



***League of Women Voters of Greater Hartford
2010 – 2011 Annual Meeting
May 24, 2011***

Pond House, Elizabeth Park

Welcome

Dinner

***Guest Speaker
Denise Merrill
Secretary of the State***

Topic

Election Issues and Voting in the Future

Business Meeting

Announcements
Credentials Report
Annual Report
Minutes
Treasurer's Report
Proposed Budget
Re-adoption of Current Consensus Positions
Proposed Program
Nominations
Other Business
Adjournment

Executive Committee

		<u>Term Ends</u>
Chairwoman/Voter Service	Carole Mulready	2011
Communications	Sandra Fry	2011
Secretary	Mary Andrews	2011
	Beverly Miller	2011
Treasurer	Mary Everett	2011
Membership Records	Elizabeth Swietek	2011
Program Study	Elisa McCarthy	2011
Special Projects	Marlene Wenograd	2011

Credentials Report

Number of members present _____

There is/is not a quorum _____

Programs

Regionalism was the topic chosen for local program. A period of economic belt tightening would seem the perfect time for Regional Sharing of governmental services. However, we have discovered that it is not that easy. Differences in town plans, calendars, and attitudes toward change hinder such attempts. Our group tried to follow existing programs and relevant state legislative action hoping to make a presentation of findings by the end of the year.

We offered two presentations this year. **Elisa McCarthy** and **Sandy Fry** coordinated arrangements with the speakers. The fall pot luck dinner at the Lyceum featured speakers State Senator Jonathan Harris and Lyle Wray, Executive Director of the Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG). Together they made clear what has been and could be accomplished especially in mass purchasing, personnel training, and addressing regional problems. The second public meeting featured town manager Ron Van Winkle who gave us a broad view of shared services in the Greater Hartford area. Connecticut's history, the end of the county system and 169 towns all discourage sharing while new means of communication and higher costs should encourage it. He gave examples of difficulties that are raised when considering shared services such as police, schools, and phone banks. For success, the bottom line is there must be local willingness to give up autonomy. Very difficult in the "land of steady habits".

League Events and Activities

Pot Luck

Pot Luck Supper 2010 was held on November 9, 2010. Lyle Wray, and state senator Jonathan Harris spoke on the what, why, and how of regionalism. The event was held at the Lyceum and all those in attendance enjoyed the array of food offerings, pleasant conversation during dinner, and thought provoking presentations followed by a period for Q&A. Members and others may view the discussion taped by WHC-TV by going to www.whctv.org and go to Streaming Videos on the home page. Click on Video On Demand, then scroll down alphabetically to League of Women Voters for the selections available.

Wine and Cheese Reception:

The annual LWVGH Wine and Cheese Reception for elected officials was held on Dec. 5th at the home of Carole and Joe Mulready. It was well attended by league members, including several from the Windsor League. As usual, the food was delicious and the conversation lively. **Jean Blair** prepared and sent out the invitations, **Mary Andrews** coordinated the food, and Carole and Joe Mulready were exceptional hosts. [photo: Town councilor Steve Adler, BOE Chair Clare Kindall, Mary Everett]



Legislative Breakfast

The Legislative Breakfast was held on January 8 at Trinity Episcopal Church, Hartford. State senators and representatives attending were Beth Bye, John Fonfara and David Baram. **Jean Blair** and **Mary Andrews** handled the invitations, **Carol Hamilton** prepared and served delicious refreshments, and the moderator for the discussion was **Jan Bruner**. The summary of the discussion was sent to LWVCT for the Public Issues team to use during the legislative session.

Marching in Their Footsteps

The DVD *Marching in Their Footsteps* is a commentary made from 90th Anniversary display prepared by the LWVGH. It was **Carole Mulready's** idea to do the DVD, **Margot Callahan** did the camera work for West Hartford Public



Television, and **Elisa McCarthy** narrated. One hour of tape was later turned into 35 minutes of program meticulously edited by **Pamela Topolska**, a WHC-TV intern from University of Hartford. It was shown several times on Channel 5 last fall.

