



THE VOTER

The Newsletter of the League of Women Voters of the Hamptons

Founded in 1977

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July-August 2015

Five Attend LWNYS Convention

By Carol Mellor

The Hamptons League was well represented at the LWNYS convention held June 5-7 in Albany. Co-President Judy Samuelson, Board Members Judi Roth, Sue Wilson and Barbara McClancy, and Carol Mellor made up our contingent of delegates.

Our members were also active at the convention: Judi Roth gave a presentation on our Education Committee's work; Sue Wilson was a presenter at the workshop on development, discussing fundraising ideas (including our League's Special Events tours of historic sites in local communities); and Carol Mellor participated in a workshop on Voter Services, sharing the Hamptons League's practices in candidate debates. In addition, Carol Mellor, as a State Board member, led a caucus on the proposed by-laws revisions and the upcoming concurrence on raising the minimum age from 16 to 18, in order to be treated as an "adult" in the criminal justice system.

The November 2017 ballot question on whether or not to hold a NYS constitutional convention was at the forefront of the convention. First, there was a lively and informative discussion, moderated by LWNYS President Sally Robinson, between John Faso and Richard Brodsky, on the potential benefits and pitfalls of holding a constitutional convention. Both had served as NYS Assembly members and had a wealth of other governmental service as well.

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Attending the LWNYS Convention in Albany on June 5-7 and proud that the Hamptons League won the Youth Services Award were, left to right, LWVH Board members Susan Wilson (also a State Board member), Barbara McClancy, Co-President Judy Samuelson, Carol Mellor (also on the State Board) and Education Committee chair Judi Roth.

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SAVE THE DATE

Monday, July 13, 7 p.m.

Learn about the Anti-Bias Task Force

Join us Monday, July 13, at 7 pm at Bridgehampton's Hampton Library for an informative meeting with representatives of the Anti-Bias Task Forces of East Hampton and Southampton. Task Forces in the two Towns are comprised of volunteer citizens who work to address issues of prejudice and discrimination. They seek to bring neighbors together through various cultural and educational events, many in cooperation with other advocacy and government agencies. The League provides sponsorship for and attends an enjoyable Task Force picnic each September

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, 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 seven times a year (January/February/March, April, May/June, July/August, September, October, and November/December) by the League of Women Voters of the Hamptons, P. O. Box 2253, East Hampton, NY 11937.

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President's Message

By Judy Samuelson

Our League year runs from June to May of the following year. So for those of you who couldn't make our May 17, 2015 Annual Meeting, here's a summary. We had successful fundraising events; held public meetings that gave the community useful information; and welcomed some terrific new members. Through the year, meetings drew residents from all over the Hamptons.

Voter Services did a wonderful job registering and informing voters, including 22 volunteers at 11 sites on National Voter Registration Day in September, and collecting at least 45 registration forms three times a year from new citizens at the Federal Courthouse in Islip. The committee sponsored a Congressional candidates debate in October and distributed voter education materials. Our well-run debates bring us more and more requests to manage other debates. The committee is also working with the Press News Group to consolidate other local debates, to reduce candidate overload and add substance to debates.

Co-chairs Anne Marshall and Carol Mellor headed studies regarding ballot access and term limits. The results of our research were presented to members in July, and following a consensus meeting in November, we sent the State League our conclusions. Carol Mellor also gave a presentation in September on the Constitutional Amendment on Redistricting, which was on the November ballot.

Our holiday party in December was very special, in part thanks to Arlene Hinkemeyer, who arranged the use of Dodds and Eders' beautiful store in Sag Harbor as our venue. Arlene is also a major factor in publicizing all our events during the year.

Our Program Planning meeting was well attended this January, thanks to the Board and members who braved the cold to help set our course for 2015. In February, everything was cancelled. In March 2015, we hosted an informative meeting where a panel of East Hampton and Southampton Town Trustees presented their roles, responsibilities and plans.

Natural Resources continues to raise our profile and strengthen our voice on preserving the environment. In June 2014, Susan Wilson and her committee arranged a visit to Stony Brook's School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences Southampton campus. We were impressed by the new facility and a tour and photo lecture by Chris Paparo.

