Immigration and Its Impact on the South Fork

By Ann Sandford

At our January meeting, members of the Government Committee considered a range of topics for the April Public Information Meeting (PIM) and concluded that a forum on aspects of the South Fork’s experience with immigration issues would be both timely and important. This program will take place on Monday, April 9, at 7 pm at the Hampton Library in Bridgehampton. Refreshments will precede the panel and a Q & A will follow. Co-President of the Hamptons League, Susan Wilson, will host the discussion.

Four speakers will share their perspectives on immigration within a framework that acknowledges that we are a nation of immigrants and that immigrants have been, and are, a significant labor source for the regional economy. The speakers will be: Martha Potter, League Board member and historian, will address the history of immigration legislation and how it has impacted Long Island; Michael Nenner, General Manager of Gurneys Montauk, will discuss immigrant issues raised in the hospitality industry; Rob Carpenter, Administrative Director of the Long Island Farm Bureau based in Riverhead, will speak about the impact of immigration on East End agriculture; and Larry Cantwell, former East Hampton Town Supervisor, will outline some ways that immigrants impact government services.

All LWV/H members are invited to join the Government Committee. If interested, contact Ann Sandford at asandford@optonline.net or Cathy Peacock at cathpeac@optonline.net, committee co-chairs, or find us at the forum.
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.

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Presidents’ Message

By Estelle Gellman

As I’m sure most of us do not need to be reminded, the League of Women Voters is a non-partisan organization. I think it is worth reminding our members and the public, however, that non-partisan does not mean non-political and that we take an active role in pursuing political issues. It seems to me ironic that, on the one hand, I’ve heard complaints that our non-partisan stance makes us namby-pamby and, on the other hand, that we are too partisan in the issues we support. In fact, we are neither.

Although it is true that, at times, we may coincidently support the same issues as those supported by a particular political party, we do not take a position on any issue because it is supported by a particular party or politician. Rather, we independently research and discuss the issues and when we reach consensus, we take a position. Our credibility rests on this process and, once we take a position, we actively support it through lobbying our representatives and educating the public.

While the positions we lobby for are not always implemented by our legislators, it is gratifying when we see progress on issues we support. Recently, for example, the Hamptons League – along with many other local leagues in New York State – have been lobbying for voter reform, with early voting being one of the factors we see as enabling greater voting participation. Although we are obviously not alone in supporting this position, it reinforces the sense that our efforts are important when we see that Governor Cuomo included provisions for early voting in the proposed state budget.

On the other hand, when we see actions taken on issues such as immigration that do not support our positions, it is a call for us to do more. It is incumbent not only on us, but on all citizens to make their voices heard. The more voices that are heard, the more inclusive and responsive our government can be. We hope you can actively join us not only in advocating for positions but in helping to formulate those positions, in educating the public on the issues before us and in encouraging voting. The voting rate in New York is appallingly low. If we not only vote ourselves but do what we can to enable and encourage others to do so, we can make a difference. Please join us in doing that.
Recent Events

LWVH Annual Blahs Luncheon

By Joanne McAvoy-Samborn

On a cold but sunny day in February (no snow!) the annual Blah’s Luncheon was held at Bobby Van’s in Bridgehampton. This event is a chance for League members who don’t go south for the winter to get together and enjoy a convivial afternoon. And, as in the past, those who attended had a very enjoyable bountiful lunch with much chatting and comradery. In addition, an attendee decided to join LWVH. A special thanks to Julia Kayser for arranging this fun event.

