



THE VOTER

The Newsletter of the League of Women Voters of the Hamptons
Founded in 1977 Volume XXXIX, No. 13

December/January 2019-20

“Running and Winning 2019” a Winner!



Thirty-five junior and senior high school girls got a head start in public service from local women elected officials in a lively forum at the Watermill Community Center on November 14th. Read all about it on pages 4-5.

Sometimes you have the feeling that you may be smiling from ear to ear – that is how I felt when I looked out at the audience listening to Mayor Kathy Mulcahy talking about how her professional and life experience prepared her for the job of mayor of Sag Harbor.

The 35+ junior and senior high school girls, the League committee members, the teachers and other elected officials were all paying rapt attention – I could see it in their eyes and faces. Mayor Mulcahy had told us that during her campaign and after she won, the naysayers were out in force. “She has no political experience! What does she know about governing?” She told us that at first she was daunted but then realized that her years of working as an advertising executive, a retail manager and a real estate agent had given her all the preparation one would need to know : how to help both sides become winners, how to manage budgets, how to listen to constituents. This

((continued on page 4))

What’s Inside

- Co-President’s Message2
- Party time: Celebrating New York State’s 100th year3
- Education Committee
“Running and Winning” Program for high school students.....4-5
- Voter Services Report
Pre-election debates6-7
- Suffolk County Voter15
- Meet New Members16
- Membership17
- Highlights of the Board of Directors’
September meeting18
- Board of Directors Officers19



You’re invited!

December 11
LWVH annual Holiday Party and Silent Auction.
5- 7 PM
“The Parlors” Bridgehampton Presbyterian Church
2429 Montauk Highway , Bridgehampton

Looking ahead:
February Winter Blahs luncheon
with fashion show
Place and date to be announced



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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Co-President's Message



Early Voting in New York became a reality this year.

For the first time in the state's history voters were able to go to the polls and cast their votes in the general election as early as October 26th --nine days prior to Election Day November 5th.

The change is expected to reduce waiting lines and make it more convenient for voters to vote. The New York State League of Women Voters conducted a random survey across the state to get the reaction of those who took advantage of early voting. We look forward to sharing the results as soon as they are released.

Committee projects

Over the past several months LWVH has worked hard to revitalize the Natural Resources Committee and we are pleased to report that we now have a small core group that is committed to work on the key environmental issues that impact our quality of life in Southampton and East Hampton towns. Among the topics being considered for study and community education this year are tree sequestering and composting. If any of these issues are of interest to you, we invite you to join the Natural Resources Committee. Watch for dates and times of committee meetings by way of Constant Contact or send me or Estelle Gellman your email address and let us know you want to get involved.

Celebrations and more celebrations

On November 18, 2019 the New York State League of Women Voters celebrated its 100th birthday and locally LWVH celebrated with specially decorated cupcakes, bubbly, and an informative power point presentation tracing the League's history.

The National League, LWVUS, will be 100 years old on February 14, 2020. The 19th Amendment giving women the vote was officially added to the U.S. Constitution on August 26, 1920. We have a lot to celebrate! And in celebration of the League's birthday, please consider making a donation/gift to LWVH.

Checks may be made out to either the League of Women Voters of the Hamptons or, if you wish your gift to be tax deductible, as permitted by law, to the New York State League of Women Voters Education Fund. In either case, your donation will help us continue to make democracy work for everyone and to reach the goals of our sister suffragists.

Susan Wilson

Nearly 50 Attend LWVH's 100th Anniversary Celebration of LWVNYS

By Arlene Hinkemeyer

It was a dark and rainy night, but nearly 50 League members and friends gathered at the Bridgehampton library a day early on November 18 to celebrate the LWVNYS 100th anniversary on November 19. Our League's 100th anniversary committee announced plans for 2020, when we'll be celebrating the 100th anniversary of LWVUS in February, and the 100th anniversary of the ratification of 19th Amendment in

August. Committee members then gave a Power-Point presentation on League accomplishments through the decades, based on the LWVNYS history, "A Force to Reckon With: A Centennial History of LWVNYS," just published in June. After a toast, shared by Leagues throughout the state, guests enjoyed special LWV cupcakes ordered by Cathy Peacock.



