THE REAL HISTORY OF VOTING

On a raucous Election Day in 1859 several deaths occurred in Baltimore caused by “ruffians” supporting a particular Congressional candidate. An investigation of this event by the House Committee on Elections did not vacate the election because: “To vacate an election, it must clearly appear that there was such a display of force as ought to have intimidated men of ordinary firmness” from casting their ballots! So begins a fascinating article by Jill Lepore entitled “Rock, Paper, Scissors” (The New Yorker, Oct. 13, 2008).

Early on, Americans voted with their voices—viva voce—or by raising their hands, moving to one side of the town square or the other, or by putting a pebble, a pea, or even a bullet put into a hat. As Lepore describes some of the opinions of the time, the idea of casting a “secret ballot” was considered “cowardly, underhanded and despicable” and would “destroy that noble generous openness that is characteristic of an Englishman.”

As we know, the Constitution left it up to the states to conduct elections (although Congress may alter state regulations), and at this moment in our history we are experiencing a great change in how we will vote in the future. Paper voting came into existence piecemeal with New York’s constitution experimenting with it in 1777 to decide whether “voting at elections by ballot would tend more to preserve the liberty and equal freedom of the people than voting viva voce.” Ohio began using paper ballots in 1802, but citizens in Kentucky continued to vote viva voce until 1891.

So began the long evolution of paper ballots. In the past, come Election Day, did you go to the poll and mark the ballot presented? 'Fraid not. You had to bring your own piece of paper and remember and know how to spell the name of every candidate and every office! If you didn’t get them all right, your ballot could be thrown out. (Sounds like some petition forms I used to carry in the Bronx!) Well, some smart politicians began distributing prewritten ballots, along with some cash (called “soap”) to get people to take their ballots. Of course, people who didn’t know how to read and write, of whom there were many back in the mid 1820’s, didn’t get to vote at all.

Lepore states that the rise to power of political parties was made possible in part by the rise of the paper ballot. Party leaders began to print ballots, which often appeared in newspapers. These could list the entire slate and be cut into strips to be used for each candidate. Printed ballots became known as “party tickets” because they looked like train tickets, and they contained a party symbol so that voters could vote for the party without knowing how to read or write. Party members who didn’t like a particular candidate printed their own ballots and “knifed” that candidate by literally slicing out his name and pasting the name of their favored candidate in its place. It is said that pots of paste were stocked at the polling place for this purpose.

continued on page 17
President’s Message

Coming together is a beginning.
Keeping together is progress.
Working together is success.

~ Henry Ford

At this time of year, we appreciate the blessings in our life, and thank the people who have made the past year successful. I raise a toast to the women who serve on the Board of Directors of the Hamptons League. We are a dynamic organization, thanks to the dedication, hard work and enthusiasm of many of our members. It is the Board, however, which holds this group together, leads it forward and ensures that we uphold the most basic values of the League. The women who serve on the Board are all sharply intelligent, extremely articulate, enormously creative and tremendously energetic. They bring these qualities to each Board meeting where they address the issues and challenges presented with respect for each other, respect for the principles of the League, unfailing patience and wonderful good humor. Our Board truly does work together, and I believe we have achieved success. Here’s to you, Ladies, one and all!

Meet the members of the Board (in first-name alphabetical order):

