

the Voice



the newsletter of the League of Women Voters of Litchfield County
www.thelitchfieldpage.com/lwv

Fall 2008

Join us for . . .

Board Meetings

All Members Welcome, 9am Litchfield Bancorp

Sept 8, Oct 6

Nov 3, Dec 1

Educational Opportunities

Sept 11 - 20x2010 Program

Oct 30 - Constitutional
Convention Program

Volunteering Opportunities

Sept 6 - Farmers' Market

Sept 20 - Farmers' Market

Sept 26 - Senior Voting Demo

Oct 15 - Debates, Oct 20 - Debates

Oct 22 - Debates, Oct 29 - Debates

Nov 4 - Poll Reporters \$

And Much More, Look Inside

20x2010 Program

September 11th

7pm at the Oliver Wolcott Library

A representative from the **CT Clean Energy Fund** will speak about the CT Clean Energy Community Program and how Litchfield would benefit if it committed to 20% renewable energy for municipal buildings by 2010. Seventy-six residents of Litchfield have already signed up for clean, renewable energy. Litchfield needs only 24 more participants to reach the goal of 100 participants, thereby qualifying for a free photovoltaic system.

Katherine Freygang, a member of the Energy Task Force of Cornwall will be speaking about how the program has benefited Cornwall ...and of course the environment!

~ Lynn Fulkerson

Serving Litchfield and Surrounding Communities

We Need You!

I joined the League for just one reason—I wanted to do something positive in my community. The town had just come through a bruising school building fight and I was tired of all the negativity. A friend suggested that I call Marie Wallace, who was president at the time, about joining the League.

Marie invited me to the next board meeting. When I appeared, she asked me if I would be the League's liaison to the Planning & Zoning subcommittee that was developing Litchfield's Plan of Conservation and Development. From that moment, I was off and running. Since then, I've been the League's treasurer, newsletter editor and now president. I am also the state league's Election Laws Specialist and serve on the state board as Government Director.

I give all of the credit (or should I say blame?) to Marie. Most people (including me) wait to be asked to participate in an activity. Without Marie's encouragement, I would have joined the League, attended a few events and that would have been it. Marie made sure that I was involved.

We have a wonderful, energized League that will celebrate its 40th birthday this spring. ***On behalf of the board, I am asking all of you to get involved.*** Come to our board meetings. We typically meet on the first non-holiday Monday of the month at 9 a.m. at Litchfield Bancorp. Let us know your interests. We need people to do voter service, help with debates and elections reporting, organize educational events, work with our legislators, boards and schools, and plan that 40th birthday party! As Uncle Sam might say, ***we need you!*** So please give me a call at 567-3268 or email me at cshorrgan@optonline.net.

I'll make sure to invite you to do something—just like Marie!

- Christine Horrigan, President



VOTER SERVICE UPDATE

The League will be sponsoring Candidate Debates on October 15, 20, 22 and 29. We have written the candidates and arranged for venues and video Schedule follows. We will be meeting with those interested to work on questions for each debate and/or work as timers or runners at the debates. **We welcome new and old members** to contact Joan or Pat for meeting dates or additional information.

Joan Bertaccini 567-8137 jpabertaccini@aol.com or
Pat Donovan, 567-5689, PAD44@sbcglobal.net

Voter Service ~ Fall Debates

October 15 - Community Center

(to be video taped by Tri State Public Communications, Mike Flint)

Andrew Roraback (R) vs Michael Renzullo (D) 7-8 PM CT Senate 30

Craig Miner (R) vs Nicholas Creed (D) 8-9 PM CT House 66

Moderated by Joanne Ryan (Chamber of Commerce, Torrington)

October 20 - Coe Park Auditorium, Torrington (not sure who's doing the video yet)

Anne Ruwet (R) vs Michelle Cook (D) 7-8 PM CT House 65

Presently no one is —challenging Roberta Willis, so only one debate, unless....

Moderated by Peter Tavino (Litchfield)

October 22 - Community Center Litchfield - video Mike Flint

David Cappiello (R) vs Chris Murphy (D) 7-8:30PM US House of Representatives District 5

Moderated by Dale Jones ,WZBG

October 29 - Nonnewaug Regional High School - Woodbury - HS video students

Robert Kane (R) vs John McCarthy (D) CT Senate 32

All debates are open to the public. There will be opportunity for questions from the audience.
No telephone call ins.

