



THE VOTER

The Newsletter of the League of Women Voters of the Hamptons

Founded in 1977

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March 2012

LWVH REPS MEET WITH JAY SCHNEIDERMAN

by Marsha Kranes with Judi Roth

Water taxis, tax hikes, budget cuts and layoffs were among the subjects Suffolk County Legislator Jay Schneiderman touched on in a recent interview with Judi Roth and Marsha Kranes in the first of what LWVH hopes will be regular meetings to exchange views and discuss issues.

Mr. Schneiderman spoke enthusiastically about a proposed "Peconic Water Jitney" and also discussed Suffolk's massive budget shortfall, service cuts, layoffs, a possible sales tax hike and a review of County land listed as preservation targets. He disclosed that the Hampton Jitney is interested in introducing water taxi service between Sag Harbor and Greenport. Hampton Jitney hopes to launch the water taxi service with a pilot project that would transport passengers who would then avoid driving west to Riverhead and then east again on the north fork. If it proves viable, he noted, service could be expanded to include Riverhead, Orient Point and Montauk.



He believes a regularly scheduled water jitney, tied in with shuttle bus service, would encourage local tourism without adding to area traffic and parking problems. As he envisions it, the water taxi would be used by bikers, hikers and shoppers as well as by visitors bound for local wineries and beaches. Before the Hampton Jitney can go ahead with the project, he noted, it would need the approval of the two villages and a county franchise.

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DON'T MISS

General Membership Meeting

Monday • March 12 • Noon

Hampton Library

Main St., Bridgehampton

Agenda: Discuss And Set League Priorities for the Coming Year

Light Lunch Will Be Served.
*It's Your League. Your Country.
Take Part.*

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 (January/February, March, April, May/June, July/August, September, October, and November/December) by the League of Women Voters of the Hamptons, P. O. Box 2253, East Hampton, NY 11937.

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President's Message

I'm writing on January 20, as we have the first dusting of snow. What a difference from last year, when we were buried under a record 28 inches! Come back, all you snowbirds—it's almost like spring! Still, maybe this is not such good news...I've heard that for the last 10 winters the earth's average temperature has increased (except for last year). And that we had more "unusual weather events" such as earthquakes, floods, tornados, than in many years past. But these are things we cannot directly influence.

How, you may ask, does this relate to the League of Women Voters? Because I think it is important to work on the things we can influence, not bemoan those we can't. For example, we can work to:

- Increase voter turnout and educate voters about the candidates and issues
- Interest young people in government and importance of voting
- Have a say in local issues from housing to land use to clean water
- Be creative in how we approach "fund raising" – making things fun and profitable at the same time
- Think about our neighbors and how we can collaborate with other groups who have the same issues at heart, whether it's substantiability or helping women gain control of their lives or something else.

I feel frustrated when I read the newspaper or watch the TV news because I can't help the valiant people in Syria. I can't do much beyond send money to destitute Haiti or denounce the stupidity and venality of the supposedly smart people who took such bets on credit default swaps that they sent us and themselves into a tailspin we're still struggling with. But then I watch what's going on in Wisconsin, where 1.5 million people signed petitions to ask for a recall of their governor. And I envy the people in New Hampshire and South Carolina who get to meet the Presidential candidates and talk to them at their churches and meeting halls, showing us again and again how every vote counts. In our own local elections, there were recounts for East Hampton Town Supervisor and Southampton Town Council – and let's not forget the Congressional recount two years ago. If ever there was a year to work on voter turnout and to convince people that their own vote counts, 2012 is it.

At our April 9 Members Meeting (7 p.m. at the Hampton Library), we'll show a PowerPoint presentation put together by the LWV-NYS highlighting what other states are doing to increase voter turnout; e.g. early voting, vote by mail, weekend voting, etc. At that meeting, we will ask you to brainstorm about how we in the Hamptons can work together to get our voter turnout above an already-laudable 50%. We hope some of the young women who attend our Running and Winning program on March 14 will share their ideas on how youth can be encouraged to vote.

On March 12 we invite all League members to join us for lunch at the Hampton Library at noon to get your ideas on what you want your League to work on in the coming year.

