



THE VOTER

The Newsletter of the League of Women Voters of the Hamptons

Founded in 1977

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April 2009

TOWN GOVERNMENT, PART 2: THE COUNCIL-MANAGER FORM

Last month Sandi Ferguson’s article gave us a good lesson on the evolution of town government within the regulations of New York State. We know that the town board (or council) is a legislative body, elected to establish the policies that provide needed services to the community. The absence of an executive branch posed little problem during the nineteenth century when life was simpler and regulations few. By the early twentieth century, things were different. Let’s now examine the developing professionalization of municipal government over the last century.

What Is the Council-Manager Form of Government?

This system of local government combines the strong political leadership of elected officials (the council) with the strong managerial experience of a professionally trained administrator (the manager) hired by the council to oversee the delivery of public services. The manager’s duties are defined by the council and may include:

- hiring and firing of department heads and supervision of day-to-day operations.
- formulating and implementing all personnel policies.
- supervising collective bargaining.
- preparing the budget for the Supervisor's approval.
- enforcing all local laws and ordinances.

How Did It Develop?

Born out of the progressive reform movement at the beginning of the twentieth century, the council-manager system is one of the few original American contributions to political theory. In that era of big city bosses and machine politics, the nonpolitical “manager” was seen as an antidote to patronage and corruption. Reformers wanted to apply a business model. Civil service and competitive bidding were introduced. After World War II, growth went into high gear. Land use planning became essential, and suburban development added many new local governments, most of which took the council-manager form. Universities developed graduate programs in public administration. The profession of city management emerged.

Where Is It Practiced?

In our biggest cities, where diverse neighborhoods compete vigorously for resources, elected mayors and district council members are the norm. But 70 percent of the cities with populations between 50,000 and 250,000 use the council-manager form of government, as do more than 50 percent of towns with fewer than 50,000 residents. It is prevalent in the Sunbelt and especially in the West, where so many towns originated in the twentieth century, and it

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GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE COMPACT Consensus Meeting

Monday, April 13, 2009

Unitarian Universalist Meetinghouse
Bridgehampton/Sag Harbor Turnpike
(just south of Scuttlehole Road
on the east side)

MEMBERS ONLY

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 ten times a year by the League of Women Voters of the Hamptons, P. O. Box 2253, East Hampton, NY 11937.

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President's Message

A grassroots movement (often referenced in the context of a political movement) is one driven by the constituents of a community.

Wikipedia

For many of us League members, the grassroots nature of this organization is one of its most attractive features. It empowers us, the members, to bring our energy to the issues and projects that mean the most to us, with the power of a well-organized and respected organization at our backs.

One of the ways we exercise this power was seen at last month's member meeting, at which the direction of our local league for the next year was discussed (and about which we will talk more next month). This month, however, we have an opportunity to really flex our grassroots muscles by participating in the National Popular Vote Compact (NPV) consensus process and, by doing so, to prove to our state and national boards that the grassroots of the League are strong and vocal.

First, the background. At the 2006 national convention, the concept of the NPV was introduced to the delegates. Several delegates from New York State came home totally energized by the idea, and eager to begin the process by which the League could decide whether or not to endorse the concept. After some initial investigation, it was determined that the state league could take a position on the NPV, and the supporters began the process of getting the NYS league to begin a study on it. The state board, however, was not in favor, and decided not to recommend the study at the state convention held in 2007. The members of the state board felt that the local leagues were too busy with the immigration study to expend their resources on this new study. So, at the state convention, a young and enthusiastic League member from Saratoga named Lori Dawson, with the support of her local league, engineered the consideration of the NPV study through the convention, with the result that the state delegates adopted the study despite the hesitance of the state board. Score one for grassroots.

Soon after the study was begun, however, the national board let it be known that, contrary to their previous advice, a study of the NPV must be done on the national, and not state, level. The state study, which had been active for several months, had to be scuttled.

So, Lori began a movement to begin a national study. Again, the board resisted. Again, at convention (national, this time) the delegates overturned the recommendation of the board, and a study was authorized. So now we have the opportunity to decide if the League wants to back this new and interesting idea for election of the president and, as importantly, we have the opportunity to remind the national board that we, the grassroots, guide the direction of this organization.

Please participate in the consensus. The NPV is the first of several new ideas about voting which the League should address if we want to be at the forefront of innovative thinking about the way we vote. In addition, widespread participation in the consensus process will re-affirm our identity as a grassroots organization, fueled by the energy of its members.

