



# THE VOTER

The Newsletter of the League of Women Voters of the Hamptons

Founded in 1977

Volume XXXIX, No. 8

**February/March 2019**



## Major Voting Changes are Coming to New York State

On its first day of conducting business in 2019 The New York State Legislature passed seven bills that would bring about sweeping changes in the way the state's citizens vote. Those bills are:

- Early voting
- Same day voter registration
- No-excuse absentee voting
- Primary Consolidation
- Pre-registration for 16 and 17 year olds
- State-wide voter registration transfer
- Closure of the LLC loophole

Since the 1960's the state League has fought for comprehensive voting reforms.

As the New York State League proudly celebrates its 100th anniversary this year, it is a truly monumental achievement to finally see our hard work pay off.

All these changes will not occur simultaneously. Some will not happen without further voting by the legislature and in some cases, by referendum.

As we celebrate these important positive changes, THE NYS League reminds us that there are future steps needed:

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### SAVE THE DATES

**Thursday, January 31, 2019**

Planning Meeting for Future Activities  
Rogers Memorial Library, Southampton  
12:30 – 2:30 Lunch Provided  
RSVP to [sswilson@hamptons.com](mailto:sswilson@hamptons.com)

**Thursday, February 7, 2019**

Beat the Blahs Annual Luncheon  
Bobby Van's Restaurant, Bridgehampton  
12 Noon – 2:00  
\$34 pay at door; check made out to Bobby Van's

**March 11, 2019**

Voter Services Committee PIM  
Council Members of East and Southampton  
Hampton Library, Bridgehampton  
7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

**April 4, 2019**

Former Congressman Steve Israel speaking about  
his new book "Big Gun"  
Venue: Seasons Restaurant, Southampton  
5:30 – 7:30



## 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 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, P. O. Box 2253, East Hampton, NY 11937.

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## President's Message

### By Estelle Gellman

Have the winter doldrums? How about becoming more active in the League as an antidote to the winter blahs? Not only will it help to lift you out of the doldrums but will help to make a positive difference in our community.

There are those who think that political organizations are only active during elections but, as a non-partisan political organization, the League is active year-round with many ongoing projects in which you are invited to participate. The work of our committees can pique your interest and excite your passion. Would working with children and high school students excite you? Join our Education Committee. Their activities have included registering high school seniors and training high school students to register their peers, working with girl scouts on their suffrage badge and selecting students to participate in Students in Albany and Students in Suffolk County, programs in which students get to meet our legislators and participate in mock legislative sessions.

Or are you more excited about voting and issues of government? Join us on March 12 for a Public Information Meeting, organized by our Voter Services Committee, at which the East Hampton and Southampton Town Council Members will discuss their views on the issues facing our community. The Voter Services Committee is active in voter registration, providing voter information and sponsoring candidate debates. Are you excited about issues such as voter reform, affordable housing and local transportation? Want to lobby our state legislators on issues such as voter reform? Then join our Government Committee. Or are you more interested in the environment? Then join our Natural Resources and Government Committees as they investigate our recycling program. And if you enjoy event planning, our Special Events Committee is always busy planning events to help fund our many activities. Don't be shy about contacting any of our committee chairs and joining us.

Don't worry that it's all work and no play. Join us for our Winter Beat the Blahs Luncheon on February 7th to brighten up the cold days of winter. Details for this event, committee meetings and Public Information Meetings appear elsewhere in this issue and on our website: [lwwhamptons.org](http://lwwhamptons.org)

We hope to see you soon.

### Training Voting Ambassadors at Hampton Bays High School

By Teresa Wildrick

In order to encourage students to vote, Judi Roth, Co-Chair of the Education Committee, designed a program to train young people to register their peers, family and friends. Originally, we expected to present the program to small groups of students with a particular interest in the civic process. Terese Wildrick met with the Social Studies teachers at Hampton Bays High School to work out the details of a plan. The teachers felt that it would be more effective if we presented our program to all of the Seniors in the classroom setting. Seeing this as an opportunity to reach more than 120 students, we began preparing ourselves for a marathon of seven classes on January 3 and five classes on January 4. The teachers, Kathleen Kops, Rachel Kelsh, Lyn McAulay and Felipe Perez, requested those dates because it coincided with their course work, and because any students who turn eighteen during this calendar year would be eligible to register.

