THE NEW FACE
OF AGRICULTURE AND AQUACULTURE
ON THE SOUTH FORK

Every year the LWVH sponsors a membership meeting devoted to a subject unrelated to our main mission, to encourage citizen participation in government and to lobby on public policy issues. This year, on April 12 at the Unitarian Universalist Meetinghouse in Bridgehampton, we will present a panel of entrepreneurs, researchers, and policymakers experienced in crop-farming and shellfishing. These activities, dating from colonial times in the towns of Southampton and East Hampton, have undergone revolutionary changes in recent decades.

We have an outstanding panel to explain these trends—they are John Halsey, a twelfth-generation farmer and member of the Agricultural Advisory Committee in the Town of Southampton; Jennifer Pike, a farmer and co-owner of Pike’s Farmstand in Sagaponack; Kim Tetrault, a community aquaculture specialist and director of a shellfish restoration project at Cornell Cooperative Extension; and Stephanie Talmage, an East Hampton Town Trustee and researcher on the impact of climate change on juvenile shellfish.

Panel members will speak to their specialties and describe some of the relationships among business entrepreneurs, researchers, and local governments as they pertain to agriculture and aquaculture. They will also discuss some of the opportunities and obstacles faced by young people who want to enter these fields. Don’t miss this informative and stimulating evening.

The forum will be videotaped by SEA-TV for later viewing on Southampton’s public access channel 22. For those not living in Southampton Town, the program can be seen at www.town.southampton.ny.us at the same time it is airing on channel 22.

Feel free to contact me for further information at (631) 537-2382.

Ann Sandford
President’s Message

“Civility is not a tactic or a sentiment.
It is the determined choice of trust over cynicism,
of community over chaos.”

George W. Bush
Presidential Inaugural Address, 2001

Lately, the League of Women Voters has been criticized for the manner in which we deal with the questions posed at our candidates debates. Some of the challenges have been based upon a misunderstanding of basic constitutional principles. We have been accused of censorship, and with actions that deny to members of the audience their civil rights. But these are principles that are only applicable by the U.S. Constitution to the federal government and, through the Fourteenth Amendment, to state and local governments. Since we are not a governmental agency, we cannot grant nor deny civil rights to citizens, nor are we bound by First Amendment strictures on censorship. But, I believe, the criticisms are unfounded for more fundamental reasons—they fail to appreciate the importance of civility in public discourse, and the important goal of creating community over chaos.

What follows is the letter to the editor of The Independent I wrote in response to these criticisms. I reprint it here to remind our members of the principles and considerations that underlie the process we employ at our candidates debates.

The process that the League of Women Voters employs at its candidates debates has many goals, none of which includes the intent to stifle expression of ideas or opinions. Our organization celebrates its 90th birthday this year, and our continued viability and longevity is the result, in part, of the public’s appreciation of the efforts we make to ensure that voters receive the information they need to make intelligent and educated choices at the ballot box. Our candidates debate process is part of that educational mission and has been developed over time to best ensure that the most voices will be heard on the issues most relevant to the election in an atmosphere which treats all participants with respect and civility.

At our debates we strive to provide voters with the most information relevant to the qualifications of the candidates and their views on issues upon which they will be called to act as elected officials. We do so through questions which come, in most part, from the audience. At each debate we actively and repeatedly seek full participation from the attendees, encouraging them to submit as many questions as they wish both before and during the debate.

Not all questions can be posed to the candidates in the course of one, time-limited debate. So, there must be a process of selection. As part of the process we read the questions from the audience, and first and foremost, categorize them according to subject matter. This is so we can be assured to present the candidates with questions on issues about which the electorate is most concerned. For example, at the most recent debate between candidates for the Southampton Town Board, many questions were addressed to the financial issues.
CONSENSUS MEETING — MAY 10, 2010

The January/February issue of The Voter informed members that a LWVH committee had formed to explore streamlining local government through consolidation of entities and/or shared services. Included was a compilation of written material from the LWVNY Government Consolidation Committee on the rationale for formation of a statewide study.

