**Party Hearty on Dec. 6; Help Plan 2019**

**Program on January 31**

**By Judy Samuelson**

We all hope to see you at our holiday party on Thursday December 6 (details to the left on this page). This party for you and your friends is the Board of Directors’ event to thank all who have attended meetings or worked on League goals during the year.

Our program planning meeting sets our priorities for the coming year. “Program” is League-speak for “issues to focus upon.” The meeting begins with a free, lively and thoughtful discussion. We record all ideas, and then group them into categories.

After we categorize the suggestions into group headings, we vote on which three or four issues the group feels our committees should work on. Those ideas are presented at the next Board meeting. Once the program is accepted, it is assigned to the appropriate committee. The committee decides how to act on the idea, whether with an article for The Voter, a public information meeting (PIM) or a study.

It’s really important for members to try to attend this meeting. We have it during the day, which is good for a majority of the membership, but an understandable hardship for those with daytime commitments. If you’re busy on January 31, please send your ideas to Susan Wilson or Estelle Gellman (copresidents@lwvhampton.org) and we’ll present them. Oh, and we provide lunch to attendees!
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 Towns, 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 six times a year (October/November, December/January, February/March, April/May, June/July, August/September) by the League of Women Voters of the Hamptons, P. O. Box 2253, East Hampton, NY 11937.

Judy Samuelson, Editor
Cathy Peacock, Advertising Manager
Bruce McGowin, Design & Production
Arlene Hinkemeyer, Photographer
Madison Lorrius Inc., Printing and Mailing

Printed on recycled paper.

President’s Message

By Susan Wilson and Estelle Gellman
The League of Women Voters of the Hamptons has been very busy once again this year from late summer through Election Day, November 6th, 2018. We worked to register and educate citizens and to get out the vote.

Our committees and members stepped up to make this a very successful election season. Read the articles submitted by our Voter Service, Education and Government committees to see the many activities that took place this year. Also, a bulletin from LWVUS President Chris Carson in included in this issue of The Voter because we thought you would find it of interest.

We invite you to join us for food, wine and music at our Annual Holiday Party, on Thursday, December 6 from 5 to 7 pm at the Unitarian meeting house on Sag Harbor Turnpike in Bridgehampton.

Below the President’s Message from Chris Carson, President of the LWVUS.

A Message from Chris Carson, President LWVUS

November sixth was an historic day. More women elected to office than ever before. The first Muslim and Native American women, the first black woman from New England, the first Latina women from Texas—all elected to Congress. Record high voter turnout for a midterm election. Voting rights expanded, with redistricting reforms and expanded registration passed in at least six states.

All year long, League volunteers across the country have been registering voters, reaching out to tens of thousands of candidates to provide more information on VOTE411.org than ever before, and hosting hundreds of debates and forums so that voters could learn about the issues and engage with the politicians looking to represent them.

And on Tuesday we turned out the vote!

I am so proud of this organization and our dedicated network of volunteers, supporters, and engagers. Thank you for sharing our resources. Thank you for registering voters. Thank you for asking your friends and families to make an Election Day plan. And thank you for turning out and getting it done!

Now our work continues.

Together, the League will continue our work to create a more perfect democracy so that ALL Americans enjoy the same liberties and freedoms. With your help, we will register more new voters, provide more nonpartisan information on candidates, and host more debates and forums in future elections.

We will continue to raise the voices of those least heard in this country—communities of color, the young, persons with disabilities, and people with limited income.

Our democracy is truly strongest when everyone participates and has their voice heard. Yesterday, voters made huge steps toward full participation. But we still have so far to go.

We look forward to continuing our work together.

