



THE VOTER

The Newsletter of the League of Women Voters of the Hamptons

Founded in 1977

Volume XXXVIII, No. 2

April 2017

Events planned throughout Spring

By Judy Samuelson

You don't need a crystal ball to know that your League has lots of events in the works as Spring tries to creep in (it's snowing as I write this on March 15). First up on April 17 is a really timely presentation about wind turbines off the East Hampton coast. Read about it on page 16. It's going to be at the Stony Brook Southampton campus Marine Science Center, a building right on the water that will blow you away so to speak.

Then indulge yourself with a pancake brunch and cooking demonstration by noted chef Colette, proprietor and chef at The Inn Spot in Hampton Bays, another jewel set on the Shinnecock Bay. Sample pancakes from Belgium, France, Japan or Poland, with appropriate accoutrements. The fundraiser is set for April 26, and the modest \$38 fee is all inclusive. Could be an early Mother's Day treat, so bring your friends, mothers, sisters or daughters too.

Then on May 7, our Annual Meeting takes place. This year, Minerva Perez, Executive Director of OLA, is a particularly appropriate speaker for our community, enriched as it is with immigrants whose life here is now facing an uncertain future. It's important that we hear from you on business matters presented such as our budget, our Directors and Officers, our Bylaws and Non-Partisan Policy and more. We'll award the Betty Desch Scholarship to a worthy graduating senior. Join us at the Southampton Senior Center in Hampton Bays (no water view, but it's a comfortable place and easy to get to).

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SAVE THE DATE

April 17, 2017, 6:30 - 9 pm

PIM: Wind, A Clean Energy Solution. Renewable energy as a reliable, cost-effective solution to Long Island's electricity needs.

Reservations: Call 631/283-6549

Location: Stony Brook Southampton Marine Sciences Center, (SoMAS), 239 Montauk Highway Southampton, NY 11968-6700

April 26, 11 am – 2:30 pm.

“Not Your Mother’s Pancakes,” Special Events’ first 2017 fundraiser. Enjoy a cooking demonstration of pancakes from around the world followed by brunch in a beautiful spot on Shinnecock Bay.

Location: The Inn Spot in Hampton Bays, 132 Lighthouse Rd. Hampton Bays, NY 11946

May 7, 1 – 3 pm

LWVH Annual Meeting. All members urged to attend. Guest speaker: Minerva Perez, Executive Director of OLA. Vote for new slate of Board officers and members. Approve 2017/18 Budget; proposed 2017 program; Bylaws and Non-Partisan Policy. Refreshments will be served.

Location: Southampton Community Center 25 Ponquogue Ave. Hampton Bays, NY 11946

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.

Judy Samuelson, Editor
Cathy Peacock, Advertising Manager
Bruce McGowin, Design & Production
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Madison Lohrius Inc., Printing and Mailing

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President's Message

By Glorian Berk

Our 2017 Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday May 7 at 1 pm, and we're getting ready for it. The nominating committee reported the slate for 2017/18 at our February board meeting. Then at our March board meeting, we heard from the Bylaws and Non-Partisan Policy Committees and reviewed the proposed 2017/18 budget. LWVH's fiscal year begins on June 1, 2017 and ends on May 31, 2018. Hence, the budget is presented at our May Annual Meeting, so members can approve it for the coming year.

Also at our March board meeting, we reviewed the results of the January Planning Meeting and the board adopted our 2017 programs. By a very large margin, the members who attended the January Planning Meeting wanted to create an advocacy team to work on issues that are important to LWVH. We have scheduled a meeting in March to discuss the best way to execute this idea. On February 22, a group representing LWVH (Glorian Berk, Carol Mellor, Martha Potter and Judi Roth) met with Congressman Lee Zeldin to advocate for LWVH positions including comprehensive health care for all. We're excited that Minerva Perez, the director of OLA (Organization Latina America) will be our keynote speaker. At a time when immigration policy is at the forefront of the country, her thoughts will be especially timely. We'll also announce this year's Desch Scholarship winner and present one of our many worthy volunteers the Carrie Chapman Catt award for outstanding service to the League.

Once the board's work is completed, it's your turn to prepare. First, please review the packet of information that you'll receive via email one month prior to the May 7 meeting. Next, plan to attend the annual meeting so that your voice can be heard. You will also have the opportunity to offer directions to the board about other programs or initiatives you think should be addressed. I hope to see you on May 7 at 1 pm at the Southampton Town Senior Center (25 Ponquogue Avenue, Hampton Bays, NY Phone: 631-726-1235) for this important meeting.

