

The Rhode Island Voter

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



May 2012

Inside: Suppressing the Vote/4 ■ Welcome to our New Lobbyist/5 ■ Council Sign-up/7

Call to Council 2012

Phil West to Address LWV at Council

Every other year, the League of Women Voters of Rhode Island calls delegates to Council to hold elections and conduct the League's business. (In the alternate years, the League holds its convention.)

The 2012 LWVRI council will be held on Saturday, June 16 from 10 A.M. to 2:30 P.M. at the Ray Conference Center at Butler Hospital, 345 Blackstone Boulevard, Providence. The registration fee is \$20; a registra-

tion form may be found on page 7. Phil West past executive director of Common Cause Rhode Island, will be the guest speaker. The Council is composed of the presidents of each local League or an alternate; one delegate chosen by each local League; the board of directors of the LWVRI; and one delegate representing the members-at-large. The registration includes lunch and refreshments. Delegates will vote on the budget and elect

continued on page 7

League a Presence on Smith Hill as Choice Bills are Heard

by Joanne DeVoe

The hearing on this year's bills about women's right to choose abortion was held in the House Judiciary Committee on April 11. The room was crowded with supporters on both sides of the issue when the State House officials came through and told all who were not seated that they needed to watch the hearing on TV in a nearby room. Luckily, I had arrived over an hour earlier and had gotten one of the last seats. Because more than 60 people had signed up to speak, the state League testimony, given by our lobbyist, Robin Covington, was brief; detailed written League testimony was handed in on each of the two bills and on all of the bills as a group which we opposed. The League was part of the Choice Coalition spearheaded by Paula Hodges of Planned Parenthood. It was heartening to see several League

members and many from other Choice organizations there and wearing the red Coalition stickers.

The two bills supported by the Choice Coalition were sponsored by Judiciary Committee Chairman and League member Edie Ajello. House Bill no. 7041 would prohibit the state from interfering with certain personal decisions of a woman regarding pregnancy including her decision to terminate a pregnancy prior to fetal viability or at any time if such termination is necessary to protect the life/health of a woman. HB no. 7754 would provide that a family court judge, physician, or certified counselor may provide authorization for a minor to seek an abortion.

Seven bills were opposed by the Choice Coalition. HB no. 7006 would define and impose penalties for acts of

continued on page 5

League's Fall Candidates Forums Set

The League of Women Voters of Rhode Island has secured the cooperation of ABC-TV (WLNE) and RI Public Radio this election year to co-sponsor three RI Congressional candidates forums. The LWVRI and its media partners will be working with the LWV Massachusetts to host a candidate forum for the Massachusetts district 4 contest between Joseph Kennedy III and Sean Bielatt. All will be televised live on Channel 6 network television, and possibly rebroadcast until November 6 on Channel 6.2. The forums will be fed to RI Public Radio. ABC 6 will also provide to LWVRI's website (lwvri.org) video links whereby the four debates can be accessed.

The moderator will be John DeLuca of ABC 6. Participating panelists are Mark Curtis of ABC 6, Scott MacKay and Ian Donniss of RI Public Radio, *Providence Journal* national columnist Froma Harrop, URI Political Science Professor Maureen Moakley and former RI attorney-general Arlene Violet. LWVRI Voters Service committee member Marie Hennedy will be the timer/coordinator. Other committee members are: Pam Ancheta, Jane Koster, and Derwent Riding.

Fall Debates Schedule

Tuesday, October 23: Massachusetts District no. 4, (Kennedy vs Bielatt)

Thursday, October 25: R.I. District no. 2 (Langevin or Matson vs. Reilly or Gardiner)

Tuesday, October 30: R.I. Senate (Whitehouse/Giroux vs. Hinkley)

Thursday, November 1: R.I. District no. 1 (Cicilline/Gemma vs. Doherty)

Election season has started—and, we need you!

by *Derry Riding LWVRI President*

After the early and warm spring, why did it have to feel like fall on Saturday, April 28, as Hollie Courage and I sat on the south lawn of the State House at the Women United Rally registering voters? While the sun was shining, the wind was blowing, and the temperature never really warmed up; however, people were very happy to see the League there, and we did register a few voters. We answered a lot of questions and gave out bumper stickers and pins. We were doing exactly what the League has done and continues to do—helping citizens participate in our democracy. We all depend on the work of loyal League members to get involved with this type of voter outreach.