- Judi Roth, LWVH Co-President

Committee Reps Attend Advocacy Day in Albany

by Carol Mellor

Last month, LWV-NYS hosted an Advocacy Day in Albany to review basic league principles of action and advocacy, and to bring members up to date on the goings on in our state capital. It was an interesting and energizing day. Here are some of the highlights.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

After years of advocacy on this issue, it was with a sense of relief and optimism that we heard Governor Cuomo include support of campaign finance reform in his State of the State address. The League, with many other good government groups, promptly indicated their support of the passage of meaningful campaign finance reform legislation. Their joint letter noted the positive effect public financing of elections can have on the integrity of the process and the empowerment of average voters to have a voice, and therefore be motivated to vote.

Public financing is seen as a counterstroke to the unlimited and increasingly secret spending unleashed by Citizens United driven by small numbers of wealthy donors. Public financing is a tool to help candidates run competitive campaigns built on a base of small contributors. The letter noted that New York City's experience shows that a public financing option can counter the potentially corrupting influence of big money in politics. In addition to public financing, the League is working to pass a law which contains reasonable contribution limits without loopholes; "pay to play" rules for companies and individuals doing business with the State; and, in particular, strong but fair and independent enforcement of our campaign finance laws.

HEALTH CARE

We were addressed by Sally Dreslin, the League's new Health Care Specialist, who is a dynamic and energetic advocate. Among the topics she discussed was the League's support of a bill called the Reproductive Health Act. In light of the questions about the future of Roe v. Wade, certain New York legislators, with the strong support of the LWV, have proposed a law which would make reproductive choice a right protected by state law. The League's supporting memorandum notes that the proposed legislation would guarantee a woman's right to make personal, private decisions about her reproductive health care. The legislation seeks to protect the

right to choose or refuse abortion and to choose or refuse contraception. In the face of increasing attacks on reproductive rights, New York's laws need to be strengthened to protect women's health and safety. The League's State Legislative Director, Barbara Bartoletti, has recently reported action in Albany which might portend a difficult road for this legislation. A recent legislative resolution in the Assembly noting the anniversary of Roe v. Wade, which has, in the past, been approved by a noncontroversial voice vote, received an unprecedented shout out of "no" votes which, although drowned out by the "yes" votes, might indicate a unwelcome climate in the New York Assembly. Further, the Republican-controlled State Senate refused to issue a similar legislative resolution.

REDISTRICTING

A topic on which the League has been quite active is still on the front burners. The legislative body which issued the redrawn maps proposed lines which, particularly in the Senate, have been called the most gerrymandered lines in decades. The Governor has threatened a veto. Hearings are being held which may result in reconsideration of some of the most egregious aspects of the plan. The League continues to criticize the process, calling for an independent commission, and is working on reformation of the process for future redistricting.

ANNUAL WINTER 'BLAHS' LUNCHEON A SIZZLING SUCCESS

On February 15, more than 28 members and guests enjoyed a pleasant meal in good company at our annual "Beat the Blahs" luncheon at Bobby Van's. Photo by Jacqui LoFaro. (Room to show only one table, sorry!)



Voter Services Committee Report

Voting Issues Emerge For 2012

by Anne Marshall

In this presidential election year, a number of important voting-related issues are inching to center stage. Among them:

- Changes in Voter ID requirements in several states (See “Who is ALEC ?” in January/February *Voter*)
- Recently released research by the Pew Center on the troubling status of voting across the country
- Election reform in New York State—a top priority of LWV-NYS

ID REQUIREMENTS

LWVUS President Elisabeth McNamara expressed the League’s concerns about voting changes, “Today we are experiencing an unprecedented attack on voting rights. This assault on voters is sweeping across the country, state by state, and is one of the greatest self-inflicted threats to our democracy – our way of governing – in our lifetimes. These new laws threaten to silence the voices of those least heard and rarely listened to in this country – the poor, the elderly, racial and ethnic minorities, the young and the differently abled. These new laws require photo ID and or proof of citizenship in order to vote, they restrict third party voter registration drives, decrease early voting and eliminate Election Day registration.” The League of Women Voters opposes these new laws and legislation because they:

- Risk disenfranchising millions of eligible voters
- Will cost millions of dollars to implement
- Demonstrate no evidence of a need for such measures

PEW CENTER RESEARCH

A report from the Pew Center documented how the faults and failures in U.S. voter registration system cost 2 million votes in 2008. It’s also light years behind many other democracies in terms of enabling eligible voters to vote.

