



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF WESTPORT

THE CALL TO THE ANNUAL MEETING

Wednesday, June 9, 2010
8:00 - 10:00 AM

Christ and Holy Trinity Church
Community Room
45 Church Lane

AGENDA

- 8:30 Call to Order- Presidents Welcome
- 8:35 Recap of Year and Introduction of Vice Presidents
 - Community Services
 - Member Services
 - Program Advocacy
 - Voter Services
- 8:50 Treasurer's Report
- 8:55 Approval of 2010-2011 Budget
- 9:05 Scholarship Presentation and Remarks
- 9:15 Presentation of 2010-2011 Program
- 9:35 Election of Officers
- 9:40 Recognition of Members and of Outgoing Board
- 9:55 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	4
Committee Reports	2
Community Services	2
Member Services	2
Program/Advocacy	3
Voters Services	4
Program 2010-2011	5
Proposed Budget	6
Nonpartisan Policy	8
Nominations for Board	8

BRING THIS CALL WITH YOU JUNE 9

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Community Services organizes educational and other activities in Westport that promote the League's mission and policies. This past November, we again offered our middle school civics program to all 7th grade classes at Coleytown Middle and Bedford. Our high school civics program-- "The Power of One"-- was presented at Staples both in November and April, under the leadership of Lisa Schufro.

Thanks to the creative efforts of Eileen Flug, Pippa Bell Ader and other members, and with input from elementary school science teachers, the League has developed a new interactive 2nd grade presentation on "The Water Cycle in Westport" that discusses what happens to Westport's water when it hits the ground. This replaces the League's long-time 1st grade recycling program. The Water Cycle was piloted to Saugatuck Elementary classes this spring, and hopefully will be offered to all 2nd graders next year.

Another innovative environmental program on the water cycle-- an entertaining 45 minute assembly with music-- was presented at Coleytown Elementary. Music and lyrics were created by Suzanne Meisel and the text by Jill Greenberg and Pippa Bell Ader.

Know Your Town, our biennial directory of governmental departments and officials and community services, has been updated and is hot off the press. It is available on our website www.lvwwestportct.org. Instead of mailing Know Your Town to residents, the League plans to distribute it, and replenish copies periodically, at public sites where it is most likely to be noticed and picked up by Westport residents.

In cooperation with the Staples Tuition Grants Committee, the League continues to offer a scholarship to a female Staples High School senior or graduate who has shown civic responsibility or plans to major in political science, social studies or history in college. And, as always, the League was a visible presence in the annual Westport Memorial Day Parade.

Jill Greenberg, Community Services Vice President

MEMBER SERVICES

A goal of this committee is to recruit and retain members. Our aim is to help all members find their place in our League by assigning a Board Member 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 recruitment and retention.

Today we have 229 members. Our 2009-2010 events began with the Annual Fall Brunch held at the home of Pat and Sal Porio and chaired by Jane Eyes and Sally Galan. Guests had the opportunity to converse, informally, with candidates for local office. Post-Election Coffee, hosted by Pam Davis featured League members who ran for office and comments from Patti Strauss, League member and Westport Town Clerk. Pippa Bell Ader chaired the Holiday Luncheon which was held at the home of Connie and Stewart Greenfield. It featured a tribute to Pat Copen and honored Ann Gill for her many years of dedicated service to our League and especially Westport. Winter Warm-up event for new members became Spring Pop-up due to the big storm. Many thanks to Liz-Ann Koos for the welcome to her home and to Alison Rivard and Doris Skutch for pulling it together. The Annual Tag Sale, a major fund raiser is on May 14 and 15th, Chaired by Karen Curtis and Ellie Lowenstein. The Annual Meeting on June 9th is chaired again by Luisa Francouer and will be at Christ and Holy Trinity Fellowship room. Publicity for all events is managed by our expert Public Relations chair Doris Skutch.

Our Member committee consists of Marilyn Bakker, a very devoted and talented web-mistress. The record-keeping of membership data is kept current by Joyce Netherton (she is our Treasurer also) and Kitty Graves. Kitty has compiled the hand-book for several years as well as keeping us posted on Member interest. Carol Stein edits the monthly Voter and the mailing is handled by Katy Goldschmidt assisted by Sheila Creatura.

