



THE CAPE COD VOTER

VOLUME 56 ISSUE 3

NOVEMBER 2015

CALENDAR

Tuesday November 3
9:30am

Board Meeting
Cape Cod Five, Dennis

Tuesday November 17
9:30 - Noon

Consensus Meeting
on **Money in Politics**
Cape Cod Five, Route 134, Dennis

Thursday November 19
1:30pm

Health Committee Meeting
Home of Amy Harris
4 Chapel Hill Lane, South Harwich

LOOKING AHEAD...

Tuesday December 1
9:30am

Board Meeting
Cape Cod Five, Dennis

Saturday December 5
9:30 - Noon

Holiday Social
Riverway Lobster House, S. Yarmouth
Speaker Jane Scarborough, J.D.
*"How We Elect Our Presidents --
Should it be changed?"*

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FROM THE LWVCCA STEERING COMMITTEE

Major accomplishment: First LWV Civic Education Grants awarded -- Congratulations to the LWVCCA Civic Education Fund of the Cape Cod Foundation for achieving two significant milestones -- the awarding of our first four grants and for raising the necessary funding in its first year! Members of the Youth Service Committee--including **Karen Mazza (Chair), Bea Auty, Claire Gradone, Jan Hively and Kathy Schatzberg** are to be thanked for this proud and exciting accomplishment. Due to your commitment, students across the Cape will have meaningful, tangible experiences that will deepen their understanding of civic engagement. Nice job!
(*Watch for announcements of the grant award nights in each community and lend your support to this major LWVCCA initiative.*)

Jazzy Afternoon -- Many thanks to **Kay Bryce, Bobbi Greer and Marilyn Gullett** for all their fine work to bring us the "Afternoon of Traditional Jazz" that many of us enjoyed on October 18th. Our gratitude also goes to the four musicians who gave so freely of their time and talent: Jamie Bryce, Mike Hashem, Paul Nossiter, and Al Bernard. Not only did we hear some great music, but we also enjoyed a display of rare banjos and the stories behind them. I, for one, had no idea just how beautiful the walnut wood and golden embellishments could be on this instrument. There was a lot of toe-tapping and head-nodding going on!

Our December Holiday Brunch & Program will be held on Saturday, December 5th from 9:30am to noon, at the Riverway Lobster House in South Yarmouth. We are very pleased that Jane Scarborough will be our guest speaker. Jane will speak on the growing movement to change how we elect our President 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. Please see the last page of this Voter for details and make plans now ~ reservations are needed by Monday, November 30th!

Make your voice heard. In a process unique to the LWV. LWVCCA is currently seeking to come to consensus on two national LWV studies: first on the Constitutional Amendment Process and second on Campaign Finance. Ideally, the participation of *all* members is needed to reach a meaningful consensus. Fifteen members attended our first meeting on October 23rd. Please try to join our second, critically important, meeting on the 17th of this month -- *Citizens United* will be a major issue in the upcoming 2016 election. For further information and to register (very helpful), please contact Barbara Wellnitz at the email address below.

Joan Bernstein
joanbernstein@comcast.net

Chris Meade
lwwccasteer2@gmail.com

Barbara Wellnitz
barbarawellnitz2@gmail.com

COMING TO CONSENSUS PART I: THE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT PROCESS

By Joan Bernstein

On October 23, fifteen LWVCCA members met to conduct a consensus meeting on the LWVUS Constitutional Study on the *process* of adopting a Constitutional Amendment. To provide background to the discussion, Karen Mazza, Amy Harris, Chris Meade, Barbara Wellnitz and I prepared summaries of suggested readings providing background for a discussion of the process of an Article V constitutional amendment.

We were asked to come to consensus on 15 questions; the first five had to do with when a constitutional amendment is called for, seven about how best to conduct an Article V constitutional convention, and two about aligning the prior decisions with the objectives of the League. The group concluded that:

Part I: Considerations for Evaluating Constitutional Amendment Proposals

- 1.a. Amendment is appropriate only when it addresses matters of acute and abiding importance;
- 1.b. An amendment must be effective in achieving its policy objective;
- 1.c. We agreed that the question posed was unclear and did not come to consensus;
- 1.d. An amendment is appropriate if the policy goals cannot be achieved through legislation;
- 1.e. An amendment is appropriate if the objective is achieved by a general approach;

Part II: Aspects of an Article V Constitutional Convention:

- 2.a. The Convention must be transparent and not conducted in secret;
- 2.b. Representation at the Convention must be based on population;
- 2.c. We had no consensus on whether the delegates must be elected rather than appointed;
- 2.d. Voting at the Convention must be by delegate, not by state;
- 2.e. The Convention must be limited to a specific topic;
- 2.f. Only state resolutions on a single topic count when determining when to call a Convention;
- 2.g. We disagreed that the validity of state "calls" for an Article V Convention must be determined by the most recent action of the state.

