

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS NEWSLETTER

Mansfield, Connecticut

April 2009

Mark your calendars!

This will be the last newsletter before the Annual Meeting. We have several important meetings coming up – please make a note of them, and read more about them in this newsletter.

April 16, noon, Angellino's Restaurant. Meeting on National Popular Vote Compact consensus

April 23, SIR program, Quinnipiac University (Contact Anne Smith, membership chair, if you would like to car pool to the Symposium on International Relations sponsored by the LWVCT Education Fund)

April 29, 7 p.m., Town Council Chambers, Mansfield. Presentation and Q/A on the status of the downtown Storrs project in the current economy

May 5, 6 a.m. to 8 p.m., Region 19 Budget Referendum, Mansfield, Ashford, Willington

May 12, 7 p.m., Annual Town Budget Meeting, Mansfield Middle School (LWV provides refreshments before the meeting)

May 19, 5 p.m., Annual Meeting First Church, Mansfield Center. 5 p.m. social; 5:30 p.m. business meeting; 6 p.m. dinner; 7 p.m. Bruce Silva, Region 19 superintendent, will talk about the proposed regionalization of area schools. Reservation form in this newsletter, along with announcements of the nominated slate of new officers, proposed program, and proposed budget.

June 1, 5:30 p.m. Old Board/New Board potluck and meeting, home of Cindy Weiss, 58 Maxfelix Dr., Storrs

Proposed Program 2009

The 2009 program of the Mansfield LWV will be voted on at the Annual Meeting. The following program is proposed by the Mansfield LWV Board:

Study/Monitor

1. Monitor the progress of the Mansfield Downtown Partnership (continued item)
2. Monitor the Bergin Correctional Institution (continued item)
3. Monitor sewer and water issues in the Greater Mansfield area (continued item but reworded to reflect our interest in water issues as well as our longstanding support for limited extension of Mansfield sewers)
4. Study recommendations of the Blueprint for Mansfield's Children (replaces current program of monitoring the work of the Mansfield Advocates for Children in early childhood care and education and moves to a study of its recommendations).
5. Study existing regional proposals for ending homelessness in Windham and area towns (a new item based on information from the 2009 Legislative Breakfast).

Action items

1. Support extension of public transportation services and creation of safe bike and walking paths (a continued item).
2. Support assisted living housing for aging, moderate-income residents (a continued item).
3. Support a later start time for local middle and high school students (a continued item with an active committee).

Nominations for Officers of Mansfield LWV

The following slate of officers has been submitted by the Nominating Committee. Elected in odd years are president, first vice president, secretary, membership, newsletter, and finance positions. The Nominating Committee is elected annually.

President: Gloria Bent, Mansfield Center

First vice president: Jean McCarthy, Ashford

Secretary: Ann Kouatly, Storrs

Membership: Anne Smith, Storrs

Newsletter: Lisa Peterson-Blinn, Storrs

Finance: Kathy Moriarty, Storrs

Nominating: Chair, Laura Katz Smith, Storrs; and Shamim Patwa, Storrs (Note: A third non-board position is open on the Nominating Committee. Two board members also serve on this committee).

Appointed positions:

Historian and Publications: Becky Lehmann, Storrs (incumbent historian)

Local program: To be appointed by the Board

Board Committees and other positions

KYTF: Lisa Peterson-Blinn

Ann Kouatly

Carol McMillan

Becky Lehman

Calendars: Iris Kinnard

MEMBERSHIP

We are pleased to welcome these new members since our last Newsletter; do add them to your roster:

Marie Cantino, 122 Dog Lane, Storrs, 429-0567, marie.cantino@uconn.edu
Paulette Marie, 24 Willowbrook Road, Storrs, 429-2880, pmarie@comcast.net
Charles Searing, 8 Westwood Road, Storrs, 429-1498, casearing@snet.net

Other activities involving our membership and outreach to the community:
We intend to repeat the dessert hospitality before the annual Mansfield Town Budget Meeting, Tuesday, May 12; anyone willing to help could call me (429-0529) or Carol McMillan (423-3774) or Joan Neuwirth (429-5798).

And we will return to the Willimantic 3rd Thursday Street Fest, starting in May (the 21st). Please do get involved; I'm always looking for volunteers!--Anne Smith, 429-0529, anneksmith@charter.net

Downtown Storrs in the Current Economy

Our April 29 evening meeting at 7 p.m. at Town Council Chambers in the Audrey Beck Municipal Building will include a presentation by the Downtown Partnership, Leyland Alliance, and town officials as well as questions from the League and the audience on the status of the Storrs Center project in the current economic climate.

