



THE VOTER

The Newsletter of the League of Women Voters of the Hamptons

Founded in 1977

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September 2018



Co-Presidents Estelle Gellman and Susan Wilson, with the new LWV banner from the LWVUS Convention, invite all to "Make Your Voice Heard" at the League's September 17 program.

MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD

By Co-President Susan Wilson

Tired of politics as usual? Skeptical and jaded by negative political rhetoric? Do you want your elected officials to be more responsive to the needs of their constituents?

Do you want to have an impact on decisions made by your elected officials? Are you dissatisfied with the actions and policies of Local, Town, County or State officials?

Do you think your voice doesn't count?

Do you want changes but don't know what to do or how to get started?

The Hamptons League of Women Voters invites you on Monday, September 17, 2:30 - 4:30 p.m. to the East Hampton Library's Alec Baldwin Family Community Room for our Public Information Meeting entitled:

MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD

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SAVE THE DATES

Saturday/Sunday, Sept. 8 & 9
Voter Registration at Sag Harborfest
 To help, contact Voter Services Co-Chairs

Thursday, September 13, 6 a.m.-9 p.m.
NYS Primary Election

Monday, September 17, 2:30-4:30 p.m.
LWVH Public Information Meeting
"MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD,"
 at East Hampton Library's
 Alec Baldwin Family Community Room

Tuesday, September 25
Nat'l Voter Registration Day
 LWVH at sites throughout East End.
 To help, contact Voter Services Co-Chairs.

Thursday, October 18, 7 p.m.
 LWVH has scheduled its
Congressional Candidates Debate,
 Westhampton Beach H.S.

Other debates in formation.



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 Towns, 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 seven 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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Co-President's Message

By Co-President Susan Wilson

We've barely had time to dry out after the numerous rain storms and dreadful humidity of the Summer of 2018 and suddenly in the blink of an eye, September is here!

I always look forward to September. It brings Indian Summer, and the colors of Autumn aren't far behind. It's my favorite time of the year. The air is crisp but still wonderfully warm, humidity is low and the ocean is finally warm enough to swim without worrying about getting frostbite.

Before Southampton became one of The Hamptons, tourists and the summer crowds left immediately after Labor Day, and the Village returned to the sleepy, bucolic place where I grew up.

Back then, the World Series, the Civil Rights March in Selma, Alabama, and returning to school were the big events. I wanted to join the march, and my parents applauded my commitment, but my "civic engagement" on that level was discouraged. My Dad didn't let me go because it was "too dangerous." As it turned out, he was right, it was dangerous.

I stayed home, returned to school and focused on learning how to make my voice heard in a less dangerous way.

So much has changed since then. Just look at what today's teens are dealing with—bullying, gender issues, opioid abuse, school shootings in so many areas of the country, and gun ownership, control and safety.

It is our responsibility as parents, teachers and League members to:

- Help our youth become good citizens who Vote
- Teach our youth the importance of "civic engagement"
- Teach them the importance of getting involved in the issues that are important to them
- Teach them how to effect change in a peaceful way
- Teach them how to make their voices heard

My Co-President Estelle Gellman and I recently returned from Chicago where we attended the 53rd National League of Women Voters Convention. You can read our complete Convention Report in this issue of the Voter. We echo the convention commitment to focus on youth issues and diversity and look forward to continue LWVH's programs to engage the youth of our communities and to move forward with the League Mission Statement: Empowering Voters, Defending Democracy.

The League of Women Voters of the Hamptons seems to "come alive" also in autumn as it gears up for National Voter Registration Day, September 25, and the upcoming Town, Congressional, State Senate and Assembly Candidate Debates.

Watch for the many community activities and public information meetings we have planned for the upcoming year.

Also, mark your calendars for our September 17th public information meeting, 2:30-4:30, to Learn About the League & How to Make Your Voice Heard.

Hamptons League Plans Busy Election Season

By Anne Marshall and Barbara McClancy, Voter Services Committee Co-Chairs

We have lived through another Hamptons traffic-clogged season. Now we can talk less about the other drivers and more about the upcoming election season.

