



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. 34

September/October 2023

League Blankets East End with Tables on National Voter Registration Day

For National Voter Registration Day on September 19, the League spread out across the East End with 12 tables offering voter information. *More photos inside*



Eileen Mercer and Alexis Mayer with a voter outside Southampton Stop & Shop



A voter picks up the Early Voting flyer at the table with Sue Blair and Valerie Cuyjet outside Sag Harbor's Schiavoni's Market.



Ursula Lynch and new member Louise Muzio at Westhampton Beach Free Library.

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NOVEMBER ELECTION DATES

Last days for Early Voting in Suffolk County
November 1 – November 5 (check locations and times)
Email: www.SUFFOLKVOTES.com
Phone: 631-852-4500

Last day to apply IN-PERSON for Absentee Ballots
November 6

Last day to deliver ballot IN-PERSON to local Board of Elections or any poll site in Suffolk County
November 7 Election Day



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.

Eva Moore, Editor
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Letter from the editor

“Elections don’t work...”

So proclaimed Fox News host Greg Gutfeld on the October 9th broadcast of the show “The Five.”

He went on to declare that the nation is in “peril and chaos;” that the participants in the January 6th insurrection received harsher sentences than some looters at protests because of their race and political affiliations; he compared today’s political tensions to the turmoil around slavery that resulted in the Civil War. “What does that leave you with?” he asked, suggesting the only way to improve the situation is “the need to make war to bring peace” because “you have a side that cannot change. Because the admission that their beliefs have been corrupt all the time.”

This is what millions of Americans who watch Fox News are fed time and time again:

Time to discard the old notion of democracy. Civil War is the only way to go.

That is why organizations like the League of Women Voters were out in force this year with special zeal, holding free registration drives across the country on National Voter Registration Day, September 19th. **Here is a rebuttal of Gutfeld’s assertions:**

“Today there are dangers around us we cannot allow to prevail...you’ve heard it, more and more talk about violence as an acceptable political tool in

this country. It’s not. It can never be... There is no place for political violence in America, period, none, ever.”

--President Joe Biden, September 2, 2023

The League of Women Voters is a nationwide organization that leads efforts to encourage citizens to vote, no matter what their political affiliation, if any.



President's Message



All elections are important. The leaders we elect make decisions that affect our daily lives. Elections are our chance to stand up for what matters most to us and to have an impact on the issues that affect us, our communities, our families, and our future.

The League works year-round to make sure all eligible Americans, especially first-time voters, non-college youth, new citizens, communities of color, and low-income Americans have the opportunity to register and Vote.

We fight to increase voters' access to the polls, including expanding early voting and automatic and online voter registration. Our democracy is strongest when every voice is heard, which is why we strongly advocate for measures to make voting more accessible.

During election season, the League is especially busy. We host local candidate debates and forums and provide straightforward information about candidates and ballot issues. Through print and online resources, including VOTE411.org, we equip voters with essential information about the election process including polling place hours and locations, ballot information, early or absentee voting rules, voter registration deadlines, ID requirements and more.

The League has been busy indeed. In addition to candidate debates, National Voter Registration Day, new citizen Voter registration ceremonies in Central Islip, on-going Voter Servicetabling events, a new partnership with The Civics Center to register eligible high school students to vote we held a fabulous tour of Sag Harbor.

We even took some time to host a New Member Get-Together - the first in person event of its kind since Covid19.

Ava Locks, Education and Community Events Coordinator welcomed us to the Watermill Center - a beautiful facility for the arts and humanities in Water Mill, New York, founded in 1992 by artist and theater director Robert Wilson. The website states that the center is "a laboratory for the arts and humanities providing a global community the time, space and freedom to create and inspire". It was in this special setting that we had the opportunity to get to know many of the new members who have joined the League over the past two years and a chance for new members to learn more about our projects and League Committees. We hope to return here for a tour in the spring.

Make sure your voice is heard on Election Day, November 7th.

Susan Wilson

Mensaje del presidente

Todas las elecciones son importantes. Los líderes que elegimos toman decisiones que afectan nuestra vida diaria. Las elecciones son nuestra oportunidad de defender lo que más nos importa y de tener un impacto en los problemas que nos afectan a nosotros, a nuestras comunidades, a nuestras familias y a nuestro futuro.

La Liga trabaja durante todo el año para asegurarse de que todos los estadounidenses elegibles, especialmente los que votan por primera vez, los jóvenes no universitarios, los nuevos ciudadanos, las comunidades de color y los estadounidenses de bajos ingresos tengan la oportunidad de registrarse y votar.

Luchamos para aumentar el acceso de los votantes a las urnas, incluida la expansión de la votación anticipada y el registro automático y en línea de votantes. Nuestra democracia es más fuerte cuando se escuchan todas las voces, por lo que abogamos firmemente por medidas para hacer que el voto sea más accesible.