Both LWVCT and LWVGH contributed money for copies to be made. They have gone to local Leagues which have booked the display, several libraries and museums. It was looped during the entire 90th Anniversary celebration at the Marriott in Greenwich and more requests followed. It is in the Secretary of State's office and in the hands of high school and college teachers to be shown to U.S. history and Women's Studies classes. It won a 2010-2011 communication award from LWVCT at the May 21, 2011 State Convention held at the Graduate Club in New Haven.

Marching in Their Footsteps is still on the move a year and a half later. If you have missed it and would like to borrow a copy, contact Elisa McCarthy at 860- 523-8161. [photo: Elisa with LWVCT President Cheryl Dunson]

LWVGH: A Conversation with League Leaders

In keeping with the 90th Anniversary celebration of the LWV, we thought it would be a good idea to have something to mark the anniversary that demonstrated our League's strength and contributions over the years to the community. Since there have been so many local women who have gained knowledge and skills through LWV and then gone on to use those skills beyond League meetings, an hour long show was proposed to WHC-TV to capture some of the accomplishments and fun our members have had through the 20th century. As you can well imagine, narrowing the field was a challenge. Finally, after numerous conversations, the group of five and a host were chosen. Member **Tracey Wilson**, West Hartford historian, served as host to **Mims Butterworth, Catherine Reynolds, Nan Streeter, Brita Tate, and Kathy Golas**. Each brought a perspective that made for an interesting conversation - including McCarthyism, the CT bottle bill, and the special development district of Blue Back Square. Look for the show in June on WHC-TV and its on demand options using your computer.

Book Discussions

Two book discussions were held at the Noah Webster Library.

Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women World Wide

By: Nicholas D. Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn

The authors argue that the oppression of women in (mostly) developing countries is a devastating and under-recognized injustice that's the equivalent of slavery, and that demands a moral and political movement as focused and principled as the campaign against slavery to bring it to an end.

The Woman Behind the New Deal: The life of Frances Perkins, FDR'S Secretary of Labor and His Moral Conscience By **Kirstin Downey**

One of Franklin Delano Roosevelt's closest friends and the first female secretary of labor, Perkins capitalized on the president's political savvy and popularity to enact most of the Depression-era programs that are today considered essential parts of the country's social safety network.

Communication

In 2010-2011, your League minimized mailings and moved into an almost (almost!) paperless system of communication. We send brief email communications to all members and a list of interested parties on a regular basis. Notices go out to inform members of our League's events and the events of the state League and other local Leagues, events sponsored by other organizations that might be of interest to our members, and calls to action. Our website is updated on a regular basis. If you haven't had a look at it lately, please explore it, and give your feedback to **Sandy Fry** at plsmfry@ntplx.net. The website is an essential tool in letting prospective members and other interested parties know what we do.

When the decision was made to stop printing a monthly newsletter for LWVGH and to rely instead upon e-mail and our website, some of us were concerned about those who did not have such access. **Marlene Wenograd** undertook the role of keeping communications open for this segment of League members. The Board is most grateful to her for her efforts in this regard. Marlene reports that she would periodically "phone people and have a nice chat". In addition, three or four times Marlene and **Elisa McCarthy** composed a letter about coming activities and used "snail mail". They had feedback that members were most appreciative.

Another method of communication for League members and the general public is LWVGH and WHC-TV's **Legislative Update, a live call-in show**, which is taped monthly during the legislative session. After several years of taking full

responsibility for the show, Sandy Fry had a conflict with the proposed schedule; consequently, a new model was developed for the role of program host. Each month had a different moderator, and it worked very well. Volunteer moderators were **Ilze Krisst, Kathy Wilson, Deb Polun, Carole Mulready and Sandy Fry**. These tapings can also be viewed by going to the WHC-TV website and choosing Videos on Demand and then go alphabetically to "L".

Celebrate! West Hartford is another way we are communicating with the public. Members volunteer to staff the booth and be in touch with the public and lots of friends, present and past. June 2010 was enjoyable. We are there for 2011, too.

