



# THE VOTER

The Newsletter of the League of Women Voters of the Hamptons

Founded in 1977

Volume XXXVI, No. 4

May-June 2013



## It's May and the League is Blooming!

by Judy Samuelson

We hope you're planning to join your League on May 5 for our Annual Meeting. This important event includes our yearly business meeting where we reaffirm or amend our positions, vote on our budget and elect new directors. You will hear about the proposed programs, (i.e., action items) we will be working on, and because we're a grassroots democratic organization, you will vote to approve items and can make suggestions from the floor.

Our guest speaker is Barb Thomas, a member of the NYS League Steering Committee for the Women's Equality Coalition. She has been active in the League since 1965, first in Billings, Montana, then Bucks County, PA, and then Saratoga Springs, NY, where she served as president or co-president for 21 years. She was also pay equity co-specialist and is active with the New York State Pay Equity Coalition. Her abiding interest in fighting for women's rights is evident in the title of her talk "Leveling the Playing Field for Women." She is a dynamic speaker and we know you will enjoy hearing from her.

As you know from past meetings, we'll offer refreshments and an opportunity to mingle with new and old friends. Members and guests from the community are equally welcome. Sorry, only current LWWH members can vote. See you at 2 pm (there was some confusion about the time: it's 2 pm, not 3 pm) at the Watermill Community House on Montauk Highway in Watermill.

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## Save these dates!

### May 4, 3:00 PM

A forum on the League-endorsed concept of changing to a Council-Manager form of town government.  
Emergency Services Building,  
1 Cedar St., East Hampton

### May 5, 2:00 to 5:00 PM

*Our Annual Meeting*  
Watermill Community House,  
475 Montauk Highway, Watermill  
*Open to Members*

### May 9, 10:30 AM to 1:30 PM

LWVSC Annual Meeting, SCCC  
Culinary Center, Riverhead.

The League of Women Voters of the Hamptons

#### Mission Statement

The League of Women Voters of the Hamptons, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

#### Diversity Policy

The League of Women Voters of the Hamptons, in both its values and practices, is committed to diversity and pluralism. This means that there shall be no barriers to participation in any activity of the League on the basis of economic position, gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin or disability. The League of Women Voters of the Hamptons recognizes that diverse perspectives are important and necessary for responsible and representative decision-making. The League of Women Voters of the Hamptons subscribes to the belief that diversity and pluralism are fundamental to the values it upholds and that inclusiveness enhances the organization's ability to respond more effectively to changing conditions and needs. The League of Women Voters of the Hamptons affirms its commitment to reflecting the diversity of the East End.

#### Membership

Any person who supports the mission of the League may become a member.

#### *The Voter* Newsletter

The newsletter of the Hamptons League, *The Voter*, is dedicated to bringing useful information, background, perspective and commentary on public policy issues confronting League members and other community citizens in Southampton and East Hampton, Suffolk County and the State of New York. It explores the work of the League to promote positive solutions, and it empowers people to make a difference in their communities.

*The Voter* is published eight times a year (January/February, March, April, May/June, July/August, September, October, and November/December) by the League of Women Voters of the Hamptons, P. O. Box 2253, East Hampton, NY 11937.

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## President's Message

### What We Did in 2012-2013

by Judi Roth

I thought I would use this President's message to review what your League has accomplished over the past 12 months. When you are in the middle of things and worrying about what programs to put on, how many new members we are attracting, how much money is in the bank, etc. it is easy to lose sight of the truly wonderful things we accomplish as a League.

In **June** our program was: "Recycling: Where Are We Today?" put together by the Natural Resources Committee. Speakers were Sylvia Overby, East Hampton Councilwoman; Christine Fetten, Southampton Town Department of Public Works; and Skip Norsic of Norsic Waste Management. We also showed the very informative video, "Bag It: Is Your Life too Plastic?" Members also enjoyed a unique fund raising event in the rose garden of Joy Cordery with our guest speaker, Harvey Fierstein, President Emeritus of the Southampton Rose Society.

