



LWVCT BOARD REPORT

December 15, 2009

CALENDAR 2009-2010

December 2009

In December the Hamden office is closed December 18, the afternoon of December 24, and the week between Christmas and New Year's Day, inclusive.

January 2010

- 1/1 3rd-quarter PMP payments become due
- 1/5-29 LWVCT exhibit, Lower Concourse, LOB/Capitol, Hartford
- 1/7 LWVCT exhibit kick-off reception, LOB Room 1B, Hartford
- 1/8 LWVCT SIR Committee meeting, Hamden
- 1/12 LWVCT Board meeting, Hamden

February 2010

- 2/9 LWVCT Board meeting, Hamden

March 2010

- 3/9 LWVCT Board meeting, Hamden

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

Census Bureau Jobs Available

The U.S. Census Bureau is now hiring nationwide for the 2010 Census. These temporary, part-time jobs offer good pay, flexible evening and weekend hours up to 40 hours a week, and the chance to work near home. Workers are needed in almost every community. Call 1-866-861-2010 or visit www.2010censusjobs.gov to learn more.

January 7 Kick-off program

We hope that you received the recent email inviting you to our kick-off celebratory event at the Legislative Office Bldg in Hartford — and that you plan to attend!

Please see attached flyer for details about this program and others scheduled in 2010. Feel free to distribute the flyer widely at holiday gatherings, libraries, program meetings, on your websites, via email to your members, etc, and of course to friends and family.

Auction

We have a great array of items for the upcoming auction to be held from 1/27 through 2/8. Please see the list of items on our website at: <http://www.lwvct.org/events/auction-items.htm>

Please spread word about the auction, e.g., include the announcement and link on your websites, put it in your newsletters, etc.

We have extended the deadline for auction donations to 12/31/09. Remember, your League will receive 15% of the proceeds for any item that it solicited or 7.5% of proceeds if your League provided a successful lead to the Anniversary committee. Leads to the committee should include name of potential donor, contact info and item idea and can be sent to Jean Rabinow at lwvct@lwvct.org.

Public Issues Team Report

Submitted by Cheryl Dunson with

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

GOVERNMENT

Campaign Finance Reform: Urgent action needed to protect Citizens Election Program/public financing of campaigns. The risk of losing this program to funding cuts and/or political inaction is very real. Please let your voice be heard in support of Citizens' Election Fund. Please contact your legislators today.

To see our action alert, go to:

<http://www.lwvct.org/issues/action-archives/2009/Government/120909-cfr-alert.htm>

To see our testimony to preserve funding, go to:

<http://www.lwvct.org/issues/action-archives/2009/Government/120909-cfr.htm>

Election Laws Study Update The next “meeting” of the Study Committee will take place during the first 2 weeks of January. If you're interested in learning more or joining the committee, please contact Christine Horrigan at cshorrigan@optonline.net

Media Issues (Pua Ford, Specialist)

Community Access TV: To view testimony in support of maintaining some funding for Public, Educational and Government (PEG) programming, go to:

NATURAL RESOURCES

Environmental Conference: Natural Resources Director Karen Burnaska and VP Cheryl Dunson attended the 12/2/09 League of Conservation Voters environmental summit in Hartford, a meeting of statewide environmental leaders. According to legislators who spoke at the summit, “green jobs” will be a key legislative issue for 2010. The state’s grave budget situation will make it very difficult to increase spending on environmental issues that do not generate jobs or revenue.

SOCIAL POLICY

Health Care: President Jara Burnett and Reproductive Rights Specialist Birgitta Longnecker wrote to Senators Dodd and Lieberman urging them to oppose the inclusion in the senate bill of any language that is similar to the Stupak/Pitts amendment that was attached to the House legislation. See letter at: <http://www.lwvct.org/issues/action-archives/2009/Universal%20Health%20Care/111909-health-care.htm>

LWVCT has written repeatedly to Senator Lieberman urging him to support a public option, despite his vocal opposition. Jara Burnett has been trying to set up an appointment with Senator Lieberman to discuss passage of health care reform legislation.

Local League Support

Program Planning

Jara Burnett, President

Claudia Saunders, Vice-President, Program

Cheryl Dunson, Vice President, Public Issues

This is the time of the year when local Leagues begin to focus on program selection. In 2010, the grassroots will be selecting national and local program as the basis for education and action. LWVUS will be sending their program material directly to local Leagues. State program selection will take place next year.

Just a couple of reminders regarding your local program planning:

- while a program planning meeting is the preferred way of discussing and decision-making, because it actively involves members in this process, you may wish to try a breakfast, lunch or supper meeting or combine the meeting with a presentation of a local issue;
- solicit program ideas in your local bulletin; use a tear-off sheet;
- contact board members, local officials, other organizations for program suggestions;
- use program planning to encourage new members to learn about the league and for recruitment purposes.

Considerations when choosing program:

- Is this issue relevant and timely?
- Does it need government action?
- Will it have long-term impact?
- Can the League be effective on this issue?
- Is it manageable?
- Is there a group of members willing to work on this?

- Is there potential for a strong coalition?
- Will the issue gain visibility, members and support?
- Are there opportunities for education and advocacy?

Planning for National Convention 2010

The National Convention will take place from June 11-15 in Atlanta. Local League planning forms need to be filled out on line by March 1 – there are no paper forms. After March 1, the National Program Committee compiles the data, issues a report based on this information and makes recommendations to the LWVUS Board to develop the proposed program.

Obtaining information to plan for Convention:

lwv-convention@list.lwv.org -League members can use this list to discuss and/or promote National issues prior to the March 1,2010, deadline for turning in planning forms; There is a link on this site to the November 18th taped webinar on Program Planning, or see info posted at <http://www.lwv.org/convention>;
lwvtopics@yahoogroups.com is an unofficial convention website for discussion/advice and exchange of information for LWVUS Convention.

Advocating for LWVUS priorities:

If there is a position or study of particular interest to your League (for example, Fair Elections Now Acts; Climate Change Regulations; Healthcare Reforms), your league can advance advocacy priorities at the LWVUS January board meeting by e-mailing Judy Duffy, Chair of the Advocacy Committee, LWVUS, at jdufflwv@aol.com prior to January 15th.

Don't forget to review your existing positions to make sure they are still relevant. Good luck!

Membership Reminder

We're coming up on 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 how to activate, reactivate, or otherwise change the status of anyone on your membership roster, please contact the LWVCT office.

**Season's Greetings
and Best Wishes
for a Joyous New Year
from the LWVCT Board**



League of Women Voters®
of Connecticut
1890 Dixwell Avenue, Suite 203
Hamden, CT 06514-3180

90th Anniversary Celebration Exhibit

January 5th through 29th, 2010

Lower Concourse
Legislative Office Building (LOB), Hartford



You're invited to the Grand Opening!

Thursday, January 7, 2009

Program

Dr. Tracey M. Wilson
West Hartford Town Historian
2:00 pm Room 1B, LOB

Reception*

Old Judiciary Room, Capitol
 3:00 - 4:30 pm.

* Compliments of **Comcast**

RSVP: LWVCT office • 203-288-7996 or lwvct@lwvct.org



Celebrate the 90th 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. *Free*
- **Jan 7, 2010** Grand Opening of Historical Exhibit
- **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/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. 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