

The Rhode Island Voter

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



August 2010

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Celebrate 90 Years of Women and the Vote at Marble House on August 26

Join the League of Women Voters of Rhode Island and the Preservation Society of Newport County as they celebrate 90 years of women and the vote at Marble House, the Newport Home of Alva Vanderbilt Belmont, noted suffragist. Alva called Marble House her “temple to the arts,” and used it as a setting for suffrage rallies. On August 26, at 11 a.m., the arts and women’s suffrage come together again for a celebration of the passage of the 19th amendment. The event, which is co-sponsored by the Newport Restoration Foundation, the Newport Historical Association, Women’s Fund of Rhode Island, and YWCA Northern Rhode Island, is free and open to the public.

Rhode Island Poet Laureate Lisa Starr will read a poem in honor of the occasion. Former Rhode Island State Senator June Gibbs and Amber Rose Johnson, the 2010 Poetry Out Loud National Champion from Classical High School in Providence,



Suffrage Rally at Marble House, Newport, August 1914. The Preservation Society of Newport County will welcome League members to rally again to commemorate the 90th Anniversary of the passage of the 19th amendment.

Celebration continued on page 5

LWVRI Schedules a Full Season of Debates

The League of Women Voters of Rhode Island and ABC6-TV, in collaboration with Bryant University and WRNI public radio, plan to hold eight one-hour debates for Rhode Island Congress district 1 and 2 and gubernatorial candidates. Six debates will be held at the ABC 6 and broad cast 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. The October 20th debate for Congressional District 1 is tentatively scheduled to be held at URI Providence. The final debate featuring the gubernatorial candidates will be held at Bryant University from 7:00 to 8:00 P.M. and televised live on ABC 6.

The debates will also be rebroadcast in their entirety on Newschannel 5 and on the LWVRI Web site, www.lwvri.org. The dates and time of the rebroadcast have not been set. Check the League Web site for the latest updates and the times of the rebroadcast.

The debates will be moderated by ABC6-TV News Anchor John DeLuca. ABC6-TV political reporter Mark Curtis

will serve as one of the three questioners at all the debates. Other panelists include: *Warwick Beacon* publisher John Howell, WRNI education reporter Elisabeth Harrison, WRNI political analyst Scott MacKay, WRNI political reporter Ian Donniss, *Newport Daily News* editor Sheila Mallowney, University of Rhode Island journalism professor Barbara Meagher, URI po-

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Thank You, Joan Arnold!

The production of this issue of *The Rhode Island Voter* has been underwritten with contributions made in honor of Joan Arnold, past Treasurer of the LWVRI, in appreciation of her decades of service to the League. Joan has retired as treasurer to both the state League and the Education Fund of the League of Women Voters of Rhode Island. She has agreed—to the delight of Leaguers throughout the state—to continue her service on both boards.

Failure Was Impossible—Celebrate the 19th Amendment with the League

by Joanne DeVoe, President, LWVRI

For many women Thursday, August 26, 2010, will pass unnoticed. They will be at work in courtrooms, operating rooms, laboratories, college campuses, television studios, building sites, airplane cockpits, battlefields, church rectories, corporate boardrooms, and children-filled playgrounds and too busy to pause to consider the importance of the day that the nineteenth amendment was officially added to the U.S. Constitution and women could finally exercise their right to vote. The League and several other groups in Rhode Island, however, will pause for a celebration to commemorate the event. The Preservation Society of Newport County and the LWVRI, along with YWCA Northern Rhode Island, the Newport Historical Society, Women's Fund of Rhode Island, and the Newport Restoration Foundation, are co-sponsoring an event, "Celebrating 90 Years of Women and the Vote" at Marble House, the home in Newport of the suffragist Alva Smith Vanderbilt Belmont.