In **July** of 2012, responding to the furor over the Susan Komen Foundation's withdrawal of support for Planned Parenthood, we were fortunate to have the President of Planned Parenthood Hudson Peconic as our speaker. For this standing-room-only event, Reina Schriffirin, President and CEO, was joined by Chloe Cooney, Director of Global Advocacy.

The Mayors of the Villages of Southampton, Sag Harbor, East Hampton and Westhampton Beach spoke at the League's **September** meeting. Little did we know that sewage and septic systems are the most pressing problems our villages face.

**August, September** and **October** saw us switch into high gear with voter registration and GET OUT THE VOTE efforts. On National Voter Registration Day, we were in 15 locations with 26 people manning the spots and earned mention in the LWV national press. We ran one primary state senate debate, two state senate candidate debates and one congressional debate. Each venue, from East Hampton to Westhampton Beach, was packed. At Westhampton Beach High School, students acted as ushers and their questions were conveyed to the candidates. For the first time we ran public service announcements on WLNG encouraging people to get out and vote. We continued our visits to the federal courthouse in Islip, where League volunteers continue to register nearly 65% of the new citizens being sworn in.

Hurricane Sandy delayed but did not cancel our fall luncheon which took place on **November** 12 at Muse Restaurant in Sag Harbor. Katherine Szoka and Mary Ann Callendrille, owners of Canio's Bookstore, spoke eloquently about noted authors who made/make Sag Harbor their home. Also during **November** the Health Committee met with President Robert Chaloner of Southampton Hospital and members of the Government Committee met with County Legislator Jay Schneiderman. Our own Carol Mellor spoke to us about campaign finance reform efforts in Albany at our November meeting.

*Continued on page 19*

## Voter Services & Membership Committee Reports

### Keeping Alert to Protect Voting Rights

by Anne K. Marshall

*In a recent political blog, LWWUS President Elisabeth MacNamara warns about the need to be aware of the multiple bills that have been introduced at various state levels that, if enacted, will whittle away at citizens' voting rights. The following are excerpts from her entry:*

"...Over 2,200 bills have been introduced at the state level, and every state is currently weighing changes to its election process....Two major voting rights cases were recently heard by the Supreme Court, *Shelby County v. Holder* and *Arizona v. Inter-Tribal Council of Arizona*.

"At stake in *Shelby v. Holder*, for which the Supreme Court heard arguments in February, is the monumental Voting Rights Acts (VRA) of 1965. The VRA, which was designed by Congress to eliminate racial discrimination in voting, is widely recognized as one of the nation's most effective civil rights statutes. When it was last reauthorized in 2006, Congress declared that without its protections, 'racial and language minority citizens will be deprived of the opportunity to exercise their right to vote.' Yet it's on the chopping block as the Supreme Court justices debate its constitutionality, and at risk are the voting rights of millions of Americans.

"Just weeks after opening its review on *Shelby v. Holder*, the Supreme Court took yet another pass at voting rights. In *Arizona v. ITCA*, the Court is reviewing the crucial National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) of 1993. Commonly known as 'Motor Voter,' the NVRA streamlined voter registration, making it easier for citizens to register to vote, and protecting against state restrictions on voter registration for federal elections. If the Court rules against the NVRA, states would be free to pass laws that could restrict voter registration activities, like the voter registration drives held by the League of Women Voters, and thereby prevent eligible citizens from registering to vote. The NVRA streamlined the numerous state laws that hindered citizen-led registration drives, and a decision against the NVRA would leave the voter registration process vulnerable to new forms of political manipulation.

"Both the VRA and the NVRA have served as critical legislation for expanding the electorate and turning the page on the nation's history of segregation and discrimination in voting practices. The rulings on both Supreme Court cases will likely set the framework for decades of elections reform efforts to come. If states win

and voters lose before the U.S. Supreme Court, we can expect to see more and more states consider restrictions on the voter registration process and the right to vote unparalleled since the days of Jim Crow.