Durante la temporada electoral, la Liga está especialmente ocupada. Organizamos debates y foros locales de candidatos y brindamos información directa sobre los candidatos y los temas de la boleta electoral. A través de recursos impresos y en línea, incluido el VOTE411.org, equipamos a los votantes con información esencial sobre el proceso electoral, incluidos los horarios y ubicaciones de los lugares de votación, información sobre las boletas, las reglas de votación anticipada o en ausencia, las fechas límite de registro de votantes, los requisitos de identificación y más.

La Liga ha estado muy ocupada. Además de los debates de los candidatos, el Día Nacional de Registro de Votantes, las ceremonias de registro de nuevos ciudadanos en Central Islip, los eventos continuos de presentación del Servicio al Votante, una nueva asociación con el Centro de Educación Cívica para registrar a los estudiantes de secundaria elegibles para votar, realizamos un fabuloso recorrido por Sag Harbor.

Incluso nos tomamos un tiempo para organizar una reunión de nuevos miembros, el primer evento presencial de este tipo desde Covid19.

Ava Locks, Coordinadora de Educación y Eventos Comunitarios, nos dio la bienvenida al Watermill Center, una hermosa instalación para las artes y las humanidades en Water Mill, Nueva York, fundada en 1992 por el artista y director de teatro Robert Wilson. El sitio web afirma que el centro es "un laboratorio para las artes y las humanidades que proporciona a una comunidad global el tiempo, el espacio y la libertad para crear e inspirar". Fue en este entorno especial que tuvimos la oportunidad de conocer a muchos de los nuevos miembros que se han unido a la Liga en los últimos dos años y una oportunidad para que los nuevos miembros aprendieran más sobre nuestros proyectos y Comités de la Liga. Esperamos volver aquí para hacer un recorrido en la primavera.

Asegúrese de hacer oír su voz el día de las elecciones, el 7 de noviembre.

Voter Services Committee

(Continued from page 1)

League Blankets East End with Tables on National Voter Registration Day



Eva Moore, Judy Samuelson and Estelle Gellman outside Montauk Post Office



Sharon Nelson, Bonnie Doyle, Terry Wildrick and Ellen Owens outside Hampton Bays King Kullen



New member Alicia Sullivan outside Springs One Stop Market (with Arlene Hinkemeyer, taking photo)



Ursula Lynch and Mary O'Brien at Antibias Picnic



Glorian Berk and Susan Wilson outside Southampton's Rogers Memorial Library

Not shown at five other sites: Voter Services Committee Chair Neil Cohen outside the East Hampton Post Office, Anne Marshall and Ann Sanford outside the Bridgehampton Post Office, Stephanie Snider outside the Hampton Bays Dollar Store, Valerie Levenstein at the Shelter Island Library, and Ethel Sussman outside the Riverhead Library.

Student Registration Day



Eileen Mercer, Stephanie Snider, and Dianne Saatchi pre-registered 15 students in an event sponsored by The Civics Center and LWWH/SI/NF

Public Information Meeting: Community Choice Aggregation and Community Solar

--by Terry Wildrick

On September 18 at the Hampton Library the Sustainability Committee held a public information meeting on the topics of Community Choice Aggregation and Community Solar.

Knowledgeable, informative speakers Lynn Arthur and Lena Tabori deepened our knowledge of these novel ideas. Lynn is a volunteer on the Southampton Town Sustainability Committee and has been a strong advocate for Community Choice Aggregation (CCA). Lena Tabori is a member and former chair of the East Hampton Sustainability Committee. She described the progress of East Hampton toward renewable energy.

Lynn explained that by aggregating the community demand for electricity, the Town will be able to negotiate with several suppliers to obtain renewable energy and lower prices. While the Town has yet to conclude negotiations with the suppliers, the expectation is that rate payers in Southampton will have a choice of 100% renewable, 50% renewable or the current PSEG supplier with about 10% renewable energy. Once the supplier is chosen, everyone will be included, but there will be a simple way to opt out.

The CCA administrator, Joule Assets, will negotiate for better prices and more consumer protection. CCA is in line with New York State's plans to reduce greenhouse gas



Back row: Terry Wildrick, Susan Wilson Front row: Lena Tabori, Lynn Arthur

emissions, and has been effective in Rockland County, Westchester County and Rochester. If negotiations are successful, CCA enrollment should begin in January and take effect in March in Southampton in March 2024. Lena discussed the advances East Hampton has made in renewable energy. East Hampton has constructed the first municipal solar energy and storage project on Long Island. The solar panel array provides all the electricity used by the Parks Department building. Community Solar allows consumers to buy solar energy through a subscription program. More arrays are planned. East Hampton has approved the South Fork Wind farm, an offshore wind farm that will provide energy to the town, and beyond. East Hampton has declared a climate emergency and has committed to ambitious goals of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and using renewable energy sources. In collaboration with our Sustainability Committee, League members Darr Reilly and Josephine DeVincenzi were available to provide information about Carbon Crew. Based on the book 2040 by Damon Gameau, Carbon Crew is a 5-session in person or online series of meetings in which participants assess their current carbon footprint, read and discuss chapters from the book, and make a plan to reduce their carbon footprint.