Clearly this is a multi-faceted position which requires a good deal of help. Sheila and I thank all the members involved and have enjoyed our tenure.

Pat Porio and Sheila Creatura Member Services Vice Presidents.

PROGRAM/ADVOCACY

PROGRAM:

NATIONAL: There were no National Studies this year. However, on February 8th, a group met to discuss National Program Planning and the upcoming National Convention and study proposals. One outcome is that we hope to encourage the LWVUS to form Task Forces to spear head prompt action responses from local leagues in connection with current national issues. This is in reference to areas where there is an existing position that requires updating such as Campaign Finance Reform. In the wake of the Supreme Court decision, immediacy of action is required. We also discussed the LWVUS Arms Control Task Force and proudly noted the role of Westporter and Task Force member, Ann Lakhdhir, who has written a paper on the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons.

STATE: The thrust of the LWVCT Fall Conference was Healthcare in Connecticut. Our League also held a Topic Talk discussion about the proposals for CT Healthcare. There is an ongoing LWVCT study on Election Laws.

LOCAL: This year has been a busy one in terms of reinvigorating membership with the inception of the monthly "Topic Talks". The kickoff of "Topic Talks" was a celebration of the 60 year history of the Westport LWV with past presidents sharing highlights from their terms. "Topic Talks" has provided a vehicle to engage speakers on current issues such as: Westport's Town finances, a discussion about Town spending; a discussion about the proposals for Connecticut Healthcare; a discussion about the history of Westport zoning; and the impact of the wetlands and other environmental factors on land use. Our hope is that discussion of issues may serve as a springboard for later action.

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE: During the 2009 summer season, Committee members assisted Harbor Watch/ River Watch staff with water quality monitoring in the Aspetuck River. This April, our League also participated in the Westport Green Up Day, cleaning along the banks of the Saugatuck River; and we staffed a table display on water quality at the Earthplace Green Earth Fair.

ADVOCACY:

OBSERVER CORPS: The Observer Corps continues to meet monthly, under the leadership of Rose Anne Preston, to hear and discuss the reports of those members attending Town commission, board and committee meetings or following meetings on cable access TV stations. Now that the Action Committee has joined us, discussion has become more in depth and lively. This is a great way to get to know Westport from a more objective, yet more intimate point of view. It also allows members of the Action Committee to become aware earlier of thorny issues that surface when underlying controversy is brought out at board and commission meetings. There is rarely a dull moment. Come join us.

ACTION COMMITTEE: As part of Local Program, the Action Committee, chaired by Ann Gill and Lisa Shufro, follows up on town government issues of League interest. The Town Clerk graciously met with the Committee to discuss CT Freedom of Information Act requirements for public meetings and records. Town budgetary restraints have led to elimination of full minutes for certain Town boards and commissions; and the League is concerned about preservation of a record and of adequate public access to information on decisions that affect all residents. The Committee continues to monitor proposed changes in Planning & Zoning Commission regulations.

LEGISLATIVE MEETING (PIE AND POLITICS): Senator Toni Boucher and Representatives Joe Mioli and Kim Fawcett spoke at our January evening meeting for League members. The discussion included the appropriateness of adopting municipal codes of Ethics and establishing ethics committees; air quality standards; healthcare reform; and the state budget deficit.

Claudia Saunders and Liz-Ann Koos, Program/Advocacy Vice Presidents

VOTER SERVICES

Voters' Guide and League Banner

In 2009-2010, Voter Services not only encouraged but also educated Westport residents on participation in the electoral process. One of its projects was the *2009 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. The LWV banner was displayed on Main Street prior to the November local elections to encourage people to vote.

Debates

Voter Services sponsored three candidate debates in October. The first debate included candidates for the Board of Assessment Appeals, the Zoning Board of Appeals and the Planning and Zoning Commission. Candidates for the second debate were present to debate positions for the Board of Finance and the Board of Education. The final debate included the candidates for First Selectman of Westport. The Yø Men, The Yø Women, The PTA Council and The Westport Womanø Club co-sponsored all debates. The debates were carried live on the public access channel as well as live streaming on the Townø website.

