

From: League of Women Voters of Scarsdale <irajanice@aol.com>
Subject: News from League of Women Voters of Scarsdale
Date: January 5, 2010 4:50:13 PM EST
To: sarah@hallac.com
Reply-To: irajanice@aol.com



LEAGUE OF
 WOMEN VOTERS®

League of Women Voters of Scarsdale Newsletter

January/February 2010

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SCARSDALE

The League of Women Voters of Scarsdale (LWVS) is a volunteer nonpartisan political organization which promotes political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government. The League is nonpartisan in that it does not support or oppose any candidate for public office; it is political in that it takes positions on selected governmental issues after serious member study and consensus.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING ON SCHOOL BOARD NOMINATING COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

MONDAY, JANUARY 25th, at 9 AM

Scarsdale Village Hall, 3rd Floor Meeting Room

Susan Ross, co-chair of the SBNC Administrative Committee, will attend to answer questions concerning the elections

website: www.lwvs.org

January

Wed.	6	7-9:30 am and 2-9:00 pm	SBNC Election SMS	
Mon.	11	9:00am	Board Meeting	Village Hall 3rd Floor
		10:45am	Sally Robinson to speak on advocacy issues	
Mon.	25	9:00am	Gen. Membership Mtg. School Election System	Village Hall all 3rd Floor
Sat.	30	5-7pm	Winter Fundraiser	Janice Starr's Home 65 Church Lane

February

Mon.	8	9:00 am	Board Meeting	Village Hall 3rd Floor
		10:30am	Gen. Membership Mtg: Local & County Prog.	

March

Mon.	15	9:00 am	Board Meeting	Village Hall 3rd Floor
		10:15am	Gen. Membership Mtg: Village Budget	Village Hall 3rd Floor
Mon.	22	9:00 am	Board Meeting	Village Hall 3rd Floor

We need your participation to evaluate the School Board Nominating Committee election process

For more information, please contact Susie Rush at 472-7797 or srush76@gmail.com

10:15am

Gen. Membership Mtg:
School Budget

Village Hall
3rd Floor

Remember to Vote!!

2009 Election of Members to the School Board Nominating Committee

(The SBNC nominates candidates for the Scarsdale Board of Education)

Wednesday, January 6th
Polls are open at the Scarsdale Middle School

7 AM - 9:30 AM
and
2 PM - 9 PM

Welcome to New Members:

Eileen Laxer
Jennifer Underweiser

Thank you:

LWVS Suffragist:
Janet and Mark
Hershey
EF Suffragist:
Susan & J.Gregory
Milmoie

Presidents Message:

We welcome 2010 with hope, energy and enthusiasm, starting anew with large ambitions and goals. We so thoroughly believe in the role of the League of Women Voters and strive to expand our membership. After all, we are the only nonpartisan grass roots organization dedicated to providing education and study on issues essential to the well being of our local, state and national governments. Thanks to our diligent membership committee, co chaired by Janice Starr and Margaret Smith, we are confident we will broaden and deepen our relationships with Scarsdale residents. At the same time, we are will continue to work hard to ensure our financial health. Guided by development chairs, Anne Lyons and Debra Lagapa, we have made our annual appeal and sincerely thank you, our members, for responding so generously. Since the vast majority of your membership dues support the League of Women Voters' County, State and National infrastructure, we rely heavily on our finance drive to support local Scarsdale programs.

Committee Opportunities

The League is offering a number of interesting committee opportunities for those of you who are looking to get more involved in a particular area of interest. These committee positions give you the chance to work together with like-minded League members on timely local issues for as much time as you care to devote to the projects.

On November 24, League members gathered together to discuss and evaluate the recent Citizens Nominating Committee election. Ann Sacher, Village Election System chair, led a detailed consensus discussion and skillfully summarized League views in her letter to the Procedure Committee. The League will continue its important work in January with an evaluation of the School Board Nominating Committee election. Please join us on January 25 as Susie Rush leads our membership and consensus meeting. And, of course, please cast your vote for School Board Nominating Committee members on January 6 at Scarsdale Middle School.