"At one point in our nation's history, the prospect that the Supreme Court might threaten such vital rights would have sent men, women and children into the streets in protest. But it's easy for changes to slip by when we're not looking. After all, *Shelby County v. Holder* and *Arizona v. ITCA* are unfolding in the immediate shadow of another bruising election season, a time when many voters want to hear nothing more about voting, elections and political candidates.

"While the potential effects of these two Supreme Court cases can't be overstated, it's never too late to tune in. We must remain vigilant, pay close attention to our state and local politics and continue to fight to protect our constitutional right to vote."

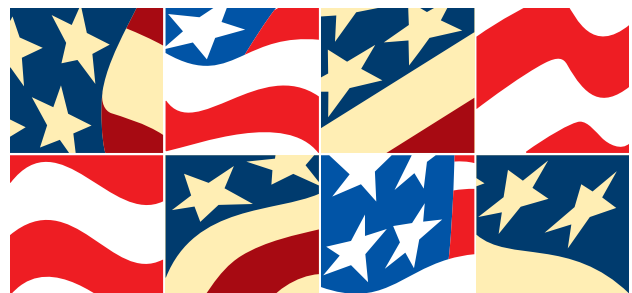
### Getting Organized and Getting Going

by Estelle Gellman

The new co-chairpersons of the Membership Committee, Joanne Samborn and Estelle Gellman, convened a committee meeting on April 4 to review committee procedures and prepare an early bird dues renewal mailing. As the fiscal year of the LWWH runs from June 1 to May 31, dues for 2013-14 are payable by June 1. However, the committee urges all members to renew their membership before the deadline.

Vicki Umans, who maintains the membership database, explained the various membership classifications and the procedures for keeping the database up-to-date to the six committee members present. One goal is to increase the committee's membership, since many of our initiatives are hands-on—for example, an annual lunch or dinner and orientation for new members. The next meeting will be May 2 at 2 pm at the Hamptons Library, Bridgehampton.

You're invited!



# Natural Resources Committee Report

## Environmental Innovators Share Knowledge and Enthusiasm

by Susan Wilson

On April 8, the LWWH Natural Resources Committee and the Rogers Memorial Library hosted a program to help us celebrate Earth Day every day of the year. The program, "Beyond Earth Day, What You Can Do Now" brought together environmental innovators Brian Halweil, Editor, Edible East End; Barbara Shinn, Shinn Estate Vineyards; Kim Tetrault, Cornell Cooperative Extension Service and Scott Chaskey, Peconic Land Trust & Quail Hill Farm. The four shared their vision, passion, expertise and enthusiasm with a standing-room only crowd.

We learned about growing oysters, growing organic wine, planting herbs in the vineyard, composting, rotating crops, developing better equipment to harvest potatoes, eating local seafood and produce that is in season.

Most enjoyable were questions from the knowledgeable audience. They covered a variety of subjects too numerous to detail. The panel collaborated to produce an action list of simple, fun and creative things we can do all year to nurture, protect and celebrate our environment. Make small changes gradually and it will become a way of life.

### SUGGESTIONS FROM THE ACTION LIST:

Take a hike, have a picnic, prepare more meals from scratch, recycle, use only organic pesticides, get to know your local farm stand, volunteer at a food pantry, join an environmental group. The list goes on, complete with suggested reading material and helpful websites.

Download the Action List:

[www.hampton.ny.lwvhn.net.org](http://www.hampton.ny.lwvhn.net.org).

For a replay of this event, check the SEA-TV schedule.

### EARTH DAY HISTORY

Rachel Carson's 1962 best-selling book, *Silent Spring*, raised public awareness for the environment and public health. The first Earth Day, April 22, 1970, saw 20 million Americans take to the streets, parks and auditoriums to demonstrate for a healthy, sustainable environment in massive coast to coast rallies. This first Earth Day led to the creation of the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the passage of the Clean Air, Clean Water and Endangered Species Act. Earth Day 1990 mobilized 200 million people in 141 countries. Today, environmental groups celebrate Earth Day with earth friendly activities such as picnics, clean-up events, planting and interactive educational events.



