’Tis the Season

The 2010 election “season” is in full swing and so is the very active LWVH Voter Services Committee. Members have spent many hours already at community meetings, fairs, post offices and farmers’ markets giving citizens a plethora of pre-election information.

This year has had the special focus of providing information about the new voting machines that were put into use beginning with this year’s September primary. As of mid-September, committee members are already scheduled to speak to some 15 community groups about the voting process and the new absentee ballot application.

At our general meeting on September 13, Voter Services worked in collaboration with the Bridgehampton library staff to present a video and Power Point presentation on the voting process as well as explanations of the absentee ballot changes and the 2008 court decision allowing second home owners the possibility of registering to vote in their communities.

Besides its focus on voter registration and information, the committee also is responsible for arranging League-sponsored candidate debates. Two debates are scheduled for 2010:

Thursday, October 21: Congressional Candidate Debate
Hampton Bays High School, 7:00 p.m.

Monday, October 25: State Assembly and Senate Candidates Debates
Rogers Memorial Library, Southampton, 7:00 p.m.

Anne Marshall 537-3257

Thanks to Anne Bleich
The LWVH Voter Services Committee wishes to thank one of its long time members, Anne Bleich, for her significant contributions over the many years of her active participation. Anne will be moving to Peconic Landing in Greenport and so will be less available to actively participate in committee activities. We wish her well!

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SAVE THE DATE!
League of Women Voters of the Hamptons
Annual Fall Luncheon & Chinese Auction
October 27, 2010
The Inn At Quogue

For more information, contact:
Gladys Remler: 288-9021
GRemlerdesign@aol.com
or
Susan Wilson: 283-6549
sswilson@hamptons.com

ALL ARE WELCOME
President’s Message

Relying on the Kindness of Strangers

One does not have to be a mathematical wizard to see that the dues we collect from our members do not go very far in financing our organization. We collect $55.00 from each individual member, out of which we must pay $29.70 to national, $18.00 to New York State and $1.50 to the county. That leaves $5.80 to pay for our programs, support our advocacy, and leave a little for our annual meeting, to treat our members to a party in celebration of the holidays and to buy paper, printer toner and stamps.

So how do we do what we do? Well, we depend on the generosity of our members who make donations in excess of the membership dues, for which we are very grateful. We apply for and have been lucky in obtaining grants which have underwritten programs such as the Greening of the South Fork and Running and Winning. We fundraise through events such as the Trivia Quiz and the Rummage Sale. And, we rely on the kindness of local businesses to support us in the form of advertising in The Voter.

Now more than ever, the generosity of our advertisers has been crucial in enabling us to do the work which is so important to us. This year, many of our local businesses who had declined to renew their ads in the past few years have rejoined us, and for that we are grateful, both for the support of our organization and for the evidence that the economy is improving. Moreover, this year, we welcomed several new advertisers, and we ask our members to show their appreciation by frequenting their establishments, introducing themselves as belonging to the League, and thanking them for sponsoring us.

The diversity of goods and services which can be fulfilled by patronizing our new advertisers is amazing. Imagine having to plan a typical weekend on the East End. One could begin by enjoying the beauty of the art at the Parrish Art Museum. If you have trouble reading the captions, stop off at Leahy Opticians for a quick exam. After your cultural foray, you could eat at any of several wonderful restaurants: The Boathouse or Fresno in East Hampton, Red Bar in Southampton or the Beacon in Sag Harbor. Prefer to eat at home? Think about getting some take-out from Deli Counter Fine Foods, the Espresso Little Italian Market or the Hampton Coffee Company. You can find the perfect wine or aperitif to accompany your meal at De Petris Liquor Store, Lamplighter Wines and Liquor, or Six Corners Fine Wines and Liquor. Maybe a new tablecloth or place mats and napkins are in order to spruce up the table. Try Hildreth’s Department Store. Maybe it’s your landscape that needs sprucing up? Call Tim Blenk Tree Care or, to eliminate those annoying garden pests, call Jim’s Busy Bee. Does your pool or hot tub need service? Call Nugent & Potter or D&R Pool and Spa Service. Did too many guests show up for the weekend? Put some up at the Southampton Village Motel. Want to get away from your guests? Jump on the Hampton Jitney or take a road trip, after having your

Continued on page 18
Implementing Health Care Reforms

The Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) website, www.healthcare.gov, offers an abundance of information on steps to be taken in 2010, 2011 and beyond to implement the Affordable Care Act passed in March 2010. Here are a few facts from that site. Check it out if you have specific questions.

