



# Suffolk County Voter

www.lwv-suffolkcounty.org

Annual Convention 2008

Box 1440, Stony Brook, NY 11790-1440 Phone 631-862-6860

## Local Suffolk County Leagues Report

### OFFICERS

Co-President, AT/Legislative Issues  
Katherine Hoak 667-8745  
[khoak@optonline.net](mailto:khoak@optonline.net)

Co-President/DPO /County Voter  
Lisa Scott 265-2198  
[lisawscott@optonline.net](mailto:lisawscott@optonline.net)

1st Vice President/Webmaster  
Adam Gaus 543-1446  
[adam.gaus@IEEE.com](mailto:adam.gaus@IEEE.com)

Secretary  
Barbara Jordan 324-6144  
[bjordlwvh@aol.com](mailto:bjordlwvh@aol.com)

Treasurer  
Marilyn McKeown 286-1169  
[mhmckeown@verizon.net](mailto:mhmckeown@verizon.net)

### ELECTED DIRECTORS

Arlene Forwand 368-4577  
[aforwand@optonline.net](mailto:aforwand@optonline.net)

Voter Service  
Judie Gorenstein 491-3177  
[judieL728@aol.com](mailto:judieL728@aol.com)

Housing  
Nancy Marr 730-6556  
[enpymarr@optonline.net](mailto:enpymarr@optonline.net)

### APPOINTED DIRECTORS

Marilyn Brown 667-8911  
[msb11@optonline.net](mailto:msb11@optonline.net)

Peg Caraher 325-1237  
[pegcaraher@cs.com](mailto:pegcaraher@cs.com)

Financing Education  
Edith Embler 474-0983  
[emblem@suffolk.lib.ny.us](mailto:emblem@suffolk.lib.ny.us)

Sondra Irvine 862-4042  
[fsr Irvine@hotmail.com](mailto:fsr Irvine@hotmail.com)

Arlene Lesser 265-4384  
[alstna@verizon.net](mailto:alstna@verizon.net)

Special Events  
Susan Wilson 283-6549  
[sswilson@hamptons.com](mailto:sswilson@hamptons.com)

### LEAGUE PRESIDENTS

Brookhaven  
Nancy Marr 730-6556  
[enpymarr@optonline.net](mailto:enpymarr@optonline.net)

Hamptons Co-Presidents  
Anne Marshall 537-3257  
[apghnyc@aol.com](mailto:apghnyc@aol.com)

Carol Mellor 537-6998  
[camellor@aol.com](mailto:camellor@aol.com)

Huntington  
Marilyn Brown 667-8911  
[msb11@optonline.net](mailto:msb11@optonline.net)

Shelter Island  
Cathy Kenny 749-1848  
[cathy\\_kenny@hotmail.com](mailto:cathy_kenny@hotmail.com)

Smithtown  
Joyce Rosenthal 265-6463  
[ejrosen@optonline.net](mailto:ejrosen@optonline.net)

### OFF-BOARD SPECIALISTS

Budget  
Jacqui Lofaro 537-3361  
[jacqlo@hamptons.com](mailto:jacqlo@hamptons.com)

Natural Resources  
Dorothy Cappadona 549-6987  
[Doc.dot@verizon.net](mailto:Doc.dot@verizon.net)

Transportation  
Allan Aronoff 736-1937

### Brookhaven League

We had two active committees – Health and Immigration. The Health Committee members gathered information on how single payer plans would work on both US and NYS levels, and how it would be paid for. We met with Congressman Bishop to urge him to support it. We held a general meeting to consider some of the local

*Continued page 2*

### Huntington League

The LWV of Huntington has had a wonderful year where we have seen our visibility in the community and influence grow. This is in part due to alliances we have developed with other agencies and organizations.

In September, we began meeting monthly for an afternoon at the movies at the Cinema Arts Centre. We not only got to socialize with other LWV members and relax but saw some very good films. As a result of the working relationship we developed, we cosponsored an event with the Cinema Arts Centre on March 27 where we

*Continued page 2*

### Smithtown League

Smithtown began the 2007-2008 year with a monumental project. Representatives from LWVNYS came to a meeting hosted by Smithtown to introduce the county to the Leader Spark Program. Interested members from four of the Suffolk County Local Leagues attended. LWV of Shelter Island had used the program prior to the Smithtown introduction; Janalyn Travis-Messer of Shelter Island helped the presenters.