- Approximately 24 million (one of every eight voter registrations) in the US is either invalid or inaccurate
- Approximately 2.75 million people have active registrations in more than one state
- Approximately 1.8 million dead people are still listed as active voters
- One in four eligible voters (more than 24% of those eligible) are not registered

ELECTION REFORM IN NEW YORK STATE

The first item in the 2012 Legislative Agenda adopted by the LWVNYS urges the following changes under the

heading Election Reform:

- Paperless and Election Day registration
- Better ballot design
- Improved polling place management/poll worker training
- Measures to insure the integrity of all ballots.

A December 2011 briefing paper by LWVNYS on Increasing Voter Participation notes that over the last three federal elections, New York had the 47th lowest voter participation rate of the 50 states and Washington, D.C. Contributing factors include New York’s paper-based registration system, early registration deadline and other outdated voter registration policies, including a long waiting period for changing party affiliation.

There are many possible opportunities to increase rates of voter participation in NY through common sense solutions that have been implemented, to varying degrees of success, in other states. These fall into two general categories:

- Voter registration modernization. Paperless forms of voter registration have decreased costs and increased accuracy of the voter rolls in a number of other states. Registering and voting on the same day is a proven method of increasing voter participation.
- Early voting. Many voters across the country now cast their votes before the traditional “Election Day.” While the impact of early voting on turnout has been debated, it has become popular for its convenience as voters chose to vote to suit their own schedule.

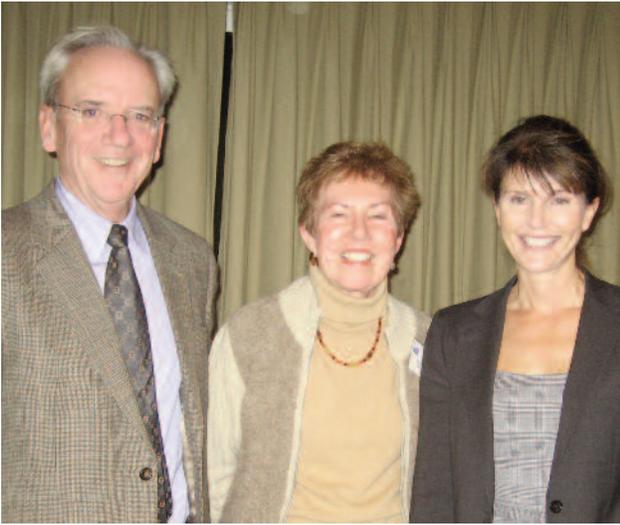
Town Supervisors Voice 2012 Priorities, Challenges

by Judi Roth

Town Supervisors Bill Wilkinson (East Hampton) and Anna Throne-Holst (Southampton) were the speakers at our January 9 members meeting, attended by about 50 people. Traditionally, LWVH offers the public venues to hear and be heard by town officials as part of educating voters. Anne Marshall, Chair of Voter Services, moderated. While there were overlapping themes, the two officials emphasized different issues. For example, Mr. Wilkinson spoke about:

- “Righting the ship” after a previous administration left East Hampton deeply in debt.
- Asking for employee sacrifices, and getting cooperation, particularly from the Police Department.
- Getting East Hampton’s fair share of funds from the Fire

Education Committee Report



ABOVE Voter Services chair Anne Marshall, center, moderator of "A Conversation with the Newly-Reelected Town Supervisors," Bill Wilkinson of East Hampton and Anna Throne-Holst of Southampton, at the LWVH Members Meeting, Hampton Library on January 9. Photo by Arlene Hinkemeyer.

Island Seashore Authority for sand and dredging.

- The very-close election renewed his respect for "every single vote." He realizes he must communicate better and be more sympathetic to local sensibilities.

For Ms. Throne-Holst the issues are:

- Economic development and revitalizing commercial incentives to bring business here.
- Building the tax base.
- Regarding shared services, reviving an organization of regional supervisors to consider a health care consortium for employees and a clean water coalition.
- Meeting with department heads to see how efficiency changes are being implemented.

Responding to the League's inquiries about opportunities for shared services, both supervisors said these were not easily achieved. Regarding the health care consortium suggested by Southampton Village Mayor Mark Epley, Mr. Wilkinson talked about the numbers of employees needed to attract insurers and Ms. Throne-Holst said that Southampton Town had rejected putting up the funds needed to work on this project. Both noted most items are purchased through state contracts or BOCES (for schools) so savings are already occurring or are smaller than the effort is worth. However, both agreed that in tough times, consolidation and shared services will be more closely examined.

