Program Planning Will Be on January 9

By Judy Samuelson

Our program planning meeting sets our priorities for the coming year. It begins with a free, lively and thoughtful discussion. We record all ideas, then group them into categories. Last year, the broad groups were Health Services, Voter Services and Increasing Participation Among Members.

After we categorize the suggestions into group headings, we vote on which three or four the group feels our committees should focus upon. Then those ideas are presented at the next Board meeting. The program as accepted is then divided and assigned to the appropriate committee.

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 working on January 9, please send Glorian Berk or me an e-mail (copresidents@lwvhampton.org) with your ideas and we’ll include them.

By the way, we’re serving a light lunch as well!

Here are the details:
Monday January 9 2017, 1 pm to 2:30 pm
Southampton Community Center,
585 Sag/Main Turnpike, Bridgehampton NY 11932

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SAVE THE DATE

MONDAY, JANUARY 9, 2017
HAMPTON LIBRARY
IN BRIDGEHAMPTON

PROGRAM PLANNING MEETING
(See accompanying article)
1:00 p.m. LUNCH IS SERVED!

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MONDAY, MARCH 13, 2017
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PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING ON
WHETHER OR NOT
NEW YORK STATE SHOULD HOLD
A CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

http://www.lwvhamptons.org
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 seven 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 Judy Samuelson

The following content was inspired by the President’s Message written by LWV-Schenectady President Cheryl Nechamens, who wrote, “In the wake of the election, some people have resolved to ‘get involved’ and might be wondering what they can do. The League of Women Voters’ mission statement is a pretty good guide on how to get involved.” I thought the way she connected our core mission with how people can get involved is a great jumping-off place for my editorial.

“First, we are a non-partisan organization. We neither support nor oppose any political party or candidate.” Cheryl pointed out how the League is respected for how we handle candidate forums, allowing the public to listen to candidates about their proposed policies in an environment that maintains a civil discourse. We are asked to manage more debates every year as our reputation for non-partisanship and order increases.

“Second, we encourage the informed and active participation of citizens in government.” To help our members and the public understand the issues of the day, LWV invites interesting speakers or a panel of subject matter experts to our Public Information Meetings (PIMs) to speak about topics of interest to the community. For example, the Health Committee presented a meeting about the merger between Southampton Hospital and Stony Brook University; with the Government Committee, they offered a program about single payer in NY State. The Natural Resources Committee had a representative from a carbon tax proposal explain one way to reduce consumption of fossil fuels. And what hasn’t the Education Committee done? They inaugurated a Students Inside Albany-like program on the county level. They went into schools to present Vote 18 and register new young voters. While in the high schools, they recruited students to attend and participate in debates for Congress. The committee list goes on.

“Third, to ensure that citizens can participate in government, we do extensive voter registration drives.” We do this all year, but particularly by staffing more than a dozen sites on National Voter Registration Day and by traveling two months a year to the Islip Federal Courthouse to register newly minted citizens. We make registration forms available at public information meetings. We field a variety of calls on our League phone (631 324 4637) including questions about absentee ballots, how to register, whether debates are free (yes!) and more. The Voter Services committee is often helped by other members, sometimes just on a one-off basis.

The last part of our mission statement states that “we work to increase the understanding of major public policy issues and influence public policy through education and advocacy.” Through a grassroots approach, the League develops positions on issues at the state and national levels. We then lobby our elected officials to turn those positions into law. A good example is our ongoing advocacy for the position of Town Manager for the two Towns. We published a position-neutral Proposition Guide on the 2016 proposition to extend the CPF to 2050, but having studied the issue, we separately advocated online and in person for a yes vote.

Of course, to provide all these services takes time and energy from lots of people. So next time you say, “I want to get involved,” think of the League and the diverse ways in which you can make a difference by joining one or more committees.
Thanks To and For Our Advertisers (In Story Form)

By Judi Roth

I know that I try to fit too much activity into a day so perhaps it wasn’t a good idea to play a game of tennis at EAST HAMPTON INDOOR TENNIS and then go to a yoga class at YOGA SHANTI but I had to get my exercise in because that night I was going out for a delicious Indian dinner at SAAZ before seeing a new play at the HAMPTON THEATRE COMPANY in Quogue. I know, I know – it’s too much in one day. Maybe I need a COGNITIVE SCREENING from Dr. Valerie King or I may end up with just some physical therapy at MANUAL & SPORTS PHYSICAL THERAPY. Maybe I should change my lifestyle and become more sedate and just find a good book at ROGERS MEMORIAL LIBRARY or do something that is culturally fulfilling like a visit to LONG HOUSE RESERVE.