Presently, the League has no comprehensive position that would enable it to lobby for or against recommendations to consolidate governmental entities or services, or to comment on current or future state legislation impacting consolidation or dissolution of governmental entities, and/or pursuit of major shared-services proposals. The delegates at the 53rd biennial convention of the LWVNY in 2009 approved a two-year study to deal with such issues at both state and local levels. The League must reach some understanding of what common standards should be employed by state and local Leagues in assessing the wisdom of various initiatives to rearrange how governmental services are provided. Because the state is so diverse, it seemed unlikely that a consensus that proposes one course of action for the entire state could be reached. Therefore, the State League decided to devote the first portion of the study to an exploration of consensus in only two areas:

1. What standards should apply when the League evaluates current and future legislation or constitutional amendments that apply to dissolution/consolidation of governmental units or pursuit of major shared services?

2. What standards should apply when local Leagues evaluate a specific consolidation or dissolution of a governmental entity or major shared services proposal?

Our consensus meeting on May 10 will deal with these two standards only. The purpose is to come to consensus on the questions developed by the state League’s Government Modernization Committee. Remember that consensus is not a vote, not a percentage of members, but a “sense of group” member agreement. Please mark this important meeting date your calendar. Your participation is essential to setting policy for your League.

In preparation for the Consensus Meeting, the March issue of The Voter gave an overview of current New York State governmental structure and included a website for further information. Members should also visit the Hampton League website and read the posted nine-page article on “Consolidating Local Government.” Members will have the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the consensus questions to be asked at the meeting beforehand. Consensus questions will be sent to all members before the May meeting. Depending on your previous requested preference, these will be sent either by mail or e-mail. Be sure to watch for them.

ACCESS TO SOCIAL SERVICES ON THE EAST END

At the program meeting held in 2009, members of the LWVH expressed concern that, given the downturn in the economy, with concomitant joblessness and homelessness, the residents of the East End would be seeking access to social services to assist them in their times of need. As the conversation progressed, it became apparent that there were many programs that provide social services in our community, but that the information about the availability of assistance with problems was not easily available. Although the League was not in a position to provide the services to our neighbors, it was thought that we might be able to provide a means of dissemination of this crucial information to our neighbors, and a committee was formed to explore ways to accomplish this project.

After several months of research, we discovered that we were not alone in our concerns about the barriers between people in need and contact with providers of service. And, during the interim, progress was made by groups created to provide that link.

The most ambitious project is 2-1-1 Long Island, a joint project of United Way and the Middle Country Public Library. 2-1-1 Long Island is a free, non-emergency information and referral service that connects Long Island residents to health and human services they may need on a daily basis or during a disaster. Available by telephone and online, 2-1-1 Long Island provides callers and web visitors with detailed information on nearly 10,000 community resources for help and assistance in a range of areas. The service is manned by volunteers who are trained specifically in connecting people to health and human services resources quickly and easily. Among the types of information available are: job training opportunities; access to financial or legal counseling; mortgage/rent assistance; employment support; access

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Naomi Epstein, Chair 324-9371

http://hamptons.ny.lwvnet.org
On March 8 the LWVH hosted a meeting billed as “A Conversation with the Two New Town Supervisors.” East Hampton Supervisor William “Bill” Wilkinson and Southampton Supervisor Anna Throne-Holst graciously accepted our invitation to discuss their priorities and plans for their respective towns. The Voter Services arm of the League had responsibility for the meeting held at the Unitarian Universalist Meetinghouse. The meeting was covered broadly by the local media, including front-page articles in the *Sag Harbor Express* and *East Hampton Star*, along with other detailed reports in the *Southampton Press*, *Dan’s Paper* and *The Independent*.

The format provided essentially a blank page for all concerned. Initially the supervisors spent about ten minutes each to present their priorities before answering questions from the audience. The event lasted about an hour and twenty minutes. An atmosphere of cooperation and unadorned directness permeated the discussion. In that period of time a number of issues were addressed, some individual to one town and not the other, while other topics were similar if not identical.

The overriding issue of financial challenges was, of course, central to the discussion. In East Hampton there is a $28 million dollar deficit and, in Supervisor Wilkinson’s words, he is “not sure where the bottom is yet.” In Southampton, the accounting audit is virtually complete and the Town is now dealing with the deficits.

Both supervisors focused on bringing more openness to their administrations, as illustrated by some of East Hampton’s council meetings, now scheduled for evenings, as well as one work session a month on Saturdays, thus making the elected officials more available to working community members as well as weekend homeowners. In Southampton, meetings among various village CAC’s (citizens advisory committees) with Town officials provided those members with opportunities to learn about and from each other. Supervisor Throne-Holst also noted that with a revamped website and an increased emphasis on accessibility, any community member who contacts the Town has been responded to within 24 hours.

