



THE VOTER

The Newsletter of the League of Women Voters of the Hamptons

Founded in 1977

Volume XXXIII, No. 9

November-December 2010

United Against *Citizens United*

In January, the League of Women Voters of the Hamptons will hold a forum exploring two issues: the alternatives to fighting the result of the Supreme Court's decision in Citizens United; and the issue of redistricting, which is imminent on the heels of the recent census. In preparation for this evening, here is a summary of the remarks of the President of the LWVUS before Congress on the Citizens United case. The following is based on material produced by the LWVUS. In our next issue, we will discuss the issues raised by redistricting.

Decision Allows Corporations To Spend Unlimited Sums

The Supreme Court decision in *Citizens United v. FEC* allows corporations to spend unlimited amounts of money to support or oppose candidates at every level of government. This throws out the protections against direct corporate and union spending in elections that have served our democracy for decades. It has given the green light for corporations, including foreign corporations, to intervene directly in elections—from the local school board or zoning commission to Congress and the President of the United States—taking the power away from voters. And it has set the stage for corruption to skyrocket out of control—now that the Court has allowed unlimited corporate and union expenditures, the power of well-paid lobbyists linked with those interests will greatly increase.

The League considers enactment of legislation requiring disclosure as the most basic step toward protecting the role of the voter in making decisions in elections. It now seems possible for corporations, and perhaps unions, to secretly provide funds that another corporation uses to intervene in an election through independent expenditures. Voters need information about the sources of funding for the charges and countercharges that come during elections. That is one key way that voters test the accuracy of campaign statements and is essential if the “free and open marketplace of ideas” is to function properly. This is especially true in the case of huge expenditures that could drive out other political speech.

Corporations should have the responsibility for providing disclosure to the public through disclaimers and the Internet, directly to their stockholders or members, and to the Federal Election Commission and the Securities and Exchange Commission.

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GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Documentary Film and Discussion on the Drug Courts of the East End

Westhampton Free Library
7 Library Ave., Westhampton Beach
NOVEMBER 8 - 7:00 PM
All Are Welcome

HOLIDAY PARTY DECEMBER 13- 6:30 PM

St. Mary's Church,
165 Ponquogue Ave., Hampton Bays
Contact Gladys Remler 288-9021

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

The Voter Team

Editor: Judy Samuelson
Design & Production: Sally James
Advertising: Joy Cordery
Proofreaders: Judi Roth, Joy Cordery
Reviewer: Ann Sandford

Madison Lohrius Inc., Printing and Mailing

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President's Message

The way to gain a good reputation is to endeavor to be what you desire to appear.
- Socrates

When I first became active in the League of Women Voters of the Hamptons, I was told that the League had the reputation of being a partisan organization, prone to supporting one side of the political spectrum. Since the League is by definition a non-partisan political organization, that reputation was undesired and undeserved. One of the goals of the Board of Directors in the past few years has been to change that reputation so that we would be known and respected for who we are and for the work we do, not as the pawn of one or another political party.

Well, I think we can say that we have succeeded. In order to develop a reputation for being an organization dedicated to educating the public, we have presented forums on many issues relevant to the concerns of the residents of the East End, from protecting natural resources to preserving our agricultural and aquacultural industries. We have explored issues of political importance to our community, including the place of day laborers in the economy, the issue of affordable workforce housing, the workings of the drug courts, the advisability of adopting a town manager form of government and introduction of the idea of the National Popular Vote. We have educated young people to become responsible citizens through our Vote 18 project, which encourages high school students to register and vote, and Running and Winning, a program that encourages young women to pursue careers in public service.

We have provided opportunities for the voters to meet and know their elected officials in several ways. We held public meetings at which we met our Town Supervisors, the Town Boards, and the Trustees of the Towns of East and Southampton. We held a luncheon honoring women elected officials on the East End. And, doing the basic work of the League, we have held debates at which candidates for Congress, state legislature and Town Boards have been introduced to the voters.

Through these endeavors we have, I believe, achieved the reputation we sought and deserve—that of a non-partisan political organization that encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government.

How do I know we have achieved that reputation? For example, last summer, in the midst of a particularly hotly contested village election, we were asked to host a debate. Despite the fact that candidates in that village had always declined debate invitations, ours was accepted and the debate we held was so orderly and well-run that a local newspaper, known for its delight in controversy, expressed disappointment at the civility of the event. More important, in hearing the voice of the people, as expressed on internet blogs, a comment that the League was a partisan organization was met by a chorus of comments disputing that claim, and attesting to the even handed and professional way we handled ourselves and our debates.

