



LWVCT BOARD REPORT

January 8, 2010

CALENDAR 2009-2010

January 2010

- 1/7-29 LWVCT exhibit, Lower Concourse, LOB/Capitol, Hartford
- 1/11 LWVCT SIR Committee meeting, Hamden
- 1/14 90th Anniversary Committee conference call

February 2010

- 2/9 LWVCT Board meeting, Hamden

March 2010

- 3/9 LWVCT Board meeting, Hamden
- 3/18 LWVCT Transportation Forum, Norwalk Community College

April 2010

- 4/1 4th-quarter PMP payments become due
- 4/13 LWVCT Board meeting, Hamden
- 4/28 LWVCT SIR, Quinnipiac University, Hamden

May 2010

- 5/11 LWVCT Board meeting, Hamden
- 5/29 LWVCT Council, Lyceum, Hartford

June 2010

- 6/11-15 LWVUS Convention, Atlanta, Georgia

Announcements

Regional Round Table Luncheon “Understanding Health Care Reform: Politics and Puzzles”

The League of Women Voters of New Haven and a consortium including the Amity, Cheshire - Wallingford, East Shore, Hamden, New Haven / West Haven and North Haven Leagues invites you to a 2009 - 2010 Regional Round Table Luncheon buffet at the Graduate Club, 155 Elm Street, New Haven, at 12:00 noon on Tuesday, January 26, 2010. Cost is \$15.00, to be paid at the door. The speaker will be Theodore Marmor, Professor Emeritus of Public Policy and Political Science, on “Understanding Health Care Reform: Politics and Puzzles.” Please let Margot Kohorn know if you are coming: 203-795-3151.

90th Anniversary Exhibit

Jara Burnett

Those of you who were able to join us at the kick-off reception on January 7 to officially open the historical exhibit to celebrate the 90th anniversary of the League already know how wonderful it is. The exhibit will be at the LOB until January 29. If at all possible, do make the trip to Hartford to see it. The committee of Elisa McCarthy, Pat George, Carole Mulready and Mary Murray did an outstanding job of capturing the spirit of the times and the importance of the remarkable history of our organization. Please check our website for the pictures from the event and the reception that followed. An event to make us all proud of our past accomplishments as we look confidently forward to the future.

Fall Conference “Health Care” Video

Margaret and Al Wirtenberg, our master videotapers, have prepared two versions of the video of Fall Conference 2009: an unabridged version covering the entire event (lasting 2 hours 22 minutes 30 seconds), and one suitable for public access broadcast, containing selected excerpts and lasting just under one hour.

The LWVCT office will be mailing DVD copies of the full-length version to the presidents of all our local Leagues. If you also want a copy of the abridged version, please let Jean Rabinow know as soon as possible.

The Wirtenbergs have arranged that the one-hour version will be shown on Cablevision channel 88 (the public access channel) in lower Fairfield County on January 8 from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m., and again at the same time on each of the subsequent three Fridays. It will appear in the 10 towns and cities that are served by Cablevision’s Norwalk facility: Greenwich, Stamford, Darien, Norwalk, Westport, New Canaan, Wilton, Weston, Easton, and Redding.

The full-length version (2 hours 22 minutes 30 seconds) can also be seen on the Internet, at the League of Women Voters of Weston’s website. It can be linked to at the following page, in Windows Media Player format, best viewed via Internet Explorer (which will start playback shortly after the lengthy download process begins; Firefox and some other browsers will not start playback until download has been completed, which will take a considerable amount of time):

<http://www.lvwweston.org/FALLCONF09healthcare.html#watchnow>

Direct links to the video files themselves are as follows:

For cable and DSL users: <http://www.lvwweston.org/LWVCT12-5-09CableVersion.wmv>

For dial-up modem users (low quality): <http://www.lvwweston.org/LWVCT12-5-09ModemVersion.wmv>

Election Laws Study Committee Openings

A couple of slots have opened up on the Election Laws Study Committee. The Committee is looking at four broad topics: (1) ballot access, (2) the state election calendar, (3) absentee ballots for military and overseas voters, and (4) methods for filling US Senate vacancies. If you’re interested in taking part in the study and helping the Committee create its report to the Leagues, please contact Christine Horrigan: 860-567-3268 or cshorrigan@optonline.net.

Mark Your Calendars and Spread the Word

- **Auction 1/27 through 2/8:** We have approx 50 terrific items to date for the online auction. The auction will run from 1/27 through 2/8. Donna Conway is chairing the auction committee. We will alert you when the official auction website is completed. The LWVCT website has a sampling of items for your review at: <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. Seating is limited in this historic venue. Keep a lookout for more details and pounce!
- **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 is appropriate for children from grade 3 and up. A great grandparent/grandchild event.

In the works: Author and Book series, a documentary night and a comedy night. More details to follow.

Public Issues Team Report

Submitted by Cheryl Dunson with

Directors Karen Burnaska, Christine Horrigan, Naomi Schiff Myers and Specialists

Secretary of State Working Group: Dep. Secretary of State Lesley Mara is establishing a working group of advocates, citizen observers, SOTS staff and election officials to review current audit procedures and to make concrete recommendations for revision and improvement. It is our good fortune that Board Member and Wilton Registrar Carole Young-Kleinfeld has volunteered to serve as LWVCT representative. We are exploring the possibility of having an additional representative serve on the committee.

