

the Voice



the newsletter of the League of Women Voters of Litchfield
County
Box 899, Litchfield, CT 06759

Fall 2010

Serving Litchfield and Surrounding Communities

Brown Bag Lunch Affordable Housing

Details inside.

**Wednesday, September 22
noon**

Oliver Wolcott Library
160 South Street, Litchfield, CT

Bring a Friend!

Save the Date

Mary Higgins Clark

Wednesday, December 8, 2010
2pm
Litchfield Community Center

Tuesday November 2, 2010

Get out and Vote!

Anyone willing to put out
"VOTE TODAY"
signs in Bantam, Litchfield or
Northfield, please contact Denise.

Signs go out the evening of Monday
11/1 and get picked up after 8pm on
11/2 or 11/3 in the AM.

August 26 Women's Equality Day

Letter to editor page 7.

President's Message

The warm, lazy days of summer may still be with us but that does not mean we are not busy making plans.

The political picnics and primaries are over – the real work of the League is just beginning. That means voter registration, voter education and get out the vote efforts.

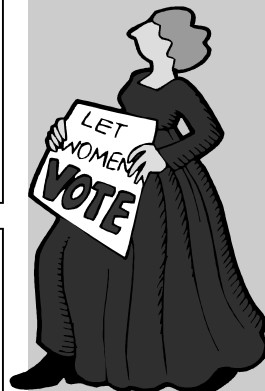
However, the league is so much more.

The Cable Study Group is in its second year with the final report due spring 2011. Want to join? Just send an e-mail LWVofLC@gmail.com.

Meanwhile our program chair is busy lining up speakers. Our aim is to have several Brown Bag Lunches and possibly some evening events. Topic and/or speaker suggestions are always welcome.

Topping this year's events will be the December 8 tea. Mary Higgins Clark will speak to us about her life and the path she took to become a best selling author. The afternoon will include a preview of her soon to be released children's book *The Christmas Horse*. Several local spots are highlighted, The Gunn Memorial Library and Averill Farm.

Thanks to all who made last year such a success, especially Christine Horrigan. Our best wishes to those who are leaving the board – Beverly Pearson and Mary Ellen Spiegel and a big welcome to our new and not so new members, Kerry Mayers and Bibby Veerman.



Please plan to participate in League events. Your support is what makes the League a strong, vibrant community.

~ Pat

**2010-2012
Officers and Directors:**

President	Patricia Donovan
First VP	Christine Horrigan
Second VP	Kerry Mayers
Treasurer	Bernard Harrington
Recording Secretary	Marie Wallace
Corresponding Secretary	Adele Goodkind

Action	Christine Horrigan
Archives	Marilyn Loeff
Membership	Ingely Forbes
Publicity	Mildred Pond
Webmaster	Katherine Davis
Member at Large	Sara Gault Barbara Veerman

Chairpersons needed !

The board has two empty positions

Voter Services and Civics

Currently these duties are being handled by other busy members of the board. If you are interested in filling one of these vital positions, or would like more information about what the jobs entail, please contact Pat.

MEMBERSHIP

NEW MEMBERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME! INTERESTED IN MEMBERSHIP? PLEASE CONTACT OUR MEMBERSHIP CHAIR, INGELY FORBES, AT 567-2733.

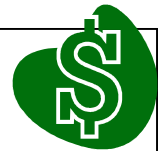
MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE \$45 PER MEMBERSHIP / \$ 67.50 PER COUPLE

TO ACTIVATE MEMBERSHIP MAIL DUES TO:

**LWV OF LC
PO Box 899
LITCHFIELD, CT 06759**

THANK YOU!

**Associate Press (AP) Poll Watchers
Needed**



This is a fund raiser for our local league. For each polling place that we cover our league is paid \$25. Duties require that you report to the polling district at 7:30 to check in and then wait for the returns to be read for the press. You then call these results into the AP.



**LWV Kicks Off the Season
with Housing Lunch**

**Wednesday, September 22, 2010
Oliver Wolcott Library, Litchfield
Brown Bag Lunch**

On Wednesday noon, September 22, our League will be hosting a Brown Bag Lunch at the Oliver Wolcott Library in Litchfield. The program will look at the issue of disparity between housing costs and income and how two towns have addressed the problem and have come up with different solutions.

This meeting will be pertinent to **all** of the towns within our county because the issue of providing affordable housing is not going to evaporate. The Brown Bag Lunch would be a great opportunity for you to invite people you know who might be willing to explore this touchy subject. This would also be a good event for potential members to see what we are all about.

