

NEWS RELEASE

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE HAMPTONS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**55 STUDENTS SELECTED FROM EIGHT LOCAL HIGH SCHOOLS
TO ATTEND LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS WORKSHOP
WITH WOMEN ELECTED OFFICIALS
Thursday, April 15, 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Southampton Cultural Center**

To give young women in local high schools the opportunity to explore their leadership potential and a possible career in public service, the League of Women Voters of the Hamptons has organized, for a second year, a day-long workshop called "Running and Winning," to be held on Thursday, April 15, 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at the Southampton Cultural Center, 25 Pond Lane.

Approximately 55 juniors and seniors from eight local high schools in Bridgehampton, East Hampton, Hampton Bays, Sag Harbor, Shelter Island, Southampton and Westhampton have been selected by their schools to participate in the program organized by LWVH vice president Judi Roth and her education committee.

"We hope this experience will go a small way toward achieving our aim of opening young women's horizons to the idea of running for office and considering public service," said Ms. Roth. "Though women may hold many elected positions in local government here on the East End, the statistics show that this does not hold true for other parts of the state and nation."

Twenty women elected officials from East Hampton, Southampton and Shelter Island town and village governments will attend, to speak about their experiences seeking and holding public office. They include Southampton Town Supervisor Anna Throne-Holst; Town Board members Julia Prince of East Hampton, Christine Lewis of Shelter Island and Nancy Graboski of Southampton; Town Trustees Diane McNally and Stephanie Talmage of East Hampton; Town Clerk Sundy Schermeyer of Southampton; Town Justices Patricia Quigley and Helen Rosenblum of Shelter Island, Deborah Kooperstein, Andrea Schiavoni and Barbara Wilson of Southampton; Town Receiver of Taxes Theresa Kiernan of Southampton; Village Mayor Laura Nolan of North Haven; Village Deputy Mayor Lee Foster of Sagaponack; and Village Trustees Barbara Borsack of East Hampton, Joy Sieger of Sagaponack, Bonnie Cannon of Southampton, and Toni-Jo Birk and Joan Levan of Westhampton Beach.

Divided into groups of four or five, students will have a chance to interview eight of the women officials with a set of suggested questions.

Addressing them at approximately 10:30 a.m. will be keynote speaker Christina Strassfield, a trustee on the Southampton School District Board of Education, who is also well-known as museum director and chief curator at Guild Hall, East Hampton. She will speak on her reasons for running for office, the role of a school board member, and how trustees interact with school and community.

Last year the workshop's campaign exercise involved developing a position on alternative forms of energy for Long Island. This year students at each table will prepare a platform on the topic of "Running for Election to Your School Board" by discussing educational goals, curriculum, program or schedule changes, extracurricular activities, shared services and budgetary issues.

Then after lunch, students in each group, in the role of campaign manager, candidate, speechwriter, communications director and fundraiser, will present their mock campaign on stage in the form of a two-minute speech by the candidate and a campaign poster with slogan and platform.

The League's "Running and Winning" program this year is funded by a generous grant from the Long Island Fund for Women & Girls—which LIFWG literature describes as "a charitable organization that funds programs that improve the lives of women and girls, highlights and addresses women's issues, and develops women's philanthropy."

For in-kind donations, the League also expresses its thanks to Jason and Theresa Belkin of The Hampton Coffee Company; to Southampton Town Youth Bureau Director Nancy Lynott and LongHouse Reserve Executive Director Matko Tomicic; and to Southampton Cultural Center Executive Director Kirsten Lonnie.

The day's program will be taped and aired by Southampton Town's SEA-TV, Channel 22. For those not residing in the Town, the program can be viewed online at www.town.southampton.ny.us at the same time it is airing on channel 22.

Further information is available from Ms. Roth at 631-283-0759.

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