The Special Events Committee, led by Gladys Remler and Joanne Samborn, created some fantastic fundraisers: exploring the agricultural North Fork in September for a "Fall Festival Fling" and a wildly successful luncheon in April with author Gail Sheehy as our speaker. Finally, our June 10 Amazing Amagansett Adventure!

The Education Committee, under Judi Roth's leadership, reached out to young people in new venues like scouting and Southampton youth court. This April, the committee presented an SRO meeting about School Mergers with representatives from the school districts of Tucka-

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Highlights of the May 17, 2015 Annual Meeting

By Arlene Hinkemeyer



Co-Presidents Glorian Berk and Judy Samuelson welcomed our new Congressman Lee Zeldin (1st C.D.) as featured speaker at the League's Annual Meeting, May 17, 1-3 p.m., at the Southampton Cultural Center.



Members enjoyed refreshments at the reception preceding the meeting.



Congressman Lee Zeldin spoke about his work on three House committees, Foreign Affairs, Transportation/Infrastructure, and Veterans Affairs, saying the Foreign Affairs committee is greatly absorbed in the issues of ISIS, the nuclear talks with Iran, and their threats to the stability of the Middle East. Suffolk County has the highest population of veterans in NYS, he said, and he is pleased that the Peconic Bay Medical Center is expanding its services so that veterans will no longer have to travel to the VA hospital in Northport. Congressman Zeldin also spoke about his efforts to provide constituent services and help solve local concerns such as Hurricane Sandy recovery, shore stabilization, immigration, the future of Plum Island, and helicopter traffic.



Judy Samuelson presented the Carrie Chapman Catt Award, named for the founder of the National League of Women Voters, to Naomi Epstein for "outstanding contributions" to the Hamptons League. Naomi was cited for her long-time service on the Board, her heading of the Government Committee's consensus study and outreach to the community on the Town Manager issue, her chairmanship also of the Health Committee and its excellent forums, as well as her service as secretary/treasurer of the LWV Suffolk County Board.



Audience members asked questions on issues such as railway transportation, Iran negotiations, and the Pacific Rim trade agreement.



At the June 3 Board meeting, Dr. Kaye Umama, left, and Cathy Peacock joined the Board as newly appointed directors. Dr. Umama, a member of the LWVH Health Committee, has a family medical practice in Water Mill. Cathy Peacock, once very active as co-president of the Hamptons League, 2001-03, is welcomed back to the Board after a hiatus.

Health & Natural Resources Committees

Drinking Water Forum Helps All Make Informed Choices

By Valerie King

On the evening of June 8th, approximately 50 interested community residents attended the LWVH public information meeting titled “Drinking Water-- Faucet, Filtered or Bottled--Informed Choices” at Southampton Hospital’s Parrish Memorial Hall. The event was a joint collaboration between the LWVH Health and Natural Resource Committees.

Beginning with an informal water tasting activity organized by LWVH Board member Barbara McClancy, participants followed the tasting with healthy fruit and cheese refreshments provided by LWVH Board member Joanne Samborn. LWVH Co-President Glorian Berk welcomed attendees, while Natural Resources Committee chair Susan Wilson introduced the topic and moderated the panel of industry experts.

Panelist Jason Hime of the Suffolk County Department of Health provided a brief summary of the underground aquifers that supply our local drinking water and explained the enforcement of regulatory compliance and assistance to both public and private wells and its testing of 145 regulated contaminants.

Tom Schneider, the Inorganic Laboratory Manager at the Suffolk County Water Authority, focused his remarks on the testing of local water. This is the only lab in the Northeast for unregulated contaminant monitoring of public water, testing for 374 contaminants. Mr. Schneider reassured the audience that for the most part Suffolk County public drinking water is safe. Residents can access an “all water quality” Consumer Confidence Report at the Suffolk County Water Authority website at scwa.org.