Carol Mellor, President

537-6998

NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE COMPACT CONSENSUS MEETING

All over the country, local leagues are meeting to decide if the national League should endorse the National Popular Vote Compact as a method for election of the president and vice-president. This plan, which uses the Electoral College to accomplish the direct election of the president by the people, has been the subject of a LWVH public forum and several *Voter* articles. This month, as we prepare to hold our consensus meeting on April 6, we present the summaries below (prepared by LWVUS) of the background,

Background for the National Popular Vote Compact

The League has a long-standing position in support of the direct election of the president by popular vote. Now, League members have the opportunity to consider whether to support the National Popular Vote Compact (NPV Compact) as a viable process to achieve that result. The NPV Compact would avoid the need for a constitutional amendment abolishing the Electoral College (EC), and would assure that the individual receiving the most votes would become president.

The NPV Compact proposal uses the mechanism of the EC. States that legislatively enact the NPV Compact would agree that their state electors would vote for the individual that received the most votes nationwide. Thus, the popular vote count from all 50 states and the District of Columbia would be added together. State elections officials in all states participating would award their electoral votes to the presidential candidate who receives the largest number of popular votes.

This alternative method of assigning a state's EC votes

Support for the National Popular Vote Compact

Because the League already supports direct election of the president, arguments against the Electoral College (EC) are not included in the material supporting the National Popular Vote Compact (NPV Compact).

Constitutional Issues

The NPV Compact is a way to assure that every person's vote counts equally and that the person receiving the most votes is the winner of the presidency. The same result would be achieved by constitutional amendment, but the U.S. Constitution is difficult to amend. The NPV Compact is a viable way to attain the same goal as amending the Constitution to eliminate the EC.

A constitutional amendment is not needed to effectuate the NPV Compact because states already have the right to implement changes in how electors are appointed.

The NPV Compact is a compact between states – a method of concerted state action that has long been sanctioned by the Constitution and the courts.

pros and cons as a reintroduction to the topic. Before the meeting, you will receive in the mail the consensus questions that we will be addressing, as well as full-length articles on the topic and referrals to other sources of information. Please read these materials, and come to the meeting at the Unitarian Universalist Meetinghouse so we can participate in the prototypical League process of conversation, debate and consensus.

would take effect only when enacted by states collectively possessing a majority of the electoral votes. This 270-vote threshold also corresponds essentially to states representing a majority of the people of the United States.

The plan includes procedural provisions to help assure smooth functioning of the agreement – conditions that deal with states deciding to withdraw from the Compact at the last moment, enforcement issues and recounts.

Currently four states have passed legislation to enact the NPV Compact.

There are pros and cons to this plan, which are discussed briefly below and in full in papers found on the LWVUS Web site. Summaries of these papers are also available. League members can learn more about the plan from these sources and consider its ramifications at consensus meetings across the country. Be sure to participate! Who better than the League to be ready to speak to this good-government issue?

Evaluating Fairness

A candidate can be elected president by receiving the most electoral votes even though he or she did not receive the most popular votes. This is not a result voters expect or desire. As election campaigns are now waged, major emphasis and resources are concentrated in key EC battleground states because that is where elections are won or lost. The NPV Compact would eliminate the emphasis on battleground states and would be more apt to assure campaign strategies that appeal to a broad spectrum of the electorate, which would foster greater voter participation.

The argument that the plan would negatively impact states' rights is countered by poll results showing that most voters want their individual vote to count, rather than allotting them to electors representing the state as a whole.

Any claim that the NPV Compact is an unprecedented disregard for the U.S. Constitution ignores the reality that voting rights have been changed through state action

continued on next page

NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE MEETING

continued from previous page

many times. Women's suffrage, for example, was instituted by twenty states before passage of the constitutional amendment that made the right universal.

Mechanical Considerations

Those opposed to the NPV Compact cite mechanical issues that might lead the NPV to fail, but the Compact includes provisions that address issues of enforcement, winning levels and recounts.

Other Issues

The Voting Rights Act and the NPV Compact are in harmony, assuring equality of votes throughout the United States.

Opposition to the National Popular Vote Compact

There is little respect for the Electoral College (EC). The League opposes it and most voters want a direct popular vote. But is the National Popular Vote Compact (NPV Compact) an appropriate way to achieve that result?

