

# GREENWICH VOTER



www.lwvg.org

SEPTEMBER 2015

## From the Steering Committee

Dear Friends,

The political season in Greenwich is heating up and your Greenwich League has been working hard over the summer to provide the electorate with the unbiased information they will need to make their decisions in November.

We have planned debates with candidates for First Selectman, Selectmen and Tax Collector. This year there will be an opportunity for the candidates for the Board of Assessment Appeals to introduce themselves prior to the Tax Collector debate. In addition, the *Voter's Guide* will appear as

an insert to the *Greenwich Time* and will be on our website.

Please encourage your friends and family to attend our programs. These local elections are meaningful and there are more choices than ever.

Our popular *Cocktails and Conversation* series will kick off with State Representative Caroline Simmons on Wednesday, September 16. This is a wonderful, interactive opportunity as her presentation will be followed by a Question and Answer period.

Our membership renewal drive is in full swing. Please save us

valuable time and money by going to our website [www.lwvg.org](http://www.lwvg.org) or drop a check in the mail. We truly appreciate your help and support.

Looking forward to seeing you soon!



Caroline Adkins, Cyndy Anderson and Jara Burnett

## The League of Women Voters of Greenwich *invites you to...*

### **"Cocktails and Conversation"** with State Representative Caroline Simmons

A Greenwich native, Representative Simmons was elected in 2014 to represent the 144th District in Stamford. Ms. Simmons holds a BA from Harvard University ('08) and an MA from George Washington University's Elliot School for International Affairs ('11). She has worked for the Department of Homeland Security as well as for Stamford's Women's Business Development Council. We look forward to her comments on a wide range of topics, to be followed by Q&A.

**Wednesday**  
**September 16**  
**5:30 - 7:00 PM**

Riverside Yacht Club  
102 Club Road, Riverside

Please RSVP to Jill Oberlander at  
[JillKOberlander@gmail.com](mailto:JillKOberlander@gmail.com)  
or 917-685-0181

Guests of Members Welcome

## **Town of Greenwich 375th Anniversary Parade**

The League of Women Voters of Greenwich is looking forward to marching in the 375th Anniversary Parade on Sunday, September 27, from 2:00 to 4:00 pm. Check our website, [www.lwvg.org](http://www.lwvg.org), for details on how you can participate!

## League of Women Voters of Greenwich 2015-2016 Board of Officers and Directors

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*LWVG 2015-2016 Board, from left: front row – Caroline Adkins, Susie Baker, Maryann Ramos; second row – Jara Burnett, Jill Oberlander, Hillary McGuire, Nancy Aborn Duffy; third row – Elizabeth van Caloen, Elise Hingson, Deidre Kamlani, Mary Ann Henry; back row: Joanne Stavrou, Marla Laney, Cyndy Anderson, Nancy Cooper Duus, Sue McCalley. Not pictured: Julie Faryniarz, Anne Maletta*

## New State Budget Tracking Tool

A new online tool from the Office of the State Comptroller allows you to see if state spending and revenue are on track with the budget. For the first time, you can easily search branches of government by department, fund and line-item to make those comparisons.

This tool allows you to:

- Easily understand budget documents
- Interactively explore the approved budget
- See budget and spending trends for line items or higher level categories
- Download raw data sets

If you want to give it a try, visit [openbudget.ct.gov](http://openbudget.ct.gov). This is one of the ways we can hold state leaders accountable. We encourage you to take a look.

## IN MEMORIAM

The League of Women Voters of Greenwich mourns the death of Dorothy Ann “Dodie” Blanche. She was a past President of the Greenwich League and also a Mary Award winner. She was the League Specialist on Campaign Finance Reform, and she was revered by both sides of the aisle. We cherish her many contributions to the League and to our community.

# Report from the LWVCT Convention – June 6 – New Haven

Forty-one League members from 17 Leagues attended Convention. The business of convention included the Presidents' report, election of the proposed slate, approval of the LWVCT budget for 2015-16, adoption of program and reports from the Action chair of the past session and a Membership and League Services report.

Program recommendations included a restudy of the Campaign Finance Reform position (committee mostly in place) and a minor tweak of the Water Resources position (no committee as yet). Gloria Bent

was elected President – so far, no co-President has been found. Judy Dolphin remains on the board as co-VP of Communications.

The highlight of the morning session was the talk by Deirdre MacNab, retiring President of the Florida League. (Our delegation strongly supported her election to LWVUS President at the 2014 LWVUS Convention.) Her topic dealt with how she revitalized the Florida League and made it into a true go-to organization in her state.

Many of her recommendations are already in place here in Greenwich. Her major points were:

Change your attitude/culture; innovate, accept new ideas proposed and put the proponents of new programs to work; there is no such thing as a not-League-like program;

Form a speakers bureau; offer speakers to all clubs, Newcomers, PTAs, garden clubs, art societies, church groups, etc.

Give yourselves challenges; e.g. double your membership program; set high goals, monitor progress, evaluate what worked; local leagues should be prepared to organize events of community interest at short notice, join with like-minded but also with not like-minded groups. Issue advocacy is a great vehicle, litigation should not be avoided.

Reach out to a wide constituency often; have extensive Constant Contact lists: members, friends, supporters, PR, coalition members, etc., and send frequent updates and communications with a provocative subject line to encourage open rate.

