

From: League of Women Voters of Scarsdale <lwvscarsdale@gmail.com>
Subject: News from League of Women Voters of Scarsdale
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LEAGUE OF
 WOMEN VOTERS®

League of Women Voters of Scarsdale Newsletter

website: www.lwvs.org

March 2011

LWVScarsdale Mission Statement

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.

New Members

**Welcome to
New**

Calendar

March - June Calendar

March

Tues.	15	6 AM - 9 AM & 12 Noon - 9 PM	Village Elections	Village Hall
Mon.	21	9:00 AM	Board Meeting	Village Hall, 3rd Floor
		10:15 AM	General Membership Mtg: School Budget Consensus	Village Hall, 3rd Floor
Mon.	28	9:00 AM	Board Meeting	Village Hall, 3rd Floor
		10:15 AM	General Membership Mtg: Village Budget Consensus	Village Hall, 3rd Floor
April				
Mon.	4	9:00 AM	Board Meeting	Village Hall, 3rd Floor
Mon.	11	9:00 AM	Board Meeting	Village Hall, 3rd Floor
May				
Mon.	2	9:00 AM	Board Meeting	Village Hall 3rd Floor
Fri.	13	11:00 AM	Annual Meeting/ Spring Luncheon	Scarsdale Golf Club
Tues.	17	7 AM - 9 PM	School Budget & Elections	SMS

Members:

Linda Doucette- Ashman
Margarita Meyer
Susan Kessler Ross

June

Mon. 6

9:00 AM Joint New/Old Board Mtg
Pot Luck Luncheon

20 Tompkins Rd

Thank you!

The following members joined as Friends, Suffragists or Supporters for 2010-11 since the Jan/Feb Bulletin:

LWV FRIEND (\$250)

Suzanne Seiden

EF FRIEND (\$250)

Marjorie Miller

SUFFRAGISTS (\$150)

Jane & Lawrence Nusbaum

LWV SUPPORTERS (\$100)

Mary Blum

LWVS Board

Thank you's

Pam Fuehrer for single handedly managing the *They Represent You* update and mailing and to Renee Baylor for her extraordinary proof reading skills,
Renee Baylor,

President's Message

President's Message:

As I reflect on recently past and upcoming events, our two defining attributes come into sharp focus: a talented, devoted membership and meaningful, important study. It is their convergence that enables the League to deliver its results.

Once again, the winter fundraiser was an occasion to savor. I still feel the warmth and energy of the lively conversation. Dozens of dedicated League members renewed friendships and shared stories. We are grateful to those who blazed the trail as well as to those who continue to fulfill our mission. As always, we appreciate your support.

After our January 24 consensus meeting, school election system chair Susie Rush synthesized the results of our intense deliberations and thoughtful exchange of ideas. It is evident that League members care deeply about the integrity and accessibility of the election system. Please read our consensus letter included in this bulletin. We offer detailed suggestions to the Administrative Committee. This spring, the League will meet with incoming chairs of both the village and school election systems to review our recommendations.

Although we are deep into our current work, we took time on February 7 to plan our 2011-2012 local program. At our membership meeting, we initiated the discussion of priorities for the upcoming year and offered suggestions to the County program. While we're on the subject of planning, please mark your calendar for Friday, May 13, when we will conduct our annual meeting and spring luncheon. This event represents the culmination of our year's efforts and is not one to miss.

March marks the beginning of village and school budget deliberations, and the League will benefit from your collective wisdom. On Monday, March 21, co-chairs Angela Manson and Amy Scharf will conduct our school budget consensus meeting. We were fortunate to have hosted Superintendent Dr. Michael McGill and Board of Education President Jill Spieler in January to lay the foundation for our schools conversation. At that time, we explored Scarsdale's initiatives within the broader context of education reform trends and funding challenges. With that background, the League will be poised to assess Scarsdale's budget proposal. The following week, on Monday, March 28, we will meet with Village Manager Al Gatta and Treasurer Mary Lou McClure to review the proposed 2011-2012 village budget. Pam Rubin, portfolio chair, will lead the consensus discussion with a thorough vetting of the village budget, examining priorities and tradeoffs. All budget meetings will be held at 10:15 a.m. on the third floor of Village Hall.

Looking forward to seeing you,

Jane Veron
LWVS President

Save the Date!

