

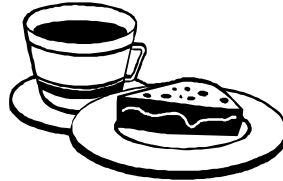


Westport Voter

January 2007

Visit our website: www.lwwestportct.org

Pie and Politics



Informal Discussion With Our State Legislators
Thursday, February 8th, 2007
7:00PM-9:00PM
Saugatuck Congregational Church
Fellowship Room, 245 Boston Post Road East

Many members felt that this evening was one of the most informative events we held last year. Don't miss it!

Winter Warm - Up



Sunday, February 11 5:00 PM
At home of Liz-Ann Koos
114 Greens Farms Road

RSVP - Athena Ploumis Bradley at 227 - 8966

The purpose of this dinner is to introduce new and prospective members to the work of the Westport League. You are invited to attend, if you bring along a prospective member who may be interested in joining the League.

Save the Date

State Program Planning Meeting
Discussion of LWVCT Positions
Tuesday, February 27th, 2007
10:00AM-12:00PM
Westport Town Hall, Room 201
110 Myrtle Avenue

Think Tag Sale !



With the cold weather, now is the perfect time to walk through your house and eliminate clutter or, before it gets too steamy, to clean out the attic. Please set aside a box or two for the LWV Tag Sale in early May.



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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Greetings everyone and a very happy New Year,

First, we would like everyone to join us in welcoming Liz-Ann Koos to the board of directors. An attorney, Liz-Ann recently retired as Chief Counsel of the New York Stock Exchange's Market Surveillance. She previously worked as a litigator with the Securities Exchange Commission in Washington, D.C. She moved to Westport in August 2004. We are fortunate to have Liz-Ann's talents and experience on our board.

We trust everyone enjoyed the "spring-like" vacation and you are ready for a jam-packed first quarter in the League. We'd like to use this space to summarize the important League events happening over the course of the next few months and encourage everyone to mark their calendars and join in as much as possible.

February is a busy month for the League. February 8 is the date of our annual Pie and Politics that we've been touting for the last couple of issues. This is a great event when League members sit with our legislators, eat delicious pie in a casual atmosphere and discuss current topics, political, environmental or other. Last year this event was incredibly enlightening and provided us with a unique opportunity to get to know our state representatives on a personal level. Please be sure and join us, as you will enjoy it!

Our Winter Warm-up will be on February 11. This annual dinner welcomes new and prospective members.

Our State Program Planning meeting will be held on the morning of February 27. This event is held every other year and is the time that local Leagues discuss priorities for State programs. If you feel passionate about any State issues, this is the perfect time to have a voice. All members are encouraged to attend.

Finally, in March we will be holding two consensus meetings - March 20 in the evening and March 21 in the morning - to present the results of our Budget Study. These meetings will be the culmination of two years of work, and it's extremely important for members to come and listen to the results of our research and help us reach a consensus position on Westport's budget process.

Whew! We've had some very busy League members who would very much like to see some new faces. Hopefully, this summary piques your interest and we will see you at one or all these events. More details can be found inside this Voter or feel free to call any board member if you would like more information.

Eileen and Laura

LWV WEBSITES

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

Book Group News

The group will meet to discuss *Snow* by Orhan Pamuk on January 29 (note date change) at 1:30 PM at the home of Hope Hageman, 116 Greens Farms Road.

Please contact Hope to let her know you will attend the discussion, 227 - 5335 or hhageman1@optonline.net.

February 26 - *The Places in Between* by Rory Stewart

Multiple copies of the group's selections are available at the Westport Public Library. If you have questions about joining the group, email or call Helene Crawford: 227 2572 or helenekc@optonline.net



Welcome New Members

Donna Brennan-Brown
 21 Berkeley Road
 227 6564
ack0205@cs.com

Rebecca Jacobson
 18 Old Hill Farms Road
 227 9397
Rebecca@optonline.net

GO GREEN

FOR ABOUT \$.01 MORE PER KILOWATT HOUR



For about \$11 more a month for the average household you can support electricity production from cleaner sources such as wind, small dam hydro and landfill gas.

Go to: WWW.CTCLEANENERGYOPTIONS.COM for more details and enrollment forms. Or contact LWV member Carl Leaman at 226 5725 or josicarl@optonline.net for more information.



Westport LWV Needs You!!!!

