



THE VOTER

The Newsletter of the League of Women Voters of the Hamptons

Founded in 1977

Volume XXXIV, No. 2

March 2011

AFTER CONSENSUS, LEAGUE TAKES ACTION TO SUPPORT POSITION

In keeping with LWVH's consensus decision of December 2009 to support the Council/Manager model of town government, the Government Committee is engaged in a campaign to educate the public about the advantages of this form of town government.

Working with Carol Mellor, the committee developed a pamphlet explaining those advantages and addressing questions frequently asked about the role of a Town Manager/Administrator. In December, Carol delivered a statement of the League's position to the Town Boards at a regular meeting in both East Hampton and Southampton.

Members then began a series of presentations to each Citizen Advisory Committees in the two towns, as well as other community organizations. The repeated snows and icy conditions of January slowed our progress, as many scheduled dates were postponed, but a number of presentations have been made and more are scheduled.

To maintain uniformity, the presentation consists of reading a prepared statement developed by committee chair Naomi Epstein and Carol Mellor, and offering to answer any questions. The explanatory pamphlets are distributed, along with copies of articles about Council Manager government that were printed in *The Voter* during our 2009 study (to read online, go to <http://lwvhamptons.org> and click on *The Voter*.)

Response has been favorable. We hope public understanding of the economic benefits that typically result from hiring a professional manager/administrator will lead to widespread demand for the adoption of this form of government in our two towns.

Libby Hummer, member Government Committee

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GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

March 14 - 7 PM

*Program Planning
for 2011*

Hampton Library
Bridgehampton

For more information, contact:
Carol Mellor 537-6998

ALL ARE WELCOME

The League of Women Voters of the Hamptons

Mission Statement

The League of Women Voters of the Hamptons, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Diversity Policy

The League of Women Voters of the Hamptons, in both its values and practices, is committed to diversity and pluralism. This means that there shall be no barriers to participation in any activity of the League on the basis of economic position, gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin or disability. The League of Women Voters of the Hamptons recognizes that diverse perspectives are important and necessary for responsible and representative decision-making. The League of Women Voters of the Hamptons subscribes to the belief that diversity and pluralism are fundamental to the values it upholds and that inclusiveness enhances the organization's ability to respond more effectively to changing conditions and needs. The League of Women Voters of the Hamptons affirms its commitment to reflecting the diversity of the East End.

Membership

Any person who supports the mission of the League may become a member.

The Voter Newsletter

The newsletter of the Hamptons League, The Voter, is dedicated to bringing useful information, background, perspective and commentary on public policy issues confronting League members and other community citizens in Southampton and East Hampton, Suffolk County and the State of New York. It explores the work of the League to promote positive solutions, and it empowers people to make a difference in their communities.

The Voter is published eight times a year by the League of Women Voters of the Hamptons, P. O. Box 2253, East Hampton, NY 11937.

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President's Message

The most common way people give up their power is by thinking they don't have any.

Alice Walker

This is a plea to our members to exercise their power to control the direction of this organization by letting the board know what issues they want to pursue for the next year. This can be done by responding to the survey which will be sent shortly or, better still, by showing up at the general member meeting in March and letting your thoughts be known.

Much of the strength of our organization lies in two aspects: the breadth of the issues upon which we, by virtue of our established positions and our ability to adopt new positions can act, and the fact that the issues which most concern our members are the issues upon which we concentrate our efforts.

Over the past several years, the members have driven this League in very interesting and diverse directions. It was the members who pushed for a position on the adoption of the Town Manager form of government, with the result that the our League researched the issue, adopted a position in favor of this innovation and has been actively advocating for the adoption of this form of government by our two town governments.

In response to the concerns of our members about their neighbors during the economic turndown, we explored the availability of social services in our community, and discovered the existence of the Call 211 service, which we publicized to our communities. Through your voices, you can influence the direction which this organization pursues on local, county, state and federal issues. That power to influence the direction of the League should not be ignored, and should be exercised by each and every member. To do so helps keep our organization timely and vibrant, and helps our members to have a voice in public policy. We all benefit when the League uses its power to influence the political life of this country, and that power can only be exercised when the members of the league exercise their individual power to direct the future of this grassroots organization. So speak up, let us know what you are thinking and be a part of the future of the League. You have the power—use it.