• Afton DiSunno uses her computer skills to maintain the membership/Voter rosters, making sure we are all counted and accounted for. Her quiet charm adds a genteel sensibility to our meetings.
• Ann Sandford is our parliamentarian, assiduously keeping the minutes, which often means making order out of chaos, and preserving our records by maintaining the archives. Her sense of history, and unfailing practicality, help keep us grounded.
• Anne Marshall leads our most public face, Voter Services, with dignity and elegance, raising the bar of our entire organization. She participates in Board decisions with intelligent grace, asking just the right question at the right time to keep us on track.
• Arlene Hinkemeyer is a whiz at public relations. Since she has taken over publicity, news of the League is everywhere—in print, on line, on TV, on radio. Her success at putting the word out has contributed immeasurably to our successes.
• Arlene Makl chairs Membership. Her charm, friendliness, humor and style make people want to join, leading to an increase in our numbers, at a time when many locals are facing declines.
• Emoke Forman keeps our books, keeping our finances in line and keeps us, the Board, in line with her incisive intelligence and keen perceptive point of view.
• Gladys Remler brings unfailing good humor and a sense of joy to our meetings. She is an incredibly hard worker, active in most of our committees, including Special Events, Membership, and Voter Services.
• Joy Cordery has accomplished a feat few thought possible—she has sold advertising in The Voter sufficient to make it self-supporting, and even profitable! She brings the same tenacity to other League projects, from fundraising to environmental issues.
• Joy Lupoletti brings a deep understanding of the workings of the League to our meetings, and a knowledge of our past which is essential as a guide to our present. She also brings an ever-present smile and quick laugh that help lighten the room and lighten our load.
• **Judi Roth** is a dynamo, bringing unfailing energy and enthusiasm to a wide range of projects. She heads Program, overseeing the forums we present monthly, and the Education Committee, now working on an exceptional program called Running and Winning.

• **Judy Samuelson** has contributed her considerable writing talents to a variety of projects, including a planned new and improved web site. She has just taken over as chair of the Health Committee and has already made great strides toward a forum featuring our Suffolk County health officials.

• **Maura Lester** is editor of *The Voter* and is responsible for the beautiful, professional and award-winning publication of which we are so proud. She does this work with calm good humor, unfailing patience, and unflappable equanimity.

• **Sue Avedon** has taken over and led our Natural Resources committee to great successes. In the past year, Natural Resources has been instrumental in two of our most successful forums, raising the visibility of the League to new heights.

• **Sue Wilson** heads up our Special Events committee. She brings great energy, creativity and an overriding sense of fun to the work of the committee, resulting in projects as diverse as the luncheon honoring women in elected office and an up-coming Trivia Quiz.

• **Terri Levin Davgin**, an unfailingly cheerful presence at our meetings, has brought her talents in graphic design to many projects, designing new stationery and business cards, dressing up our look and spiffing up our image.

• **Ursula Lynch** brings a quiet good sense to our work on the Board. She is also a dedicated worker, helping make us a presence in the “west” through activities such as voter registration and the Running and Winning project.

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**THE HOLIDAY PARTY, 2008**

Now that Carol has raised a toast to us, we return a toast and extend our gratitude to Carol and her husband, Richard, for once again hosting our very enjoyable Holiday Party. Members, spouses, significant others, advertisers, and even a public official took part in the festivities. Thanks again, Carol and Richard. Happy New Year to all!

![Image of holiday party attendees]

The LWVH holiday party on December 8 raised funds to benefit the Sag Harbor Community Food Pantry. Gathered around the basket of donations are Board members, left to right, Gladys Remler of Westhampton Beach, Judi Roth of Southampton, Judy Samuelson of Amagansett, hosts Richard and Carol Mellor of Springs, Terri Levin Davgin of East Hampton, and Anne Marshall of Bridgehampton. In recent years, the party has benefited East Hampton and Southampton food pantries and East End Hospice. *(Photo by Arlene Hinkemeyer.)*
VOTING MACHINES—NOT AGAIN!

“We used the lever machines for the last time during the November presidential election.” That was to be the most certain outcome of that election—no “recount” needed. HOLD ON—not so fast. Parts of New York may still be pulling those levers in 2009 and beyond. There are at least two more chapters to the continuing saga:

- Any selection process must include only those machines that have been certified as meeting a set of pre-established criteria. And recently, the certifying body has been called into question—putting the status of those already “certified” machines in limbo. Therefore the problem of timing again comes into play for the elections in 2009: Is there enough time for machines be certified, then be reviewed and selected by the respective county BOE commissioners? Following that, is there time to provide training on the machines to all polling workers, and very importantly, to educate the voters?

- During this winter, the State Board of Elections will be examining the question of whether villages have to provide ballot-marking devices for people with disabilities during elections for only village officials. Under HAVA (Help America Vote Act, 2000), polling sites for any federal election, as well as any non-federal election managed by counties, must provide voting machines that people with disabilities are able to use without assistance. (Those types of machines were in every polling site in November—though one wonders how many disabled citizens actually voted on them.) The question on the table is whether this HAVA requirement applies to village and school board elections.