We have two great speakers, Bob Petricone from the Litchfield Housing Trust and Dick Sears from Washington Community Housing Trust. Several members of the LWVLC were instrumental in getting Litchfield Housing Trust off the ground in the nineteen eighties so many of our members are well informed about the Trust. It will be interesting, however, to hear where they expect to go in the future and if other towns will likely follow suit.

~ Kerry Mayers

Local Cable Study

Letter to the Editor:

The League of Women Voters Litchfield County (LWVLC) is following with great interest the campaign Stephen Simonin as chairman of the Litchfield County Cable Advisory Board (CAB), is waging to upgrade the quality of television reception in our area. We applaud his efforts to hold down consumer cost. LWVLC is, however, concerned with the narrow focus of the petition currently circulating.

The League believes that community access television channels - for public, educational, and governmental programming - must be adequately protected, promoted, and funded, regardless of the provider of TV/video services to Connecticut residents. Statewide public affairs programming, such as provided by the Connecticut Network (VT-N), must be adequately protected, promoted and funded by the state legislature and be available to all Connecticut residents, regardless of the provider of TV/video services. Government should provide opportunities for citizen participation in decisions regarding community access, or PEG TV. Local cable advisory boards are the vehicle for such participation. We ask that our CAB be more diligent when it comes to the promotion of PEG programming.

Access to the public airwaves through modern TV/video communication is essential to public interest and to League of Women Voters and to civil liberties, to ensure open, transparent government, and to promote the public's right to know. To protect the public interest, high quality PEG transmission and PEG availability on basic service tiers are essential.

The league would like to see CAB brought up to its full strength of 23 members. The problem of program content can and should be addressed by a full board with active representation for all eligible entities.

Patricia Donovan
President
LWV, Litchfield

LWVLC NOW MEMBER OF NORTHWEST CT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The League with Board approval joined the Chamber (Northwest Ct Chamber of Commerce) in July. The intention is to give us greater exposure in the community, increase membership and be of service (voter registration etc.)

On the last Tuesday of each month the Chamber has a "Coffee n Chat" breakfast (8:00AM -9:00 AM) meeting at a member's office. We attended the July meeting and met 16 members of the Chamber. Each member had an opportunity to explain the nature of their organization and its goals. Attending this "Chat" was a member of the "Litchfield County Women's Network". We talked and agreed to explore areas of mutual concern where we could support each other.

The Chamber also has "Business after Hours" meetings at member's location on a monthly basis. This is a social meeting with the opportunity to introduce the League and its activities to a variety of organizations.

We also can list events on the Chamber web site <http://nwctchamberofcommerce.org/>

Please check out the web site and give us suggestions on how to best use it. Send comments etc.

To E Mail lwwoflc@gmail.com.

~Bernie Harrington

Wisdom Award Congratulations Marie Wallace!

The Wisdom Award is offered to members of the northwest Connecticut community whose lives inspire and encourage us to go beyond self.

You are cordially invited to the twelfth Wisdom Award Celebration in honor of
Marie Wallace, Litchfield, promoter of Democracy
and **Matthew Pagano**, Winsted, Courier of Compassion

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Wisdom House Retreat and Conference Center
229 East Litchfield Road, Litchfield, CT 06759

Reception 6pm, Dinner 7pm

Please reply by September 20, 2010

\$45 per person

Dinner Choices

- Asian Quinoa Cake w/Napa Cabbage Hoisin - Umani Essence
- Panko Crusted Filet of Salmon, Spinach artichoke Tomato Coulis
- Sautéed Breast of Chicken in Brandy Duxelle Cream Sauce garnished with Lobster

Complimentary iced tea and wine on each table.

Please specify seating preference.

Include name , address, phone number and email and dinner choice: poultry, fish or vegetarian.
Check should be made out to Wisdom House.

Scholarship Winners

Congratulations to the 2010 winners of the
LWVLC Memorial Scholarship award.

Litchfield High School
Stacey Raap

Torrington High School
Steven Canciani

Wamogo Regional High School
Jordan Albano

Shepaug Valley High School
Nicole Deanne

Housatonic Valley Regional High School
Elizabeth Greco



Moderator Training

The League is in need of moderators to continue its long tradition of fair and impartial debates. On Saturday, July 24, 2010 Peter Tavino, Christine Horrigan and Mildred Pond attended Moderator Training at the League's Hamden office. The class was led by Kay Maxwell.