Carol Mellor

Health & Natural Resources Committee Reports

FIVE THINGS THE U.S. HEALTH DEPARTMENT WANTS YOU TO KNOW

Even if you're healthy now, sooner or later there may be a time when you need health insurance. Lacking it during an illness or bad accident can land you with large debts and bad credit ratings. The Affordable Care Act expands your options for health insurance and making them more affordable in these ways.

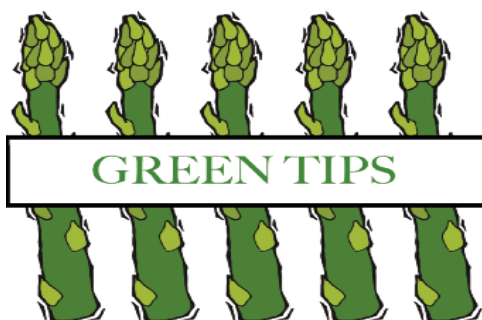
1. Since September 2010, insurance companies can't drop you when you get sick just because you made a mistake on your coverage application.
2. Since September 2010, if you have children under age 26, you can insure them if your policy allows for dependent coverage. The only exception is if you have an existing job-based plan, and your children can get their own job-based coverage.

3. Since September 2010, job-based health plans and new individual plans won't be allowed to deny or exclude coverage to any child under age 19 based on health conditions, including babies born with health problems.

4. Starting in 2014, if your income is less than the equivalent of about \$88,000 for a family of four today and your job doesn't offer affordable coverage, you may get tax credits to help pay for insurance.

5. Starting in 2014, if your employer doesn't offer insurance, you will be able to buy insurance directly in an exchange that gives you power similar to that enjoyed by large businesses and members of Congress. An Exchange is a new transparent and competitive insurance marketplace where individuals and small businesses can buy affordable and qualified health benefit plans. Exchanges will offer you a choice of health plans that meet certain benefits and cost standards.

Judy Samuelson, Chair Health Committee



How to STOP THROWING OUT POLLUTANTS (STOP)

Residents of the two towns can avoid unsafe disposal of hazardous items by bringing them to the transfer stations on the STOP days listed below. And while you're waiting for STOP day in your town, we also offer tips for recycling more than paper and plastic.

STOP materials include:

- oil based paints
- pesticides
- household cleaners
- automotive fluids
- pool chemicals
- photo chemicals

Southampton Town STOP Days

- 4/30 North Sea Transfer Station
- 6/25 Westhampton Transfer Station
- 8/27 Sag Harbor Transfer Station
- 10/29 Hampton Bays Transfer Station

East Hampton Town STOP Days

- 5/21 East Hampton Recycling Station
- 10/15 Montauk Recycling Station

RECYCLING ITEMS BEYOND THE USUAL PAPER AND PLASTIC

Here are suggestions disposing of non-hazardous items beyond those our local recycle center will accept.

- Go to www.Earth911.com and type in the item and your zip code. You'll get a list of places where you can recycle it
- Best Buy and Staples will recycle most electronics at no charge
- You can sell gently used electronics on Gazelle.com
- Revco will take CFL bulbs
- South Thrifty Drug in Southampton will take your unused prescription drugs. They'll also recycle your used eyeglasses.

Glorian Berk, Chair Natural Resources Committee

Voter Services Committee Report

Change is good... **ESPECIALLY AT THE BOARD OF ELECTIONS**

Now that we have survived an unrelenting series of winter blasts, it's good to look forward to more tranquil days ahead. So, in the spirit of forecasting better weather, it seems appropriate to review some changes that seem to offer improvements to the voting process in NY state.

More User-Friendly Website

It was a pleasure to click on to the state's Board of Elections revised website, <http://www.elections.state.ny.us/>, and find the following set of boxes with click-on access to answer to the following set of questions:

- ⊗ Need a Voter Registration Form?
- ⊗ Need an Absentee Ballot?
- ⊗ Want to Know Who is on the Ballot?
- ⊗ Want to learn about the New Voting Machines?
- ⊗ Want to Find Out if you are Registered and Where you Go To Vote?
- ⊗ Need to Change your Address?
- ⊗ Want to Change your Party Enrollment?
- ⊗ Are you in the Armed Forces or live overseas?