So keep alert for the continuation of this seemingly never-ending story … a bit like the hot-stove baseball league stories that surface during the off-season. The voting machine topic doesn’t go away.
# January-February 2009

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

Contact Anne Marshall at 537-3257 for details about upcoming Voter Services Committee meetings.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Committee/Meeting</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 6</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Natural Resources Committee meeting</td>
<td>Hampton Library at temporary site, 2539 Montauk Highway (Marders building), Bridgehampton. Contact Sue Avedon at 329-1830.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 7</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>5:30-7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>LWVH Board meeting</td>
<td>Bridgehampton National Bank, Montauk Highway, Bridgehampton. Members and guests welcome.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 9</td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>10:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Running &amp; Winning Committee meeting</td>
<td>Contact Judi Roth at 283-0759 for meeting location and details.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 9</td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>1:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Town Government Study Subcommittee meeting</td>
<td>Contact Libby Hummer at 907-4361 for directions and details.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 12</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>7:00-9:00 p.m.</td>
<td>General Membership meeting</td>
<td>“The Workings of the Board of Elections.” Unitarian Universalist Meetinghouse, 977 Bridgehampton-Sag Harbor Turnpike, Bridgehampton. See page 4 for more information.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 14</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>1:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Special Events Committee meeting</td>
<td>Hampton Bays Diner. Contact Susan Wilson at 283-6549 for details.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 19</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>3:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Health Committee meeting</td>
<td>Old Whaler’s Church, Union Street, Sag Harbor. Contact Judy Samuelson at 267-3055 for details.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 21</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>LWVSC Board meeting</td>
<td>Riverhead Public Library.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 21</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>12:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Winter Blahs Luncheon</td>
<td>Bobby Van’s Steakhouse, Bridgehampton. See page 4 for more information.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 30</td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>1:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Town Government Study Subcommittee meeting</td>
<td>Contact Libby Hummer at 907-4361 for directions and details.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 4</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>5:30-7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>LWVH Board meeting</td>
<td>Bridgehampton National Bank, Montauk Highway, Bridgehampton. Members and guests welcome.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 15</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Deadline for March issue of The Voter.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 17</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>3:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Health Committee meeting</td>
<td>Old Whaler’s Church, Union Street, Sag Harbor. Contact Judy Samuelson at 267-3055 for details.</td>
</tr>
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</table>

## LOOKING AHEAD

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Committee/Meeting</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 4</td>
<td>5:30-7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>LWVH Board meeting</td>
<td>Bridgehampton National Bank, Montauk Highway, Bridgehampton. Members and guests welcome.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 22</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>Trivia Quiz</td>
<td>To benefit Southampton Hospital Foundation. Look for notices in our local weekly press. Details to come.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[www.lwv-suffolkcounty.org/Hamptons.htm](http://www.lwv-suffolkcounty.org/Hamptons.htm)
WHAT HAPPENS AFTER YOU CLOSE THE CURTAIN?

There was a time when little thought was given to the mechanics of voting. Citizens of the United States entered the voting booth, closed the curtain, lowered the levers, and had full confidence that when we pulled the bar to open the curtain, our vote would be recorded, and would reflect our choices. Over the past few years, fueled by stories of hanging chads, problems with new voting technology, claims of voter fraud and election fraud, we have begun to look much more closely at the mechanics of voting, and the mechanics of vote counting. In New York State, we have had plenty of drama emanating from the uncertainty surrounding the adoption of new machines and, even now, the place of our lever machines for the 2009 election is unsure.

The League of Women Voters of the Hamptons is fortunate to have two opportunities to look more closely into the workings of the Board of Elections. First, we are expecting to have representatives of the Suffolk County Board of Elections as our guests at our regular member meeting on January 12, 2009. At that time, we can listen to our local election officials explain some of the workings of their office, and ask questions about the way in which voter registration, absentee voting, vote counting, maintenance of machines, training of poll workers, and all of the other steps in the voting process are accomplished.

