

The Rhode Island Voter

The newsletter of the
League of Women Voters of Rhode Island
172 Taunton Ave., Suite 8,
East Providence, RI 02914



October 2010

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League Joins the Fight for an Open RI Legislature

The League of Women Voters of Rhode Island has joined a coalition of good government groups, business and labor leaders, and clergy members who have joined forces to work for a more open state legislature. The new coalition, Citizens for an Accountable Legislature, seeks to make the General Assembly more accountable to the citizens of Rhode Island. The Coalition has developed a ten-point program to ensure that the RI General Assembly functions in an effective and transparent fashion and has proposed the following changes to the lawmaking process. The Coalition is urging the legislature to:

1. Produce a record, including audio and/or video, of committee meetings that would be linked to the legislation on the General Assembly's Web site, including the records of votes.
2. Give the public "real time" access to amendments and substitute bills at least 24 hours before any vote is taken..
3. Make decisions in public forums, including the use of conference committees to add transparency to the legislative process.
4. Conduct a comprehensive review of House and Senate

rules to determine which ones are obsolete and which ones are not being enforced.

5. Put all staff positions in the General Assembly in a formally adopted position classification plan that includes annual performance evaluations.
 6. Show separate appropriations for the major legislative cost centers to enhance accountability for the \$35 million legislative budget.
 7. Provide appropriate and user-friendly legislative facilities to enhance the work of the General Assembly and encourage the public's input into the legislative process.
 8. Reform the electoral process to limit the influence on legislation by placing a moratorium on legislative and party fund raisers during the legislative session.
 9. Remove the ballot option to vote a full ballot using a single mark.
 10. Establish a commission to study the feasibility of publicly funded campaigns for the General Assembly
- The Coalition is requesting that candidates and sitting

Coalition continued on page 5

Formula for Success? RIDE Speaks to LWV

Before the legislative session ended in June, the Rhode Island legislature passed a new funding formula for financing schools in Rhode Island. The LWVRI is currently undertaking a study of how education is financed in Rhode Island, and understanding how this new formula works and its implications for schools and taxpayers will be helpful for members who are interested in participating in the study's consensus. Carolyn Dias, Chief of Fiscal Integrity and Efficiencies of the Rhode Island Department of Education, will meet with League members and interested members of the public on November 10 from 3-5 P.M. at the Weaver Branch of the East Providence Public Library. She will explain the terms used in the formula, the method of calculation, and the estimated financial impact on local cities and towns. The event is free and open to the public. The library is located at 41 Grover St., East Providence (off Taunton Ave., behind the City Hall; 434-2453). The meeting is free and open to the public.

For more on the financing education study, see the report on page 4.

We Celebrate 90 Years!



There were smiles all around after the League's Celebration for the 19th Amendment event. From left are: Jane Koster, Patty MacLeish, State Senator June Gibbs, Marcia Cone, Newport Mayor Jeanmarie Napolitan, Jim McGrath, Amber Rose Johnson, Lisa Starr, Trudy Coxe, Lt. Col. Jayme Sutton, Assemblyperson Amy Rice, State Senator Teresa Pavia-Weed, State, Joanne DeVoe, and RI Family Court acting Chief Judge Haiganush R. Bedrosian.

PHOTO ANDREA CARNEIRO, PSNC

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A Busy Fall for the League—But Many Hands Make Light Work

by Joanne DeVoe, President

Hello, Leaguers,

It's fall again, the time when we all have more energy and lots more to do. In August, we had a magnificent celebration of the 90th anniversary of the 19th amendment guaranteeing votes for women and of the League of Women Voters. Thanks especially to Jane Koster and Patty MacLeish for their work in coordinating the event. Thanks to LWVRI lobbyist Greta Abbot, we had a members' discussion in September of her work in the RI General Assembly's 2010. We are now in the middle of the 2010 election debate series with candidates for RI's two House districts and for Governor. Our thanks go especially to Marie Henneidy for organizing these events. Finally, we are working on a study of public education finance, and we thank Mickie Bonneau study chair for her efforts in this project.

