shall someday be heeded, and everybody will think it was always so, just exactly as many young people think that all the privileges, all the freedom, all the enjoyments which woman now possesses always were hers. They have no idea of how every single inch of ground that she stands upon today has been gained by the hard work of some little handful of women of the past."

Susan B. Anthony



Sixty years ago, The League of Women Voters of Westport was formed.

Help us honor our own founding mothers, our 50-year League members and the many other active League members who have made a big difference in Westport over the last 60 years.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Again this year, Community Services was actively engaged in organizing activities in the community that promote the League's mission and policies. Just before the November presidential election, we offered our middle school civics program to all seventh grade classes at Coleytown and Bedford. Our high school civics program "The Power of One" was presented that same week at Staples. It was offered to spring semester classes in April.

Since we observed that the information in our long-time First Grade Recycling Program has become more integral to the curriculum, we concluded that we needed to develop an alternative environmental program for the elementary schools. We are now working with science teachers to create an interactive second grade presentation on "The Water Cycle in Westport" which we plan to pilot at Saugatuck Elementary School this spring.

Distribution of our biennial publication, "Know Your Town", a directory of governmental departments and officials, will be revised after this year's November election. It will not be mailed to every household in town but will instead be distributed to many public and commercial sites where it is most likely to be noticed and picked up by Westport residents. It will also be available on our website.

In cooperation with the Staples Tuition Grants Committee, we continue to offer a scholarship to a female Staples High School graduate who has shown civic responsibility or plans to major in political science, social studies or history in college. And, as always, we helped organize the League's participation in the annual Memorial Day Parade.

Jill Greenberg and Katy Goldschmidt, Community Services Vice Presidents

MEMBER SERVICES

A main focus of Member Services is to increase and retain members. We aim to help all members find their place in our League by assigning a board 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 in this dual job of member recruitment and retention.

Today we have 238 members. Our 2008-2009 events began with the Annual Fall Brunch, held at the home of Pat and Sal Porio and chaired by Jackie Cutrone. Guests had the opportunity to speak informally with candidates for State and National office. Our Post Election Coffee featured Secretary of the State Susan Byziewicz and Town Clerk Patti Strauss. It was held at the home of Alison Fraser Heisler and co-chaired by Hope Hageman and Lisa Shufro. The Holiday Luncheon fund-raiser was hosted by Claudia and Michael Saunders and co-chaired by Karen Curtis and Pat Porio. Onto Winter Warm-up (a supper held for new and prospective members); Sheila and John Creatura hosted and Sheila and Pat Porio co-chaired. The Annual Tag Sale (a major fund-raiser) this year is again at Winifred Balboni's home. Ellie Lowenstein and Karen Curtis are co-chairing. Annual Meeting on June 3rd is chaired by Luisa Francoeur.

Our membership committee is responsible for record keeping, the Voter and updating the membership handbook. Kitty Graves maintains the data base of member interests and skills, administers the membership mailing list and e-mails and publishes the handbook. Winnie Balboni oversees the "telephone tree" for those who prefer that method of contact. Lisa Shufro edits the monthly Voter and our webmistress Marilyn Bakker designed and manages our website, providing user friendly information for members and the public. The State and National Leagues (of which we are members) require regular updates on membership and dues. Joyce Netherton has graciously taken over this task as Membership Administrator interfacing with the State and National Leagues. Thank you one and all.

Pat Porio and Sheila Creatura, Member Services Vice Presidents

PROGRAM/ADVOCACY

PROGRAM:

National Program:- National Popular Vote Study - Members studied the National Popular Vote Compact, which proposes an interstate compact adopted by state legislatures to ensure that the winner of the popular vote for President nationwide is selected by the Electoral College. At a consensus meeting held on March 25, 2009, the study committee presented background information and the consensus questions. LWVUS will use the results of the local leagues' consensus to decide whether to support the NPV Compact in addition to the existing LWVUS position to amend the Constitution to abolish the Electoral College.

State Program: There were no LWVCT studies this year.

Local Program: A group of interested members continued to follow immigration issues and reform efforts. No new studies were adopted at our Local Program Planning meeting, also held on March 25. We did, however, decide to research current state-based proposals for health care access and affordability in order to present educational programs on this topic.

Environment Committee: This committee has continued to focus attention on water quality issues: members assisted Harbor Watch/River Watch staff with water quality monitoring and collaboratively completed an educational brochure on preservation of Westport's watersheds. Together with the Town Conservation Department, committee members organized an environmental summit in November 2008 to help coordinate the efforts of town boards, commissions and non-profit organizations involved in local environmental initiatives.

ADVOCACY:

Observer Corps: The Observer Corps continues to attend Town commission, board and committee meetings. Members also follow meetings broadcast on the cable access station to supplement attendance.

