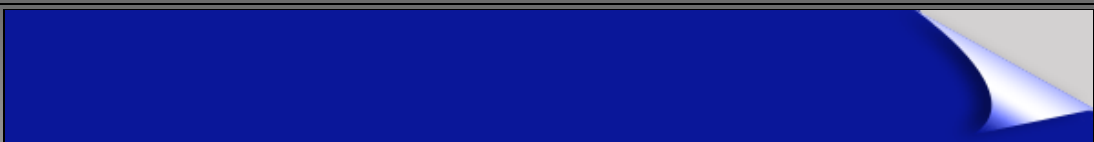


From: League of Women Voters of Scarsdale <irajanice@aol.com>
 Subject: News from League of Women Voters of Scarsdale
 Date: March 2, 2010 6:15:35 PM EST
 To: sarah@hallac.com
 Reply-To: irajanice@aol.com



LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®



League of Women Voters of Scarsdale Newsletter

website: www.lwvs.org

March/April 2010

LWVScarsdale Mission Statement	Calendar				
<p style="text-align: center;">THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SCARSDALE</p> <p>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.</p> <p style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white; padding: 2px;">LWVS Consensus Meetings</p> <p>Please join us to review the Village budget with village staff:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Village Budget Consensus Meeting</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Monday, March 15 10:15 a.m. Scarsdale Village Hall, 3rd floor</p> <p>Village Manager Al Gatta and Treasurer Mary Lou McClure will discuss the proposed 2010-2011 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</p>	March				
	Mon.	3	9:30 AM	County Bd. of Leg. Roundtable Discussion	148 Martine Ave. White Plains
	Mon.	15	9:00 AM	Board Meeting	Village Hall 3rd Floor
			10:15 AM	Gen.Membership Mtg: Village Budget	Village Hall 3rd Floor
	Mon.	16	6:00 AM - 9:00 AM	Village Elections	Village Hall
			Noon- 9:00 PM		
	Mon.	22	9:00 AM	Board Meeting	Village Hall 3rd Floor
			10:15 AM	Gen.Membership Mtg: School Budget	Village Hall 3rd Floor
	April				
	Mon.	5	9:00 AM	Board Meeting	Village Hall 3rd Floor
Mon.	12	9:00 AM	Board Meeting	Village Hall 3rd Floor	
Wed.	21	1:00 PM	Naturalization Court	White Plains Ct.	
May					
Mon.	3	9:00 AM	Board Meeting	Village Hall 3rd Floor	

information, contact Kim Meyers at 725-2017.

School Budget Consensus Meeting

Monday, March 22
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 for the
Government Consolidation Consensus Meeting
led by Noreen Fisher, chair
of the statewide study

Monday, April 12 10:30 am
Scarsdale Village Hall,
3rd floor

New Members

Welcome to New Members:

Dalit Ashany
Susan and John Gevertz
Wendie Kroll
Julie Teicher
Lisa Tretler
Marie Venezia

Get Involved!

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

		10:30 AM	Speaker: Mayor Carolyn Stevens	Village Hall 3rd Floor
	14	11:00 AM	Annual Meeting/ Spring Luncheon	Scarsdale Golf Club
Tues.	18	7:00 AM - 9:00 PM	School Budget and Elections	SMS
June				
Mon.	7	9:00 AM	Joint New/Old Board Meeting- Pot Luck Luncheon	20 Tompkins Rd
Fri-	11-		LWWUS Convention	Atlanta, GA
Tues	15			

President's Message

President's Message:

Your generosity abounds in spirit, hard work and financial support. Thank you for the many ways you contribute to the League. We are overwhelmed by your thoughtful end of year gifts to the League and greatly appreciate your continued participation in League activities. Your dedication is what sustains us.

There was a palpable sense of community at the winter fundraiser hosted with such graciousness by Janice and Ira Starr on January 30. Most often, we come together to analyze, deliberate and advance our mission; but, on this particular wintry Saturday evening, members took time out to enjoy the warmth of one another's company. Thank you for joining us and to the Starr's for their generous hospitality.

In January and February, the League continued to focus on its core mission: advocacy, election processes and programming. At our board meeting, the League hosted Sally Robinson, LWNYS VP Issues and Advocacy, who provided a detailed overview of advocacy initiatives at the state level. She described her efforts to reengineer the advocacy position to encourage more local league participation. League members left more informed, prepared to advocate for change, and armed with buttons to "Fix Albany Now". At the end of the month, Susie Rush skillfully led the School Board Nominating Committee election consensus meeting. We welcomed Susan Ross, Administrative Committee chair, who provided a detailed overview of the election process. Members offered a thorough evaluation, summarized in the consensus statement included in this bulletin for your review. A few weeks later, the League again hosted a consensus meeting to prepare the preliminary 2010-2011 program, reflecting critical areas for study.

