



League of Women Voters of Scarsdale Newsletter

The League of Women Voters of Scarsdale (LWVS) is a volunteer, nonpartisan political organization which promotes political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government. The League is nonpartisan in that it does not support or oppose any candidate for public office; it is political in that it takes positions on selected governmental issues after serious member study and consensus.

January/February 2014

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CALENDAR

January

Monday	13	9am 10:30am	Board Meeting Gen. Memb. Mtg: Benjamin Boykin II, Speaker	Village Hall 3rd Floor
Wednesday	15	7-10am 2-9pm	SBNC Election	Middle School
Thursday	23	1pm	Naturalization Court	WP Court House
Saturday	25	5-7pm	Winter Fundraiser	65 Church Lane
Monday	27	9am	Gen. Memb./ Consensus Mtg.	Village Hall 3rd Floor

Students Inside Albany

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**Scarsdale Schools Education
Foundation**

Visit Our Website

League Membership

New Publicity Chair

Thank You

They Represent You

Don't Forget To Vote!



**School Board Nominating
Committee Election Day is
Wednesday, January 15th at
the Middle School**

Monday	27	9am	Gen. Memb./ Consensus Mtg: School Election System	Village Hall 3rd Floor
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February

Monday	10	9am	Gen. Memb./ Consensus Mtg:Local & County Program	Village Hall 3rd Floor
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Thursday	27	7:30pm	Informational Mtg. - Open Space Fund	Scott Room Scarsdale Library
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March

Monday	17	9am 10:15am	Board Meeting Gen. Memb. Mtg: School Budget	Village Hall 3rd Floor
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Tuesday	18		Village Elections	Village Hall
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Monday	31	9am 10:15am	Board Meeting Gen. Memb/ Consensus Mtg: Village Budget	Village Hall-3rd Floor
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More Calendar Information:

[Click Here](#) to view and download the LWV of Scarsdale 2013-14 Calendar.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our community typically is not known for its passivity (except perhaps when it comes to voting in local

elections, which is a topic for another day). Scarsdalian, whether as members of the general public or as elected officials, take on issues in the hope of improving our own lives and the lives of our fellow residents, present and future. It is therefore not surprising that residents are actively engaged in discussion about a wide range of issues, from standardized testing, APPR, Common Core State Standards, to stormwater management, historic preservation, review of our current tree law, mulching, establishment of an open space fund to the state mandated tax levy cap and its impact on our village and school budgets, among many.

As issues are publicly examined, some may wonder what determines when the League weighs in. I thought it might be useful for new members to review the League process that governs when the League may take a position and advocate.

Generally, the League cannot take a position on an issue unless it has first undertaken a study and reached consensus, or the County, State or National League has taken a position on the topic.

Which issues do we study? Members of our League select the topics we will study, typically at the general membership and consensus meeting early in the new year (this year it will be on February 10th - see Upcoming Consensus Meetings in this Bulletin) to determine the program for the upcoming year. The program, which includes study of the village and school election systems, the village and school budgets and various planning and zoning issues, is presented to the members for adoption at the annual meeting in the spring.

In addition, if specific issues come up during the year that have not yet been studied but fall within the scope of the adopted League program, the League Board may decide to conduct a study. (For example, earlier this year the Board elected to study the proposed amendment to the Village Code relating to the installation of distributed antenna systems.) Among the determining factors that are considered in the decision are: is governmental action needed? Is it of interest to the membership? Is there adequate time and are there resources available to conclude a study and reach consensus in the appropriate time frame?

Once it is determined to conduct a study, the League undertakes the process in which thorough, unbiased inquiry is the guiding principle. Following research and investigation by committee members, presentation of relevant information is made to League members, to which the public is invited to attend. Thereafter, at a general membership and consensus meeting, League members discuss all aspects of the issue. All voices are heard. Through this consensus process, members try to reach agreement.

