



# THE VOTER

The Newsletter of the League of Women Voters of the Hamptons  
Founded in 1977  
Volume XXXVII, No. 15

November/December 2015

## Over 75 Students from Suffolk County Experience Government First Hand at the Suffolk County Legislature

By Judi Roth

“I’m listening to our chaperone rave about yesterday’s trip to the Legislature. Thank you, LWV friends, for making it possible”. This email from Michael Guinan, Assistant Principal of Pierson/Sag Harbor Schools arrived the morning after our trip to the Legislature – I feel like I should stop writing right here!

On October 15th, junior and senior high school students from East Hampton, Sag Harbor, Southampton, Hampton Bays, Westhampton Beach, South Country, Rocky Point, Mt. Sinai, Central Islip, Brentwood and Patchogue, convened in the horseshoe chamber of the Legislature and began their day by hearing from Legislators Sarah Anker (6th District), Monica Martinez (9th District), Leslie Kennedy (12th District) and County Comptroller John Kennedy. A running theme was to not only to encourage students to vote but to get involved in their communities and to think about how they can make a difference – and to network, net-

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At day's end, students gathered for a group photo in front of the horseshoe.

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### SAVE THE DATE

#### NOVEMBER and DECEMBER DATES

*Wednesday, November 4*

**Consideration of Consensus Questions on How the Constitution is Amended**

Hampton, Library, Bridgehampton

7:00 – 8:00 p.m. Members only

*Sunday, November 8*

**Post Election Brunch**

Harbor Crab in Patchogue

11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

*Monday, November 9*

**PIM on Money-in-Politics preparatory to a January Consensus Meeting**

Hampton Library, Bridgehampton

7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

*Monday, December 7th*

**HOLIDAY PARTY!!!**

Unitarian Universalist Meeting House

Bridge/Sag Turnpike, Bridgehampton

5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

## 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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Cathy Peacock, Advertising Manager  
Bruce McGowin, Design & Production  
Arlene Hinkemeyer, Photographer  
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## President's Message

By Glorian Berk

I hope that you noticed that the advertising section of *The Voter* looked different when you read the October issue. The dark blue border certainly makes the ads stand out.

As many of you know, our valued member and Advertising Manager, Joy Cordery, passed away this spring. Personally, we all miss Joy and we had a big challenge to find someone to take her place as Advertising Manager. Thankfully, Cathy Peacock stepped into Joy's big shoes and the current advertising section of *The Voter* is the result of Cathy's efforts.

About a year ago, it was decided to split the editorial responsibility for *The Voter* among several people. We were very lucky to have several board members assume this shared editorial responsibility. A special thank you goes out to our current editors: Estelle Gellman, Arlene Hinkemeyer, Judi Roth and Judy Samuelson.

The Hamptons' League is able to send members, elected officials and the media a professionally produced hard copy of *The Voter* seven times a year because our advertisers support this effort. Without these advertising dollars, we would be unable to provide printed, hard copies. Many of the other leagues here in Suffolk County only provide their Voter electronically or a black and white paper version. Some even require members to cover the printing and mailing cost if they want to receive a hard copy.

We believe that the professionally formatted Hamptons' Voter provides us with a valuable tool to communicate our mission, events and important information to all who receive it: members, elected officials and the media. So, we are asking you to support the advertisers in *The Voter*. When you use a service or visit a store, please make sure that you let the advertiser know that you saw their ad in *The Voter*. This is important as it will let them know that their advertising dollars are well spent.

And thanks to both our old and new advertisers for supporting The League of Women Voters of the Hamptons.

### Natural Resources Committee Visits Plum Island

By **Barbara McClancy**

Tuesday, October 6th, threatened hurricane weather but for the League of Woman Voters of the Hamptons, the day couldn't have been anymore beautiful. Members of the Natural Resources Committee had arranged to tour Plum Island (PI). Our guide was Jason Golden, a knowledgeable Communications Officer at Plum Island Animal Disease Center (PIADC) which is a secure federal facility under the auspices of Home Land Security. It is currently used by the USDA (US Department of Agriculture) to study, research and train a variety of shareholders involved in the livestock business.

