 PROGRAM-PLANNING MEETING
ON JANUARY 11, 2010

We invite all members to attend our program-planning meeting on January 11 at the Unitarian Universalist Meetinghouse. At that meeting, we will hold a brief orientation for members who have joined in the past year, and then will discuss our suggestions for national program changes and for local priorities for the coming year.

Program planning is an important ingredient in the way the League operates and is one of the clearest manifestations of our “grassroots” structure.

The process of program planning begins at the local level, as local Leagues throughout the country consider whether to change any existing position or begin the process to adopt a new position. At the upcoming National Convention, delegates could vote to adopt a new study, or no study, or an update to an existing study, or a concurrence to a pre-existing study. Each League can suggest such action on one, and only one, topic. So far, it has been suggested that we update our national position on Arms Control. Before the meeting on January 11, I will circulate the national League’s position on Arms Control and let you know if any other suggestions have been made.

It is important to distinguish between program planning and setting of priorities. Although we, as a local, are able to suggest changes to the program now, and to vote on these suggestions at the convention, the convention doesn’t set legislative priorities. Those priorities are set by the national Board when the new session of Congress is ready to convene.

At the last convention, we considered an amendment to the bylaws that would have given the members greater say in the adoption of priorities. It was defeated based on the following considerations: There are several factors that go into a decision as what priorities the Board will adopt. Member interest is one. But the most important factor is whether there is any interest in Congress. The question is – given what Congress decides to work on, where can the League make the most difference, given our resources? If Congress has absolutely no interest in working on a particular issue, then the League is literally wasting its time, talent and treasure if we persist in lobbying efforts. And we lose credibility as well.

Similarly, the League’s state board sets state priorities. The state priorities for the upcoming year are published on page 17 in this Voter.

We, as a local, are fully charged with the responsibility of establishing our own priorities. Your ideas are essential to this process, and your contributions to the discussion at the January 11 meeting are welcome. After that meeting, the views of the members will be discussed by the Board of Directors and

continued on page 18
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.

Maura F. Lester, Editing and Production
Joy Cordery, Advertising Coordinator; Proofreading
Judy Samuelson and Afton DiSunno, Calendar

Madison Copy & Blueprint Center, Printing and Mailing
Printed on recycled paper.

President’s Message

The great thing in the world is not so much where we stand, as in what direction we are moving.

Oliver Wendell Holmes

As the new year approaches, it is common to take a look back to assess what, if any, progress has been made during the last twelve months. In reviewing the events of 2009, it would be easy to be discouraged but, in fact, we are moving in the right direction on several fronts.

One of the most important issues tackled by the national League has been health care reform. This past summer we witnessed concerted attempts to derail that legislation, marked by demonstrations, unruly behavior and dissemination of untrue statements about certain provisions in the legislation and even about the League of Women Voters. It seemed, for a while, that health care reform was not possible. Have we witnessed enactment of new health care legislation? No. But, we have witnessed the passage of health care reform legislation by the House of Representatives and, as President Obama noted when the House passed its version of the health care bill, that vote was historic in that it was the first time that a health care reform bill was passed by either house despite attempts by presidents to do so that spanned generations. We are moving in the right direction.

Our state government, often cited as dysfunctional, reached new depths of disorder this summer when changes in party affiliation by a few senators rendered the entire government unable to conduct business. Lost in the reports of chaos in Albany was the news that on two fronts important to the League, progress, albeit limited, had been made. First, with respect to voting procedures, the requirement that an application for an absentee ballot based on sickness or physical disability specify the medical professional from whom treatment was being received for that ailment has been dropped and second, from now on, poll workers will be provided with information to direct voters who show up at the wrong polling place to the correct location. Small steps, to be sure, but steps in the direction of making it easier for citizens to exercise their right to vote in the State of New York.

Another advance in the League’s attempts to foster good government was accomplished when the state Senate actually passed some important legislative rules changes, making it easier for members to bring bills to the floor over leadership objections. Again, small steps, but movement in the right direction.

We wish all of our members a healthy and peaceful new year, and hope that in 2010, our state and national governments continue to move in the right direction.