Tom McAbee of the Llyod Magothy Water Trust gave an engaging presentation of his work on developing the Big Red Med Box currently in several local police departments and pharmacies, which collect non-controlled medications, to help keep pharmaceuticals out of our drinking water and help prevent prescription drug abuse from inappropriate storage of unused medications.

John Menard of Metro Filter Sales discussed his company’s water filter systems as a solution for public and private water quality. He cautioned that even if source water quality is monitored, contaminants can be picked up through the household/building plumbing system.

Jack West of the Drinking Water Research Foundation and International Council of Bottled Water Association, provided information on the different types of bottled

water bottles and the specific standards, required by the Food & Drug Administration, which must equal or exceed EPA standards for public water. Mr. West stated that an unintended consequence of light-weighting water bottles with small bottle caps is a potential choking hazard! More information on bottled water can be obtained at www.dwrf.info.

LWVH Board member Kaye Umana and member Beverly Dixon vetted the very interesting questions posed to the panel from the audience. And at meeting’s end, Barbara McClancy announced the results of the water tasting test: Of the 31 participants, only seven got all three choices right (tap, filtered, bottled). More than half of all responses in all three categories were not correct, and four participants could not taste any differences in the choices.

The entire event was videotaped by SEA-TV and will be available for viewing toward the end of June. In addition, it received coverage in the June 11 issue of the Sag Harbor Express.

The LWVH Health and Natural Resource Committees welcome new members to the League and to their committees. For more information, please view the LWVH website www.lwvhamptons.org. Or contact LWVH Health Committee chair Valerie King at valeriekingphd@gmail.com or LWVH Natural Resources Committee chair Susan Wilson at sswilson@hamptons.com.



Panelists and LWVH Health and Natural Resources Committee members taking part in the Drinking Water Forum were, left to right, panelist Jack West, Health Committee chair Valerie King, Barbara McClancy, Dr. Kaye Umana, panelist Jason Hime, Natural Resources Committee chair Susan Wilson, panelist Tom Schneider, panelist Tom McAbee, Joanne Samborn and panelist John Menard. Not in photo is Beverly Dixon.

League “Rovers” to Register Voters at Fourth of July Parade

By Judi Roth

Many of us remember when League members marched in the Southampton Village July 4th Parade. It was uplifting, we were greeted enthusiastically by the crowds – but it was hot, we waited for what seemed like hours to start, we couldn’t find parking spots, etc., etc. We stopped marching about three years ago, but this year is the 375th anniversary of Southampton Town, and we looked for a way to participate in the many events being carried out over the summer. That thinking has led to the “Roving Voter Registration” plan for the July 4th parade. Rather than marching, teams of League members will “rove” through the crowds of on-lookers and

ask if people need to register or need absentee ballots. We will also serve as good will ambassadors for the League.

Joining with Voter Services, the Education Committee has rounded up two young people to join us. They are Abby Roden, a junior at East Hampton High School, and Rosie Barber, a graduate of Pierson High School and the daughter of Sag Harbor School District Superintendent, Katy Graves. We hope that our “Students Inside Albany” attendees, Sarah Pierson and William Taylor Reddick, as well as Betty Desch Scholarship winner Natalie Palumbo, will also be available. Each student will be trained in voter registration and will be accompanied by a League member.

Education Committee Gains Ideas for New Projects at LWVNYS Convention

By Judi Roth

The Education Session at the LWVNYS convention yielded new ideas which the Education Committee will be discussing over the summer. The program that really seemed like a good fit for us focuses on the middle school grades. The Wayne County League has commissioned scripts about Susan B. Anthony, Sojourner Truth and Elizabeth Cady Stanton and their fights for voting and women’s rights. They then engaged actresses to take on the roles of these women and present them to middle school classes. They have had total engagement by the students and the schools and are currently working on a

licensing agreement to make the scripts available to other Leagues. They were also able to receive a grant from their local Arts Council to pay the actresses – we certainly have actresses in our area to spare, so this seems like a great program for our League.

Another idea involves building on the students we have become engaged with by use of Facebook. Using the students as reporters, we will come up with questions they can use to do “interviews on the street,” take a picture of the person, and post it on their and our Facebook page.