If the members reach consensus on an issue or any aspect of an issue, the League can advocate its position. Typically the League issues a statement to the appropriate governmental body. For example, a statement regarding the League's position on the village budget is presented to the Village Board. The League may lobby its position as the Board deems appropriate, such as through the media, provided that any public comment reflects the consensus reached.

That's the process. We've followed it since we started. It may make it more difficult for us to comment

immediately or in a broad-brush manner, but at least you know that when we speak, the process has been followed.

To ensure the continued effectiveness of this time-tested process, it is vital that you participate and make your voice heard. I look forward to seeing you at a membership and consensus meeting in the New Year!

Until then, warmest wishes for a safe and happy 2014.

Susie Rush

MEET BENJAMIN BOYKIN II

MEET BENJAMIN BOYKIN II County Legislator-Elect for District 5

**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
Monday, January 13th, 10:30 AM
Scarsdale Village Hall, 3rd Floor**

Ben Boykin, White Plains Common Council member and County Legislator-Elect for District 5, will meet with League members to discuss issues he expects to address in his first term on the County Board of Legislators, followed by Q & A.

SBNC ELECTIONS 1/15/14

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO 2014 SCHOOL BOARD NOMINATING COMMITTEE

**Wednesday, January 15th,
7 AM - 10 AM and 2 PM - 5 PM**

Residents will also vote on a proposed change to the Non-Partisan Resolution governing the SBNC. The SBNC nominates candidates for the Scarsdale Board of Education. All election information, including the text of the proposed change to the resolution, is available at www.scarsdalesbnc.com.

Remember to Vote!!

VILLAGE TRUSTEE CANDIDATES NEEDED

Nominations Sought For Village Trustees

The Citizens Nominating Committee (CNC) is seeking potential candidates for Village Board of Trustees. Please consider running; this is a unique opportunity for affecting the quality of life in Scarsdale. If not you this year, perhaps you might suggest a neighbor who has much to offer in service of the Village. The deadline for submission of all biographical information for nominees is January 14th at 5 PM. For further information, please contact a member of the CNC listed at <http://www.scarsdaleprocedurecommittee.org/ncpurpose.php> or contact CNC Chair David Irwin at 472-2311 or dirwin0513@gmail.com.

WINTER FUNDRAISER



472-8851

Please RSVP and send check for \$35 per person to the above address.

SCARSDALE SCHOOL BUDGET 2014-15

Scarsdale School Budget 2014-15

This year the Board of Education has accelerated the process for publicly presenting information and soliciting community opinion on the 2014-15 Scarsdale school budget. Preliminary administration reports on several budget related topics have already been delivered at various fall Board meetings, and recordings of these reports have been posted as video on demand on the District website (www.scarsdaleschools.com). Click each of the following topics to access the video recording of the report:

- **High School Program**
- **District Transportation Program**
- **Middle School Program**
- **Tax Cap Update**
- **Elementary Program**

The first of several Board budget forums for community groups and individuals is scheduled for January 23 and the Administration will present to the Board and the public its preliminary proposed school budget for 2014-15 on February 3, 2014. Click [here](#) for the complete Calendar for Development of the 2014-15 School Budget.

VILLAGE BUDGET DISCUSSIONS

KEEP UP WITH VILLAGE BUDGET DISCUSSIONS

The League encourages all residents to participate in our local village budget discussion. To access the timeline for the Village budget process, click the following link or go to:

<http://scarsdale.com/Portals/0/Website%20Budget%20Calendar%20%202014-15%20110513.pdf>

LWVS FINANCE DRIVE

**LWV of Scarsdale
Annual Finance Drive
We need your support!!!**

Please be generous
Your contribution will directly support our programs:

**The Candidate Debates
The Voters Guide
They Represent you
Students Inside Albany
and
Our studies on local issues and budgets**

You may make a donation online by
clicking the following link or visiting our website

LWVS.org

And selecting the
Donate link

Or you may mail in your donation to
Scarsdale League of Women Voters
Box 495
Scarsdale, NY 10583

Please make checks payable to the LWV of Scarsdale.

