Post-Election Brunch Well-Attended

The League’s busy fall calendar included the LWV Suffolk County Post Election Brunch was held on November 13 at Bellport Country Club. Speaking on "Election Insights" at the brunch was Newsday political columnist Rick Brand. For more Event coverage, see pages 5 and 17. Photo by Arlene Hinkemeyer.

Town Supervisors To Speak at LWVH January Member’s Meeting

by Co-Presidents Glorian Berk and Judi Roth

As has become our tradition, LWVH will host the newly-elected Supervisors, Anna Throne-Holst in Southampton and Bill Wilkinson in East Hampton, at our January members’ meeting. Actually, in both towns, the current supervisors were re-elected; Ms. Throne-Holst ran unopposed on the ballot but Linda Kabot, the former supervisor, launched a write in campaign and received almost one-third of all votes cast. In East Hampton, Mr. Wilkinson, who ran against Zach Cohen, won by only 15 votes. Such circumstances demonstrate once again how every vote counts.

The newly re-elected supervisors will have approximately one half-hour each to talk about their recent accomplishments and to identify plans for their new terms. We hope to question them about areas in which they feel the two towns might be able to consolidate services and also to compare and contrast where there are differences between the two governments. Then, they’ll take questions from the audience.

We hope you’ll join us at the meeting on Monday, January 9, 2012 at 7 p.m. at the Hampton Library in Bridgehampton. Refreshments will be served before the meeting.

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Hear and Ask Questions of the ‘New’ Town Supervisors at the

LWVH GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

January 9, 2012 - 7 PM

Hampton Library, Bridgehampton

Refreshments Will Be Served

and Beat the Winter Blues at our

ANNUAL “WINTER BLAHS” LUNCHEON

February 15, Time TBD

Bobby Van’s, Bridgehampton
President’s Message

by Glorian Berk, LWVH Co-President

As a new year begins, it’s customary to look back and look forward. This has been a very active and successful year for the League of Women Voters of the Hamptons. We elected a new Board and Judi Roth and I became Co-Presidents. Below are some of our highlights:

Our Voter Services Committee sponsored three debates (Southampton Village in June, Towns of Southampton and East Hampton in October) and along with the County League, a debate between County Executive candidates in November. We also formalized our rules for sponsoring a debate and used www.vote411.org for the first time to provide the East End’s voters with information on where to vote, the candidates running, and their positions on various issues.

Our Member Meetings focused on interesting topics which brought in a wide audience, many of whom were not League members.

- Corporate Contributions & Redistricting (January)
- LWVH Program Planning (March)
- Pocket the Money and Save the Planet (June)
- Accessory Apartments (July)
- Shinnecock Nation: Past and Present (September)
- The Retreat (November)

Our Annual Meeting in May featured a very interesting guest speaker in Carol Kessler, Chair, Non Proliferation & National Security Department of Brookhaven National Labs (BNL). Carol spoke about nuclear energy and its safety. She offered a tour of BNL, which will take place in 2012.

Four of us (Mary Blake, Terri Levin-Davgin, Arlene Hinkemeyer and Susan Wilson) went to the State convention where we sponsored two workshops: Public Relations (Arlene Hinkemeyer) and Running & Winning (Mary Blake and Terri Levin-Davgin). And, we won three awards:

- Citizen Engagement – Government Committee (Town Manager forum & advocacy)
- Visibility – LWVH publicity
- Youth Program – Running & Winning

We reached out to the community in many ways to enhance LWVH presence in the community and provide information on registration and voting. We participated in the Westhampton Beach flea market, Ellen’s Run, East End Community Picnic and went to Islip to the US District Court naturalization ceremonies to provide voter registration information to new citizens. We had a successful fall luncheon/fundraiser and two Hot Topics lunches, one with Rodney Yee (a highly respected yoga instructor) and one with Matko Tomicic (Executive Director of Long House).