Presenting the program was our 100th anniversary celebratory committee, composed of, left to right, Judi Roth, Estelle Gellman, Barbara McClancy, Arlene Hinkemeyer (chair), Martha Potter, Cathy Peacock and Susan Wilson.



All raised their glasses in a toast to the 400 women gathered in Utica at the NYS Woman Suffrage Party's 51st convention on November 19, 1919, who voted to change their name to form the NYS League of Women Voters.

Running and Winning 2019

by Judi Roth

continued from page 1

...was a wonderful message for the young women to hear, and they heard it not only from Mayor Mulcahy but from Judges. Deborah Kooperstein and Andrea Schiavoni, Councilwoman Kathee Burke-Gonzalez, Mayor Maria Moore, Village Trustees Kimberly Allan and Lee Foster, and Town Clerk Sundy Schermeyer.

Running and Winning 2019 was a grand success. Students attended from the high schools of Bridgehampton, East Hampton, Pierson/Sag Harbor, Shelter Island, Southampton and Westhampton Beach. They were lively and bright, and when it was time for them to get to work on their posters and ideas for how they would go back to their schools and register the newly eligible 16-year-olds in January, the crayon markers came out and the ideas were flying. Here is just a sampling of what they propose:

- Plan an information assembly and have it announced on the school loudspeaker in advance
- Have history teachers talk about voting before the registration event takes place
- Create a “task force” to work on the details of the registration event
- Put up red, white and blue balloons around tables in the cafeteria the day of the registration event
- Give out stickers that say “I registered”.
- Put posters up around the school saying why it is important to vote
- Show how easy it is to register – alert students that they need the last 4 numbers of their social security number or their driver’s license with them.
- Serve bagels!

“Running and Winning 2019” was held at the Watermill Community House and it couldn’t have been a better venue – it was cozy and noisy at the same time and we had enough room for the food, to hang coats, have people use the stage, etc. We thank the Watermill Community for donating the use of the space, Hampton Coffee for providing breakfast, Bermuda Tables for giving us a discounted price on table rental (and for delivering and picking up on time) and Southampton Youth Services for providing copies of all of our materials. We look forward to seeing coverage of this event in the East Hampton Star and the Beacon.

I would personally like to recognize every committee member who gave so much of their time and creative thought to this event. They are – in no particular order – co-chair Terri Wildrick, Anne Marshall (who guided the students on how to fill out registration forms), Martha Potter, Ursula Lynch, Nada Barry (who introduced Mayor Mulcahy), Beth Barth, Nancy Walters-Yvertes, Arlene Hinkemeyer, new members Dale Grant and Stephanie Snider and Gerri Maslanka, and the indefatigable co-president Susan Wilson. Our registration hosts were Ivy Miller and Eileen Mercer.



Students plan their campaigns.

Education Committee



Keynote speaker Sag Harbor mayor Kathy Mulcahy



LWVH VP and chair of the event, Judi Roth (left) with registration hosts Ivy Miller and Eileen Mercer.



Southampton Town Judges Deborah Kooperstein (standing) and Andrea Schiavoni (seated to her left) and two appreciative students.

Election Scrapbook October was a busy month for LWVH. Members conducted three debates that showcased the candidates for office in Southampton, East Hampton, and Suffolk County.

East Hampton



Cathy Peacock of LWVH and David Rattray, editor of the East Hampton Star, questioned the Town Supervisor candidates.



Candidates for East Hampton Town Supervisor David Gruber (left) and incumbent Peter Van Scoyoc. Mr. Van Soyoc won the election.



Candidates for Town Board (2 positions): Elizabeth Bambrick (left), Bonnie Brady, incumbents Sylvia Overby and David Lys with moderator Susan Wilson. The incumbents prevailed in the election.

Southampton



Moderator Estelle Gellman



Candidates for Town Supervisor: Incumbent Supervisor Jay Schneiderman (center) with opponents Gregory Robins (left) and Alex Gregor. Mr. Schneiderman was re-elected. *Photo courtesy of the East Hampton Star.*



Candidates for Town Board (2 positions): From left to right: Incumbents Craig Catalanotto and John Bouvier (left), Richard Martel, Charles McArde. Also on the ballot but not at the debate: Hanna Pel. Mr. Bouvier and Mr. Martel were the winners. *Photo courtesy of the East Hampton Star.*

Suffolk County Legislator



Moderator Judi Roth



Candidates Linda Cabot (left) and incumbent Bridgette Fleming
Ms Fleming retained her position.