Plum Island, once the home of Native Americans, became the property of colonists in the mid-seventeenth century. In 1899 the US government purchased the island and the army established a Coastal Artillery post known as Fort Terry to defend LI Sound and ultimately the City of NY. It was deactivated after World War II, but since 1954, under the USDA, it has served as the front line of the nation's defense against foreign diseases of livestock that could devastate our food supply of meat, milk and other animal products. The diseases studied on PI are those affecting cloven foot animals. They are Hoof and Mouth and Mad Cow, with Mad Cow being the only one that can be transmitted to humans. The livestock are totally isolated with negative air and water flow closely monitored to ensure isolation.

Aside from being the home of the containment labs, Plum Island is a treasure trove of little seen remnants of its former lives. The island itself is 840 acres with only a small portion in use for the lab and administration building. None of the colonial buildings survive, but the barracks, hospital and

church structures of Fort Terry remain. Many of the gun batteries, used for observation and defense, are still in evidence. The historic Plum Island Lighthouse is located on the west end of the island. The current structure was built in 1869 to mark the east side of Plum Gut, a mile wide entrance to Long Island Sound with extremely strong tidal currents. The rest of the island is pristine forests and shorelines. There is abundant wild life in the form of birds, fish and visiting seals who favor a beautiful, sheltered south facing beach on Gardiners Bay. Surprisingly, the forests of the island are lush and full. Long Island residents are not used to this because most of our forest understory has disappeared as food for our resident deer population.

The isolation of the island made it ideal for USDA in the past, but in today's climate, higher levels of isolation are needed for research, and the decision to decommission the lab was made. A new laboratory with higher containment levels is currently under construction in Kansas. This laboratory will take the place of the aging facilities at PI. The federal government, anticipating the closure of PI has currently listed it for sale. Controversy surrounds the decision to sell PI into private hands, because this will ultimately lead to its restricted use by those who can afford the high price of land on a private island with access to the Hamptons and NYC. Connecticut and Long Island politicians have introduced legislation intended to protect Plum Island and the natural resources it contains for public and environmental use by future generations.



Army Gun Emplacement from 1899 with Ursula Lynch, Julia Kayser, Beverly Dixon, Susan Wilson and Glorian Berk.



Barbara McClancy, Joanne McEvoy Samborn, Ursula Lynch, Julia Kayser, Glorian Berk, Beverly Dixon and Susan Wilson at historic Plum Island lighthouse



## Voter Services

### Voter Services Hosts Candidate Debates

By Anne Marshall

The Voter Services Committee of the LWVH sponsored two candidates' debates in October. Candidates invited were:

County Legislator, 2nd legislative district; East Hampton Town Supervisor and East Hampton Town Council; Southampton Town Supervisor and Southampton Town Council.

Questions came from the audience as well as the League



Debate moderator Anne Marshall introduced East Hampton Town Board candidates Margaret Turner, Peter Van Scoyoc and Sylvia Overby. Unable to attend was candidate Lisa M. Larsen.

and the East Hampton Star and Southampton Press. Some issues debated had relevance for both towns while others had a more specific town focus.

The candidates for the legislature were asked to describe their recommendations for improving the county's fiscal condition.

In the town races, the use of Community Preservation Funds in alternative ways generated much discussion, as did the concern about how to insure water quality throughout the East End. How to deal with controlling population density in the summer season was a concern.

In East Hampton the topics of creating a rental registry and the locus of airport regulations created some sharp differences among the candidates. In Southampton the topic of PPD's (Planned Development Districts) and agencies responsible for improving pedestrian safety were raised.

Both debates were filmed by relevant town television stations and were broadcast repeatedly until Election Day, November 3.