I believe in full disclosure, so I must reveal that Carrie Chapman Catt, the founder of the League of Women Voters, and Alva Belmont were not good friends. They shared the same cause—votes for women—but not the same tactics. Catt was a superb organizer and campaigner, and served two terms as president of the National American Women Suffrage Association (NAWSA). The group had a two-prong strategy—fight for the right to vote state by state while working toward a constitutional amendment. As each state approved women's suffrage legislation and women became voters, the passage of the constitutional amendment would be assured. The timing of Catt's election to her second term as president to NAWSA in 1916 was crucial. The fight for suffrage had been going on for a long time and the "old guard," Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Lucretia Mott, had died. The movement was losing steam. Catt felt that the battle could be won by persuasion, discussion, logic.

Others did not agree; among them were Alice Paul, Lucy Stone, and Alva Belmont. These women were radicals and they split from NAWSA and formed the National Women's

Party. Alva Belmont provided funding for the Party's headquarters in Washington and served as the group's president. Members of the NWP took to the streets. They paraded for the cause and picketed. Members of the NWP were, in fact, the very first group to picket the White House.

While Catt was inside talking to President Wilson, Alva Belmont's group was outside picketing and burning copies of Wilson's speeches. Both strategies pushed the issue forward. More states passed suffrage amendments, and once women had the vote, they voted for suffrage for all. If candidates or officeholders did not support suffrage, they were voted out. Meanwhile, the Wilson administration was losing patience with the picketers and began to harass and eventually arrest them. The injustice of the arrests and the brutality of the treatment of the women resonated with the public and the politicians. Finally, a special session of Congress was called on May 19, 1919, and by June 4, the resolution, introduced in Congress by Susan B. Anthony in 1878, stating that "the right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex," was finally submitted to the states for ratification.

In 1919, Catt proposed the creation of a "league of women voters" within NAWSA to be organized in the states where woman suffrage had passed. On February 14, 1920, as the nineteenth amendment was being discussed in State Houses across the country, the League was formally organized in Chicago as the National League of Women Voters, whose purpose, said Catt, was "not to dissolve any present organization but to unite all existing organizations of women who believe in its principles. It is not to lure women from partisanship but to combine them in an effort for legislation which will protect coming movements, which we cannot even foretell, from suffering the untoward conditions which have hindered for so long the coming of equal suffrage. Are the women of the United States big enough to see their opportunity?"

Maud Wood Park was named the first president of the League, which has continued for ninety years, educating women and men on the importance of the vote, not just in electing individuals, but in working "for legislation which will protect coming movements." This mission is often summed up by the League quite simply, "Deomocracy is not a spectator sport." And who could better understand this than women, who had been spectators for so long.

Please come to Marble House and join with us as we celebrate this fundamental right and honor the women who struggled, worked, and suffered that we might enjoy it.

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, Copy editor

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 \$42.20 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

LWVUS 2010 Convention

by Joanne DeVoe

This year, four delegates from Rhode Island attended the LWVUS 2010 Convention in Atlanta for five days of intense action: Hollie Courage, Helen Friend and I represented the state League, and Marie Hennedy represented the LWV West Bay. There were convention sessions, with the approximately 600 delegates from across the country; workshops; and caucus meetings for those supporting or opposing various resolutions and studies. It was exciting, stimulating, exhausting. For me, it was fascinating to meet so many strangers who cared about the sorts of issues that I care about.

On behalf of the LWVRI, I presented to the convention a by-laws amendment proposal about lobbying our own Senators and US Representatives. In the by-laws, the section on Program Action states, "Leagues may act on national program only in conformity with positions taken by the LWVUS. Members may act in the name of the LWVUS only when authorized to do so by the appropriate board." Our proposed amendment would have added the sentence, "State Leagues and local Leagues may lobby their own U.S. delegations on issues of importance to their states and members without approval of the national board provided that their advocacy is consistent with existing national consensus positions and that they inform the national board of their intended action at least ten days in advance."

In recent years, the LWVUS Board has directed that whenever state or local Leagues intend to lobby a member of their U.S. delegations, they need to clear it with the LWVUS first unless the action has been requested by the LWVUS. Last spring, the national board went so far as to say that state and local Leagues were "restricted" from lobbying their members of Congress for single-payer health care, despite the fact that the first sentence of the financial section of LWVUS position on health care adopted in 1993 says, "The League favors a national health insurance plan financed through general taxes in place of individual insurance premiums."