Two New Ventures ~ Voter Registration & Practice with New Voting Machines

League members will be running practice sessions at the Sullivan Senior Center in Torrington for those who have not yet used the new machines and at the Torrington Branch of UCONN, at the request of Professor Moulder of the Sociology Department.

On **September 26th from 11-1am** registration at the **Sullivan Center** will be led by the Secretary of the State's Outreach Assistant, Lucien Pawlak, who will bring a machine for demonstration and hands-on practice. Pat and Joan met with Donna Deary of La Via Latina in Torrington, to assess the need for help with registering the Hispanic population, and asked her to encourage any of her people to come to the Sullivan Center program.

The second project will take place at the UCONN Branch in Torrington and will be co-sponsored by the Urban and Community Studies Program at the school, on 4 afternoons in early October. Details have yet to be finalized.

Joan and Pat would welcome the help of any new or old members for these sessions. See contact info above.

~ Joan Bertaccini

CIVICS ~ High School Update ~ *Invitation to SIR*

Pat Donovan and Joan Bertaccini have sent out letters from the League to fifteen area high schools, as we do every fall, inviting the students to the **Symposium on International Relations(SIR)** which will be sponsored by the League of Women Voters and Yale University.

SIR will be held at Quinnipiac University in Hamden, CT on April 23, 2009. This year it will focus on BRIC (Brazil, Russia, India and China) and the United States trade and related subjects. (League members and the public are invited to this event ~ save the date ~ details to come)

To further encourage participation by the schools, the League will pay for tickets for three students and a chaperone for five schools: Litchfield High School, Wamogo Regional High School, Shepaug Valley Regional High School, Housatonic Regional High School and Torrington High School.

In the letters, which are directed to the Social Studies Department and the Principal, we also invited students to attend the Candidate Debates in October, as it was suggested that those interested could help with setup, ushering and collecting questions. We also advised the schools of our intention to register those students who will be 18 by November 2009, to become voters. This will be in May 2009, with the participation of the Secretary of the State.

If you'd like to volunteer with the Civics Committee please contact:

Joan Bertaccini 567-8137 jpabertaccini@aol.com or

Pat Donovan, 567-5689, PAD44@sbcglobal.net



Non-Fiction Book Group

Oliver Wolcott Library

ELECTION NIGHT REPORTERS NEEDED NOVEMBER 4th

Be the first to know the results town by town!

Reporters are needed for every town in Litchfield County.

It's fun, takes little work,

**AND THE LEAGUE GETS
PAID!**



We've been asked, again, by the AP to report on the results from the election on November 4th.

The AP knows the League is reliable and non-partisan.

Please let Bibby know if you are willing to help out:

call 567-3966, or

e-mail her at bibbyveerman@yahoo.com.



HERE'S HOW IT WORKS: In the springtime, when the Democrats were having the Primary, Jack & I went to Thomaston. We scouted out the polling place (at Town Hall) and went to dinner. We went back before 8 p.m. to await the results.

With the final numbers we called the given number to make our report, and that was all. With a practice call beforehand, that's it!

Then it's off to a Celebratory (?) party!

*Meeting the Second
Thursday of the Month
at 1 p.m.*

Sept 11 — *Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission to Promote Peace...One School at a time*
by Greg Mortenson

Oct 9 — *The Audacity of Hope: thoughts on Reclaiming the American Dream & Dreams of My Father: A Story of Race and Inheritance*
by Barack Obama

Nov 13 — *The Lemon Tree: An Arab, a Jew and the Heart of the Middle East*
by Sandy Tolan

The League of Women Voters of Litchfield County Memorial Award
established 1976

The award was presented to 5 seniors who excel in the study of history and demonstrate an interest in good government through participation in school or town government. The \$100 award is given in memory of our departed members.

Congratulation to the recipients!