LWWH Natural Resources committee chair Susan Wilson, at podium, emceed the well-attended April 8 LWWH forum titled "Beyond Earth Day: What You Can Do Now." Panelists, left to right, were Scott Chaskey of Peconic Land Trust's Quail Hill Farm, Barbara Shinn of Shinn Vineyards in Mattituck, Brian Halweil, editor of Edible East End, and Kim Tetrault, community aquaculture specialist with Cornell Cooperative Extension. The program was co-sponsored with Southampton's Rogers Memorial Library.

Photo and caption by Arlene Hinkemeyer.



### Simple Actions That Protect The Earth

by Joy Cordery

- ▶ Put on a sweater. When you turn up the heat, your furnace is probably burning fossil fuels. A sweater or a nice warm robe will keep you even warmer and will help conserve resources and reduce climate change.
- ▶ Put one foot in front of the other. One hundred years ago, 99.9% of people got by without cars. They took the train, they lived near their work places—and they walked. Using fuel-efficient cars is important, but we can save even more fuel simply by driving less.
- ▶ Go for seconds. Recycling doesn't mean only separating your cans and bottles. It can mean using things a second time (or a third time). That nice padded envelope you got in the mail, for example? Instead of throwing it away, scratch out the address, tear off the stamps and reuse it.
- ▶ Watch your waste. Items you may be throwing away can contaminate the soil and water for thousands of years. Your community probably has special disposal procedures for things like used oil and batteries. Ink cartridges can probably be recycled where you bought them. And many of the new super-efficient light bulbs contain mercury, so proper disposal is crucial. Check with the store where you buy them.
- ▶ Paper or plastic. Bring your bags with you! By taking reusable bags to the grocery store, you can cut down on the 350 bags the average American uses each year and reduce needless deaths of marine life caused by plastic bags that end up in streams, rivers and oceans.
- ▶ BYOB. Last year Americans went through about 50 billion plastic water bottles. Fill up a reusable water bottle at home and bring it with you. Don't like the taste of your tap water? Buy a filter! (Remember, much of the bottle water sold today is filtered tap water anyway.)
- ▶ Flip 'em off. In much of America we can't even see the stars anymore, due in part to all the electric lights. Keep the light on in the room you're in, but keep the rest of your house dark. You'll find the dark soothing.

- ▶ Get in touch with your roots. Plant a tree. Good for the soil, good for the birds, good for reducing climate change—and good for the air you're breathing.
- ▶ Get off the list. Catalogs are great when they're from the company you like to order from. But if you're getting catalogs you don't buy from, call and tell them to get you off their lists—and that's an order.

*Information obtained from a publication of the World Wildlife Fund.*

### Special Report From Our Local High School Pierson High Followed Presidential Elections Closely

by Tiger Britt

This year, Ms. White-Dunne and her History of the Americas class followed the 2012 Presidential Election. This election year offered students of this class a new understanding of the politics of the United States. As the election progressed throughout the school year, the class performed numerous activities to follow and assess Governor Romney and President Obama.

In the beginning of the school year, we watched the Democratic National Convention (DNC). Each student chose three speakers from the DNC, and analyzed their speeches for evidence as to whether the Democrats accomplished certain criteria to give Democrats a political bounce, such as setting a positive tone for the future and reminding voters why they like Obama. The following day, the students had a roundtable debate about whether or not the Democrats were successful according to our criteria.

The students watched the three Presidential debates between Mitt Romney and Barack Obama. They rated each candidate on each debate, using the Lynn University scorecard. They then held another roundtable debate, and discussed how the candidates performed and how well they portrayed their ideas for domestic and foreign policies. We watched clips from previous Presidential debates to see if they had a lasting impact. On the day of the election, the students created electoral maps and projected which states they thought would go to each candidate by completing the CNN electoral map projection. In the end Tiger Britt projected a perfect 2012 Presidential election map!