Join us for a Special Brunch: “Not Your Mother’s Pancakes”

By Gladys Remler and Joanne Samborn

On Wednesday April 26, 2017 11am – 2pm, come to a Presentation and Cooking Demonstration by Award Winning Platinum Chef Colette, who will give a history of pancakes from around the world and a cooking demonstration. Brunch follows with your choice of pancakes from Belgium, France,

Poland or Japan. Cost \$38 (inclusive). Send checks payable to LWVH by April 21 to Gladys Remler, 180 Melody Ct., Eastport NY 11941. At The Inn Spot, 132 Lighthouse Rd., Hampton Bays, NY 11946.



Organizers of the February 16 Beat the Winter Blahs Luncheon at Bobby Van's in Bridgehampton (postponed from February 9 because of a snowstorm) were Julia Kayser and Pat Arceri.



Joanne Samborn, Jill Hamilton, Gladys Remler, Susan Bieger, Terry Wildrick



Judy Samuelson, Dee Renos, Marilyn McGuire, Rosa Hanna Scott, Barbara Person



Corinne Marley, Jill Paitchel, Judi Roth, Ginny Poveromo, Ann Sandford



Anne Marshall, Marie O'Brien, Joan Hughes, Margaret Stevenson



Joan Baum, Glorian Berk, Valerie King, Judy Samuelson, Sara Bertha.

LWVH Plans Multiple Events for NYS Women's Suffrage Centennial in 2017

By Arlene Hinkemeyer

The NYS League plus multiple colleges, historical societies, libraries and other State organizations have been organizing events, conferences and exhibits to celebrate this year's 100th anniversary of women winning the right to vote in NYS on November 6, 1917. The national commemoration comes in 2020.

Not to be outdone, LWVH has been working to co-sponsor many events with local organizations. While upstate Seneca Falls, NY, may have been the birthplace of the women's suffrage movement, our committee invites you to celebrate Long Island and East End suffrage leaders at the following events:

Friday, May 12, 6 p.m. at the Southampton Arts Center. Eastville Community Historical Society's executive director Dr. Georgette Grier-Key presents "Freedom Sisters & Suffragists," with suffrage and other readings, \$5. Co-sponsored by Arts Center, Southampton Historical Museum, Rogers Memorial Library and LWV Hamptons.

Friday, June 9. LWVNYS bus tour from Syracuse/Liverpool Holiday Inn to Seneca Falls. Includes lunch, bus, admissions, dinner at historic Gould Hotel and program with Elizabeth Cady Stanton impersonator all for \$70. Info at www.lwvny.org

Southampton July 4th Parade. Our league will wear "Votes for Women" sashes, have both float riders and walkers. Sign up at LWVH Annual Meeting or email rothhandj@yahoo.com or ahinkemeyer@optonline.net. More events will be described in a future Voter.

Great News About Awarding of Suffrage Marker in East Hampton! Spurred on by the E.H. Library's Brooke Kroeger, Arlene worked with Village of East Hampton's administrator Rebecca Molinaro, who applied for and just won, through the Pomeroy Foundation, an historic suffrage marker in front of May Groot Manson's house on Main Street! We'll let you know when the installation takes place.

Government Committee Report

Everything you didn't realize you wanted to know about the NYS Constitution

By Estelle Gellman

On Monday evening, March 13, the Government Committee hosted a Public Information Meeting at the Hampton Library about the issues regarding whether or not to have a Constitutional Convention to amend the New York State constitution. The League is exploring the issue at this time because, assuming you're going to vote in NY, the following question will be on the ballot this coming November: "Shall there be a convention to revise the constitution and amend the same?"

If the answer from the voters is yes, we will be asked to elect the delegates to the constitutional convention in 2018 and, in 2019, to vote on any amendments that are proposed.

At this informative meeting, Judy Samuelson explained the process by which the constitution may be amended, Cathy Peacock discussed how delegates are chosen and aspects of the convention process and Ann Sanford spoke about some of the

issues that are likely to be addressed. Estelle Gellman reviewed the pros and cons we have to consider before we cast our vote. Additionally, Carol Mellor prepared a handout detailing the history of constitutional conventions which was distributed at the meeting.

