NYS LEAGUE BACKS THE “BIGGER BETTER BOTTLE BILL”

With Earth Day approaching on April 22, when groups on the East End have traditionally organized volunteers to clean up roadside litter, now is the time to bring attention to the “Bigger Better Bottle Bill.”

Originally passed in 1982, New York’s Bottle Bill received strong support from the NYS League of Women Voters. Over the past 25 years, over 80 billion containers have been redeemed for a 5-cent deposit, helping to control litter, spur recycling and reduce landfill costs, among other benefits. Now, however, with the significant increase in bottled waters, iced teas, juice, and sport drinks, the bill needs updating.

In 2003, then-State Assemblyman Thomas DiNapoli and State Senator Kenneth LaValle co-sponsored legislation (A.3922/S.1696), first, to expand the bill to include deposits from non-carbonated beverages and, second, to require the beverage industry to return all unclaimed deposits to the state’s Environmental Protection Fund. It is estimated that this would generate over $172 million yearly to New York State.

The NYS LWV is one of over 240 groups across the state to endorse a Bigger Better Bottle Bill. But it has literally been “bottled up” in Albany by the beverage industry, which doesn’t want to lose the estimated $1 billion profit in unclaimed deposits that it has reaped over the past 25 years.

More recently, two bills (A.4309 and S.2109) have been introduced to expand the bottle bill and also to increase the handling fee to benefit supermarkets and redemption centers.

A Bigger Better Bottle Bill passed the Assembly, 91-46, in 2006 but never made it out of the Senate. In 2007, however, support seems to be building. Governor Eliot Spitzer gave his endorsement at a press conference during Bottle Bill Lobbying Day on February 27, 2007, attended by the NYS League.

We can all contact Governor Spitzer, State Assemblyman Fred Thiele, and State Senator Kenneth LaValle to register our support. [For more information, please visit http://www.nypirg.org/enviro/bottlebill or call 518-436-0876.]

Written by Arlene Hinkemeyer

What’s Inside

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What’s Inside</th>
<th>page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President’s Message</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Child Left Behind</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural Resources Committee Report</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town Board Meetings</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calendar</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Meetings of Interest</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Committee Report</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LWVUS Immigration Study</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suffolk County Voter</td>
<td>16-17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership Committee</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wishes for a Speedy Recovery</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luncheon Meeting Report</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Monday, April 16, 2007
7:00 p.m.

NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND
What Does It Look Like in the Hamptons?

Panel Discussion
Co-sponsored by LWVH and Rogers Memorial Library

Reservations appreciated.

See page 3 for details.
President’s Message

IS IT 2007 OR 2008?

I don’t know about your calendar—mine says it’s early 2007, but many presidential candidates are acting as if it’s a year later. They’re off and running. And most of them are elected officials who have the responsibility of a full-time job to serve their constituents. There are multiple reasons for this earlier-than-ever start, but one that stands out is the need to raise funds to conduct a competitive campaign. As yet none of them has agreed to stay within financial bounds during this seemingly forever-primary season leading up to those elections beginning early in 2008. (And that timeline too is in total flux with primaries in Iowa and New Hampshire already scheduled for January 2008, rather than February. Other states are also jockeying for earlier primaries—but that’s a major topic of discussion for another day!)

Since the idea of limiting the funds for the primaries is akin to pie in the sky, the League’s national office published a news release asking the candidates (at least) to agree to follow the guidelines during the campaign leading up to the general election in November 2008. In part the news release stated:

The League of Women Voters today [March 8] called on 2008 presidential candidates from both parties to commit now to using the presidential public financing system for the 2008 general election if they are their party’s nominee and their opponent pledges to do the same.

“We find ourselves at a make-or-break time for the presidential public financing system in this country,” said national League President Mary G. Wilson. “Presidential candidates can help save the system by agreeing now to use public funds for the 2008 general election and by committing to fix the system if they are elected.”

