The Voter

The Newsletter of the League of Women Voters of the Hamptons

Founded in 1977 Volume XXXVI, No. 7

October 2013

LWVH To Sponsor October Debates

As is its proud tradition and in keeping with its mission, the League of Women Voters of the Hamptons will provide an opportunity this month for the public to meet and hear local candidates at two debates.

The first will be on Monday, October 21 7 PM at the Emergency Services Building, Cedar & North Main Street, in East Hampton Village. Participating will be candidates for the Suffolk County Legislature: Christopher Nuzzi (R) vs. Jay Schneiderman (I). This will be followed by a debate among candidates for East Hampton Town Board: Job Potter (D), Kathee Burke-Gonzales (D), Dominic Stanzione (R) and Frederick Overton (R). As there is no Republican candidate for Town Supervisor, there will be no debate for this office. Larry Cantwell (D), running unopposed, has been invited to say "hello."

The second debate will be on Thursday, October 24 at 7 PM in Southampton. Co-sponsored with Rogers Memorial Library, it will take place at the library, 91 Coopers Farm Road, Southampton Village. Participating will be candidates for Suffolk County Legislature, Nuzzi vs. Schneiderman, followed by a debate among candidates for Southampton Town Supervisor, Linda Kabot (R), Anna Throne-Holst (I) and Phil Keith (C) (pending primary election results) and a debate between candidates for Southampton Town Board Jeff Mansfield (R), Stan Glinka (R), Bradley Bender (D) and Francis Zappone (D)

Moderators will be Voter Services Committee co-chairs Anne Marshall in East Hampton and Carol Mellor in Southampton. Other Voter Services committee members will serve as panelists, timers of candidates' responses, vetters of submitted questions, collectors of questions and more. Local media representatives will also serve on the questioning panels. Both debates will be taped for repeated broadcast on local television programs—but we hope to see you at the debates!

ABOVE: One of the many debates sponsored by the LWVH in recent years.

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SAVE THE DATES

October 8
United Nations Day
Briefings, Tour and Lunch in Delegates' Dining Room
UN Headquarters, NYC
(For more details, visit LWVNY Website)

October 16 12:00 PM
Annual LWVH Luncheon
Edgewater Restaurant
295 East Montauk Hwy, Hampton Bays

October 21 7 PM
Candidates Debate in East Hampton
Emergency Services Building, Cedar St., East Hampton

October 24 7 PM
Candidates Debate in Southampton
Rogers Memorial Library
91 Coopers Farm Rd., Southampton

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

by Glorian Berk

How do we pay for our programs, support our advocacy, pay the phone bill and the web hosting bill and buy paper, printer toner and stamps? The $55 membership dues each individual member pays doesn't stay in the Hamptons. We pay $31 to the national league, $18 to the state league and $1.50 to the county league, leaving us with just $4.50. So we depend on the generosity of our members, who make donations in excess of the membership dues, for which we are very grateful. We apply for, and have obtained, grants to underwrite programs. We raise fund through events like the Sylvester Manor outing, our Riverhead Revival tour and our regular fall lunch. It's much appreciated, but it's not enough.

That's why we rely on the support of local businesses advertising in *The Voter*. We are grateful because without their support, we would not be able to afford the cost of publishing our award-winning publication. This year we are lucky to have 15 new advertisers join us. We ask our members to show their support by frequenting their establishments. Identify yourself as a League member and thank them for their support.

If you need to buy something or need a service, check out the Advertiser Directory on pages 7 to 14 to find the business that meets your need. If you need a new garment, check out Stitch in Southampton. If it's alterations or tailoring, try Nancy's, also in Southampton. If you want to add a screen print to that new garment, head to Swannotta, Inc. in Hampton Bays.

We have two new bank advertisers: Apple Bank in East Hampton and Suffolk County National Bank so if you are looking for a new local bank, check them out. If a reverse mortgage would enable you to live more comfortably in your home, call Stephen Conroy at AMB.

If your house needs updating, Kole Builders in Southampton can put on that addition or redo that kitchen or bathroom. If your yard needs work, Lawn Dimensions in Hampton Bays will fill the bill. And, if you need that tool to make the house repair yourself, Springs Hardware in East Hampton will have what you need.