We had the good fortune to share a December board meeting with Betsey Swan, LWVNYS president, and delved into the details of state initiatives and challenges. Betsey underscored her desire to transform the state League's reach, by identifying creative ways to engage those who work full time. She believes there is huge opportunity for the state League to evolve with the changing times. She indicated that the LWVNYS hopes to ease local League workloads and disseminate best practices. On January 11, we will continue our dialogue with LWVNYS as Sally Robinson, LWVNYS VP Issues and Advocacy, will introduce us to advocacy initiatives. Please mark your calendars to attend.

Many ideas for our local League are percolating for the spring. LWVS Board members are busy exploring enriching and fulfilling activities to engage you. We plan rigorous analysis as school and village budget seasons commence and urge you to attend community meetings in order to remain informed citizens. Over the next couple of months, please also think about our local program. We encourage you to join us at our membership and consensus meeting on the local and county program scheduled for February 8.

Please contact Membership co-chairs Janice Starr at 472-8851 or irajanice@aol.com OR Margaret Smith at 723-5898 or reinedesaba@optonline.net for more information. We welcome your involvement.

Advocacy/Legislation
Aging-in-Place
Candidates Forum
Development
Environment
Finance Drive
Membership
Membership Statistician
Planning and Zoning
Publicity
Village
Infrastructure
Voters Service

Thank yous
Nancy Michaels for her unwavering dedication as our electronic bulletin editor;
Ann Sacher for hosting and chairing the Village Election System membership and consensus meeting;
Anne Lyons and Debra Lagapa for their tireless work on the finance drive;
Pam Rubin for working to ensure League "VOTE" banners are punctually displayed;
Adie Shore and Michelle Lichtenberg for studying the draft of

The League is not just about good works but also about good friends. We extend an enthusiastic invitation to all of you to share an evening with us at our winter fundraiser, a lovely event on Saturday, January 30 from 5-7 p.m. at Janice and Ira Starr's home, 65 Church Lane. Looking forward to seeing you very soon,

Jane Veron, LWVS President

Please Contribute to your Local League's Annual Finance Drive

The League of Women Voters of Scarsdale, your local League, works on a very tight budget. Please consider us in your giving. Mail your checks made out to LWVS to:
LWVS
Box 495
Scarsdale, NY 10583

Please attend the January 11 Meeting

LWVNYS VP Issues and Advocacy, Sally Robinson, will update League members on advocacy issues:

Monday, January 11
10:45 a.m.
Village Hall, 3rd floor

Naturalization Court

Every year, the Scarsdale League sends representatives to a session of Naturalization Court in White Plains. Witnessing the ceremony, distributing voter information and greeting each new citizen fills volunteers with the thrill and pride of American citizenship.

Our next Naturalization Court date is Wednesday, April 21. If you would like to participate and represent the Scarsdale League at the ceremony, please contact Jane Veron, LWVS President, jevatf@aol.com.

**Please Join Us!!!
The League of Women Voters of Scarsdale**

Winter Fundraiser

Saturday, January 30
5 pm to 7 pm
At the Home of Janice Starr
65 Church Lane, Scarsdale

Hors d'oeuvres, desserts, cocktails,
music and conversation!

Tickets are \$30 per person.
Please make checks payable to LWVS and remit to:
Janice Starr
65 Church Lane
Scarsdale, New York 10583

The schedule of school budget meetings is as follows:

the Village
Component of the
Comprehensive Plan
and developing a
League statement;
Barbara Cohen,
Angela Manson and
Ann Sacher for
keeping apprised of
school budget
discussions;
Florie Wachtenheim
and Janice Starr for
their recording and
corresponding
secretary work;
Debbie Miller for
her long standing
service as League
treasurer;
Sara Werder for
anticipating League
PR needs;
Susie Rush for her
membership dues
analysis and
membership
reporting;
Sara Hallac for her
skillful web site
management;
Kitt Rosenthal for
her lovely
hospitality;
Renee Baylor for
her active
participation as
County liaison and
our treasure trove of
knowledge.