Chris Carson, President
Long, challenging, satisfying pre-election season

By Barbara McClancy & Anne Marshall

The 2018 pre-election season was longer because there were primary elections both at the town and congressional levels at which we worked to sponsor debates. It was more challenging because of the emergence of unusual hurdles to scheduling debates. We were not successful in scheduling debates for the open seat in East Hampton Town. After numerous negotiations we did succeed in sponsoring the only South Fork debate between Congressman Lee Zeldin and his opponent Perry Gershon. As a result over 600 attended that event at the Hampton Bays High School. We are very grateful for the cooperation of the Hampton Bays School District, including their student volunteers at the debate, as well as to the Hampton Bays Civic Association and SEA-TV. And it was more satisfying because of the wide range of activities and therefore, visibility of the LWVH.

A summary of Voter Services committee

CANDIDATES MEETINGS
- Debate for candidates for Southampton School District Board
- Democratic Primary debate among 5 candidates for 1st Congressional district
- Debates between candidates for 1st Senatorial district and 1st Assembly District
- Debate between candidates for 1st Congressional District

VOTER REGISTRATION
- Distributed voter registration and absentee ballot applications at community events.
  - Earth Day event at Hampton Bays
  - East Hampton Village Spring Street Fair
  - Electric Car Meet in Southampton
  - Four summer concerts sponsored by Suffolk County east End Arts Council, Riverhead
  - Sag Harbor Summer Fest
  - East Hampton Fall Festival
  - At least 8 sites on National Voter Registration Day
  - At Suffolk County Community College
  - At Pierson, East Hampton, Southampton and Ross High schools
  - In November at the ceremonies for newly minted citizens at the Central Islip federal courthouse.

VOTER EDUCATION
- Held Public Information Meetings(PIM’s)to keep citizens informed of related issues

- Joint appearance of Southampton And East Hampton Town supervisors, Jay Schneiderman and Peter VanScoyoc
- Panel with members of EH and SH Town Trustees
- A LWVH presentation on how to have an impact of your community through the League
- Constant monitoring and responding to phone and email requests for accurate and timely voter information.
Recent Events

The County League’s November 14 Post-Election Brunch.

At the Cooperage Inn in Baiting Hollow, nearly 45 members and non-members enjoyed a lively analysis of the recent election by Neil Buffet, PhD and Nicholas Giordano, professors at Suffolk County Community College. Their informal discussion then opened up to the attentive audience. Between the speakers, the fellow Leaguers and the charming environment and good food, this was a banner meeting.

Film & Panel Address Mental Health Resources in the Hamptons

After a PBS film titled “Minds on the Edge,” four panelists spoke and answered questions about mental health programs on the state, county and local levels. They were, left to right: Martha Carlin, Psy.D., Director of the L.I. Field Office of NYS Office of Mental Health; Paul Garson, M.D., Director of Mental Health Services at Stony Brook Southampton Hospital; Christian Racine, Ph.D., Senior Director of the Family Service League Mental Health Clinics; and Jenine Yannucciello, LCSW, Director of Adult Services for the Suffolk County Dept. of Mental Health.
Recent Events

October 25 Debate for seats in NYS Assembly and Senate

The NYS Assembly debate featured, left to right, incumbent Fred W. Thiele, Jr. (Indep.) v. Patrick O’Connor (R), moderated by LWV co-president Susan Wilson, at the Hampton Bays Senior Center on October 25.

The LWV questioners and vetters for the October 25 NYS Senate & Assembly debates. Foreground, questioners Estelle Gellman and Judy Samuelson; background, vetters Julie Burmeister and Barbara McClancy.

The debate for Hamptons seat in the US House of Representatives

Superbly moderating the Congressional debate on October 29 was Cathy Peacock.

Serving as questioners were, left to right, Kathryn Menu, editor/co-publisher of the Sag Harbor Express; Janice Landis, president of the Hampton Bays Civic Association; Joe Shaw, executive editor of the Press News Group; and Carol Mellor of the League.

Vetting audience questions were, left to right, LWV co-president Estelle Gellman, Maria Hults of the Hampton Bays Civic Association, and Glorian Berk of the League.

