



THE VOTER

The Newsletter of the League of Women Voters of the Hamptons

Founded in 1977

Volume XXXVI, No. 8

November-December 2013



LWVH Goes To Riverhead

by Gladys Remler and Joanne Samborn

September 26 was a perfect day to go strolling and learning for our Riverhead Revival Tour. Our group, made up of members, spouses and friends, assembled for coffee and purchases of discounted bakery goods at the Suffolk Community College Culinary Center's cafe. We were greeted by Jim Fogarty who gave a short and amusing talk about what we were about to see at the school. The equipment, the students and of course their chef/teachers proved to be most interesting as we learned how the courses offered could lead to jobs in the food industry. As we entered each classroom, we were constantly "wowed" by everything we saw. Some felt that they wanted to start baking, others thought about enrolling, others just enjoyed a new learning experience. It was quite illuminating.

Our next part of the tour was a short stroll to The Suffolk Theater. We were warmly welcomed by Anna Maria Villa who showed a video about when the Theater opened in 1933, when it was closed, and how it had been resurrected into this beautiful art deco theater. The theater renovation was a major step in revitalizing Riverhead. If this was not enough, Anna Maria gave to all who attended and had given their email addresses a free ticket to a forthcoming show. Many availed themselves of this treat.

Continued on page 18

League members listened raptly as a chef at the Suffolk Community College's Culinary Center explained the curriculum. Photo by Arlene Hinkemeyer.

What's Inside

President's Message2
 Government Committee Report.....3 & 18
 Education Committee Report.....4
 Natural Resources Committee Report5
 Board Meeting Summary6
 Calendar7
 Suffolk County Voter8
 Voter Services Committee Report.....10
 Recent Events.....11

Save The Dates

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Tuesday, November 12, 7 PM

Hampton Bays Library
Ponguogue Ave.

Topic: *The Unique Pressures Faced By Women In The Military*

Speaker: Susan Soto, Afghanistan War Veteran

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

LWVH ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY

Monday, December 9, 6-9 PM

Sagaponack (details on page 18)

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

by Judy Samuelson

Want a phone number? Dial 411. Want information about the November 5 2013 election issues and candidates? Type in www.VOTE411.org.

It's that easy to reach a nonpartisan election resource that League volunteers are working to populate with information as local as Town candidates and propositions. VOTE411.org is "a one-stop-shop" source for election information. It gives you tools to navigate the voting process this November, offering candidate information, voter registration tools, and other helpful Election Day information.

Detailed candidate information, including candidates' direct responses to issue-related questions is online. The Hamptons League has one concern: To obtain information about the candidates, every candidate was sent the same questions (for that office) and given the option to enter the answers onto Vote411 themselves or send the answers to LWVH and we would enter them. To our regret, some candidates declined to participate. We are most anxious to dispel any notion of partisanship: all responses are listed. Under the column of those who declined, a notation reads "Candidate did not respond."

At www.VOTE411.org you just enter your address to find information from the candidates you will see on Southampton and East Hampton ballots.

This includes:

- * Absentee ballot information
- * Ballot measure information (where applicable)
- * Early voting options (where applicable)
- * Election dates
- * Factual data on candidates in various federal, state and local races (see our concern, above paragraph)
- * General information on such topics as how to watch debates with a critical eye
- * ID requirements
- * Polling place locations
- * Registration deadlines
- * Voter qualifications
- * Voter registration forms
- * Voting machines

Here's a sign-in step-by-step:

1. Enter the following in your browser: www.vote411.org (you may bookmark this page to return to the guide again)
2. Enter your address, then click on the green box, ENTER".
3. Click on the green box, "Get personalized information on candidates and issues".
4. Click on the blue box, "Find My Information".
5. Click on "Next Race" and continue clicking on the "Next

Continued on page 3

LEAGUE DAY AT THE UN

(Part One)

by Carol Mellor

On October 8, Anne Marshall, Ursula Lynch, Joy Flynn, Naomi Epstein and I joined scores of other League members, friends and members of other sponsoring organizations (including Zonta International, General Federation of Women's Clubs, Hope's Door and the Women's Bar Association of NYS) at the United Nations (UN) for League Day.