If it's you that needs updating, Southampton dentist Michael A. Cuba will put that gleaming white smile back on your face. If things are getting blurry, check out Leahy Opticians in Southampton for a new pair of glasses or contacts.

If you are planning a party, Schmidt's Produce and Seafood will have almost everything you need to make that party spectacular. But don't forget to stop at Nurel's Farmers Market in Hampton Bays for delicious, locally grown fruits and vegetables and healthy plants.

And, finally, if you are looking for something interesting to do, check out the Artists Alliance of East Hampton to find out when and where their next exhibit will be held. And, maybe you'll fall in love with one of the artworks and purchase it.

The Voting Rights Act of 1965

by Carol Mellor

Our League has recently received requests from LWVUS to contact our Congressional representatives to urge them to fix the Voting Rights Act (VRA). Most of us know that a key provision of that Act was struck down by the Supreme Court this summer, to the profound distress of voting rights activists. We thought that a review of the Act, its history, the Supreme Court decision, its effect and a look into the future might help us to understand what the concerns are about.

THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT

According to the Department of Justice, the Voting Rights Act, as adopted and extended, "is generally considered the most successful piece of civil rights legislation ever adopted by the United States Congress. The Act codifies and effectuates the 15th Amendment's permanent guarantee that, throughout the nation, no person shall be denied the right to vote on account of race or color."

Section 4 of the Voting Rights established a two-pronged formula to identify those areas of the country in which racial discrimination (later expanded to include language minority group discrimination) was more prevalent. Those political subdivisions were subject to special rules, including mandatory pre-clearance of changes to their voting laws. The first prong of the formula was whether, on a particular date (initially 1964, then 1968 and then 1972) the jurisdiction maintained a test or device restricting the opportunity to register or vote. The second test was whether less than 50 percent of persons of voting age were registered to vote. If these criteria were met, voting changes adopted by or to be implemented in covered political subdivisions, were subject to preclearance by Department of Justice.

THE SUPREME COURT DECISION

In *Shelby County v. Holder*, the Supreme Court held that the Section 4 formula deprived the affected states of their sovereignty rights under the Tenth Amendment because the conditions which existed at the time Section 4 was enacted no longer exist and therefore the decades-old formula could no longer be used to establish "preclearance" requirements. The Supreme Court did not hold that voting discrimination does not exist, but rather that the Act's extraordinary measures, based on facts as they existed decades ago, no longer passed constitutional muster.

REACTION TO THE DECISION

Not surprisingly, states and other jurisdictions which had been under the yoke of Section 5 pre-clearance requirements reacted to the decision by rushing to change their voting laws. Most of these changes have involved strict voter identification laws. Shortly after the decision, officials in Texas, Mississippi and Alabama indicated they would begin enforcing strict voter identification laws which had not yet been approved by the federal government.

WHAT CAN BE DONE

There are two avenues of amelioration of the effects of the Supreme Court decision. The first is action by the Justice Department, which can still bring suits under Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act against state action thought to be discriminatory. Such suits have already been filed, most notably against the state of Texas. Section 2 actions are considered less effective than coverage under the Section 4 formula since, among other things, Section 2 actions require that the government prove discrimination and can only be brought after the statute has been enacted. Section 5 pre-clearance allowed the government to evaluate and stop a proposed law prior to being enacted.

The second way the teeth can be put back in the Voting Rights Act is through Congressional action. In July, shortly after the *Shelby County* decision, hearings were held in Congress in a first step to legislation which would create a new formula under Section 4. Both the Senate Judiciary Committee and the House Judiciary subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice convened to hear testimony on possible legislative action to combat discrimination in voting. In the Senate hearing, support for re-arming the Voting Rights law came from both sides of the aisle, with support from Congressman Jim Sensenbrenner (R-WI), and Congressman John Lewis (D-GA).

It is important that we heed the calls from National to contact our representatives be to heard in favor of the strongest possible voter protection laws.

