

LEAGUE'S LATEST

The League of Women Voters of Greater Hartford	P. O. Box 270191, West Hartford, CT 06127-0191
Mary Andrews (at large)	Elisa McCarthy (voters service)
Mary Everett (treasurer)	Beverly Miller (voters service)
Sandy Fry (email coordinator)	Carole Mulready (voters service)
Doris Hedrick (publicity)	Libby Swietek (membership)
	Marlene Wenograd (at large)

LWVGH POT LUCK SUPPER



Wednesday, September 24, 2008

6:00 pm

Lyceum Resource & Conference Center

DEVELOPMENT IN HARTFORD
Carlos Mouta, Speaker
(see inside for more details)

Bring a favorite casserole, salad or dessert. Be sure to mark your dish with your name. We will provide the drinks, plates and utensils. Please RSVP to Elisa McCarthy (523-8161 or elisamccarthy@att.net) by Wednesday, September 17. A \$5 suggested donation at the door will help us offset the cost of the space rental.

Directions to the Lyceum Resource & Conference Center
227 Lawrence Street, Hartford

Take Farmington Ave. into Hartford. Turn right at the first light past The Aetna, onto Flower Street. Cross over Capital Ave., at which point the street becomes Lawrence Street. The Lyceum is on the right about half way up the block. Ample off-street parking is available next to the building.

Convener's Letter

As you are aware your local LWV voted last spring to alter our governing structure. Instead of president, vice president etc. we moved to an executive board and a convener who calls and facilitates the meetings. Two summer meetings have been held and a third scheduled for Oct.14. Elisa McCarthy chaired the first two and Mary Andrews will be the new convener for the fall.

Libby Swietek is handling membership and is still waiting for some of your returns. The new membership book will be in your hands soon. Mary Everett continues as treasurer and thanks you for your contributions to the Finance Drive. Carol Mulready is overseeing Voter Services for West Hartford including the Voter's Guide and the Debates. These will be taped on Sept.22, 23, and 25 at Ch.5, WHCTV studios. The big news, of course, is that Voter's Guide will be largely offered online.

Beverly Miller and Elisa McCarthy are working on projects in other towns, particularly Bloomfield and Hartford. Sandy Fry continues to coordinate

Emails to membership and receives contact from other groups. She has been working for months on our new website with a professional web developer. And this newsletter is brought to you by Doris Hedrick who continues as editor. She is also handling publicity. Watch for news of our activities in newspaper event columns, West Hartford List Serve and flyers around town.

Our two fun meetings in Committee members' houses have accomplished a good deal, as you will see this fall. Beverly Miller has been hard at work keeping our voluminous minutes. And Marlene Wenograd has been "keeping us real" with her knowledge of people and events both in our League history and the whole state. She has also been out registering voters already.

So in November, Mary Andrews will be the Convener. Contact her at 521-9003 or at mary.maryandrews@gmail.com with your questions and ideas for your League.

Convener Elisa McCarthy

Mission Statement:

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

To the Members of the League of Women Voters:

WOW! I was overwhelmed by the gift presented to me by the League at the Annual Dinner last May. Thank you to everyone for your kind thoughts and your amazing generosity. My husband and I enjoyed using the gift certificate at one of the many fine restaurants in West Hartford Center. And I have received very nice acknowledgements from the Library, the Bridge, and the Central CT Bicycle Alliance for the contributions made on my behalf. Thank you so much! I have always thought that the best personal benefit of being a member of League is getting to know a wonderful variety of individuals – and our League is filled with wonderful people!

Sandy Fry

Communications

Have you recently signed up for Email or do you know a member who has? More and more, we will be using Email for communicating and we don't want you to miss out.

About the Potluck Speaker: Carlos Mouta

Carlos was born to Portuguese parents in Mozambique in southeast Africa, then a Portuguese colony. The family moved to Parkville in 1975, when Carlos was 14. He starred in soccer at Hartford Public High School, graduated from Central Connecticut State University and went to work for The Courant's circulation department. When he didn't get a promotion he wanted (we've all been there, buddy), he left and went into property management, and then to The Hartford's commercial real estate department.

He lived across the street from the former Columbia Bicycle factory on Park Street. With his partners, Mouta now owns the building, along with most of the other major commercial buildings in Parkville.

Meanwhile, he was buying small buildings and fixing them up. In the downturn of the late 1980s and early 1990s, he kept paying his mortgages. This endeared him to bankers, who began offering to sell him buildings they'd foreclosed on. When the price was right, he bought. Soon he was working for himself, out of a tiny office behind a doughnut shop he owned on Prospect Avenue.

The rest is a matter of record. Mouta and his partners own 600 apartments and condominiums and 1.1 million square feet of commercial and industrial space, including virtually all the major commercial buildings in Parkville.

His office is in a former Columbia Bicycle factory on which he is completing a renovation, and which houses a terrific restaurant he co-owns, O'Porto. The building has gorgeous beams and wood floors, and loft offices in front. One is occupied by an engineer Oscar Santo Domingo. "There just aren't buildings like this anymore," he said.

"People love the older buildings," said Mouta. He owns the grand white building at 1429 Park St., once home of the Hartford Rubber Co., which attracted Design Source Ct, a stunning space. Barca, a Portuguese restaurant, recently opened there. With that, R.L. Fisher next door, Lyman Kitchens and new firms moving in, Mouta hopes to turn the area into a design district. He's building 56 huge loft apartments in the white building.

