



THE VOTER

The Newsletter of the League of Women Voters of the Hamptons

Founded in 1977

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July - August 2012

From Local To Global: Planned Parenthood At Work

by Judi Roth

If you'd like to hear successful, sophisticated, vibrant women speak about sex and women's health, then you'll want to attend our LWWH member meeting on Monday July 9, 7 p.m. at the Hampton Library, Bridgehampton.

Reina Schriffin is the President and CEO of Planned Parenthood Hudson Peconic, a position she has held since 2002. She has also been a Vice President and Operating Officer at the Hospital for Joint Diseases and held management positions at both Beth Israel and Montefiore Medical Centers. She will be joined by Chloe Cooney, Director of Global Advocacy, Planned Parenthood.

Planned Parenthood Hudson Peconic is the 16th largest affiliate of Planned Parenthood Federation of America. They operate 12 centers in Suffolk, Westchester, Rockland and Putnam Counties, providing services to over 30,000 patients. Their education programs are dedicated to empowering individuals to make responsible choices regarding their sexuality and sexual health.

Please invite your friends and guests to what we know will be a most interesting evening.



ABOVE Approximately 50 people packed the Water Mill Community House for the LWWH Annual Meeting on May 6. Photo by Arlene Hinkemeyer. For more coverage see page 4.

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Not to be missed:

LWVH General Membership Meeting

*Topic: Planned
Parenthood At Work*

**July 9 - 7PM
Hampton Library
Bridgehampton**

ALL ARE WELCOME

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.

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President's Message

by Glorian Berk

I shared the privilege of representing the League of Women Voters of the Hamptons at the National League's convention in Washington, DC, joined by Judy Samuelson, as a delegate from the Hamptons League. Arlene Hinkemeyer represented the State League.

Can you image the noise level created by more than 800 people talking at the same time? While sitting in a very large, very cold ballroom? I suggested that "convention booties" should have been included in our meeting materials. Seriously, it was wonderful to see so many smart, talented women debate and then vote on bylaw changes, concurrences, studies, programs and a two year budget. This was truly democracy in action.

Elizabeth MacNamara, LWVUS President, kept things moving in a very orderly fashion ... parliamentary procedures ruled. After an issue was presented to the attendees, delegates were able to comment on and debate the issue. Six microphones, three labeled "pro" and three "con" were placed around the ballroom. Elizabeth alternated between pro and con comments. Speakers were passionate yet respectful. A delegate had the right to call to limit debate or call the vote but a majority of the delegates had to agree.

Voting delegates had three different ways they could be required to vote: First, a voice vote; if it wasn't clear that a given motion had received a majority voice vote to pass, delegates would be asked to stand for their vote to be counted. If the decision still wasn't clear, we were instructed to vote using the green (aye) or red (nay) numbered cards in the convention package. The cards were then counted and the results were communicated to the delegates. We used the cards four times, including the vote on the PMP increase, which passed despite our nay votes.

All of this took place at the plenary sessions each day. Prior to and after these sessions, workshops, Q&As and caucuses were held, so we were very busy. We had a chance to interact with the rest of the New York State delegation as well as delegates from 45 states, the District of Columbia and the Virgin Islands.

Eric Holder, the Attorney General of the United States, addressed the convention on Monday. His presence and comments really brought home the respect in which the League is held. He spoke very positively about what we do and said that our work, especially our advocacy for voters' rights, aligned with the role of the Attorney General's office.

As I attended some of the workshops, I realized that Hamptons is a very strong League. Lots of the suggestions to improve a League's performance were things that we already do. At a workshop on getting out the vote, other delegates from NYS were surprised that LWVH partnered with local newspapers to sponsor candidate debates. I attended a workshop titled "helpful hints for league presidents" and found that we were already doing most of the things suggested. Thanks to our past leaders!

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Theme of 2012 Convention

Power the Vote: Imagine, Commit, Act!

By Arlene Hinkemeyer

Glorian Berk, Judy Samuelson, and I were among 50 delegates from all over NY State, 827 from across the US, attending the 50th LWVUS convention in Washington D.C. June 8 to 12. Here are convention highlights.