Lauri Carey, Marylou Cooper Green, Debbie Miller, and Sara Werder, for their close review of the bylaws and policies and procedures, Debbie Miller, Janice Starr and the entire board for their support of the successful winter fundraiser, Angela Manson and Amy Scharf for their diligence in attending school budget forums, Pam Rubin and Debra Lagapa for keeping the League apprised of village budget developments, Susie Rush for her careful management of the school election system portfolio, Debbie Miller for her thorough preparations for League board meetings and budget discussions, Sarah Hallac and Ann Sacher for leading the charge to upgrade our website, Deb Pekarek and Kitt Rosenthal for keeping us updated on all matters Planning & Zoning, Sara Werder for

LWVS Annual Meeting and Spring Luncheon

Friday, May 13, 2011
11:00 am
Scarsdale Golf Club
Details to Follow

LWVS Consensus Meetings

School Budget Consensus Meeting

Monday, March 21
10:15 AM
Scarsdale Village Hall,
3rd Floor

The Scarsdale Board of Education and the school administration are invited to come and discuss the budget with us. As most of you know, this year some very interesting issues have been raised. Please come and invite your friends and neighbors to join us for the beginning of the meeting. All who would like to stay for the consensus portion of the meeting may do so if they join the League.

Please join us to review the Village budget with village staff:

Village Budget Consensus Meeting

Monday, March 28
10:15 a.m.

Scarsdale Village Hall, 3rd floor

Village Manager Al Gatta and Treasurer Mary Lou McClure will discuss the proposed 2011-2012 Scarsdale Village budget. After a question period, League members will come to a consensus on recommendations to the Village. Members of the community are welcome to attend the presentation and the question period. Only League members may participate in the consensus discussion. Visit www.lwvs.org to join the League, or pay \$60 to join at the meeting. For more information, contact Pam Rubin at PamRubin1@gmail.com.

Village Elections

Vote for Village Mayor and Trustees on Tuesday, March 15!

All Election Districts will be voting at

Scarsdale Village Hall

6:00 AM - 9:00 AM and 12:00 noon - 9:00 PM

If you are not a registered voter but want to vote in the Village Election on Tuesday, March 15, 2011, the last day to register with the Westchester County Board of Elections is Friday, March 4th.

always being one step ahead, ready to promote all the League has to offer, Nancy Michael for juggling multiple obligations to ensure the timely delivery of the bulletin.

You may pick up a mail-in registration form at Village Hall, or you may go directly to the Westchester County Board of Elections, 25 Quarropas Street, White Plains

For registered voters who will be out of Westchester County on Village Election Day, an absentee ballot can be obtained by filling out an application form at Village Hall or by requesting one by phone or mail. March 8th is the last day for the Village Clerk to receive an application for an absentee ballot which is to be mailed to a qualified voter; however, personal applications can be accepted until March 14, 2011.

For more information, call the Village Clerk's office at 722-1175. Learn more about the candidates via the Scarsdale Citizens' Non-Partisan Party website: www.scarsdalecitizensparty.com.

Village Budget Discussions

Village of Scarsdale Dates for 2011-2012 Budget Preparation Public Meetings

Wed., 3/2 7:00 pm- Public briefing session Budget Officer to discuss status of 2011-2012 preliminary capital budget requests with Village organizations

Tues., 3/8 6:30 pm - Village Hall- Submission of Budget to Village Board

Tues., 3/8 8:00 pm- Village Hall- Board of Trustees to adopt 2011-

School Board Nominating Committee

LETTER TO THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE OF THE SBNC

February 28, 2011
Mr. Stephen Fridakis
Chair, Administrative Committee
4 Richelieu Rd.
Scarsdale, NY 10583

Dear Steve,

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 to share information on behalf of the Administrative Committee (the "Committee") at our membership meeting on January 24, 2011 to evaluate the School Board Nominating Committee ("SBNC") election held on January 4, 2011 (the "Election").

The League recognizes the efforts of the Committee to obtain nominees to, and administer the election of, the SBNC. We further commend your diligent efforts as chair of the Committee (the "Chair"). We have highlighted below two important recommendations followed by more detailed comments and recommendations regarding various aspects of the election process.

- 1. Devise strategies to better educate residents about the nonpartisan system and the role of the SBNC.** The lack of awareness and understanding by many in the community of the nonpartisan system and the importance of the election of SBNC members for the selection of candidates to the School Board continues to be a concern. The League recommends that the Committee investigate additional methods and venues to educate our citizens about the SBNC and the election process.