The 1st C.D. Congressional candidates—Perry Gershon (D) v. the incumbent Lee Zeldin (R).
Presidents’ Report:
• The Annual Appeal is almost ready. The envelope stuffing will take place next week. Volunteers are wanted to help.
• Because of scheduling needs, the Board of Director’s orientation is postponed until the spring.
• November 14 is the LWV-SC Post-Election lunch.

Discussion Items:
• The Special Events Committee said the Holiday Party is Dec. 6 from 5 – 7 pm at the Universal Unitarian Meeting House in Bridgehampton. Set up will begin at 4:30. Board members to donate refreshments. A musical entertainer has been hired. We will ask guests to bring a check made out to their favorite local food pantry. Invitations will be mailed to our elected officials and Voter advertisers.
• The Planning Meeting will be on January 31, 2019 at the Rodgers Memorial Library at 12:30 Lunch will be provided. We will ask for RSVPs.
• Voter editors are Judy Samuelson for Dec / Jan (with Eva’s assistance) and Judi Roth for Feb / March.

County Board Report
• Debate venues in the town of Smithtown were canceled due to security issues.
• Absentee ballots were printed late due to a court challenge.

Committee Reports:
• The Education Committee recruited students from Hampton Bays HS to help with seating and collect audience at the Oct. 29 debate. The students were then assigned essay questions and the Ed. Committee awarded the two best essays with $50. The committee will train high school students to register other HS students to vote. EH HS has been selected to send Students to Albany this school year. Students from the Hamptons and Brookhaven will be sending Students to the SC Legislature in March and April.
• Judy reports the Electronic Media had 5 enquires that Constant Contact and Facebook had 6 and 4 notices respectively.
• The Health Committee’s PIM program for November consists of a film and a panel of experts addressing mental health care in our communities.
• Membership reports a total of 117 members, including seven new members.
• Natural Resources is currently without a Chair. A suggestion was made to approach the Hampton Bays CA and see if anyone was interested in joining.
• Publicity: Arlene did the Adopt-a-Road clean-up in October. We received excellent media coverage for our two debates, as well as for the upcoming Mental Health PIM.
• Special Events has been working on the Holiday Party. They are also looking for a new venue for the Blah’s Luncheon, on either February 7 or 21. They hope to have Steve Israel talk about his latest book at a cocktail hour on April 4.
• Voter Services reports that November is our month for covering the naturalization ceremonies at Islip Federal Court House. The Committee also thanked everyone who helped with the recent political debates. They were complex and time consuming. The Congressional debate was attended by 600 audience members with a minimum of disruptions.

Upcoming Events:
• Nov 14 – LWVSC Post-Election Luncheon
• Nov 6 – Health Committee PIM
• Dec 6 – Holiday Party
LWV 100th Anniversary Dates to Remember As We Approach These Anniversaries

November 19, 2019:
100th Anniversary of the League of Women Voters of New York State.

The NYS League of Women Voters was formed when, at the 51st convention of the New York State Woman Suffrage Party, the delegates resolved on November 19, 1919, to change their name to the New York State League of Women Voters. The first chair was Narcissa Cox Vanderlip.

February 14, 2020:
100th Anniversary of the National League of Women Voters.

The National League of Women Voters was founded by Carrie Chapman Catt on February 14, 1920 during the convention of the National American Woman Suffrage Association, which took place in Chicago. The convention was held just six months before the 19th amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified in August, giving women the right to vote nationwide after a 72-year struggle. Maud Wood Park was elected the first president of the League.
The League of Women Voters of the Hamptons appreciates the support of the businesses and individuals listed in this section. In return, members are encouraged to patronize these businesses and mention The Voter when doing so.

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See Voter advertising section, plus an alphabetized advertiser list. www lwvhamptons.org
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Living Legacy

Please consider providing for the ongoing efforts of the League Of Women Voters with a bequest included in your will, trust or estate. You can help us for many years to come by designating The League of Women Voters of the Hamptons as a beneficiary.

