We are now in the thick of the Presidential campaign. Candidates are crisscrossing the country seeking to reach voters. The week of September 15 reflected a typical schedule: on Monday, McCain was in Florida, Palin in Colorado, and Obama in Colorado. On the next day, McCain was in Florida and Ohio, where he was joined by Palin, while Obama remained in Colorado. On Wednesday of that week, McCain and Palin were scheduled to be in Minnesota, Obama in Nevada and Michelle Obama in Virginia, and then on Thursday, McCain and Palin went to Iowa.

This schedule illustrates the importance of the battleground states, and the concomitant unimportance of the rest of the country. Among the states left out of the mix, as you must have noticed, is New York.

The election comes down to contests for those states that have been called the “battleground” states. These are the states which, depending on the pundit to which you refer, number between fourteen and nineteen. The list is not static but is often said to include: Ohio, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Wisconsin, New Hampshire, Virginia, Florida, Missouri, Colorado, New Mexico, Nevada, Louisiana, and North Carolina. These states are neither firmly Democratic nor Republican, and are therefore the states that will decide our election.

continued on page 4

THE BATTLE FOR THE PRESIDENCY

CANDIDATE DEBATES

Sponsored by the League of Women Voters of the Hamptons

October 16
Congressional Candidates Debate: Timothy Bishop and Lee Zeldin
7:00 p.m.
Hampton Bays Senior Center, Ponquogue Avenue, Hampton Bays

October 23
State Senate: Kenneth LaValle
7:00 p.m.
Running unopposed, invited to make five-minute statement.

State Assembly: Fred Thiele and Michael Pitcher
Southampton Town Council: Daniel Russo and Sally Pope
Bridgehampton High School (eastern location). Co-sponsored with the Southampton Press.

October 30
State Senate: Kenneth LaValle
7:00 p.m.
Running unopposed, invited to make five-minute statement.

State Assembly: Fred Thiele and Michael Pitcher
Southampton Town Council: Daniel Russo and Sally Pope
Hampton Bays Senior Center, Ponquogue Avenue, Hampton Bays (western location). Co-sponsored with the Southampton Press.
Nothing will work unless you do.

*Maya Angelou*

One must assume that people who join the League of Women Voters share an interest in voting, government, and politics. I would even go so far as to assume that people who are members of our organization think that the reliability of our voting system, the maintenance of good government, and the integrity of politics are essential. If these assumptions are correct, I believe it is incumbent upon all of us, at this time more than ever, to put these principles into action and to get to work.

The choices of venue are many—you can volunteer with the Board of Elections, one of the nonpartisan voting rights organizations or the party of your choice. Many people (including some of our own members) are under the misapprehension that because our organization is nonpartisan, our members are discouraged from engaging in partisan politics. Not so. With the exception of those directly affected by the nonpartisan policy (and you know who you are), the League of Women Voters encourages its members to be actively engaged in the political process on any and all levels. So if you want to be a part of a campaign, call the party of your choice and dig in.

If campaigning is not your cup of tea, there is much to be done to protect and assist the voting process itself. The Board of Elections is still in need of people to staff the polls on Election Day. This need will only become greater in the future as we transition to new and unfamiliar voting machines.

If you are more interested in the right to vote than the mechanics of voting, there are several opportunities for you. The national political parties each have specialty branches that concentrate on voting rights. All accept volunteers. In addition, the National Campaign for Fair Elections is a national, nonpartisan organization devoted to ensuring that those who are eligible are afforded their right to vote.

So, get to work between now and Election Day. All of these organizations provide opportunities to work in your community, on the internet, or on the phone. If you are really ambitious, think about working in a battleground state, where your effort will be even more effective.

Participation in the electoral process is fun, rewarding, challenging, and gives you the opportunity to meet other people who are as committed as you are. Please ask these people to join the League of Women Voters—our work does not end on Election Day.

*Carol Mellor, President*  
537-6998
At long last the presidential campaign season is coming to an end. And yet it is possible, even likely, that there are those among us who haven’t taken the steps necessary to insure that they will be able to cast their votes on Election Day. In addition, there may be questions from some voters who want to be doubly sure that they will not be thwarted because of missing some step that applies specifically to them. This column, therefore, is intended to provide some information as well as worthwhile resources.