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.

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
Bulletin
Candidates Forum
Development
Environment
Finance Drive
Membership
Membership Statistician
Planning and Zoning
Publicity
Village Infrastructure
Voters Service

LWVS Board

Thank yous

Janice and Ira Starr for their gracious hospitality as winter fundraiser hosts;

Pam Rubin for the swift distribution of *They Represent You* and for her proofreading team of **Renee Baylor** and **Janice Starr**;

Susie Rush for her excellent management of the School Board Nominating Committee election system portfolio;

Barbara Cohen, Angela Manson and **Ann Sacher** for updating the League on school budget deliberations;

Kim Meyers for highlighting key village budget topics;

Debbie Miller, Susie Rush and **Kim Meyers** for initiating the next phase of the Education Foundation Study;

Sara Werder for recording and photographing important League events;

Marylou Green for taking on the League environment project;

Debbie Miller for her proactive measures to ensure prudent financial management; and

Nancy Michaels for her determination to produce a user friendly electronic bulletin.

LWV New York State News

League of Women Voters of
New York State
SPRING FLING WEEKEND

If ever there were a good time to get involved, March provides the perfect opportunity. We welcome your participation in our village and school budget consensus meetings. On Monday, March 15, village staff will review the proposed budget, and Kim Meyers, our experienced portfolio chair, will lead the consensus discussion. In these difficult economic times, it is imperative to evaluate the tradeoffs inherent in the budget process. One week later, on March 22, we will turn to the school budget with the assistance of school officials and our school budget portfolio chairs, Barbara Cohen, Angela Manson and Ann Sacher. Having attended multiple community discussions, our portfolio chairs will ably lead our consensus discussion. Please join us at 10:15 a.m. at Village Hall for one or both budget evaluations.

April begins with another consensus meeting to review government consolidation. We are lucky to have Noreen Fisher, LWV Westchester board member and chair of the statewide study, lead us through the discussion and welcome your participation on Monday, April 12, at 10:30 a.m. at Village Hall. For your review, we have included a brief overview of the topic in this bulletin.

As always, please join us in any way that suits your interest, Jane Veron, LWVS President

Village Election

Remember to Vote!!

2010 Election of Village Trustees

Tuesday, March 16th

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 16, 2010, the last day to register with the Westchester County Board of Elections is Friday, March 5th.

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 9th 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 15, 2010.

CANDIDATES

- Richard Toder, Trustee. 2nd Term: 4/6/2010-4/2/2012
212 Rock Creek Lane
- Jonathan Mark, Trustee. Term: 4/6/2010-4/2/2012
58 Brookby Road
- Katherine (Kay) Eisenman, Trustee. Term: 4/6/2010-4/2/2012

IN NEW YORK CITY

May 14-16, 2010

Friday, May 14, 5-7:00 PM- fundraiser cocktail party at the home of LWVNYS VP for Issues and Advocacy Sally Robinson.

Hotel Information- a block of rooms has been reserved at the Courtyard by Marriott Hotel in midtown Manhattan

Saturday, May 15- blocks of tickets have been reserved for a tour of Ellis Island, admission to the King Tut exhibit, and the performance of "South Pacific" at Lincoln Center. Come join the fun!

The deadline to sign up is March 26 - for the registration form and more information [click here](#)

Fix Albany Now!

The LWVNYS State Board adopted *Fix Albany Now!* as the slogan for this year's legislative priorities. The 2010 priorities are steps to a new and better State government:

- Redistricting
- Campaign Finance Reform
- Ethics Reform
- Election Reform

Copies of the 2010 Legislative Agenda brochure (free except for shipping) and "Fix Albany Now!" buttons (\$1 each plus tax and shipping) are

165 Brewster Road

For more information, call the Village Clerk's office at 722-1175

Annual Meeting and Spring Luncheon

Friday, May 14, 2010

LWVS Annual Meeting and Spring Luncheon

11 A.M.
Scarsdale Golf Club
Details to follow

Naturalization Court

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.

School Board Nominating Committee

Letter to the Administrative Committee of the SBNC

February 8, 2010
Ms. Susan Ross
Chair, Administrative Committee
21 Ardmore Road
Scarsdale, NY 10583

Dear Susan,
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

available from the state League office.

On January 13, leaders in both NYS house announced an agreement on the reform bill for campaign finance enforcement and ethics reform. While not everything that the League sought, the proposed changes would improve both ethics and campaign finance enforcement and create greater transparency. Info and a Memo in Support of S6457/A9544, is posted on the state League website for use in lobbying your legislators.

Save the Dates

April 20, 2010

Fair Pay Summit and Advocacy Day - annual event to advocate for pay equity; LOB, Albany.

May 20-22, 2011

LWVNYS State Convention; Albany.