The day included tours of the United Nations building and lunch in the Delegate's Dining Room, followed by briefings on the subject of violence against women. The take-away from the tours was the overwhelming sense of the action at the United Nations in all aspects of its mission—be it moderating disputes between nations; addressing hunger, poverty and disease; promoting the worth and dignity of all peoples; or addressing the specific needs of older populations. From the media, we hear about the UN in the context of the intransigence of certain countries, and the use of the veto power at the Security Council, but we do not hear about the day-to-day work that is being done. A prime example of this was that we were able to enter the conference room where Security Council meetings are held. This is a rarity because the public cannot enter the room when the Security Council is in session—and it is in session almost every day.

The Delegate's dining room, where we lunched, enjoys a beautiful view of the East River and the delegates enjoy really good food: each dish on a sumptuous buffet an example of a delicacy from another country or region. Forbidden rice? Delicious.

We heard from Anna Alaszewski, Campaign Coordinator of the UNiTE to End Violence Against Women Campaign. The United Nations Secretary-General's UNiTE to End Violence Against Women campaign aims to raise public awareness and increase political will and resources for preventing and ending all forms of violence against women and girls in all parts of the world. Ms. Alaszewski described the campaign, which is using every resource imaginable to create the atmosphere in which violence against women is unacceptable. Goals include "the adoption and enforcement of national laws to address and punish all forms of violence against women and girls, in line with international human rights standards" particularly in those countries in which there are no specific legal prohibition against domestic vio-

lence and in the more than 50 countries in which marital rape is not a prosecutable act.

In furtherance of its goal of "Establishment of national and/or local campaigns and the engagement of a diverse range of civil society actors in preventing violence and in supporting women and girls who have been abused" the campaign has reached out to an incredibly diverse set of groups to promote the message, including celebrities, sports personalities, artists, governments, women's groups, young men and women and has used all manner of social media to get the message out.

One of the goals of UNiTE focuses on addressing sexual violence in conflict situations, protecting women and girls from rape as a tactic of war as well as full implementation of related laws and policies. Other speakers were Suhail Khan and Laura Davies, both with the office of the SRSG (Special Representative of the Secretary-General) on Sexual Violence in Conflict. The first thing we learned from these experts was that sexual violence in conflict situations includes men, women, boys and girls as victims; men and women as perpetrators; and that the reasons for such violence are as varied and diverse as the reasons for conflict itself. As such, this office addresses the violence in the context of the conflict in which it occurs. Its major tactic is to work to encourage people in authority, from governments to in-field commanders to "own" the violent behavior of the perpetrators, or suffer untoward consequences for the failure to do so.

From these speakers, as well as the report from Rosalee Keech, League's UN Observer, it is clear that there are many committees at the UN working to eliminate violence against women and girls. The work is difficult and complex but the speakers we heard are dedicated to the protection of the citizens of the world from sexual and other forms of gender based violence.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Continued from page 2

Race" or "Previous Race" to see all the information on your ballot.

6. To get a written copy of your ballot, click on the white box, "All My Races", then click on "Finish".

7. Enter your phone number or email address, then press "SEND".

Election Day Problems? Call one of these hotlines: 1-866-OUR-VOTE (866-687-8683) or 1-888-VE-Y-VOTA (en Español) or 1-866-MYVOTE1 (866-698-6831)

Education Committee Report

Looking to TED for Ideas on Youth Voting

by Judi Roth

“TED” is a showcase for people with bright new ideas in many different disciplines. Attendees at TED conferences have included Cheryl Samberg of Facebook, Bill Gates of Microsoft, scientists and political strategists. Their website encourages questions and comments on topics of interest, so I looked there to find ideas for this article. Here are some comments from TED users to this question: “What would it take for our youth to vote or become interested in democracy and politics? Why is there currently a disconnect?” Here are some of the suggestions.

- ✳ Public online voting attached to social networks. Once ballot is fixed, people set up an account and put their votes online publicly. Until the election people comment on your vote and you can change it.

- ✳ Young people perceive life differently than adults. To them, the world is huge and confusing, all noise with no patterns.

- ✳ Lower the voting age to 15 or 16. This would begin to counterbalance the graying of the vote. Stop having parties run teams. Do away with primaries. Whoever wins the most votes becomes president and the second most becomes vice-president.