We urge you to communicate your thoughts and positions through LWVCT and LWVCT **Action Alerts** which are sent out during State and Federal legislative sessions. Every message does make a difference according to our legislators.

Voter Service

In West Hartford, the Voters Guide and televised debates for state representatives were again our major focus. The August session of question preparation for both activities was led by **Nancy Rion** who later edited the suggested questions which were wide ranging. The Questions Meeting is a key part of our success with debates. The number of questions and the depth and breadth of them makes it easier to respond to requests to moderate and plan debates.

Carole Mulready coordinated the debates for the **18th, 19th 20th and State Senate** districts. **Jan Bruner, Janet Lenore, Danna Dyer, and Deb Polun** served as moderators aided by an able contingent of League timers- Vicki Albert, Kathy Wilson, Margo Callahan, Kathy Golas, Kathleen Keegan, Libby Sweitek, Nan Streeter, Leah Bronner, and Jean Blair. A special thanks to Jennifer Evans executive director and Jitu Huntley at WHC-TV; the tapings went seamlessly.

We were also very fortunate to be able to hold a live audience debate for the **1st Congressional** race with John Larson (D), Ann Brickley (R), Ken Krayske (G), and Christopher Hutchinson (SA) in cooperation with WHC-TV. The town auditorium served as the debate site. This made taping the debate for later showings possible as well as the live streaming that night. WHC-TV offered the tapes to other jurisdictions in the 1st District to show on their access TV. The night proved to be a real display of the democratic process with major and minor parties included. There were noisy, though orderly, demonstrations outside the auditorium on Main Street by about 150 candidate supporters. Our West Hartford undercover police were present when it became clear there were going to be a large number of people in attendance. The final estimate was over 300 people, every chair filled. Fortunately, there were no serious problems. Rich Monterosso, (Mary Andrews' spouse) took care of one person who was not following proper protocol. Candidate timers were **Margo Callahan, Carolyn Malon**, Kathleen Carroll (Windsor), and **Mary Everett**, and moderator of the debate was **Nan Streeter**, who did a fine job. Ushers were needed for this event which we knew had the potential to have a large turnout. Since we share the 1st District with Windsor, the Windsor –North Central League worked with us to provide support as timers and ushers. Kathleen Carroll, Marilyn Boehm, Rosemary O'Connell, and Pat Reardon came from Windsor to join our LWVGH ushers **Mary Andrews**, Rich Monterosso, and **Elisa McCarthy**.

Our League was asked to put on a debate for Connecticut State Assembly District 16, Simsbury, on October 13, 2010. Carole Mulready made the arrangements, sent out the format to candidates, coordinated with Simsbury public access TV, and served as moderator. This was a live debate with an audience at Eno Hall. Elisa McCarthy joined LWV Windsor North Central members to time the candidates.

LWVGH also moderated a debate at Duncaster for Bloomfield representatives at the request of member Katie Reynolds. It was well attended and taped by Bloomfield Public Access.

LWVGH also was asked to organize two primary debates as a result of having a booth at Celebrate! West Hartford in June 2010. Members also assisted citizens with the mail-in voter registration cards at the booth that weekend.

Voters Guide for West Hartford was published by West Hartford LIFE and delivered to every home in West Hartford. The guide was also posted on our website www.lwvgh.org. The Finance Drive is the major support for the printed version of *Voters Guide* which has many fans throughout West Hartford. Additional supporters are needed. Your suggestions for businesses and individuals who value the work of the League and the *Voters Guide* are appreciated. Send names and addresses to Mary Everett at everettmf@comcast.net.

This year, thanks to the generosity of **Becky Lamont** and her law firm, Goodman, Rosenthal & McKenna, we were able to publish the 2011 Guide to Elected Officials. **Mary Everett** took charge of making sure we had the updated information. She had help from Mary Andrews and Carole Mulready. It can also be found on the LWVGH website.