❖ On September 8, 2010, HHS launched a consumer-focused website in Spanish. Titled CuidadodeSalud.gov, it offers both public and private health coverage options tailored specifically for consumers’ needs in a single, easy-to-use tool.

❖ On September 9, HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius wrote to America’s Health Insurance Plans, the national association of health insurers, calling on their members to stop using scare tactics and misinformation to falsely blame premium increases for 2011 on patient protections in the Affordable Care Act. She noted that consumer protections and out-of-pocket savings provided for should have little impact on premiums for most Americans. Further, she reminded health plans that the Act gives states new resources to crack down on unjustified premium increases.

Five Things You Should Know Right Now

1. Starting as early as September 23, 2010, insurance companies will be prohibited from imposing lifetime dollar limits on essential coverage.

2. Starting as early as 2010, job-based health plans and new individual plans won’t be allowed to deny or exclude coverage for children (under age 19) based on a pre-existing condition including a disability. Starting in 2014, these same plans won’t be allowed to deny or exclude anyone or charge more for a pre-existing condition including a disability.

3. Starting as early as September 2010, children under age 26 can generally be insured if the parent’s policy allows for dependent coverage. The only exception is if you have an existing job-based plan, and your children can get their own job-based coverage. In some plans, you can add your young adult children even earlier than September 2010.

4. Starting in 2014, if your income is less than the equivalent of about $88,000 for a family of four today, and your job doesn’t offer affordable coverage, you may get tax credits to help pay for insurance.

5. Starting in 2014, pregnancy and newborn care, along with vision and dental coverage for children, will be covered in all Exchange plans and new plans sold to individuals and small businesses. (An Exchange is a new marketplace where individuals and small businesses can buy affordable health benefit plans. Exchanges will offer a choice of plans that meet certain benefits and cost standards.) Starting in 2014, Members of Congress will be getting their health care insurance through Exchanges, and you can too.

Judy Samuelson 267-3055

Reduce Your Carbon Footprint

Carbon emissions are a major cause of global warming. Therefore, measuring, and then, reducing, your carbon footprint will reduce your carbon emissions. An American household typically generates 55,000 lbs. of carbon dioxide annually. In contrast, German households contribute 27,000 lbs. and Swedish households only 15,000 lbs. Here are several suggestions of how to reduce your carbon footprint and how much carbon dioxide will be saved. They are taken from The Low Carbon Diet, published by The Empowerment Institute (www.empowermentinstitute.net/lcd/).

❖ Turn off your computer and printer at night ..............................................1,160 lbs.
❖ Car pool to cut out 25 miles of driving/week ............................................1,500 lbs.
❖ Replace meat with vegetarian meals one day/week .................................700 lbs.
❖ Check your tire pressure monthly ..................................................360 lbs.

Glorian Berk 283-2638

Editor’s note: This feature on preserving our environment will appear in each edition of The Voter. The Natural Resources Committee is also evaluating various ideas for their next project.
Held September 1, 2010

Information Items

- Our League received $1500 for administering the East Hampton Library’s referendum on Aug. 14.
- Carol Mellor, Anne Marshall and Sue Wilson attended a Board of Elections presentation on the new voting system.
- Carol reported that the LWVH is expected to implement a new policy on “national members” with the goal of recruiting them into local leagues.
- Sue thanked Gladys Remler, Ursula Lynch and all the donors to the Rummage Sale, which netted $809 for the League as well as a 10’ by 10’ canopy!
- Carol announced that an October 4 forum to educate officials and League members about the “open meeting law” will take place at Southampton College.
- The Community Picnic is on Sept.12 in Hampton Bays. Board members will attend and distribute voter information.

Discussion Items

- As our October schedule includes two debates and a luncheon, the board agreed to drop the month’s membership meeting.
- The September 13 general meeting on the new voting system will be at the Hampton Library in Bridgehampton. The November meeting will be at the Westhampton Beach Library. Ann Sandford will explore using the Bridgehampton library for more meetings.
- The County League needed volunteers to handle calls, mostly about voting, to their hotline. Anne Marshall volunteered for September, Sue Wilson for October, and Judy Samuelson as backup both months.
- Gladys updated the board on the October 27 luncheon at The Inn at Quogue.
- Voter Education: Carol reported on the application to the Long Island Community Foundation to fund voter education materials for the upcoming primaries the November election.
- Dial 2-1-1: Joy Cordery reported that The United Way expects funding for the program, but support would cease if funds run out.