Continued on page 19
Natural Resources Committee Works with Like-Minded Groups
by Susan Wilson

In late October, several members of the Natural Resources Committee attended Southampton Town’s public meeting to unveil the town’s new Waterfront Protection Program. Currently in the initial stages of development, the Waterfront Protection Program will improve management of the Town’s coastal environment and economy, and address a wide range of important topics including flooding, erosion, and sea level rise; public access and recreation; water dependent uses and harbor management; water quality; fish, shellfish and wildlife habitats; land use; and scenic, historic and cultural resources. The project is funded, in part, by NYS Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP). When complete, it may be submitted for approval by the NY Department of State (DOS). Approval will assure that state and federal actions help the town reach the goals it sets for its waterfronts. For more information: www.waterfrontprotection-southampton.org

Another opportunity to collaborate came November 5, when the Natural Resources Committee attended a forum titled “No Time or Water to Waste” co-sponsored by the Suffolk County League in Cold Spring Harbor. The educational forum focused on the need to form a Long Island Water Authority and drew representatives of environmental groups from Nassau and Suffolk Counties.

Water, Water Everywhere … But Will It Be Safe To Drink?
by Mireille Lister

Suffolk County has long recognized the importance of managing and protecting its water resources and has developed and implemented drinking water and groundwater management regulations and programs. These measures are of utmost importance in Suffolk County, since residents rely solely on groundwater for a drinking water supply.

Monitoring the quality of drinking water is the responsibility of Suffolk County’s Department of Health Services, Division of Environmental Quality. The Division is comprised of five offices: Water Resources, Pollution Control, Wastewater Management, Ecology, and the Public and Environmental Health Laboratory. It is empowered by the Federal EPA and the New York State-Suffolk County sanitary code. (For more, visit www.suffolkcountyny.gov/Departments/HealthServices.)

The Bureau of Groundwater Resources protects public water supply quality by inspecting wells and treatment facilities, providing technical assistance to public water suppliers and sampling for a wide range of contaminants. In areas without public water where new subdivisions are proposed, comprehensive water quality testing is conducted. The wells of existing homes are also monitored whenever significant water quality problems arise.

It is difficult to separate an overview of drinking water contamination from seepage due to groundwater contamination. Agricultural areas are particularly susceptible due to chemicals used. Town and Villages have adopted water conservation quality controls. In 1987, eight pesticides were detected in Suffolk County drinking water. By 2005, the number had risen to eighty. Environmental organizations including Citizens Campaign for the Environment, Peconic Bay Keeper, the Pine Barrens Society and The Group for the East End, have called for Suffolk to address the issue. They advocate:

• Land protection against over-development
• Regulation of agricultural practices
• Upgrading of septic systems
• Storm management programs

Responsibility Shifts to Politicians

A bill recently passed by the Suffolk County Legislature states that the County Department of Health must receive legislative approval prior to changing the rules of the New Comprehensive Water Resources Management Plan. The Department of Health is a non-political entity; its employees have professional expertise in the field. The Legislature is a political body. So the bill gives politicians, who do not necessarily have the same expertise and who could be influenced by other considerations, a greater say in protecting our drinking supply.


The Natural Resources Committee supports the concept that living in an ideal setting such as the East End is both a gift and a responsibility we cannot ignore. Collaborating with other environment advocacy groups, we hope to protect this most important natural resource.

Continued on page 18
Julia Kayser Receives 2011 Voter Services Award
By Anne Marshall

Presenting the 2011 Hamptons Voter Services Award to committee stalwart Julia Kayser, Anne Marshall said, “She has contributed so much to the central efforts for which our organization stands. Julia arranged for us to make multiple presentations to educate community groups as soon as the new voting machines arrived. She helps at all debates, regardless of which Town or Village, often serving as house manager. Just as a theatrical stage manager makes things hum, Julia knows the minutiae necessary to a smoothly run event. She distributes League literature and debate materials and runs (literally) the gamut from providing water to reminding audience members they can submit questions. I dare say she has distributed more absentee ballot applications than any other Hamptons member this season—and this is typical of her boundless energy and commitment. As a member of our Voter Services Committee before I arrived on the scene, she has given me insight into some of the political ways and personalities of the Hamptons. “