But I have to put all that aside because I really need to get my house in shape. We’ve been considering new windows and REILLY WINDOWS has been recommended. And those plumbing problems are not going away by themselves and it’s time to call in PROFESSIONAL TECHNOLOGY PLUMBING & HEATING or NORTH SEA PLUMBING AND HEATING CO. And while I’m at it, I think I’ll ask NUGENT & POTTER to come over and check out my irrigation system because TIM BLENK OF TREE CARE told me he didn’t think our arborvitaæ were getting enough water. Plus I wanted to stop at LYNCH’S GARDEN CENTER and get some ideas on new plantings. Then as long as I’m in Southampton I can make a quick stop at HILDRETH’S HOME GOODS to get some new towels for the bathroom and run into HERRICK HARDWARE to pick up town trash bags. And I almost forgot to pick up my prescription!

SOUTHRIPTY DRUG is right around the corner.

And then of course, we’ve been thinking about expanding a bit and I’ve had recommendations about DI SUNNO ARCHITECTURE and also about MARK C. MATTHEWS ARCHITECT. How to choose? Maybe I’ll ask a builder what they’ve heard. I could try KOLE BUILDERS or maybe CHIFFERT ARCHITECTURAL ENGINEERING who help get approvals and permits. And I know this is going to cost a lot of money so I’d better get my financing lined up. Let’s see I could go to APPLE BANK, BRIDGEHAMPTON NATIONAL BANK OR SUFFOLK COUNTY NATIONAL BANK. Or maybe we should explore getting a reverse mortgage from AMERICAN ADVISORS GROUP. That would give us some cash to play with. But I’m not sure how that works. Better call a lawyer from BAINTON LAW GROUP to get their opinion. This is giving me a headache! I think I’d better just buy a new house! I’ll call AFTON DISUNNO AT BROWN HARRIS STEVENS or FINE HOMES AND ESTATES AT CENTURY 21 to find out how much I could get for this house. But if I called in GLADYS REMLER DESIGN she could come up with a way to declutter my house to make it saleable.

Okay, okay – it’s time to have a cup of coffee and a muffin. There’s HAMPTON COFFEE in Water Mill – you know they’ve really grown – they’re also on County Road 39 and in Westhampton Beach and Aquebogue too. Or maybe I’ll go through Sag Harbor and have a smoothie at PROVISIONS and pick up those toys for the holiday at THE WHARF SHOP and I told BETH BARTH I would stop in to talk about referring a patient to her psychotherapy practice. So much to do, so little time. I wish there was a place like the Springs ONE STOP MARKET in Southampton.

But Southampton does have the HAMPTON DENTAL GROUP AND DR. GREGORY DAVIS if I decide to have those implants done. And it’s also easy to get new tires at SOUTHAMPTON TIRE CENTER or get my car fixed at JOE’S GARAGE. And my car better be in good shape because I’m planning an outing to Hampton Bays to get some unique new clothes at FANDANGO and to drop off some cleaning at GOOD GROUND CLEANERS. But perhaps before I go spending money on new clothes I should take some of my slightly out-of-style items to NANCY’S TAILORING AND ALTERATIONS in Noyac and also take some to STITCH in Southampton Village. So many choices – same with having monograms and screen printing done – I can go to ATLANTIC COAST to get new uniforms for my staff with their names embroidered (wait, I don’t have any staff) or while I’m in Hampton Bays, check out SWAN-OTTA, INC. for custom screen printing.

My home office is getting overloaded and my computer problems mount – maybe what I really need is to start using HAMPTONS VIRTUAL OFFICE CENTER so I don’t need to work at home. Then I can utilize EAST HAMPTON BUSINESS SERVICES for mailings and photocopying. But that sounds like I’m becoming a business and if that happens, I’d better get in touch with DERMOT DOLAN AT STATE FARM because I have no business insurance.