Carol Mellor, President  537-6998
The following is a verbatim selection from the Elections/Government Issues section of the latest League of Women Voters of New York’s State Board Report (SBR). Written by LWVNYS Voter Services Specialist, Aimee Allaud, it provides information on a number of relevant topics, including the status of the selection and testing of the new voting machines during the recent election.

If you want even more information about the topics that Aimee summarizes, you can find links to the issues through our own website: http://hamptons.ny.lwvnet.org.

And please plan to join our Hamptons Voter Services Committee when we resume meetings in late winter and when, as part of our role, we hope to assist the Suffolk County Board of Elections in educating voters about the use of the new voting machines.

Anne K. Marshall, Chair 537-3257

POST-ELECTION 2009—WHAT LIES AHEAD?
Aimee Allaud

Another critical election milestone has passed: New York State voters tried out the new optical scanners in 47 counties, either countywide or in some election districts. The NYS BOE [Board of Elections] pilot project of scanners was also used in the eleven counties comprising the 23 congressional districts and reports, while unofficial as of this date, seem to indicate that they performed well. Only one press report in the Watertown newspaper indicated a problem at the close of the voting period. NYS’s requirement for the 3% audit of the machines by hand counting the paper ballots will provide the verification of the scanner counts.

LWVNYS Polling Place Survey of Voting Machines

The New York State League will be summarizing the results from our member survey of polling places where voters used the new equipment. This survey introduced our new subscriber service, “Constant Contact,” in a pilot program survey to members. We will be looking for clues for how the League can tailor our voter services information in 2010, as well as recommending improvements to the local boards of elections and the NYS Board of Elections based on survey observations.

Voter Apathy?

Participation in the recent elections in fall 2009, according to anecdotal reports, has been on the light side. Germaine to that unofficial report, is the following excerpt from Clyde Haberman’s [New York Times] article of November 5, commenting on the New York City elections:

*The issue is quite simple, really. In our democracy, we don’t count those who don’t show up. New Yorkers don’t show up a lot.*

*The turnout of registered voters on Tuesday was about 25 percent. In the September primaries, the turnout among Democrats was 11 percent; that fell to about 8 percent in the runoff. In the not-so-distant old days—the 1990s —elections for local school boards had turnouts below 5 percent.*

*Even last year’s vaunted Obamania did not change usual patterns by much. The 57 percent city turnout in the 2008 presidential election was but a shade above the 55 percent in 2004.*

*These dreary numbers reflect a multisided lack of faith.*

*Perhaps the most glaring lack of faith, though, is that shown by the millions of registered voters who stay home every election. Some defend their nonparticipation as, in itself, a political statement.*

*But the reality of our system is that not showing up signals to those in power that it is fine for them to ignore you."

The new voting systems offer an opportunity to help correct this situation. They offer accessibility and verifiability and ease of voting—but before they come into play (as process issues) there must be more fundamental change. They are only one part of the equation. Campaign finance reform, ethics reform, accountable legislatures at all government levels—those issues influence the decision of the voter to participate or not.

HAVA Update

The official certification process of the voting machines continues with a scheduled date of mid-December for the formal approval of the voting. Public testing, observed by the League’s representative to the Citizen Election Modernization Advisory Committee, Bo Lipari, occurred in late September. Bo reported daily on the process in his blog, www.bolipari.com. All changes and updates to the firmware and software of the Sequoia ImageCast and the ES&S/Automark systems have occurred and the final testing “run for record” has been occurring since September. Results of that testing will be reviewed by staff at the NYSBOE and submitted to the four

continued on page 15
LWVHadopts Position in Support of Council-Manager Form of Government

After a consensus meeting held on November 9, 2009, the Board of Directors, at their meeting on December 2, adopted the following position:

POSITION
The League of Women Voters of the Hamptons supports the reorganization of town governments to create the position of town manager who will assume administrative responsibilities thereby providing town boards greater opportunity to set policy and strategic direction.

SUPPORTING STATEMENTS
Given the increased complexities of town governments, the towns would be better served by having a Chief Administrative Officer (Manager) separate from Chief Executive Officer (Supervisor) and Town Board. Town Managers are professionals, educated and trained to perform duties of municipal management. The Council-Manager model would provide more continuity from administration to administration and towns could gain better control of their budgets. Governance would be improved by integrated management of town departments. Further, the community would benefit if legislators serve as policymakers, not day-to-day managers.