Here is sample language that may be given to your attorney: “I give, devise and bequeath to the League of Women Voters of the Hamptons (insert amount, percentage of estate, nature of gift, or remainder of estate) to be used at the discretion of the Board of Directors.” Current and future members of the League of Women Voters of the Hamptons will be very grateful for this commitment.

For additional information, please contact Cathy Peacock at treasurer@lwvhamptons.org

Membership Application

Not a member of the League of Women Voters of the Hamptons?

Please join us by mailing this application form and a check payable to LWVH to:
League of Women Voters of the Hamptons; P.O. Box 2253; East Hampton, NY 11937

Individual Member’s Name________________________________________________________

Other Household Member’s Name_____________________________________________________

Address__________________________________________________________________________

Email(s)___________________________________ Home phone____________ Cell phone____________

Membership Dues: □ Full-time Student $15    □ Household $90    □ Individual $60

Donations to our local league may be made payable to LWVHamptons and may be included in your dues check. Tax-deductible donations may be made by separate check payable to: LWVNYS - Education Foundation

I am interested in:

___ Education Committee ___ Membership Committee ___ Voter Services Committee

___ Government Committee ___ Natural Resources Committee ___ Communications

___ Health Committee ___ Special Events Committee

Questions? Call us at 631-324-4637 or email: membership@lwvhamptons.org
December 2018

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Making Democracy Work: Voter Turnout Success and Goals for 2019

Published in the TimesBeaconrecord newspapers on November 16, 2018

In New York State, we’ve truly had a landmark election. We had record breaking rates of voter participation statewide with nearly 50% of voters turning out to vote.

Nationwide, in the face of suppression attempts, long lines, broken machines and partisan gerrymandering, voters turned out in huge numbers. They demanded better from our leaders. More women were elected to office than ever before including the first Muslim and Native American women, the first black woman from New England, the first Latina women from Texas—all elected to Congress. Voting rights were expanded, with redistricting reforms and expanded registration passed in at least six states.

We are so proud of young voters who showed up increasing the national youth turnout by roughly 50% over 2014. Early estimates signaled this could be the highest turnout for 18-29 year-olds since 18 year-olds were first granted the right to vote in 1971. Their votes helped to elect one of the most diverse slates of federal candidates, decided thousands of elections up and down the ballot and impacted progressive ballot measures across the country. By 2020, young people will comprise nearly 40% of voters including nearly 9 million who turn 18 between now and the 2020 election. The League will continue and expand its programs to engage, educate and encourage youth to register and vote; they are our future.

In New York State strong voter turnout also highlighted the vulnerabilities and problems with our NY election laws. Separate primaries - federal offices held in June and state and local held in September - resulted in ballots not being certified until 3 weeks before election day and a significant delay in absentee ballots being mailed out. This resulted in confusion, mistrust, and voters feeling disenfranchised. Yet there were increased absentee ballots submitted, indicating the importance of early voting options to our fellow NYS voters. Not having early voting also created long lines and extra problems on Election Day for voters, poll workers and the BOE.

The good news is that there is a way to solve these problems as early as next year. Early voting in NYS does not require a constitutional amendment but can be achieved through legislation in Albany. It will require electronic poll books which have been used successfully in pilot projects in two NYS counties; the technology exists and is already being used in many states. Consolidating primaries does not need a constitutional amendment but needs agreement among lawmakers of both parties. Establishing only one primary date, earlier than September, would save NYS considerable money which could offset the cost of early voting. Consolidated primaries would also end the problem of delayed mailing of absentee ballots.

Now that the election is behind us, it’s time to look ahead. The NYS Senate will now have a majority of Democrat members, many of whom have voiced support for League voting reform efforts in the past. The NYS Assembly passes voting reforms each year. We feel confident that we will finally see passage of early voting and other voting reforms in New York State during the January-June 2019 legislative session, with approval by the Governor (and including funding in his budget).