Find more information on all these events on the state League website, www.lwvny.org.

NYS BOE Certifies Voting Systems for 2010 Elections

A milestone in the six year saga of the state's implementation of the federal Help America Vote Act (HAVA) was reached in December when the NYS Board of Elections voted unanimously to approve two voting systems for use by the voters in NYS. Now that the machines have been selected, the League will be needed to educate voters on the machines and monitor the machines usage. Watch for more information on how your League can assist in your community.

share information on behalf of the Administrative Committee (the "Committee") at our membership meeting on January 25, 2010 to evaluate the School Board Nominating Committee ("SBNC") election held on January 6, 2010 (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, particularly in view of your acceptance of the position on short notice. We have the following recommendations and comments:

Overview

1. Develop 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 identify a range of methods and venues to reach out to and educate our citizens about the SBNC and the election process.

2. Improve voter turnout by facilitating the use of mail-in ballots. While the League is pleased that voter turnout for the Election was on the high side compared to the turnout for SBNC elections over the past few years, the League believes that voter turnout can be increased through the use of mail-in ballots. We commend the Committee for proposing changes to the SBNC Resolution (the "Resolution") that provides for a mail-in ballot procedure that is not dependent on the absence of an eligible voter on the day of the SBNC election, which changes were approved by the voters in the Election. We recommend that the Committee (i) clarify the procedure, including that voters may deliver the mail-in ballots in person as well as by mail, and (ii) continue to publicize in a comprehensive manner the availability of the mail-in ballot.

3. Establish a partnership with the Procedure Committee. The Committee and the Procedure Committee face common challenges in the discharge of their respective duties and, we believe, share the paramount objective of increasing voter awareness and voter turnout. The League urges the Committee and the Procedure Committee to engage in discussions in the spring to explore solutions to problems confronted by both committees so that agreed upon 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 election processes our collective responsibility, the chairs of the League's committees on the school election system and the village election system will make themselves available to meet with you and the chair of the Procedure Committee. Through the meaningful exchange of ideas, we believe that efficiencies and creative strategies can be generated that will foster greater voter awareness and improve voter turnout.

Obtaining Nominees and the Election

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 of the Committee for utilizing the entire Committee to carry out its duties. We admire your efforts to communicate with Committee

Youth Programs

The **2010 Students Inside Albany Conference** will be held April 11-14, 2010 in Albany. This three day conference brings high school students to Albany to learn more about their roles and responsibilities in representative government including their own abilities to make or influence public policy decisions. The students also shadow their state legislators for two afternoons. Contact your local League if you know of a student who could benefit from this program.

We are also excited to announce that the Capital Region served as a pilot for the implementation of **Vote 18** programs statewide. Training for League members and presentations in two Capital Region high schools occurred in early Dec. Work is underway to create a cadre of **Vote 18** presenters who can then train other League members and hopefully spread the program across NYS.

Contact Stephanie Lopez at 518-465-4162 or Stephanie@lwvny.org for brochures and more information.

Voter Service

The state League is talking with major PBS affiliates about co-sponsoring a series of debates for statewide offices in the fall 2010. The statewide offices include US Senate, NYS Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General and Comptroller.

members, invite discussion regarding policies, delegate yet oversee tasks to be performed, and promote collaboration among the members. The League notes that, contrary to the Resolution, there were no appointees to the Committee by the Town and Village Civic Club.

Obtaining Nominees. At least two candidates for each vacancy were nominated in each elementary school district, except in Fox Meadow.

We understand that because of the last minute withdrawal by the fourth candidate in Fox Meadow, the Committee did not have the ability to add another candidate before the deadline to submit nominating petitions.

It should also be noted that while there were four candidates for two vacancies in Greenacres, it was reported after the election that there was an additional vacancy to be filled as a result of the resignation of a sitting SBNC member. Because of the timing of the resignation, the Committee was unable to add two additional candidates for the vacancy. To ensure that at least two candidates for each vacancy are nominated, the League suggests that the chair of the SBNC communicate with returning members of the SBNC in the fall -- well before the deadline for new SBNC candidates to submit petitions, providing returning members with the scheduled dates of upcoming SBNC meetings.

The League applauds the Committee's efforts to identify potential candidates and to encourage community members to become candidates through the publication of notices and points of view pieces in the Scarsdale Inquirer, the posting of notices on public access cable television, the local website, www.Scarsdale10583.com, and our Bulletin, outreach to neighborhood associations and PTAs, including attending meetings, e-blasts on the websites of all seven schools, the placement of flyers at locations in the community, and personal contact by Committee members.