Membership Committee Report

Board Welcomes New Members At Orientation Dinner

by Estelle Gellman and Joanne McEvoy-Samborn

The Membership Committee hosted a New Member Orientation on September 9 for members who had joined the League in the past two years. It was an opportunity for the Board to meet the new members and vice-versa. The event was held at the Hampton Library in Bridgehampton. The new members attending were: Sylvia Baruch, Susan Bieger, Julie Burmeister, Adrienne Falzon, Cathie Gandel, Armineh Ohanian, and Nancy Walter-Yuertes.

Joanne Mcevoy-Samborn and Estelle Gellman, co-chairs of the Membership Committee, welcomed the new members and explained the work of the committee. Our co-presidents, Glorian Berk and Judy Samuelson spoke about their experiences in joining the League and encouraged the new members to become involved in our committee work.

Judi Roth described the work of the Education Committee and explained the current video contest being sponsored for student submission of videos explaining the importance of voting; Naomi Epstein described the issues that the Government/Health Committee is working on, with Valerie King describing a study on mental health issues that the committee was instrumental in initiating. Susan Wilson spoke about the concerns of the Natural

Resources Committee. Gladys Remler explained what the Special Events Committee does and encouraged the new members to join us in the Riverhead tour on September 26; Anne Marshall spoke about the work of the Voter Services Committee in planning the candidate debates, educating the public on the issues and facilitating voter registration. In addition, Arlene Hinkemeyer spoke about the importance of public relations and publicity of our events and Joy Cordery encouraged us all to support the vendors who advertise in *The Voter*.

THIS PAGE Bottom Left: Estelle Gellman and co-president Glorian Berk enjoy their meal during the League's New Member Orientation and Dinner on September 9 at the Hampton Library. Estelle and Membership Committee co-chair Joanne McEvoy-Samborn expertly planned this very successful event. Top Right: Arlene Hinkemeyer, in Suffragist attire, gave an illustrated talk titled, “The Suffragist Movement: Women Work for the Right to Vote." Bottom Right: new member Armineh Ohanian. OPPOSITE PAGE Top Right: New member Sylvia Baruch. Middle: Board Members Joy Cordery discussed *The Voter* and (Bottom Right) Naomi Epstein described the work of the Government-Health committee. Photos by Joanne Samborn.

HINKEMEYER PUTS LEAGUE IN HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Dressed in the Suffragist outfit that League members wore in East Hampton's 350th anniversary parade in 1998, League Vice President and historian Arlene Hinkemeyer gave an illustrated talk on "The Suffragist Movement: Women Work for the Right to Vote." The lecture, which she had originally researched and given in March as part of the East Hampton Historical Society's Winter Lecture Series, highlighted the inspiring work of May Groot Manson, Margaret Slocum Sage and Lizbeth Halsey White, who led the cause in East Hampton, Sag Harbor, and Southampton, respectively, in the 1910's.

Special thanks to Kelly Harris and the Hampton Library for providing the venue and staff support for the event and to the Board and the members of the Membership Committee, Joanne Mcevoy-Samborn and Estelle Gellman as well as Julia Kayser, Mireille Lister and Vicki Umans, for organizing the event and providing the food and beverages.

A Party With Rich Reverberations

by Ursula Lynch

I mused to our Co-President, Judy Samuelson, that I felt the board members really enjoyed themselves at the new member meeting. I believe we all benefited from this revived event, with its party atmosphere of easy, friendly meet-and-greet of newcomers and members. The welcoming remarks by Membership Chair Estelle Gellman expressed for all of us the pleasure of having new members in our league. Cooking for friends is enjoying a new level of appreciation, as one of my dinner guests once observed. The LWVH Board cooked for the new members and each other. We shared a meal. How wonderful and old fashioned to give a welcome and to begin a new relationship.

Our committee chairs proudly talked about past accomplishments and visions for the future. I was impressed again by what we as a League have accomplished over the years. I was proud that I had a part in it. We were eager to hear our new members introduce themselves. Hearing about their accomplishments and concerns, we are confident in their future contributions to our League's causes through committee participation.

Arlene Hinkemeyer's entertaining and informative presentation about the East End women's struggle for the right to vote concluded the evening. In short, we extended a welcoming hand and were richly rewarded ourselves.