*Editor's note: Tiger, a junior at Pierson H.S., is one of two students LWVH selected to go to Students Inside Albany. Tiger, his mother Stacey and sister Brooke are members of LWVH.*

# LWVH Board Meeting Summary

by Judy Samuelson  
*Held on April 3, 2013*

## INFORMATION ITEMS

\* Judi Roth has chosen not to continue as co-president because of other pressing commitments.

\* Judy Samuelson read letter from Terri Levin Davgin resigning from the Board and as chair of the Education Committee, citing a need to recover from surgery.

\* Report of Nominating Committee presented. Membership to vote upon at May 5 Annual Meeting

## UPCOMING EVENTS

\* GGG meeting on Town Manager Saturday May 4

\* Annual Meeting on Sunday, May 5, 2 pm not 3 pm

\* LWVSC Annual Meeting on Thursday, May 9, 10:30-1:30 at Riverhead Culinary Center – Speakers on Women’s Equity and Suffolk Legislative Update. Huntington League responsible.

\* LWNYS Convention. June 1-2 in Albany. Carol Mellor, Arlene Hinkemeyer and Sue Wilson, all on State Board, will also represent LWV-Hamptons. We will share expenses with State.

## DISCUSSION ITEMS

\* Gladys moved that the Board meet year-round at 5:30, rather than moving to 7 pm during spring and summer. Motion approved, passed to meet at 5:30 pm all year.

\* Annual meeting set-up and program – Judi and Glorian

- o All volunteered to bring items needed.
- o Sue will investigate purchasing cakes as in 2012.

\* Use of Betty Desch/Vanguard funds for operating expenses and budget. Judi proposed establishing a formal policy regarding use of funds. Discussion about whether to use interest, principal or both for non-educational purposes. Pro: Need more cash to keep operating. Con: Save capital for bigger expense, do more fundraising. Unresolved, but we agreed that we do not want a formal policy in place, preferring to address the issue on a case-by-case basis.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

\* Natural Resources – Sue. All is in place for April 8. She also noted that on Friday April 5, Dr. C. Gobler will lecture at Stony Brook, Southampton, about the fate of LI’s coastal ecosystems as they confront “the new normal.” The Peconic Institute invited LWVH to visit their offices at Southampton Stony Brook to learn more about each other’s interest in sustainability.

\* Membership – Estelle. Committee meets Fri. April 4. Estelle, Joanne Samborn (co-chairs) and Vickie Umans are making good progress to organize and learn how this important committee works.

\* Government and Health – Naomi.

- o She awaits response to her latest letter to the GGG re our involvement in their next meeting, likely on Saturday May 4. She said, “Other than serving as a resource and participating as a pro-Town Manager panelist.....we would appreciate clarification on any further role expected of us as co-sponsor.”
- o Plans in place for the committee’s June 10 member meeting at the Senior Center in Hampton Bays. Topic: Affordable Care Act. Speaker is Liz Dwyer.

\* Special Events – Gladys. The committee is enthusiastic about having events at the newly restored theater, Main St. Riverhead and also at the Parrish Museum

\* Education – Judi reported that committee, which she chairs following Terri Davgin’s resignation, will pursue projects arising from Program Planning of January 2013. Students Inside Albany (SIA) is April 14 – 17. LWVH will send two students from Pierson H.S. in Sag Harbor.

\* Public Relations – Arlene. Good publicity pre-and-post March 18 School Superintendents Forum. Program is also airing this week seven times on SEA-TV, and Arlene took the DVD to be shown on LTV. She sent out publicity to newspapers and websites for April 8 Earth Day program. SEA-TV will cover it.

\* Voter Services –Anne. Exploring fact, covered in April 2013 *Voter*, that two districts had larger number of ballots where choice for president was left blank.