Audience questions included interest in why the

Towns have different leaf programs, recycling programs and beach permitting practices. Both supervisors spoke fervently about maintaining beach and fishing access for the community and against efforts to privatize segments of our beaches by small groups of homeowners.

EVERY VOTE COUNTS!

Mr. Wilkinson's narrowly-won election demonstrates the importance of each vote. The League pursues every avenue of registering eligible voters and "getting out the vote" because we know from our own communities the importance of not leaving the voting process to others!

"Running & Winning" Gallops Ahead

by Mary Blake

With the Running & Winning program set for March 14, from 8:00 to 1:30, the Education Committee has a good handle on whom to expect, including elected officials, participating students and league members who will facilitate the meeting and help with refreshments and registration.

A month before the event at the Southampton Cultural Center at 25 Pond Lane, 12 elected women officials had confirmed attendance, as well as eight students from East Hampton; ten from Pierson H.S in Sag Harbor; nine from Westhampton and one from the Ross School. Bridgehampton H.S. confirmed one student with a possibility of two more. The committee awaited word from Southampton and Shelter Island and understood that Hampton Bays would not participate.

JUDIE GORENSTEIN TO BE KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Judie Gorenstein, a co-chair of the NY State League's Youth Education Committee and Director of Voter Services for the County League, will address the group. Her many activities to promote voter participation among young people make Judie a particularly apt choice of speaker. The theme the young participants will focus on is "getting out the vote." The director and a staff member of L.I. Fund for Women (funders of the event) will also attend.

The Education Committee also reviews candidates for our annual Betty Desch Award scholarship. Beth Barth volunteered to be the point person for 2012 and will contact the school guidance counselors with the invitation letter and application form, noting that the deadline for submission is April 10. This award is given at LWVH's Annual Meeting in May.

LWVH Board Meeting Summary

by Judy Samuelson

Held on January 4, 2012

Note: There was no board meeting in February.

INFORMATION ITEMS

- * Annual Beat the Winter Blahs Luncheon. Pat Arceri and Julia Kayser confirmed details with manager of Bobby Van's in Bridgehampton:
 - Wednesday, February 15, 12:30 p.m.
 - Seven entrée choices, plus dessert and tea or coffee for \$26.00, including tax and tip.
 - Those planning to attend must contact Julia Kayser at 631-324-1498 or Kayjulle@aol.com before Feb. 13.
 - Judy Samuelson will send a Constant Contact to all members with this information, Arlene Hinkemeyer will create print publicity.
- * March member meeting. Topic: Planning. Scheduled for noon on March 12, in hopes a daytime meeting attracts members unable to join us in the evening. Venue: Hamptons Library, Bridgehampton. LWVH will provide lunch for all attendees. Gladys Remler will seek prices from Hampton Coffee (a Voter advertiser) and Golden Pear. Judy Samuelson will send a Constant Contact to all members with this information.
- * Donation to the Retreat. Judi shared her letter to Helen Atkinson Barnes accompanying checks for \$895. – the largest amount we have raised for any organization.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- Selection of priority issues for National. After discussion, board voted to request that National League focus on three issues:
 - o Working to counteract ALEC and other impediments to the right to vote
 - o Advocating measures to reform/remediate effects of Supreme Court decision in Citizens United
 - o Changing EPA regulations to include the oil and gas industries (currently exempt) in adherence to clean air and water standards
- Two board members needed for Nominating Committee. Judy and Gladys volunteered. Committee is chaired by Ann Sanford, with Afton DiSunno and Jane Lapple representing membership.
- April members meeting. Topic is “getting out the vote.” Glorian feels a LWV-NY PowerPoint presentation on “Increasing Voter Participation” should be cut down and will do so. Since the meeting is after 2012 Running & Winning, we will invite some of the student participants to share their ideas on ways to get out the vote.
- Feedback on videos from Nassau on membership.