Not able to attend the Annual Meeting, senior Natalie Palumbo of Southampton High School, winner of the League's \$1,000 Betty Desch Student Leadership Award, received her prize from Judi Roth, left, and Beth Barth, right, at the LWVH Education Committee meeting on June 17.

Highlights of Minutes of May 6, 2015 Board Meeting

Information Items

- As a result of the Ballot Access study, a new position in favor of retaining fusion voting was adopted by the state board in April 2015. No consensus was reached with respect to issue of term limits. New Position: The LWVNYS supports the continuation of fusion voting in NYS whether or not Wilson-Pakula is repealed.
- Thanks to Barbara McClancy for acting as Recording Secretary prior to start of her term.
- Great work by the Special Events committee for the well attended, fundraiser lunch on April 24th featuring Gail Sheehy as guest speaker.
- The Board discussed the possibility of LWVNYS raising their PMP (per member payment). There were varied opinions, and the Board felt the state had not yet provided enough advance information to make an informed decision.

Upcoming Events:

- May 17 is the Annual Meeting.
- June 8 Drinking Water Forum presented by Natural Resources and Health Committees.
- June 10 is the “Amazing Amagansett” fundraiser.
- For the July 13 public information meeting, Arlene suggested the possibility of speakers from the East and Southampton Anti- Bias Task Forces. Gladys will provide contact for the Southampton group, and Judy will contact East Hampton.

Discussion Items:

The Annual Meeting will be May 17th at the Southampton Cultural Center from 1-4 PM, to include voting on the Budget, Bylaws and Non-Partisan Policy changes; the election of officers and Board; and presentation of Betty Desch Scholarship and Carrie Chapman Catt Award. Featured speaker is our newly-elected Congressman Lee Zeldin. Judy volunteered to pick up the supplies.

Committee Reports:

Special Events: Gladys reported that the Gail Sheehy lunch was a great success, making an excellent profit and gaining a few new members. Gladys, Joanne, Judy, Bev and Arlene visited the different venues for the Amagansett tour on June 10.

It will cost \$40 including a catered lunch at the Art Barge. Donations will be made to The Art Barge Educational Foundation and to the East Hampton Historical Society.

Natural Resources: Susan Wilson reported that the June 8 event, titled “Drinking Water--Faucet, Filtered or Bottled--Informed Choices” will be very informative. The speakers are lined up and a blind, water-tasting event will add interest.

Public Relations: Arlene reported excellent press coverage on the Education Committee’s School Merger Forum on April 13. It is currently playing on SEA-TV. The signs on Pantigo Place announcing our participation in the East Hampton Town Adopt-a-Road program are posted.

Government: Estelle Gellman is the new chair of the Government Committee. She and other members of the committee will attend Town Board meetings in EH, and Joan Hughes in SH. Two issues pending: The Town Manager was the topic of a somewhat negative editorial in the East Hampton Press. Naomi Epstein, former chair of the committee, and representatives of the GGG are meeting with the Press to discuss the issue. Second: SH Village Mayor Mark Epley’s interest in consolidating local election days. The combined Government and Voter Services Committees will jointly explore the issue. Estelle and Glorian will meet with SH Mayor Epley.

Education: The school merger PIM on April 13 was very well attended and got great post-event coverage in the local papers. Judi Roth is following up with meetings with school administrators to explore long range plans for the possibility of regional schools.

Membership: Estelle and Joanne sent out the Early Bird renewal mailing and received a good response. Joanne contacted seven new members to encourage them to participate in LWVH activities.

The Voter: Arlene will edit the July/August issue. The deadline is June 15.

Voter Services: Two dates have been selected for our fall debates; October 22 for East Hampton Town, and October 15 for Southampton. Joe Shaw, editor of the East & Southampton Press Group suggested LWVH be the clearinghouse for scheduling various local debates.