Registration Forms
Voter registration forms and absentee ballot application forms are available at all post offices, libraries, and town and village offices. There are English and Spanish versions. There are Voter Guides and voter application forms available to download on the League sites.

League Websites
Both the state and county League websites are full of information which different groups of citizens would find very helpful. Among those groups: college students, first-time voters, those in military service, and disabled voter using the new voting machines.

- New York State League: [www.lwvny.org](http://www.lwvny.org)
- Suffolk County League: [www.lwv-suffolkcounty.org](http://www.lwv-suffolkcounty.org)
- State Board of Elections: [www.elections.state.ny.us](http://www.elections.state.ny.us)

Address
Suffolk County Board of Elections
P.O. Box 700, Yaphank Avenue
Yaphank, NY 11980

Phone Numbers
Suffolk County Board of Elections: 631- 852-4500
League of Women Voters of the Hamptons: 324-4637

Two Important Frequently Asked Questions
The answer to two of the most often asked questions among voters is worthwhile to cite here from the state website.

1. Will I have to show identification when I go to vote?
   Maybe. Applicants who are registering by mail and are registering in the county for the first time must provide identification the first time you vote in a federal election, unless the state matches the information provided in your application with a state record. Because the state may not have the technology to match records before the November 2008 election, all first-time voters who registered by mail should be prepared to show identification at the polls unless you submit a copy of your identification to the Board of Elections before Election Day, November 4, 2008.

2. What do I do when I move?
   Complete a new registration form. Be prepared to provide the more recent requirement for identification information— the preferred driver’s license or, alternately, the last four digits of your Social Security number. Send it to the Board of Elections of the new address.

Please share any information that may be of help to your fellow citizens.

VOTER MAILING GLITCHES
We understand that there have been some glitches or gremlins causing a problem with recent mailings of The Voter. We think we have corrected the problems, but if you did not receive a September Voter, or received more than one copy, or if your name is not correct on the mailing label, please e-mail one of us: Carol Mellor ([camellor@aol.com](mailto:camellor@aol.com)); Maura Lester ([maura912@optonline.net](mailto:maura912@optonline.net)); or Afton DiSunno ([aafton26@optonline.net](mailto:aafton26@optonline.net)). Thank you for your patience.
These are the toss-up states. Other states are thought to be leaning one way or another; among these states are Minnesota, Iowa, and Missouri. Not surprisingly then, these are among the states which receive repeated and constant visits from the candidates, major expenditures of money and energy, coverage by the media and, in short, all of the attention. Not surprisingly, many voters who live in the other thirty-one states have been heard to whine “What about me?”

The phenomenon of the battleground state is the result, many think, of the Electoral College system. In all but two states, all of the Electoral College votes are awarded to the candidate who obtains the most votes in that state. Thus, if Candidate A receives 51.2% of the votes in California, all 55 of that state’s electoral votes are awarded to that candidate. Experience in prior elections has established that in most states, the political realities are that one candidate or the other has already “won” the majority of votes, and thus, is assured of the electoral votes from that state.

Under this “winner take all” system, candidates have no reason to poll, visit, advertise, organize, campaign, or worry about the concerns of voters of states that they cannot possibly win or lose. This means that voters in two-thirds of the states are effectively disenfranchised. For example, neither party is likely to send its candidate to campaign in either New York or California because those states will likely vote Democratic in the 2008 election. Thus, voters in two of the most populous states are, for all intents and purposes, irrelevant in the Presidential election. (Of course, the candidates will make many trips to these states to raise money, but not to campaign).

One cure for this situation is to amend the Constitution, eliminating the Electoral College in favor of the direct election of the president. Another suggestion is the National Popular Vote Compact (NPV), legislation which provides that the electors of each state which has enacted the law will vote for the Presidential and Vice-Presidential candidates who win the majority of votes nationally. At the national convention is summer, the League voted to study the advisability of this plan, and it will be the subject of a consensus vote this coming winter. More material and information about the NPV will be forthcoming in the next few months.

For the time being, however, during this election season, pay attention to the attention that is paid to the voters in the battleground states. How many times do they see the candidates? How are the concerns of those voters reflected in the platforms and positions of the candidates? How many ads by the political parties are directed at you, or at issues important to you? Remember the answers to these questions when you consider, next winter, the National Popular Vote Compact.

