



THE VOTER

The Newsletter of the League of Women Voters of the Hamptons

Founded in 1977

Volume XXXVI, No. 6

September 2013



Discover the “Riverhead Revival” with LWVH

By Gladys Remler and Judi Roth

The Special Events Committee is eager to tell you about our fundraising/fun-having outing to Riverhead. Here are highlights of this Thursday September 26 2013 event:

- * A tour and talk at the Suffolk Community College Culinary Center. Visit the kitchens and demo areas and enjoy a chance to buy delicious baked goods at half price.
- * A tour and talk at the beautifully-renovated Art Deco landmark Suffolk Theatre and supper club.
- * Visit the East End Arts Council on East Main St. and shop 73 Main Lifestyle Boutique as well as other new shops.
- * Enjoy lunch on your own in a wide choice of Riverhead restaurants.
- * After lunch, meet at the beautiful Dale Chihuly-chandeliered lobby of the Sea Star Building. During refreshments courtesy of the Hyatt, Riverhead Town Supervisor Sean Walter will discuss the Riverhead Revival.
- * End the day with a complimentary tour of the new Hyatt Place, the Sea Star Building, the L.I. Aquarium and the L.I. Exhibition Center featuring a “Butterflies and Birds” exhibit.
- * We will carpool to Riverhead (details to follow) and arrive at the SCC Culinary Center at 11 am. At 4 p.m. we will stroll back to our cars along the lovely new Riverwalk, facing the Peconic River.

REGISTER BY SEPTEMBER 20

Please send your check for \$30, made out to LWVH, no later than Friday September 20. Mail to Gladys Remler, 180 Melody Court, Eastport, NY 11941. Questions? Call Gladys at 631-288-9021.

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SAVE THE DATES

**Member Meeting
September 9
Hampton Library,
Bridgehampton**

*New Member Dinner: 5:30PM
General Membership Lecture:
7 PM*

**Riverhead Revival Tour
September 26
Riverhead**

*11 AM
All Are Welcome*

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

At a recent Natural Resources committee meeting, a discussion took place regarding League positions and how they influence how we can lobby and/or advocate. I thought this might be a good time to use my President's Message to explain the process.

As you know, the LWWH mission includes both education and advocacy. The specific question raised at our meeting was whether the LWWH could join the Long Island Partnership to Save Clean Water. This organization is comprised of the Citizens Campaign for the Environment, Group for the East End, Long Island Pine Barrens Society, The Nature Conservancy and is still growing. Could we advocate for this group's positions? Before we could determine if we agreed with their principles, we needed to know whether the national or state League had a position that would allow us to become an advocate for this organization.

Here's what we learned. LWWUS has a comprehensive position on resource management, including a general guideline that "water should be protected." At our local League planning session, focus on water quality led the list of areas for focus this year. So the Natural Resources Committee will learn more about the goals of the Long Island Partnership to Save Clean Water and may make a recommendation to the Hamptons League Board to add our name to this effort.

On a more general level, a local league may advocate for a specific issue if one of the following has occurred:

- ✿ The national league has a position on the issue
- ✿ The state league has a position on the issue
- ✿ Through study and consensus, a local league has taken a position on an issue

At the LWWH planning meeting, members help the Board put together priorities for the coming year. In addition, at the Annual Meeting, directions to the Board may add additional priorities for the coming year. If these suggestions fit into a national or state league position, the Board or committee can move forward. A national or state position may be added or amended by a majority vote of the delegates at these conventions. For example, at the national convention last year, delegates approved a study to update the national position on agriculture. Therefore, the LWWH and the other Long Island Leagues will study the recommended changes, hold a consensus meeting and then report back to national.

A little more about the consensus process. The last time LWWH used the consensus process was in order to take the position that we support the council manager form of local government. The Government Committee studied the towns that have this form of government, created several *Voter* articles to inform

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National Voter Registration Day Is September 24

By Anne Marshall

“In 2008, 6 million Americans didn't vote because they missed a registration deadline or didn't know how to register. In 2013, we want to make sure no one is left out.” In this single sentence, the website for National Voter Registration Day (www.nationalvoterregistrationday.org/about) defines the reason for its formation. This year, 2013, marks the second consecutive year of that effort.

In 2012, the LWVH was very visible at 15 places from Montauk to Westhampton Beach. This year, we hope to match or surpass that number. The core Voter Services committee members will be central to our push, and we hope other members will join us. Members volunteer as much time as they can, last year averaging about two hours, at locations convenient for them. Captains from each town help to get approval to set up tables in front of local businesses or public buildings such as post offices and libraries.

NOT JUST FOR NEW REGISTRATIONS

Historically, a high percentage of citizens of the Hamptons are already registered voters, so we also offer other assistance:



- ✿ Providing absentee ballot registration and information (often appreciated by the “snow-bird” population)
- ✿ Palm cards with election dates and deadlines
- ✿ Providing written copies of the League’s proposition

guides detailing the pros and cons of issues for included on the ballot. As of this writing, there are at least six.

✿ Publicizing the Leagues’ Vote411.org information website which includes, among other helpful information, verbatim answers to a set of questions posed to candidates.

If you can spare a few hours on September 24, please e-mail or call Anne Marshall apghnyc@aol.com 537-3257 or Carol Mellor camellor@aol.com 537-6998



The tour of Sylvester Manor Educational Farm, organized by LWVH, included a lecture, lunch and serenade.
Photo by Arlene Hinkemeyer.

A Truly Special Event

By Judi Roth and Gladys Remler

The Special Events committee works hard and creatively to come up with unique and fun events that can be enjoyed by all, while raising funds for LWVH. We have had some outstanding events, even winning a LWVNY award for our 2012 luncheon in Joy Cordery’s rose garden. But sometimes things fall into place to make one event perfect. Our June 20, 2013 outing to Shelter Island’s Sylvester Manor Educational Farm was such an event.

Publicity from the *NY Times* to local papers inspired the Special Events committee’s “think tank” to contact Sylvester Manor. We were delighted to be one of the first organized groups to visit this world-class historic tour attraction.

A total of 43 people registered and 39 (many of them non-League members) took the two-hour guided tour of the house and grounds. The weather was astoundingly beautiful: full sun and cool breezes. We bought discount ferry tickets and were almost sold out by the time the last car left our meeting place.

On the Manor’s porch we met our guides, Maura Doyle, Preservation Program Coordinator, and Bennett Konesni, founder of the Education Farm plan. Bennett is a member of the Sylvester family’s 11th-generation.

Learning so much about this historic property will bring many of us back again. There’s also a book, *The Manor: Three Centuries of a Slave Plantation on Long Island* by Mac Griswold. After our tours, we gathered for refreshments and were serenaded by Bennett and his wife,

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Natural Resources Committee Report

The Downside Of Hydrofracking

By Susan Wilson

The technique of hydraulic fracturing (“hydrofracking”) is controversial. Supporters point out that it has provided the US with an abundance of cheap fossil fuel and would provide a much needed boost to the economy of NY’s southern tier. Critics respond with charges that the technique is a recklessly dangerous method that releases toxic chemicals into the environment.

Hydrofracking has been around for decades, but usage exploded in the past decade, thanks to improvements in oil and gas production technology. The technique involves forcing a mix of water, sand and chemicals down a gas or oil well under extremely high pressure. The goal is cracking previously impermeable rock (typically shale) to create fractures that will allow trapped oil and/or gas deposits to flow to the surface. The key example of how effective hydrofracking is can be found in rock formations like the Marcellus Shale in the Appalachian region of the Eastern U.S.: the industry knew about the reserve for decades, but widespread drilling only began within 10 years as advances in hydrofracking made it commercially viable.

On the downside, hydrofracking uses a lot of water – the main ingredient. It may take several million gallons of water to properly hydro-fracture a single well. The sand helps keep the fractures open, while the mix of chemicals helps the process and eases the flow of gas/oil. It isn’t know exactly what chemicals are used, since most firms treat their mixtures as proprietary secrets. Owing to industry lobbying efforts, the EPA ruled in 2005 that companies do not have to disclose their frack mixtures.

USING MILLIONS OF GALLONS OF CLEAN WATER

Various forms of hydraulic fracturing have been developed for differing circumstances. The one now causing intense concern here in New York is known as ‘high-volume hydraulic fracturing’ (HVHF), and ‘slick water fracturing.’ In this method, millions of gallons of initially clean water per well are intentionally contaminated with a wide range and large volume of very toxic chemical additives. This technique combines “water with a friction-reducing chemical additive” which allows the water to be pumped faster into the formation.

Much of the water used in hydrofracking comes

back up to the surface contaminated with hydrocarbons, sand and other chemicals. Treatment and disposal of this used water is a major challenge to any hydrofracking operation. Environmentalists are alarmed over groundwater contamination, contending that methane gas and fracking chemicals are migrating up local water tables.

In 2010, the NY Assembly passed a one-year moratorium on hydraulic fracturing but Governor Paterson vetoed it. In June 2011, they voted to extend the moratorium a year, but the Senate did not take action on the legislation. In 2013, the Assembly passed a bill to prohibit the DEC from issuing permits for drilling in certain areas including the Marcellus and Utica shale formations, to allow for the continued examination of fracking’s potential effect on public health and the environment. The legislation would also enact a moratorium until May 2015.

The bill’s sponsor, Assembly Environmental Conservation Committee Chair Robert Sweeney is quoted: “Safeguarding the health of the public and our invaluable natural resources remains the Assembly’s priority. ... A greater danger lies in haste than in the deliberate safeguarding of our clean air and water, our health and the health of the generations to come.”

LWVNYS supported passage of (i) the Hazardous Waste Bill A1046/S674 (ii) a Bill which Suspends Hydraulic Fracturing for the Extraction of Natural Gas or Oil; Suspends the Issuance of New Permits for Such Drilling (S012010); and legislation encouraging development of solar energy throughout NYS. While the Assembly passed the bill in June 2013, the Senate did not.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

The League encourages members to contact Governor Cuomo directly to express their concerns. Here’s how:

email: www.governor.ny.gov

Phone: (518) 474-8390

US Mail: The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor of New York State
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

(Include your mailing address since responses may be sent by U.S. mail)

Sources: www.lwvus.org; www.lwvny.org
www.un-naturalgas.org

LWVNY Current Studies And Updates

By Arlene Hinkemeyer

The NY State League will begin two studies and one position update adopted at the 2013 State League Convention. Interested members are invited to join the study committees. Sarah Podber, Policy and Program Director, will coordinate the studies and provide research, writing, and additional supports to the committees. Committee work will be conducted via e-mail and conference calls.

Please review the study and update descriptions and e-mail Sarah@lwvny.org ASAP if you are interested in joining a committee. Below are brief descriptions of the studies and update.

TERM LIMITS STUDY

This is a study on term limits for the New York State legislature and statewide elected officials. The 1992 LWVUS Convention authorized state and local Leagues to use national positions and principles to take action against term limits for state or local office holders. The language adopted by the convention is permissive only; that is, it allows state and local Leagues to apply the national position in opposition to term limits at other levels. However, it does not require opposition to term limits at other levels. It does not supersede positions arrived at by study and consensus at the state or local League level that may support term limits for state or local office. In 1996 the LWVNY Board decided it was time for the state to take a position on term limits. Although the state board had the authority to adopt such a position without referring this matter to the membership, delegates to Council 1996 voted to concur with opposition to term limits for state legislators and statewide office. At the urging of several local Leagues, LWVNY is again considering the issue of term limits via this study.

BALLOT ACCESS STUDY

This study will broadly examine how candidates get onto the ballot in the general election. It will potentially encompass the primary system, fusion voting, Wilson-Pakula, run-off voting, and other aspects of election law.

CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION POSITION UPDATE

This state update (like a consensus study) will

examine the League's position on New York's constitutional convention with an emphasis on the method of delegate selection. Our current position was adopted in 1993. The issue of a constitutional convention will come up again in 2017, when the mandatory every 20 year referendum on the subject appears on the ballot. One of the conditions stated in the position for League support involve specific changes in the current constitutionally mandated way delegates are selected. It is very unlikely that all these changes will happen because they would have to pass the Legislature initially. Interest was expressed within and out of the League supporting a state constitutional convention as a way of fixing Albany. Under our current position, in all likelihood we would never be able to support a constitutional convention. This update would be very limited in scope, looking only at the delegate selection portion of the League's position.

Additional Convention Highlights

By Arlene Hinkemeyer

Carol Mellor, Susan Wilson and Arlene Hinkemeyer were among more than 100 delegates, visitors and guests who attended the 55th annual LWVNY Convention, June 1-2, in Albany. Titled "League Leaders at Work for Our Future," it drew members from 34 Local Leagues, 3 MALs (Member at Large units) and three ILOs (Inter-League Organizations) throughout the state.

STATE BOARD CHANGES

Elected to the State Board for the 2013-15 term were Susan Wilson, as Vice President for Development, and Carol Mellor, as Grassroots Director. Arlene Hinkemeyer greatly enjoyed her position as State PR Director, 2011-13, but declined to run for a second term.

WILSON AND HINKEMEYER GAVE PACKED SATURDAY WORKSHOPS

Among the several workshops, caucuses and info sessions offered at convention was one by on-staff LWVNY Communication & Development Coordinator Kate Jankowski and LWVH and LWV Suffolk County Special Events Director Susan Wilson on "Development for All," with Susan providing many creative ideas for keeping the "fun" in fundraising. State PR and Hamptons PR director Arlene Hinkemeyer gave a detailed media training workshop on "Public Relations and Social

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LWVH Board of Directors

Highlights of July 10 Board Meeting

by Judy Samuelson

Editor's Note: Full minutes of the July 10 meeting were approved in person by a quorum of board members on August 12.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- * August 12 member meeting will feature Fred Thiele speaking on current legislative issues and progress. After the presentation there will be an open Q&A; the meeting will not be recorded for LTV. Event will be at Hampton Library, Bridgehampton at 7 pm.
- * Other events: Fundraiser cocktail party in August for the Hampton Library, Bridgehampton on July 20; Ellen's Run on August 18 in Southampton; Sag Harbor Harborfest weekend of September 13. The Anti-Bias Picnic in Hampton Bays on September 7 at which Gladys will have a League table. On October 8, there will be an educational trip to the U.N. hosted by LWVNYS.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- * Advertising in *The Voter*. Joy Cordery noted that advertising is ahead of last year, with special thanks to Arlene Hinkemeyer, Judi Roth and Ann Sandford. It was suggested that one of the president's messages in *The Voter* be an 'advertiser appreciation' letter. Glorian volunteered to write it.
- * Mailing lists for *The Voter* and Constant Contact need updating. Our volunteer is checking dues envelopes for changes of address, etc. It was suggested that we print a membership directory, but we declined to do so in order to respect members' privacy. An updated list will be distributed only to the board.
- * Carol Mellor (who manages Constant Contact) pointed out that it has tools to ask recipients to 'friend' LWVH on Facebook. She asked if we should do this. After discussion, it was decided that we should not. Instead, Carol will identify members already on Facebook and ask them whether they would like to "friend" us.
- * Carol asked the board to approve the expenditure for her to attend a 'boot camp' for using Facebook offered by the Long Island Community Foundation. The board approved.
- * Member meeting planning for the rest of 2013
 - o September board meeting moved to Tues. Sept. 3.
 - o September Member Meeting will be September 9, 5:30-8:30. From 6 to 7 pm will be dinner for new members with the board and committee chairs who will speak briefly about their committees. At 7, Arlene Hinkemeyer

will give an abridged version of her Suffragists lecture. Hampton Library, Bridgehampton.

- o No member meeting in October; instead, there will be two League-sponsored debates.
- o November meeting topic will be related to Veterans affairs. Sue Wilson and Judi Roth will contact local veterans groups about possible speakers.
- o December meeting is our holiday party.
- o Topics for 2014 meetings include agricultural studies and water issues.

* LWVH needs a webmaster. If anyone would like to be responsible for the LWVH website, please contact Judy Samuelson (current webmaster) or Glorian Berk. The webmaster need not be a member of the League.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- * Voter Services – Anne Marshall and Carol Mellor. Dates and venues have been set for two debates: Monday, October 21 at the Emergency Services Building, East Hampton and Thursday, October 24 at the Southampton Library, Southampton. Carol Mellor and Sue Wilson are updating www.Vote411.org website.
- * Education – Judi Roth. The committee is developing a film project for students, inviting 10- to 18-year-olds to submit videos on the topic of 'why it is important to vote.' All local libraries will have informational flyers on hand. The project takes place soon, but will not be geared towards the elections.
- * Membership – Estelle Gellman. Over the past two years we have gained more than 10 new members as well as enjoying a good renewal rate.
- * Special Events – Gladys Remler. Sylvester Manor Tour was very successful. The next event will be a tour of Riverhead on September 26. It will include a video at the New Suffolk Theatre (topic: Old Riverhead) and a short presentation by Supervisor Sean Walter.
- * Natural Resources – Sue Wilson. Sue proposed, board approved, publicizing (through Constant Contact) the film, Grasslands, airing July 19 at Springs Presbyterian Church.
- * Public Relations – Arlene Hinkemeyer. The June 2013 Membership Meeting about the Affordable Care act will run on SEA-TV.
- * Government/Health – Naomi Epstein. There was good turnout at the aforementioned meeting. Next up: renewed work on consolidation of school districts.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, September 3 at 5:30 at Bridgehampton National Bank. All members are welcome to observe.



Co-Presidents Judy Samuelson (left) and Glorian Berk with Assemblyman Fred Thiele. Photo by Arlene Hinkemeyer.

Thiele Reviews Legislative Highlights at LWVH Members Meeting

By Naomi Epstein

At our August 12 Members Meeting, Assemblyman Thiele covered some highlights of the 2013 Legislative Session in Albany as well as several local issues. As usual, he was forthright and informative. Despite the terror of summer traffic, about 35 members came to the Hampton Library in Bridgehampton. Following his remarks, the Assemblyman answered audience questions for about 30 minutes.

With the perspective of nine terms in Albany, Assemblyman Thiele sees the present governor as providing long-absent leadership. Examples he cited include delivering a state budget on time for the last three years. This year's budget increased less than one percent and there were no new taxes. Slight increases were seen in aid to Education, the Environmental Protection Fund, the local Highways Program and state funding for libraries – all priorities for Mr. Thiele. He also succeeded in getting 16 of his local bills passed this year. Locally, he noted the following

- ✿ Part of Montauk Highway has been repaved and the rest of the project (Southampton east to Rt. 114) is to be completed in 2014.

- ✿ It is expected that the Southampton College Campus will have 500 students back within three years. Presently the Peconic Institute is housed on Campus. The Marine Science Program and the fine Arts Program have both been expanded.

- ✿ Recovery money allocated by the Federal Government after super storm Sandy is finally being utilized for The Fire Island, Montauk Point Coastal Study

(FIMP). Restoration work in the Western part of our area has already been completed and restoration of the beach in Montauk will begin in 2014.

Assemblyman Thiele did not support the 1986 legislation pertaining to the Long Island Power Authority. The new Public Service Commission has no authority over the organization; can monitor and make suggestions but cannot force changes. In his opinion, this was not a major reform because it does not affect oversight over rates or delivery of service. Contracting with PSE&G rather than National Grid will not improve this. A private agency would provide more independent oversight. Unfortunately Campaign Finance Reform and the Women's Equality Agenda were defeated in Senate. Concerning Campaign Finance Reform, the Assemblyman feels that until we return the government to the people and take it out of the hands of the financial interests in the state we will not have honest government.

Six state propositions will be on the ballot this fall. Assemblyman Thiele discussed two. He did not support Casino Gambling. Independent Redistricting would be better than the process currently in place. Many thanks to the Assemblyman for joining us.

Calling All Student Film Makers

By Judi Roth

The Education Committee is very excited about our fall project for students. Students aged 10-18 are invited to make one-minute videos using smartphones, i-pads, video cameras, etc. on the topic "PROMOTE THE VOTE." We have the enthusiastic cooperation of all East End libraries: the submission form will be available at the libraries and promoted by them.

The videos, due by October 15th, should be e-mailed to the committee at education@lwvhamptons.org. A committee of judges, including Seth Redlus, Executive Director of LTV; Jacqui Lofaro, Executive Director of Hamptons Take 2 Documentary Film Festival; Joe Shaw, Editor, Southampton and East Hampton Press; Committee Chair Judi Roth and committee member Ursula Lynch will pick the best in show in three age groups: 10-12, 13-15 and 16-18.

Prizes include gift cards from places the teen librarian at Rogers Memorial suggests are attractive to kids. Other awards not yet finalized include showing the videos at the schools, on TV, etc. The form that must accompany all video submissions can be found at your local library or online at www.lwvhamptons.org.



Suffolk County Voter

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September 2013

Wednesdays, August 21 + September 18 - LWVSC Board Meetings, SCCC Riverhead

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Why LWVSC Objected to Financial Consolidation

Just when LWVSC was winding down our attendance at the Suffolk County Legislature's General Meetings and Committee Meetings, an issue arose that we needed to address. The subject was a request by the County Executive which led to IR 1567 "A Charter Law to Create a Unified County Department of Financial Management and Audit" by merging or combining the departments of the elected Treasurer and elected Comptroller. A special Public Hearing was scheduled for July 22, a Governmental Organization Committee meeting on July 25 and followed by a special General Session on July 30. We were present at all of these.

The League is a proponent of consolidation, but only when it meets criteria such as projected cost savings and an increased quality and/or efficiency of services or, at a minimum, maintains services at existing levels. On the surface, combining these departments might be considered fiscally prudent, but it seemed that the more we researched, the more questions were raised.

We were most concerned with the statements and processes that have come to light. Issues and perhaps facts were not being clearly stated in a rush to push this merger forward. Legislative process and procedure were collapsed to comply with the County Executive's push on this consolidation. Our elected Legislature is the representative of our citizens- and we did not see the Legislature's independence and leadership in taking a responsible, careful examination of the facts.

The timing of this proposal appears politicized- and politics and finance are poor bedfellows. Why announce the elimination of an office that is up for election this year? This forces the Board of Elections and candidates

to spend money to elect someone to a position which theoretically will be eliminated by voters on the same ballot in which they vote for that office holder (Treasurer). The two elected positions involved, Treasurer and Comptroller, had both been subject to twelve year term limits, and there was much debate over whether the timing created an opportunity for the Comptroller to be appointed Chief Financial Officer for one year, and then offered that same person the opportunity to run for election in that same/new position to begin another new term-limited position.

Much of the debate centered on the right of voters to have a say in a referendum. After many hours of public hearings, public comments, and statements by the County Legislators, the resolution was passed and has become a charter law. The question will now be placed on the November ballot as a referendum. Suffolk County voters will determine whether these two departments will be consolidated "...For The Purpose Of Streamlining And Improving Government Efficiency."

Ultimately, LWVSC objected to the process; we were not taking a position on whether there should be a consolidated office. But the League felt that transparency, full descriptions of the facts involved, and a responsible study of the actual roles and responsibilities of those in the two departments to be combined was lacking. Also checks and balances are a cornerstone of government; are they being ignored in this case?

Even the Legislative Budget Office was unable to confirm what the cost saving would really be, and the door was left open for the combined department to potentially hire additional staff in the future if needed.

Summer tends to be planning time for many Leagues, and sixteen LWVSC board members and local League presidents gathered at Nancy Marr's home on July 17 at the first "retreat" we've had in many years. We commenced with a discussion of the mission/role/purpose of LWVSC; proposed as a combination of county-level issues and advocacy, and a wonderful ability to share expertise, programs, energy, insights, etc. from our five local Leagues in Suffolk County. We realized that many of our local League members are not aware of the value that LWVSC can bring, and we encourage each local League president to more fully publicize LWVSC advocacy, meetings, speakers and events. We also will be emphasizing our sharing of our local League activities by prioritizing this at the beginning of each LWVSC board meeting. August brings our monthly board meeting in Riverhead, with a goal towards implementing suggestions made at the retreat, as well as planning more specifically for our September to June calendar.

September 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.

September 3 - 5:30 PM Wednesday	LWVH Board Meeting	Bridgehampton National Bank, Bridgehampton
September 9 - 5:30 PM Monday	Member Meeting	New Member Dinner (5:30) & Public Lecture (7:00), Hampton Library, Bridgehampton
September 11 - 1:00 PM Wednesday	Government & Health Committee Meeting	Hampton Library, Bridgehampton Contact Naomi Epstein, naepxyz@aol.com
September 11 - 2:00 PM Wednesday	Special Events Committee Meeting	Cooper Hall, Rogers Memorial Library, Southampton Contact Gladys Remler: specialevents@lwvhamptons.org
September 12 - 12:00 PM Thursday	Voter Services Committee Meeting	Home of Anne Marshall, Bridgehampton
September 24 Tuesday	National Voter Registration Day	Throughout The Country
September 26 - 10:00 AM Thursday	Riverhead Revival Tour	Contact Gladys Remler: specialevents@lwvhamptons.org
TOWN BOARD MEETINGS		
September 5 - 7:00 PM	East Hampton Town Board Meeting	Town Hall Courtroom, 159 Pantigo Rd., East Hampton
September 10 - 1:00 PM	Southampton Town Board Meeting	Town Hall Board Room, Southampton Town Hall, 116 Hampton Rd., Southampton
September 19 - 7:00 PM	East Hampton Town Board Meeting	Town Hall Courtroom, 159 Pantigo Rd., East Hampton
September 24 - 6:00 PM	Southampton Town Board Meeting	Town Hall Board Room, Southampton Town Hall, 116 Hampton Rd., Southampton

Green Tips



...For Boaters

By Joy Cordery

STASH THE TRASH

Avoid items with excess packaging, keep trash secure, and dispose of all trash and recyclables properly.

USE ENVIRONMENTALLY-SAFE, ANTI-FOULING STRATEGIES

Use a less toxic or non-toxic hull paint. Clean hull often to limit growth.

RECYCLE OLD FISHING LINES

Monofilament fishing line take up to 600 years to break down in marine environment and can entangle and kill wildlife. Look for recycling facilities at your marina if any. If not, start one.

Contact: BoatUS.com/foundation/monofilament.com

SPILLS MATTER

Use caution when filling your fuel tanks and attend nozzles at all times. A single gallon of fuel can contaminate over a million gallons of water; every drop pollutes.

DON'T THROW CIGARETTES OVERBOARD

Filters don't break down in the marine environment and are lethal when eaten by birds and fish that mistake them for food. Visit COA's website for the "No Butts About IT" 10 tip card for smokers.

KEEP IT CLEAN

Never discharge sewage waste into water even if allowed

by law. Use the nearest pump-out facility. If you have a portable toilet, empty it at home or at a designated dump station. Use microbial cleaners instead of harmful disinfectants for toilets.

USE A NON-PHOSPHATE, BIODEGRADABLE SOAP

When cleaning your boat use a biodegradable soap. Ask your marina to stock these items.

AVOID USING DISPOSABLE PLASTIC BOAT COVERS OR SHRINK WRAP

Re-usable polyester and polyethylene covers last a few seasons and canvas covers last even longer. If you must use shrink wrap recycle after use (Google for location).

KEEP ENGINES LEAK-FREE AND WELL TUNED

To minimize the discharge of gas and oil in the water, keep the engines leak-free and well-tuned. Do not drain engine fluids into the water. To dramatically reduce emissions, replace your two-stroke engine with a four-stroke.

PLACE A BILGE "PILLOW" OR PAD IN THE BILGE

To absorb oil from your bilge place a "pillow" or pad in the bilge water. Dispose used bilge pads properly. Be sure to check bilge frequently.

Source material: www.CleanOceanAction.org



Illustration by Gene Samuelson

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SYLVESTER MANOR

Continued from page 3

Edith Gawler, with plantation-era working songs.

The event received rave reviews and we're sorry we had to turn people away because of space limitations at the manor. Capacity won't be a problem at our next event. We're planning a day's outing to Riverhead with visits to (tentatively) the Aquarium, the East End Arts Council, and the newly-renovated Suffolk Theater. We will also hear from Riverhead Supervisor Sean Walters about the exciting things happening in Riverhead. Mark your calendar for Thursday, September 26 (see page 1).

LWVNYS

Continued from page 5

Networking" to help Leagues increase their visibility in the state.

OUR LEAGUE WON THE RAFFLE

At the banquet on Saturday night, where Mickey Edwards, former Oklahoma Congressman and now Princeton lecturer and VP of the Aspen Institute was the featured speaker, Mr. Edwards drew LWVH member Nada Barry's name as winner of the Big League Raffle!

In addition to Nada's big win of 25% of the total amount raised, our League will receive 5% of total sales, as the League with the winning ticket holder, and will also receive 20% of all the raffles purchased by our members.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Continued from page 2

members and invited current town managers to a forum. Then they held a consensus meeting where members voted to support this position. Since that time, LWVH members met with many of the elected officials in both Towns to advocate for the council manager form of government.

While this process may seem cumbersome, it provides that all Leagues have the ability to tailor their lobby or advocacy efforts to those areas that are most important to them, but when they speak, it will be with one voice. This process also insures that all members have a voice in the focus of their local League. I encourage you to take some time to review the positions of both national and state on our website (lwwhamptons.org). And, during our 2014 winter planning meeting, come with your ideas for our focus.

The Voter

League of Women Voters of the Hamptons

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