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

At the plenary sessions presided over by LWVUS president Elisabeth MacNamara, delegates:

- Approved a new national consensus study involving the update of the 1988 League's agriculture position. This will include investigation of genetic modification, consolidation in the food industry, money in the regulatory process and the consumer's right to accurate and comprehensive food labeling.
- Passed a concurrence position with the LWV-D.C. on sentencing policy, that "LWVUS believes alternatives to imprisonment should be explored and utilized, taking into consideration the circumstances and nature of the crime. The LWVUS opposes mandatory minimum sentences for drug offenses."
- Passed a motion retaining all current LWVUS positions in Representative Government, International Relations, Natural Resources and Social Policy, including new 2012 national positions on "Federal Role in Education" and "Privatization of Public Services."
- Unanimously passed "a comprehensive program to educate members and communities on the issue of campaign finance reform, in order to inform our education and legislative efforts as needed."
- Passed a resolution "calling on LWVUS to advocate strongly for all appropriate, duly-considered measures which may include, but are not limited to, a constitutional amendment and which are consistent with our current positions on campaign finance reform and individual liberties; allow Congress and the States to set reasonable regulations on campaign contributions and expenditures; and ensure that elections are determined by the voters."
- Approved (after much discussion) a \$1 increase in the per member payment (PMP) to LWVUS for 2012-13, with no additional increase for 2013-14.
- Approved the LWVUS's first two-year budget, 2012-14.

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LWVUS: JUDY SAMUELSON'S REPORT ON BREAKOUT SESSIONS

I had particularly looked forward to a workshop on LEW (League Easy Web), the platform developed by a California local league that I used to create and maintain our website, www.lwvhamptons.org. It did not disappoint. Presented by Carol Watts, the site's webmaster, the well-attended session combined users sharing experiences and solutions with Carol telling us about the newest enhancements to the system. For example:

- To strengthen the League's brand, the look is changing to more closely align with the national league's website.
- A new search box was added on every page, at the bottom of the left-hand column,
- Support for PayPal will allow new members to join online, pay immediately and fill out a form telling the local league their particular areas of interest.

Of less value was a workshop on social media. The session was heavily attended because most of us are well aware that the next generation of Leaguers communicates through Facebook, Twitter and blogs. Unfortunately, not enough knowledge was gained. In any case, the main difference in communication is that a website goes one way – the user goes to it. Same with Constant Contact messages. Facebook and Twitter create a communications loop, where information is posted and the recipient can immediately respond. Moreover, she can pass the information on to everyone she's connected to. We were urged to create a Facebook link on our websites. Another important plus is that using e-mail, a website, Facebook and Twitter creates a synergy and an interactive means of alerting members and non-members (and future recruits) of news as it happens.

A voter registration workshop covered reaching out to underrepresented voters. Suffolk County leagues already go to naturalization ceremonies to register voters. But a Houston league, with a much larger immigrant population, casts a wider net: school gymnasiums are the site for naturalization ceremonies, with as many as 2000 new citizens sworn in at once. Since 2007, the league has registered 90,000 at such events! They've even gotten some new members for the League! An Indiana League has had great success (743 students registered) going into high schools in the

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LWVH Annual Meeting



May 6, 2012 - Watermill Community Center

ABOVE

Left: Co-Presidents Glorian Berk, left, and Judi Roth, right, presented the Carrie Chapman Catt Award to Susan Wilson.

Right: The Annual Meeting speaker, on the topic "Election 2012: The Road to the White House Runs Through the Suburbs," was Lawrence Levy, executive dean of Hofstra University's National Center for Suburban Studies, a non-partisan research institute. Mr. Levy, a well-known political commentator and election analyst, explained the impact of the American suburbs as purple "swing" districts that will to a great extent determine the results of the presidential election. Hofstra on October 16 will be the site of one of the three presidential debates.

BELOW

Left: Ann Sandford, chair, gave the Nominating Committee's report, followed by the election of officers and directors.

Center: Beth Barth, head of the selection committee, presented a \$1,000 scholarship to East Hampton High School senior Milton Farez, winner of this year's Betty Desch Leadership Award. Runner-up, with a \$250 award, was Southampton High School senior Linda Zambrano.