- ✳ Have civics classes in elementary and secondary schools where students spend time working on a political project such as changing the speed limit in their town or taxing sweet drinks. They would see how hard it is to get something done.

It seems that getting young people to vote is as hard as it is to get older people to vote. But we in the League will not give up. Our Promote the Vote video project is getting some creative entries and although the quantity may not be what we wished for the quality is terrific. Stay tuned for results.

Its web site (www.TED.com) describes TED as “a non-profit devoted to Ideas Worth Spreading. It started out in 1984 as a conference bringing together people from three worlds: Technology, Entertainment, Design. Since then its scope has become ever broader. Along with two annual conferences—the TED Conference and TEDGlobal—TED includes the award-winning TED Talks video site, the Open Translation Project and TED Conversations, the inspiring TED Fellows and TED programs, and the annual TED Prize.”



by Joanne McEvoy-Samborn

Fish choices that are good for you—and for the ocean:

- Abalone (farmed)
- Mussels (farmed)
- Barramundi (US)
- Oysters (farmed)
- Catfish (US)
- Pollock (Alaska)
- Caviar (farmed)
- Sablefish/black cod (Alaska, Canada)
- Char, Arctic (farmed)
- Salmon, wild (Alaska)
- Clams, soft shell
- Salmon, canned pink/sockeye
- Cod, pacific (bottom long line)
- Sardines
- Crab Dungeness
- Scallops, bay (farmed)
- Crab Stone
- Shrimp, pink (Oregon)
- Crawfish (US)
- Shrimp (US farmed)
- Lobster, spiny (US, Australia, Baja)
- Squid, long fin (US)
- Mackerel Atlantic
- Striped Bass (farmed)
- Mahi-mahi, (US, Troll/pole)
- Sturgeon (framed)
- Mullet (US)
- Tilapia (US)
- Mussels (farmed)
- Trout, rainbow (Farmed)
- Oysters (farmed)
- Tuna, albacore (US, Canada)
- Pollock
- Tuna, yellowfin (US Troll/pole)
- Weakfish

Source: EnvironmentalDefense.org/seafood

Natural Resources Committee Report

Peconic Institute Update

by Susan Wilson

The Peconic Institute, located on the Stony Brook Campus in Southampton, was designed to carry on the study of environmentally sustainable practices in the Peconic region and foster policy development and education.

In 2010, Natural Resources Committee members Glorian Berk, Barbara McClancy, Susan Wilson, Joy Cordery, Mireille Lister and Joanne Samborn were among 170 community representatives who attended the initial development meeting. Community support for creating a well-organized central networking and educational organization was overwhelming: as a result of this meeting, the Peconic Institute was formed. The Institute incorporated in 2012 and is currently led by a 34-member Board of Directors that includes Congressman Tim Bishop, New York State Senator Kenneth LaValle and New York State Assemblyman Fred Thiele. John Botos was appointed the Acting Executive Director, a position he holds as a volunteer without salary, since to date the institute has no official source of income.

CURRENT PROJECTS

To get a sense of where the Institute is today, several members of the Natural Resources Committee met with Mr. Botos. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in environmental studies and a Master of Arts in marine conservation and policy from Stony Brook University and was among the first students to take part in Stony Brook's undergraduate sustainability studies program. Peconic Institute rents space in the Library of Stony Brook while Southampton is a totally independent entity. Mr. Botos shared that the Library was built to the Leeds Gold Standard.

Because of our unique coastal community, the goal of the Peconic Institute is to be a living laboratory for sustainability, promoting a clean environment and a climate resilience program, especially after acts of nature such as Super Storm Sandy.

The Institute is working to promote research and development and foster relationships with innovative Long Island companies that, for example:

- ✳ Manufacture windows that can change color depending on the temperature outside and adjust accordingly to reduce heating costs.
- ✳ Develop interior basement composite materials that don't deteriorate in water and can be easily washed down after a storm surge

John is excited about the fledgling hatchery industry in our area and is working with the Shinnecock Nation hatcheries, East Hampton hatcheries and the Cornell Cooperative Extension service. Since water quality is so important to everyone, the Peconic Institute wants to expand the UN's World Water Day (March 23, 2014) into a full week of programs and activities.