### Having Trouble Thinking of Winter? Think of Our Holiday Party Instead!

By Judi Roth

Monday, **December 7th, from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.** will usher in the holiday season for the League of Women Voters of the Hamptons. This year we are returning to the Unitarian **Universalist Meeting House on Bridge/Sag Turnpike (just south of Scuttle Hold Road at 977 Sag Harbor Turnpike on the left side of the road)**. One can't say that we haven't been to different venues – from the gracious homes of Carol Mellor, Anne Marshall and Ann Sandford – to the basement of the Lutheran Church in Watermill (never again although we tried to make it look festive with decorations), to St. Anne's in Bridgehampton (our site for many years until they renovated "our" space and moved us to the basement (is this a recurring theme?)), to Emoke's church, St. Mary's Episcopal (which is now 100 years old) in Hampton Bays on the coldest night of the winter that year, to the North Sea Community House with their newly varnished floors and the most horrible rain/sleet storm of the season, to last

year's lovely but this year unavailable Dodds and Eder in Sag Harbor. (I think I'm showing my age here but at least I do remember all of these parties!)

So back to the "UU" as it is affectionately known and it is really an ideal spot. Parking is plentiful, location is good for all of us, the kitchen is huge, there are accessible bathrooms, there is ample place to display food and drink and the whole of the sanctuary to mingle in.

As always the Board is providing food and drink and we ask that you come and enjoy yourselves. And please bring **a check for either the Springs Food Pantry or Human Resources of Southampton**. These two food pantries continue to be our local charities of choice. We all know that the workers who live here and prosper in the summer have a much harder time in the winter and the pantries really need our help at this time of the year.

Please RSVP to 324-4637 by December 2nd

*Continued from page 1*

## **Over 75 Students from Suffolk County Experience Government First Hand at the Suffolk County Legislature**

work, network as they plan for their future careers.

Building on the career aspect of the program, we next heard from Dr. Michael Caplan, County Medical Examiner; Ms. Vanessa Pugh, Chief Deputy Commissioner for the Department of Labor, Licensing and Community Affairs; and Deputy Sheriff, Phil White of the Sheriff's Office. Each speaker described the fascinating but often mundane aspects of their departments covering such things as keeping carefully detailed DNA records for untold years, inspecting the food scales in every supermarket in the county for accuracy, and transporting jailed mothers and their babies (babies up to one year old stay in jail with their mothers) to doctor's appointments. The speakers highlighted the education and career paths needed to get jobs in their fields and the students learned about the County's One Stop Job Shop where they can visit or go online to learn about job openings and avail themselves of countless training courses offered by the county.

After tours of the building and hearing from the non-profit groups, Habitat for Humanity and Long Island Cares (the largest supplier of food to needy families on the Island), students heads must have been spinning with thoughts of internships and sorting out all the information they had received.

### **Mock Legislative Session**

Lunch was followed by a mock legislative session. Students got to role play legislators and the public by debating a mock resolution: "No unmanned aerial vehicle (drone) shall be flown by any person within a quarter mile (1/4) radius of any public or private school in Suffolk County." Role playing a parent, a photographer, a police officer, a football coach, students came up to the microphone and presented their arguments pro or con to the legislators.

"I am a football coach and rival teams are using drones to steal our plays", said one student. Student legislators asked for proof of such spying and whether the drones were used only to photograph practice sessions or actual games. Then the question of privacy arose – had the players given permission to be photographed, etc.

"I am in a custody battle with my wife and she has hired an investigator who is using a drone to photograph whether my child is at school every day and how he looks – this is dangerous". Questions were posed to how

this differs from an investigator using a camera to achieve the same end.

"I am a professional photographer and I want to be able to use my drone to take pictures over a particularly beautiful area around the schools. I can't afford to hire a helicopter to do this. Why shouldn't I be able to do this? Legislators amended the resolution to limit the time that the "no-drone" law would be in effect to accommodate this type of activity.

These are just a few examples of how the kids got into their roles; at times the acting Presiding Officer had more than eight legislators waving their cards wanting to speak.