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Let the Sun Shine In: **LWVH Co-Sponsors Forum on NYS Open Government Laws**

The League was pleased to be asked by the Office of the Southampton Town Supervisor to co-sponsor a forum on October 4 at SUNY Stony Brook Southampton on “NYS Open Government Laws.” The featured speaker was the knowledgeable expert on this topic, Robert Freeman, executive director of the NYS Committee on Open Government. Created in 1974, it is composed of five members of the government and six representatives of the public and news media. Operating under the NYS Department of State, the committee oversees the Freedom of Information Law (FOIL), the Open Meetings Law, and the Personal Privacy Protection Law. It provides reports and advisory opinions on these laws to resolve controversies and has issued nearly 20,000 written and thousands of oral advisory opinions.

Freedom of Information Law

FOIL provides the right of public access to records of decisions and policies by governmental agencies. Mr. Freeman explained that the law defines “record” as “any information kept, held, filed, produced or reproduced by, with or for an agency or the State Legislature, in any physical form whatsoever...” and thus includes not only paper records but also tape recordings, microfilm, computer discs and email.

The committee’s publication “Your Right to Know” explains that the agency must provide the records within five business days of the receipt of the written request, or deny access in writing with the reason for denial, or provide a written statement of the approximate date when the request will be granted or denied.

In response to questions, Mr. Freeman said that in a budget draft, even the preliminary columns of departmental requests and recommendations are public, as are statistical and factual data in other publications, and in external audit reports. However, an inside or outside counsel’s legal advice and emails to the governmental body are private.

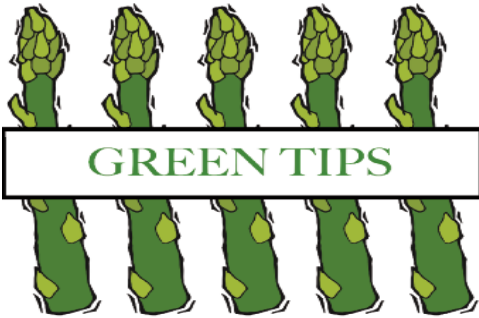
Open Meetings Law

“Your Right to Know” states that the Opening Meetings

or “Sunshine” Law basically gives the public “the right to attend meetings of public bodies, listen to the debates and watch the decision-making process in action.”

Mr. Freeman explained that “public bodies” have been defined as two or more people conducting public business. The law is triggered when a majority of the town board, for example, comes together to conduct public business, even if it is a work session. Some appointed/advisory committees are not subject to the open meetings law, he said, but Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) and school shared decision-making team meetings might be, if their input is a necessary step in the town’s or school district’s decision-making process.

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Here are three more no-hassle ways to reduce your carbon footprint. They are especially useful as winter approaches. In addition to being kind to the environment, you’ll save money!

- Turn down your thermostat by two degrees and save 2,000 pounds of carbon dioxide.
- Reduce your hot water heater from 140 degrees to 120 degrees and save 550 pounds of carbon dioxide.
- Add a hot water heater blanket and save 1,000 pounds of carbon dioxide.

*Calculations were drawn primarily from
[http://www.renewableenergylongisland.org/
carbondiet/controlpanel.php](http://www.renewableenergylongisland.org/carbondiet/controlpanel.php)*

Submitted by Glorian Berk

The following news release came from the LWVUS office, supporting a bill that would “restore transparency to U.S. elections by requiring disclosure of corporate and union spending in candidate elections.” (Wording is from an accompanying letter to members of the U.S. Senate and signed by LWVUS President Elisabeth MacNamara.)

Transparency, Disclosure Vital For Electoral Process

National LWV Urges Support Of DISCLOSE

Washington, DC – The League of Women Voters today, September 22, urged the U.S. Senate to support action on the DISCLOSE Act, which would restore transparency to U.S. elections by requiring disclosure of corporate and union spending in candidate elections.

“It is critically important for the DISCLOSE legislation to be passed this year,” said Elisabeth MacNamara, national president of the League of Women Voters. MacNamara sent a letter on behalf of the League to Senators urging their support this week.

“Voters deserve to know the sources of funding for election advertising and without this critical legislation, corporations, unions and other organizations can make secret, unlimited political expenditures for campaign ads,” said MacNamara.

