



THE VOTER

The Newsletter of the League of Women Voters of the Hamptons

Founded in 1977

Volume XXXIV, No. 4

May-June 2011



Third Annual LWWH 'Running and Winning' Program Tackles Timely Issue

"The Ability to Have Tranquility Begins with Civility"

Myra O'Neal, a student at East Hampton High School, gave this cogent response to the challenging question, "If you were running for public office, what would you do to promote civility in public discourse, on social networking sites and in traditional media?" Ms. O'Neal was her team's campaign candidate in the League's "Running and Winning" program. The 34 students who attended were challenged by that question on April 13 at the Southampton Cultural Center.

Eight teams of four or five juniors and seniors from East Hampton, Pierson, Hampton Bays, Southampton, and Bridgehampton High Schools as well as the Ross School worked on this issue for an hour and a half, aided by League facilitators and some of the local elected officials, who stayed on to admire how well the girls worked together.

The responses, presented in two-minute speeches, with a graphic story board representing the team's theme, were very diverse. One team's candidate was running for the Presidency of Egypt using the "4G's" of Freedom – religion, tolerance, speech, democracy – and promised "the best network"! Another said that "Facebook is the bane of teenage life" and said that civility begins at home. Tara Watson from Southampton, a dynamic speaker, represented her team, who had divid-

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ABOVE Each group of students took to the Southampton Cultural Center stage to present its campaign. Here, Table 7 with candidate Vanessa Alvarez of Hampton Bays High School at podium, presented its platform for Town Supervisor, with the slogan "Help Me Help You." Photo by Arlene Hinkemeyer.

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League of Women Voters of the Hamptons Annual Meeting

Featured Speaker:

Carol E. Kessler, Ph.D.
Chair, Non-Proliferation & National Security Department
Brookhaven National Lab,
Upton NY

Saturday, May 7

2-5 PM

Southampton Cultural Center
Pond Lane, Southampton

Kindly RSVP
324-4637

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 (January/February, March, April, May/June, July/August, September, October, and November/December) by the League of Women Voters of the Hamptons, P. O. Box 2253, East Hampton, NY 11937.

The Voter Team: Managing Editor: Judy Samuelson; Design & Production: Sally James; Advertising Head: Joy Cordery; Proofreaders: Judi Roth, Joy Cordery; Reviewer: Ann Sandford

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President's Message

Fun is good.

- Dr. Seuss

This is my last President's Message. The last four years have been absolutely wonderful, and I thank the League for the opportunity to lead this great organization. Being president has given me the chance to develop skills I did not know I had, meet people I would never have met, travel to places I had never been and, above all, have oodles of fun.

I know I have shared with you in the past the reasons why I think the League is such an important organization, but bear with me this one last time.

There are many civic organizations which promote the betterment of government, the preservation of the environment, the protection of the weak and downtrodden, and the fortification of our rights, but there are few which work on all of those issues. The League does, and though some would criticize the scope of the issues we seek to address, I believe the diversity of our interests is one of the great strengths of our organization. It allows us to tackle so many of the great concerns of our lives, and to change our focus as the world around us changes.

Others criticize the League because it is slow to adopt, or change positions, which leaves us unable to respond quickly to situations. It is true that the process of study which precedes the adoption of a League position is long and time consuming, but how else would we make reasoned and informed decisions on the issues which confront us? We garner strength from the knowledge gained during the study process, and develop positions which are practical and defensible.

Moreover, it is the study process which allows us to implement a most important and, for me, most cherished, characteristic of the League — management by the members. The ability of the members to guide the course of our endeavors, through adoption of positions which mold our goals and program which molds our actions is what makes us unique and exceptional. We are not told what to do by the powers that be, we are the power which runs the organization and controls its direction.

Another criticism is the continued inclusion of "Women" in our name. Every convention I have attended has addressed the suggestion that we omit this word, or change it in some manner to indicate our inclusiveness. No one respects, appreciates or recognizes the contributions of our male membership more than I. Many of the projects we have attempted over the last several years would not have been possible or as successful without them! And yet to remove the "Women" from our title would, I think, deny our history and thereby weaken our message. We were born from the efforts of women to give themselves and their descendants equal rights under the law, and we continue to pay particular attention to the interests of women, while understanding that those interests coincide with the interests of all.