Right: LWVH treasurer Eموke Forman gave the Treasurer's Report and presented the 2012-13 Budget for adoption.

Photos by Arlene Hinkemeyer.



GETTING OUT THE VOTE

by Anne Marshall

Step 1: Registration

As summer temperatures heat up, so do the efforts of the Voter Services committee members to offer voter registration forms and information to citizens throughout the next months. On June 6, some 15 members met to review roles as well as details about processes, including: a reexamination of the registration and absentee voter forms; noting important deadline dates and primary and general election dates which they will disseminate on handy printed palm cards; becoming acquainted with LWNYS brochures detailing the voting rights of, among others, college students in New York State, the disabled, and the homeless; obtaining permission from merchants, libraries, post offices and governmental entities to set up tables at selected locations.

An important modification of the Get Out the Vote organizational effort this year is the division of the Hampton League's geographical expanse into three areas: Southampton West, Southampton East and East Hampton. League captains Ursula Lynch and Gladys Remler lead the Southampton West campaign; Joanne Samborn the East. Julia Kayser, with support from Carol Mellor, will oversee East Hampton. A few locations identified:

- Westhampton Free Library
- The Westhampton Beach Farmers' Market
- K-Mart in Bridgehampton
- Hampton Library in Bridgehampton
- One Stop Market in Springs
- Wharf Shop in Sag Harbor
- The Rogers Memorial Library in Southampton

To assist in this effort, please contact Gladys or Ursula at gremlerdesign@aol.com, or UMLynch@gmail.com; Joanne at jwsamborn@optonline.net; or Julia at kayjullee@aol.com.

Step 2: Be Aware Of Dates & Deadlines

One important recent change: The state legislature primary has been moved to Thursday, September 13 (to avoid having an election on September 11). As of this writing, it appears that on that date two candidates will vie for the Democratic nod to challenge Senator LaValle in the 2nd Senatorial District: Bridget Fleming and Jennifer Maertz. Because the candidate filing period begins in mid-July, there is no official confirmation of this nor of any other races that may have primary candi-

dates. Please consult your local media for the up-to date list.

Step 3: VOTE!

Primary Election (State Legislature): September 13
General Election: November 6

2012 ELECTION DATES & INFORMATION

PRIMARY ELECTION State Legislature

THURSDAY, **September 13**

- Voter Registration Mailing Deadline:
August 17
- Absentee Ballot Mailing Deadline:
September 6

GENERAL ELECTION

TUESDAY, **November 6**

- Voter Registration Mailing Deadline:
October 12
- Absentee Ballot Mailing Deadline:
October 30

Mailing Addresses for Boards of Elections:

Suffolk County Board of Elections
PO Box 700
Yaphank Avenue, Yaphank, NY 11980
Tel: 631-852-4500

New York City Board of Elections
Executive Offices
32 Broadway, 7th Floor
New York, NY 10004
Tel: 212-487-5300

LWVH Board Meeting Summary

Held on June 6, 2012

INFORMATION ITEMS

- * Board duties. Glorian and Judi reminded us that attendance at board meetings and members meetings is part of board members' responsibilities.
- * State wants each League to educate the community on campaign finance reform; a PowerPoint presentation will be available in September. As they suggest using after November election and before January legislative session begins, we agreed to feature at our November 12 members meeting.
- * Betsey Swan has resigned as President; Sally Robinson, First VP, will finish Betsey's term.
- * Membership/leadership training session to be held on 8/11 in Farmingdale. Naomi Epstein is available to represent LWVH.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- * National Convention. Glorian and Judy will be voting delegates for LWVH. Arlene will represent LWVNYS. We voted to support concurrence on (1) alternatives to incarceration as requested by the LWVUS and (2) Great Lakes LWV proposal to save the Great Lakes, as both issues are in alignment with LWVH positions. Re National's proposal to raise PMP, we are willing to accept increase up to one dollar after review of the LWVUS budget, but we do not support pinning future PMP increases to the COLA.
- * Additional PR for June Rose Garden event. After Joy's concerns about too many attendees were discussed, we agreed to continue publicity via press release, poster, Constant Contact, website, etc. but will only accept reservations from the first 40 people.
- * July meeting. Speakers from Planned Parenthood will be featured, which ties in with local program goal of women's health. Judy and Estelle volunteered to provide refreshments. The issue of how to serve water arose. We had to agree that no solution will please everyone, so we will use up the water and seltzer we have on hand, served in plastic cups we also already have.
- * Member meeting planning for the rest of 2012. No meeting in August. September possibly re clean water. No October meeting, just debates. November will be campaign finance reform, December our holiday party. Note to members: contact us at copresident@lwvhamp-tons.org if you have possible topics for future meetings.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- * State budget review. We agreed that the line item we would like clarification for is \$8,300 for "web mainte-