“Secret money, whether foreign or domestic, has no place in America’s democracy,” MacNamara said. “Voters have a right to know—whether it is a corporation, union, trade association, or non-profit advocacy group making unlimited political expenditures and influencing elections. This is not only common sense—it is crucial if voters are to remain the cornerstone of our democracy,” stated MacNamara.

“In the wake of the *Citizens United* decision, the DISCLOSE Act is essential,” MacNamara said. “It requires CEOs to stand by their ads, and exposes special interest groups behind last-minute attacks. It stops manipulation of elections by fly-by-night hit groups, and prevents U.S. corporations controlled by foreign—or even hostile—governments from pumping secret money into our elections,” added MacNamara.

“Our democracy belongs to people—not special interests,” concluded MacNamara. “The League of Women

Voters strongly urges Senators to support quick action to enact the DISCLOSE Act this year.”

Anne Marshall 537-3257

Thank You, Maura

With this issue of *The Voter*, Maura Lester, who has been the editor for more issues that she would like to count, has hung up her editorial mantle. We thank her from the bottom of our hearts for her devotion, skill and hard, hard work as editor.

Under Maura’s management, our publication became known for its excellence. We won several awards issued by the New York State League. When I first became president and went to my first convention, I was approached by a state board member who was responsible for deciding the recipient of the state award. She told me that no other newsletter approached the quality of our *Voter*, a compliment earned on Maura’s work product.

It is not easy to be editor of *The Voter*. As the new team is, I am sure, fast learning, when you deal with volunteers, you have few means of encouraging compliance with deadlines and standards. Maura oh-so-gently urged, nudged and chided us to help her produce an excellent newsletter. She suffered our failures and failings with unfaltering patience and good humor. She did so through her own personal challenges, and while in the process of starting a new and adventuresome business with her husband in Vermont.

In addition to editing the content of *The Voter*, and producing a good looking newsletter, Maura dealt with issues regarding the printer and layout of the ads. And, when the post office failed to deliver, she gracefully bore the wrath of members who somehow thought she ran the postal service, too. When we needed an elegant invitation to our luncheon, or a snazzy invitation to our holiday party, she produced that as well.

I will miss our monthly conversations in which, in an attempt to put together another issue, we worked a little and laughed a lot. I am sure we all wish Maura and Sam the best of sun, rain and harvest in Vermont, but we are also sad to know that we will be seeing less of her here in East Hampton.

On behalf of us all, thank you, Maura!

Carol Mellor 537-6998

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Disclaimers on public communications should be required for every corporation that provides funds above a certain amount directly or indirectly to an election expenditure. The League also believes that disclosure should be cumulative so that the public and stockholders can get a full picture of the corporation's entire election activity.

Other Supported Concepts

Corporate Governance. The League supports the concept that shareholders should approve election expenditures by corporations, as well as other possible reforms to corporate governance in the campaign finance context. The Court recognized the importance of disclosure to corporate governance, thereby setting the stage for additional shareholder involvement.

In large, for-profit corporations, the mechanisms for achieving shareholder approval or disapproval will need special attention because large amounts of stock are held in mutual funds, pension and retirement funds (including government entities) and in other forms that don't reflect the interests of the underlying owners or beneficiaries. Non-profit corporations, including large ones such as health plans and hospitals, also raise a number of issues.

Governments. The League believes it is entirely inappropriate for government to intervene in elections. Thus, those corporations that have substantial governmental involvement, particularly financial involvement, should be barred from making independent election expenditures. Corporations that have received substantial funds (through TARP, for example) or have government guarantees, or have received government contracts above a certain level deserve attention. Certainly government pension and insurance funds are another example

Connections with Lobbyists. After *Citizens United*, every member of Congress who receives a visit from a lobbyist for a corporation knows that the corporation can make unlimited expenditures in his or her election. Surely this is a recipe for corruption. The process is corrupted even if the threat is not made or the spending is not carried out. Lawmakers will change their behavior because of the potential for unlimited expenditures. Congress should explore methods to deal with this issue. Surely the anti-corruption rationale should provide a basis for regulation. The problem extends not just to registered lobbyists (after

all, the lobby disclosure laws were designed for disclosure rather than regulatory purposes) but includes the actions of corporate officers and others who control corporate expenditures.

Public Financing. As a long-time supporter of clean money in elections, the League supports enactment of congressional public financing and repair and updating of the presidential public financing system. Enhanced small contributions through a fair elections system would provide candidates with clean funds, challenging both corruption and the appearance of corruption in our electoral system.

Carol Mellor 537-6998



On Air in October!