“For the past thirty years, every president has been elected based on a publicly financed general election. The next president should come into office on the strength of public funds, not private donations primarily from wealthy donors and special interest bundlers,” Wilson stated. “American voters deserve an election system that is healthy — and public financing of the presidential campaign is an essential element of a fair election. Presidential candidates have a choice to help save the system or become the first billion-dollar president.”

The League was one of several organizations, including Americans for Campaign Reform, the Campaign Legal Center, Common Cause, Democracy 21, Public Campaign Action Fund, Public Citizen and U.S. PIRG that sent this letter [*] to presidential candidates. In addition to asking candidates for

* For the text of the letter, go to www.lwv.org, click on News and Events, Press Releases.

continued on next page
I’ve included the list of candidates so you—if thus inclined—can be doing your own research on them. Let’s keep our eyes and ears open to learn what each has to say about the request from the League and its co-signers. Meantime, let us here in the Hamptons commit to focusing on the town elections that will occur in 2007!

Anne K. Marshall, President 537-3257

The following is a list of the Democratic and Republican presidential candidates who received the letter from the reform groups:

Democratic Presidential Candidates
Senator Joseph Biden
Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton
Senator Chris Dodd

Republican Presidential Candidates
Senator Sam Brownback
Former Governor James Gilmore
Former Mayor Rudolph Giuliani
Former Governor Mike Huckabee
Representative Duncan Hunter
Senator John McCain
Former Governor Mitt Romney
Representative Tom Tancredo
Former Governor Tommy Thompson

The League of Women Voters of the Hamptons and Rogers Memorial Library cordially invite you to

**NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND: What Does It Look Like in the Hamptons?**

Monday, April 16, 2007 at 7:00 p.m.
Morris Meeting Room, Rogers Memorial Library
91 Coopers Farm Road, Southampton

Under *No Child Left Behind*, enacted five years ago, states and school districts were directed to close the achievement gap and make sure all students achieve academic proficiency. Our panel will talk to you about where our schools stand today and will discuss the issues that schools face in carrying out this mandate.

Panelists include:

- **Dr. Candace White-Ciraco**  
  Director, Office of Planning and Program Development, Eastern Suffolk BOCES

- **Dr. Josephine DeVincenzi**  
  Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, Southampton School District

- **Mr. Ron Masera**  
  Principal, Westhampton Beach Elementary School

- **Ms. Melanie Feliciano**  
  Special Ed Parent, East Hampton School District

**Reservations are appreciated. Please call 283-0774, ext. 523.**
SUFFOLK COUNTY LEAGUE HOSTS MEETING WITH USGS CHIEF

Stephen Terracciano, Office Chief of the United States Geological Survey (USGS) at the Coram office, made a power-point presentation to members of the League of Women Voters from various Suffolk County Leagues and invited guests at the Riverhead Library. Among the guests present were aides to elected Suffolk County officials. The intent of this meeting was to extend the knowledge about the condition and the monitoring of groundwater sources on Long Island. The League is currently involved with concerned environmental groups from both Nassau and Suffolk counties to investigate the effects of proposed drilling into the Lloyd aquifer. At our November general membership meeting, organized by our Natural Resources Committee, Sarah Meyland, a noted groundwater expert, educated us about this issue.

The March 15 event was sponsored by the Board of the Suffolk County League, an inter-league unit representing the five local organizations: Hamptons, Huntington, Smithtown, Brookhaven, and Shelter Island. Seven members attended from the Hamptons League: Anne Baird, Natural Resources Chair, and committee members Julie Penny and Joy Cordery, along with Pat Arceri, Barbara Jordan, Sue Wilson, and Anne Marshall.

From information extrapolated from direct questioning after the presentation, the very tactful presenter—who said that the USGS is not allowed to solicit for funds—did admit to the shortage of existing monitoring wells on the north shore of Long Island. Given the significant differences of results from some existing wells situated short distances apart, he intimated that the USGS would get even more definitive data for use in establishing models to predict future water conditions. Look for some follow-up to this issue as the Natural Resources Committee members continue their education on the topic.

