
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE HAMPTONS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS CELEBRATES 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF
WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE AND FORMATION OF NAT'L LWV
Sunday, May 23, 4-5:30 p.m.**

Want to attend an old-time Suffragette rally, with Model A cars, speeches, proclamations, and women dressed in white with sashes proclaiming "Votes for Women"?

The League of Women Voters of the Hamptons is inviting members of the community, elected officials, local historians, and descendants of the prominent people who were local Suffragists in East Hampton and Southampton Towns in the 1910's to a celebration on Sunday, May 23, 4-5:30 p.m. at the Southampton Cultural Center, 25 Pond Lane, to celebrate the 90th anniversary of women winning the right to vote and the 90th anniversary of the formation of the League of Women Voters.

Both events took place in 1920. The National LWV was formed on February 14, 1920, by Carrie Chapman Catt, president of the National American Women Suffrage Association, uniting the various women's suffrage organizations that already existed in the states.

The 19th amendment to the U.S. Constitution, giving women the vote, was formally adopted on August 26, 1920, after 36 states had ratified the amendment.

At the 4 p.m. celebration, which follows the League's annual business meeting at 3 p.m., President Carol Mellor will speak about the formation, history and accomplishments of the LWVUS through the decades and introduce the past presidents of the LWV of the Hamptons, which was formed in 1977; vice president Arlene Hinkemeyer will speak about the local suffragist leaders and rallies in the towns of Southampton and East Hampton in the 1910's and introduce local descendants; and elected officials will present their proclamations.

LWVH special events chair Susan Wilson will then invite guests outside on the steps of the Southampton Cultural Center to celebrate both the past and the future. Paul Fagan's Model A Fords will be on display, accompanied by costumed Suffragettes; a new Honda Crosstour fuel-efficient car will arrive with young women in "green" garb from Smith's in Southampton; and a parade of Gurney's Beach Bakery cakes will lead guests back into the hall for refreshments.

SEA-TV will tape the program for viewing on Southampton Town's public access Channel 22.

Those wishing to attend the festivities may call the LWV at 631-324-4637. Descendants of local Suffragists are asked to call Ms. Hinkemeyer at 324-6713. To join the League, call 324-8662.

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