Do you have any questions to ask Carlos? Please send them to Doris Hedrick, gamihedrick@comcast.net or at 799 Prospect Avenue, A-6, West Hartford, CT 06105 by September 17th. That way he can tailor his speech to our interests.

CONNECTICUT LWV CONVENTION

The June 7 State Convention was attended by Marlene Wenograd and Elisa McCarthy for the Greater Hartford group. It's always a pleasure to talk to the like minded, and we picked up some good ideas. These are samples of other locals' ideas - see what you think

- Wilton does a "Hot Topic" program with the Library and they send confirmation letters to new voters, including a Guide to Elected Officials.
- Ridgefield ran student elections and did advertising for alternate power sources
- Litchfield co-sponsored a House Tour to raise their visibility.
- Greenwich supplied greeters at polling places.
- Fairfield did Voter Registration at a town parade

Do any of these sound like something you might like to work on?

Also considered at the meeting were CT proposals to be presented at the National Convention, all interesting and all attempting to send power to the grass roots. For example, a change to allow Local league board members to serve on the US resolutions committee. And that "all resolutions ...shall be presented to the delegates."

The next League's Latest will share impressions of the National Convention.

Good Things Happening

On Saturday, Aug. 16, as members of the League of Women Voters of Greater Hartford, we set up a voter registration table at a festival outside the New Life Worship Center on Mather Street in Hartford's North End. We were delighted to register 18 new voters.

We were also pleased to have the opportunity to observe a vibrant community of church members and neighborhood people enjoying a delightful (and free) afternoon.

FOR OP-EDS ONLINE, GO TO WWW

Pastor William Cordera, his family and others provided musical entertainment on religious themes, a large inflatable bounce house for small children to jump in, tables of used clothing for adults and youngsters, bags of new school supplies, a full lunch, a few prayers and an inspiring sermon welcoming everyone.

Adults socialized, children played and everyone enjoyed the beautiful weather. We witnessed family life, love, caring, cooperation and goodwill.

At one point, a dark cloud that had lingered above us for a while moved on, returning us to a perfectly blue sky. We felt truly blessed. Good things are happening in the city of Hartford.

MARLENE WENOGRAD
ELISA MCCARTHY
BEATRICE BELL
West Hartford

Voter Registration

See how rewarding registering voters can be!!!

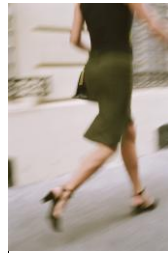
Compliments of The Hartford Courant

Volunteers Needed

- We still need volunteers for Voter Registration at the Hartford Libraries on October 2.
- Could you help pass out materials BEFORE the Park Road Parade on October 4? It would be mid morning. Contact Elisa McCarthy or Beverly Miller.

Look For the Voters Guide On-Line!!

The League is joining the 21st Century and the Voters Guide will be published on our new website with minimal copies available at the libraries, Town Hall and Senior Centers. Stay tuned for the publishing date.



RUNNING IN HIGH HEELS

A film documentary on the differences between what women say and do in politics and the factors that may result in their under representation in American political life.

When: Thursday, October 30 at 7 PM
Where: Hoffman Auditorium of the Carol Autorino Center
St. Joseph College campus, West Hartford

This is a cooperative program, sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Greater Hartford and St. Joseph College. Following the film, St. Joe's students will lead a facilitated discussion.

Poll Reporting

It has been a number of years since a news organization has requested that our League provide reporting from individual precincts. BUT, this year is different. The AP would like us to report from all precincts in West Hartford and Hartford, and to report from several town halls. The League will receive payment for each polling place that we cover, which is a great help to our budget.

Election night reporting is a lot of fun; it truly immerses you in the democratic process! Mary Andrews (521-9003 or mary.maryandrews@gmail.com) will be lining up the poll reporters, so please reply to her if you would like to help. Let her know if you can cover a Hartford poll (this will be our biggest challenge) or if you would prefer a West Hartford location. If you are already scheduled to work at a poll during the election, you may be able to report also (as long as you do not have any responsibility for the actual counting and recording.) You need to have a cell phone. Your work will begin when the poll closes. You will be given plenty of instruction on what needs to be done. And you will enjoy taking part!

Right now we are trying to understand how many volunteers we can muster so that we can let the AP know. So please reply ASAP to let Mary know if you can help.

Thanks!
Sandy Fry

Forum on Education

Hosted by the Citizens Network of the Capital Region and co-sponsored by the LWVGH and many other organizations, this session will address the State Department of Education's proposal to increase high school graduation requirements for all Connecticut students. The forum will include presentations on the proposal and how other states have instituted similar programs plus a panel discussion with representatives from education, workforce, and business organizations. The meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 7 from 3:00 pm – 6:00 pm, Room 2C, Legislative Office Building.

Pictures from the Annual Meeting



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF GREATER HARTFORD
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WEST HARTFORD, CT 06127-0191

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CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

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| Wednesday, September 24 | Pot Luck Supper, Lyceum (see front page) |
| Thursday, October 2 | Voter Registration at Hartford Libraries – volunteers needed |
| Tuesday, October 7 | Forum on Education from 3:00 pm – 6:00 pm, Room 2C, Legislative Office Building (see inside for details) |
| Saturday, October 4 | Park Road Parade – volunteers needed to distribute literature |
| Thursday, October 30 | Running in High Heels, St. Joseph College (details inside) |
| Tuesday, November 4 | Election Day
Poll Reporting |