Information About Redistricting Amendment
By Carol Mellor

Constitutional Amendment on the Ballot on November 4th
In all of its 90+ years of history, the League has stood for fair and equitable representation for the people of our state. Recognizing the extreme partisan nature of New York’s redistricting process, the League has worked since 1966 for adoption of a constitutional amendment to set specific, fair and permanent guidelines for the redistricting process.

The Current Redistricting Procedure
In most states, the Legislature is the entity that draws the election district lines. In New York State, the Legislative Task Force for Demographic Research and Reapportionment (LATFOR) is currently responsible for drawing district lines. Currently, four of the six members of LATFOR are legislators. Their proposed redistricting plan must be approved by the State Legislature and the Governor.

Partisan redistricting or gerrymandering is largely responsible for New York’s lack of competitive elections. New York’s incumbent return rate is one of the highest in the nation, hovering close to 95%. How district lines are drawn contributes to this phenomenon. Voters are denied a real choice on Election Day as districts are manipulated to avoid electoral challenges. The Democrats in the State Assembly and the Republicans in the State

Co-President Judy Samuelson opened the meeting on redistricting and introduced Carol Mellor.

Continued on page 16
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.

Estelle Gellman, Editing
Joy Cordery, Advertising Manager; Proofreading
Bruce McGowin, Design & Production
Arlene Hinkemeyer, Photographer
Joanne Samborn, Photographer
Madison Lohrius Inc., Printing and Mailing

Printed on recycled paper.

President’s Message
by Glorian Berk

I hope that when you read the September Voter, you noticed some new advertisers in the ad section. These new advertisers, along with those who have been included in last year’s editions are the reason that each member and elected officials receive a hard copy of The Voter seven times per year. The publication of the award-winning Hamptons League’s Voter is only possible because these local businesses purchase advertising in it. The cost of editing and printing is completely paid for by these advertisers.

As mentioned in earlier President’s letters, the membership dues each of us pays to LWVH must be shared by the national, state and county leagues. In fact, LWVH only keeps approximately nine percent of dues money. That money helps pay for basic expenses like telephone, copying and regular postage. The special events committee augments this by their interesting and fun activities. However, without the support of our advertisers, The Voter could not be published in a paper form. In fact, many leagues now only create an online version.

So, when you receive the October Voter, please read through all of the advertisers and make an effort to use their services throughout the coming year. And, when you do use their services, please make sure you mention that you saw their ad in The Voter. While we appreciate and thank ALL of our advertisers, a special thanks to those who are new to The Voter this year:

DiSunno Architecture
Mark C. Mathews, Architect
One Stop Market
Peconic Landing
Saaz Indian Cuisine
Steve Conroy Reverse Mortgage Consultant

Last, but not least, a special thank you to all of the members of the LWVH who worked so hard to solicit these advertisers – not just this year, but every year.
Good News on Behavioral Health Services for Youth
By Valerie King Ph.D.

Southampton and East Hampton towns have seen a change in demographics, a shift in cultural populations that has resulted in issues related to behavioral health for the entire population, especially school aged children. Over the last two years there has been a significant increase in mental health crises experienced by youth, requiring the school districts to respond. Due to a number of factors such as geography and a lack of appropriate behavioral health providers, there are critical gaps in accessing behavioral health services. When a school district encounters a psychiatric crisis such as a suicidal student, they usually need to involve the police and have the youth transported over 60 miles to the psychiatric emergency room at Stony Brook. Then, upon discharge, the youth is returned to the community where access follow up care is fragmented or lacking altogether, resulting in repeated crisis.

Community Responds
New York State Assemblyman Fred Thiele Jr., New York State Senator Kenneth P. La Valle and Southampton Hospital President and CEO Robert S. Chaloner, along with County Supervisor Jay Schneiderman, have created the South Fork Mental Health Forum (SFBHF). This collaborative group includes many local behavioral health stakeholders and has met several times during the winter, spring and summer of 2014 to develop proposals to obtain funding and shape services to increase services and prevent future behavioral health crises. A three phase approach is recommended. An anticipated total of $257,000.00 in funding is expected from a variety of sources. Family Service League has been established as the interim point of contact for crisis intervention.

The proposed initial funding for phase 1 is considered a welcome beginning. It is recognized by all stakeholders that the issue of access to behavioral health services in our community cannot be resolved by a “one shot” deal but through ongoing efforts and broadening the population served beyond school aged youth. Phase 2 of the SFBHF will build upon and expand crisis services through a proposed mobile unit and collaboration among community behavioral health organizations. Phase 3 of the SFBHF proposal further enhances the first two phases by tapping support of Stony Brook hospital’s psychiatric residency program. The LWVH Health Committee was at the forefront of the development of the SFBHF, and will continue to provide updates on implementation of the behavioral health proposal phases.