Here's Voter Services Chair Anne Marshall on the set of East Hampton Town's LTV Studios in Wainscott, making a video explaining the new voting system in New York State. The program featured Anne introducing the Suffolk County Board of Election's video on the three-step voting process (which involves checking in at your election district, marking your paper ballot, and inserting it into the tabulator), then explaining the process in more detail, and in conclusion, describing the new NYS absentee ballot application. The program will be aired before the November 2 general election by LTV and also shared with Southampton Town's SEA-TV and possibly other public access channels in eastern Suffolk County. Providing behind-the-scenes production help were Carol Mellor and Arlene Hinkemeyer.

Photo by Arlene Hinkemeyer

LWVH Board Meeting Summary

Held October 6, 2010

Information Items

- ◆Carol noted that Joy Lupoletti has asked to take a leave because of her health. Board members joined in wishing Joy a speedy return to good health.
- ◆Carol negotiated a phone bill reduction from Verizon.
- ◆211 Project: Joy Cordery reported that the United Way has sufficient funds to ensure the operation of the 211 phone line until the end of the year, while the website would continue after that. We agreed to postpone printing a 211 brochure.
- ◆Hot Topic Lunches: Terri's group held a brainstorming session and will meet again on Oct. 18. The first luncheon will be in January. Lunches will be open to members and non-members. Possible topics include yoga, the health system, museum management.
- ◆UN Day is Nov. 9. Carol will alert the membership via Constant Contact.
- ◆Post-Election Brunch on Nov. 7 at the Bellport Country Club, 7:30 AM to 1:30 PM: A panel including leaders of the Suffolk County Legislature will provide a range of interpretations of election results.
- ◆*The Voter* changes: Maura has retired; the board applauds her excellent service! Carol announced a new publication team: Sally, Judy, Ann, Joy and Judi. Going forward, there will be eight issues per year. Carol asked for ideas to improve the timeliness and accuracy of *The Voter's* calendar.
- ◆Long Island Community Foundation grant audit: The foundation requires a formal audit. Glorian volunteered to ask a CPA friend to help out.

Discussion Items

- ◆November 8, 7 PM, members' meeting at the Westhampton Beach Library: Ursula told us there will be discussion following a film on the drug court.
- ◆Program Calendar:
 - ❖January 10: the theme will be voting. The program will consist of a speaker on the Citizens United case and the presentation available from the NYS League on redistricting.
 - ❖February 2: the board meeting at the bank will be combined with a program planning meeting.
 - ❖March 14: the topic will be the planning and zoning functions in local government.
 - ❖April 11: Barbara will lead a program on accessory apartments.
 - ❖June 13: the Natural Resources committee will organize this program.

◆Meeting location: the program room at the Hampton Library in Bridgehampton will be the principal location for future member meetings.

◆Holiday Party, Dec. 13: Following discussion of various proposed venues, it was agreed that Emoke will explore use of the social room at her church.

◆Oct. 27 Luncheon: Sue updated the board, noting that The Inn at Quogue is a lovely setting. The price is \$30, in advance, with a cash bar. Checks should go to Gladys Remler, Box 881, Westhampton Beach, NY 11978.

Committee Reports

◆Special Events: Sue's committee has begun to plan a Trivia Event but discussion was tabled until November to allow a broader discussion of the event's viability.

◆Membership: Arlene reported that membership is 185.

◆Natural Resources: Glorian reported that Joy Cordery and Sue Avedon attended the Peconic Estuary meeting. The committee will continue the "Green Tips" column in *The Voter*. The committee is deliberating whether to advocate against a request from Golf at the Bridge to test wells over the aquifer annually instead of quarterly.

◆Voter Services: Anne reported two debates. The first: Oct. 21, a congressional debate at the Hampton Bays High School. Note: Subsequently canceled after the Republican candidate was unable to change schedule. The second: Oct. 25, 7 PM, at the Rogers Memorial Library, with NYS Senate and Assembly candidates.

◆Observer Corps: Judi met with Ursula and Glorian to plan a meeting for Southampton. Naomi is meeting with East Hampton observers.

◆Education: Judi noted that the Students Inside Albany three-day program is scheduled for April 11-14, 2011. The committee's goal is to send one or two students. She outlined a voter education program for younger people.

◆Publicity: Arlene outlined an LTV voting machine program that will be shared with other public access stations. She also noted her press activities.

◆Website: Judy reported that May had the greatest number of requests at 2,942 and in 2010, hamptons.ny.lwvnet.org has never had fewer than 2115. She asked for content.