Voter Services Committee Report

By Carol Mellor

Update on Voting Rights In NYS and Beyond

The LWVUS recently reported good news about the protection of voting rights. This year, with most of the 2015 state legislative sessions coming to a close, the recent trend of attacks on voting rights has been diminished with fewer pieces of anti-voter legislation having been successful, and more pro-voter reforms introduced and passed! In fact, for the first time in ten years, no state has passed any new anti-voter legislation in 2015 to date. This is not to say that real threats don't exist; they do. From voter photo ID bills to efforts to cut back early voting, assaults on access to the polls were introduced in several states, but were stopped. In contrast, pro-voter reforms passed in several states. Three states increased access to the polls by implementing online voter registration.

But where do we stand in New York? Not in a good place. In fact, our state Board of Elections and state legislature seem to be going in the wrong direction: Legislation has been passed to temporarily extend the use of lever voting machines in village and school elections, even though those machines do not provide the access to the polls required by HAVA (the Help America Vote Act) and the Americans with Disabilities law. The NYS League has strongly advocated against the use of the lever machines and continues to push for modernization of our election laws, pushing for paperless and Election Day registration, early voting, better ballot design, improved polling place management/poll worker training, and a single June ballot. As the legislative session comes to a close, it looks like, once again, these measures will not be passed.

Results of LWVNYS Consensus Studies

Over the past couple of years, the Hamptons League has participated in three statewide studies. The results of those studies have now been released by the LWVNYS Board of Directors.

a. Term Limits

This study sought consensus on whether or not to change our existing position, which opposed term limits for our state legislators and statewide office holders. Although the results showed a slight preference for the adoption of a position in favor of term limits, the responses fell far short of the 2/3 necessary to change the current position.

b. Ballot Access

Again, our members were divided on several issues raised by this study, including whether or not to open our primaries to non-affiliated voters. However, we did come to consensus on fusion voting (allowing candidates to appear on multiple party ballot lines) and a new position was announced:

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NEW YORK STATE SUPPORTS THE CONTINUATION OF FUSION

VOTING IN NEW YORK STATE WHETHER OR NOT WILSON-PAKULA IS REPEALED.

(Wilson-Pakula is the process of getting party leaders' permission to be on the ballot without collecting party members' signatures.)

c. Constitutional Convention

With 22 leagues participating, consensus was reached on an update to our position on a New York constitutional convention. The change allows the Board of Directors to consider whether or not to support a constitutional convention when the issue is put before the voters in November of 2017, taking into consideration, but not determined by, the manner in which delegates are chosen.

Other Work of the LWVH Voter Services Committee

The Voter Services Committee has already begun to implement its plans for the upcoming fall election candidate debates. In addition, we, working with Joe Shaw of the Press News Group, have begun a new project aimed at coordinating debates and candidates' nights held by our local civic associations.

Gail Sheehy Gives Inspiring Speech at LWV Book-and-Author Luncheon



By Arlene Hinkemeyer

Approximately 60 League members and friends attended the highly successful LWVH fundraising Book-and-Author Luncheon on April 24 at scenic Cowfish Restaurant in Hamptons Bays, featuring world-renowned author and journalist Gail Sheehy. Ms.

Sheehy spoke movingly not only about her recent memoir "Daring: My Passages," which recounted the daring passages she had taken as a woman in her own professional and private life, but also about the daring projects of many of the 3,000 women around the globe who had attended the "Women in the World" seminar the day before at The New York Times. Her exceptional speech resonated with attendees and proved inspirational to many.



Information Regarding Clothes Dryers

By Joanne McEvoy-Samborn
Source of information unknown
A simulated story.

The heating unit went out on our dryer. The gentleman who fixes things around the house told us that he wanted to show us something, and he went over to the dryer. He took the filter over to the sink and ran hot water over it. The lint filter is made of mesh material ... I'm sure you know what your dryer's lint filter looks like. Well... the hot water just sat on top of the mesh! He told us that dryer sheets cause a film over that mesh and that's what burns out the heating unit. You can't see the film but it's there. It's what is in the dryer sheets to make your clothes soft and static free... that nice fragrance too.

You know how the lint sheets feel waxy when you take them out of the box... well this stuff builds up on your clothes and on your lint screen. This is also what causes dryer units to potentially burn your house down! He said the best way to keep your dryer working for a very long time (and keep your electric bill lower) is to take that filter out and wash it with very hot soapy water and an old toothbrush (or other brush) at least every six months. He said that makes the life of the dryer at least twice as long.