The Brochure. The League supports the Committee's initiative to cut costs by reducing to a single page the Notice to Vote brochure for mailing to residents prior to the Election. By using an 8 ½ x 14 inch double-sided sheet and eliminating the fundraising envelope, the Committee saved \$1,100. Despite the density of the information presented, the Committee was able to provide a focal point to the Notice that made clear pertinent information such as the date, time and location of the Election, who is entitled to vote, and the availability of absentee ballots. For future mailings we recommend:

- including in the Notice
- o a clear description of the mail-in ballot and its use as an option to voting in person
- o a reference to a description of the nonpartisan election system, i.e. a fact sheet, and where the fact sheet may be obtained (we would suggest the fact sheet be posted on the SBNC website, www.scarsdalesbnc.com (the "Website"), and made available in hard copy in public venues such as the Scarsdale Public Library and

A new publication for military voters is being developed and will become part of the series "Your Right to Vote in NYS," joining the brochures specifically for homeless individuals, college students, individuals convicted of crimes, and individuals with physical or mental disabilities. Copies of these special Voter Guides are available for purchase from the state League office.

New State Voter On Its Way - Don't Miss It!

Don't miss the League's news! The state Voter went electronic in November because the cost of the printed Voter became prohibitive in light of current League funding realities. You will receive the electronic Voter automatically free of charge if we have an e-mail address for you. If not, you may order a printed version for \$20.00 for the rest of this fiscal year (4 issues @ \$5 each) or send us your e-mail address to get on our free electronic list.

LWWUS News

LWWUS Mark your Calendars!

June 11-15

LWUS National Convention
Atlanta, GA

More information available on LWWUS website, www.lwv.org

Westchester News

United Nations Association of the USA (UNA-USA) - Westchester and Sarah Lawrence College

INVITE YOU TO CELEBRATE

International Women's Day 2010

Equal Rights, Equal Opportunities:

Progress for All

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

6:30 - 8:00 pm

Sarah Lawrence College*

Esther Raushenbush Library, 2nd fl. Bronxville, NY

Featuring:

Nicola Armacost- Managing Director and Co-Founder Arc Finance, Ltd. (microfinance, energy, water and sanitation)

Village Hall). Mindful of the need to save money, the League nevertheless believes that educating the community about the nonpartisan system is of vital importance.;

- consideration by the Committee of placing a limit on the number of characters permitted to each candidate for his or her biographical information rather than allowing the Committee to edit such information;
- the use of clear stickers to seal the Notice to avoid covering candidate or other information.

The Vote. A total of 416 votes were cast in the Election, as compared to 392 in 2009, 494 in 2008, and 230 in 2007. 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 supports the continued coordination of the date of the SBNC election with the date of the joint PT Council/PTAs meeting.

Polling. The League believes that the Middle School is an appropriate venue for the Election and commends the Committee for adequately staffing the polls. The League recommends extending the voting hours 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 investigate obtaining the large "Vote Here" sign from the District Administration, the School Board or the Village to place 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, and were pleased to see designated parking for voters.

Mail-in Ballots. Sixty-five citizens voted by mail-in ballot, compared to sixty last year and four in 2008. While the increase is slight, we continue to believe that the mail-in ballot is a valuable tool to increase voter participation. To facilitate its use, we recommend the Committee undertake a comprehensive plan to make citizens aware of the mail-in ballot as an alternative to in-person voting and to clarify the procedure for using the mail-in ballot so that it is simple and convenient for citizens. In particular, the League asks the Committee to make clear:

- mail-in ballots may be delivered in person to the chair of the Committee as well as mailed. This appears to be the intent of the Committee as reflected in the amendment to the Resolution set forth in Article II.C.3(i)(iii)(B).
- whether a separate "certification" must accompany the mail-in ballot, and if so, provide a sample form and provide clear instructions as to how the certification must accompany the ballot. Article II.C.3(i)(iii)(B) provides that a voter must "attach to the outside of the sealed envelope containing the voter's ballot or include in such sealed envelope a certification stating that the voter (1) is eligible to vote and (2) has not yet voted in the election." It was unclear from our meeting whether the Committee in fact contemplated receiving a separate certification or whether the ballot alone would constitute a certification. The League underscores the need to establish procedures to identify the validity of the ballot to guard against voter fraud.
- who is an eligible voter. The provisions relating to mail-in ballots in the Resolution as amended refer to "eligible voters"; however, the Resolution only defines a "qualified voter" (a citizen, 18 years

Uriasi Rudra- Coordinator, 'Say NO' - UNITE, Campaign to End Violence Against Women, UN Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), New York

Moderated by: Marcia Brewster, Vice-President, UNA-Westchester, former Senior Officer for Water Resources, UN Dept of Economic and Social Affairs

International Women's Day 2010 focuses on opportunities that can lead to gender equality and empowerment of women, particularly in developing countries. Speakers will address the work the UN is doing to end violence against women, and opportunities for economic empowerment through establishing small businesses with the help of microfinance. Our main speakers have a vast amount of experience with improving the conditions of marginalized women throughout the world. We will also hear from an expert on reproductive rights and empowerment of adolescent girls. Q&A follows the panel discussion.