Looking forward, on Wednesday, November 10, there will be a Power Point presentation by the RI Department of Education explaining the workings of the new funding equalization formula for public education. On Thursday, November 18, we are gathering for a fund-raiser, a theater party at 2nd Story Theater in Warren. And please take a moment to visit the Web site of Citizens for an Accountable Legislature. The League is a member of this new Coalition, whose purpose it to bring more openness to our Legislature.

The League loves to sponsor forums on public issues. We are currently exploring the possibility of having one on energy policy. We can sponsor forums on anything, including issues on which there are no League consensus positions.

I know that there are League members in the state who want to discuss local issues with other League members. LWV Providence members have been doing this by inviting



LWVRI president Joanne DeVoe speaking to a member of the press at the 90th Anniversary event.

local city leaders to a member's home to discuss an issue of concern through the efforts of Joan Retsinas (thank you, Joan!). Other League members can get names and contact information about Leaguers in their town from the state League or their local League and invite them over for coffee and conversation. Then, one or two members can research a topic and discuss their results with the group. Alternatively, a group could invite a local city or town leader to a discussion with the group on a topic of local concern.

In the League, if you have the time and the energy to share, volunteering for a committee or helping at an event will broaden your understanding of how government works—or sometimes doesn't work—in Rhode Island. We can use a few more volunteers for our last debate, the Governor candidates' debate on Thursday, October 27, at Bryant College in Smithfield. If you can help us out, give me a call, 247-3004.

Regards, Joanne
joanned@qis.net.

Come to "School" November 18

Is it possible to make a perfect wife? The 17th century playwright Molière takes on the question and its comic results in his play, *School for Wives*. The main character in the play sends his ward to live in a convent so that she will be innocent. He plans to eventually marry her and because she is innocent, she will not be unfaithful to him. She, of course, falls in love with another man. Will love triumph? Come and see on November 18, as 2nd Story Theater takes the French play to its stage in Warren. The fall theater party is becoming a League tradition and we hope you will join us for the "fun" d-raiser.

Curtain time is 7 P.M.; tickets are \$30 each and reservations are due Tuesday, November 9. You may also join League members beforehand for dinner at Stella Blues Restaurant, 50 Miller Street, at the corner of Water Street. The restaurant is four blocks from 2nd Story Theater. We will make reservations for all who indicate they want to have dinner with us. We'll each order from the menu. Entrees range in price from \$14 to \$27; the menu is posted on the restaurant's Website, www.StellaBluesRI.com.

Turn to page 7 for the reservation coupon. LWVRI board member Jill Kassis is heading up the event. Call her for more information at 619-0377.

The League of Women Voters of Rhode Island

172 Taunton Ave., Suite 8, East Providence, RI 02914

www.LWVRI.org 401-434-6440

Joanne DeVoe, President

Patty MacLeish, *Voter* Editor Jane Marchi, Copyreader

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

Membership in the League is open to any citizen of the United States. Non-citizens may become associate members. Annual dues of \$45 include automatic membership in Local, State and National Leagues. Membership forms are available at www.LWVRI.org or call 401-434-6440. Please join us and help promote informed citizen involvement in government.

The Rhode Island *Voter* is published four times a year: August, October, January and April. Periodic postage paid at Providence, R.I. and additional mailing offices. ©2010 LWVRI

Election Season is Here and the Debates Go On

The primaries are over, and now it's final decision time. The League of Women Voters of Rhode Island and ABC6-TV, in collaboration with Bryant University and WRNI public radio, plan to hold three additional one-hour debates before the general election. Two debates remain. On Wednesday, October 20, from 8-9 P.M. the debate for candidates for Congressional District 1 will be held at ABCTV6 studios. Democrat David Cicilline and Republican John Loughlin will be in attendance.

The debate will be broadcast live on Newschannel 5 (Channel 5 on Cox cable) and on ABC6-TV digital station 6.2 (Channel 62 on Cox digital and 6.2 on digital antennas). WRNI (1290 AM in Providence and 102.7 FM in Westerly) will broadcast all the debates live.

On Wednesday, October 27, the candidates for governor will meet from 7-8 p.m. at Bryant University, Smithfield, R.I. This debate will be broadcast live on ABCTV6. Independent candidate Ronald Algieri, Moderate Party Kenneth Block, Democrat Frank Caprio, Independent Lincoln Chafee, Independent Joseph M. Lusi Republican John Robitaille will be in attendance. Panelists will be Providence Journal political reporter Ed Fitzpatrick and Brown University political science professor Ross Cheit.