I wrote a one-minute speech in support of the amendment:

The consensus positions must be interpreted whenever Leagues lobby for or against specific bills. The Leagues who created the positions should say what they mean. Each League board should have both the freedom and the responsibility to decide how the positions apply to pending bills.

The proposed bylaw amendment enables state and local League boards to interpret the consensus positions and to lobby members of Congress accordingly. Board members, with guidance from national, would be able to work out together what to say to their members of Congress.

The national board has recommended rejection of this bylaw amendment because they say it would undermine a long held League tradition of speaking with one voice. For the League, this amendment would ensure that the one voice is the consensus position, not the national board's view of the consensus position.

Delegates lined up at the microphones to speak both for and against the bylaw amendment. Soon, however, one of these speakers called to close debate, and the convention voted for clo-

sure. The vote was by voice and the amendment was defeated. Several supporters afterward told me that they estimated that we did get about a quarter of the Convention delegates saying, "Yea."

Convention delegates also approved two studies to be conducted over the next two years. They are, "The Federal Role in Public Education" and, "The Privatization of Governmental Functions." Since the national board only budgeted \$10,000, the estimated cost for one study, the delegates were told that if we each gave \$30 to the LWVUS Education Fund, we would have enough for both studies.

The Convention passed several concurrences, which are alterations in existing national positions. Those included an update of our Arms Control Position; an addition of support for equal rights, obligations and benefits for same gender couples to the Equality of Opportunity Position; and adds the use of the National Popular Vote Compact as an acceptable way to achieve the direct popular vote for election of the President, to the League's Position of Selection of the President. It also passed several resolutions supporting "Improved Medicare for All"; "Lifting the U.S. Travel Ban to Cuba"; "Limiting the Use of the Filibuster"; and "Transparency in Government." Another resolution was passed demanding that the government hold those responsible for the oil spill to be accountable for the clean-up.

The LWVUS 2010 Convention was worthwhile, and I am grateful that I had the opportunity to represent the LWVRI there.



League members Helen Friend, Hollie Courage, and LWVRI president Joanne DeVoe, delegates from the LWVRI and Marie Hennedy, delegate from the LWV West Bay at the LWV convention in Atlanta.

Debate Details

The LWVRI/ABC6 sponsored debates will take place at the ABC6-TV studios except the Governor's debate on October 27, which will broadcast live from Bryant University in Smithfield and the Congressional District 1 debate on October 20, which is tentatively scheduled to be held at URI-Providence. The debates will be simulcast live on WRNI, Rhode Island Public Radio (1290 AM in Providence and 102.7 FM in Westerly), on RI Newschannel 5 (Cox cable channel 5 and digital channel 62) and on digital channel 6.2 for viewers with digital antennas. ABC6 News Anchor John DeLuca will be the moderator for the debates; ABC6 Political Reporter Mark Curtis will be one of the three panelists at each event. The debates will also be rebroadcast in their entirety on Newschannel 5 and at www.lwvri.org. The dates, times, candidates, and non-ABC panelists are listed below.

Monday, August 30, 8-9 P.M. Primary debate Republican candidates for Congressional District 2: William J. Clegg III, Michael J. Gardiner, Donald F. Robbio and Mark S. Zaccaria with panelists *Warwick Beacon/Cranston Herald* publisher John Howell and WRNI education reporter Elisabeth Harrison.

Tuesday, August 31, 8-9 P.M. Primary Debate Democratic candidates for Congressional District 1: David N. Cicilline, William J. Lynch, David A. Segal, and Anthony P. Gemma with panelists WRNI political analyst Scott MacKay and *Newport Daily News* editor Sheila Mallowney.

Wednesday, September 1, 8-9 P.M. Primary debate Democratic candidates for Congressional District 2: Elizabeth M. Dennigan, Ernest A. Greco, and James R. Langevin with panelists URI journalism professor Barbara Meagher and WRNI political analyst Scott MacKay.

