



# **THE CAPE COD VOTER**

**VOLUME 57 ISSUE 4**

**JANUARY 2017**

## **CALENDAR**

**Tuesday January 3 2017  
9:30am**

**Board Meeting  
Cape Cod Five, Dennis Branch**

**Thursday January 19  
10:00am**

**Third Week Coffee  
Panera, Hyannis**

## **LOOKING AHEAD**

**Tuesday February 7 2017  
9:30am**

**Board Meeting  
Cape Cod Five, Dennis Branch**

**Tuesday February 21  
10:00am**

**Third Week Coffee  
Buckies Biscotti, Dennisport**

**[www.lwvcapecod.org](http://www.lwvcapecod.org)**

## Dear Members. . .

*From LWVCCA President Scotti Finnegan*

Happy New Year! I hope you and your family enjoyed a healthy and joyful holiday season. Although Clement Clarke Moore's famous poem maintains that it is on Christmas Eve when exhausted parents "had just settled down for a long winter's nap", I believe it is actually January when we can all breathe and settle in for a long winter's nap! However, I find that the LWV never naps nor settles, but continues to engage in intelligent dialogue about our democracy and actively participates in activities that support civic education and advocacy.

As a League leader, I receive emails from the LWVUS. In December the question of the LWV's "officially" participating in the Women's March on Washington was asked, answered, then intelligently and enthusiastically discussed. What follows are a few highlights of that online conversation. I begin with the message from the LWVUS, followed by responses and comments from League members around the Commonwealth.

### LWVUS

As leaders for our respective League organizations, we need to consider our participation (in the March) through multiple lenses -- activists, influencers and organizational leaders. As leaders, the protection of our brand and assets, as well as considering the safety of members and staff, must be at the forefront of our thoughts. We have continued to monitor the media and engage in conversations with leaders of other organizations. Based on the information now available, we note:

- \* National march organizers have obtained a permit and have engaged three veteran organizers of color into their leadership ranks
- \* While the Women's March on Washington developed organically in the spirit of sisterhood post-election, there is a very real perception problem with the timing of this march. The day after inauguration, this event will be viewed by many as a protest against the incoming Trump administration. Because the League is a non-partisan organization and never endorses or opposes specific candidates, we cannot risk appearing to be an anti-Trump organization.
- \* March organizers have yet to release any details of safety or security measures being taken to protect the women and men who plan to march. The issue of risk and the seriousness of liability for organizations who elect to participate officially in the march are something we need to consider, especially since the national organization(s) planning the march are not visible. Risk and liability are issues for all Leagues.

*Continued. . .*

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*Dear Members cont'd -- March on Washington -- Communication from LWVUS*

\* Organizers have not shared the names of any organizations officially partnering and participating in the festivities. While they promise to include nationally recognized advocates, the League has not been officially approached in any capacity. We believe the intentions of the Women's March organizers are good--and we do not discourage private citizens from taking part in this event ~ but we will not officially participate in the Women's March on Washington, nor should State and local Leagues participate officially. There are still too many unanswered questions to help us safeguard our brand, assets and the safety of members, volunteers and staff.

Chris Carson, President/Chair,  
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League of Women Voters Education Fund  
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#### **MEMBERS' RESPONSES (a sampling)**

\* I stand with those who believe that if ever there was a time to stand up for the democratic values we espouse it is now. We should be part of the rallies nationwide that are being titled Strong Together. Leaguers believe in expanding the voter base, not shrinking it; Leaguers believe in the importance of public education for all; Leaguers believe in the importance of a free press in a free society. I could go on but all these principles are now under attack. So we need to speak out, need to be a voice for the preservation of our democratic principles. If that is partisanship, so be it! I wish I could wear my LWVCCA button proudly when I go to the rally in Boston and say loudly that this is what we stand for.

*Continues next page*



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*Dear Members, cont'd --March on Washington -- Members' views*

\* Efforts are being made to suppress free expression and gatherings designed to promote our values. Being *perceived* as partisan is not synonymous with being partisan.

\* I agree that backing the effort so close in time and place to the inauguration would be perceived as partisan.

\* I have become aware that most chapters are losing members. Is it possible that the nonpartisan stance may lead the LWV to be seen as irrelevant? It seems, at least to me, to be a great shame if the LWV cannot speak/take action about candidates who have adopted clear positions of great importance to women generally. What is the difference between supporting "choice" and opposing individuals who would deny that option? It seems to me that the eventual result could be a purely nonpartisan LWV with no members.

\* I want to add another thought to this good discussion. I have been a board president in two separate Leagues in different states and on a state board in one state twice. I am VERY familiar with the nonpartisan policy and our credibility. But over the past 4 decades I have seen the LWV lose members, and local leagues, for a variety of reasons. Are we becoming irrelevant? Are we aging out? I believe we need to update ourselves and become more active. We have been too passive over the past decade in my view. And in this particular matter and at this particular moment in our political history, we need to protect and advance the issues of civil participation, democracy in general, voting rights and especially women's rights (what we grew out of). If we are seen as anti-Trump, so be it. When has there ever been a time when we needed to speak up and protest on behalf of our core issues more than right now?