Anne Baird, Chair 613-6013
Written by Anne Marshall

TOWN BOARD MEETINGS

SOUTHAMPTON

All Southampton Town Board meetings are held in the Town Board Room, Southampton Town Hall, Hampton Road, Southampton.

April 10 Tuesday 1:00 p.m.
April 24 Tuesday 6:00 p.m.

EAST HAMPTON

April 3 Tuesday 10:00 a.m. Brown Bag meeting. Montauk Firehouse/EH Conf. Room, Montauk.
April 10 Tuesday 10:00 a.m. Brown Bag meeting. Emergency Services Building/EH Conf. Room, E.H.
April 13 Friday 10:00 a.m. Regular meeting. Town Hall Courtroom, E.H.
April 17 Tuesday 10:00 a.m. Brown Bag meeting. Springs Firehouse/EH Conf. Room, Springs.
April 19 Thursday 7:00 p.m. Regular meeting. Town Hall Courtroom, E.H.
## April 2007

No Fundraising Committee meeting in April.
No Housing Committee meeting in April.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<th>Contact</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 4</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>LWVH Board meeting. Bridgehampton National Bank. 5:15-7:15 p.m. Members and guests welcome.</td>
<td>Bridgehampton National Bank</td>
<td>5:15-7:15 p.m.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 9</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Natural Resources Committee meeting. Bridgehampton Library. 4:00 p.m. Contact Anne Baird at 613-6013.</td>
<td>Bridgehampton Library</td>
<td>4:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Anne Baird at 613-6013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 10</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Membership Committee meeting. Home of Arlene Makl, 21 Montauk Avenue, East Hampton. 10:00 a.m. Contact Arlene Makl at 324-8662.</td>
<td>Home of Arlene Makl, 21 Montauk Avenue, East Hampton</td>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Arlene Makl at 324-8662</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 11</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>LWVSC Board meeting. Riverhead Library. 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Riverhead Library</td>
<td>10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 12</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Health Committee meeting. East Hampton Library. 12:30 p.m. Contact Judi Roth at 283-0759.</td>
<td>East Hampton Library</td>
<td>12:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Judi Roth at 283-0759</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 16</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>General Membership Meeting. “No Child Left Behind: What Does It Look Like in the Hamptons?” Panel discussion, co-sponsored by Rogers Memorial Library. See page 3 for further details. Reservations are appreciated; please call 283-0774, ext. 523.</td>
<td>Rogers Memorial Library, Southampton</td>
<td>10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Judi Roth at 283-0759</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 17</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Education Committee meeting. Rogers Memorial Library, Southampton. 1:30 p.m. Contact Judi Roth at 283-0759.</td>
<td>Rogers Memorial Library, Southampton</td>
<td>1:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Judi Roth at 283-0759</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 22</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>Earth Day.</td>
<td>Bridgehampton National Bank</td>
<td>10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.</td>
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### LOOKING AHEAD

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
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<th>Time</th>
<th>Contact</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 2</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>LWVH Board meeting. Bridgehampton National Bank. 5:15-7:15 p.m. Members and guests welcome.</td>
<td>Bridgehampton National Bank</td>
<td>5:15-7:15 p.m.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 6</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>LWVH Annual Meeting. Speaker Topic: Environmental Concerns. Bridgehampton Community House. 3:00-6:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Bridgehampton Community House</td>
<td>3:00-6:00 p.m.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 10</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>LWV Suffolk County Annual Convention. Bellport Country Club. 4:00-7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Bellport Country Club</td>
<td>4:00-7:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 18</td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>LWV New York State Bi-annual Convention. White Plains. Runs through Sunday, May 20.</td>
<td>White Plains</td>
<td>4:00-7:00 p.m.</td>
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### OTHER MEETINGS OF INTEREST