After introducing ourselves and stating our purpose of increasing the number of young people who register and vote, we discussed the history of voting rights. We highlighted the importance of voting, citing several close and contested elections in 2018. Students appreciated the youth and diversity of the recently elected Congress. Since many students in Hampton Bays are not yet citizens, we reminded them of the citizenship classes offered by the public libraries in our area, and that they can help distribute voter registration forms.

When asked what issues are most important to them, several students mentioned the environment. Others mentioned immigration, taxes and safety as major concerns. We emphasized how important it is to elect representatives who share our values and concerns.

The next portion of our program focused on the voter registration form. While most students understood how to fill out the personal information, many needed clarification on what it means to choose a party or “No party,” and the difference between the Independence Party and “No party.” We mentioned voting in primaries as an advantage of choosing a party, while making it clear that it is possible to change the original choice by filling out a new voter registration form on paper or online and that registering for a party does not mean you have to vote for the candidate of that party. Since many Seniors will be away from home by Election Day in November, we provided information and applications for absentee ballots. Many students checked the box indicating that they would like to be election work-

ers and an amazing 20 out of 54 students registered to become organ donors.

On Friday, we engaged students in role playing activities. We talked about ways to approach people and offer the opportunity to register. Scenarios included positive and negative responses. Students were creative in their suggestions for encouraging others to register and vote, while remaining polite and respectful. The Government students were begin-



Education co-chairs Judi Roth (on left) and Teresa Wildrick working with Hampton Bays senior students on their GO VOTE project.

ning a Get Out the Vote campaign as a class assignment with Ms. Kelsh. They formed small groups and began designing brochures, radio, TV and social media advertisements to draw attention to the importance of registering and voting. Students brainstormed places where they would be likely to encounter people who were not registered. Ideas included other schools, sports events and cultural events. One group is planning a flash mob. Wouldn't it be fun to see them in action?

While students were understandably tired after their holiday vacation, they were excited to register to vote. One young woman had completed her online registration shortly after midnight on January 1!

We plan to bring this program to other schools in our area, and will adapt it to meet the needs of the students and teachers. Sean Brand, from Southampton High School, has asked us to work on a service learning project for AP students near the end of the school year. Ideally, small groups of student volunteers will become Voting Ambassadors who will continue to encourage and motivate their peers to participate in elections.



### Special Events Coming Up

**By Judi Roth**

First comes the annual Beat the Winter Blahs luncheon at Bobby Van's on Thursday, February 7th at noon. This year we are moving up to the front of the house so that table-hopping will be a lot easier. Cost for our two-course meal is \$34.

Moving on to April (and that means the winter will be gone!!) on the 4th we have a really special event that Arlene Hinkemeyer has been working on since the August book fair at the East Hampton Library. It will be a Book-and-Author cocktail party with Former Congressman Steve Israel (3rd District). He will speak about and sign copies of his second novel, "Big Guns", a political satire about the powerful gun lobby. The novel is set in Washington, D.C., and in Asabogue, a mythical village located between Southampton and East Hampton, with the climax of the book taking place at a League of Women Voters candidates debate! Congressman Israel is a humorous and entertaining speaker. Arlene "ambushed" the Congressman at the book fair and he readily agreed to be the feature speaker at this event which will be our annual fund raiser.

The Special Events Committee has been hard at work finding the right venue and we are delighted to announce that our cocktail party will take place at Seasons of Southampton on

Prospect Avenue. This charming restaurant/catering facility (the former John Duck) is the perfect place -- ample parking, good food and lovely surroundings. The price is \$65 before March 28 and \$70 after that and at the door. AND it is possible that a former provost of Southampton College and himself a former Congressman and friend of Congressman Israel will be our moderator! Stay tuned.