Written by Carol Mellor
## October 2008

**Note:** Meeting dates and times are subject to change. Please confirm with committee chairperson.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Event/Committee</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October 1</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>LWVH Board Meeting</td>
<td>Bridgehampton National Bank, Montauk Highway, Bridgehampton. Members and guests welcome.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 7</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Natural Resources Committee meeting</td>
<td>Hampton Library at temporary site, 2539 Montauk Highway (Marders building), Bridgehampton. Contact Glorian Berk at 283-2638 or <a href="mailto:glorianberk@aol.com">glorianberk@aol.com</a>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 7</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Voter Services Committee meeting</td>
<td>Hampton Library at temporary site, 2539 Montauk Highway (Marders building), Bridgehampton. Contact Anne Marshall at 537-3257.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 8</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Membership Committee meeting</td>
<td>Hampton Library at temporary site, 2539 Montauk Highway (Marders building), Bridgehampton. Contact Arlene Makl at 324-8662.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 10</td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>Education Committee meeting</td>
<td>Hampton Library at temporary site, 2539 Montauk Highway (Marders building), Bridgehampton. Contact Judi Roth at 283-0759 for details.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 15</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Town Government Committee meeting</td>
<td>Home of Libby Hummer. Contact Naomi Epstein at 907-4361 for directions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 15</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>LWVSC Board meeting</td>
<td>Riverhead Library. 9:30 a.m.-12:00 noon.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 15</td>
<td>2:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Special Events Committee meeting</td>
<td>Southampton Diner, Route 27, Southampton. Contact Susan Wilson at 283-6549 for details.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 16</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Congressional Debate</td>
<td>Candidates Tim Bishop and Lee Zeldin. Debate sponsored by LWVH. Hampton Bays Senior Services Center, Ponquogue Avenue, Hampton Bays.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 20</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Health Committee meeting</td>
<td>Old Whaler’s Church, Union Street, Sag Harbor. Contact Judy Samuelson at 267-3055 for details.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### LOOKING AHEAD

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Event/Committee</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>November 4</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>ELECTION DAY</td>
<td>VOTE! Polls are open from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. See page 3 for more information.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 5</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>LWVH Board Meeting</td>
<td>Bridgehampton National Bank, Montauk Highway, Bridgehampton. Members and guests welcome.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 9</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>Post Election Brunch</td>
<td>Bellport Country Club. See page 17 for more information.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 10</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>General Membership Meeting</td>
<td>Panel Discussion: Riverhead Resorts project. Hampton Bays Senior Services Center, Ponquogue Avenue, Hampton Bays. Further details to come.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE HAMPTONS (LWVH) NONPARTISAN POLICY

The LWVH, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. It does not support or oppose political parties or candidates.

The League may, after member study and consensus, take action on governmental measures and policies in the public interest. If such measures and policies are identified with a particular candidate for public office, elected official, or political party, the League’s activities are not to be construed as support for that particular person or group.

Board members shall not participate in any political campaign. For example, board members shall not attend, chair or administer fundraising events for political campaigns, chair campaign events, or work in the campaign of a candidate or a political party. Board members may make financial contributions up to limits specified by the board.

Board members shall not run for or hold elective political office. A board member, upon declaring for an elective political office, must resign from the board. If defeated, or after leaving elective office, reappointment to the board will be at the discretion of the board. Former officials are eligible to be board members at the discretion of the board as well.

A board member may not speak publicly or work against a League position. As a result of their close identification with the League, board members and off-board portfolio chairs have a special responsibility to see that their activities do not create a partisan impression or compromise the nonpartisanship of the League.

In all of the above, exceptions may be left to the discretion of the board. It is the responsibility of the Nominating Committee to inform nominees of this policy.

Amended and Adopted by Board of Directors
September, 2008

LWVH FORUM ON SCHOOL PROPERTY TAX RELIEF

On Monday, September 8, The League of Women Voters of the Hamptons hosted a meeting about school property tax relief. A panel of politicians and education leaders talked about the two proposals for school tax relief that have already made it through the State Assembly or Senate. On the panel was Senator Kenneth P. LaValle; Gary Bixhorn, the district superintendent for Eastern Suffolk Board of Cooperative Education Services (BOCES); Assemblyman Fred W. Thiele; and Richard Iannuzzi, the president of the New York State United Teachers (NYSUT).