Who Is ALEC…And Why Does “He” Want Tighter Voter ID Requirements?
by Mireille Lister

The American Legislative Exchange Council ( “ALEC”) is the lobbying organization responsible for influencing state legislatures to require voters to produce photo IDs at the polls. Its intent is to make it more difficult for some American citizens to exercise their right to vote. The stringency of such state laws affects mostly minorities: African Americans, immigrants, the old, the poor and even college students, many of whom lack driver licenses or government issued picture IDs. Many cannot afford to acquire such legal papers and fees.

At present count, 14 states, including South Carolina, Florida, Rhode Island and Tennessee, already have such rules on their books. According to the Brennan Law Center, 11%, or up to 21 million voters, could be disenfranchised. Elizabeth MacNamara, Chair of the LWVUS Education Fund, has asked for financial contributions to educate those individuals so threatened. The League has also joined with other organizations in requesting that Attorney General Eric Holder rule on whether those laws are legal.

We, as a local league, can help in various ways. Individuals can send tax deductible donations to the LWV Educational Fund, write to our representatives and leaders in Congress, educate our own circle of influence and use social network media to spread the word. “Get Out the Vote” is our 2012 theme and Voting Access is the theme for our March 12 members meeting. Let us act!

For more information, visit www.lwvus.org.

Local Town Elections Committee’s Main Focus As 2011 Ends
by Anne Marshall

The Voter Services committee members’ activity during the past several months focused heavily on local town elections. Here is a summary of those activities, as noted in our annual report to LWVSC and LWVNY.

VOTER REGISTRATION
• Distribution of voter registration forms, this year, primarily absentee ballot applications, at all League meetings.

CANDIDATES DEBATES
• June 2: among candidates for Southampton Village Trustees.
• October 13: among candidates for Suffolk County Legislature, 2nd Legislative District and Southampton Town Council.
• October 17: among candidates for Suffolk County Legislature, 2nd Legislative District, East Hampton Town Supervisor and East Hampton Town Council.

Continued on page 18
The Retreat: Focus of November Membership Meeting
by Mary Blake

“No one should have to lose something as beautiful and as meaningful as her smile.”

These poignant words of a victim of domestic violence resonated through the room on November 14 as LWVH members and guests attended a lively presentation about The Retreat titled “Breaking the Silence: What Everyone Needs to Know About Dating and Domestic Violence in Our Community.” The Retreat is the only full-service provider in the area to offer shelter and support for victims and their families.

The Retreat leadership, including Minerva Perez, Shelter Director; Helen Atkinson-Barnes, Educator; Cristina Banados, Director of Legal Advocacy; and Thalia Olaya, Teen Leader and winner of the 2010 LWVH Betty Desch Award, offered an informative and eye-opening presentation that included statistical data supported by compelling videos illustrating their work and the breadth and depth of the battered person’s experience.

Worsening Economy Contributes To Increased Calls

Did you know that in 2010, The Retreat responded to 2,355 calls for domestic crisis intervention, supplied beds for 150 persons in need of shelter, counseled 337 victims, advocated for and legally represented 102 clients in court, and reached out to the schools, touching the hearts of 1,438 students?

Last year, there was a 54% increase in calls for help from victims representing every age, geographic, cultural, ethnic, and economic strata, and from every township on the East End. How fortunate they are there. Working in concert with local police precincts, The Retreat team gets involved; frequently after the initial call to 911. Tom Fabiano, Police Chief of Sag Harbor, praised the work of The Retreat in supporting police efforts in domestic violence cases, stressing that their presence made a difference.

Often, shame, fear, or even love for the abuser, prevent the victim from seeking help. Cognizant of these realities, The Retreat provides resources and personnel to help break the cycle of violence and assist the victim in making wise decisions.