LWVH Board of Directors Meeting Highlights

Held on September 3, 2013

INFORMATION ITEMS

- Carol received a response from League member Linn Harwell to our Constant Contact Obituary for Gene Makl. Ms. Harwell praised the Makls' tremendous contributions to LWVH. It was noted that there once was, and needs to be for future, a policy regarding how to officially respond to the death of a member, spouse, etc.
- Voter Guide Part II (primarily a proposition guide) will be available in Spanish on Sept. 15. Anne has ordered copies of the English version. She will order a smaller quantity of the Spanish version.
- The State League is looking for volunteers to work on two studies: (1) term limits (for state offices) and (2) ballot access; as well as an update to the constitutional convention position. Anyone interested should contact Sarah Podber, Policy and Program Director (Sarah@lwvny.org). This will not require 'face-time' but will be conducted via conference call and email.
- Members were urged to register for the League United Nations Day on October 8. Registration can be completed on the state website. This year's topic is "Unite To Prevent Violence Against Women". There will be a luncheon ($50) and briefing ($60).

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- October luncheon-fundraiser will be discussed at the Special Events Sept. 11 meeting.
- Speaker for November 12 Member Meeting. Judi and Sue will have a report next month. Location TBD.
- December Holiday Party. Need to start thinking about whether and where. Date has been set: December 9.
- Need for a Webmaster. Carol suggested that we contact high schools especially since they are required to do a certain number of community service hours. Judy S. estimates that it requires about two hours per week.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- *The Voter*. Joy reported that advertising is up. Total ad revenue this year will slightly exceed the printing and postage costs for the 2013 Voter. She thanked members who sold ad space.
- Voter Services. Carol is getting candidates lined up for Vote411.org; Anne is working on questions. Carol predicts that Vote411.org will become increasingly important to the election process.
- Education. Judi reported contributions from the Westhampton Library and the Quogue Library to support our video project, "Promote The Vote." She will apply for a donation from the Bridgehampton National Bank. Given that expenses will only be about $300 for gifts plus some photocopying, the project is in good shape financially. Regarding participation, she will go to the High Schools and Middle Schools when they open. The Girl Scouts also plan to participate.
- Membership. Estelle reported that arrangements for the new member orientation meeting are in place. She created a membership directory but neglected to bring copies; on the other hand, it already had changes/corrections. We have about 120 paid members. The question was raised as to how long we should carry delinquent members. It was noted that we only pay State and National for members who pay dues so we are only 'carrying' non paying members vis-à-vis Constant Contact and *The Voter*. We normally review the membership list in February, but this is not a policy. The committee will draft a policy to be discussed at the next board meeting.
- Special Events. Gladys said they will have more to report after the next meeting and reminded everyone to 'get out the word' re September 26 Riverhead Tour.
- Natural Resources. Sue reported that their September 17 meeting will be with John Botos, Executive Director of the Peconic Institute. She noted that the national League Agricultural study has been delayed so we cannot update our position yet. She also reminded us that fracking (covered in the September 2013 *Voter*) is an important issue and that we all need to speak up.
- Constant Contact/Facebook. In response to questions, Carol pointed out that Facebook reaches a much wider audience, potentially, than Constant Contact which just goes to members. Thus the effort involved is 'worth it.' We had 100 readers last month; most popular topic was Voter Rights.
- Public Relations. Arlene commented that her talk on Suffragettes was not well promoted in *The Voter* and was concerned that turnout would be low. Carol promised to get out a Constant Contact asap. Otherwise, there is – and will be – a lot of publicity for future events. She also told the board that The Independent had approached her re the Viewpoints essay and she responded that we would, at some point.
- Government/Health. Naomi was unable to attend. However, Carol noted that the State Health Committee had lost its specialist. Contact Laura Ladd Bierman at LWVNYS for information regarding this position.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 2 at 5:30 at the Bridgehampton National Bank.