Okay, that’s as far as I can go – with many thanks to our other worthy advertisers – SPRINGS HARDWARE, JIM’S BUSY BEE, C.E. KING & SONS, (who do marine boat covers), COUNTRY GARDENS (where I buy all my bird food) and ANDERSON TOOLING CO. – a complete machine shop.

And to our readers please patronize these wonderful advertisers who help keep us in business and need us to do the same for them.
LWVH Forms Committee to Plan Events for 100th Anniversary of Women’s Vote in NYS in 2017

By Arlene Hinkemeyer

January marks not only the start of the New Year but also the start of celebrations throughout New York State in 2017 to mark the 100th anniversary of women winning the right to vote on November 6, 1917. This occurred when male voters in NYS finally passed a referendum on that election day, providing suffrage for women. It had failed by 200,000 votes in the November 1915 elections.

Of course, 100th anniversary events will also be taking place throughout the United States in 2020, in celebration of the ratification on August 26, 1920, of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, granting women the right to vote in all states throughout the nation.

New York State and the League of Women Voters are especially motivated to celebrate these upcoming anniversaries, because: (1) NYS was the birthplace of the woman suffrage movement, with the first Women’s Rights Convention being held in Seneca Falls on July 19-20, 1848, organized by Lucretia Mott and Elizabeth Cady Stanton; and (2) the right of suffrage led to the formation of the League of Women Voters of NYS on November 19, 1919, and the formation of the League of Women Voters of the United States on February 14, 1920, to educate women on the issues.

LWVNYS 100th Anniversary Planning Committees

Our New York State League has already formed several 100th anniversary planning committees. An Education Sub-Committee is developing lists of resources, such as speakers, films, books, websites, which will be available on www.lwny.org. Other work is being done by the Historical Research Sub-Committee, the Fundraising Sub-Committee and the Events Sub-Committee, on which I serve.

The State League is already planning: a) a January press conference in Albany to kick off the start of the celebratory year; (b) a March/April reading with the NYS Senate and Assembly Women’s Caucuses of an Elizabeth Cady Stanton speech in both houses of the NYS legislature; (c) a June 9 bus trip to Seneca Falls before the start of the LWVNYS convention, June 10-11; (d) and a November 4 reception/speaker at the opening of the NYS Museum’s major exhibit on women’s history/rights/suffrage.

Long Island Woman Suffrage Association

Right here on Long Island, Antonia Pettrash of Glen Cove, author of “Long Island and the Woman Suffrage Movement” and founder/president of the Long Island Women Suffrage Association (she is also a member of the Port Washington/Manhasset LWV), organized a wonderful L.I. Woman Suffrage Centennial Conference on November 5 at the Walt Whitman Birthplace in Huntington. I was a speaker, as were other Long Island historians who have done research on the suffrage movement. Also attending from our League were Judi Roth and Martha Potter, as well as representatives from historical societies, libraries and schools.

Exciting ideas emanated from this conference, including the possibility of re-creating a part of the June 1915 Suffrage Torch Relay, which started at Montauk Point, carried by our own famous local suffragist Mrs. Thomas L. (May Groot) Manson of East Hampton, and passed on to others on the way up to Buffalo.

LWVH 100th Anniversary Committee

Several wonderful League members have already volunteered to serve on our planning committee. They include Judi Roth, Martha Potter, Ann Sandford, Cathy Peacock, Barbara McClancy and Susan Wilson.

Ideas that we are considering could include: inviting a speaker for our May Annual Meeting; marching in Southampton’s July 4 Parade with our own float; and in August, possibly working with other community organizations to re-create the big East Hampton Suffrage Rally that took place in August 1913.

Already scheduled by the East Hampton Library’s Tom Twomey Lecture Series is an October 19, 2017 talk by Antonia Pettrash and Arlene Hinkemeyer, hosted by Judith Hope and titled “Long Island, Women’s Suffrage and One Hundred Years of the Vote in New York State.” Working with the Southampton Historical Society and the Rogers Memorial Library, we will be co-sponsoring a bookclub/reading on women’s suffrage through a grant offered by Humanities New York.

