



Westport Voter

December 2005

Visit our website: www.lwwestportct.org

REMINDER

HOLIDAY LUNCHEON FUNDRAISER

FRIDAY DECEMBER 16

11:30 - 1:30

LAURA GALLAGHER'S
7 SANDHOPPER TRAIL

DIRECTIONS: FROM IMPERIAL AVENUE, TURN ON GAULT DRIVE.
RIGHT AT SECOND STOP SIGN.

FOOD FOR THE SHELTER

Please bring non-perishable food items for the Gillespie Food Pantry.

*For contribution suggestions,
follow link from web site home page
www.lwwestportct.org*



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Festive crowd at last year's Holiday Lunch



The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan, community-based political organization that encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy. It was founded in 1920 as an outgrowth of the 72 year struggle to win voting rights for women.

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LWV WEBSITES

www.lvwwestportct.org

www.lwvct.org (Connecticut)

www.lwv.org (US)

Greetings Everyone,

Since we last wrote we've been busy at the League with Election Day, Post Election Coffee, the Bridgeport Program, and the swearing in ceremony of Westport's newly elected officials. Soon we will turn our attention to compiling our invaluable **Know Your Town** brochure, which lists all Town officials with their contact information and is sent to each household in Westport. If working on this project interests you, please contact one of us.

At present, however, we are busy with our two State level studies: School Start Time and the Death Penalty. As you may be aware, the State League adopted two studies for concurrence at their biannual convention last June. We want to make sure that all local members are aware of the importance of our input into these studies and that everyone understands what concurrence is.

First, what is concurrence and how does it differ from consensus? Many of our long-time members are familiar with consensus, the process through which League identifies issues, studies them without bias, and then presents its findings for discussion, ultimately reaching a conclusion and developing a position. Concurrence, by contrast, is the act of agreeing with an already existing position of another League. In this case, we are being asked to agree with a position on School Start Time, which was reached by the Wilton League, and with a position on the Death Penalty reached by the New Jersey State League.

To the people involved in organizing these concurrences, the most obvious difference is that concurrence requires much less time, energy and work, as you are simply reviewing the work already done by others. To the general members who are asked to participate in concurrences, the most obvious difference is that rather than being asked to form their own opinions based on research, they are being asked whether or not they agree with someone else's opinions.

Our local members decided to support LWVCT when these two concurrence studies were proposed, and now we are asking you, our members, to participate. To give you more information on these issues, there will be a presentation for each concurrence. (See below for School Start Time; Death Penalty is set for March). There will be several possible ways for you to vote: at the meetings, by mail or online. Please make an effort to inform yourselves on these issues and take the time to vote. Without enough broad-based participation, State will not be empowered to develop positions, and all the work of the committees will be for naught.

On a lighter note, we look forward to seeing all of you at our Holiday Lunch on Friday, December 16th and hope you have a healthy, happy Holiday Season.

Laura and Lisa

SCHOOL START TIME STUDY CONCURRENCE

Several years ago the Wilton LWV completed a study called "Too Sleepy to Learn?" They examined adolescent research and concluded that a later school start time for adolescents in Wilton would be beneficial to their health, safety and education. A later school start time was implemented in September of 2004, and has been deemed a success by many in the community.

LWVConnecticut's 2005 Convention approved a one year concurrence study for a statewide position, based on the original Wilton study, favoring later school start times for Connecticut adolescents. (See Presidents' letter above for explanation of concurrence.) If approved, this position will guide LWVCT advocacy for future **state legislation or state policies**. It does **NOT** require that each local League begin an advocacy campaign in their community for later school start times for teens.

LWVWestport will host a meeting about this concurrence study on Monday, January 9th from 12:00 – 1:30pm in the McManus Room of the Westport Library. Speakers will include sleep study experts, Drs. Fein and O'Malley. Bring a brown-bag lunch; LWVWestport members will be asked to vote for or against several concurrence statements. Your input is vital to the outcome of this effort. Please plan to join us. This will be the only meeting about this concurrence sponsored by LWVWestport.

Pippa Bell Ader, Eileen Flug Program/Advocacy Vice Presidents



CONSENSUS MEETING w JANUARY 9 w 12 NOON — 1:30 w MCMANUS ROOM w LIBRARY

News From

MEMBER SERVICES

Fresh thinking is often the catalyst for great things! The Member Services Committee hopes that all Westport League members will help to recruit new members. If you have a friend or acquaintance who you think would be interested in our work, please telephone or e-mail us with a name and address. We will follow-up with a letter and appropriate League materials.

