

the Voice



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

Jan 2010

Serving Litchfield and Surrounding Communities

Meet Your Legislators Breakfast

Saturday, January 23
at Lynn Fulkerson's house,
176 Clark Road, Litchfield
Carpool from St. Anthony's
At 9 a.m.

RSVP to Martha Phillips
491-2284 or
mhphillips@optonline.net.

Cable TV Study

*Are you concerned about:
Your service,
Public access,
The lack of regulation?*

Then this group is for you!

For more information contact
Patricia Donovan at 567-5689
or pad199@optonline.net
Read more inside...

Board Meetings

First Monday of the Month

Open to all League Members

January 4
February 1
March 1
April 5

Litchfield Bancorp at 9am

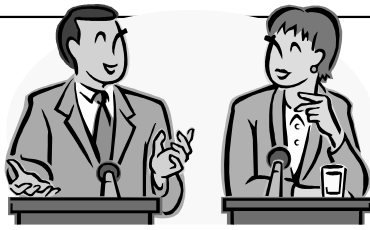
President's Message

Ninety years young! This year marks the 90th anniversary of League of Women Voters of Connecticut. The celebration kicks off in January with a month long *exhibit of historical photos and memorabilia in the Lower Concourse gallery of the Legislative Office Building*. If you are in Hartford, make sure to stop by.

The League's history is certainly inspiring, but this is no time to rest on our laurels. Advocacy is an important part of what we do and the need for thoughtful, informed voices is as great as ever. Please join us for our *Meet Your Legislators Breakfast on Saturday, January 23* at Lynn Fulkerson's energy efficient home on Clark Road in Litchfield. This breakfast—a League tradition—is a great opportunity to learn what your legislators are thinking and to let them know what is on your mind. While I am sure that we will hear “budget, budget, budget” from our representatives and senators, it's important to let them know that there are other issues which need to be addressed. Can you say cable TV service? How about public financing of campaigns? Come and make your concerns heard! Parking is limited at Lynn's house. If possible, please carpool from St. Anthony's church in Litchfield. Carpool leaves at 9 a.m.

The League advocates on three levels: national, state and local. The Public Issues Team legislative wrap up is now on the state league's website. To learn more about what the team worked on during the 2009 session, go to: <http://www.lwvct.org/issues/action-archives/2009/110609-session-wrap-up.htm>. LWWUS Public Policy Positions appear on pages 6 & 7.

As always, there's a lot to do. Isn't that what keeps us young? Happy New Year!! *Christine*



Voter Services Election 2009

Thank you to everyone who worked on this year's debates.

Much Appreciation to:

Peter Tavino for moderating the Woodbury debate;

Dale Jones for moderating the Litchfield and Torrington debates;

Lisa Peters of Woodbury for organizing site logistics, taping by

Charter Communications and flyer distribution;

Janice Metro of the superintendent's office in Litchfield for going beyond the call of duty;

The **custodial staff** at the Litchfield Middle School, the Torrington Middle School, and the Morris Town Hall for their help with lighting, sound equipment and moving furniture;

Rob Joyce at Cable 5 for training league members to use Cable 5 equipment;

Christine Horrigan for moderating the Morris debate and handling many incoming correspondence;

Carolyn Martin for handling all outgoing correspondence (many letters);

Bernie Harrington and **Margaret Dillon** for acting as sound technicians and camera crew;

Marie Scirica for coordinating volunteers, tent cards and other site logistics;

Patricia Donovan for making flyers and coordinating publicity;

Joan Bertaccini for organizing many details in Morris;

The members that supported these events by working as timers, runners and greeters;

And the candidates.

Dues

Dues for the period July 2009 through June 2010 are now past due. Please remit \$45 for individual dues to:

LWV/LC
P.O. Box 899
Litchfield, CT 06759

Not sure if you're current?
Contact Bernie Harrington
491-3294 or
bern127@optonline.net

New Members are always welcome!

Have a friend who may be interested to join? Let the Membership Chair know! She will send out pertinent material and an invitation to join. Your suggestions should be mailed to:

Ingely Forbes
(LWV Membership Chair)
109 Shear Shop Road
Litchfield, CT 06759

VOTE! Today

Thank you to the volunteers who put up and took down our Vote Today signs.

Sara and Jerry Gault
Ingely and Malcolm Forbes
Eugene Horrigan
Pat Donovan
Joan Bertaccini



Cable Study

On November 17, 2009 members of the League of Women Voters Litchfield County gathered at the Oliver Wolcott Library to learn about the issues related to cable company services. The League is currently conducting a study of the relationship between our local cable provider, the community Advisory Board, state & federal regulatory agencies and customers.

The League is concerned with both the quantity & quality of the public, educational & government (PEG) access available in Litchfield County. Members have raised concerns about the migration of certain programming from analog to digital transmission resulting in a de facto rate increase. The quality of audio and video reception is also being discussed as well as the rental of equipment with no option to buy.