We will keep you posted, as we meet and make plans. Anyone interested in joining, please get in touch with Arlene Hinkemeyer at ahhinkemeyer@optonline.net.
VOTE 411 Continues to Grow

By Carol Mellor

VOTE411, the league’s online, interactive voter guide (the actual candidate and race information), has shown itself to be an increasingly utilized tool in the elections in this country.

The national league has termed the 2016 results “a huge success” based on the fact that, nationally, VOTE411 had nearly 6 million sessions (views or visits) from Jan 1st through Nov 8th, and over 2.7 million of those visits resulted in the compilation of personalized voters’ guides for individual voters. That represents an over 279% increase nationwide to voters’ guides on VOTE411 as compared to 2012, the last comparable election.

This year, in some markets, Vote411 partnered with Google and, as a result, the presence on the internet was greatly enhanced. This partnership was funded by a grant from Google and it is hoped that in future years more markets will be covered.

The national success of Vote411 is best seen in some comparisons between 2012 and 2016. The Friday before the election, every state had already experienced more sessions than they did in all of 2012. On Election Day itself, the voter guide section alone had over 400,000 sessions across the country. It was a 280% increase in the number of sessions on Election Day in 2012. Vote411 had nearly 6 million sessions from Jan 1st through Nov 8th, and over 2.7 million of those sessions included the online voters’ guides.

The national success was paralleled by huge increases in usage in New York State. Statewide, there were a total of 176,974 sessions of which 143,822 were new users. In 2012 there were only 52,212 sessions throughout the state. Thus, we had a 238.95% increase in sessions.

Locally, our numbers also increased greatly. The raw number of users are set forth in the chart in the next column.

These raw numbers are most easily understood, however, in the context of increased usage. Amagansett went from no users in 2012 to eight in 2016. Bridgehampton went from 4 users to 37, a 825% increase. Other localities had impressive increases in numbers. For example, Southampton Beach went for four users to 24, a 500% increase and Westhampton Beach went from 3 users to 10, a 233.33% increase. It must be noted that those percentages, while impressive, pale in comparison to the results in Brookhaven, which saw a 2750% increase. Way to go, Brookhaven!

These numbers, admittedly, are still small. So, how do we continue the increases and make further inroads into the consciousness of voters. National has undertaken several avenues of publicity which we can, and should, adopt in future years. Among national’s efforts to spread the word were:

1. Use of Facebook and Twitter to spread the word. Throughout the year they posted on the VOTE411 Facebook page promoting VOTE411 and the voters’ guides. There are currently over 8,500 “likes” on this page and the VOTE411 Twitter handle currently has over 3,800 followers. These VOTE411 specific activities are in addition to the VOTE411 posts on the LWVUS Facebook page (over 85,300 likes) and sent out via the LWVUS Twitter handle (over 16,000 followers).

2. Through outreach to national partners and media, etc., over 5,100 different websites linked to VOTE411 in some way, either through direct links or through the widget LWVUS provided for free.

3. Actively managing the ongoing LWVEF Google Grant that provided VOTE411 with approximately $250,000 worth of free search-term advertising on Google Search.

4. Partnership with AIGA, the Professional Association for Design and their Get Out the Vote poster contest. Hundreds of posters were created and submitted in the contest, all of which included the VOTE411 logo.

5. Undertaking of traditional media outreach in the weeks leading up to Election Day. These efforts included contacting media outlets nationwide and highlighting all the information we provide on VOTE411.

Other good news is in the fact that the system became much easier to use. Next year, the goal will be to increase the numbers of users by more robust use of social media to direct voters to this service.
Information Items:
• State is requesting local leagues put together their history in anticipation of the 100th anniversary of NYS suffrage. They are looking for a contact person for each local league. Suggestions for volunteers are Jacqui Lofaro and Ann. Glorian will ask State for the specific information they are looking for.
• State is requesting the names of local experts on woman’s history. Arlene will organize this.
• The Membership roster is to be completed by Jan. 31, 2017 for PMP charges. Estelle will remind Vicki Umans who has the data.
• We need more volunteers to be editors for the Voter. Glorian will shadow Judi next month and Gladys also volunteered.
• LVW-SC is having a meeting next Wednesday, Dec. 14th, at SCC in Riverhead with two political reporters from Newsday Rick Brand and David Schwartz as guests followed by a Holiday Brunch at “Digger O’Dell’s.”