### **Recognition of the League**

In a press release issued after the October 8th visit of students from Smithtown and Huntington, Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory, said "Student Day was structured to reinforce that government is not merely an idea, but a tangible entity. I commend the League of Women Voters for its commitment to executing this event and to educating the public about the importance of civic engagement".

Congratulations to all the members of the Education Committee who worked so hard to make this happen and who got up so early to be there too. And thanks to the numerous teachers and guidance counselors and bus companies who worked with us.



Lora Gellerstein, Chief of Staff of Suffolk County Legislature's Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory, and LWV's Judi Roth, welcomed students to Student Day at the Suffolk County Legislature on October 15.

# Highlights of Minutes of October 7, Board Meeting

## Information Items

- A thank you to Arlene H. for a generous donation to the LWV-Education Fund in memory of Joy Cordery and Joy Lupoletti.
- League Day at the United Nations is 12/3/15 providing briefings on Global Healthcare Issues and Educating the Youth of the World. Session runs from 10:00 AM to Noon, followed by lunch in the Delegates Dining Room and optional tours of the UN in the afternoon. Registration forms are available at the state website.
- Raise the Age materials are available on line.
- The LWV-Hampton is under pressure by the Suffolk County league to cover an extra month of voter registrations at the Islip Court House for the naturalization ceremonies. Anne mentioned that the court house voter registrations have gone from being an occasional event to an obligation. Glorian and Barbara reported that Lisa Scott has reached out to the Nassau County leagues for their participation in these ceremonies, since many of the new citizen are residents of Nassau

## Upcoming Events:

- Debates: Oct. 13 at 7 PM in East Hampton Emergency Building for the EH Candidates; Oct. 22 at 6 PM at the Rogers Memorial Library for the SH candidates. The candidates for the Suffolk County Legislature will be at both debates.
- Oct. 26, Luncheon and speaker at Trumpets on the Bay as a fund raiser.
- **Nov. 3 Election Day**
- Nov. 4 Consensus Meeting on support for a Constitutional Amendment following the 5:30 PM BoD meeting.
- Nov. 9 PIM, the Government Committee will present information on Money in Politics.
- The Holiday Party on Dec. 7 is from 5PM to 7 PM. Dodds & Eder, our venue last year, is not available. Judi contacted the Universal Unitarian Church in BH and they are available. The rental is \$150.00. The BoD will bring food and Arlene is encouraged to bring her usual Ham, a crowd favorite. Judi volunteered to organize the food list. There will be appetizers and no desserts. Cathy will do the wine and Naomi will help with the set up and clean up. The charity will continue to be the EH & SH food pantries.

## Discussion Items:

- Since this is an abbreviated meeting in order to have a Concurrence Vote after adjournment, the committees were asked to submit written reports to save time. Barbara asked that the BoD membership consider doing this in the future. Committee chairs could continue to verbally express their reports, if they felt discussion was needed. This would also give BoD a chance to formulate questions ahead of time. Rather than deciding tonight, Barbara made a motion to continue this discussion at a later date.

- Voter advertising updates by Cathy Peacock. Some businesses have still not responded. Cathy does not have an accurate count at this time but will tally them from her records. The new advertisement pages will appear in the October issue.
- BoD liability insurance. Carol Mellor presented information on Directors & Officers liability insurance. The State league has insurance, but that is because it owns property and employs administrative staff. We have no such assets subject to litigation. A vote on this issue will be deferred to a later BoD meeting.
- Carol indicates that she will write an article on Money in Politics.

