



THE VOTER

The Newsletter of the League of Women Voters of the Hamptons

Founded in 1977

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April/May 2019

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Upcoming Events

April 4 5:30 – 7:30 PM Seasons Southampton, 15 Prospect St, corner of Main St. Last chance to attend the book talk and signing by former Congressman Steve Israel and author of Big Guns, an entertaining political satire set in a mythical village of Asabogue located between Southampton and East Hampton . The event features hearty hors d'oeuvres; cash bar.
\$65.00 per person (\$70.00 after March 28)
Contact Treasurer Cathy Peacock at 631-324-4637 or Cathpeac@optonline.net



April 8 “Recycling 101” 7 PM Hampton Bays, Community Center on Ponquogue Avenue.
May 5 2-4 PM LWVH Annual Membership Meeting ,Watermill Community Center
May 30 11:30 AM Springs Tour



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 Towns, 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 six times a year (October/November, December/January, February/March, April/May, June/July, August/September) 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 Co-President Susan Wilson

At the end of January, LWVH members came together at the Annual Program Planning Luncheon to discuss where they wanted our League to focus its energies for this coming year. The topics discussed included how tax assessments are determined and partnering with like-minded organizations to maximize our visibility and reach. In addition to voter registration, getting out the vote and advocacy, which are at the very core of the League, LWVH will focus this year on implementing new voting changes, recycling, affordable housing, and driver's licenses for undocumented immigrants.

Now that the governor has signed into law the package of voting reforms passed by the legislature, the League has started to focus on the implementation of these new policies. The NY State League has already testified before the legislature regarding funding for the programs, and in the spring they will submit comments on proposed regulations to the legislature.

Our annual meeting is scheduled for May 5th. Our guest speaker this year is Assemblyman Fred W. Thiele Jr, who will share his perspective on how the new laws will impact us as citizens. Be sure to mark your calendar and plan to attend this informative meeting.

In this issue of *The Voter* also be sure to check out the reports from our various committees. You will see that the LWVH isn't only busy around election time, we're working all year long. We know that spring signals a new start. It's the perfect time to get more involved in the League. Members are always welcome at our Board of Directors meetings held the first Wednesday of every month. If the work of a particular committee interests you consider joining even if you cannot attend all meetings. Plant your seed here with the League and watch it grow. The process is so rewarding.

Annual Membership Meeting May 5



Co-Presidents Susan Wilson and Estelle Gellman count the dots from members who attended the Planning Program on January 31st. The topics with the most dots were added to the League's agenda for 2019-2020.

YOU'RE INVITED!



Fred Thiele, Jr

Our annual membership meeting provides an occasion for all to meet and greet their fellow members and catch up on the many activities and goals of LWVH and help elect the slate of directors for 2019-2021.

Our guest speaker, State Assemblyman, Fred Thiele, will take us through the complexities of the new voter laws and answer questions you may have. Another highlight is the presentation of the LWVH Betty Desch Student Leadership Award of \$1,000 to a deserving high school student selected by our Education Committee.

Come early to enjoy coffee and cookies.

PLACE: The Watermill Community Center on Main Street in Watermill.

TIME: 2-4 PM

DID YOU KNOW...

...the agendas of the monthly meetings of our various committees are distributed to all members via email?

If you see a subject that interests you, you are welcome to attend; no reservation needed.

Sag Harbor Express Forum on February 22 Explores Progress Made in Affordable Housing in EH/SH Towns

By Arlene Hinkemeyer

Following up on its affordable housing forum last year on January 19 at the American Hotel, the Sag Harbor Express held a second session this year on February 22, titled “Affordable Housing: A Year Later,” with seven panelists—East Hampton Town Supervisor Peter Van Scoyoc, East Hampton Town Housing Authority executive director Catherine Casey; Sag Harbor Housing Trust board member Rob Calvert; Southampton Town Director of Housing and Community Development Diana Weir; State Assemblyman Fred W. Thiele Jr.; Next Gen Housing Collaborative founder and real estate agent Michael Daly; and Sag Harbor Partnership treasurer and attorney Susan Mead.