Peconic Institute has also reached out to the Latino population using the "Crab Moon" book to read to kids in school and obtaining computers from IBM for kids to bring home and work on with their parents. After as certain period of time and successfully completed assignments, the kids get to keep the computers. This is the "Digital Age Family Literacy Program Project."

For more information on PI programs: www.peconicinstitute.org. To join the Natural Resources Committee and make a difference, Contact Susan Wilson: sswilson@hamptons.com

RIVERHEAD

Continued from page 1

Lunch was next as we scattered to individual restaurants on East Main Street, with some afterwards visiting the East End Arts gallery. We convened again at 3 pm in the lobby of the Sea Star Building and enjoyed complimentary desserts and coffee arranged by Caryn DeVivo. Riverhead Town Supervisor Sean Walter enlightened us on the progress of the Riverhead revival. The next treats were complimentary tours of the Sea Star Ballroom, the hotel and the L.I. Aquarium, including its Butterflies and Birds exhibits. The day was not long enough for some of us to shop along Main Street, so be sure to stop by when you are in the area.

The reviews of our event were fantastic. If you missed it, please be assured our Special Events Committee, including Arlene Hinkemeyer, Judi Roth, Joy Cordery, Glorian Berk, Sue Wilson and Joanne McEvoy-Samborn and I are already working on our next project.



With the LWV logo as a backdrop, everyone on the *Discover the Riverhead Revival* tour gathered on the stage of the Suffolk Theater. Photo by Arlene Hinkemeyer

LWVH Board of Directors

Highlights Of LWVH Board Meeting Minutes
Held on October 2 2013

INFORMATION ITEMS:

- * Presiding Co-President Judy Samuelson praised the recent Riverhead Event organized by the Special Events Committee.
- * Judy asked for Local league input on 2014 Legislative Agenda. The LWVNY and our own League's 2013 priorities can be on our website: www.lwvhamptons.org. Anne will e-mail packets of 2013 Voter Guide Part II in English and Spanish to those who want them.
- * Upcoming Events:
 - Following discussion, it was agreed that our October 16 luncheon fundraiser should be cancelled. Gladys will follow up with the speaker and restaurant.
 - The November 12 member meeting was discussed. Since the Bridgehampton library cannot accommodate us, Estelle and Sue will seek another location and follow up with confirmation as well as details on the speaker(s).
- * Judy announced the holiday party will be at Ann Sandford and Gerry Korman's home in Sagaponack. Ursula will be the lead coordinator for refreshments. The date will be Monday Dec. 9 from 6 to 9 pm.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- * Gladys will represent the Board for the Nominating Committee for 2014 LWVH elections. Other committee members are noted in the minutes of our May 2013 Annual Meeting.
- * A policy regarding death notices was discussed. There are no current policies among other Leagues. Carol suggested a Constant Contact notice, and if there is a question, she will consult with current League presidents.
- * The archives have changed hands several times and are now in the possession of Ann Sanford and/or Eموke Forman. Judi Roth and Judy Samuelson have kept past years' minutes in various forms. Arlene has recordings of past member meetings. A suggestion was made to develop an Archive Committee. Judi Roth will approach Ann Sanford to lead this new committee.
- * A webmaster is still needed. Joy and Ursula are following up on leads.
- * Estelle distributed a copy of the membership directory. Corrections can be sent to her by e-mail.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- * Voter Services: Anne discussed the development of a Proposition guide for county proposition pros and cons. Following discussion, we determined LWVH is not

responsible for creating. Bob Marshall reedited LWVH Debate Guidelines and Anne sent them to the candidates. Carol mentioned that if League board members have listed political candidates as "friends" on their Facebook pages, we need to "unfriend" them to maintain our scrupulous adherence to nonpartisanship.