Although there were many questions regarding different aspects of the presentation, there was no clear indication that the audience was leaning for or against a convention. At this time, the State League does not yet have a position on this issue although the State LWV Board will be considering whether to take a position pro or con. If the League takes a position in favor, we will advocate for a constitutional convention and, of course, if the League takes a position against, we will also advocate for that. In any case, in favor, opposed or neutral - we will provide information and education on the topic. And regardless of our position, we urge everyone to become knowledgeable about this issue and to be sure to vote in November.

Meeting with Board of Elections (BOE)

By Anne Marshall

Each Spring we look forward to warmer weather, and buds on trees and green shoots from dormant plants. And each year, the League recharges its batteries by establishing its priorities. One continuing theme is the improvement of the voting processes in New York State. It is no secret that voter turnout in NYS is among the lowest in the country (29% of eligible voters vote). With that as a focus, LWNYS, along with four other advocacy groups, issued a joint policy statement on voting reform priorities. (The full statement can be found at www.lwvny.org) It lists six areas of needed reform:

1. "opt-out voter registration
2. electronic poll books
3. early voting
4. voter friendly ballots
5. upgrades to poll workers' recruitment and training
6. improvements to local BOE websites.

Meeting face-to-face

Recently, representatives from LWV Suffolk County and its local Leagues including Hamptons had a cordial meeting with the two BOE Commissioners, Anita Katz (Democrat) and Nick LaLota (Republican) and their assistants at the Suffolk County Board of Elections in Yaphank. Two priorities (items 3 and 5) above were of particular focus:

Implement Early Voting in New York State (item 3)

The joint policy reads "New York is one of only 14 states that does not allow early or no-excuse absentee voting... and in-person early voting legislation..."

The county commissioners seemed to suggest that this pro-

posal might have a reasonable chance of, as one said, "seeing the light of day." They did point out, however, that Suffolk County is one of the largest in the state and implementation here would entail considerable planning and financing. For example, in the case of in person early voting sites, they said that each polling place needs to have a representative from each of the two parties. The no excuse absentee voting element has a better chance of enactment.

Upgrade Poll Workers Recruitment/Training and Websites (item 5)

The joint statement reads "...strongly urge state and county boards of elections to work together to develop ways to increase and diversify the number of poll workers, and improve their training. ...Recommend that poll workers be trained to assist voters with ballot marking devices so all voters can vote privately and independently."

It was heartening to hear the Suffolk County BOE representatives announce that they will conduct a new and different type of poll worker training. They said that the training would focus less on the technical procedures and more on the needs of the voters. We interpreted that to be similar to doctors being trained to focus on the patient, not just on the diagnosis. These sessions will begin in April. The League asked to observe and permission was granted.

We learned also that any organization or group can request a BOE demonstration of the voting machines and processes. That is something to keep in mind as we continue our mission to focus on improving voter turnout.



Con Con

The Government Committee presented their findings on the Constitutional Convention Study on March 13. From left: Judy Samuelson, Cathy Peacock, Carol Mellor (standing), Ann Sandford, Estelle Gellman.

Highlights of Board of Directors Meeting, March 1 2017

Information Items:

- Lobby Day, April 25, 2017, in Albany.
- LWV-NYS Convention, June 9-11, 2017, in Liverpool, NY (Near Syracuse)

Discussion Items:

Annual Meeting

- The meeting will be on May 7 at the Watermill Community House (later changed to Senior Center in Hampton Bays).
- Minerva Perez of OLA will be the speaker.
- The January Planning meeting outlined goals for the coming year. A motion was passed to accept the six items and make changes to item three.
- Arlene and Barbara reviewed our Bylaws. Their changes and corrections were approved.
- Judy and Gladys reviewed our Non-Partisan policy and recommended no changes.

Partnering

- The “Long Island Unity Collaborative” is having its initial meeting this month Martha will attend to represent LWVH. The Collaborative has the goal of protecting the rights and safety of all members of our community.

Committee Reports:

- Advocacy. Glorian reported that League members visited Congressman Lee Zeldin’s office. Carol Mellor ad-

ressed Affordable Care Act (ACA) and Judi Roth spoke about Planned Parenthood, which Mr. Zeldin voted to defund. Martha spoke about the economic impact of immigration. Glorian offered the LWVH to moderate a Town Hall meeting; Mr. Zeldin declined.