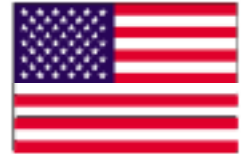
## Committee Reports:

- **Special Events:** Gladys reports that she and the speaker, Armineh Ohanian, are both pleased with the response to the luncheon. Please send your checks, ASAP, and Judy will invite our local politicians.
- **Natural Resources** visited Plum Island on Oct. 6th and had a very enlightening experience. It will be covered by an article in the next Voter.
- Joanne reports for the Membership Committee that the email list for Constant Contact has 151 members. We send out 135 Voters. 91 members have renewed and we have 10 new members.
- **Public Relations:** LWVH Voter Registration Day on Sept. 22 was publicized in all 5 local papers and WLNG radio. Fall Luncheon fliers have been printed up and should be distributed by the BoD. In October, Arlene and Judy are publicizing our two debates on 10/13 & 10/22, Oct 15 as Student Day at the SC Legislature and Oct.26, the Luncheon in the local press as well as Newsday and community websites.
- EH's Adopt-a-Road cleanup took place on Sept. 18 with Arlene and Afton DiSunno.
- Judi reported for the Education Committee. Oct. 15 is the date for taking students to the SC Legislature. Students are expected from EH - 3, BH - 4, SH - 6, HB - 5, WHB - 4, and they are still waiting for a report from Pierson. Bus transportation is being arranged for the 3 western schools. They will be joined by students from Brookhaven and the North Fork. Student from Huntington and Smithtown will be going on Oct.8. On Feb. 24 & 25, members of the committee will present "Vote 18" in Pierson and Bridgehampton High School. The Assistant Principal of Pierson HS, Mike Guian has been invited to the next Ed Committee meeting, 11/2 at 2 PM at Cooper Hall.

The next meeting is scheduled for Nov.4, 2015 at 5:30 PM at the Bridgehampton National Bank followed by a Consensus meeting on the process of how the national League can support new constitutional amendments. All members are invited to join us at 7:00 p.m. .



# LWV of Suffolk County Post Election Luncheon



Harbor Crab, Patchogue

**Sunday November 8, 2015**

**11:30am—2:30pm**

Celebrate the League's Voter Service efforts in 2015!

seating is limited  
**Register Now**

## Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory *Suffolk County Legislature*

*Hear his perspective on the achievements of the outgoing SC Legislature,  
and issues and challenges facing Suffolk County in 2016 and beyond*

*For her coordination with LWVSC in organizing and executing  
our first Student Days at the SC Legislature, join us in recognizing*

## **Lora Gellerstein**

*Chief of Staff, Office of the Presiding Officer, Suffolk County Legislature*

**Cost: League Members (paid in advance) \$35**

**Non-members and Pay at the Door \$40**

*Price includes raffle ticket— purchase additional / 3 for \$5*

Please make checks  
payable to LWVNYSEF  
and mail BEFORE  
November 1 to :

Naomi Epstein,  
3 Winterberry Lane,  
East Hampton, NY 11937

For information contact:  
Barbara Jordan 324-6144





# Constitutional Amendment Study

## League Undertakes Study on Amending the US Constitution

By Carol Mellor

Those of us who attended the national convention of the LWV in June of 2014 could not avoid hearing talk about the need to overturn the US Supreme Court decision in Citizens United which revolutionized the influence of money on electoral politics. Those conversations often included discussion of the ways in which that decision could be overturned and the feasibility of a constitutional amendment to address the problem.

Many members were vexed by the fact that although the Citizens United decision struck at the very heart of many of the guiding principles of the League, our positions did not directly permit advocacy on many of the suggestions which have been made seeking to obviate the effects of the decision. If a “fix” is proposed in the form of a proposal to amend the constitution, it is important that the League have criteria upon which to decide whether or not to advocate for or against the proposed amendment.

From those concerns and discussions, two interrelated studies were adopted joined under the umbrella topic of “Structures of Democracy”. One of these studies, an update of Money in Politics, will be presented at a PIM on November 9, to be followed by a consensus meeting at a future time. The second study, Constitutional Amendment Process will be presented at the board meeting on November 4, and followed immediately by consideration of the consensus questions. This abbreviated time table is necessitated by the time line provided by national. It is hoped that, despite the limited time for consideration, a meaningful consensus meeting can be had on the evening of November 4.