Evaluating Fairness

Voters supporting the candidate who receives the majority of votes in their state want their state's electors to support their choice. Adoption of the NPV Compact may require a state elections official to direct its state's electors to cast their ballots in support of a candidate who was not favored by the voters of that state.

Passage of the NPV Compact will result in the emphasis of presidential campaigns shifting from the battleground states to areas of large concentrations of population. So, while some voters are disenfranchised by the EC, others might be disenfranchised by the NPV Compact. Because the Compact requires entry into a contract with other states, which binds state elections officials to direct electors to vote in a certain way, regardless of the outcome of the election in their state, states' rights are diminished.

In addition, one can question the advisability of a method that bypasses the normal constitutional amendment process in this manner.

Constitutional Issues

Many constitutional scholars argue that this plan will lead to extensive litigation involving challenges to the NVP Compact on issues such as the scope of constitutional powers, the Compact itself, the need for congressional approval, the concerns of non-compacting states, and constitutional protections of state interests and their role in elections.

League Issues

Opponents say that the NPV Compact conflicts with the League's support of uniform voting standards. Supporters of the Compact advocate its passage in all states, which would result in uniform voting standards. It is true that the NPV Compact could be in effect for an interlude when not all states had signed on to it. The same could be demonstrated for other laws, such as the Equal Rights Amendment. Nonetheless, it must be remembered that uniform voting standards are not now in effect. The NPV Compact could help assure that every vote would be counted equally.

Further, implementation of a method that assures direct election of the president by popular vote is in keeping with the League's long-held position.

Mechanical Issues/Flaws

The methods for enforcement of this plan are unclear. Opponents question the power and timing to withdraw from the Compact and the power to enforce compliance.

Others express concern about an onslaught of lawsuits between compacting and non-compacting states, as well as procedures in close elections.

The plan, allowing the election of a president by a plurality of votes, does not improve on the current system; neither the present system nor the NPV Compact requires that the president be elected by a majority.

Other Issues

The Voting Rights Act requires pre-clearance for legislative changes. This, too, has the capacity to engender lawsuits to ensure compliance.

League Issues

This proposal does nothing to achieve the goal of uniform standards of voting. The NPV Compact is effective when passed by states representing 270 electoral votes, effectively negating the impact on presidential elections of the voters in states that represent the other half of electoral votes. A system that assures no voter disenfranchisement is a better way to assure that every person's vote counts.

The League has long supported the abolition of the EC. Although the NPV Compact purports to foster the same result, it creates additional concerns. Amending the U.S. Constitution is a difficult process, and we should seriously consider supporting the normal amendment procedures to abolish the EC versus this specific "work-around."

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April 2009

Note: Meeting dates and times are subject to change. Please confirm with committee chairperson.

No Voter Services Committee meeting in April.

April 1 7:00-9:00 p.m.	Wednesday	LWVH Board meeting	Bridgehampton National Bank, Montauk Highway, Bridgehampton. Members and guests welcome.
April 2 1:30 p.m.	Thursday	Running & Winning Committee meeting	Location to be determined. Contact Judi Roth at 283-0759.
April 7 11:00 a.m.	Tuesday	Natural Resources Committee meeting	Hampton Library at temporary site, 2539 Montauk Highway (Marders building), Bridgehampton. Contact Sue Avedon at 329-1830.
April 8 11:00 a.m.	Wednesday	Membership Committee meeting	Home of Arlene Makl, 21 Montauk Avenue, East Hampton. Contact Arlene at 324-8662. Please bring a box lunch.
April 13 7:00-9:00 p.m.	Monday	General Membership meeting	Consensus Meeting on National Popular Vote Compact. Unitarian Universalist Meetinghouse, 977 Bridgehampton-Sag Harbor Turnpike, Bridgehampton. Members only.
April 15 2:00 p.m.	Wednesday	Special Events Committee meeting	Starbucks, Main Street, Bridgehampton. Contact Susan Wilson at 283-6549 for details.
April 16 1:00-4:00 p.m.	Thursday	Running & Winning Committee meeting	Mandatory training session for volunteers. Southampton Cultural Center, 2 Pond Lane, Southampton. Contact Judi Roth at 283-0759.
April 20 3:00 p.m.	Monday	Health Committee meeting	Old Whaler's Church, Union Street, Sag Harbor. Contact Judy Samuelson at 267-3055 for details.
April 21 1:30 p.m.	Tuesday	Running & Winning Committee meeting	Rogers Memorial Library, Southampton. Contact Judi Roth at 283-0759.
April 24 1:00 p.m.	Friday	Government Committee meeting	Home of Barbara Jordan. Call her at 324-6144 for details.
LOOKING AHEAD			
May 2 3:00-5:00 p.m.	Saturday	LWVH Annual Meeting	Long House Reserve, Hands Creek Road, East Hampton. Details to come.
May 6 7:00-9:00 p.m.	Wednesday	LWVH Board meeting	Bridgehampton National Bank, Montauk Highway, Bridgehampton. Members and guests welcome.
May 15-17	Friday-Sunday	LWVNYS Convention	Doubletree Hotel, Syracuse. See www.lwvny.org for more information.
May 21 8:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.	Thursday	Running & Winning	Southampton Cultural Center. Details to come.

LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIALS BEGIN IMMIGRATION DIALOGUE

Representative Tim Bishop, State Assemblyman Fred W. Thiele, and Southampton Town Councilwoman Anna Throne-Holst have formed a new coalition to address immigration issues. According to Mr. Bishop, "The coalition is a proactive effort to bring issues into the light, have a rational discussion of the impact of immigration on our community and ultimately bring people together."

The coalition hosted a forum on the subject on March 13 in Hampton Bays titled "Immigration in the Hamptons: Beginning a Community Dialogue." Before a standing-room crowd at the Hampton Bays Senior Center, Congressman Bishop detailed the present status of immigration reform in Congress, describing proposed legislation that would address enforcement issues, but that would also create a path to regularization for persons who are presently in undocumented status. Assemblyman Thiele and Councilwoman Throne-Holst, while acknowledging that their legislative bodies had limited power over status of immigrants, expressed their concern about the impact upon the community.

Other speakers included Joanne Loewenthal, Superintendent of Hampton Bays Schools and Robert Chaloner, CEO of Southampton Hospital. Mrs. Loewenthal detailed the many countries and nationalities that are represented in her schools, and the richness that diversity affords the children. Mr. Chaloner acknowledged

the challenge of providing medical care to the uninsured, but emphasized that the huge numbers of uninsured encompassed both American citizens and undocumented immigrants, and that federal law precluded inquiry into a patient's immigration status.

Laura Anker, Professor of American Studies, SUNY-Old Westbury, recounted the history of immigration in this country, noting that in the past as now, as waves of immigrants entered, they were met with fear and the perception that employment opportunities were being denied to U.S. citizens as a result of the influx of "cheap" labor. Julio Gonzalez, Associate Professor of Education, SUNY-Old Westbury, detailed the results of a study conducted recently in the Town of East Hampton that explored the effect of the immigrants on the town.

Questions and comments from the audience were solicited. The comments ran the gamut of community opinion. The panel participants indicated that this was intended to be the first of a series of such events.

We, in the League of Women Voters, are particularly interested in the work of the coalition. Its goals seem to be consonant with the goals espoused by the position the League adopted last year. We look forward to participating in the conversations that were begun at the forum.

Submitted by Carol Mellor

OUR NEIGHBORS NEED OUR HELP!

In this difficult economic time, please think of those among us who might be struggling to pay bills or feed their families.

Our local food pantries are running out of food. Please contribute whatever you can afford to help those who are in need.

TOWN BOARD MEETINGS

SOUTHAMPTON

All Southampton Town Board meetings are held in the Town Board Room, Southampton Town Hall, Hampton Road, Southampton.

April 14	Tuesday 1:00 p.m.
April 28	Tuesday 6:00 p.m.

EAST HAMPTON

April 3	Friday 10:00 a.m.	Regular meeting. Town Hall Courtroom, Pantigo Road, E.H.
April 7	Tuesday 10:00 a.m.	Brown Bag meeting. Montauk Firehouse, Montauk.
April 14	Tuesday 10:00 a.m.	Brown Bag meeting. Town Hall Conference Room, E.H.
April 16	Thursday 7:00 p.m.	Regular meeting. Town Hall Courtroom, Pantigo Road, E.H.

WATER—LET'S USE THIS PRECIOUS RESOURCE WISELY!

Water is an increasingly scarce resource. Many parts of the United States already face serious water shortages and even drought. Population growth and the changing climate are putting additional stresses on water supplies. Even in areas where water seems to be abundant, careful management of this precious resource is essential if we are to ensure a reliable supply for future generations.