STATE PRIMARY ELECTION: Thursday, September 13

The voter registration deadline for the state primary was in August. However, registered voters can still apply for absentee ballots. Last day to postmark applications is September 6.

What's on the Primary Ballot

Some of the important statewide offices on the New York State primary ballot this September include:

NYS Governor

NYS Lieutenant Governor

NYS Attorney General

In addition, there will be a Democratic primary election in East Hampton Town for a slot on the Town Board, and a Democratic primary election for seats on the Town Democratic Committee.

Remember that New York State has a closed primary system. In order to vote in a primary, you must have been enrolled in that party 25 days prior to the last general election. In this case, that would have been October 13, 2017. The exceptions are if you moved from another county or state and register 25 days prior to the primary.

Although only enrolled members of a party can vote in that party's primary elections, registered voters may vote for any party's candidate on the General Election Day.

As always, please check with the Board of Elections regarding party registration timing requirements.

GENERAL ELECTION: Tuesday, November 6

Voter Registration Deadline: October 12

Absentee Ballot Application Postmark Deadline: October 30

Remember that you must be registered in order to vote. You may register if you will be 18 years of age by Election Day, a resident of the county for at least 30 days prior to the election, and a citizen of the United States. If you have moved since the last time you voted, you must re-register.

LWVH VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVES

The League will continue to conduct voter registration drives in the area. Please contact us to volunteer!

Saturday/Sunday, September 8-9. Look for our table on the Wharf at Sag Harborfest.

Tuesday, September 25, National Voter Registration Day.

We will be at multiple locations from Westhampton to Montauk.

NEW ELECTRONIC VOTERS GUIDE

As we wrote in the July/August Voter, the State League is now using a new electronic voters guide instead of the former www.Vote411.org. You can access it either by going to the Hamptons League's website at www.lwvhamptons.org or the State League's website at www.lwvny.org.

Just click on the round blue button, enter your address, and you will see what offices and candidates are on the ballot for the September 13 primary. Later, in October, a longer list of candidates will be up for the November 6 general election.

CANDIDATE DEBATES

The Hamptons League is in the process of planning debates for:

- U.S. Congress (scheduled for Thursday, October 18, 7 p.m. at Westhampton Beach High School);
- NYS Senate and Assembly;
- One seat on East Hampton Town Board.

Please consult our website and Facebook page, our Constant Contacts, and our October Voter for these updates. And pass the word!



LWVH Co-Presidents Attend LWV National Convention in Chicago

By Estelle Gellman and Susan Wilson, Co-Presidents

We, Susan Wilson and Estelle Gellman, represented our Hamptons LWV at the League of Women Voters of the United States 53rd National Convention in Chicago from June 28th through July 1st. After a slow start—our 8 a.m. flight didn't take off until almost 2 p.m.—we were busy with meetings almost every minute of every day from 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. According to the Credentials Committee, a total of 762 Leagues and ILOs (Inter-League Organizations) were represented at the convention, with 867 voting delegates from 49 states plus the District of Columbia.

The theme of the convention was “Creating a More Perfect Democracy,” and the national board adopted a “Transformation Roadmap” as a guide toward how the League can transform itself to meet that goal in its second 100 years as an organization. According to the Transformation Roadmap, the core elements that define the League will not change:

- The League will continue to focus on our mission impact work.
- The League will remain nonpartisan.
- The League will remain a membership organization.

Also adopted as part of the Transformation Roadmap were the following mission, vision and value statements:

- **Mission Statement:** Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.
- **Vision Statement:** We envision a democracy where every person has the desire, the right, the knowledge, and the confidence to participate.
- **Value Statement:** We believe in the power of women to create a more perfect democracy.

The value statement engendered much discussion, with many members concerned that it was too restrictive in an organization that values diversity and devalued the work of the many men who are not only members but hold leadership positions as officers and board members of local and state leagues and inter-league organizations. A proposition to broaden the value statement was presented but was not passed.

