



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. 20

April/May 2021



LWVUS Urges Support of ERA

By Arlene Hinkemeyer

Last year in August 2020, we celebrated the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment, drafted by Susan B. Anthony, giving women the right to vote nationwide.

Now the LWVUS is directing our attention and lobbying efforts to another Constitutional amendment regarding women's rights—the ERA, which states: "Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex."

Unbelievably, it was as long as 100 years ago, in 1921, when suffrage leader Alice Paul drafted the Equal Rights Amendment, because she didn't believe that the 19th Amendment would ensure equal rights for all.

It was 98 years ago, in 1923, that the Equal Rights Amendment was first introduced in Congress.

And it was 49 years ago, in 1972, when Congress passed the ERA, with bipartisan support. Then the national League of Women Voters took on a nationwide campaign for ratification by 38 (three-fourths) of the 50 states. Thirty-five states ratified it quickly, then the momentum slowed, with the backlash led by Phyllis Schlafly.

Last year, on January 27, 2020, Virginia became the 38th state to ratify the ERA, following Nevada in 2017 and Illinois in 2018, though it was past the original 1982 deadline for ratification. Thus, the movement now is to eliminate what has been called "an arbitrary, ambiguous and legally questionable deadline" for enactment of the law.

We need the ERA, says LWVUS, because we need equal pay, fair healthcare coverage, prevention of discrimination against LGBTQ persons, protections for men in occupations and roles traditionally held by women, protection against rollbacks in

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SAVE THE DATE

LWVH/SI/NF Annual Meeting
May 16, 2021 2:00 PM
Via Zoom
Logon information will be sent to all members prior to the meeting.

women's rights, protections for men and women of color, and as a proclamation of our nation's values in support of equal rights for all Americans, regardless of gender.

We need to remove the ERA ratification deadline, says the LWVUS and other supporters of the ERA.

The U.S. House of Representatives passed the law, both in 2020 and this year on March 17, 2021, by a vote of 222-204, to remove the deadline.

Now it's up to the U.S. Senate.

We can all contact our N.Y. Senators Charles Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand to ask them to work for passage among their colleagues.

Here are their Long Island offices:

Senator Charles Schumer, 145 Pinelawn Road, Suite 300, Melville, NY 11747 (631-753-0978)

Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, 155 Pinelawn Road, Suite 250 North, Melville, NY 11747 (631-249-2825).



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

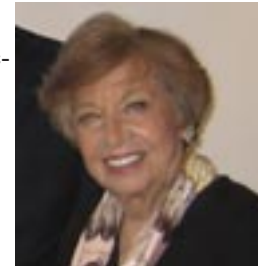
The newsletter of the Hamptons, Shelter Island and the North Fork League, *The Voter*, is dedicated to bringing useful information, background, perspective and commentary on public policy issues confronting League members and other community citizens in Southampton and East Hampton Towns, Suffolk County 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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Co-President's Message



It was just over a year ago when we first recognized that we were in the midst of a pandemic and I'm sure that you join me in looking forward to a return to normal. But will it - or should it - be the same normal? There's so much that has changed and so much that we have learned. Who knew about Zoom last March? And yet, by October, we were doing our candidate debates on Zoom and they were being viewed by many more voters than our in-person debates had been. No longer restricted by the size of the venue, we could accommodate all those who were interested, and voters could view the debates on YouTube whenever it was convenient. We learned to hold Annual Meetings, board meetings and committee meetings, information meetings and even a consensus meeting through Zoom and we carried on with our important work despite the restrictions. The work remains but it behooves us to consider how we can use what we've learned to be most effective in reaching our goals.

