



THE CAPE COD VOTER

VOLUME 59 ISSUE 2

OCTOBER 2019

CALENDAR

Tuesday October 1
9:30am

BOARD MEETING
Cape Cod Five, Dennis

Sunday October 13

Voter Registration
Drummer Boy Park, Brewster

Thursday October 17
9:30am – 2pm

DAY ON THE HILL
State House, Boston

Saturday October 19
10:30am

CAPE COD COALITION FOR
SAFE COMMUNITIES
Zion Union Heritage Museum, Hyannis

Thursday October 24

United Nations Day

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month
And Domestic Violence Awareness Month

UPCOMING

Tuesday November 5
9:30am

BOARD MEETING
Cape Cod Five, Dennis

~~Saturday December 7 – Holiday Brunch~~
Hyannis Golf Club

lwvcapecod.org

www.members.lwvcapecod.org

www.facebook.com/LWVCCA

Save the Date

Cape Cod Coalition for Safe Community presents

IMMIGRATION ISSUES

SIX SHORT FILMS

- **Dream Act and Promise Act**
- **Immigration Enforcement**
- **Detention**
- **Deportation**
- **Federal Programs (DACA/TPS)**
- **Safe Communities Act**

Each film followed by a question and answer session

PRESENTER

Mark Gabriele

Cape Cod Coalition for Safe Communities

SPONSOR



WHEN

Saturday October 19, 2019
10:30 am

WHERE

Zion Union Heritage Museum
276 North Street Hyannis,
MA

Fall "Gathering In" Meeting enjoyed by all



Florence Seldin introduces Monomoy Regional Teacher Richard Houston with a recollection of her own from Rich's forty-two years of teaching history to high school students.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

From Renate Sands and Rosemary Shields

PILGRIM

The following information was sent to the LWVMA Legislative Action Committee who approved and suggested LWVCCA send it, with Mr. Mullin's testimony, to Sens Warren and Markey and Rep. Keating. We have also been successful in gaining the support of the Chelmsford and Concord-Carlisle Leagues who have agreed to contact their legislators, who are chairs of the Joint Committee on Telecommunication, Utilities & Energy where Pilgrim bills H2904/S J9 49 are housed.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission's meeting in Plymouth on Wednesday night, September 11 *(sic)*, was attended by members of LWVCCA and LWV Plymouth. The subject was best practices for citizen advisory boards (panels).

Eye-opening testimony from Sean Mullin, Chair of the Mass. Nuclear Decommissioning Citizens Advisory Panel (NDCAP), showed the futility of NDCAP's 2 years of work. From the start, the highly-paid nuclear industry lobbyists on Beacon Hill altered the original intent and composition of the citizens' panel. The changes ensured that the citizen appointees to the panel were unable, even when they voted unanimously in support of a motion, to gain the required majority vote without support of both the plant operator's appointees and ex-officio appointees. This unexplained change to the legislation effectively stacked the panel and muted the collective voice of citizen members.

Mr. Mullin gave many examples of how the NRC's regulations, policies and practices are rigged in favor of the nuclear power industry. His conclusion -- that the process and decision of the license transfer and decommissioning approval of Pilgrim has been a travesty and a sham. Citizen advisory boards are a charade.

RANKED CHOICE VOTING

LWVCCA volunteers were on hand at the **Harwich Cranberry Festival** on Saturday, Sept. 14 to assist **MassVotes**, the non-partisan organization promoting **Ranked Choice Voting (RCV)** aka Instant Runoff Voting. Ranked Choice Voting would give voters the option to rank candidates in their order of preference. On Election Night, all ballots are counted for voters' first choices. If one candidate receives an outright majority, he or she wins. If no candidate receives a majority, the candidate with the fewest first choices is eliminated and voters who had chosen that candidate have their ballots re-counted for their second choice. This process repeats, and last-place candidates lose, until one candidate reaches a majority and wins. The state of Maine and 11 cities across the country use ranked choice their elections, including Cambridge, which has been using it in municipal elections since 1941.

The League is supporting/monitoring state legislation that would institute RCV by law, H719 / S414. We urge you to contact your state legislators to support this legislation. Please also contact www.voterchoicema.org to volunteer to collect signatures. (The gathering of signatures is a back-up plan to put RCV on the ballot in case the legislature fails to act.)

National Voter Registration Day an International Success!

From Voter Service co-chairs Anita Rogers & Rosemary Shields



Members of the LWVCCA Voter Service Committee marked Voter Registration Day by setting up a voter registration/information table at the Cape Cod Mall in Hyannis.

With Automatic Voter Registration now the law in Massachusetts, most of the passers-by were already registered (it's working!). Nevertheless, they thanked us for our service and gave us thumbs up for our work.

Keti Desmarais (center) from the Dominican Republic was proud to capture her first act as a new citizen by being the first person to register to vote! to Anita and Rosemary (in their Suffragist White) on a most successful day! Mati Ligon, Carolyn Richardson and Judy Thomas also assisted.

Barnstable County Assembly of Delegates Charter Review Committee Meeting -- September 4th

From Judy Thomas, observer for LWVCCA

The full Assembly is serving as a "committee of the whole" for the charter review and was chaired by Assembly Speaker Suzanne McAuliffe of Yarmouth.

- Suzanne explained the meeting was NOT being televised because it was a "committee" meeting. The atmosphere was more relaxed than a typical Assembly meeting.
- There was no roll call so identifying who was present was a challenge, but I believe the following 11 Delegates were present: Suzanne McAuliffe (Yarmouth) Patrick Princi (Barnstable), Linda Zuern (Bourne) by phone, Mary Chaffee (Brewster), John Ohman (Dennis), Tom O' Hara (Mashpee), Terry Gallagher (Eastham), Brian O'Malley (P' town), Ann Green (Wellfleet), Elizabeth Harder (Harwich), Susan Moran (Falmouth).
- It seemed that Suzanne had prepared on her own the topics to be addressed.
- County Attorney Peter Lloyd was also present.

"Censure" was the first topic for consideration. (The topic of "recall" had been given to a sub-committee.) Suzanne distinguished " recall" from "censure" by saying recall is something voters do, while censure is an "in house" issue. I believe neither is part of the current charter.

Points made:

- Recall is cumbersome.
- Censure is necessary but how best to do it. It has the potential to be awkward, partisan and messy.
- Attorney Troy pointed out specific censure language may not needed since it can be done in the Assembly by "resolution."

No final determination was made -- although the general feeling of those who spoke leaned toward including censure language.

Term limits were the second topic. After discussion by several delegates the consensus was that longevity has not really been a problem up to this point and things could be left as they are.

Weighted vote v non-weighted vote was the third topic for discussion. Currently, voting in the Assembly takes place via "weighted voting" based on each town's population. Percentages range from almost 21% (Barnstable: Patrick Princi) to Falmouth, 14.6% (Susan Moran) to Provincetown (Brian O'Malley) with 1.36%. Suzanne mentioned there are a very few instances currently where the vote is not weighted, election of speaker and vice speaker being an example.

Attorney Troy emphasized that "one person one vote" is judicially much preferred, but added, given the earlier discussion re censure, that it might be able to done without weighted vote.

This topic generated the most discussion and was quite interesting. Comments included:

- Princi -well known that he prefers non-weighted and that his preference is "districts based on population" (a preference shared by former Delegate Julia Taylor). He further opined that sometimes he feels as if his town is " almost too big" - travel from one part to another and constituent service is not as fast ashe would like.

References were made to previous charter proposals which called for five districts.

- Points on this included that the Assembly needs all fifteen voices -- especially on big issues, there might be less involvement by residents.
- John Ohman (Dennis) stated that regional districts might be preferred, but with regard to a weighted vote, individual delegates (like Mary Lou Pettit, formerly Eastham) had great power despite having only a minimal 2.3% vote.

At the conclusion of the topic Speaker McAuliffe commented that the weighted vote is okay. . but that other issues raised needed more discussion.

Re topic **Section 2**

Attorney Troy is looking at cleaning up some of the language, making sure that terms are consistently used, etc.

See the 350.org [proposed amendments here](#) See Cape Cod Commission [Public Meeting Schedule here](#). (See "Cape Cod Commission Initiates Community Process on Climate")

LWVCCA Board Meeting- September 3, 2019 SUMMARY OF MINUTES

Attendees: Mati Ligon, Pat Ryle, Karen Mazza, Judy Thomas, Suzanne Brock, Richard Utt, Mary Hunter Utt, Amy Harris, Rosemary Shields, Anita Rogers, Elaine Dickinson

Youth Service Committee update: Karen Mazza reported that their new project will be to support the active learning student-led civics projects required by the new law. We are developing a directory of local resource contacts on a variety of civic issues that may be of interest to students. We may be in contact with other members to ask for some help.

Legislative Committee update:

Renate Sands and Elaine Dickinson reported that, because the legislature takes August off, the Election Day Registration (EDR) and Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) bills are still in the Joint Committee on Election Laws.

Pilgrim Update. According to Senator de Macedo, even though the NRC has approved the license transfer from Entergy to Holtec, "any bills passed would still apply to Holtec since they would now be the holders of the NRC operating license at Pilgrim."

LWVCCA co-signed a letter from the Cape Downwinders and Citizens Awareness Network re the license transfer of Pilgrim from Entergy to Holtec without a public hearing on issues raised by citizens, local organizations, and state legislators regarding the decommissioning process.

Health Committee update: Pat Ryle reported that they are working to confirm members' interest in this committee and are considering the following areas of focus: disparities in health care for black women, drug costs, gun data collection, and medical step therapy protocol.

Steering Committee report

- Elaine Dickinson attended the Cape Cod Women's Coalition round table on County Government. She reports that it was well attended and informative and refers people to the [coalition website](#). Mati Ligon and Nancy Erskine also attended. Copies of the new Member Directory and Handbook were handed out to board members. The rest will be mailed. Kudos to the people who worked on this over the summer.
- Membership update: Amy Harris reported that membership stands at 72. The Membership Committee Chair is open.

Voter Service Committee update: Anita Rogers and Rosemary Shields are working on several upcoming events and working with Mati on getting out the vote in underserved communities.

Upcoming events: looking for volunteers:

Sunday October 12, Voter Registration, 9:30am -12:30pm.The Brewster Historical Society has asked us to set up a voter information/registration table at Drummer Boy Park during their Harvest Market.

Saturday October 19, A voter information/registration table will be set up at our Safe Communities/ Immigration meeting at the Zion Union Heritage Museum in Hyannis. Please contact Anita or Rosemary if you'd like to help at either of these events.

Thursday October 17, Day on the Hill will be held at the State House, Boston, at 10:00am. Speaker is Senate President Karen Spilka.

LWVMA annual convention in June: Rosemary Shields and Mati Ligon attended. Rosemary suggests going to the [LWVMA website](#) for more information. Mati praised Harvard Prof. Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham's address on the history of black women's struggle to join the League and how change is needed at all levels of the organization. Mati noted that she saw only one other person of color at the convention

Climate Strike Events drew crowds in Barnstable and Dennis

Thanks to Richard Utt for submitting this article. Unfortunately, his photos were destroyed by the editor's computer.

The week of September 20-27 drew crowds across the country to draw attention to the Climate Crisis ~ and the Cape was no exception. In Barnstable a crowd of more than one hundred, about half of them students, gathered in front of the offices of the Cape Cod Commission. There were impassioned speeches by representatives of www.350capecod.org, students and others. LWVCCA was represented by members **Rosemary Shields, Mary Utt and Richard Utt.**

At 11 o'clock, we observed 1 minutes of silence while church bells were rung all over the Cape to symbolize that we are in the 11th hour of any effort to prevent catastrophic climate change. The events were organized by 350capecod.org and the location was chosen because the Cape Cod Commission is responsible for developing the Cape Cod Regional Policy Plan (RPP), which sets growth and development policy that is binding across all 15 Cape towns. We were asking them to adopt amendments that would make climate concerns central to the plan.

You can see the current www.regionalpolicyplan here. Also see the Commission's Public Meeting Schedule at www.capecodcommission.com

There was also a good crowd of about 120 people in Dennis: The rally was organized by the Safe Communities group, but members of additional groups or individuals were welcomed. Other groups included Lower Cape Indivisible, the Dennis Democratic Town Committee and the League of Women Voters. Two students spoke, one from Truro, the other from DY. The group stood in front of Dennis Town Hall close to the side of Route 134. Passing cars sounded their horns or cheered in support. In the last 10 minutes, the organizers gathered us together to listen, share some comments and invite others to speak.



[LWVCCA](#) was ably represented by members **Elaine Dickinson, Karen Mazza, Judy and Barry Thomas, Elaine Bono and Pat Ryle.** *Thanks to Richard Utt for these photos.*

***And even in Edinburgh ~Sue Brock was there!
An international perspective.***

I have always been interested in the environment, living things, plant and animal. During my teaching days I taught Biology at both middle and high school levels. In addition , I have always tried to volunteer some way in areas that involve the environment - from the Conservation Commission to the Water Quality Advisory Committee and now the Wastewater Implementation Committee. So I was really disappointed on finding out that the Cape Climate Strikes were planned for September 20th. Why? Because I was to be on vacation in Scotland!

But the Gods were smiling on me.

For some reason, Europeans seem to take Climate Change much more seriously than we do. Imagine my delight when I found out that students in Scotland were planning a day long strike from school in conjunction with the Strike. We happened to be in Edinburgh that day and, coming down from a high overlook area in the city, walked right into a huge protest march! Thousands of students, parents, business people, all in unison, protesting what is being done to our Earth and what is not being done to save it! The police had blocked off traffic, people were singing and cheering them on. It was super fantastic! So, we just joined in the march. What a serendipitous moment! And a lovely end to our journey. We left for home the next day.

We all need to find a way forward to protect our Earth community and pass it along to our children and our children's children for all to cherish.

With hope for the future. Sue Brock

*******MEMBERSHIP MATTERS**

Welcome to new member Lorraine Viglione

With thanks to Mati Ligon

It was with the consistent encouragement of one of her daughters, a member of LWV in North Carolina, that Lorraine Viglione joined LWVCCA in June of this year.

A native of Pennsylvania, Lorraine grew up in a close-knit family with her parents and brother Nicholas, but tragedy struck when Nicholas, just nineteen, was killed in action in the Philippines during World War II. Eleven-year -old Lorraine was devastated.

She persevered, however, graduated from Penn State in 1950 and did graduate work at Temple before marrying Dr. Joseph Viglione and concentrating on raising their four children. It was a busy life, but in addition helping manage her husband's office, Lorraine also found time to run for--and win--a seat on the local school board.

The family spent many of their summers on Cape Cod ~ and today, at age 90, Lorraine still spends at least part of every summer on the Cape. This year she decided to put her long life's experience to work for the League of Women Voters. "I do feel I can do *something* to get the voters out," she says.

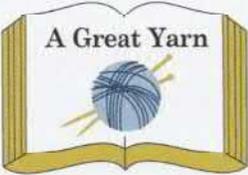
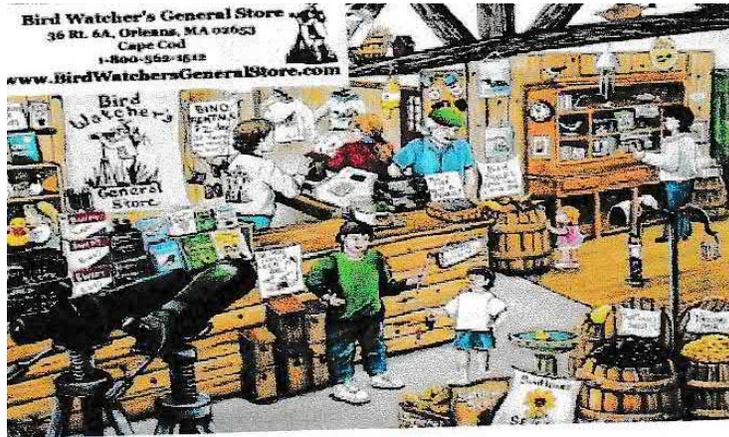
Lorraine Viglione

21 Compass Circle, Mashpee 02649 Lorraine.viglione@grnail.com

*****Handbook Update(s)**

Please add: Debra Dagwan, POBox 897, Hyannis MA 02601, frustrate@aol.com

Please also check your own entry and be sure it's correct. If not, please notify Richard



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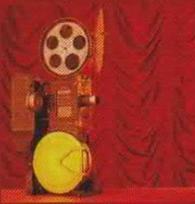
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