The League will also continue our work registering more new voters, providing more nonpartisan information on candidates, hosting more debates and forums and advocating for legislation on critical issues, in our effort to create a more perfect democracy so that ALL Americans enjoy the same liberties and freedoms. Our democracy is truly strongest when everyone participates and has their voice heard. Yesterday, voters made huge steps toward full participation. But we still have so far to go.

With your help and participation, the League can make a difference in your communities, Suffolk County, New York State and the nation. Call or email us to learn how you can get involved.

http://www.lwvhamptons.org

LWV Brookhaven helped Stony Brook University’s students top the charts with more than 1,300 students pledging to vote in the 2018 Midterm Election.

The ALL IN Challenge national awards program encourages institutions to help students form the habits of active and informed citizenship. Hundreds of colleges and universities have joined the Challenge and have committed to making democratic participation a core value on their campuses. Together, they are cultivating generations of engaged citizens who are essential to a healthy democracy.
Congressional Debate Brings In High School Students

By Judi Roth

At the Congressional debate at Hampton Bays High School on October 29, the Education Committee recruited students to be greeters and hand out and collect question cards from the overflow audience. As an added incentive we offered a $50 award for the student who best answered the following questions:

1. What are your overall impressions of the debate, not the candidate?
2. Did you learn enough about the candidates to decide who to vote for?
3. What would you have done differently if you were running the debate?

We received 14 responses and two of them were so good that we decided to give awards to two students. Their responses are below:

From Mecca Brooks

The debate was an invigorating experience. I thought for my first experience at an event such as this, it was very inspiring. It has increased my overall appreciation for civil discourse and respectful disagreement.

I believe that as far as temperament, performance, and passion goes I have gained enough information about the candidates to decide who to vote for. It was easy to see what each candidate focused on. I could tell who to vote for easily based upon who spent most of their focus on issues that really matter rather than small details. This would show who is really interested in bettering our community.

I do not currently have much experience with debates to say definitely what should be different. Perhaps additional pamphlets that outline basic ideals and actions taken by each candidate to educate voters who may have time for the debate but not necessarily time to visit each person’s website.

From Griffin Carvajal Rodriguez

The debate was well controlled and the questions were straight to the point on relevant issues. It also made me realize that things are much more complicated that I’d been comfortable thinking them to be. I would hope that charisma wasn’t such a powerful force, and I also wished I could be a fact checker about the personal comments made towards each other. I just don’t have enough knowledge to have felt any sort of way at the debate, except on issues that I exist in and know about from living them directly. Also, considering this is the first debate I’ve ever seen it was interesting to see people who are publicly against each other and differ being put right next to each other and being made to publicly address their differences.

I was left wanting to find out more. I didn’t find answers about who they were, just got a better idea of what questions to ask when doing my research about them. I’m generally skeptical about anything politicians say, every opinion or leaning they claimed to have is something I now want evidence for. I’m inspired to look into their actions based on their words and decide from there.

I understand the time limits were for time and also to prevent escalation, but I wish there had been more back and forth allowed. It makes sense for there to be a limit on them since the opponents probably wouldn’t have given each other time otherwise.

Well done, Hampton Bays High School students of teachers Rachel Kelsh and Katy Kops!

Ambassadors for Voting

The Committee’s main project for the year is to work with small groups of students in each of our local high schools to teach them how to do voter registration on their own and with their peers, relatives, etc. We have worked up a curriculum that includes how to fill out voter registration forms and absentee ballots, but also focuses on voting regulations, how many different elections take place, etc. Committee members will reach out to our government teachers and teen librarians to begin this work, which we hope will culminate with seniors registering other seniors before graduation in 2019.
South Fork Commuter Connection

By Cathy Peacock

Traffic congestion has reached epic proportions, increasing time to travel between towns and impacting the ability of schools and businesses to hire. In 2016, discussions began between East End officials and LIRR to start a service to reduce traffic congestion and to improve the transportation infrastructure. There have been many ongoing planning meetings, outreach to employers, and communication with residents.