As its title implied, the session aimed to detail the progress that has been made over the past year. As reported by the panelists, East Hampton Town is purchasing four acres on Route 114 from Triune Baptist Church and is developing a 37-unit project at 531 Montauk Highway in Amagansett. Southampton Town passed legislation to allow more homeowners to add accessory apartments; will soon hold a housing lottery for 15 units

in Southampton Pointe; will build 66 affordable apartments in Tuckahoe and Speonk Commons; and is developing a 50-unit senior citizen community in Hampton Bays.

Assemblyman Thiele spoke of his just-introduced Assembly bill to raise funds for affordable housing with a .5% tax on property sales of \$400,000 and above, similar to the current Community Preservation Fund (CPF) tax on property sales to fund land and water preservation.

A problem to which the speakers all concurred was retaining current affordable housing, due to the ever-rising prices of homes. “As we are pushing forward with more units coming online, we are losing affordable properties at an alarming rate,” said Supervisor Van Scoyoc.

Plugging a call for YIMBY (Yes In My Back Yard) was Michael Daly, encouraging all to support the towns’ affordable housing initiatives. Attending the luncheon forum from the Hamptons League were Government Committee members Glorian Berk, Arlene Hinkemeyer, Judy Samuelson and co-chair Ann Sandford.



The Sag Harbor Express “Affordable Housing-A Year Later” panel.

The South Fork Commuter Connection has launched!

By Ann Sandford, Government Committee Co-chair

On schedule, the first train left Speonk Monday morning, March 4, at 6:16 a.m. with stops and connections made smoothly all the way to Montauk. The SFCC is a series of new morning eastbound and afternoon westbound trains using connecting buses to deliver passengers to their places of employment. It is a cooperative project between the Long Island Rail Road and the towns of Southampton and East Hampton and has received state funding to provide the bus service for the “last mile” for the remainder of this year and in 2020. The fare for a round trip, including both train and bus transportation, is \$8.50.

The SFCC is a major addition to the South Fork’s transportation infrastructure. It gives employees, especially, an

option to get out of their cars, reduce their commute times, and even save money by leaving their vehicles at home avoiding the car and truck traffic of the “trade parade.” Officials have appealed to employers to allow employees some flexibility in their work schedules in order to take advantage of the new service. Reductions in carbon emissions and pollution for the community would be a side benefit. Behavior changes will be required to make the service a success and planners have pointed out that ridership will vary seasonally and according to the intensity of traffic. The extensive planning paid off for the launch. Now success is up to the public. For detailed operational information, go to sfccclirr.com.

Natural Resources Event

Recycling 101: With or Without a Carter

Who doesn’t have questions about recycling? Do cereal boxes go with corrugated cardboard or paper? What does the term “thin film plastic” include? How are comingled items separated and sold? Did you know the Town of Southampton has a complete guide to recycling? Find out what happens to your recyclables once you dispose of them, whether you take them to the transfer station yourself or have a carter collect them. Learn how you can help the recycling process become more efficient and effective, for both our environment and our economy.

Please join LWVH on April 8 at 7:00 PM at the Hampton Bays Community Center on Ponquogue Avenue. Christine Fetten, Director of the Office of Sustainability for Southampton Town, and Joe Glorioso, a member of the Sustainability Board, will discuss the recycling process in Southampton. Kathleen Kirkwood, Chair of the Sustainability Committee for the Town of Easthampton, will describe advances in green entrepreneurship and recent improvements to the recycling process there.

We hope that you will leave this event with a better under-

standing of your part in keeping our land, air and water clean.



Special Events Plans May 30 Art-Centric Tour of Springs, East Hampton

By Arlene Hinkemeyer

Save the date of Thursday, May 30, when the Special Events committee has planned a tour of historic and arts centers in Springs, home to many artists, sculptors, writers and filmmakers in East Hampton, and once the center of America's abstract expressionist movement, with the studios of both Jackson Pollock and Willem de Kooning.