Refreshments will be served following the program.

Additional information: Doris Benson at dwbenson1@verizon.net or 914-961-6554

*Directions: Henry Hudson/Saw Mill to Cross County Parkway East to exit 5, Kimball Ave. Turn LEFT on Kimball and at the 2nd light is the entrance to the college (Glen Washington Rd.). Turn right and an immediate right into the parking lot. The Library is further along on Glen Washington Road on the right of the quad, the first building on the right, a contemporary light brick building. Go to 2nd floor. For other directions or via public transport: www.sl.c.edu/about/visit/index.html.

School and Village Boards

**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

or older who has resided in the school district for 30 days prior to the election). We assume that a qualified voter is an eligible voter. The League urges the Committee, in refining the mail-in ballot procedure, to do so in accordance with the terms of the Resolution and consistent with procedures applicable in general elections, and which will allow the greatest flexibility to the voters without undermining the integrity of the voting process. The League further proposes that the Committee ensure that the mail-in ballot is used in a neutral manner, as a vehicle to increasing the participation of citizens in the SBNC election, not as a campaign mechanism for candidates. We also urge the Committee to 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 provide a "fact sheet" explaining the SBNC election and the nonpartisan system wherever mail-in ballots are made available. Finally, the League suggests the Committee and the Procedure Committee collaborate to develop mail-in ballot procedures incorporating our recommendations that will be used for both SBNC and Citizens Nominating Committee elections.

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, on public access cable television, and through e-blasts on the websites of the seven schools. The Committee also posted information regarding absentee ballots on its Website and placed absentee ballots at Village Hall and the Scarsdale Public Library. In addition, results of the Election were published in the Scarsdale Inquirer and on the Website. 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 recommend the Committee:

- identify venues in addition to meetings of PTAs and neighborhood associations to educate the community
- o 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. We note that on our website, www.lwvs.org, there is an explanation of the school and village election processes. We encourage the Committee to utilize the explanation in its communications with community organizations and/or to provide a link to the League website on the Website.
- o consider reaching out to students such as (i) students in Scarsdale High School social studies classes and members of Girl Scout and Boy Scout troops who may appeal to parents to participate in the process, (ii) Scarsdale High School students who are qualified to vote, (iii) college-age citizens who are home for the holidays. It should be noted that twenty of the 416 votes cast in the Election were by college-age voters.
- expand the utility and the use of the Website, including: posting basic information such as (i) candidates and current members in tabular form, as was provided in the Notice to Vote brochure prior to its reduction to a single page, (ii) candidates' biographical information, (iii) the date, time and location of the SBNC election,

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

Resigning as of June 2010

Elizabeth Guggenheimer

1st term ends June 2010

Web Addresses

Websites

Local: www.lwvs.org

State: www.lwvny.org

National: www.lwv.org

and (iv) the mail-in ballot and the procedure for using it; and investigating linking to the Website from other websites such as the official website for the Village, particularly since the SBNC election is a village-wide election and we are told that Village staff often receive questions regarding the election.

- 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.

- increase the use of e-blasts. In particular, we encourage the Committee to send e-blasts with information regarding the mail-in ballots before the deadline to submit mail-in ballots and again before election day.

- publicize among Committee members and the community who is qualified to vote in an SBNC election. We urge the Committee to give prominence to this information in all communications, including on the home page of the Website.

Finances. The League is pleased that the Committee appears to be in a healthy financial position primarily through its reduction of costs and securing a substantial donation from the Scarsdale Volunteer Fire Co. 1. Because the Committee has a cushion of approximately \$3,200 to fund expenses for the election in 2011, you have advised that the Committee believes it is appropriate to spend down its balance and does not plan to fundraise in the coming year. You also informed us that the Committee may explore seeking additional substantial donations from other organizations and/or corporations.

The League is sensitive to the struggle the Committee goes through each year to raise funds from a finite pool of residents flooded with requests for donations from other local community organizations, the task made even more difficult in the current economic climate. While securing donations from a handful of corporate organizations may seem the ideal solution, the League encourages the Committee to reflect carefully upon the use of corporate "sponsors," giving thought to whether the acceptance of such donations would be construed as endorsements by the Committee of the corporate donors, 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 on the Notice to Vote and/or on the 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 fundraising

effort and knowing that a lesser amount is necessary to be raised due to cost-cutting, the League hopes that the Committee will not dispense altogether with fundraising from community members.