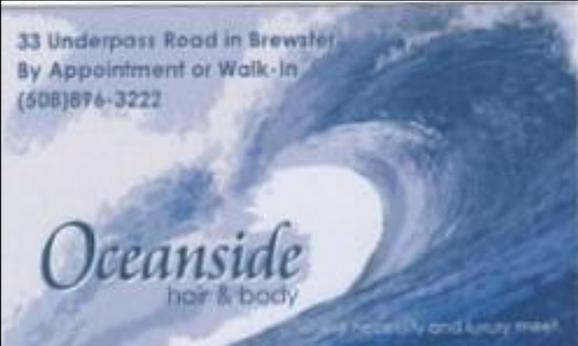
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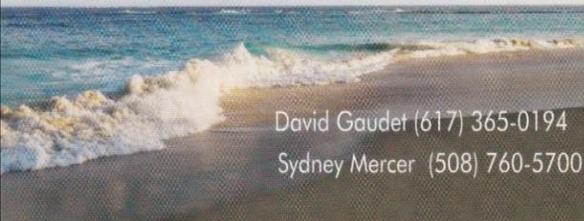
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*President's letter cont'd...*

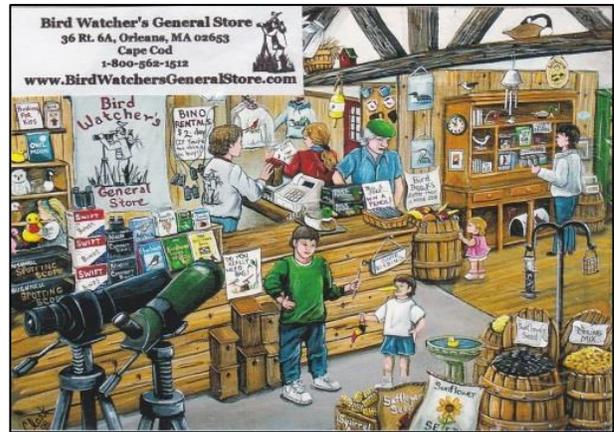
The comments above, and others brought up many issues not only about the incoming administration, but about the League's relevance in the 21st century and the interpretation of the League's mission and principles. As we look ahead to our planning session (date to be resolved at the January board meeting) the ideas and opinions of all members of the LWVCCA are vital to assuring a vibrant and relevant future of the organization and its voice in our democracy. So as I "settle in for a long winter's nap", the League's visions of informed activism and renewed commitment to the core values of our democracy dance in my head. What about you?

*Wishing you Peace, Joy, Health and renewed energy for the work ahead, Scotti.*

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## LEGISLATIVE REPORT

*From Legislative Chair Renate Sands*

### **Day on The Hill moving to Fall**

LWVMA's annual lobbying day at the State House, has been postponed this year from its usual spring date to the Fall, largely because the Gardner Auditorium at the State House is undergoing renovation. In addition, by Fall LWVMA will have a comprehensive list of the bills we will be following during the legislative year...those bills will have been assigned to joint committees...and legislators will be receptive to our efforts on behalf of those bills.

As the Legislative Action Committee reviews and selects bills for advocacy, that information will be posted on the LWVMA website. A comprehensive list of the bills LWVMA will be following in the two-year legislative session which begins this January will be presented at "Day on the Hill."

**LWVCCA's Legislative Breakfast** Last year we had the Legislative Breakfast at the end of February. Since this is a new session and about 6000 bills are expected to be filed, it would make sense to have the breakfast later in the spring.

### **ELECTION RESULTS -- BARNSTABLE COUNTY GOVERNMENT**

**A. County Commissioners** -- With one newly-elected and one newly re-elected member, the Barnstable County Commissioners will vote at their first meeting in January to choose their new Chair and Vice-Chair, each to serve a one-year term. The new board consists of:

**Leo Cakounes**

**Mary Pat Flynn (re-elected)**

**Ron Beaty (new member)**

**B. Assembly of Delegates** -- The Speaker and Deputy Speaker will be elected at the beginning of each legislative session. (New members are highlighted below)

Barnstable	Patrick Princi (20.9%)
Bourne	Linda Zeurn (9.15%)
Brewster	Edward Lewis (4.55%)
Chatham	Ronald Bergstrom, (2.84%)
Dennis	John Ohman (6.58%)
Eastham	<b>Edward Atwood</b> (2.30%)
Falmouth	<b>Susan Moran</b> (14.61%)
Harwich	Edward McManus (5.67%)
Mashpee	<b>Thomas O'Hara</b> (6.49%)
Orleans	Christopher Kanaga (2.73%)
Provincetown	Brian O'Malley (1.36%)
Sandwich	James Killion (9.58%)
Truro	Deborah McCutcheon(.93%)
Wellfleet	<b>Lilli Ann Green</b> (1.27%)
Yarmouth	Suzanne McAuliffe(11.02%)