Information on The Retreat can be found at www.theretreatinc.org. Phone number: 641.324.0943. 24-hour hot line: 631.329.2200.
Held on December 7, 2011

INFORMATION ITEMS

- Naturalization ceremonies. In 2012, LWVH will need to cover two dates in January plus dates in May and September. Anne Marshall will coordinate signups and dates. Once January dates are set, Judy Samuelson should send a Constant Contact to solicit volunteers. It was also suggested that we invite non-league members to join members if possible.
- LWVSC post election brunch. Board members who attended said speaker was good, venue pleasant. Anne reported that the LWVH Voter Services award was given to Julia Kayser for her contributions.
- Input for setting LWVUS legislative priorities. Glorian will e-mail details of request from National to each board member so we can discuss at January 15 meeting. Sue Wilson suggested that we only support issues that have a chance of being acted upon. Glorian and Judy S. will discuss soliciting members’ suggestions via Constant Contact survey, with responses directed back to co-presidents Glorian and Judi Roth.
- Holiday party. Preparations are coming along. Judi R. will bring basket for donations to The Retreat.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- January members meeting: “Meet the new town council members.” The intent is for the elected officials to share goals/planning and exchange ideas with the League and each other. Glorian and Judi will contact Bill Wilkinson and Anna Throne-Holst to request their participation. Anne noted that if either supervisor is unavailable, we request they send a representative.
- Winter Blahs lunch plans. Judi suggested combining it with March general membership meeting, but after discussion, it was decided to keep it as a separate event on February 15. Julia Kayser and Pat Arceri will be asked to organize it at Bobby Van’s. Gladys will follow up with them. Our March 12 meeting will be a casual midday meeting, with light refreshments, at the Unitarian Universalist Meeting House.
- Membership recruitment: Judi showed commercials prepared by Nassau League. Board agreed we could do a better job but that it was something we should investigate. Anyone with local contacts in the videography or related fields should bring info to Board.
- Facebook. As Terri was not present, topic was tabled.
- How To Run A Member Meeting. Judi and Judy have been working on our template document. The current draft was deemed ready to publish with minor corrections.
- Annual meeting location. The date will be May 6. After discussion, it appears that the Watermill Community Center would be best venue. Arlene has been in touch with Larry Levy, who will probably be available; we request he commit by January 15. Arlene also reviewed possible topics.
- Who is ALEC? ALEC is the acronym for American Legislative Exchange Council, a conservative lobbying organization working to get states to pass legislation requiring photo ID for voting qualification, among other initiatives. LWVUS President Elizabeth MacNamara solicited donations to support a push-back. It was determined that our League’s best response was for Mireille to write an article for the January/February Voter (see page 4). Voting Access will be our March meeting topic, so the article is timely.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Voter Services. Anne Marshall completed a recap of 2011 committee activities requested by LWVNY. At the next Voter Services meeting, they will discuss the East Hampton recount.
- Special Events. Ursula and Gladys reported that the donated goods Ursula took to an auction house raised $440 ($396 after commission). The committee plans an “antiques road show” event (i.e., appraisal day) on June 4.
- Education. Mary Blake is working hard to find candidates for the “Students Inside Albany” event, as moving deadline up to February 1 makes it harder. She and her committee consolidated the paperwork required for applications into folders to be distributed to schools. These applications will be picked up on December 20 and a new package for Running and Winning left off. Mary noted that LWVNYS asks for an intimidating amount of paperwork, but she’s done what she could to organize it for the students. The committee is in the process of choosing a speaker for 2012 Running and Winning.
- Natural Resources.
  - Sue’s committee met on December 6 at the South Fork Natural History Museum and Nature Center (SOFO). They had a tour of the facility and then held their meeting. Sue noted that for each meeting they try to visit or do something interesting in addition to discussing projects and issues. In the spring, they will have a trip to Brookhaven National Lab.
  - Five committee members joined Sue at a sustainability conference in Southampton with Assemblyman Fred