Education Committee Report & Calendar

October 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 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.*

October 1 - 10:00 AM Tuesday	Natural Resources Committee Meeting	Hampton Library, Bridgehampton
October 2 - 5:30 PM Wednesday	LWVH Board Meeting	Bridgehampton National Bank, Bridgehampton
October 8 - Tuesday	United Nations Day	UN Headquarters, NYC Visit LWVNY For More Details
October 9 - 2:00 PM Wednesday	Special Events Committee Meeting	Cooper Hall, Rogers Memorial Library, Southampton Contact Gladys Remler: specialevents@lwvhamptons.org
October 15 - 2:00 PM Tuesday	Deadline for 'Promote The Vote' Videos From Students	Contact Judi Roth: 283-0759
October 16 - 12:00 PM Wednesday	Annual LWVH Luncheon	Edgewater Restaurant, 295 E. Montauk Hwy, Hampton Bays Contact Joanne Samborn: 283-9648
October 21 - 7:00 PM Monday	Candidate Debate	Emergency Services Building, Cedar St., East Hampton
October 24 - 7:00 PM Thursday	Candidate Debate	Rogers Memorial Library, 91 Coopers Farm Rd. Southampton
TOWN BOARD MEETINGS		
October 3 - 7:00 PM	East Hampton Town Board Meeting	Town Hall Courtroom, 159 Pantigo Rd., East Hampton
October 8 - 1:00 PM	Southampton Town Board Meeting	Town Hall Board Room, Southampton Town Hall, 116 Hampton Rd., Southampton
October 17 - 7:00 PM	East Hampton Town Board Meeting	Town Hall Courtroom, 159 Pantigo Rd., East Hampton
October 22 - 6:00 PM	Southampton Town Board Meeting	Town Hall Board Room, Southampton Town Hall, 116 Hampton Rd., Southampton

Democracy and the People: Grades 3-5 by Judi Roth

Kids Voting – USA (www.kidsvotingusa.org) is a good source of material for teachers, parents and grandparents —i.e., League members—to find material to teach or reinforce ideas about voting and democracy. One of the lessons focuses on having children think of their household as a small government unit. What services are used by all the people in the household? Police, libraries, schools and fire departments are easy answers. Children participate in sports leagues, all household members need roads to get around (public transportation in cities) and if anyone wants to make a change to their home they need a building permit. These are all ways in which our town government serves us through the use of our tax dollars.

All organizations encourage parents to take their kids into the voting booth—or to the voting computer—with them. This is something that makes a lasting impression on children. The most important message to convey is that we have choices and we should take advantage of the opportunity to have our voices heard. A conversation with grandkids could also address how in many countries, citizens do not have a chance to vote or, conversely, that the turnout to vote is much higher than in the U.S. Depending on the age of the kids, you might start a discussion about multiple day voting or early voting or voting by mail as a way to increase voter turnout.

Here are some recommended books for kids 4 to 8 years old: *Grace for President* by Kelly Dipucchio; *Otto Runs for President* by Rosemary Wells; *Letters from the Campaign Trail: LaRue for Mayor* by Mark Teague; *If I Ran for President* by Catherine Stier.

Natural Resources Committee Report

Nature As Entertainment

by Susan Wilson

I love vintage cars and I follow the newer high-end models, too. I've seen them all this season: Ferrari, Maserati, Aston Martin, Bentley, as they wait along with the rest of us in Hamptons gridlock traffic. To keep myself entertained during my hour and a half commute (Southampton to Montauk), I start counting such cars, "Two Ferrari, two Bentley, one Maserati—oops was that four Astons or five?"

Boring! I want something more—no counting, no statistics, I want to engage all of my senses, I want to connect with nature. I long to see:

A chipmunk as it scurries across a well-worn path edged with tufts of soft moss, pine needles and aging leaves in the Elizabeth A. Morton Wildlife Refuge in Sag Harbor.

Brilliant rays of sun stream through a tangled canopy of beige and earthy brown branches as I walk through East Hampton's White Pine Forest.

The water glisten in the afternoon sun as insects bounce off the surface like corn popping in an old campfire skillet in Elliston Park, Southampton.

I long to smell the salt that lingers in the breeze as Jeeps and pick-up trucks outfitted with roof racks and front-end rigs holding myriad fishing equipment carry eager surfcasters to their favorite fishing spots.

I want to explore Long Island's last wilderness—meander the Paumanuk Path, a 125 mile wilderness hike that starts in Manorville and continues to Montauk.

If, as I do, you want to enjoy nature, not paved highways...