1/13 7:30 PM Budget Forum
1/20 10:00 AM Budget Forum
2/1, 2/3, 2/8, 2/10
6:30 PM Budget Study Sessions
3/1 8:00 PM Board of Educ. mtg
with budget presentation
4/8 8:00 PM Board of Educ. Budget
Forum & Budget Study Session
5/18 Budget Vote

The link to the school website with the info:
<http://www.scarsdaleschools.k12.ny.us/20191062213541450/lib/20191062213541450/BudgetCalendar.pdf>

**SCARSDALE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
STATEMENT ON THE VILLAGE COMPONENT OF THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN
November 9, 2009**

The Scarsdale League of Women Voters appreciates Village Planner Elizabeth Marrinan's time and expertise in presenting the Village component of the Comprehensive Plan to the League members. This statement is based on a meeting the League held on October 6, 2009 and reflects the consensus of League members on the topics included in this statement.

The process to gather input for the Plan was open and inclusive. There was an extensive effort to solicit input from residents and community groups. In addition, information was made available to anyone who wished to avail themselves of it.

The mission of the Plan was well stated and captures the essence of what the community would like to see. We encourage the Village to continue to fine-tune the Plan. The League supports the following goals in particular:

- Promoting more retail diversity in the Village
- Anticipating workforce housing
- Utilizing green options when possible, and
- Maintaining the architectural integrity of Scarsdale Village while responding to changing needs of the residents.

We thank all the members of the Village Board, Al Gatta, Elizabeth Marrinan and the administration for the help they have given the League of Women Voters of Scarsdale in its study of the Plan. We look forward to the continuation of the planning and zoning discussion and commenting on the final draft of the Village Component of the Comprehensive Plan once it becomes available.

**STATEMENT OF THE
LEAGUE OF WOMEN
VOTERS® OF
WESTCHESTER
AT THE
WESTCHESTER
COUNTY BOARD OF
LEGISLATORS'
PUBLIC HEARING
ON THE
PROPOSED 2010
COUNTY BUDGET
DECEMBER 10, 2009,
7:00 P.M.,
MICHAELIAN OFFICE
BUILDING**

Michelle Lichtenberg

Margaret Smith
Co-Chairs LWVS Planning & Zoning

Adie Shore
LWVS First Vice President

Village Election Consensus Statement

December 18, 2009
Mr. Bruce Wells, Chair
The Procedure Committee
40 Chase Rd.
Scarsdale, NY 10583

The League of Women Voters® of Westchester thanks the Board of Legislators (BOL) for this opportunity to present its view on the proposed budget.

The League appreciates the continuing efforts that have been made to make information about the budget more easily accessible to the public through the County and BOL websites. We also appreciate the time that the BOL Budget and Appropriations Committee has spent in public meetings with Commissioners reviewing the proposed departmental budgets.

The League recognizes the difficulties that County Executive Spano faced in preparing this budget because severe economic challenges, including significant declines in non-property tax revenue at the state, county and local levels, have deeply impacted and will continue to affect all of us: resident taxpayers, local businesses, nonprofit organizations, as well as schools and governments. We need to continue reaching across party lines and working together, not against each other, to resolve our budgetary problems and we will all have to make sacrifices.

The League recognizes that this budget process is a dynamic situation, and, as such, our statement is based on the information that was available to us when we reached an agreement by consensus on November 19th. In this context, we offer the following comments and suggestions.