Wednesday, September 8, 8-9 P.M. Primary debate Republican candidates for Congressional District 1: John J. Loughlin II and Kara D. Russo with panelists Providence Business News web editor Ted Nesi and URI political science professor Maureen Moakley.

Friday, September 10, 8-9 P.M. Primary debate Republican candidates for governor: Victor G. Moffitt and John F. Robitaille with panelists Providence College political science professor Bill Hudson and WRNI political reporter Ian Donniss.

Wednesday, October 13, 8-9 P.M. Debate for candidates for Congressional District 2 including independent John O. Matson with panelists WRNI political reporter Ian Donniss and New Media producer Reza Clifton.

Wednesday, October 20, 8-9 P.M., tentative location, URI Providence. Debate for candidates for Congressional District 1 including independents Kenneth A. Capalbo and Gregory Raposa with panelists *Providence Journal* syndicated columnist Froma Harrop and *Woonsocket Call/Pawtucket Times* publisher Barry Mechanic.

Wednesday, October 27, 7-8 P.M. at Bryant University, Smithfield, R.I. Debate for Candidates for Governor including independents Ronald Algieri, Lincoln D. Chafee, Todd J. Giroux and Joseph M. Lusi with panelists *Providence Journal* political reporter Ed Fitzpatrick and Brown University political science professor Ross Cheit.

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litical science professor Maureen Moakley, *Providence Business News* web editor Ted Nesi, Providence College political science professor Bill Hudson, New Media producer Reza Clifton, *Providence Journal* syndicated columnist Froma Harrop, *Woonsocket Call/Pawtucket Times* publisher Barry Mechanic, *Providence Journal* political reporter Ed Fitzpatrick, and Brown University political science professor Ross Cheit. The panelists will pose all the questions, but the public may propose questions to be asked of any candidate at the LWVRI Web site www.lwvri.org.

Panelists will ask candidates two kinds of issue-oriented questions. The first kind should evoke discussion of pertinent issues that will give voters a better understanding of each candidate's policies. The second kind of question should evoke largely yes-or-no-and-why gut reactions that give voters a sense of candidates' convictions or insight into the core beliefs that drive their policies. Each candidate will have an opportunity to answer direct questions, comment on others' answers, and make a two-minute closing statement.

The LWVRI Education Fund awarded a \$300 grant to the state League to cover administrative costs. Bryant University and URI have waived their facilities rental fees. Any other costs will be covered by URI and ABC6-TV.

The Voter Service Committee is headed by LWVRI off Board Voter Service Chair Marie Henedy. Committee members are Jane Koster, Pam Ancheta, and Joanne DeVoe.

Two more ABC-televised debates for Providence mayoral candidates on September 2 and October 6 are being produced by LWV Providence; its contact person is Joan Retsinas: retsinas@verizon.net.

Wanted: DEBATE VOLUNTEERS

League members are needed to greet and guide candidates and audience members at the Rhode Island Gubernatorial Debate on October 27, which will be televised live on ABC6-TV from Bryant University, and at the October 20th RI Congressional District 1 Debate, which is tentatively scheduled to be held at URI-Providence. Anyone wishing to volunteer is encouraged to attend a training session at Marie Henedy's home (56 Marion St., East Greenwich) at 10 A.M. on Tuesday, August 17. Some volunteers also will be needed at the other debates. Contact Marie for further information at 884-3976 or mariehenedy@verizon.net.

Lobbying Report: a Mixed Bag for the 2010 Legislative Session

by Greta L. Abbott, LWVRI Lobbyist

It was a mixed year at the State House for lobbying going from “hurry up and wait” to having several hearings at the same time. There was a lot of work, but not a lot of laws enacted. The dust has not settled on the session so this is a preliminary and brief report — more will come.

The following bills did not pass the General Assembly during 2010 session for numerous reasons. This first group are ones that were supported by the League, but did not get out of committee. Instead, they were held for the infamous “further study.” (Some of these the League has supported for years without passage). The bills held in committee were:

- Implementing judicial merit selection for the appointment of magistrates and judges of the Traffic Tribunal Court.
- Having a ballot issue in November to allow voters to amend RI Constitution regarding role of Ethics Commission in dealing with the legislature. This is the result of a court case limiting the power of the Ethics Commission to oversee legislators’ activities.
- Removing the option of voting a straight ticket from the ballot (called the “master lever” after the old voting machines).
- Changing the appointment process for appointing members

of the Coastal Resources Management Council to bring it into compliance with the separation of powers.