- Voter Services. Anne noted that LWV Nassau County is doing the June voter registration at the Islip court house. They are also interested in doing it in April. She will talk to Lisa Scott to confirm. On 3/8/17 The LWV-SC will meet with the SC Board of Elections.
- Health. Valerie and Beverly visited the Westhampton AHRC Rehabilitation Center in February. In late April they hope to visit Planned Parenthood in Riverhead. The committee has been following the ACA developments.
- Education. “Students Inside Suffolk County” is scheduled in April. Lora Gellerstein, the legislative administrator, sent a program for the group to work on focusing and refining the program.
- Natural Resources. Susan reports that the PIM on Wind Turbines is coming up in April. Also, plastic ocean litter is being used to make sneakers.
- Special Events. Gladys noted preparations are almost complete for the April brunch with a cooking demonstration by Iron Chef winner, Cheffe Collete.
- Public Relations / 100th Anniversary. Arlene updated

Make your Amazon.com purchases benefit the NYSLWV Education Foundation

By Judi Roth

Go to www.smile.amazon.com to help the Education Fund when you shop at Amazon. When you go to this site, you can select the LWVNY Education Fund as your designated charity. Then each time you make a purchase, Amazon will donate .05% of it to the LWVNY fund. Just remember: type in www.smile.amazon.com rather than hitting the @ key. Once you do, you’re shopping at Amazon and doing good at the same time. Through November 2016, over \$220 has been donated to the state League!





The Average Household Throws Out \$640 of Food Each Year

By Susan Wilson

Here are some ways to cut that number.

BE CHOOSY ABOUT BUYING IN BULK

While it makes sense to buy some household items like paper products in bulk refrain from buying perishables unless you can use them in a reasonable length of time. Oils including olive oil only have a 6 month shelf life and can easily go rancid after that. Spices lose their flavor within a year so it is smarter to buy less.

ELIMINATE LEFTOVERS

Some families just will not eat leftovers and tossing leftovers accounts for a large amount of food that goes to waste. If this is your family, learn to cook less or cook enough protein for 2 meals and turn each half into 2 completely different meals.

USE COMMON SENSE WITH EXPIRATION DATES

Since food labeling is confusing so many of us err on

the side of caution, wasting millions of dollars of food in the process. Since there's no universal standard for labeling products, reconciling the various terminologies can be next to impossible. After all, what's the real difference between the "Sell by" date? and the "Use by" date? And then there's the "best before" date, which is even more ambiguous.

These labels are food manufacturers' suggestions for peak freshness and taste rather than indicators of food safety or health concerns.

As general rule, most foods can be consumed days, weeks or even months past the dates printed. Just use common sense. If the product looks, smells or tastes funny, chuck it.

Sources: well.blogs.nytimes.com, GreenLivingtips.com, RealSimple.com, Seafood-Healthfacts.org.

Advocacy Committee Concept Weighed

By Judy Samuelson

In response to a heightened public interest in having a voice with our elected officials, the League is exploring how to help the Hamptons League and other groups as well to advocate for issues on which the League has positions, such as access to healthcare, (e.g., don't repeal the Affordable Care Act unless a better program will replace it). Board members invited those who contacted us to meet on March 21 to decide if an Advocacy committee is needed or perhaps just a three or four-person steering committee to direct each issue to the proper committee, (e.g. the Health Committee would write or visit legislators to urge an appropriate response instead of repeal of the ACA).

Some points discussed at the March 21 meeting

The original idea of "Advocacy group" was to coordinate a re-

sponse to legislation and regulations relative to League positions.

We don't want to add filters or extra layers by forming a separate new committee

We want to offer advocacy training to outside groups and train our members as well

The idea has attracted new people who want to help. This is exactly what we hoped for. We can direct those individuals to the committee that responds to the issue at hand. There, they can encourage attention and help advocate for or against a piece of legislation

Anyone presenting a visible "face" to our communities as an advocate would be unable to act as a presenter, for example, at that committee's educational events.

WIND, A CLEAN ENERGY SOLUTION

By Susan Wilson

Wind power is one of the fastest-growing sources of new electricity supply and the largest source of new, renewable power generation added in the United States since 2000.

A wind turbine works on a simple principle. The wind turns two or three propeller-like blades around a rotor. The rotor is connected to the main shaft, which spins a generator to create electricity. Wind turbines are mounted on a tower to capture the most energy. At 100 feet or more above ground, they can take advantage of faster and less turbulent wind. Wind turbines can be connected to an electricity grid for widespread electricity distribution.

In 2016 the 30 Megawatt Block Island Wind Farm off the coast of Rhode Island became the first offshore wind farm in the United States. In January, 2017 LIPA trustees unanimously approved a resolution to finalize a contract for a \$740M offshore wind farm project 30 miles from Montauk Point. Governor Cuomo signaled his blessing for the LIPA - DEEPWATER project in his State of the State address: "Today's decision means cleaner energy, new jobs and fresh momentum as we move aggressively to our goal of 50 percent renewable power by 2030."