The video of the meeting recorded by Sun20TV will be available on YouTube in early October. For more information and inspiration on taking action against climate change, see Lena's website www.climatechangeresources.org. We can always learn more about our role in stopping climate change.

New Citizens Registration

Valerie Cuyjet of Sag Harbor made the long journey to Central Islip for what proved to be an experience well worth the trip. Working behind a table in one of the courtrooms in the Alfonse M. D'Amato United States Courthouse, Ursula and Valerie witnessed the naturalization ceremony of 133 new U.S. citizens and registered 58 of them as new voters.

"It was a wonderful welcome ceremony," Valerie said. Ursula praised the cooperation of the courtroom staff in making the League's efforts a success. "They all were very helpful and let us move around to hand out forms and collect them, too. It was a good experience."

Voter registration for newly naturalized citizens at the Central Islip federal courthouse is a regular event coordinated by the Suffolk League, and we are often invited to participate. If you are interested in taking part in this uniquely rewarding experience, please contact Voter Services and we will be happy to pair you with an experienced LWV volunteer.

-- Neil Cohen, Voter Services Committee


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League Tours Sag Harbor Historic/Literary/Artistic Sites, Oct. 8

by *Arlene Hinkemeyer*

Following up on its tour of Bridgehampton community sites on June 21, the League visited noted sites in Sag Harbor on Sunday, October 8, including the Sag Harbor Historical Museum, the John Steinbeck property, the new exhibit at The Church art center, and enjoyed refreshments and a special talk at Baron's Cove Inn by LWV Sag Harbor member Nada Barry, who is one of the few left to remember Steinbeck when he lived in Sag Harbor in the 1960's.



Leaguers enjoyed a wonderful tour of the Sag Harbor Historical Museum (the Annie Cooper Boyd House, built 1760) by knowledgeable docent, Pierson H.S. senior Lachlan Fuer, who talked about Boyd's life and her artwork on exhibit.



As the tours of the Steinbeck Writers Retreat were limited to 10 people each hour, LWV member Nada Barry spoke twice, to two groups of 10, at the Baron's Cove Inn lounge about her and her husband's reminiscences of their close friendship with John Steinbeck, as Leaguers enjoyed refreshments.



The now-famous writing studio that Steinbeck built on his property, facing the water. Steinbeck wrote two of his books while living in Sag Harbor-- "The Winter of Our Discontent" (1961) and "Travels with Charley" (1962), and won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1962.



A group photo of tour-goers outside Baron's Cove Inn. Later the group enjoyed a tour of The Church, an art center created by Sag Harbor artists Eric Fischl and April Gornik. Chief curator Sara Cochran led a tour of the new exhibit, "Recycle: the Ubiquitous Bicycle," every bicycle a work of art.

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Dues Year is June 1 through May 31.

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Vice-Presidents

Arlene Hinkemeyer
631-324-6713
ahinkemeyer@optonline.net

Eva Moore
631-238-5134
evamoore@optonline.net

Lois Morris
631-749-3349
Loisbmorris@gmail.com

Terese Wildrick
631-728-6897
mswild@optonline.net

Co-Recording Secretaries

Andrea Gabor
917-685-7666
aagabor@aol.com

Estelle Gellman
631-324-9210
Estelle.s.gellman@hofstra

Treasurer

Glorian Berk
631-283-2628
glorianberk@aim.com

ELECTED DIRECTORS

Cathy Kenny
631-749-1848
cathykennyesq@gmail.com

Mary O'Brien
631-375-7182
mobrien42@verizon.com

Isabel Sepulveda Scanlon
516-446-6565
Iscanlon13@yahoo.com

APPOINTED DIRECTORS

Neil Cohen
631-329-6029
Neilcohen.8@gmail.com

Michelle Corbett
Mcrhope3@gmail.com
631-889-1138

Claudia Hunt
631-334-5210
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Stephanie Snider
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Government

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cathpeac7@gmail.com

Cathy Kenny
631-749-1848
Cathykennyesq@gmail.com

Health

Valerie King (Off-Board)
646-217-1827/
valeriekingphd@gmail.com

Membership

Afton DiSunno
631-324-7995
aftondis26@optimum.net

Sustainability Committee

Formerly Natural Resources
Terese Wildrick
631-728-6897
mswild@optonline.net

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion

Terese Wildrick
631-728-6897
mswild@optonline.net

Social Media

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Susan Wilson
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Neil Cohen
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Webmaster

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631-324-9102
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Nominating Committee

Judi Roth, Chair (Off Board)
631-283-0759
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The Voter

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