

## THE CAPE COD VOTER

---

VOLUME 51 ISSUE 5      JANUARY 2011

---

**HAPPY 2011**

### **CALENDAR**

**Tuesday, January 4**  
**9:30 am**

**LWVCCA Board Meeting**  
**Cape Cod 5, Dennis**

**Wednesday, January 26**  
**4:30 to 7 pm**

**Membership Task Force**  
**Betsy Bray's home**  
**15 Periwinkle Way, Harwich**

**Saturday, Saturday 29**

**9:30 Coffee, 10:00 am Forum**

**The Regional Government of**  
**Barnstable County**  
**Harwich Community Center**

Happy New Year Leaguers!

Your League will get the New Year off with a burst of energy through our January forum which will focus on our County Government, or as the planning committee prefers, our Regional Government. What the committee has planned involves an exciting new format, something of a round table discussion, ala Emily Rooney style, to be followed by audience Q&A. The title is **Barnstable County Government: Lose it? Change it? Improve it?** It will feature a wonderful panel of guests. Please read Renate Sands report of it on further pages of this *Voter* for all the details and plan to attend. *Note the change of date to Saturday, January 29, 2011.*

Also, please note **Betsy Bray's invitation** to be part of her **Membership Task Force**. She's very interested in your participation so I hope that some of you will see that you can play an active supporting role by giving her a call. Task forces are great opportunities to serve short term with specific tasks to accomplish.

As I anticipate the year 2011, I find myself wondering what shape the **redistricting** of Massachusetts will take. It seems a given that we will lose one congressional district. The League of Women Voters would support an independent committee to help guide the process and selection of redistricting lines on a non-partisan basis. We'll be looking to the National League for further guidance on this and how we can advocate most meaningfully for less gerrymandering and more logical district lines.

Let me close this message by focusing on the **advocacy role** of the League. From time to time our legislative director Elaine Bono sends out alerts for action, urged by the National or State Leagues, on bills pending in Congress or the State House. Historically, the League has been able to have some degree of influence by the strong advocacy of its members. It is even more important in this day of high contributions to campaigns by high powered and well financed "committees," corporations etc. that the League and its members act as citizen lobbyists. I urge you, if you agree with the League position, to respond to Elaine's "Calls to Action" with an email or phone call to our elected officials. It's really quite easy to do and so important that we register our opinion. As we so often say and as is more true than ever: ***Democracy is not a spectator sport!***

I wish you all a **Happy and Healthy New Year** and look forward to greeting you at upcoming League functions.

In League,  
*Judy Thomas*

## **BARNSTABLE COUNTY GOVERNMENT LOSE IT? CHANGE IT? IMPROVE IT?**

Please join us on **Saturday, January 29, 2011** at the Harwich Community Center for a most informative public forum on County Government. Coffee will be served at 9:30 AM and the forum will commence at 10:00 AM.

This is the year the county is undertaking the five year periodic review required by the 1989 charter which established the Regional Government of Cape Cod, known as Barnstable County. A Charter Review Committee has been appointed by the Assembly of Delegates and will bring forward recommendations in 2011. Our League forum is designed to bring basic information to the public on the development of the current structure as well as various recommendations for changes that have been put forward. The LWVCCA was an active member of the group working for the new charter 20 years ago and we continue to work for a structure which reflects the regional needs of Cape Cod. The function of our county government is said to be probably “the best kept secret” on the Cape and we hope this forum will stimulate active interest and participation.

The forum on County Government will have a different format. It will mirror the panel discussions featured on TV where a moderator asks questions of the panel. For this to be successful we need your participation. Please direct any questions or topics you wish to be covered to Mary Lou Petitt (508-255-9342) ([mlpetitt@comcast.net](mailto:mlpetitt@comcast.net)) prior to the forum. We will also have a question and answer period for everyone before we adjourn.

Our speakers are:

- Paul Niedzwiecki, Executive Director, Cape Cod Commission
- Senator Robert O’Leary, former County Commissioner and former member of the State Legislature
- Wendy Northcross, Chief Executive Officer, Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce
- Julia Taylor, member of the Assembly of Delegates from Falmouth since inception
- Bill Doherty, Cape Cod Board of County Commissioners for the past 6 years and former member of the Assembly of Delegates

Our moderator will be Teresa Martin, Assembly of Delegates Representative from Eastham and LWVCCA County Government Committee member.

Please help us to advertise this forum either by word of mouth, posting a flyer, other creative methods or all of the above. The flyers will be distributed by e-mail the beginning of January. The LWVCA covers such a large area that we really need your help. We will, of course, do our usual publicity.

Thank you very much.

County Government Committee

## **MEMBERSHIP . . .**

**Here is your opportunity to help and be involved with the League of Women Voters!**

**Betsy Bray, Membership Chair, will have a Membership Task Force meeting on Wednesday, January 26** at her home, 15 Periwinkle Way, Harwich from 4:30- 7p.m. All are invited to attend. The task force will be planning for the Membership Tea to be held in May, the Women in Democracy breakfast that is tentatively scheduled for Fall, 2011 and brainstorming for member recruitment ideas.

It is called a “task force” since there will be one or two meetings at the most. It is a great way to be involved with minimum effort and besides, wine, soft drinks and pizza will be served! Please let Betsy know you are coming by emailing; [braybetsy@gmail.com](mailto:braybetsy@gmail.com) or calling her at 508-432-4824. If you need a ride, let Betsy know.

