



Westport Voter

February 2006

Visit our website: www.lvwwestportct.org

WINTER WARM-UP

Sunday, February 12 5:00 PM
At the home of Marlene Siff, 15 Broadview Road
RSVP ASAP to Athena Bradley 227-8966



An event for members who bring along someone who may be interested in joining the League.

OUR HOSTESS REQUESTS THAT GUESTS LEAVE THEIR SHOES BY THE DOOR AS THEY ENTER THE HOUSE.

Local Program Planning A Team Effort

Wednesday, March 8
9:00 AM
At home of Hope Hageman
116 Greens Farms Road

**SUGGEST - DISCUSS - VOTE
ON PROGRAM FOR 2006 - 2007**



LVW Westport's full positions are on our website. Abbreviated positions are in the Member Handbook, starting on page 24

Pie and Politics

Pie and Politics was a great success, with all five of our state representatives in attendance. In the lovely parlor-like room at Saugatuck Congregational Church, the feel was informal and intimate, and the members who attended had a rare opportunity to get an insider's view of our state's politics. We had a fascinating discussion of campaign finance reform, the Broadwater project (the liquified natural gas storage facility proposed for Long Island Sound), transportation and the bottle bill. The legislators gave us a candid view of state government (and partisan politics) in discussing all of their perceived problems with the campaign finance law that was passed (from leadership-only PACs to onerous signature-gathering requirements for independent candidates), and explained how it was passed in spite of the flaws because there was

such a clamor for reform and there wasn't enough time for a thorough review between the time they received the copy of the bill and the time of the vote. There is hope, but not certainty, that the law will be modified by amendments. Regarding the Broadwater project, we learned that because it is a federally regulated project, the state will not have much input. One leaguer recommended that the governors from all of the states where these storage facilities are proposed could work together to try to stop them and recommend ways to transport and/or store natural gas that would limit exposure to possible terrorist attack, and the legislators seemed interested in taking that idea back to Hartford.

Regarding transportation, we learned that barges will begin sailing soon from Connecticut ports, on a modest scale of 400 containers per day, but this is a good beginning for getting some of the truck freight traffic off of I-95. We

also learned that there are discussions about building a train bridge over the Hudson River so that freight trains won't have to go all the way to Albany to cross the river. With respect to the bottle bill, we discussed the possibilities of creating redemption centers and having the bill apply to Styrofoam and paper coffee cups as well as bottles and cans. On Thursday evening, there was delicious pie and food for thought.



Hugh Bradley helps set-up



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.lwvwestportct.org
www.lwvct.org (Connecticut)
www.lwv.org (US)

Dear Members,

We have hit the midwinter doldrums, and yet there are plenty of League activities to keep us busy. We've just recently had Pie and Politics and National Program Planning, and look forward to the Winter Warm-up, Local Program Planning, the Death Penalty Concurrence meeting and eventually the tag/plant sale.

As you know from our last letter, the budget committee is grappling with the thorny issue of a dues increase, along with all the other decision-making that goes into developing a budget. The nominating committee is also up and running, so if you are interested in getting more involved with the League, please contact one of them (see inside for their names.), if they haven't already called you.

Looking through the League handbook, it is interesting to note how much we have grown in recent years. Not just in numbers, but in diversity, with many new members who have not previously belonged to this or any other League. We understand from some members who have recently retired from business careers that the League is unlike anything they have ever experienced.

The League is, in fact, a unique organization, political yet non-partisan. Our mission, as many of you know, is two-fold. We both 'encourage active and informed participation in the democratic process' (the Voters' Guide, voter registration, candidates' forums and Get-Out-The-Vote campaigns) and we 'work to influence public policy through education and advocacy' (Program/Advocacy, including studies, observers and action, and Community Services with its several school programs and the Know Your Town brochure.) The League's effectiveness rests precisely on its willingness to engage in political affairs without becoming partisan. Rising above party politics gives us the ability to accomplish both parts of our mission. Without remaining non-partisan we could not be as effective as we have been over the years, either in supplying people with the information they need to be active and involved citizens, or in lobbying government for the changes we believe need to be made in public policy.

With that lecture over, we close by wishing you a comfortable February. Enjoy the lengthening days, and we hope to see you at a League event soon.

Laura and Lisa

National Program Planning

At a lively National Program Planning meeting on February 6, the LWV Westport decided to propose that LWVUS review its existing Energy position's support for "policies that limit reliance on nuclear fission." The majority of the members attending believe that with safer nuclear technologies being developed, the National League's position is too restrictive. Our league also decided to identify the National League's Arms Control position as an area of priority. We were on the verge of proposing Homeland Security as a National study, but for various reasons decided to raise the issue at our upcoming Local Program Planning meeting for further discussion as a possible local study that could serve as a model for other communities as they

grapple with preparedness for natural and man-made disasters. Finally, our league created a committee to investigate how our dues to the National League are being utilized and whether LWVUS could fund studies based on current dues, rather than assessing supplemental dues for national studies.



