

League of Women Voters of the Hamptons

41st Annual Meeting
Sunday, May 6, 2018 from 2PM to 4PM
Water Mill Community House

The LWWH Annual Meeting was attended by the Board of Directors and members of the LWWH and their guests. All are welcome, but only members of the LWWH are able to vote during the business part of the meeting. Co-Presidents Estelle Gellman and Susan Wilson will conduct the meeting.

GUEST SPEAKER

Estelle Gellman introduced our guest speaker, Kristen Medeiros-Slevin. Ms. Medeiros-Slevin, a resident and business owner in Smithtown, was dissatisfied with the workings of her town and the 40-year incumbency of the then current Town Supervisor so she decided to run for the office herself. She chose to do so with no political experience and without the backing of any party. She collected petitions to get on the ballot and received enough money to finance her campaign. Amazingly, running unaffiliated and basically unknown, she garnered 8% of the vote. Her experience was inspirational and hopeful by showing that every individual has the power to confront the establishment and make a difference in their communities. One hopes she will continue to question government and perhaps mount a campaign again. At the end of her speech the business portion of the meeting began.

Business Meeting

Susan Wilson called the meeting to order. In accordance with our bylaws, there is a quorum (15% of the membership=18). There are 37 attendees. Barbara McClancy is the Secretary / Recorder of this meeting. Our Parliamentarian is Joan McGivern.

Minutes: The minutes of May 7, 2017 Annual Meeting were approved by the Board of Directors of the LWWH at their board meeting on April 4, 2018. Barbara asked the membership to again refer the minutes of today's Annual Meeting to the Board of Directors for approval by presenting a motion to do so. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

Treasurer's Report: Cathy Peacock reports that we had \$32,506 income and \$25,322 expenses for the year. There was a successful Holiday Auction and a bequeath by Barbara Jordan that leaves us in a strong financial position. The audience had no questions and accepted the report as is. The Budget was distributed to the membership by Postal and Email, and it was approved and recommended by the Board. Cathy moved for the adoption of the budget as presented. It was seconded and approved by voice vote.

Nonpartisan Policy & Bylaws Committee Reports:

The committee consists of Ann Sanford and Anne Marshall.

- Anne presented the Bylaws. They were reviewed for clarity. All descriptive articles remain the same. A copy of the proposed bylaws was distributed at the Annual Meeting. All changes are highlighted in red.
- Ann Sanford presented the nonpartisan policy. The committee rewrote the existing policy for clarity but the gist of the policy has not changes. The LWVH is a nonpartisan organization. It never endorses a political party or candidate. The league membership is encouraged to participate in the political process without restriction. The LWVH Board of Directors and chairs of the Voter Service Committee may not participate in political campaigns or events. They may not run for or hold elective office. A copy of this policy was distributed to all attendees. The attendees voted to adopt this revised policy unanimously.

The Nonpartisan policy and Bylaws were both adopted by the membership. Copies of these reports are attached.

President's Report: A summary of this report was presented by Susan Wilson indicating the extent of our activities since our last Annual Meeting. A complete copy of our activities is included in the meeting agenda under the title "Annual Report".

Awards:

The **Carrie Chapman Catt Award** for exceptional service to the league goes to Arlene Hinkemeyer for her many contributions over the years. She organized the East Hampton Adopt-a-Road program. She is industrious in her activities as our public relations person and gets our activities publicized in newspapers and local TV access programs. Last year she chaired the 100th Anniversary Committee in honor of the 100th Anniversary of suffrage in NYS. She was instrumental in helping EH Village obtain a historic marker for the May Groot Manson house on Main Street. Mrs. Manson was a local suffragette. She spearheaded a re-enactment of an early rally in support of "Votes for Women" that started in front of the Manson house on Main St in East Hampton Village and ended at the East Hampton Library. This was attended by NYS Lt. Governor Kathy Hochul and EH Village Mayor Paul Rickenbach Jr. among others. She and the committee sponsored suffrage themed lectures throughout the summer of 2017 ending in a rousing, sold out musical revue at the Southampton Arts Center. The co-presidents presented her with a red shawl, ala Susan B. Anthony and a "One in a Million" purse. Congratulations to Arlene!

The **Betty Desch Student Leadership Award** was presented by Judi Roth to a Pierson High School senior, Hope Brindle. Hope has a broad range of accomplishments and is a future leader of our community. She has acted in school plays and helped create the LBGTQ club at her school. She enthusiastic about the new solidarity of women and even registered to vote at the second Woman's March in NYC. She will be attending the University of Pennsylvania. Judi presented her with a Certificate of Achievement and a check for \$1,000.