Jessica Bisignano
Shepaug Valley High School

Devon Richtmeyer
Wamogo Regional High School

Collin Good
Torrington High School

Amanda Jankowski
Litchfield High School

Katherine DeMazza
Housatonic Valley Regional High School

JOIN OUR GROUP
THE PUBLICITY COMMITTEE

of your League needs some help. Are you able to color print about 50 flyers (8 1/2 by 11) for our debate schedules? We will block out the info and pay for the color ink plus the paper, Needed also is one creative person to produce two posters. Please let us hear from you. Thanks.

Beverly Pearson 567-8321
Bonnie Baldwin
bonniebaldwin@yahoo.com

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CONNECTICUT EDUCATION FUND, Inc.



The Klein Memorial Auditorium
910 Fairfield Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06605

www.theklein.org
Friday, Oct 24
8PM

The group of performers-who've worked in 18 congressional offices and who have 62 years of House and Senate experience collectively-offers up the witty satire that has delighted politically savvy audiences for the past 25 years. And they've just released their new album, Campaign and Suffering, so join us for the best of Campaign 2008!

The LWVCT Education Fund is pleased to offer its members and friends a limited number of orchestra tickets for the show. The League depends on the generosity of members, friends, and corporations to fund its citizen education activities. Please complete and mail the attached form with your check payable to LWVCT Education Fund. We thank you for your support! Enjoy the show!

Tickets are available on a first-come-first-serve basis. Your check is your order (please, no phone orders). Please send your check, payable to LWVCT Ed Fund, to 1890 Dixwell Ave. Suite 203, Hamden, CT 06514-3183. Your tickets will be mailed to you upon receipt of your check.

Your contribution in excess of \$32 per ticket is tax deductible to the extent allowable by law.

I could use some laughs! Reserve tickets for me:

___ tickets @ \$55 (Friend)

___ tickets @ \$88 (Supporter - a dollar a year for LWV's 88th birthday in 2008)

___ tickets @ \$110 (LWV Leader)

Name _____ League _____

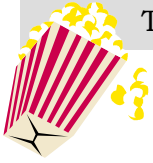
Phone _____ E-mail _____

___ I cannot attend but enclosed is my contribution for \$ _____

___ My company's matching gift form is enclosed.

The LITCHFIELD COMMUNITY CENTER and our League will be joining forces to provide some interesting dialogue after movies selected by our League members. We are very grateful to the Community Center for allowing us to partner with their Monday Movie Series. Volunteers are needed to provide refreshments and to facilitate.

To volunteer contact Bibby Veerman 567-3966, bibbyveerman@yahoo.com



Litchfield Community Center
SHOWTIME: 1:00 P.M.
SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

****This series of movies will be hosted by League of Women Voters of Litchfield County. At conclusion of movie, tea & cookies to be served and a “chat about the issues” will be facilitated by League members.**

****MONDAY, OCTOBER 6 – “BULWORTH” – Rated R**

In this political satire, comedy-drama a U.S. senator disillusioned by the usual campaign banalities decides to start speaking the truth, takes out a \$10 million insurance policy on himself while arranging his own assassination. Tossing aside a prepared speech, he finds exhilaration with this new freestyle approach and phones to call off the hit, but gears have been set in motion. As he goes through the final steps in his transformation, he unleashes even more caustic comments on the American political scene. ~ Stars Warren Beatty, Christine Baranski, Oliver Platt, Halle Berry.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 13 – NO MOVIE TODAY/CENTER CLOSED FOR HOLIDAY

****MONDAY, OCTOBER 20 – “IRON JAWED ANGELS” – Not Rated**

Alice Paul, an American feminist who risked her life to fight for women's citizenship and the right to vote, founded the separatist National Woman's Party and wrote the first equal rights amendment to be presented before Congress. Together with social reformer Lucy Burns, they struggled against conservative forces in order to pass the 19th amendment to the Constitution. The activists get arrested and go on a well-publicized hunger strike, where their refusal to eat earns them the title of "the iron-jawed angels." ~ Stars Hillary Swank, Frances O'Connor and Anjelica Huston.