There is also other information for the general public including dates, existing laws and upcoming events. Overall, it presents a more open and transparent access to the workings of the board.

Less Intrusive Absentee Voter Application

A new absentee voter application form became effective for the fall elections of 2010. It asks for far less information about the reasons for one's inability to vote in person. The New York State Board of Elections website provides the following list of legitimate reasons to make such application:

- ⊗ Unavoidably absent from your county or, if a resident of New York City absent from said city, on Election Day because of duties, occupation, business, vacation or studies; or accompanying a spouse, parent or child engaged in the above.
- ⊗ Unable to appear at the polls due to temporary or per-

manent illness or disability; or because you are the primary care giver of one or more individuals who are ill or physically disabled.

- ⊗ A patient or inmate in a Veterans' Administration Hospital.

- ⊗ Detained in jail awaiting Grand Jury action or confined in prison after conviction for an offense other than a felony.

Further, the application itself is now a simplified one-page document with clearer instructions for completion.

New Voter Registration Form

Following on the heels of the passage of the new absentee voter registration form of 2010, in January 2011 the NYS Board of Elections approved a new voter registration form. It is a vast improvement in its format and clarity. And given three areas highlighted with exclamation marks, it emphasizes the seriousness of the need for truthfulness of the application and serves as a warning of possible criminal action if the applicant provides any false information. As with the absentee application, it is easier to complete by identifying categories for each section and highlighting the 15 areas for completion. The following is a copy of that part of the form that the applicant completes. (Other sections not included are the directions and Boards of Elections mailing addresses.)

Note: Older versions of both forms may still be found at post offices and libraries. They are still legal, but voters should ask for the newer forms or download them from the BOE web site.

Anne Marshall, Chair Voter Services

ATTEND THE MARCH GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

This meeting, during which we will discuss and vote on which issues to support, sets our course for the coming year. The League is a grass roots organization; ideas on what we support come from the membership up—not from the top. Let your voice be heard!

Date: March 14 - 7 PM

Place: Hampton Library, Bridgehampton

New York State Voter Registration Form (See instructions on page 1)

! It is a crime to procure a false registration or to furnish false information to the Board of Elections. Please print in blue or black ink.

Qualifications	1	Are you a citizen of the U.S.? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If you answer <i>No</i> , you cannot register to vote.	For board use only
	2	Will you be 18 years of age or older on or before election day? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If you answer <i>No</i> , you cannot register to vote unless you will be 18 by the end of the year.	

Your name	3	Last name _____	Suffix _____
		First name _____	Middle Initial _____

More information	4	Birth date M M / D D / Y Y Y Y _____	5	Sex <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> F
	6	Telephone (optional) - - _____		

The address where you live	7	Address (not P.O. Box) _____
		Apt. Number _____ Zip code _____
		City/Town/Village _____
		New York State County _____

The address where you receive mail Skip if same as above	8	Address or P.O. Box _____
		P.O. Box _____ Zip code _____
		City/Town/Village _____

Voting history	9	Have you voted before? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	10	What year? _____
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Voting information that has changed Skip if this has not changed or you have not voted before	11	Your name was _____
		Your address was _____
		Your previous state or New York State County was _____

Identification You must make 1 selection For questions, please refer to <i>Verifying your identity</i> above.	12	<input type="checkbox"/> New York State DMV number _____
		<input type="checkbox"/> Last four digits of your Social Security number X X X - X X - _____
		<input type="checkbox"/> I do not have a New York State driver's license or a Social Security number.

Political party You must make 1 selection To vote in a primary election, you must be enrolled in one of these listed parties — except the Independence Party, which permits non-enrolled voters to participate in certain primary elections.	13	<input type="checkbox"/> Democratic party
		<input type="checkbox"/> Republican party
		<input type="checkbox"/> Conservative party
		<input type="checkbox"/> Working Families party
		<input type="checkbox"/> Independence party
		<input type="checkbox"/> Green party
		<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
	<input type="checkbox"/> I do not wish to enroll in a party	

15	Affidavit: I swear or affirm that
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I am a citizen of the United States. I will have lived in the county, city or village for at least 30 days before the election. I meet all requirements to register to vote in New York State. This is my signature or mark in the box below. The above information is true, I understand that if it is not true, I can be convicted and fined up to \$5,000 and/or jailed for up to four years.
	Sign _____
	Date _____

Optional questions	14	<input type="checkbox"/> I need to apply for an Absentee ballot (optional).
		<input type="checkbox"/> I would like to be an Election Day worker (optional).