The day will begin at 11:30 a.m. with lunch at the new EHIT (East Hampton Indoor Tennis) entertainment center, The Clubhouse. Then it's off to the fabulous Leiber Collection at 446 Old Stone Highway, the museum built in 2005 to house Judith Leiber's famous handbags and Gerson's Leiber's beautiful paintings, amid the grounds that contain their home and sculpture garden. The current exhibit, titled "The Marriage of Two Minds Remembered," honors the memory of this couple who died in April 2018.

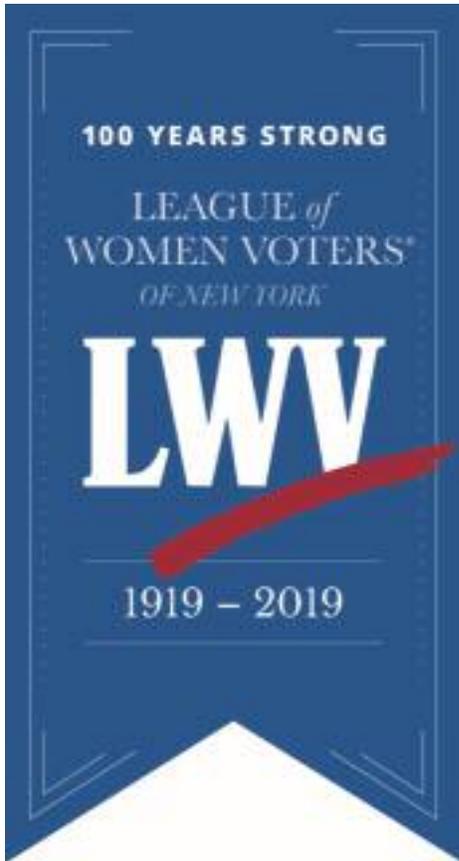
Next is a not-to-be missed guided tour by art historian and Pollock-Krasner House executive director Helen Harrison, of the famous Green River Cemetery, the final resting place of 47 artists including Jackson Pollock, Lee Krasner and Elaine de Kooning, and a talk by East Hampton's entertaining historian Hugh King, of the Springs Historic District.

Additional stops include a tour by Board member Zachary Cohen, of the Duck Creek Farm Historic Site and the John Little Barn on Squaw Rd, off Three Mile Harbor Rd., now used for free summer concerts, art exhibits and Pollock-Krasner House lectures.

The Springs tour may also possibly include a refreshment stop at the Maidstone Park Beach picnic shelter and a chance to meet a representative group of Springs artists, sculptors, writers and filmmakers. Information on cost, RSVPs, a tour schedule and map will be forthcoming.



A Judith Leiber purse from the Leiber Collection.



LWV 100th Anniversary Dates to Remember As We Approach These Anniversaries

**November 19, 2019:
100th Anniversary of the League of Women Voters
of New York State.**

The NYS League of Women Voters was formed when, at the 51st convention of the New York State Woman Suffrage Party, the delegates resolved on November 19, 1919, to change their name to the New York State League of Women Voters. The first chair was Narcissa Cox Vanderlip.

**February 14, 2020:
100th Anniversary of the National League of
Women Voters.**

The National League of Women Voters was founded by Carrie Chapman Catt on February 14, 1920 during the convention of the National American Woman Suffrage Association, which took place in Chicago. The convention was held just six months before the 19th amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified in August, giving women the right to vote nationwide after a 72-year struggle. Maud Wood Park was elected the first president of the League.



The photo, taken in 1920, of the first Board of the National League of Women Voters

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Time to renew your membership

A Note from Co-President Estelle Gellman

We want to remind our members that it is that time again—time for our early bird dues renewal request. You will be getting your renewal notice later in April, and we urge you to respond with a check while this appeal is fresh in your minds. As you know, our ability to accomplish our goals depends not only on the involvement of members in League activities, but also on their monetary contributions – a timely response saves us both the time and money involved in repeated reminder letters.

In this contentious political climate when many of the important voting issues we support are under attack, we need your assistance to keep our voices heard.

