



THE VOTER

The Newsletter of the League of Woman Voters of the Hamptons, Shelter Island and the North Fork

Founded in 1977

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April/May 2022

Running and Winning Workshop Inspires Future Women Voters



By Dale Grant

Running and Winning, is an event held every year (barring COVID restrictions) by the League of Women Voters of the Hamptons, Shelter Island and the North Fork for high school girls in the 11th and 12th grades to learn about voter registration and to hear from women who have been elected to public office.

This year the event was held on April 7 at Stony Brook Southampton College. Nine of the 10 high schools in our geography sent students (along with a chaperone) and 12 members of the League attended. Hampton Coffee generously provided the food at a deep discount.

The girls who attended, approximately five from each of the nine schools represented, were seated at mixed tables upon arrival with students from other schools, and immediately they began getting acquainted with one another.

Dale Grant, Chair of the Youth Committee, opened the session and introduced the theme of this year's session --- reaching out to engage and register an

What's Inside

Voter Services Committee Debate Season outlook	2
President's Message In English and Spanish	3
Government and Voter Services Committee Report All about New York State Concurrences	6
Suffolk County Voter	7
In Her Own Words Farewell to two Board members	13
Membership Form	13
Highlights of April Board of Directors Meeting	14

ethnically diverse set of potential voters. Susan Wilson, President, spoke next about the structure of the League and its commitment to expanding the vote. She noted that this event was introduced to regular activities to potentially inspire more young women to run for elected office. Each of the public officials then spoke about their careers, what led them to seek office and what life was like once elected. Afterwards they sat at individual tables and answered additional questions. Those attending: Gina Arresta, Southampton Village Trustee
Robin Brown, Southampton Village Trustee
Jill Doherty, Southold Town Deputy Supervisor
Liz Gillooly, Southold Town Trustee
Barbara Jean Ianfolla, Shelter Island Town Council
Cynthia McNamara, Southampton Town Council
Maria Moore, Westhampton Beach Village Mayor
Sarah Nappa, Southold Town Council
Mary Bess Phillips, Greenport Village Trustee
Dianne Skilbred, North Haven Village Deputy Mayor, Ann Welker, Southampton Town Trustee.

(Continued on page 4)



The League of Woman Voters of the Hamptons, Shelter Island and the North Fork

Mission Statement

The League of Women Voters of the Hamptons, Shelter Island and the North Fork 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, Shelter Island and the North Fork, 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, Shelter Island and the North Fork recognizes that diverse perspectives are important and necessary for responsible and representative decision-making. The League of Women Voters of the Hamptons, Shelter Island and the North Fork 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, Shelter Island and the North Fork 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, Shelter Island and the North Fork, P. O. Box 2253, East Hampton, NY 11937.

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Voter Services Committee Report

Debate Season

I have had a chance to take a look at the 2022 version of the LWV Suffolk County's Directory of Public Officials. None of our geographic towns in the LWV H/SI/NF area will be having any town wide elections this year. There are only two county wide elections, County Comptroller and County Clerk.

Prominently we will have a race for US Representative in Congressional District # 1. Our current Representative, Lee Zeldin, has chosen to run for Governor in 2022 so the race is wide open. Thus far there appears to be a primary contest for the Democratic candidacy with at least three candidates throwing their hats in the ring for a primary. These are SC Legislator Bridget Fleming, SC Legislator Kara Hahn, who has just been redistricted into CD#1, and Jackie Gordon, the former Babylon Town Councilperson. It remains to be seen if we will garner enough candidates for a Republican primary. Nicholas LaLota has been endorsed by the GOP to run for this office and Anthony Figiolo, the former Brookhaven Town Deputy Supervisor and Robert Cornicelli have announced their intention to run.

Two NYS legislative elections are scheduled to be run. NYS Assembly District #1 is currently held by Fred Thiele and Senate District #1 with incumbent Anthony Palumbo are both facing re-election this year.