The LWVH Health Committee met on Sept 3rd 2014, welcomed new members and mapped out several upcoming activities and relevant dates:

• October 5-12 Mental Illness Awareness Week October
• November 5th Health Committee visit to Hudson River Health Care Center in Southampton
• November 15th ACA open enrollment phase 2

If you would like to know more about the LWVH Health Committee contact: Valerie King Ph.D.; valeriekingphd@gmail.com  631-267-3282

Special Events Committee Report
By Gladys Remler

The Special Events Committee meets monthly. The members are: Glorian Berk, Judi Roth, Joy Cordery, Bev Dixon, Naomi Epstein, Arlene Hinkemeyer, Joanne Samborn, co-chair and Gladys Remler, co-chair.

A great deal of thought (and work) goes into discussing future events that will be interesting. We always think of affordable venues since we offer a number of happenings during the year.

Our meetings begin with a discussion of the pros and cons of a number of ideas for events. Everyone is vocal and, when a decision is made to go with a particular event, research begins. Results are brought to the next meeting.

We always visit the sites of the events we are planning. We want to be sure we are offering the best we can for the price we will be requesting. It is important to know that the funds that are raised are put to good use in supporting LWVH activities.

No sooner are we finished with an event when we begin planning our next one. We are now working on our annual luncheon. We have some good ideas and are hoping to get a terrific speaker as well as other surprises. Stay informed and tuned in.

We appreciate your support. We look forward to seeing you as we celebrate what we learn by being with LWVH.
North Fork Fall Festival Fling

By Joanne McEvoy-Samborn and Gladys Remler

On September 16 the North Fork Fall Fling started at the Hallockville Museum and Farm in Riverhead. The weather was not initially kind but it eventually cleared to sunny skies. All the participants congregated in the Naugles barn to meet and greet. After welcoming guests, Co-President Judy Samuelson introduced Herb Strobel, Hallockville Executive Director, who warmly welcomed us. Two docents, Mary-Ann Huntington and Carol Grzywinski, then led tours of two of the many historic houses on this 28 acre farm: the Hallock homestead built in the 1700's and the Depression-era Cichanowicz House.

After the tour we had a convivial lunch in the English-style Naugles Barn overlooking the wonderful farm landscape. Lunch was provided by Hampton Coffee Company with cold drinks provided by the League. Dr. Beverly Dixon was kind enough to provide Polish music via CDs on Joanne’s Boom box.

Our next stop was the Harbes Farm Stand. Here we were given a short talk by Ed Harbes in which he focused on the planting of apple trees as well as the apple season festivals that will be ongoing in the fall. It was a great opportunity to farm stand shop, as many did.

The next stop was the Shinn Vineyard. Along the way there were opportunities to stop at Catapano Dairy Farm, the Love Lane Shops in Mattituck, other farm stands as well as Wickham’s fruit farm and the Glass Greenhouse.

Barbara Shinn greeted us for a tour of her vineyard. First we saw her sustainable vegetable garden, where she explained the farm's philosophy of biodynamic farming; i.e., following the ancient practices of farming according to the moon relative to the constellations. Barbara took us on a walk among the actual vines. Along the way we passed some bantam hens and cocks that provide breakfast eggs for their Country Inn. Barbara gave a riveting account of their methodology on sustainable and organic approaches to viniculture. We were even able to taste the actual grapes. Pandora, the farm Border Collie, accompanied us, trying desperately to get someone to throw a stick to be retrieved. We learned so much about amending soil, mulching and not harming the environment with chemical fertilizers and pesticides, as well as the use of beneficial insects. Barbara’s enthusiasm was infectious. We then adjourned to the tasting area and were given sample tastings of two white and two red wines, which were well enjoyed by the tour participants.

It was a fun filled day and everyone seemed to enjoy the outing and another opportunity to be with the League of Women Voters of the Hamptons.
Great East End Community Picnic

By Gladys Remler

LWVH Board members attended an annual Community Picnic given by the Anti-Bias Task Force. Full disclosure – my husband Norman Remler was chairperson along with co-chair Susan Jennings in organizing the picnic. It was held at Red Creek Park in Hampton Bays on September 7, 2014. There was music, games, dancing and free food for all.

LWVH always has a table at the picnic. We are there because we want people to know about the LWVH. We like to answer questions. We like to give out brochures, registration forms and other relevant information about voting. We greeted Bridget Fleming as well as Bruce Bender. We get to know our table neighbors such as the NAACP, the Southampton Youth Association and other organizations involved in the community. We gave out many Directories of Public Officials as well as Voter Guides and College Student literature. Some requested information in Spanish and we had those, too.

