



THE VOTER

The Newsletter of the League of Women Voters of the Hamptons

Founded in 1977

Volume XXXIII, No. 4

May 2010

Let Us Hear From You!!!

The national League convention will be held in June. For several months, the web world has been abuzz with suggestions, proposals and ideas about topics that members are seeking to raise at the convention. Experience has shown that by the time the members of the League meet, some of these ideas will have been abandoned, others will be withdrawn, and new ideas, not yet proposed, will come up for a vote. Nonetheless, we want to give all our members the opportunity to weigh in on some of the issues that are likely to come up at the convention to guide your delegates should these matters come to a vote.

The Proposed Studies appear below; the Proposed Concurrences will appear in the next issue of *The Voter*.

If we have your e-mail address, you will be getting a series of surveys which will allow you to express your opinion; if we do not have your e-mail address, please contact me at camellor@aol.com or 631-537-6998 to tell me what you think about these issues. (The variety in detail and presentation of these issues is based on the way the material has been presented by the proposers.)

PROPOSED STUDIES

Education Study

To study the role of the federal government in public education, with a focus on (1) the basic goals of public education; (2) the role of the federal government in education policy-making; (3) the relationship between national, state, and local levels of education governance, including funding; and (4) the development of common standards

Department of Peace

The LWV of Columbia/Boone County, Missouri proposes the adoption of a national study on the establishment of a Cabinet-level Department of Peace.

Rationale: This study would support and expand LWVUS positions on: Violence Prevention in the U.S.; International Relations; US Relations with Developing Countries; the United Nations; and Arms Control. By doing this at the Cabinet level, the approach of peace and nonviolence would be included in the consideration of all problems from the outset.

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General Membership Meeting

CONSENSUS

Should LWVH Support Positions Developed by the State League's Government Modernization Committee?

MAY 10, 2010

7:00 PM

Members Only

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

The League of Women Voters of the Hamptons

Mission Statement

The League of Women Voters of the Hamptons, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Diversity Policy

The League of Women Voters of the Hamptons, in both its values and practices, is committed to diversity and pluralism. This means that there shall be no barriers to participation in any activity of the League on the basis of economic position, gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin or disability. The League of Women Voters of the Hamptons recognizes that diverse perspectives are important and necessary for responsible and representative decision-making. The League of Women Voters of the Hamptons subscribes to the belief that diversity and pluralism are fundamental to the values it upholds and that inclusiveness enhances the organization's ability to respond more effectively to changing conditions and needs. The League of Women Voters of the Hamptons affirms its commitment to reflecting the diversity of the East End.

Membership

Any person who supports the mission of the League may become a member.

The Voter Newsletter

The newsletter of the Hamptons League, *The Voter*, is dedicated to bringing useful information, background, perspective and commentary on public policy issues confronting League members and other community citizens in Southampton and East Hampton, Suffolk County and the State of New York. It explores the work of the League to promote positive solutions, and it empowers people to make a difference in their communities.

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

Maura F. Lester, Editing
Sally James, Production
Joy Cordery, Advertising Coordinator; Proofreading

Madison Lohrius Inc., Printing and Mailing

Printed on recycled paper.

President's Message

"Variety's the very spice of life, That gives it all its flavor."

- William Cowper

Although the League of Women Voters sprang from the suffragist movement and thus (as its name advertises) is firmly grounded in all things voting, it has always been much more than a voting rights organization. In fact, the very first League program adopted in 1920 contained 69 items (grouped in the broad subject areas of child welfare, education, the home and high prices, women in gainful occupations, public health and morals, and independent citizenship for married women), leading the first League President, Maud Wood Park, to call the program a "kettle of eels."

The interests of the League may be varied, but it is in this variety that its members can find projects that are personally meaningful to them, and that can flavor their lives in important and enjoyable ways.

As members (and friends) of the Hamptons League, you have the opportunity to participate in all kinds of activities this spring and summer. Here is a sampling:

Interested in education and the development of civic awareness in high school girls? I hope you participated in the Running and Winning program held on April 15, at which approximately fifty local high school students were introduced to women public officials, and were given an opportunity to participate in an election exercise.

Want to raise your voice in Albany so that our legislators know that we are not satisfied with the workings of our state government? Join us on May 5 on a trip to the state capitol to rally and lobby in favor of ethics and campaign finance reform.