Moving along to May 30th, we are planning another outing that could rightly be called "Know Your Hamptons". We have had excursions to Shelter Island, Amagansett, Sag Harbor and Southampton. Next up will be a day in Springs. Places being considered include the Judith Leiber Museum with her fabulous collection of handbags, a tour of the historic Green River Cemetery with art historian Helen Harrison, the Duck Creek Farm Historic Site with the new addition of the John Little Barn and sculpture park and a possible look at the solar farm on Accabonac Road. (For those of you wondering why not the Jackson Pollack House that is because visitors are limited to 12 people at a time -- if you haven't seen it do make your own plans to do so.) Our lunch will be at the East Hampton Indoor Tennis Clubhouse. This is a new "hotspot" with bowling, games and music on weekends. We will enjoy a very nice lunch in an interesting setting.

### Former Congressman Steve Israel Speaks at LWV Book-and-Author Cocktail Party, April 4

**By Arlene Hinkemeyer**

The League's Special Events Committee is excited to host a Book-and-Author cocktail party with former Congressman Steve Israel on Thursday, April 4, 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Seasons of Southampton at 15 Prospect Avenue.

Israel, always entertaining and humorous, will speak about and sign copies of his second novel, "Big Guns," published in 2018, a political satire about the powerful gun lobby. Perfect for South Fork and League of Women Voters audiences, the novel is set in Washington D.C. and in Asabogue, a mythical village located between Southampton and East Hampton, with the climax of the book taking place at a League of Women Voters candidates debate!

A resident of Oyster Bay, Israel was the U.S. Representative from the 2nd and then the redistricted 3rd Congressional District on Long Island's Nassau County and Suffolk County north shore for eight terms, from 2001-17, and as he says humorously, left "undefeated and unindicted".

Recognized for his political abilities, Israel has held many House leadership positions, including chair-man of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, 2011-15, responsible for the development of competitive House campaigns throughout the country. As such, he developed a network of local, state and federal officials and is considered a leading expert in congressional dynamics.

Steve Israel is currently Chairman of the non-partisan Global Institute at Long Island University, where his official Congress-

sional records will be housed. This past fall, he served as both a Tisch College Visiting Fellow at Tufts University, where he taught the course "Topics in American Politics: Inside Congress and the 2018 Midterm Elections" and as an Institute of Politics Pritzker Fellow at the University of Chicago, where he taught a seminar with former Congressman Tom Davis, 1999-2003 chairman of the National Republican Congressional Committee.

Congressman Israel regularly serves as a political commentator on the news, with his insights appearing in the New York Times, Washington Post, Wall Street Journal, Foreign Affairs, and many other print, television and digital media.

Israel's books, including his first novel "The Global War on Morris" (2015), also a political satire, will be available for sale on April 4.

Checks made out to LWV Hamptons for \$65 can be mailed to Cathy Peacock, PO Box 7071, Amagansett, NY 11930 (after March 28 or at the door, the price is \$70). If you wish to use PayPal please call Cathy at 631-379-2609.



Congressman Steve Israel with his new novel "Big Guns," taken at an appearance in East Hampton last summer.

## Keeping in closer touch

By **Judy Samuelson**

At many LWVH Board meetings, we've discussed ways to strengthen and increase committee membership. Not long ago, the Natural Resources Committee was thriving. Education and Voter Services have always been strong and remain robust. Government, once barely functioning, is going strong, while the Natural Resources committee seeks a chair and new members. The committees are where plans are formulated to execute the goals set at our annual Planning Meeting (this year, January 31). Think how much larger committees could accomplish.

### What's the solution?

Former Board member (and past Co-President) Glorian Berk made a suggestion: better, closer communication with the general membership. How? We agreed that publishing committee agendas and following up with minutes would at least show you what's going on. And might make you real-

ize what you're missing out on. This responsibility falls to me as Electronic Communications Chair. And so long as the information comes regularly and in a timely way from committee chairs, I'm happy to do it.

We'd like to know if you like this. One way for us to tell is if committee sizes increase. But here's another way: reach out to me to suggest how the Board can improve our ability to keep you informed. I can be reached at [ElectronicCommunications@lvwhamptons.org](mailto:ElectronicCommunications@lvwhamptons.org).

We know you're busy! So we're not asking for long-term commitments. What we're asking is for you to read the agenda for a meeting of a committee addressing your interests: teaching teens about registering and voting; workforce housing; environmental issues, more. Then either come to the committee meeting, or read the minutes to catch up on what you missed. If you can't come that day, contact the committee chair to see what's next.