When asked by an audience member about the possibility of having a Town Manager, a position now espoused by LWVH, both said that given their current plans and organization management, there didn’t seem to be a need for one, with Supervisor Throne-Holst saying that it would be difficult to find one person who had all the necessary qualifications and Supervisor Wilkinson demurring on acceptance of the concept at this time.

Perhaps the strongest area of agreement was the possibility of looking to share in contracting for certain services with an eye for making the processes more cost-effective. Examples ranged from contracting with the same health care providers to sharing in the purchase of highway maintenance equipment and materials.

Overall, there was an atmosphere of determination to set a tone of cooperation and openness during a very challenging time for both towns.

Anne K. Marshall, Chair 537-3257
**April 2010**

*Note:* Meeting dates and times are published several weeks in advance and are subject to change. There is no scheduled Health committee meeting in April as of now; contact Judy Samuelson for updated information. Please contact the Chairs or visit our website at [http://hampton.ny.lwvnet.org](http://hampton.ny.lwvnet.org) for updates. If you don’t see a meeting for a committee of interest, contact the Chair of that committee. Contacts are listed on page 19 and on the website.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 7</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Membership Committee Meeting</td>
<td>Hampton Library, Bridgehampton. Contact Arlene Makl, 324-8662.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 7</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Voter Services Committee Meeting</td>
<td>Hampton Library, Bridgehampton. Contact Anne Marshall, 537-3257.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 7</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>LWVH Board Meeting</td>
<td>Bridgehampton National Bank. Montauk Highway, Bridgehampton. Members and guests welcome. Please note time change.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 12</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Membership Meeting</td>
<td>Public forum on Agriculture and Aquaculture on the East End. UU Meeting House, Bridgehampton Turnpike. Contact Ann Sandford, 537-2382.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 13</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Natural Resources Committee Meeting</td>
<td>Hampton Library, Bridgehampton. Contact Sue Avedon, 329-1930.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 15</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Running and Winning</td>
<td>Program at which high school girls meet and interact with elected women officials and are introduced to public service as possible career choice. Southampton Cultural Center, 25 Pond Lane, Southampton. Contact Ann Sandford, 537-2382.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 21</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>LWVSC Board Meeting</td>
<td>Riverhead Library, Riverhead.</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 21</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Special Events Committee Meeting</td>
<td>Starbucks, Bridgehampton. Contact Sue Wilson, 283-6549.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 25</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>Trivia Quiz</td>
<td>Fundraiser to benefit the League of Women Voters of the Hamptons and the Ellen Hermanson Breast Center at Southampton Hospital. Parrish Hall, Southampton Hospital. Contact Susan Wilson, 283-6549.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**LOOKING AHEAD**

| May 10     | Monday   | Consensus Meeting           | First consensus meeting on New York State study of consolidation of government services and special districts. Members only. |
| May 14-16  | Friday-Sunday| Spring Fling   | LWV NYS Weekend in New York City, including Benefit Cocktail Party, Matinee, trip to Ellis Island. Contact Carol Mellor, 536-6998. |
| May 23     | Sunday   | LWVH Annual Meeting         | Southampton Cultural Center, Southampton. Contact Carol Mellor, 536-6998. |
Health

QUICK FACTS ON HEALTH CARE COSTS
Produced by the LWVUS Health Care Education Task Force

As health care reform legislation sputters and stalls in Congress, here are some statistics that demonstrate the potential negative impact on the economy of maintaining the status quo. This and much more information are available at http://www.lwv.org. Go to “Issues” then “Health Care Reform.” The LWVH Health Committee can’t help but wonder about the fortunate circumstances of the oft-cited citizens who feel that health care insurance is just fine the way it is.