LWVH Board Meeting Summary

Held on January 5, 2011

INFORMATION ITEMS

- ☛ Town Manager Advocacy: Carol Mellor reported that the Government Committee was continuing its program of speaking at meetings of civic and governmental groups.
- ☛ Blahs Luncheon, Feb. 16: OSO at the Southampton Inn is this year's location. The buffet is \$25, Judi Roth reported.
- ☛ Southampton Town Board: Carol reported that she, Glorian Berk and Judi attended the meeting where the appointment of a senior town manager services administrator was discussed in response to a resident's comments. Carol followed, and read to the board the League's letter in support of a Town Manager form of government. There were no questions/comments. As follow-up, Carol suggested that the League meet individually with Town Board members to advocate for this reform.
- ☛ Sue Wilson announced that the NYS League board has openings for Secretary and for a chair of Voter Services.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- ☛ Holiday Party: Thanks went to Eموke Forman for her work in organizing the party. It was noted that attendance was about 40, in contrast to some past years when attendance reached 60 or so.
- ☛ Jan. 10 members meeting, Hampton Library in Bridgehampton, 7 PM.
- ☛ Member Program Calendar Revisions: the following changes were made:
 - February board meeting cancelled; next board meeting is March 2.
 - March will be Program Planning; Ann Sanford arranged to hold the meeting at the Hamptons Library, Bridgehampton.
 - April will be Planning and Zoning
 - May is the Annual Meeting
 - June is Natural Resources
 - July is a program on Accessory Apartments
- ☛ Annual Meeting: Carol noted that planning needs to begin now for speakers. All agreed that the location should be the Southampton Cultural Center on Sun., May 15. Judi agreed to contact the Center and reserve the space. Numerous ideas were put forward for speakers: Arlene H. suggested the Nassau County Attorney General, a woman; also, perhaps Larry Levy, the Head of Hofstra's Urban Studies group since the impact of the census has been much discussed. A panel of women who

have run for elective office (winners and losers) was also proposed. A number of names were suggested. Having a Democrat and a Republican would be appealing to audiences. Finally, Carol proposed that when the By-laws are next reviewed, we consider moving the meeting to fall.

☛ Hot Topic Lunches: Terri distributed the press release and flyers for the January 19 luncheon. RSVP is by Jan. 12. The speaker will talk from about 12:15 to 12:30 and there will be an opportunity for questions.

☛ 211: Joy Cordery reported that the website is 211li.org. Funding to United Way for this service has expired, except for fuel assistance calls which will be accepted until March. United Way is working to negotiate contracts with government organizations to support their centralized call center, thus saving the duplication that occurs with multiple smaller, government-run centers. Carol will draft a letter to Southampton Town introducing the United Way representative who will work to negotiate such a contract.

☛ State and National Issues: Carol reported that the Missouri League wrote to other leagues, including LWVH, asking that they write to the National League asking that abolition of the death penalty become a priority in their activities.

☛ Expansion of Mandatory Recount: Carol reported that the Nassau League wrote to our board asking support for a "risk-based" auditing method to be used in the future for disputed elections based on the closeness of the election. The letter included other requests. The current auditing system for the paper ballot optical scan system requires a mandatory step-up audit where ballots from certain scanners are hand counted beginning with a 3% audit of the scanners. [Note: See page 16 of the Jan-Feb Voter for a full explanation.] Carol will forward the letter to the board in order to help in putting together a response.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- ☛ Special Events: Sue reported that the next meeting will be on Feb. 9.
- ☛ Membership: Carol read Arlene Makl's list of people dropped from the membership list and asked that they be called.
- ☛ Natural Resources: Glorian reported that her committee continues work on the June meeting on home energy efficiency and that among the panel speakers will be representatives from Southampton Town, LIPA, L.I. Green, Ocean Electric.
- ☛ Voter Services: no report.

