



The League of Women Voters Of Weston

June, 2008

No. 108

OPENING MESSAGE

Katty Chace

League of Women Voters of Weston

President..... Katty Chace
781-891-1087

Treasurer..... Kathie Strehle
508-358-8937

Voter Service.....Sally Currier
781-235-9506

Membership..... Rochelle Nemrow
781-790-1138

Bulletin..... Katherine Wolfthal
Editor 781-891-9549

This LWV/Weston Newsletter is published monthly except July and August. The LWV is a nonpartisan political organization open to all citizens of voting age.

League of Women Voters of Weston
15 Conant Road, Weston MA 02493

VOTER INFORMATION

1-800-882-1649

League of Women Voters
of Massachusetts
133 Portland Street
Boston MA 02114
(617)523-2999

Submit articles to Katherine Wolfthal in
typewritten hard copy or by e-mail to
kate@weichi.com

We have enclosed in this Bulletin membership renewal forms. The League year runs from July 1-June 30, so if you could renew before the summer completely takes over all our lives and things get buried on desks, it would be much appreciated. A couple of you don't owe us any money, either because you are life members, or because you double-paid us last year. I hope you know who you are. We haven't raised our dues this year, so it remains \$50 for a single membership, \$55 for a sustaining membership and \$67 for a household (double membership). Don't forget to include your email address on the form, as we are now sending the Bulletin via email.

At our June board meeting we focused on discussion of our new website and our fall voter activities. Our website should be up by September 1 and will be linked to the Weston town website. It will emphasize information that will be of interest to the general public, such as upcoming elections, referendum questions, and directions for obtaining and using absentee ballots.

This fall, the state primary is scheduled for Tuesday, September 16. Our State Representative Alice Peisch has a challenger in the primary (Democrat Larry Kaplan of Wellesley), but no Republican opposition. Our State Senator Susan Fargo will be unopposed in the primary, but faces a challenge from Republican Sandra Martinez of Chelmsford on Tuesday, November 4 in the general election. This presented a quandary for the League as how to organize a Candidates' Night that will offer opportunities to hear all the candidates. We have decided

to try to schedule a coffee hour on one of the first two Saturdays in September to allow Peisch and Kaplan to address issues of interest to Weston voters. Then we will schedule a regular Candidates Night in late October for the state senate race.

The last day for voters to register to vote in the November election is Wednesday, October 15. We are planning to schedule a voter registration drive during lunch period at the High School during the previous week. In addition, we encourage you to tell your children or grandchildren who are headed off to college in the fall that they should either register to vote in Weston and arrange to have an absentee ballot sent to them or they should register at college as soon as they get there.

Next year, we will also continue to monitor the discussions about the installation of the second artificial turf playing field at Country School. The Board of Health has requested that the schools measure the temperature on the High School field regularly on hot days to avoid having children playing in excessive heat.

I wish you all a relaxing summer, full of family and friends, travels, good books, sunshine and lots of stimulating political chat. This year's election certainly has provoked the kind of excitement we haven't seen for a while, which can only be good for our democratic process.

CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER 2008

September 9, Tuesday..... LWVW Board Meeting
9:15 – 11:30 A.M., 61 Beaver Rd.
(Rochelle Nemrow, 781-790-1138)

September 16, Tuesday..... MA State Primary Election

Week of October 6-10..... Voter Registration Drive
Weston High School

October 15, Wednesday..... Last day to register to vote
in Presidential Election

November 4, Tuesday..... Presidential Election

ANNUAL MEETING

WHEN IT'S TIME FOR ACTION

President

President George W. Bush
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20510