Continued on page 15
January-February 2012

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 page 19 of The Voter and at www.lwvhamptons.org.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Committee</th>
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<tr>
<td>January 3</td>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
<td>Natural Resources Committee</td>
<td>Hampton Library, Bridgehampton.</td>
<td>Sue Wilson 283-6549.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 4</td>
<td>12:00 Noon</td>
<td>Membership Committee</td>
<td>Hampton Library, Bridgehampton.</td>
<td>Glorian Berk 283-2638.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 9</td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
<td>General Membership</td>
<td>Hear and Ask Questions of the ‘New’ Town Supervisors. Hampton Library, Bridgehampton.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 11</td>
<td>2:00 PM</td>
<td>Special Events Committee</td>
<td>Hampton Library, Bridgehampton.</td>
<td>Contact Ursula Lynch at 288-4721 or Gladys Remler at 288-9021.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 7</td>
<td>Time TBD</td>
<td>Natural Resources Committee</td>
<td>Location TBD. Contact Sue Wilson 283-6549.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 15</td>
<td>Time TBD</td>
<td>Winter ‘Blahs’ Luncheon</td>
<td>Bobby Van’s, Bridgehampton</td>
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**TOWN BOARD MEETINGS**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 5, 19</td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
<td>Town Hall Courtroom, 159 Pantigo Rd., East Hampton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 2, 16</td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
<td>Town Hall Board Room, Southampton Town Hall, 116 Hampton Rd., Southampton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 11</td>
<td>1:00 PM</td>
<td>Southampton Town Board Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 14</td>
<td>1:00 PM</td>
<td>Town Hall Board Room, Southampton Town Hall, 116 Hampton Rd., Southampton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 31</td>
<td>6:00 PM</td>
<td>Southampton Town Board Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 28</td>
<td>6:00 PM</td>
<td>Town Hall Board Room, Southampton Town Hall, 116 Hampton Rd., Southampton</td>
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**LWVH Board Meeting Summery**

Continued from page 6

- Government Services.
  - Naomi Epstein discussed her efforts to set up regular meetings with Fred Thiele and Jay Schneiderman. First meeting with Jay will be late January. It was decided that meetings should be quarterly or as needed. Three league members should go to each meeting, including committee heads relevant to the topic to be discussed. Naomi solicited ideas and volunteers for the first meeting.
  - The Group for Good Government (GGG) contacted Carol Mellor to ask us to co-sponsor their forum (date tbd). It was decided that Carol should attend a preliminary meeting on December 18 and report to the board before we decide.

- Membership. Glorian is really struggling to keep the committee going without a chair.

- The Voter – Sally James and Joy Cordery reminded all that the next deadline is December 15.

- Public Relations. Arlene Hinkemeyer will publicize the January members meeting on December 27. The meeting about The Retreat got good coverage. She also plans to send out PR to encourage applications for Students in Albany. Mary will write about it for The Voter.

Next meeting will be on January 4 at 5:30 p.m. at Bridgehampton National Bank, Bridgehampton.

Respectfully submitted by Judy Samuelson,
League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization that seeks to improve government and impact public policies through citizen education and advocacy. With more than 850 state and local Leagues and 150,000 members and supporters, LWV is the original grassroots citizen network, working at the national, state and local levels, and directed by the consensus of its members nationwide.

LWV makes a difference in the lives of citizens because of the energy and passion of its members.

The League of Women Voters of Suffolk County, in concert with our five local leagues (Brookhaven, Hamptons, Huntington, Shelter Island, and Smithtown) continued a remarkable roster of services to the citizens of our county in 2011.

Our members worked year round to register voters– at community events and schools, and through our new efforts at new citizen naturalization ceremonies in Central Islip. We educated Suffolk and local voters through hosting candidate debates and educational meetings.