Tax Rate and County Budget Increase: Under the current recessionary economic conditions, the proposed tax rate increase of 4.88% is unacceptable. The League believes that these conditions require the BOL and the county administration to carry out their fiduciary duty to the taxpayers and exercise fiscal discipline by working

Dear Bruce,

The League of Women Voters of Scarsdale (the "League"), itself a nonpartisan organization, favors the concept and recognizes the value of a nonpartisan system for the selection of Village and School Board candidates in Scarsdale. We continue to monitor these election systems to encourage the informed and active participation of our citizens.

We would like to thank you for taking the time to meet with us at our membership meeting on November 24, 2009 to review the recent Citizens Nominating Committee ("CNC") election. In addition, we appreciate your prompt response to inquiries regarding the election and your detailed report of November 22, 2009 providing your observations of the election process.

The League recognizes the continued efforts by the Procedure Committee (the "Committee") to administer the election of members to the CNC and its commitment to the effective functioning of Scarsdale's nonpartisan system. We have several recommendations regarding the 2010 CNC election. Supporting detail may be found in the Detailed Commentary portion of the letter.

Recommendations

1. ***Devise and implement strategies to better educate the community about the nonpartisan system.*** The nonpartisan system is unique, complex and requires an orientation. The League recommends that the Committee identify multiple venues to educate the public. In addition, the committee should reach out to all local organizations in an effort to educate the maximum number of people about the process.
2. ***Improve voter turnout by facilitating voting by citizens.*** The League believes that making voting more convenient for residents would greatly increase voter participation. The League observed the nation's movement toward early voting in the 2008 general election and would like to harness the momentum in Scarsdale. To this end, the League encourages the Committee to reposition and rename the absentee ballots as mail-in ballots. The League also recommends extending morning voting hours to increase voter turnout.
3. ***Develop policy and procedure guidelines for administering the election.*** The League commends the Chair of the Committee for his dedication in managing the details of the election. Since the election is similar year after year, the League recommends that the Committee develop a set of policy and procedure guidelines that would be used annually. Each step of the process should be documented for future committees. Subcommittees should be set up to handle various aspects including publicity, finances, sending out mailings etc. Among other things, these guidelines should include a timeline that lists the tasks that need to be completed each month. The job of administering the election can be shared with the entire committee. By including the whole Committee in the development of the guidelines and the administration of the election, the process could work more efficiently and each member could add his or her input. Questions that are raised and not covered in the Resolution should be resolved by committee consensus, not solely by the chair.

The League appreciates the Chair's management of the election process and believes the Committee did a responsible job carrying out the administrative tasks. Increasing voter participation continues to represent an enormous challenge. However, an election process that garners the attention of only a tiny fraction of the community needs to be reexamined and thoughtfully modified annually. Below, please find a detailed commentary on all aspects of the 2009 CNC election.

Detailed Commentary

Overview.

While the League recognizes that voter turnout this year was on the high side for local Village elections it still represents only a small percentage of the voting population of Scarsdale. Given that the CNC proposes the slate of officials who will, in all likelihood, serve as our Village Trustees and Mayor, those who are entrusted with managing our local budget and quality of life, the League urges the Committee to continue to focus on increasing voter involvement.

The League recognizes that addressing voter apathy is not the specific charter of the Committee, but the League believes that the Committee could take a leadership role in examining new strategies to engage Scarsdale voters and might explore a partnership with the School Board Nominating Committee's Administrative Committee ("Administrative Committee") to tackle these shared issues.

to reduce the tax rate increase to 0%. The League understands that this is a very difficult task that will require government decision-makers to make some hard choices and we the residents to accept service cuts.

The League is concerned that some of the 2010 estimated revenues (including state aid) may be too high, and that the proposed budget does not include significant budget cuts. The underlying assumption for the 2010 budget appears to be that the County is already operating efficiently. The League questions this assumption and urges the BOL and the county administration to critically analyze the current array of County services, holding the provision of services to ensure the health and safety of County residents in higher priority, and determine which areas can be reorganized, pared back or eliminated. The League also urges the BOL to more closely review the administrative costs in each department to determine which functions should remain distributed among departments and which can be more cost effectively provided in a consolidated department.