An overview was presented by Pua Ford, the LWVCT media specialist. In attendance were Representatives Roberta Willis & Michelle Cook, both of whom took questions from the audience and addressed the issue of regulatory oversight.

The League is looking forward to hearing from a Cablevision representative in the near future. Please watch the 2010 calendar for date & time.



Making Our League Stronger

*Want to make a difference but don't have much time?
Here's a list of areas where your small contribution can be a big help.*

- Help with a Voice mailing
- Take RSVP's for a League event
- Clip newspaper articles about upcoming elections
- Host the legislative breakfast
- Post events on the board in front of the Litchfield Town Hall
- Coordinate new member gatherings
- Election night reporting
- Candidate debates - greeters/timers

- Proofread materials
- Design flyers
- Distribute flyers
- Take pictures at an event

Please contact Christine and she will put you in touch with a committee that would appreciate a helping hand!

567-3268 or cshorrigan@optonline.net



Thank You!

Congratulations Energy Conservers!

The Litchfield Energy Task Force has announced the winners of the energy conservation contest, also the recipient of the **Betty Katzin Memorial Award**. A review of the electricity consumption data from the Energy Challenge participants is very impressive.

- * average reduction in electricity consumption ... 16.4%
- * average cost savings over three months ... \$105
- * average cost savings annualized ... \$420
- * lowest electricity consumption over three months ... 943 kWh
- * greatest reduction in electricity consumption ... 47.4%
- * greatest cost savings over three months ... \$407
- * greatest cost savings annualized ... \$1628

Many participants were surprised how easy it was to reduce their energy usage and very pleased with the cost savings. For example, Ed Fabbri commented, "Before the challenge I thought we were a very energy efficient household and really did not expect such a reduction. It was a great program and made our family more aware how to conserve additional energy."

Christine and Gene Horrigan were identified as the most frugal consumers of electricity in the competition. They used only 943 kWh over the three month span of our contest. Gene Horrigan shared that they typically shut down sections of their home at the circuit breaker when they are not in use. They turn off the water heater when they travel. They switched all of their lighting over to energy efficient bulbs and recently reinsulated their home. Gene also noted that their children, who no longer live at home, would not be surprised by their crowning as most efficient energy household.

Jeff and Nadine Pratt were the runners-up in the competition. They reduced their electricity consumption by 18%.

The winners of the competition were
Theresa and Mike Simaitis.
They crushed the competition with a remarkable
47.4 % reduction in electricity consumption!
Their biggest energy savings strategy was
not using the clothes dryer at all.

The Simaitises were presented with a check for \$500, from the Betty Katzin Memorial Fund, to be used on energy conservation measures for their home.



Theresa & Mike Simaitis, Dean Birdsall (Energy Task Force) Christine Horrigan (LWV of LC president)



LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®

Celebrate the 90th Anniversary of the LWVCT!

January 7 , 2010 Grand Opening Program

highlights our month-long exhibit of historical photos and memorabilia in the Lower Concourse gallery of the Legislative Office Building at the Capitol.

2 pm Program

Battle for Suffrage in Connecticut with Tracey Wilson, West Hartford Town Historian, Room 1B, LOB

3:30-4:30 Reception

upstairs in the Old Judiciary Room. Refreshments will be served.
Reception sponsored by Comcast. *Free*

All Welcome, RSVP: (203) 288-7996 or lwvct@lwvct.org

Jan 4-29, 2010 – LWV historical exhibit in the lower concourse of the Legislative Office Building. Enjoy at your leisure. *Free*

January 27 – Feb 8, 2010 – online auction of items ranging from restaurants, to hotel stays, to specialty chocolates to spa services. Log onto the LWVCT website to see items donated to date: <http://www.lwvct.org/events/anniversary90.htm>

May 16, 2010 – celebratory benefit tea with a one-woman show “*Susan B. Anthony – The Invincible*” to be held at the historic Keeler Tavern in Ridgefield. The feisty activist comes to life- circulating petitions, getting arrested, and challenging legislators. Letters, speeches and diaries reveal her wit and intellect. Great mother-daughter event!

June 27, 2010 – benefit performance of “*This Old Hat: Patriots of Liberty*” Danbury Music Center. Winner of the 2005 DAR Nutmeg Award, Actress Patty Carver in a tour de force performance portrays 5 female patriots of liberty: Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Betsy Ross, Deborah Sampson, Harriet Tubman and Amelia Earhart. Program appropriate for children from grade 3 and up. A great grandparent/grandchild event – and bring the boys with you!

***Litchfield League
Calendar of Events***

Thurs, Jan 7	LWVCT 90th Opening Program 2 p.m., LOB, Hartford
Sat., Jan 23	Meet Your Legislators Breakfast, 9 a.m.
Mon., Feb 1	Board Meeting 9 a.m. Program Planning 10 a.m.
Ongoing	Cable Study Group

***Program Planning
Meeting***

Monday, February 1
At 10 a.m.
Litchfield Bancorp Board Room
Meeting follows the 9 a.m.
Board Meeting
Help set the direction of
the League
Come for one or both!