Secondly, as a precursor to that meeting, we are fortunate to have a report from a person who had the rare opportunity to witness the inner workings of the vote-counting process. George Lynch, who was active in the campaign of one of the candidates for Southampton Town Board, actually witnessed the process and procedures of the re-canvass of the vote tallies. What follows is his report, which provides a rare look behind the scenes at the Board of Elections.

Written by Carol Mellor

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THE BOARD OF ELECTIONS RE-CANVASSES A VOTE?

Recently I witnessed the Suffolk County Board of Elections re-canvass of the 2008 vote from Southampton Town. It is an impressive process. We were a group of Democrats interested in the race for Town Board. Our candidate was leading by 740 votes on election night, but over 3,000 absentee ballots were yet to be counted, so the contest could go either way.

On November 12, at Board of Elections headquarters in Yaphank, we and our Republican opposite numbers were greeted and given an orientation. The exercise has two parts: first, a complete check of the voting machines to correct any errors made at the polling places, and then a careful examination of all paper ballots (absentee, military and provisional) to determine which will be included.

We went into large, warehouse-like spaces where all the voting machines in Suffolk County are kept between elections. Southampton Town has about 60 machines in all. I was the Democratic Party observer for half of these. Six of us went from machine to machine—three Board of Elections people, two lawyers for the Republicans, and I.

One Board of Elections official would first state the identifying numbers on each voting machine and the total number of votes shown on an outside counter, and then unlock the machine and begin reading off the totals for each candidate in each race on each party line. The second person from the Board of Elections checked everything that the first one did, and the third kept the master tally sheet, entering all the numbers read off and comparing them to the election night count. We three party observers checked the machines ourselves and kept our own tallies.

The back of the voting machine is divided into numbered vertical columns, one for each contest, and lettered horizontal rows, one for each political party: Democrats, Republicans, Independence Party, Conservatives, and Working Families. There were sixteen races this year, from Obama vs. McCain in Column 1 to our Town Board contest in Column 16. Votes in all races were recorded, but the party observers tallied only the local elections. In one case, a mistake of one digit at the polling place resulted in 100 extra votes being entered for a candidate; that was corrected.

The machine count consumed most of a day, after which we sat at a long table to check the paper ballots to see if the voter’s intent was clear. Every ballot passed through the hands of several Board of Election officials and several observers from each political party, being accepted, or challenged on the basis of incompleteness or ambiguity. This process went on for two more days, though the Republicans conceded the Town Board race on the second day. At that point, we departed, but the Board of Elections people continued to examine the rest of the paper ballots, finishing on November 14. Their work is at the core of our democracy.

Submitted by George Lynch
Ethics Legislation for Suffolk County

For over fifty years, the League of Women Voters of New York State has felt that our laws inadequately define, monitor or discipline unethical behavior. It has steadfastly lobbied for it, but not with much success. However, just as Suffolk County was able to enact redistricting legislation, which the State still has not, we now have an opportunity to pass meaningful ethics legislation.

IR 1976-2008, A Charter Law to Reform and Reconstitute a Professional Independent Suffolk County Ethics Commission, has been presented by Legislators Ricardo Montano, John Kennedy and Cameron Alden, a bi-partisan presentation. It is determined that membership on this Ethics Commission has to be independent, diverse, and expert in the field of ethics to make certain that its decisions are not made for personal or partisan political reasons, but made on the basis of a consistent objective application of the Rule of Law.

In order to accomplish such a Commission, this legislation proposes the appointment of five independent individuals with pertinent professional backgrounds, with recognized expertise. Its independent Executive Director and Independent Counsel cannot be supervised, budgeted or controlled by the Executive Branch of Government.

- It is proposed that one member, appointed by the County Executive and approved by the Legislature, be a former judge; another appointed by the County Clerk should be a law professor or attorney. A third member should be appointed by the County Comptroller, a lawyer who has been in private practice with at least ten years of dealing with issues of ethics compliance in the workplace, and the remaining two members should be appointed by at least 12 votes of the 18 votes of the Legislature. Each should represent one of the two dominant political parties, and each would need to receive twelve votes for appointment. Their backgrounds would need to include at least ten years of expertise working as an attorney, human resource officer, personnel director, or labor relations officer in the private sector dealing with issues of ethics compliance.