Voter Registration in Torrington



Pat Donovan and Mildred Pond

The LWV of Litchfield County was invited to participate in the Torrington early Childhood Collaborate, an event sponsored by Torrington Early Childhood Collaborate (TECC) and the Education Connection in the Torrington Armory on August 14th. TECC strives to increase the quality of existing care and education for all Torrington children aged birth to six years old, through a variety of small groups of parents, educators, health care providers and government. On this occasion it was an opportunity for parents to select new or "gently used", clean clothing, and talk to the municipal and state representatives who were present and helping out.

A table was set up for the LWV, and Pat Donovan, Joan Bertaccini were there at 9:30, later joined by Mildred Pond. We hung the banner and manned the table until 2:00 PM.

The doors opened and ten families at a time entered and selected clothing from numerous tables of neatly folded clothing arranged by size. Each child was allowed 2 bags of clothes and a back pack. Stuffed animals and dolls were free. Approximately 137 families came in; about 450 people (large and small).

During a very busy and pleasant day, we registered 10 new voters from among the parents and gave out 8 registration forms to take home. We helped with questions, address changes, explained the registration and voting process to many people. (Unfortunately most of the Hispanic parents were unable to register not being citizens yet.) We were given some hand-outs for the children, including beautiful rulers from Miletta Pfeiffer's Therapy Studio, mini Frisbees from Charlotte Hungerford Hospital (which Pat taught one toddler to use), pins, pens and pencils. We had an opportunity to talk to both contenders for CT House of Representatives, Michelle Cook, Democrat and Wendy Traub, Republican who were there helping, with their children, all day.

From our standpoint, it was a very successful and pleasant day. ~ Joan Bertaccini



Michelle L. Cook (D) 65 District and Joan Bertaccini



Voter Registration NYC

Pat Donovan and Jara Burnett spend a summer day registering voters in NYC at an event sponsored by JP Morgan Chase.

Pat Donovan is the Voter Service Chair for LWVCT (and president of LWVLC)

Jara Burnett is LWVCT pass president.

(The smiles are for the cookies to the right)

- LWVUS National Convention -

Thank you to the Litchfield League for its generosity in sponsoring my trip to Atlanta. This was such a positive experience that I would suggest the LWV of Litchfield County begin a fund whose expressed purpose is to underwrite the cost of attendance for at least one delegate. It is amazing how underrepresented the New England states are. I was among 725 delegates from 45 states and DC: the LWVCT's delegation numbered nine including the current president, Cheryl Dunson and the immediate past President Jara Burnett.

LWVCT delegates sat next to the appropriate microphones to be among the first in line to make our case for a change in Convention Rules that would allow us to present a Resolution. To respond to the pleas of local leagues burdened by high PMPs the LWVCT designed a resolution asking the LWVUS to do an internal study of its financial structure. It was emailed to the 846 state and local leagues as required but was ruled "out of order" prior to the Convention. Not to be deterred, we brought the issues up for a floor vote, which we lost. We did however succeed in making our views well known.

Convention activities started on Friday and ended on Tuesday at noon. The schedule included plenary sessions, early morning and evening caucuses (27), workshops (10), networking sessions (5) briefings (10), exhibits, position handouts and a wares market. Caucuses are meetings arranged by delegates to brief others on local league initiatives while workshops are sponsored by LWVUS.

Convention 2010 was inspirational: an enthusiastic young African American, Howard Franklin III, greeted us as the first male president of the Georgia state league. Congressman John Lewis reminded us that change comes when groups like the League are not afraid to "get in the way". Kathleen Sebelius spoke about the League's role in health care reform. Walter Shur announced the establishment of the Ruth S. Shur Leadership Training Institute in memory of his wife Ruth, a long time League member. The Institutes' mandate is leadership training and membership recruitment. The first 12 League coaches have been trained and are ready to assist local leagues.

Delegates approved studies on the privatization of federal agencies and institutions and on the role of the federal government in education. Delegates also voted in a higher than originally proposed PMP rate of \$29.70 for fiscal year 2010-11 and \$30.00 for fiscal year 2011-2012.

Convention is an energizing event. You may be disappointed at times and often tired but always proud of the work being done. I would encourage other Litchfield members to attend the 2012 event scheduled for DC.

Debate Season is here!

Contact Pat or Bernie if you are willing and able to help with local debates.

Timers, runners, greeters, making tent cards, writing questions, and site logistics are a few of the areas where help is needed.