If you would like to make a tax-deductible contribution, please make your check out to the LWVNYS
Education Foundation

Name: _____
Address: _____
Email: _____

UPCOMING CONSENSUS MEETINGS

UPCOMING GENERAL MEMBERSHIP AND CONSENSUS MEETINGS - Scarsdale

Village Hall, 3rd Floor

WE WANT TO HEAR YOUR THOUGHTS!

SCHOOL BOARD NOMINATING COMMITTEE ELECTION

Monday, January 27th, 9 AM

A co-chair of the SBNC Administrative Committee will attend to answer questions concerning the election. For more information, please contact Tracy Jaffe at 723-7277 or SBNC@lwvs.org.

LOCAL AND COUNTY PROGRAMMING for 2014-2015

Monday, February 10th, 9 AM

SCARSDALE SCHOOLS BUDGET for 2014-2015

Monday, March 17th, 10:15 AM

Members of the School Board and the District Administration will be asked to attend to answer questions concerning the proposed school budget. For more information please contact Mary Beth Evans at 725-8115 or mbemore@aol.com.

LWVS NOMINATING COMMITTEE

LWVS NOMINATING COMMITTEE BEGINS ITS WORK

The Nominating Committee will meet soon to nominate the 2014-2015 slate of officers and directors. This year's Nominating Committee is chaired by Kim Meyers (725-2017 or kimschles@aol.com). Other members of the committee are: Pam Fuehrer, Deb Morel, Ann Sacher and Janice Starr. League members are encouraged to contact Nominating Committee members with suggestions and comments.

For the current list of Board Members, [click here](#) or go to :

<http://lwvs.org/about.html#s03>

PLANNING AND ZONING

Planning & Zoning Update December 2013

Save the Date!

P & Z Information Session

Open Space Fund
Thursday February 27, 2014
7:30 PM
Scott Room at the Scarsdale Library

P & Z is planning an information session to discuss the opportunities and options of an Open Space Fund in Scarsdale. The Village Board is currently considering the establishment of an open space preservation fund.

The Committee plans to describe the ways municipalities go about protecting, procuring and preserving their open spaces and will organize a panel of knowledgeable individuals to assist us. We look forward to community input and a lively discussion. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend.

STUDENTS INSIDE ALBANY

Students Inside Albany Conference

Application Deadline February 7, 2014

For the third consecutive year, the LWVS will select two high school students to send to the annual Students Inside Albany conference, to be held May 18-21. All Sophomore, Junior and Senior students who attend Scarsdale High School or who reside in the school district are eligible to apply.

Joan Frankle and Janet Korins, as part of the League's youth outreach program, are spearheading the effort. The cost of the conference, including hotel and meals, will be co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters of New York State Education Foundation, Inc. and our Scarsdale League.

Applications can found by visiting the Scarsdale LWV's website (LWVS.org) and are due by February 7, 2014.

Students Inside Albany is an intensive four-day conference designed to immerse students in the process by which public policy is proposed, revised and enacted in New York State and to educate them as to how they can influence and affect this process. Last year's Scarsdale students were unanimous in their enthusiasm about the program, which allowed them to interact with students from all over the state, learn about their state government and meet state legislators. For more information about the conference, go to the League of Women Voters of New York State website at <http://www.lwvny.org/> and go to Youth Programs tab.

Please contact Joan Frankle (713-1250 or jagfrankle@aol.com,) or Janet Korins (725-0859 or janet.korins@verizon.net) for more information or if you know someone who would like to apply for this opportunity.

MORELAND COMMISSION UPDATE

The Moreland Commission to Investigate Public Corruption (Commission) established by Governor Cuomo has presented its preliminary findings to the Governor. This initial report had two purposes: to share the status of its ongoing investigation into public corruption at the state level; and to propose measures to combat public corruption in the future. The Commission concluded that comprehensive policy reforms are urgently needed.

