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.

Calendar of upcoming events

March

Monday 9, 9:00 AM: **Board Meeting**, Village Hall, 3rd Floor
Wednesday 18, 6-9 AM & 12-9 PM:
**Village Elections**, Village Hall
Wednesday 18, 1 PM:
**Naturalization Court**, W.P. Court House
Monday 23, 9:15 AM:
**Gen. Memb./Consensus Mtg.:** School Budget
Village Hall, 3rd Floor
Monday 30, 9:00 AM: **Board Meeting**, Village Hall, 3rd Floor
10:15 AM: **Gen. Memb./Consensus Mtg:** Village Budget

Look for our updated ‘This is Scarsdale’ brochure on our website! Browse online or download the pdf!
We were delighted to enjoy a lovely evening with so many League members and friends at our annual Winter Fundraiser last month. Thanks to Janice and Ira Starr graciously opening up their home, all of us were treated to delicious and abundant food and drink contributed by Board members and lively conversation. We were pleased to be joined by New York State Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins, New York State Assemblywoman Amy Paulin, Westchester County Legislator Ben Boykin, Mayor Bob Steves, Village Trustees Stacey Brodsky and David Lee, School Board President Mary Beth Gose, School Board Trustee Chris Morin, and Westchester County Family Court Judge Arlene Katz. Thanks to you, the League raised over $3,400 to support our programs. We could not continue our work without your generous support!

Despite the disruptions to the usual rhythms of life caused by snowfall after snowfall, League work continues. Our school budget and village budget committees are monitoring the budget planning process of the schools and the village. I encourage you to stay informed and participate in the process as both the School Board and the Village Board develop their respective budgets for the 2015-16 fiscal year. In addition to accessing information available on the school district’s website and public meetings held by both boards, please plan to attend our upcoming information and consensus meetings. We will evaluate the school budget on March 23rd when members of the School Board and district administration will discuss the proposed budget the School Board will present to the community and take Q&A. We will evaluate the proposed Village budget on March 30th, at which time we will hear from the Village Manager, Deputy Village Manager, Village Treasurer, and members of the Village Board and have the opportunity for Q & A. In each case, the information meeting will be immediately followed by our consensus meeting. For more information, see the announcements regarding the Scarsdale School Budget and Village Budget elsewhere in this Bulletin.

We recently completed our study and evaluation of the village and school non-partisan election systems. Please review our consensus statement regarding the village election system [click here] and look for our consensus statement regarding the school election system shortly. We also reviewed and discussed our local League program for 2015-16. This program will be published in our April/May Bulletin and will be proposed for approval at our Annual Meeting on May 8th.

Lastly, I’m pleased to report that we will be sending two students to Albany to participate in the Students Inside Albany program (details to come in our next Bulletin). We can do so only because we have such a vibrant, supportive membership which enables us to maintain a healthy financial footing. Our sincerest thanks to all of you who supported us in our recent Finance Drive.

Stay warm and don’t forget to vote in person at Village Hall or by absentee ballot for Mayor and Village Trustees on Wednesday, March 18th (note the date in the hard copy community calendar is incorrect)!

Susie Rush
Scarsdale School Budget 2015-16

The process for developing next year’s school budget and seeking public input is already well under way. The Board of Education held three Budget Study sessions in February and will hold a fourth Budget Study session on March 2nd, at which community members are invited to comment on the Preliminary Proposed Budget 2015-16. On March 18th, the Board will present its proposed budget to the community. There will be opportunity for public comment throughout March and April up until April 20th, when the Board adopts a final proposal for the May 19th budget vote.

A link to the Preliminary Proposed Budget 2015-16 is available under “Announcements” on the homepage of the District website (www.scarsdaleschools.org). And the complete Calendar for Development of 2015-16 Budget can be found at http://www.scarsdaleschools.org/Page/7980.

The League will hold its general membership meeting open to the public on Monday, March 23rd, 9:15 AM, in Village Hall, 3rd floor, at which members of the School Board and the Administration will be asked to attend and answer questions concerning the proposed school budget. Members are invited to attend the consensus meeting immediately following the general membership meeting. For more information, please contact Mary Beth Evans at 725-8115 or mbemore@aol.com.

SAVE THE DATE!

League of Women Voters of Scarsdale Annual Meeting and Luncheon
Friday, May 8, 11 AM
Scarsdale Golf Club, Hartsdale
LWVS General Membership and Consensus Meeting on the Proposed Village Budget for 2015-2016

Monday, March 30, 2015
10:15 AM at Village Hall, 3rd Floor Meeting Room

Please join the LWVS on Monday, March 30, at 10:15 AM for a general membership information session with Scarsdale Village Manager, Al Gatta, Deputy Village Manager, Steve Pappalardo and Village Treasurer, Mary Lou McClure, and members of the Village Board of Trustees regarding the proposed Village budget for 2015-2016. All members of the public are welcome to attend the information session.