East Hampton and Southampton Supervisors Discuss Issues

By Anne Marshall

At the Hampton Library in Bridgehampton on the evening of March 12th, the Voter Services Committee moderated an informal open meeting with our two town supervisors: Peter Van Scoyoc (East Hampton) and Jay Schneiderman (Southampton). They met with citizens attending to discuss accomplishments and challenges in their respective towns. Among the topics covered were immigration, water contamination, land use, the opioid epidemic, transportation, the Deep Water Wind Project, and affordable work space opportunities.
Women’s Marches

By Carol Mellor

2018 was the second year of the Women’s March. Judi Roth and Carol Mellor of the LWVH joined approximately 200,000 people on Central Park West to reaffirm the commitment to women’s rights. Last year, the march seemed to be an “anti” march, with protesters holding signs voicing disagreement with a myriad of issues. This year the overarching atmosphere seemed to be more “pro”, with marchers voicing their intention to vote, to stand up for themselves (#MeToo), and to help women become more active in the political process. Wearing LWV sashes and carrying a LWV sign made us visible to marchers who asked us questions about voter registration and voting rights. Both years, the mood of the marchers was joyous, buoyed by the exhilaration of being among hundreds of thousands of people, many of whom were young women, who shared a unity of engagement and values.

At the local level, a Women’s March was held in Sag Harbor. While much smaller (approximately 600 marchers), the participants echoed the same sentiments as those in New York City and around the county. Several members of the LWVH wearing their league buttons marched with the other participants. Bridget Fleming, our Suffolk County representative, gave an impassioned speech about women’s rights and the need for women to engage in political activity by speaking out on issues of concern, running for elected office and encouraging all to vote.

Recent Events

Joanne Canary and Judi Roth in NYC
Glorian Berk, Estelle Gellman and Sue Bieger in Sag Harbor
January 2018 Planning Meeting

By Estelle Gellmann

How do we determine where to focus our energies each year? We hold a Planning Meeting to which all members are invited and, over lunch, we brainstorm ideas. After much discussion of the issues that emerge, we each indicate our top three priorities. Those issues that get the most support become our priorities for the year and are then addressed by the appropriate committees.

This year, the Planning Meeting was held on January 11 at the Hampton Library in Bridgehampton and our members developed the following priorities:

Educating our members and the public about current policies and their implementation regarding immigration and DACA (11 votes)
Working to register voters and get out the vote (9 votes)
Advocating for and monitoring progress on providing affordable housing (7 votes)
Educating the public on renewable energy sources and the resources available for reducing home energy usage (6 votes)
Increasing LWVH visibility (6 votes)

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)
Monitoring town initiatives and the use of the 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)
Advocating for better public transportation (2 votes)
Advocating for election reform (1 vote)
Educating the public about the provisions of the new tax law

Although not identified as a separate priority, it was also suggested that the establishment of a LWVH Speakers Bureau could facilitate the dissemination of information on issues covered in the priorities as well as increase our visibility.

We look forward to working on these issues throughout the year and welcome your participation.
President’s Report:
• Gladys Remler has resigned from the Board of Directors. It is suggested that she be recognized for her long, productive work with the league at our Annual Meeting.
• Our new stationery has come in. We will use it to send a “Thank You” note to Gladys
• Arlene, as a member of the Nominating Committee, reports that they have 4 new nominees for the Board of Directors. Afton will make a complete report at our next meeting. If the board wishes, there are a few spots available for appointed or elected directors.
• LWV-SC was not able to find a donor to contribute the money for next year’s DPO’s. Any donations by local leagues are welcome.
• Anne Marshall & Ann Sanford will look at the By-Laws and Non-Partisan policy in anticipation of the Annual Meeting.

Board Discussion / Action Items:
• Long-time member Nada Barry has been recognized by the Sag Harbor commercial community for her 50 years of service. The league would also like to recognize her for her long-time service and support of the league.
• The printing mistake in the Voter involving advertisers reported last month will be resolved by extending the corrected section by another issue. This will grant the advertisers an additional month of exposure.
• A reduced cost membership has been requested by a member due to financial difficulties. A discussion followed. A motion was presented that the Membership Committee use its discretion to grant this privilege anonymously on a case by case basis. The motion passed without dissent.
• LWVH Annual Meeting is on Sunday May 6th from 2PM to 4PM at the Water Mill Community House. The speaker is Kristen Medeiros-Slewin, who was a first time candidate and ran an independent race for Smithtown Town Supervisor.
• LWVUS Convention is June 28 – July 1, 2018 at the Chicago Hilton. We are entitled to 3 voting delegates. So far Susan, Judi and Barbara have expressed interest in attending.
• PIM Planning: The LWV in Washington DC is circulating a power-point presentation supporting voting rights in the District of Columbia. They are also willing to send a speaker to any league willing to host them. At this time we don’t think it will be topical enough for our use.

Future PIMs:
• March, EH & SH Town Supervisors
• April, Immigration, presented by the Government Committee.
• May, No PIM, Annual Meeting.
• June, Town Trustees, presented by the NRC.
• July, August, September and the rest of the year is available. A constant contact will be sent to all committee chairs.
• Health Committee may do a PIM on mental health in October and show the film “Crazy”.

Committee Reports:
• Natural Resources – The committee needs a chair person. Joanne is acting as chair at this time. On June 11th they will host a PIM with representatives from East Hampton & Southampton Trustees to explain their role in town government. There will be two speakers per town and all the other trustees are invited to attend as audience members.
• Membership reports a total of 149 members. The first early bird renewal appeal will be sent out in April.
• Voter Services is sponsoring the PIM on March 12 of the Town Supervisors at the Bridgehampton Library. The committee will meet on Mar. 8th. The meeting with the Suffolk County Board of Election meeting of 3/7 was postponed until 3/26 at 10AM in Yaphank. The Hamptons league is responsible for covering the Islip Courthouse voter registrations for our newest citizens on each Tuesday in April.
• The Health Committee may present the movie “Crazy” in the Fall.
• The Government Committee will sponsor a PIM on Immigration on April 9th.
• Special Events is now co-chaired by Joanne and

Continued on page 18
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Here is sample language that may be given to your attorney: “I give, devise and bequeath to the League of Women Voters of the Hamptons (insert amount, percentage of estate, nature of gift, or remainder of estate) to be used at the discretion of the Board of Directors.” Current and future members of the League of Women Voters of the Hamptons will be very grateful for this commitment.

For additional information, please contact Cathy Peacock at treasurer@lwvhamptons.org

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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

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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
LWVSC partnership with School of Social Welfare at Stony Brook University bears fruit …Grad student Anna DeLucia accepts early voting advocacy internship with LWVSC.

For the past several years, Lisa Scott has represented LWVSC as a member of SBU’s School of Social Welfare (SSW) planning committee for Advocacy Day. Recently, we’ve been the only non-social work organization intrinsically involved with this annual spring full-day event. Each year a different theme is chosen (2018 focuses on inequities in the Criminal Justice System, 2017 on Disability Justice, etc.). Advocacy Day is an opportunity for undergrad and graduate SSW students to learn about a significant social issue, and take action to advocate for social or political change.

Through this exposure and work with SSW, LWVSC has been invited to “pitch” grad students in the Social and Political Change course. Students choose an organization and then work 35 hours researching, learning, organizing and advocating on a specific issue. LWVSC chose LWVNY’s advocacy for early voting legislation and funding in 2018, and Anna DeLucia of Port Jefferson chose LWVSC for her internship, which started in late January and will run through May. She has a background working for law firms and volunteering with community service organizations on her own as well as through SSW placements.

Anna has been enormously helpful in researching the experiences of comparable states with early voting. She’s listened in on LWVNY educational phone calls on the issue. She’s attended a LWVSC board meeting (and lunch with board members) and will attend LWVSC’s annual Board of Elections meeting in May. She’s articulate, passionate and professional. We hope to share some of her work with you all at our May LWVSC annual meeting.

LWVSC 2018 Directory of Public Officials is now available through local Leagues and online at lwv-suffolkcounty.org.

Each year we receive more accolades from other organizations, institutions, elected officials and the public about the usefulness of our 28-page DPO. Unfortunately, accolades don’t pay the printer’s bill and our past sponsor is no longer making community contributions.

We’re thus asking all our local League members and friends consider a tax-deductible contribution toward our DPO costs. 1918 was the first year that women went to the polls in New York State (after being granted suffrage in 1917). In celebration of our 100 years of voting (and our mission of educating the public) please write a check to the LWVNY Education Foundation and mail to Glorian Chapman Catt and Elizabeth Cady Stanton!) or contribute any amount that you find affordable.

The Directory of Public Officials is the LWVSC’s most effective outreach tool. We’ve printed 7500 copies, but we want to do more, with your help.

Please send your contribution today!

Voter Service happens all year. In March, for example...
• LWVSC annual meeting with Suffolk Board of Elections
• LWVSC explains ballot (via BOE “ice cream ballot”) and importance of voting to 150 people with disabilities at FREE conference
Update

By Anne Marshall

With the advent of Spring, the Voter Services Committee is becoming more visibly active. The following issues were on its March meeting agenda:

1. Because there are currently six individuals who have indicated they will run for the Democratic nomination in the 1st CD, it seems more than likely that there will be a federal primary election on June 26. Therefore, we will sponsor a debate among those certified candidates (i.e., those who are officially on the ballot) on May 24th. The location will be at the Hampton Bays High School auditorium (pending final school district approval).

2. During the four Tuesdays in April, we will send League representatives to the Central Islip Federal Courthouse to offer voter registration applications to each group of newly naturalized citizens.

3. We will send committee members to join with other members of the county Leagues to meet in late March with the Suffolk County Board of Elections Commissioners and their representatives. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss issues of mutual concern and to review the training offered to election workers.

3. We will make a concerted effort to hold a number of voter registration events and to inform voters of relevant registration and election dates.

   a. To be eligible to vote in the June primary, application must be postmarked no later than June 1, 2018 and received by a board of elections no later than June 6, 2018.

   b. As a reminder, voters will not be able to simultaneously change their party and vote in their new party’s primary. (That had to have occurred BEFORE the November 2017 general election.)

   c. The NY State and local primary date will be moved FROM Tuesday September 11 TO Thursday September 13

Storage of Foods in Refrigerators

By Joanne McEvoy-Samborn

There are many simple ways to extend the life of fresh produce. Here are some ideas:

Some food types shouldn’t be stored near each other. For example, onions should not be stored close to potatoes as the gases one gives off affects the other.

Our refrigerators tend to become dumping grounds for all sorts of foods that don’t require refrigeration. Keep the following fruits at room temperature: tomatoes, bananas, avocados, pears, peaches, plums, melons, pineapple, kiwi, oranges, melons, nectarines, and apricots.

Wiser refrigerator use might also mean a smaller appliance is needed – and that means additional environmental and financial savings.

To increase the shelf life of green peppers, broccoli, and celery, wrap these in press and seal wrap or other cling-type wrap.

While figures vary, one estimate is that 40% of all foods purchased in America are thrown out. An average American family dumps an equivalent of $2,275 worth of food in the garbage annually. Food waste is the single largest component of solid waste in US landfills.

Source Greenlivingtips.com/articles
Girl Scouts are assisted in Obtaining their Suffrage Patch

By Judi Roth

As reported in earlier Voters, the LWVH learned that the Girl Scouts of Northeastern New York had established a new “suffrage patch”. The Scouts produced a several page description of things each level of Girl Scout would have to do to earn this patch. Our Committee took this project on and contacted several Girl Scout troops in our area to see if there was interest – there was and is. We then set about coming up with a program based on different age groups which we could offer to the troops.

Our first outing took place on January 27, 2018 in East Quogue and we began with the youngest group, nine Daisies who are between 5 and 6 years old. We customized the program for this age but feel confident that we can upgrade it for older girls.

Member Teresa Wildrick selected the book “I Could Do That” by Linda White, a story about Esther Morris, the first elected woman in the country in the state of Wyoming which was the first state to grant suffrage. It is a wonderful book and is appropriate for girls up to the 4th or 5th grade. Teresa read to the girls stopping to tell them what particular words meant and getting them to ask questions and join in with the chorus “I Could Do That”.