Building a more inclusive culture is a major focus of the Transformation Roadmap and was a focus of the convention. Among the excellent invited speakers were Dr. Al-



New York delegates from Leagues throughout the state gathered for a group photo at the 53rd annual LWVUS convention, June 28-July 1, in Chicago.

freda Brown, Vice-President, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion at Kent State University, and Keesha Gaskins-Nathan, Program Director for The Democratic Practice—United States Rockefeller Brothers Fund, who both spoke on the topic of “Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion: Toward a More Inclusive League.” In addition, Saturday afternoon was devoted to a session on “Using Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Lens to Strengthen Social Impact and Collaboration,” in which the attendees were broken into smaller groups in which we received diversity training by an outside firm, Diversity Dimensions.

In other business, the budget was passed, there was no increase in the PMP (per member payment) and the new board was elected. Chris Carson remains as president of the LWVUS. Introduced as the incoming Chief Executive Officer was Virginia Kase.

Motions that passed relating to League priorities and program included:

- that the League make gun control, gun safety and gun ownership limitations a priority in its lobbying efforts;
- that the League reaffirm its position that the Electoral College be abolished;
- that the League support an emphasis on the ERA and efforts to remove the time limits for its ratification;
- that the League support efforts to price carbon emissions;
- that the League reaffirm its commitment to the right of an individual to make reproductive choices;
- that the League support a set of climate assessment criteria that ensures that energy policies align with current climate

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science;

- that advocacy for the National Popular Vote Compact be added to the LWVUS 2018-20 LWVUS program.

The proposed program, which was passed, included the retention of all current LWVUS positions in the areas of representative government, international relations, natural resources and social policy as well as a proposed Campaign for Making Democracy Work. The Campaign for Making Democracy Work focuses on ensuring a free, fair and accessible electoral system with an emphasis on voting rights, improvement of elections, campaign finance/money in politics, and redistricting. This program provides the umbrella under which the local leagues, including the League of Women Voters of the Hamptons, plan our own programs and priorities.

During plenary sessions, delegates sat with attendees from their respective states; during the workshops, training sessions and meals, however, we were on our own to mix and mingle and get a sense of what is happening in other leagues across the United States. We thus interacted with

delegates from California, Michigan, Minnesota, Florida, and our neighbor, New Jersey. We learned that there is a very strong “push” to involve high school and college students in civic engagement and to register them to vote. We also discovered that, like LWVH, many state leagues have developed programs to help Girl Scouts attain their “Suffrage Badges.” Kudos to Judi Roth and the Education Committee for all their efforts with local Girl Scouts; we found that our league was in the forefront in this area.

We were pleased to see that there were many younger women attending the convention and had the opportunity to sit with several groups of young women who were attending League Convention for the first time. We learned about the varied programs and League activities they were bringing to their communities and were impressed with their vitality and enthusiasm.

Yes, it was exhausting, and travel was less than perfect, but we returned home with a renewed sense of purpose in helping to set priorities and plan for LWVH programs for the future. We hope you will join us as we move our agenda forward in the coming months.

100th Anniversary Committee News

Sculptor Chosen for Central Park Suffrage Statue

By Arlene Hinkemeyer, 100th Anniversary Committee Chair

Antonia Petrash, President of the Long Island Woman Suffrage Association, and a member of the Port Washington/Manhasset League of Women Voters, has announced that the winner of the design competition has been selected for the statue honoring suffrage leaders Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony, to be placed on the Literary Walk of the Central Park Mall. Among the 29 statues of men, this will represent the only statue of real women (as opposed to mythical women like Alice in Wonderland) in the park.

The winner is American sculptor Meredith Bergmann, a Bachelor of Fine Arts graduate from The Cooper Union, whose model was chosen from among 90 entries. Some of her other work includes a statue of opera singer Marian Anderson at Converse College in Spartanburg, South Carolina, and a bust of Ruth Bader Ginsberg at Columbia University.

Petrash said she was honored to attend the press conference at the New York Historical Society on July 19—the 170th anniversary of the Seneca Falls Convention in 1848. Other dignitaries there were Lynn Sherr, author of two

books about Susan B. Anthony, and Coline Jenkins, great-great-granddaughter of Elizabeth Cady Stanton. Ms. Jenkins, along with Lieut. Governor Kathy Hochul, spoke at our League’s suffrage march in East Hampton last August.