Recognizing that determining the optimum County reorganization plan cannot be achieved in a scant six weeks, the League strongly urges the County Executive and the BOL to select one or more departments and conduct a thorough, open evaluation of its operations over the next several months, well before next year's budget is released, and to continue to undertake in depth department reviews over the next few years until all departments have gone through a similar rigorous assessment. The current compressed budget timetable allows the BOL no time to thoughtfully address proposed recommendations for operational improvements.

Reorganizing County Government: The League

Nominations.

Pursuant to the Non-Partisan Resolution, an invitation for submission of nominating petitions should be placed in the official Scarsdale newspaper on two occasions prior to September 30. One notice was placed in the September 11, 2009 issue of the Scarsdale Inquirer. The League suggests that the Committee follows the text of the Non-Partisan Resolution and places a second invitation in the newspaper.

Notice to Vote Brochure.

The League commends the Committee for cutting costs by mailing a single page Notice to Vote brochure to residents prior to the election. The League suggests that the Notice be revamped such that the page that is first viewed by recipients (the page with the resident's address) has graphic interest that makes clear that the purpose of the mailing is to notify citizens of the election and to get out the vote. The League recommends that the brochure clarify that each resident can vote only for candidates in his or her elementary school district. In order to condense the size of the Notice to Vote brochure to one page, the information describing the nonpartisan system in Scarsdale was eliminated. While recognizing the need to save money, the League believes that educating the community about the system is of vital importance. The League suggests that the nonpartisan system education portion of the brochure be made available in public venues such as the Scarsdale Public Library and Village Hall. Information should also be placed on the Committee's website.

The Vote.

Voter Turnout. The turnout of 664 voters was an increase in voter participation from 2008's 385 voters but still represents only a small fraction of eligible Scarsdale voters. Since 1998, the tally of votes cast has fluctuated from a low of 353 voters in 2005 to a peak of 664 voters this year. As voter turnout represents approximately 3-6% of resident voters of Scarsdale, the League encourages the Committee to consider a more broad based approach to increasing voter participation. It goes without saying that residents should be informed and active participants in the selection of their governing officials.

An essential first step would be to bolster education efforts. The League continues to encourage the Committee to consider a partnership with the Administrative Committee to develop a comprehensive education effort targeted to the entire Scarsdale population. The League is confident that a task force of Committee and Administrative Committee members could identify and implement a myriad of tailored approaches to reach Scarsdale's different demographics. For example, the League again recommends a representative be sent to the first Parent Teacher Association meeting of each of the Scarsdale schools to describe the nonpartisan system and to generate interest in the election. Although the timing of the Village and School Board elections differs, the fundamentals of the nonpartisan system are the same. A collaborative effort, perhaps in the form of a task force, enables a more leveraged use of scarce volunteer resources. The League also encourages personal outreach to the newer residents of the community will result in a more informed and interested voter base.

The League continues to support the Committee's efforts to rely upon its website to improve voter education and participation. The League commends the Committee for including online the absentee ballot, biographical sketches and the election calendar and believes the website holds even greater potential for voter involvement.

Voting. The League was pleased to see the year over year increase in the use of absentee ballots, rising from 17 to 182 individuals. The League appreciates that the Committee made the absentee balloting process easier for voters and allowed for a more generous deadline. The League believes the absentee ballot has enormous untapped potential as an acceptable alternative to in-person voting and could be the vehicle to achieve exponential growth in voter participation. By repositioning and renaming the absentee ballot as a mail-in ballot, the League believes that more citizens would be likely to participate in the election. In order to ensure that the ballot remains a neutral tool for all citizens, the League urges the Committee to carefully educate the community about its intended usage and the benefits thereof in the local media. The distribution of the mail-in ballots should be primarily driven by the Committee and not by the candidates. The League also suggests that these mail-in ballots be made available on the Committee's website and at public sites throughout Scarsdale for those without ready access to the Internet. The League recommends that the Committee remove restrictions on those voting by mail-in ballot (e.g. requiring a signature

recommends that the BOL appoint a volunteer citizen task force to participate in a broad review of County government functions within the framework of the County Charter and to make recommendations for fundamental restructuring of government organization in order to streamline and improve operations. In addition, the League recommends that the BOL, as it did in forming the Compensation Advisory Task Force, form a specialized volunteer citizen task force with particular expertise in the insurance and health care industries to evaluate the County's ever-increasing healthcare costs and to recommend alternative approaches to lessen the annual increases. Separately, the League commends the county administration for taking an initial step toward streamlining government by placing the Departments of Health and Community Mental Health under a single commissioner, thereby eliminating the funding for one commissioner's salary, and we encourage you to look closely at other opportunities to merge departments and offices and reduce administrative expenses.

Affordable Housing: The League recommends that county-owned real estate that is underutilized, or may become underutilized as County government is consolidated, be evaluated to identify possible sites for fair and affordable housing to facilitate the implementation of the housing settlement agreement and possibly reduce the implementation cost to the County.

Transparency: In this difficult economic environment, it is critically important that the government be transparent in its activities, so that taxpayers can clearly understand how it is spending tax dollars. Currently, millions of dollars in County government contract awards bypass the BOL and are routinely approved by the three-member

stating that the voter will be out of town during the election). The League does not believe that a more liberal use of mail-in ballots will compromise the election system. On the contrary, the League believes that greater participation of the electorate results in a more representative government. Of course, the Committee must ensure that the mail-in ballot preserves voting integrity and conforms to the requirements of the Non-Partisan Resolution. Information on the nonpartisan system should also be available wherever ballots are located.

The Ballot. The League commends the Committee for providing voters with a clear, color coded and easy to understand ballot.

Polling Location, Hours, Parking, and Choice of Day. The League continues to believe that the current polling location at Village Hall is an appropriate venue for the election. The League recommends extending voting hours by a ½ hour until 10 AM. For those voters with children in preschool and elementary school arriving at the polls before 9:30 AM or after 2 PM is often difficult or impossible. Unlike the last several years, "Voters Only" parking was not made available at Village Hall this year. The League urges the Committee to reinstate this dedicated parking to facilitate voting. The League commends the Committee for holding the election on a Tuesday when Scarsdale Village Court is not in session. The League also suggests that the Committee place "Vote Here" signs near the entrances to Village Hall.

Finances. For both financial and environmental reasons, the League commends the Committee for decreasing the size of the "Notice to Vote" mailing to the community. The League agrees with the Committee's decision to use a single sheet of paper to post candidate information instead of the proposed postcard mailing. The single 8.5 x 14 inch legal sheet had approximately the same cost as the postcard but contained significantly more information. The League also commends the Committee for minimizing costs by providing thorough and up to date information on the election on its website. By using a one-page mailing and excluding the fundraising envelope, the Committee was able to reduce the cost of the election by \$1700. The League supports the Committee's suggestion to explore alternative cost saving methods.

The League notes that the Town and Village Civic Club provided the Committee with \$3000 last year in order to fund this year's election. According to the report from the Chair, the Committee would like to raise \$5000 this year to cover costs and provide a cushion for next year. So far the Committee has raised \$800 of which \$300 was from three neighborhood associations. The League understands the difficulty of fundraising in the current economic environment. The League was pleased to see that the Committee website contains a link to PayPal to facilitate fundraising and that the Committee is about to undertake a fundraising effort with personal letters to members of the community. The League appreciates the Committee Chair providing a financial summary in his report to the League and looks forward to receiving updated financial information in the spring after the fundraising effort has been completed.