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## LWVH March PIM Will Host Town Councilmen David Lys (East Hampton) and Tommy John Schiavoni (Southampton)

By **Anne Marashall**

The Voter Services Committee will present the most recently elected councilmen from their respective town boards to a League public information meeting. That event will take place TUESDAY, MARCH 12 at 7:00pm at the Hampton Library on Main Street in Bridgehampton.

Each councilman will have an opportunity to describe his role on his board and the current challenges and decisions that face him and his respective board. There will be a Q&A session following their presentations.

Refreshments will be served prior to the meeting.



Town Councilman David Lys



Town Councilman Tommy John Schiavoni

## PIM on Mental Health

By Valerie King

In collaboration with the East End Mental Health Advocacy Initiative (EEMHAI), the League Health Committee sponsored an event entitled “Mental Health Matters”, focusing on the mental health and behavioral health system on the East End. The program was held on November 19th 2018 at Parrish Memorial Hall, Southampton.

The approximately 50 audience members who attended had access to tables laden with brochures on mental health issues. The event was videotaped by SEA-TV, and a peer specialist Tory Masters was available for a quiet chat for participants if needed.

The program began with a welcome, and thanks to co-sponsors from Estelle Gellman, Co-President of the LWVH. An introduction was given by Valerie King Ph.D, chair of the LWVH Health Committee, Allied Health Professional of Stony Brook Southampton Hospital and local psychologist. Dr. King stated that mental illness is not only a brain disorder, but a complex psychiatric medical illness. She explained that our Hamptons community, as well as other communities in general, are occasionally confronted with the dilemma between the choices and behaviors of some individuals in acute mental crisis and the public health mental hygiene laws and policies in place. She emphasized that we all need to better understand the difficulties of the system for prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and recovery from mental illness and behavioral health disorders.

The film, a Fred Friendly Seminar, “Minds On The Edge” was then viewed by the event participants. The 1 hour film consisted of a panel of mental health experts from around the United States, who talked about and role played common issues and viewpoints that challenge all levels of mental health service, from the individual with a serious mental disorder, the family members of this individual, to the mental health providers who provide diagnosis and treatment, inpatient and outpatient mental health facility administrative policies, mental health advocacy, the judicial system and the influence of politics.

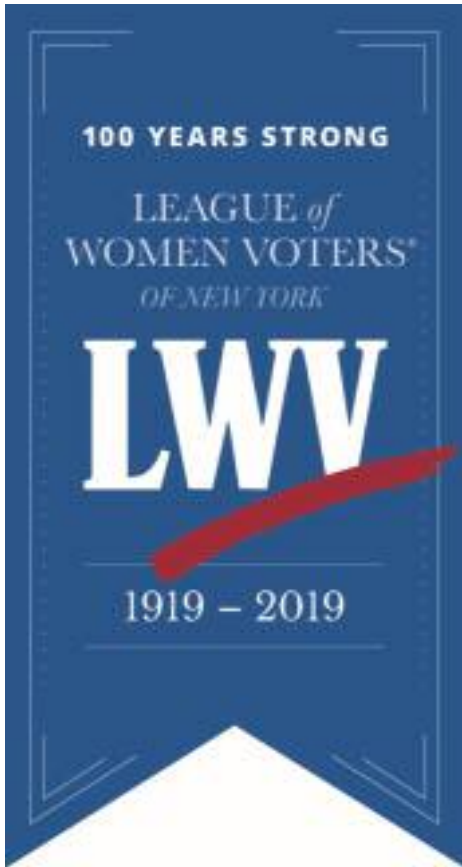
Following the film a panel, moderated by Dr. King, presented the mental health services they provide to our community and their perspectives on the opinions expressed



in the film. The panel began with Martha Carlin, Psy.D. Director of Long Island Field Office of the NY State Office of Mental Health, followed by Jenine Yannucciello, LCSW, Director of Adult Services, Suffolk County Dept. of Mental Health, both who presented state and county funded established comprehensive emergency psychiatric programs and upcoming mental health inpatient and outpatient programs such as, NY ON TRACK coordinated specialty care treatment to young people with newly emerged mental illness.