Despite the pandemic, the challenges remain and we need to use all methods at our disposal to meet them. Nationally, one of the many challenges we see is the renewed initiative in many state legislatures to make it more difficult to vote; we see proposals to limit early voting, to eliminate or make mail-in voting more difficult and/or to limit the number of sites where one can vote or drop off ballots. Locally, while we in New York State have benefitted from a number of election reforms, we still have the continuing challenges of getting out the vote as well as dealing with such issues as water quality, climate change and affordable housing. How do we best educate the public on the issues and engage the community - including our youth - in civic discourse? There's much to be done and we need to think about how to most effectively do it.

In order to address these issues, we need involved members to study the issues, determine how to best address them, recommend a course of action and take action. That is the work of our committees and I have been so impressed at their adaptability and creativity in continuing this work during these difficult times. I have also been impressed at the number of new members who have become involved - as much as we value the experience of our long-time members, it's always good to hear new perspectives and ideas. We need to continue to build on this good work.

I hope you will all join us at the Annual Meeting as we vote on our new Board and the budget, and we approve our program and priorities for the coming year. Save the date: May 16th at 2: 00 P. M. We will be meeting on Zoom and logon information will be will become available as the time draws nearer. Although I will continue to be involved in our work, I will be stepping down as co-president after the Annual Meeting. I feel honored to have served in this position and I've enjoyed getting to know and work with Susan Wilson as co-president as well as all of the Board members and others with whom I've worked. Together, we've accomplished a lot and I look forward to accomplishing even more as we move ahead.

Estelle Gellman

Speaking of Equal Rights...

Among the earliest champions of women's rights, Sarah Grimké, who with her sister Angelina, gained fame (and notoriety) speaking in public against slavery, found her strongest voice in demanding equal rights for women. In her book, *Letters on the Equality of the sexes* (sic) published in 1838, she writes of the many ways that men have treated women as weaker and in many ways inferior to themselves.

Much has changed since those times, but one of her arguments remains an issue for women today—the “enormous evil,” unequal pay for equal work.

“There is another way in which the general opinion, that women are inferior to men...that bears with tremendous effect on the laboring class, and indeed on almost all who are obliged to earn a subsistence, whether it be by mental or physical exertion – I allude to the disproportionate value set on the time and labor of men and women. A man who is engaged in teaching can always, I believe, command a higher price for tuition than a woman---even when he teaches the same branches, and is not in any respect superior to the woman. This I know is the case in boarding and other schools with which I have been acquainted, and is so in every occupation in which the sexes engage indiscriminately. As for example, in tailoring, a man has twice, or three times, as much for making a waistcoat or pantaloons as a woman, although the work done by each may be equally good.

In those employments which are peculiar to women, their time is estimated a only half the value of that of men. A woman who goes out to wash works as hard in proportion as a wood Sawyer or a coal heaver, but she is generally able to make more than half as much by a day's work.

The low remuneration which women receive for their work has claimed the attention of a few philanthropists, and I hope it will continue to do so until some remedy is applied for this enormous evil. I have known a widow, left with four or five children to



Sarah Grimké at her desk with sister Angelina.

provide for unable to leave home because her helpless babes demand her attention compelled to earn a scanty subsistence by making coarse shirts at 12 ½ cents a piece, or by taking in washing for which she was paid by some wealthy persons 12 ½ cents per dozen.

All of these things evince the low estimation in which woman is held.”

The entire book is available in pdf form from us.archives.org under the title. It makes fascinating reading,

Learn more about these amazing sisters in the book, *The Grimké Sisters*, by Catherine H. Birney.

--Eva Moore

LWVH/SI/NF Welcome New Members

After many delay challenges, including that five-letter word “COVID”, the LWVH/SI/NF Membership Committee held our Welcome New Members Zoom meeting on February 9th.

Lynn Dawson, Membership Co-Chair, opened the meeting with a warm welcome to the five new members attending: Andrea Gabor, Tracy Grathwohl, Jane Hastay, Ann Teuwen Coppola, and Denise Gray Meehan.

