



THE VOTER

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

Founded in 1977

Volume XXXIX, No. 25

February/March 2022

Back to Basics

by *Barbara McClancy, VP of Voter Services*

The LWV is an extraordinary organization. It was formed over a period of 70 years of valiant effort by early voting proponents and has existed for 102 years as an organization. Our mission is simple; to encourage and educate every citizen in the United States to vote. The education also includes the whys and wherefores of voting as well as advocacy to encourage all our citizens to avail themselves of their right to vote.

The most basic way for anyone who wants to participate in our way of government is to vote. Unfortunately, many of our citizens do not do so.

More than half of the registered voters of New York State do not vote. I have sometimes scratched my head in wonderment at the important voting opportunities that many of our citizens ignore.

One of the best ways to reach these folks is to talk to them in any way we can. The LWV has traditionally had tabling events, where we set up a table or booth at public events to talk to any member of the public, to offer voter registration, information on upcoming political races, primary races, and debates. We also offer our knowledge of where and when to vote, absentee ballots and deadlines for registering and changing parties.

We want to have as many tabling events as we can. These require man, or woman, power to attend these events as a volunteer and to commit to a set amount of time to cover these tables. The warm weather is the traditional start of the community events we like to cover. These include town and village fairs, art shows, farmers markets, parades, and craft shows. The league will supply all the material and information you'll need. Everyone new to this type of public contact will receive training and written information on how to hold these events. If you know of any event that will attract the public,

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Every volunteer receives a free T-shirt like this one worn by Loring Bolger.

please let us know. If you are willing to man these events, even better.

If you have any interest in participating or questions, please don't hesitate to call or email me.

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**The League of Woman Voters of the Hamp-
tons, 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,
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A note from the editor

LWVH/SI/NF's president Susan Wilson lists 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.



Coming Up

Members of LWVH/SI/NF are invited to attend our Zoom sessions on LWVNYS concurrences:

At our League's information session on **Monday, April 11, 2022 at 4 PM** the Voter Services and Government Committees will present background information and explain the current NYS election administration as well as issues relating to allowing incarcerated prisoners to vote in NY.

Three days later, on **Thursday, April 14, 2022 at 4 PM** we ask you to attend a concurrence meeting to voice your views on the above issues. You will be asked to respond to four questions.

- Do you agree with the State Election Administration Position Statement?
- Do you agree with the Local Election Administration Position Statement?
- Do you agree with the Local and State Board of Election Position Statement?
- Do you agree with the Proposed Position to extend the right to vote to all currently incarcerated individuals?

The results of these meetings need to be sent to the LWVNYS office by May 1, 2022.

We hope you will all participate in shaping the positions of your League of Woman Voters.

A Constant Contact email will be sent to the membership as well as Zoom links to allow all members to participate.

President's Message

The winter months with shorter days, colder weather, barren landscapes and less sunlight can bring about listlessness, lethargy and a lack of activity - the doldrums. No winter doldrums for the League! This season has been filled with activity and action.

Congratulations to the Youth Committee (formerly the Education Committee) for receiving a National League Grant to engage young women in the political process. The program, Running & Winning, will be held on April 7th.

In this issue, read about the Sustainability Committee's participation in the Drawdown Festival, the new Congressional and Legislative Districts, don't miss the Voter Services column, Back to Basics.

Program Planning

The January Program Planning Meeting was a huge success. It was well attended and filled with creative ideas, spirited discussion, energy & enthusiasm.


The assembled group came to consensus on four priorities for the coming year, programs to implement immediately and a rough plan of action for 2022.

- Partner with diverse, like-minded community organizations with overlapping goals.
- Continue to work on Voter registration events and core League values.
- Advocate for affordable housing for Southampton and East Hampton Towns.
- Work for climate change, sustainability and preservation of natural resources

New York State League Training Workshops

The New York State Regional Training Workshops program on April 2, 2022 in Scarsdale kicks off spring with an all-day event, including lunch. Workshop topics include: How to Increase Membership and Cultivate Leadership, How to Engage Youth through Civic Collaborations, A Beginner's Guide to Working with Vote 411, How to Successfully Host a Virtual Candidate Event.

If you are interested, please contact me or leave your information on the League phone: 631-324-4637 so we can arrange for you to attend.