Discussion Items:
• Glorian received an email from the LWV-US recently that used the phrase “rigged election” in a call for activism by the league. She felt it reflected too directly on comments made during the election and adds a partisan feel to the leagues “Non-Partisan” policy. The Board agreed that she should write a letter to National protesting this perceived slant.
• New donations received led us to decide to change the name of the “Betty Desch Fund” to “Endowment Funds” to reflect other donors. We further reiterated that the use of the fund money can be used for anything the current and future Board of Directors feels is necessary and appropriate via a stated motion and vote of approval of the board.
• The criteria for presenting an Honorary Membership is fluid with the choice being that of the executive board.
• On Nov. 14th the Government Committee sponsored a consensus that was held regarding legislative procedures. A motion was presented and seconded to send the results of the “sense of the room” to LVW-NY and was approved by acclamation.
• The Holiday Party will take place Dec.15 at 5 – 7 PM at the United Universal Meeting House on the Bridgehampton / Sag Harbor Turnpike. Setting up will begin at 4:30 PM. Judi will bring the donation basket. The charities are the food pantries in Southampton, Sag Harbor and Springs. Remember, there is a kitchen, but no cooking. A detailed list of foods and volunteers is attached.

PIM’s in 2017:
• January 9- Planning meeting will take place at the BH Library at 1 PM and we will provide lunch.
• Feb. 9- the Blah’s lunch at Bobby Van’s in place of a PIM.
• March 13 at 7 PM in the BH Library - NYS Constitutional Convention
• April 17 options are something from the NRC, School Supervisors or Newsday reporters.
• May, Annual Meeting, date TBA.

Committee Reports:
• Voter Services covered new citizen voter registration in Islip four times in November. . Anne had the League phone in October and fielded over 50 calls for information. Anne is also preparing the annual report to state. The committee held 6 debates this year; the Democratic congressional primary, the US Congressional candidates, the NYS Senate, a special election in Southampton, the SH School Board and the Southold Democratic Club.
• The Government Committee is having a meeting Dec 12 to begin preparing for the March 2017 PIM on the NYS Constitutional Convention.
• The Education Committee is revamping their questions and procedures for “Students Inside Albany”. Judi, Martha and Ursula had a very successful visit to Westhampton Beach High School to discuss two classes’ participation in the Congressional debate held at their school.
• A new 100th Anniversary Committee of NYS suffrage is being formed to explore options to celebrate this anniversary in 2017. Arlene, Judi, Martha Cathy, and Barbara are interested. Arlene prepared a report highlighting some of the events being planned, possible speakers, suggestions for events and the agenda from a recent conference on the centennial.
• Public relations report that Susan, Glorian and Judy S. all had letters to the editors published this month.
• Special Events will be having a meeting at the end of December. They are exploring their role in the anniversary celebrations.
• Membership reports 99 individuals, 12 of whom have partner members. There are 111 paid membership and 11 new members for the year.
• Health reports a tentative visit to Phoenix House Dec.16 and an appointment to meet with Mr. Chaloner on Jan, 18.

Housekeeping:
The upcoming “Voter” editors are as follows:
• April/ Judy S.
• May/June, Estelle
• July/August, Arlene
• September, Arlene
Newsday Political Reporter meets with LWVSC board

Newsday Reporter David Schwartz joined a meeting of the LWVSC board on Wednesday, Dec. 14 in Riverhead for an informal, wide ranging conversation which touched on county finances, politics and patronage, possible effects of the new presidential administration on Suffolk County, transparency in the SC legislature, and the reach and effectiveness of print journalism today. We appreciated Dave’s thoughtful responses to our numerous questions, and hope to meet with Newsday’s editorial board in early 2017 to further explore issues important to the League.