## LEGISLATIVE REPORT CONT'D -- ELECTION RESULTS -- MASSACHUSETTS LEGISLATURE /CAPE COD

### A. Senate

**Julian Cyr (D)** succeeds Danial A. Wolf (D) in the Cape and Islands District.  
Viriato (Vinny) DeMacedo (R) continues

### B. Legislature

**Will Crocker (R)** replaces Brian Mannal (D) in 2<sup>nd</sup> Barnstable District.  
**Dylan Fernandez (D)** replaces Timothy Madden (D) in Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket District.

For legislators who were re-elected, contact information stays the same. New members are given temporary quarters before permanent ones are assigned. Process takes about two months. *Our new Directory of Elected Officials will be updated and reprinted once final office assignments and new contact information are permanently confirmed. In the meantime, please note any changes in your current Directory.*



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### **SOME RECENT CAPE EVENTS**

**Legislative Chair Renate Sands** recently attended two events which, she wrote, “were so crowded that people were standing up against the walls, sitting on stairs or window sills”. The first of these was “**Come Together, Act Together, Protecting Ourselves, Our Neighbors, Our Civil Liberties and our Planet Post-Election**” at the Falmouth Public Library. Outstanding panel members spoke on climate change, immigration, human rights, bias against women and racial inequality.

Renate also attended **Jane Scarborough’s lecture on the Electoral College**. When she tried to register for another panel discussion on “**What’s Next for Climate Change**” at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, she was told it was already full (on the same day it was announced in the newspaper).

“I am sharing this information,” Renate reports, “because there appears to be a groundswell of interest on some very important issues. I believe it would be a good idea to keep ourselves informed of similar events around the Cape, especially since our League is spread over so large a geographical area.” *Thanks for this, Renate! ED.*

### **WELCOME TO...**

*From Phyllis Walsh, Membership Committee*

Our newest member is **Maria Chatzinakis** of Heatherwood. Maria joined our league at the holiday brunch where she was a guest of Elaine Bono, her cousin. She was attracted to the League because of our civic mission, initially joining the national League.

Maria has lived on the Cape for 10-1/2 years. She has volunteered with the Red Cross at their DY emergency shelter during past emergencies and in Louisiana . She volunteered with the Salvation Army at Ground Zero after 9/11 and in New Orleans during Katrina. In addition, she's volunteered all over the world with Earthwatch in archeological digs, wild life studies and photography.

Maria grew up on Long Island. She received a BA in Biology and a minor in Chemistry from Hofstra University and an MS in Medical Biology from C.W. Post. She was employed in the healthcare industry on Long Island in different departments.

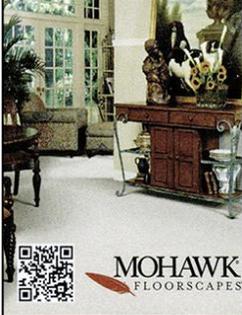
She was the first woman president of the New York City Jr. Chamber of Commerce and the first woman Chair of the Heatherwood Condo Association.

Maria would like to help with short term projects. Her interests are Voter Service and Health Care. Her contact information is:

1208 Heatherwood, Yarmouthport, MA 02675  
508-362-0418 [mcha43@aol.com](mailto:mcha43@aol.com)

## PRELIMINARY CALENDAR 2017

TBD	January/February	Program Planning per LWVMA	
Tuesday	1/3/2017	Board Mtg, Cape Cod Five, Dennis	9:30am
Thursday	1/19/2017	Third week coffee - Panera, Hyannis	10:00am
Tuesday	2/7/2017	Board Mtg, Cape Cod Five, Dennis	9:30am
Tuesday	2/21/2017	Third week coffee - Buckies Biscotti, Dennisport	10:00am
TBD	February/March	Legislative Breakfast TBD	
Tuesday	3/7/2017	Board Mtg, Cape Cod Five, Dennis	9:30am
Monday	3/20/2017	Third week coffee - Rendezvous, Hyannis	10:00am
Tuesday	4/4/2017	Board Mtg, Cape Cod Five, Dennis	9:30am
TBD	April	State of the County - TBD	
Tuesday	4/18/2017	Third week coffee - TBD	10:00am
Tuesday	5/2/2017	Board Mtg, Cape Cod Five, Dennis	9:30am
Thursday	5/18/2017	Annual Mtg, Sea View, Dennisport	5:00am
Tuesday	6/6/2017	Board Mtg, Cape Cod Five, Dennis	9:30am
Wednesday	6/21/2017	Third week coffee - TBD	10:00am





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