Carol McNally a member of the Smithtown league introduced us to the director of

*Continued page 4*

### Hamptons League

The past year started off on the right foot— actually, many right feet— when our members marched in and, under the tutelage of Gene Makl (organization) and Joy Lupoletti (rhythm and chant) won a prize in the Southampton Fourth of July parade.

During the summer we also took advantage of the great diversity of events on the South Fork by (wo)manning tables at activities such as the Sag Harbor Fair, Westhampton Farmer's Market, East End Picnic and the Hampton Bays Health Fair. We even got together a team of stalwart walkers to participate in Ellen's Run, in which one of our members won a prize, and all of our participating members looked spiffy in LWVH visors. These joint projects of Voter Services and Membership resulted in many new members and newly registered voters.

*Continued page 2*

### Shelter Island League

As you know, we suffered the loss of our president, Betsy Jacobson, this past year. Because her leadership provided the LWVSI with such impetus, we became determined, in her memory, to maintain that impetus and to carry on with projects she initiated.

Among other things, we carried on with a candidates' forum in October which took place on two consecutive Saturdays featuring candidates for town supervisor, town council member, assessor and superintendent of highways. We teamed with the Shelter Island Association and invited the editor of our local paper, The Shelter Island Reporter, to moderate. The debate was given full page coverage for two weeks in The Reporter and was videotaped for viewing over the course of three weeks on our

*Continued page 3*

**Brookhaven con't** problems in health care, especially those affecting low income residents who might not have insurance.

Our Immigration Committee worked on the information provided by the US LWV and held meetings to provide information and discuss the consensus questions discussed across the country. The national consensus closely matched our own.

We also held meetings about the coastal waters of the Long Island Sound, global warming, Suffolk County transportation, and Reform in Albany, Our members attended UN Day and Reform Albany Day, held voter registration drives at colleges, libraries, and Brookhaven Town Fair. and moderated six candidates meetings.

We increased our membership to 102.

Housing: We are following Suffolk County's plans to develop a walkable community with workforce housing on county-owned land in Yaphank, and other ideas for developing workforce housing according to principles of smart growth, including the Long island Regional Plan Association, Vision Long Island, and the Downstate Workforce Housing Council. We read the Rutgers Workforce Housing Needs Study, which concluded that Long Island needs 30,000 new units of housing priced for the workforce.

We have also pointed out the need for housing for families earning less than 80 or 50 or 30 percent of the median income, and have been gathering information for housing built for people with special needs. We have supported the idea of housing built for mentally ill persons in the prison system to complement the work of the Mental Health Court to keep them in the community with resources and supervision.

Nancy Marr, President

---

**Hamptons con't** The efforts of the Voter Services Committee, which continued well past the summer, resulted in a net gain in our membership for the year.

We presented a forum on the National Popular Vote, and were honored by the surprise participation of Rep. Fred Thiele, who is a sponsor of the NPV bill in the New York Assembly. Later in the year, two of our members repeated the presentation before the Huntington League.

In the fall, Voter Services hosted debates for the East Hampton and Southampton town elections. Both evenings were notable for the standing-room only audiences, and the smooth and professional manner in which the debates were organized, moderated, and timed. Our Voter Services was also asked to moderate a town debate held in Hampton Bays, for which we received accolades and appreciation.

In conjunction with Voter Services, our active Education committee again sponsored the interactive VOTE 18 program at local high schools. Given the continuing presidential primary season, students were especially receptive to debating issues and then followed immediately by taking advantage of the opportunity to register to vote.

Beginning in the early summer, an ad hoc committee undertook the study of Immigration Policy in conjunction with the national consensus, which resulted in an excellent forum in November, followed by a consensus

meeting in December. The committee did a spectacular job of making difficult concepts, many-sided issues and complex history understandable and accessible.

In April, in coalition with the Rogers Memorial Library, GAIN, a local environmental group, RELI (Renewable Energy Long Island) and with a grant from LWVUS and Oxfam, we presented a forum of local elected officials reporting the steps each town and village is taking, and plans to take, to promote "green" government. A second aspect of this presentation was a contest for ideas on energy conservation. Over 140 people attended the meeting, and many others have seen the forum on our local TV stations.

Our fundraising committee reached out in new and varied directions, holding a Pub Quiz, in which people competed for cash prizes by displaying their knowledge of almost everything, and a bulb sale, which quickly and efficiently raised money for the League, while beautifying our environment.