Continued on page 19

HOT TOPICS LUNCHEON A HOT TICKET

Winter is quiet in the Hamptons, and some League members go south to get away from the snow, cold and forlornly empty shop windows. The League is determined to enliven the season, not just for members, but for the larger community. One extremely successful effort was our first Hot Topics Luncheon on January 19. It was organized by Terri Levin Davgin and a committee including Mary Blake, Jane Dell, Estelle Gellman, Jane Lapple, Arlene Makl and Judi Roth.



Internationally-known yogi Rodney Yee and his wife Colleen Saidman, at LWVH's first Hot Topics luncheon on January 19 at the American Hotel in Sag Harbor.

Held at the American Hotel in Sag Harbor, it featured great food and speakers Rodney Yee and his wife, Colleen Saidman. Mr. Yee, an internationally known yogi, discussed the art, meaning and practice of yoga, which he says enables one's body, mind and heart to be unified in the present moment and helps us understand how we are all interconnected and involved in community. He related this concept to the work of the League, saying, "Yoga is about truly finding your voice. Knowing our values, what we stand for, is the initiation of all politics in all communities."

The luncheon drew nearly 40 attendees, including 15 non-League members. Two people joined during the event and the Membership Committee expects a few more to join by mailing the membership forms provided at each table.

Concept originated at National Convention

The idea was presented as means to increase membership and deepen community involvement. Terri, who attended the convention, said, "We thought it a perfect alternative for those unable to attend our evening meetings as well as an opportunity for people to meet and to broaden their knowledge of interesting topics." Added committee member Judi Roth, "Hot Topics also demonstrates another side of the League of Women Voters as a social organization of bright women involved in the community." As this was a social event, not a fundraiser, the \$25 fee covered just the cost of the meal.

The next Hot Topics Luncheon will be in April. The venue and speaker are not confirmed at press time, but the committee notes that all the Hot Topics Luncheons will focus on the arts, which the committee feels aligns with the nature of our community and will appeal to non-members as well as League members.

Submitted by Judy Samuelson
Photos by Arlene Hinkelmeyer



Board member Terri Levin Davgin, initiator of the Hot Topics programs, greeted guests at the door.



Suffolk County Voter

www.lwv-suffolkcounty.org Box 1440, Stony Brook, NY 11790-1440 631-862-6860

Wed. March 16 LWVSC Board Meeting, SCCC, Main St. Riverhead 10am - 12noon

March 2011

LWV Suffolk County and Local Leagues start 2011 with Advocacy, Action, and Voter Service

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Board of Elections meets with LWVSC

Suffolk County BOE officials Jeanne O'Rourke and Mike Torres met with LWVSC Board members on Feb. 16 to review the LWV's post-election survey results and share the BOE's insights and plans for 2011.

- SC BOE will use the new optical scan machines at all special elections which are run by the BOE (e.g. SC 6th LD special election).
- Other special election districts (e.g. library, school, fire, etc.) are offered use of the new machines, but may choose to use the lever machines or paper ballots.
- Although NYS now permits "split shift" inspector schedules on election day, SC BOE will monitor the effectiveness of this program in other counties before making any changes here.
- SC BOE will no longer depend on telephoned results on election night-- the shortcomings of this process were evident in 2010's general election. Instead, the BOE is developing a method for receiving the machine results directly from the memory cards.

Redistricting News

Nancy Marr has been selected as the LWV representative on the Suffolk County Redistricting Commission.

Leagues continue to educate members and the public about the need for legislation to create a New York State redistricting commission which is independent and bi-partisan.

LWVSC now an affiliate member of Touro Law Public Advocacy Center

Touro Law welcomed LWVSC to the PAC and LWVSC is now seeking law school students to help with pro-bono and volunteer projects during 2011. There is also the possibility of a work-study grant internship. Projects include research on NYS election law and cases, as well as collecting information on Suffolk County affordable housing details.

Naturalization Ceremonies and Voter Registration

After a successful effort registering newly naturalized citizens at the Central Islip courthouse in the fall, local Leagues are coordinating efforts to continue to assist with voter registration on certain Mondays throughout 2011. Please contact your local League if you would like to participate in this needed and rewarding project.