Conclusion

The League applauds the Committee's work in administering the election of the SBNC. In order to safeguard and improve the functioning of the nonpartisan system for the election of the SBNC, it is critical that Scarsdale citizens actively participate in all aspects of the election process, from agreeing to be a candidate for the SBNC to voting -- whether in person or by mail-in ballot -- for candidates for the SBNC. The League believes that by increasing awareness of the importance of the nonpartisan system to the governance of our community, citizens will be more encouraged to serve on the SBNC and to vote in SBNC elections.

Sincerely,

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

Jane Veron
President

cc: Stephen Fridakis, Vice Chair, Administrative Committee
Members of 2010-2011 Administrative Committee

School Budget News

The schedule of the remaining school budget meetings:

Monday, 3/15 8:00 PM Board hears initial community statements

Thursday, 4/8 8:00 PM Board receives written statements from the community (including the LWVS consensus statement)

Monday, 4/19 8:00 PM Board responds to community statements

Monday, 5/4 8:00 PM Board conducts official budget hearing-final budget is available

Tuesday, 5/18 7 AM- 9 PM Budget Vote- Scarsdale Middle 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.

LWVNYS Consolidation Study

CONSOLIDATING LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Noreen Fisher, Chair
LWVNYS Government Consolidation Committee
November 2009

RATIONALE FOR THE STUDY

New York State continues to be faced with serious structural problems. Anemic economic growth, population losses and some of the highest taxes in the nation have been of serious concern for many years. Although the cost of New York State government threatens its effectiveness, the League has never studied, at a statewide level, whether it should encourage government consolidations/dissolutions or shared services in the interest of increasing efficiencies, and, if so, what criteria should be applied in evaluating various proposals.

The study of the question of increasing efficiency of local government through consolidation or dissolution of the entities themselves and/or of the services they provide is a complicated endeavor. The state is so diverse that the study committee believes it is unlikely that a consensus that proposes one course of action for the entire state can be reached. Given the immediacy of these issues, the study committee has decided to devote the first portion of the study to exploration of consensus in the following areas: 1. Is there agreement on the standards that the League should apply in assessing changes to state law that would facilitate the consolidation/dissolution process and/or the expansion of shared services; 2. Is there agreement on standards that local Leagues should apply in assessing proposals for consolidation /dissolution/ shared services in their service areas.

Insofar as the Leagues wishes to extend the study to consider mandating specific types of consolidations/dissolutions or shared services, the second portion of the study will occur next year after the first portion has been completed.

OVERVIEW OF CURRENT GOVERNMENTAL STRUCTURE

New York has a complex layering of 1,607 general-purpose local governments made up of 57 counties, 932 towns, 62 cities, 556 villages, all of which have taxing power, can issue debt and are covered by home rule protections under the state constitution, and 14 Native American reservations. The cities and towns completely cover all of the territory of the counties, leaving no unincorporated areas. None of the cities or towns cross county borders and, with one exception, cities and towns do not overlap. With respect to the villages, all reside within towns and 76 of the villages cross town boundaries. New York City operates as both a city and a county (the five boroughs are technically counties but operate under city government).

This structure leads to a layering of local governments. Village residents have three layers of government-village, town and county. Town residents live within two layers- town and county. The state has only five coterminous (same borders) town/villages. These residents would have two layers- town/village as one and county. City residents outside New York City also have two layers- city and county. New York City and Native American Reservation residents have one layer of government. The vast majority of these general-purpose governments were established prior to 1920 when the state was primarily rural. Very little change has occurred since then. Only three cities have been formed since 1920, the last being the City of Rye in 1942. The number of towns is unchanged since 1900 although there have been some changes within this total. Villages, the only form of municipal government that can be incorporated or dissolved solely by local action, have seen more change, with 125 villages having been created since 1925 and 37 dissolved as of 2007, with more changes occurring even today.

The state has seen tremendous changes in population size, economic activity, transportation systems, communication technology, and settlement patterns since 1920, and yet municipal classifications, boundaries and the laws under which these entities operate do not reflect this change. Historically cities and villages were created within the surrounding rural towns to respond to the needs of denser populations that required services not provided town-wide, the most obvious being water and sewer. These services were paid for by those within the cities and villages receiving that benefit. Today, while there are areas in upstate and in small portions of downstate that continue to reflect these stark distinctions, for the most part the services provided by towns no longer differ from those provided by their villages and cities.

The terms city, town and village bring a picture to mind that no longer holds true. Cities were traditionally the more populous and urban, towns more rural and villages small and somewhere between urban and rural. Ten towns in the state have populations greater than 100,000 whereas among the state's cities only the "Big Five" are that populous. Four of these towns have populations exceeding the population of the City of Buffalo-making them the largest municipalities outside of New York City.

Most of the state's cities (35 out of 62) have populations under 25,000 while 60 towns and six villages have populations greater than that level. The Villages of Port Chester, Mamaroneck, Ossining, Harrison (town/village) and Scarsdale (town/village) all have larger populations than the City of Rye in Westchester County. The Town of Hempstead is the largest municipality outside New York City in the state in terms of population.