As you will read elsewhere in the *Voter*, the choice bills were heard in the House Committee for the Judiciary. The bills are all “held for further study,” but we still need to monitor all of them. The Choice Coalition meets on a regular basis and members of the LWVRI and Robin Covington, our lobbyist, are attending the meetings at Planned Parenthood. A big thanks to all who have helped here. If you are interested in volunteering for the choice issues, please contact Susan Escherich (sescherich@cox.net or 433-4896).

League Day at the State House was a great success with Stephanie Chafee as our speaker. Thanks to Patty MacLeish and Susan Wells for setting up such a good forum for us. After the event, Mrs. Chafee gave the League a challenge. Her question: where is the power at the State House? The answer is clearly with the Legislature. She would like the League to place more attention this election on the legislature candidates and their positions.

While we know that we can't be everywhere—greater knowledge of a candidate's positions is an area that we should work on. Vote411, a website that carries information about voting and candidates' positions on issues, could help us in this endeavor. We will have more information about Vote411 in the next *Voter* and on our web page. When you are asked to help, please respond with a resounding “Yes!”

The Voter ID bill passed last year, in spite of much opposition by the League and others and portions of it are now in force. The Secretary of State has passed regulations and

is currently holding sessions around the state to provide voters with photo IDs. If you voted in the Presidential Primary, you had to produce identification and the poll workers had to read your address out loud. In many instances the “loud” was the issue. The identification did seem to slow things down in my polling location, however, the first election in a season is always a learning (or re-learning) process for the pollworkers.

We simply can not do this work without your help. Truly, we can't. Please volunteer to help us. The voters need us! Whether it's helping your local League run a registration drive or working with us on our candidates forums, you can be part of the League experience. We will need help in registering voters, responding to inquiries, effort, local candidates forums, working with Vote411, and assistance on any ballot issues that the League takes a position on. Susan Escherich, Advocacy chair (sescherich@cox.net or 433-4896) would like to hear from you if you would like to help lobby for League issues. Carolin Goldman (green2912@aol.com) is looking for help in our efforts to follow up on Voter ID. And the Voter Service Committee is looking for help with our candidate's forums (See story on page 1). Don't forget to volunteer with your local League to carry out their efforts.

We hope you will consider joining us on Saturday, June 16, for our biennial State Council. Our speaker is going to be Phil West, who will give us a preview of his forthcoming book on Rhode Island politics. I'll be there and hope you will join us!

Stephanie Chafee Focused on Hunger in League Day Speech



LWV Newport County president Susan Wells, LWVRI President Derry Riding, and Mrs. Chafee.

PHOTO: RICHARD KOSTER

The League of Women Voters of Rhode Island

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

www.LWVRI.org 401-434-6440

Derwent Riding, President

Patty MacLeish, *Voter* Editor Jane Marchi, Copy Reader

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; join at www.LWVRI.org or call 401-434-6440 and help promote informed citizen involvement in government.

The Rhode Island *Voter* is published four times a year: August, October, January and May. Periodic postage paid at Providence, R.I. and additional mailing offices. ©2012 LWVRI

Letter: Hunger Affects the Entire Population

Dear Editor,

I'd like to recognize the most recent League Day held at the RI Statehouse April 12. It was an honor to join other League members as well as a variety of non-profit groups in the rotunda that afternoon. There was a very positive tone shared by membership and the acknowledgment of all the good works being done state-wide.

We were fortunate to attend a speaking engagement with First Lady Stephanie Chaffee. I was particularly drawn to the opportunity because of the topic: hunger in Rhode Island. While Mrs. Chaffee articulated the dire situation facing Rhode Island regarding the hunger issues and food insecurities of our school children and young families, she overlooked one prominent group—our senior population. Seniors across the state go hungry and struggle with proper nutrition daily. This not only is heartbreaking but severely impacts the health, wellness and independence of our senior citizens.

In Rhode Island, 14.4% of the population is comprised of seniors—those 65+ and older. On any given day, over 1,500 seniors in every city and town across the state receive either meals (or food assistance) from agencies such as Meals on Wheels of Rhode Island, as well as a variety of senior centers, churches and food pantries. While it is important to address the programs focused on children and families in need, it is vital to place a priority on those programs and services that address the needs of Rhode Island's senior citizens, disabled and home-bound.