The Voter Services Committee will certainly keep its eye on these races and consider the practicability and importance of them when we consider holding primary debates in June and debates between candidates for office in November.

Barbara McClancy
VP, Voter Services Committee

A note from the editor

LWVH/SI/NF's president Susan Wilson has announced goals that our League proposes to pursue this year. One of these goals is to increase voter registration and interest in the League among diverse groups in our community. In the spirit of this goal, her message appears in both English and Spanish.



President's Message

This issue of the Voter is a celebration of the League in action. We have lots to celebrate.

- We celebrate the success of the Youth Committee's Running and Winning event. A diverse group of students, educators, volunteers and elected female officials gathered, shared ideas and experiences and learned how to take action. The students developed individual plans of action to get others to register to vote in their schools. The enthusiasm and commitment to carry out the plans was inspiring. We celebrate the students who registered to vote at this event & and those who became members of LWVH/SI/NF! We look forward to seeing many students at our Voter Registration Tabling events this summer and fall.
- We celebrate the efforts of the Voter Services and Government Committees is hold an educational Zoom event that helped members come to concurrence on two studies provided by the New York State League: Voting Rights for the Incarcerated and Reform of the Administration of the Board of Elections at the state and local levels.
- We are committed to celebrate Earth Day every day and continue to work with Drawdown East End to help fine tune the website for Carbon CREW and bring the CREW project to all local league members.
- We celebrate the opportunity to meet in person. Thanks to the efforts of Nanette Lawrenson, Executive Director of the Shelter Island Historical Society and Shelter Island league members Lois Morris, Cathy Kenny and Valerie Levenstein we will be hosting this year's Annual Meeting at the beautiful Havens House built in 1743. Now on the State and National Registries of Historic Places, the museum features rotating exhibits and captures the Shelter Island way of life from a by-gone era. We hope you will be able to join us on May 15, 2022 at 2 pm to enjoy a tour of the facilities, a talk by Ms. Lawrenson and light refreshments. We will arrange carpooling for the ferry. Parking at the facility is limited so please RVSP quickly.
- We celebrate the opportunity to attend the National League of Women Voters Convention in person in Denver or via Zoom on June 23-26th.
- We celebrate new citizens sworn in during the annual ceremony in Islip in May, and giving them an opportunity to register to vote in November.

Spring is indeed a time of growth and expansion; we feel it in the air. We seem to have that extra energy and focus to get physically active, take action, and create change. Let's take inspiration from the Running & Winning students and carry that feeling forward.


Susan Wilson



Mensaje del presidente

Esta edición de "Voter" (Votante) es una celebración de la Liga en acción. Tenemos mucho que celebrar.

- Celebramos el éxito del evento "Running & Winning" del Comité de Jóvenes. Un grupo diverso de estudiantes, educadoras, voluntarias y funcionarias electas que se reunieron, compartieron ideas, experiencias y aprendieron a como tomar acción en nuestra sociedad. Las estudiantes desarrollaron planes de acción individuales para lograr que otros se registraran para votar en sus escuelas. El entusiasmo y compromiso para llevar a cabo los planes fue inspirador. ¡Celebramos a las estudiantes que se registraron para votar en este evento y a los que se convirtieron en miembros de LWVH/SI/NF! Esperamos ver a muchos estudiantes en nuestros eventos de mesas de registro de votantes este verano y otoño.
- Celebramos los esfuerzos de los Comités de Servicios al Votante y Gobierno por llevar a cabo un evento educativo via Zoom que ayudó a los miembros a coincidir en dos estudios proporcionados por la Liga del Estado de Nueva York: Derechos de voto para los encarcelados y Reforma de la administración de la Junta Electoral a nivel estatal y local.
- Estamos comprometidos a celebrar el Día de la Tierra todos los días y seguir trabajando con Drawdown East End para ayudar a mejorar el sitio web de Carbon CREW y llevar el proyecto CREW a todos los miembros de la Liga local.
- Celebramos la oportunidad de conocernos en persona. Gracias a los esfuerzos de Nanette Lawrenson, Directora Ejecutiva de la Sociedad Histórica de Shelter Island y los miembros de la Liga de Shelter Island, Lois Morris, Cathy Kenny y Valerie Levenstein, quienes serán las anfitrionas de la Reunión Anual de este año en la hermosa Havens House construida en 1743. Ahora es parte de los Registros Nacionales de Lugares Históricos, el museo presenta exhibiciones rotativas y captura el estilo de vida de Shelter Island de una era pasada. Esperamos que pueda unirse a nosotros el 15 de mayo de 2022 a las 2 pm para disfrutar de un recorrido por las instalaciones, una charla de la Sra. Lawrenson y refrigerios. Organizaremos el viaje compartiendo el transporte para cruzar en el ferry. El estacionamiento en las instalaciones es limitado, así que RVSP rápidamente.
- Celebramos la oportunidad de asistir a la Convención de la Liga Nacional de Mujeres Votantes en persona en Denver o a través de Zoom del 23 al 26 de junio.
- Celebramos el juramento de los nuevos ciudadanos durante la ceremonia anual en Islip en mayo y les damos la oportunidad de registrarse para votar en noviembre.

