



The League of Women Voters Of Weston

September, 2008

No. 109

OPENING MESSAGE

Katty Chace

League of Women Voters of Weston

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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.

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VOTER INFORMATION

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Boston MA 02114
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Submit articles to Katherine Wolfthal in
typewritten hard copy or by e-mail to
kate@weichi.com

As the League comes to life after a relaxing summer break, we find ourselves in the midst of a political whirlwind at the local, state and national levels.

Our first activity of the new year was a candidates' coffee hour at the library last Saturday. Democratic Representative Alice Peisch and her Democratic challenger Dr. Larry Kaplan gave brief statements before taking questions from an audience of about twenty. Peisch opened by listing her accomplishments over her three terms in the legislature and describing education as her most pressing priority. Kaplan opened by saying that, although he and Peisch agree on most issues, he is running because he doesn't believe she has been sufficiently proactive nor sponsored enough successful legislation. He identified health care insurance costs as his priority.

The state primary on September 16th which took place yesterday, showed Alice Peisch as the winner. She will serve as Weston's representative for the next two years, as there is no Republican seeking this seat.

The League's next event is a voter registration drive on Wednesday, October 8th during lunch periods at the High School. Any student who will be 18 by the November 4th election can register on that occasion.

On November 4th, the League will offer voters rides to the polls if they need transportation. The Council on Aging will publicize this service in their October newsletter. We do ask for 24-hour notice of these requests.

We will continue to monitor the installation of artificial turf playing fields at Country School. The field already put in at the High School concerns us with high temperatures and potential effects on asthma and other possible long-range health risks.

The Board is kept apprised by members Lenore Lobel and Sally Carrier of the progress of the Community Center in Pearlinton, Mississippi, built by funds raised here in Weston, as well as volunteer labor from here. At the moment, of course, Pearlinton is struggling with an influx of flooding caused by Hurricane Ike.

If you haven't yet sent in your membership form and dues for this year, please do that now while you're thinking of it. (\$50 basic individual, \$55 sustaining, \$67 household membership for two, send to Rochelle Nemrow, 61 Beaver Road.) A membership form is included in this Bulletin. We need your continued support to thrive.

CALENDAR

OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2008

October 8, Wednesday..... Weston High School	Voter Registration during lunch periods
October 14, Tuesday..... 9:15 A.M. 12 Hemlock Rd (Robin Coutts, 781-899-2020)	LWVW Open Meeting
October 15, Wednesday.....	Last day to register to vote in Presidential Election
November 4, Tuesday..... 7:00 AM. – 8:00 P.M.	Presidential Election
November 11, Tuesday..... 9:15 A.M. , Location TBA	LWVW Open Meeting
December 1, Monday..... 7:30 P.M. Weston High School Auditorium	Fall Town Meeting

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS
Kathleen Rousseau

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 board met at the home of Rochelle Nemrow on September 9, 2008.

Many of our members have not renewed their memberships for this year, so we must contact everyone about membership.

LOCAL PROGRAM: There will be a mini-Candidate's Night with Alice Peisch and Larry Kaplan at the Library this Saturday at 11:00 am. This will allow people to meet them before the primary election.

VOTER SERVICE: The State Primary election is on Sept. 16. Katty wrote a "letter to the editor" to the Crier reminding people about the primary.

There is a write-in candidate against Buonomo for register of probate since he has been charged with larceny.

Voter registration at the High School will take place on October 8

CANDIDATE'S NIGHT: We plan on holding a candidate's night with Susan Fargo and Sandra Martinez who are candidates for our State Senate seat. This will take place sometime in late October. [Editor's note: This event has been cancelled]

There was a discussion about where things stand with artificial turf fields. The turf is very hot and very hard when you fall on it. A discussion had taken place about stopping play above a certain temperature (135°?), but we don't know if that has been done. Some players feel that playing on turf gives teams an advantage that they would lose without it.

PEARLINGTON - Lenore Lobel reported that Mary Shaw and Bill Sano gave their performance of WWII songs at the community center and it was well attended. About 100 homes got water in them from Hannah. but there was no major damage. The community center was not damaged. The outside is

near complete, and there will be a dedication in March. Our town committee has raised over \$105,000 for this construction.

There were short discussions on two topics which had come before the Community Preservation Committee; the use of a new pesticide to protect hemlocks, and the use of donated land for affordable housing.

Thank you to all of our members who have sent in their renewals:

Cynthia Berg	Pamela Foster	Candy Paquin
Carol Berman	Pam Fox	Joan Parrish
Elizabeth Bjorkman	Mary Gregory	Katherine Smith
Jane Buchanan	Phyllis Halpern	Katherine Strehle
Gene Castillo	Christie Hedges	Joan Suit
Katty Chace	Valerie Kirshy	Jean Thurston
Carter Crawford	Lenore Lobel	Ingeborg Uhlir
Rosemary Cremens	Patricia Mohiuddin	Katherine Wolfthal
Polly Dickson	Rochelle Nemrow	

And to our members who have not yet renewed...