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League Actions and Voter Rights

As we blissfully glide into the very welcome warmer seasons, we might not be as vigilant about something as basic as our voting rights. However, the League of Women Voters (LWV) continues to focus on this linchpin concept through a variety of efforts. This column reminds us about two of those efforts as well as pointing out some existing rights of which some voters may not be aware.

LWVUS: Public Advocacy for Voter Protection Project

The League of Women Voters Education Fund (LWVEF) Public Advocacy for Voter Protection Project was created to help to bolster its capacity for continuing and expanding its critical state-based advocacy to prevent the disenfranchisement of eligible citizens, particularly underserved populations.

In 2002, in the wake of the tumultuous 2000 election, Congress passed the Help America Vote Act (“HAVA”) to modernize the nation’s election processes and to help ensure that eligible voters are no longer deprived of the franchise due to administrative errors.

Unfortunately, in many states, politicians seized on this opportunity as a means of disenfranchising targeted voters through changes in election laws. These new measures have the potential of disenfranchising more Americans than any Election Day problems we have seen in the past.

In an effort to fight back, the League of Women Voters is focusing on five specific issues:

- Oppose ID and documentary proof of citizenship
- Improve administration of statewide database systems
- Guard against undue restrictions on voter registration
- Improve polling place management
- Improve poll worker training and strengthening poll workers

The Campaign for Fair and Independent Redistricting

The following is part of an April 6, 2011 news release from ReShapeNY, of which LWVNY is a part.

“ReShapeNY, a campaign to achieve redistricting reform organized by Citizens Union and other good government groups, New York Public Interest Research Group and League of Women Voters New York State,

released a detailed legal memo from a distinguished law firm showing that, despite claims to the contrary, the current redistricting reform bills, including Governor Cuomo’s, are constitutional. ReShapeNY also revealed record majority support from both Democrats and Republicans for action on redistricting reform within the Assembly.

“With the unprecedented and growing support for redistricting reform from both parties in the Assembly and the endorsement of the distinguished international law firm Weil, Gotshal and Manges that the Cuomo bill is constitutional, it is clear that redistricting reform should move forward,” said Dick Dadey, Executive Director of Citizens Union. “The Assembly has indicated its strong support for action in ending partisan gerrymandering, and with the legal hurdles removed, the Senate should also act to end the political manipulation of drawing district boundaries and instead implement a fair and impartial process in time for the 2012 elections.”

New York State Voter’s Bill Of Rights

As a registered voter in New York State, among a longer list, you have the right to:

- Secrecy In Voting: Secrecy in voting will be preserved for all elections.
- Permanent Registration: Once registered to vote, you continue to remain qualified to vote from an address within your county or city.
- Affidavit Voting: Whenever your name does not appear in the poll ledger or the voter registration or enrollment list, or you do not provide identification when required, you will be offered an affidavit ballot.

Casting A Vote On Paper Ballot?

Review your ballot to be sure you have cast your votes as you intended. Be sure to vote for the number of candidates permitted, for each office on the ballot. If you make a mistake on your ballot, return it to the inspectors and you will be given another.

What To Do If There’s A Problem

Federal and state laws prohibit acts of fraud and misrepresentation on voting. If you encounter problems in voting, contact your local county board of the State Board of Elections:

Suffolk County Board of Elections: 631-852-4500

New York State Board of Elections: 1-518-474-6221

Anne Marshall, Committee Chair

Events

Consensus Studies Invite Participants

At the June 2010 convention of the LWV of the United States, Leagues across the U.S. voted for two consensus studies to be undertaken in 2011-2012: the government's role in public education and privatization.

Federal Government's Role in Public Education

The study will include an overview of the history of the federal role in public education (pre-K through Grade 12), focus on the components of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, and address issues of equity, funding, educational standards and assessments (testing).