La primavera es de hecho una época de crecimiento y expansión; lo sentimos en el aire. Parece que tenemos esa energía y enfoque adicionales para hacer actividad física, actuar y generar cambios. Inspirémonos en los estudiantes de "Running & Winning" y llevemos ese sentimiento adelante.

Translation by Isabel Sepulveda Scanlon

Running and Winning

(Continued from page 1)

Kathleen Mulcahy introduced the keynote speaker Minerva Perez, the Executive Director of Organization Latino-Americana. Ms. Perez spoke about her own experiences and why it is important to reach a more diverse population.

Most of the girls attending were under 18, the legal age for voting, but were over 16, the legal age to preregister to vote in New York. The Voter Services Chair Barbara McClancy led the girls through an exercise in filling out voter registration forms so that they could be active in registration efforts at home and at school.

For the final activity, each table was asked to create a message and make a poster that would reach and engage a more diverse group of potential voters in their schools and communities. The activity was taken very seriously by each group, and there were deep conversations in coming up with a plan. Each table then presented before the full audience, one at a time, ideas that were refreshing and new and which reflected their expertise with the broad range of social media platforms now available. They also emphasized the importance of multilingual messaging.

The feedback forms completed after the presentations showed that the theme of diversity clearly got

across. In answering the question of why it is important for women to run for office, several mentioned bringing in diverse perspectives and having more diverse representation. And to the question asking how to reach diverse elements of your community, most mentioned working with other groups and through schools themselves. Several of the girls filled out forms to join the League or provided contact information to be kept up to date on future events.

Arlene Hinkemeyer, who spearheads public relations for the chapter, invited several newspapers to the event--The East Hampton Star, the Express News Group and the Shelter Island Reporter/ Suffolk Times--all of whom wrote glowing articles. The best feedback of the event came when we saw each of the girls at one table take a piece of their poster so that they could remember the day. Feedback from the school principals after the event was extremely positive. Christopher Richardt, Principal of Hampton Bays High School---wrote "thank you for giving the girls this opportunity". Brittany Carriero from Sag Harbor said --- "now looking forward to registration drives".



Nancy Walter-Yvertes and Anne Marshall, seated left, checked in the students and women elected officials. Here, along with Kathleen Mulcahy, Youth Committee Chair Dale Grant and President Susan Wilson, they welcomed Southampton Village Trustee Robin Brown.



Approximately 45 11th and 12th grade girls from nine East End high schools attended this year's "Running & Winning" program, seated at nine tables, each with a mixture of girls from different schools.

Youth Committee Report



The girls at Table 7 meet each other.



Keynote speaker Minerva Perez, executive director of OLA, spoke about her career path, the work of OLA with Hispanic residents in all five East End towns, and encouraged the girls to use their voice and their vote. She gifted each girl with an OLA pen and collected their responses to the questions, what injustice would you like to see eradicated, and what is one right that you don't want to lose.