Senator LaValle and Assemblyman Thiele spoke about two different versions of the state cap on school tax. Both the Senate and the Assembly have a tax cap plan, with a third proposal by the governor. All the parties will meet to try come up with a single proposal.

Richard Iannuzzi and Jack Perna, the superintendent of schools in Montauk, were opposed to all the capping plans. Mr. Iannuzzi spoke about how the capping plan would put undue burdens on less affluent districts and pointed out that, in school districts with tax caps, the quality of education is diminished. Mr. Bixhorn pointed out that there is “a tremendous misconception of Long Island” being a uniformly wealthy community and that the state’s need-based formula shortchanges Long Island.

A particularly interesting and visual demonstration was given during the question-and-answer portion of the meeting. Mr. Perna dropped half of the parts needed to build a birdhouse on the table in front of Senator LaValle. In doing this, he pointed out that it was impossible to build the birdhouse with half the materials needed to do the job. He implied that school districts such as his would be deprived of funds needed to deliver quality education.

This well-attended meeting drew many educators and other community members and helped to clarify and inform them about this important issue.

Written by Terri Levin Davgin

Local politicians and education leaders spoke at the LWVH forum on school property tax relief. From left to right: Assemblyman Fred Thiele, Senator Kenneth LaValle, Richard Iannuzzi (BOCES), and Gary Bixhorn (NYSUT). Photo by Anne Marshall.
REGISTRATION FORM
The League of Women Voters of New York State
in association with
The United Nations Department of Public Information
(additional co-sponsors to be named at a later date)

INVITE YOU TO ATTEND

BRIEFINGS ON THE IMPACT OF GLOBAL WARMING ON WOMEN AND CHILDREN AROUND THE WORLD

Tuesday, December 2, 2008 from 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
at the United Nations Headquarters in NYC – First Avenue at 46th Street

(*LWVNYS Registration Desk will be open from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m., Briefings will start promptly at 1:30 p.m.*)

Name: ________________________________
Organization: ____________________________
Address: ____________________________________________
City: __________________ State: _______ Zip: _______________
Day Phone: ( ______ ) __________________________ E-Mail: _______________________________

COST/PAYMENT INFORMATION

☐ 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Optional Tour of the UN $ 12
☐ 4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. Optional Tour of the UN
☐ 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Optional Lunch Buffet in the Delegates’ Dining Room Includes International Buffet, Dessert Bar and Coffee/Tea only $ 40
The Delegates’ Dining Room Staff have reserved for this event tables of 10
UN requires proper attire: jeans, shorts, sneakers will NOT be permitted
☐ 1:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Briefings Program in the Dag Hammarskjöld Library Auditorium $ 55 League Members or Members of Sponsoring Organizations
$ 70 Non-Member
$ 45 Students
Discounted fee to members of sponsoring organization for Tour, Lunch, and Briefing $ 100

TOTAL ENCLOSED $ ______

My Check for ______ is enclosed (make payable to LWVNYS) OR
Please charge my: MasterCard VISA American Express Discover

Card Holder’s Name: ___________________________ Signature: ___________________________

Card Number: ___________________________ Expiration Date: ___________________________

PLEASE RETURN TO:
United Nations Briefings/LWVNYS** 62 Grand Street** Albany, New York 12207
Fax: (518) 465-0812 (Credit Card Registrations ONLY)
E-Mail: Stephanie@lwvny.org

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL: 518-465-4162

SPACE IS LIMITED, SO RESERVE EARLY
REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS NOVEMBER 18, 2008
Urgent: Immediate Action Required on Lloyd Aquifer Protection Bill S1558/A2986

Gov. Paterson must take action on this bill within the next three weeks and there is a strong lobby from NYC against the bill.

Potable water is one of our most precious natural resources. It is a renewable resource within circumscribed limits. Since Suffolk County’s only source of potable water is from our aquifers, we MUST protect them!