The Committee, in connection with the election of candidates to the SBNC,

2012 schedule of Village-wide fees and charges

Mon., 3/28
10:15 am-
Presentation to the League of Women Voters, followed by League of Women Voters Consensus Meeting- Members Only invited

Tues., 4/12 8:00 pm- Village Hall- Statutory Public Hearing on 2011-2012 Tentative Budget.

Tues., 4/26 8:00 pm - Village Hall- Village Board to respond to comments and suggestions from the public. Board of Trustees to adopt 2011-2012 Budget (required no later than May 1)

School Budget News

The schedule of the remaining school budget meetings:

Monday, 3/7 8:00 PM- Board presents 2011-12 Preliminary Budget (full handout)

Monday, 3/21 8:00 PM- Board hears initial community comments and statements

and the Procedure Committee, in connection with the election of candidates to the Citizens Nominating Committee ("CNC"), face common challenges in the discharge of their respective duties and, we believe, share the critical objective of increasing voter awareness and voter turnout. The League recommends that the incoming chair of the Committee engage in discussions with the Procedure Committee this spring to explore solutions to these common challenges so that any formulated initiatives may be implemented prior to next year's elections.

As the League considers the active participation of our citizens in the School Board and Village Board election processes our collective responsibility, the chairs of the League's committees on the school election system and the village election system renew their offer to meet with the incoming chairs of the Committee and the Procedure Committee to facilitate a dialogue. By sharing the issues each committee faces and discussing approaches to address them, we believe that the committees may identify efficiencies and develop strategies to foster greater voter awareness and improve voter turnout.

2. Improve voter turnout by educating voters regarding the use of mail-in ballots. The League notes that this is the first election following the approval by the voters last year of the amendment to the SBNC Resolution (the "Resolution") that allows an eligible voter to utilize the mail-in ballot even if such voter is physically present in Scarsdale on the day of the SBNC election. In light of the confusion that may have resulted from the Committee's use of the term "absentee ballot" in publicizing the election, we recommend that the Committee clarify that voters may utilize the mail-in ballot as an alternative to voting in person at the polls even if the voter is present in Scarsdale on election day. It is important that the Committee make clear to voters that the use of the mail-in ballot is a departure from the traditional use of the absentee ballot.

Detailed Comments and Recommendations

The Committee. Pursuant to the Resolution, the Committee is charged with assembling nominees for the SBNC and administering the election of the SBNC. The League commends the Chair for his dedication in managing the election process, a task rendered more difficult when the Chair is supported by only a small number of current and former Committee members. The League notes that, contrary to the Resolution, only one member, rather than three members, was appointed to the Committee by the Town and Village Civic Club (now known as the Scarsdale Forum). Similarly, only one member, instead of three members, was appointed to the Committee by the Confederation of Scarsdale Neighborhood Association Presidents ("SNAP"). You informed us that as Chair you appointed three members to the Committee from the community at large as provided in the Resolution. To ensure that the election process is carried out efficiently and in compliance with the Resolution, the League recommends the following:

- Members of the SBNC must be advised in advance regarding their responsibilities on the Committee following the completion of their term on the SBNC. While the League was pleased to learn that the chair of the SBNC reviewed with last year's SBNC the League's 2010 letter to the Committee, we suggest that each year the incoming chair of the SBNC set aside a portion of an SBNC meeting to explain the specific duties required of the retiring members of the SBNC on the Committee. The League believes that detailing in concrete rather than general terms the identified tasks that retiring SBNC members are expected to carry out on the Committee will lead to a greater understanding, and thus greater willingness, by those members to assume the clearly defined responsibilities charged to them.