nance." Judi will note that query in the response she returns to LWVNYS.

- * Citizens United meeting (June 15, 4:30-6:30 in Quogue). We were asked to support this grassroots group working against the effects of the Supreme Court ruling. After discussion, we agreed the group is sufficiently non-partisan and that the League from US on down supports the same issue. So Judi will send a Constant Contact message informing members of the meeting. She would not add the LWV logo because it's an information e-mail, not an endorsement.
- * Annual meeting review. What worked? Nearly everything, including the Community House venue. What could we do differently? (1) Get more strong backs to help set up/break down chairs and tables (2) Set a more precise timeframe allotted to speaker (3) Go into greater detail presenting budget. (4) Possibly serve more finger-food type desserts
- * Review list of expired members. Tabled until next meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- * Voter Services. Anne reported the district teams are in place; plans to register voters are moving forward well.
- * Media Committee. Gladys will schedule another meeting soon to review revised scripts.
- * Special Events. Gladys and Ursula reported plans for a July or August fundraiser in Montauk at Cynthia Rowley pop-up store, details to follow. Sept. 15 fundraiser to be local "antiques roadshow" with professional appraiser.
- * Education. No report.
- * Natural Resources. See above ("future 2012 meetings")
- * Government/Health. Glorian delivered Naomi's report. Naomi is trying to schedule July meeting of the new joint committee. Three new recruits for committee: Joy Cordery, Estelle Gellman and Judy Samuelson. Had a good meeting of minds with Fred Thiele at lobbying meeting. Trying to schedule meeting with Senator LaValle, teaming with Brookhaven League. Difficult getting response.
- * Public Relations. Excellent coverage for SIA and Running & Winning. Responses to Presidents' letter re reproductive choices and counter responses from us.
- * *The Voter*. Joy discussed changes – there will be new sizes, new rates and new billing forms. We need commitments by July 10, and having lost 7 or 8 advertisers, were urged to bring in new ones.

The next meeting will be held on July 3 or 5 (tbd) at the Bridgehampton Bank.

Respectfully submitted, Judy Samuelson

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

July - tbd	Natural Resources Committee Meeting	Hampton Library, Bridgehampton. Contact Sue Wilson 283-6549.
July 9 - 7 PM Monday	General Membership Meeting	Topic: Planned Parenthood At Work. Hampton Library, Bridgehampton.
July 18 - 2 PM Wednesday	Special Events Committee Meeting	Cooper Hall, Southampton Library, Southampton. Contact Ursula Lynch at 288-4721 or Gladys Remler at 288-9021.
August 2 - 7 PM Monday	Natural Resources Committee Meeting	Hampton Library, Bridgehampton. Contact Sue Wilson 283-6549.
August 15 - 2 PM Wednesday	Special Events Committee Meeting	Cooper Hall, Southampton Library, Southampton. Contact Ursula Lynch at 288-4721 or Gladys Remler at 288-9021.
TOWN BOARD MEETINGS		
July 5 - 7:00 PM	East Hampton Town Board Meeting	Town Hall Courtroom, 159 Pantigo Rd., East Hampton
July 10 - 1:00 PM	Southampton Town Board Meeting	Town Hall Board Room, Southampton Town Hall, 116 Hampton Rd., Southampton
July 19 - 7:00 PM	East Hampton Town Board Meeting	Town Hall Courtroom, 159 Pantigo Rd., East Hampton
July 24 - 6:00 PM	Southampton Town Board Meeting	Town Hall Board Room, Southampton Town Hall, 116 Hampton Rd., Southampton
August 2 - 7:00 PM	East Hampton Town Board Meeting	Town Hall Courtroom, 159 Pantigo Rd., East Hampton
August 14 - 1:00 PM	Southampton Town Board Meeting	Town Hall Board Room, Southampton Town Hall, 116 Hampton Rd., Southampton
August 16 - 7:00 PM	East Hampton Town Board Meeting	Town Hall Courtroom, 159 Pantigo Rd., East Hampton
August 28 - 6:00 PM	Southampton Town Board Meeting	Town Hall Board Room, Southampton Town Hall, 116 Hampton Rd., Southampton