Christian Racine, Ph.D. Senior Director, Family Service League (FSL) Mental Health Clinics presented on the expansion of FSL mental health programs in local Hampton towns, including the upcoming DASH (Diagnostic, Assessment, Stabilization, Hub) program. Paul Garson M.D., Director of Mental Health Services, Stony Brook Southampton Hospital and psychiatrist with Meeting House Lane Medical Practice, presented on psychopharmacology regarding the challenges of individualized psychiatric medication maintenance and monitoring of patients with mental illness. Dr. Garson also presented ongoing efforts of Stony Brook Southampton Hospital and the Southampton Meeting House Lane Medical Practice, to integrate behavioral health screening and referrals for mental health issues into primary care services Ellen Tollefsen, a local representative of the National Association of Mental Illness (NAMI), described the support programs available in our community for mentally ill individuals and their family members. Audience questions ranged from increasing state and county funding in addition to greater commercial and government health in-

*Continued on page 16*



## **LWV 100th Anniversary Dates to Remember As We Approach These Anniversaries**

**November 19, 2019:  
100th Anniversary of the League of Women Voters  
of New York State.**

The NYS League of Women Voters was formed when, at the 51st convention of the New York State Woman Suffrage Party, the delegates resolved on November 19, 1919, to change their name to the New York State League of Women Voters. The first chair was Narcissa Cox Vanderlip.

**February 14, 2020:  
100th Anniversary of the National League of  
Women Voters.**

The National League of Women Voters was founded by Carrie Chapman Catt on February 14, 1920 during the convention of the National American Woman Suffrage Association, which took place in Chicago. The convention was held just six months before the 19th amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified in August, giving women the right to vote nationwide after a 72-year struggle. Maud Wood Park was elected the first president of the League.



**The photo, taken in 1920, of the first Board of the National League of Women Voters**



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# Living Legacy

Please consider providing for the ongoing efforts of the League Of Women Voters with a bequest included in your will, trust or estate. You can help us for many years to come by designating The League of Women Voters of the Hamptons as a beneficiary.

Here is sample language that may be given to your attorney: "I give, devise and bequeath to the League of Women Voters of the Hamptons (insert amount, percentage of estate, nature of gift, or remainder of estate) to be used at the discretion of the Board of Directors." Current and future members of the League of Women Voters of the Hamptons will be very grateful for this commitment.

For additional information, please contact Cathy Peacock at [treasurer@lwvhamptons.org](mailto:treasurer@lwvhamptons.org)

## Membership Application



### Not a member of the League of Women Voters of the Hamptons?

Please join us by mailing this application form and a check payable to LWVH to:  
League of Women Voters of the Hamptons; P.O. Box 2253; East Hampton, NY 11937

Individual Member's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Other Household Member's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Home phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell phone \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Dues: Full-time Student \$15 Household \$90 Individual \$60

Donations to our local league may be made payable to LWVHamptons and may be included in your dues check. Tax-deductible donations may be made by separate check payable to: LWVNYS - Education Foundation

I am interested in:

- Education Committee     Membership Committee     Voter Services Committee  
 Government Committee     Natural Resources Committee     Communications  
 Health Committee     Special Events Committee

*Questions? Call us at 631-324-4637 or email: [membership@lwvhamptons.org](mailto:membership@lwvhamptons.org)*



# Suffolk County Voter

www.lwv-suffolkcounty.org Box 1440, Stony Brook, NY 11790-1440 631 862-6860

February 2019

LWVSC Board Meeting: Wednesday February 20, Riverhead Library 10am-12noon

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## A Step Forward to Achieve Pay Equity in Suffolk County- What Next?

Published in the TimesBeaconRecord newspapers on January 17, 2019

Somewhat quietly in late 2018, the Suffolk County Legislature and County Executive Bellone added an important tool to the fight for pay equity: The Restricting Information on Salaries and Earnings (RISE) Act. The League commends the entire Legislature and the County Executive for taking this action- it's fair, it's sound economics, it can reduce the need to pay for additional social support for working families. And it's good for Suffolk County's citizens. It shows that our County's Legislators and Executive can work to reclaim their place as innovative, socially responsible elected officials while operating with foresight in a fiscally prudent manner.