Thursday, 4/7 8:00 PM- Board conducts Budget Forum; receives written statements from community groups and Budget Study Session to discuss community input (including the LWVS consensus statement)

Monday, 4/11 8:00 PM- Board responds to community's written statements on budget; adopts 2010-11 budget and Tax Report Card

Friday, 4/15- Tax Report Card submitted to SED and local newspapers (due no later than 24 days before budget vote)

Tuesday, 4/19 Budget brochure to printer

Monday, 5/3 Budget brochures sent to schools, mailed to community

Monday, 5/9 8:00 PM- Board conducts official Budget Hearing (final budget is available)

Wednesday, 5/11- Six-day Budget Notice mailed to qualified voters

Tuesday, 5/17 7:00 AM- 9:00 PM Budget Vote and Election- Scarsdale Middle

Further, the League recommends that such information be set forth on the SBNC website, www.scarsdalesbnc.com (the "SBNC Website"). As the administration of the election is multi-faceted and time-consuming, the League believes it is critical that the Committee be fully constituted as contemplated in the Resolution so that the energy and resources of a complete Committee can be utilized.

- The Committee should develop a set of policies and procedures, in conjunction with a careful review of the Resolution, that lays out the organization and management of the nominating and election process. By doing so, the Committee will provide successive Committees with a road map to guide them through each step of the nominating and election process. The League is pleased that the Committee has a timeline for the process; however, the League suggests that the timeline be carefully consulted in each election year so that deadlines set forth in the Resolution are not missed. For example this year, the League notes that the petition deadline date was not published at least 50 days before petitions were due as required by the Resolution; additionally the notice inviting submission of petitions did not provide the petition deadline date.

Obtaining Nominees. The Resolution provides that in each elementary school district at least two candidates must be nominated for each vacancy on the SBNC. Accordingly, for this Election, at least four candidates were required in each school district, except that in Edgewood, a minimum of six candidates were required because there were three vacancies.

In only two school districts, Greenacres and Quaker Ridge, was the required minimum number of candidates met. In Edgewood, four rather than six candidates were nominated; in Fox Meadow, three rather than four candidates were nominated; and in Heathcote, only two candidates were nominated for two vacancies.

The League recognizes the Committee's efforts to identify potential candidates and to encourage community members to become candidates through the publication of notices in the *Scarsdale Inquirer*, on scarsdale10583.com, and on the League's *Bulletin*, and through outreach to the Scarsdale Rotary Club, the neighborhood associations, Scarsdale PT Council and the school PTAs. In particular, the League applauds the Committee's efforts to attend meetings of these community groups and attempts to utilize e-blasts of the Scarsdale schools.

Notwithstanding the good faith endeavors of the Committee, the League believes it is critical that the Committee more broadly engage the community to encourage citizens to nominate others or become candidates themselves. The League suggests that the Committee consider drawing on the resources of other community groups such as the Scarsdale Forum and SNAP. The need to involve more of the community in this task is acutely evident by the fact that the requisite number of candidates was not nominated in three school districts, including one school district in which there was no contested election for either of the vacant seats.

The Notice to Vote Brochure. The League acknowledges the Committee's redesign of the Brochure to a more user friendly format, although we note that the redesign resulted in an increase in printing costs. The League commends the Committee for including in the Brochure the actual absentee ballot that could be used by voters and for indicating in the Brochure the additional means by which the ballot could be obtained.

For future mailings, we recommend that the term "absentee ballot" be replaced with the correct term set forth in the Resolution, "mail-in ballot," and that a clear description of the mail-in ballot and its use as an option to voting in person be provided in the Brochure. We noted, for example, that the statement

School

All meetings will be held at the Board of Education, SHS, rooms 170-172. All meetings will be televised.

[CLICK HERE](#) for The link to the school website with the info.

LWV New York State News

**State Convention
May 20-22,
2011 Albany,
NY**

**LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS
OF NYS**

54th Biennial Convention will be held at the Desmond Hotel and Conference Center in Albany

John Zogby, pollster of international repute and author of "The Way We'll Be," published in 2008, will be the Saturday night keynote speaker

**STRONG MEMBERS
STRONG LEADERS
STRONG GOVERNMENT**

LWVUS News

Advocacy

The presidential public financing system has served America well since 1976 by allowing candidates to

in the Brochure, "If you cannot be at the election in person, submit your absentee ballot NOW," may not have effectively conveyed to voters that it was immaterial whether a voter could or could not be at the polls. It is important to communicate to the voters that anyone may simply choose to utilize the ballot as a matter of convenience and thereby eliminate the need to cast his or her vote in person.