On board were co-Presidents Estelle Gellman and Susan Wilson and other members of the board:

Valerie King, Health Committee Chair, Arlene Hinkemeyer Publicity, Vicki Umans, Membership Co-Chair, Terese Wildrick, Sustainability Chair, Cathy Peacock, Co-Chair of the Government Committee, Glorian Berk, also on the Membership Committee.

Each of the League members described the work of her committee and shared her history with the LWVH/SI/NF, prompting enthusiastic responses from the new members.

Andrea Gabor, who has experience in journalism, is interested in joining the Membership Committee’s Ambassador program at the Shelter Island library, and the Government Committee.

Tracy Grathwohl joined at the urging of her acquaintance with long-time member Mary O’Brien and is interested in Voter Services and assisting in registration to vote.

Mary O’Brien also encouraged Denise Gray Meehan to join. Denise is interested in Voter Services, Health, and the Ambassador committees.

Ann Coppola, who belongs to ecological groups and



Long standing and new members at the membership get-together: First row: Cathy Peacock, Arlene Hinkemeyer, hosts Lynn Dawson and Vicki Umans Second row: Valerie King, Terese Wildrick, Ann Coppola, Denise Gray Meehan Third row: Estelle Gellman, Jane Hastay, Susan Wilson, Tracy Grathwohl Fourth row: Glorian Berk, Andrea Gabor

practices home composting herself, is interested in Sustainability, as well as Government (especially regarding civics), and Health.

Jane Hastay is looking forward to gradually expanding her role in the League and “pitching in to help”.

All new members received a delicious thank you reward for their participation.

Overall the LWVH/SI/NF New Members Meeting was a success. Both current members and new members learned a great deal about each other. We’re looking forward to more Membership events and sharing of ideas in the future.

--Lynn Dawson



April 2021

Suffolk County Voter

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

LWVSC Board Meeting: Wednesday, April 21, at 10am via Zoom

Making Democracy Work: Build a Stronger, April is Second Chance Month

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Every person has dignity and potential. But one in three American adults has a criminal record, which limits their access to education, jobs, housing, and other things they need to reach that potential. Observed in the United States during April since 2017, Second Chance Month is a nationwide effort to raise awareness of the collateral consequences of a criminal conviction and unlock second-chance opportunities for people who have completed their sentences to become contributing citizens.

NYU's Brennan Center for Justice <https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/research-reports/conviction-imprisonment-and-lost-earnings-how-involvement-criminal> reports that the number of people incarcerated in America today is more than four times larger than it was in 1980, when wages began to stagnate and the social safety net began to be rolled back. We've long known that people involved in the criminal justice system — a group that's disproportionately poor and Black — face economic barriers in the form of hiring discrimination and lost job opportunities, among other factors. People who were imprisoned early in their lives earn about half as much annually as socioeconomically similar people untouched by the criminal justice system.

The staggering racial disparities in our criminal justice system flow directly into economic inequality. These consequences are magnified and reinforced throughout a lifetime of discrimination in employment and access to economic opportunity. They are felt by individuals, of course, but also by families and communities. And they are felt in such large numbers, and in such a systemic way, that they constitute a major structural factor in economic inequality.

Suffolk County has the highest parole population in the State, so New York State legislative criminal justice and reentry reform proposals (and action) in 2021 can have a powerful impact for our community members. Here are a few examples :

--RELOCATION SO PARENTS CAN BE CLOSER TO THEIR CHILDREN WHILE INCARCERATED was passed as Correction Law 72-c <https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/laws/COR/72-C>

-- HALT (*Humane Alternatives To Long-Term*) – LIMITING SOLITARY CONFINEMENT was passed and will take effect April 1, 2022. <https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2019/s1623>

--FAIR AND TIMELY PAROLE ACT (NYS Senate and Assembly Bills S497A/A4346) This would shift the standard for discretionary parole release, moving toward a presumption of release under state law. It would remove language that says an inmate should not be given parole if their release will "deprecate the seriousness of his crime" and under the bill, parole could be denied if there's a "current and unreasonable risk" the person will break the law if released, and that the risk "cannot be mitigated by parole supervision."