Part III:

3. We did not come to consensus on the question of whether the League should oppose an Article V Constitutional Convention to propose amendments because of unresolved questions about the powers and processes of such a convention.
4. The League should consider supporting a constitutional amendment that will advance a League position even if there are significant problems with the actual amendment as proposed.

The results of the meeting will be sent to the LWVUS before their December 1 deadline.

COMING TO CONSENSUS PART II: MONEY IN POLITICS

**Important all-members meeting-- Tuesday, November 17- 9:30 - Noon*
Cape Cod Five, Dennis Branch, Rte 134 & Main Street (across from Patriot Square)*

“A review and update of the League position on campaign finance in light of forty years of changes since the Watergate reforms, in order to enhance member understanding of the new schemes and structures used to influence elections and erode protections against corruption in our political process, and to review possible responses to counter them in the current environment.” -- LWVUS recommendation, adopted at June 2014 national convention

The League of Women Voters’ current position on campaign finance -- adopted in 1974 in the wake of Watergate...and revised in March 1982, is as follows: “The (LWVUS) believes that the methods of financing political campaigns should ensure the public’s right to know, combat corruption and undue influence, enable candidates to compete more equitably for public office and allow maximum citizen participation in the political process.”

In short, the position focuses only on the financing of election campaigns as it relates to the democratic process.

Since 1976, however, the US Supreme Court has focused on candidates’ and donors’ ability to express political views through the activities being financed. In other words, the Supreme Court has focused largely on issues of free speech as protected by the First Amendment. With the *Citizens United* decision, the Court drastically extended its views on free speech to allow unlimited independent spending by corporations and unions in candidate elections.

In other words, the Court has ruled that corporations have full political speech rights and funding a political campaign is protected speech.

Thus, we will consider (through a series of background information and LWVUS-supplied questions), the *“rights of individuals and organizations, under the First Amendment, to express their political views through independent expenditures and the finance of election campaign activities and how those rights, if any, should be protected and reconciled with interests set out in the current (LWV) position.”* That is the question.

Please look for an email coming to you on or about November 1. It will include links to the Study Guide for the Money in Politics Consensus, along with the Consensus Questions we will consider at the November 17 meeting.

This is a topic that virtually all of us who are LWV members are eager to address. We are looking forward to a lively discussion and thoughtful answers to the consensus questions.

Coffee will be served. Please RSVP to Steering Committee member Barbara Wellnitz (barbarawellnitz2@gmail.com).

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

From Renate Sands

DAY ON THE HILL WILL BE IN FEBRUARY NEXT YEAR. The MA League decided to have it then because 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 session. Tuesday, Feb. 9 (snow date Tuesday, Feb 23) will be the annual lobby day at the State House.

The following is a list of the bills we have been following. Very little action has taken place. I contacted Senator Dan Wolf's office to see how the announcement of the closing of the Pilgrim Power Plant would affect the bills but have not received a reply.

	Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station	Action Date	Committee	Hearing
H1898	Increase nuclear power plant protection to 20 mi	1/20/2015	Joint Committee on Public Health	7/28/2015
H2031	Increase nuclear power plant protection to 50 mi	1/20/2015	Joint Committee on Public Safety	7/28/2015
H1899	Increase funding for monitoring and testing	1/20/2015	Joint Committee on Public Health	7/28/2015
H2030	Install radiological air monitoring stations	1/20/2015	Joint Committee on Public Safety	7/28/2015
H.2020	Create public education zones near nuclear plant	1/20/2015	Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security	7/28/2015
H.2167	Assess preparedness for radiological accident	1/20/2015	Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security	
S1797	Fee on stored spent fuel rods in pools	4/15/2015	Joint Committee on Telecommunication Utilities & Energy	
S1798	Annual 25 million post closure fee	4/15/2015	Joint Committee on Telecommunication Utilities & Energy	
	Zoning			
S122	Zoning Reform	4/15/2015	Joint Comm. on Community Dev. and Small Business	9/15/2015
	Mental Health			
H1796	SBIRT-Screen, Brief Intervention, Ref & Treat Attached to S284	1/20/2015	Joint Committee on Health Care Financing	7/23/2015
H1793	Use Taunton Hospital for crisis unit	1/20/2015	Joint Committee on Mental Health and Substance Abuse	6/29/2015
H1810	Telemedicine for mental health patients	1/20/2015	Joint Committee on Mental Health and Substance Abuse	9/17/2015