Housing in Suffolk County

LWVSC Board members Barbara Jordan, Nancy Marr, Judie Gorenstein and Mary Zopf are compiling information which will lead to a report on the status of accessory apartments in Suffolk County townships. If you are interested in helping the housing committee, please contact one of them directly via phone or email (see board list on the left)

Hydro-fracking Moratorium Advocacy

The Marcellus Shale in upstate New York (including part of the watershed that provides water for more than 7 million people in New York City) is an area that has an abundance of natural gas.

Permits have been secured for companies to start drilling but because of the activities of environmental groups and pressure from many citizens there is a temporary moratorium until July, 2011 on any fracking procedure in New York State. The method employed in fracking is to drill a deep well, and once drilled, millions of gallons of water, sand and proprietary chemicals (a mixture of 596 highly toxic chemicals) are injected, under high pressure, into it. The pressure fractures the shale and props open fissures that enable natural gas to flow more freely out of the well. This injected water then becomes contaminated and has to be disposed of forever. Since the wells are typically 8,000 feet deep and water aquifers are about 1,000 feet deep there is a good chance of contamination of water that is used for drinking, cooking, bathing, and for animals and farming.

LWVUS has a position against the current fracking process. We need to see to it that this becomes a permanent ban for, if the companies succeed in defeating the moratorium, we run the risk of destroying the watershed forever which would create a major water shortage. The result: the need for water for New York City will become so intense that Long Island's precious and pure aquifer supply will possibly be auctioned to the highest bidder.

Brenda Reiss (LWV Huntington) will present more information at the March 16 LWVSC board meeting in Riverhead. Local league members are invited to learn more about the important advocacy issue for 2011.

Academy Award Nominated Documentary "Gasland" available for Showing/Discussion

Please contact Brenda Reiss (habrenda@earthlink.net 631 261 7093) if you are interested in showing Gasland to members of your local League and your community. Brenda will assist with the showing and a discussion of the issues and advocacy.

Legislative Action Kit for Suffolk County

LWVSC's Legislative Committee, chaired by Katherine Hoak, has completed the revision of the Legislative Action Kit, which covers league positions on major issues of concern in our county. Local Leagues are encouraged to view it on the LWVSC website, and use it to prepare for legislative visits.

March 2011

Note: Meeting dates and times are published several weeks in advance and are subject to change. Please contact the Chairs or visit our website at www.lwvhamptons.org for updates. If you don't see a meeting for a committee of interest, contact the Chair of that committee. Contact information is listed on last inside page of The Voter and on the website, www.lwvhamptons.org.

March 2 - 5:30 PM Wednesday	Board of Directors Meeting	Bridgehampton National Bank, Montauk Highway, Bridgehampton. Members and guests welcome.
March 14 - 7:00 PM Monday	General Membership Meeting	Program Planning. Hampton Library, Bridgehampton.
March 16 - Wednesday	Special Events Meeting	Teleconference. Contact Sue Wilson 283-6549
LOOKING AHEAD		
April 6 - 5:30 PM Wednesday	Board of Directors Meeting	Bridgehampton National Bank, Montauk Highway, Bridgehampton. Members and guests welcome.
April 11 - 7:00 PM Monday	General Membership Meeting	Government Planning & Zoning. Hampton Library, Bridgehampton.
April 13 - 8:30 AM - 1:30 PM Wednesday	Running and Winning	Southampton Cultural Center, Pond Lane, Southampton
TOWN BOARD MEETINGS		
March 1 - 10:00 AM	East Hampton Town Board Work Session	Town Hall Meeting Room, 159 Pantigo Rd., East Hampton
March 3 - 7:00 PM	East Hampton Town Board Meeting	Town Hall Meeting Room, 159 Pantigo Rd., East Hampton
March 8 - 10:00 AM	East Hampton Town Board Work Session	Montauk Fire House, EH Meeting Room, Montauk
March 8 - 1:00 PM	Southampton Town Board Meeting	Town Hall Board Room, Southampton Town Hall, 116 Hampton Rd., Southampton
March 17 - 7:00 PM	East Hampton Town Board Meeting	Town Hall Meeting Room, 159 Pantigo Rd., East Hampton
March 22 - 6:00 PM	Southampton Town Board Meeting	Town Hall Board Room, Southampton Town Hall, 116 Hampton Rd., Southampton
March 4, 11, 13 and 25 9:30 AM	Southampton Town Board Work Sessions	Town Hall Board Room, Southampton Town Hall, 116 Hampton Rd., Southampton