In May the LWVUS Board will post the background information, leaders guide and consensus questions on the www.lwv.org website. Local Leagues will have from May through November to conduct their study and take consensus. The Hamptons League is now looking for members who would be interested in serving on this important study committee. Please contact Arlene Hinkemeyer if you are interested by calling 324-6713 or e-mailing to ahinkemeyer@optonline.net. She will pass on the names to the eventual committee chairs.

Second Study To Address Privatization

According to the LWVUS, the scope of this study is to identify the parameters and policy issues regarding proposals to transfer federal, state or local government services, assets or functions to the private sector.

The resource materials and consensus questions for this study will not be available until late fall 2011. Local Leagues will have from late fall until early spring 2012 to complete their study and take consensus. The Hamptons League will seek committee members for this study at a later time.

Arlene Hinkemeyer, Publicity Chair

President's Message

Continued from page 2

It must be clear by now that I truly love the League, and I have loved being President of this local. I leave this position knowing that it is in exceptionally capable hands, and have every confidence that the future of this local is vibrant and bright. We will continue to do good work and, hopefully, will continue to have fun doing so.

Carol Mellor

Running and Winning

Continued from page 1

ed themselves into divisions by task and country. Their slogan was "People hear – we want people to listen." People were directed to the whatson.com website.

Elected Women Officials Continue To Impress

Here are a few common threads in their remarks:

- Running for election in your hometown is a great advantage.
- Losing helps you win the next time.
- When I see my name on the parking spot when I pull in at Town Hall, I think of the people who sent me here. I value doing constituent services and I know how to use the system to get things done.
- I'm going to grow up and go into politics but I'm not in politics – I'm in public service!
- Boys are born thinking they can be president. Girls have to be asked even to run for office.
- Educate yourselves all the time and promote yourselves.

Relatively Few Women In Suffolk Public Office

Judi Roth, Chair of the Education Committee, opened the session with remarks from Karl Grossman's article in the *Southampton Press* about the very small number of women in public office in our County.

Southampton Supervisor Anna Throne-Holst had attended a meeting in Nassau sponsored by the American Women's Bar Association and the Leagues of Nassau and Suffolk to address this very issue. She recounted how at one point, 400 women in attendance were addressed by four male party chairmen!

Judge Barbara Wilson (Southampton) talked about an early experience as a lawyer when she was invited to join a group in the judge's chambers – and when she got there was asked where her steno pad was! Throughout the women's comments were exhortations to the girls to "be involved in what's going on around you and to know that it feels good to affect people's lives."

Judge Andrea Schiavoni Keynote Speaker

Her remarks, titled "Stretch Before Exercising Your First Amendment Rights" gave a historical perspective on how free and civil speech has been used to affect change in policies. She summed up by saying:

- We should listen to and respect all views
- Decide whether our opinion matters and if we decide that it does, how do we go about affecting change?

Recent Events



Above: At program's end, the nearly 40 students from six local high schools gathered on stage for a group photo. Photo by Bob Wilson, *Southampton Press*; caption by Arlene Hinkemeyer

Below right: Each table of students, taking the role of candidate, campaign manager, speechwriter, communications director or fundraiser, worked on its mock campaign on the topic, "If you were running for office, what would you do to promote civility in public discourse, on social networking sites and in the media?" Photo and caption by Arlene Hinkemeyer

✦ What you say about important issues forms the base of whether others will find you a credible source of information.

In a future issue of *The Voter* I'd like to share some of the program evaluation comments. For now, many thanks to all of the Running and Winning Team and to Claudia Pilato of Bridgehampton Bank, for providing the lion's share of program funding.