- Total health spending in the U.S. reached $2.1 trillion in 2007 – or $7,026 per capita.
- By 2016, total health spending is projected to rise to $4.2 trillion.
- Between 2005 and 2006, total health spending increased 6.7 percent, more than double the rate of the 2.9 percent increase in overall economic growth.
- Total health spending remained relatively constant at about 16 percent of gross domestic product from 2003 to 2006, but is projected to increase to 19.5 percent by 2017.
- Spending for home health care increased at a faster pace from 2005 to 2006 (9.9 percent) than any other category of health spending; however, its impact is limited because it accounts overall for only 2.5 percent of total health spending.
- Yearly prescription drug spending growth accelerated in 2006 to 8.5 percent from a low of 5.8 percent in 2005, in part because of full implementation of Medicare Part D.
- Between 2006 and 2007, premiums for health coverage offered by employers increased 6.1 percent, the fourth straight year of declines in the rate of premium growth, from a peak of 13.9 percent in 2003. Even so, this was more than twice the rate of growth in the Consumer Price Index.
- Of every dollar spent on health services in the U.S. in 2006, 46 cents came directly from government sources.
- Costs for program administration and the net cost of private health insurance were about 7 percent of total health spending in the U.S. in 2006 and grew 8.8 percent, a marked increase over the 3.6 percent rise in 2005.

This list (without the original endnotes) is from “A Reporter’s Toolkit: Health Care Costs” (an Alliance for Health Reform Toolkit produced with support from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation) and is reproduced courtesy of the Alliance for Health Care. The entire toolkit can be found at http://www.allhealth.org/Publications/Cost_of_health_care/health_care_costs_toolkit.asp#keyfacts.

Prepared by Janis McMillen (LWVUS Board member and LWVKS). She is chair of the LWVUS Health Care Education Task Force.

RUNNING & WINNING, APRIL 15, 2010

The second Running and Winning program sponsored by the LWVH will take place on Thursday, April 15, at the Southampton Cultural Center. We have begun receiving student registrations and are pleased that Shelter Island High School will now be our eighth school participant.

Last year’s topic for the girls to answer in the campaign part of the exercise was: “What types of alternative energy do you think are appropriate for Long Island?” While the committee provided information on many types of energy sources, the logical choice made by most teams of girls was solar and wind. We decided that this year we wanted a topic that would be a little more controversial and would provide a greater array of answers. The topic will be: “Imagine that you are running for election to your local school board. What will your platform be?” Our research has turned up school board candidate platforms and interviews from many parts of the country, and these will make up a part of the research packet that the students will use to craft their platforms.

Our keynote speaker will be Christina Strassfield, member of the Southampton School Board, and Museum Director/Chief Curator of Guild Hall.

Judi Roth 283-0759
Form a team of four and enter the TRIVIA QUIZ!

To benefit Southampton Hospital’s Ellen Hermanson Breast Center and the League of Woman Voters of the Hamptons

Sunday, April 25, 2010
2-5 P.M.
at Southampton Hospital's Parrish Memorial Hall
(Corner of Herrick Rd. and Lewis St., just south of the Hospital Emergency Room)

Emceed by Hamptons Radio Personality
Walker Vreeland

Tax deductible donation of $25 per team member, $15 per spectator

REFRESHMENTS! 50/50 RAFFLE POP QUIZZES!
TEAM TABLE TOP DECORATING CONTEST!

WINNING TEAM PRIZE IS $200!

To Register:
Mail team member names, contact information and checks made out to:
LWVNY Education Foundation
P.O. Box 2253, East Hampton, NY 11937

Or
Contact LWVH event chair Susan Wilson at 631.283.6549 or sswilson@hamptons.com

Registrations will also be taken at the door, on a space available basis.

http://hamptons.ny.lwvnet.org
League of Women Voters of Suffolk County
42nd Annual Convention

Gala Dinner and Celebration

Monday, May 17, 2010
Bellport Country Club, Bellport, NY

Keynote Address by:

Blair Horner
Legislative Director, NYPIRG
New York Public Interest Research Group

4:45 – 5:00 Registration
5:00 – 6:00 Business meeting
6:00 – 7:45 Dinner, Speaker, Awards
7:45 – 8:30 Celebration of LWV 90th Birthday

League Members $42 in advance
Non-members $45 in advance
(make checks payable to LWVSC)

$50 for all paying at the door
(cash bar available)

Please RSVP with check before May 7 to Marilyn McKeown,
15 Mott Lane, Brookhaven NY 11719 or call (631) 286-1169

Directions:
From LIE Exit 64 South or from Sunrise Highway to Rt. 112 South.
Take Rt. 112 South to end: Montauk Hwy. Go left (east) for 1 mile.
Road forks. Stay right onto South Country Road for 2 miles.
Bellport Country Club is on the right.
the town is facing. So, questions on those issues were given a high priority. We then, when possible, combine similar questions so that the topic is covered without duplication. We also ensure that the questions are, in fact, queries designed to seek information from the candidate, and not expressions of the questioner’s personal views or agenda.