Nominating Committee Report: The Nominating Committee consists of Ann Sanford, Arlene Hinkemeyer, Julia Kayser, Judi Roth and Chair, Afton DiSunno. The report shows that Judi Roth (VP) and Cathy Peacock (Treasurer) will keep their positions for the next 2-year term. Judy Samuelson and Joan McGivern are returning to the Board as Elected Directors for a 2-year term

each. Appointed Directors to serve for one year, at the discretion of the Board, are Eva Moore, Ginny Poveromo, Vicki Umans, and Teresa Wildrick.

The next Nominating Committee will consist of Ann Sanford and Julia Kayser and be chaired by Afton DiSunno. After presenting the report Afton called for the election of the new Board members. The slate was approved by voice vote.

Estelle asked the newly minted Board to stand and introduced them and Susan thanked the retiring Board member for their service. The retiring members are Nancy Walter-Yvertes, Martha Potter, Gladys Remler and Glorian Berk.

2018 Program Planning Priorities: On January 11, 2018 the LWVH held a Program Planning meeting where the following priorities were recommended by the attendees:

1. Educating our members and the public about current policies and their implementation regarding immigration and DACA (11 votes).
2. Working to register voters and get out the vote (9 votes).
3. Advocating for and monitoring progress on providing affordable housing (7 votes).
4. Educating the public on renewable energy sources and the resources available for reducing home energy usage (6 votes).
5. Increasing LWVH visibility (6 voted).
6. Educating the public about the availability of health resources and advocating for a single-payer health insurance system, greater public access to healthcare, more behavioral/mental health resources and resources for addressing the opioid crisis (5 votes).
7. Monitoring town initiatives and the use of Community Preservation Funds for water quality improvement and educating the public regarding the resources available for improving water quality and replacing septic systems (3 votes).
8. Advocating for better public transportation (2 votes).
9. Advocating for election reform (1 vote).
10. Educating the public about the provisions of the new tax law.

Estelle presented these priorities and numbers 1 through 9 were seconded and passed. Number 10 was challenged and argued as to our mandate and lack of expertise. A vote was called and defeated by 1 ye and 37 nays. It was not passed.

Local Positions: Susan presented the local positions adopted in May 2017. These positions are held but not necessarily acted upon until an appropriate opportunity presents itself.

1. Recycling and Solid Waste - Support of recycling, composting and regional cooperation on solid waste management for the towns of SH and EH supporting recycling, composting and regional cooperation (LWVH consensus 1989).
2. Closure of Millstone Nuclear Power Plant – Support of the closure of the Millstone Nuclear Power Plant in Waterford Connecticut as there are no safe emergency or evacuation plans in place that would protect the public of EH and SH as required by US Nuclear Regulatory Commission regulations in the event of an emergency.
3. Affordable Housing – Support of a diversity of affordable housing opportunities to meet the current and future housing needs of all citizens, regardless of economic

circumstances. Support of mixed-use development and housing types of varying sizes and price ranges and encouragement of efficient permitting processes and collaborative community based planning for long-term land use. (LWVH consensus 2002).

4. Work Force Center for Day Laborers – Support of the establishment of a hiring center for day laborers in the Hamptons as a humane response to day-laborer hiring practices. Such a center will reduce traffic congestion and provide a safe and clean environment where an orderly hiring process can take place. (LWVH consensus 2007)
5. Council-Town Manager Form of Government – Support the reorganization of town governments to create the position of town manager who will assume the administrative responsibilities thereby providing town boards greater opportunity to set policy and strategic direction. (LWVH consensus 2010)

All 5 local positions were reviewed and voted to be retained.

Directions to the Board:

Estelle asked if there were any directions to the board and Judy Samuelson would like to see greater participation in local events by the membership.

Upcoming Events:

- May 12 – East Hampton Village Fair.
- May 16 - LWVSC Annual Convention at the Vanderbilt Mansion. If you want to go give your checks to Glorian.
- May 24 – Democratic Congressional Primary Debate. Hampton Bays High School, 7 X 9
- June 7 – Southampton Tour
- June 11 – PIM. EH & SH Town Trustees.
- July 4th _ SH Parade.

The meeting ended at 4:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Barbara McClancy
Recording Secretary