This study is not about any particular amendment, rather it is about establishing guidelines for evaluating amendments. Assuming that the League has a position which would support the goals of a proposed amendment, the first consideration will be whether or not the League has an underlying position which supports the proposed amendment. If not, the process ends. But even if it is found that we do have a position which would support the proposed amendment, the League must determine whether to support that particular amendment. That decision depends on other factors, which are the subject of this study.

### Questions to Consider for Guidelines to Evaluate Proposed Constitutional Amendments

The study asks us to first decide what constitutes an appropriate and well-crafted amendment. This is accomplished by addressing the following issues.

1. Should amendments be made to the constitution only when they address extreme problems and long term needs or should overwhelming public sentiment in favor of the change override exercise of restraint.

*Historically, the Constitution was only been amended a very few times, reflecting the exercise of great restraint of the American people to use this tool. This question asks whether the League favors the use of the amendment process only when the matter at hand is of extreme importance and has long term repercussions, or the reluctance to amend the constitution can be overrode when the public is very much in favor of the change.*

2. How important is it that the wording of the amendment be effective in achieving its policy objective. In other words, should we support an amendment that may be unenforceable or miss the objective or have unintended consequences with the view that the Courts and legislature can sort it out over time.

*This question speaks to the issue of how carefully the proposed amendment should be crafted. In other words, should we demand that the proposal be drafted so that it is sure to achieve its goals, or should we support a less precise proposal which might not reach its goal, or have unintended consequences relying on the courts and legislature to sort it out.*

3. Should we only support amendments that make our political system more democratic or support individual rights, or should we not be constrained by these parameters.

*Most of our amendments have either been aimed at making our country more democratic or protecting individual rights (I.e. The Bill of Rights and lowering the voting age). Should we limit our support of future amendments to those which foster these goals, or should we not consider these parameters as important to whether to support a proposal.*

4. Should we only support amendments with policy objectives which cannot be achieved by legislation of a political approach which are easier to achieve than

*Continued on page19*



### A Brief History of Immunization

By Beverly A. Dixon, MSPH, PhD

It's the time of the year when we are reminded to get our "flu shot" to protect from infection with this year's strains of Influenza virus. The influenza vaccine developed in 1945, undoubtedly remains as the most difficult vaccine to produce. Due to its penchant for mutation, a new vaccine must be developed yearly to provide protection against emerging strains of the virus.

Thanks to the efforts of modern science, there are more than two dozen immunizations available to protect against both viral and bacterial infections, but preventing infection through immunization is not a recent idea; in fact, the concept is nearly a thousand years old.

Some time before the year 1100, the Chinese began the practice of scratching a small amount of infectious material from smallpox lesions onto the backs of uninfected persons to protect against the disease. This procedure, known as variolation the Latin name for the smallpox virus, afforded protection from the virus without causing significant disease. Over the centuries, variolation spread westward into the Middle East, when in 1717 Lady Mary Montagu, the wife of the British ambassador to Turkey, immunized her son by variolation, and subsequently introduced the procedure in England. Years later in 1796, British physician Edward Jenner observed that milkmaids infected with the cowpox virus did not become infected with deadly smallpox. He reasoned that the lesions produced by cowpox virus on their hands conferred protection against the related human smallpox. Jenner began immunizing using variolation with infectious material from cowpox lesions rather than human smallpox. And so an idea that originated nearly a thousand years before culminated in the late 1970's with the successful worldwide eradication of smallpox. Looking to the future, vaccine development holds promise for breakthroughs in immunizations against the more recent diseases of HIV and Ebola.

Researchers in the nineteenth century developed the concept of disease protection through immunization introducing vaccines against cholera, rabies, tetanus, bubonic plague, and typhoid fever. But the overwhelming development of vaccines came in the twentieth century with the production of 23 vaccines against major diseases including typhus, yellow fever, TB, pneumonia, hepatitis, and meningitis.

