



Suffolk County Voter

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April 2009

Wed. April 15 LWVSC Board Meeting, Conference Call 10:00am-12 noon

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Town Hall Forum

Several League members attended the Federal Stimulus Package Town Hall Forum on Saturday, March 14th, held at Suffolk County Community College in Brentwood, and hosted by State Senators Brian X. Foley and Craig Johnson, and Senate Majority Leader Malcolm A. Smith. It focused on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 and presented the soon-to-be-realized impact of this Act on New York State.

Many state agencies made presentations about their functions, the amount of funding each expected, and what they would have to do to implement the purposes of the Package within their agencies. Audience members, representing many facets of the county's network, were advised as to how they might participate. Some of the agencies who spoke were the Department of Environmental Conservation, Office for Technology, NYS Energy Research and Development Authority, NYS Department of Transportation, Metropolitan Transportation Authority, Departments of Education, Health and Labor. It was apparent that there are strict time and other guidelines which the federal government is demanding. It is understood that if those guidelines are not met, a withdrawal of the funding would occur. It was acknowledged that New York State is one of a few states that the federal government will be watching closely as to its utilization of the funding.

A determination to meet those guidelines was apparent and it was stressed. The presentations were clear, brief and hopeful. The Forum ended with the answering of questions presented by members of the audience.

Katherine Hoak

CPEP: An Unmet Responsibility 2

The Comprehensive Psychiatric Emergency Program (CPEP) is Suffolk's only hospital-based emergency psychiatric service. For many people, it is the entry point into the mental health care system. It is staffed by psychiatrists, social workers, nurses, and nursing assistants to provide comprehensive medical, physical, and psychiatric assessments and treatment, after which patients may be referred for follow-up outpatient care. The CPEP provides an essential and irreplaceable resource for Suffolk County residents needing emergency psychiatric care.

Because of the increasing demand for psychiatric services that have impacted on it in recent years, the facility has become a chaotic and dangerously overcrowded environment where depressed, anxiety-ridden, paranoid, and generally unstable patients must often wait for hours before they are seen. The CPEP is currently in a small, poorly designed area which cannot support high quality patient care.

HOLD THE DATE

The Annual Convention of the League of Women Voters of Suffolk County is scheduled for late afternoon / early evening

Thursday, May 28, 2009

County Executive Steve Levy has agreed to speak at our convention

Look for additional details on time and workshops and additional speakers in next month's Suffolk County Voter

An Observer's View of the County Executive's "We Work for You" Community Forum in Smithtown

Steve Levy opened the forum with a 45 minute introduction and power point presentation on county projects and monies in Smithtown. For example, the Smithtown sewer feasibility study was completed in 2008, and will serve Main Street Kings Park and Smithtown, and connect to additional developments.

Afterwards, forum participants could break out into meeting rooms to speak directly with 11 different county commissioners and department directors including police, health, social services, economic development, public works, youth, labor, parks, environment and energy minority affairs and human services. In most cases, the tone of the audience in these rooms was very serious; the community members in attendance had prepared well for this forum

These "We Work For You" Community Forums are the first step in a larger community outreach initiative by the County Executive known as CORE (Community Outreach and Response Effort). The CORE initiative will bring the office of the county executive into the issues that are most important to area residents.

The first of these forums was held in Islip Town in January, and future forums will be held in the other Suffolk County towns during 2009.

Adam Gaus

CPEP: An Unmet Responsibility 2

continued

2,050 square feet of space does not allow for sufficient care for people in desperate need of it. When they are seen, they are treated in small, shared spaces with little or no privacy.

There is an expansion planned, adjacent to the new emergency department at Stony Brook University Medical Center which will greatly improve the current conditions at the CPEP. That expansion is costly. Both County Executive Steve Levy and the Suffolk County Legislature must provide the critically-needed financial support for this essential County facility—the only one of its caliber and mission available for our residents in extreme crisis.

Katherine Hoak

"VIRTUAL" BAKE SALE

How Sweet It Is! You won't have to:



Go to the Grocery store
Mix or bake anything
Stand around all day & sell baked goods
Buy goodies that might ruin your diet



This event supports the voter education and information projects of the
Suffolk County League of Women Voters

Donations are Tax Deductible

Yes, I would love to Support the Suffolk County League of Women Voters.

Simply select an item or 2 from the list of yummy Bake Sale Items listed below and write a check for the suggested cost to produce that item. You will receive a recipe for the item/s you selected by return mail (email)

NAME: _____ Phone #: _____

Address: _____ Email: _____

Suggested Donations:

- _____ \$10 Two Dozen Orange Glazed Cookies
- _____ \$15 One Large Fresh Berry Pie
- _____ \$ 20 One Dozen Large Cranberry Walnut Muffins
- _____ \$ 25 Two Loaves of 7 Grain Bread
- _____ \$ 50 Aunt Charlotte's Southern Coconut Cake
- _____ \$120 All of the above

Make Checks Payable to: LWVNY EDUCATION FUND
Mail to: Susan Wilson * 184 Main Street, Southampton, NY 11968