Again, it was a pleasure to attend the event and I look forward to many more with future administrations.

Erin O'Gara Dollard, LWV Newport County

The writer is Director of Development at Meals on Wheels RI

Thank You to Our Donors

The League of Women Voters of Rhode Island cannot survive without the support of its members and friends. This year, our fund-raising letter brought in \$2,460 from 38 members—representing every League in the state—and from friends of the League. These funds will be used to keep the State office running and to pay our lobbyist. every League in the state and from friends of the League. Our most recent donors were Pam Ancheta, Nancy Burroughs, Carol Head, Jane Rankin, Joan Retsinas, Mary Speare, and Edith Ziegler. Gifts to the League support the work of our lobbyist, Robin Covington. She is your voice on Smith Hill.

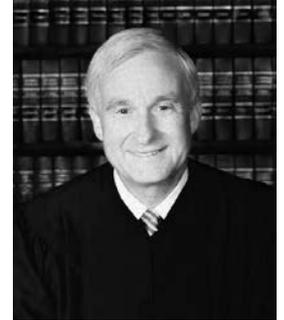
There's still time to give! Send your contribution to LWVRI, 172 Taunton Ave., Suite 8, East Providence, RI 02914. If you feel that your name should be listed here and it is not, please contact our treasurer, Jane Koster at 423-1465.

Help us reach our goal of \$3,000. No amount is too small. Send your contribution to LWVRI, 172 Taunton Ave., Suite 8, East Providence, RI 02914.

Wilson Award Ceremony Features R.I. Justice Suttell

LWV of South Kingstown/Narragansett will present its 5th Annual Susan B. Wilson Civic Education Merit Awards on Wednesday, June 6 at 4:30 P.M. at the Governor's Reception room at the State House. The event is open to the public. The keynote speaker will be Rhode Island Supreme Court

Chief Justice Paul A. Suttell. Justice Suttell is chairperson of iCivics, a web-based education program developed by former Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor. Supported by the LWVRI Education Fund, the Susan B. Wilson Award honors three individual Rhode Island



R.I. Justice Paul A. Suttell

educators or teams of educators whose teaching exhibits extraordinary ability and innovation and whose teaching enriches students' understanding of their civic rights and responsibilities; encourages students' civic participation; brings context to pivotal civic events—historic or current; and promotes understanding of individuals who play a pivotal role in civic events.

The winners will be announced in the next issue of the *Voter*. Visit www.lwvri.org for further information.

LWV Newport Names Joan C. Arnold Award Winner

The League of Women Voters of Newport County has named Rosemary Forbes-Woodside the winner of the first Joan C. Arnold Civic Participation Award. The award is named for Joan C. Arnold, a long-time member of the League and volunteer in many other organizations in the community. This award honors those who exhibit the same persistence as Joan in bringing relief to those in need or improving the quality of life in Newport County.

A Jamestown resident, Rosemary has been involved in many organizations in her community, most particularly for her work as a founder and chairwoman of the Conanicut Concerned Citizens, an organization that brought its case to properly close the Jamestown landfill, which contained toxic materials to the Department of Environmental Management.

The award will be presented at a gathering on Wednesday, June 7 from 5:30-7 P.M., at the home of League members Richard and Jane Koster. Details are available at lwvri.org or contact Susan Wells <swells229@gmail.com>.

The Strange Career of Voter Suppression

By Alexander Keyssar

The 2012 general election campaign is likely to be a fight for every last vote, which means that it will also be a fight over who gets to cast one.

Partisan skirmishing over election procedures has been going on in state legislatures across the country for several years. Republicans have called for cutbacks in early voting, an end to same-day registration, higher hurdles for ex-felons, the presentation of proof-of-citizenship documents and regulations discouraging registration drives. The centerpiece of this effort has been a national campaign to require voters to present particular photo ID documents at the polls. Characterized as innocuous reforms to preserve election integrity, beefed-up ID requirements have passed in more than a dozen states since 2005 and are still being considered in more than 20 others.