This action was the culmination of the process by which the League decides what issues it will support. The first step was the suggestion by the members that this issue be studied. Then an extensive study was conducted, which included among other things, research into the workings of town governments in New York; the specific structure of the East End town governments; and communication with another local league which had previously studied the issue, with local municipalities which employ the council/manager form of government, and with the professional organization which represents town managers. The study committee also conducted interviews with several local elected official and town managers, and held an extremely informative forum with a panel of town managers from upstate municipalities and the Village of East Hampton. As the study progressed, the committee kept the membership informed of the results in a series of Voter articles.

We thank the committee—Naomi Epstein, chair, Barbara Jordan, Sandra Ferguson, Libby Hummer, Dorothy Artenberg, and Mireille Lister—for their excellent work in successfully steering this important issue through the consensus process.

Written by Carol Mellor
January-February 2010

Note: Meeting dates and times are published several weeks in advance and are subject to change. There will be no Membership or Voter Services committee meeting in January. Plans for January and February meetings of the Education committee and the February meetings of the Health and Natural Resources committees have not been finalized. The next Government Committee meeting will be in March. Please contact the Chairs or visit our website at 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Committee/Meeting</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 5</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>11:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Natural Resources Meeting</td>
<td>Rogers Memorial Library, Cooper Hall, Southampton. Contact: Glorian Berk, 283-2638</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>January 5</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>2:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Health Committee Meeting</td>
<td>Home of Judy Samuelson, 66 Cross Highway, Amagansett. Contact: Judy Samuelson, 901-2978</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>January 6</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>LWVH Board Meeting</td>
<td>Bridgehampton National Bank. Montauk Highway, Bridgehampton. Members and guests welcome.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 11</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Member Meeting</td>
<td>Program-Planning Meeting and New Member Orientation, UU Meetinghouse, Sag-Bridge Turnpike. Contact: Carol Mellor, 537-6998</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 13</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>2:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Special Events Committee Meeting</td>
<td>Starbucks, Bridgehampton. Contact: Sue Wilson, 283-6549</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 20</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>11:15a.m.</td>
<td>LWVSC Board Meeting</td>
<td>Riverhead Library</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 27</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>noon</td>
<td>Winter Blahs Luncheon</td>
<td>Bobby Van’s Restaurant, Bridgehampton. RSVP to Julia Kayser, 324-1498 by January 24.</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 3</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>LWVH Board Meeting</td>
<td>Bridgehampton National Bank. Montauk Highway, Bridgehampton. Members and guests welcome.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>February 17</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Special Events Committee Meeting</td>
<td>Starbucks, Bridgehampton. Contact: Sue Wilson, 283-6549</td>
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TOWN BOARD MEETINGS

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 8</td>
<td>East Hampton Town Hall Courtroom, 159 Pantigo Rd., East Hampton NY 11937</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 12</td>
<td>Southampton Town Hall Board Room, Southampton Town Hall, 116 Hampton Rd., Southampton, NY 11968</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 26</td>
<td>Southampton Town Hall Board Room, Southampton Town Hall, 116 Hampton Rd., Southampton, NY 11968</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>February 9</td>
<td>Southampton Town Hall Board Room, Southampton Town Hall, 116 Hampton Rd., Southampton, NY 11968</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>February 23</td>
<td>Southampton Town Hall Board Room, Southampton Town Hall, 116 Hampton Rd., Southampton, NY 11968</td>
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Venturing into new territory, the LWVH teamed with the East Hampton play-reading troupe, The Naked Stage, to present the Pulitzer Prize–winning play “Proof” written by David Auburn. Conceived as a joint benefit for the two organizations, the event was held at the Ross School on Sunday afternoon, December 6. Over 75 people attended.

The story revolves around a mathematician, Robert, who loses his battle against madness after a brilliant career, and his daughter, Catherine, who has given up her own schooling to care for him. The plot, which moves back and forth over time, tells the story of what happens after a former student, Hal, discovers a new mathematical proof in Robert’s desk and Catherine claims that she and not her father is the author of the proof. Catherine faces society’s assumption that as a woman she could not have come up with such a challenging proof. Adding to the disbelief is Catherine’s sister, Claire, who wants to sell the family home and have Catherine move in with her so that she can “take care of her.”