Service to begin March 4 2019

As a result of this effort and grants received, service will begin that adds three scheduled trains both east and west bound during prime commuting times. This enhanced service includes all five stations in Southampton and all three in East Hampton. In addition, there will be a variety of options to transport riders “the last mile.” The goal is to ensure seamless transfers between the train and a shuttle to workplaces. The two grants received were $125,000 from NYS to improve parking in Hampton Bays adding 30 spots and $500,000 from the State Department of Transportation for “last mile” efforts. This last grant is to be matched by the two towns.

Southampton is administering this program and is reviewing proposals from many qualified transportation service providers to provide shuttle service from all of the train stations to various locations in each community. The goal is to keep the per trip pricing at a minimal level, in the $4.25 range. Single zone and multi trip discount ticket books are under discussion.

There is an employer outreach program underway to engage with the employers and encourage support for strategies such as flex hours, subsidies, guaranteed ride-home programs.

Concerns still to be resolved

For example, how will a communication chain be developed when there are weather or equipment failure cancellations? How will the added trains affect the residents living near the stations? The primary focus of this program is on workers in schools, hospitals, offices, and retail. The more complicated group to get off the roads is the “trade parade” with trucks required for their specific profession.

Let’s get this phase working first! To help ensure success, the League of Women Voters of the Hamptons is planning to dedicate one of our public information meetings to hear from Thomas Neely, Director of Public Transportation and Traffic Safety and manager of the South Fork Commuter Connection and other officials to provide communicate and discussion on this critical program.
TOSS LESS • FEED MORE

From the League of Women Voters of NYS

This article from the State League’s website is especially timely during the holidays. That’s why we hope you will respond with a check for your local pantry when you come to our December 6 party.

Food Waste constitutes the third largest contributor to global warming. Discarded food also wastes the water, labor, and fuel used to produce and transport that food. One third of the food grown globally does not get consumed. An estimated 40% of the food people purchase in the U.S.A. gets tossed. Annually, that amounts to $165 Billion and over $2,000 for a family of four.

More than 820 million people worldwide live with chronic food deprivation. Food insecurity includes the continuum from famine, hunger, food deprivation, malnutrition to nutritional deficiencies from eating empty calories. In America and New York State, one in every 7 people experiences food insecurity in one form or another. The 1 in 7 statistic varies from county to county. According to Feeding America, approximately 2.3 million people or 12% of New York’s population experience a challenge feeding themselves and their loved ones.

Food insecurity can affect the people we interact with every day and we may not even know it: older adults living on a fixed income, the three out of four working Americans living paycheck to paycheck, college students living on a budget and our children. America has an abundance of healthy foods. By wasting less food, we can nourish ourselves and our neighbors and sustain the environment at the same time.

Note: In a population of 1,498,130 in Suffolk County, 82,870 (5.5 percent) were reported as hungry in the above article.
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**2018 Program As Approved at our May 2018 Annual Meeting**

1. Educating our members and the public about current policies and their implementation regarding immigration and DACA  
2. Working to register voters and get out the vote  
3. Advocating for and monitoring progress on providing affordable housing  
4. Educating the public on renewable energy sources and the resources available for reducing home energy usage  
5. Increasing LWVH visibility  
6. Educating the public about the availability of health resources and advocating for a single-payer health insurance system, greater public access to healthcare, more behavioral/mental health resources and resources for addressing the opioid crisis  
7. Monitoring town initiatives and the use of Community Preservation Funds for water quality improvement and educating the public regarding the resources available for improving water quality and replacing septic systems  
8. Advocating for better public transportation  
9. Advocating for election reform
The League of Women Voters


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