GOVERNMENT

SEEC/Campaign Finance Reform: On 12/15/09, Christine Horrigan represented LWVCT at a press conference with Coalition partners Common Cause and CT Citizen Action Group urging preservation of the remaining balance of the Citizen Election Fund and a “fix” of the law in response to Judge Underhill’s August ruling.

As of this writing, the legislature has failed to propose or take any action to fix the law. They did cut the CEP yet again in the recently passed budget; however the budget was vetoed by the Governor so at the moment, the fund remains at the current level of approximately \$33 million.

Election Laws: In the upcoming legislative session, we will again push to make regulations of the Secretary of State (SOTS) enforceable. This would be an State Elections Enforcement Commission bill, not a SOTS bill but SOTS will support. Additionally, we will push for refinements to the audit law to increase transparency of the process and security of ballots.

Audits: The League participated again in audit observations following the November elections as part of the Connecticut Citizen Election Audit Coalition, which will help to further inform our advocacy. Luther Weeks of CTVotersCount spearheading the drafting of the report and we hope to have it completed and posted on our website this month.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Transportation: LWVCT is part of the planning committee for a March 18 Fairfield County Transportation Issues Forum. The forum will be held from 7-9PM at Norwalk Community Technical College. More details to be provided in future.

SOCIAL POLICY

Health Care: We have repeatedly contacted Senator Lieberman's office requesting a meeting to discuss his position on health care reform. Although his office has failed to respond to our requests, we will continue to urge a face to face meeting.

Local League Support

For Your Legislative Meetings: An Urgent Word on Campaign Finance

Jara Burnett, President, and Cheryl Dunson, VP/PI

Many Leagues are hosting meetings with your legislators in the coming weeks. You should have received the e-mailing from the PI Team with proposed questions covering government, natural resources and social policy. You are not required to ask any of these questions; **however, given the dire situation of the Campaign Reform law** (see the PI Team report, above), **we hope that you will include a question to your legislators to find out their stand on fixing the campaign reform law. If so, we would appreciate your sending their responses to us so that we may develop a fuller picture of where legislators stand on the issue.**

Membership Final Reminder

We're almost at the LWVUS deadline for reporting membership changes before PMP is set: your League's PMP obligations to LWVUS and LWVCT in FY 2010-2011 are based on your January 31, 2010, membership count. If you have any questions about membership, please contact the LWVCT office.

What Can the LWVCT Do For My League?

Free Publicity: You can publicize any local League activity that would be of interest to others around the state by sending your flier/write-up to the LWVCT office. It can be e-mailed to every local League Board member in the State Board Report (deadline is the second Tuesday of each month except July and August) or in separate e-mail notices, or mailed in the LWVCT VOTER (sent out twice per year).

Study/Concurrence Assistance: The LWVCT keeps a list of volunteers who can help your League get speakers and materials for any study, concurrence, or consensus that the LWVCT or LWVUS is

asking you to participate in; and if your League is planning on a local study the LWVCT can direct you to members of the PI Team or to other Leagues for guidance if you would like.

Political Action Assistance: The LWVCT Public Issues Team often has prepared position statements that you can use in preparing testimony before government committees, letters to the editor of your local paper, etc. These are usually available from the Hamden office or on the LWVCT website.

Board Support: Your League's President and/or Board can ask for assistance with any and all matters of local League management. If the Hamden office staff can't provide the help you need, one or more LWVCT Board members will arrange to visit your Board and/or membership at a mutually convenient place and time.

Liability Insurance: Your League's liability insurance will be renewed automatically each June (via Ned Miller Associates). Coverage is \$2,000,000 per incident. The \$12 cost is billed with your League's first PMP payment.

D&O Insurance: Your League has the option of buying Directors' and Officers' "Errors and Omissions" insurance from the same agency the LWVCT uses (the Monroe Insurance Agency, broker Peter Lozier), at below-market rates. The cost, currently \$400 per year, is billed directly to your League.

State Board Report: LWVCT provides an e-mailed Board Report to all members of all local League Boards approximately three days after each State Board meeting. If your President is not on the internet, the LWVCT will provide one hard copy of the Board Report per League to you.

Publications: You can order, via mail, fax, or e-mail, any League publication through the LWVCT office. Orders can be billed to or pre-paid by your treasurer. If a League member will be in Hamden, call and arrange for pre-packaged pick up; other orders will be mailed.

Website: The LWVCT website, www.lwvct.org, has sections on advocacy/public issues, membership, league history, etc., and a main page for each local League. It is a source for copies of LWVCT publications and current voter information.

Electronic Voters' Guides: During election season in even-numbered years, the LWVCT posts candidate information on the LWVCT website. In odd-numbered years our webmaster will help local Leagues publish such guides on their web pages on our site if and when we are asked to do so.

Membership Assistance: The LWVCT prints membership envelopes, and sells them to local Leagues at cost. The office staff can furnish you with copies of your membership list, and provides telephone and on-line assistance with membership questions and problems. If needed, the office can mail out membership reminders (with or without dues reply envelopes) for your League.

Tax Status: The LWVCT maintains an IRS "group exemption" that covers all of Connecticut's local Leagues. The state office staff updates the list and files the required reports with the IRS every year to maintain your League's 501(c)(4) status. The state office will also provide help and information, as requested, regarding your League's annual 990-N IRS filing.

Financial Support: During the last two fiscal years, the LWVCT has set aside funds to help local Leagues with membership growth; interested Leagues are free to apply for a grant. Additionally, if the LWVCT solicits and receives a corporate grant from your area, you may qualify for a share of the proceeds.