



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SOMERS



VOLUME XXVI, NUMBER 10

MAY, 2015

WOMEN & THEIR MONEY

On Monday, May 11th, Paul Sheldon will address the Somers League. He is Senior Vice President of Investments at Wells Fargo Advisors, LLC. Since joining Wells Fargo in 1974, he has become a well-known financial advisor in the industry.

In 1977, he initiated a series of investment seminars targeted for women at the Parson's School of Design, and subsequently, conducted *Financial Independence Considerations for Women* which is currently celebrating its 36th anniversary.

Mr. Sheldon earned a B.A. degree, majoring in communications from the American University. He and his wife live in Westport, Ct. and have two adult sons.

This meeting is an opportunity for you to find out more about handling your money. Be sure to attend.

BOOK & AUTHOR LUNCHEON

Thursday, May 21, 2015 - 12:30PM
Travelers Rest - Route 100, Ossining

Authors & Books



- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| Susan Allison Dean | <i>I Know You're There</i> |
| Karen Engelman | <i>The Book That Must Be Named</i> |
| Stephen Kitsakos | <i>The Accidental Pilgrim</i> |
| Wendy Staub | <i>Lily Dale: New Cozy Mystery Series</i> |

See p. 5 for Coupon

SOMERS LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

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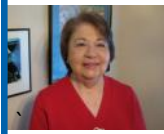
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CO-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

May is one of the most beautiful months of the year. The snow and ice have gone but the hot temperature hasn't arrived yet. In May the first gardens begin to sprout, wild flowers start to bloom and the trees and grasses turn green.

This past February in Nebraska and Colorado the League helped defeat voter photo ID bills that could have kept millions of eligible voters from casting their ballots in the next election. The League of Women Voters of Nebraska helped defeat a bill to require voters to provide a State-issued voter photo ID when voting in person at the polls. An estimated 300,000 registered voters who do not have a current driver's license or other state-issued ID would have been impacted. This also included many over 75, low income, minority and disabled citizens. A bipartisan vote left the discriminatory voter photo ID bill dead for this legislative session. Meanwhile the League of Women Voters of Colorado helped defeat two proposals to require voter ID for voters registering on Election Day or on the days immediately prior. The defeat of the two bills is a victory for voters.

Even though government issued voter ID's are meant to be free, the fees associated with acquiring them creates a heavy tax on the potential voter, keeping them from the polls. The League believes that access to the vote is about equality, not politics. That is why we're committed to working at the local, state and national levels to protect voting rights and ensure equal access to the polls.

Loretta Nelson

Co-President

SAVE THE DATE!

BOOK & AUTHOR LUNCHEON

THURSDAY MAY 21, 2015

PUBLICATIONS: Carol Sturtz, editor.....Harriet Leib, Mac Sturtz

MAILINGS: Lucille Williams

REPORT TO THE PEOPLE



Hear Ye! Hear Ye! Oye! Oye! All is well in the Town of Somers. So its League of Women Voters was told on April 13 when its members gathered at Town Hall to be addressed by the Town Board. Rick Morrissey, Supervisor, began by introducing his fellow board members, Richard Clinchy, Thomas Garrity and Anthony Ciriaco and Town Clerk, Kathleen Pacello. He proceeded to remind us that this town of Somers, home to 20,434, covering 33 miles, is a great place to live. These 33 miles required over 3,000 miles of plowing this past winter. Any potholes remaining should be immediately reported to the town. On named roads, repair is guaranteed within 24 hours.

Somers is anticipating much future development. Somers Crossing PROPOSES 60 to 80 luxury townhouses and a Grocery Store. Its Draft Environmental Impact Statement is almost done. It was suggested that no more than 60 units will be acceptable. De Cicco's has stated intentions to occupy the grocery space. Affordable housing may not be required in this area and that seems alright with the Board. Worry was expressed by audience members about the wetlands surrounding this property. They were assured that there is a 100-foot buffer zone on Rte. 202, and any problems would be addressed. They were further advised to look forward to additional walking paths to enjoy in that area.

Avalon, on Rte. 6, has proposed 152 rental units with 23 affordable ones, 10 of them at 60% of mean income. Avalon promises to create and maintain a Village Green for public use. Hidden Meadows, further south on Rte. 6. will be comprised of 53 townhouses, 16 of them deemed affordable.

Mr. Morrissey emphasized that Somers will have provided 23% of Westchester County's required affordable housing, leaving 77% to be provided by its 31 other townships. He believes we've done our share. And, HUD expires in 2017. It was also stated in response to queries that "Work Force Housing" seems not be in demand as there are vacant units available.

A much needed traffic light has been installed at the intersection of Rte. 202 and Brick Hill Road and work has begun to remove the triangle at the intersection of Rtes.138 and 100 where 49 accidents have occurred in the last 3 years.