The statue will be unveiled in 2020 to mark the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment, giving women the right to vote nationwide. The names of other suffragists will be inscribed on the base of the statue.



A model of the planned Central Park suffrage statue.

Highlights of the August 1, 2018 LWVH Board Meeting

Presidents' Report:

- The National Convention in Chicago was attended by Estelle and Susan, who found it interesting and informative but were disappointed in some of the discourse. Their flight plans were disrupted, and they would have liked to see more time devoted to the Transformation Roadmap, the guide adopted by the national Board on how the organization can change to meet its goals. As part of the Roadmap, the national Board adopted a new "Value Statement" (We believe in the power of woman to create a more perfect democracy). Several members felt the statement was too limiting, but a resolution that was brought up to modify it was voted down. On the positive side, the workshop on Diversity Training was very good, and they were happy to see a number of young members who were eager to participate in League activities. National continues to support the ERA as well as the program previously adopted.
- North Fork chapter development. Susan reports that 8-11 new members joined the League at the state level. They plan to meet again after the November election.

Discussion Items:

- September 17 public information meeting at East Hampton Library, 2:30-4:30 p.m. The program will cover empowering residents to be active and informed citizens. We will create a list of contacts and invite non-members to learn about the League and how to advocate. All board members and committee chairs are expected to attend and explain their activities.
- October has no public information meeting, because we will be conducting candidate debates. There will also be an orientation for old and new board members conducted by Jacqui Lofaro.
- Rides to the polls on Election Day: Terese informs us that on Election Day, the Southampton free shuttle is not available. Local political parties might be available to take voters to the polls. Judy S. will call the East Hampton Town Clerk, Carol Brennan, about what is available in East Hampton. If the parties are providing this service, we may try to publicize it.
- Future programs:
September 17, 2:30-4:30 p.m. Public information program, Make Your Voice Heard, at East Hampton Library.
October: Candidate debates and Board orientation.
November 19, 6 p.m. Public information program by Health committee on Mental/Behavioral Health Issues, at Stony Brook Southampton Hospital's

Parrish Memorial Hall.

December: Holiday Party, Special Events will explore the options.

January: Program Planning Meeting

February: Beat the Winter Blahs Luncheon at Bobby Vans

Committee Reports:

- Education: Judi is planning their next meeting.
- Electronic Media: Judy S. reports we had 2018 users in March with 246 hits a day. Four Constant Contact messages were sent out.
- Government: Cathy reported that the focus this year will be local work force issues. This includes housing and transportation.
- Health: Chair Valerie King sent a written report that the committee continues to plan their November 19, 6 p.m. public information program with the EEMHAI (East End Mental Health Advocacy Initiative) on mental health, with the screening of "Minds on the Edge" followed by a panel discussion. This will take place at Stony Brook Southampton Hospital's Parrish Memorial Hall.
- Membership: Vicki Umans reported there is a total of 94 paid members so far: 76 Primary, 16 households, and two new. A second renewal letter was sent out July 20th.
- Publicity/Adopt-a-Road/100th Anniversary: Vicki and Arlene did the Adopt-a-Road cleanup of Pantigo Place for July. Arlene further reported that in July the winner of the design competition was announced—American sculptor Meredith Bergmann—for a statue on the Central Park Mall honoring suffrage leaders Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton. This is the first statue of a woman or women on the mall. It will be unveiled in 2020 to mark the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment.
- Special Events: Joanne reported on the successful June 7 "Sightseeing Southampton" historic and cultural sites tour. They are discussing a possible September luncheon. They are also making a list of possible future speakers.
- Voter Services: Anne reported that its next meeting will be Tuesday, August 14, 12:30 p.m. at the Bridgehampton library. They have begun planning the October 18 Congressional candidates debate at Westhampton Beach High School. The North Fork group did voter registra-

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Suffolk County Voter

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September 2018 LWVSC Board Meetings: Wed. Sept. 19 and Wed. Oct. 17, Riverhead Library 10am-12noon

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Making Democracy Work: How a Grand Idea Became Reality by Nancy Marr

In 1978 Suffolk County Planner Lee Koppelman suggested a trail along Long Island's North Shore for hikers and bikers. Forty years later, as a result of the efforts of elected officials, community groups and individual citizens, funding for a trail from Mt. Sinai to Wading River was approved by the Suffolk County Legislature, with plans to start construction in 2019. How do such ideas become reality in our communities?