- * Membership: The new members dinner was a great success. Praise was showered on the committee and on Arlene for her presentation. The committee plans to follow up with attendees from the dinner. The November meeting is coming up and the committee is exploring new projects such as a book club on women's issues, led by Ann Sanford.
 - * Education: Judi Roth mentioned that new members Sylvia Baruch and Nancy Walter-Yvertes have joined the committee. The video project has had a successful fundraising campaign for prizes (currently at \$600). The gift certificates will be for kid-friendly items like iTunes.
 - * Natural Resources: Susan Wilson had no specific report. Glorian and the committee are soldiering on.
 - * Special Events: The Riverhead project, as mentioned previously, was a great success. The only drawback was the disappointment expressed by some shop keepers and vendors who saw no business.
 - * Public Relations: Arlene stated the September 9 suffrage talk, our 11 sites for the September 24 National Voter Registration Day, and the September 26 Riverhead tour received good visibility in the media.
 - * Government/Health: Naomi was pleased to report that Valerie King will co-chair Health issues. On April 14 2014 the committee will present a forum on the status of health concerns in the community. They will also provide *The Voter* with articles updating the status of navigating the enrollment process of the NY State Health Exchange as part of ACA. Naomi plans an article on the Town Manager model for the East Hampton Star and other local newspapers.
 - * The *Voter*: The deadline for articles is October 15. Joy indicated that for the Nov/Dec issue committees must provide their meeting dates and times. If changes occur, they will be made public on the League website.
 - * Constant Contact: Carol asked that requests be in writing. She also stated that on Facebook there are usually 10—12 people visiting the site.
- Adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Next meeting will be held on November 6, 5:30 PM, at the Bridgehampton Bank.

November - December 2013

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.

November 5 - 10 AM Tuesday	Natural Resources Committee Meeting	Hampton Library, Bridgehampton Contact Sue Wilson at 283-6549
November 6 - 5:30 PM Wednesday	LWVH Board Meeting	Bridgehampton National Bank, Bridgehampton
November 12 - 12:30 PM Tuesday	Membership Committee Meeting	Hampton Library, Bridgehampton Contact Joanne Samborn at 283-9648
November 12 - 7 PM Tuesday	General Membership Meeting	Hampton Bays Library, Hampton Bays Topic: Unique Challenges Facing Women In The Military
November 13 - 2 PM Wednesday	Special Events Committee Meeting	Cooper Hall, Rogers Memorial Library, Southampton Contact Gladys Remler: specialevents@lwvhamptons.org
November 17 - 10:30 AM Sunday	Post-Election Brunch	Bellport Country Club 40 South Country Rd., Bellport Village
December 9 - 6 PM Monday	Annual Holiday Party	Home of Ann Sandford and Jerry Korman 28 Old Farm Road, Sagaponack
TOWN BOARD MEETINGS		
November 7 - 7:00 PM	East Hampton Town Board Meeting	Town Hall Courtroom, 159 Pantigo Rd., East Hampton
November 12 - 1:00 PM	Southampton Town Board Meeting	Town Hall Board Room, Southampton Town Hall, 116 Hampton Rd., Southampton
November 20 - 1:00 PM	Southampton Town Board Meeting	Town Hall Board Room, Southampton Town Hall, 116 Hampton Rd., Southampton
November 21 - 7:00 PM	East Hampton Town Board Meeting	Town Hall Courtroom, 159 Pantigo Rd., East Hampton
November 26 - 6:00 PM	Southampton Town Board Meeting	Town Hall Board Room, Southampton Town Hall, 116 Hampton Rd., Southampton
December 5 - 7:00 PM	East Hampton Town Board Meeting	Town Hall Courtroom, 159 Pantigo Rd., East Hampton
December 10 - 1:00 PM	Southampton Town Board Meeting	Town Hall Board Room, Southampton Town Hall, 116 Hampton Rd., Southampton
December 19 - 7:00 PM	East Hampton Town Board Meeting	Town Hall Courtroom, 159 Pantigo Rd., East Hampton
December 20 - 1:00 PM	Southampton Town Board Meeting	Town Hall Board Room, Southampton Town Hall, 116 Hampton Rd., Southampton

DON'T MISS our 11/12 Member Meeting at the Hampton Bays Library 7pm

In honor of Veteran's Day (November 11) our speaker is Susan Soto, who will speak about the unique pressures faced by women serving in the military. Ms. Soto is a Afghanistan War Veteran, and former Member of the Shinnecock Indian Nation Tribal Council. Veteran Susan soto will officially become the first Native American Female Commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 7009 on November 13, 2013



Suffolk County Voter

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November 2013

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Suffolk County Legislature Elections Will Result in New Leadership

Although the 2013 general election is not of national or state-wide scope, there are important issues and offices involved on the county, town and local levels.