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AFTERNOON OF TRADITIONAL JAZZ GETS RAVE REVIEWS

From Marilyn Gullett and Kay Bryce

“They were brilliant, talented, fantastic, funny and wonderful. I loved every minute,” was the response from one of those in attendance at the jazz performance on October 18 at the First Congregational Church in Yarmouth Port. Musicians Jamie Bryce (husband of Kay), Mike Hashem, Paul Nossiter and Al Bernard showed off a wide repertoire of traditional jazz and familiar old tunes from Tin Pan Alley.

Several antique banjos were on display from the private collections of Mike and Jamie and the artistry and craftsmanship were discussed along with the masters who made them.

The audience was fully engaged ...laughing, toe-tapping, asking questions, and enjoying themselves. A wonderful way to spend a chilly, Fall Sunday afternoon.

Several League members were there to provide information on the LWVCCA and Karen Mazza handed out some information on the Civic Education project which has just completed its first round of awards to local schools. Refreshments were kindness of Bobbi Greer and Judy Thomas.

Great thanks go to the musicians for an entertaining performance and for helping us raise funds for our activities. Sixty people attended and income after expenses was \$1200. Sarah Bryce provided much-needed technical support.

OCTOBER BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

- Plans are well underway for the October 18th Jazz Concert fundraiser at the Congregational Church in Yarmouth Port at 3 p.m.
- There are 15 questions to be answered relating to the US Constitutional amendment process as we participate in the LWVUS consensus.
- LWVCCA archival material will be housed at the W.B. Nickerson Cape Cod History Archives located at Cape Cod Community College. The goal is to have our material ready by spring 2016.
- The list of co-sponsors for our candidate workshop in January grows: *The Cape Cod Times*, Cape Cod Young Professionals and Cape Women’s Coalition.
- We have 72 members and will be looking at ways to increase that number.
- The health committee needs one or two new members. YOU????
- The board will review the town liaison role in November. Send your thoughts to the steering committee.

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**YOUTH SERVICE COMMITTEE
CIVIC EDUCATION GRANTS AWARDED TO FOUR SCHOOL DISTRICTS**

Submitted by Karen Mazza

We are pleased to announce that in our first cycle of LWV Civic Education Grants, we have been able to award 4 grants to area school districts. We had five applicants from four districts and happily, we raised sufficient funds (\$3,850) to be able to cover all four districts, eliminating the second grant request from one of the districts due to insufficient funding and the fact that we cap each district at \$1,000 unless there is funding that would allow us to exceed that limit.

The enclosed flyer about the grant awardees lists each of the grant projects and explains how the project will engage students in civic learning and participation. Thank you to our partner organization, The Cape Cod Foundation, and our donors listed on the flyer. Thanks also to committee members Bea Auty, Claire Gradone, and Jan Hively who have helped to guide this project from its inception.

Next Steps: A Time for Growing this Project

Now that we have the experience of being able to award our first set of grants, it is time to reflect on the future growth of this civic education project. As designed, the project intends to cover all school districts, public charter schools, and vocational technical high schools that apply, which would necessitate raising \$13,000 per year. If we wish to meet this level of funding, we will need to develop greater capacity to raise funds and these strategies need to be discussed. If we feel our reasonable level of support is more modest, then we will need to refocus this project as a competitive grant program or redefine the type of support we give to schools.

Impact of the League

This project was born from the desire to help the League develop concrete projects in service to the community and particularly youth. It is designed to engage the community of young people and their families in the importance of civic participation. We will be seeking to communicate the importance of these projects with parents and congratulate their schools at award ceremonies at upcoming school parent meetings yet to be arranged. It would be great to have League members who live in or near the recipient school districts join us on those occasions. More information will be forthcoming about this in the near future.

We welcome new members to this committee! Please contact Karen Mazza at mazzak@gmail.com.

