



THE CAPE COD VOTER

VOLUME 56 ISSUE 4

DECEMBER 2015

CALENDAR

Tuesday December 1
9:30am

Board Meeting
Cape Cod Five, Dennis

Saturday, December 5
9:30 - Noon
Reserve NOW!

Holiday Brunch
Riverway Restaurant
Speaker Jane Scarborough, Constitutional Scholar
How We Elect Our Presidents

LOOKING AHEAD -- 2016!

Tuesday January 5
9:30am

Board Meeting
Cape Cod Five, Dennis

Wednesday, January 20
Location tba

Third Week Coffee

Saturday, January 23
9:30am - Noon

Candidates Workshop
"Don't Just Stand There -- Run!"
Cape Cod Media Center, Dennisport

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FROM THE STEERING COMMITTEE

Our December Holiday Brunch & Program

will be held this Saturday, December 5th from 9:30am to noon, at the Riverway Lobster House in South Yarmouth.

*****Time is short -- If you plan to attend this event and have not already sent your check to Ira, please email Bobbi Greer (capebobbi@gmail.com) to let her know you are coming and will pay at the door.**

Our guest speaker, Jane Scarborough will speak on the growing movement to change how we elect our Presidents -- from the Electoral College method to a national popular vote. Jane has a JD from Northeastern University and was a faculty member there teaching constitutional law, securities law, professional responsibility, and sexuality, gender and the law. She currently teaches courses on the Constitution at the Academy of Lifelong Learning on Cape Cod.

Annual Appeal

Watch your mailbox for a letter from the League of Women Voters of the Cape Cod Area. It's time for our annual appeal for contributions necessary to support the operation of the LWVCCA. Your generosity at this time makes it possible to maintain our respected non-partisan voice in the great political and educational issues on the Cape. **With thanks in advance for your help!**

A great effort

Kudos to Suzanne Finney for the significant effort she extended to publicize the LWVCCA at the Cape Cinema during the showing of the *Suffragette* movie. She recognized this very unique opportunity to promote the league and demonstrate that the legacy of the suffragettes continues today – and made it all happen very quickly. Thank you, Suzanne! Nice work.

Best wishes to all our members and families for a wonderful holiday season and a peaceful new year!

Joan Bernstein
joanbernstein@comcast.net

Chris Meade
lwwccsteer2@gmail.com

Barbara Wellnitz
barbarawellnitz2@gmail.com

CONSENSUS EFFORT MOVES FORWARD WITH MONEY IN POLITICS DISCUSSION

From Barbara Wellnitz, Steering Committee

LWVUS has recommended that local Leagues read about, discuss, and try to come to consensus on campaign finance in time for the 2016 election cycle — which clearly began a year ago! Thus it was that a group of LWVCCA members met on November 17th to discuss the important topic of Money in Politics

Part I of the national League's questions relates to "Democratic Values and Interests with Respect to Financial Political Campaigns." While we were able to come to consensus on questions that relate to providing information to voters and the public's right to know who is using money to influence elections — what the League is all about — many of the other questions caused us to pause on what the process and rules would be for distributing such money to candidates who accept public funding.

The morning ended before we got to "First Amendment Protections for Speakers and Activities in Political Campaigns (including the role of the media).

To put it succinctly: we found the language of many of the questions ambiguous enough that we had a difficult time answering them. The LWVUS did ask us to keep in mind that "the LWV intentionally words positions (derived from member study) in the broadest way possible so that our positions have relevance for many years. Future national Boards will determine when and how to apply our position." Perhaps a bit too broad?

We hope to find a date to re-convene after the holidays.

VOTER SERVICE

Don't Just Stand There, Run! Workshop will be held on Saturday, January 23, 2016, from 9:30 to noon at the Cape Cod Community Media Center in Dennisport and will be aired live. The workshop will assist citizens who are considering running for office by providing information on campaign preparation, fundraising, nomination and filing process, working with the media, developing and delivering their message. In addition, three panelists will share their personal experiences running campaigns and serving in public office.

We are cosponsoring the workshop with the Cape Cod Times, CCYoung Professionals and the Cape Women's Coalition. In addition, we are receiving significant support from local newspapers and radio, including an excellent ad, developed by the Cape Cod Times, which ran in the Times in November and will run a couple more times in January. Copies will be sent to all members. Also, Judy Thomas has written a My View piece that will also promote the workshop.