All the debates will also be rebroadcast in their entirety on Newschannel 5 and on the LWVRI Web site, www.lwvri.org. Check the League Web site for the latest updates and the times of the rebroadcast.

ABC6 News Anchor John DeLuca will be the moderator for the debates, and ABC6 Political Reporter Mark Curtis will be one of the three panelists at each event.

LWVRI 2010 Lobbying Wrap-up

On September 9 at the home of Jane Rankin, I spoke to a group of interested members about a dozen of the major issues I had lobbied on at the State House this year. Some of the issues provoked good questions and lively discussions. The issues reflected the cross section of lobbying efforts the League directs that I lobby on—from the Separation of Powers to the Merit Selection of Judges.

For new members and those who may have forgotten, the voters of Rhode Island voted in 2004 to change Article V of the Rhode Island Constitution, specifying that the three branches of state government, executive, legislative, and judicial, are separate and distinct. The amendment was in response to an earlier Supreme Court ruling that Rhode Island had a parliamentary form of government. Under Section 5 of Article IX, the Governor makes all appointments to all entities exercising executive power. Although most of Rhode Island statutes have been changed

LWV West Bay Broadcast Schedule

The full schedule of debates for the LWV West Bay is included in the calendar on page 8 of this issue of The Voter. For those of you who in the West Bay may have missed the debates, the schedule for rebroadcast is listed below.

East Greenwich: School Committee, Town Council, Assembly Districts 30, Senate Districts 33, 35. Broadcast on Cox Channel 17 and Verizon Channel 37 on October 23 at 6:30 p.m. and October 24 at 8:30 p.m.

Eastern Cranston: School Committee 1, 2, 4; City Council 1, 3; Assembly Districts 14, 17, 18, 19; Senate Districts 26, 28. Broadcast on Cox Channel 17 and Verizon Channel 37 on October 21 at 1:30 p.m. and October 25 at 9:00 p.m.

Exeter: Exeter/West Greenwich High School School Committee, Town Council, Zoning Inspector, Assembly Districts 31, 39, Senate Districts 34. Broadcast on Cox Channel 17 and Verizon Channel 37 on October 23 at 8:30 p.m. and October 24 at 6:30 p.m.

West Greenwich: School Committee, Town Council, Assembly Districts 29, 30, Senate District 34. Broadcast on Cox Channel 17 and Verizon Channel 37 on October 30 at 6:30 p.m. and October 31 at 8:30 p.m.

Cranston: City-wide Forums for Mayor, City-wide City Councilors. Broadcast on Cox Channel 17 and Verizon Channel 37 on October 28 at 1:30 p.m. and 11/1 at 9:00 p.m.

Warwick South: Mayor, School Committee 2, 9; City Council 5, 6, 7, 9; Assembly Districts 23, 26, 27; Senate Districts 30, 33, 35. Broadcast on Cox Channel 17 and Verizon Channel 37 on October 30 at 8:30 p.m. and October 31 at 6:30 p.m.

If you have any questions, contact LWV West Bay President Marie Hennedy at 884-3976.

by Greta Abbot

to reflect the changes mandated by the Constitution, a few still need modification.

In 1994 the voters of Rhode Island voted to amend the Rhode Island Constitution, Section 4 of Article X, creating the process of merit selection of state court judges through the filtering process of using an independent, nonpartisan Judicial Nominating Commission to pre-screen candidates before sending the list of qualified candidates to the Governor. Once the Governor has made the selection, the candidate must be approved through Advice and Consent of the Rhode Island Senate. After fifteen years, the process remains incomplete, as Magistrates and Traffic Tribunal Judge who are required to have the same qualifications as judges are still appointed by other senior judges, in a non-public way.

I would like to hear from you as to what issues would be of interest to you and in what type of format. Please call me at 272-2950 or contact me at gabbott505@aol.com.

How Rhode Island's State, Local and Federal Education Funding Compares Regionally and Nationally

A synopsis submitted by Mickie Bonneau and Marie Hennedy

The Financing Education in Rhode Island study is completing preparations for consensus, and many of the papers prepared for the study will shortly be placed on the LWVRI Web site. The information collected here provides a good overview of education financing in Rhode Island. The information is found in the RI House Fiscal Advisory Staff's Rhode Island Education Aid published in October 2009, pages 7-10.

Levels of State, Local and Federal Aid to Education in RI

State Aid: For FY 2007 [the latest statistics then available], the state of Rhode Island provided 39.2% of public school revenue from its own sources.

Local Aid: Local communities contributed, primarily through property taxes 52.9%.

Federal Aid: Federal funds constituted 7.9% of revenue.

How Those Levels Compare to New England's Averages

Rhode Island's state aid is lower than the New England average; its local and federal aid is higher.

State Aid: RI's 39.2% state aid is lower than the New England average of 48.6%.

Local Aid: RI's 52.9% local contribution is greater than the New England average of 45.1%.

Federal Aid: RI's 7.9% federal funding is higher than the New England average of 6.3%.

How RI's Levels of Education Aid Compare to U.S. Averages

Rhode Island ranks among the bottom quarter in the nation when it comes to state support, and among the top in the nation when it comes local funding of public education.

State Aid: RI's 32.9% state aid is lower than the national average of 47.6%. RI's FY2007 39.2% state funding ranked 42nd in state support for public education, and compares with a high of 89.8% in Hawaii and a low of 31.7% in Nebraska.

Local Aid: RI's 52.9% of local aid is greater than the national average of 44.1%. RI's FY 2007 52.9% local funding ranked 9th in local support. Illinois had the highest percentage of funds coming from local resources at 58.9 percent, Hawaii the lowest at 1.6%.

How RI's Levels of Education Aid Compare to U.S. Averages Over A Ten-Year Period

While the federal share of education funding in Rhode Island has risen in the ten-year period from FY 1997 to FY 2007, RI's state and local shares have decreased over that ten-year period.

State Aid: RI's state share decreased 80 basis points from 40.0 percent to 39.2 percent, dropping RI from 40th in the U.S. in FY1997 to 42nd in FY2007. Nationally, state contributions decreased 120 basis points from 48.8 percent in FY1997 to 47.6 percent in FY 2007.

Local Aid: RI's local contribution decreased 180 basis points from 54.7 percent in FY1997 to 52.9 percent in FY 2007. Nationally, local contributions fell by 70 basis points from 44.8 percent in FY 1997 to 44.1 percent in FY 2007.

Federal Aid: For Rhode Island, the federal commitment rose 250 basis points in that ten-year from 5.4 percent to 7.9 percent. For New England, federal rose 190 basis points from 4.4 percent in FY 1997 to 6.3 percent in FY 2007. Nationally, the federal share has risen 190 basis points in the ten-year period, growing from 6.4 in FY 1997 to 8.3 in FY 2007.

Per Pupil Spending

In Rhode Island, in FY 2007, the average per pupil spending was \$12,612. This amount is 2.4% more than the New England average of \$12,318.

National Comparison

When state, local and federal funds are used to measure per pupil spending, RI's \$12,612 is 30.5% greater than the national average of \$9,666, ranking RI 7th highest nationally for FY 2007. However, when state funds only are used as the measure of per pupil spending, RI's ranking falls nationally to 20th. The average amount of state spending per pupil in RI in FY 2007 was \$5,531.

Needed: League Members Willing to Talk Politics and Government

Do you like to talk about politics and government? Are you interested in helping individuals become citizens? If so, the Rhode Island Family Literacy Initiative could use your help. The Initiative runs a citizen preparation program, and each week a group of adults meets for conversation about American government, focusing on some of the questions on the citizenship test. The gathering is held at the Rochambeau Library in Providence.

The LWVRI supports this initiative through a grant from the LWVRI Education fund and through the work of League volunteers. More help is needed, however. Can you offer some time to this fine endeavor? For more information, e-mail Rosanne Bootz, e-mail: rbootz@aol.com

Woman Have the Vote! We Celebrate!

by Patty MacLeish

What an inspiring day! The week had been rainy, but by 11 A.M. on August 26, the sun was out and the crowd was ready to celebrate the 90th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment at Marble House in Newport. Jane Koster, my fellow League representative on the 90th anniversary celebration committee, and I were hoping for a good turnout and a good program. What we got was a great turnout and a great program.

About 250 people joined us on the terrace at Marble House, Alva Smith Vanderbilt Belmont's Newport home on Bellevue Avenue, to hear our amazing speakers. The location had been the scene of many suffrage gatherings in the early twentieth century as Mrs. Belmont was a member and officer of the National Women's Party.

First to speak was LWVRI president Joanne DeVoe who described the history of the League and its relationship to the suffrage movement. Following her was League member and former State Senator June Gibbs. She read from a speech delivered by Susan B. Anthony in 1876 and then reflected on her career and her concern about why so few women were involved in politics.

Lt. Col. Jamye Sutton, a faculty member at the Naval War College, read excerpts from a sobering letter written from prison by Alice Paul. Lt. Col. Sutton spoke also on the importance of voting. She noted the armed services chain of command, and reminded us that the commander in chief is elected by the people. Our decisions in the voting booth, she reminded us, affect her orders as an officer. Amber Rose Johnson, a senior at Classical High School and winner of the 2010 Poetry Outloud competition, read a speech delivered by Carrie Chapman Catt. The program ended with Rhode Island Poet Laureate Lisa Starr and singer Jim McGrath leading us in a rousing rendition of women's rights activist—and Rhode Islander—Julia Ward Howe's *Battle Hymn of the Republic*.

Among the honored guests were Lt. Governor Elizabeth Roberts, LWVUS Board member Norman Turrill, State Senator Teresa Pavia-Weed, State Assemblyperson Amy Rice, Newport Mayor Jeanmarie Napolitan, and RI Family Court acting Chief Judge Haiganush R. Bedrosian.

The event was co-sponsored by the Preservation Society of Newport County (whose purview includes the famous Newport mansions) with additional support from the Historical Society of Newport County, the Newport Restoration Foundation, Women's Fund of Rhode Island, and YWCA of Northern Rhode Island. PSNC Executive Director Trudy Coxe served as the emcee for the event.



Above. Representatives of the supporters of the celebration and honored guests at the celebration (from left)—Newport Historical Society Director Ruth Taylor, Newport Restoration Foundation Executive Director Pieter Roos, YWCA Executive Director Deborah Perry, Women's Fund of Rhode Island Executive Director Marcia Coné, LWVUS Board member Norman Turrill, RI Lt. Governor Elizabeth Roberts, and State Senator Teresa Paiva-Weed.

Right. Former State Senator June Gibbs speaking, while Lt. Col. Jayme Sutton and LWVRI President Joanne DeVoe at Marble House. Marble House in Newport was the site of several woman suffrage rallies.



Coalition continued from page 1

members of the Assembly sign on in support of the group's goals. The Coalition's Web site www.calri.org contains more information about the goals; citizens may also sign up as individual members of the Coalition.

"If people show support of the Coalition, our elected officials will have a sense of the public's interest in reforming state government," notes Derry Riding, LWVRI vice president and head of the League's advocacy committee.

Other members of the Coalition are Rhode Island AFL-CIO, Common Cause Rhode Island, National Educational Association Rhode Island, Ocean State Action, Rhode Island Public Expenditure Council, and the Rhode Island State Council of Churches. In addition, the following individuals are signatories to the Coalition's agenda: Joseph Cammarano, Associate Professor of Political Science, Providence College; Russell Dannecker, former Rhode Island Senate Fiscal Advisor; Robert G. Flanders, Jr., former Associate Justice, Rhode Island Supreme Court; Alan Hassenfeld, Hassenfeld Family Initiatives; John Hazen White, Jr., President and CEO, TACO, Inc.; Maureen Moakley, Professor of Political Science, University of Rhode Island; Alfred W. Ondis, CEO, Astro-Med, Inc.; Lila Sapinsley, former Rhode Island Senate Minority Leader; Gary Sasse, Distinguished Professor of Public Policy, Rhode Island College.

LWV Ed Fund Spreads Democracy through a Variety of Projects

The League of Women Voters of Rhode Island Education Fund is a non-partisan public policy educational organization. The Fund's purpose is to build citizen participation in the democratic process, study key community issues at all government levels in an unbiased manner, and enable people to seek positive solutions to public policy issues through education and conflict management. Because the League is a lobbying organization, contributions to it are not tax deductible, but donations made to the Education Fund are. To encourage more donations, the LWVUS and many Leagues throughout the country have foundations or funds that support the League's educational goals.

The LWVRI Education Fund meets four times a year to review grant proposals. Most local Leagues are familiar with the Fund through its sponsorship of local candidates' forums. This year the LWVRI Ed Fund provided funding to the LWVRI for the debates for the statewide offices, as well as support for twelve debates sponsored by the LWV West Bay and six debates by the LWV South Kingston/Narragansett. The Fund also supported the candidates' forums co-sponsored by the LWV Newport and the Alliance for a Livable Newport.

The Fund's support extends beyond election-year event. Last February, the Ed Fund granted the LWVRI \$1,100 to purchase ten-second spots on WRNI, Rhode Island Public Radio, in support of the station's education and healthcare reporting. The grant was renewed in June 2010, and the funds were used to promote the LWVRI's celebration of the 90th Anniversary of the 19th amendment.

For several years now, the Ed Fund has supported the Susan Wilson award for teachers with a grant of \$1,800. (Read more about the Wilson Award on page 7.) In the past six months, the Fund has supported other school-related activities including a \$600 grant to the International Charter School for social studies books and a \$1,200 grant to Global RI/Capitol Forum, an event for high school students.

Another fantastic project that the LWV Ed Fund is funding is the Rhode Island Family Literacy Initiative to support citizen preparation. (Read more about how you can become involved in this project on page 2.) More of the Fund's projects are listed on the LWVRI Web site.

LWVRI Education Fund president is Elisabeth Head (LWV Providence). Other officers are: Vice President Linda Jenkins (LWV Newport County), Secretary Nancy Burroughs (LWV South Kingston/Narragansett), and Treasurer Hollie Courage, LWV Providence). The Ed Fund Board are: Pam Anchetta (LWV South Kingston/Narragansett), Joan Arnold (LWV Newport County), Rosanne Bootz (LWV West Bay), Julia Califano (LWV Member at Large), Susan Escherich (LWV Member at Large), Jane Koster (LWV Newport County), Joan Retsinas (LWV Providence), Dorothy Read (LWV South Kingston/Narragansett), and Joanne Devoe, State League President, (LWV Member at Large).

You can add your support to these projects by donations to the Fund. Mail your contribution to LWVRI Education Fund, 172 Taunton Ave, Suite 8, East Providence, RI 02914

Join Us! Become Part of Making Democracy Work

I want to help Democracy Work! Enclosed is \$45 for my membership in the LWVRI.

I would like to support the League with an additional donation of _____ which I have added to my membership dues.

I have enclosed a check in the amount of \$ _____ payable to the LWVRI. *

Name _____

Address _____

E-mail _____ Phone _____

I would like to make a tax deductible donation to the LWVRI Ed Fund. I have enclosed a check in the amount of \$ _____ payable to the **LWVRI Education Fund**.

I do not wish to join at this time, but please add my name to your mailing list.

Please make checks payable to LWVRI and mail with this form to LWVRI, 172 Taunton Ave, Suite 8, East Providence, RI 02914



**DON'T
MISS
IT!**

Join the League as the
2nd Story Theater, 28 Market Street, Warren, presents
Moliere's *School for Wives*

Thursday, November 18, 2010

Reservations due November 9. Ticket cost \$30.

League members will gather for dinner beforehand at Stella Blues for a dutch treat dinner.

Name _____

Address _____

E-mail _____ Phone _____

YES! Please reserve _____ ticket(s) to *School for Wives* at \$30 each for a total of \$ _____.

Please make checks payable to LWVRI and mail with this form to LWVRI, 172 Taunton Ave, Suite 8, East Providence, RI 02914.

Yes, I want to join everyone for dinner at Stella Blues (entrees range from \$14 to \$27).

Please add _____ names to the reservation list for me.

I can't come, but have fun! I have enclosed a donation of \$ _____ to support the League.

Questions? Call Jill Kassis at 619-0377.

Susan B. Wilson Civic Education Awards Open to Applicants

The LWV of South Kingstown/Narragansett has announced the opening of applications for the 2011 Susan B. Wilson Award. Applications are available on the LWVRI Web site, www.lwvri.org/wilsonaward.htm and are due on April 29, 2011. Any educator or team of educators teaching in a Rhode Island school (6-12th grade) is eligible to apply.

The awards are granted to educators who: enrich students' understanding of their civic rights and responsibilities; encourage students' civic participation; teach about the context and relevance of pivotal civic events affecting the United States—locally, statewide, or nationally; or profile the individuals who have played a role in such pivotal civic events.

All RI educators and the individuals or groups who make nominations are encouraged to apply annually; award recipients are not eligible to apply during the three consecutive terms following receipt of their merit prizes.

Award decisions will be announced in mid May 2011. An awards ceremony will be held early in June at the State House in Providence in the Governor's Reception Room.

The award is sponsored by the League of Women Voters of South Kingstown/Narragansett with funding from the League of Women Voters of Rhode Island Education Fund. Visit the Web site www.lwvri.org/wilsonaward.htm for application details and more information.

For questions, e-mail: sknarr@lwvri.org and please include a phone number.

Emptying Your Medicine Cabinet?

Is your bathroom filled with unused or expired prescribed or over-the-counter medications? The old method of dealing with them was to flush them down a toilet or toss them into the trash—alternatives that are bad for our environment. But thanks to the National Community Pharmacy Association, there is a new eco-friendly way to clean out your medicine cabinet. The NCPA has a new program, the "TakeAway Environmental Return System," through which local pharmacies will recycle a variety of medications. There are some restrictions, which are outlined at the Web site, www.disposemymeds.org. Rhode Island pharmacies that are participating in the project are: Ocean Healthmart Pharmacy, 3986 Old Post Road, Charlestown; Baker's Pharmacy of Jamestown, 53 Narragansett Avenue, Jamestown; Newport Prescription Center, 289 Broadway, Newport; Simpson's Pharmacy 10 Newport Avenue, Pawtucket; East Side Prescription Center, 632 Hope Street, Providence; and Oxnard Pharmacy, 198 Buttonwoods Ave, Warwick.



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Coming Up—League Events

Monday, October 18

7-9 P.M., *LWV West Bay Candidates' Forum*,
East Greenwich: Swift Community Center.

Tuesday, October 19

6-8 P.M., *LWV West Bay Candidates' Forum*,
Cranston Mid-East: William Hall Library.

Wednesday, October 20, 8-9 P.M.

LWVRI/ABC6 Debate for candidates for Con-
gressional District 1.

Thursday, October 21

6-8 P.M., *LWV West Bay Candidates' Forum*,
Exeter at Exeter/West Greenwich High School.

6:30-8:00 P.M., *Alliance for a Livable Newport-*
LWV Newport County 1st and 3rd Ward
Council Candidates Forum, Newport City Hall.

Monday, October 25

6-8 P.M., *LWV West Bay Candidates' Forum*,
West Greenwich High School.

Tuesday, October 26

6-8 P.M., *LWV West Bay Candidates' Forum*, Cran-
ston Far East: Senior Center, 1070 Cranston St.

Wednesday, October 27, 7-8 P.M.

LWVRI/ABC6 Debate for candidates for Gov-
ernor at Bryant University, Smithfield.

Thursday, October 28

LWVRI Book Club Field trip to Anne Hutchin-
son monument in Portsmouth followed by
poetry or special readings by members/guests at
the Jenkins' in Tiverton. Call 816-0331 for
information.

6-8 P.M., *LWV West Bay Candidates' Forum*,
Warwick South: Buttonwoods Community
Center.

Tuesday, November 2

Election Day. Polling hours vary by locality.

Wednesday, November 10

3 P.M., *"The New Funding Formula" with*
Carolyn Dias, Chief of Financial Integrity and
Efficiencies. This discussion of the new school
funding formula, at the East Providence Public
Library, Grover Branch Library.

Thursday, November 18

8 P.M., *Theater Party*, 8 p.m. School for
Wives. *Second Story in Warren. Reservations due*
November 9. See page 2 for more information and
page 7 for a reservation form.