Jane Fraser 226-0686 or Athena Bradley 227-8966

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 Meanwhile, please welcome our newest members:

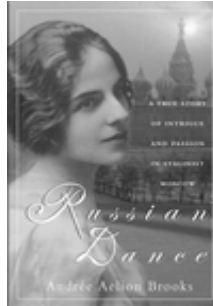
Simone Dubow
 8 Stony Point
 226 -3633

Francine Stein
 42 Whitney Glen Drive
 226-4219

↔
 And welcome back returning members:

Herb and Martha Hardt
 501 Harvest Commons
 227-9632

BOOK GROUP NEWS



In January the group will discuss *Russian Dance*. *Publisher's Weekly* describes the book as providing "a fascinating record of an audacious love affair as well as a significant insight into the early years of Stalin's reign in Russia." Special guest is the author herself, Westporter Andree Brooks. Meeting is at the home of Ellen McBride, 645 Springer Road, Fairfield on January 11 at 1:15. Bring your brown bag lunch. Helene Crawford has arranged for the library to gather copies. Call to reserve yours and they will let you know when the books arrive. To join the group, contact Helene: 227 2572.

AWAKENING WESTPORT TO BRIDGEPORT

On Sunday, November 20, one hundred and fifteen people came to Toquet Hall for our program on the Reawakening of Bridgeport. Mayor John Fabrizi, Director of Planning and Development Nancy Hadley and Superintendent of Schools John Ramos told the crowd about all the exciting changes taking place in Bridgeport. There was also a lively question and answer period, when the audience got a chance to ask some hard questions. Thanks to all of you who worked on the program, helped spread the word or attended. I think it is accurate to say that we accomplished our goal of generating enthusiasm and support for a once great city.

Lisa Shufro

LWVUS ACTION ALERTS



From time to time, the National League sends out action alerts by e-mail. These alerts relate to various issues that the League follows, ranging from drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) to the energy bill, the reauthorization of the Patriot Act to the Federal Housing Act. If you would like to know where the League stands on these issues, and perhaps take some action yourself, please sign up to receive alerts directly. Look for the National Action Center link on the Westport LWV website www.lwvwestportct.org



ENVIRONMENTAL TIP OF THE MONTH

Let's touch on the 2nd R: reduce — reducing power consumption. Clothes dryers use a lot of energy, 1) Make sure that your dryer is filled to its most efficient level (not too much, not too little). 2) Remove the lint after every load (cotton lint is a good "brown" for your compost). 3) Don't over dry. This leaves clothes stiff, wrinkly and hard to iron. Set the timer to "light dry" and you'll notice greatly reduced or nonexistent static electricity and no need for fabric softeners (which reduce absorbency in towels).



The Washington *Post* invited readers to take any word from the dictionary, alter it by adding, subtracting, or changing one letter, and supply a new definition. Here are some of those winners.

Intaxication: Euphoria at getting a tax refund, which lasts until you realize it was your money to start with.

Reinternation: Coming back to life as a hillbilly.

Giraffiti: Vandalism spray-painted very, very high.

Sarchasm: The gulf between the author of sarcastic wit and the person who doesn't get it.

Osteopornosis: A degenerate disease. (This one got extra credit).

Glibido: All talk and no action.

Dopeler effect: The tendency of stupid ideas to seem smarter when they come at you rapidly.

JOIN THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Individual Dues: \$50 Household (limited to 2): \$75

Membership year: July 1 through June 30

Send check made payable to:

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WESTPORT

P.O. Box 285

Westport, CT 06881- 0285

Contributions to LWV Education Fund are tax deductible; LWV dues are not.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

DEC 16 **HOLIDAY LUNCHEON FUNDRAISER**
11:30 AM

Laura Gallagher's, 7 Sandhopper Trail

JAN 4 **BOARD MEETING — 9 AM**

Lisa Shufro's, 15 Pequot Trail

9 **SCHOOL START TIME CONCURRENCE**

12noon - 1:30

McManus Room, Westport Library

Brown Bag Lunch

11 **BOOK GROUP — 1:15 PM**

Ellen McBride's, 645 Springer Rd, Fairfield

Brown Bag Lunch

19 **OBSERVER CORP — 9 AM**

ACTION COMMITTEE - 11 AM

Library Seminar Room (new location)

All League meetings are open to all members.



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF WESTPORT

Westport Voter
P.O. Box 285
Westport, CT 06881-0285

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT 110
WESTPORT, CT 06881

**Holiday Luncheon
Fundraiser
December 16**