Interested in exploring the possibilities of consolidating local governments and services in our state with a view to efficiency, cost cutting, and better delivery of services? Participate in the upcoming consensus meeting on May 10, which is a part of the ongoing NYS League study on this issue.

Want to show your friends and neighbors how much you know? Compete in the Trivia Quiz to be held on April 25, with the opportunity to win money and give financial support to the League and the Ellen Hermanson Breast Center of Southampton Hospital.

Think the League should concentrate on voting issues? Join us later this summer when we embark on a project to educate the public about the new voting machines, which are scheduled to be in place by the fall elections.

Like to celebrate? You have two opportunities to help the League celebrate its 90th Birthday—at our Annual Meeting on May 25 and at the county League's Annual Meeting on May 17.

Details on all of these activities can be found in this *Voter*, on our website, or by calling me at 631-537-6998. So, pick your flavor, and take an active part in one of our great variety of upcoming activities. You will be doing good work, you will help the League fulfill its mission, and you will have fun.

Carol Mellor 537-6998

A Perennial Issue: The Right To Vote

Many of us are impatiently checking out our heretofore dormant gardens for any signs of recurrent life. A favorite New Yorker cartoon has a man looking at a tree, saying, “Go, buds go!” We hope that they’ll revive on their own, but we also know that some plants will need more careful cultivating and feeding.

A recent conversation that I had with a luncheon partner has revived an issue at the core of our organization’s existence that needs regular attention: Voting Rights. She went to vote in a recent local Village election where she was told that she wasn’t registered. (There was a question about which of her names—personal or professional—was official). She received a provisional ballot—and it was in Spanish. (The site had none in English.) I’ve had similar conversations with varying details over the last few years with a handful of local citizens, who had been denied the right to vote in elections covering the gamut from national to their local school district.

Not to belabor the obvious, but the following position statement is part of the fabric of our organization, although I was surprised to see how relatively recently it had been adopted. It’s so simple, so straightforward...but not always so easily interpreted.

VOTING RIGHTS: A CITIZENS RIGHT TO VOTE
The League’s Statement of Position on Citizen’s Right to Vote, as Announced by National Board, March 1982:

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that voting is a fundamental citizen right that must be guaranteed.

A NEW LAW FOR SOME NEW YORKERS

Admittedly, citizens need to be more vigilant about keeping current the information about their personal status. And, of course, there are wrinkles in laws in some locations that may prevent voting. But there are errors and omissions that must be corrected too. And sometimes laws need to be change or amended.

A law passed in 2008 in New York State has given some citizens a choice about where they are allowed to vote. One of our newer Voter Services Committee members, Estelle Gellman, took on the task of researching the details and explained the results at our April committee meeting. In essence: A New York appeals court has held that New Yorkers who have more than one home have the right to make their country home their voting address, even if it’s not their primary residence. The decision stated that even though voters used their country (Bovina, New York) homes mostly on weekends and vacations, they had renounced the right to vote elsewhere and maintained a significant physical presence there.

This decision certainly affects a number of people who have second homes in the Hamptons. They may not be aware that they are now eligible to register to vote here even though they do not claim the residence here as their primary one. Of course, they can only be registered to vote in one place and, also, because of strict New York State laws, they cannot switch their registration back and forth between the two locales simply based upon the issues or candidates in an election. With the existence now of an electronic state voter database, coupled with the usual 30-day residency requirement prior to an election, such back-and-forth changes would be noted. There is still the possibility that a couple can choose to split their registration, one voting here and the other voting elsewhere.

And nationally there are rumbles again about the possibility of reintroducing a literacy test as a requirement for voter registration. We must remain vigilant about such flagrant efforts to undermine a citizen’s right. But, as in the case of the local woman, we must continue to alert our own Suffolk County Board of Elections as well other local entities—such as school districts and libraries that hold their own elections—about the need to remind and re-educate poll workers about the rules and regulations that govern all citizens’ right to vote.

Anne K. Marshall 537-3257

Health Committee Report

“What’s New At Southampton Hospital?”

On March 30, that’s what Gloria Goldman, Valerie King and Judy Samuelson of the LWVH Health Committee asked Robert Chaloner, Southampton Hospital President and Chief Executive Officer. He gave an update regarding implementing mandates from the Commission on Health Care Facilities in the 21st Century (the Berger Commission), New York State’s study of all hospitals and related facilities. The EastEnd Health Alliance—comprised of Southampton Hospital, Eastern Long Island Hospital in Greenport, and Peconic Bay Medical Center in Riverhead—has gained from adopting the Commission’s mandate to collaborate, including joint savings of \$1 million through increased purchasing power for items from mundane supplies to negotiations with health insurers.