Opponents of the laws, mostly Democrats, claim that they are intended to reduce the participation of the young, of the poor and of minorities, who are most likely to lack government-issued IDs — and also most likely to vote Democratic.

Conflict over exercising the right to vote has been a longstanding theme in our history. The overarching trend, which we celebrate, has been greater inclusion: property requirements were dropped; racial barriers were formally eliminated; women were enfranchised.

Yet there have always been counter trends. While the franchise expanded during some moments and in some places, it contracted in others, depriving Americans of a right they had once held. Between 1790 and 1850 — the period when property requirements were being dropped — four Northern states disenfranchised African-American voters, and New Jersey halted a 17-year experiment permitting women to vote. During this same period, nine states passed laws excluding “paupers” from political rights.

After Reconstruction, both major political parties attempted to constrict the electorate, albeit in different locales. In the South — as is well known — Democratic state legislatures employed a variety of devices, including literacy tests, poll taxes, “understanding” clauses and, eventually, Democratic primaries restricted to whites. As a result, African-Americans were largely excluded from electoral participation from the 1890s until the 1960s.

In the North, similar, if less draconian, legal changes, generally sponsored by Republicans, targeted (among others) the millions of immigrant workers pouring into the country. In 1921, for example, New York State adopted an English-language literacy requirement for voters that remained in force (and was enforced) for decades. Almost invariably, these new limits on the franchise were fueled by partisan interests and ethnic or racial tensions; they were embraced by respectable Americans, like the eminent his-

torian Francis Parkman, who had come to view universal suffrage as a “questionable blessing.”

Many of the late 19th- and early 20th-century laws operated not by excluding specific classes of citizens but by erecting procedural obstacles that were justified as measures to prevent fraud or corruption. It was to “preserve the purity of the ballot box” that legislatures passed laws requiring voters to bring their sealed naturalization papers to the polls or to present written evidence that they had canceled their registration at any previous address or to register annually, in person, on one of only two Tuesdays.

The new procedures were widely recognized, by both their advocates and their targets, as having a far greater impact on some groups of voters—immigrants, blue-collar workers, the poor—than on others, and they often succeeded. In Pittsburgh in 1906, a personal registration law, sponsored by Republicans to check the influence of a crusading reformer, cut the number of registered voters in half.

In the 1930s, “pauper exclusion” laws were invoked to disenfranchise jobless men and women who were receiving relief. In 2000, Massachusetts disenfranchised prisoners after they formed an organization to promote inmate rights.

The targets of exclusionary laws have tended to be similar for more than two centuries: the poor, immigrants, African-Americans, people perceived to be something other than “mainstream” Americans. No state has ever attempted to disenfranchise upper-middle-class or wealthy white male citizens.

The current wave of procedural restrictions on voting, including strict photo ID requirements, ought to be understood as the latest chapter in a not always uplifting story: Americans of both parties have sometimes rejected democratic values or preferred partisan advantage to fair democratic processes. Acknowledging the realities of our history should lead all of us to be profoundly skeptical of laws that burden, or impede, the exercise of what Lyndon B. Johnson called “the basic right, without which all others are meaningless.” More is at stake here than the outcome of the 2012 election. Even a cursory survey of world events over the last 20 — or 100 — years makes plain that democracies are fragile, that democratic institutions can be undermined from within. Ours are no exception.

Alexander Keyssar, a professor of history and social policy at Harvard, is the author of *The Right to Vote: the Contested History of Democracy in the United States*. This article originally appeared in the February 12, 2012, issue of the *New York Times* and is reprinted here with the permission of the author. If you are interested in Voter ID issues, contact Carolin Goldman (green2912@aol.com). She is looking for help in our efforts to follow up on Voter ID.

NO STATE
has ever attempted
to disenfranchise
upper-middle-class
or wealthy white
male citizens.

violence upon an unborn child. HB no. 7009 would prohibit any woman from being forced to have an abortion against her will, and would provide a cause of action in tort for the wrongful death of the unborn child. HB no. 7010 would make assault on a pregnant woman which causes her to suffer a miscarriage or stillbirth punishable by up to 30 years imprisonment, and life imprisonment if the fetus is 12 weeks or older. HB no. 7091 would establish the Fetal Protection Act, which would provide that, "Whoever, without lawful justification, causes the death of an unborn child is guilty of murder." HB no. 7114 would ban abortions solely as a means of sex selection. HB no. 7182 would authorize the division of motor vehicles to issue special license plates in recognition of "Choose Life." And HB no. 7205 would require that an ultrasound fetal image be made of every fetus about to be aborted for review by the woman seeking the abortion. For the text of any bill, go to the RI General Assembly website, <http://www.rilin.state.ri.us/BillText12/HouseText12/HouseText12.html>.