◆*The Voter*: see above.

Next board meeting will be held on Wednesday, Nov. 3 at 7 PM at the Bridgehampton National Bank

Summarized by Judy Samuelson 267-3055

Southampton Town Board Meeting

The meeting room was jammed on September 14. My mother was visiting, so she came along (my civic interest doesn't fall far from the tree—one of my first political memories was being able to stay up late the night Adlai Stevenson lost the Presidential election).

Sailing School—Good or Bad For The Community?

It didn't take long to find out why the room was so crowded. On the agenda for public comment was a proposal by a group who wanted to offer sailing lessons to young people by re-starting the Mecox Yacht Club (actually a small building and launch site) at the end of Bay Avenue in Watermill. We heard from people who had learned sailing there as young children, those who wanted their children to learn to sail, etc. A lovely glow began to settle—I thought this was a wonderful opportunity for Southampton kids and a great revival of an old tradition. But that glow soon dissolved as Bay Avenue residents began to speak.

What was once an area with a few homes scattered around was now the dwelling place of some 70 homeowners—many of whom had come to speak to the Board about how this sailing school would bring unwanted traffic to their quiet area, how clearing some acres for summer storage of sail boats would hurt the surrounding water area, how the location of portable toilets would mar the area, etc. I came away undecided who was right and I wondered how the Town Council will make their decision about granting a license. The resolution was tabled until October 12, at which time it was again standing room only in the meeting room.

Such is town government. Feelings run high and people come out to speak their mind. Fortunately, Southampton Town has a strictly enforced 3-minute rule for each speaker so things do move along. And every speaker is treated with utmost courtesy.

PDD, CPF Purchase

Should the town put a moratorium on and/or totally change or do away with a planning device known as the PDD or Planned Development District? This mechanism

is mostly used by developers to request zoning changes on properties they own by offering a “public benefit.” The PDD has come under fire lately, with a developer asking for a PDD to build what he calls “Tuckahoe Main Street” and the CACs (Citizens Advisory Committees) refers to as a “shopping mall with 475 parking spaces.” This facility on Rt. 39 and McGee Street in Southampton would offer in exchange six affordable housing units above the new King Kullen supermarket.

What seemed like business on its way to a vote—buying a 150 acre site in Hampton Bays from using CPF funds with the County splitting the cost of \$9.5 million 50/50—suddenly ran into deep water when a question arose about road access to a development proposed on the outskirts of this land.

All in all, an interesting way to spend a few hours on an afternoon. Other LWWH Observer Corps members present in September included Glorian Berk and Ursula Lynch. The Observer Corps was the subject of an article in the October 2010 issue of *The Voter*. We hope more of you will join us in this project to see for ourselves how the open meeting concept fares in the two Towns.

Judi Roth 283-0759

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“Your Right to Know” provides the eight subjects that may be discussed in closed session when a majority of the board votes at an open meeting to go into executive session and states the area to be discussed. These include matters that imperil public safety; disclose identity of law enforcement agents; relate to current/future investigation/prosecution of a criminal offense; pertain to proposed, pending, current litigation; involve collective negotiations; concern medical, financial, employment, discipline, dismissal matters of a person/corporation; involve grading/administration of exams; or relate to proposed acquisition, sale, lease of property/securities when publicity would substantially affect their value. The format of Mr. Freeman’s lively presentation was entirely Q & A. Further information is in “Your Right to Know,” a brochure available at www.dos.state.ny.us/coog/pdfs/right2know.pdf.