The League further appreciates that the Committee included in the Brochure a short description of the nonpartisan system for the election of School Board members. The League recommends that if space requirements do not allow for a fuller description of the nonpartisan system in the Brochure, a reference should be made in the Brochure to a more detailed description of the nonpartisan election system, i.e. a fact sheet, and where the fact sheet may be obtained. We suggest that a fact sheet be posted on the SBNC Website and made available in hard copy in public venues such as the Scarsdale Public Library and Village Hall. For assistance in developing a fact sheet, the Committee may wish to consult the description of the nonpartisan election systems that appears on the League's website, www.lwvs.org.

We commend the Committee for timely mailing the Brochure to households and making it available on the SBNC Website as well as in the Scarsdale Library and Village Hall.

The Vote. A total of 381 votes was cast in the Election, as compared to 416 in 2010. The League notes that a joint evening meeting of the Scarsdale PT Council and the PTAs of the seven schools was held at the Scarsdale Middle School, the polling place of the Election, which led to a number of citizens casting votes. The League appreciates that the Chair attempted to move the date of the Election, January 4, back by one week but was unable to do so because of scheduling conflicts. The League supports the Committee's efforts to hold the SBNC election on a date that does not occur immediately following the new year and that is coordinated with the date of the joint PT Council/PTAs meeting. The League encourages the Committee to explore setting the date of the SBNC election when the community calendar is put together, typically beginning in June. The League suggests that the Committee consider coordinating the date of the election with another school event if coordination is not possible with PT Council and the PTAs on a date that the Committee deems more convenient.

Since 2007, the total votes cast has fluctuated from a low of 230 in 2007 to a high of 494 in 2008, representing approximately 1.8% - 3.9% of the registered voters in Scarsdale. The low turnout underscores the importance of utilizing the mail-in ballot as a means to increase participation by voters in the election.

Polling. The League believes that the Middle School is an appropriate venue for the Election. The League commends the Committee for extending the voting hours in the evening from 9 PM to 9:30 PM. The League continues to recommend that the voting hours in the morning be extended by one-half hour from 9:30 AM to 10 AM to allow voters with children in preschool or elementary school time to vote after "drop-off."

The League further recommends that the Committee place the large "Vote Here" sign at the entrance to the Middle School on Mamaroneck Road to alert citizens of the vote. We appreciated the numerous and visible signage immediately outside and on the doors to the Middle School.

Although the League was pleased to learn that there was designated parking for voters, the designated parking spots may not have been easily seen by voters, particularly in the evening. Moreover, because voters needed to compete for parking with parents attending the joint PT Council/PTAs meeting, the League recommends that the Committee explore designating additional parking spaces for voters, specifically in the parking lot near the entrance on Mamaroneck Road. The League further proposes that the Committee indicate in the Brochure the availability of designated parking spots and their locations.

raise the funds needed to wage competitive campaigns. The House of Representatives has already voted to eliminate the system which has substantially reduced corruption and the appearance of corruption in the executive branch since its inception. Repair legislation is expected soon that takes into account the changes that have occurred in presidential campaigns in recent years. It is this legislation that Congress should be focusing on.

Voting and Elections

Protect Voting Rights, League Tells the President: The League and coalition partners sent a letter to the White House urging the President to quickly appoint commissioners to the Election Assistance

The League notes that the Committee dispensed with using separate ballots for each elementary school area and replaced them with a single ballot. We acknowledge that using a single ballot streamlined the work of the Committee, particularly as you advised that the single ballot was in essence the absentee ballot included in the Brochure, and enabled the Committee to administer the Election with only two ballot boxes, in contrast to the past practice of using five ballot boxes, one for each elementary school area. This in turn allowed the Committee to run the Election with a leaner staff of one or two individuals. If the Committee elects to continue to use a single ballot, the League recommends that the Committee nevertheless use five ballot boxes, one for each elementary school area. The League also urges the Committee to highlight the voter's elementary school area on the ballot when the voter arrives at the polls to ensure the integrity of the election process. If the ballot is not so highlighted, the League proposes that the Committee return to using separate ballots for each elementary school area.

Mail-in Ballots. The League applauds the use of the mail-in ballot, instituted for the first time in this Election. The mail-in ballot, which is offered as an alternative to voters who do not wish to cast their vote in person -- whether or not they are in Scarsdale on the day of the election, is a significant departure from the absentee ballot, which required that a voter be absent from Scarsdale on the day of the election.