Board agreed that for our target audience, we will get more response, and spend less, if we develop radio PSA's for local stations. An ad hoc committee to create radio spots was formed, including Sue, Gladys (chair), Judi, Glorian and Arlene.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- * Voter Services. Anne Marshall
 - Feedback to Board of Elections (BOE) to be discussed at Jan. 11 committee meeting. We hope George Lynch can join us.
 - Naturalization ceremony in Islip to be covered by Anne, Mireille and one other on January 18; Glorian, Gladys and Judi on January 25.
- * Special Events. Gladys thanked Ursula for going far above the expected in holding two items back from the August Flea Market because she felt the League would get more money selling through an auction house. We did!
- * Education In Mary and Terri's absence, Judi reported that all Students In Albany materials were delivered to the schools. Committee members will pick up applications on January 20. Judy offered a Constant Contact to the schools to back up Arlene's publicity and Mary's personal contacts.
- * Natural Resources. Sue Wilson
 - Sue summarized the committee's efforts to join forces with other environmental groups – most recently those concerned about water quality. Next action will be developing a scaleable database of these groups so as to coordinate future events and lobbying.
 - LWV-SC has not decided whether or not to support formation of a regional water authority. There are valid arguments on both sides. The board approved Sue's proposal to do a study of the concept with the aim of helping other ILO's and the county league decide yea or nay.
- * Government Services. Naomi Epstein
 - Past President Carol Mellor reported on a Group for Good Government board meeting that she and Naomi Epstein attended. They gave the GGG a presentation on the manager/council model of town government. It was unclear whether the GGG will embrace the concept, but they agreed to sponsor a forum on the subject. The group is non-partisan, but they define the term more loosely than LWVH does.
 - Assemblyman Fred Thiele sent Naomi written confirmation that no referendum is required for a town board to create the administrative position of town manager as long as the job description doesn't include any duties of the supervisor. Normally, it does not.

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March 2012

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 6 - 10:00 AM Tuesday	Natural Resources Committee Meeting	Hampton Library, Bridgehampton. Contact Sue Wilson 283-6549.
March 7 - 5:30 PM Wednesday	LWVH Board Meeting	Bridgehampton Bank, Bridgehampton.
March 12 - Noon Monday	General Membership Meeting	Discuss & Vote On LWVH Priorities for 2012. Hampton Library, Bridgehampton.
March 14 - 8:30 AM- 1:30 PM Wednesday	"Running & Winning"	Southampton Cultural Center, Southampton. Contact Mary Blake 907-4499.
March 21 - 1:00 PM Wednesday	Special Events Committee Meeting	Cooper Hall, Southampton Library, Southampton. Contact Ursula Lynch at 288-4721 or Gladys Remler at 288-9021.
March 21 - 2:00PM Wednesday	Media Group - Initial Meeting	Cooper Hall, Southampton Library, Southampton. Contact Gladys Remler at 288-9021.
TOWN BOARD MEETINGS		
March 1 & 15 - 7:00 PM	East Hampton Town Board Meeting	Town Hall Courtroom, 159 Pantigo Rd., East Hampton
March 13 - 1:00 PM	Southampton Town Board Meeting	Town Hall Board Room, Southampton Town Hall, 116 Hampton Rd., Southampton
March 27 - 6:00 PM	Southampton Town Board Meeting	Town Hall Board Room, Southampton Town Hall, 116 Hampton Rd., Southampton

SAVE THE DATE ON MARCH 12, BE PART OF DEMOCRACY IN ACTION

At noon on Monday, March 12, LWVH will hold a members' meeting to discuss and then vote on our 2012 issue priorities. The national and state Leagues have many positions. Our local League cannot actively advocate on all of them, so we choose issues to make our local priorities. Your opinions and ideas will be discussed before you vote.

HOW LOCAL PRIORITIES ARE IMPLEMENTED

After we've chosen our local priorities, the Board of Directors develops strategies for implementation, which often must be executed by the committees. Then the committees develop action steps, such as sponsoring a public forum or developing an advocacy plan.

We'll provide the lunch. It's up to you to bring the ideas, opinions and enthusiasm for our work in 2012.

Where: Hampton Library, Main St., Bridgehampton
When: Noon on Monday March 12



Suffolk County Voter

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

February 2012

Wednesday February 15 LWVSC Board Meeting SCCC, Riverhead, 10:00am - 12:00noon

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League Efforts Acknowledged as New Facility for Comprehensive Psychiatric Emergency Program (CPEP) in Stony Brook is Opened

by Katherine Hoak



Through its long-term commitment to Alternatives to Incarceration, the League had become acutely aware of the prevalence of mental illness in Suffolk County and the need for more adequate resources to meet the needs.