The Commission cited the State Board of Elections (BOE) as critically deficient in the enforcement of standing election and campaign laws. The Commission recommended the establishment of an independent, professional agency to replace the current bipartisan structure of the BOE, which the Commission found protects the interests of the political parties rather than serves the needs of a fully participatory democracy.

Other noted inadequacies in current law include allowable personal use of campaign accounts by state legislators; a number of so-called "pay-to-play" arrangements, in which wealthy interests allegedly exchange campaign contributions for targeted pieces of legislative action; gaping loopholes which allow donors to "side-step already sky-high campaign contribution limits"; and lack of disclosure by legislators of outside income and lobbyist relationships.

Among the reform measures proposed by the Commission to address these inadequacies are: restricting the personal use of campaign funds; instituting public financing for candidates for state office; lowering campaign contribution limits with robust enforcement of rules; and strengthening disclosure requirements.

To read the Commission's Preliminary Report in its entirety click

http://lwvny.org/advocacy/electionLaw/campaign-finance-reform/2013/moreland_report_final.pdf

In conjunction with four other good-government advocacy organizations, the New York State LWV urged the Governor to take "decisive action" to implement the findings of the Commission, and marshal public support and the resources needed to fund the Commission's recommended reform measures.

To read the letter to the Governor in its entirety click

<http://lwvny.org/advocacy/electionLaw/campaign-finance-reform/2013/MORELAND-LETTER-DECEMBER%20Final.pdf>

Follow developments in connection with the Commission at lwvny.org.

LWWV FALL HIGHLIGHTS

LWV Westchester Fall Highlights

Log on to www.LWVWestchester.org for the following highlights:

1. The County League's comments on the proposed 2014 Westchester County Budget.
2. The County League's statement to the Charter Review Commission Nov. 2013 in connection with the draft proposal of the Charter Review Commission regarding recommendations for amending the County Charter and Administrative Code. The County League's statement reflects comment upon issues that it had studied and upon which it had reached consensus.

To learn about the structure of county government and to review the Commission's final report, go to <http://westchesterlegislators.com/charter-revision-commission-sp-998.html>. The report, which includes the findings, conclusions and recommendations of the Commission, has been submitted to the Board of Legislators for its consideration. It is hoped that within the next six months, the Board of Legislators will act on some or all of the recommendations. The Commission hopes that members of the public will express their views on its recommendations.

3. A summary of the Symposium sponsored by the County League and Groundwork Hudson Valley held in November in Rockland County that addressed tri-state transportation in the Tappan Zee Bridge corridor.

Also, for a primer on New York State unfunded mandates, watch the video of the informative two-hour forum conducted by the LWV Larchmont/Mamaroneck, partly financed by the LWVW, entitled, "Unfunded Mandates in an Era of Tax Caps" at: <http://lmctvny.swagit.com/play/11252013-850>

SCARSDALE SCHOOLS EDUCATION FOUNDATION

The League Board prepared a Statement in which it asked the Board of Education for clarification with respect to its relationship with the Scarsdale Schools Education Foundation and made recommendations. The Statement was presented to the Board of Education on December 9th. In case you missed it, you can read the Statement at

http://www.lwvs.org/files/ed_foundation_statement_12_9_13doc.pdf

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

LWVS WEBSITE

The LWVS website now accepts PayPal! Memberships and donations can be made with this easy to use and safe method of payment. The next step will be to incorporate PayPal as a way to pay for LWVS functions such as our fundraiser and luncheons. Many thanks to Diane Baylor, Debbie Miller, Deb Morel and Susie Rush for working on the PayPal project.

The website continues to thrive. November was our "most viewed" month with close to 7,500 page requests. This brings the grand total since our May 2013 launch to almost 50,000 page requests. Please keep our website in mind for your "LWVS routine" and share it with your friend

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[Message clipped] [View entire message](#)