By the time the Setauket to Port Jefferson Greenway Trail (on 3 1/2 miles of NYS land) was completed in 2014 its supporters had been trained in advocacy. With the Three Village Land Trust as overseer, local residents and organizations supported the trail, raised funds to supplement the state and federal grants and contributed labor to complete the trail. As the trail was being built, the civic associations, the Concerned Long Island Mountain Bicyclists and other nonprofits played a role. When they needed DEC approval to pass through the Lawrence Aviation property, they pushed to get it.

Thus when the new Rail to Trail group needed "persons of interest" to attend official government meetings, or informed residents to speak at community meetings, skilled home-grown activists were well-established and ready to work together on this ambitious goal. But advocates also knew that they needed an engaged local elected official who could help navigate the system and secure government support. When Sarah Anker became a Suffolk County Legislator in 2011 this trail became a legislative goal.

Legislator Anker got past her first roadblock when County Executive Bellone enthusiastically endorsed the idea of creating the trail along Route 25A. The second roadblock, property owner LIPA's concern about liability, was removed when the County Executive worked out an agreement to lease and maintain the property, creating a "linear park" that would be cared for by the Parks Department and the County Police. Community opposition, however, mounted at the idea of losing privacy with strangers passing along homes along the trail. With the experienced help of Friends of the Greenway Chair Charles McAteer, county legislators organized public meetings to discuss residents' concerns.

When the Suffolk County Legislature voted on the request to bond the federal money (that will be paid back in grants) on July 17, so many supporters spoke positively that it passed with only one abstention. The federal funding that had been obtained in prior years by Congressmen Grucci and Bishop was delayed until 2016 when Congressman Zeldin secured final approval of almost \$10 million.

The groundswell of support from the community and Legislator Anker's continuing commitment will make the trail's future secure. Working together, the legislator and the community overcame many obstacles to the establishment and funding of the trail in the past 7 years. This project serves as a strong case study for Suffolk County citizens in advocating, building community support for a grand idea, finding a legislative champion and working together to make it a reality.

Published in TBR papers August 16, 2018

Behavioral Health Matters!

By **Valerie King, Ph.D., Health Committee Chair**

There is a long history to the unmet needs of individuals who struggle with behavioral health issues. As a modern society, we have come a long way from imprisonment and the crowded wards of large inpatient institutions toward more humane, community-based and familial approaches to behavioral health treatment and recovery. Yet, cultural stigma, misinformation and barriers to behavioral health care in our community continue to exist.

As with any health/medical-related illness, disease or disorder, access to professional health providers for diagnosis, treatment and follow-up is essential. Despite efforts at public education, parity legislation, and internet access to information, many people in general do not fully understand the system of mental health and addiction now encompassed in the term “behavioral health.” Behavioral Health is perceived differently from the system of other medical concerns such as diabetes, heart disease or cancer.

For example, in the most simplistic sequence of events: a person experiences a symptom (usually pain), and they go to a health provider, usually a doctor at an office, clinic or hospital. The doctor provides a diagnosis, and a treatment plan is developed. Health insurance approves the treatment, reimburses some portion of the costs, and the process of treatment and recovery begins.

For behavioral health, the sequence of events is similar yet less clear in terms of symptoms, diagnoses, treatment and recovery. Confusion results in misperception, and a behavioral health disorder can become stigmatized and devalued. Psychiatric/psychological pain from mental illness and addiction is less understood and is culturally stigmatized as an individual’s personal moral failing rather than a malfunctioning of the central nervous system, mainly a disorder of the brain. In my professional opinion, it is important to replace incorrect negative perceptions with current scientific facts. Mental illness is a brain disorder. Addiction is a brain disorder. Scientific evidenced-based research helps to shape the health system so that new health policies are developed, new health terms are created, and new health services are provided.