Below: After lunch, the students presented their plans for conducting a voter registration drive at their schools and how they would reach out to diverse residents of their community. Here, the girls at Table 6 emphasized the use of social media (left) and those Table 9 (right) suggested forming a Vote Club.



Each elected official spoke about her position and her path to public office, inspiring the students to consider running for office someday. Here, Southampton Town Trustee Ann Welker (left) and Greenport Trustee Mary Bess Phillips (right), who had served on many boards before entering politics. After their individual talks, the officials were interviewed by the girls at the tables



Discussing State Concurrences

The LWV H/SI/NF participated in the LWV New York State Concurrences on April 11, 2022. Overseen by the Voter Services and Government Committees, we had 15 members join the Zoom program to explore two issues.

The first was a State Proposed Positions monitored by Barbara McClancy and presented by Estelle Gellman, Cathy Peacock and Susan Wilson. This concerned the structure of the Election Administration in NY State. Currently, New York is the only state in the union that has an Election Board controlled by the two major political parties, Democrat and Republican. There is no formal control by elected officials or by direct vote. It is an autonomous body with no formal oversight. In the other US states, some Board leadership is either directly elected or appointed by an elected official. There are three propositions broken down into state and local boards and the combination of both. The propositions are intended for use as a position to conduct advocacy to remove the partisan control of the Boards of Election and to encourage a more non-partisan approach to hiring and training personnel on these boards. They were created to try and encourage non-partisan hiring, coordinated training, and set terms of office.

After the presentation we opened the meeting to questions and comments. In the opinion of our membership the state position does not do enough to ensure impartiality by hiring a single Chief of Elections for the state board.

Since we are bound by the NY State rules, we could not offer any changes in wording to the questions. They are all straight up or down votes. In the end, we were less enthused by the State Election Administration but liked the flow through to the local league boards and the apportionment of state and local roles. Thus, on the questions asked, we don't support the first question, "Do you have member agreement with the State Election Administration position statement?" We do support the next two related questions, "Do you have member agreement on the local administration position and do you agree on the suggested roles between the state and local boards?"

Our second, and final, concurrence was a much less complicated question. "Do you support extending the right to vote to all currently incarcerated individuals?" Cathy Kenny presented the proposal position explaining some of the history of voting rights and the fact that, by definition, an incarcerated individual is a convicted felon currently in a prison. In the end, with some opposition, this position was approved. It is now up to the state to study each League's responses and issue its official positions to be followed by all local Leagues.

These concurrences take work but, in the end, they give the membership and the committees an incentive to study an issue and make knowledgeable decisions on a variety of topics.

—*Barbara McClancy*



Fifteen of our League members participated: 1st row: Estelle Gellman, Arlene Hinkemeyer, Cathy Kenny, Barbara McClancy. 2nd row: Susan Wilson, Terry Wildrick, Glorian Berk; Vicki Umans, Anne Marshall. 3rd row: Judy Samuelson, Ann Sandford, Lois Morris. Not shown: Ursula Lynch and Eileen Mercer who, logged in after the photo was taken.



Suffolk County Voter

<https://my.lwv.org/new-york/suffolk-county> Box 1440, Stony Brook, NY 11790-1440 631 862-6860

March 2022

LWVSC Board Meeting: Wednesday March 16 at 9:30am via Zoom

Making Democracy Work: Building Farmworkers' Rights

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During the pandemic, when we were reminded that farmworkers were working hard to provide food for the rest of us, farmworkers in Suffolk were working for long hours with no break, on farms where they had no running water or toilets, could not take time off to care for their children or family members who had covid, were often not eligible for overtime and were often undernourished. Although they could be considered “essential workers” they had few resources. The people who work on our farms have long been at the bottom of the food chain.

The first legislation that was passed was President Roosevelt’s National Labor Relations Act in 1935. It gave laborers the right to strike for better conditions, but it did not cover agricultural workers or anyone in domestic service.