EASTEND HEALTH ALLIANCE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Their first shared service is to be a core clinical laboratory to serve the three hospitals and expand primary care on the East End. A \$12,990,850 HEAL NY Phase 11 grant will be used to create a 15,000 sq. ft. lab that significantly reduces the cost of providing laboratory services; standardizes laboratory results across the three hospitals, reducing potential errors and improving quality of patient care; and allows physicians across the system to access laboratory results regardless of where a patient enters the system.

Other EastEnd Health Alliance projects include a project for energy savings and an information technology (IT) committee. A “quality report card” among the three facilities offers public access to how services are delivered. The group is starting to see more outcome-based metrics—a model for change that shifts focus from procedures to patient results. Go to www.healli.org to view EastEnd Health Alliance reports.

NOW FINANCIALLY STABLE, SOUTHAMPTON PLANS STRATEGIC FOCUS ON “CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE”

After two years of a positive bottom line and anticipation of breaking even in 2010, the hospital is building for the future. “Centers of Excellence” are emerging, such as the Ed & Phyllis Davis Wellness Institute, the East End’s only hospital-based integrative medical facility. The institute’s offerings span a wide range of techniques to reduce stress, improve health, and deal with chronic pain or illness. Staff,



**Robert
Chaloner**

President & CEO
Southampton
Hospital

community residents, and those with illness or chronic disease can take advantage of an holistic approach to wellness at a modest cost.

The Ellen Hermanson Breast Center, another center of excellence, provides comprehensive, state-of-the-art technology and care close to home, said Mr. Chaloner. A new Wound Center and a Bariatric Surgery Center are also up and running. “We’re looking into expanding our capabilities in gerontology and palliative care for our aging Hamptons population as well as in Lyme disease/infectious disease and non-invasive laser surgery,” he added. The emergency room capacity will double in time for the influx of summer visitors. Plans call for a separate fast-track wing for less serious summertime injuries, and a new entrance for ambulances, to end having to wheel gurneys through the waiting area. The expanded facility is to open on or around May 15, 2010.

Our question about expanding hours and capabilities of the East Hampton Urgent Care Center got a negative but realistic response. Mr. Chaloner explained that average wintertime usage of the Montauk Highway adjunct emergency room does not support the high cost of adding hours. After Memorial Day, it will be open seven days a week. One guess as to why more Amagansett and Montauk residents don’t use the satellite facility is that they are not sufficiently aware that this is part of Southampton Hospital as opposed to one of the area’s walk-in medical centers.

We asked about electronic records accessible to all providers. Mr. Chaloner said, “We use NextGen, an

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Members Urged To Attend May 10th Consensus Meeting

For Part I of a two-year study, the LWVH will hold a meeting on May 10, 2010, to come to consensus on the questions that were developed by the state League's Government Modernization Committee. Depending on your previous requested preference, you will receive the consensus questions either by mail or e-mail for your review. Please keep in mind that consensus is not a vote, not a percentage of members, but a "sense of the group" member agreement. The areas the questions cover are to determine what standards should apply:

1. 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 and
2. when local Leagues evaluate a specific consolidation or dissolution of a governmental entity or a major shared services proposal.

In preparation for this meeting, please go to the League of Women Voters site at <http://hamptons.ny.lwvnet.org> for posted information on the Consolidation/Shared Services Study.

Naomi Epstein 324-9371



On March 19, 2010, LWVH president Carol Mellor, left, and Board member Glorian Berk, right, interviewed Assemblyman Fred Thiele on his position on LWWNYS-proposed reforms in the areas of election law, ethics, campaign finance and redistricting. *Photo by Arlene Hinkemeyer*

League-Sponsored Events

Agriculture-Aquaculture Forum Discusses Future Challenges

Approximately 60 people—LWVH members as well as those from the agriculture and aquaculture communities—attended this forum on April 12, which many League members felt was one of our best! The personalities of the wonderful speakers shone through.

John Halsey, an 11th-generation Southampton Town farmer who now runs the Milk Pail and serves on the Southampton Agricultural Advisory Committee, described his father's potato farm, his own initial foray into dairy farming, and his present retail business based on 15,000 apple trees and other agricultural products. Mr. Halsey has worked extensively with the Cornell Cooperative Extension to keep up-to-date on scientific advances in apple breeding and fertilizing. He said the challenges facing agriculture today (such as the lack of an effective guest worker program) are outweighed by the bright outlook of a ready retail market.

Jennifer Pike, who grew up in Pennsylvania majoring in accounting but is now a farmer and co-owner of Pike's Farm Stand with her husband Jim, also feels the future is encouraging because of the public's and restaurants' interest in local produce, the slow food movement and a reduced carbon footprint. Their 65-acre farm, includes a 3,000-square-foot greenhouse and 21,000 tomato plants.

Kim Tetrault, a community aquaculture specialist for 15 years at the Cornell Cooperative Extension in Southold and director of a shellfish restoration project there, described his job as primarily educational and encouraged people to visit the website at <http://www.spatcornell.org>. The area's "world class Peconic Bay oysters" are sold in Manhattan and are featured at many North Fork vineyard/jazz events.

The 12th-generation descendant of East Hampton potato farmers on both sides of her family, Stephanie Talmage has broken the chain by becoming an aquaculture rather than an agriculture specialist. Presently a Ph.D. candidate at SUNY Stony Brook, she is researching the effects of climate change on juvenile shellfish for her doctoral dissertation, studying how carbon dioxide levels and drop in pH levels affect their shells and survival rates. Now in her second term on the East Hampton Town Trustees, she is a member of the aquaculture committee, which has a Suffolk County grant to study the decline of bay scallops and has established three spawning sanctuaries.

For those who missed the forum, go to the Southampton Town website at <http://www.town.southampton.ny.us>, click on SEA-TV schedule, and either watch it on Channel 22 in Southampton Town, or see it via streaming video on your computer at the same time it is airing on television.

Arlene Hinkemeyer 324-6713



Ann Sandford, who organized and emceed the April 12 forum on "The New Face of Agriculture and Aquaculture on the South Fork," stands behind forum speakers, left to right, Stephanie Talmage, Kim Tetrault, Jennifer Pike and John Halsey.

Photo by Arlene Hinkemeyer

Calendar of Events

May 2010

Note: Meeting dates and times are published several weeks in advance and are subject to change. The date, time and location of the May LWVH Board Meeting is to be determined. 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. Contact information is listed on the last inside page of *The Voter* and on the website.

May 4 - 11:00 AM Tuesday	Natural Resources Committee Meeting	Hampton Library, Bridgehampton, Contact Sue Avedon 329-1830
May 10 - 7:00 PM Monday	Membership Meeting - Consensus	First consensus meeting on New York State study of consolidation of government services and special districts
May 11 - (Time tbd) Tuesday	Health Committee Meeting	Hampton Library, Bridgehampton, Contact Judy Samuelson 901-2978
May 12 - 11:00 AM Wednesday	Membership Committee Meeting	Hampton Library, Bridgehampton, Contact Arlene Makl 324-8662
May 12 - 12:30 PM Wednesday	Voter Services Committee Meeting	Hampton Library, Bridgehampton, Contact Anne Marshall 537-3257
May 12 - 2:00 PM Wednesday	Special Events Committee Meeting	Starbucks, Bridgehampton, Contact Susan Wilson 283-6549
May 14-16	Spring Fling	LWV NYS Weekend in New York City, including Benefit Cocktail Party, Matinee, trip to Ellis Island. Contact Carol Mellor 537-6998
May 17 - 4:45 PM Monday	LWVSC Annual Meeting	Dinner Meeting and Birthday Celebration at Bellport Country Club, Bellport, NY. Speaker: Blair Horner, Legislative Director, NYPIRG (New York Public Interest Research Group) Contact Carol Mellor 537-6998
May 23 - 3:00 PM Sunday	LWVH Annual Meeting	Southampton Cultural Center, Southampton. Contact Carol Mellor 537-6998
May 24 - 1:30 PM Monday	Education Committee Meeting	Rogers Memorial Library, Southampton, Contact Judi Roth 283-0759
LOOKING AHEAD		
June 2 7:00 PM Wednesday	LWVH Board Meeting	Bridgehampton National Bank, Montauk Highway, Bridgehampton. Members and guests welcome.
June 14 7:00 PM Monday	Member Meeting	Do You Really Need A Lawn? Film and Panel Discussion, Hampton Library, Bridgehampton, Contact Sue Avedon 329-1830
TOWN BOARD MEETINGS		
May 6 - 7:00 PM	East Hampton Town Board Meeting	Town Hall Courtroom, 159 Pantigo Rd., East Hampton
May 11 - 1:00 PM	Southampton Town Board Meeting	Town Hall Board Room, Southampton Town Hall, 116 Hampton Rd., Southampton
May 20 - 7:00 PM	East Hampton Town Board Meeting	Town Hall Courtroom, 159 Pantigo Rd., East Hampton



Suffolk County Voter

www.lwv-suffolkcounty.org Box 1440, Stony Brook, NY 11790-1440 631-862-6860

May 2010

May 17 LWVSC Annual Convention, Bellport Country Club, 4:45 pm—8:40 pm

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★ League of Women Voters of Suffolk County 42nd Annual Convention ★ Gala Dinner and Celebration

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

How to Reform Albany Now

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; 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.

**Participate in the Fund for Modern Courts'
monitoring program at Suffolk County Family Courts
in Central Islip and Riverhead this spring/summer
contact Lisa Scott immediately to volunteer:
lisawscott@optonline.net or 631 523 1653.**

Summary Of LWVH Board Meeting April 7, 2010

INFORMATION ITEMS

- ☼ Carol reported that she, Glorian, and Arlene Hinkemeyer met with Assemblyman Fred Thiele. Among other topics, they discussed the range of absentee voting bills submitted in the legislature.
- ☼ Carol, Judi, and Anne presented our League's range of programs to a class at Southampton College.
- ☼ The NYS League has organized a trip to Albany for May 5. Carol noted that Mr. Thiele stated that the ethics issue is very appropriate for lobbying at this time.
- ☼ The NYS League's cocktail party, in celebration of the League's 90th birthday, will take place in Manhattan on May 14. Carol plans to attend.
- ☼ The LWVSC will hold a dinner annual meeting on May 17 at the Bellport Country Club. Local Leagues were asked to select an individual or an organization worthy of a recognition award and she proposed GAIN, the group that lobbies for "green" issues important to Southampton Town and is chaired by Glorian. A motion was made and passed in support of the proposal.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- ☼ Annual Meeting: The meeting will take place at the Southampton Cultural Center on Sun., May 23, at 3 PM. Each item in the package to be sent to the membership was reviewed:
 - Nominating Committee Report: Naomi Epstein, chair, presented the slate of candidates that would compose the board, June 2010-May 2011.
 - Budget: After a lengthy discussion, the proposed budget, with corrections, was passed.
 - By-laws: Judy walked the board through the revisions proposed for the by-laws.
 - Mailing: Carol reviewed the documents that will go into the mailing, including the statement of the League's program, a cover letter, and the invitation.
 - Planning: Carol will develop two invitations, one for members and one for non-members. It was also noted that the business portion will begin at 3 PM. Sue reported on the start of the gathering which will be festive, to celebrate

the 90th birthday of the League.

- ☼ Upcoming Events: Ann reported that all was set for the Agriculture/Aquaculture Panel on Mon., April 12, 7 PM. Judi noted that there will be 54 students and 20 officials in attendance at Running and Winning. Sue reported on the need for teams of four for the Trivia Quiz on Sunday, April 25 at the Parrish Memorial Hall, 2-5 PM.
- ☼ Consolidation Consensus Meeting, Mon., May 10, 7 PM: Naomi has asked Sandi Ferguson to facilitate the meeting. A mailing will be sent on April 28 and the recorders will be Carol and Anne.
- ☼ National Convention: Terri and Carol will attend.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- ☼ Membership: Arlene Makl reported that her committee had defined a new hospitality signup process and the phoning of new members. There will also be an effort made to encourage more members to attend meetings.
- ☼ Natural Resources: Glorian noted that the group will show a film at the June meeting.
- ☼ Voter Services: Anne and her committee will organize a debate for mayor and two trustees in Westhampton Beach Village.
- ☼ Education: Judi reported that the NYS League has asked her, along with representatives from the Brookhaven and Huntington Leagues, to compile a report of what these Leagues have done in education. She also noted that the committee needs more than the current two applications for the Betty Desch Award.
- ☼ Health: Judy reported that she and committee members met with Mr. Chaloner of Southampton Hospital. The committee will tour the new emergency facilities in June and has identified follow-up issues.
- ☼ Publicity: Arlene updated the Board on the excellent coverage received for the Southampton debate, as well as other coverage.
- ☼ Website: Judy reported that requests are steady with some decline.
- ☼ *The Voter*: Maura reported that Sally James is taking over the layout responsibility. Also, Joy Cordery will be distributing the sheets for the upcoming advertising campaign at the next meeting.