Our thanks to the elected officials who attended:

Deborah Kooperstein, Town Justice, Southampton
Andrea Schiavoni, Town Justice, Southampton
Theresa Kiernan, Receiver of Taxes, Southampton
Lisa Rana, Town Justice, East Hampton
Nancy McGann, Village Trustee, Southampton Village
Barbara Wilson, Town Justice, Southampton
Nancy Graboski, Town Council, Southampton
Bridget Fleming, Town Council, Southampton
Diane McNally, Town Trustee, East Hampton
Anna Throne-Holst, Supervisor, Southampton
Joy Seiger, Trustee, Village of Sagaponack
Lee Foster, Deputy Mayor, Village of Sagaponack
Sundy Schermeyer, Town Clerk, Southampton
Bonnie Cannon, Village Trustee, Southampton Village

Judi Roth, Committee Chair



LWVH Board Meeting Summary

Held April 6, 2011

INFORMATION ITEMS

- Carol Mellor acknowledged a generous contribution to the Running and Winning program from Joanne Samborn in memory of her parents.
- As part of our responsibility to elicit the views of elected officials on League positions, Carol and Glorian Berk, along with members of the Brookhaven and Smithtown leagues, met with U.S Representative Tim Bishop.
- LWVH Membership Meeting on Government Planning and Zoning, April 11, 7 p.m., at the Hampton Library. Judi Roth reported that the panel will have four speakers. Anne Marshall and Carol will provide refreshments.
- Suffolk County League's Annual Meeting will be May 17, 9:30 a.m. County Board Member Sue Wilson announced that it will be held at Suffolk Community College's Culinary Arts and Hospitality Center in Riverhead. Tim Bishop will be the speaker. Lunch is included.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- Annual Meeting, Southampton Cultural Center, May 7, 2 p.m. Carol reviewed the agenda for the meeting and the pre-meeting items that will go to members, mainly via Constant Contact.
 1. Speaker: Carol was delighted to report that Carol Kessler, from Brookhaven National Laboratory, will speak. Her topics will be nuclear energy, the laboratory's responsibilities, and non-proliferation and nuclear safety issues.
 2. Prioritizing proposals from the March planning meeting, the Board agreed on the following, to be addressed through study, lobbying or public discussion:
 - ◆ support consolidating services by our town government agencies
 - ◆ encourage sharing of services across school districts
 - ◆ monitor and ensure retention of services for women and children in the Hamptons and take action as appropriate
 - ◆ attempt to facilitate communications among our elected officials.
 - ◆ the board decided that Mireille's proposal that our league work on campaign finance reform at the national level should be modified to a commitment by LWVH to monitor the topic and be ready to lobby for our position. The call to work on NYS ethics reform was not seen as the best use of league members' time. Public transportation was dropped. Work on natural resource issues was seen as an ongoing activity.

3. Proposed budget, 2011-12: Carol distributed the budget, which was accepted with suggestions for additional commentary.
4. Nominating Report was reviewed and editorial corrections made.
5. Proposed bylaws amendments were accepted by the board.
6. Judy Samuelson is organizing refreshments, which the Board provides.
7. Carol reviewed all other task assignments.

- NYS Convention, May 20-22: LWVH can have five delegates. Four are committed: Mary Blake, Arlene Hinkemeyer, Sue Wilson and Terri Levin Davgin. For the Hamptons Basket to be auctioned, donors need to drop items off to Carol by May 10.

- Vote 411: Anne announced that the national league has asked local leagues to contribute funds to 411.org. National expects \$400 from LWVH fundraising. The board discussed the possibility that the website could replace the voter guides. It would save funds now used for the guides. Anne will investigate.
- Ads for *The Voter*: Joy Cordery will distribute her packets at the May board meeting.
- National Education Consensus: Carol proposed that work on this topic would be a good way to involve members. Arlene Hinkemeyer volunteered to write an article for *The Voter* and include a call for volunteers to study the topic. The conclusion of the consensus process will be in November.
- Immigration Voter Registration: Carol asked for volunteers to attend the May 2 naturalization ceremony at the Islip courthouse and distribute registration forms to the new citizens.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Special Events: Sue Wilson's committee will have a 50/50 raffle at the annual meeting.
- Natural Resources: Glorian reported that the panel for the June meeting at the Hampton Library is nearly complete.
- Observer Corps: Judi said she will schedule a board discussion to evaluate commitment to the project.
- Education: Judi reported that Running and Winning will take place April 13 at the Southampton Cultural Center. About 41 girls from Southampton, Bridgehampton, Hampton Bays, the Ross School, Pierson, and East Hampton, as well as 13 elected officials, will attend. The topic is "how to promote civil dis-

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Zoning & Planning Board Meeting Draws Interested Audience

Can a panel of Zoning and Planning Board members make for an interesting and informative presentation? It certainly can! The April 11 membership meeting was very well attended by LWVH members and the general public. The panelists were so dynamic that the microphone flew from hand to hand in their eagerness to participate and to contribute more detailed information.