LWVH timekeepers Teresa Wildrick and Ginny Poveromo



Ginny Poveromo with a future voter.

Expanded Hospital Care

On October 14th, LWVH members attended an informational discussion, “The Future of Health Care,” sponsored by the East Hampton Ladies’ Village Improvement Society and led by the Chief Administration Officer of Stony Brook/Southampton Hospital, Robert S. Chaloner.

Mr. Chaloner started at Southampton Hospital 13 years ago when it was a small community hospital. In the last two years he has helped merge Southampton Hospital with Stony Brook Hospital, making it the largest employer on the South Fork. The hospital is stronger and more stable today and even earned a “Best Places to

Work” recognition from Newsday.

In order to keep up with the needs of the community, plans are in the works to build a new hospital on 15 acres purchased at the Stony Brook/South Fork college campus. Also, recognizing that East Hampton is underserved, the hospital and East Hampton Town plan to erect 23,000 sq. ft. Emergency Room off Pantigo road, at a cost of \$35 million. Ten million dollars have been set aside for the project, and floor plans ready, with a target date of late 2021 or spring of 2022 for completion.

-- Beverly Lepine

NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION DAY, September 24

Volunteers were out in force all over the town to register voters and spread the word about early voting.



Doreen Quaranto at the East Hampton Healthcare Center



Eva Moore (left), Judy Samuelson and Estelle Gellman at the Montauk Post Office.



Suffolk County Voter

December 2019

www.lwv-suffolkcounty.org Box 1440, Stony Brook, NY 11790-1440 631 862-6860
LWVSC Board Meeting: Wed. Dec. 18, Riverhead Library 10:00am-12noon + informal lunch

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LWVSC annual celebration of voter service and post-election lunch was a great success

Nearly 50 LWVSC members and guests enjoyed lunch at the Cooperage Inn on Nov. 20. We “raised a glass” to celebrate LWVNY’s 100th anniversary, discuss voter service, heard from Generation Citizen’s Program Director Brooke Wallace, recognized the efforts of local League VOTE411 teams and were entertained by (former Newsday political reporter) Rick Brand.

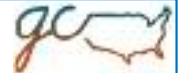


LWVSC 1st VP Nancy Marr and LWVSC President Lisa Scott with Rick Brand (on his “farewell tour”)



VOTE411 team members Peggy Olness, Maria LaMalfa (with Liberty award), Joyce Whitehead, Stephanie Quarles, Linda Devin-Sheehan (not present: Barbara McClancy, Erica West, Jean Baker, Dorothy Callahan-Harris)

GENERATION CITIZEN. DON'T TALK ABOUT CHANGE. LEAD IT.



GENERATION CITIZEN believes all students have the right to civics education that prepares them to participate in our democracy. Students learn about the political process by engaging in the political process: this is **Action Civics**.

LWV’s VOTE411 was a huge achievement for Suffolk County voters. It was a herculean effort for Barbara McClancy (Hamptons), Linda Devin-Sheehan, Peggy Olness, Jean Baker (Brookhaven), Maria LaMalfa, Dorothy Callahan-Harris (Smithtown) and Stephanie Quarles, Erica West and Joyce Whitehead (Huntington). Smithtown’s Maria LaMalfa received the LWVSC’s Liberty award in recognition of her “shining example of passion, persistence, intelligence and dedication to this project. She took a substantial role (in her first year) at coordinating, assisting, guiding the great efforts of all four local Leagues. She’s planning a “how-to” for next year to ensure a smoother, faster easier service for voters in all ten Suffolk County townships. JOIN THE VOTE411 TEAM in 2020!

The annual LWVSC Voter Service trifold was distributed at the Nov. 20 luncheon. Local League presidents were sent the pdf of the trifold, and it can be viewed on the LWVSC website: lwv-suffolkcounty.org. (cover image at right)

The trifold should be part of every local League recruitment and membership materials! We should all be proud of our tremendous voter education, candidate debates, voter registration, and voter service throughout 2019, and planning now for even more voter outreach and work in 2020.