Dave was unable to join us for our holiday lunch after the board meeting, since he was working on a story for the following day’s issue. It ran as the cover story in Newsday focusing on issues relevant and critical to the future of Suffolk County:

Dec. 15, 2016 Newsday/News 12 Special Report by David Schwartz
Pollution Loophole: How Suffolk developers legally use outdated sewage treatment rules, potentially endangering water.

Suffolk County estimates that more than 20,000 unsewered commercial properties likely qualify under the county “grandfathering” policy. The properties account for 20-30% of all nitrogen pollution from septic systems countywide. Suffolk County is proposing reforms, but the county estimates that the changes in policy would force only about 25% of applications a year to use advanced wastewater treatment systems that remove nitrogen.

LWVSC and our local Leagues will continue to monitor the SC Dept. of Health and engage with county elected officials in their campaign to reduce nitrogen pollution in Suffolk County.

Proposal to Reduce the Number of Suffolk County Legislative Districts

In late November, SC Legislator William J. Lindsay III submitted a bill which would reduce the number of Suffolk County Legislative districts (R1998-2016) from 18 to 13. The intent is to reduce costs (SC Leg salary, 3 paid staffers, a district office, etc.) while creating districts with “marginally larger populations” while maintaining full representation of minority communities. The LWVSC board has begun researching the details behind the proposal, and hopes to comment at a public hearing on the bill in early 2017. If the bill is passed by the SC Legislature and signed by the County Executive it would become a proposition on the November ballot. There would then be reapportionment needed to create the new districts.


The AG offered proposals to reform the system; these were very close to many of the ballot and election law reforms advocated by the League. His full report is on the LWVSC website http://www.lwv-suffolkcounty.org/files//2016_statewide_elections_report.pdf. The League will be making voting rights and voter access a priority in 2017.
Westhampton Beach High School Students Offer Their Opinions on Debate Format

By Judi Roth

As reported in the December Voter, students from teacher Pat Brosnan’s classes in Westhampton Beach High School took part in a contest asking them to give us their opinions of how the Congressional debate between incumbent Lee Zeldin and challenger Anna Throne-Holst was run. We received 10 entries and the responses were enlightening. Students definitely picked up on the fact that candidates often did not answer questions directly and they also thought that they would like us to give them more time for rebuttals. One student felt that the “air in the room was tense – the candidates attempted to be respectful, but they weren’t always”.

The students, all juniors, who submitted entries were Conor Schwenker, Griffin Wagner, Bennett McCombe, Ariel Kaplan, Eleanor Kast, Shannon Hewlett, Lauren Curren, Jackson Parli and Quentin Collins. The winner of the $50 cash award was Sydney Sheren. Here are some of Sydney’s comments:

• It was an interesting experience to be immersed in a situation similar to what is shown on TV. It definitely made me want to research some of the items discussed.
• If I was able to vote on November 8th, I believe this debate provided me with enough information to make a decision.
• I would have removed the red card rule. It did not seem to work as well as they may have expected.

As a follow up, Martha Potter, Ursula Lynch and I visited these two classes on December 7th and had a chance to talk with the students about not only this debate but about the students’ reactions to the presidential debates – which they all had watched! We found them to be informed and eager to engage. We thank teacher, Pat Brosnan, for her continuing support of the League and for welcoming us into her classroom.

We have revised our policy for selecting the students who will go to Students Inside Albany in May, 2017. Rather than asking the guidance counselor in a given school to seek out a student for us, we will run a contest to which students must submit a 500 word answer. The question is:

Tell us the reasons you want to be selected to represent your school, your community and the League of Women Voters at the conference “Students Inside Albany”. Include any experiences you have had in school government or electoral politics, and explain how you think government affects you as a young person starting out in life. Share your thoughts and ideas about what you might do to give your opinions and convictions a voice in government.

Government Committee Report

By Estelle Gellman

In the November 2017 election, New York State voters will be asked to vote on whether or not we should have a Constitutional Convention. In preparation of that vote, the NYSLWV would like to educate its members and the public about the question and would like our input on what position, if any, the NYSLWV should take on this matter. To that end, the Government Committee is studying the issue and will sponsor a Public Information Meeting on the topic on March 13th.