The Lloyd is the smallest, most pristine, and deepest aquifer, which is reserved for communities which have no other source of potable water. Studies of the Lloyd Aquifer are rare, incomplete, and not comprehensive. However, we do know that the Lloyd recharge rate is only 3%—we can use it up far more quickly than we can replace it.

We must protect this aquifer from those who wish to pump other, less pure water from other areas into, and pump excessive amounts of water out of, the Lloyd. There are political and business reasons why people are willing to gamble with our water supply. We cannot let that happen. Contact Governor David Paterson and urge him to sign the Lloyd Aquifer Protection Bill, S.1558/A.2986 now.  

Dorothy Cappadona

SC League Urges County Funding for Services to Mentally Ill

As the Suffolk County Legislature and CE Levy negotiate the 2009 County Budget, the League is aware of the tremendous pressure to cut SC services across the board. The League, on many occasions over the last year, has given evidence that untreated mental illnesses increase costs to both public and private sectors.

- There are more than 700 people in Suffolk County waiting for access to housing with supportive services
- There are hundreds of people awaiting therapeutic services who cannot get appointments in our clinics
- There is inadequate staffing in these clinics
- Deterioration of family functioning, loss of employment, and loss of health are direct results of under-treated mental illness
- There are 7,800 children who meet the criteria for service for the seriously emotionally ill—only 510 service slots available

The League strongly urges our elected officials to consider the effect of budget cuts on the underserved mentally ill in Suffolk County, and protect and even expand funding to them, in order to ensure the well being of ALL of our fellow SC citizens.  

Katherine Hoak
Several aspects of transportation were noted: the need to educate people to walk, to bike, to take public transportation; the importance of publicity so that people are more aware of what is available now; improvement in the coordination of services now in operation; accommodation to the needs of people with disabilities, among many others. From investigation, we noted that both the LWVUS and the LWVNYS, in their Energy & Environment positions, address public transportation. It is also addressed in regard to affordable housing and smart growth. This is a multi-faceted concern. We decided that our next step will be to form a committee to study all aspects of transportation and the effect of its shortfall in Suffolk County, and then to determine what our positions will be.

We were notified of the Lloyd Aquifer Protection Bill (S1558, A2986) which is awaiting Governor Patterson’s signature. There are strong pressures being brought to bear against the signing of this bill, but protection of the Lloyd Aquifer is critical to Long Islanders. Dr. Dorothy Cappadona, our environmental specialist, is contacting League members to encourage their contacting the Governor to urge his support and signature on this bill.

The Legislative Committee determined that it would continue to support its positions in support of Affordable Housing, and Campaign Finance Reform. Our strong advocacy for Alternatives for Incarceration (ATI) will also continue. This includes the importance we see in both improved services for those with mental illness, and in Restorative Justice.

Environmental Issues are outstanding concerns, including the preservation of open space and the decisions made in regard to land use. Ground water conservation is of critical importance. We determined that it is important to form a committee to assess these concerns. This proposal will be presented at the next County Board meeting in Riverhead.

Not the least of our concerns is the status of health care in Suffolk County. The delivery of services here for years has been outstanding and a model for other municipalities. We now have grave concerns that the delivery of services, both staff and hours, has been cut back. Many of our citizens are totally dependent on the accessibility of health care provided in our clinics. Preventive care, especially, is becoming less available, a condition which is necessary for us to monitor.

Katherine Hoak

Voter Service Activities Prime Focus of Suffolk County Leagues in Election Season

Voter Registration Drives and Candidates Meetings filled calendars in September, October, and early November throughout Suffolk County. From the Nassau border to the East End, local League members set up tables outside supermarkets, at community fairs, at health centers, and local colleges. The list of possibilities was only limited by hours in the day, and our inability to clone our dedicated members!

Each year, LWVSC’s Post Election Brunch honors our tireless volunteers, in particular with the county Liberty Award, as well as the well-deserved local League Voter Service Awards.

For the last few years, we have compiled the vast number of voter education, voter registration, and voter service activities held by our five local Leagues: Brookhaven, Hamptons, Huntington, Shelter Island, and Smithtown.

Join us Sunday, Nov. 9 at Bellport!
SUMMARY OF LWVH BOARD MEETING
September 3, 2008

Information Items
- Carol Mellor announced that members of Voter Services will speak to the Bridgehampton AARP on November 2.
- Board members were encouraged to participate in UN Day at the United Nations where the topic will be “The Effect of Global Warming on Women and Children.”