NEW TERMS

“Behavioral Health” is the current umbrella term that includes mental illness and addictive disorders. There are differing points of view regarding this terminology. Professional providers, para professionals, individuals with behavioral health disorders, their family members and significant others all have diverse perspectives on how the term behavioral health has influenced institutional funding, policies that impact access to services such as diagnosis, treatment modalities, and the process of recovery, along with health insurance plans’ reimbursement of costs.

In my professional opinion, I think the term “Behavioral

Health” is appropriate because it embraces the concepts of inclusion and integration within the full range of mental illness and addictive disorders where co-existence of the disorders is likely. In addition, physical health and mental health are mutually interactive, and expressed in symptomatic behavior in response or reaction to the experience of physical and psychological pain. Behavior is a term broad enough to include thoughts as well as actions. As mentioned, the brain governs all behavior including sleep and coma, therefore behavioral health is dependent on healthy functioning of the brain. Behavioral health and wellness implies the perspective of individual thoughts and actions that are within the normal range, or “mainstream” of the present culture. Behavioral Health disorders and illnesses are outside of the normal range as determined by scientific evidence-based research.

The terms medical illness, disease, disorder, treatment, therapy, rehabilitation and recovery have been expanded and now fall under the broad continuum of health care. The term healthcare provider has been expanded to include all licensed and credentialed health professionals (physicians, doctors of osteopathy, hospitalists, physician assistants and nurse practitioners).

In the field of behavioral health, professional licensed psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, psychiatric nurses, pharmacologists, mental health counselors, family counselors and case managers, and some paraprofessionals provide “therapeutic” behavioral health care. Treatment has been expanded and integrated to include traditional medicine, medication, and therapy. Complementary and alternative treatment approaches have been expanded to include support services and contemplative modalities.

NEW SERVICES

Access to behavioral health providers and services is a national, regional and local issue. Unfortunately, due to many factors—such as cultural stigma, lack of institutional, community, individual and familial economic resources, geographical distances, language barriers, a paucity of appropriately-trained professionals and service providers—some individuals who develop acute disorders or have chronic behavioral disorders, are an underserved population with multiple health needs. To address this, there is a new program operated in part by the National Council for Behavioral Health called “USA Mental Health First Aid”—an eight-hour course that gives basically anyone who is interested, training for skills to help someone who is developing a mental health problem.

On the South Fork, there are populations who have unmet behavioral health needs. Efforts to address these concerns are evolving. Stony Brook Southampton Hospital has been a stakeholder in many coordinated efforts to enhance access.

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A coalition of stakeholders—The South Fork Behavioral Health Initiative (SFBHI), consisting of public officials, hospital administrators, agency/organizational representatives, school personnel, behavioral health advocates and providers—meets regularly to discuss the behavioral health needs of our community. As a result of these meetings, funding to enhance behavioral health has resulted in more physician referrals to behavioral health providers and greater access for school-aged children and their families. The focus of SFBHI is anticipated to shift toward other underserved populations such as the elderly, and individuals with language barriers, lack of health insurance and geographical/transportation difficulties, via tele-psychiatry.

The LWVH Health Committee Chair participates in the South Fork Behavioral Health Initiative and has joined with the East End Mental Health Advocacy Initiative (EEMHAI) to address mental health concerns that impact our community. Planning for a collaborative project began in the spring of 2018 with the goal of a co-sponsored public information meeting consisting of a film and panel presentation on Mental/Behavioral Health Issues, now scheduled for Monday November 19, 6-8 p.m. at Stony Brook Southampton Hospital's Parrish Memorial Hall.

One area of concern that continues to be a conundrum is the balancing of an individual's behavioral health needs versus public safety. Behavioral health research indicates a low prediction rate of which individuals will act as a serious threat to public safety. Yet, the issue of public safety arises most frequently when an individual with an undiagnosed serious mental illness becomes a danger to him/herself or others, and when an individual with a diagnosis of serious mental illness chooses to forgo or is unable to access treatment as prescribed. There are national policies and state laws in place to address monitoring the treatment of individuals with serious behavioral health concerns. A viewing of the film "Minds on The Edge" and the panel discussion with local experts will address these issues at the November 19th program.