Seventy-nine votes were cast in the Election by mail-in ballot, compared to sixty-five by absentee ballot last year. As the increase does not appear significant in light of the change to mail-in ballot, we believe that effective voter education is necessary. As voters gain a better understanding of its use, the League believes that the mail-in ballot is a valuable tool to increase voter participation. We therefore recommend that the Committee undertake to make citizens aware of the mail-in ballot as an alternative to in-person voting, highlighting in particular that the option to use the mail-in ballot is different from past practice, namely that a voter can be in town on election day and opt to use the mail-in ballot.

While the League recognizes the considerable potential the mail-in ballot provides as an alternative to in-person voting, the League believes that this must be balanced with the importance of maintaining the integrity of the election process. Accordingly, the League recommends that the Committee establish procedures for the use of the mail-in ballot and that these procedures be communicated clearly to the candidates and the voters. Specifically, the League recommends the following:

- Candidates and those who work with them or on their behalf must be prohibited from touching completed mail-in ballots; moreover, candidates should not complete ballots on behalf of any voter. We urge the Committee to consider requiring candidates to sign a statement affirming their understanding and agreement. The statement could be included on the candidate's petition form, for example, above the signature line.

It is imperative that the Committee ensure that the mail-in ballot is used in a neutral manner, as a vehicle to increase the participation of citizens in the SBNC election, not as a campaign mechanism for candidates. The Committee may find it useful to discuss with candidates before the election the use of the mail-in ballot.

- Mail-in ballots should be delivered exclusively via USPS mail and the deadline set for submission of the ballots as postmarked on the day of the election. The League believes that the interest of safeguarding ballot integrity outweighs the short delay in determining the results of the election.

Commission, which is charged with improving the administration of the nation's elections.

League Urges House and Senate to Investigate FEC Failure: The League, with coalition partners, urged House and Senate committee leaders to investigate and hold hearing on the systemic problems with the FEC.

States Continue to Battle Voter Photo ID Bills: Voter photo identification bills have been introduced in many states around the country and the League's Public Advocacy for Voter Protection (PAVP) project is working in several of these states to fight such legislation. For some states, this is the first time the

- Clarify and simplify the certification of ballot process set forth in the Resolution. The League appreciates that the Resolution requires a voter who uses a mail-in ballot to certify that he or she is eligible to vote and has not yet voted in the election. We believe that requiring this certification is a practical means to protect against voter fraud. It appears, however, that such certification was not required of mail-in voters in the Election.

We propose that in future elections, a voter who uses a mail-in ballot must sign his or her name across the back of the sealed envelope containing his or her ballot where the envelope is sealed. The voter's signature shall constitute certification as required by the Resolution that the voter is eligible to vote and has not yet voted in the election. The League further suggests that the chair of the Committee reject as invalid any mail-in ballot that is not mailed with the voter's signature across the seal of the envelope and with the voter's return address. The Committee may find it useful to include on the mail-in ballot itself a sample certification which would show an envelope with a voter's signature across the seal on the back of the envelope.

The League was pleased to learn that the Committee cross-checked the names of mail-in voters against the list of voters who signed in to vote at the polls to ensure that a voter did not vote twice.

- The Committee should take primary responsibility for educating the community about the mail-in ballot rather than rely on SBNC candidates to publicize its merits. Further, the League recommends that the Committee refer to a "fact sheet" explaining the SBNC election and the nonpartisan system (see discussion in **Notice to Vote Brochure** above) on the mail-in ballot as well.

Public Relations. In addition to the Committee's efforts to attract candidates for the SBNC described above (see **Obtaining Nominees**), the Committee publicized information regarding the SBNC nominees, the date, time and location of the Election, and the availability of absentee ballots, in the *Scarsdale Inquirer* and in the *Bulletin*, and through e-blasts on the websites of the schools. The Committee also posted on the SBNC Website information regarding the Election and enabled voters to download absentee ballots from the SBNC Website, and placed the Brochure containing absentee ballots at Village Hall and the Scarsdale Public Library. In addition, results of the Election were published in the *Scarsdale Inquirer*, on the SBNC Website and on scarsdale10583.com. The League believes greater community awareness is integral to improving active participation of citizens in the election process. To enhance the Committee's work in reaching out to the community, we have the following recommendations:

- Attend (the chair of the Committee, together with the chair of the Procedure Committee) the June meeting of the joint incoming and outgoing executive committees of PT Council to explain the nonpartisan election systems and to discuss ways in which PTA presidents may assist the Committee and the Procedure Committee in involving the parent

bills have a reasonable chance of passing. Still, it's important to remember that even with unfriendly legislatures and/or governors, such bills have been defeated in the past - SC, MO and TX are good examples. In fact, the South Carolina League is once again fighting ID legislation and has been successful in achieving media coverage and building a strong coalition. _

League Files Amicus Brief in Arizona Proof-of-Citizenship

Case: In an amicus brief, the League asked the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals not to grant *en banc* review of a previous decision invalidating the Arizona proof-of-citizenship requirement for voter registration.