- No more than three members should belong to one political party, or be on another county board or agency. The members of the Commission would select the Chairman. Only related reasonable expenses for the members would be paid, otherwise, there would be no compensation for them.

- The legislation spells out the specifics to be followed in who may or may not qualify to be members of the Commission. It is clear as to the general administrative powers which this Commission would assume and specifies its responsibilities to review conflicts and financial disclosure statements.

The League’s Legislative Committee presented this legislation to the LWVUS governmental specialist who sees it as on target. The only concern was the importance of a secure budget to support the operation of the Commission so that it cannot be starved into submission.

Because of the stipulations included in this legislation to make certain that this Suffolk County Ethics Commission would be independent and its members would have the critically-important professional backgrounds required to assume the important tasks of the Commission, LWV of Suffolk County supports this legislation.

Katherine Hoak

For the full text of the legislation, visit
http://www.co.suffolk.ny.us/legis/resos2008/i1976-06.htm
SUFFOLK COUNTY’S HEALTH CARE SYSTEM—PROUD OF THE PAST BUT LOOKING AHEAD

On December 3, Dr. Humayun Chaudhry, Suffolk County Health Commissioner; Matthew Miner, Deputy Commissioner; and Margaret Bermel, Director of Health Administrative Services, met with Judi Roth and me at the Riverhead public health center.

Much of the discussion focused on the system of public health centers, first developed in 1966 and regarded as a model for delivery of free or low-cost health services to the un/underinsured as well as the uninsurable. Eight public health centers and three satellites in the county-run system offer health care within the community and provide relief for over-used emergency rooms in area hospitals. The East Hampton and Southampton centers are satellites of the Riverhead facility. Primary care, WIC (women, infants and children), pediatrics, family planning, STD (sexually transmitted diseases) and HIV-related services, flu shots, obstetrics, radiology, immunizations, Medicaid Eligibility Screening and more are available at some (not all) centers.

The county’s system of public health centers reduces dependence on hospital emergency rooms for routine care and offers community-based care. Last fall, in a teleconference requested by former governor Spitzer to brainstorm improvements in public health care (an initiative called the Statewide Partnership for Coverage), Dr. Chaudhry suggested the state consider duplicating the Suffolk model in other counties.

Preparing To Do More
Dr. Chaudhry said the county is proactively preparing to deal with an anticipated rise in the number of low-income patients as the economy worsens and employees lose health insurance along with jobs. For example, to relieve budget pressure, last year the Suffolk Health Plan (SHP), the county-owned HMO, was sold to Neighborhood Care, a private insurer. This transaction provided $27 million to the county’s 2009 budget as well as an ongoing revenue stream from an annual fee for a five-year exclusive contract to sell coverage through the centers. Mr. Miner noted additional advantages to the Neighborhood Care HMO alliance:

- Economies of scale with more than 90,000 insured patients.
- Broadened access to specialists, including those outside of Suffolk County (i.e., Nassau and New York City).
- The HMO’s own malpractice insurance eliminates the need for costly private insurance—an incentive to practice medicine at the centers.

Accepting federal funding is also under consideration. At present, the health centers do not meet all requirements (e.g., patient volume) to qualify. Dr. Chaudhry is evaluating the pros and cons of such assistance, which would mean forfeiting some of the county’s autonomy.

All Health Centers Are Not Created Equal
Or if they were, an imbalance has arisen. Dr. Chaudhry concedes that the services available at centers farther east in Suffolk are not as comprehensive as those closer to Nassau. “Some reasons why centers lack certain services include shortage of space, limitations on staff and language barriers,” he noted. Actually, there are open positions in the county’s budget, but those slots have been frozen or eliminated. But the department is working on decreasing the disparity. For example, to broaden the care available, they are working with East End hospitals, especially Southampton, to expand the residency program for newly minted doctors, with some residents filling in at the health centers. Chaudhry noted that “doctors often decide to open their practices in areas where they do their training.”