Why is this important? It is important because cities, towns and villages have very different governing structures, revenue structures, tax and debt limits, access to revenue sharing and other forms of state aid and access to county and state services, grants and programs. Despite the many differences under state law for cities, towns and villages, the functions and services provided by the different classes have been converging, and as we have seen old designations no longer apply.

Cities tend to receive more in aid from the state, yet many towns and some villages are larger than our cities with the same problems that population brings. A discussion of the different treatment of municipal classes and the impact on local governments can be found in a comptroller report "Outdated Municipal Structures" at www.osc.state.ny.us/localgov/ under Research reports.

It is important to keep in mind that what a municipality is called is an artifact of the past and not a true reflection of how large, populous and urbanized an area actually is today. This uncertainty is one factor in recommending that initiatives to consolidate local government entities remember that "one-size-does-not-fit-all" and that the analysis should not be influenced by terminology but should be evaluated on the facts.

Of course, New York State government does not end with the general-purpose governments but also includes districts and other special government entities.

In addition to the general purpose governments discussed above, there are 1,811 special-purpose districts in New York with elected boards and the ability to impose taxes and/or issue debt directly or through the local government. These districts include school districts, fire districts, library districts, and other commissioner run districts, such as parks, water, sewer and solid waste districts.

The boundaries of these districts often cross town, village, city and even county borders creating issues of administration and taxing and coordination with multiple local governments. Many of these special districts operate outside of citizen and local press oversight and have election days outside of the General, Village or School District elections, resulting in low voter interest and turn out.

In addition to these districts, the state has 1,302 local government entities with independent boards that are able to impose costs and/or issue debt with little local control. These entities tend to have appointed boards, although some are elected by a select group of people. These entities include BOCES, community colleges, consolidated health districts, joint activity districts, local development corporations, housing authorities, industrial development agencies, urban renewal agencies, water, sewer and utility authorities, parking and transportation authorities, among others. These entities range from local to regional in scope, and they vary in the degree to which they are independent of the local government's oversight.

Finally, in addition to the above, New York has thousands of other boards and councils without taxing authority, such as soil and water conservation districts, regional planning boards, stormwater-management districts, fire protection districts, health districts and vital records districts. Most of these operate within a town or county and are under the control of the local government.

Government in New York State is complicated, and the reasons for the lack of change in municipal boundaries – and/or classifications and rules – range from the lack of unincorporated land, which makes the expansion of cities extremely difficult; to state laws such as the "Selkirk Law" (1961), which requires: representatives of all affected areas (the city, the area to be annexed and the town as a whole) to agree to a city annexation of land, as well as a formal referendum of city and town residents and a special act of the legislature; extension of the Selkirk law to villages in 1963; home-rule protections for all local governments in the state constitution which limit the state legislature's ability to pass a law affecting a specific local government without a request from the local government itself; simple inertia; the sentimental attachment

in local populations to existing government entities; the patterns of state aid to local governments based on traditional legal categories rather than more appropriate criteria; and the stake of local officials in the current structure. For those of you who are interested, you can find a summary of the local governmental entities in your county on the Attorney General's website, www.oag.ny.us.org.

LWV Westchester News

League Roundtable with County Board of Legislators Wednesday, March 3

You are invited to attend the Westchester County Board of Legislators roundtable discussion hosted by the LWVWestchester on Wednesday, March 3 at 9:30 in the 8th floor conference room at the Michaelian County Office Building, 148 Martine Avenue at Court Street in White Plains. (You will need to show valid picture identification).

Why is county government important to each of us? Our Board of Legislators allocates the money needed to operate county government and services and has oversight responsibility of the Executive branch. While two-thirds of the county government's workload consists of delivering services and programs mandated by the state of New York, the other third is discretionary, funding labs & research, public safety, planning, transportation, health & mental health, services to children, the Westchester Library System, Parks, Recreation & Conservation, and Emergency Services.

We have the responsibility to influence how these funds are spent: they are our dollars.

Ken Jenkins is the new chairman of the BOL and other changes in legislative committee chairmanships have taken place as well. The League is very much a presence at all BOL meetings keeping a sharp eye, especially on budget issues and the housing settlement, which affects most of our towns and villages. By your presence at this discussion, it shows the legislators that we take an interest in what they do.

2010 Census

2010 CENSUS: League Working to Eliminate "Undercount"

As the 2010 Census approaches, US LWV President Mary Wilson has said that: "Our goal is to work with others to eliminate the 'undercount' that occurs, particularly within low income and minority populations. ...We have been fighting to protect the rights of under-represented communities in many arenas, including voting, immigration and health care reforms."