Thank you to Naomi Epstein and her husband, Emoke M. Boldvay, Judy Samuelson and Sue Wilson. We talked among ourselves and had a lovely afternoon representing the “face” of LWVH.
Information
• Annual League Day at the United Nations is Thursday, November 13. The day includes a tour of the UN building, lunch in the Delegates Dining Room and a briefing by key UN experts. The topic this year is "Water for Life" the UN International Decade for Action 2005-2015.
• There is a new political party, the Women’s Equality Party, not to be confused with the Women’s Equality Agenda

Upcoming Events
• 9/7 Anti-bias task force picnic at Red Creek Park 1 to 5 PM. Sue, Barbara, Naomi and Joy volunteered to help Gladys man the LWVH table.
• 9/8 Member meeting at Bridgehampton Library 7 PM. Carol Mellor gave the presentation on Re-districting, which was taped by SeaTV
• 9/16 North Fork Fling fund raiser, 11 AM at Hollockville Farm Museum.

Housekeeping
• Arlene and Estelle volunteered to review and approve the 2014 Annual Meeting minutes.
• Judy and Glorian will swap seats on Membership and Education Committees in an effort to broaden their familiarity with all committees. Next year they plan to swap two other committees for same reason.

Discussion Items
• Thanks to efforts of Carol and Barbara, LWVH will host a congressional debate on October 16 at 7 PM at the Westhampton Beach High School. Still unclear whether there will be one for State Senate and Assembly. If one is held, it will be on October 27.
• After discussion, the joint special events/membership committee recommended that we not resurrect the Hot Topics luncheon because they haven’t generated revenue or new members and require a lot of work. Also, there are many other fundraising events each year. However, it was pointed out that the original purpose of the hot topics luncheons (which developed out of States’ Brown Bag Luncheon idea) was simply to provide visibility, information and entertainment. It was decided that the decision needs further discussion.

Committee Reports
• Voter Services (Anne). Carol and Anne suggest that the consensus meeting be broken into two meeting as the topics are so ‘dense.’ However, there was concern by the board that it would be difficult to get members to attend two such meetings. After discussion it was decided that information about the issues would be sent to members in advance of the (single) meeting and that they be given the option of emailing their votes back to the board.
• The Voter (Joy). The deadline for the October issue will be September 15. Similarly, the deadline for the November/December (joint) issue will be October 15, and the deadline for the January/February/March (joint) issue will be December 15. For the time being, the articles should be to both Judy Samuelson and the rotating editor. The rotating editor for the October issue will be Estelle; the editor for November/December will be Judi Roth. It was suggested that Judy hold a training meeting for the rotating editors.
• Special Events (Gladys). The committee is working on several upcoming events including the September 16 North Fork event and the November fundraising luncheon.
• Natural Resources (Sue). There was no committee report except to say that they were working with the Health committee on the issue of ‘Healthy Waters’. However, Glorian made a personal appeal that board members write (as individuals) to Southampton Town and the local papers in support of a ban on plastic bags.
• Health (Valerie). The committee has mapped several initiatives, among them participating in local events during Mental Health Awareness Week. She asked

Continued on page 19
LWVSC board concerns re: Newsday article on results of Suffolk County Department of Health Services environmental division workforce reductions

A recent (September 9, 2014) Newsday article “Suffolk Cutbacks Reduce Water Testing, Pollution Inspections” by David M. Schwartz highlighted the “steady declines in testing (which) are the result of a reduced workforce in the Department of Health Services’ environmental division” (resulting from ongoing budget cuts since 1998).

Concerns raised within the article include elimination of inspections of dry cleaners, scaling back work to drill wells to trace plumes of pollution, door-to-door coverage in suspected contamination areas, a dramatic decrease in testing of homeowners’ private wells, plummeting inspections of businesses that store hazardous and toxic chemicals, and reduced testing at gas stations and industrial sites. “Cleanups have dropped due to the fact that sampling has dropped” according to Walter Dawydiak.

EXECUTIVES of several groups with which our local Leagues are in regular contact (The Group for the End East, Citizens Campaign for the Environment, and The Nature Conservancy) were quoted in the article on their deep concerns with a weakened county health department.

LWVSC’s board has commenced discussion of this situation, with a suggestion that we need to further investigate by communicating with and meeting with several of the officials mentioned in the story: County Executive Steve Bellone, SC Legislator Kara Hahn (chair of the SC Leg Environment, Planning, and Agriculture committee), and Walter Dawydiak, director of the Division of Environmental Quality.