LWVSC has been prominent at public and committee meetings of the Suffolk County Legislature, spoken out on issues which we have studied (including health, environment, and housing), and affiliated with Touro Law Center’s Public Advocacy Center. It was our strong relationship with Touro which resulted in a partnership hosting and moderating a Suffolk County Executive debate in November.

The League has taken an active role in redistricting on the county level, and a League member is serving on the independent Suffolk County redistricting commission.

The League in 2012
As we look forward to another year of service to the residents of Suffolk County, the following issues and opportunities loom large:

• We look forward to our County Executive Steve Bellone’s first year in office, which we hope will be enhanced by bipartisan cooperation with and from the Suffolk County Legislature on issues of importance to our citizens.

• County budget issues must be resolved for the entire year, keeping in mind the needs of our citizens. We particularly are concerned about the future of our county health centers.

• The Suffolk County Redistricting Commission must be supported in its technical needs and must complete its work on a timely and non-partisan basis.

• We look forward to working with diverse community and civic groups in 2012 to “make democracy work” through education and advocacy.

2012 Directory of Public Officials
The 2012 Directory of Public Officials, which contains updated information on National, State, County, Town, and Village elected officials, and in-depth information on Suffolk County departments and the budget, will be available in late February, 2012.

Your support - both administrative and financial - is needed and welcome. PLEASE consider a tax-deductible donation to the League’s Educational Foundation which helps underwrite the booklet’s production. We also invite suggestions on content, and of course need assistance updating the content and listings. join, support, study, take action
Recent Events

ANNUAL LWVH LUNCHEON: A Good Time Had By All

Special Events co-chairs Ursula Lynch and Gladys Remler noted, “Each committee chair spoke briefly about their plans for the year and invited members to join them. We gained new members and raised a tidy amount of much needed funds. Our events are fun, interesting and learning experiences. That is what the LWVH is about.”

1) Ursula Lynch (left) and Gladys Remler, welcoming attendees at the October Fall Fundraising Luncheon at Trumpets on the Bay, Eastport. 2) The Chinese auction was displayed on an enclosed deck with a view over glittering Moriches Bay. Choosing which appealing item to bid on were (l. to r.) LWVH members Arlene Makl, Jane Dell, Town/Village Justice Andrea Schiavoni, Grania Brolin, and Ann Reisman. 3) LWVH members Sharon Sugama, Naomi Epstein and Barbara McClancy enjoyed the beautiful setting and excellent food. 4) LWVH Voter Services chair Anne Marshall, left, welcomed Southampton Town Clerk Sundy Schermeyer; Sundy's grandfather (and LWVH member) Arma Andon; Arma's guest, Marian Phillips; and Southampton Councilman Christopher Nuzzi. Photos by Arlene Hinkemeyer.

HOLIDAY PARTY DECEMBER 12

A great time was had by all at the LWVH Holiday Party on December 12, graciously hosted by Bob, left, and Anne Marshall, right. In center, co-presidents Glorian Berk and Judi Roth hold the basket of donations collected for this year's League charity—The Retreat. Photo by Arlene Hinkemeyer.
Committee Reports (continued)

Voter Services Committee Report
Continued from page 4

VOTER EDUCATION/VOTER SERVICE
• Distributed Part 1 of LWVNYS Voters Guide 2011 to libraries, municipal buildings, civic associations, senior centers, doctors’ offices and at candidates’ debates.
• Developed pamphlet titled LWVH Guidelines For Participation in Candidate Debates; sent to all candidates for office participating in debates and to newspaper editors and political party representatives.
• Developed and widely distributed a Proposition Guide for Voters in Southampton Town on the referendum related to requiring a super-majority vote in issues related to Planned Development Districts (PDD’s).
• On August 17 and 29, Hampton League members went to the Federal Court House in Islip to offer voter registration assistance to newly naturalized citizens.
• Responded to telephone queries on Hamptons League’s phone year-round and on Suffolk’s phone in September.
• From June through November, at the State League’s invitation, developed information on local elections as part of www.vote411.org, the online LWVUS information initiative. Using information from the Suffolk County Board of Elections, we populated the site with candidate names, the offices for which they ran and offered certain categories of candidates opportunities to provide background information about themselves as well as answer questions related to their respective offices.
• Working with data provided by the Board of Elections, we examined voter turnout percentages from the 2010 election, with the goal of raising awareness of the need to increase voter turnout over the next two election cycles. Currently, East Hampton Town had a minimal edge over Southampton: (50.8% to 50.7%). That percentage of eligible voters who actually vote is hardly a passing grade in anyone’s book. Working with the LWVH Education committee, our response is a campaign called “Get-Out-The-Vote,” focusing primarily on getting more young voters to exercise their right and responsibility to vote.