Susan Wilson



Mensaje del presidente

Los meses de invierno con días más cortos, clima más frío, paisajes áridos y menos luz solar pueden provocar apatía, letargo y falta de actividad: el estancamiento. ¡No hay estancamiento invernal para la Liga! Esta temporada ha estado llena de actividad y acción.

Felicitaciones al Comité de Jóvenes (anteriormente el Comité de Educación) por recibir una subvención de la Liga Nacional de Mujeres Votantes por involucrar a las chicas jóvenes en el proceso político. El programa, Running & Winning, se llevará a cabo el 7 de abril.

En esta edición, lea sobre la participación del Comité de Sostenibilidad en el Festival Drawdown, los nuevos Distritos Legislativos y del Congreso, no se pierda la columna de Servicios al Votante, Back to Basics.

Planificación del programa

La reunión de planificación del programa de enero fue un gran éxito. Tuvo una buena asistencia y estuvo lleno de ideas creativas, debates animados, energía y entusiasmo.

El grupo reunido llegó a un consenso sobre cuatro prioridades para el próximo año,

programas para implementar de inmediato y un plan de acción aproximado para 2022.

1. Asociarse con organizaciones comunitarias diversas y afines con objetivos superpuestos.
2. Continuar trabajando en los eventos de registro de votantes y los valores fundamentales de la Liga.
3. Abogar por viviendas asequibles para las ciudades de Southampton y East Hampton.
4. Trabajar por el cambio climático, la sostenibilidad y la preservación de los recursos naturales

Ver el informe completo en otra sección del Votante.

Talleres de capacitación de la Liga del Estado de Nueva York

Con la primavera en el horizonte, esperamos estar más ocupados que nunca y esperamos días soleados y templados y la oportunidad de realizar algunos de nuestros eventos de la Liga en persona, incluso al aire libre.

El programa de Talleres Regionales de Capacitación del Estado de Nueva York el 2 de abril de 2022 en Scarsdale inicia la primavera con un evento de todo el día, incluido el almuerzo. Los temas del taller incluyen: Cómo aumentar la membresía y cultivar el liderazgo, Cómo involucrar a los jóvenes a través de colaboraciones cívicas, Una guía para principiantes para trabajar con Vote 411, Cómo organizar con éxito un evento virtual de candidatos.

Si está interesado, comuníquese conmigo o deje su información en el teléfono de la Liga: 631-324-4637 para que podamos coordinar su asistencia

Translation by Isabel Sepulveda Scanlon

Drawdown Festival Examines Greenhouse Gas Alternatives

by *Terese Wildrick*

Drawdown Festival 2022 provided a full weekend of informative, inspiring Zoom sessions that focused on what each of us can do to reduce carbon emissions and stop climate change. The UN has found that two-thirds of all greenhouse gas emissions result from decisions made at the household level. It will take all of us reducing our carbon emissions by half in order to bring climate change under control. Each change we make can have a ripple effect if we share it with others who will then take their own steps toward a sustainable planet.

LWVH/SI/NF contributed to the Drawdown Festival by curating the panel entitled Electrify Everything. Our gracious moderator and LWV President, Susan Wilson, reminded us of the importance of reducing carbon emissions and gave us a way to get started, joining Carbon Crew. Krae van Sickle, of the East Hampton Sustainability Committee, enumerated the ways in which we can reduce our use of fossil fuels. Lynn Arthur, an energy consultant to both East Hampton and Southampton, detailed the advantages of geot-

hermal or air source heat pumps. Steph Larsen, a clean transportation expert who has worked for Sierra Club and Solar United Neighbors, encouraged us to urge government and industry to take action on reducing carbon emissions by providing the infrastructure for electric vehicles.

The first step should be to switch to a clean energy source for our homes. If possible, photo-voltaic solar panels are the way to go. If not, you can purchase clean energy through PSEG. It costs a little more, but will benefit the planet.

Once you have made that switch, and you are ready to replace your old, inefficient oil burner or gas heating system, consider a heat pump. The technology is improving all the time, so that the cost of the equipment is comparable, and the operating costs are much less than the fossil fuel systems. You can save money while caring for the planet. For more information, visit SustainableSouthamptonNY.com.