What’s New?
A new county helicopter avoids summer road traffic by transporting acute-care patients up-Island as needed. Ms. Bermel noted that Riverhead has acquired digital mammography equipment, adding state-of-the-art technology to the services provided by the department’s mobile mammography vans. The clinics also now partner with independent mental health practitioners and Pilgrim State Psychiatric Hospital to provide intervention and
THE REAL HISTORY OF VOTING  

In the early 1850’s a movement began in both the United States and Britain to use secret ballots, but it was in Australia in March of 1856 that a law was passed that required election officials to “print ballots and erect a booth or hire rooms … where voters could mark [their] ballots secretly.” Although today we think of secret voting as a way to protect our privacy, John Stuart Mill, writing in 1859, insisted that voting “is not a right but a trust; if it were a right, who could blame a voter for selling it? Every man’s vote must be public for the same reason that votes on the floor of the legislature are public. If a Congressman or a Member of Parliament could conceal his vote, would we not expect him to vote badly, in his own interest and not in ours? A secret vote is, by definition, a selfish vote. Only if a man votes under the ‘eye and criticism of the public’ will he put the public interest above his own.” Despite heated debates over this issue, the Australian ballot was adopted by the British Parliament in 1872.

Henry George, a young American sailor, shipped out to Australia in 1855 and returned to the states in 1858. By 1871 he was advocating in *The New York Times* for the Australian ballot, and he and others who were living through the Tweed years in New York were calling universal suffrage a failure where votes were for sale. In 1888 Massachusetts became the first state in the nation to pass an Australian ballot law, which became a model for many similar measures that followed. And true to form, New York debated the measure until 1890 with the then-governor, David Hill, vetoing the “bill three times even after fourteen men carried to the floor of the … legislature a petition weighing half a ton.” As we can see, little has changed in the glorious history of New York election law.

By 1896, thirty-nine out of forty-five states voted by secret, government-printed ballots with a voter turnout of over eighty percent, which has been falling steadily ever since. Maybe we should go back to putting peas in a hat!

Judi Roth

HEALTH COMMITTEE REPORT  

Continued from previous page

care before a condition reaches crisis status. They stated, however, that mental health care facilities are sorely lacking on the East End.

The officials stressed that they welcome the opportunity to publicize county health programs and services, so we invited them to make a presentation at our June 2009 general membership meeting. You can ask follow-up questions yourself at that time.

Judy Samuelson, Chair 267-3055

CABLEVISION AND PUBLIC ACCESS CHANNELS

Very disturbing rumors regarding the deletion of all public access, education, and government channels in the five East End towns are, in fact, true. As of September 16, 2008, Cablevision removed these channels from the basic-tier package and is providing them solely in digital format, receivable only by subscribers whose TV is directly connected to a cable box or who have a digital TV. While Cablevision is providing this cable box free of charge (for now), it works only on the one TV to which it is connected.

The Town of Southampton has passed a resolution, sponsored by Councilwoman Nancy Graboski, urging Cablevision to restore these channels to the basic-tier package at the same level of service provided prior to September 16. Southampton has reached out to other East End towns that are taking similar action.

Councilwoman Graboski points out in a press release that Channel 22 is used by the town for emergency broadcasting purposes and is vital to the Town. The League has contacted her and asked what we can do both as individuals and as the League to support the Town’s efforts. Stay tuned (terrible pun!) for further instructions.

Judi Roth

UPDATE ON RUNNING & WINNING WORKSHOP

Letters were sent to over 30 elected officials in mid-November inviting them to participate in the workshop and asking them to respond by December 30. Thus far, Sundy Schermeyer, Town Clerk of Southampton, Bonnie Cannon, Village Trustee of Southampton, and Julia Prince of the Town Board of East Hampton, have replied affirmatively. The Committee is discussing the idea of asking a special guest speaker to distribute certificates to the participants.

The Committee is delighted to announce that for this workshop to be held on May 21, 2009, Hampton Coffee has very, very generously donated breakfast that will feed close to 100 people. They have also given us a terrific price for lunch including wraps, drinks, etc. We are proud to have Hampton Coffee as one of our sponsors for this exciting event, and we encourage all League members to drop in at Hampton Coffee in Water Mill or Westhampton Beach and say thanks by ordering some of their terrific products.