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HEALTHCARE COMMITTEE

From Amy Harris, Chair

The LWVCCA Health Committee continues to study the issues surrounding cannabis -- specifically (a) decriminalization and (b) medicinal uses -- with an eye toward the ballot question looming in November of next year. It has become apparent to us that the 2009 changes in the law regarding possession, and the opening of medical dispensaries beginning this year, both require a lot more study -- before even considering the question of recreational use.

With that in mind, we are hoping to schedule two forums in 2016, one in the spring and one in the Fall. The working title for our March 20th forum is, "*The State of Medical Marijuana*".

The group has recently read, [Marijuana, the Unbiased Truth About the World's Most Popular Weed](#) by Dr. Kevin Hill and also participated in a [webinar](#) with Dr. Hill and a representative of the group, "Freedom from Chemical Dependency" (which also participated in our healthcare forum last April).

In addition, some members attended a recent **Sudbury LWVforum** entitled, "*Marijuana in Massachusetts*" which included a panel discussing the pros and cons of legalizing marijuana for recreational use. Panelists were a Massachusetts state senator(pro), state rep (con), a pharmacist/educator from Emerson Hospital and an R&D Director from the New England Institute of Cannabis.

This is a huge issue. The committee would welcome some new members as well as ideas and suggestions from any and all members! We will meet again in January.

Please join us!

More information from Amy Harris, amyharrige@gmail.com.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Renate Sands, Legislative Chair

All bills relating to Pilgrim Nuclear Power Plant remain in their respective committees -- including Senator Wolf's two bills, both focusing on economic impacts of the closure and decommissioning of the plant. S1797 would assess a fee on the storage of spent fuel rods in pools and S1798 would require the plant's owner to deposit \$25million annually into a decontamination fund. Both bills would protect taxpayers from having to bear those costs.

On November 17th, a hearing was held before the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy, urging committee members to allow the bills to move forward to the full Legislature. Senator Wolf was joined in his testimony by Senator "Vinny" deMacedo (R-Plymouth) and by more than thirty speakers including Rep. Sarah Peake, APCC, Sierra Club and Cape Downwinders.

Thanks to Senator Wolf's Chief of Staff Elysse-Magnotto Cleary for keeping us updated.

DAY ON THE HILL will be on February 9th this year. The MA League decided to have it early as it is the second year of the legislative session and any bills not reported out of committee by mid-March are dead for the current legislative session. (Snow date Tuesday, Feb 23)

LWVCCA's Legislative Breakfast will be held on either February 26 or March 12.

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MEMBERSHIP NOTES

Helen Bresnahan, Membership Chair

Hello all members. I hope you have had an opportunity to view “Suffragette” at your local theater and noticed the Membership brochures distributed nearby. We hope that the experience of watching this film encouraged you to understand women’s history of breaking bounds and becoming a citizen in equality. I hope you brought a brochure home, keeping a friend or colleague in mind, and urged them to join our League.

We now have 73 members including our newest member, Maya Sparrow. Please include the following information in your Member Handbook, 2015-2016:

Maya Sparrow

5 Old Colony Way, Orleans 02653

508-240-2230

maya@hotchocolatesparrow.com

Long-time member Phyllis Walsh has a new address:

108 Pinehill Boulevard, Mashpee 02649

Phyllis’s phone number and email address remain the same.

Please keep in mind that it is IMPERATIVE that when you change your contact year-round address, phone number or email, you forward the details to me @ 508-420-0308, **sunrisedawn110@aol.com**, or **www.lwvcapecod.org**. This information is important so we can keep in touch with you through the year and have reliable information in our Member Handbook.

New Member Interviews We still need interviews for Hilary Burkitt and Maya Sparrow. I hope these will be completed before this year is out.

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*Coming December 5th ~
Reservations needed at once!*

**LWVCCA HOLIDAY SOCIAL & PROGRAM
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5
9:30 - 12:00**

**RIVERWAY LOBSTER HOUSE
1338 Route 28, South Yarmouth**

**SPEAKER JANE SCARBOROUGH
*"How We Elect Our Presidents"***

**BRUNCH BUFFET
Fresh Fruit
Pastries
(mini muffins, mini Danish, scones)
Vegetable Quiche
Bacon
Sausage
French toast
Coffee, Tea and Juice**

Cost of the brunch is \$16. The deadline for reservations is **Monday, November 30.**
Reservations by email to Bobbi Greer
Checks to Ira Seldin, 321 Deer Meadow Lane, Chatham 02633 -- or at the door.

Directions: From Route 6, take exit 8 south onto Station Avenue for 2 miles. Make a slight right on to N. Main (short distance) and then a right on to Route 28 at the traffic light. Destination is immediately on your right.

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