- Amend the open records act to update requirements to assist those requesting public records. The controversial section of the proposed amendments would require the inclusion of certain facts in all requests for police arrest records.
- Require the posting online of all committee and floor votes of legislators. Given the budget constraints the cost to implement this proposal was an issue.

One item that the League opposed that did not move out of committee was a bill to require that voters present photo identification each time they voted.

A bill, supported by the League, to provide voters with pro and con arguments on all referenda items in all “Voter Handbooks” passed the Senate but died in the House.

The Governor vetoed a bill, which the League supported, that would have provided public matching campaign funds to candidates from minor parties who qualify.

The Governor vetoed a bill regarding appointments to the Rhode Island Airport Corporation from lists submitted by the mayor of Warwick. The League opposed the bill as it violated the separation of powers.

The Governor signed into law the bill for the New Shoreham Deepwater Wind demonstration project. The final bill improved on the original bill, which the League opposed because it included a total end-run on the Public Utilities Commission (PUC). The League was not opposed to the project itself, but rather the manner by which it would be implemented. The revised application has been submitted to the Public Utilities Commission and is moving through the expedited review process.

The General Assembly may override at any time between now and the next legislative session any bill vetoed by the Governor. The final lobbying report in an upcoming issue of the *Voter* will include more information on all bills lobbied on during the 2010 session.

The League of Women Voters of Rhode Island & The Preservation Society of Newport County

invite you to

“Celebrating 90 Years of Women and the Vote”

at

Suffragist Alva Vanderbilt Belmont’s

Marble House

596 Bellevue Avenue, Newport

Thursday morning, August 26, 2010, at 11 o’clock

This celebration of the 90th anniversary of the passage of the 19th amendment is co-sponsored by the Newport Historical Society, the Newport Restoration Foundation, Women’s Fund of Rhode Island, and YWCA Northern Rhode Island.

The event is free, but preregistration is requested.

Call 401-847-1000, ext 169 or online at
www.newportmansions.org

Celebration *continued from page 5*

will be among those who will read important speeches and documents that describe women’s struggle to gain the vote and the triumph of the victory in 1920.

League members are encouraged to wear white (either modern dress or period costume). A limited number of the traditional, purple, gold and white suffragists sashes are available for \$8. Contact Susan Escherich (sescherich@cox.net or 433-4896). Reservations are not required, but to help plan for the event, please register by calling (401) 847-1000 ext. 169 or online at www.newportmansions.org. If you have further questions contact Patty MacLeish (e-mail pmacleish@verizon.net or call 401-846-7542). Marble House is located at 596 Bellevue Avenue in Newport.

Winners of the 2009-2010 Susan B. Wilson Civic Education Merit Award

by Karen Asher, Chairperson, LWV South Kingstown/Narragansett

Deborah Marcello and Greg Quirk of Portsmouth Middle School and Susan Burt Squillante of Feinstein Middle School in Coventry were the 2009-2010 Susan B. Wilson Civic Education Merit Award winners. The Susan B. Wilson award is sponsored by the LWV South Kingstown/Narragansett and supported by the LWVRI Education Fund. The award encourages teachers engaged in civic education and honors exceptional work.

Ms. Marcello and Mr. Quirk of Portsmouth won first prize for their U.S. Election Process Unit. Ms. Squillante won second prize for her work as a trainer of other teachers in such programs as Project Citizen, the School Violence Prevention Demonstration Program, and the national Serve & Learn network.

The first prize U.S. Election Process Unit helps students learn how the election process works by participating in an election. Students join a political party and prepare a campaign for themselves as a presidential candidate for the 8th grade class. The entire 8th grade class—approximately 230 students—participates. Primary elections in both parties yield candidates, who make commercials and give speeches in front of the entire class prior to a general election.