As Carol Mellor was quoted in the Southhampton Press, “we [the LWVH] liked that it [“Proof”] explored issues of gender stereotypes and gender discrimination and women’s attempts to break into jobs and professions not normally thought of as women’s fields.”

Adding to the afternoon’s interest was a brief discussion by Dr. Linda Keen, mathematics professor at Lehman College and the Graduate Center of the City University of New York, and Dava Sobel, New York Times science writer and author of the international best-sellers, Longitude, Galileo’s Daughter, and The Planets.

Professor Keen talked about the difficulties she faced in getting onto prestigious panels at math meetings and how women mathematicians were often overlooked for fellowships. She recounted a story about how women were not invited to a particular astronomy lab because there were no women’s bathrooms! Ms. Sobel recounted that when she took the test for the Bronx High School of Science, the ratio of acceptance was four boys to every girl in the mid-1960s. Ms. Sobel also took scientists of both sexes to task for not relating better to the general public.

The acting by all four actors was wonderful. The new, young actress, Meltem Gulturk, was perfect as the evasive, somewhat depressed but hopeful Catherine. Josh Perl, director and founder of Naked Stage was very real as the student Hal. Larry Nicks, who has played Robert at a Hampton Theater Company production, was totally believable as the verging-on-madness father, and Molly McKenna gave Claire just the right combination of sisterly concern and selfish interest.

Refreshments were served in the lobby of the Ross Senior Thesis building and the sun shone brightly through the windowed doors. On the stage, the woods were the backdrop and helped to set the right mood. The afternoon finished with a raffle drawing, the gain of two new members and some money in the kitty—what a perfect winter afternoon.

Written by Judi Roth

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This wonderful event was successful in no small part due to the efforts of Judi Roth, Arlene Hinkemeyer, and Josh Perl.

Thanks to the team of League members who helped with refreshments on the day of the event: Joy and Richard Lupoletti, Howard Roth, and Arlene and Gene Makl.

Special thanks to Bobby Van’s, Bridgehampton; Cappelletti’s Italian Restaurant in Sag Harbor; The Oasis Waterfront Restaurant in Sag Harbor; and InHome, East Hampton for donating great raffle prizes.

Susan Wilson, Chair 283-6549
NEW COMMITTEE TO STUDY GOVERNMENT CONSOLIDATION

An ad hoc committee has formed to explore opportunities to reform local government through consolidation of entities and/or shared services. The goal is to realize improved efficiency, less redundancy and lower expenses for the resulting entities. Next steps will be to study materials provided by the state League of Women Voters (and other sources) and then share information with League members. Later, the committee will use consensus questions developed by the state League to interview local public officials in search of reforms here in the Hamptons.

The following is a compilation of written material from LWVNY Government Consolidation Study

New York State faces major problems as trends reflecting anemic economic growth, population losses and some of the highest taxes in the nation continue to raise concern. A series of commissions studied the problems and recommended reforms, but few recommendations were ever implemented.

The Lundine Commission is the most recent to address government efficiency. Its report, issued in April 2008, includes direct recommendations to consolidate entities and/or reduce costs. Recognizing that a blanket mandate for change would be inappropriate, it recommended that local governments examine areas where more efficiency or lower costs could be achieved.

The following year, the New York Government Reorganization and Citizen Empowerment Act of 2009 was passed. The act, effective March 2010, facilitates:

- Consolidation of towns, villages or districts, including but not limited to, special-improvement districts and library districts (“government entities”)
- Dissolution of villages and certain districts
- Giving counties additional powers to initiate dissolution

The Act excludes school districts, city districts or special-purpose districts created by counties under county law.

LWVNY takes on consolidation issue at a statewide level

Although the cost of New York State government threatens its effectiveness, the League had never studied, at a statewide level, whether it should encourage government consolidations/dissolutions or shared services and, if so, what criteria should be applied in evaluating various proposals. At the LWVNY 2009 Convention, a new state study on local government consolidation and shared services was approved.