We also require that questions be appropriate for response by all candidates. We announce that policy at the beginning of each debate. This serves several purposes: first, it allows the electorate to compare the responses of the candidates to the same question, it fosters the structure of alternating between the candidates and providing each candidate with the same amount of time to respond; and it focuses the debate on the political issues rather than on the personal attributes of the candidate.

We require that the questions be relevant to issues that are within the purview of the position that the candidate is seeking. We would not, for example, question a candidate for town board on an issue of federal taxation.

We require that the questions be in writing. Again, this serves several functions. It encourages people who would be uncomfortable speaking in public to be part of the process; it facilitates the categorization of questions to identify the more important issues and to avoid duplication; and it promotes an orderly atmosphere at the debate.

Comments made to us after our most recent Southampton town candidates debate on February 24 show that our endeavors to provide a meaningful forum for the exploration of the issues relevant to elections are successful. Supporters of both of the candidates made a point of telling us that we had addressed the issues most important to the election, that we had been comprehensive in exploring those issues, and that we had done so in a fair and balanced manner. Present and past candidates noted that, for an office seeker, participation in a League of Women Voters debate ensured their ability to share their views with the electorate in a calm, respectful and civil venue. Some audience members acknowledged that, although submission of questions was not necessarily their preferred method, it resulted in a fuller exploration of the issues, with less duplication of topic.

One of the missions of the League of Women Voters is to promote participation in elections through voter education. Sponsorship of candidate debates is an integral component of that goal. We agree with the editor of The Independent that voters should be able to ask whatever questions they wish of candidates for office, and we encourage voters to do so at the appropriate time and place. Our debates are focused on voter education and our process has been carefully designed to maximize the opportunity to inform the public on the issues important to the community.

I am proud that the League of Women Voters contributes to civic discourse through our sponsorship of candidates debates. I believe that our process provides a civil and respectful environment in which the issues relevant to the election at hand can be explored. But I am also aware that ours is, above all, a grassroots organization and so the comments and suggestions of our members are encouraged and welcome.

Carol Mellor, President 537-6998

ACCESS TO SOCIAL SERVICES

The 2-1-1 Long Island call center is a free and confidential helpline that easily links people to the services they need. It is available from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., seven days a week.

2-1-1 Long Island is not the only clearinghouse for information about available social services. In the town of East Hampton, concerned volunteers, acting in conjunction with the town, have created Hamptons Help Now, Inc. Their mission statement reads:

Hamptons Help Now, Inc. is a coalition of human service providers and concerned community members. Its purpose is to provide information about available services to people experiencing the impact of economic hard times; in addition to creating and implementing new services to help improve the lives of East Hampton residents.

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WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS
Jenny Filingeri
Southampton, NY 11968
287-2603

For Jenny Filingeri, recent retirement from a full-time job in Nassau County provided a golden opportunity to become active in organizations she considers important. LWVH was her first choice. As a member, she’s most interested in the environment and health care, which she certainly knows about from her years as assistant to the executive director of the Nassau County Dental Society. Full-time residence in Southampton will no doubt offer other volunteer opportunities.

Welcome to these new members
LWVH is also happy to welcome new members Nick Bryan, Jeri Wellman and Elaine Burns Chapman. Nick and Jeri joined after being favorably impressed by recent League activities, including the joint fundraiser with Naked Stage. We hope to interview Elaine for a future Voter.

Written by Judy Samuelson

SUMMARY OF LWVH BOARD MEETING
March 3, 2010

INFORMATION ITEMS
- Carol indicated that volunteers are still needed for the Family Court monitoring project in Riverhead. They need 16 volunteers and to date only 4 volunteers have signed on. Time commitment is flexible; even a commitment of one day/month is acceptable.
- The East Hampton Group for Good Government is sponsoring a March 6 meeting to discuss the proposed purchase of a school bus depot using bonded funds. Carol will alert East Hampton LWV members via Constant Contact.
- There will be a march in Washington on March 21 on immigration. Constant Contact will alert only those members who indicated interest in immigration issues.