Since the early 1900's immunizations against childhood scourges were developed and became part of standard medical practice. The 1950's saw two major breakthroughs, the development of the Salk killed vaccine and the Sabin live oral vaccine both against crippling paralytic polio. Successful immunization programs resulted in the last endemic cases of paralytic polio in the United States in 1979. Vaccination success continued into the next decade with the introduction of the measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccines from 1963 -70. In 2000 measles was declared eliminated from the US. However, diphtheria returned to the US in 2011 with an outbreak of over 9,000 cases in California, and last year a measles epidemic originated in Disneyland resulting in 700 cases in 27 states

The Health Committee urges you all to get vaccinated this year and don't forget to get the pneumonia vaccine if you haven't already as well as the Shingles vaccine. If you'd like to join this committee and stay intellectually healthy contact Valerie King at 631-267-3282 or [valeriekingphd@gmail.com](mailto:valeriekingphd@gmail.com)



## FURNACE FLING

By Joanne McEvoy-Samborn

Adapted from Low Carbon Diet

By David Gershon, 2006

While this book was written about nearly 10 years ago it still has pertinent information.

One of the most important things you can do to save energy is to regularly tune up your furnace. Up to 50% of the energy you use in your home goes to heating it. And a heating system can waste up to 50% of the energy it uses if it's not operating efficiently. This can represent as much as 3,750 pounds of CO<sub>2</sub> wastefully going into the air each year.

### CO<sub>2</sub> REDDUCTION ACTION

Oil furnaces need a tune-up once a year; gas furnaces should get one every 2 years

Call your furnace servicing company and schedule an appointment to have your furnace cleaned and adjusted based on a combustion efficiency test

Seal all joints in your warm-air ducts with mastic or duct tape that meets UL-181 specifications (it will say on the package if it meets this standard)

If your warm-air heating ducts that pass through unheated areas such as crawl spaces are not insulated, ask your technician to either include that as part of the servicing or show you how to do it. This can improve the efficiency of your heating system as much as 30%

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## Post-Election Brunch on November 8th Features Suffolk County Legislature Presiding Officer

by Judi Roth

With local elections having just been decided, our featured speaker (assuming he is re-elected!) will be DuWayne Gregory, Presiding Officer of the Legislature. He will talk about what has been accomplished in the past year and also highlight priorities for the new session. As all 18 seats and the County Executive will have just gone through a re-election cycle it should be an interesting afternoon.

Being recognized for her large part in helping the Suffolk League realize our two successful days of "Students Inside Suffolk County" will be Lora

Gellerstein, Chief of Staff to the Presiding Officer, Mr. Gregory. Lora's enthusiasm and work on this program galvanized us and her whole staff who were invaluable to making these days a success – and we hope a repeated success in the future.

The luncheon will be held at the Harbor Crab in Patchogue from 11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. Featuring a 3-course meal, the cost is \$35 in advance for members and \$40 on the day of the event and for non-members. Seating is limited to 40. See page 15 for additional information.

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## League Undertakes Study on Amending the US Constitution

amending the constitution.

*It is very hard to change the Constitution and much easier to pass/change a law. Should we only support constitutional amendments which have goals which cannot be achieved by other means, such as legislation or executive action.*

- Should we take into consideration whether the public policy objective is more suited to a constitutional (i.e. general) approach or a legislative (i.e. specific) approach.

*Constitutional provisions are very broad (e.g. Congress shall make no law abridging the right to speech); legislation is very specific (e.g. It is unlawful to threaten the life of the President). In assessing a proposal, should we take into consideration whether the problem is best solved by a general or a specific approach*

The second part of the study considers the possibility of

convening a Constitutional Convention to consider the passage of a proposed amendment. This process has never been successfully used and so it is rife with questions such as how it would work, who would be the delegates, how they would be chosen and what the convention could consider once convened. The first questions for study consider these and other questions; the second part asks whether, given the uncertainty of the process, we should support any call for a constitutional convention.

The final question asks, basically, whether it is more important to foster our positions, or to ensure that the process of amending the constitution is done carefully and correctly.

Please attend this important meeting.



# The Voter

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