Membership Application



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

Please join us by mailing this application form and a check payable to LWVH to:
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Suffolk County Voter

April 2019

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LWVSC Board Meeting: Wednesday April 17, Riverhead Library 10am-12noon

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35 western Suffolk students participate in LWVSC's 5th Student Day at the Suffolk County Legislature in Hauppauge on March 12, 2019

Representatives from Brentwood, Harborfields, Hauppauge, Kings Park and Smithtown High School West learned from Legislators Colarco, Cilmi, Berland, Donnelly and Kennedy about their work. A Suffolk County Police lieutenant spoke about school safety and the students caucused and then held a mock Legislative meeting to debate and vote on a hypothetical resolution on whether armed police officers should be provided to all schools in the county. A similar program is planned in Riverhead on April 11 for students in eastern Suffolk.

LWVSC monthly column in TimesBeaconRecord newspapers on early voting funding advocacy

LWVSC and our local Leagues continued our civic advocacy for early voting funding by lobbying and using local media. March 14's six TBR editions featured our column titled *Making Democracy Work: Ensure Easier Voting in November*.

As the issue was on press, it appeared that our efforts in lobbying the NYS Senate and Assembly were effective- both houses of the NYS Legislature included early voting funding in their budget amendments. However since Governor Cuomo did not include the funding in his budget and subsequent executive amendments, it is left to negotiations among Governor Cuomo, acting Senate President Andrea Stewart-Cousins and Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie to hash out competing budget proposals and needs before the budget deadline of April 1.

Other News:

Our annual LWVSC meeting with the Suffolk County Board of Elections may be delayed this spring as a result of the funding details/delay and changes to the election calendar both for the single primary (to be held in June rather than September) and poll locations and hours of early voting in late October/early November. Electronic poll books are essential for the process to run smoothly.

LWVSC's 2019 Directory of Public Officials is scheduled to be off-press in late March.



Mary McLaughlin
(1933-2019)

Mary was a board member and Legislative Director of the League of Women Voters of Suffolk County for the past ten years. In 2012 she received LWVSC's prestigious Liberty Award in recognition of her work fostering more transparency in Suffolk County government. She was an expert in all things related to the county legislature, and served with dedication; observing, speaking, mentoring, teaching, reporting and sharing her passion for good, responsive, open government with elected officials and the public. As a member of LWV Huntington for many years, Mary was a board member, treasurer and chaired the nominating committee.

LWVSC encourages more local League members to honor and continue Mary's passion by observing and reporting on the Suffolk County Legislature. A memorial service will be held at 10am St. John's Episcopal Church in Huntington on Monday April 22.

Two Councilmen Interviewed

By Barbara McClancy, Anne Marshall

On March 12th the Voter Services Committee of the LWVH sponsored a Public Information Meeting (PIM) at the Hamptons Library in Bridgehampton featuring David Lys and Tommy John Schiavoni, the two newest Town Councilmen from East Hampton and Southampton, respectively. Both panelists are new to elective politics but both have histories in governmental participation. They comprised a panel of two for an informal discussion of their positions at Town Hall.

Mr. Schiavoni, a native of Sag Harbor and a Pierson High School graduate, had been a long time Social Studies teacher at Center Moriches High School. Before being elected to the Town Council in 2017, he was on the Sag Harbor Board of Education and served as a member of the Southampton Zoning Board where he continues as liaison to the Town Council. He works with the Southampton Comptroller's Office, the Hampton Bays Water District, the Highway Department, transportation, public safety and the Arts and Cultural Council. He voiced a strong need to remain vigilant about our water quality, both fresh

and salt and agricultural preserves and easements. At the same time, he is concerned with the amount of traffic impacting our towns.

David Lys graduated from East Hampton High School and owns two businesses in East Hampton. He served as a member of the East Hampton Zoning Board and helped found CFar (Citizens for Access Rights), a grassroots organization to keep the ocean beaches accessible to local vehicle operators and helped fund and restore the Amagansett Life Saving Station on Atlantic Avenue, (which is close to being listed on the National Register of Historic Buildings).

He was appointed to the Town Board in 2017 to complete then Councilman Peter Van Scoyoc's term when he was elected Supervisor. He has since been elected in his own right to complete that term.