DISCUSSION ITEMS
- Consensus Meeting: Naomi Epstein reported that LWVNYS requires that our website include all consolidation articles. Judy will add any missing. Additional information will be published in the April Voter. Information will also be e-mailed or sent to members by USPS by April 15.
- Nominating Committee: Preliminary plans for nominations of both elected and appointed directors were discussed.
- Location of May & June meetings: The May meeting will be held at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Bridgehampton. The June meeting is scheduled for the Hampton Bays Senior Center.
- Financial Committee appointment: Glorian Berk volunteered to join this committee.
- LWVUS Convention Issues: The national convention will be held in Atlanta, GA, June 11-15. Two people from our League will attend. There are four categories of awards at the convention. We agreed to nominate The Greening of the South Fork events held in 2008 and 2009. There are at least eight items up for discussion at the convention, and Carol will use Constant Contact to ask members to comment on these issues. The delegates will convey their views.

COMMITTEES
- Special Events: Sue reported that the East Hampton Trails Preservation Society brunch is the same day as our Trivia contest, April 25. It was felt that people could go to both events.
- Natural Resources: Glorian for Sue Avedon noted that the group reviewed a film produced by the Accabonac Protection Committee, which will be shown at the June members’ meeting. The committee agreed to support The Group for the East End, which is lobbying to keep NYS parks open. Also, the Group wrote to NYS Senators and Representative Tim Bishop supporting federal legislation regarding an amendment to the Safe Drinking Water Act to require full disclosure of chemicals used in natural gas extraction.
- Voter Services: Anne reminded all Southampton members to vote in the special election for Town Board on March 9 and thanked those who helped at the candidates’ debate in February. The two new Town Supervisors will be our guests at the March member’s meeting on March 8.
- Health: Judy reported that a meeting has been set up with Mr. Chaloner (head of Southampton Hospital) for March 29.
- Publicity: Arlene updated the board on recent publicity regarding the February 24 debates. She indicated that SEA TV had shown the debates twelve times.
- Website: Judy reported that February usage was high but below January’s.
- The Voter: Joy reported that two new ads will be published mid-year at a reduced rate.

The next Board meeting will be April 7, 2010, 7:00 p.m., at Bridgehampton National Bank. All are invited to attend.

Written by Judy Samuelson
Human Resources of the Hamptons has been in existence for three decades providing assistance with a myriad of problems, such as lack of food, need for fuel, homelessness, and providing families with food and gifts at holiday time. It is apparent that our neighbors are working diligently to provide the information needed to access social services on the East End. In that regard, the work of the committee is done, and the committee has disbanded. The concern of the committee, which has not been resolved, is that the availability of these sources of information is not widely known. We spent many months of research and interviews before we found these sources, and we are well-educated, computer literate and not responding to an emergency. The concern remains that those who need the services do not easily locate these help lines and databases. We were unable to resolve this issue, and welcome any suggestions on how we can make known the tools for people in need to find help.

We thank Joy Cordery, Ursula Lynch, Terri Levin Davgin, Sue Avedon, Sue Wilson, Joy Lupoletti, Maura Lester, and Arlene Makl, who ably chaired the committee, for their work and effort.

Written by Carol Mellor

ACCESS TO SOCIAL SERVICES

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Hamptons Help Now, Inc. has developed a local provider network list that is being utilized to advise East Hampton residents of available services. Information is available by means of a helpline, reachable at 1-888-5 HELP NOW (1-888-5-435-7669). Information is available about services relating to health care and health insurance, prescription help, financial assistance, housing problems, food pantries, legal services, counseling, domestic violence, mental health and alcohol/substance abuse.

Mention should also be made of Human Resources of the Hamptons (HRH). This organization is not, as the two previously discussed, a clearinghouse for information about services, but a direct provider of services. Its stated mission is to “help those in need, without discrimination, including those who face poverty, hunger, illness or homelessness. HRH seeks to raise community awareness of the disenfranchised among us and to provide help in a dignified manner that lends a ‘hand up,’ not a ‘hand out.’” While not part of the church, it operates out of the basement at Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary Roman Catholic Church on Hill Street in Southampton Village and can be reached by telephone at 631-283-6415. Human Resources of the Hamptons has been in existence for three decades providing assistance with a myriad of problems, such as lack of food, need for fuel, homelessness, and providing families with food and gifts at holiday time.

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Written by Carol Mellor
The Voter
League of Women Voters of the Hamptons
P.O. Box 2253
East Hampton, NY 11937
Phone: 631-324-4637
http://hamptons.ny.lwvnet.org

The League of Women Voters

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