League Hires New Lobbyist

Robin Ashley Covington of East Providence is the new LWVRI lobbyist. Robin will receive a masters of public administration from University of Rhode Island, where she also received her bachelor's degree in communication studies in 2009. Robin comes to the League having served internships for the RI Community Action Association and the Center for Hispanic Policy and Advocacy.



LWVRI lobbyist
Robin Covington

As you will read in various reports in this issue, Robin has been busy around the State House advocating for the League.

I arrived in the hearing room at around 4 P.M. and got one of the last available seats. The hearing began at 5:30 P.M. with 8 of the 14 committee members on hand. Those testifying were called to the microphones in groups of 4 in order in which they had signed up. Supporters of Choice emphasized that government should not interfere in the decision making process that women go through about whether to have an abortion according the parameters that have been established by Rowe v. Wade and standard medical practice. Opponents generally were promoting measures that would either prevent altogether or delay a women from having an abortion in the hope that she could be induced to change her mind. By 7 o'clock, I had not yet been called to testify and I had to leave at, so I was not able to give the testimony about my personal views that I had written. I am told that the testimony went on until 9 P.M.

At the beginning of the hearing, Chairman Ajello had announced that all abortion related bills were being held for further study. If you care about this issue, tell both your state Senator and Representative.

The LWV on Marriage Rights

At its convention in 2010 the League of Women Voters adopted an addition to its "Equality of Opportunity position" The addition reads, "The League of Women Voters of the United States supports equal rights for all under state and federal law. The LWVUS supports legislation to equalize the legal rights, obligations, and benefits available to same-gender couples with those available to heterosexual couples. LWVUS supports legislation to permit same-gender couples to marry under civil law. The League believes that the civil status of marriage is already clearly distinguished from the religious institution of marriage and that religious rights will be preserved."

Join Us! Become Part of Making Democracy Work

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

I have enclosed a check in the amount of \$ _____ payable to the LWVRI. Or, join on line at www.LWVRI.org



I would like to join the LWV of Bristol Newport County Providence South Kingston/Narragansett West Bay
 Member at Large Assign me to the proper local League

Name _____

Address _____

E-mail _____ Phone _____

I do not wish to join at this time, but I would like to make a donation to the LWVRI. I have enclosed a check in the amount of \$ _____ payable to the LWVRI.

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

Tell us your interest: OBSERVER CORPS GOVERNMENT PRIVATIZATION

ADVOCACY EDUCATION VOTER ID VOTERS SERVICE MEMBERSHIP RI SCHOOL FUNDING FORMULA

Join on line or send a check payable to LWVRI and mail form to LWVRI, 172 Taunton Ave, Suite 8, E. Providence, RI 02914.