**The next meeting will be held on May 1, 5:30 PM at the Bridgehampton National Bank, Bridgehampton.**

## May - June 2013

*Note: Meeting dates and times are published several weeks in advance and are subject to change. Please contact the Chairs or visit our website at [www.lwvhamptons.org](http://www.lwvhamptons.org) for updates. If you don't see a meeting for a committee of interest, contact the Chair of that committee. Contact information is listed on last inside page of The Voter and on the website, [www.lwvhamptons.org](http://www.lwvhamptons.org).*

<b>May 1</b> - 5:30 PM Wednesday	LWVH Board Meeting	Bridgehampton National Bank, Bridgehampton
<b>May 2</b> - 2 PM Thursday	Membership Committee Meeting	Hampton Library, Bridgehampton
<b>May 4</b> - 3 PM Saturday	Forum on Town Council-Town Manager Model	Emergency Services Building, 1 Cedar St. (off N. Main), East Hampton
<b>May 5</b> - 1:00 PM Sunday	<b>Annual Meeting</b>	Watermill Community House, Watermill.
<b>May 9</b> - 10:30 AM Thursday	LWV Suffolk Annual Meeting	Riverhead
<b>May 15</b> - 12:30 PM Wednesday	Voter Services Committee Meeting	Hampton Library, Bridgehampton
<b>May 16</b> - 1:30 PM Thursday	Education Committee Meeting	Location TBD Contact Judi Roth: <a href="mailto:education@lwvhamptons.org">education@lwvhamptons.org</a>
<b>May 22</b> - 2:30 PM Wednesday	Special Events Committee Meeting	Cooper Hall, Southampton Contact Gladys Remler: <a href="mailto:specialevents@lwvhamptons.org">specialevents@lwvhamptons.org</a>
<b>June 4</b> - 10 AM Tuesday	Natural Resources Committee Meeting	Hampton Library, Bridgehampton Contact Sue Wilson at 283-6549
<b>June 5</b> - 5:30 PM Wednesday	LWVH Board Meeting	Bridgehampton National Bank, Bridgehampton
<b>June 10</b> - 7:00 PM Monday	General Membership Meeting	Hampton Bays Senior Center, Ponquogue Ave., Hampton Bays Topic: The Affordable Care Act: What's Ahead
<b>TOWN BOARD MEETINGS</b>		
<b>May 2</b> - 7:00 PM	East Hampton Town Board Meeting	Town Hall Courtroom, 159 Pantigo Rd., East Hampton
<b>May 14</b> - 1:00 PM	Southampton Town Board Meeting	Town Hall Board Room, Southampton Town Hall, 116 Hampton Rd., Southampton
<b>May 16</b> - 7:00 PM	East Hampton Town Board Meeting	Town Hall Courtroom, 159 Pantigo Rd., East Hampton
<b>May 28</b> - 6:00 PM	Southampton Town Board Meeting	Town Hall Board Room, Southampton Town Hall, 116 Hampton Rd., Southampton
<b>June 6</b> - 7:00 PM	East Hampton Town Board Meeting	Town Hall Courtroom, 159 Pantigo Rd., East Hampton
<b>June 11</b> - 1:00 PM	Southampton Town Board Meeting	Town Hall Board Room, Southampton Town Hall, 116 Hampton Rd., Southampton
<b>June 20</b> - 7:00 PM	East Hampton Town Board Meeting	Town Hall Courtroom, 159 Pantigo Rd., East Hampton
<b>June 25</b> - 6:00 PM	Southampton Town Board Meeting	Town Hall Board Room, Southampton Town Hall, 116 Hampton Rd., Southampton



# Suffolk County Voter

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

May 2013

Thursday May 9 LWVSC Annual Convention, SCCC Riverhead, 10:30am - 1:30pm

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## League of Women Voters of Suffolk County 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention

**Thursday, May 9 2013**

**10:30am-1:30pm**

*Please arrive by 10:15*

Suffolk County Community College  
Culinary Arts and Hospitality Center  
20 E. Main Street, Riverhead, NY  
*(There is free parking behind the buildings on both the north  
and south sides of Main Street in Riverhead)*

