



Suffolk County Voter

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September 2015

LWVSC Board Meeting: 9:30 am Wednesday Sept. 16 at SCCC, Main St., Riverhead

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LWVSC Continues Research on Water Issues in Suffolk County: Dan Gulizio to speak at 11am September 16 (after LWVSC board meeting)

WATER - aquifers and groundwater, estuaries, bays and rivers, natural challenges, man-made threats, storm drain/run-off worries, leaching, sewerage (or not), saltwater incursions, non-biodegradable plastics... the list can go on and on.

Over the last few years, LWVSC has invited speakers to our events and meetings. Dr. Sarah Meyland (Water for Long Island), and Bob DeLuca (Group for the East End) have each spoken to us in Riverhead, and our local Leagues have attended and presented numerous conferences and forums on water issues.

On Wednesday September 16 at 11am (at the close of our regular monthly board meeting) LWVSC will be joined by Dan Gulizio, the Executive Director of Peconic Baykeeper, a water quality advocacy not-for-profit organization whose mission is to promote drinkable, swimmable, fishable water. Dan will be talking about the connection between land use and water quality along with strategies for improving both ground and surface water resources. Dan has worked as a planner for over 25 years and has previously served as the Deputy Director of Planning for Suffolk County, Commissioner of Planning, Environment and Land Management for the Town of Brookhaven and Commissioner of Planning and Development for the Town of Islip. He also serves as the Executive Director of The Community Planning Center, a non-profit organization committed to scientifically supported and community-based planning.

Local League members are invited to attend, but must advise a LWVSC board member in advance to plan for adequate seating.

LWVSC Voter Service Initiative in Partnership with Suffolk Bus Service

Thanks to the efforts and leadership of LWV SC director Judi Roth, (LWV Hamptons), we will be producing and placing public information signage (11" x 28") inside each of the 157 Suffolk buses during the two weeks before the November 3 general election. We're working on the design and translation (there will be 2 signs on each bus in English and Spanish) and we'll post the sign on the LWVSC website and encourage others to use it as well.

Our goal is to spread awareness of the election date and times, encourage public education on local candidates and increase voter turnout.

League Connections Lead to... Social Media Hints, Insights, Tools for Action

Local Leagues share ideas with each other via the LWVSC and also have access to LWVNY and LWVUS resources and people. Discussions at the LWVSC board retreat in mid-July at Judy Samuelson's home led to an informative, thought provoking conference call for three of our local League social media specialists with a LWVUS resource person.

LWV Brookhaven's Marilyn Beard, LWV Hamptons' Judy Samuelson and LWV Huntington's Brenda Reiss spent an hour on the phone with Amy Hjerstedt, who had used social media to establish a new local League (LWV of the Eastern Upper Peninsula in Michigan). Amy has since moved to the DC area, but her efforts are being continued in Michigan. She is an example of a League leader who is young, passionate, engaged in social media, and willing to share and work with others.

Amy led the hour-long telephone discussion on in-depth Facebook/topics. The three local League call participants found the conversation a great way to learn from other levels of LWV and share best practices that get results—and now have new ideas to try to increase their local League's visibility on social media and in the community.