The CPEP (Comprehensive Psychiatric Emergency Program) facility at Stony Brook Medical Center was established in 1990 to provide emergency evaluations and triage services for the public mental health system. It accommodated about 6,000 visits a year by people suffering from schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, severe depression, substance abuse, as well as personal and family crises. CPEP is staffed by psychiatrists, social workers, nurses and nursing assistants.

Over two years ago, League members Sondra Irvine, Joyce Rosenthal, Adam Gaus, and I were given a tour of parts of that facility with guidance by Dr. Mark Sedler, Chief Psychiatrist of the Medical Center. Although we were unable to see parts of it because patients were there, what we did see was startling. Areas set aside

It was apparent that patients entering CPEP had little chance for calm or hope, aside from that offered by the caring staff. The environment was ultimately demoralizing.

for incoming patients and for the police officers who needed to accompany some of them were narrow, cramped and stark. In the old facility we saw the small, confining nurses' station with its furniture moved about to make room to move. The rooms for patients were narrow, and yet having to accommodate two patients each. There was little opportunity to provide privacy. It was apparent

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that patients entering CPEP had little chance for calm or hope, aside from that offered by the caring staff. The environment was ultimately demoralizing.

Dr. Sedler's long-term hope had been for new facilities for CPEP at Stony Brook Medical Center. That undertaking would require significant financial commitments, especially from the NYS Office of Mental Hygiene and the SC Legislature, along with that from other resources, including private donors. The League worked to encourage this much-needed support. Through its long-term commitment to Alternatives to Incarceration, the League had become acutely aware of the prevalence of mental illness in Suffolk County and the need for more adequate resources to meet the needs of people suffering with it, especially at CPEP. We wrote articles in the Voter which goes not only to members, but also to County leaders. We made presentations to the Legislature, and when possible, addressed this need when meeting with political leaders. Over the course of at least two years, we did persist!

This new facility would require significant financial commitments, especially from the NYS Office of Mental Hygiene and the SC Legislature, along with that from other resources, including private donors. The League worked to encourage this much-needed support.

Commitments were not fast in coming and much work from many quarters was necessary for them finally to come to fruition. The day did come, though, and the building of a state-of-the-art CPEP at Stony Brook has been accomplished!

The League can be proud of its efforts in seeing this state-of-the-art facility, designed to help the most vulnerable among us, come into being.

I had not been able to attend the ribbon-cutting ceremony in November, but was told that Dr. Sedler acknowledged the importance of the League's efforts in seeing the new CPEP come about. I was recently honored by Dr. Sedler in his giving me a private tour of the facilities, a day before patients were to be moved there from the old facilities. What a surprise they must have felt!

Every room is light and airy. The furnishings are attractive and arranged comfortably, especially in the large room where adult patients and families can congregate. What is particularly lovely there is the aesthetically-designed skylight. Public rooms have large televisions recessed in the walls. The tiles on

each of the bathroom floors, and therefore the bathrooms, are attractive. One bathroom has been set up to make patients with significantly excessive weight to be more comfortable. There is a room set up for patients who become out of control. This room has padded walls. If that is not sufficient and if bed confinement is necessary, there is a television recessed in the ceiling to offer some distraction.



This new CPEP facility is comfortable, aesthetic, and realistic about the needs and behaviors of the population it seeks to serve. The obvious motivation behind its design is to provide comfort, attractiveness, and a safe environment during the assessments patients must undergo during their times of extreme distress. Dr. Sedler essentially did all of the planning for it.

The League can be proud of its efforts in seeing this state-of-the-art facility, designed to help the most vulnerable among us, come into being.

Katherine Hoak is past co-President of the League of Women Voters of Suffolk County. Her thoughtful, well-researched passion for social justice, services for the mentally ill, and alternatives to incarceration have achieved much, and leave us a lasting legacy. Katherine now resides in Becket, MA and continues to be active in League.

Recent Events



The Voter Services committee, chaired by Anne Marshall, second right, met on January 11 for a post-election evaluation. Present were (clockwise around table from left) Judi Roth, Julia Kayser, Gladys Remler, Glorian Berk, Estelle Gellman, Mireille Lister, Anne Marshall, Carol Mellor and Arlene Hinkemeyer (behind the camera!). Photo by Arlene Hinkemeyer.