After you are receiving electricity from a clean source, the next step is using electric appliances whenever possible. Gas ovens and ranges, gas clothes dryers, gas grills all can be replaced with electric



The opening night of the Drawdown Festival on January 21 featured two internationally-known experts on climate change—Damon Gameau (left), from the east coast of Australia, producer of the film “2040” about traveling the world in search of solutions to climate change that can be made in the next 20 years; and Paul Hawken, coiner of the word “Drawdown,” meaning the point when greenhouse gasses start going down, and author of several best sellers, such as “Regeneration,” translated into 18 languages, which tells you what to do to help reverse global warming.

Sustainability Committee Report



Drawdown East End co-founder (and LWV member) Darr Reilly and Michael Lieberman (from Southampton Town's Long Range Planning Department), introduced our LWV president Susan Wilson, who served as moderator on January 22 for the "Electrify Everything" panel discussion planned by both Susan and Terry Wildrick, our LWV Sustainability Committee chair.

appliances. An electric kettle was my new BFF during the recent cold snaps. Have you tried an air fryer or instant pot?

Transportation adds a tremendous amount of carbon to our air. When your car is no longer dependable, look at an electric vehicle or a plug-in hybrid. With the new infrastructure legislation passed into law, we will see more chargers where we need them, and range anxiety will be a thing of the past. If you haven't driven an EV, give it a try. The ride is like floating!

If you missed the Drawdown Festival in January, you can view it in segments on YouTube. Other sessions included Climate Cuisine, Sea Sequestration, Soil Sequestration, and Financial Impact for Regeneration. Growing Environmental Voters, of special interest for the LWV, was about a nonpartisan group that encourages environmentalists to vote. As we make changes in our household decision making, we can use our votes to let our legislators and leaders know there is no time to lose in stopping climate change.





National Women's Hall of Fame, Seneca Falls, NY

This might be an ideal time to visit the museum in person or via their terrific website. ("Showcasing great women; Inspiring All!") You'll find photos and information about the 300+ inductees, and

can download a set of solitaire games featuring the honored women from all walks of life. We're spotlighting here one of the outstanding women in the history of American government.

Margaret Chase Smith



1897-1995

"When people tell you you can't do a thing, you kind of like to try."

--Margaret Chase Smith,

Early days

Imagine a 12-year-old girl walking down the street in Skowhegan, Maine, circa 1909, on her way from school to her job at the local five-and-dime store. You may recognize her as Margaret, the oldest of the six children of the town

barber, George Chase and his wife Carrie, often employed in town as a waitress, store clerk, and factory worker.

It's possible that her work at the five-and-dime was needed to help support the large Chase clan; perhaps realizing her importance to the family, Margaret spent a bit of her earnings to buy a life insurance policy.

Margaret Chase was never one to let moss grow under her feet. She was always in motion; attending high school, she was on the girls' basketball team (serving as captain in her senior year) and after school, worked as a substitute operator for a telephone company.

Onward and upward

One day at the telephone company, 19-year-old Margaret was introduced to 40-year-old Clyde Smith, an entrepreneur

(Continued on page 13)

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and local Republican politician. It was a meeting that would lead Margaret on a path to historical significance for women -- and a partnership that would last for more than 30 years.

Clyde Smith immediately arranged a job for Margaret in the tax-assessor's office. In 1919, she joined the staff of Smith's weekly newspaper, the Independent Reporter, eventually becoming the editor of the paper's club magazine, The Pine Cone. The next eleven years were filled with office work and statewide service organizations.

In 1930, Margaret and Clyde Smith were married. From then on, Margaret devoted her life to service to the party, her state, and the country.

Margaret's firsts

Clyde Smith was elected to the United States House of Representatives in 1936 and served two more terms. He was about to run for another term when he became ill after suffering a heart attack. Unable to campaign for the nomination, Smith urged his followers to vote for his wife. "I know of no one else who has full knowledge of my ideas and plans, or is as well qualified as she is, to carry on... my unfinished work for my district."

Smith died in April 1940. A special election to finish out his term was held in June; there was no Democratic challenger. Thus Margaret Chase Smith became the first woman elected to Congress from Maine. She would go on to win elections on her own, never receiving less than 60% of the vote, for the next eight years.