## New York Women's Equality Agenda

### Gina Weatherup D'Andrea

Liaison, Legislative Affairs and Leadership Council,  
LIWA/Long Island Womens Agenda;  
Community Affairs and Advocacy Manager,  
Planned Parenthood Hudson Peconic

Looking Toward Suffolk County's Future:  
Education, Environment, and Economic Growth

### Hon. Sarah Anker

Suffolk County Legislator

#### Agenda includes:

- Registration / Coffee+Tea
- Liberty Award
- Annual LWVSC Business Meeting
- Keynote Speakers
- Lunch

**Cost: \$25 (must be paid in advance— no walk-ins accepted)**

*Please make checks payable to LWVSC and mail to:*

Marilyn McKeown, 320 Patchogue Holbrook Rd., Holbrook NY 11741  
631 286-1169 [mckeownmarilyn@gmail.com](mailto:mckeownmarilyn@gmail.com)

**Reservations must be made before May 2**

to ensure that you will have a place at our annual convention



## How the Affordable Care Act is Making a Difference for the People of NY

by Naomi Epstein

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) of 2010 expands health insurance coverage in our state, most recently by establishing a Health Insurance Market and increasing access to the Medicaid program. Twelve percent of NY's non-elderly residents are now uninsured. The State's health budget for this year makes significant changes to our Medicaid program. Beginning in January 2014, eligibility for Medicaid expands to 133 % of the federal poverty law (approximately \$14,000 for an individual and \$29,000 for a family of four). New York will receive 100% federal funding for the first three years to support expanded coverage, phasing to 90% federal funding in subsequent years.

- ◆ Budgeting rules and enrollment processes are changed for Medicaid and Child Health Plus to conform to the ACA. In anticipation of coverage options to be available through NY's Health Benefit Exchange, the Family Health Plus program will be phased out. In addition, significant steps to solidify the service delivery system of Medicaid's managed care service have been mandated, including:

- \* enrollment of new populations
- \* creating new capitated (per person) programs for dual eligibles and the developmentally disabled
- \* allowing the Commissioner to require that additional Medicaid services, including behavioral health services, be provided through managed care plans rather than by fee for service providers.

- ◆ As of December 2011, 160,000 young adults in New York gained insurance coverage. Health plans are now required to allow parents to keep their children under age 26 without job-based coverage on their family coverage.

- ◆ Prescription drug coverage (Part D) for people with Medicare is more affordable, as the ACA gradually closes the gap ("donut hole") by 2020.

- ◆ Many insurance plans are now required to provide free coverage for preventive health services such as colonoscopy screening, Pap smears, mammograms, well child visits, and flu shots for all children and adults.

- ◆ For policies renewed as of August 1, 2012, approximately 3,092,653 women in New York will have guaranteed access to additional preventive services without cost-sharing.

- ◆ Barriers for people with Medicare are being removed. With no deductibles or co-pays, seniors and people with disabilities will have access to early detection and treatment of health problems without cost barriers.

- ◆ Under the law's 80/20 Rule, insurance companies must spend generally at least 80 percent of consumer premium dollars on health care and quality improvements, not overhead, executive salaries or marketing. Non-compliance results in provision of a rebate or reduced premiums to the consumer. In 2013, over \$1 million New Yorkers with private insurance coverage will receive an average rebate of \$138 per family.

- ◆ For the first time under Federal Law, insurance companies must publicly justify rate raises of 10% or more. New York has received \$4,469,996 to fight unreasonable premium increases.

- ◆ Lifetime dollar limits on health benefits are banned. The law also restricts annual limits and they are banned completely by 2014.

- ◆ As of August 2012, 4,987 previously uninsured residents of the state are insured through a new Pre-Existing Condition Insurance Plan

- ◆ Grants the state has received to support the many changes that will be made to the health care delivery system:

- \* For research, planning, information technology development and implementation of Affordable Insurance Exchanges \$368,999,996

- \* To prevent illness and promote health and support effective policies in communities grants received since 2010 from the Prevention and Public Health Fund created by the Affordable Care Act of \$62,000,000.