****MONDAY, OCTOBER 27 – “MAN OF THE YEAR” – Rated PG13**

This tale of a quick-witted radio talk-show host whose fanciful bid for the presidency becomes a surprising victory, but when the revelation that his surprise victory was actually the result of a computer glitch and not majority vote, it leaves the funny-man struggling with the decision to stay the course in the Oval Office or head back behind the microphone where he is truly in his element. ~ Stars Robin Williams, Laura Linney, Christopher Walken, Jeff Goldblum.

****MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3 – “THE CANDIDATE” – Rated PG**

Executive producer and star Robert Redford satirically explore the machinations and manipulations of media-age political campaigns in this cynical political drama. A ruffled left-wing California lawyer, the son of a former governor, is enlisted by a campaign maestro to challenge the Republican incumbent for his Senate seat, but only if he can say exactly what he thinks. That approach is all well and good when he does not seem to have a chance, but things change when his honesty unexpectedly captivates the electorate. ~ Stars Robert Redford, Peter Boyle.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10 – VETERANS MARATHON

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17 – “BONNEVILLE” – Rated – PG

A woman looking to fulfill her late husband's final wish sets out on a transformative cross-country road trip in this warm-hearted tale of friendship, self-discovery, and the memories that make life worth living even after the ones we love have gone. She soon becomes locked in a heated battle of wills with his well-to-do daughter from a previous marriage. When her sassy best-friend and uptight pal agree to join their recently-widowed friend on her journey and offer some much-needed moral support, the trio soon sets out in a vintage '66 Pontiac Bonneville for a journey of a lifetime. ~ Stars Jessica Lange, Christine Baranski, Kathy Bates, Joan Allen.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24 – “VANTAGE POINT” – Rated PG13

This thriller details five unique perspectives of an assassination attempt on the president of the United States. An American tourist has captured footage of the would-be assassin on videotape, as the stories of the other four witnesses unfold, each essential piece of the puzzle quickly falls into place. Only when all of the stories are told will the chilling truth to this shocking crime finally emerge. ~ Stars Forest Whitaker, Dennis Quaid, William Hurt, and Matthew Fox.



Bibby Veerman hands gavel to Christine Horrigan at the June 11, 2008 annual meeting. Thank you Bibby and Congratulations to Christine.

TABLE HELPERS ~ NEEDED AT LHF-FM

Sept. 6th & Sept. 20th
**LITCHFIELD FARMERS'
 MARKET**

We will need to "man" the not-for-profit table.
 (We certainly are...)
 To spread the word about LWV,
 Voting,
 Local Program,
 Candidates' Nights, etc.

Please come and sit with us – Call Bibby @
 567-3966 or e-mail
bibbyveerman@yahoo.com

---- AND ----

IF YOU DO NOT LIVE IN LITCHFIELD, but have a
 Farmers' Market in your town – we'd LOVE to have
 you take the initiative and set up a table there!
VISIBILITY is the name of our game!

Membership

Welcome to our newest members!

Doreen Deary	Melissa Sokolik
Jerry Gault	Roberta Wilis
Sanna Lillie	

The 2008-2009 dues of \$45.00 are due.
 Approximately 55 % have not paid yet.
 Please mail your check to LWV
 P.O. Box 899
 Litchfield, CT 06759

A request from the Membership Chair
 Please spare us the cost of a note and postage. Renew your membership now. Many have already heeded the request. This plea is to all others for a check in the amount of \$45 payable to the League of Women Voters of Litchfield County. Mail to Box #899, Litchfield, CT 06759. We are anxious to continue to carry your name on our roster especially given the exciting activities we are planning in celebration of our 40th year. There will be opportunities for you to become involved in these plans, if you are so inclined.. Have you a friend, neighbor, or family member who might be interested to learn of our activities? Let me know her/his name and address. I shall follow up. Ingely Forbes, 109 Shear Shop Road, Litchfield, CT 06759

—Ingely Forbes, Membership Chair



New Member
 Receives Environmental Award

Congratulations to **Margaret Miner**, Executive Director of **River Alliance of Connecticut**, and new League member. She has been awarded the **Clyde O. Fisher Award** by the Environmental Law Section of the Connecticut Bar Association. The Clyde O. Fisher Award recognizes service and the achievements of individuals who have made a significant contribution to the preservation or enhancement of environmental quality through work in the fields of environmental law, environmental protection or environmental planning.