A funding request, written by Ursula Lynch and Mary Blake, has gone out to Capital One, and we hope to get a positive response from them by the end of the year.

Judi Roth
Information Items

• Congratulations were extended to Sue Avedon and the Natural Resources Committee for a highly successful Riverhead Resorts Forum.
• The East End Women’s Network expressed an interest in creating a working relationship with the League, and Carol will offer to speak about our activities and organization at one of their meetings.
• Nancy Graboski contacted the League to say that the Town Board passed a resolution critical of Cablevision’s decision to withdraw its recent form of support for community access TV channels. A special box is now needed to access these channels. Judi Roth will research this issue for Southampton and Arlene Hinkemeyer will do the same for East Hampton. The topic will be discussed at the January Board Meeting.

Discussion Items

• Carol circulated a list of transportation topics developed by Adam Gaus of the Suffolk County League Transportation Committee. Board members were asked to evaluate the six topics so that we could offer guidance to this committee.
• The NYS League proposed a study of local and state term limit laws. The topic ranked as a low priority for us.
• The holiday party preparations were discussed.
• A discussion of changes in program and calendar followed. The Board agreed that our January meeting would consist of a member(s) of the Board of Elections to use my life-long skills within the committee and also to be affiliated with such a professional organization.” For those of you deciding whether to get involved on a committee, just do it, you will get more than you will give.

We have about 40 new members from the years ’07 and ’08, a number we are proud of. Many of these new members are serving on a variety of committees: Education, Health, Natural Resources, Voter Services, Special Events, and more. These members are contributing to their community in addressing local issues.

Many thanks to our wonderful committee: Pat Arceri, Terri Levin Davgin, Afton Di Sunno, Arlene Hinkemeyer, Barbara Jordan, Julia Kayser, Mireille Lister, Gladys Remler, Joy Lupoletti, and Judy Samuelson.

Have a nice winter and I will see you in the spring.

Arlene Makl, Chair 329-3201

Special Committee Reports

Running and Winning: Letters have been sent inviting 32 elected women officials to participate; a fundraising sponsorship letter has been sent to Capital One; and a donor form is available.

Annual Meeting ’09: The date is set for Saturday, May 2. Set-up and planning are proceeding.

Committee Reports

• Special Events: The Trivia Quiz is scheduled for March 22. Southampton Hospital Foundation will send their letters with the League invitation in January.
• Membership: The Board supported a Chinese Auction
WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

Betty Fox and Joyce Whitby
126 Springy Banks Road, East Hampton, NY 11937
631-324-0526

Joyce and Betty joined LWVH in response to repeated invitations from friends such as Joy Lupoletti. Both new members are keenly interested in politics. They’ve lived in East Hampton for years, although Joyce continues to maintain a psychoanalytic practice in New York. Following a long career in broadcasting, in Manhattan and elsewhere, Betty is now active in Hamptons real estate. She is on LTV’s board of directors and also directs some of its programs—most notably Lois Wright’s interview show. They are unsure whether they will join a committee but look forward to attending general meetings.

Janice Cornell Landis
Hampton Bays, NY 11946

Janice joined LWVH as a natural outgrowth of a long-term interest in politics. She also serves as secretary of the Hampton Bays Civic Affairs Committee, a nonpartisan community organization. While new to our organization, she hopes to become familiar with our committees and join one next year. She and her husband run their second-generation family business from an office in their town. Earlier in her career, Janice was a market planner in the newspaper business. She resides year-round in Hampton Bays.

SUMMARY OF LWVH BOARD MEETING
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to accompany the member luncheon in October. A letter is going out to about 50 former members seeking their interest in rejoining the League.

• Voter Services: Anne Marshall completed her report on voter services activities for the NYS League.

• Health: Judy Samuelson and Judi Roth met with three Suffolk County health officials, who are eager to publicize the Health Department’s responsibilities and will participate in a June member meeting.

• Publicity: We reviewed the broad coverage given by the media to the Riverhead Resorts Forum.

The next Board meeting will be on January 7, 2009 at 5:30 p.m. at Bridgehampton National Bank. All are invited to attend.

Submitted by Joy Lupoletti
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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED