Voter Services Continues in High Gear through October

By Carol Mellor, Co-Chair Voter Services

Much like the baseball season, the Voter Services season really picks up in late September and into October.

On September 26, many of our members fanned out over the south fork to participate in National Voter Registration Day. In addition, our newer members and friends from the North Fork had spectacular results. In all, we gave out/completed 43 Voter Registrations, 24 Absentee Ballot Applications and approximately 80 Voter Guides. The participants reported much interest in and discussion about the Con Con proposition.

Among the participants were:
Estelle Gellman, Arlene Hinkemeyer, Anne Marshall, Ann Sandford, Joanne Sambom, Susan Wilson, Ursula Lynch, Ethel Sussman, Judi Roth, Vicki Judy Kron and Corinne Marley in front of the East Hampton Post Office on National Voter Registration Day

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SAVE THE DATES

Tuesday, November 7
Election Day:
Make sure you vote for candidates and turn over the ballot to vote on the three propositions

Monday, November 13
Health Committee Public Information Meeting
“End of Life Choices and Decisions”
Parrish Hall,
Herrick Street, Southampton
at 6:30 PM

Sunday, November 19
“Ladies of Liberty Review”
a suffrage musical revue
at the Southampton Arts Center,
Jobs Lane at 3 PM

Thursday, December 7
League Holiday Party
from 5 to 7 PM
at the Universalist Unitarian Church,
Sag Harbor Turnpike in Bridgehampton
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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Co-Presidents’ Message

By Susan Wilson

Election Day brings us to the end of another election cycle - It’s a very busy time of the year for the League of Women Voters. Throughout the summer and fall, the League attended many local festivals, street fairs and public gatherings in an effort to distribute Voter Registration forms, Absentee Ballots and Voter’s Guides to all who needed them. Our most concerted effort took place this year on National Voter Registration Day when weblanketed both East Hampton and Southampton Towns with voter registration tables and assisted groups in Riverhead Town.

Foremost among the League’s goals is to educate voters, stimulate voter interest and encourage voter participation. We are respected for sponsoring fair and impartial debates and for distributing educational materials on the voting issues.

I’d like remind you now about the League’s commitment to Voter Services by sharing an excerpt from the LWVUS website:

“Rooted in the movement that secured the right to vote for women, the League has worked to foster civic engagement and enhance access to the vote since our organization was founded in 1920. Over time our work has evolved from efforts to gain and foster women’s suffrage to ensuring that all eligible voters – particularly those from traditionally underrepresented or underserved communities, including first-time voters, non-college youth, new citizens, minorities and low-income Americans – have the opportunity and the information they need to exercise their right to vote.

Voting Rights – We seek to protect and expand voting rights through advocating for proactive reforms such as expanded early voting and online voter registration, ensuring existing pro-voter laws are being followed and challenging all efforts that limit the ability of voters’ to exercise this basic right. The League actively opposes voter photo ID laws, advocates against barriers to the voter registration process, works to prevent last-minute Election Day barriers and helps millions of voters get the information and any required documentation they need to vote.

Improving Elections – We work to modernize our voting systems, streamline the voting process, promote transparent and accountable redistricting and make it easier for all eligible citizens to become active participants in our electoral process. In efforts to improve the voting experience, the League focuses on efforts to establish permanent and portable statewide voter registration, expand early voting, improve polling place management, expand online voter registration and implement electronic streamlining. We also work to ensure compliance with laws like the Voting Rights Act (VRA) and the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA).”
Recent Events: Voter Services

Continued from page 1

Voter Services Continues in High Gear through October


Then, on the evening of October 16 we held the first of our two debate nights this year in East Hampton. Peter Von Scoyoc and Manny Vilar, vying for Town Supervisor began the evening, followed by Town Board candidates Jeff Bragman, Kathee Burke-Gonzalez, Paul Giardina and Jerry Larsen.

The room was packed. With more than 100 people in the audience, it was one of the largest crowds we have seen in East Hampton. This interest was all the more surprising because this is considered an off-cycle election year, with only local races on the ballot. Further, the audience was deeply engaged. The questions submitted by audience members were not only plentiful, but were thoughtful and well considered.

Among the topics in which the audience was most interested, and which the candidates addressed were: affordable housing, both workforce and senior; many water issues, including preservation of the quality of the groundwater, the aquifers, and bay and ocean waters. The questions and answers on these topics touched upon the septic system plan newly instituted by the town board, problems with drinking water quality in Wainscott, and the proposed wind farm and its potential effects on fishing grounds. Quality of life issues were woven into many topics, such as the rental registry, share housing, airport noise, and traffic.

Should you wish to learn more about the views of the candidates on these and other issues, this debate, as all of our debates, is available for viewing on LTV (East Hampton) or SeaTV (Southampton) and can generally be found on YouTube.
Recent Events: Voter Services

Free Speech

By Cathy Peacock

Why is it important to protect the free speech rights of people who have different ideas than you do?

Now that the elections are over, the Government Committee is turning to new topics. The next one will be on free speech in preparation for a Public Information Meeting in January.

Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes observed in his dissent in Abrams, the case that gave birth to modern First Amendment jurisprudence that: “If you have no doubt of your premises or your power and want a certain result with all your heart you naturally express your wishes in law and sweep away all opposition.” The problem with that Holmes realized, is that we are almost always absolutely certain of our premises, but sometimes we are wrong.

The first step will be a review of the First Amendment. What does it mean in the current political environment? Does the speaker and faculty selection processes at universities support or deny the First Amendment? What are the limits on the right to express oneself?

We will study hate speech, slander, libel, and fake news—reviewing prominent court cases in our country’s history. What is the role of journalism?

This is an important topic and we welcome all interested members to the committee. If you would like to participate, please contact Ann Sandford or Cathy Peacock for the date and time of the next meeting.
Anniversary Ends With A Special “I Vote” Sticker and Festive Finale

By Arlene Hinkemeyer, Chair, LWVH Committee
Celebrating 100th Anniversary of Women’s Vote in NYS

November 7: Get a Sticker at NYS Polling Places

We were surprised and pleased to learn that, as stated in a Newsday article of October 6, “New York voters will have the chance to show off their suffrage pride on Election Day.” Governor Andrew Cuomo announced the winner of a state contest for a sticker to be distributed to polling sites across the state, in celebration of the centennial.

The red, white and blue New York State sticker shows suffragist “General” Rosalie Jones with a megaphone, saying “I Voted,” with the words “Honoring 100 Years of a Woman’s Right to Vote” underneath.

Rosalie Gardiner Jones (1883-1978), a descendant of Lion Gardiner and the Jones (of Jones Beach), came from a socially prominent Long Island family in the Oyster Bay/Cold Spring Harbor area. In 1912 she traveled across Long Island with Elisabeth Freeman on a yellow, horse-drawn suffrage wagon to bring attention to the suffrage cause, and in December of that year, received much publicity for leading a 170-mile, 13-day march in the midst of winter from the Bronx to Albany to deliver petitions to the Governor, demanding a woman suffrage amendment in the NYS Constitution. Governor-Elect William Sulzer promised his support. She also participated in many other marches in Washington D.C., New York City and Long Island. A graduate of Adelphi, in 1922 Rosalie also earned a law degree from American University, and in 1927 married U.S. Senator Clarence Dill.

November 19: “Ladies of Liberty” Musical Revue

In addition to going to the polls to vote and earn your sticker, be sure to attend our last event on Sunday, November 19, 3 p.m. at the Southampton Arts Center on Jobs Lane, when the Hamptons LWV will be co-sponsoring, along with SAC, the Rogers Memorial Library and the Southampton Historical Museum, a musical revue titled “Ladies of Liberty: Songs to Celebrate the Centennial of Women’s Suffrage in New York State.”

Created and performed by Valerie di Lorenzo, with musical direction by Amanda Borsack Jones, the hour-long program of songs, stories, quotes, sing-a-longs and short videos tell the story of the fight for women’s suffrage and other feminist struggles into the 21st century. Come wearing white and your “Votes for Women” sashes! $10 admission includes refreshments. Tickets at southamptonartscenter.org or 631-283-0967, or at the door (if still available). It’s sure to be a crowd-pleaser!
Opening Business:
• Joanne Samborn informed us that board member Gladys Reimer fell and broke her leg. She is currently in the hospital and it is too soon to know her condition. The Board sends its hope for a speedy recovery.
• Susan Wilson read a letter of resignation from Nancy Walter-Yvertes. She feels she is too closely identified with a political party to be on the board. She resigns with regrets by all. It is noted that with her departure, our board now totals 13 members. The Nominating Committee will consider a new board member.
• The Government Committee had a very successful Constitutional Convention (Con-Con) PIM in September. It was broadcast by SeaTV. This broadcast is currently posted on U-Tube.
• Cathy will be moderating a Con-Con debate for the Unity Action Committee on Oct. 10th in Riverhead.
• The Holiday Party will be on December 7th at the Universalist Unitarian Church in Bridgehampton. The party is 5 to 7 pm with set up at 4:30.
• The November 4th celebration of the 100th Anniversary celebration of suffrage in the NYS Museum in Albany from 5 – 7pm may be attended by Carol but no one else has shown any interest.
• Cathy Peacock presented two versions of a “Letter-to-the-Editor” from Ann Sanford and herself in support of the Con-Con proposition on the ballot this November. A minor suggestion was made and the letters were approved by the board.
• The LWVH note cards were to be researched by Nancy Walter-Yvertes but since she has resigned, Barbara McClancy and Glorian Berk will continue.

Discussion Items:
• Because of the popularity of our sashes, Arlene Hinkemeyer will buy either 50 or 100 new ones, depending on costs. A motion to this affect was presented and passed by a vote of 7 aye and 1 nay. We will have them for sale at the Musical Revue in November and Joan McGivern suggests that any leftover material (t-shirts) should be available as well.
• Judi Roth suggested an informational PIM on Free Speech for January. It could be held at a high school so it is available for student participation. Speakers can be culled from the Brennan Center and Hofstra and Truro Law Schools. Joan McGivern and Carol Mellor might be interested.

Committee Reports:
• Voter Services: They report a good turnout for Voter Registration Day on September 26th. Registration tables were set up at libraries, supermarkets and post offices throughout the South Fork and in Riverhead and Cutchogue. There will be an East Hampton debate on October 16 for Town Supervisor and Town Board co-sponsored with the East Hampton Star. In Southampton, the debate for Town Supervisor and Town Board will take place on October 26. This debate is co-sponsored by The Press Group. There will not be a debate for the Suffolk County Legislator as Bridget Fleming’s opponent did not return our request for participation.
• Health Committee: They will be holding a PIM on Monday, November 13th starting at 6:30 at the Parrish Memorial Hall at Southampton Hospital on “End of Life/Choices and Decisions”. The panelists consist of a Catholic Priest, an Assistant Professor at Stony Brook and representatives of hospice, end of life and ethics specialists. There will be a follow-up meeting for members to participate in a vote on this position in conjunction with the LWV-Utah.
• Membership: The committee will hold an Orientation event for our newest members on November 2nd at Glorian Berk’s home. All committee chairs and Board members are encouraged to attend and promote your activities. We have 104 members with 11 new members.
• Education: Judi Roth will meet with the Girl...
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Updated Information on Septic Systems

By Glorian Berk, Natural Resources Committee Chair

Both East End Towns have passed legislation requiring that the new, improved Suffolk County Health Department septic systems must be installed in new and significantly updated homes in targeted areas. Southampton Town’s legislation became effective on September 1, 2017 and East Hampton’s legislation will be effective January 1, 2018.

Jay Schneiderman, Southampton Town’s Supervisor, indicated at a recent Town Board meeting that residents may avail themselves of both the Town’s and the County’s septic rebates. Combined, these rebates may cover the entire cost of a new, improved system.

A Warm Welcome from the Girl Scouts

By Judi Roth, Education Committee Chair

Sue Wilson, Ursula Lynch and I received a very warm welcome from over a dozen Girl Scout leaders assembled at the Riverhead Middle School on Monday evening, October 10th. We were there to learn about the number of girls and troops in the Riverhead area and to talk to them about how we can help the scouts earn the Centennial of Women’s Suffrage in New York Girl Scout Patch.

While there, we took the opportunity to tell them about the League and the many types of programs we do for and in the community. We highlighted the fact that members of our Government Committee were moderating a debate on the Constitutional Convention ballot issue in Riverhead that night and told them about the active members we have in the Riverhead area.

Juniors and Cadets make up the bulk of the Girl Scout membership; juniors are girls in the 4th and 5th grades and Cadets are in the 6th through 8th grades. This would translate into the juniors having to complete “5 steps including 2 starred items” and for the Cadets “6 steps including 2 starred items” on the patch list. One of the starred items that we can work with is:

• Justice: Think about and envision what justice means to us as individuals. Who do you feel needs justice most in today’s world? Why do you feel the way you do? Do you think bringing justice to those you listed would be difficult? Would it be worth the fight? What could you do to advocate for justice?

We don’t have to stick directly to their items so we can combine a “visit to the NYS Women’s Suffrage Commission website” and “discover how democracy works and why voting is important for women by visiting the League of Women Voters website” and talk to them about voting. We can bring in voter registration forms and show them how to fill them out; we can use the signs from our rally and have them take part in a march and role play the various women important in the suffrage movement from our local area; we can talk about and stage a “civil disobedience” event. The ideas were coming fast and furious to the three of us and we look forward to our next committee meeting on Tuesday, October 17th to flesh out the programs.

Area coordinator Janet Latham and local coordinator Catie Callaghan are our contacts and we have the contact information for seven leaders who are interested in participating; we have targeted January and February as the months to present the programs.
OPINION: A Secret About New York Healthcare

By Madeline Zevon is Co-Chair Health Care, LWV Westchester and LWV New York State. She wrote this opinion for the October 5 issue of the Examiner News.

Many people are unaware of how close the state of New York came this year to passing single-payer health care. In the last Legislative session the New York Health Act passed in the state Assembly by 94 to 46 and in the State Senate, it had 31 co-sponsors, just one vote short of a majority. Yet, little was reported. More was said in the New York Times about the California single-payer bill than the New York Health bill.

Traditional Medicare is single-payer. The New York Health bill will work much like Medicare does, but better. The New York Health bill will cover 100% of New Yorkers with no premiums, co-pays or deductibles. In addition to covering all medically necessary treatments, it would cover hearing, dental, vision, mental health, substance abuse and hospitalization—more comprehensive than most insurance policies.

It would be financed by a graduated payroll tax based on income and non-payroll capital gains, dividends and interest. Astonishingly, 98% of New Yorkers would save money compared to health insurance policies through their employers. New York would save $45 billion a year, or an average of $2,200 a year per person according to an economic study by Gerald Friedman, Chair of Economics University of Massachusetts. This is mainly because approximately a third of every health care dollar spent by insurance companies goes for profit, marketing and exorbitant CEO salaries. Medical debts are the leading cause of bankruptcy in the United States. Under this bill, there would be no private-for-profit insurance companies allowed in New York other than for non-covered items such as cosmetic surgery. We can cover everyone in New York and spend much less than we’re spending now.

This plan would be a public-private system. Doctors and hospitals would remain as they are now and the state would administer payments. Importantly, the New York State Trust would have the power to negotiate with drug companies to lower prices. We are not inventing the wheel here. Every other developed nation in the world has universal health care. Yet, we pay twice as much for health care in this country, with poorer medical outcomes. Do you have to be wealthy to receive the benefits of the fire or police department? Health care is a matter of life or death. It is a human right.
Lemons – the Versatile Fruit, Part III

By Joanne McEvoy-Samborn

Degreaser:
Straight lemon juice can be used as a general degreaser.

Furniture:
2 parts olive oil mixed with 1 part lemon juice makes an excellent furniture polish

Hair:
To lighten hair, dampen it with lemon juice and sit out in the sun for an hour.
Lemon juice mixed with one cup of warm water is a great hair conditioner. It should be allowed to stay in your hair for a few minutes then rinse off.

Cuts, Stings and Itches:
A small amount of lemon juice dripped onto minor wounds can help bleeding and disinfect the injury, (it will sting a bit). Lemon juice applied to itches, poison ivy rashes and wasp stings is said to relieve discomfort.

Hands:
The smell of fish on your hands after scrubbing with soap - rub your hands with lemon juice and the smell will be neutralized.

Isn’t it incredible how we have so many environmentally harsh cleaning chemicals in our homes when nature can offer most of what we need!

Source www.greenlivingtips.com

Highlights of October 4, 2017 LWVH Board Meeting

Scouts in Riverhead to determine what they can do to help them earn their Suffrage badge. The SC Board of Elections is planning to visit high schools to familiarize students with voting processes. Pierson High School has committed $500 to present the 100th Anniversary Committee musical revue at their school. The committee will also address the NYS position on Charter Schools and prepare an update in time for the February 15, 2018 deadline.

• Natural Resources Committee: Elena Rivera Williams, at the committee’s request, is exploring a way to include the Shinnecock Nation in a future meeting. The committee is also exploring CCA (Community Choice Aggregation) as a topic for a spring PIM. CCA is a way for municipalities to pool their needs and buy energy from a choice of sources (looking to save money and focus on renewable energy sources) rather than having to use the local supplier as is done now.

• Publicity: Arlene Hinkemeyer publicized the Sept 18 Con-Con PIM, National Voter Registration Day, two candidates debates Oct 16 and 26 and the CCOM candidates forum Oct 12th

• 100th Anniversary Committee: There are two events left. October 19 is the lecture called “Ladies of Liberty” with Arlene Hinkemeyer at the East Hampton Library and Nov 19, a musical revue at the Southampton Arts Center at 3pm.

The next Board meeting is Wednesday, November 1, 2–4 p.m. at the Bridgehampton Senior Citizen Center.
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The League of Women Voters

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