At a time when our County Executive has made water quality, specifically reducing nitrogen in the water, a goal for his administration, LWVSC is concerned about the apparent disconnect between reduction of testing and inspections and public pronouncements of environmental goals in a political context. We understand that fiscal constraints are real and tough decisions have to be made, but after further League study on these issues, we hope to comment and educate the public in more detail.

LWVSC comments on Suffolk County Legislature video streaming of General Session meetings in Hauppauge announcement

"The League of Women Voters of Suffolk County, a non-profit, non-partisan organization that encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, applauds the introduction of video streaming at our Suffolk County Legislature’s meetings. While the Legislature’s website is impressively user-friendly, informative, and kept up-to-date with marked agendas and minutes, and has already been offering audio of the general sessions and committee meetings, this new development will make the Legislature’s debates, deliberation, and decision making process more available to our fellow citizens. Video streaming will draw more Suffolk County voters into an awareness of how their government works, and drive them to more informed engagement with their elected officials."

-Lisa Scott, LWVSC President
-Mary McLaughlin, LWVSC Legislative Director

After a busy and engaged League Voter Service run-up to Election Day
...join LWVSC at our annual
Post Election Breakfast

Sunday, November 9

- Enjoy a delicious breakfast
- Good companionship with your fellow Leaguers from throughout Suffolk County
- Hear updates and analysis of the election results

Location and speaker details will be announced shortly.
Senate have each controlled the drawing of the district lines in their respective houses. Both houses agree to the other’s plans and the legislation is then sent to the Governor for his signature. By using techniques like “packing,” whereby lines are drawn to concentrate many supporters of political opponents into a few districts, and “cracking,” whereby opponents’ supporters are split among several districts, they dramatically increase their party’s chances of incumbency for the next decade. These “designer districts” literally allow for legislators to choose the voters before the voters have a chance to choose them. The proposed amendment is designed to change this.

**How the Redistricting Procedure Would Be Changed**

The Amendment (as it will read on the ballot) is as follows:

The proposed amendment to sections 4 and 5 and addition of new section 5-b to Article 3 of the State Constitution revises the redistricting procedure for state legislative and congressional districts. The proposed amendment establishes an independent redistricting commission every 10 years beginning in 2020, with two members appointed by each of the four legislative leaders and two members selected by the eight legislative appointees; prohibits legislators and other elected officials from serving as commissioners; establishes principles to be used in creating districts; requires the commission to hold public hearings on proposed redistricting plans; subjects the commission’s redistricting plan to legislative enactment; provides that the legislature may only amend the redistricting plan according to the established principles if the commission’s plan is rejected twice by the legislature; provides for expedited court review of a challenged redistricting plan; and provides for funding and bipartisan staff to work for the commission.

**Additional Information**

Shall the proposed amendment be approved? Look for answers at: http://www.voteyes4progress.org

You can get more information about the amendment by going to the following website: http://www.voteyes4progress.org, or by contacting Carol Mellor at camellor@aol.com or 631-537-6998.
Sandbox Repurposed
by Ursula Lynch

My grandchildren never took to this sandbox because they are used to the wonderful vast Eastern long Island beaches. I had thought it would be of help with my grand motherly childcare. Most of the sand landed on my lawn or in my house via pants cuffs and shoes.

I wanted to get rid of the sand but not the wonderful wooden frame of the box. This year my husband and I had the opportunity, thanks to Hurricane Sandy, to replant our garden. Our goal was to select deer proof, low maintenance and cost effective plants.

The location of the sandbox would be a colorful accent in the garden if planted with the right perennials.

I came upon milkweed as an idea for the sandbox planting having read Barbara Kingsolver’s book “Flight Behavior” and various South Fork Publications urging to plant milkweed to help out the diminishing Monarch population. Telepathic, Joy Cordery, wrote in the May-June 2014 Voter, suggesting to plant milkweed for the Monarchs.

I mail ordered from Rose Franklin’s Perennials in Pennsylvania, three different kinds of milkweed plants: Tropical Milkweed, Common Milkweed and Swamp Milkweed all have different colors, orange/yellow, purple and pink. I planted in the middle of July, when the plants arrived in good condition, in a sandbox filled with potting soil.

The Tropical Milkweed is blooming now orange and yellow at end of August and the start of September. The other varieties are healthy and growing, but show no bloom yet.

I am very happy to report that on Sept 4th I spotted three Monarchs circling and settling on the vibrant flowers and leaves, where they could and hopefully will lay their eggs. I have a decoy yellow butterfly planted amongst the milkweed (see photo) to give the Monarchs the idea to come. My vision is to have created a haven for the Monarchs in my garden for years to come.