Peg Bishop, Athena Ploumis Bradley and Joyce Colburn consider the issues.

BOOK GROUP NEWS

The book group meets on the fourth Monday of the month at 1:30 pm. The group will discuss *Witness*, by Whitaker Chambers on February 27, at Yvonne Senturia's house, 17 Blue Ribbon Drive.



March 27 - Philip Roth's *The Plot Against America*

April 24 - Ian McEwen's *Saturday*

Multiple copies of the groups selection s will be available at the Westport Public Library . If you would like to join the group, email or call Helene Crawford: 227 2572 .



Westport LWV Needs You!!!!

COME OUT AND PLAY...



It's time again to publish *Know Your Town* and we need your help!! Every two years the Westport LWV puts together a wonderful sheet of important names and contacts in Westport (elected and appointed officials, town departments, schools, etc) and mails it to every household in town. To accomplish this goal we need your help. **On Wednesday, March 22th bulkmailing central will be open for business at the home of Laura Gallagher, 7 Sandhopper Trail from 9:30AM to 3:00PM.** This mass mailing is not a small feat and we need every willing volunteer to stop by and pitch in, if only for a half hour. It's a great way to catch up with League friends, have a few laughs and participate in a worthy project. So please join in the fun and RSVP your commitment to Laura at 221-1746 or Karen at 259-1880. Looking forward to seeing you there!!!

New Members

Bonnie & Sara Ashman
153 Bayberry Lane
222-7974

Frederica Brenneman
320 Bayberry Lane
227-2822

Rosalind Kalb
42 Marion Road
226-1075

Phyllis Makovsky
11 Bobwhite Drive
226-9693

Maria Petti
39 Washington Ave.
226-4840

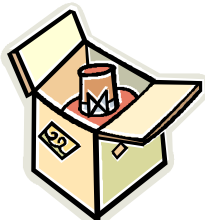
CHANGES OR CORRECTIONS

Joyce Colburn

Maria Paoli
37 Clapboard Hill
254-6083

TIME TO THINK TAG SALE...

Get a head start on your spring cleaning. We need donations of all kinds: furniture, china, decorative items, toys, games, jewelry. We have volunteers willing to store your contributions and we will be glad to pick-up donations. So please don't delay, start loading up boxes, now.



Tag Sale Location ????

We are still looking for a location for the Tag Sale. If you have the perfect site, please contact Jackie Gordon 803-3725. .

Remember, all donations are tax deductible

The Nominating Committee

Athena Ploumis Bradley
227-8966

Diana Coyne
227-4182

Maggie Feczko
454-4694

Hope Hageman
227-5335

Christine O'Sullivan
227-3634

Death Penalty Concurrence Study Presentations

March 21

12:00 – 1.30 Mc Manus Room, Westport Public Library
Or

March 22

7.00 - 9.00 Rotary Room, Fairfield Public Library

Copies of the study, a short summary, and the concurrence statement are available on-line. Go to the Westport LWV web site, www.lvwwestport.org for a link to the reports.

After the presentation, LWV members attending the meeting will vote to concur (or not) on an individual basis. Members who are not able to attend one of the meetings will be able to vote on the mail-in ballot, provided in the March Voter.

37th Symposium on International Relations
March 15, 2006 8:00 AM - 12:30 PM Quinnipiac University School of Law

Poverty, Prosperity and Peace
Eradicating Poverty to Build a Culture of Peace

For more info call LWV CT office 203-288-7996

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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

- FEB** 10 **BUDGET STUDY** - 10.30 AM
Ann Gill's, 53 High Point Road
- 12 **WINTER WARM - UP** - 5 PM
Marlene Siff's, 15 Broadview Road
- 16 **OBSERVER CORP — 9 AM**
ACTION COMMITTEE - 11 AM
Library Seminar Room
- 27 **BOOK GROUP** - 1:30 PM
Yvonne Senturia's, 17 Blue Ribbon Drive
- MAR** 1 **BOARD MEETING** - 9:00 AM
Lisa Shufro's, 15 Pequot Trail
- 8 **LOCAL PROGRAM PLANNING** - 9:00 AM
Hope Hageman's 116 Greens Farms Road
- 15 **SYMPOSIUM ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**
8:30 - 12:30 Quinnipiac University
- 21 **DEATH PENALTY CONCURRENCE** - Noon
McManus Room, Westport Library
- 22 **BULK MAILING PARTY** - 9:30 AM - 3:00 PM
Laura Gallagher's, 7 Sandhopper Trail
- 22 **DEATH PENALTY CONCURRENCE** 7 -9 PM
Rotary Room - Fairfield Public Library

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
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**Local Program
Planning**