Census data is used for many important purposes. It provides the basis for apportioning seats in the U.S. House of Representatives and for allocating federal funding to states and communities. It also is used in redistricting all election districts; in New York State this encompasses city council districts, state senatorial districts, and everything in between. The Rensselaer League has long been

concerned about the issue of redistricting.

As the U.S. Census Bureau prepares for the census, the NYS League is urging local leagues to help educate the public about the census process and to be vigilant for any shortcomings that may arise.

Beware! If a "census bureau representative" knocks on your door and asks for personal information like your Social Security number or your e-mail address, they are not who they say they are. Legitimate census takers will be equipped with a badge, a census canvas bag, a hand-held electronic unit and a confidentiality notice. During their initial visitation period, census takers are strictly trying to determine how many individuals live in the residence. They will not ask for names, ages or Social Security numbers. Neither will the Census Bureau contact people by e-mail. Anyone who receives an e-mail supposedly sent by the Census Bureau is advised not to open the messages or attachments.

The Complete Count: The Importance of Census Data

Every year, the federal government distributes more than \$400 billion to local, state and tribal governments based on census data. This information is used in many ways that can improve the quality of life for immigrants and their families by:

Helping leaders determine where to build new schools, roads, health care, senior centers and more.

Helping fund community initiatives and programs important to immigrants-including education, job safety, English-language programs and enhanced legal services.

Aiding local emergency service responders in reacting efficiently in times of need, thanks to better maps and information Guiding implementation and evaluation of programs, such as the Equal Employment Act, the Civil Rights Act and the Fair Housing Act.

Assisting with planning for education, housing, health and other programs that reflect diversity in the community.

By participating in the census, you can help create a better future for you and those important to you. Make a difference in your community and be counted in 2010. Complete and return your 2010 Census form.

From: United States Census 2010, "The Voter", Jan. 2010

Advocacy

The League Urges Senate to Pass Critically Important Campaign Finance Law

In response to the Supreme Court's decision in the Citizens United case, League President Mary G. Wilson sent a letter to the Senate urging them to update campaign finance laws, with particular attention to requirements governing corporate and union spending. The Supreme Court's decision allows corporations to make unlimited independent expenditures in candidate elections. Lobby Corps members are visiting key Senate offices this month to discuss legislations. A new nationwide ABCNews-Washington Post poll shows that the League is not alone in this fight: 80% of Americans

of both parties oppose the Court's decision.

LWVScarsdale Board

2009-10 LWV of Scarsdale Board of Directors:

President	
Jane Veron	472-2933 jevatf@aol.com
First Vice-president	
Margaret Smith	723-5898 reinedesaba@optonline.net
Second Vice-president	
Lauri Carey	472-8076 lauricarey@hotmail.com
Recording Secretary	
Florie Wachtenheim	472-3829 floriewa@optonline.net
Corresponding Secretary	
Janice Starr	472-8851 irajanice@aol.com
Treasurer	
Debbie Miller	723-6293 midi.mil@verizon.net
Annual Luncheon	
Anne Lyons	KALYONSKJP@aol.com
Advocacy	
Suzanne Seiden*	Kevsuz@aol.com
Aging in Place	unfilled
Bulletin Editor	
Nancy Michaels	Eatright1@aol.com
Candidates Forum	
Marylou Green	coopergree@aol.com
Education Foundation Study	
Debbie Miller	midi.mil@verizon.net
Environment/Natural Resources	
Lauri Carey	lauricarey@hotmail.com
Finance Drive	
Debra Lagapa	d.lagapa@verizon.net
Anne Lyons	KALYONSKJP@aol.com
Hospitality	
Kitt Rosenthal	kittr@optonline.net
Infrastructure	unfilled
LWVW Liaison	
Renée Baylor	kandrbaylor@yahoo.com
Membership	
Margaret Smith	reinedesaba@optonline.net
Janice Starr	irajanice@aol.com
Membership Statistician	
Susie Rush	Srush76@gmail.com
Nominating Chair	

Michelle Lichtenberg*	Michelle.lichtenberg@gmail.com
Planning & Zoning	
Michelle Lichtenberg*	Michelle.lichtenberg@gmail.com
Adie Shore	ABSNNY@aol.com
Program/Education	
Marylou Green	coopergree@aol.com
Debra Lagapa	d.lagapa@verizon.net
Publicity	
Sara Werder	sarawerder@gmail.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@optonline.net
Webmaster	
Sarah Hallac*	sarah@hallac.com
*Off-board, non-voting	updated 9/5/09

Forward email

✉ **SafeUnsubscribe®**

This email was sent to sarah@hallac.com by irajanice@aol.com.
[Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

Email Marketing by



League of Women Voters of Scarsdale | 65 Church Lane | Scarsdale | NY | 10583