Pepsi Cola is departing Somers. It is selling its property to Murray Hill Properties which is looking for multiple tenants. Pepsi's departure should have "no major impact" on Somers' finances. Its 2014 Audit placed the town in a strong financial position.

The good news on the projected Spectra Pipeline is that it will end on Rte. 6 and will not now go through the Preserve.

Somers' last Master Plan was completed in 1994. A 2005 document was created. A Consultant has been hired to utilize that work to create a comprehensive working guide that will be a living, breathing document. Hopes are that a draft will be ready by June of this year.

Somers has joined other towns in "Sustainable Westchester" which will allow the consortium to purchase electricity at lower rates and pass the savings on to individual consumers.

Heritage Hill residents were assured that the development's original plans called for a swimming pool and tennis courts at The Pinnacle and that their construction would not hamper views.

by Betty Golub

PROPOSED SLATE FOR FOR SOMERS LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTER 2015—2016



Co-Presidents.....	Francoise Bennett
	Loretta Nelson
1st Vice President.....	Joyce Liebman
2nd Vice President.....	Lucille Kennedy
3rd Vice President.....	Ann Harper
Treasurer.....	Ann Stafford
Recording Secretary.....	Lucille Williams
Corresponding Secretary.....	Myra Linker

DIRECTORS

(2nd year of 2 year term)

Bea Bartner	Thelma Gruber
Carol Fox	Harriet Leib
Rita Gottfried	Doris Lipman

Carol Sturtz

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Fran McLoughlin, Chair

Polly Kuhn	Harriet Leib
Barbara Rothman	Lucille Williams

America Goes to the Polls, Report on Voter Participation Rates in 2014



General Election

(from NYS Updates)

As a recent study that was released by Nonprofit Vote, a nonpartisan resource that helps nonprofits integrate voter engagement into their ongoing activities and services, summarized voter participation rates for the 2014 general election. New York State ranked 49th out of the 50 states plus DC with only 29% of eligible voters actually voting. The report found that states with competitive elections or election day registration had much higher rates of participation than other states. Seven of the top 10 states allowed same day (election day) registration. The full report is posted on the state website. Use this information to engage more people in our voter registration activities, Vote 411 advertisements, and other voter services events.

MONDAY, MAY 11TH



10:00am Monthly Meeting
10:30am "Women and Their Money"
Paul Sheldon
Somers Library, Reis Park

TUESDAY, MAY 19TH

Board of Education Trustee Election & Budget Vote
Somers Middle School Gymnasium

THURSDAY, MAY 21ST

12:00 Book & Author Luncheon
Traveler's Rest
Route 100, Ossining



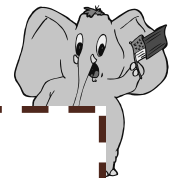
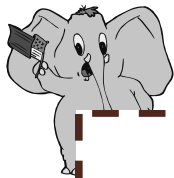
SATURDAY, JUNE 6TH & 7TH

2015 NY State Convention
Desmond Hotel & Conference Center
Albany, NY



MONDAY, JUNE 8TH

10:00am Final Meeting
"All You Can Eat" Brunch
Somers Library, Reis Park



LWV, Box 371, Somers, NY 10589

Name _____

Please reserve _____ place(s) for me

Members: \$49.00 Guests: \$52.00

Indicate Choices

Sliced Steak _____

Chocolate Mousse Cake _____

Chicken _____

Cheese Cake _____

Salmon _____

Carrot Cake _____

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____

Note seating companions below:

Please print, fill out, and mail to Bea Bartner, 367A Heritage Hills, Somers NY 10589



SUPPORTERS OF OUR LEAGUE — 2014-2015

American Portfolios	Louis Tagliaferro	100 Mill Plains Road, Danbury Ct. 06811
Annie's Nails		5 Heritage 202 Center, Somers
Appliance Plus		3 Lovell St., Lincolndale, 10541
Aries Automotive of Somers		253 Route 100
Fred's Haircutting		270 Katonah Ave., Katonah
Hair by Lisa		256 Route 100, Somers
Il Forno Trattoria		343 Route 202, Somers
Marti Lowenfeld, Houlihan/Lawrence		Somers, NY
The Mexican Shack		256 Route 100, Somers
Osceola Garage		44 Route 118, Baldwin Place
Rainbow Tailors & Cleaners		7 Heritage 202 Center
Somers Smiles		356 Route 202, Somers

SUPPORT OUR SUPPORTERS



BENEFACTORS — 2014-2015

Francoise Bennett	Loretta Nelson
Flo Brodley	Jane Pelavin
Leslie Jay-Gould	Pat Ploss
Polly Kuhn	Willa Reichbach
Harriet & George Leib	Barbara Rothman
Doris & Walter Lipman	Anne Stafford
Marti Lowenfeld	Carol & Mac Sturtz
Fran McLoughlin	Lucille Williams



Democracy is not a spectator sport!

The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan organization that does not support or oppose candidates or political parties.