Finally, in part due to our persistent advocacy, several issues were favorably decided: the Suffolk County Water Authority was denied permission to access the Lloyd Acquifer; optical scanning voting machines were selected for use by the Suffolk County Board of Elections; and Gov. Paterson withheld approval for the Broadwater project.

Anne K. Marshall and Carol Mellor, Co-Presidents

---

**Huntington con't** showed "Iron Jawed Angels" looking back to the past and struggles of the suffragists followed by a discussion of voting in the present and future. Over 80 people attended and because of the excellent response, we will continue to present this program at the local libraries in September.

On October 30 we cosponsored a successful "Meet the Candidates Night" at the Harborfields Library with the Chamber of Commerce of Huntington and the local chapter of AAUW. Attendance more than doubled that of the previous

*Continued page 3*

**Huntington con't** year and the candidates as well as the audience praised the format. On November 29th Huntington Town Supervisor Frank Petrone and our league cosponsored "A Leader's Symposium for Affordable Housing." This symposium was the culmination of many hours of meetings and collaboration with Joan Cergol (vice chair of the downtown economic development program), Doug Aloise, (director of Huntington Community Development Agency), members of the Huntington Township Housing Coalition., and members of the LWV of Huntington. The half-day think tank forum brought together elected officials and other key community leaders and decision makers. Through four separate morning workshop sessions, selected panelists and their moderators initiated a productive working dialogue. Working alliances were formed, new ideas were generated, and now our league members: Marilyn Brown, Linda Lessing, Libby Hubbard, JoAnn McCarthy and Judie Gorenstein are part of a task force and steering committee working on developing a road map to more affordable housing in Huntington.

Besides these joint ventures, we have continued with our past undertakings and began some new ones. This year for the first time we have a member, JoAnn McCarthy who attends monthly town board meetings and reports them in "The Huntington Voter." Our co-editors, Marcy Emerson and Katherine Hoak have improved our Voter. Our monthly open meetings have been on relevant topics with interesting speakers. In Nov., Dr. Luis Valenzuela, executive director of the LI Immigration Alliance spoke on "The Economic Impact of Hispanic Immigration on Long Island." In January. Frank Petrone and other town employees presented a program reviewing the symposium on affordable housing. At our Feb. meeting, Susan Schindler from New Yorkers Against The Death Penalty showed "The Exonerated" a riveting film about six people who were wrongly convicted of murder and then led a discussion and presented us with facts on the death penalty in New York. Many of us were unaware that all our state senators are for the death penalty. Judi Roth and Carol Mellor from the LWV of Hamptons were our guest speakers in April and led an informative and stimulating discussion on the pros and cons of "The Compact for the Popular Vote." In May we will learn if Huntington is a "Cool City" and how it is responding to global warming.

Throughout the year our voter service committee has been extremely active. We have done our usual voter registration drives at Henry Schein, Cow Harbor Day, Long Island Fall Festival and this year at Rock

the Vote at Farmingdale University and also at Suffolk Community College. We have moderated meet the candidate nights for the South Huntington Library Board, and the school board in Half Hollow Hills and also Nothpott/East Northport school district. We have continued to present Vote 18, an interactive lesson plan teaching students about the history of voting in the US and encouraging them to get involved and vote. Six of our members have now taught this lesson to over 2400 seniors in local and neighboring high schools and to graduate educate students at Long Island University. This year we have seen the students more motivated than last year and we look forward to many future presentations. This has been a rewarding and wonderful year for the LWV of Huntington  
Marilyn Brown and Judi Gorenstein,  
Co-Presidents

---

**Shelter Island con't** local access cable channel 22.

In January, we held a wine and hors d'oeuvres reception for new members which was attended by about 20 women and men. We provided attendees with an overview of "Who We Are," and discussed various ways they could become more involved in the LWVSI even with relatively minor time commitments.

In April, we hosted a luncheon with our newly-elected Town Supervisor, Jim Dougherty that was attended by over 100 guests, including several town officials and the heads of a number of neighborhood associations. The Supervisor presented the audience with a "State of the Town," and accepted our invitation to come back next year for a reprise. Our goal is to initiate a new tradition on the Island and host this "State of the Town" luncheon as an annual event. The luncheon was given full page coverage in The Reporter and was videotaped and aired on Channel 22.