## **Highlights from the December 2010 LWV Board Meeting**

Treasurer’s report: Revenue from the financial campaign: General Fund \$690; Ed Trust \$1,285 with more coming in.

New items:

- Betsy Bray to follow up with planning for Women in Democracy event, looking to fall timing.
- Nominating committee: Phyllis Walsh and Betsy Bray to serve from the Board. Phyllis to act as facilitator for the first meeting.
- January forum on County Government to have new format and excellent speakers, Teresa Martin to act as moderator/emcee.

Other highlights:

- The new job descriptions for all offices and directors were approved and will be used by the nominating committee.
- Rhondda Tewes is now able to resume as chair of the Health Committee, Ellen Davies of Brewster to co-chair. Work to start in January 2011.
- Jari Rapaport, based on the LWVCCA position, will prepare a letter re wind energy, urging various County officials to support this clean energy more strongly.
- Elaine Bono reports the state LWV will be holding regionally Town Meetings to discuss the future of the League. Our region’s will be January 4 in Weymouth.
- 2011 Annual Meeting to be held at Harbor Point, May 14.

## **LWVCCA HANDBOOK ADDENDUM**

### **NEW AND RETURNING MEMBERS AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2010**

Mary Hunter Utt  
10 Captain Linnell Road  
Orleans, MA 02653

978-618-9772  
Mary@utts.com

Judy Llewellyn  
283 Wauquanesit Drive  
Brewster, MA 02631

508-896-4041  
judyllew@comcast.net

Karen Mazza  
109 Court Way  
Brewster, MA 02631

508-896-3039  
mazzak@comcast.net

Regina Mullen  
P.O. Box 725  
Yarmouthport, MA

508-394-6312  
rmullen@comcast.net

Barbara Natale  
P.O. Box 1467  
E. Orleans, MA 02643

508-240-3488  
bgnatale@aol.com

## **WIND ENERGY ON CAPE COD**

The following page contains the text of the League letter to Barnstable County officials on the need to move forward on appropriate regulations for wind energy so that this renewable energy source can be available to meet energy needs and offset the detrimental effects continued reliance on fossil fuels.

This letter is based on the LWVCCA consensus undertaken in 2005 in which the League affirmed its policy position to encourage development of wind energy and appropriate regulations.

**LETTER TO BARNSTABLE COUNTY OFFICIALS January 2011**

Cape Cod is facing an increasing number of proposals for the development of wind power on Cape land and each new proposal sparks volatile protest debate.

Reactions to proposals range from total opposition to calls for careful regulations to assure safety and appropriate siting. It has been pointed out that the industry itself is a new one, and that innovation and experience is leading to rapidly developing technologies so that regulatory efforts must also keep pace with the changing landscape.

The League of Women Voters of the Cape Cod Area supports the efforts to define the necessary regulations for this new technology but we also ask that the public and regulators recognize the very serious situation we face: first, ever increasing demand for electrical power in the face of the finite limits of most sources and second, the effects on the environment. We believe that wind power must be accepted as a tool to meet these demands. Initially, costs of wind power may be high, but we believe that the failure to wisely use wind power and all other renewable resources will ultimately be far higher.

It is also clear that the “not in my backyard” mantra is totally impractical. It is unrealistic to think of ourselves as living on an island, isolated from the rest of the world. We live in one world, and we all inhabit the world’s “backyard”. Some of our worst “bad air” days on a pristine Truro beach result from coal-burning power plants in the Midwest. While the mountains being decimated for coal in West Virginia are not in our sight line, as are not the other massive power plants and transmission facilities elsewhere they still make possible the flow of energy to meet our daily needs here on the Cape. So far we have not yet been touched by the massive oil spills and the ensuing pollution which have plagued other national icons of natural beauty. Internationally, trying to assure access to dwindling supplies of oil worldwide has had and will likely continue to have drastic consequences in both economic terms and in terms of our foreign policy as dependence on foreign oil undermines our country’s international relationships and increases reliance on costly military action.

The LWVCCA urges both officials and residents of Cape Cod to give most thoughtful consideration to the potential for the appropriate and necessary use of wind power on the Cape.

## Welcome to our newest advertiser!



**Cape Cod  
Community  
College**

We're proud to support the  
League of Women Voters of the Cape Cod Area,  
and celebrate our common goal to build community  
in this unique region of the world.

Come reimagine, reinvent,  
and reignite your life  
at *your* community college,  
because from here you can  
take your life anywhere!

www.capecod.edu

2240 Iyannough Rd. West Barnstable, MA 02668  
toll free 1-877-846-3672

CAPE COD  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
LIGHT  
LIBERTY  
AND  
LEARNING  
1961

Visit our continuing advertisers on the next page,

All ads contributed by a most thoughtful, anonymous donor in honor of:

**A BABY CENTER and THE HOMELESS PREVENTION COUNCIL**



A Baby Center (ABC) provides at no charge, every 30 days, critical basic items for infants and toddlers up to the age of three who live on Cape Cod and the Islands; and whose families meet income guidelines as identified by the federal WIC (Women, Infants & Children) program. To donate money, visit [www.ababycenter.org](http://www.ababycenter.org) or mail a check or clothing to

**A Baby Center, P.O. Box 758 Hyannis MA 02601**



**PLEASE DONATE TO**

Homeless Prevention Council  
(formerly Interfaith Council for the Homeless )

14 Old Tote Rd., PO Box 828

Orleans MA 02653

508-255-9667 x17

[www.hpccapecod.org](http://www.hpccapecod.org)