Arlene Hinkemeyer 324-6713



Suffolk County Voter

www.lwv-suffolkcounty.org

Box 1440, Stony Brook, NY 11790-1440

631-862-6860

Wed. Nov. 17 LWVSC Board Meeting, Riverhead Library 10am - 12noon

November 2010

OFFICERS

Co-President/ATI/Legislative Issues
Katherine Hoak 667-8745
khoak@optonline.net

Co-President/DPO /County Voter
Lisa Scott 265-2198
lisawscott@optonline.net

1st Vice President/Webmaster
Adam Gaus 543-1446
adam.gaus@IEEE.com

2nd Vice President
Barbara Jordan 324-6144
bjordlwh@aol.com

Acting Secretary
Arlene Lesser 265-4384
alstna@verizon.net

Treasurer
Marilyn McKeown 286-1169
mhmckeown@verizon.net

ELECTED DIRECTORS

Voter Service
Judie Gorenstein 491-3177
judieL728@aol.com

Housing
Nancy Marr 730-6556
enpymarr@optonline.net

Special Events
Susan Wilson 283-6549
sswilson@hamptons.com

APPOINTED DIRECTORS

Naomi Epstein 324-9371
naepxyz@aol.com

Sondra Irvine 862-4042
fsr Irvine@hotmail.com

Arlene Lesser 265-4384
alstna@verizon.net

Ursula Lynch 288-4721
umlynch@gmail.com

Mary McLaughlin 427-1925
marymclaughlin54@gmail.com

Mary Zopf 499-0107
mtzopf@verizon.net

LEAGUE PRESIDENTS

Brookhaven
Nancy Marr 730-6556
enpymarr@optonline.net

Hamptons
Carol Mellor 537-6998
camellor@aol.com

Huntington
Judie Gorenstein 491-3177
judieL728@aol.com

Shelter Island
Cathy Kenny 749-1848
cathy_kenny@hotmail.com

Smithtown
Joyce Rosenthal 265-6463
ejrosen@optonline.net

OFF-BOARD SPECIALISTS

Budget
Jacqui Lofaro 537-3361
jacqlo@hamptons.com

Natural Resources
Dorothy Cappadona 549-6987
Doc.dot@verizon.net

The League of Women Voters of Suffolk County serves two distinct functions. We are an Inter-League Organization, coordinating local League activities and programs via our monthly board meetings in Riverhead. We also communicate with our members and the public regarding Suffolk County government issues, initiatives, and advocacy within the League's positions.

As we approach the final months of 2010, we look back on an eventful, active year. One of the League's major challenges has been (with the aid and cooperation of the Suffolk County Board of Elections) to educate our voting public on the new optical scan system (changes mandated by the 2002 Help America Vote Act). Combine that effort with voter registration drives, candidate debates, and voter education efforts, and we've had a whirlwind of activity throughout Suffolk County this fall!

In the spring we recruited volunteers to serve as court monitors, reporting on Suffolk County's Family Courts, under the guidance of the Fund For Modern Courts. In September we began efforts to attend naturalization ceremonies at the Federal Courthouse in Central Islip and offered voter registration materials to those new citizens.

2010 marked the 90th anniversary of the founding of the League of Women Voters, as we also celebrated 90 years of women's suffrage established by ratification of the 19th amendment to the US Constitution in 1920. The Suffolk County LWV, along with our five local Leagues: Brookhaven, Hamptons, Huntington, Shelter Island, and Smithtown, look forward to renewed efforts to pursue the LWV's mission in 2011.

Come to the Post Election Breakfast (details below) to hear views on, and discuss, the results and ramifications of the 2010 elections.

2010 Post Election Breakfast

Bellport Country Club
Sunday November 7, 2010

10:30am—1:30pm

Cost: League Members (paid in advance) \$30
Non-members or Pay at the Door \$35

For information contact Sue Wilson
sswilson@hamptons.com 283-6549

Please make checks payable to LWVNYSEF and mail to
Marilyn McKeown, 15 Mott Lane, Brookhaven, NY 11719

November - December 2010

Note: Meeting dates and times are published several weeks in advance and are subject to change. Please contact the Chairs or visit our website at <http://hamptons.ny.lwvnet.org> for updates. There will be no Government, Health, or Membership Committee meetings in November. If you don't see a meeting for a committee of interest, contact the Chair of that committee. Contact information is listed on last inside page of The Voter and on the website.