Facts:
Milkweed is the only plant on which Monarchs will lay their eggs. Because they are poisonous plants (I wore gloves to plant), Monarch caterpillars, who feed on them, are protected from predators.

Milkweed is perennial except the Tropical variety, whose seeds I will collect in the fall for planting in the spring.

Milkweed is totally deer proof.

Milkweed is drought resistant after the plants are established.

Green Tips

Good Advice About Good Food
by Joanne McEvoy-Samborn

• Take your bananas apart when you get them home from the store. If you leave them connected at the stem, they ripen faster.
• Store your open chunks or wedges of cheese in aluminum foil. It will stay fresh much longer and not mold.
• Peppers with 3 bumps on the bottom are sweeter and better for eating. Peppers with 4 bumps on the bottom are firmer and better for cooking.
• Add a teaspoon of water when frying ground beef. It will help pull the grease away from the meat while cooking.
• To make scrambled eggs or omelets rich add a couple of spoonfuls of sour cream, cream cheese or heavy cream before beating them up. (Not great for people watching their cholesterol!).
• To ripen hard avocados place them in a brown paper bag with or without a banana peel depending on how fast you need the fruit ripened. After cutting into the fruit, add some lemon juice to retard the browning. After making avocado dip place a thin layer of water over the top of the dish, and then pour off when ready to serve this will stop the browning of the dip.

This article was sent to me by a friend who has since passed away so I do not know the source. This will be one of several articles for Green Tips in the coming months; if anyone has suggestions or tips please feel free to contact me.
### Calendar

**October 2014**

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>October 1</strong></td>
<td>4:00 PM</td>
<td>Special Events Committee Meeting</td>
<td>Paneras, Bridgehampton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>October 1</strong></td>
<td>5:30 PM</td>
<td>LWVH Board Meeting</td>
<td>Bridgehampton National Bank, Bridgehampton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>October 7</strong></td>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
<td>Natural Resources Committee Meeting</td>
<td>Hampton Library, Bridgehampton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>October 16</strong></td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
<td>Congressional Debates</td>
<td>West Hampton Beach High School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>October 29</strong></td>
<td>1:00 PM</td>
<td>Membership Committee Meeting</td>
<td>Hampton Library, Bridgehampton</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### TOWN BOARD MEETINGS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>October 2</strong></td>
<td>6:30 PM</td>
<td>East Hampton Town Board Meeting</td>
<td>Town Hall Courtroom, 159 Pantigo Rd., East Hampton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>October 14</strong></td>
<td>1:00 PM</td>
<td>Southampton Town Board Meeting</td>
<td>Town Hall Board Room, Southampton Town Hall, 116 Hampton Rd., Southampton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>October 16</strong></td>
<td>6:30 PM</td>
<td>East Hampton Town Board Meeting</td>
<td>Town Hall Courtroom, 159 Pantigo Rd., East Hampton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>October 28</strong></td>
<td>1:00 PM</td>
<td>Southampton Town Board Meeting</td>
<td>Town Hall Board Room, Southampton Town Hall, 116 Hampton Rd., Southampton</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Highlights of August 6 2014 LWVH Board Meeting

whether the League agreed. The event might be a film about Robin Williams with a presentation/discussion led by an expert in the field. Judi so moved and the board approved. As soon as the details are fleshed out they will be sent to The Voter editor for inclusion. The committee will also continue to have meetings with local hospital and community leaders to monitor performance of area clinics.

• Public Relations (Arlene). After reviewing press received, Arlene assured the board that she will be focused on publicity for the debates and voter registration drive.

• Membership (Estelle). There are just 89 paid members with two new members. The committee feels that two new members is not enough to hold a new member luncheon. The committee suggests that instead, the two new members be invited to attend the November Board Meeting to be introduced. Both new members have mentors.

The committee also suggested that before each member meeting there be an invitation to join the LWVH. The committee could write a script to that effect. Finally, they recommended that open meetings no longer be called ‘Member Meetings’ as it suggests that they are only for members. After discussion, it was recommended that they be called LWVH Public Information Meetings.

• Education (Judi). The committee is considering changing the name of the committee to ‘Youth Services’ to better reflect their mission. Judi also reported that they reviewed the ‘Promote The Vote’ videos and that WLNG radio has agreed to air the Rap created by the students and that the students have agreed to record them. The committee is working on finding an acting coach for next year’s event. Suffolk Community College in Riverhead does not want LWVH to do voter registration on their campus.
The League of Women Voters

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