Suffolk County Voter

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

July 2012

Wednesday July 18 LWVSC Board Meeting, SCCC Riverhead 10:00am - 12:00noon

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The Rise and Fall of Non-Partisan Redistricting in Suffolk County

On Tuesday June 19, 2012 the Suffolk County Legislature formally abandoned all effort to implement non-partisan redistricting by voting into law IR 1527-2012 "A Charter Law to Reapportion Suffolk County Legislative Districts." These new lines were the result of a flurry of back room moves negating the best-practices of a non-partisan commission which had been stipulated by Local Law No 14-2007. According to Presiding Officer Lindsay, that 2007 law "was enacted with the best of intentions, (but) the process it established for redrawing legislative boundaries was seriously flawed."

The Legislature thus institutionalized new Suffolk County Legislative districts which were drawn in secrecy, and closed off any discussion of the methodology and of the integrity of community demographics.

Back on March 27 a majority of the Suffolk County Legislators voted to kill the commission which had been appointed in 2011, and take responsibility themselves for re-drawing the county legislative district lines. Before that vote, we heard our Legislators speak out with passion about the need to continue to embrace the goal and process of non-partisan reapportionment. They reiterated their commitment to these ideals. The League was severely disappointed at their abandoning the commission, but hopeful that the work they took back amongst themselves would be guided by their expressed ideals.

However in early May Newsday reported that new district lines have been drawn behind closed doors, and data for review and evaluation has not been made public. At a public hearing in Hauppauge on June 5, our Legislators refused to discuss who drew the lines, and what criteria were used. Requests to allow for public hearings on the new lines in Riverhead on June 19 were rebuffed by the majority.

Government has an obligation to its citizens. Transparency is critical in holding elected officials accountable. In the Suffolk County Legislators' haste to "make up for lost time" they rushed to solidify lines without due diligence, open inspection, and public comment. Numerous questions have arisen in our review of the maps that have been drawn; numbers don't correlate; demographic and communities of interest groupings are not discernible.

At the June 5 public hearing on the new lines, the League stated "We believe you have only one course of responsible action as our elected Legislators. Be open, transparent, and treat your constituents as intelligent, engaged citizens. Make the maps widely available, hold public hearings, respond to the comments, and hold off a vote on the legislation and maps until at least 60 days from now. The Suffolk County Legislative election will be held 17 months from now- plenty of time to be transparent and responsive to your voters' concerns. Let your voters choose their elected officials- it is not for you to choose your voters."

Our pleas, and those of our fellow citizens in Suffolk County, have been ignored. Back room politics has trumped transparency for our county Legislature.

Natural Resources Committee Report

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle: Where Are We Now?

by Susan Wilson

Over the years following passage of the NY State Solid Waste Management Act of 1988, our League lobbied Southampton Town to close the dump and establish recycling centers. Ever mindful of the importance of protecting our natural resources, the Natural Resources Committee helped educate the public on recycling, composting and the need to “Reduce, Reuse and Recycle.” With Jacqui Lofaro, Katherine Szoka and Joy Lupoletti, the committee produced an educational video for school-age children called The Corrugator. Children (and adults) learned the basics of recycling from a memorable little cardboard character. The video is available upon request (contact naturalresources@lwwhamptons.org).