Moreover, using water efficiently also saves energy. For most municipalities, the biggest use of electricity is associated with treating and distributing drinking water and then collecting, treating, and disposing of it after it has been used.

Water conservation is clearly an important component of sustainability. How can we, as individual consumers, help?

Saving Water Indoors

Indoor water usage in a typical single family home in the United States is about 70 gallons per person per day. But fixing leaks, installing water-efficient plumbing fixtures, and changing some everyday habits can reduce water usage significantly to around 45 gallons/person/day.

Fix those Leaks

Leaks account for about 13 percent of the water used in a typical home. A slowly dripping faucet or a toilet that keeps "running" can waste thousands of gallons of water a year. To check for leaks, read the water meter before and after a two-hour period in which no water is being used. After the test period, if the meter has a higher reading, there is probably a leak.

Buy Water-Saving Fixtures, Appliances

- Toilets are typically the greatest water user in the house, accounting for more than one-quarter of the total used in a home each day. Replacing an older 3.5-gallons-per-flush (gpf) toilet with a 1.6-gpf, low-flush model will save at least 10 gallons of water/per person/day. New lower-flow dual-flush toilets will cut usage even further. By reducing water bills, newer toilets pay for themselves in just a few years.*
- Replacing older showerheads with low-flow fixtures and installing low-flow aerators in existing faucets are both low-cost ways to save water. And by cutting the demand for hot water, this step will result in energy savings as well.
- Water-efficient dishwashers and clothes washers also help save water—and energy.

* The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has launched a new program, WaterSense (www.epa.gov/watersense/), to help consumers identify products and programs that meet tough water-efficiency and performance criteria. High-efficiency toilets are the first product to display the new WaterSense label, signaling that the fixture has been independently certified by a third party to confirm that it meets the EPA criteria.

Turn Off the Tap

A few small changes in everyday habits can result in significant water savings. Turn off the tap while brushing teeth and save well over 1000 gallons/person/year. Take a five-minute shower (12.5 gallons of water with a new showerhead) instead of a bath and save 20-30 gallons each time.

Conserving Water Outside

In urbanized areas, roads, rooftops and parking lots cover much of the landscape and prevent rainwater from soaking into the ground and replenishing groundwater. Rainwater runoff flows instead into the storm sewer system, picking up pesticides, fertilizers, oil and other pollutants as it makes its way to local rivers, lakes and bays.

An additional problem confronts older municipalities with combined sewer systems. In these systems, stormwater and sanitary wastes are collected in the same pipe and then treated together before being discharged. During periods of heavy rainfall or snowmelt, the volume of water can exceed the capacity of the system, and the excess wastewater is discharged directly into nearby waterways.

Green Infrastructure

A new approach to stormwater management uses natural systems to absorb and filter rainwater and make use of it where it falls. It treats rainwater as an asset rather than a waste product.

- Using permeable paving for driveways and parking areas allows rainwater to seep into the ground, thus recharging groundwater and reducing stormwater runoff.
- Rainwater can be "harvested"—collected as it runs off the roof and stored in rain barrels or a cistern for future landscape irrigation. Benefits include lower water bills, less waste of precious drinking water, reduced demand on the municipal water system and increased groundwater recharge.
- Replacing lawn areas with natural landscaping will save water and energy as well as benefit the natural environment. Lawn maintenance is water intensive—some 30 percent of our water is used to irrigate lawns—and lawnmowers cause five percent of the nation's air pollution. Native plants, on the other hand, help reduce runoff and minimize the need for watering. They do not need fertilizers, herbicides or pesticides. And they provide food and shelter for birds, butterflies and beneficial insects.

Note: This excerpt is from an article by Eleanor Revelle, produced by the LWVUS Climate Change Task Force. © 2008 by the League of Women Voters of the United States.



Suffolk County Voter

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April 2009

Wed. April 15 LWVSC Board Meeting, Conference Call 10:00am-12 noon

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Town Hall Forum

Several League members attended the Federal Stimulus Package Town Hall Forum on Saturday, March 14th, held at Suffolk County Community College in Brentwood, and hosted by State Senators Brian X. Foley and Craig Johnson, and Senate Majority Leader Malcolm A. Smith. It focused on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 and presented the soon-to-be-realized impact of this Act on New York State.