Recently, there has been new legislation to increase their rights, but it is not always effective because it may not be enforced. Also, many workers do not know what their rights are or fear that they will lose their jobs if they protest.

In California, because of the efforts by Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta and the United Farm Workers, formed in 1971, the state passed the landmark Agricultural Labor Relations Act in 1975, giving farmworkers in California the right to unionize and negotiate for better wages and working conditions.

In 2019, New York State passed the Farm Laborers Fair Labor Practices Act, even though it was opposed by the New York State Farm Bureau. The bill sponsor, Senator Jessica Ramos, said, “The Farmworkers Fair Labor Practices Act has lingered in this body for twenty years, with seven sponsors on both sides of the aisle. I have traveled to seven counties in New York, visited fourteen farms, talked to countless farmworkers, and held three hearings on this bill. There are 80-100,000 farmworkers that are the backbone of New York’s multi-billion-dollar agricultural industry.” The bill gave farmworkers the right to organize, and the right to bargain collectively but it did not give them the right to strike. The law also required farmers to provide Disability and Workers Compensation coverage, paid family leave, a day off each week, and overtime pay after sixty hours. (The current New York State budget may include help to farmers to pay the overtime pay.) The effectiveness of the law will depend on how much it is publicized.

This year, the first step toward unionization under the new law took place at the Pindar Vineyards in Peconic. The New York State Public Employment Relations Board officially certified Local 388, the union established by Pindar workers with the help of Angel Reyes Rivas, the Long Island Coordinator for the Rural and Migrant Ministry. Located in upstate New York, with an office in Riverhead, the Ministry is a statewide nonprofit organization that works with rural disenfranchised communities, helping them develop their own leadership.

A group of workers on the East End has found a way through collective action to earn enough money to buy their own land. Last year, they formed the Long Island Farmworker Flower Cooperative with the help of organizers from the Rural and Migrant Ministry. Through the cooperative they support one another and can meet their economic and cultural needs through a jointly owned and democratically controlled enterprise. By learning agricultural management, including sales, finance, and accounting, and pooling their resources, they can become producers, buying land and greenhouses for their own flower production. They hope to be independent and be an example for other immigrant communities. To support their efforts, visit the Amandla Long Island Worker Education Center, 573 Roanoke Avenue, Riverhead, NY 11901 (631-381-0498) or contact RuralMigrantMinistry.com. Read Mark A. Torres' *Long Island Migrant Labor Camps: Dust for Blood*, published in 2021.

by Nancy Marr

printed in TimesBeaconRecord newspapers, also available online

The League of Women Voters of the Hamptons, Shelter Island, and the North Fork NEEDS YOU!

WORKING FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS SINCE 1977
HELP US FIGHT TO PRESERVE AMERICAN DEMOCRACY



Members of the League, dressed as suffragists for East Hampton's 100th celebration parade in September 2021, received an award for their participation.

In Their Own Words

It is with heavy heart that LWVH/SI/NF announces the resignations of two dedicated members of our Board of Directors, Judy Samuelson, most lately our Webmaster, and Vicki Umans, Chair of the Membership Committee.

We asked Judy and Vicki to share their experiences as League members and their service on the Board.

Judith W. Samuelson

Background: career in marketing communications. Married, two sons, five grandchildren.

With roots in Amagansett since 1960, I have followed a family tradition of community involvement and volunteerism. I joined the League of Women Voters of the Hamptons (now LWVH/SI/NF) in 2003, and the Board of Directors shortly thereafter. I've had the honor of being Communications Secretary as well as a Co-President of the League.

Over the years, I've chaired or served on the Health, Membership, Education, Government and Voter Services committees. In 2012, I set up our first website, and was webmaster until 2022. I put us on Facebook

and assumed responsibility for Constant Contact when Carol Mellor resigned. I edited the Voter for the years between Maura Lester and the gifted Eva Moore. Each activity has brought me rich rewards in terms of projects accomplished and new friends made. Why did I join the League? As a new fulltime resident, I was lonely and sought to meet smart, lively, community-minded people. The League more than fulfilled my hopes. I cherish the friendships I've made and feel I couldn't have chosen a better place to make a contribution. Although I have resigned from the LWVHSINF Board of Directors, I certainly intend to remain active as a member.