Ms. Marcello and Mr. Quirk note that many middle-school-age students are still concrete thinkers and learn best when they can get involved in a “hands-on” or role-playing project. Students research current events and talk to parents or other adults to identify four issues for their platforms. This part of the project is a key component because it requires the students to begin a dialogue with adults about current events issues. It also helps to reinforce the concept that people must be informed voters in order to be good voters. Students also create a pamphlet, bumper sticker, and television commercial.

One student wrote of the experience, “From this election unit, I learned a lot of things. I learned about how the election really works in general. Instead of watching the news, and not understanding it, I knew what they were

talking about. Lastly, almost every single night I sat down with my dad and talked about the electing process. This unit was a good experience, and I learned a ton out of it, and it brought me closer to my father.”

Second prize winner Susan Squillante has participated in numerous state and national professional development conferences, including Project Citizen and the School Violence Prevention Demonstration Program (SVPDP). As a Project Citizen trainer, she has helped numerous teachers to work with students to understand public policy and find democratic ways to influence or change policy.

This summer, Ms. Squillante will be an instructor in the Northeast Project Citizen Summer Institute at Salve Regina University, where she is working with teachers from Providence and Central Falls to understand the foundations of democracy.

Her goal is to help lower the levels of violence and bullying in schools.

Coventry, her school district, is part of the national “Serve and Learn” network. She is helping her colleagues in Coventry to understand the linkage between service learning and Project Citizen. Coventry is now expanding civic education to most of its students. Susan has also begun a project to align civic education standards to the New England Common Assessment Program Literacy Standards.

The Wilson Awards committee will begin accepting online applications between August 16, 2010, and April 29, 2011, for the 2010-2011 awards term. For all the awards details and the application form, visit <http://www.lwvri.org/wilsonaward.htm>.



Deborah Marcello (left) and Greg Quirk (center) of Portsmouth Middle School and Susan Burt Squillante of Feinstein Middle School in Coventry were the recipients of the LWV-SK/N's 2010 Susan B. Wilson Civic Education Merit Award.

Gifts in Memory of Rosalind Gorin

Thank you to Phyllis Brown, Ruth and Irving Wolf, Jr., and George and Terry Lieberman for their generous donations to the LWVRI in memory of League member Rosalind Gorin who died on June 4, 2010.

The League Marches for the Fourth!

by *Patty MacLeish*

It wasn't the hottest Bristol 4th of July parade in the 225-year history of the event, but it was close the record. And some of the heat was generated by the cheering and clapping for the League of Women Voters as we made our way along the route. "Women Voters! Yay!" "Way to go League!" were the shouts we heard from the crowd.

We—myself, Hollie Courage, Marie Hennedy, Linda Jenkins, Derry Riding, and Bruce MacLeish, who drove our snappy Mazda Miata support vehicle—were very impressed by our reception as we marched in celebration of the 90th anniversary of the League.

The day began quite early, and there was lots of waiting before we got started, but the time passed quickly under shady trees in Colt State Park. Right after she arrived, Linda saw that the car in the position next to us was to carry Louie Stravato, one of the recent winners of the Amaz-



The League at the Bristol 225th 4th of July parade. League member Bruce MacLeish (below, right) drove the support vehicle. Bill Jenkins captured the marchers on television as they passed by the cameras on Hope Street.



Waiting for the parade to start. From left are: Marie Hennedy, Patty MacLeish, Derry Riding, Linda Jenkins, and Hollie Courage. The parade was held on July 5.

PHOTO: BRUCE MACLEISH

LWV Connects with Social Studies Teachers

Thanks to a grant from LWVRI's Education Fund, the LWV West Bay co-sponsored the Rhode Island Civics Education Summer Institute, a conference for Rhode Island Social Studies teachers held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel on June 29 and 30. At workshops and a lobby table display, LWV West Bay League members encouraged educators to incorporate in their fall curricula analyses of LWVRI-ABC6-TV's live-televised debates and to help plan, publicize and produce West Bay's local candidate forums this fall. LWV South Kingston-Narragansett also displayed its Susan B. Wilson Award materials.

ing Race. She made sure he knew who we were representing, and he took a photo of Linda and uploaded to his Facebook page. Derry, who seems to know everyone in Bristol, garnered the most cheers and made sure the marshals did not place us behind the Clydesdales. League members among the crowd came out to greet us (and we invite them to join us next year).