Perhaps the languid days of summer caused you to forget.
Or the hustle and bustle of September caused you to delay.

Please return the attached form to renew your Weston LWV membership.
(And, thanks for the great suggestion -- the new membership form allows you to sign up for a multi-year membership so you can be one step ahead of the game next year.)

Thanks!
Rochelle Nemrow,
Membership Chair

VOTER SERVICES Sally Currier

High School Voter Registration

Weston High School students who will turn 18 years of age by election day, November 4th, 2008 will be able to register to vote at Weston High School on Wednesday, October 8. Members of the Weston LWV will work with a staff person from the Weston Town Clerk's Office to register eligible students during the lunchtime hours. A table will be set up outside the cafeteria. If you know of a student who is eligible and has not yet eligible, be sure to let them know. Eligible voters may also register at Town Hall in the Town Clerk's office. The deadline for the General State Election on November 4th is **October 15th**.

No Candidates' Night This Fall

State Senator Susan Fargo (Democrat) will face a challenge to her senate seat this fall from Sandi Martinez (R) of Chelmsford. The Weston LWV attempted to set up a Candidates' Night Forum in October, but Senator Fargo has declined our invitation. Instead, she will be participating in debates in some other communities. If you would like to attend a debate, one will be held in Sudbury at the Lincoln/Sudbury High School on October 14 at 7:30 PM. Another will be held at the Chelmsford Police Station on October 16, beginning at 7:30 PM. There may be another debate in Waltham, location and date not yet disclosed, but it has not been confirmed at this time.

PEARLINGTON UPDATE Lenore Lobel

In late August I flew to Gulfport, MS to attend the first musical performance at the Pearlington community center. The roof, walls, windows and sliding doors have been completed. Volunteers are going down on a regular basis this fall to complete the interior work by the end of December.

We set up chairs provided by the Pearlington Fire Dep't on the grounds in front of the community center. Weston's Mary Shaw and Bill Sano performed "Songs of World War II" on the porch as residents sipped refreshments supplied by Hancock County. Mary Shaw sang with her beautiful soprano voice while Bill Sano accompanied her on a piano. Larry Shaw served as the sound technician. An American flag with 48 stars flew in the light breeze, as the sun set. After the performance, Mary and Bill presented me

with an enlarged check in the amount of \$2450. which represented the sponsorship tickets purchased by Weston friends; the proceeds are being used to help complete the construction.

The following day, we celebrated the life of Royal Royal, an elderly Pearlington resident who had become "the face of Pearlington", at the home of Buster Huse. Buster roasted a large pork roast. We feasted after gathering around a giant cross built by Buster after surviving Hurricane Katrina on top of his house trailer for 8 1/2 hours with two dogs and a cat.

The community center withstood all the recent hurricanes without damage. The MS National Guard used it as a central base of operation during Hurricane Gustav.

OBSERVER CORPS

Robin Coutts

Selectmen Appoint New Member of Zoning Board

The Selectmen and members of the Zoning Board recently held open interviews for a new member of Weston's Zoning Board. There were five candidates, amongst which four were lawyers and one architect.

Amongst various comments were that some Zoning Bylaws are confusing and need clarification, and that written decisions can also be confusing...and that such ambiguities are inappropriate.

The panel was asked what criterion was important to them. They replied that there were legal aspects to consider in regard to findings and variances but also sometimes design and architectural matters to review; but that it is not a ZBA role to be "taste police" nor to remark on design and taste.

They said the role of the ZBA is to honor issues of property investment, decisions "ride" with the properties so it is preferable to err on the side of caution. Applicants and neighbors both have a

"burden of proof" in presenting the case to the ZBA, and it is up to both to choose if they would have legal representation or advice.

Panel deliberations and choice was also done openly. As the ZBA is currently comprised of all lawyers and only one architect they felt it would be beneficial to have another architect on the Board, thus to enhance appreciation of visual and architectural concerns.

Mr. Gary Wolf was thus selected as new member of the Zoning Board.

Katherine..questions below can be left for a further article if that seems more appropriate
Observer Corps questions for ZBA and Selectmen:

1. Why does the ZBA not use site review to further inform their decisions?
2. Are "Facts" presented by applicants' attorneys verified?
3. Can an additional "extraordinary review" process be added before appeals are made to Court?

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)
- I'd like to renew in advance. Please add an additional _____ years to my membership at the rates listed above.
- \$_____ 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.)

TOTAL PAYMENT \$ _____

- \$_____ 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

** 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).