November 2 - 10:00 AM Tuesday	Natural Resources Committee	Arlene & Alan Alda Room, Hampton Library, Bridgehampton. Contact Glorian Berk 283-2638.
November 3 - 7:00 PM Wednesday	Board of Directors Meeting	Bridgehampton National Bank, Montauk Highway, Bridgehampton. Members and guests welcome.
November 7 - 10:30 AM Sunday	Post Election Brunch	Bellport Country Club, 40 S. Country Rd., Bellport. Contact Sue Wilson 283-6549.
November 8 - 7:00 PM Monday	General Membership Meeting	Documentary film: "The Last Fix: An Addict's Passage from Hell to Hope." Documentary Film and Discussion on the Drug Courts of the East End Westhampton Free Library, 7 Library Ave. Westhampton Beach.
November 9 - 2:00 PM Tuesday	United Nations Day	League of Women Voters Annual United Nations Briefing. Topic: Microfinance. Church Center of the United Nation, 777 UN Plaza, NYC.
November 15 - 1:30 PM Monday	Education Committee	Cooper Hall, Rogers Memorial Library, Southampton. Contact Judi Roth 283-0759.
November 17 - 10:00 AM Wednesday	LWVSC Board Meeting	Riverhead Library.
December 1 - 7:00 PM Wednesday	Board of Directors Meeting	Bridgehampton National Bank, Montauk Highway, Bridgehampton. Members and guests welcome.
December 13 - 6:30 PM Monday	Holiday Party	St. Mary's Church, 165 Ponquogue Ave., Hampton Bays. Contact Gladys Remler 288-9021.
December 15 - 10:00 AM Wednesday	LWVSC Board Meeting	Riverhead Library.
LOOKING AHEAD		
January 5 - 7:00 PM Wednesday	Board of Directors Meeting	Bridgehampton National Bank, Montauk Highway, Bridgehampton. Members and guests welcome.
January 10 - 7:00 PM Monday	General Membership Meeting	Current Issues in Elections: Corporate Campaign Contributions and Redistricting. Hampton Library, Bridgehampton.
TOWN BOARD MEETINGS		
November 4 - 7:00 PM	East Hampton Town Board Meeting	Town Hall Courtroom, 159 Pantigo Rd., East Hampton
November 9 - 1:00 PM	Southampton Town Board Meeting	Town Hall Board Room, Southampton Town Hall, 116 Hampton Rd., Southampton
November 18 - 1:00 PM	Southampton Town Board Meeting	Town Hall Board Room, Southampton Town Hall, 116 Hampton Rd., Southampton
November 18 - 7:00 PM	East Hampton Town Board Meeting	Town Hall Courtroom, 159 Pantigo Rd., East Hampton
December 2 - 7:00 PM	East Hampton Town Board Meeting	Town Hall Courtroom, 159 Pantigo Rd., East Hampton
December 14 - 1:00 PM	Southampton Town Board Meeting	Town Hall Board Room, Southampton Town Hall, 116 Hampton Rd., Southampton
December 16 - 7:00 PM	East Hampton Town Board Meeting	Town Hall Courtroom, 159 Pantigo Rd., East Hampton

Health & Education Committee Reports

Want to Reverse Health Care Reform? Be Careful What You Wish For

Opponents of the Affordable Care Act of 2010 want to under-finance or repeal the Affordable Care Act and if many of such a mind are elected to Congress, they might just do that. Seniors, families, those with mental or substance abuse issues, the un- or underinsured and many others would be the losers in that event. Learn where each candidate stands on the issue of health care laws—and then, vote your preference on Election Day! Before November 2, talk to your friends about perceptions associated with changes to Social Security, freedom of choice of providers and other issues.

Facts

At risk of being altered or repealed are these, among many, benefits:

- ◆ This year, the Part D donut hole provision gave some subscribers a check for \$250 against expenses. In 2011, if the donut hole is reached, there's a 50 percent discount when buying Part D covered brand name drugs. By 2014 the donut hole will be closed.
- ◆ In 2011 preventive care will be covered, with colorectal cancer and mammogram screenings and free annual physicals. Beginning January 1, 2011, proven preventive services will be covered.
- ◆ Important provisions relate to prevention and tools to ensure individuals with behavioral health issues have access to quality, affordable health care coverage.
- ◆ Insurance cannot be denied because of a pre-existing condition nor cancelled because of serious illness or accident.
- ◆ New regulations give consumers in new health plans in every state the right to appeal decisions, including claims denials and rescissions.

What is the Affordable Care Act?

The comprehensive health care reform law of 2010 was enacted in two parts: The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act was signed into law on March 23, 2010 and amended by the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act on March 30, 2010. The name "Affordable Care Act" is used to refer to the final, amended version of the law.

The League of Women Voters believes that quality,

affordable health care should be available to all U.S. residents. Other U.S. health care policy goals should include the equitable distribution of services, efficient and economical delivery of care, advancement of medical research and technology, and a reasonable total national expenditure level for health care. Furthermore, the League believes that all Americans should have access to a basic level of care that includes the prevention of disease, health promotion and education, primary care (including prenatal and reproductive health), acute care, long-term care and mental health care.

Judy Samuelson 267-3055

Education Committee Tackles Challenging Projects

On September 20, the Education committee met to discuss several programs. On the table was how we will identify one or two students to send to the State League's program "Students Inside Albany," scheduled from April 11 to 14, 2011. We decided to ask students to write a brief essay on why they would like to go to this event and to submit it to us with a teacher recommendation.