Committee Reports

- Special Events: Sue Wilson noted the Happy 90th Birthday donation appeal was on track.
- Membership: Arlene Makl reported 186 members. Five new members joined this month.
- Heads of the committees for Natural Resources, Government and Nominations reviewed ongoing work.
- Voter Services: In addition to the voter education meeting September 13 (see above), Anne announced a NYS Senate and Assembly candidates debate on October 25, 7 p.m., at the Rogers Library, and a congressional debate on Oct. 21, at the Hampton Bays High School. There will be no Republican primary debate.
- Health: Judy Samuelson reported her group seeks opportunities to explain the recently passed healthcare legislation to interested groups.
- Publicity: Arlene noted League coverage in the press.
- Website: The site exceeded 2,400 hits in August. Judy asked committee heads and board members to contribute more content for posting.
- The Voter: Carol thanked Sally James for her design and production work.

The next board meeting will be on Wed., October 6 at 7 PM. at the Bridgehampton National Bank.

Summarized by Judy Samuelson 267-3055

New Production Schedule

Beginning next month, The Voter will be on a new production schedule. It will be published eight times a year, to appear as follows: November-December, January-February, March, April, May-June, July-August, September, October. This change is being made to reduce our printing and mailing costs, and to lighten the workload of the dedicated souls who produce each issue.

Maura Lester 324-6522
Recent Events

At the September 13 LWVH meeting at the Bridgehampton library, Anne Marshall, left, explained the new voting system of paper ballots and scanning machines in NYS; Arlene Makl, center, talked about the new, less intrusive NYS absentee ballot application; and Estelle Gellman spoke about the 2008 NYS judicial decision that allows second home owners to register and vote at their second home instead of their primary home address. (Photo by Arlene Hinkemeyer)

Glorian Berk, Arlene Makl, Carol Mellor and Mireille Lister at Ellen's Run. Arlene came in second for her age group (first among walkers). (Photo by Peter Lister)
Editor’s Note: We are reprinting this important article from the September issue of The Voter many copies of which were, unfortunately, lost by the post office.

Come and “Observe” Your Local Government In Action

When I first moved to Southampton and began my life as a "volunteer," I actually got a job as a "stringer" for the Independent newspaper. One of my assignments was to cover the Southampton Village Board proceedings and write about them for the paper. I will not say that each meeting was overwhelmingly interesting or that I didn’t sneak out early when I thought I had enough for my article but, boy, did I learn a lot about Southampton Village government. Were people upset about an increase in taxes? Did they want to change the term of office of the trustees? Were they ever going to get rid of that noisy sand pit operation? You name it, particularly if it came to zoning and planning, you learn about it at local government meetings.

And that is the idea behind the LWV Observer Corps. An observer is an individual who attends a governmental meeting, notes what happens at the meeting, and reports back to the League and, occasionally, the community. By attending public meetings of our local governments, observers learn about the issues facing the community and are empowered, through the League, to consider taking action. They also learn how issues are being addressed and how the members of government "address" each other. Are people in office respectful of each other and the public that comes before them? Can the members be heard? Is the agenda being followed? Is the room handicap-accessible?

Our League board has decided that an Observer Corps would serve the League, the towns, and the members who take part, and observers are being recruited from our membership to observe the East Hampton and Southampton Town Board meetings. What is the obligation of an observer?

- to be part of a team of people who will assign themselves meetings to cover. If the teams are large enough, it is possible that you may be an observer only three or four times a year (or you may become so interested you take on more meetings!)
- to take notes at the meeting on an easy-to-use form and turn it in to your team leader.
- to take part in one training session where you will learn, among other things, all you need to know about how to introduce yourself to the Town Board as a League member; that you, in most cases, do not speak at Town Board meetings; and that you are serving as an ambassador of the League.

Observers do not need to be League members, so if you have a friend who would like to join you, that would be great. Naomi Epstein is the team leader for East Hampton (324-3971, naepxyz@aol.com), Judi Roth for Southampton (283-0759, rothhandj@yahoo.com).

The East Hampton Town Board meets on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m.; has a brown bag meeting on the 1st Thursday of the month at 10:00 a.m.; and a work session on the last Saturday of the month at 10 a.m. Southampton has a work session every Thursday at 9:30 a.m. and Town Board meetings on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 1:00 p.m. and the 4th Tuesday of the month at 6:00 p.m.