FAST FORWARD TO 2012

At the June 4 membership meeting, the current Natural Resources committee screened the award-winning documentary film *Bag It, Is Your Life Too Plastic?* We borrowed the film from S.A.V.E. (Southampton Advocates to Save Our Village Environment). Partially as a result of the group’s efforts, Southampton Village passed a ban on single-use plastic bags within the village. The Village of East Hampton adopted a similar ban.

Following the film, Sylvia Overby, East Hampton Town Councilwoman and Board Liaison to the Litter Committee and Scavenger Waste Plant (Waste Water Management) and Christine Fetten, Southampton Town Director of Municipal Works and liaison to the SH Town Solid Waste Advisory Committee presented updates on recycling efforts in their respective towns. Panelist Emil “Skip” Norsic, President of Emil Norsic & Son Carting Service explained where our recyclables go once they leave our homes.

President’s Message

Continued from page 2

Now back in Southampton, I’m excited to begin our voter registration and “get out the vote” efforts for the upcoming Presidential election; create ways to increase membership; find a dynamic membership chair; and create special events for members and potential new members to enjoy. Nothing sexy ... just our league at its best.

LWVUS Report

Continued from page 3

WORKSHOPS AND CAUCUSES

We split up to cover more of the workshops and caucuses, such as the proposed PMP increase and budget; a new database and program; the Vote411.org voters guide website; effective voter registration (“Powering the Vote”) and tools to do so; the use of social media like Facebook and Twitter (see Judy’s report on pg. 3); our new federal education position; helpful hints for local League presidents; and a League Easy Web users group.

I was especially interested to learn that a number of national organizations have partnered with LWVUS to establish Tuesday, September 25, as the first National Voter Registration Day! We can focus our efforts around that day and publicize it as extensively as possible. It is most regrettable that the date falls on Yom Kippur.

PANELS, SPEAKERS & MORE

Mixed in with the business sessions and workshops were a variety of notable speakers, highlighted by the appearance of Attorney General Eric Holder, who praised the League greatly for its efforts upholding the 1965 Voting Rights Act, registering voters and litigating voter ID laws. Our mission “has never been more important,” he said. “The League is not just relevant but absolutely vital to strengthening our democracy.”

Other programs included a welcoming address by Eleanor Holmes Norton, Washington DC delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives, on voting issues important to DC; an evening of political satire performed by The Capitol Steps; a screening of “Patriocracy” on the need for civility in our democracy; a speech on “Flack Checking Political Sleaze” by Dr. Kathleen Hall Jamieson, professor of communication and director of the Annenberg Public Policy Center at the University of Pennsylvania; a panel on advocacy for the League’s legislative priorities; a panel on the effects of the Supreme Court’s Citizens United decision; and a banquet address by political pollster John Zogby.

GOOD NEWS

Attendees contributed \$35,022 for the Fund for Local League Growth! And the LWVNY won the Community Connection award for its “Students Inside Albany” program. LWVNY executive director Laura Ladd Bierman and LWVNY Youth Services chair Judie Gorenstein prepared the entry.

LWVSC Annual Meeting Report

LWVSC: A MEETING WELL WORTH ATTENDING

by Judi Roth

There were two provocative speakers at May's LWVSC Annual Meeting. One represented Common Cause, the other, the Long Island Civic Engagement Table. Founded in the 1970s by John Gardiner, Common Cause sought to bring openness to government and work on campaign finance issues. I felt a sense of déjà vu when so many issues from 40 years ago are still here. But Susan Lerner, Executive Director of Common Cause, mentioned one new issue: misuse of the Senate filibuster rule has turned the Senate into a do-nothing chamber. The filibuster rule was used to stop a vote on civil rights issues. I didn't associate that with today's Senate, where all legislation seems to need 60 votes to pass. What changed? Misuse of Senate rules by both political parties has created partisan gridlock, stopping action on important issues.