Publicity. The League commends the Committee for making available to the public information regarding: efforts to attract candidates for the Committee; the proposed candidates; the date, polling time and place for the election; and the procedure for obtaining absentee ballots. The results of the election were also published. It is noted that the coverage appeared in various media, including the Scarsdale Inquirer and on the Committee website. The League suggests that the Committee establish a publicity committee. This group could brainstorm ideas for best communicating with the public and could proactively work with the various media. The Committee could explore a link to the Village website. The League also suggests that the Committee review the video made in the Choice program of the Scarsdale Middle School that explains the nonpartisan system. This video might be another method for educating the public. The League commends the Committee for reaching out to neighborhood associations to identify candidates. The League urges the Committee to reach out to a number of village organizations including the Scarsdale Neighborhood Association Presidents and the Parent Teacher Council to inform and educate the public about the nonpartisan system and the election.

Number of Candidates per Vacancy. It is important to note that the Committee, in compliance with the Non-Partisan Resolution, provided at least two candidates for each open position for each district. Given the structure of our nonpartisan system, the importance of the election of CNC members cannot be over-emphasized as the CNC's nominations of Mayor and Trustees are most often tantamount to election. The League recognizes that the Committee expends enormous energies to present voters with a choice for each vacancy and appreciates the Committee's commitment to a contested election.

Board of Acquisition and Contract (A&C) without any discussion and explanation of its rationale. At a minimum, the League strongly requests that the A&C deliberate and discuss the contracts at meetings that are open to the public before authorizing expenditures.

The League also requests the BOL petition the County Executive to release the budget earlier than November 16, the release date this year. We believe that the budget should be released, at a minimum, directly after the General elections each year if not earlier. This would afford citizens a greater opportunity to review the budget and provide input. Under the County Charter, although the BOL has until December 27 to pass the budget, the schedule set by the BOL anticipates approval of the budget on a much earlier date, December 14. This schedule allows little time for analysis and study of this very complex document, and it also limits the County government's ability to adjust the budget in response to citizen input and economic conditions. As we have said for more than twenty years, this timetable is a disservice to the public.

The League of Women Voters of Westchester thanks Budget Director Anne Reasoner, Deputy Budget Director John Delaney and Deputy Budget Director Arthur Vietro, for their availability and the information they have provided to us and to the public at the League-sponsored informational meeting on the budget. We also thank the Board of Legislators for its consideration of our concerns and suggestions.

Congratulations to League Members **Mary Beth Gose, Noreen Fisher and Evelyn Stock**. Mary Beth Gose was selected to serve on the County Executive Astorino's Transition Subcommittee on Government

Amendment to the Non-Partisan Resolution. According to the report of the Committee Chair the Committee is planning to suggest an amendment to Article IV paragraph 4, sentence 2 of the Non-Partisan Resolution. Currently, the sentence reads:

"The mailing to all voters of the notice of the Unit Elections shall set forth a complete list of the candidates together with a biographical sketch of each."

The new sentence would read:

" The *delivery* to all voters of the notice of the Unit Elections shall set forth a complete list of the candidates *in their election unit* with a biographical sketch of each *as edited by the Procedure Committee*"

The Committee is proposing three changes to the sentence.

1. The League **supports** the change from "mailing" to "delivery". In order to reduce the very high cost of mailing to the entire community, the League understands and supports the Committee as it explores more economical ways of delivering information. The League also recognizes that for the foreseeable future, U.S. mail will continue to be the method of delivery as the conduit that can reach the maximum number of community members. For consistency, the League suggests that Article IX, paragraph 4 sentence 2 be changed as well. The word "mailed" should be changed to "delivered". In this way, both the Notice to Vote and notice of proposed amendments can be delivered in the same way.
2. The League **does not support** the addition of "in their election unit" to the sentence. This change would allow the Committee to deliver to voters a Notice to Vote brochure with information regarding candidates only in a voter's election district. The League believes that each voter should receive notice of the entire candidate pool.
3. The League **does not support** the addition of "as edited by the Procedure Committee" to the sentence. This change would allow the Committee to edit the biographical sketches of each candidate as it sees fit. The League believes that only the candidates themselves should make these editorial decisions. As per the Non-Partisan Resolution, the Committee is only a conduit for the receipt of the biographical information. The League understands the space constraints that the smaller Notice to Vote brochure presents, and therefore, suggests that the Committee consider limiting the number of characters allowed by each candidate in his or her biographical sketch.