Education Committee

SURVEY SHOWS LWVH HAS NOTABLE NUMBERS OF ACTIVE PARTICIPANTS

As members of the NYS Education Committee, Judie Gorenstein (Huntington), Lisa Scott (Smithtown) and I surveyed Leagues all over the state to learn what type of youth activities they were engaged in. Our first effort was an e-mail survey, followed by phone calls. The aim was to gather information and disseminate good ideas to all Leagues.

Based on conversations with women from Harrison to Plattsburg, I learned how lucky we are in the Hamptons. We have a vital, involved membership not only on the Education Committee, but on Natural Resources, Membership, Voter Services and others. So many of those from other Leagues wanted to do more but lacked people to do the work. So congratulations to all who enjoy what we do. Let's keep doing it.

DATE SET FOR 2011 EVENT

This year's "Running and Winning" program (now in its

third year) will take place on Wednesday, April 13, 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Southampton Cultural Center. I am pleased to announce that a major part of the financing for this event will come from Bridgehampton National Bank. The topic selected for the high school girls to take a position on is: If you were running for office what would you do to promote civility in public discourse, on social networking sites, and in the media?

Southampton Town Justice Andrea Schiavoni will be our featured speaker. Those who have heard Judge Schiavoni speak know she is a lively and engaging speaker who can relate very well to young people.

The Education Committee is always looking for volunteers to help on the day of the program. There are positions for facilitators and assistant facilitators (half-day training required for these) as well as for hospitality assistants and registrars. Call me at 283-0759 if you are interested.

We are awaiting applications for the State League "Students Inside Albany" four-day trip and the application packages have gone out for the Betty Desch Scholarship.

Judi Roth, Chair, Education Committee

LWVH MAKES POWERFUL PRESENTATION AT MEMBERSHIP MEETING



At the January 10 LWV meeting at the Bridgehampton library on "Two Significant Federal and State Election Issues for 2011," LWV Board member Glorian Berk (pictured here) gave a PowerPoint presentation titled *The Case for Redistricting Reform in NYS*. Prepared by the LWVNYS, it illustrated several examples of gerrymandering nationwide and called for non-partisan reform when the U.S. Congressional, and NYS Senate and Assembly lines are redrawn after the 2010 census.

The second half of the program was a PowerPoint created by LWV President Carol Mellor on the impact of the recent U.S. Supreme Court decision in the "Citizens United" case, which allows unlimited corporate campaign spending in elections.

Photo/caption by Arlene Hinkemeyer

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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

The League of Women Voters of the Hamptons welcomes Mary O'Brien and Nancy Graboski. These new members chose not to be interviewed but expressed support for the work of the League.

The Voter's Production Schedule Announced

During 2011, *The Voter* will be published as follows: January/February, March, April, May/June, July/August, September, October, November/December. More timely information can always be found at our website: www.lwvhamptons.org.

The production team for *The Voter* consists of Sally James, Joy Cordery, Judy Samuelson and Ann Sandford.

LWVH Board Meeting Summary

Continued from page 6

- ☀ Observer Corps: Judi reported that Naomi Epstein encouraged the work on Southampton Town. Carol noted that other leagues posted summaries of meetings observations on their websites. Perhaps LWVH should do the same.
- ☀ Education: Judi reported that her committee was still deciding on the topic for Running and Winning and that the Betty Desch Award applications are about to go out to the schools.
- ☀ Health: no report
- ☀ Publicity: Arlene circulated copies of recent publicity.
- ☀ Website: no report
- ☀ *The Voter*: Sally noted that Madison Printing was selected for its quality and cost for future printing.

Next Board Meeting:

March 2 - 5:30 PM - Bridgehampton Bank

Submitted by Ann Sandford

The Voter

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