THANK YOU

to the following individuals for offering to organize League events.

- Bernie Harrington - Constitutional Convention Forum
- Bev Pearson - New Members Gathering
- Ingely Forbes - International Luncheon
- Bibby Veerman - Sugar & Snow Fundraiser
- Patricia Donovan - Annual Luncheon
- Marie Wallace, Sara Gault, Pat Donovan - Vote Today Signs
- Joan Bertaccini - Legislative Breakfast

Upcoming events that still need an organizer
 Small Town/Big Issues Potluck Luncheon, May
 Fund Raiser, any time

For more information contact Christine at 567-3268

A Trip to Groton

Anna Coit drove herself from her North Stonington home to the Groton Public Library on August 16th for a meeting sponsored by the LWV of Southeast Connecticut.

SO?...you say?

Anna Coit is 100+ years old! She gave us her views on the status of women from then (1912) to today (2008). Way back then, she says, women were taught that men were All Wise, Totally Informed About The State Of The World and Current Affairs. Women were taught that they were at the other end of the capability scale on these issues! Anna's memories from the 1912 presidential election to the 1919 passing of the 19th Amendment ensuring women's rights to vote were full of detail.

Her direct involvement with the League didn't start until 1951 when she was living in Atlanta. She took her right to vote seriously and told the story of her first election. Before the election in Atlanta, she carefully studied the candidates and was ready with her educated opinions. But, once in the voting booth, she'd never been presented with propositions, which threw her for a loop. She stayed so long reading them carefully that the monitor came to check if she was ill!

She remains active in the League because she feels the job has remained very important: encouraging people to vote, disseminating information about candidates and talking about the importance of maintaining our democracy. When people brush off questions about voting with an "I don't vote...", Anna challenges them, "You must vote or you will get a dictatorship."

At the end of Anna's presentation she was presented with a Yellow Rose – the flower of the Suffragette Movement. A book was given in her honor to the library. ~Bibby Veerman

Save The Date ~ October 30th

Educational Evening on the Constitutional Convention

It will be on the November ballot

A constitutional convention is a meeting of a select group of people, called delegates, to review a state's constitution for possible modifications or revisions, including the adoption of an entirely new constitution. There are no restrictions on the issues that may be discussed at a constitutional convention.

In Connecticut, there are two ways to call a constitutional convention. The General Assembly may, by a two-thirds vote in each chamber, provide for the convening of a convention. Additionally, every 20 years after a convention or vote on whether to convene one Connecticut voters decide whether a convention should be convened at a regularly scheduled general election.

Connecticut's last constitutional convention was held on July 1, 1965 at the behest of then-Governor John Dempsey. Governor Dempsey called the 1963 General Assembly into special session in November 1964 to enact legislation calling for a constitutional convention. Delegates at the convention proposed constitutional amendments to redistrict the state Senate and to develop a reapportionment plan for the state House of Representatives.

Twenty years after the 1965 constitutional convention, in 1986, voters were asked at the general election if they approved calling a constitutional convention. A majority of those voting voted "no" so the convention was not convened. **Voters will be asked at this year's upcoming state election in November whether they approve calling a constitutional convention.** Some voters have expressed an interest in amending the constitution to give citizens the right to directly petition their government through the initiative and referendum process. (<http://www.cga.ct.gov/2008/rpt/2008-R-0442.htm>)

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

**LWV OF LITCHFIELD
CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

<i>Sept</i>	6	Farmers' Market
	8	Board Meeting
	11	20x2010 Program
	20	Non-Fiction Book Group
	26	Farmers' Market
		Senior Voting Demo
<i>Oct</i>	6	Board Meeting
		Movie at LCC
	9	Non-Fiction book Group
	15	Debate
	20	Debate
		Movie at LCC
	22	Debate
	24	LWV CT Education Fund
		Capitol Steps fund Raiser
	27	Movie at LCC
	29	Debate
	30	Constitutional
		Conventional Program
<i>Nov</i>	3	Board Meeting
		Movie at LCC
	4	Election Day
	13	Non -Fiction Book Group
<i>Dec</i>	1	Board Meeting
	5	Voice Deadline
	6	Fall Conference