We all took turns carrying the lovely banner that Greta Abbot had made for us. The sashes in purple, gold, and white that Susan Escherich sewed for us were beautiful and put us in the spirit of the event.



Discussion Group Tackles Civic Education

The LWVRI discussion group will meet Thursday, September 9, at 1 P.M., at Jane Rankin's home, 192 Spencer Ave., Warwick. The topic will be "Civic Education." Jane will share what she learned at the "Representative Democracy in America: Voices of the People" conference she attended. (The LWVRI had a table at the two-day conference.) Jane hopes that two League members who have been working with immigrants at the Providence Public Library will be at the meeting to share their experience. If you have questions call, 884-0669.

Anyone who wishes to discuss topics freely with no hidden purpose is welcome to join other League members on the second Thursday of each month at 1 P.M. The discussion meetings are usually held at the home of Jane Rankin. Members of the group take turns leading the discussion. The topic of the October meeting has not yet been set.

The League of Women Voters of RI
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Coming Up—League Events

Monday, August 9, 10 a.m.-noon.

LWVRI Board meeting at Jane Koster's house, 449 W. Reach Dr., Jamestown, R.I. Contact Joanne DeVoe, 247-3004 or joanned@qis.net.

Saturday, August 14.

Deadline to register to vote in the primary.

Thursday, August 26, 11 a.m.

Celebrating 90 Years of Women and the Vote at Marble House in Newport. See story on page 1 and invitation on page 5

Monday, August 30, 8-9 P.M.

LWVRI/ABC6 Primary Debate Republican candidates for Congressional District 2. Please see full schedule on page 4.

Tuesday, August 31, 8-9 P.M.

LWVRI/ABC6 Primary Debate Democratic candidates for Congressional District 1

Wednesday, September 1, 8-9 P.M.

LWVRI/ABC6 Primary Debate Democratic candidates for Congressional District 2

Thursday, September 2, 8-9 P.M.

LWV Providence/ABC6 Debate for Democratic

Primary Providence mayoral candidates at Knight Library, 275 Elmwood Avenue. Contact Joan Retsinas: 401-272-0422 or retsinas@verizon.net

Wednesday, September 8, 8-9 P.M.

LWVRI/ABC6 Primary Debate Republican candidates for Congressional District 1.

Thursday September 9, 1 P.M.

Topic: Civic Education. Jane Rankin's home, 192 Spencer Ave., Warwick. See page 7 for details.

Friday, September 10, 8-9 P.M.

LWVRI/ABC6 Primary Debate Republican candidates for governor.

Monday, September 13, 10-noon,

LWVRI Board meeting. Contact Joanne DeVoe, 247-3004 or joanned@qis.net.

Tuesday, September 14.

Primary Election Day. Polling hours vary by locality.

Thursday, September 23 1 P.M.

Book Group meeting at the Gasbarro residence in Barrington at 1 P.M. to discuss Help by Kathryn Stockett. Leaders are Roberta Thompson and Susan

Escherich. Call 816-0331 for information.

Saturday, October 2.

Deadline to register to vote in the general election.

Wednesday, October 6, 8-9 P.M.

LWV Providence/ABC6 Debate for candidates for mayor of Providence. Contact Joan Retsinas: 272-0422 or retsinas@verizon.net.

Tuesday, October 12.

Deadline to apply for a mail-in ballot for the general election.

Wednesday, October 13, 8-9 P.M.

LWVRI/ABC6 Debate for candidates for Congressional District 2.

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

LWVRI/ABC6 Debate for candidates for Congressional District 1.

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

LWVRI/ABC6 Debate for candidates for Governor at Bryant University, Smithfield, R.I.

Tuesday, November 2.

Election Day. Polling hours vary by locality.