For example, all 18 seats in the Suffolk County Legislature are on the ballot this year. Some incumbents are term-limited (12 year maximum reached) and some have left office. Once the individual Legislative District races are decided, the SC Legislature will vote on a Presiding Officer and Deputy Presiding Officer. (P.O. Bill Lindsay died in September, and D.P.O. and acting P.O. Wayne Horsley is not running this year, having taken another position elsewhere.) Thus the Legislature will have several new members, which may change the political balance or appointments,

and also have new leadership. We do hope that all members of the Legislature will continue to work together for the greater good of our county residents.

For the League, we again encourage our membership to observe at the general and committee meetings of the Legislature or follow these meetings via the audio recording available on the Suffolk County Legislature's website.

In particular we have been following health and natural resource issues, and budget issues will continue to drive tough decisions and debate from both the County Executive as well as SC Legislative leaders.



register now!



LWVSC
Post Election Breakfast
Bellport Country Club
Sunday November 17, 2013
10:30am—1:30pm

- Expect a lively discussion of local campaigns and election results and issues from our local League leaders and members
- Our keynote speaker has not confirmed at press time.— look for details via email from your local League board or on the LWVSC website... www.lwv-suffolkcounty.org

Cost: League Members (paid in advance) \$32
Non-members and Pay at the Door \$37
Price includes 50/50 raffle ticket—
purchase additional / 3 for \$5

Please make checks payable to LWVNYSEE
and mail BEFORE Nov. 10 to
Naomi Epstein
3 Winterberry Lane, East Hampton, NY 11937

For information contact:
Barbara Jordan
324-6144

The Bellport Country Club is located at 40 South Country Road, Bellport NY
Directions: From I1E, Exit 64 to 112 South. From Sunrise Hwy (Rt. 27) to Rt. 112 South.
Take Rt. 112 South to end, Montauk Hwy (Rt. 27A). Go left (traveling east) for 1 mile. Road forks.
Stay right onto South Country Road for 2 miles. Bellport Country Club is on right (south side).

LWV and Nonpartisanship

—guidelines for LWVSC; history of League nonpartisanship; raising community awareness of its importance in making the League effective in voter service and citizen information work

*“The League shall not support or oppose any political party or any candidate.” Article III, Sec.2, LWVUS Bylaws
In accordance with the LWV bylaws, the League of Women Voters of Suffolk County is a nonpartisan organization that does not support or oppose any political party or candidate.*

Board members of the LWV of Suffolk County are expected to adhere to the following guidelines:

- Board members may neither seek nor hold any elective partisan office. The entire Board shall consider service on library boards, school boards, village boards or appointment to local non-elective office on an individual basis.
- Board members may not engage in any partisan, political activities, which will cause them to be publicly identified as supporting any candidate for office or any political party. They may neither sponsor nor hold fundraising events or attend coffees for a political candidate. A board member before declaring public support of a particular candidate or party or before announcing to run for elective office must resign from the board. The member may be reappointed by the board at its discretion after the election. Spouses or household relatives of a board member may engage in political activities and are considered separate from activities of that board member.
- Once League (local, county, state or national) takes a position on an issue, board members may not make public statements in opposition to the League position.
- The LWV of Suffolk County Board may request the resignation of any board members whose public activities are counter to this nonpartisan policy.
- It is the responsibility of the Nominating Committee to inform prospective board members of this nonpartisan policy.

The League of Women Voters’ roots began during the long struggle to get women the right to vote and the League has continued the fight to educate both women and men on the issues impacting their communities. Soon after our founding, the decision was made to take positions on issues but to neither support nor oppose any political party or candidate (appointed or elected) for public office. Today, this policy continues to ensure that the League’s voice is heard above the tumult of party politics. It can sometimes be difficult for new members and leaders and/or the public to understand our “political but nonpartisan” ethos.

The League’s strength is in its work to **educate and inform voters in a factual and nonpartisan way**. We are **community-based** and present **information on all sides of an issue to help voters decide, rather than taking political positions**. That information/education function is a key value, seen by the public as even more necessary and more rare in today’s world of biased ads and media.

