



THE CAPE COD VOTER

VOLUME 56 ISSUE 8

APRIL 2016

CALENDAR

Saturday April 2

Coffee at 9am, meeting starts promptly at 9:30--to noon

Priorities Meeting

Harwich United Methodist Church
Corner Queen Anne Rd. & Church St.

Tuesday April 5

9:30am

Board Meeting

Harwich United Methodist Church

Saturday April 30

9am - Noon

Health Forum -- Medical Marijuana

Cape Cod Media Center, Dennis Port
Details Page 4

LOOKING AHEAD

Tuesday, May 3

9:30am

Board Meeting

Cape Cod Five, Dennis

Wednesday, May 18

5 - 7pm

Annual Meeting

Sea View Restaurant, Dennis Port

www.lwvcapecod.org

P2 -- LWVCCA April 2016

**SETTING OUR PRIORITIES
LWVCCA ALL-MEMBER MEETING**

Saturday April 2

9:00 am to 12:00 – Coffee at 9:00 and Meeting starts promptly at 9:30

Harwich United Methodist Church

One Church Road, E. Harwich.

As previously announced, members will meet to share ideas on how we will continue to be a vibrant and relevant League. We have a long history of serving the voters and communities of Cape Cod with a strong and respected reputation. Over the last few years, the number of *active* members has been declining. Currently, much of the work is being performed by a small core of members. Frankly, we have reached a point at which key board positions cannot be filled. Without meaningful changes, our ability to continue to serve the voters and communities of Cape Cod will be diminished.

During our discussion, we will answer questions such as: *What issues are important to our members? What can we be doing differently and what should we continue to do? What should our priorities and focus be? How do we increase active member participation?*

If you have not yet confirmed your attendance and plan to attend, please send an email to Chris at cameade@comcast.net to confirm your attendance.

Chris will send information to all confirmed attendees prior to the event about the location, overview of the LWVCCA, et al.

All are welcome. Please join us. Your participation is important.

Save the date! LWVCCA Annual Meeting & End of Year Celebration

Wednesday, May 18, 2016 5:00 - 7:00pm

Sea View Restaurant, 76 Chase Ave., Dennis Port

Our LWVCCA Annual meeting will be held at the same location where we met last year. We'll review the outcomes of the April 2nd Priorities Meeting and approve the officers, directors, budget and programs for next year. Please join us as we share information about our future and celebrate the work we have done over the last year. Guests are most welcome.

The price for the dinner is \$29.00, which includes hors d'oeuvres, salad, choice of 3 main courses and dessert. Cash bar. Your confirmation is requested **by May 13**. *Please see reply coupon at the end of this VOTER.* For more information on the Sea View and for driving directions, visit <http://seaviewcapecod.com>

We look forward to seeing you at both events.

Joan, Barbara and Chris

COUNTY COMMITTEE

From Judy Thomas, Chair

Since the report of the County Committee in the February *Voter* much has happened.

- Developed a question for the Legislative Breakfast dealing with county structure. [Our Cape delegation, with the possible exception of Rep. Peake who gave a vague answer, agreed to support whatever was put forth positively from the Assembly for approval from the state legislature.]
- The committee met to develop a list of advocacy strategies which were presented to the Board for approval in March. LWVCCA members were joined by two board members of the Falmouth League, whose board has agreed to support county structural change.
- Representatives from the committee (co-chairs Judy Thomas and Mary Lou Petitt attended two regular CC Business Roundtable Meetings and one meeting to discuss strategies. One meeting included a discussion of the structural change with Ron Bergstrom, Chatham delegate and Speaker of the Assembly of Delegates.
- Wrote a letter to the editor of *The Cape Codder* supporting the structural changes proposed by Barnstable delegate Patrick Princi.
- Mary Lou and Judy met with Sheila Lyons, county commissioner to gain her perspective on the structural issues.
- Mary Lou and Judy met with Paul Niedzwiecki, executive director of the Cape Cod Commission, to gain his perspective on the structural issues.
- Developed a pro/con position paper comparing the Princi and McCutcheon proposals and the current charter-- in preparation for a presentation to the Truro Board of Selectmen
- Presented to the Truro Board of Selectmen on March 22.
- On behalf of the BRT wrote a My View piece for the Cape Cod Times identifying the two proposals and supporting the Princi Plan.

As of the end of the third week of March, structural change is not looking like a strong possibility at this time. Although there is a crisis at the county level, "the stars are not aligned for change" as one proponent put it. Most delegates are satisfied with the status quo. Speaker has scheduled a hearing for Wed, April 6 Assembly of Delegates meeting. It is hoped our loose coalition of four organizations will have at least four speakers advocating for change.

HEALTH COMMITTEE

From Amy Harris, Chair

(Press release)

MEDICAL MARIJUANA: TRUTHS & FICTIONS

**An educational forum co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters
and Gosnold on Cape Cod**

Saturday, April 30 -- 9am to noon

Cape Cod Community Media Center, Shad Hole Road, Dennis Port

Medical marijuana is here. Approved by the voters in November 2012. Available today in six communities in Massachusetts, but none on Cape Cod. That may soon change. The Haven Center of Orleans has plans to open a medical marijuana dispensary in Brewster.

In an effort to educate the community on the pros and cons of medical use of marijuana, --and the status of current Massachusetts law--The League of Women Voters of the Cape Cod Area and Gosnold are sponsoring an educational forum on April 30. Everyone is welcome.

Keynote speakers will be **Dr. Kevin Hill** Assistant Professor of Psychiatry at Harvard McLean Hospital and author of *Marijuana: The Unbiased Truth about the World's Most Popular Weed*, **Raymond Tamasi**, President and CEO of Gosnold and **Sen. Vinny DeMacedo**, Plymouth and Barnstable District, who recently visited Colorado with a senate committee to witness that state's experience after legalizing both medical and recreational marijuana use.

As citizens...taxpayers...even potential pain sufferers seeking relief, we owe it to ourselves to learn the pros and cons--truths and fictions--surrounding this controversial substance. The program will be taped live and shown regularly on Channels 98, 99 and some local channels.

LWVCCA Members -- please print the poster/flyer at the end of this Voter and distribute in your towns.

LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST -- NOTES

“The best ever” was the consensus from our annual Legislative Breakfast, held on February 26th at Cape Cod Community College. Both of our state senators and four of our six representatives were on hand in person ~ along with nine 4Cs students ~ which elicited a stimulating conversation. Thanks to Judy Thomas for moderating, Karen Mazza for her notes (below) and congratulations to Legislative Chair Renate Sands on a lot of hard work and perseverance that paid off beautifully.

Question about proposed changes to county government structure:

- Brian Mannal--supports Princi plan.
- Sarah Peake--Doesn't see the legislative process at the state level happening before November because all bills that are going to be considered must be filed by March 15. Then the legislature focuses on those bills and that will be their work between then and July 31. She also observed that all state reps from the Cape are up for reelection and 2 commissioner seats are up for election. She recommends giving the new commissioners and new county executive time to think about the effectiveness of county government structure.
- Dan Wolf – The state legislature could move fast on this if they wanted to but they probably won't. He believes that form should follow function. We have some common issues on the Cape that require regional vision. They are housing, energy, and transportation. What form of government will serve us well in moving forward? We need to be visionary.
- Vinny De Macedo – Our job is to advocate for you.
- Tim Whelan – Supports the need for county government, but feels revision is needed.
- Randy Hunt – Our role is to facilitate legislation when it comes forward. Voters will decide.

Question about marijuana:

- Peake – Medical marijuana -- legislation was “inartful”. Roll-out was terrible. Re recreational marijuana, current polls about voter attitude indicate that it will pass as a ballot question.
- Mannal – Support legalizing it. Tax it at a high rate. Medical marijuana roll out has been disastrous.
- DeMacedo – reported on his trip with other senators to Colorado to learn from their experience in legalizing recreational marijuana. The biggest challenges are regulatory.
 - The business has to be handled as an all cash business because as long as it is illegal at the national level, banks will not handle the money.
 - The federal department of agriculture will not be involved so at the state level they have to write all the regulations (on growing) them-selves. This involves decisions like the type of pesticides they use.
 - A safeguard on dosage is a concern when the industry is based on 50% of the marijuana being edible. Today's marijuana is much more potent than the marijuana of the sixties. *Continues...*

P6 -- LWVCCA April 2016
(Legislative Breakfast cont.)

- The Mass. group was advised to understand what your “base line of use and abuse” is now. How many people are consuming now? How many people are driving drugged now?
- With regard to taxation, Colorado taxes marijuana at about the 28% level and Washington state taxes it at somewhere around the mid 30% level. They are finding that that level of taxation does not cover their costs of regulation and oversight. The ballot question being proposed in Massachusetts calls for only a 3% tax rate.
- DeMacedo is concerned that the ballot question does not take into consideration the complexity of these issues.
- Tim Whelan – Has sponsored legislation on synthetic marijuana. One problem with synthetic marijuana is that it does not show up on drug tests. One element of his legislation involves taking the federal narcotics list and placing it inside Massachusetts legislation.
- Randy Hunt– Is sponsoring opiate legislation. His bill is now in conference committee. The bill looks at two primary measures. One measure limits the amount of time a prescription is used. The other measure supports education for doctors, parents, people receiving drugs.

Question on charter schools

- Manna – Doesn’t see a need to increase them on the Cape. The funding formula is flawed. For the long term, people are essentially looking for a privatized experience.
- Wolf – Serves on the Senate committee working on a bill on charter schools. He is very concerned about the funding formula and its financial impact on the remaining district schools and their students. The bill they are working on may not be enough to satisfy the advocates for charter schools to the point where they might pull the ballot question altogether.

Student Question on money for community colleges:

- Peake – We are aware of the needs and we have your back.
- Whelan - There are many education priorities. Universal Pre-K is critical. This helps students be prepared to succeed when starting school. We need to improve funding for school transportation--poor transportation works to cut down attendance. The question is where do we put the money? Where will we get the biggest bang for the buck? Rep Whelan is not sure he would prioritize free community college.
- Wolf – Filed the bill on free community college education. Can we have a revenue discussion in Massachusetts?

Continues. . .

P7 -- LWVCCA April 2016

Legislative Breakfast continued

Student Question on charter schools:

- “I went to Sturgis. There must be a reason why students are choosing to go to charter schools.” (*Questioner was a graduate of Sturgis.*)
- Dan Wolf responded by indicating that funding is the issue. It’s not fair to the remaining students in the district schools to have a loss of state funding to their district. This results in cuts in programs and services for those students. (His daughters went to charter school, then finished at Nauset HS.)

Closing statements from Sen Wolf and Rep. Mannal proved to be touching. From Sen. Wolf, a fond farewell. Rep. Mannal spoke about money in politics and how the negative ads during his last campaign affected his family, especially his children.

Legislative Chair Renate Sands closed the meeting by thanking the legislators and students for arranging their schedules to be with us. She also expressed appreciation to CCCC President John Cox and the staff for their generous hospitality in hosting this important LWVCCA event. As always, the breakfast atmosphere was enhanced by the lovely linens from Joan Craig, who could not be with us this year because of family commitments.



**RPM
CARPETS
&
FLOOR COVERINGS**

Russell P. Morris
Owner

192 Rt. 137 · E. Harwich, MA 02645
508-432-4151 · Fax: 508-432-4162
rick@rpmcarpets.com

MOHAWK
FLOORSCAPES

www.rpmcarpets.com MOHAWK MAKES *the* ROOM

YOUTH SERVICE COMMITTEE

Submitted by Karen Mazza

There are a few new developments in our continued planning to support civic education in the schools. First, Karen Mazza, Committee Chair has been appointed to serve as the state League representative to a Task Force established by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to develop a strategic plan for civic education in the state. Also serving on that Task Force, from the Cape, is Mark Wilson, Principal of the Monomoy Regional Middle School. Karen and Mark are co-hosting a meeting for civic educators in Cape schools to ask them for input for the Task Force on March 30th after school hours, and several Youth Service Committee members will be in attendance at this meeting. The Cape Cod Community College has graciously agreed to provide us with space for the meeting.

In addition to seeking teacher input about priorities for the new Task Force, Karen will also be seeking their input about the helpfulness of the grant program that we have initiated to support action civics in the schools. She will also inquire about additional ways to provide a community support network for civic education.

To expand partnership in support of civic education in Cape schools, Karen has initiated conversation with the JFK Museum in Hyannis, about their new programming efforts to support civic education. The JFK Museum is expanding its programming for outreach to schools and they also are a non-partisan organization. We agreed that there are common efforts on which we can collaborate. We also agreed that in a larger plan of community support, some organizations might take responsibility for specific objectives or projects. As a start to this partnership, Emily Mazzetti, from the Museum will attend the March 30 meeting. Karen will participate in a workshop for students at the Museum on April 8 talking about the League of Women Voters and the role we play in organizing debates, protecting voter rights, and the process we use for advocacy.

As we recalibrate our League efforts to support civic education based on this new input from teachers and on this new partnership, the committee will keep our membership informed about future ways that members may be helpful to this work.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

From Helen Bresnahan, Chair

New member Debbie Beal is no stranger to the League ~ though she's been living on the Cape for just a year, she's the daughter of one of our League's longest-serving members, Freddie Fitzgerald. Joining the League, she says, offered an involved voice in issues, with like-minded people.

Now retired, Debbie spent most of her career in education, with degrees from BU, the University of Southern Maine and finally Columbia, where she earned her doctorate. Over the years, Debbie taught in a number of locations, as diverse as New York City and Freeport, Maine. Her last assignment was with the New York State Department of Education, where she was a curriculum reviewer for the New York City school system.

In "retirement", Debbie is serving as a director of the Cape Cod Collaborative and a member of the Nauset Regional School Committee. Other interests include travel, hiking, swimming, kayaking -- and volunteering as a Wellfleet Audubon trail guide, working with terrapins, horseshoe crabs and in the museum's turtle garden. dbeal053@gmail.com

Another educator joining our ranks is Joanne "Scotti" Finnegan ("please call me Scotti"). Now settled in Chatham, Scotti and her husband have lived and traveled extensively in Europe, largely while her husband was on a Fulbright Fellowship.

Originally from Pittsburgh, Scotti earned her BA at Stonehill College and a MAEd from Harvard . The Finnegans raised their three boys in Easton, where Scotti taught for 20 years in the area and was a principal in Mansfield before eventually moving to the Eastham school system.

Just recently retired from Eastham, Scotti has already become an Associate Member of the Chatham Conservation Commission and a volunteer for NAMI. She looks forward to working with LWVCCA members -- "other women who think in a positive, civil manner". scottifinnegan@gmail.com

Welcome, Debbie and Scotti!

**BARNSTABLE TAXI
& LIVERY**

(508)524-8818



est. 2003

Local & Long Distance
Reservations Welcome

Prompt Service
Clean Vehicles

E-mail: Barnstabletaxi@yahoo.com

BOARD NOTES -- LWVCCA BOARD MEETING MARCH 1

From Board Secretary Judy Thomas

1. Treasurer Ira Seldin reported a bank balance of \$7,941.77. Per member payments were made to LWVUS and LWVMA.
2. The lovely Sea View Restaurant, site of last year's Annual Meeting, will be investigated for this year's meeting on May 18th.
3. A grant of \$1,500 was received from Gosnold to support the travel and speaking expenses of Dr. Kevin Hill for the health committee forum in April. (See article)
4. 28 persons attended the Legislative Breakfast including 9 4Cs students! (See article)
5. The County Committee was given approval to pursue several advocacy approaches regarding proposed changes to the County Home Rule Charter. (See article)
6. Karen Mazza is the LWVMA representative to the Task Force on Civic Education of the State Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.
7. LWVCCA has two new members.
8. Board members began the process of identifying a list of LWVCCA strengths in preparation for the April 2 priorities meeting.

COUNTY COMMITTEE -- “My View” submission (tentatively late March)

From Judy Thomas

“Last December this paper published a “My View” piece submitted by the Cape Cod Business Roundtable (BRT), the League of Women Voters of the Cape Cod Area (LWVCCA), the Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce and the Association to Preserve Cape Cod (APCC). The letter urged the county’s Assembly of Delegates to do its job and institute the changes in county structure that were recommended by the county Special Commission of 2012 by the end of March.

It is now March and we are pleased that not one but two proposals for restructuring the executive and legislative branches of our county government have been proposed. The first proposal introduced by delegate Patrick Princi of Barnstable closely resembles the Special Commission’s recommendations. It was followed quickly by a second proposal introduced by delegate Deborah McCutcheon of Truro. Both plans have some merit.

The primary strength that both proposals include is the elimination of the three county commissioners, the executive branch, a concept we four organizations support.

Eliminating this current Board of Commissioners is a smart move. Requirements of the Open Meetings Law mean that any two commissioners are forbidden any kind of communication except in an agenda-posted open public meeting since any two constitute a majority of the commissioners. They cannot try out an idea, clarify or discuss a position; they cannot even clarify a misunderstanding between any two of them. Secondly, the yearly rotating chairmanship leaves it unclear who is the spokesperson. Making matters worse the current charter is unclear about some responsibilities. No wonder there is dysfunction. A strong professional administrator with clear responsibilities would create greater. He or she would be the spokesperson for the county, a sorely needed role since most citizens are unaware there is a county government which provides so very many important, valuable services to our region.

The most substantive difference between the two proposals is the size of the legislative body. Princi would reduce the body to five members elected regionally; McCutcheon retains the current size where one delegate represents each of the fifteen towns. Under the Princi proposal voting would be “one person—one vote.” The McCutcheon plan continues the current system of weighted voting. Here the percentage of a vote that a member has is determined by the population of a town. A consequence is the more densely populated towns have considerably more voting power than the rural towns. The range goes from Barnstable with nearly 21% to Truro with .9% of the vote.

When it comes to the size of the legislative body, our four organizations support the regional approach wherein each *regional* district would elect a representative. Can this be done effectively with each town still feeling that it’s getting its fair share? We believe it can. One evidence is the superb job done by our Cape delegation to the state legislature. Five state representatives of our county take our concerns to Beacon Hill. They effectively represent anywhere from parts of two towns to parts or all of eight towns.

In a smaller county government, cutting the size from 18 members to five, the cost to outcome ratio would be improved; taxpayers would save money. Another advantage is that federal or state grant money for needed projects is more available on a regional basis.

P12 -- LWVCCA April 2016

Proposed County "My View" cont'd

Many current assembly members say that their towns fear a loss of their unique voice. To be sure with a reduction in size some "positions" would be lost, but the opportunity for voice would not be lost. Legislative bodies, like town boards of selectmen, include an opportunity for the public to address them. But that's not the only opportunity for voice. There are many boards at the county level, such as the Cape Cod Commission, where the towns appoint a representative who has not only voice but also equal vote since these representatives are appointed, not elected.

Our county government is good, but times have changed and it could be better. It can be, needs to be modernized, streamlined, made better. So once again the BRT, LWVCCA, the Chamber of Commerce and APCC urge the Assembly of Delegates to step back, take a good look and then to move forward, away from the dated status quo to the better structure based on the recommendations of the Special Commission, a group of more than 20 well-informed, diverse, well-qualified members. A view for change also urged by this newspaper in 2012, in 2013 and again this past January."

(Signed) The Cape Cod Business Round Table

The League of Women Voters of the Cape Cod Area

The Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce

The Association to Preserve Cape Cod

Truths and Fictions:

**An educational forum co-sponsored by the
League of Women Voters of the Cape Cod Area
and Gosnold on Cape Cod**

**Saturday, April 30 -- 9am to noon
Cape Cod Community Media Center
Shad Hole Road, Dennis Port**

Speakers:

Dr. Kevin Hill, Assistant Professor of Psychiatry, Harvard McLean Hospital,
author of “Marijuana, The Unbiased Truth about the World’s Most Popular Weed”.

Raymond Tamasi, President and CEO, Gosnold on Cape Cod

Vinny DeMacedo, State Senator, Plymouth & Barnstable District, member of
the Special Committee on Opioid Addiction Prevention, recently visited Colorado to
witness that state’s experience with both medical and recreational marijuana.

Questions from the audience



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

P14 -- LWVCCA April 2016

ANNUAL MEETING RETURN COUPON

**LWVCCA Annual Meeting & End of Year Celebration
May 18, 2016 5:00pm to 7:00pm
Sea View Restaurant, 76 Chase Ave., Dennisport**

Cost: \$29.00 per person

Make checks out to: LWVCCA

Number of attendees: _____

Amount of Enclosed Check: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email address: _____

Mail this coupon and your check to Ira Seldin, 321 Deer Meadow Lane, Chatham, MA 02633

P15-- LWVCCA April 2016

| LWVCCA 2016 CALENDAR | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------|---|-------------------|
| | | | Updated 03/29/16 |
| Sat | Apr 2 | LWVCCA Priorities Meeting – Harwich United Methodist Church, East Harwich | 9:00 AM -12:00 PM |
| Tue | Apr 5 | April Board Meeting - Harwich United Methodist Church, East Harwich | 9:30 AM |
| Sat | Apr 30 | Health Committee Forum – CC Community Media Center | TBD AM |
| | April - May | Moderate debates for local elections | |
| Tue | May 3 | May Board Meeting – Cape Cod Five Bank, Dennis | 9:30 AM |
| Wed | May 18 | Annual Meeting | 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM |
| Tue | June 7 | June Board Meeting - Cape Cod Five Bank, Dennis | 9:30 AM |
| | | <i>Fall 2016</i> | |
| TBD | TBD | Forum related to Election – Maybe a ballot question debate: ex. Marijuana | TBD |
| | | Moderate Debates for Nov. 2016 Elections | |

More detailed information about these programs, changes, and new programs will be published in The Voter