In April we also hosted a discussion at the Library on "green buildings" at which a local resident who is employing energy efficiency planning into the construction of his house gave a very comprehensive power point presentation that showed how homeowners could employ his techniques. Along these lines, our Natural Resources Committee has written to the Town Board requesting reports and information about the state of our aquifers and bays. We plan to use this information to host an educational forum and discussion on what Islanders must do to maintain the quantity and quality of our water supply—both potable and recreational.

In addition, in April, in honor of Betsy Jacobson, we held a tree dedication ceremony along side a flowering pear tree that LWVSI has planted with a memorial

**Shelter Island con't** plaque on the grounds of the fire house where many league meetings take place. The dedication was attended by 30 or so league and non-league members who honored Betsy's memory in poignant tributes. We gathered afterwards at the Legion Hall for coffee and dessert.

In May, we hosted a forum for 11 candidates running for the School Board. Since School Board candidates don't traditionally run a campaign as political candidates do, this forum really was the only opportunity for voters to become acquainted with the candidates and their policies. The forum was taped for viewing on Channel 22 and received full page coverage in The Reporter. The LWVSI also held a separate forum on the school budget featuring the Superintendent of the School District.

In the area of public education and communication, we published the Shelter Island Voter on line with the able assistance of a LWVSI member who is a professional graphic designer. He is also helping us with the design of Know Your Town which is being reissued and published at the end of this month. Our Observer Corps carries on, taking notes at the weekly Town Board meetings, disseminating the information to some 230 subscribers by email.

We are now in the process of preparing for our annual meeting in June to take place at the Gardiner's Bay Country Club when, among other things, we will be presenting revised bylaws to the membership. We are also preparing for print a new membership directory with member profiles and voting information which will be distributed to the membership at the meeting.

Cathy Kenny, Acting President

---

**Smithtown con't**- the Bay Shore YMCA. Lisa Scott took charge of our presentation. With the help of other Smithtown members she ran the Leader Spark Program in July and August. Councilors from the YMCA summer program came to two sessions a week. They engaged in a number of exercises involving them in various situations they would encounter when working with or in groups.

The LWV of Huntington and The LWV of Smithtown in cooperation with each other had a table at Unity Day. Unity Day was sponsored by the Suffolk County Community Relations Unit. It was a celebration of ethnic diversity within the county. Children from many of the school districts in the county attended. More than fifty organizations provided information about important programs, available services and cultural diversity. It has been estimated that over one thousand people attended the event. Members of the Brookhaven, Huntington and Smithtown leagues all helped at our table.

There was a Smithtown Library vote for a bond for expansion of the existing Smithtown Library. The Director of the Library invited us to hold an open meeting to explain to the voters the plans and need for the expansion. It was the first of the meetings to present the proposition to the voters. This bond was defeated. Later in the year another vote was held. Their informational presentation was placed on our website. The second bond issue vote passed.

We again partnered with other organizations for Heritage Day, presented by the Smithtown Historical Society. Along with the Long Island Greenbelt Trail Conference and the Smithtown Garden Club there were three tables at which each group gave out information about their organization. The three groups shared time covering the tables. The LWV table had voter information, registration forms and information about the League.

This year Smithtown, with encouragement from the LWVNY and Western Leagues held a Candidates Meeting for candidates in the Republican Party in the 13th County Legislative District and for The Smithtown Town Council. It was a particularly contentious primary. Everything worked out well. Later in the season we worked with the Chamber of Commerce of Greater Smithtown to hold a very traditional Candidates Meeting for candidates for the seats as County Legislators for the 12th and 13th County Legislative Districts.

In September in cooperation with the Smithtown Township Arts Council we tried our hand at fundraising. The fundraiser chosen was a called Trash or Treasure, a thinly veiled copy of the Antiques Road show. Members of the Arts Council as well as league members donated items to fill baskets that were later raffled off at the event. A local bakery donated a number of cakes; league members also did some baking. North Shore Antiques of St. James did the appraisals. A capacity crowd showed up at the Mills Pond House all with their "treasures" and their hopes. Many were pleasantly surprised at the value of the items they brought. Everyone went home happy that they attended especially the Smithtown Township Arts Council and the LWV of Smithtown.

Our Holiday Party was enchanting. It was held at the Mills Pond House, members who attended brought something good to eat. As a special treat our guest was Bill Pierce a story teller. Every one was enraptured by his tales and poetry recitations.

Our regular monthly meetings included presentations by guest speakers who were extremely knowledgeable. The subjects were Identity Theft, Health Care, Global Warming and Agricultural issues.

We will conclude our year at our annual meeting May 28th.

Joyce Rosenthal, President