Read Lisa Scott's latest column **Making Democracy Work: Kings Park High school students get hands-on debate training** in the Nov 22 TimesBeaconRecord newspapers on our website at <https://my.lwv.org/new-york/suffolk-county/local-media-columns> or on the TBRmedia website at <http://tbrnewsmedia.com/making-democracy-work-kings-park-high-school-students-get-hands-on-debate-training/>



Introducing two new members

Alexis Mayer



Alexis was born in New Mexico, raised in Florida and educated both in the U.S. and abroad -- earning a BA from Wilkes College in Pennsylvania, attending Monterey Peninsula College in California, and earning an MFA in Venice, Italy. Upon graduation, she settled in Manhattan, where she established her own business, representing photographers, stylists and makeup artists.

Alexis and her husband Mitch bought a house in Southampton Village 24 years ago and moved in full-time. But they spent their first 20 summers living in a trailer in Hither Hills State Park in Montauk, where Mitch, and later their son Morgan, worked as lifeguards.

Alexis has been a broker with Corcoran Real Estate, and served as a volunteer for Southampton Food Pantry, a Rotary Club board member, a Parrish Art Museum's Spring Fling steering committee member, and an officer of the Democratic Party. In her spare time, she enjoys yoga, belongs to a book club and to a group called the Kayak Goddesses. She joined the League after attending a League-sponsored candidates' debate: "I was impressed with how well it was run and the people involved."

She's now serving on our Special Events Committee.

Eileen Mercer



Eileen, the oldest of five sisters and a "first generation" American, was raised year-round in the then-isolated summer community of Bayville, Long Island.

After attending Catholic school in nearby Oyster Bay, she earned an Associates Degree at the State University at Farmingdale, specializing in advertising and secretarial work. That prepared her for a series of diverse jobs in Nassau County – as an ad agency secretary, an instrument company contracts administrator, and as an Easter Seals publicist and spokesperson.

In 1984, when her husband Kent, newly retired from the NYC Fire Department, accepted a job managing a tree farm in the Hamptons, they moved east, eventually buying a house in Southampton. Eileen worked for the Southampton Post Office while she raised their two sons, Chris and Michael. When the boys graduated from college, she left the Post Office, took part-time gardening jobs and worked summers for the Southampton Parks Department. Eileen decided to join the League in part because of her experience as a local poll worker: "It was disturbing to see how few eligible voters came out to vote." That's why it's no surprise that she is now a member of the Voter Services Committee.

--*Marsha Kranes*

You're Invited

.. to join an important effort

The League of Women Voters was created nearly 100 years ago to encourage Americans to exercise their hard-won democratic right to vote. There is a lot of work to do. Did you know that the United States is among the lowest-ranked countries in voting turnout? According to a government study in 2016 we were 26th out of 32 developed countries.

The LWVH was formed more than 40 years ago. Since then untold numbers of volunteers have organized registration drives, held public meetings to answer questions about voting, and attended community events to sign up new registrants. In order to continue this good work, we need supporters, young and old, male and female, to contribute with their dues and, if possible, volunteer a small part (or a large part) of their time to the activities we undertake each year.

Working for LWVH puts you in touch with the community and could open unexpected doors that might invigorate your life.

Won't you think about joining now?

--Vicki Umans, Membership Committee Chair

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:
League of Women Voters of the Hamptons; P.O. Box 2253; East Hampton, NY 11937

Individual Member's Name _____

Other Household Member's Name _____

Address _____

Email(s) _____ Home phone _____ Cell phone _____

Membership Dues: Full-time Student \$15 Household \$90 Individual \$60

Donations to our local league may be made payable to LWVHamptons and may be included in your dues check.
Tax-deductible donations may be made by separate check payable to: LWVNYS - Education Foundation

I am interested in:

Education Committee Membership Committee Voter Services Committee
 Government Committee Natural Resources Committee Communications
 Health Committee Special Events Committee

Questions? Call us at 631-324-4637 or email: membership@lwvhamptons.org

Highlights of the November 6, 2019 Board of Directors Meeting

Presidents' Report:

- Transition to MyLO. Fees paid. Judy S., Susan, Estelle to meet 11/12 to select content.
- Natural Resources Committee. Committee met on Oct. 18 and identified these possible topics for a PIM: Trees; Mylar balloons; uses for CPF funds; East End Environmental Coalition.