The League has monitored the Storrs Center project for several years but has taken no position on it. Some of our members are active in the Downtown Partnership or are involved in groups that are advocating for or against the project. The purpose of this forum is not to stake out positions about the project, but to provide and elicit information on its status, given the impact of a recession.

Federal stimulus funding of \$712,500 was recently appropriated for the project in the FY2009 Omnibus Budget bill at the request of the Town of Mansfield. The appropriation was sponsored by Senator Joseph Lieberman and U.S. Rep. Joseph Courtney. The funding is designated for streets, sidewalks, open spaces, bike and pedestrian paths, and infrastructure and landscaping.

If you have questions about the project's status and economic viability, you may ask them yourself at the meeting or write them on index cards that will be provided and given to the moderator to ask. We hope to get in as many questions as possible, so we encourage the audience and the presenters to be prepared to make the meeting as informational and comprehensive as possible.



Agreement Among the States to Elect the President by National Popular Vote

Article I—Membership

Any State of the United States and the District of Columbia may become a member of this agreement by enacting this agreement.

Article II—Right of the People in Member States to Vote for President and Vice President

Each member state shall conduct a statewide popular election for President and Vice President of the United States.

Article III—Manner of Appointing Presidential Electors in Member States

Prior to the time set by law for the meeting and voting by the presidential electors, the chief election official of each member state shall determine the number of votes for each presidential slate in each State of the United States and in the District of Columbia in which votes have been cast in a statewide popular election and shall add such votes together to produce a "national popular vote total" for each presidential slate.

The chief election official of each member state shall designate the presidential slate with the largest national popular vote total as the "national popular vote winner."

The presidential elector certifying official of each member state shall certify the appointment in that official's own state of the elector slate nominated in that state in association with the national popular vote winner.

At least six days before the day fixed by law for the meeting and voting by the presidential electors, each member state shall make a final determination of the number of popular votes cast in the state for each presidential slate and shall communicate an official statement of such determination within 24 hours to the chief election official of each other member state.

The chief election official of each member state shall treat as conclusive an official statement containing the number of popular votes in a state for each presidential slate made by the day established by federal law for making a state's final determination conclusive as to the counting of electoral votes by Congress.

In event of a tie for the national popular vote winner, the presidential elector certifying official of each member state shall certify the appointment of the elector slate nominated in association with the presidential slate receiving the largest number of popular votes within that official's own state.

If, for any reason, the number of presidential electors nominated in a member state in association with the national popular vote winner is less than or greater than that state's number of electoral votes, the presidential candidate on the presidential slate that has been designated as the national popular vote winner shall have the power to nominate the presidential electors for that state and that state's presidential elector certifying official shall certify the appointment of such nominees. The chief election official of each member state

shall immediately release to the public all vote counts or statements of votes as they are determined or obtained.

This article shall govern the appointment of presidential electors in each member state in any year in which this agreement is, on July 20, in effect in states cumulatively possessing a majority of the electoral votes.

Article IV—Other Provisions

This agreement shall take effect when states cumulatively possessing a majority of the electoral votes have enacted this agreement in substantially the same form and the enactments by such states have taken effect in each state.

Any member state may withdraw from this agreement, except that a withdrawal occurring six months or less before the end of a President's term shall not become effective until a President or Vice President shall have been qualified to serve the next term.

The chief executive of each member state shall promptly notify the chief executive of all other states of when this agreement has been enacted and has taken effect in that official's state, when the state has withdrawn from this agreement, and when this agreement takes effect generally.

This agreement shall terminate if the electoral college is abolished.

If any provision of this agreement is held invalid, the remaining provisions shall not be affected.

Article V—Definitions

For purposes of this agreement,

"chief executive" shall mean the Governor of a State of the United States or the Mayor of the District of Columbia;

"elector slate" shall mean a slate of candidates who have been nominated in a state for the position of presidential elector in association with a presidential slate;

"chief election official" shall mean the state official or body that is authorized to certify the total number of popular votes for each presidential slate;

"presidential elector" shall mean an elector for President and Vice President of the United States;

"presidential elector certifying official" shall mean the state official or body that is authorized to certify the appointment of the state's presidential electors;

"presidential slate" shall mean a slate of two persons, the first of whom has been nominated as a candidate for President of the United States and the second of whom has been nominated as a candidate for Vice President of the United States, or any legal successors to such persons, regardless of whether both names appear on the ballot presented to the voter in a particular state;

"state" shall mean a State of the United States and the District of Columbia; and

"statewide popular election" shall mean a general election in which votes are cast for presidential slates by individual voters and counted on a statewide basis.