We also discussed a program done in other Leagues called "Take Me to Vote." This is aimed at fifth graders, the year children start learning about government. We all liked this idea and will continue to work on it.

For "Running and Winning," we decided we need to have the students better prepared for next year's program. We will do this in several ways, one of which is having the teachers help us select the issue to be discussed and to have them discuss it in a class setting prior to our event. We will present them with three choices and let them select the one they think the kids will be most interested in. If you have any additional ideas, please get in touch with me. So far, we are considering these topics:

- ◆ School uniforms
- ◆ Censorship of school books and who should make these choices
- ◆ Healthy food in school— good idea? or too invasive?
- ◆ Internet privacy, standards for acceptable content (e.g., Twitter or Facebook), and internet bullying.

Judi Roth 283-0759

OFFICERS

President

Carol Mellor
537-6998
camellor@aol.com

Vice-Presidents

Arlene Hinkemeyer
324-6713
ahinkemeyer@optonline.net

Maura F. Lester
324-6522
maura912@optonline.net

Arlene Makl
324-8662
Arlene.Makl@Gmail.com

Judi Roth
283-0759
rothhandj@yahoo.com

Secretary

Ann Sandford
537-2382
asandford@optonline.net

Treasurer

Emoke Forman
283-2175 (work)
aces172@hamptons.com

ELECTED DIRECTORS

Terri Levin Davgin
329-3217
ehampcook@yahoo.com

Ursula Lynch
288-4721
UMLynch@gmail.com

Gladys Remler
288-9021
GRemlerdesign@aol.com

Judy Samuelson
267-3055
jwsamuelson@optonline.net

APPOINTED DIRECTORS

Glorian Berk
283-2638
glorianberk@aol.com

Mary Blake
907-4499
mecb@optonline.net

Joy Cordery
283-7863
jcord@optonline.net

Sally James
267-2582
sej.nyc@verizon.net

Barbara Jordan
324-6144
BJORDLWVH@aol.com

Joy Lupoletti
324-1127
JoyLup@aol.com

Anne K. Marshall
537-3257
APGHNYC@aol.com

Susan Wilson
283-6549
sswilson@hamptons.com

PORTFOLIO CHAIRS

Education

Judi Roth
283-0759
rothhandj@yahoo.com

Government

Naomi Epstein
324-9371
naepxyz@aol.com

Health

Judy Samuelson
267-3055
jwsamuelson@optonline.net

Membership

Arlene Makl
324-8662
Arlene.Makl@Gmail.com

Natural Resources

Glorian Berk
283-2638
glorianberk@aol.com

Publicity

Arlene Hinkemeyer
324-6713
ahinkemeyer@optonline.net

Special Events

Susan Wilson
283-6549
sswilson@hamptons.com

Voter Services

Anne K. Marshall
537-3257
apghnyc@aol.com

Webmaster

Judy Samuelson
267-3055
wb@hamptons.ny.lwvnet.org

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Again, this fall, when our planned Congressional debate was cancelled, a blog claiming the League of Women Voters is a liberal tool was met by several retorts, one of which stated that “The League of Women Voters is one of the most well-respected, unbiased groups in the country.” A second comment noted that the writer looked forward to our debate as our debates were so well run.”

Congressman Bishop was quoted as saying that a League debate would have been non-partisan. A front page article in the *Southampton Press* chided the candidate who declined to appear at our debate. The *East Hampton Star* ran an editorial in which it noted that on the East End, debates “especially those run by the League of Women Voters, are a longstanding tradition of the election season.”

We have endeavored to be non-partisan and to provide services to our community that would help them be informed and educated voters. I believe we have done so, that we have achieved a reputation for doing so, and I applaud the hard work of our members which made it so!

Carol Mellor 537-6998

Welcome New Member

Harriet Brathwaite
Sag Harbor 631-725-9577

After retiring from two careers, Harriet finds that she’s busier than ever. A pioneer in mental health nursing, she was chief of service for the NYS Office of Mental Health for 28 years, then became a professor of nursing at Long Island University’s Brooklyn campus. These days, as a health-care advocate, she says she’s “doing for nothing what I once got paid for” -- sitting on a number of professional boards and committees and serving as the NYS Nurses Association’s political liaison to Assemblyman Fred Thiele and the American Nurses Association’s political liaison to Senator Charles Schumer. Although her current schedule will prevent her from being an active LWVH member, Harriet joined to show her support as a former Queens member who believes in the League’s mission.

Editor’s note: This and future new member biographies prepared by Marsha Kranes

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>

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