Southampton Board Serves Four Years; East Hampton Seven

Southampton Planning Board member Jacqui Lafaro's overview was a sort of "Board duties and responsibilities 101." Seven individuals are appointed by the Town Board and serve four-year terms, supported by the Planning Department and professional planners to provide technical assistance. All are required to follow a "Code of Ethics" plus have considerable training in state and local law.

The board meets once a week and holds public meetings twice a month. Their responsibilities include land subdivisions, site plan review (mostly for commercial development and includes traffic impact, lighting, landscaping, etc.) and special use permits (in areas where commercial and residential usage would overlap). Bob Schaeffer, Vice Chairman of the East Hampton Planning Board, said East Hampton also has seven members but they serve for seven years. Each Board member

has his or her own geographical territory for which they are responsible. Mr. Schaeffer believes that the Planning Board is a steward of land use, cultural and natural resources. Of East Hampton's 39,000 acres, 16,000 or 42% are residential; another 42% are recreational; 2,000 acres or 4% are commercial, industrial or institutional and another 4% are agricultural. Vacant land accounts for the rest.

Each town's Comprehensive Plan serves as a blueprint for growth. The Plans (East Hampton's redone in 2005 and Southampton's last done in 1999) are guiding documents. However, nothing in them gets done until items are enacted into law and get into the Town Code. In other words, if no action is taken on a part of the plan, it can just go away.

The Zoning Board of Appeals

Board members Adam Grossman of Southampton and Brendan Skislock of Sag Harbor Village told their stories. Southampton's board has seven members, Sag Harbor's five. Both stressed that all meetings must be completely open and recorded because the Zoning Board is often sued and the minutes of the meetings become official court documents.

The Boards deal with variances – where property owners request changes to what currently exists. Such things as height of a home, set-backs, use of the property, etc. are the kind of nitty-gritty they deal with. If someone requests a variance, notice is sent to the adjacent property owners so they have an opportunity to know what is going on.

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The April 11 LWVH meeting on "The Role of East End Zoning and Planning Boards in Land Use Decisions" featured, left to right: Brendan Skislock, member, Sag Harbor Village Board of Zoning Appeals; Adam Grossman, vice chair, Southampton Town Zoning Board of Appeals; Bob Schaeffer, vice chair, East Hampton Town Planning Board; Jacqui Lofaro, member/former chair, Southampton Town Planning Board; and LWVH emcee, Judi Roth. Photo/caption by Arlene Hinkemeyer:





Suffolk County Voter

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

Tuesday May 17 LWVSC Annual Convention, SCCC, 20 E.Main St., Riverhead 9:00am - 2:00pm

May 2011

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We are honored that Rep. Tim Bishop (1st CD, NY) will be our keynote speaker. He is Ranking Member of the House Subcommittee on Water Resources and the Environment in the 112th Congress.

Natural Treasures, Imperiled Resources: Understanding the Challenges to our Water and our Environment in Suffolk County

League of Women Voters of Suffolk County 43rd Annual Convention

Tuesday, May 17, 2011

9am-2pm

Suffolk County Community College
Culinary Arts and Hospitality Center
20 E. Main Street
Riverhead, NY

(There is free parking behind the buildings on both the north and south sides of Main Street in Riverhead)

Agenda includes:

- Registration and Continental Breakfast
- Welcome
- Keynote Address
- LWV of Suffolk County Updates
- Local League Updates
- League Awards
- Annual LWVSC Business Meeting
- Luncheon

Cost: \$35 (must be paid in advance— no walk-ins accepted)

Please make checks payable to LWVSC and mail to:

Marilyn McKeown, 15 Mott Lane, Brookhaven NY 11719
631 286-1169 mhmckeown@verizon.net

Reservations must be made before May 8

May-June 2011

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 www.lwvhamptons.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 last inside page of The Voter and on the website, www.lwvhamptons.org.