U.S. Senators

- The Honorable Edward M. Kennedy
2400 JFK Building
Boston, MA 02203

(617)565-3170

317 Russell Senate Office Building

Washington, DC 20510

(202)224-4543

senator@kennedy.senate.gov

- The Honorable John F. Kerry
One Bowdin Square, Tenth Floor
Boston, MA 02114

(617)565-8519

304 Russell Senate Office Building

Washington, D.C. 20510

(202)224-2742

E-mail: john_kerry@kerry.senate.gov

U.S. Representative 7th District

The Honorable Edward J. Markey
(781)396-2900

(202)225-2836

2108 Rayburn House Office Building

Washington, D.C. 20515

(202)225-2836

<http://www.house.gov/markey>

Governor

Governor Deval Patrick

Office of the Governor

State House, Room 360

Boston MA 02133

(617)727-3600

E-mail: Goffice@state.ma.us

State Senator 5th Middlesex District

The Honorable Susan Fargo

(617)722-1572

State House, Room 505

Boston MA 02133-1054

E-mail: sfargo@senate.state.ma.us

Home: (781) 259-9623

State Representative 4th Norfolk District

The Honorable Alice Hanlon Peisch

(617)722-2080

(781)237-4719

State House, Room 26

Boston MA 02133-1054

E-mail: rep.alicepeisch@hou.state.ma.us

The topic of our Annual Meeting this year was "The Slow Food Movement." Slow Food is a "non-profit, eco-gastronomic member-supported organization that was founded in 1989 to counteract fast food and fast life, the disappearance of local food traditions and people's dwindling interest in the food they eat, where it comes from, how it tastes and how our food choices affect the



rest of the world." Speaker Annette Lee (photo, left) spoke passionately about the joys and benefits of buying food grown organically and locally, cooking meals from scratch, and taking the time to gather your family around the dinner table to savor the food and the company. We passed a

budget that will be about \$3000 smaller than last year's due to our change from a paper Bulletin to an email one. We now have 84 members.

Dear LWV Member,

It's that time of year again when we ask you to renew your support of the Weston League of Women Voters. This past year was the second in a row in which we increased our membership – a feat that bucks the trend of declining membership in Leagues around the state.

Thank you for recognizing the value that an active, thriving League provides and the importance of your participation. We hope you will renew your membership and invite your friends and family to join our growing ranks. (And thanks to those of you who have already joined and/or renewed for the upcoming year.)

Please send in your 2008 – 2009 membership form and check today, and enjoy a beautiful, sunny summer.

Rochelle Nemrow, Membership

League of Women Voters of Weston

MEMBERSHIP FORM 2008-2009

The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan, political organization, which encourages informed and active participation in all levels of government and influences public policy through education and advocacy. We serve the local community in many ways:

- Sponsor Candidates and Issues nights before elections
- Provide voter information and conduct voter-registration drives
- Encourage voter participation with banners and rides to the polls
- Study local, state and national issues and hold open meetings
- Act upon carefully considered positions by lobbying and circulating petitions
- Publish a "Know Your Town" booklet
- Train members to be active and involved citizens.

We appreciate your involvement. Please check off all that interest you.

- Observe:** Attend a town board or committee meeting and submit a brief written report for the Observer Corps column in the Bulletin.
- Support:** Assist in mailing preparation. Provide rides to the polls on Election Days.
- Provide:** Refreshments (baked item or fruit) for a LWV function.
- Host:** Open your home for one weekday morning and/or evening unit study.
- Organize:** Help plan LWV events to be held throughout the year.

Our membership year runs from July 1 to June 30. As a Weston member, you also belong to the State and National League and receive publications from both. **

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

Email _____

Check one: Renewal New Member

- I enclose a check made payable to **The League of Women Voters of Weston** for:
- \$50 Basic - \$55 Sustaining - \$67 Family (two individuals in the same household)
- \$_____ Additional amount (Any contributions above and beyond regular dues are greatly appreciated and assist the local league in providing more services and offsetting our operating expenses.)
- \$_____ LWV Education Fund (Tax-deductible contribution made payable by separate check to the LWV Education Fund)

Return form to: Rochelle Nemrow, 61 Beaver Rd., Weston, MA 02493

Do you know a friend who might be interested in joining the League of Women Voters?

Name, address & phone _____

** It is the policy of the LWV of Weston that no resident shall be refused participation in the League because of an inability to pay. If a hardship preventing payment of dues exists, please contact Katty Chace (781-891-1087).