Many state agencies made presentations about their functions, the amount of funding each expected, and what they would have to do to implement the purposes of the Package within their agencies. Audience members, representing many facets of the county's network, were advised as to how they might participate. Some of the agencies who spoke were the Department of Environmental Conservation, Office for Technology, NYS Energy Research and Development Authority, NYS Department of Transportation, Metropolitan Transportation Authority, Departments of Education, Health and Labor. It was apparent that there are strict time and other guidelines which the federal government is demanding. It is understood that if those guidelines are not met, a withdrawal of the funding would occur. It was acknowledged that New York State is one of a few states that the federal government will be watching closely as to its utilization of the funding.

A determination to meet those guidelines was apparent and it was stressed. The presentations were clear, brief and hopeful. The Forum ended with the answering of questions presented by members of the audience.

Katherine Hoak

CPEP: An Unmet Responsibility 2

The Comprehensive Psychiatric Emergency Program (CPEP) is Suffolk's only hospital-based emergency psychiatric service. For many people, it is the entry point into the mental health care system. It is staffed by psychiatrists, social workers, nurses, and nursing assistants to provide comprehensive medical, physical, and psychiatric assessments and treatment, after which patients may be referred for follow-up outpatient care. The CPEP provides an essential and irreplaceable resource for Suffolk County residents needing emergency psychiatric care.

Because of the increasing demand for psychiatric services that have impacted on it in recent years, the facility has become a chaotic and dangerously overcrowded environment where depressed, anxiety-ridden, paranoid, and generally unstable patients must often wait for hours before they are seen. The CPEP is currently in a small, poorly designed area which cannot support high quality patient care.

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HOLD THE DATE

The Annual Convention of the League of Women Voters of Suffolk County is scheduled for late afternoon / early evening

Thursday, May 28, 2009

County Executive Steve Levy has agreed to speak at our convention

Look for additional details on time and workshops and additional speakers in next month's Suffolk County Voter

An Observer’s View of the County Executive’s “We Work for You” Community Forum in Smithtown

Steve Levy opened the forum with a 45 minute introduction and power point presentation on county projects and monies in Smithtown. For example, the Smithtown sewer feasibility study was completed in 2008, and will serve Main Street Kings Park and Smithtown, and connect to additional developments.

Afterwards, forum participants could break out into meeting rooms to speak directly with 11 different county commissioners and department directors including police, health, social services, economic development, public works, youth, labor, parks, environment and energy minority affairs and human services. In most cases, the tone of the audience in these rooms was very serious; the community members in attendance had prepared well for this forum

These “We Work For You” Community Forums are the first step in a larger community outreach initiative by the County Executive known as CORE (Community Outreach and Response Effort). The CORE initiative will bring the office of the county executive into the issues that are most important to area residents.

The first of these forums was held in Islip Town in January, and future forums will be held in the other Suffolk County towns during 2009.

Adam Gaus

CPEP: An Unmet Responsibility 2

continued

2,050 square feet of space does not allow for sufficient care for people in desperate need of it. When they are seen, they are treated in small, shared spaces with little or no privacy.

There is an expansion planned, adjacent to the new emergency department at Stony Brook University Medical Center which will greatly improve the current conditions at the CPEP. That expansion is costly. Both County Executive Steve Levy and the Suffolk County Legislature must provide the critically-needed financial support for this essential County facility—the only one of its caliber and mission available for our residents in extreme crisis.

Katherine Hoak

“VIRTUAL” BAKE SALE

How Sweet It Is! You won't have to:



- Go to the Grocery store
- Mix or bake anything
- Stand around all day & sell baked goods
- Buy goodies that might ruin your diet



This event supports the voter education and information projects of the Suffolk County League of Women Voters

Donations are Tax Deductible

Yes, I would love to Support the Suffolk County League of Women Voters.

Simply select an item or 2 from the list of yummy Bake Sale Items listed below and write a check for the suggested cost to produce that item. You will receive a recipe for the item/s you selected by return mail (email)

NAME: _____ Phone #: _____

Address: _____ Email: _____

Suggested Donations:

- _____ \$10 Two Dozen Orange Glazed Cookies
- _____ \$15 One Large Fresh Berry Pie
- _____ \$ 20 One Dozen Large Cranberry Walnut Muffins
- _____ \$ 25 Two Loaves of 7 Grain Bread
- _____ \$ 50 Aunt Charlotte’s Southern Coconut Cake
- _____ \$120 All of the above

Make Checks Payable to: LWVNY EDUCATION FUND
Mail to: Susan Wilson * 184 Main Street, Southampton, NY 11968

SUMMARY OF LWVH BOARD MEETING March 4, 2009

Information Items:

- Carol reported that the League would receive a \$2,000 grant from Suffolk County. These funds will go to the Running and Winning program.

