



# THE CHESHIRE-WALLINGFORD VOTER

Volume VI – Issue 5

March 2010

League of Women Voters of Cheshire-Wallingford

P.O. Box 394

Cheshire, CT 06410

## *Our Mission*

*The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education.*

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## Presidents' Message

All we can say is WOW! Our January membership meeting was successful on so many fronts. Our Public Health Forum drew quite a crowd. The speaker presentations were excellent and we only wish we had more time for questions. Everyone agreed that something must be done; the question is how to accomplish Health Care reform that is meaningful and timely. The Forum is being repeated on Cheshire's public access channel. We did try something different this year and held the meeting on a Saturday, which we think drew some League member we haven't seen in awhile.

Our Women in History program will focus on honoring those women who have served in elected positions on Local, State, and Federal levels. Please join us on Wednesday March 24<sup>th</sup> at the Wallingford Public Library to honor these extraordinary women whose combined services are well over a hundred fifty years.

We had a most successful fundraising event last year, so much so we are repeating it again this year. Please be sure to save Saturday May 1st and join us for the Wine Tasting to benefit our Scholarship Fund and other programs.

Lastly it is that time when the Nominating Committee has begun its work to fill League board positions for the coming year. We cannot survive without you. Please say yes when you get that call or better yet, call Mary Johmann, 272-1477; Patti Flynn-Harris 272-1392; or Sharon Mooney 2697-1165. You won't regret it.

Also our condolences go out to Cindy McMillian and her family on the loss of her Aunt.

*Donna and Kathy*

## **Upcoming events:**

### **March**

**24:** General Membership Meeting - Women in History

Wallingford Public Library 7-9 pm

**31:** Board Meeting – 7:15 p.m.

### **April**

**22.** General Membership meeting

**28:** Board Meeting

**28:** SIR – Quinnipiac University

### **May**

**1.** Wine Tasting Fundraiser

***Women's History Month***  
***“Celebrating over a Hundred Years***  
***of Public Service”***

**CHESHIRE WALLINGFORD LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS**

Invites You to Join Us

7:00 to 9:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 24<sup>th</sup>  
Wallingford Public Library Community Room  
200 North Main Street

Since 1920 the League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, has fought to improve our system of government through citizen education and advocacy. During this month honoring Women's

History the Cheshire Wallingford League would like to invite the community to join with us to recognize the contributions to our Local,

*State and Federal Government made by several of the extraordinary women whose public service has helped create and protect the quality of life we all enjoy in our Connecticut communities.*

*Even though we know that we cannot possibly thank everyone to whom our collective thanks are due, we will take this opportunity to recognize the efforts of Congresswoman Rosa De-Lauro, Representative Mary Fritz, Representative Mary Mushinsky, Councilwoman Rosemary Arcata, former Councilwomen Iris Papale, Selina McArdle, Joy Hostage, Sandra Mouris, to name but a few that will honored that evening.*

*A certificate of appreciation will be presented to each of the honorees and their contributions to their communities and constituents will be highlighted. The League would like to call attention to the fact that these women represent a combined service of over one hundred fifty years of elected representation. They have carried the banner of civic responsibility to its highest level and set an example for us all.*

*Please join us in showing appreciation for their hard work.*

**May 1<sup>st</sup> Wine Tasting**

I have some ideas for this years raffle baskets and I would like some suggestions from all of you. How about a Chocolate Basket that includes eating chocolate, baking chocolate, chocolate for lovers, chocolate liqueur, perhaps a DVD like the wonderful film, Like Water For Chocolate plus your favorite recipe that includes chocolate? Last years Garden Basket was very popular and seasonal so I think we'll include that. Classic Movie Night at Home, a Gourmet Basket that includes special olive oil, spices, tools hectare also possibilities.

Large baskets are needed to contain all these goodies. We are planning on assembling 5 baskets and I'd like to choose from a number of possibilities. Use your imagination and a call me at 272-3963.

**LWV OF CHESHIRE-WALLINGFORD MEMBERSHIP ROSTER – MARCH 2010**

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269-9163	Lillian G. Blake	51 Mohawk Drive	Wallingford,CT 06492	
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272-3248	Elizabeth Esty	213 Preston Road	Cheshire,CT 06410	
272-1392	Patti Flynn-Harris	360 Carlton Drive	Cheshire,CT 06410	
269-5209	Ann Fritz	55 Dutton Street	Wallingford,CT 06492	
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272-8771	Mary Ellen Kania	20 Cranberry Lane	Cheshire,CT 06410	<a href="mailto:marvellenkania@cox.net">marvellenkania@cox.net</a>
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272-6510	Carol Ljungquist	468 Castle Glen	Cheshire,CT 06410	<a href="mailto:davecarrolli@cox.net">davecarrolli@cox.net</a>
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	Laura Lytton	<a href="#">Contact Bill, Pat Vita, or either President for contact information</a>		
272-9822	Diane J. Maturo	29 Bates Drive	Cheshire,CT 06410	<a href="mailto:dimaturo@cox.net">dimaturo@cox.net</a>
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272-3963	Patricia Vita	670 Yalesville Road	Cheshire,CT 06410	
ALL phone numbers are area code (203)				

The League congratulates the Board of the Cheshire Public Library for receiving the appreciation of the American Civil Liberties of CT for the Board's "courageous and politically difficult vote to support its librarian and leave a controversial book on the shelves."