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>April 18</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Conference: “Environmental Threats to the Long Island Area.” Sponsored by New York State Public Health Association, Nassau-Suffolk region. HIP/Reckson Conference Center, Melville, NY. 8:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. For more information, phone 516-921-5174.</td>
<td>HIP/Reckson Conference Center, Melville, NY</td>
<td>8:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 23</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>“Sweep Albany Clean: A People’s Public Hearing.” Reform NY Day of Action. Albany, NY. For information, contact Carol Mellor at 631-537-6998.</td>
<td>Reform NY Day of Action, Albany, NY</td>
<td>10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Carol Mellor at 631-537-6998</td>
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**ARE YOU INTERESTED IN YOUR TOWN GOVERNMENT?**

Go to [www.townclerk.com](http://www.townclerk.com) and type in your ZIP code. You will find a lot of information about your town, including a calendar for town board meetings, minutes of the meetings, dates and topics of public hearings, and much more.
Health

In the interest of educating League members on changes that are being proposed by Governor Spitzer regarding health care delivery and financing, Anne Kellett of our Health Committee provided a report on the “Conference on Health Care in NYS” that was sponsored by an organization called “Rekindling Reform.” It was held on March 2, 2007 and the subtitle of the conference was “Health Care in the Spitzer Era: Challenges and Opportunities.” The speakers presented points of view representing their various organizations. Judi Roth has edited this report and hopes it “kindles” members’ interests as the Health Committee prepares for its June 11 meeting on possible hospital closings/mergers and health care in the Hamptons.

The keynote speaker was Richard Gottfried, Health Committee Chair, NYS Assembly. He stated that the governor is appointing well-known health advocates to his health care team. The health care budget presented by the governor aims at achieving insurance for all children by expanding Child Health Plus, raising eligibility to 400 percent of the poverty line, and reducing the number of uninsured. Spitzer also wants to cut the red tape that keeps half of the people legally eligible for Medicaid from getting onto the Medicaid rolls. This expansion in Medicaid would be funded by cuts in funding to hospitals, nursing homes, and graduate medical education, and through a tax on insurance companies. Another proposed cost-cutting measure is to negotiate lower prescription drug prices for state health funds, services like EPIC, and others. Spitzer promises that, after these reforms, he will propose a universal health care plan.

Ed Donnelly represents the NYS Federation of Labor, and he believes that there is a need to restore the power of the NYS Insurance Department to regulate insurance rates, which the Pataki administration abolished. He expressed great concern about the Berger Commission’s proposals for closing hospitals, especially upstate. He said that the plan to replace hospitals with outpatient primary care centers and specialized medical centers produces fear that cuts/closings may occur without the replacements actually being in place.

James Parrott, from the Fiscal Policy Institute, is also concerned about a primary care system not being in place as hospitals close. He went on to say “Spitzer needs to make private HMOs and insurance companies part of the reform.” Spitzer has said, “We will not tolerate the insurance industry gaming the system,” but how will he do this?

Regarding Medicaid, Parrott said that it is resented because the state places so much of the fiscal burden on localities, which pay property taxes towards low-income public health care. Medicaid spending per capita in New York State is the highest in the nation with three-fourths of the funds going to 23 percent of the patients, much of it to nursing homes. The percentage of uninsured in New York State is the lowest in the nation, 13.5%. We are the only state whose number of uninsured has gone down in the last five years. In NYS the ratio of public spending to private is 50/50, the highest in the country. The hospital and nursing home work force has increased also, raising costs.

Denise Soffel represents the Community Service Society of NY. Her organization advocates for Medicaid patients and feels positively about Spitzer’s approach because he has promised no cuts, no raise in co-pays, and improved eligibility in Medicaid. She said that compared to other states, New York is very hospital-heavy, and NYS hospitals have a lot of political influence. She also believes that we need to move to more community health centers and community long-term care, especially to keep the disabled at home and out of long-term care facilities, which are so cost-intensive.

Charles Bell, from the Consumer’s Union, expects that the new insurance superintendent, Eric Dinallo, will be pro-consumer, resulting in public disclosure of the finances of insurance companies and of their contributions to NYS legislators. He is concerned that GHI and HIP are looking to merge and become for-profit and pointed out that when Empire Blue Cross became a for-profit company, their medical loss ratio (percentage of the premium spent on patient care) dropped from over 90 percent to a considerably lower number.