May 3 - 10:00 AM Tuesday	Natural Resources Committee Meeting	Hampton Library, Bridgehampton. Contact Glorian Berk, 283-2638.
May 4 - 7:00 PM Wednesday	Board of Directors Meeting	Bridgehampton National Bank, Montauk Highway, Bridgehampton. Members and guests welcome.
May 7 - 2:00-5:00 PM Saturday	LWVH Annual Meeting	Southampton Cultural Center, Pond Lane
May 16 - 1:00 PM Monday	Education Committee Meeting	Cooper Hall, Rogers Memorial Library, Southampton
May 17 - 9:30 AM Tuesday	LWVSC Annual Convention	Suffolk Community College's Culinary Arts and Hospitality Center, Riverhead
May 20 - 22	LWVNY Bi-Annual Convention	Albany NY
June 1 - 7:00 PM Wednesday	Board of Directors Meeting	Bridgehampton National Bank, Montauk Highway, Bridgehampton. Members and guests welcome.
June 7 - 10:00 AM Tuesday	Natural Resources Committee Meeting	Hampton Library, Bridgehampton. Contact Glorian Berk, 283-2638.
June 13 - 7:00 PM Monday	General Membership Meeting	"Pocket The Money & Save The Planet" Hampton Library, Bridgehampton. Contact Glorian Berk, 283-2638.
LOOKING AHEAD		
July 11 - 7:00 PM Monday	General Membership Meeting	Forum on Accessable Apartments. Hampton Library, Bridgehampton. Contact Barbara Jordan 324-6144.
TOWN BOARD MEETINGS		
May 3, 10 - 10:00 AM	East Hampton Town Board Work Session	Town Hall Courtroom, 159 Pantigo Rd., East Hampton
May 5, 19 - 7:00 PM	East Hampton Town Board Meeting	Town Hall Courtroom, 159 Pantigo Rd., East Hampton
May 6, 13, 20, 27 - 12:30 PM	Southampton Town Board Work Session	Town Hall Board Room, Southampton Town Hall, 116 Hampton Rd., Southampton
May 10 - 1:00 PM	Southampton Town Board Meeting	Town Hall Board Room, Southampton Town Hall, 116 Hampton Rd., Southampton
May 24 - 7:00 PM	Southampton Town Board Meeting	Town Hall Board Room, Southampton Town Hall, 116 Hampton Rd., Southampton
June 3, 10, 17, 24 - 12:30 PM	Southampton Town Board Work Session	Town Hall Board Room, Southampton Town Hall, 116 Hampton Rd., Southampton
June 14 - 1:00 PM	Southampton Town Board Meeting	Town Hall Board Room, Southampton Town Hall, 116 Hampton Rd., Southampton
June 28 - 7:00 PM	Southampton Town Board Meeting	Town Hall Board Room, Southampton Town Hall, 116 Hampton Rd., Southampton

Natural Resources & Membership Committee Reports

Pocket The Money, Save The Planet

On June 13, the LWVH monthly meeting will be hosted by the Natural Resources Committee. The meeting's theme is 'Pocket the Money and Save the Planet.' We have put together an informal evening that's certain to show you how to make changes to your home and offers you the tools to help. You will learn how to save energy and money and at the same time, reduce your impact on the planet.

While still a work in progress, the panel is scheduled to include Rosemary Olsen from New York State Energy Research & Development Authority (NYSERDA); Eric Woodward, a Southampton architect who recently renovated an old house in a new, green way; and a representative from LIPA. (NYSERDA offers rebates, loans and approved lists of contractors for energy efficiency retrofits.) There will also be information regarding rebates and/or low interest loans from local municipalities, descriptions of the local dark skies legislation, samples of dark sky compliant spotlight shields and websites where you can purchase these fixtures.

So, while Earth Day will have passed, please join us on June 13 at 7 p.m. at the Hampton Library in Bridgehampton to learn how you can make a difference.