Next up was Nancy Walters-Yvertes who brought new vocabulary words to the girls. As these were very young girls, we used words like election, candidate, voting, and gave them definitions, etc. The girls were divided into teams and asked to come up with a sentence using a word they selected. They then read their sentences to each other.

Now it was time to get the girls out of their seats. The material provided by the Girl Scouts showed that many children accompanied their mothers to meetings and marches where they often participated in children’s games to keep occupied. We used the game “May I” – take a giant step, an umbrella step, a baby step, etc. and modified it to show how boys and girls may be treated differently. We had the girls reach into a bag and choose either a round or square block. Then we said only the girls with the square blocks could play the game and the others had to watch. This led to a discussion about unfairness. Susan Wilson led the game with the voting booth as the goal to reach. The girls really enjoyed this and while we had the girls on their feet, Judi Roth went right into the March for Voting Rights for Women. We used signs which we had used in our suffrage march in August and also downloaded 8½” x 11” photos of Susan B. Anthony and Carrie Chapman Catt and other suffrage events and pasted them on 11” x 14” posters and distributed them to the girls along with the League VOTE signs and had them march around the room shouting VOTES FOR WOMEN!!

Led by Anne Marshall, we had the girls discuss “Should Boy Scouts be allowed to join the Girl Scouts?” We had ballots made up with the question and a Yes/No box, a privacy voting booth and a locked ballot box. The girls lined up with their ballots in front of the voting booth and marked them as they would at a polling place and put their votes in the ballot box. They returned to their seats and we brought the ballot box over, opened it and counted the votes.

Each of us had a wonderful morning and we thank Scout Leader Clair Larsen for inviting us. Best of all, at the League Blahs luncheon, I connected with Bonnie Cannon of the Bridgehampton Day Care Center and we agreed to bring our program there; we are scheduled for April 14th with the Girl Scouts of Riverhead and will be following up with another lead in Bridgehampton.
Annual Meeting Planned

By Glorian Berk and Judi Roth

LW V H annual meeting will be held on May 6, 2018 from 2 to 4 PM at the Water Mill Community House, 743 Montauk Highway, Water Mill.

Building on the idea of women engaging in political office, we have a Smithtown native as our speaker. Kristen Medeiros-Slevin is a small business owner who has lived in Smithtown most of her life; she had never run for office. She was very dissatisfied with both the Republican and Democratic candidates for Town Supervisor and decided to run herself. Amazingly, running unaffiliated and basically unknown, she garnered 8% of the vote. You will hear her speak about this adventure – from finding out how to get on the ballot, to fund raising, to speaking engagements and much more. She ran a true grassroots campaign and we think you’ll be inspired by what she has to say.

In the business part of the annual meeting, you will be asked to vote on the 2018/19 budget, the slate of candidates for LWVH board and any updates to the bi-partisan policy and the by-laws. Look for this information in your email (snail mail for those without an email account) at the beginning of April. Please review this package of information and bring it with you to the annual meeting.

Please plan to join us as we continue our suffrage theme into 2018 by highlighting one of the thousands of women who have and are planning to run for office.

Highlights of December 6, 2017 LWVH Board Meeting

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Beverly Dixon and is sponsoring a tour of Southampton June 7th. Their next meeting is on 3/22 at Cooper Hall. The Spring event is TBD.

* Education has selected the next 2 candidates for Students Inside Albany from the Hampton Bays High School. LWVNY has opened another slot for a third candidate but the board decided not to send another student.

* The 100th Anniversary committee will suspend its activities for the near future.

* Arlene continues to publicize our upcoming events.

* The electronic report by Judy reports 10,586 requests for January 2018 and 12,126 in February. There were four Constance Contact postings.

Upcoming Events:

* March 12, PIM, Town Supervisors.

* April 9, PIM, Immigration.

* May 6, Annual Meeting.

• June 7, Southampton Tour

• June 11, PIM, Town Trustees.

• June 26, Democratic Party US Congressional Primary.

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The League of Women Voters

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