Noon Meeting on NPVC Consensus

When: Thursday, April 16, 2009

Where: Angellino's Restaurant

Facilitator: Joan Neuwirth

At LWVUS Convention in 2008, the League adopted a proposal to fast track a study of the National Popular Vote Compact as an alternative to the Electoral College for electing the President of the United States. The consensus is due at LWVUS on May 1, 2009. Please join us for the discussion so that we may meet this deadline.

To help prepare for the consensus meeting a copy of the Compact is included in this Newsletter.

LWV Mansfield Annual Dinner Meeting

When: Tuesday, May 19, 2009; Social 5 p.m., Business meeting 5:30 p.m., Dinner 6 p.m., Speaker 7 p.m.

Where: First Church of Christ in Mansfield (Rt. 195 opposite the intersection with Rt. 89)

Speaker: Region 19 Superintendent Bruce Silva will talk about regional school issues, including the proposal to regionalize K-8 in our area.

Reservation Form

Dinner will consist of salmon or vegetarian entrée, with vegetables, salad, bread, dessert, and beverage. Cost is \$15 per person. **Please send your registration form and check payable to Mansfield LWV to Joan Neuwirth (54 Bundy Lane, Storrs, CT 06268) by Fri., May 15, 2009.**

Name(s) _____

Choice(s) of entrée _____

Amount enclosed@\$15 per person _____

Mansfield League of Women Voters Proposed Budget 2009-2010

INCOME

A. Dues: 173 @ \$45	\$7,785.00	\$8,122.50
15 @ 22.50	\$337.50	
B. Contributions		\$1,700.00
Members	\$1,000.00	
Non-members	\$700.00	
C. Other		\$3,325.00
Bulbs	\$800.00	
Calendars	\$500.00	
Interest	\$50.00	
Annual meeting	\$975.00	
Know Your Town Fair	\$300.00	
Legislative Breakfast	\$700.00	
D. Committed Assets from Reserves		\$1,500.00
National 2010	\$1,500.00	
E. From Surplus/Reserves	\$3,543.35	\$3,543.35
TOTAL INCOME		\$18,190.85

EXPENDITURES

A. Operating		\$692.00
Insurance	\$412.00	
Postal Permit	\$180.00	
Archival Support	\$100.00	
B. Administrative Costs		\$675.00
Board	\$175.00	
Committees		
Finance	\$150.00	
Membership including roster	\$300.00	
Public Relations	\$50.00	
C. Delegates		\$1,800.00
National 2010 from reserves	\$1,500.00	
State 2011 (into reserves)	\$150.00	
Conferences	\$150.00	
D. Per Member Payment		\$8,248.85

National 173 @\$29.20 & 15 @ 14.60	\$5,270.60	
State 173@ 16.50 & 15 @ 8.25	\$2,978.25	
E. Newsletter		\$1,600.00
F. Educational Activity		\$3,975.00
Publications Purchase and Distribution	\$100.00	
Know Your Town Booklet (into Reserves) Program	\$500.00	
Materials & Speaker expenses	\$300.00	
Annual Meeting and Report	\$1,075.00	
Legislative Breakfast	\$700.00	
Hospitality	\$100.00	
Voter Service - materials and advertising		
Candidates Meeting	\$500.00	
KYTF - materials and advertising	\$400.00	
Student Outreach	\$300.00	
G. Fund Raising Costs		\$1,100.00
H. Advocacy	\$100.00	\$100.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		\$18,190.85

The League of Women Voters of Mansfield web page address is
<http://www.lwvct.org/lwvmansfield>

Communications to the **Mansfield** LWV can be emailed to
lwvmansfield@lwvct.org



For more information about items in this newsletter or about membership in the LWV, please contact President Cindy Weiss (429-4015; e-mail: lweiss2007@charter.net), or Membership Chair Anne Smith (429-0529; e-mail: anneksmith@charter.net). Membership is open to both men and women. Dues are \$45 per year and should be sent to Anne Smith, 156 Hillyndale Road, Storrs, CT 06268. Lisa Peterson-Blinn, Newsletter Editor (377-6132), e-mail: lisajpb@gmail.com).