Health Care Defense

Working to Protect America's Health

communities in the nomination and election processes.

- Identify venues in addition to meetings of PTAs and neighborhood associations to educate the community.
 - We suggest the Committee provide a script regarding the SBNC, its role and the election process, to community organizations which may be used by the leaders of such groups in the event that a Committee member cannot attend a meeting of the group. It is critical that citizens be made aware of the importance of the SBNC election to the election of School Board members who are charged with, among other things, the crafting of the budget for the school district. As noted above (see **Notice to Vote Brochure**), we encourage the Committee to utilize the explanation of the school election process on the League's website in the Committee's communications with community organizations.
 - We suggest the Committee consider outreach to Scarsdale High School students who are qualified to vote and college-age citizens who are home for the holidays.
- Maintain current and accurate information on the SBNC Website. The League was pleased to see pertinent information posted on the Website, including the Notice to Vote brochure, the absentee ballot and polling information; however, certain information has not been updated, such as the Resolution as amended in 2010 and the current web address, or is not complete (for example the biographical information form does not provide that an SBNC member is required to serve one year on the Joint Committee after a year on the Committee). The League also urges the Committee to explore linking to the SBNC Website from other websites such as the official website for the Village.
- Explore the use of other media. We understand that students in the Choice program at the Scarsdale Middle School created a video about the nonpartisan system. We also encourage the Committee to inquire whether a student in the A-School or a senior options student may be interested in designing a multimedia project.

Finances. The League understands that the Committee has approximately \$1,200 to fund expenses for the election in 2012. You have advised that the costs of running a "bare bones" election total approximately \$2,200 to \$2,400. You have further informed us that the Scarsdale Volunteer Fire Co. 1 has agreed to make a \$500 donation for next year's election. The Committee will therefore need to raise an additional \$750 to meet the bare bones expenses. You have advised that the Committee will seek one additional substantial donation from a community organization rather than engage in an organized fundraising effort.

The League is sensitive to the struggle the Committee undergoes to raise funds, which likely has become more difficult in the current economic climate. While securing donations from a handful of organizations may seem the ideal solution, the League encourages the Committee to reflect carefully upon the use of corporate sponsors and other entities, giving thought to whether the acceptance of such donations would be construed as endorsements by the Committee of the corporate donors or other entities, their products and/or their policies. If the Committee elects to go forward with such donations, the League believes the Committee will need to develop guidelines for determining, among other things, whether a donation can be accepted, whether an acknowledgment will be included in the Notice to Vote brochure and/or on the SBNC Website and the prominence given to it.

The League suggests that the Committee keep in mind that fundraising efforts serve more than the single purpose of raising money to cover costs; they also serve to raise awareness in the community of the SBNC and its importance in the election of School Board members. In light of the educational benefit of a

Care: Following the U.S. House of Representative's vote to repeal the Affordable Care Act, the League sent a letter to the Senate urging the body to oppose repeal of the Act. An attempt to repeal the Act failed in the Senate, but proponents of repeal have indicated that they will continue to raise the issue in the Senate.

Money in Elections

Oppose Elimination of Presidential Public Financing, League Urges Senators:

National League President Elisabeth MacNamara urged Senators to oppose S.194 and any other moves to eliminate the public financing system for presidential elections. Earlier, the League and coalition

fundraising effort and knowing that a lesser amount is necessary to be raised due to cost-cutting and green considerations, the League recommends that the Committee consider undertaking a fundraising effort that would have a broader outreach. Such an effort may include enlisting the assistance of past members of the SBNC and the Committee and reaching out to neighborhood associations and other community organizations. The League urges the Committee to reconsider soliciting donations via the Notice to Vote brochure as well as accepting donations online on the SBNC Website.