Conclusion

The League appreciates the continued efforts of the Committee to administer the CNC election and lauds its dedication to the nonpartisan system. The League hopes the Committee will view this letter as a tool to facilitate discussion on strategies and tactics to improve the system and would like it to be shared with the incoming chair and his committee. The League understands the financial constraints on the Committee brought on by the difficult economic times and hopes that its cost cutting measures do not impede its ability to include the largest number of community members in the election. The League continues to believe that there is great opportunity to improve voter participation and urges the Committee to take advantage of the nation's heightened interest in early voting. The League encourages the Committee to remain committed to the continuous improvement of the Village election system and to an amplified campaign to build awareness among Scarsdale residents. Overall, the League congratulates the Committee on a successful election.

Sincerely,
Ann Sacher Jane Veron
Chair, Village Election Systems President
Scarsdale League of Women Voters

cc: Jim Pullman, Vice Chair, Procedure Committee

2009-10 LWV of Scarsdale Board of Directors:
President

Administration; Noreen Fisher received the Scarsdale Teen Center's 2009 Vision of Community award; and Evelyn Stock was inducted into Westchester County's Senior Hall of Fame as a special recognition honoree.

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Nominating Chair Michelle Lichtenberg*	Michelle.lichtenberg@gmail.com

LWV Westchester Update

As of November 22, LWV Westchester President, Mary Beth Gose, resigned to serve on County Executive-Elect Astorino's Transition Subcommittee on Government Administration. Her expertise should serve the new administration and County residents well.

Adelaide DiGiorgi was installed as President.

LWVUS Mark your Calendars!

June 11-15

LWVUS National Convention
Atlanta, GA

THEY REPRESENT YOU!

Changes effective July 2009
VILLAGE OF SCARSDALE

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Carolyn B. Stevens,

Mayor (CP)
 term ends Apr. 2011
 Miriam Levitt Flisser (CP)
 2nd term ends Apr. 2011
 Dan Hochvert (CP)
 2nd term ends Apr. 2010
 David Irwin (CP)
 2nd term ends Apr. 2011
 Sharon Lindsay (CP)
 2nd term ends Apr. 2010
 Robert J. Steves (CP)
 1st term ends Apr. 2011
 Richard S. Toder(CP)
 1st term ends Apr. 2010

Planning & Zoning
 Michelle Lichtenberg* Michelle.lichtenberg@gmail.com
 Adie Shore ABSNYNY@aol.com
 Program/Education
 Marylou Green coopergree@aol.com
 Debra Lagapa d.lagapa@verizon.net
 Publicity
 Sara Werder swer92057@aol.com
 School Budget
 Barbara Cohen* bcohen527@gmail.com
 Angela Manson* manson77@optonline.net
 Ann Sacher absacher@mac.com
 School Election System
 Susie Rush srush76@gmail.com
 Village Budget
 Kim Meyers kimschles@aol.com
 Village Election System
 Ann Sacher absacher@mac.com
 Voters Service Chair
 Pam Meisel Rubin pprubin@otponline.net
 Webmaster
 Sarah Hallac* sarah@hallac.com
 *Off-board, non-voting updated 9/5/09

THEY REPRESENT YOU!

Changes effective July 2009
VILLAGE OF SCARSDALE

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Barbara Kemp, President
 2nd term ends June 2011
 Jill Spieler, V.P.
 1st term ends June 2010
 Jeffrey Blatt
 2nd term ends June 2010
 Linda Chayes, President
 2nd term ends June 2011
 Mary Beth Gose
 1st term ends June 2012
 Joel Gurin
 1st term ends June 2012
 Elizabeth Guggenheimer
 1st term ends June 2010

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