The LWVH Health Committee provides information on local health services and events that impact our community. If you would like to join the committee or would like more information on our Health Committee activities, please contact Valerie King, Ph.D. at valeriekingphd@gmail.com or 631-267-3282.

LWVH Marches in Southampton's 4th of July Parade!



League Starts Fourth Year of Adopt-A-Road Program

By Arlene Hinkemeyer

Look for the tall metal sign posts at the beginning and end of Pantigo Place, East Hampton, that say “Adopt-A-Road, League of Women Voters Hamptons.”

In May, the Hamptons League began its fourth year in the Town of East Hampton’s Adopt-A-Road program by collecting litter on Pantigo Place and Pantigo Circle, which are located off Pantigo Road (Montauk Hwy.) on the street between the East Hampton Healthcare Center and various bagel/beverage stores and Town offices.

The Town program requires adopters to clean the road eight times a year—once a month from May through October, and then twice over the winter. It provides the picks and bags, as well as beautiful signs at the beginning and end of the adopted street, crediting the organization responsible for providing the community service.

Each month one person on the committee accompanies Arlene Hinkemeyer on the clean-up. Thanks go to this year’s crew of Afton DiSunno, Estelle Gellman, Julia Kayser, Barbara McClancy, Joan McGivern, Eva Moore and Vicki Umans.



East Hampton Town League members participating in this year’s Adopt-A-Road pick-up are, left to right, Joan McGivern, Barbara McClancy, Estelle Gellman and Eva Moore. Not in photo are Afton DiSunno, Arlene Hinkemeyer (taking photo), Julia Kayser and Vicki Umans.

Continued from page 1

MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD

A central part of the mission of the League of Women Voters is to empower citizens and to encourage the active and informed participation of citizens in their government. In its Non-Partisan role, the League studies issues and advocates on positions at the local, state & national levels of government. . . .a practice that started over 100 years ago when committed Suffragists like Susan B. Anthony, Lucretia Mott, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Carrie Chapman Catt brought about the changes that ultimately gave women the right to Vote!

This important program on September 17 builds on the work of early League members and will help newcomers learn how to Get Involved, Become More Informed, and Learn How To Unite with like-minded people to effectuate change.

It will also help seasoned individuals fine tune their civic engagement techniques to become more active and more effective.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS and JOIN US ON SEPTEMBER 17th.

Be Sure to Invite and Bring Friends and Non-League Members With You.

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Highlights of Board Meeting

tion at River Jazz in Riverhead. We will man a voter registration table at the Sag Harborfest on September 8 and 9.

Upcoming Events:

- September 8-9. Voter Registration on the Wharf at Sag Harborfest.
- September 17, 2:30-4:30 p.m. Public information program, Make Your Voice Heard, at East Hampton Library.
- September 25. National Voter Registration Day, tables at multiple sites from Westhampton to Montauk.
- November 19, 6 p.m. Health Committee public information program on behavioral/mental health, at Stony Brook Southampton Hospital’s Parrish Memorial Hall.

Next Board meeting: September 5, 2-4 p.m. at the Bridgehampton Senior Citizen Center.

Next Voter: October/November issue deadline is September 15. Editor Joan McGivern, with Arlene Hinkemeyer.

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League Busy With Voter Registration: You Can Help!

A visitor, left, to the Hamptons League's booth on May 12 at the 2nd Annual East Hampton Street Fair picks up a voter registration form from, left to right, Julia Kayser, Estelle Gellman and Ann Sandford. Contact the Voter Services co-chairs Anne Marshall and Barbara McClancy to volunteer for Sag Harbor-fest on September 8-9 and National Voter Registration Day on September 25.

The Voter

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Nonpartisan. Political. Grassroots. Volunteer.

Making democracy work through voter education,
issue advocacy, and civic participation.