My Town, My Vote

Alarmed by the low voter turnout in local elections, the League decided this past election to make a very strong effort to get out the vote. A committee began meeting in the summer to plan ways to reach the electorate. During our increasingly frequent meetings, we developed a name for our effort ó My Town My Vote, and a multi-pronged approach, including partnering with the Westport News to run frequent ads and articles, and planning a day-long event on Saturday, October 17.

Our day of festivities started in the morning, with a table, voter information, and balloons set up in each of Westportø nine voting districts. Local candidates for RTM were invited to attend and we passed out information on registering and voting. The day culminated with a rally on Jesup Green, attended by the townø political committees and candidates for town-wide office. Music was provided by several young local musicians and many businesses donated goods and services to the effort.

High School Voter Registration

Voter Servicesøend-of-year activity was 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 maximize all of these projects. Thanks go to her and all League volunteers who helped with Voter Services events and played a vital role in their success.

Nancy Bloom and Becky Ruthven, Voter Services Vice Presidents

COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSED BUDGET

The proposed Budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2011 forecasts a slight decrease in income. A small decline in membership was experienced in the current year, but we are projecting a slight net increase for next year. We are forecasting a reduction in donations to the LWV Westport and a very slight one in LWV Education Fund donations for the coming year.

National per member payment (PMP) rates are scheduled to increase by \$.40 to \$29.60 per individual member. State PMP of \$16.50 per individual will not increase, and we are proposing no increase in our local dues.

With reductions in both income and expense, the proposed Budget reflects a net income of \$90 after factoring in the reserve accounts.

Once again, we will be appealing to our members to make additional, tax-deductible contributions to the LWVUS Education Fund, for our Leagueø account. These contributions will help fund our endeavors so that we can keep our dues at \$50 per individual member.

Joyce Netherton, Treasurer

PROGRAM 2010-2011

NATIONAL: At the National Convention June 11-15, the LWVUS Board will recommend a Concurrence to amend and update the Arms Control Position. The recommendations of the LWVUS Arms Control Task Force are available at the www.lwv.org website, and copies will be circulated at the Annual Meeting. The LWVUS Board also will recommend a study of the role of the Federal government in education, the details of which will be posted in the Convention Workbook, available on the above website. At our League National Program Planning meeting in February, those attending thought that the initial education study proposal was too broad in scope, so that our League participation in any LWVUS Education Study approved at Convention will depend on the final study scope.

LOCAL ACTION 2010-2011: At our April 12th the Local Program Planning meeting, three priority areas of interest for the next year were identified: (1) a review and update of our Local Position on Housing, last revised in 1992, looking toward using it as the basis for action on issues including diversity of housing; (2) a review of how the LWVCT Position on Ethics, which includes a provision promoting the establishment of municipal ethics commissions and codes, should be applied to Westport; and (3) under our Local Position on Budget Process, looking at the question of consolidation of town/education-related services in the context of town expenditures and revenues.

Next year Program/Advocacy will continue informal discussions on the topics of Immigration, which was an outgrowth of the LWVUS Immigration Study, and Health Care Reform, which was the focus of the LWVCT Fall Conference.

Topic Talks, held the second Monday of the month, will be continued, to educate League members and to possibly lead to future study and action.

Sixtieth Anniversary Celebration

Celebrating Our 60th Year

This year, our League celebrated its 60th year anniversary. Among the varied events and activities for the celebration were: the recognition of 50-year members Nita Cohen, Bobbie Saipe, Rita Seclow and Sarah Herz at the 2009 annual meeting; a front-page article by the Westport News, featuring interviews with long-time League members; a "Topic Talk" with past presidents sharing highlights of their terms; and most recently, an ambitious video production underway by John Hartwell and Lisa Shufro to capture the rich heritage and history of our League.