Dates are still being firmed up

Oct 13 or 14th 5th Congressional Debate. WAMOGO High School – 7:00PM

Oct TBA 64th & 65th Assembly Districts, Torrington High School

Women's Equality Day - Letter to the Editor

On August 26, 1920, 90 memorable years ago, the constitutional 19th amendment granting women the right to vote was passed. That same year the League of Women Voters was founded by suffragette Carrie Chapman Catt "to finish the fight". In recognition of these historic events, the League of Women Voters of Litchfield County (LWVLC) is planning to celebrate Women's Equality Day throughout this election year by sponsoring impartial debates and other civic affairs to promote public participation in the greater Litchfield area. As President of the LWVLC, I invite you to share these events with the League.

Women's Equality Day is a celebration of a fundamental part of our democratic process-the right to vote and the opportunity to channel that power into real, lasting change beginning at the grassroots level.

Over the past forty-one years, the LWVLC has worked to safeguard democracy through expanded civic engagement. Among its accomplishments League points to its voter registration drives, its history of presenting impartial candidate debates, conducting surveys on town issues including affordable housing and recreational facilities, its part in the creation of Litchfield's recycling center, and publication of its comprehensive studies of The Use of Public Buildings, A Town Charter, Water and, currently a two year study of the cable industry, the role of the Cable Advisory Board, state and federal regulators and the level of community access.

For information or to become a member of the League contact us at lwvoflc@gmail.com.

Very truly yours,
Patricia Donovan
President, League of Women Voters, Litchfield County

2010-2011 Calendar of Events

SEP 13	BOARD MEETING - 9:00AM
SEP 22	BROWN BAG LUNCH 12:00 PM - OLIVER WOLCOTT LIBRARY- Housing Trust, Bob Petricone, Litchfield, Dick Sears, Washington speaker Oliver Wolcott Library
Sept 7*	LWVCT and local Leagues' Leaders' Meeting, Courtyard by Marriott, Shelton
Sept 15*	League Leaders Conference Call: Voters Service – voter registration drives, etc
Oct 4	Board Meeting - 9:00AM
Oct 13 or 14	5 th Congressional Debate. WAMOGO High School - 7:00PM
Nov 1	Board Meeting - 9:00 AM
Nov 2	Election Day - AP Poll Watchers Needed
Dec 6	Board Meeting - 9:AM
Dec 8	Mary Higgins Clark Event - Litchfield Community Center, 2 PM
Jan 10	Board Meeting - 9:00AM
Jan 22	Legislators Breakfast - 10:00AM Location TBA
Jan 27*	LWVCT 90 th Anniversary celebratory dinner with keynote speaker Christine Todd Whitman, Hyatt Regency Hotel, Old Greenwich
Feb 7	Board Meeting - 9:00AM
Mar 7	Board Meeting - 9:00AM
Mar 15	General Interest Meeting - 3:00PM, Location TBA LWV Reads: "God In The Whitehouse" by Randall Balmer
Apr 4	Board Meeting - Litchfield Bank - 9:00AM
May 2	Board Meeting - Litchfield Bank - 9:00AM
May 11	Small Town/Big Issues - Morris Town Hall - 12PM Pot Luck Lunch
Jun 6	Board Meeting - 9:00AM
Jun 14	Annual Meeting - Torrington Country Club
June 17-20**	LWVUS Council, Washington, D.C.

* LWVCT event, ** LWVUS event

League of Women Voters of Litchfield County
P.O. Box 899
Litchfield, Connecticut 06759

Special thanks to
Niraj Patel
The Business Center
in Litchfield
for printing the Voice

Litchfield League Calendar of Events

- Mon., Sept 13 BOARD MEETING - 9:00AM
- Wed., Sept 22 BROWN BAG LUNCH 12:00 PM
- Tues., Sept 7 LWVCT and local Leagues' Leaders' Meeting
- Wed., Sept 15 LWVCT Leaders Conference Call: Voters Service — voter registration drives, etc
- Mon., Oct 4 Board Meeting - 9:00AM
- Oct 13 or 14 5th Congressional Debate. WAMOGO High School - 7:00PM
- Oct TBA 64th and 65th Assembly districts Debate, Torrington High School
- Mon., Nov 1 Board Meeting - 9:00 AM
- Tues., Nov 2 Election Day - AP Poll Watchers Needed
- Mon., Dec 6 Board Meeting - 9:AM
- Wed., Dec 8 Mary Higgins Clark Event
Litchfield Community Center, 2 PM

www.theitchfieldpage.com/lwv/