The question of increasing efficiency of local government through consolidation or dissolution of entities and/or their services is complicated. It is unlikely that a consensus for a single statewide course of action can be reached. The state study committee has decided to devote the first portion of the study to exploration of consensus in these areas:

- Agreement on the standards that the state League should apply in assessing changes to state law that would facilitate the consolidation/dissolution process and/or the expansion of shared services
- Agreement on standards local Leagues should apply in assessing proposals for consolidation/dissolution/ shared services in their service area.

Locally, we will follow suit

The LWVH Government Committee will study this issue and share information through articles in The Voter. Interested? For information, go to lwvny.org; click Programs and Studies, then Consolidation/Shared Services Studies.

Naomi Epstein and Judy Samuelson

VOTER SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT

continued from page 3

commissioners for a vote at their December 15 meeting.

NYS Senate and Assembly Hearings on Election Issues/Pilot Projects/HAVA Compliance, October 2009

We presented testimony at two hearings in NYC held by the respective committees on the pilot project results from the Primary Elections, HAVA compliance, with respect to use of new voting equipment in all other elections in the future, and funding for election operations. Adrienne Kivelson, LWVNYC elections specialist, co-authored these separate testimonies and presented at the hearings. See our testimonies at www.lwvny.org.

In September, I was a panelist at the NYS Association of Counties [NYSAC] annual meeting on the implications of the HAVA for counties. I presented the LWVNY position on retention of lever voting machines (see www.lwvny.org, “Do Lever Machines Provide a Better Voting System for Democracy?”) and argued for collaboration between counties to explore opportunities for joint purchases of equipment and vendor services in order to achieve much needed savings in implementing the HAVA mandates. I cited the Lundine Commission on Local Government Efficiency and Competitiveness (April 2008) recommendations from their report section “Elections and Voter Participation,” and suggested that NYSAC be a catalyst between the local counties and the NYSBOE to look at the options available.
January 2010

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Because our Legislative Action Kit is significantly outdated, the Committee has determined to update it. Reviewing and revising the positions we’ve advocated for is the most important part of that endeavor.

To date, we have decided to continue working on the Affordable Housing stand. The work we had done on Apportionment, or Redistricting, was greatly satisfied with the Legislature’s passing of bi-partisan redistricting legislation, the first to be passed by any county in New York State. We will maintain our position in support of redistricting, though, until we are certain the law will be enforced after the census in 2010. The legislation on Campaign Finance Reform, passed by the Legislature several years ago, cannot be implemented. The Charter Revision Committee has recommended its removal from the County Charter. Because the LWVUS has advocated for this reform, however, we will maintain it as our position. We will determine what our actions will be in its behalf. We will continue to maintain our position in support of Alternatives for Incarceration: our focus within that position is yet to be determined, although we will continue our advocacy for improved services for people with mental illness. There are many ongoing concerns for us within our Environment position. To be decided are which ones will be our primary foci.

Also under consideration is the importance of court restructuring, the restrictive consequences about reductions in financing, especially on the Family Court, and what the League might do, County wise, to offer positive input. In addition, we are considering reorganizing the format of the Kit to include Reforming Government in order to be in compliance with that of the LWVNYs. We would place Redistricting, Campaign Finance Reform and Ethics within that category. It is obvious that much consideration and research will be required for updating the Kit.

Katherine Hoak

SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATORS SERVING 2010-1012

The Organizational meeting of the SC Legislature will be held Monday, January 4, 2010 at 11:00 AM at the William H. Rogers Legislative Auditorium in Hauppauge. It is at this meeting that the new Legislators are sworn in and the calendar is set for the New Year.

There will be two newly elected legislators joining the other 16 current legislators who were reelected in 2009.