Extremely close election results in races in both towns—hand counting needed in one race in each town—vividly demonstrated the importance of voter turnout.
With Presidential and Congressional elections on the horizon, we will work to:
• keep citizens informed about the issues and candidates
• encourage higher voter turnout, especially among youth
• provide the Board of Elections with information about the efficacy of the local voting process.

Our next meeting is 12:30 Jan. 11 at the Bridgehampton Library to continue preparing for what promises to be a very busy 2012. Please join us.

Natural Resources Committee Report
Continued from page 3

Back to Nature—Right In Your Own Back Yard!
by Sue Wilson

Located at the site of an old winery and nearly obscured by tall beach grass and other lovely natural vegetation, it is easy to drive right past the South Fork Natural History Museum & Nature Center (SOFO) on the Sag Harbor Turnpike in Bridgehampton. Often confused with the Children’s Museum across the street, SOFO is a local treasure for young and old. Its mission is to stimulate interest in, advance knowledge of, and foster appreciation for the natural environment with special emphasis on the unique natural history of Long Island’s South Fork. In early December, members of the Natural Resources Committee had the privilege of touring the facility with SOFO’s Executive Director, Frank Quevedo.

As your eye wanders from one exhibit to another, you suddenly realize that this is so much more than a museum. Pull a handle, twist a knob, peer into a private hideaway, smell the fox’s lair, touch the bark of an old dead tree that is home to unexpected life...feel nature all around you—stare in wonder at the size of the snowy owl and watch a blind turtle feed (with the help of a Nature Educator).

SOFO is open 7 days a week from 10 am – 4 pm (excluding Christmas, Easter, Thanksgiving, and New Year’s Day). For more information, visit www.sofo.org.
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LWVH Board

WELCOME NEW MEMBER
Ann Reisman
by Marsha Krances

Ann, a native of Wilmington, DE, moved to Southampton 42 years ago after attending Cornell, UCLA, and UC-Santa Barbara, majoring in science, marriage and motherhood. While raising her three children here, she took a job with America’s Group for the South Fork (now Group for the East End) and then moved on to Brookhaven National Laboratory. Hired there as a programmer, she worked her way up to division head, specializing in energy systems analysis, with a two-year stint in Vienna working on nuclear non-proliferation.

She retired after 25 years, returned to Brookhaven as a consultant and finally left in 2009 to join her husband in retirement. The two enjoy exploring the outdoors together, especially the marine world, as well as travel, music and reading. Ann joined the League because she believes “it fills a vital role” in our area.

President’s Message
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Wow! We’ve been a very busy local league. Thanks to each and every person who helped make our year successful.

What are we planning for 2012? In January, we’ll have the two newly elected Town Supervisors (Anna Throne-Holst, Southampton and Bill Wilkinson, East Hampton) speak about their plans and answer our questions. We’ll have a program planning meeting in March and our annual meeting in May. With a Presidential election in November, our Voter Services Committee will be very busy.

Now comes the part where we need your help. We want to hear from each and every member about what you want YOUR league to focus on this year. You don’t have to wait until the program planning meeting … email us now with your ideas, contact a committee chair if you have something you want that committee to work on … and join a committee and help us make 2012 even more successful than 2011.

http://www.lwvhamptons.org
The League of Women Voters

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