--JUVENILE OFFENDER SECOND CHANCE ACT (NYS Senate And Assembly Bills S7539/A6491) This would allow a person previously adjudicated a "juvenile offender", who did not receive "youthful offender" status (converting the criminal conviction to an adjudication), an opportunity to petition the court and get "youthful offender" status on the previous charge when they are: at least 26 years old and fulfill other requirements.

--CLEAN SLATE – AUTOMATIC EXPUNGEMENT (NYS Senate and Assembly Bills S1553A/A6399) Of particular interest (although less likely to become law this year) is the Clean Slate law that will automatically clear a New Yorker's criminal record once they become eligible. With more than 400,000 New Yorkers arrested on criminal charges each year, the exclusion of people with criminal records from employment opportunities via background checks and other barriers hurts productivity and deprives the workforce of crucial talent. The ACLU estimates that, nationally, excluding individuals with conviction histories from the workforce costs the economy between \$78 billion and \$87 billion in lost domestic product. <https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2021/s1553/amendment/a>

--EXPANSION OF SEALING CONVICTIONS 160.59 would be a small, positive step but currently is only under discussion in the NYS Senate. <https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2021/S249>

--VOTING-RESTORATION FOR PEOPLE ON PAROLE (NYS Senate and Assembly Bills S1931/A4987) Last year, the Governor issued an executive order granting 35,000 voting pardons to people on parole, but that's just a stopgap measure. This law would make voting rights for people on parole permanent, so that a future Governor could not overturn the executive order. Additionally, it would automate and simplify the process, removing confusion from eligible voters and officials that currently keeps people on parole de facto disenfranchised. <https://letnyvote.org/restoration>

Other sites that offer information on prison reform and reentry justice are the Prison Fellowship, the Center for Economic and Policy Research, The Vera Institute, The Collateral Consequence Resource Center, Prison Policy Initiative, and The Sentencing Project.

by Lisa Scott. Printed in TimesBeaconRecord newspapers and available online

Consensus Reached in New York State Positions

By Valerie King

Following the 2019 League of Women Voters New York (LWVNY) state convention a Healthcare Update Committee (HCUC) was formed to study the LWVNY position on healthcare. The charge to the committee was to review the current positions drafted around 30 years ago with a focus on 1) overall general healthcare 2) the financing of healthcare with particular focus on the pending legislation of the New York Health Act.

Valerie King was appointed co-chair and Estelle Gellman member of the committee, along with the Health Committee chairs of local Leagues around New York State.

The HCUC completed several study documents and updated language for the positions that were approved by the board of LWVNY in the summer of 2020.

The study documents were posted on the LWVNY website for review by local league boards.

Healthcare Educational and Consensus Zoom meetings were held by local NY leagues throughout the late fall of 2020 and early months of 2021. The work was especially poignant because the study process occurred during the global COVID pandemic, where healthcare was very much the topic of the day.

At the beginning of 2021, our LWVH/SI/NF League formed a committee of Valerie King, Estelle Gellman, Cathy Peacock, and Susan Wilson to plan our Healthcare Educational Zoom meeting held on February 8th and a Healthcare Consensus Zoom meeting held on February 22nd. These meetings were well attended by League members and generated significant discussion about healthcare in our community and personal lives.

It is important to note that the LWVUS supports “universal” healthcare and the LWVNY supports the con-

cept of a “single payer” plan. The consensus to concur process was not focused on any proposed or pending legislation for a single payer plan. There were two areas that were discussed for consensus and concurrence: 1) changes in the language of the health position in general and 2) changes in the language of the position regarding the financing of healthcare.