Both Councilmen have strong ties to the community and liaise to personally relevant Community Advisory Committees. Both remained concerned and focused on the need to provide affordable housing for current and future generations.



Councilmen Tommy John Schiavoni (left) and David Lys with (from left to right) Voter Services co-chairs, Barbara McClancy and Anne Marshall, and co-President Estelle Gellman .

Recent Events



More than 20 members attended the League's annual Beat the Winter Blahs Luncheon, held at Bobby Van's in Bridgehampton on February 7. Special Events committee co-chairs Ginny Poveromo and Joanne Samborn, standing center and right, organized the event. Enjoying the camaraderie were, seated left to right, Valerie King, Judy Samuelson and Mary Blake.



Beverly Lepine, Ann Sandford, Mary O'Brien, Joan Hughes, Margaret Stevenson and Julia Kayser (left to right) were among the other happy guests at the luncheon.



On January 31, approximately 20 LWWH members attended the annual Program Planning meeting at Southampton's Rogers Memorial Library.

Highlights of March 6, 2019 Board of Director's Meeting

Presidents' Report:

- The 2019 LWV-NYS Convention is scheduled for June 7-9. Those interested in going are Cathy, Eva, Barbara, Susan, Estelle and Teresa. Four representatives will have voting credentials.
- LWV Smithtown held a lunch on February 26 in honor of the upcoming 100th anniversary of suffrage in NYS. It was at the Bonwitt Inn and Judie Gorenstein spoke about the new voter reforms in NYS.
- We were hoping the North Fork and Shelter Island might form themselves into their own branch of the league, but it appears the interested individuals are not able to organize themselves. If there are any potential members we can interest in joining, we hope they will join the Hamptons league.
- Summer orientation and Retreat. In July there will be a new member orientation lead by Jacqui Lofaro in combination with a Board retreat to discuss co-chairs and other new ideas.

Discussion Items:

- The Nominating Committee report was submitted by Arlene. The Nominating Committee consisted of Afton DiSunno (chair), Ann Sanford, Arlene Hinkemeyer, Julia Kayser and Judy Samuelson. Nominated for the 2019-2021 term: Estelle Gellman, Co-President; Susan Wilson, Co-President; Arlene Hinkemeyer, Barbara McClancy, Vice Presidents; Joanne McEvoy-Samborn, Ginny Poveromo, Vicki Umans, Terese Wildrick, Elected Directors, Anne Marshall, Nominating Committee Chair; Afton DiSunno, Ann Sandford, Nominating Committee Members. Appointed Directors to serve one-year terms at the discretion of the Board: Mary Blake, Beverly Lepine, Eva Moore, Isabel Sepulveda de Scanlon; Doreen Quaranto.
- The By-Laws have been reviewed by Judy Samuelson, Judi Roth and Ginny Poveromo. The changes were non-substantive and done for clarity. The

Non-Partisan policy was also reviewed by them and no changes were necessary.

Committee Reports:

- The Student's Day at the Suffolk County Legislature is on April 11 in Riverhead. They will be studying the topic of gun control and armed security at the schools sponsored by the SC Sheriff's office. Also, 38 students at Southampton High School will be meeting with and familiarizing themselves with their local officials.
- Electronics sent out 8 Constant Contacts and reached 53 via Facebook this month.
- Membership. Will have their first mailing in late April. We had one new member so far this year. Update, 3 of last year's new members were asked to become appointed directors for one year terms. They are Doreen Quaranto, Beverly Lepine and Isabel Sepulveda de Scanlon. Others have already joined committees. Vicki and Barbara would like to see more members attending BoD's meetings. They are always welcome. It is on the first Wednesday of the month from 2 PM X 4 PM at the BH Senior Center.
- 100th Anniversary events- LWV NYS & NYC will have a joint cocktail party on 11/19/2019 NYC to celebrate. The LWVNYS convention will celebrate the event on June 8th with a dinner and speaker. EH Village will celebrate on 9/26/20 with a parade, a fair and a tour of historic homes among other things. A fuller list of events was announced in the Feb 7th edition of the EH Star.

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