Why should pay equity be a concern for us all? Race and gender are significant factors in what women earn for doing the exact same jobs as men. In April 2018, The NYS Dept. of Labor reported that Suffolk County women in general earn just 78.1 cents for every dollar a man earns. Comparably, black women are paid about 64 cents for every white male dollar and the pay gap of Latina women is about 55 cents to a white man's salary dollar. Equal Pay Day in April reflects how long AFTER the end of the year a woman has to work before she takes home the same amount of earnings as a man in the prior year- Thus, over 15 months of work for a woman to earn what a comparable man earned in 12 months!

Pay inequality isn't just a women's issue; it is a family issue. Recent research has found that 42 percent of mothers with children under the age of 18 are their families' primary or sole breadwinners. Wage discrimination can impair their ability to buy homes and pay for a college education and limits their total lifetime earnings, thereby reducing their retirement savings and benefits.

Gender pay inequity and low wages put the burden of meeting the expenses of employees squarely on the backs of local taxpayers, who make up the difference in the costs of living with social safety net programs.

The pay gap not only hurts women and their families, but it also hurts the communities they support. That means local businesses are hurt through lost sales, as are local schools and governments that depend on sales tax and property tax dollars to fund the programs and the infrastructure those communities need to exist. In New York State, social service costs are paid directly by country governments who then must wait for state and federal reimbursement.

If pay equity makes good economic sense for our communities, how does the RISE act work towards this goal? The bill, which takes effect on June 30, 2019 was initially created to restrict employers from using salary and benefits history when establishing salary and benefits for new employees. The legislature explained that utilizing this information in decision making perpetuates wage discrimination and the wage gap experienced by women, racial and ethnic minorities, and employees returning to the workforce after an extended period away.

Gov. Cuomo recently signed an "equal pay for work of equal value bill" which directs the president of the civil service commission to study and publish a report evaluating public employers' wage disparities related to the job titles segregated by the gender, race and/or national origin of the employees in the title. Once completed, the study will be delivered to the Governor and the leaders of the legislature, and the data from the study will be used to address pay inequities in the state's workforce. "New York State has to be a leader on this issue – a model of reform," the bill's sponsor, Assembly member Barbara Lifton said. "By getting our own house in order and ensuring that our public employees are being paid fairly for the work that they are doing, we are sending the wider message that wage disparities cannot be tolerated in a society that prides itself on treating everyone fairly."

The NYS Legislature is only in session until June. We must advocate now to strengthen our equal pay laws so that women have the tools they need to fight back against pay discrimination.

The League's work on pay equity stemmed from member concern over the feminization of poverty in the 1980's. Additional sources for pay equity information and advocacy include AAUW, PowHerNY, National Women's Law Center and the Center for American Progress.

*Continued from page 6*

## PIM on Mental Health

insurance coverage, and sliding scale fees, for mental health services, the need for local bi-lingual mental health providers, and grass roots mentorship programs.

The film, "Minds On The Edge" can be viewed via YouTube. For more information regarding the state, county and local programs that were presented by the panel at the November 19th Mental Health Matters event,

view the SEA-TV videotape of the event by checking the ongoing local program schedule of SEA-TV broadcasts.

The LWVH Health Committee provides information on health issues that impact our community. Contact Valerie King Ph.D. [valeriekingphd@gmail.com](mailto:valeriekingphd@gmail.com) 631-267-3282 to get more information or to join the health committee activities.

## Highlights of January 2, 2019 Board of Director's Meeting

### Presidents' Report:

- The Holiday Party earned in excess of \$1,100 for donations to our respective food banks. The addition of live background music to the event received mixed reviews. It was suggested that a future event might include a choral performance.
- Future PIM's:
  - Jan.** Planning Meeting, Jan 31
  - March** VSC, Panel w/ new EH & SH Council members
  - April** Government on Housing/Transportation
  - May** Annual Meeting
  - June** Natural Resources on Recycling

### Discussion Items:

- The Hampton Bays school district sent us a bill for renting the HBHS for the Oct 29 CD debate and it included a charge for 4 additional Security Guards. These were not ordered by us nor were we notified of their addition. The school superintendent reduced the bill after talking to Anne who then spoke with our co-sponsors the HBCA and the Press Group asking them to share in the cost. The Press Group has agreed to share the expense 50-50 with us.
- The Planning meeting is all set for Jan. 31 at the Rogers Memorial Library 12:30 - 2:30 PM. Joanne will order lunch.
- The Special Events Committee is deciding upon a venue for the Steve Israel book event. The date is

April 4th and it will be a cocktail party.