The results of our consensus meeting was to concur support of the updated positions. Some questions and discussion arose around the rationale for the updated language and concerns regarding the “ideal” concepts that the positions stated. Yet overall, there was general



On February 8, Estelle Gellman and Valerie King, top two right photos, presented the background information for our League’s discussion of the LWVNY’s proposed update to the Healthcare and Healthcare Financing positions.

agreement among our League’s participants that the updated positions reflect the advances in healthcare and specify healthcare criteria that would be helpful for League members to utilize in the future when advocating for legislation of a New York or United States healthcare plan that meets the LWVNY updated positions.

If you would like to know more about the recent Healthcare updated position consensus or other upcoming activities of the LWVH/S/INF Health Committee please contact Valerie King by (email) valerickingphd@gmail.com or (voicemail) 631-267-3282.

The Sustainability Committee has reached out to Drawdown East End, an organization formed to explore local solutions to reverse global warming, to find out about some of their programs. In this article, Dorothy Reilly, co-founder of a new initiative called Carbon Reduction for Earth Wellbeing (C.R.E.W.) describes the project.

--Terese Wildrick, Chair

So you're interested in learning how we can remove carbon from the atmosphere and be part of the solution? Exciting!

It's a bird. It's a plane. No.... It's Carbon C.R.E.W. Project!!

What if the world was on a trajectory to disable every living ecosystem?

What if speed was of the essence?

What if politicians had known about it for fifty years and been ineffective?

What if Project Drawdown proved that without politics, people can reverse the trajectory?

What if the just-released UN's Environmental Program study shows that two-thirds of all greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions are caused from household choices?

Who you gonna call?. Carbon C.R.E.W. Project!

What if early adopters are ready to make changes in their lives to fix it?

What if 3.5% of willing people can spark the majority to change behaviors, which then triggers effective policy?

What if exponential growth of activated people can happen when groups form and create new groups?

What if both fun and accountability can happen at the same time within a support system?

To the rescue..... Carbon C.R.E.W. Project!

C.R.E.W. is both a team approach to explore new approaches for greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction, make new carbon removal friends and figure out where you want to go next. Based on environmental and social science, Carbon CREW Project is a replicable study



and action program.... it's a virtual coffee klatch on a mission!

What is the structure of Carbon C.R.E.W. Project?

The program begins with small discussion groups led by a C.R.E.W. guide. The sessions enable you to share ideas with the group to form your Personal Carbon Action Plan (PCAP).

Is Carbon CREW for you?

It is if you

want to help reverse global warming and build a thriving planet.

want to learn about carbon removal with others.

appreciate sharing and learning in a team.

enjoy friendly accountability.

All are welcome.

For more information visit

www.drawdowneastend.org/carbon-crew-project

or

CarbonCREW50@gmail.com which will start May 13

Meet New Member Tracy Grathwohl



Tracy Grathwohl

Tracy joined the League 2020. She was recruited by Mary O'Brien, who belongs to the same writers' workshop. Tracy is an essayist and writes the Tilting at Windmills humor column that appears in The East Hampton Press and other Press News Group papers.

Tracy grew up in Niskayuna, New York, where her father served as a town councilman. She has been interested in government and civics since she was a young child and campaigned with her father. Her family moved to central Massachusetts when Tracy was in high school.

She attended Carnegie Mellon University, where she met her husband, Bill. She then went on to the University of Pittsburgh school of law, after which

she moved to New York City and worked in intellectual property litigation for five years.

Tracy and Bill have four children, one son and three daughters. Six months after the last two daughters (twins) were born, the family moved to Tokyo, Japan, for Bill's job in banking. They spent six years there, followed by six years in London, England. The family came to East Hampton every summer while they lived overseas. When it was time to return to the States full-time, they decided to make East Hampton their permanent home.

Aside from writing her column, Tracy also serves on the international advisory board for the Global Mental Health Program at Columbia University. In her free time, Tracy gives unsolicited advice to her now grown children, golfs, skis, and loads the dishwasher.

Tracy is interested in joining the Voter Services and Sustainability committees.

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 _____

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The League of Women Voters

Nonpartisan. Political. Grassroots. Volunteer.

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