Action Committee: The Action Committee continues to follow up on issues of interest as part of Local Program or arising from Observer Corps meetings. The Action Committee supported the Westport Housing Authority's plan to upgrade and expand Hale's Court, and opposed earlier school start-time for middle school students in connection with proposed changes in the bus schedule. Several members met with the new Director of the Westport/Weston Health District to offer support and request earlier notice of meetings and agendas. The League also expressed support for the new Zoning Enforcement Officer position.

Legislative Meeting (Pie & Politics): Senator Toni Boucher and Representative Joe Mioli spoke in January at our evening meeting for League members and also fielded questions. The State budget crisis and possible remedies dominated this discussion.

Jane Eyes and Claudia Saunders, Program/Advocacy Vice Presidents

VOTER SERVICES

In 2008-2009, Voter Services not only encouraged but also educated Westport residents on participation in the electoral process. One of its projects was the *2008 Voters' Guide* which was published in the Westport *Minuteman* newspaper and made available at various locations in town as well as on the local LWV web site.

Voter Services also held two candidate forums in October 2008. The first, held in conjunction with other area leagues at The Clune Center in Wilton, was for the Fourth District Congressional candidates. The second, held at Westport Town Hall, was for the candidates for state representative and state senator. The Y's Men and the Y's Women co-sponsored the latter forum. Both events were available on public access television.

The LWV banner was displayed on Main Street prior to the November state and national elections to encourage people to vote.

Voter Services' end-of-year activity is its annual voter registration drive in May at Staples High School and Greens Farms Academy, in cooperation with the Westport Registrars of Voters.

Voter Services worked closely with our publicity chairperson to issue press releases and letters to the editor to maximize the turnout at the polls. It helped facilitate the formation of a new committee to encourage Westport residents to vote in local elections. Thanks go to all League volunteers who helped with Voter Services events and played a vital role in their success.

Liz-Ann Koos and Nancy Bloom, Voter Services Vice Presidents

COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSED BUDGET

The proposed Budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2010 forecasts a slight decrease in income as we experienced a slight decline in membership in the past year and are not projecting any net increase in membership next year. We are forecasting a 10% reduction in donations to the LWV Westport and no increase in LWV Education Fund donations for the coming year.

We expect to reduce expenses for the coming year by reducing the print run and eliminating mailing of *Know Your Town*. Expenses for the National Convention will also be reduced as we will ask attendees to bear an increased amount of the costs.

National per member payment ("PMP") rates have increased by \$1.20 to \$29.20 per individual member. The State PMP of \$16.50 per individual will not increase, and we are not proposing an increase in our local dues.

Once again, we will be appealing to our members to make additional contributions to the LWVUS Education Fund or to the Westport League to help fund our endeavors so that we can keep our dues at \$50 per individual member.

J.M. Graves, Treasurer

Nonpartisan Policy

The bylaws of the League of Women Voters of Westport state that the League “shall not support or oppose any political opponent or candidate.” This policy is essential to the strength, credibility and effectiveness of the League in the community, the state and the nation. Actions and affiliations of prominent League members affect the League’s public image of nonpartisanship. In order to uphold and protect our nonpartisanship, the League of Women Voters of Westport expects its members to adhere to the following guidelines:

1. Any League member who speaks for or represents the League before the public (co-presidents, public relations or action chairs, for example) may not run for partisan public office or work actively for the election of a particular candidate.
2. A League Board member may not serve on a town board or commission on the basis of party affiliation or on a committee of a particular political party. Appointments of League Board members to town boards and commissions must be approved by the League Board
3. The Westport League views participation in local caucuses, donations of political contributions and signing of petitions as an extension of the right to vote. Thus, Board members are permitted to engage in these activities but should do so with discretion.
4. There shall be consultation with the Board if there is any question of conflict. A majority vote of the Board shall resolve the question.
5. The political activities of a family member of a Board member are considered separate and distinct from the activities of a Board member.
6. A Board member should resign as soon as the Board has reached a decision that a conflict with our nonpartisan policy makes it unsuitable for the Board member to serve. This resignation will be made public by the League along with an explanation of our nonpartisan policy.
7. Members of the Representative Town Meeting (RTM) may serve on the League Board because of the nonpartisan nature of the RTM.
8. All League members should be sensitive to our nonpartisan policy while at League meetings and should refrain from partisan political discussion or displays at League events.

NOMINATIONS FOR BOARD 2009 — 2010

Co-Presidents	Alison Rivard and Doris Skutch
Past President	Pippa Bell Ader
Treasurer	Joyce Netherton
Secretary	Carol Burgess
Vice-presidents	
Community Services	Katy Goldschmidt and Jill Greenberg
Member Services	Pat Porio and Sheila Creatura
Program/Advocacy	Liz-Ann Koos and Claudia Saunders
Voter Services	Nancy Bloom and Becky Ruthven
Directors	Winifred Balboni Helen Martin Block Pamela Davis Joyce Orkand Carol Stein
Nominating Committee	Dona Andersen Maggie Feczko (Chairperson) Rose-Anne Preston