A consensus discussion will immediately follow the information session for purposes of making recommendations to the Village staff and Village board. Only League members may be present for the consensus discussion, but all are welcome to join the League prior to or at the meeting. To join the League, click the following link or go to: http://lwvs.org/Join.html.

The League encourages all residents to participate in our local village budget discussion. To access the timeline for the Village budget process, click the following link, or go to: http://scarsdale.com/Portals/0/Manager/WebsiteBudgetCalendarRev12015-16-120314.pdf.

For more information, please contact Deb Morel, LWVS Village Budget Chair, at moreldeb@gmail.com.

SBNC Administrative Committee Co-Chair
Mindy T. with Susie and Angela at the General Membership meeting in January reviewing the School Election System process.
Update on Historic Preservation

On January 29, 2015 the Village Board conducted a Public Hearing on a Proposed Local Law to repeal in its entirety the then existing historic preservation law, Chapter 182, and establish a new Chapter 182. Following the Public Hearing, the Village Board adopted the Proposed Local Law. New Chapter 182 is intended as an interim step until a survey of all properties in the Village is conducted and a new Historic Preservation Law is enacted.

The new law changes the old law on historic preservation in two significant respects.

First, procedurally, the Board of Architectural Review (BAR) is no longer a part of the process of determining whether or not a property owner will be granted a Certificate of Appropriateness ("Certificate"), enabling the owner to demolish more than 50 percent of the existing structure. As was the case under the old law, an application for a Certificate must be considered by the Committee on Historic Preservation ("CHP"). Under the new law, a Certificate will be denied if the property is deemed to meet certain criteria which would render it of "substantial historical importance" that it should be preserved, and any appeal of the CHP's decision must be made directly to the Village Board, who will apply the same criteria as the CHP to determine historical importance. The applicant no longer must take the additional step under the old law of applying to the BAR for a Certificate and be subject to any additional or competing criteria set forth by the BAR.

Second, the new Chapter 182 alters the "Criteria to Determine Historical Importance." Specifically, the CHP "shall consider...the level of significance in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering and culture present in the building, as well as the integrity of location, design, setting, material and workmanship...and ... (3) that the building is the work of a master and embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction that possess high artistic values..." (emphasis added). The use of the word "and" rather than "or" in (3) is a significant departure from prior law. Under the old law, a property was considered of substantial historic importance if, among other things, it was the work of an architect or engineer of significance OR it was a significant example of an important building style or period. In the opinion of Paul Diamond, CHP chair, as stated at the Public Hearing, with the change, a higher bar is set and "there’s going to be nothing that’s going to be able to be preserved."

Village Board members emphasized at the board meeting that many months and many thoughtful hours had been dedicated to the wording of the new law. In past public meetings, Board members noted that in fact there are relatively few properties that are within the purview of this law. The number of properties is unknown, but it is believed to be fewer than the number that was cited in the Cultural Resource Survey conducted by Li/Saltzman Architects a few years ago.
Thank you...

Janice and Ira Starr for again hosting our annual winter cocktail party and to all the board members who contributed, under Janice’s skilled direction, the delicious food and ample spirits to make the evening a terrific success.

Angela Manson for monitoring the SBNC election and leading our general membership and consensus meeting on the school election system.

Linda Doucette-Ashman for coordinating our first-ever LWVS book club and Janice Starr for hosting our discussion.

Lisa Eisenstein for updating us on the development and adoption of the new historic preservation law (see Update on Historic Preservation in this Bulletin).

Pam Rubin and Meggy Wagner for designing our one-page “teaser” for our This is Scarsdale brochure. Look for This is Scarsdale online at www.lwvs.org soon.

Evelyn Stock for acting as our independent “judge” in selecting this year’s Students Inside Albany students.

Cindy Dunne and Lauren Mintzer for representing the League at meetings of the fall leaf collection task force.

All of the League board members for their tireless efforts and dedication to all League matters, and Joan Frankle, Debbie Miller, Deb Morel, Pam Rubin and Janice Starr; indispensable executive committee members.
They represent you 2014/15
Changes effective June 2014
VILLAGE OF SCARSDALE

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Robert J. Steves, Mayor
term ends Apr. 2015
Stacey Brodsky
2nd term ends Apr. 2015
David Lee
2nd term ends Apr. 2016
Thomas B. Martin
1st term ends Apr. 2015
Deborah Pekarek
1st term ends Apr. 2016
Marc Samwick
1st term ends Apr. 2016
William Stern
1st term ends Apr. 2015

BOARD OF EDUCATION
Mary Beth Gose, President
2nd term ends June 2015
Leila Shames Maude, V.P.
1st term ends June 2016
Lewis Leone, Jr.
2nd term ends June 2015
Christopher Morin
1st term ends June 2017
William Natbony
1st term ends June 2016
Suzanne Seiden
2nd term ends June 2016
Scott E. Silberfein
1st term ends June 2017

Winter Fundraiser Impressions