Rhode Island League of Women Voters 2011-12 Budget and 2012-13 Proposed Budget*

*Proposed Budget April 19, 2012 Board to Review May 14, 2012

	Adopted Budget 2011	Proposed Budget 2012		Adopted Budget 2011	Proposed Budget 2012
Income			Expenses		
Memberships			Building Expenses		
PMP	1443	1144	Rent	4,140	4,140
MAL dues	495	900	Electric	85	85
Rebate:			Telephone/Fax	540	540
National Members	0	0	Insurance	502	548
Membership Total	\$ 1,938	\$ 2,044	Building Total	\$ 5,267	\$ 5,313
Ed Fund			Office Expenses		
Rent	2,070	2,070	Voter		
Other (utilities)	270	270	(incl. mailing)	1,100	1,100
Insurance	251	274	Administrative	225	225
Ed Fund Grants			State Council		
Ed Fund Total	\$ 2,591	\$ 2,614	/Convention	200	200
Fund Raising			National Council/		
Letter	2,500	2,200	Convention	500	500
Event(s)	1,500	1,500	Office Total	\$ 2,025	\$ 2,025
Local Leagues	1,900	1,900	League Functions		
State Council/			Program Support	300	300
Convention	200	200	Membership	100	135
League Day			PMP/MAL	298	344
State House	1,250	450	Fund Raising		
Web Site Grant	0	0	Letter	200	200
Other	0	0	Event League Day	675	300
Fund Raising Total	\$ 7,350	\$ 6,250	Web Site	12	12
Miscellaneous			Miscellaneous/Other	9	9
Interest (Bank)	7	5	Functions Total	\$ 1,594	\$ 1,300
Misc/Sales	0	0	Advocacy	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000
Poll Running	0	725	Ed Fund Grants	\$ 0	\$ 0
Transfer from Savings	0	0	Total Expenses	\$ 11,886	\$ 11,638
Quad State (Ed Fund Grant)	0	0	Income less Expenses	\$ 0	\$ 0
Miscellaneous Total	\$ 7	\$ 730			
Total Income	\$ 11,886	\$ 11,638			

2012 Nominating Committee Report for the Board of Directors of the League of Women Voters of Rhode Island

The LWVRI will hold elections for members of the Board of Directors at its Council 2012, scheduled to take place on Saturday, June 16th, beginning at 10 AM. The Nominations Committee of LWVRI offers the following nominations for the Board of Directors to serve for a two year term, 2012 through 2014.

Officers

Treasurer: Jane Koster, LWV Newport County
Second Vice President: Susan Wells, LWV Newport County

Directors

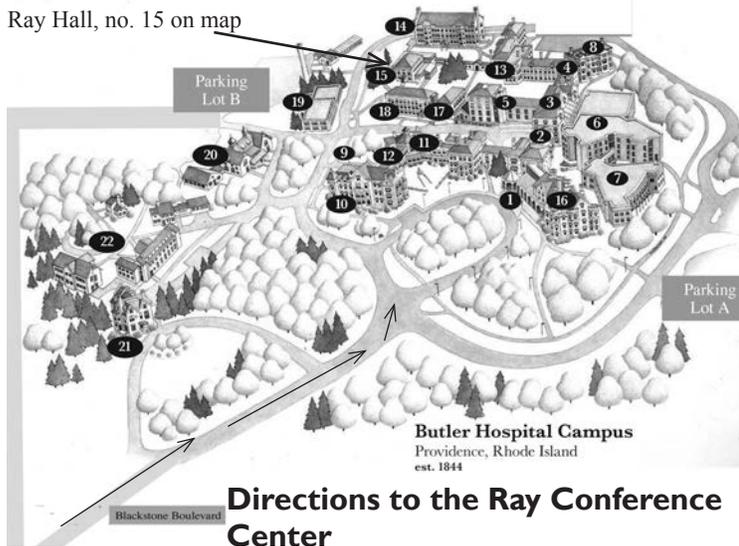
Pam Ancheta, LWV South Kingston/Narragansett
Marion Styles-McClintock, LWV Providence
Helen Taylor, LWV West Bay
Rosemary Forbes-Woodside, LWV Newport County

The following persons remain on the Board through 2013:

President: Derry Riding, LWV Bristol
First Vice President: Jill Kassis, LWV Newport County
Secretary: Susan Escherich
Director: Joanne DeVoe, LWV Member at Large
Director: Patty MacLeish, LWV Newport County
Additional nominations may be made from the floor of the Council meeting provided that the consent of the nominee has been obtained.

Respectfully submitted,
The LWVRI Nominations Committee:
Joanne DeVoe, Jane Rankin, and Susan Wells

Ray Hall, no. 15 on map



The Ray Conference Center is no. 15 on the map. Park in Lot B. Just past the Epoch Assisted Living Center, there will be a sign on right side of road directing traffic to the Ray Conference Center. Take a left at the sign and follow road to Parking Lot B. Park in Parking Lot B and walk directly across the street to the Ray Conference Center. Handicapped parking may be found behind the Ray Conference Center. Do not turn to enter Lot B, but continue straight. Go past Ray Hall on your right, go down the road a little way and around the corner take an immediate right and that will get you in back of Ray Hall.