Fundraising

More Time to Hone Your Trivia Skills

Because of a busy spring schedule for the League, our Pub Quiz Nite will be rescheduled for some time in early fall. Details will be provided in a future Voter.

Susan Wilson, Chair 283-6549

Anne Kellett, Chair 329-7341

Written by Judi Roth
The League of Women Voters has recently launched a two-year Immigration Study (timeline below) aimed at helping communities understand the implications of immigration at the local, state, and federal levels. As part of this project, League members and leaders will explore the underlying values and principles regarding immigration, reasons for immigration, current federal immigration policy, and the impact of immigration in American society. Other related topics covered will include:

- business and economic effects and impact
- diversity
- effects of global interdependence on migration
- motivation of refugees, asylees and other immigrants

Please continue to visit this page [www.lwv.org/projects] as more information becomes available, and utilize the resources provided to gain a better understanding of the complex immigration issue as it relates to your community.

The LWVUS Two-Year Immigration Study Timeline

**September 2006 to January 2008**
Local Leagues help educate members and communities about immigration issues.

**September 1, 2007**
The LWVUS distributes a Leader’s Guide that includes consensus questions.

**September 2007 to January 2008**
Local Leagues take consensus.

**February 1, 2008**
Deadline for the LWVUS to receive consensus response forms.

**February 1, 2008 to March 20, 2008**
Using consensus responses, the LWVUS Immigration Study Committee formulates the position.

**Late March/early April 2008**
The LWVUS Board adopts the position.

* This information is reprinted from the League’s national website, www.lwv.org.

INFORMATION ON LWV WEB SITES
For regional information and links to national and state leagues, go to [www.lwv-suffolkcounty.org].
For the current issue of *The National Voter*, go to [www.lwv.org].
To see the LWVH Voter, go to [www.lwvny-bulletins.org/Long%20Island/Hamptons.htm].
LWVSC VISITS BD OF ELECTIONS

On March 7, 2007, members from the LWV of Suffolk County met with Commissioner Anita Katz and newly appointed Commissioner Cathy Geier as well as her staff. At this time no one is certain when or which voting machines will replace our levers. In fact, we can not be certain who will ultimately be making the choice. The LWV is advocating strongly for a single statewide optical scan voting system and supports Assembly Bill #A05170 sponsored by Assemblyman Galef and cosponsored by some of our own legislators: Ginny Fields, Fred Thiele, Jr., and also James Conte and Steven Engelbright. The commissioners were skeptical that this bill would pass as two years ago legislators had abdicated and left the decision to the counties. However, we should all be thanking our legislators who support this bill as well as advocating for our other legislators as well as state senators and Governor Spitzer to support a single statewide optical scan system so that we can be certain our votes are counted and counted correctly.

We also need to begin lobbying for unrestricted absentee ballots. According to Aimee Allaud, the LWVNYS has supported this since the early 1990’s when members testified extensively in a series of hearings. Now that everyone is certain and concerned that whenever the change of voting machines occurs, there will be some confusion at polling sites and resistance from some voters, it seems an excellent time to lobby for unrestricted absentee ballots. Thirty states now allow anybody to cast an absentee ballot whereas six years ago it was only twenty. In New York under current law, only voters who are physically impaired, under a doctor’s care, and unable to get to the polls or those persons who are not in the county on Election Day due to business or vacation can vote on an absentee ballot. Even with the extended hours for voting, this presents a hardship for voters who may live in one end of the county and work on the other or even for some people on the east end who work in the city. These voters are often faced with the dilemma of not voting or not being truthful when applying for an absentee ballot. Both Commissioner Katz and Commissioner Geier favor easing restrictions for absentee voting.