(Ed. Note: It would be helpful if members would print out the flyer (next two pages) for future reference. Actual dates of award presentations in each community will be announced as they become definite.)



**THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS CIVIC EDUCATION FUND OF THE CAPE COD
FOUNDATION
2015 GRANT AWARDEES**

**Barnstable High School of the Barnstable School District
Teachers: Steven Moynihan and Hilary Mueller**

The Edward M. Kennedy Institute – Senate Immersion Module and Student Study of Voting Participation. Funding will support transportation for students in government and the human geography class to attend the Edward M. Kennedy Institute Senate Immersion Module. Back at school, this interactive simulation of the United States Senate will serve as a catalyst for discussion of the election process and involve students in exit polling activities during the Massachusetts primary.

**Dennis Yarmouth High School of the Dennis Yarmouth Regional School District
Teacher: Tamara Endich:**

Age-Friendly Community Game/Application: A Lesson in Community Development. Students in technology classes will create a game simulation to help students and community members learn the eight categories of an Age-Friendly Community as outlined by the World Health Organization. This project will orient students and community members to the work of the World Health Organization Age-Friendly Network and the Yarmouth Age-Friendly Community Project. This is an intergenerational project in partnership with Yarmouth Senior Services. Funds support webspace and technology tools.

**Lawrence Junior High School of the Falmouth Public Schools
Teacher: James Deasy**

The Lawrence School Action Civics Proposal. Grade 7 students will study democracy from its origins in ancient Greece to current practice in the US Senate by participating in the Edward M. Kennedy Institute Senator-In-Training program. This experience will deepen their understanding of the democratic process. They will extend this learning by relating it to their school government, which operates on a Town Meeting structure. Funds support transportation.

**Nauset Regional High School, Nauset Regional School District
Teacher: Lisa Brown**

Nauset Educational Diversity TV Program (NED talks). The Honors Exploring Differences Class (HEARD) will develop a TV Show fashioned after the internet Ted Talks, where students will discuss civics topics, diversity and current social issues affecting them at school and beyond. The show will be produced for local cable access TV and provide Internet access. Students will shoot in-the-field footage and be active audience participants and topic researchers. Funds will support videos for public issue research and a digital camera for field use.

ABOUT THE LWV CIVIC EDUCATION FUND

The League of Women Voters of the Cape Cod Area in partnership with The Cape Cod Foundation has established a fund that will support Action Civics for middle and high school students on Cape Cod. Action Civics combines traditional civic education, guided experiential civic education, and youth leadership development with the goal of creating an engaged citizenry capable of effective participation in the civic process, in their communities and in society.

The fund supports middle and high-school teachers in initiating, or expanding, civic education opportunities for their students. Grants of up to \$1000 per district are awarded with a goal of being able to support every school district, secondary charter school or vocational high school on the Cape.

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

The Briggs Fund
Ranney and Rimington, Custom Building
Rotary Club of Nauset (Orleans)
Ryan Family Amusements
Snow's Home and Garden Center
Unique Properties
League of Women Voters of the Cape Cod Area through
The Helen S. Aaron Educational Trust
League of Women Voters of Falmouth
Individual Anonymous Donors

Those interested in supporting the fund can donate online at www.capecodfoundation.org or send a check to The Cape Cod Foundation, 259 Willow Street, Yarmouthport, MA 02675 and note: **LWV Civic Education Fund in the memo.**

Schools looking to apply can visit www.capecodfoundation.org, Receive, Current Grants. The grant cycle for 2017 will begin in spring 2016.

The Cape Cod Foundation is a community foundation whose mission is to build permanent charitable resources for community betterment through informed grant making and civic leadership. The Foundation has distributed more than \$50 million in grants and scholarships since its founding in 1989. www.capecodfoundation.org

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization encouraging informed and active participation in government. It influences public policy through education and advocacy. The local chapter started in Orleans in 1959 and later expanded to become the League of Women Voters of the Cape Cod Area. www.lwvcapecod.org

*Coming December 5th!
Reservations by the end of November*

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**. Please complete the form below and send with your payment of \$16 per person, made out to LWVCCA to Ira Seldin, 321 Deer Meadow Lane, Chatham, MA 02633

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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Reservation form

Member Name _____

Guest(s) _____

Number of persons _____ @ \$16 Check enclosed for \$ _____