Paper or Plastic? **NEITHER!**

Make it a new year's resolution to provide your own bags. Sturdy canvas that stand on their own are easy to fill and carry. Smaller, lighter cloth bags fold neatly and take up less room. String bags scrunch into a corner of a pocket book. Which ever you choose, keep two or three in your car and get in the habit of using them, so when the clerk brightly asks which you'd prefer, you can say

NEITHER!

But that's in the best of all possible worlds; even the most diligent sometimes have to choose. Here's some information to help you decide: *

Plastic requires petroleum for manufacture and we'd like to be less dependent on that non renewable resource. But it takes four times more energy to manufacture paper bags than plastic. Not only is virgin wood required, but Kraft paper (the key component in those handsome Trader Joe's bags that march relentlessly out their doors all day long) is made by heating wood chips under pressure at high temperatures in a chemical solution. Paper bags are readily recyclable (with our newspapers), but so too are plastic bags (see the bins in local supermarkets). And then there's the shipping factor; one truckload of plastic bags replaces seven loads of paper bags. What about litter? Paper bags degrade, while flimsy, unsightly plastic lives on to befoul our landscape and create hazards for wildlife.

*based on an article in Seventh Generation's online *Non-Toxic Times Newsletter*.

SPOTLIGHT ON BRIDGEPORT SCHOOLS: Why Should We Care? Monday, March 5 - 7:30 PM

A panel discussion with Dr. John Ramos, Superintendent of Bridgeport Schools and Peter Hurst, President of Commerce Bank in Bridgeport, and Marilyn Ondrasik, Executive Director of the Bridgeport Child Advocacy Coalition. They will discuss educational disparity in Bridgeport and how individuals can advocate for change. Sponsored by The Smilow Family in conjunction with The Greater Area Bridgeport Foundation, The Fairfield County Community Foundation, and The League of Women Voters of Westport. McManus Room.



As a follow up to this program, LWV Westport will also present a "Bridgeport Volunteer Fair" on Sunday, April 1st at 4pm at the Center for Senior Activities. This will be an opportunity for people to find out where help is most needed and how they can personally get involved.

Observer Corps



We now have 11 active Observers for 17 Boards/ Commissions. Openings for new observers are for Board of Education, Parks & Recreation, Public Site & Building, RTM, Youth Commission and ZBA. If that sounds like a lot of openings to you, remember that some of these Boards have never been observed so it's not surprising that they are still not covered. What is encouraging is that all of the current observers are conscientious about their work and are doing a great job.

If you are worried about having to write a report once a month, fear not. Written reporting has been reduced to filling out a basic form that takes no more than three minutes but gives us exactly what we need to know. The monthly meetings on the third Thursday of each month give us the broader picture and can be fascinating.

Interested in joining us? Call Rose Anne Preston at 454-3547 or email me at raprozi@optonline.net for more information.

Emily McLaury House Future?

The Westport Historic District Commission (HDC) asked the RTM on January 9th for funding for restoration and rehabilitation of the Emily McLaury House, located at 99 Myrtle Avenue, across the street from the Town Hall. This is a town-owned historic building that used to be rented out as workforce housing (prior to its historic designation). It is currently uninhabitable. The League made a statement in support of this funding at the RTM meeting. It based its support on two local positions, Planning and Zoning and Housing. As selling the property is inconsistent with the current Town Plan and workforce housing is desperately needed, the League Board felt it should support the HDC in its endeavor to return the property to workforce housing.



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

- JAN** 17 **Environment Committee** - 10 AM
At home of Pippa Bell Ader, 62 Woodside
- 18 **Observer Corps** - 9 AM
Action Committee - 11 AM
Library Seminar Room
- 24 **Budget Study** - 10 AM
At home of Eileen Flug, 5 Gault Avenue
- 29 **Book Group** - 1:30 PM (Note date change)
At home of Hope Hageman, 116 Greens Farms Rd.
- 31 **Budget Study** - 10 AM
At home of Ann Gill, 53 High Point Road
- FEB** 7 **Board Meeting** - 9 AM
At home of Laura Gallagher, 7 Sandhopper Trail
- 8 **Pie and Politics** - 7 PM
Saugatuck Congregational Church
- 11 **Winter Warm - Up**
At home of Liz-Ann Koos - 114 Greens Farms Rd.
- 14 **Budget Study** - 10 AM
At home of Ann Gill, 53 High Point Road
- 15 **Observer Corps** - 9 AM
Action Committee - 11 AM
Library Seminar Room
- 26 **Book Group** - 1:30 PM

All League meetings are open to all members.



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF WESTPORT

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Westport, CT 06881-0285

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