Learn something new every day. I certainly did not know that dryer sheets could do that. As an aside, they are banned from use in at least Ireland, according to my family members.

League Joins East Hampton Town's Adopt-A-Road Program

By Arlene Hinkemeyer

Dovetailing with the National and State LWV positions on solid waste disposal and League support of bottle bills and other recycling measures, the Hamptons League has added a new community service project by joining the Town of East Hampton's Adopt-A-Road Program!

"Our adopted road is Pantigo Place and Circle," said Arlene Hinkemeyer, of the street located off Pantigo Road (Montauk Highway), where you turn north to go to the East Hampton Healthcare Center, or pay your taxes at the Town offices. "The Town has installed two beautiful signs, one at each end of Pantigo Place, crediting the Hamptons League of Women Voters."

The League will collect litter on that road eight times a year—once a month from May through October, plus twice during the winter. Accompanying Arlene Hinkemeyer each month will be one of the Town of East Hampton League members who signed up with the Town to participate. They include, and Arlene greatly thanks, Pat Arceri, Afton and teenage son Dylan DiSunno, Estelle Gellman, Julia Kayser, Barbara McClancy, Eva Moore and Vicki Umans.



This beautiful sign now graces each end of Pantigo Place in East Hampton.

Amagansett Tour Proves To Be an Amazing Adventure

By Gladys Remler

Originally the Special Events committee was going to call our fundraising tour "Amazing Amagansett." We changed the title to "Amagansett Adventure." It turned out to be both on June 10th.

Our group consisted of more than 40 members and non-members. We met at the East Hampton Town Marine Museum for a guided tour given by the East Hampton Historical Society's educator, Stacy Myers. Our group was enthralled by her talk on the Claus Hoie art gallery, information on coastal botany, whaling, fishing, aquaculture and local shipwrecks.

A short walk behind the museum brought us to the East End Classic Boat Society's Community Boat Shop. Our speaker there was Ray Hartjen who told us all we wanted to know about boat building. He should know, as the building is named for him.

Our next stop was the Amagansett Life Saving Station on Atlantic Avenue, where we listened to a talk about its history and the 1942 Nazi landing there, by East Hampton Historical Society's Isabel Carmichael. Her family twice saved this building. It was so interesting, as we listened and sat on the steps in an informal way.

We then drove a short distance to The Art Barge moored on land by Napeague Harbor, where a catered lunch awaited us. It was a convivial and social time for our guests. Christopher Kohan, President of the Art Barge Board, joined us with a talk about the creation and function of the Art Barge, founded by Victor D'Amico, MOMA'S first director of education. It was a fascinating talk about the nature of modern art and the art classes D'Amico created there. Afterwards Mr. Kohan led us on an optional visit around the harbor to the Mabel and Victor D'Amico Studio/Home at Lazy Point to see their numerous fascinating collections and found-object creations and to learn how they lived and worked there.



On the second floor of the East Hampton Town Marine Museum in Amagansett, Stacy Myers, educator with the E.H. Historical Society and the Cornell Cooperative Extension, spoke about the aquaculture exhibit.



Isabel Carmichael spoke about the soon-to-be-completed reconstruction of the Amagansett Life-Saving Station, first built in 1902 to rescue ships offshore and now slated to become a museum.



Amagansett tour goers enjoyed a catered lunch on the second floor of the Art Barge, overlooking beautiful Napeague Harbor.



Special Events co-chairs Joanne Samborn and Gladys Remler thanked President of the Art Barge Board, Christopher Kohan, who exhibited photos of the move/construction of the Art Barge to its present site in 1959.

Calendar

July/August 2015

Change in Format of The Voter

Many of you may have noticed that the Calendar of Events which customarily has appeared on the next-to-last page of the Voter was different in the April issue. We hope you liked the change. As noted in that issue, committee meeting dates are often not available at the time of publication and therefore often missing from the calendar. Committee Chairs are the best source of information for meeting dates and their numbers and emails are listed on the last inside page of the Voter. This information is also on our website, www.lwvhamptons.org.