Discussion Items:

- **Consensus Meeting, April 13:** For the upcoming member's meeting on the National Popular Vote Compact members will receive a package with the questions, some pros and cons on the issue, and references for further reading.
- **Web Site:** Judy Samuelson encouraged us to review the site at <http://lwwnet.org/>. On the access page, the name to use is Samuelson, state is NY, and the pass code is 16357. She welcomes your comments and content additions.
- **Annual Meeting, May 2 at Long House Reserve:** Carol asked that a Budget Committee be formed. Besides the budget, other contents of a package mailed to members are: the Bylaws, the Nominating Committee's slate including the names of three members of next year's Nominating Committee, a statement of Priorities and Positions, and committee reports.

Special Committees:

- **Nominating Committee:** Mireille Lister reported the recommendations of her committee and began by thanking the other members, Gladys Remler, Libby Hummer, Julia

Kayser, and Anne Marshall. Mireille emphasized the committee's concern for identifying presidential leadership skills, people who are willing and have the experience to serve as a future president

- **Running and Winning, May 21, 8:30-1 pm:** Judi Roth reported that her committee is working on a letter inviting League members to volunteer for one of three roles needed: facilitator (fifteen needed), hospitality, and registrars.

Regular Committees:

- **Special Events—Trivia Challenge, Sunday, March 22, 1-5 pm:** Sue Wilson reported that her committee met with the MC, Walker Vreeland, and agreed on a format for the afternoon. The hospital has mailed the flyers and the Southampton Press has organized the first team. Sue needs volunteers for the following: registration, scorekeeper, food.
- **Transportation:** Judi Roth attended her first meeting of the Transportation Commission of Southampton Town chaired by Tom Neely. Members reviewed the county's bus service study which proposed Sunday service.
- **Health:** Judy reported that the June program has speakers from Suffolk County Health Services. It will be held at the Hampton Bays Senior Center.

The next Board meeting will be on **April 1, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.**, Bridgehampton National Bank meeting room.

Submitted by Ann Sandford

GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

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is increasingly popular in the Northeast. Today, more than 4000 communities operate under this system.

Why Managers: What Are the Advantages?

Our Town Government Committee began its research by interviewing town managers in New York State. Asked why their community had created that position, each manager replied that local government had become so complex and expensive that full-time professionals were now a necessity. Then we learned that the LWV of New Castle had conducted an exhaustive study of their town's governance in 1993, resulting in the hiring of a town administrator in early 1994. From the New Castle League's findings, we can extract the generic weaknesses, which the council-manager form seeks to address, and the benefits it intends to achieve.

Local governments that lack a clearly defined managerial role are not likely to have consistent and uniform personnel policies, adequate supervision and review of department heads, with specific goals and evaluations for each, or

efficient coordination among departments. Often this means that the town board is not provided with all the information it needs for effective decision-making. With town budgets in the tens of millions of dollars, focused day-to-day administration is the bottom line. Professional expertise in public administration can fill these gaps, freeing elected officials to formulate policy so essential to long-range planning. When council members are not burdened with the innumerable tasks of administration, the pool of citizens willing to serve the community is likely to expand. Importantly, in the process of achieving better management, most towns discover significant expenditure reductions!

What about disadvantages?

Clearly the role of manager interposes considerable authority between the elected council members and the electorate. Although theoretically the manager is entirely subordinate to the council's directives, the reality depends a good deal on the personalities involved. There's plenty of evidence to argue either way.

In New Castle, the local League conducted an equally exhaustive assessment two years after the hiring of the

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GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

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town's administrator. It reported that there was consensus among the elected officials that there is a clear net gain from having an administrator and that the advantages outweigh any disadvantages. The major successes were in

the areas of the budget processes and expenditure control, as well as improvements in the approach to operations and personnel administration.

In the next couple of *Voter* issues, we will examine government form and function in our towns—Southampton and East Hampton.

Submitted by Libby Hummer

Watch for LWVH New, Improved Website!

Just in time for Spring, up pops our new website. It will launch in late April. We'll tell you all about it in the May *Voter*. New items include easier navigation, more pictures and a list of monthly events.

The Voter

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