Vicki Umans

Originally from Los Angeles, I was attracted to the energy of New York City after visiting there when I was very young. After attending Cal State at Northridge, I moved to the city and found a job at the storied Time, Inc. in the marketing division. During my long career there, I worked on lots of direct mail, commercials, budgets, and marketing plans for the

(Continued on page 14)

NOT A MEMBER? JOIN OR DONATE NOW

Membership Dues /_ / \$60 Individual /_ / \$90 Household /_ / No Charge Full-time Student /_ / \$___ Donation

Dues Year is June 1 through May 31.

Questions? Call us at 631-324-4637. Send this form and payment option (with check or credit card information) to League of Women Voters, P.O. Box 2253, East Hampton, NY 11937. Make checks payable to LWVH.

Individual Member's Name _____

Additional Household Member's Name _____

Mailing Address: Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

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Credit Card # _____ Exp Date _____ CVC # _____ Zip _____

You can also join or donate on our website LWVHSINF.org

(Continued from page 13)

In Their Own Words

company's publications Life (the old and the new), Time and Money magazines. I'm so glad to have been there when their reputation was stellar and there was plenty of money to back good journalism (as well as some extravagant perks).

After I retired in January 2000, my husband and I bought a house in Springs, thinking of spending extended summers here. Within a few years we sold our city apartment, took up golf, and spent most of our time here.

In 2008, I found myself looking for new interests, hiking, yoga, volunteering.

A random conversation with long time member and supporter Arlene Makl while at one of Guild Hall's

"Naked Stage" events led me to join the League. My involvement grew over the years, and in June of 2018, I was appointed to the Board of Directors. The following year, as an elected member of the Board, I was serving on the membership committee, and the following year (2020) I became chair of the committee. I like to think I organized the membership list during my tenure and put some order to the committee. Recruiting really is not my style, but I have always enjoyed talking with the new members.

I hope to see the committee flourish under new leadership, and in time find new ways to contribute to the League's important work. Starting now, I'm going to enjoy my summer.

Highlights of April 6th Board of Directors Meeting

President's Report: A NYS Regional Training Workshop was held on April 2 in Scarsdale. Both the Program Planning and Diversity workshops received accolades from attendees. An in-depth discussion of social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram) will take place at the June meeting.

Items for discussion: An email was received from the NYS League about an upcoming online environmental event open to all titled "Tackling NY's Climate Emergency."

LWVUS National Convention will take place in Denver, CO June 23-26. President Sue Wilson hopes to attend. Arlene hopes to attend virtually.

The Voter: Eva received a request from the state league to submit pdfs of our issues. She sent the last two and will continue to submit pdfs of each issue.

Committee Reports:

Voter Services: Barbara McClancy noted that preliminary meetings on possible debates for primaries (6/28) and general election (Nov 8) are under discussion. An unofficial list expected shortly.

Early voting has expanded to 26 sites countywide.

Still no site for Shelter Island.

Naturalization ceremonies will take place in the Federal Courthouse in Islip over 4 consecutive Fridays, 9 AM-1 PM, with two ceremonies each day. Volunteers from LWVH/SI/NF will be on hand to register the new citizen voters.

Publicity: Arlene Hinkemeyer attended the March 6th LWVUS Zoom on survey results. The National League wants to collect data to strengthen operational capacity and data collection. She will participate in an April 14th Zoom session entitled "What Data You Should be Collecting."

She mentioned that half of local Leagues are getting younger members. Pertinent questions for discussion include: Are we diverse? Who are we reaching out to? What are our issues? What is our structure?

Note: All interested persons, members or non-members are welcome to attend Zoom meetings of the Board of Directors. Please contact Susan Wilson at hamptonssw@gmail.com.

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