The Special Events committee, chaired by Gladys Remler, second left, and Ursula Lynch (absent from photo), also met on January 11 to plan the year's special events and fundraisers, including a June rose garden luncheon at the home of Joy Cordery, left. Photo by Arlene Hinkemeyer.

LWVH Meets With Schneiderman

Continued from page 1

On other subjects Mr. Schneiderman mentioned the following:

- Further county layoffs and service cuts are likely because of the approximately \$100 million dollar deficit in the 2012 budget caused largely by reductions in sales tax revenue, state changes in funding formulas for health care and social services, rising health insurance costs, and onerous state pension plan requirements. Previous budget deficits were managed by “one-time non-recurring revenue enhancements.” County Executive Steve Bellone is appointing a fiscal panel of experts to examine the budget to determine its actual size.
- A possible increase in the current 8.625 percent sales tax is being considered. Mr. Schneiderman said a hike of 0.025 percent (1/4 of a penny, or 25 cents on \$100) on all purchases, excluding food and clothing, would add \$70 million in revenue for Suffolk County.
- Hearings are scheduled to consider raising Suffolk County “blue bus” fares on all buses. Currently only the East End buses (S92 and 10C) are \$2.00 to pay for Sunday bus service. Mr. Schneiderman said he wants guaranteed seasonal Sunday bus service tied to any fare increase.

What questions would you like to ask Mr. Schneiderman or another local official? Share your questions with us by emailing them to president@lwvhamptons.org or government@lwvhamptons.org. If you prefer, call us at 631-324-4637.

- More than 1,000 parcels of land in Suffolk County are on a list to be purchased by the County Environmental Fund (not our CPF fund). The monies for this Fund are derived from one-quarter of a penny of the County sales tax. Mr. Schneiderman said that criteria need to be put in place (beaches versus groundwater preservation versus farmland, etc.) because funds have already been spent or are committed.

LWVH Board Meeting Summary

Continued from page 6

- ✳ **Membership.** Glorian shared a short list of members who have not renewed their dues. After eliminating names known to decline renewing, the remainder will receive personal calls inviting them to renew.
- ✳ **The Voter** Joy noted February 15 as the deadline for the March/April issue. Eموke renewed the postage account in Ronkonkoma.
- ✳ **Public Relations.** Arlene.
 - She shared the *Sag Harbor Express* front page article from Dec. 29, 2011 featuring league member Nada Barry as “Sag Harbor’s Citizen of the Year.”
 - As head of the LWVNYS publicity committee, Arlene goes to meetings in Albany, but in January, the group will teleconference instead to avoid possible bad weather.
 - She will teach a workshop in PR to Nassau County leagues on January 17.
 - She discussed a new film, “Patriocracy,” by producer/director Brian Malone. It was shot in Washington D.C. To determine if LWVH should sponsor a screening, the board will preview it.

The next meeting will be held on March 7, 5:30 PM at the Bridgehampton Bank.

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Welcome New Members

GLORIA JONES

Gloria, a long-time Patchogue resident, built a retirement home in Springs in 1983 after she and her husband fell in love with the area while camping in Cedar Point Park. They moved east full-time 23 years later after Gloria ended a teaching career beginning as a pre-K parochial school teacher and director, concluding as a special education teacher in the Patchogue-Medford School District. She now keeps busy serving as a literacy instructor, doing volunteer work for churches in Springs and Patchogue, visiting her children and grandchildren, and playing tennis. An Elections inspector since moving to Springs, Gloria joined the League in hopes of convincing people that their votes can make a difference (as evidenced by the 15-vote margin of victory in the last election for East Hampton town supervisor).

MAGGIE KING-DAY

Maggie is a native Long Islander who graduated from Southampton College with a fine arts degree in writing and photography. She lived in Westhampton Beach for more than 25 years, raising three children, briefly writing a community column for the Southampton Press, and serving for 22 years as an administrator for St. George's University School of Medicine in Grenada. As part of her job working in the university's Long Island office, she made two trips a year to its campus on the tiny West Indies island.

Last year, a year after retiring and moving to Remsenburg, Maggie remarried and launched a private organic catering business (Good Day Good Food) that she hopes to expand into a private organic food business. She says she's looking forward to providing LWVH members with some of her culinary treats –possibly at a June luncheon.

The Voter

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