Visit The South fork Natural History Museum & Nature Center, offering walks, hikes, events and education programs. This interactive center is designed for all ages. Or, if you live on Long Island and are a nature lover, you may already know about the East Hampton Trails and Southampton Trails Preservation Societies. The Southampton Trails Society not only leads hikes and provides maps for hiking, kayaking and horseback riding to members, they also maintain the trails (over 290 in Southampton alone) and work with the CPF (Community Preservation Fund) to review applications and identify lands for acquisition.

For more ways to engage all your senses and enjoy nature all around you, check out these websites:

Southampton Trails Preservation Society: www.southamptontrails.org; East Hampton Trails Preservation Society: www.easthamptontrails.org; South Fork Natural History Museum & Nature Center: www.sofo.org; Group for the East End, Nature Conservancy: www.nature.org, groupfortheeastend.org and Long Island Pine Barrens Trails: ww.pinebarrens.org/

Our Popular Fall Luncheon Is October 16

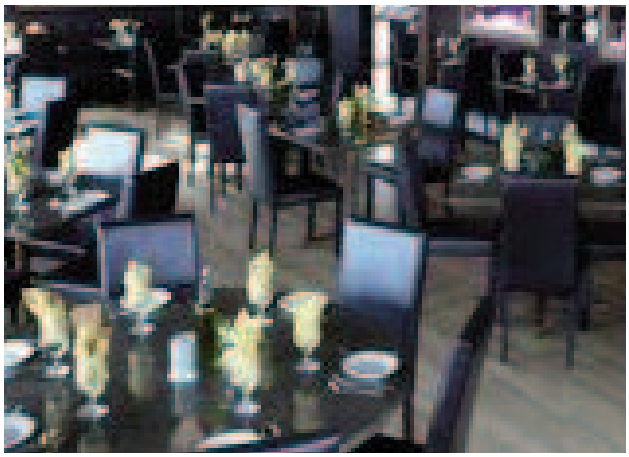
by Gladys Remler

Edgewater Restaurant in Hampton Bays is the setting for our annual Fundraiser/Luncheon at noon on Wednesday October 16. Sitting east of the Shinnecock Canal above Old Montauk Highway, the restaurant's many windows overlook beautiful Shinnecock Bay.

This year's speaker, Judiann Carmack-Fayyaz, is Chair of the local Slow Foods Movement. She will discuss Slow Food and its principles, the School Garden Movement and achieving community goals through the lens of food and agriculture. The last ties in with a study the national League plans on agriculture – a topic of interest to all.

We look forward to seeing you and your friends on October 16. Good news: the price is the same as last year: $55. Please make check payable to LWVH and mail to: Gladys Remler, 180 Melody Court, Eastport, NY 11941.

Any questions? Call Joanne Samborn, Co-chair of Special Events at 631-283-9648, or e-mail us at specialevents@lwvhamptons.org. Please call after 11 AM.



LWVH Goes To A Picnic

by Gladys Remler

Joanne Samborn (my Special Events Committee Co-Chair), Joy Cordery and I enjoyed our time at the Anti-Bias Task Force annual picnic at Red Creek Park in Hampton Bays on Sept. 7. We set up a table with our LWVH banner and all our literature, including membership information. Our goal was to answer picnickers' questions regarding registration for voting. We had forms in English and Spanish available.

We were asked to explain what the League does and what it stands for. We had the answers. We were asked where to vote and could people vote if they were residents. We also heard comments about how our debates are conducted and received many compliments about them. Families came and children had much to do. There was free food and a grand mixture of people. The atmosphere was relaxing and we learned a great deal as we answered questions and were happy to have people become acquainted with the LWVH.

ABOVE From left, Joy Cordery, Joanne McEvoy-Samborn and Gladys Remler represented LWVH at the Anti-Bias task force Picnic in Hampton Bays on September 7. Photo by Joanne Samborn.

Access To Mental Health Services On The South Fork

by Valerie King, Ph.D.