Next Board meeting date is to be determined.

Maura F. Lester 324-6522

Membership Committee

This is a wonderful year for the LWV. It is our 90th birthday. Imagine, for 90 years, women—and now men—have joined a nonpartisan political organization, encouraging the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influencing public policy through education and advocacy. On a piece of paper, those are only words, but with the LWV that is a mission statement. Those words have been turned into actions that have left a mark on our local governments as well as up through our national government. We are justified in celebrating.

As part of our celebration year, the Membership Committee has committed to make our community even more aware of us than we have been in the past. It will be a high visibility year for us. We will be giving out information and answering questions about the LWVH. We will be registering voters. The public will continue to be informed of our “open to the public” events, and we will initiate a membership drive within our own LWVH and with the public. We will be asking our members to approach their friends, neighbors, and spouses to support and join the League. We invite you to bring friends to our meetings, social events and forums. Just remember you will be doing a favor to those who join. And make sure you come to all our events also. There is a calendar in each *Voter*. Use it to meet our new members, hear our invited speakers, and

even stop in to a committee meeting. Bring a friend or two. Your friends and you are invited to our **Annual Meeting’s celebration** of these wonderful 90 years on **Sunday, May 23, at 3:00 PM.** at the Southampton Cultural Center. Please attend.

Arlene Makl 324-8662

In Memoriam

The League is saddened by the passing of member Florence Matthews, a 33-year resident of East Hampton, who passed away on April 5 at the age of 91. A former home economics department head and then guidance counselor at Valley Stream North High School, she retired in 1978 after a 24-year career in the school district. Florence and her husband Clyde, who passed away in August 2006, made a major contribution to the East End as founders of the Center for Creative Retirement at Southampton College. The program is now based elsewhere. A wonderfully kind person who dedicated herself to community service, Florence was also a volunteer at the LongHouse Reserve in East Hampton and a member of the Jewish Center of the Hamptons.

Let Us Hear From You

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Study of the Regulation of Financial Institutions

Proposal: Study the role of the federal government in regulating financial institutions with a focus on: the causes of the recent financial crisis; existing regulation of financial institutions; and measures to protect against future financial crises and ensure greater economic stability.

Citizen's Right to Vote

Protect the right of all citizens to vote; encourage all citizens to vote. Review this existing LWVUS position to include integrity and transparency in voting systems.

Privatization of Public Services

A study of privatization of public services to include:

1. What services do we, as citizens expect our government to provide us;
2. The philosophical basis for privatization;
3. An examination of how privatization works in terms of:
 - A. Cost
 - B. Oversight, to include transparency
 - C. Efficiency
 - D. Observation of ethical and legal standards in safety, labor management, environmental issues, etc.
4. An evaluation of quasi-public institutions such as the USPS, Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, private military contractors.

Carol Mellor 537-6998

Editor’s Note:

Over the next few months, you will see some changes—improvements!—to *The Voter* design and layout. These are thanks to our new production person, Sally James. I hope you will join me in welcoming Sally to “Team Voter.”

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Health Committee Report

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electronic outpatient system, but so far the records are only accessible at the Meeting House Lane group practice sites, Westhampton Primary Care Center and Westhampton Center for Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation.” Expanded access is planned.

RECRUITING PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIANS EASIER IN A BAD ECONOMY

The weak economy has given a boost to efforts to recruit and retain staff. Mr. Chaloner noted that retention of nurses and medical technicians also increased as a result of the Route 39 expansion. And the hospital pays tuition for a few nursing students a year at Suffolk Community College in exchange for the promise of five years of service. Housing is also less of a problem since real estate values

are lower. The hospital works closely with local realtors to find bargains to buy and/or rent. In addition, the Tower House was converted to provide seven units of staff housing, and the former nursing home houses eleven more. The Residency Program in Community Osteopathic Medicine brings more interns to the area each year, and it’s hoped many will choose to stay to practice in the community.

We’ll ask Mr. Chaloner’s view of how the new health reform legislation will impact eastern Suffolk County and how the hospital will respond when we return at his invitation to tour the new emergency room.

Judy Samuelson 267-3055

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