Common Cause Files Lawsuit

Common Cause has filed a lawsuit challenging the filibuster rule as a violation of the core principle of majority rule. The Senate's filibuster rule (Rule XXII) was designed to encourage full and careful debate, preventing the majority from steamrolling bills into law. In practice, the rule allows a minority (just 41 of the 100 senators) to stifle debate, not just slowing down the majority, but blocking it altogether. Common Cause believes filibuster abuse is a big reason why most Americans are frustrated with Congress and believe that the "government no longer works" for average citizens. Your League will keep track of its progress and keep you informed as it goes forward.

Long Island Civic Engagement Table

Also taking part in the question and answer session was Daniel Altschuler. His organization, the Long Island Civic Engagement Table (LICET), seeks to increase voter participation among working class and people of color. Mr. Altschuler believes personal communication can motivate people to vote, as can identifying an issue that matters to them and inform them of the candidates' views on that issue. When they register voters, LICET makes a list of the new voter's name and phone number and calls them before the election to remind them to vote. They also check with the Board of Elections to be sure that the new registrant has been registered. Modifying this idea, the County League decided

that although we would not take such information from the voter registration forms, we would provide a separate sheet for people to indicate they'd like League members to remind them of upcoming elections. This was adopted by the County Board and also by our own Voter Services Committee.



The Government/Health Committee enjoyed a lobbying session, discussing League positions, with Assemblyman Fred Thiele in his offices on June 1. Left to right are Naomi Epstein, Mr. Thiele, Glorian Berk and Dorothy Artenberg. Photo by Naomi Epstein.



After the screening of the film "Bag It: Is Your Life Too Plastic?," Natural Resources committee chair Susan Wilson, right, introduced the panel at the June 4 LWVH program on "Recycling: Where Are We Today?" Left to right are East Hampton Town Board member Sylvia Overby, Skip Norsic of Emil Norsic & Sons Sanitation Service, and Christine Fetten, Southampton Town Director of Municipal Works. Photo by Arlene Hinkemeyer.

LWVUS Judy Samuelson's Report

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spring, as juniors and seniors turn 18. Instead of large assemblies (such as for Vote18), they get permission from school administrators to go into individual classrooms. They also recruit advocates among the student body. Fact: if an 18-year old votes for the first time, he or she is likely to become a lifelong voter.

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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

By Marsha Kranes

Adrienne Falzon

Adrienne grew up in the Bronx and attended the College of New Rochelle both as a graduate and undergraduate student. She enjoyed a challenging career as a reading specialist in schools in New York City and Westchester and at a minimum-security prison for boys. Six years ago, after years of summering on the East End, she and her husband – who have seven sons – bought a house in Southampton and moved in.

After retiring in 1997 Adrienne began writing children's books. Her first, *What Is An Angel*, is due out in August. Locally, Adrienne is a volunteer and fundraiser for the Southampton Historical Museum and leads its summer walking tours. She's interested in learning more about the League, so you can expect to see her at some of our upcoming events.

Mimi Goldberg

Mimi is Manhattan born, bred and educated. A graduate of City College, with a major in business, she worked for General Motors, then moved to the stock market, had two sons, and finally became a home-based travel agent who took advantage of her expertise by doing a lot of traveling of her own.

Thirteen years ago Mimi built a house in Southampton, moved in and gave up her city apartment. She soon developed an avid interest in roses and now has "a glorious rose garden." An active member of the Southampton Rose Society (her son Hal now serves as president), Mimi chaired its annual rose show last month. She learned about the League, and decided it was an organization worth getting involved with, through fellow rose-lover Joy Cordery, who hosted our June rose garden luncheon.

Corinne Marley

Corinne, a native of Peekskill, N.Y., moved to East Hampton in 1959 immediately after graduating from the State University at Albany to be with her future husband. In the years that followed, she earned a masters degree at Stony Brook, had four children, and taught locally both full-time and as a substitute.

Since retiring in 2000 Corinne has been playing lots of tennis and bridge – both duplicate and social. She's also kept busy gardening, volunteering at East Hampton's LVIS Bargain Box Thrift Shop, and serving on the LVIS's membership and scholarship committees and as treasurer of the East Hampton branch of the American Association of University Women. As a new League member she hopes to expand her contacts and community involvement.

The Voter

League of Women Voters of the Hamptons

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