Our distinguished panel will discuss Governor Cuomo's Mas-



Energy Plan and vision for off-shore wind projects, Long Island's energy needs and how they can be met with cost-effective, reliable renewable energy projects and Deepwater Wind's project including installation, operation and costs.

THE PANEL:

Doreen Harris, Program Manager, Large Scale Renewables NYSERDA (New York State Energy Research & Development Authority)

Michael Voltz, P.E. PSEG Long Island, Director of Energy Efficiency & Renewables

Clint Plummer, Vice President of Development for Deepwater Wind

Education Committee Report

Students Going to Suffolk County Legislature

By Judi Roth

In a repeat of the successful program begun in 2015, some 50 students from the Hamptons, Riverhead and Brookhaven will meet at the Riverhead offices of the Suffolk County Legislature on April 7 for a day learning about our county government. Students from Smithtown and Huntington will go to the Hauppauge branch of the Legislature on March 29.

The students, all juniors selected by their schools as students interested in government, will spend half their day rotating through four sessions where they will cover such topics as:

- How does a bill become a law?
- What does a legislator do for their constituents?
- How can I influence my legislator and bring up issues that are important to me?

The fourth session will be devoted to an afternoon-long "mock legislative" program. Students will take the role of legislators, lobbyists, the public, non-profit organizations, etc. at a

mock public hearing on "Should Suffolk County Be A Sanctuary County?" As background on this topic, the League will provide a list of reference articles before the trip. At the session a member of the Sheriff's Department of the County will speak to them about the real-life situations surrounding this very current topic.

Welcome to new committee members

The Education Committee welcomes new member Terry Wildrick. At her first meeting with the committee, she agreed to become the Hampton Bays High School contact to work on getting the teachers on board with the program. She will really fill a geographical gap for us and we look forward to her participation. I'd also like to recognize Ethel Sussman of our Riverhead branch. Last year, we weren't successful getting students from Riverhead to attend. As Ethel lives in Jamesport and knows many school board members, she will be very helpful in bringing Riverhead High School students to this event.

Visiting Phoenix House in December 2016

By Valerie King, Chair of LWVH Health Committee

There is an opioid and heroin epidemic on Long Island! But for those struggling with substance use there is help in our local community. For one, there is Phoenix House, a respected nationwide program to provide services to individuals with substance abuse issues and their families.

On December 14 2016, I visited our local Phoenix House inpatient and outpatient facilities and spoke to Shawn Willis LMSW, Director of Substance Abuse Outpatient Programs for Long Island and Cathy Bok, a professional counselor. They explained that many come to Phoenix house through outpatient services at 283 Springs Fireplace Rd., East Hampton. This facility offers peer support groups, individual counseling and family services, brochures such as "Talking To Your Kids Before They've Used Drugs" and flyers giving local times and locations for substance use support group meetings. The facility can be reached at 631-329-0373.

The trained professional staff can provide information for walk-ins or those with an appointment to be evaluated to determine the appropriate level of service and readiness to participate toward wellness. Although abstinence is a goal, there are several paths of harm reduction while working toward recovery.

Residential Facility

The residential facility, Phoenix House Academy of Long Island, is housed in a large and welcoming farmhouse in Wainscott. The facility is tailored for young men ages 18-30 who stay for a time depending on their individual clinical needs. Around 80% of the residents have Medicaid as health insurance, although Phoenix House is an in-network provider for many health insurance plans. Self-payment plans are also available. Some residents are court mandated. A few local men are in residence but many come from other areas of Long Island and the metropolitan region. John Valenie, Operations manager, showed me around. The residents are closely supervised and the facility is well maintained with sufficient indoor and outdoor exercise equipment. I met with Giovanni Maguire, Deputy Director, and Kimberly Spellman, LMSW, Social Worker. Both stressed the importance of peer group meetings and services that include family members for an



The Health Committee checked out Phoenix House: shown, Valerie King and Shawn Willis LMSW, Director of Substance Abuse Outpatient Programs for Long Island.

individual's substance use recovery. Alumni of the program return to help current residents and to speak to community groups.

Both the inpatient and outpatient Phoenix House facilities welcome charitable contributions, donations of appropriate DVDs, and adult volunteers with special therapeutic skills in art, music and exercise.