They both also reminded us of another very important role that LWV members could fulfill; ie, poll inspectors. Change of any kind meets resistance. Not only will voters be skeptical but it is anticipated that poll workers and inspectors will also be and it is assumed many will quit. Who would be able to better fulfill the job of inspector than League members? Not only will we be able to provide a concrete service on Election Day, but it will provide us with first hand knowledge of what else needs to be done to keep making improvements and help elections run smoothly. New York has been slow to decide which machines we will use and this has been beneficial as it has resulted in us not making the mistakes of others. However, let our members NOT delay in getting involved. We have so much we can do to help our BOE. Let’s do it!
SC FORENSIC MENTAL HYGIENE
HOUSING PROGRAM (FMHHP)

League members are currently meeting with our State Senators and Assembly Members to present this program which will divert people with mental illness and/or co-occurring substance abuse disorders from the SC Correctional Facility into safe and supportive housing, a cost-effective alternative to jail, while reducing the risk of recidivism for offenders with mental illness. This proposed program model is supported by Community Mental Hygiene, the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC), District Court, Probation Department, and the Coalition of Mental Health Service Providers.

Suffolk County is unique because of the three psychiatric centers which had housed nearly 33,000 people, and at their peak, about one-third of all institutionalized patients in the State. Now only Pilgrim Psychiatric Center remains open with approximately 600 patients. Reinvestment funding was an attempt by the State to foster continued downsizing of psychiatric institutions by linking funding to counties for the development of community mental health resources. However, most of the funds were attached to a statewide pool of funds allocated to all counties, rather than to the specific localities actually affected by the reduction in State psychiatric facility beds. Suffolk County, therefore, never received the funding that matches the demand and service needs of individuals who were de-institutionalized. The impact of inadequate State funding has been profound.

In any given year, an average of 6,000 people with serious mental illness are involved with Suffolk County’s criminal justice system. Several polls show that approximately 20 percent of the inmates in our jails (and 10 percent of probationers) have serious and persistent mental illness. Many of these people, when not jailed, are homeless, unemployed, undereducated, and lacking in daily living skills. They normally do not receive adequate treatment for their mental illness. When they are jailed, it costs the County $230 a day for each, or over $74,000 annually!

Because the County’s mental health systems are so overburdened and underfunded, and because there are a minimum number of safe, supportive housing units available to them, individuals with mental illness, often with co-occurring substance abuse disorders, seek housing in unlicensed, unregulated, and unsafe sober homes, DSS emergency housing, or end up homeless. Often they become victims wherever they are.

Given these current conditions, people with mental illness lose their ability to function; they repeat the very behaviors that put them at risk of incarceration in the first place.

FMHHP will provide supervised community residence and supported housing to these individuals, who would be able to move into supported housing to provide a cost-effective alternative to jail, while reducing the risk of recidivism for these non-violent offenders with mental illness. This program will strengthen participants’ social functioning through peer support groups, reduce substance abuse, improve overall mental health and employability and link participants with supportive services upon release from this program.

The purpose of our interviews with State legislators is to ask them to work with the Governor’s Office, the Division of Budget, and the Office of Mental Health to ensure that the Governor’s proposed mental health housing expansion is incorporated in the final budget and to ensure that funding is made available specifically for Suffolk County to fund this proposal. We did attend the Budget Public Hearing presented by Republican Assembly members on March 2nd. Because of time constraints, though, we were unable to speak, but left a copy of the FMHHP program and the presentation on it we planned to make for each of the Assembly Members.

Katherine Hoak

SUFFOLK COUNTY REPUBLICAN WOMEN

We were invited by Fran Brechter, President of the Suffolk County Republican Women, to join them at their first General Membership Meeting of 2007 at the Islip GOP Headquarters on March 7th to talk about the League and some of our activities and goals. Members of the Babylon, Brookhaven, Huntington and Islip GOP Clubs were present. Their primary goals were to increase their membership and to encourage more women to become involved in the political process. They wanted information and education from us.

We gave an overview of the League's mission to educate and motivate citizen participation, our Voter Service activities, and the primary positions (Affordable Housing, Alternatives to Incarceration, focusing on services for mentally ill people who become involved with the criminal justice system, Redistricting, Campaign Finance Reform, and Environmental Concerns, specifically the Lloyd Aquifer) which we work on.