We do hope you will consider joining in support of this important League function—to keep the sun shining on our local governments and to learn about our towns in the process.

Judi Roth 283-0759
### October 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](http://hamptons.ny.lwvnet.org) for updates. There will be no General Membership, Government, Health, or Membership Committee meetings in October. Please contact Judi Roth for Education Committee information. 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October 5</td>
<td>9:30 AM Tuesday</td>
<td>Natural Resources Committee Meeting</td>
<td>Hampton Library, Bridgehampton. Contact Glorian Berk, 283-2638.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 6</td>
<td>7:00 PM Wednesday</td>
<td>Board of Directors Meeting</td>
<td>Bridgehampton National Bank, Montauk Highway, Bridgehampton. Members and guests welcome.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 13</td>
<td>12:30 PM Wednesday</td>
<td>Voter Services Committee Meeting</td>
<td>Hampton Library, Bridgehampton. Contact Anne Marshall, 537-3257.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 20</td>
<td>10:00 AM Wednesday</td>
<td>LWVSC Board Meeting</td>
<td>Riverhead Library.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 21</td>
<td>7:00 PM Thursday</td>
<td>Congressional Candidate Debate</td>
<td>Hampton Bays High School, 8 Argonne Rd, Hampton Bays.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 25</td>
<td>7:00 PM Monday</td>
<td>State Assembly and Senate Candidates Debate</td>
<td>Rogers Memorial Library, 91 Coopers Farm Rd, Southampton.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 27</td>
<td>noon Wednesday</td>
<td>LWVH Fall Luncheon</td>
<td>The Inn at Quogue. Details to come.</td>
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#### LOOKING AHEAD

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>November 3</td>
<td>7:00 PM Wednesday</td>
<td>Board of Directors Meeting</td>
<td>Bridgehampton National Bank, Montauk Highway, Bridgehampton. Members and guests welcome.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 8</td>
<td>7:00 PM Monday</td>
<td>General Membership Meeting</td>
<td>Documentary film: “The Last Fix: An Addict's Passage from Hell to Hope.” Westhampton Beach Library. Details to come.</td>
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#### TOWN BOARD MEETINGS

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October 7</td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
<td>East Hampton Town Board Meeting</td>
<td>Town Hall Courtroom, 159 Pantigo Rd., East Hampton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 12</td>
<td>1:00 PM</td>
<td>Southampton Town Board Meeting</td>
<td>Town Hall Board Room, Southampton Town Hall, 116 Hampton Rd., Southampton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 21</td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
<td>East Hampton Town Board Meeting</td>
<td>Town Hall Courtroom, 159 Pantigo Rd., East Hampton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 26</td>
<td>6:00 PM</td>
<td>Southampton Town Board Meeting</td>
<td>Town Hall Board Room, Southampton Town Hall, 116 Hampton Rd., Southampton</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Ethics Reform Bill Becomes Law

The Suffolk County Legislature, during the August 4th General Session Meeting, overrode the veto of County Executive Steve Levy to enact a charter law that strengthens the independence of the Ethics Commission. This is accomplished by providing for the appointment of an independent Counsel to the Suffolk County Ethics Commission. Until this legislation was passed, counsel was given by the County Attorney (appointed by the County Executive) and the Department of Law. In his veto, Mr. Levy had objected to the cost such a resolution would impose on taxpayers, as well as to the implication that the Commission had not been acting independently in the past.

Legislator Ricardo Montano (D-Brentwood) sponsored and fine-tuned this legislation with the conviction that the Commission needs to be truly independent and not undermined by even the perception that its decisions could be influenced by political pressure. The Legislature strongly agreed with this, voting 15-2 with 1 abstention, to override the veto and pass the bill.

The Commission has three members, one of whom is appointed by the County Executive, and two by the Legislature. Independent Counsel will now further insulate the Commission, thereby enhancing its credibility. This law will take effect on January 1, 2011, and its costs will be in the annual County Operating Budget.

Under the new charter law, the Suffolk County Ethics Commission will appoint an executive director, independent counsel, and support staff which will be funded by the allotment in the Budget. The responsibilities of the Commission include the review of completed conflict and financial disclosure statements as directed by law, and to receive complaints alleging any violation of pertinent laws. It will prepare an annual written report to be submitted to the County Executive and the County Legislature summarizing its activities and recommending changes in the laws governing the conduct of local elected officials, party officials and local officers.