Diversity is key: age groups, gender, party affiliation. Do not be afraid to reach across the aisle.

Finally, solid financial footing is a must. Create a challenge grant opportunity, form a group of high donors and celebrate them.

A very inspiring presentation!

The afternoon session centered on the LEW (League Easy Web) presentation. The LWVCT is migrating to this platform as soon as possible and a limited start up website will be up soon.

## ★ OCTOBER DEBATES ★

Invitations have been sent to candidates for the following contested races:

### October 8

Town Hall Cone Room: 7 to 8:15 pm

#### TAX COLLECTOR

As there is an unexpected race for the office of **BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS**, candidates were invited to introduce themselves preceding the Tax Collector debate.

Kay Maxwell will moderate.

### October 15

Town Hall Meeting Room: 7:30 to 9 pm

#### SELECTMEN

immediately followed by

#### FIRST SELECTMAN

Jean Rabinow will moderate.

### October 27 (tentative date)

Central Middle School (tentative location)

#### BOE FORUM with PTA COUNCIL

Jara Burnett will moderate.

Coverage by Channel 79 has been requested for all debates.



# *Annual Meeting – June 3 – with Kevin Lembo, State Comptroller*



*Top left: Dita Bhargava, Liz van Caloen, Deirdre Kamlani; right: Joan Faust, Libby Cryer, Louisa Stone, Katherine Prokop. Second row left: Susie Baker, Marian Nolan, Maryann Ramos; right: Marge Curtis, Beth Krumeich, Michele Kinner, Janet Kirwan. Third row left: Barbara O'Shea, Jennifer Dayton; center: Keynote Speaker Kevin Lembo; right: Martha Carlson, Kevin Lembo, Laura Erickson, Larry Simon. Fourth row left: Leslie Petrick, Jill Oberlander; right: Donna Moffly, Jack Moffly, Kathleen Schmalz. Bottom left: Ty Anderson, Tom Mullaney, Arthur Wichman, Andy Duus; right: Joanne Stavrou, Claudette Rothman, Sue McCalley, Lindsey Culbertson*

## Legislative Picnic – July 14

The 2015 LWVG Annual Legislative Picnic was held under an outdoor tent at the shore-front home of Nancy and Andy Duus. Over 55 people were in attendance!

All of our legislators, except for newly-elected Mike Bocchino, expressed frustration in what they felt was a recent rise of uncompromising arguments and partisan polarization. Livvy Floren judged this past session as her worst legislative experience in her fifteen years in office. However, she was proud of what they were able to accomplish with new bonding initiatives which have benefits across the board.

State Senator Scott Frantz focused on transportation issues and what Connecticut needs to do to keep our budget sound. He considers some of the highway spending proposals unrealistic. Our budget is not under control. Spending and off-balance sheet item growth are increasing faster than we can handle. Our fiscal control looks poor relative to many other states. Raising taxes scares away business. Employers such as GE will not be patient forever. We need people to better understand fiscal matters so we can improve them.

Representative Fred Camillo was frustrated at how items get added to a bill, often at the last minute, without



*From left: Representatives Livvy Floren and Fred Camillo, Senator Scott Frantz, Representative Mike Bocchino*

giving legislators adequate time to review them. He was particularly proud of Emily's Law and the renaming of the Mianus Bridge for late Selectman, David Theis.

Mike Bocchino serves on the Energy and Technology, Higher Education, Employment Advancement and Children committees which all have importance to his constituents. He learned a lot about the workings of the House during his first session. In addition, he was nominated to attend a collegiate management training program which was quite rewarding.

Our State delegates gave us a valuable update on the 2015 session. We appreciate all of their efforts including that arduous 90 minute trip to Hartford and we thank them for their dedicated service.

### **Please renew your membership!**

The new membership year began on July 1. If you have not done so already, please renew your membership right away to avoid those pesky emails and phone calls, and save your Board a lot of time! It's easy! Complete, clip and mail the form below with your check. OR, you can renew electronically using PayPal on our website [www.lwvg.org](http://www.lwvg.org)! Your membership is very important because it helps us continue our educational and advocacy work.



## **LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF GREENWICH MEMBERSHIP FORM**

*The League membership year is from July 1 - June 30.*

### **INDIVIDUAL**

- |                                       |       |
|---------------------------------------|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Regular      | \$60  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior (62+) | \$50  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patron       | \$100 |

### **TWO IN COMMON HOUSEHOLD**

- |   |       |
|---|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Household        | \$90  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Household | \$75  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patron Household | \$150 |

### ***I'd like to add a donation!***

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Non-Deductible to LWVG\*

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Deductible to LWVG Educational Fund\*\*

Total Dues: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Donations: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Enclosed** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**\*Donations to LWVG are NOT deductible. Please make dues/non-deductible donation checks payable to "LWVG."**

**\*\*To make a tax-deductible donation, please make a separate check payable to "LWVG Educational Fund."**

**PLEASE COMPLETE REVERSE SIDE Mail to: LWVG, P.O. Box 604, Greenwich, CT 06830**



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF GREENWICH  
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 203-352-4700  
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**GREENWICH  
 VOTER**



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF GREENWICH  
 MEMBERSHIP FORM - CONTINUED**

*Please print*

**Renewing Member**     **New Member**

**1st Member**

**2nd Member**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

TOWN \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

TOWN \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

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