- The Blah's Lunch is on Feb.7 at Bobby Van's and we will be set up in the front of the restaurant this year. The cost will be \$32.
- Glorian Berk attended the Board meeting. As an off-board member for the first time in many years, she feels that the League needs to better communicate with the membership especially now that the number of Voters has been reduced. After a very good discussion, it was agreed that Judy will use Constant Contact for notifications of upcoming committee meetings, reports of interest and upcoming events. All members of the LWVH are encouraged to attend the monthly BoD's meetings.
- The Annual Meeting will take place either May 5 or May 19th. It will be at the Water Mill Community Center. Possible speakers are two Government / Poli-Sci professors from Suffolk County Community College (SCCC) who spoke at the LWV-SC Post-Election Lunch. Barbara will send out a list of suggested speakers mentioned at past meetings.

### Committee Reports:

- The Education Committee will be holding classes at the Hampton Bays HS tomorrow to talk to 7 classes of high school seniors about the importance of voting and to teach them how to become voter registrars themselves. On April 11th they will take students to

*Continued on page 17*



# Highlights of January 2, 2019 Board of Director's Meeting

*Continued from page 16*

participate in Students Inside the Suffolk County Legislature. Two East Hampton HS students will be selected to attend the Students Inside Albany program. A special program is being developed for Southampton HS AP class for late May/early June.

- Electronic Communications had its busiest month yet in November.
- The Government Committee will have its first meeting of 2019 on Jan 8th exploring transportation on the South Fork. On Jan 10 they will meet again with the Natural Resources group to discuss a PIM on recycling in June.
- Membership reports 123 paid members for 2019 in-

cluding 92 primary, 19 additional household members and 12 new members.

- Arlene and Barbara did the EH Adopt-a-Road cleanup for December.

## Upcoming Events:

- The Blah's lunch will be on Feb. 7th at Bobby Vans at a cost of \$32.

## Housekeeping

- The upcoming 2019 "Voter" editors are as follows:

**Feb / March** Judi

**April / May** Eva

**June / July** Arlene

*Continued from page 1*

## Major Voting Changes are Coming to New York State

**Our work is far from over. Now that these reforms have been passed, we will need to work harder than ever to see them cross the finish line.** As the session continues on, we will advocate for funding in the 2019 state budget to cover the cost of early voting. We will monitor forthcoming regulations guiding early voting, pre-registration of 16 and 17 year olds, state-wide voter registration transfer, and closure of the LLC loophole. We will continue to advocate for Constitutional Amendments to allow for same day voter registration and no-excuse absentee voting as these amendments must pass in two legislative sessions. Finally, we will fight for reforms that were not passed in this package including automatic voter registration, lowering the change of party enrollment deadline, and restoration of voting rights for people on parole.

We at the League of Woman Voters celebrate this exciting reform to our antiquated voting laws and encourage every citizen to exercise their right to votes.

The LWVHamptons will make multiple efforts to inform the public about the changes, their implications and their timelines. Our Constant Contact messages will inform you about these steps. In the meantime take a moment to cheer these changes that should only increase the level of voter participation in the state.

**Remember, Democracy is not a Spectator Sport.**



## LWVH Holiday Party



Welcoming Suffolk County Legislator Bridget Fleming, second right, to the Hamptons League's holiday party at the Unitarian Universalist Meetinghouse on December 6 were, left to right, Co-President Estelle Gellman, Nada Barry and Ann Sandford.

A special feature of this year's party was musician Brad Beyer, here at the piano with, left to right, Eva Moore, Deborah Kooperstein, Glorian Berk, Beth Barth and new member Beverly Lepine.



Busy at the party were Special Events co-chairs Ginny Poveromo and Joanne Samborn, here with Vicki Umans, Isabel Sepulveda de Scanlon and Marie O'Brien.

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# The Voter

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