Discussion Items:

- Where to hold board meetings in 2020. We will hold Dec. meeting at senior center. Ginny volunteered to reserve Rogers library in Southampton.
- The holiday party will be December 11 at "The Parlors" at Bridgehampton Presbyterian Church. All will notify Ginny re refreshments and tasks. List of items for auction is growing nicely.

Committee Reports:

- **Education Committee** Judi Roth reported that Education is in final preparation stages of Running and Winning which is Thursday, November 14th at the Watermill Community House. On Wednesday members of the committee will meet at the center to set up tables and put materials together. Mayor Kathy Mulcahy of Sag Harbor is the featured speaker.
- **Government Committee** Ann Sandford reported that the committee's direction is to expand and develop our chosen topics (to date) that address local workforce needs: public transportation, affordable housing, Health Care System.
- Members of the committee attended the Affordable Housing panels produced by Express News. Assemblyman Thiele's legislation on the ½% transfer tax to fund affordable housing will be another topic we begin to research. The towns need to outline how they would use the funds. We will work with town officials in their development. This legislation may be on the ballot in November 2020 if Cuomo signs off.
- Navigating the Health Care Insurance System: The committee is focused on developing a PIM/panel for March 2020 where participants will describe options for a Health Care System that would be expected to improve access (address the 27-38 million uninsured Americans) and reduce costs, among other factors.
- Next meeting date: Monday, Dec. 2, 10-11:30 in the Literacy Rm., Hampton Library
- **Membership Committee** Vicki reported a total of 106 paid members for 2020, including 7 new members. We have organized a New Members party, pizza and roundtable discussion, for November 13, 4:30 to 6:30 at Joanne Samborn's home. We have 10 new members and 5-6 Membership committee members attending. Objective of gathering is to have new members meet other members, have Ambassadors

initiate discussion and answer questions about the league and our 2020 plans.

- **Publicity Committee** Arlene reported wonderful response/publicity before and after each debate and about early voting.
- **100th Anniversary Committee** We voted to hold free afternoon teas at several locations to coordinate with the Nassau/Suffolk 100th Anniversary Committee in August of 2020, rejecting costlier options of a May/June luncheon or afternoon tea honoring all 40 women elected officials together..
- **Voter Services Committee** Barbara McClancy reported on the debates and other activities:

Early Voting: It went into effect from Oct 26 through Nov 3rd for the first time in NYS. In yesterday's Newsday they reported over 17,000 early voters cast their ballot in Suffolk County. However, early voting will not be tabulated until the poles closed Tuesday evening. Overall, less than 2% of the NYS population took advantage of early voting.

VOTE411. Barbara did the Vote411 input for our four towns, EH, SH, Shelter Island and Southold and "There were about 80 candidates" and was able to publish on Oct 15 without the cooperation of many of our local politicians.

Islip Federal Court House: Naturalization ceremonies are being covered this month, Nov, 2019, by the Hampton's League. Yesterday was our first Tuesday. Traditionally, we register hundreds of new citizens enabling them to vote in the next election.

- **Special Events:** Joanne Samborn & Ginny Poveromo reported The Special Events Committee has been focusing on finding and securing a centralized location for the upcoming Holiday Party. The event will be held at "The Parlors" located at the Bridgehampton Presbyterian Church at 2429 Montauk Highway, Bridgehampton on Wednesday, December 11th. A Silent Auction is planned for that evening during the hours of the party.

The next Committee meeting will be set up to discuss and plan the Winter Blahs Luncheon to be held the first week in February, and will include a Boutique Fashion Show, with the models coming from the membership and Board.

- **Electronic Communications:** Judy reported that she and the co-presidents will meet Nov 12 about new website, and noted last month's communications: Constant Contact: Sent 8 CCs, promoting debates, agendas, County PEB. Updated contact lists. Average open rate between 44% and 50%. Facebook. There were five postings regarding debates and early voting. The posting about early voting received by far the most views : 689

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The League of Women Voters

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