LWVGH was approached in August of 2010 by The Associated Press to conduct poll reporting again. League members covered seven towns: Avon, Bloomfield, Farmington, Hartford, Newington, West Hartford, and Wethersfield. We are grateful to **Beverly Miller** and her son Mr. Ferry, **Mary Andrews** and Rich Monterosso, **Kiki Eglinton**, **Margo Callahan**, **Patricia Groves**, **Mary Everett**, **Ginny Jordan** and **Carole Mulready** for their efforts on election night which earned our League over \$1000. Thank you!

Thanks to Sandy Fry, we are staying connected to *Hartford Votes* which is running lots of programs for voters at the Hartford Public Library. We could use an additional member to help represent the LWVGH as your schedule allows and be part of the coalition. Last fall, the group had every major state candidate at one forum or another. Please contact Sandy at plsmfry@ntplx.net

Membership Report

For the 2010-11 year, LWVGH had 94 members, 11 of whom were Lifetime members(50+ years).

This year we welcome Marlene Wenograd and Ann Steele to this elite group.

New members include John Molson, and Ana Lachelier.

Finance Drive

The finance drive raised \$1,625.00 for the LWVGH and \$1,175.00 for the LWV Education fund. Our solicitation list is outdated and **we need some new sources**. 2011 is a local election and the cost for the Voters Guide will be higher as there are more candidates; consequently, more pages to print.

Net Worth - As of 5/17/2011

LWV of Greater Hartford

Account

ASSETS

Cash and Bank Accounts	
CD 3 Month	0
Checking	3,759.03
In-Kind Contributions	0
Savings	0
LWV CT Education Fund	0
LWVUS Education Fund	389.45
Post Office	0
TOTAL Cash and Bank Accounts	4,148.48
TOTAL ASSETS	4,148.48

LIABILITIES

Other Liabilities	
PMPs	0
TOTAL Other Liabilities	0
TOTAL LIABILITIES	0

OVERALL TOTAL	4,148.48
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Budget				
Income	Proposed 10/11	Actual 10/11	Proposed 11/12	
LWVGH				
Balance forward	2000.00	2776.91	3000.00	
From Finance Drive (to LWVGH only)	2000.00	1775.00	2000.00	
(Donations to ED Fund)	1200*	1175*	1200*	
From Dues	4400.00	4705.00	4400.00	
Other - Poll Reporting		1550.00	0.00	
Annual Meeting (in and out)	1500.00	1140.00	1500.00	
Pot Luck	75.00	103.00	100.00	
Memorial Contributions				
Other/Guide to Elected Officials		212.00		
LWVUS Voter Service	1000.00	1200.00	1200.00	
TOTAL LWVGH INCOME	10975.00	14661.91	12200.00	
Expenses	Proposed 10/11	Actual 10/11	Proposed 11/12	
PROGRAM/EVENTS				
ANNUAL MEETING				
Expenses				
(In and Out)	1800.00	1571.10	1800.00	
PROGRAMS/EVENTS/PROJECTS	100.00	360.00	100.00	
LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST	50.00		50.00	
POT LUCK	100.00	250.00	250.00	
RECEPTION FOR ELECTED OFFICIALS	200.00	118.15	200.00	
ACTION				
VOTER SERVICE				
GUIDE TO ELECTED OFFICIALS	200.00	212.00	200.00	
VOTER GUIDE	2000.00	1875.00	2500.00	
LWV PUBLICATIONS	200.00		200.00	
CIVIC ENGAGEMENT PROJECTS	250.00	296.00	300.00	
ADMIN				
SUPPLIES	200.00	165.17	200.00	
BANK		3.00		
POSTAGE/BULK MAIL/MAILBOX	500.00	415.85	500.00	
PRINTING	400.00	231.36	400.00	
WEB DESIGN	260.00	81.25	200.00	
PMP				
STATE	1500.00	1579.50	1500.00	
US - Paid from Checking	2600.00	2771.50	2600.00	
US - Paid from US Ed Fund				
CONTRIBUTIONS/GIFTS	100.00		100.00	
CONVENTIONS	500.00	129.00	500.00	
TOTAL LWVGH EXPENSES	10960.00	10058.88	11600.00	
LWVUS Ed Fund Account	Proposed 10/11	Actual 10/11	Proposed 11/12	
Starting Balance	364.45	389.45	364.45	
Contributions				
From Finance Drive	1200.00	1175.00	1200.00	
Other				
Voter Service Grants	-1200.00	-1200.00	-1200.00	
Ending Balance	364.45	364.45	364.45	