- \* To increase support for community health centers and primary care clinicians, \$216,260,090.

- \* \$615,000 to support the National Health Care Service

- \* \$12,200,000 for health professions workforce demonstration project

- \* \$4,050,000 to support teaching health centers

- \* \$4,617,888 for the expansion of the Physician Assistant Training Program

- \* \$17,272,347 for school-based health centers

- \* \$287,100 for Family-to-Family Health Information Centers

- \* \$15,319,854 for Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Programs

Sources: [Healthcare.gov/law/index.html](http://healthcare.gov/law/index.html); *American Public Health Association/Health Reform Update*, Winter 2013; [www.healthcare.gov](http://www.healthcare.gov)

## Recent Events



ABOVE During an April visit to Brookhaven National Laboratory, LWWH members watch the monitors recording data in the National Synchrotron Light Source (NSLS). Photo by Arlene Hinkemeyer

### League Visits BNL

by Arlene Hinkemeyer

Fourteen Leaguers immensely enjoyed the educational trip to Brookhaven National Laboratory on April 16, arranged by Mireille Lister of the Natural Resources committee.

The group viewed introductory videos about the work of BNL, which is funded by the U.S. Department of Energy and hosts approximately 5,000 researchers yearly on its 5,300 acre site; toured the National Synchrotron Light Source (NSLS), where extremely strong light sources enable researchers to see inside of rock or atomic structure; were treated to a complimentary lunch; and heard from Dr. Emilio Mendez, director, and Dr. Eli Sutter, scientist, at the Center for Functional Nanomaterials (CFN), where they learned about nanotechnology initiatives and electron microscopy.

Those attending were Mary Ann and John Arendt, Glorian Berk, Arlene Hinkemeyer, Mireille Lister, Barbara McClancy, Ann Reisman (who worked at BNL for 35 years), Gladys Remler, Joanne and Howard

Samborn, Ann Sandford and Jerry Korman, Sharon Sugama and Natural Resources committee chair Susan Wilson.

### Brainstorming Session Planned for Education Committee

by Judi Roth

What should be the committee's next project? Should we work with the Girl Scouts as the Huntington League has done? Produce a video of a mock election and put it on YouTube? Should we form a League of Junior Voters? Or work on general civics projects, perhaps building on student interest in protecting our environment?

If you'd like to join a dynamic group of women to create a project please contact Judi Roth at 283-0759 or email me at [rothhandj@yahoo.com](mailto:rothhandj@yahoo.com). The meeting will be held on May 16 at 1:30 pm at a location to be decided. We will use the summer to plan a program to be launched in the fall.

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## President's Message

*Continued from page 2*

Our holiday party was held in the pouring rain at the North Sea Community House—a new venue for us. In **January** we held an afternoon member planning meeting and in **March**, our Education Committee put together an evening with the School Superintendents of Southampton, East Hampton and Springs. **April** brought us back to Earth Day with a most interesting panel of guests speaking on “Beyond Earth Day: What You Can Do Now.” We heard from a vineyard owner, a farmer, an aquaculturist and the founder of *Edible East End* publication. Also in **April**, a group went to Brookhaven Labs for a half-day visit with lunch.

For me, as outgoing co-president, this has been a truly wonderful year and I thank everyone who worked on all of these events and you, our members, for supporting us.

## YOUR INVITATION TO JOIN THE SPECIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE

by Gladys Remler

Our committee meets once a month to plan upcoming events that will be convivial, interesting and well attended by members and friends. The process begins with our regular meetings, where we talk about ideas. We value enthusiastic suggestions and it gets exciting when creativity begins and we come up with what we hope will be a successful event. Please join our committee with some of your ideas for the coming season. Join us for a stimulating hour at our next meeting on May 22 at 2:30 at Cooper Hall in Southampton.

# The Voter

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