The Board discussed and decided that printing Town Board meeting dates each month is information easily found on-line on Town websites, www.town.east-hampton.ny.us and www.southamptontownny.gov.

We hope to be able to use this extra space by allowing our committee chairs to publish the longer articles they tend to write and to include more details about upcoming events. As always we welcome your thoughts and ideas on these topics and solicit articles you would like to submit.

July/August 2015			
Wednesday, July 1, 5:30 p.m.	LWVH Board Meeting.	Bridgehampton Bank, Bridgehampton.	
Monday, July 13, 7 p.m.	Public Information Meeting.	Hampton Library, Bridgehampton.	The Work of the East Hampton and Southampton Anti-Bias Task Forces

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President's Message

hoe and Southampton, Eastern Suffolk BOCES and Assemblyman Fred Thiele on the panel.

The **Membership Committee** has the "back office" running smoothly – many thanks to Vicki Umans. Co-chairs Joanne Samborn and Estelle Gellman welcome new members to the League and to committees and stay on top of dues renewals and other such critical details. The ever-dependable committee members Julia Kayser and Pat Arceri arranged the popular Blahs luncheon in January.

Estelle Gellman, chair of the **Government Committee**, is working with the County League and Southampton Mayor Mark Epley to consolidate local election dates, hoping to reduce costs and improve voter turnout. The first step may be to create a public calendar as a sort of clearing house for the next election

season. To keep up to date on town governments, volunteers are scheduled to observe Town Board work sessions. And the committee is monitoring East Hampton's progress toward hiring a town manager.

The **Health Committee**, then chaired by Naomi Epstein, sponsored a forum about the new, federally qualified public health-care facility in Southampton featuring representatives from the hospital, Hudson River Health Corporation and the County Health Department.

We're very pleased with our successes over the past year. But there's always room for improvement! So this year, join a committee or two and give the League the benefit of your energy and experience!

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Five Attend LWNYS Convention

Both panelists noted the silence of Governor Cuomo on the issue.

This silence was the subject of an action motion introduced by one of our delegates on Sunday, suggesting that the LWNYS ask the Governor to follow the lead of his father who, as Governor, appointed a commission to look into all aspects of a constitutional convention. The delegate body voted to send such a letter, which has been drafted, asking for an impartial and diverse committee to help prepare the government and NYS citizens to be able to knowledgeably and intelligently respond to the constitutional convention question when it appears on the ballot.

The program recommended by the NYS Board of Directors passed: it includes a consensus study on updating our position on Legislative Procedures and a concurrence on "Raise the Age" in the criminal justice system. Two new committees were proposed: one to explore the possible ways in which the national interpretation of the Meeting Basic Human Needs position could include support for raising state minimum wages or adopting a living wage position, and one to look at our program planning practices. The proposed bylaw changes were adopted, with two amendments from the floor: one making the language gender-neutral, and the other making it possible for

leagues who cannot send their own delegates to a convention to participate through the use of proxies.

The budget committee had recommended a \$2.00 raise in the PMP (per member payment that local Leagues pay to the State League). There was a great deal of discussion about the need for the raise, and possibility of alternatives to this course of action. Ultimately, the delegates voted in favor of the raise.

Dare Thompson was elected the new president of the State League. And LWVH members Susan Wilson and Carol Mellor were both reelected to the State Board, as 2nd Vice President/Development Director and Grassroots Director, respectively.

And last, but surely not least, Judi Roth and the Education Committee shared the Youth Services Award with the LWV of Saratoga. The LWVH was honored for several of its programs which targeted young people: helping Junior (8-10 years old) and Cadette (junior high) Girl Scouts earn their "In Government" badge; registering student voters in underserved areas via the "Vote 18" program; training high school students at the Southampton Youth Court in citizen involvement; and airing a radio PSA on voting that was created by an East Hampton High School student at an LWVH workshop. Congratulations to Judi and the committee!!!

The Voter

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