Amendments to the Resolution

While we acknowledge that the proposed amendments to the Resolution in this Election were not substantive in nature, the League nonetheless urges the chair of the Committee to coordinate with the Joint Committee to ensure that any proposed changes presented to voters for approval in the future be accurately set forth (we note that references to the Resolution regarding the changes were incorrect on the SBNC Website) and that the procedure set forth in the Resolution regarding publication and discussion of proposed changes be followed.

Conclusion

The League appreciates the Committee's diligent efforts in administering the SBNC election. We offer our recommendations with the belief that they represent an opportunity to improve the election process and thereby increase the participation of citizens in our nonpartisan system.

Sincerely,

Susie Rush
Chair, School Election System
League of Women Voters of Scarsdale

Jane Veron
President
League of Women Voters of Scarsdale

cc: Michael Pollack, Chair, School Board Nominating Committee

LWV of Westchester County

Volunteer Needed to Represent LWVS on April 20 at Naturalization Court

There are two sessions of Naturalization Court each month held at the White Plains courthouse. The County Court clerk swears in approximately 150 new citizens at each ceremony. The LWVW is responsible for attending each ceremony to greet and congratulate each immigrant on becoming a United States citizen. The league volunteers (local league members) distribute a brochure entitled *Welcome New Citizen*. This brochure has been updated recently by Laura Fratt and will be published as a public service by PepsiCo, Inc. It describes registration information, voting procedures and citizen voting rights and responsibilities.

partners also sent a letter urging senators to oppose repealing presidential public financing and support modernization.

The Quest for a More Diverse Judiciary

Increasing Diversity on the South Carolina Courts: The hard work by the LWV of South Carolina's state-wide educational campaign to diversify the bench is yielding successes. In early February, the South Carolina General Assembly appointed four knowledgeable and proven legal scholars who will help the South Carolina judiciary better mirror the diversity of that state's population.

School and Village Boards

THEY REPRESENT YOU!
Changes effective

The LWVS is seeking a volunteer to participate in Naturalization Court on Wednesday, April 20, 2011. It is a most moving experience to witness those who have long waited to become eligible for the privileges so many of us have come to take for granted. If you are interested, please contact Jane Veron, LWVS President at jevatf@aol.com.

Please join us!

Westchester County Luncheon

The LWV of Larchmont-Mamaroneck cordially invites you to a luncheon with honored guest Former New York State Court of Appeals Chief Judge Judith S. Kaye
Friday, March 25, 2011
12:00 noon
The Davenport Club
New Rochelle, New York

Please RSVP by March 1st to LWV Larchmont-Mamaroneck P.O. Box 811 Larchmont, New York 10538 \$45 per guest

Joined by:
LWV New Rochelle
LWV Rye, Rye Brook & Port Chester
LWV Westchester County
LWV New York State

Save the Date!

Redistricting Forum

Lower Westchester
March 29
7:30 pm
Details to Follow

Special Feature

Gasland

July 2010
VILLAGE OF
SCARSDALE

**BOARD OF
TRUSTEES**

**Carolyn B. Stevens,
Mayor (CP)**

term ends Apr. 2011

**Katherine
Eisenman (CP)**

1st term ends April
2012

**Miriam Levitt
Flisser (CP)**

2nd term ends Apr.
2011

David Irwin (CP)

2nd term ends Apr.
2011

Jonathan Mark (CP)

1st term ends Apr.
2012

**Robert J. Steves
(CP)**

1st term ends Apr.
2011

**Richard S.
Toder (CP)**

2nd term ends Apr.
2012

**THEY REPRESENT
YOU!**

Changes effective
July 2010
VILLAGE OF
SCARSDALE

**BOARD OF
EDUCATION**

**Jill Spieler,
President**

2nd term ends June
2013

**Elizabeth
Guggenheimer,
V.P.**

2nd term ends June
2013

Linda Chayes

2nd term ends June
2011

Mary Beth Gose

1st term ends June
2012

Barbara Kemp

2nd term ends June
2011

Lewis Leone

1st term ends June
2012

Suzanne Seiden

Gasland, a film about protecting our water supply, will be shown at the Warner Library in Tarrytown on March 12 and 26 at 2:00 pm. This film received a special jury prize at the Sundance Film Festival in 2010.

LWVScarsdale Board

**2010-11 LWVS Board of
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1st term end June
2013

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