Council continued from page 1

new officers and directors to the board, as well as any other issues that may come before the Council. (The budget and the nominating committee report appears on page 5.) While only delegates will be voting, all League members are welcome to attend Council. Please contact your local League if you wish to be a delegate to Council.

H. Philip West Jr. was executive director for Common Cause Rhode Island for eighteen years. He helped win passage of numerous laws that the Better Government Association analyzed in its 2002 and 2008 Integrity Indexes, which ranked Rhode Island second in the nation. In 2007, Rhode Island College recognized his work with an honorary Doctor of Laws degree. Mr. West is writing a book on his experience in Common Cause and will give us a preview of the book speaking on "Reforming Rogues' Island: 1986-2006."

"The Rhode Island legislature's Website (<http://www.rilin.state.ri.us/RhodeIslandHistory/chapt9.html>) calls the period from 1984-2000 'The Era of Reform,'" says Mr. West. "I would bring that forward to include the Separation of Powers Amendment (2004), the reconstruction of boards (2005-2006), and the Supreme Court's unanimous affirmation of the amendment (2008)."

West currently teaches Ethics in the Graduate MPA Program at the University of Rhode Island.

Council 2012 June 16 with Guest Speaker Philip West

Registration Deadline, Tuesday, June 12.

To register, use this form or download one from the LWVRI Web site. Registration is \$20 and includes welcoming coffee and lunch. Mail your check to Jane Koster, LWVRI Treasurer, 449 West Reach Dr., Jamestown, RI 02835, before Tuesday, May 31. Please print clearly as we will use this for your name tag.

Name _____

League _____

Address _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

League Remembers Senator Gibbs

League member and former State Senator June Gibbs died on Sunday, April 8 at her home in Middletown. She was 89. Senator Gibbs was the first woman elected to the Middletown Town Council and the first woman council president. She was elected to the state senate in 1984, serving until 2008. She served as deputy minority leader from 1985 until the end of her term of office.

In 2010, Sen. Gibbs spoke at the League's celebration of the 90th anniversary of the 19th amendment. She read from Susan B. Anthony's speech of 1888, "What is this little thing?"—the little thing being the vote. She asked those present how well we have taken advantage of our right to vote? Then she reflected on her years in public office, particularly as a trailblazer for women. She challenged us not to simply vote, but to do more and run for office.



Just as she did.

Senator Gibbs was a model for women.

Senator June Gibbs, August 26, 2010



LWVRI
172 Taunton Ave., Suite 8
E. Providence, RI 02914

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 286
NEWPORT RI

Coming Up—League Events

Monday, May 21

LWV Providence. Conversation on Providence City Finances. 7 P.M. Contact Joan Retsinas, retsinas@verizon.net.

Wednesday, May 24

Book Club. The book is *Midnight Rising*. Contact Linda Jenkins for details (816-0331, lindamjenkins@cox.net). All are welcome.

All are welcome **Wednesday, June 6**

Presentation of the Susan Wilson Award with RI Justice Paul Suttell at the State House. See page 3 for details.

Thursday, June 7

Presentation of the Joan C. Arnold Civic Participation Award. See page 3 for details.

Friday, June 8-Tuesday, June 12

LWVUS National Convention. Visit www.lwv.org for details.

Monday, June 10

LWVRI Board meeting. 10 A.M.-noon at Weaver Library, East Providence.

Wednesday, June 13

LWVRI Education Fund Annual Meeting. 5:30 P.M. The home of Linda Jenkins, Tiverton. Contact Liz Head, 351-2269 or emhead603@hotmail.com.

Saturday, June 16

LWVRI Council. 10 A.M.-2:30 P.M. Guest speaker: H. Philip West. Story on page 1; registration form on page 7.

Tuesday, October 23, 8-9 P.M.

LWVRI/ABC6/RIPR Debate for candidates for Massachusetts District no. 4.

Thursday, October 25, 8-9 P.M.

LWVRI/ABC6/RIPR Debate for candidates RI District no. 2

Tuesday, October 30, 8-9 P.M.

LWVRI/ABC6/RIPR Debate for candidates for RI Senate.

Thursday, November 1, 8-9 P.M.

LWVRI/ABC6/RIPR Debate for candidates for RI District no. 1.

Please check www.lwvri.org for updates and other events.