Thomas Jefferson once expressed himself as "mortified to be told that, in the United States of America, the sale of a book can become a subject of inquiry.

This League is proud of their action supporting the First Amendment.

Well done!

Mme New Haven area League board members:

The New Haven Museum and the Greater New Haven League of Women Voters are planning to celebrate the 90th anniversary of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution with programs and an exhibit at the Museum in late summer 2010. The two groups are asking the public for the loan of any photographs and artifacts of the suffrage movement in the New Haven area. Some memorabilia may still be lingering in the attic of New Haveners and League members in surrounding towns.

The New Haven Museum has an extensive collection of photographs, although it is limited in the area of suffrage. While the programs and exhibit are still in the planning stage, it is expected they will be open to the public from mid-August through the fall of 2010.

Anyone wishing to lend or donate photos or artifacts for the exhibit are asked to call Louise FitzSimons at the New Haven Museum 562-4183 ext. 12 between 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays. If you have any questions, please contact the president of the LWV New Haven, Tina Doyle, at [tdoyle141@yahoo.com](mailto:tdoyle141@yahoo.com).

Editor's Note: With the commencement of the legislative session, your LWV Of Connecticut is engaged in a flurry of activity. Further the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary adds multitudinous opportunities for league networking. All these activities cannot be included in this publication. The reader is advised to visit the CT League's website or its Action Center or Events index.

Here follow a sampling of these opportunities.

### **ACTION ALERT: Urge the Senate to Pass Comprehensive Health Care**

A year full of intense legislative battles will soon draw to a close. Even now, the Senate is working to pass health care legislation before the last gavel falls.

The League has lobbied hard this year to advocate for changes to the current system which is endangering both our economy and our health. Countless letters and alerts have been sent to Senators and Representatives since we began 2009 and today it is more important than ever that you take action to urge your Senators to support strong health care reform legislation.

**Click here** to encourage your Senators to support effective health care reform legislation with a public insurance option.

The House of Representatives has passed a comprehensive health care reform bill with a public option. It is time for the Senate to do so as well. America is facing a health care crisis caused by a combination of skyrocketing costs and an insurance system that leaves 47 million living day to day without coverage. The Senate has a historic opportunity to pass comprehensive health care reform now.

Contact your Senators now, by **clicking here** and entering your zip code. Tell them to support strong health care reform legislation. Tell them that current health care system is endangering both our economy and our health, and that business as usual is not an option.

**CGA Government Administration and Elections Committee**

February 10, 2010 Public Hearing

Comments Submitted By Christine S. Horrigan, Government Director

**Support For:**

HB 5021 AA Implementing the Governor's Recommendations

Concerning the Citizens' Election Program

HB 5022 AAC The Citizens' Election Program

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My name is Christine Horrigan. I am Government Director for the League of Women Voters of Connecticut, a statewide organization with over 2000 members dedicated to improving our systems of government and impacting public policies through citizen education and advocacy. On behalf of the League, I would like to thank you for giving the League the opportunity to comment upon the bills that are before the Committee today.

Connecticut voters overwhelmingly support public financing of campaigns according to a recent poll commissioned by Common Cause. League leaders are here today to show their support. League members across the state are also voicing their support for the Citizens' Election Program as you'll see in our supplemental submission entitled *League Members Speak Up for the Citizens' Election Program*.

***The League applauds the Governor and GAE Committee's commitment to "fixing" the Citizens' Election Program so that it passes constitutional muster.*** We support both bills that are before the Committee today. More specifically, the League supports:

- Immediate repeal of Conn. Gen. Stat. §9-717, the so-called "reversion clause" which hangs like the proverbial sword of Damocles over the Program and which could trigger the demise of the Program in seven days in the event of an adverse decision from the Second Circuit Court of Appeals. ***The League believes that repeal of this clause, contained in both bills, is crucial.***
- Reducing the grant amounts available to candidates, provided the reductions are reasonable and the grants remain adequate to allow participating candidates to run competitive races.
- Addressing the treatment of minor party candidates under the Program, either by making the enabling legislation party neutral as proposed in the Governor's bill or reducing the percentages for prorating grants as proposed in the GAE Committee's bill.
- Finding a solution to the problem of "triggers" for matching funds under the excess and independent expenditure provisions of Conn. Gen. Stat. §§ 9-713 and 9-714. This is perhaps the thorniest problem facing the legislature. Candidates are right to be concerned about the ability of millionaire candidates to outspend participating candidates and the ability of outside organizations to run attack ads, particularly in light of the United States Supreme Court's recent ruling in *Citizens United v. Federal Elections Commission*. The Governor's bill eliminates supplemental grants for excess and independent expenditures during the pendency of any appeal of the district court's judgment in *Green Party of Connecticut v. Garfield*. The League does not believe that this is a practical solution. We support revamping these provisions as proposed by the GAE Committee.

**FEBRUARY—LWV MONTH IN CONNECTICUT**  
League of Women Voters Celebrates 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of its Founding

February 1, 2010 (Hamden, CT) –Valentine’s Day 2010 is a special day for the League of Women Voters. Founded on February 14, 1920, the League turns 90 this year, with 850 chapters in all 50 states and U.S. territories, and international democracy projects around the globe.

The Connecticut League launched its yearlong 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration at the Capitol on January 7 with a proclamation from Connecticut’s Governor Jodi Rell, declaring February to be League of Women Voters Month. The League’s event also celebrated a historic photographic exhibit of women’s participation in civic life in Connecticut, as governors, community activists, and members of Congress. Part of the League exhibit will travel to historical societies and public libraries in the state.

The event also featured a presentation by Dr. Tracey M. Wilson, West Hartford Town Historian, who delivered a surprising lesson about Connecticut suffrage. Connecticut’s governor in 1920, Marcus Holcomb, opposed women’s suffrage and the attempts to ratify the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment here. However, Connecticut had feisty fighters for women’s equality, like the late actress Katherine Hepburn’s mother, who wouldn’t stop pushing for suffrage. Eventually, a year after the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment was ratified by other states and became law, Connecticut finally ratified it.

“We have a lot to celebrate, foremost the trust-generating civic work of our members,” said Jara Burnett, president of the League of Voters of Connecticut. “The League in Connecticut is embarking on its 10th decade with a steady influx of capable men and women with a wide array of experience and expertise, assuring that our work for better government will continue,” she added. Men have been part of the League’s non-partisan political work since 1974; a young business owner and a superintendent of schools are among Connecticut League’s newest members who are men. Working in the League has energized a number of members to run for public office and, after leaving public office, to apply their experience to League work.

The Connecticut League of Women Voters comprises 28 local Leagues. They host meetings with legislators, community forums, and candidate debates and provide a source of nonpartisan information for voters. As advocates for policy and legislative change, Connecticut League members have been leaders in advocating for public campaign financing to ensure clean elections in Connecticut. Each year the Connecticut League sponsors a popular Symposium on International Relations with Yale University and Quinnipiac School of Law.

Find the League online at [www.lwvct.org](http://www.lwvct.org), 203/288-2996, or by writing to the League of Women Voters of Connecticut, 1890 Dixwell Avenue, Suite 203, Hamden, CT 06514.

The League is heartened that the legislature is finally beginning to move on this issue and that a “fix” for the Citizens’ Election Program is being treated with the priority it deserves. We look forward to working with you to ensure the successful passage of a “fix” for this critical program.

Thank you

## Celebrate the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the LWVCT!

The Education Fund is planning a series of events beginning in January 2010.

Here's a sneak preview of what's coming - save the dates!

**Jan 5-29, 2010** – LWV historical exhibit in the lower concourse of the Legislative Office Building. Enjoy at your leisure. *Free*

**Jan 7, 2010** - Grand Opening of Historical Exhibit with Special Program on the Battle for Suffrage in Connecticut with West Hartford Town Historian Tracey Wilson at 2PM in LOB Room 1B followed by a celebratory reception at the State Capitol in the Old Judiciary Room from 3-4:30 PM. Refreshments will be served. Reception sponsored by Comcast. *Free*. See event photos [here](#)

**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/auction-items.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!

Also in the works are author events, comedy performances and film nights. Keep a lookout for more details in mailings and on the website in the months ahead. Stay tuned!

**LWVCTEF is a 501c3 tax deductible organization. All contributions are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowable by law.**

[www.lwvct.org](http://www.lwvct.org)

**League of Women Voters of Cheshire-Wallingford**

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**JOIN THE LEAGUE**

*Make your check to LWV Cheshire-Wallingford.*

*Please detach and mail with check to Elaine Lau, Treasurer, 239 Jinny Hill Road, Cheshire, CT 06410*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Dues for LWVUS, LWVCT & LWVCW (\$55.00) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Each Additional Household Member (\$25.00) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL** \$ \_\_\_\_\_