In the fall of 2012, the LWVH Government-Health Committee met with Robert Chaloner, CEO of Southampton Hospital. Among other topics, we asked about the perceived difficulties residents of the South Fork encounter getting access to mental health services. Mr. Chaloner suggested that a collaborative study of the situation would provide useful data. (See *The Voter* of January 2013). East End Clinical Connections (EECC), a multidisciplinary organization of local behavioral health professionals, was recruited to collaborate with the hospital to develop the study. Valerie King Ph.D. clinical psychologist, LWVH Board member and Health Committee member, is part of the steering committee of EECC and serves as a liaison for the study to the League.

The Behavioral Health Study Taskforce composed of EECC leadership and Southampton Hospital leadership, met several times over the 2013 winter and spring to create a two-phase work plan to review and characterize the challenges with accessing behavioral health services. Phase One included interviewing key behavioral health professionals and community members over the 2013 summer to solicit specific ideas regarding steps to enhance access, and reduce stigma regarding behavioral health services. Eight taskforce members conducted 30 interviews. The Southampton Hospital /EECC collaborative Task Force Study To Review Behavioral Health Access Challenges does not endorse or refute the ideas indicated by the individuals interviewed.

KEY POINTS OF INTERVIEW FINDINGS

• Behavioral health professionals and community members interview findings are summarized below.
• There is a glaring lack of inpatient services for children on the East End.
• There are limited substance abuse/rehabilitation beds
• There is a need for a continuum of inpatient to outpatient services
• There is an uneven distribution of providers; a paucity of psychiatrists; few professional providers for young children and the elderly; and a lack of bilingual providers
• There are long waiting lists to access services, and many professionals do not accept insurance
• There is a need to integrate behavioral health services with general medical services
• There is a need for community centers, churches and schools to collaborate for behavioral health services
• There is a need for more employee assistance professional (EAP) services to provide workplace access to behavioral health resources
• There is a need for increased public transportation to behavioral health services sites.
• There is the need for leadership and collaboration among the various hospitals, clinics, agencies and professional providers
• There is a need to reduce stigma via bi-lingual public relations and media campaigns to enhance access to behavioral health services

The Southampton Hospital and EECC collaborative Behavioral Health Study Task Force will continue to meet and plan next steps to realistically address some of the themes and ideas articulated in Phase one of the study. The LWVH Health Committee will keep you posted on the progress of the collaborative Behavioral Health study.

National Mental Health Awareness Week

October 6-12, 2013

In conjunction with the national event, on October 8 from 7-9 PM, Southampton Hospital East End Clinical Connections (EECC) will sponsor a panel discussion entitled, “Mental Health On The East End: A Community Conversation.” This free event will be held in Parrish Memorial Hall, Southampton Hospital. Seating is limited. To register contact Dolores Keller at Seafield Center 631-569-7335.

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Webmaster

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267-3055
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Calling All Kids!

Students between 10 and 18 years old are invited to submit a one-minute video to the "Promote the Vote" video project sponsored by the League of Women Voters.

GUIDELINES:

- Use your smartphone, iPad or video camera to create a 1-minute (no longer) video on why voting is important
- Work alone or with a team
- Be persuasive—Be non-partisan

USE YOUR OWN SLOGAN OR ONE OF THESE:

- Have a voice, make a choice!
- Your vote, your right.
- Have a vision? Make a decision!
- Drop the remote. Get out and vote.
- Everyone looks good in the voting booth.

WIN PRIZES! GET RECOGNITION!

- Three age categories: 10-12, 13-15, 16-18. The winner in each category will receive an assortment of gift cards worth a total of $100.
- All entries will be eligible for community service credit.
- Media exposure – this is chance for your video to be seen on LTV, SEA-TV, Patch, etc.

HERE'S HOW TO ENTER

Email your video, with information below to:
education@lwvhamptons.org
Deadline for entries: October 15, 2013.
Questions? Contact education@lwvhamptons.org

EACH ENTRY MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

- Your name. If a team, list all team members' names plus one contact person's e-mail and phone number
- Your phone number
- Your age
- Your mailing address
- Your parent/custodian's name & how to reach them

The Voter

League of Women Voters of the Hamptons
P.O. Box 2253
East Hampton, NY 11937
Phone: 631-324-4637
www.lwvhamptons.org

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
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The League of Women Voters

Nonpartisan. Political. Grassroots. Volunteer.

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