In other local health news, we eagerly anticipate in 2017 the merger of Stony Brook Medical Center with Southampton Hospital, the new East Hampton Emergency Facility and plans for a new Cancer Center.

The LWVH Health Committee focuses on access to health-care for community residents and conducts visits to health-related programs, providers and public officials to obtain information regarding local healthcare. To join the LWVH Health Committee, please contact Valerie King Ph.D. at 631-267-3282 or valerielkingphd@gmail.com

Membership Committee Report

Time to renew your membership in LWVH

By Estelle Gellman

The Membership Committee welcomes new members Sara and Teresa Bertha, Teresa Wildrick and Elana McCaffery Cichanowicz. We look forward to seeing them at meetings and working with them on committees.

We also want to remind you that it is that time again -- time for our early bird dues renewal request. You will be getting your early bird dues renewal letter later this month and we urge you to respond with a dues check before it gets lost under that pile of papers on your desk. As you know, our ability to accomplish our goals depends not only on the in-

volvement of members in League activities but also on their dues - and a timely response saves us both the time and money involved in repeated reminder letters. In this contentious political environment when many of the issues we support are under attack, we need your support more than ever and thank you for responding with your dues.

Membership Application



Not a member of the League of Women Voters of the Hamptons?

Please join us by mailing this application form and a check payable to LWVH to:
League of Women Voters of the Hamptons; P.O. Box 2253; East Hampton, NY 11937

Individual Member's Name _____

Other Household Member's Name _____

Address _____

Email(s) _____ Home phone _____ Cell phone _____

Membership Dues: Full-time Student \$15 Household \$90 Individual \$60

Donations to our local league may be made payable to LWVHamptons and may be included in your dues check. Tax-deductible donations may be made by separate check payable to: LWVNYS - Education Foundation

I am interested in:

- Education Committee Membership Committee Voter Services Committee
 Government Committee Natural Resources Committee Communications
 Health Committee Special Events Committee

Questions? Call us at 631-324-4637 or email: membership@lwvhamptons.org

OFFICERS

Co-Presidents

Glorian Berk
631-974-2635
copresident@lwvhamp-
tons.org

Judy Samuelson
631-267-3055
copresident@lwvhamp-
tons.org

Vice-Presidents

Estelle Gellman
631-324-9102
membership@lwvhamp-
tons.org

Arlene Hinkemeyer
631-324-6713
ahinkemeyer@optonline.net

Gladys Remler
631-288-9021
gremlerdesign@aol.com

Recording Secretary

Barbara McClancy
631-324-5743
bmcc343@aol.com

Treasurer

Cathy Peacock
631-267-6685
treasurer@lwvhamp-
tons.org

ELECTED DIRECTORS

Naomi Epstein
631-324-9371
naepxyz@aol.com

Anne K. Marshall
631-537-3257
apghnyc@aol.com

Valerie King
631-267-3024
ValerieKing78@aol.com

Susan Wilson
631-283-6549
naturalresources
@lwvhamp-
tons.org

APPOINTED DIRECTORS

Joanne McEvoy-Samborn
631-283-9648
jsamborn@optonline.net

Martha Potter
631-725-0450
mtpotter@optonline.net

Judi Roth
631-283-0759
education@lwvhamp-
tons.org

Kaye W. Umana, MD
631-745-3794
kwuwmny4@optonline.net

PORTFOLIO CHAIRS

Education

Judi Roth
631-283-0759
education@lwvhamp-
tons.org

Government

Estelle Gellman
631-324-9102
estelle.s.gellman@hofstra.edu

Health

Valerie King
646-217-1827
ValerieKing78@aol.com

Membership

Estelle Gellman
631-324-9102
and Joanne Samborn
631-283-9648
membership
@lwvhamp-
tons.org

Natural Resources

Susan Wilson
631-283-6549
naturalresources
@lwvhamp-
tons.org

Publicity

Arlene Hinkemeyer
631-324-6713
ahinkemeyer@optonline.net

Special Events

Gladys Remler
631-288-9021
and Joanne Samborn
631-283-9648
specialevents
@lwvhamp-
tons.org

Voter Services

Anne K. Marshall
631-537-3257
and Carol Mellor
646-701-3101
voterservices
@lwvhamp-
tons.org

Webmaster

Judy Samuelson
631-267-3055
webmaster@lwvhamp-
tons.org

The Voter

League of Women Voters of the Hamptons

P.O. Box 2253

East Hampton, NY 11937

Phone: 631-324-4637

www.lwvhamptons.org

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issue advocacy, and civic participation.