The areas the committee will be investigating are: (1) what is in the Constitution and how it is amended; (2) if a Constitutional Convention is approved, how will the delegates be selected and when and where will it be; (3) how would the delegates and the convention be organized to conduct business and what might it cost; (4) what are the issues that might be addressed; and (5) what are the pros and cons of a Constitutional Convention.

Prior to the March meeting, you will be receiving information via Constant Contact regarding what the Constitution is and what is in it. We hope that these will help prepare you for the March meeting and crystallize some of the questions you may have about whether or not we should support a Constitutional Convention.
Natural Resources

By Susan Wilson

Voters Pass CPF Proposition

LWVH is pleased to report that on November 8th, voters in all five East End towns overwhelmingly approved the extension of the Community Preservation Fund to allow as much as 20 percent of its future proceeds to be used to improve water quality.

Southampton Town voters approved the measure with 80.15 percent of the vote, East Hampton with 78.19 percent, Riverhead with 74.72 percent, Southold with 79.76 percent and with the lowest percentage(69.5 %) in Shelter Island Town.

“The Hills” – East: An Update

Glorian Berk and I attended the first of several Southampton Town Board Public Hearings on the East Quogue project known as “The Hills”. The hearing held at the East Quogue Elementary School was standing room only and drew more than 95 registered PRO/CON Speakers. Based on careful league study we spoke against the project due to environmental concerns (previously outlined in The Voter) and continue to send Letters to the Editor urging the Southampton Town Board to deny approval of the project.

The Natural Resources Committee will report further developments as additional public hearings take place. The approval/rejection process is far from complete. As a concerned citizen you can take action: Let the SH Town board know that you do not support the destruction of our already endangered environment - SAY NO TO “THE HILLS”.

Suffolk County Approves 2 New Septic Systems

The two septic systems approved by the Suffolk County Health Department were recently presented to the East Hampton Town Board. They are the Singular and the Hydro-Kinetic manufactured by Norweco, a company based in Norwalk, OH and are currently installed in Massachusetts, Maryland, Ohio, Rhode Island and in northern Canada.

The cost to install the Singular system is $13,000 and $15,000 to install the Hydro-Kinetic system. Annual maintenance for each system would be approximately $300 with a $12 per month cost to operate. A regular septic system costs approximately $4,000 to install. The use of rebates from the newly approved extension of the CPF may be used to offset the additional costs.

If “Did Not Vote” Had Been A Candidate In The 2016 US Presidential Election, It Would Have Won By a Landslide *

Information below is as of November 13, 2016 (Map created by reddit user Taillesskangaru using 270 To Win)

The map above shows what the 2016 US Presidential Election results would have been if votes not cast for Clinton, Trump or one of the third party candidates had gone to fictional candidate “Did Not Vote.”

Only 6 states + Washington DC, had high enough voter turnouts where one of the actual candidates won more votes than people who did not to vote. Iowa and Wisconsin for Trump and Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Hampshire and DC for Clinton.

Continued from page 18
If “Did Not Vote” Had Been A Candidate In The 2016 US Presidential Election, It Would Have Won By a Landslide *

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A few other 2016 election facts for you.
• As a percentage of eligible voters, Clinton received 26.27% (60,839,922) of all votes compared to Trump’s 26.02% (60,265,858) and Did Not Vote’s 43.1% (110,450,842).
• Total voter turnout was estimated to be 56.9%.
• It is the 5th election since 1820 when the winner of the popular vote lost the presidency (the others being 1824, 1876, 1888, and 2000).
• Donald Trump received 667,646 fewer votes than Romney did in 2012. Hillary Clinton received 5,075,873 fewer votes than Obama did in 2012.
• Neither Candidate even won a majority of votes cast, Clinton got 47.8% vs Trump’s 47.3%.
• As a percentage of the entire US population (including those too young or others ineligible to vote) Clinton got votes from 18.73% of the population and Trump got votes from 18.56% of the people.
• Washington DC is the only area in the country where a majority of all eligible voters (whether they voted or not) voted for Clinton (90% of voters, voted for Clinton on a 55.7% turnout). In the other 6 states indicated above, victories were simple pluralities.
*Provided by LWV of Eastern Nassau

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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
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The League of Women Voters

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