Glorian Berk, Committee Chair

Planning and Zoning Program

Continued from page 7

Mr. Grossman and Mr. Skislock said they must manage conflicting issues of private property owners and the community. They try to be careful to "not open the barn door" with their rulings. They also realize that they are in unpopular but important positions of community trust.

During the question and answer period, the panel was asked about "pre-existing, non-conforming conditions." These are sites and usages that existed before Town Codes took effect in 1957. Suppose, for example, that an automotive repair shop had existed on a site in 1956, closed, was still in the same hands or sold and then a housing sub-division opened up all around it. If the owner of the repair shop site now wanted to re-open an automotive repair shop in the middle of the housing sub-division, this could be done because the repair shop is a "pre-existing, non-conforming use." Such are the challenges of being a member of a Town Planning or Zoning Board!

Mireille Lister and Judi Roth, Event Coordinators

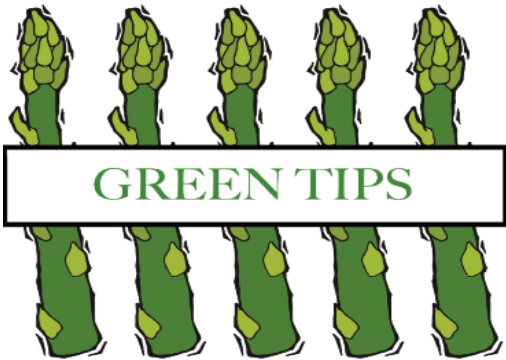
Reenergized Membership Committee Ready To Go

This year's goals are similar to last year's, visibility, talking up membership, being everywhere and sharing experiences of our organization. I am glad to tell you the membership committee has increased due to our notice in last month's *Voter* and some calls that were made.

The Membership Committee provides a presence at general meetings, debates and community and special events. We're also responsible for recruiting new members, and spreading the word about what the League stands for.

We will meet in May and start a reorganization. It is a very exciting time for us. If you want to participate, please e-mail Arlene Makl (membership@lwvhamp-tons.org). We welcome all.

Arlene Makl, Committee Chair



GREEN TIPS

As the weather warms, consider buying your fruits and vegetables from local farm stands, especially if the produce is organic.

To avoid pesticide residue, consider buying the following organic produce:

Apples, bell peppers, celery, cherries, imported grapes, nectarines, peaches, pears, potatoes, raspberries, spinach and strawberries.

Green Tips are provided in each issue of *The Voter* by Glorian Berk, Chair Natural Resources Committee

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LWVH Board Meeting Summary

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course if you are running for office.” The speaker is Judge Andrea Schiavoni.

✦ **Health:** Judy Samuelson noted that her group is evaluating topics to pursue, including the possibility of the two towns achieving economies of scale and purchasing power by buying employee health insurance together.

✦ **Government:** Carol for Naomi Epstein reported that the committee is continuing to speak on the Town Manager topic at CACs.

✦ **Publicity:** Arlene reviewed an array of publicity topics.

✦ **Website:** Judy noted that the week of March 6 was the busiest ever. She invited more content for the “News” column.

✦ **The Voter:** Sally asked for submissions for the May-June issue by April 15.

✦ **Hot Topic Luncheon:** Terri reported that the next event will be on April 28 at the American Hotel (to be confirmed) with a speaker from the Long House Reserve.

The board welcomed Joy Lupoletti back, reflecting on her

many years of dedicated service to the LWVH. Joy thanked everyone on the board for their support and for making the work of the league an outstandingly productive and useful experience for all. She then announced her retirement from the board.

Next Board Meeting:

May 4 - 7 PM - Bridgehampton Bank

Submitted by Ann Sandford

Edited by Judy Samuelson

Ann Sandford Steps Down From Board With Fond Words For All

Ann noted, “Since I’ll be away during May, this is my last meeting as a board member. I would like to thank everyone for letting me do my small part to help among this group of such cooperative, supportive, talented, and can-do spirited women. It’s been a terrific eight years. Thanks so much.”

The Voter

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