LWV of Westport Proposed Budget 2010-2011

	Budget 2007-2008	Actual 6/30/08	Budget 2008-2009	Actual 6/30/09	Budget 2009-2010	YTD 3/31/2010	Proposed 2010-2011
<u>INCOME</u>							
Dues and Contributions							
Membership Dues	\$11,525	\$11,035	\$12,075	\$11,425	\$10,475	\$4,075	\$10,500
Member Contributions	\$1,850	\$1,016	\$1,328	\$1,095	\$900	\$155	\$500
LWVEF Restricted Contr	\$0	\$0	\$3,050	\$4,485	\$3,100	\$1,120	\$3,000
Total	\$13,375	\$12,051	\$16,453	\$17,005	\$14,475	\$5,350	\$14,000
Fundraiser Inc							
Boutique Items	\$100	\$184	\$0	\$275	\$0	\$135	\$200
Fall Brunch	\$1,800	\$2,575	\$2,300	\$1,700	\$1,700	\$1,895	\$1,800
Holiday Lunch	\$1,500	\$532	\$550	\$580	\$600	\$735	\$700
Tag Sale	\$4,000	\$4,678	\$5,500	\$7,628	\$4,700		\$4,000
Total	\$7,400	\$7,969	\$8,350	\$10,183	\$7,000	\$2,765	\$6,700
Investment Income	\$821	\$349	\$419	\$461	\$535	\$9	\$100
Annual Meeting	\$1,100	\$1,106	\$1,200	\$333	\$1,200		\$300
TOTAL INCOME	\$22,696	\$21,475	\$26,422	\$27,982	\$23,210	\$8,124	\$21,100
<u>EXPENSE</u>							
Administration							
D&O & Liability Insurance	\$411	\$411	\$411	\$411	\$411	\$12	\$412
Equipment & Supplies	\$500	\$293	\$0	\$0	\$50		\$50
PO Box/Bulk Rate Permit	\$160	\$261	\$175	\$272	\$260	\$185	\$280
President & Board Misc.	\$0	\$35	\$35	\$0	\$35	\$1	\$35
Public Relations	\$100	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$50
Web Site	\$119	\$179	\$179	\$179	\$179		\$179
Total	\$1,290	\$1,179	\$800	\$862	\$935	\$198	\$1,006
Assessments & Fees							
Nat'l PMP	\$5,864	\$2,878	\$8,155	\$5,843	\$6,117	\$6,072	\$5,890
State PMP	\$3,581	\$3,581	\$4,826	\$3,688	\$3,457	\$3,457	\$3,284
Nat'l Convention	\$3,600	\$3,753	\$0	\$652	\$3,000		\$0
State Convention	\$375	\$0	\$450	\$95	\$0		\$200
Workshops	\$50	\$0	\$45	\$0	\$50	\$60	\$60
Total	\$13,470	\$10,212	\$13,476	\$10,278	\$12,624	\$9,589	\$9,434
Community Services							
Civics Education	\$50	\$69	\$50	\$18	\$200		\$100
Community Education	\$200	\$0	\$200	\$0	\$0		\$100
Grade 2 Water Quality Ed							\$100
Know Your Town	\$3,000	\$3,838	\$0	\$567	\$1,200		\$600
Staples Tuition Grant	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000		\$2,000
Total	\$5,250	\$5,907	\$2,250	\$2,585	\$3,400		\$2,900
Member Services							
Annual Meeting	\$900	\$1,961	\$1,020	\$279	\$1,200		\$300
Handbook Mailing	\$160	\$83	\$90	\$116	\$120	\$66	\$100
Handbook Printing	\$350	\$462	\$485	\$471	\$470	\$471	\$470
Post Election Coffee	\$50	\$268	\$140	\$0	\$100	\$47	\$100
Renewal Letters	\$0	\$173	\$0	\$33	\$173		\$100
Winter Warm Up	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$50	\$8	\$50
Total	\$1,460	\$2,947	\$1,735	\$899	\$2,113	\$592	\$1,120

Budget Committee: Eileen Flug, Past President, Alston Rivard, Co-President, Doris Skutch, Co-President and Joyce Netherton, Treasurer