PMP State = \$16.50
PMP US = \$30.00
Total PMP = \$46.50

LOCAL PROGRAM CONSENSUS STATEMENTS

PROGRAM ITEMS FOR REAFFIRMATION MAY 2011

EDUCATION, May 2006

The League of Women Voters of Greater Hartford supports EQUAL and EQUITABLE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL CHILDREN in the areas of program, personnel, and facilities. All students should be offered high quality and developmentally appropriate learning opportunities in a welcoming and multicultural environment that reflects economic, ethnic and racial diversity.

Children learn at different rates, have different learning styles and different life experiences; therefore, to facilitate development of each child's full potential we support and encourage:

Flexible methods of instruction in all areas of curriculum that address student differences and assure growth at every level;

An ongoing program of curriculum evaluation and improvement;

Class size that enables effective teaching and learning, and sufficient additional support for classrooms which include highly impacted special needs children;

Use of the best available local, state, and national data and research to drive decision-making in order to address student needs and improve student learning;

Development of technology competency in all students through incorporation of technology applications wherever appropriate throughout the curriculum;

Comprehensive programs that include, in addition to core academic disciplines, foreign language; career and technical education; fine and performing arts; wellness, nutrition and physical education; and extra-curricular activities;

Preparation of students to actively participate in the civic and political life of the community and the global economy;

A substantive and qualitatively different gifted program for grades one through twelve;

Exposure to possible career opportunities at all levels of education; such exposure should include opportunities such as mentoring, job shadowing, internships, cooperative work experience;

Access to high-quality pre-school programs that meet the needs of children and their families so that children come to school (K-12) prepared to learn.

In order to maintain a high quality staff we support:

Appropriate training and state certification for all educators in the areas in which they teach and supervise;

Curriculum and staff evaluation programs that incorporate specific, measurable criteria of performance and effectiveness;

A strong, ongoing staff improvement program which includes opportunities from outside of the school system as well as from within;

An appropriately computer-literate staff;

Structured programs (using all relevant data) to assist staff in assessing student progress, with a goal of improving both teaching and learning;

Effective, ongoing supervision and evaluation of all teachers, principals and administrators (tenured and non-tenured);

Innovative utilization of all staff whenever and wherever possible, to maximize student learning and experiences.

Children need an appropriate, safe and orderly facility in which to learn. Therefore we support:

Well-maintained school buildings with spaces appropriate to the programs offered, flexible classrooms, and sufficient classroom and building supplies;

Infrastructure to support the integration of technology into teaching, learning, and administration;

Relevant and up-to-date texts and media centers;

A safe environment for students, teachers and families, one in which self-discipline, personal responsibility and respect for others are taught, modeled and encouraged.

Recognizing that education begins in the home and that the community plays an integral role in the successful education of its children, we encourage:

Schools, families, and community to assume supportive and cooperative roles in meeting the needs of children, including pre-school for 3 to 5 year olds; parent education; home- school partnerships; school- business partnerships; and before and after school extended day programs;

A shared role for all in addressing and meeting the challenges of funding.

Reaffirmed May 2010

TOWN GOVERNMENT:

COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING FOR TOWN GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT, May, 1985

The League of Women Voters of West Hartford continues to support long-range comprehensive planning which protects orderly growth. The League wishes to preserve the suburban character of the Town, while recognizing that optimal use of commercial areas is necessary for economic well-being. We support a diversity of dwellings, including multi-family units, located in areas which provide ease in shopping and access to public transportation. Special attention should be given to traffic safety, adequate parking, provision for open space, and buffering.