We received a warm response and met many women who share our concerns and involvements. It was a rewarding evening!
Membership

The Education Fund of the League of Women Voters of the Hamptons plays a major role in contributing to the League’s efforts to provide information to its members, voters, and the community. As we approach the 2008 election year, these efforts will increase. We will be participating in voter registration, moderating local candidates debates, clarifying local propositions, and dealing with other related issues. All of these activities are supported by the Education Fund—a separate account to which contributions are tax-deductible. Since a major portion of your membership dues supports the national and state LWV, as well as your local League, the Education Fund depends on direct contributions from League members and sponsors. In order to support these efforts and best serve our community, contributions are vital. In the critical time ahead, please consider making a contribution to the LWVH Education Fund.

Arlene Makl, Chair

324-8662

WISHES FOR A SPEEDY RECOVERY

We wish a speedy recovery to Susan Wilson. Susan is undergoing extensive physical therapy following an injury to her right shoulder. Good thing she’s left-handed!

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP LUNCHEON MEETING
A RESOUNDING SUCCESS

With the weather temperatures hovering around a balmy fifty degrees, some thirty-five League members and their guests gathered at Cappelletti’s Italian Grill in Noyac for good food and lively discussion on March 12th. From the Board’s point of view, the meeting combined two objectives: to have a somewhat delayed annual “winter blues” luncheon and to give the members an opportunity to ask questions and offer suggestions.

Thanks to the leadership of Judi Roth and the involvement of Julia Kayser and Pat Arceri, and from the level of interaction, it would seem that we accomplished both.

New member Barbara Adams from Amagansett suggested that we encourage the local papers to keep track of the votes of elected officials on legislation presented. She noted how this practice, existing in a Texas paper which she brought to the luncheon—she was prepared—listed actions both taken and upcoming. Other suggestions were, as part of our efforts in meetings to educate voters, that we could incorporate actual copies of upcoming ballots; that we should pursue and/or keep informed about the two-year immigration study now being undertaken by the League at the national level; and that we should continue the correspondence with Governor Spitzer to press for the selection of optical scan voting machines in the state.

So there was a lot to munch on—literally and figuratively—at our “forward March” meeting! Shall we make it an annual affair?

Written by Anne Marshall

DO YOU NEED A RIDE TO MEETINGS? Call us at 324-4637--we will try to arrange to have you picked up.

ARE YOU MOVING, changing your phone number or your e-mail address? Let us know so you can stay in the loop.

DO YOU WANT THE LEAGUE TO FOLLOW-UP with someone you think should join the LWVH? Call Pat Arceri 267-3062 with the name, address, and phone number, and she will send that special someone information about the League.
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**MEMBERSHIP DUES**

Dues may be sent to: LWVH, P.O. Box 2253, East Hampton, NY 11937

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Membership Type</th>
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Dues Year is June 1, 2006 through May 31, 2007.

_____ Member Renewal  
_____ New Member

Visa and MasterCard accepted.
Card Number: ___________________  Exp. Date: ___________________
Signature: _____________________

Please make checks payable to LWVH and mail to:

LWVH, P.O. Box 2253, East Hampton, NY 11937

*For Education membership, amounts above dues level are tax deductible. In this case, please make checks payable to EDUCATION FOUNDATION—LWV/Hamptons.
GIVE A GIFT MEMBERSHIP

to a friend, family member, or neighbor. It is a unique gift that may lead to a lifelong League membership.

DO YOU WANT TO GIVE SOMEONE A UNIQUE PRESENT for graduation, a birthday, for just being a good friend or neighbor? How about giving a League membership?  
Call Arlene Makl at 324-8662. See Dues Structure on reverse side.

INDIVIDUAL MEMBER’S NAME ____________________________________________________________
OTHER HOUSEHOLD MEMBER’S NAME____________________________________________________
WINTER ADDRESS ______________________________________________________ AS OF _________
SUMMER ADDRESS ______________________________________________________ AS OF _________
PHONE (WINTER) ___________________________ PHONE (SUMMER) _______________________
E-MAIL ADDRESS ________________________________________________________________