1st LD Edward P. Romaine
2nd LD Jay H. Schneiderman
3rd LD Kate M. Browning
4th LD Thomas Muratore*
5th LD Vivian Vioria-Fisher
6th LD Daniel P. Losquadro
7th LD Jack Eddington
8th LD William J. Lindsay
9th LD Ricardo Montano
10th LD Thomas Cimi**
11th LD Thomas F. Barraga
12th LD John M. Kennedy Jr
13th LD Lynne C. Nowick
14th LD Wayne R. Horsley
15th LD DuWayne Gregory
16th LD Steven H. Stern
17th LD Louis D’Amaro
18th LD Jon D. Cooper

* replaces Brian Beedenbender
** replaces Cameron Alden

Use the new website for the SC Legislature: http://legis.suffolkcountyny.gov/

2010 Directory of Public Officials

Each year, the LWVSC prepares, prints, and distributes a Directory of Public Officials. We are in need of financial support as well as research assistance.

If you can offer specific financial support, or assist in seeking donations; or if you would like to help with the research; or if you have suggestions to make the 2010 DPO even more citizen-friendly and informative, please contact Lisa Scott at 523-1653 or email her at lisawscott@optonline.net.
SUMMARY OF LWVH BOARD MEETING
December 2, 2009

INFORMATION ITEMS
- Carol reviewed a list of NYS League events she had received.
- Carol announced the members of the Consolidation Study Committee chaired by Naomi Epstein. They are: Mireille Lister, Judy Samuelson, Barbara McClancy, Dorothy Artenberg, Libby Hummer, Joy Lupoletti, Julia Kayser, Arlene Hinkemeyer, Judi Roth.

DISCUSSION ITEMS
- Sue Avedon announced her resignation from the Board, a step she took reluctantly in order to participate in partisan causes.
- Carol announced the passing of Jim Riordan, the husband of past co-president Anne Riordan.
- Position on Council-Manager Form of Government. The position with supporting statements was reviewed and passed. Carol stated that LWVH would plan action on it in the near future.
- Program-Planning Members Meeting (January 11, 2010). Carol proposed that she survey the membership for input on priorities and the Board agreed. Carol also noted that we need to identify one issue to serve as our priority for the national League. She circulated a sheet with ideas from other Leagues, including the federal census, arms control, public financing of elections.
- Holiday Party details: Anne noted that donation checks should be made out to the Bridgehampton Community Food Pantry.
- Naked Stage/LWVH Fundraiser (Dec. 6). Sue Wilson gave an update.
- The Voter issues: Maura and Carol have identified ways to streamline production of The Voter. Carol noted that NYS and the national League publish electronically, and then proposed that we consider a bimonthly schedule, going from ten issues to six. A discussion of the impact on advertisers followed with suggestions to put ads on the website and, perhaps, Constant Contact. Maura noted that the advertising year starts in September. Discussion will resume in April and decisions made.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES
- Community Services: Carol reported that the group is finishing its research but has learned that other groups are consolidating information also. This committee may disband.

COMMITTEES
- Special Events: Sue Wilson reported that an April date is being explored for the Trivia Challenge. The committee proposes that the Southampton Hospital donation go to its breast care center. It is also looking at partnering with another organization.
- Membership: Arlene Makl reported that there are 28 new members, with total membership at 216. Also, the Winter Blahs lunch will be on January 27; $22.
- Natural Resources: Sue Avedon noted that July is the committee’s program month. Gloria will become the chair during Sue’s winter leave.
- Voter Services: no report.
- Programs: Judi reported that the panel proposed by John Halsey on Agriculture- Aquaculture and chaired by Ann would be held April 12.
- Education: Judi noted that the Southampton School District newsletter asked for volunteers to serve on various committees. She reported that the activity for “Running and Winning” will be for participants to play a school board candidate who designs a campaign that includes cutting 10% from the school budget. She also noted that Suffolk County is donating $1600 to the program.
- Health: Judy summarized a few topics.
- Publicity: Arlene shared her publicity campaign for the play “Proof.”
- Constant Contact: no report
- Website: Judy distributed a usage report showing October as the busiest month.
- The Voter: Maura reminded the Board of the early deadline, December 8, for the January-February issue.

The next Board meeting is January 6, 2010, at 5:30 p.m. All are invited to attend.

New York State League of Women Voters
2010 Legislative Priorities

FIX ALBANY NOW!
Steps To a New and Better State Government

Redistricting
Create an independent redistricting commission to draft the New York State legislative and Congressional political boundaries for the 2012 elections.