	Budget 2007-2008	Actual 6/30/08	Budget 2008-2009	Actual 6/30/09	Budget 2009-2010	YTD 3/31/2010	Proposed 2010-2011
Program Advocacy							
Action Comm/Observer Corps	\$50	\$0	\$50	\$0	\$50		\$50
Environ Comm/Topic Talks	\$0	\$0	\$100	\$0	\$50		\$150
Legislative/Pie & Politics	\$130	\$31	\$100	\$75	\$100	\$50	\$100
Program Planning	\$175	\$0	\$50	\$0	\$50		\$50
Studies National/Local	\$0	\$154	\$100	\$0	\$50		\$50
Total	\$355	\$185	\$400	\$75	\$300	\$50	\$400
Voter Services							
Candidate Forum	\$200	\$26	\$0	\$486	\$50	\$202	\$250
Get Out Vote & Registration	\$100	\$0	\$200	\$0	\$600	\$570	\$100
Stickers and Buttons	\$351	\$0	\$200	\$56	\$100		\$100
Voters Guide	\$400	\$360	\$360	\$325	\$400	\$400	\$500
Total	\$1,051	\$386	\$760	\$867	\$1,150	\$1,172	\$950
Voter Publication							
Postage	\$540	\$536	\$365	\$357	\$400	\$303	\$400
Printing, Misc	\$1,200	\$1,802	\$1,380	\$1,661	\$1,500	\$1,082	\$1,500
Total	\$1,740	\$2,338	\$1,745	\$2,018	\$1,900	\$1,385	\$1,900
Fundraiser Exp							
Boutique Items	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$390	\$0	\$96	\$100
Fall Brunch	\$130	\$247	\$250	\$186	\$250	\$145	\$200
Holiday Lunch	\$150	\$32	\$250	\$41	\$200	\$70	\$100
Tag Sale	\$200	\$100	\$150	\$1,348	\$500		\$400
Total	\$480	\$379	\$650	\$1,965	\$950	\$311	\$800
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$25,096	\$23,532	\$21,816	\$19,549	\$23,372	\$13,297	\$18,510
NET INCOME	(\$2,400)	(\$2,057)	\$4,606	\$8,433	(\$162)	(\$5,174)	\$2,590
To Rsrv Nat'l Convention			1,800	1,800			1,500
To Rsrv Know Your Town			1,500	1,500			1,000
To Rsrv Membership Assist						100	
From Rsrv Nat'l Convention	2,000	2,000			1,800		
From Rsrv Know Your Town	1,600	1,600			1,200		
From Rsvr Membership Assist							
NET INCOME +/- RE-SERVES	\$1,200	\$1,543	\$1,306	\$5,133	\$2,838	(\$5,274)	\$90
BALANCE SHEET Start Year (3/31/2010)							
Dreyfus-Liability	\$28,944	\$28,952					
LWVUS Ed Fund	\$2,346	\$1,120					
TDBank Checking	\$15,062	\$11,263					
TDBank Savings	\$2,015	\$2,016					
USPS-Postal Acct	\$244	\$87					
Total	\$48,611	\$43,438					
LWVUS ED FUND (3/31/2010)							
					Starting Balance	\$2,346	
					Deposits: Summer/Fall	\$200	
					Holiday Lunch	\$870	
					Winter/Spring	\$50	
					(Withdrawals): Nat'l		
					PMP	(\$2,346)	
					Tuition Grant		
					Ending Balance	\$1,120	

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 2010 — 2011

Co-Presidents:	Doris Skutch and Yvonne Senturia
Past President:	Alison Rivard
Treasurer:	Joyce Netherton
Secretary:	Carol Burgess
Vice-Presidents:	
Community Services:	Jill Greenberg and Lois Green
Member Services:	<i>Vacant</i>
Program/Advocacy:	Liz-Ann Koos and Bernadette Farrell
Voter Services:	Becky Ruthven
Directors:	Peg Bishop
	Nancy Bloom
	Jackie Gordon
	Phyllis Groner
	Claudia Saunders
	Marilyn Smith
	Carol Stein (Voter Editor)
Nominating Committee	Jo Ann Davidson
	Katy Goldschmidt
	Ellie Lowenstein