Ethics reform is an important advocacy issue for The League of Women Voters of New York State, and the Suffolk County LWV is proud of the continued emphasis that all our own Suffolk County appointed and elected officials place on this issue.

Katherine Hoak

Amy Sugimori (La Fuente Executive Director), Judie Gorenstein (LWVSC Voter Service Chair) and LaFuente volunteers

Naturalization Ceremonies and Voter Registration

LWVC has begun helping new citizens register to vote. Adam Gaus, Sondra Irvine, and Judie Gorenstein volunteered with LaFuente Sept. 13 at Federal Courthouse in Central Islip. 134 people from 5 continents and 40 countries were sworn in as citizens by Judge Bianco. They were processed, took the oath, gave the pledge of allegiance and got their citizenship papers. It was a wonderful experience. Although negative voices are raised about immigrants to the US, it was uplifting to see new citizens happy to be able to take the oath. We will return on September 20th, again on October 4th with members of LWV of Nassau County, and on October 18th with LaFuente. If you are interested in assisting later in the year, please contact lisawscott@optonline.net, or call (631) 523-1653.

Judie Gorenstein
2010 Post Election Breakfast

Speakers will be announced in early October

Bellport Country Club
Sunday November 7, 2010

10:30am—1:30pm

The Bellport Country Club is located at 40 South Country Road, Bellport NY
Directions: From LIE, Exit 64 to 112 South. From Sunrise Hwy (Rt. 27) to Rt. 112 South.
Take Rt. 112 South to end, Montauk Hwy (Rt. 27A). Go left (traveling east) for 1 mile. Road forks.
Stay right onto South Country Road for 2 miles. Bellport Country Club is on right (south side).

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 LWVNYSF and mail BEFORE OCTOBER 28
to Marilyn McKeown, 15 Mott Lane, Brookhaven, NY 11719
At Sag Harbor’s annual Harbor Fest, September 11 and 12, six LWVH members volunteered for two-hour shifts, two in each shift. We were there staffing a table from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. I know this is quite a bit of detail, but you have to imagine this scenario: we stopped people as they walked by and asked if they knew about the new voting system or needed assistance. We told them we had colorful informational flyers to help them if needed. Some people walked by and then doubled back for a flyer, some just stopped to take one.

The best part of the day were the people who stopped to talk. Some complained, not about LWVH, but about the system, some were confused why this had to be done, but most stopped to tell us what a wonderful thing we were doing and always do. What a great service we provide to the community!

The chairs we brought never got sat on and the volunteers overlapped since some of us didn't want to leave because it was so much fun and people were so pleasant to us. Three new members who had volunteered had a grand time.

LWVH is a group of wonderful women who understand volunteering, giving to the community and working together as a group. We are also able to make the most of situations, giving out fliers and having fun doing it.

Special thanks to Terri Davgin who worked from 9:00 a.m. to noon; Vicki Umans and Sue Avedon, 12:00 - 2:00; and Estelle Gellman and Mary Blake, 2:00 - 4:00.

Arlene Makl 324-8662

Staffing the LWVH voter registration table on Long Wharf at Sag Harbor Fest on Saturday, September 11 were members Estelle Gellman, left, and Mary Blake. Organized by membership chair Arlene Makl, others who took shifts that day were Sue Avedon, Terri Davgin, Arlene Makl and Vicki Umans. (Photo by Arlene Hinkemeyer)
Welcome New Members

Carol Ryan and Robert Russo
298-5906
Mattituck, NY

Carol Ryan specializes in reverse mortgages in her position with Wells Fargo in Southampton. She met Emoke Forman, LWVH Treasurer, at a business-related event and became so intrigued with Emoke’s recital of League activities that she and her partner, Robert Russo, decided to join us. The bonus for LWVH is that in addition to the talents Carol will contribute, through the Wells Fargo Corporate Affinity program, Carol was eligible to donate a grant of $300 to our organization.

Helen G. Smith
324-1904
East Hampton, NY

In her capacity as a school counselor in the Bridgehampton public schools, Helen has enjoyed bringing selected students to “Running and Winning” for the past two years. Admiration for the way the program encourages young women to enter politics prompted her to join our League. Long-time Springs resident Helen has limited free time, but looks forward to attending as many member meetings as possible.

The League of Women Voters of the Hamptons also welcomes new members Harriet Braithwaite of Sag Harbor and Leola “Sue” Farrell of Westhampton Beach, who could not be interviewed by publication time.

Judy Samuelson 267-3055
The League of Women Voters


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