Campaign Finance Reform
Support lower contribution limits and increased disclosure. In particular, support stronger and effective campaign finance enforcement with increased civil and criminal penalties for violations.

Ethics Reform
Put in place a new independent ethics oversight agency and tougher enforcement. Make the legislature more open and accountable through continued rules reform.

Election Reform
Improve election processes that extend and encourage voting, including no-excuse absentee balloting and Election Day registration.

http://hamptons.ny.lwvnet.org
I will be leaving for a warmer climate shortly and before I leave I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Membership Committee for all they have done and how happily they do what it is they do. The committee consists of, in no special order, Joy Lupoletti, Terri Levin Davgin, Mireille Lister, Afton DiSunno, Arlene Hinkemeyer, Barbara Jordan, Gladys Remler, Pat Arceri, Julia Kayser, and Judy Samuelson—all of whom do whatever is asked of them.

They plan events, register new voters, greet members and guests at meetings, send out materials to prospective and new members, interview new members, redo our brochures, write copy, make phone calls, plan events, and cook the food. As I mentioned, they do whatever is asked of them. They never lose sight of our goal, visibility—planting the LWVH seeds. They are the most pleasant, competent and efficient group of people I have had the pleasure to work with.

I wanted everyone to know the names of the committee members and how hard they work and how successfully they function as a team. Thanks to you all.

Don’t miss our Winter Blahs luncheon on January 27, 2010 at Bobby Van’s. You’ll enjoy it.

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

Judith Tanur
Montauk
631-668-2965

Dr. Tanur (Ph.D.) is a statistician who taught at Stony Brook University before retiring. She has lived full-time in Montauk for the past ten years, although her family has vacationed there since the 1970’s. She is not quite ready to join a committee but is keen on learning more about the work of the LWVH.

Silvia Viola
Westhampton Beach
631-288-9218

It was attending an LWVH-sponsored candidates’ debate in Southampton that inspired Silvia to join us. A former actress, her language skills (born in Cuba, fluent in Spanish) would be invaluable to the work of any committee, but Silvia has to see which ones might interest her. Other volunteer activities include working with hospice and doing group counseling. She’s been in Westhampton Beach for forty years, thirteen years in her present home.

And Welcome To…

Susan Allen joined the League, as did Howard Samborn, husband of member Joanne McEvoy Samborn. All are residents of Southampton.

Written by Carol Mellor
Several months ago as a member of the Health Committee, I visited with Pat Stearns of the Suffolk County Health Clinics program at the Southampton Clinic on the grounds of Southampton Hospital. This clinic has limited space and every inch of it is used for treatment rooms, and almost every inch of the waiting room is filled with parents and children. Pat told me that the Riverhead Clinic had more space for the kids to play and, in addition, they received books from the Riverhead Library. The Southampton Clinic had only an empty bookcase! Wait a minute, I thought—a minute, I thought—a minute, I thought—League members and our local libraries could fill that up!

Right after my meeting with Pat, I was at the Rogers Library to return some books, so I went into the children’s section and, thanks to Claudia, one of the children’s librarians at Rogers, walked out with a stack of books. The next day I happened to be in East Hampton and visited Alexandra Giambruno, Head of Children’s Services at the East Hampton Library, and came away with a promise of more books. I announced this quest at a League Board meeting and, before I knew it, Jane Lapple had contacted Matthew Bollerman, director of the Westhampton Beach Library, who donated books and promised more over time. Ursula Lynch delivered the books to the Southampton Clinic. Not to be outdone, Judy Samuelson has received books from the Amagansett (head librarian, Cynthia Young) and Springs libraries and has delivered books to both the East Hampton Clinic and the Southampton Clinic. While most of the books are in English and most of the clinic clients are Latino, that doesn’t seem to matter to the kids who most gratifyingly grab a book almost as soon as it is put out. Our initial thought was that books are there for the taking but we realize we do not have an inexhaustible supply so a sign will shortly be put up that will say: “These books, donated by your local libraries and collected by the League of Women Voters of the Hamptons, are for your reading enjoyment while at the clinic. Please leave them for other families to enjoy.”

If anyone has a source of Spanish-language books for both adults and children, we’d love to have them.

Written by Judi Roth
The League of Women Voters


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