The League favors preservation of as much open space land as is realistically possible, and places priority for acquisition in the most densely developed sections of town. We support diligent maintenance and the judicious use of open space. The Town Plan of Development should include an open space plan.

The League believes that the properties in West Hartford Center could generate more revenue for the Town. At present, Town Center properties are under-utilized from both a physical and economic standpoint. The League supports an easing of the four-story height restriction in the Center, taking into account topographical conditions, adjacent residential neighborhoods, esthetic considerations, traffic patterns, and parking.

In order to accommodate commercial growth, increased parking demands must be satisfied. The current method of granting case-by-case exceptions does not promote orderly development. The League suggests a variety of approaches, such as:

- Making better use of existing surface parking
- Providing separate parking for Center employees
- Encouraging flexibility of parking requirements which restrict building expansion
- Developing new schemes for sharing off-site parking
- Building a parking garage located away from residential areas, serving all businesses equally, and integrated unobtrusively into the commercial district. The primary financial responsibility for a parking garage should not be borne by residential property owners.

The League supports mixed-use buildings, with retail establishments on street level and office space or residential units above.

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Reaffirmed May 2010

SPECIAL DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT, Spring 1986

The West Hartford League of Women Voters supports the concept of the Special Development District as a means of allowing flexibility in land development while maintaining strict control over it. Since 1979 when the acreage limitation was eliminated in the ordinance, Special Development Districts have often been used on small developments located in what have become buffer or mixed-use areas of town. The League feels that such use of Special Development Districts should be minimized. By revising and updating the town's zoning ordinances, new zone districts can be created which would protect community interests in these mixed-use areas.

The League feels the procedure for applying for and obtaining a Special Development District designation should be modified to encourage interaction between the developer and the affected community interests before the Council receives the formal petition. Such modification should not attempt to simplify the application and approval process; instead, its purpose should be to eliminate some of the problems which prolong the process.

The League also feels that a distinction should be made in the Special Development ordinance between minor and major changes in established Special Development Districts. The procedure for a minor change should be simplified, but notification to the public and opportunity for public input should be required in the process.

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Reaffirmed May 2010

MENTAL HEALTHCARE, Spring 2003

We support comprehensive community-based mental health systems for children and adults. These systems should include early detection and intervention with a range of services to facilitate recovery.

We support a public health education initiative on mental health.

Reaffirmed May 2010

RECOMMENDED LOCAL LEAGUE PROGRAMS 2010-2011

For Study:

Participate in the National Study on education providing there is sufficient interest. [National has not done the questions yet, but expected soon.] The deadline is November 30th.

Suggested projects:

Work in cooperation with members of LWV-Windsor North Central and LWVCT to educate and register students and provide mock elections to a Hartford high school. Consider similar in other LWVGH towns where there is interest. Partner with history and/or civics teachers, student activities personnel, PTOs and others to “model” civic volunteering and the importance of being informed about our right and duty to vote to high school students.

Participate in a membership development training program sponsored and paid for by LWVUS with support from LWVCT.

PROPOSED GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

Operate with an Executive Committee:

- The Executive Committee will include a treasurer, a membership chair, an email coordinator, a Voter Service Committee

Nominations

- Proposed slate of the Executive Committee and assignments:
 - Carole Mulready (chair/voter service)
 - Mary Andrews (secretary)
 - Beverly Miller (secretary)
 - Mary Everett (treasurer)
 - Sandy Fry (email coordinator and website content)
 - Elisa McCarthy (at-large)
 - Libby Swietek (membership)
 - Marlene Wenograd (outreach to membership)

Focus and activities for the year:

- Voter Service- Voters Guide for W.H.; sponsor debates; voter service in high schools
- A finance drive will be conducted to support Voters Guide
- Hold a Pot luck supper in September
- Hold an elected officials reception in December
- Hold an annual meeting and dinner in May
- Distribute information electronically via e-mail and our website
- Publish League’s Latest if possible
- Hold program meetings as warranted

Collaborate with other Leagues

- Coordinate activities throughout the year with the Windsor League and New Britain when interests merge.