Our communities should be more aware of:

- The role of the League in educating and informing voters
- The League is not partisan and explain what this means – i.e. “The League does not support or oppose any political party or candidate”
- The grassroots, local aspect of the League; that issues the League addresses are based on community needs and priorities
- The League’s long 93-year history and successes over the years
- The League’s commitment to providing nonpartisan, fact-based information about candidates and issues to help voters make their own decisions
- The organization’s involvement in debates and voter guides

Being nonpartisan toward candidates and political parties is critical to the effectiveness of the League's unique voters’ service/citizen information work. This does not mean that the League isn’t political. Our nonpartisan stance provides a strong foundation for the work done in support of issues. Action on legislation and ballot proposals is more effective when the public and the legislators know for certain that the League's conclusions are based on merit rather than playing politics.

No matter what the League does, there will be times when the LWV is accused of being partisan. If the League has good leadership, planned its actions wisely, and acted within its own policies, charges of partisanship will not stand. When the League has followed its own rules and remained polite but firm, it has usually managed to gain the needed cooperation. The best results come from careful planning and a calculated response.

Voter Services and Government Committee Report

Two New York State Studies

by Carol Mellor

At the New York State LWV convention this spring, the delegates voted to conduct three studies to explore three areas of interest to League members. The subjects are term limits, ballot access and review of our position on state constitutional conventions.

The constitutional convention study is extremely limited in scope. The position, as presently expressed, contains language on the selection of delegates so narrow that the League would never be able to support the convening of a constitutional convention. The study is to address this narrow language, and the preliminary research and study is being conducted by the state office.

The two other studies are broader in scope and, most likely, will conjure up broader interest among league members. Anne Marshall and Carol Mellor will lead our local consideration of the issues raised by these studies.

TERM LIMITS

This is a study on term limits for the New York State legislature and statewide elected officials. The national League has a position opposing term limits for members of Congress. State and local leagues are authorized to use national positions and principles to take action against term limits for state or local office holders. But the language of the position is permissive only; that is, state and local Leagues can apply the national position to oppose term limits at state and local levels—such opposition is not required.

State and local leagues are at liberty to study the issue of term limits as applied to their own state and local offices and the national position does not supersede positions arrived at by study and consensus at the state or local League level that support term limits for state or local office.

In 1996 the LWVNY Board decided it was time for the state to take a position on term limits, as several local leagues had already done so. Although the state board had the authority to adopt such a position without referring this matter to the membership, delegates to Council 1996 voted to concur with the national position and oppose term limits for state legislators and statewide office. At the urging of several local Leagues, LWVNY is again considering the issue of term limits via this study.

BALLOT ACCESS

This study will broadly examine how candidates

get onto the ballot in the general election. It will potentially encompass the study of the primary system, fusion voting, Wilson-Pakula, run-off voting and other aspects of NYS election law.

Anne and Carol will keep the membership and public informed of the progress of these studies, and we encourage anyone interested in these topics to join us in learning more about them.

Editor's note: Voter Services and Government Committees skipped their customary articles in this issue to present these two important studies.

Your Invitation To The LWVH Annual Holiday Party

Monday, December 9, 6-9 PM

All League members and their partners are invited to our festive annual holiday gathering, with food and libations provided by the Board in Sagaponack at the home of Ann Sandford and Jerry Korman. As always, we'll ask attendees to bring a check for the non-profit organization selected at our November board meeting.

Please RSVP by December 4:
Copresident@lwvhamptons.org or call 631 324 4637 and leave us a message. Hope we see you there!

Directions to 28 Old Farm Rd: From Montauk Highway (east of Bridgehampton), at light in Sagaponack, turn north onto Sagg Road; make first left onto Hildreth Lane; at end bear right onto Old Farm Road. House is first house on corner, with a split rail fence.

Many thanks to League members Ann Sandford and Jerry Korman for graciously offering their home for this event!



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Your League At Work:

National Voter Registration Day - September 24, 2013

Top Left: Rosa Scott and Julia Kayser manned the Amagansett Post Office.

Bottom Left: Helen Smith, seated, providing NYS ballot issue information to a voter at the One Stop Market in Springs. Photo by Arlene Hinkemeyer.

Top Right: A local resident accepted a registration form from Barbara McClancy (center) and Judy Samuelson in Amagansett Square. Photos by Arlene Hinkemeyer and Gene Samuelson.

The Voter

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The League of Women Voters

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Making democracy work through voter education,
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