Margaret went on to make history again in 1947 when she ran as a Republican candidate in the primary election for U.S. Senate. Her candidacy met with skepticism from some: The wife of one of her opponents asked her if a woman could be a good Senator. Margaret quickly replied: "Women administer the home. They set the rules, enforce them, mete out justice for violations. Thus, like Congress, they legislate; like the Executive, they administer; like the courts, they interpret the rules. It is an ideal experience for politics."

Margaret went on to win the primary election in June, and in September defeated the Democratic candidate, the mayor of Lewiston, by a margin of 71%-29%.

Chalk up two more firsts: first woman to represent Maine in the Senate, and first woman to serve in both houses of Congress.

It wasn't the last first.

In 1960, Senator Smith ran for re-election against Democrat Lucia Cormier, the minority leader of the Maine House

of Representatives; it was the first time in American history that two women ran against each other for a Senate seat.

Margaret was returned to the Senate, where she served for a total of 24 years.

Other accomplishments

--During WWII 1944, serving in the House Naval Affairs Committee, Congresswoman Smith was the first and only civilian, man or woman, to sail on a U.S. Navy ship.

--1946 Served on the House Armed Services Committee and also as chair of its Subcommittee on Hospitalization and Medicine, introducing the Women's Armed Services Integration Act, a bill to regularize the status of women in the armed forces, signed into law by President Harry S. Truman.

--1950 Delivered a speech, Declaration of Conscience, condemning supporters of Republican Senator Joseph McCarthy, who was conducting a fierce and misguided investigation to ferret out secret members of the Communist Party. She was critical of her party for supporting McCarthyism and said, "I don't want to see the Republican Party ride to political victory on the four horsemen of calumny - fear, ignorance, bigotry, and smear." Only six other Republicans stood with Margaret.

1967-1972 Was the first woman to chair the Senate Republican Conference, and was a strong supporter of NASA, serving as a charter member of the Senate Aeronautical and Space Committee.

In addition, Margaret voted for the Civil Rights Acts of 1957, 1960, 1964, and 1968, and the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Margaret Chase Smith was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President George W. Bush in 1989.

She died at age 97. As she had been the first in many facets of her life, she was the last living U.S. Senator who had been born in the 19th century -- *by Eva Moore*



Dramatic Change in Congressional and Senate Lines



Congressional, State Assembly and State Senate district lines, the most dramatic changes are those in the 1st C.D., whose lines were adopted by the NYS Legislature on February 2.

The new 1st C.D. (shown in purple in map) now includes both the North and South Forks and Shelter Island but stretches all the

In January, we State League members received emails that the LWVNYS, along with other good government groups, sent letters criticizing the NYS Independent Redistricting Commission "for failing to approve a single set of redistricting maps for submission to the NYS Legislature," as required by the NYS Constitutional amendment adopted by voters in 2014. Instead, the IRC voted on two sets of maps, and with each set receiving five votes, the resulting tie sent the power to draw the redistricting maps to the NYS Legislature. Although there are significant changes in all three

way across Suffolk County to a small piece of Nassau County, taking in large chunks of Islip. The western part of Southampton Town, where some of our LWVH/SI/NF members live in Westhampton and Quogue, are now part of the 2nd C.D. (shown in gold), which goes all the way across the southern part of Suffolk County to the Nassau border and beyond.

The next day, the NYS Legislature adopted the new State Assembly and State Senate lines.

The 1st A.D., represented by Assemblyman Fred

(continued on facing page)

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 _____

Email _____

I'm interested in these committees: _____

___ / ___ Check or ___ / ___ Credit Card
Credit Card # _____ Exp Date _____ CVC # _____ Zip _____

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

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Thiele, Jr. (IND), now includes the North Fork Town of Southold (formerly in the 2nd A.D.), Shelter Island, and the South Fork (except for the Southampton Town hamlets of Riverside and Northampton)—basically the jurisdiction of our League. It also includes the Moriches in Brookhaven Town.

The 1st S.D., represented by State Senator Anthony Palumbo (R), will include the North and South Forks, Shelter Island, and the Town of Riverhead. These new

boundaries will be in effect when we vote for U.S. Congress and NYS Assembly and Senate seats in November.

Still to come: The Suffolk County Legislature is expected to hold public hearings and come up with a re-districting plan soon, that will be in effect for the 2023 elections.

--Arlene Hinkemeyer

The Voter

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