Discussion Items
- Website: Judy Samuelson distributed copies of the proposed Hampton League website design, asked for comments from the Board, and requested pictures of recent events for publication. When the site is established, Judy volunteered to look at it monthly for updating.
- Nonpartisan Policy: The LWVH Nonpartisan Policy’s proposed changes were introduced by the task force spokesperson, Ann Sandford and, after much discussion, two additional changes were agreed to. A motion to accept the policy as amended was passed.
- League Slogan: A motion was passed to adopt the League slogan: “The League of Women Voters of the Hamptons is a nonpartisan, political, grassroots organization of volunteers dedicated to making democracy work through voter education, issue advocacy and citizen participation.”

Special Committee Reports
- Annual Meeting ’09: The Annual Meeting will be on May 3 with Dorothy Lichtenstein as the honoree. A speaker and site have not yet been determined.
- Running and Winning: This committee met and they are waiting to receive more information from Leagues that have already implemented this program, which encourages more women to run for public office. The committee plans to include all the local high schools.
- Town Government Study: This group now has five members and is encouraging others who are interested in this topic to join them.

Committee Reports
- Special Events: The Trivia Challenge will take place on Sunday, November 16, and Southampton Hospital Foundation, specifically its appeal for the Emergency Room, will be the beneficiary of the proceeds. It will cost $50 to participate, $25 to watch, and all tickets include food and drink. The prize to the winning team of four will be $500.
- Membership: Membership total 197, including 21 new members.
- Natural Resources: Planning for the November 10 members meeting on the proposed entertainment complex in Riverhead is progressing.
- Voter Services: The debate between justice candidates in the Southampton primary went well and can be seen on Channel 22. LWVH will sponsor a congressional debate on October 16 in Hampton Bays, and debates between Southampton Town Council candidates and between candidates for the NYS Assembly on October 23 and 30.
- Programs: We were reminded of the upcoming members meeting on the NYS School Property Tax Cap Bill.
- Health: The Health Committee is supporting the NYS League’s Health Plan and may bring information from the Texas League’s website to ours.

Before adjournment, Carol distributed a form asking for our League’s legislative priorities to be discussed at the next Board meeting, which will be on October 1, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the Bridgehampton National Bank meeting room. All are invited to attend.

Written by Judy Samuelson

Susan and Douglas Moyer
4284 Noyac Road, Sag Harbor, NY 11963
(631) 725-8489

Susan and Douglas are raising their two children in Sag Harbor, where they’ve lived for 20 years. Susan is a landscape designer, Douglas an architect. “I don’t know why I haven’t joined the League sooner,” she said, “because my mother and grandmother were members and we are a very politically involved family.” Voter registration is of great interest to Susan, who believes the 2008 elections are critically important to the country’s future.

Submitted by Joy Lupoletti
Upon learning of the death of a member, please contact Arlene Makl at Arlene.Makl@gmail.com or 324-8662.

### Membership

At our dinner for new members earlier this month, LWVH President Carol Mellor greeted the new members and explained how the League sets priorities for the year. Our March meeting, at which the plans for the year are developed, is conducted by the Board for the membership at large. The LWVH chooses issues on which our local league will concentrate. Our membership’s opinions and ideas are considered before voting. Issues are also often generated from the membership at large. Last March, public transportation was placed on our list of issues and, in July, a forum on the topic was held.

At this same dinner, the various chairpersons were introduced to describe the goals of their committees. It was explained that any member can choose a committee or committees of interest, sit in on the meetings, and then make a decision which committee to join.

Seated at my table were several new members, all of whom were very impressed with the idea that issues could be brought up from the membership, become a priority item, and then generate a meeting. It was thought that the National and State Leagues set all items and priorities for the local leagues. Several new members also assumed they would be assigned to a committee. They were pleased to learn they could make their own choices.

From a membership point of view, I was most pleased to have the new members realize the LWVH was even more than they had expected.

P.S. The food was impressive also.

Arlene Makl, Chair  
324-8662
The League of Women Voters


Making democracy work through voter education, issue advocacy, and civic participation.