



THE CAPE COD VOTER

VOLUME 56 ISSUE 1

SEPTEMBER 2015

CALENDAR

Tuesday September 8
9:30am

Board Meeting
Cape Cod Five, Dennis

Thursday September 24
10:30am - noon

Consensus Discussion re Pilgrim Plant
Brewster Ladies Library
Re pending legislation filed by Sen. Wolf & Rep. Peake

LOOKING AHEAD...

Tuesday October 6
9:30am

Board Meeting
Cape Cod Five, Dennis

Sunday October 18
3 - 5pm

Jazz Concert
1st Congregational Church
Yarmouth Port
Details page 7

See the print-and-save calendar for our full 2015-2016 year on page 8

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FROM THE LWVCCA STEERING COMMITTEE

Welcome Back, Members: We hope everyone enjoyed a happy and healthy summer season.

Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station Pending Legislation: In July, Joan Bernstein and Chris Meade started attending meetings to learn about pending legislation associated with the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station. These bills have direct implications for Cape Cod and address environmental and economic issues. We thought our members would want to know about these bills and possibly actively support them. The pending legislation includes:

H.1898 (amendment): Increase nuclear reactor emergency planning protections including monitoring and stockpiling iodide, from 10 mile radius around the power plant to 20 mile radius to include towns in Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket counties. **H.2031:** The same emergency planning as H.1898 but monitoring a 50 mile radius. Filed by Rep. Peake.

H.2030: Authorize MDPH to make assessments, not less than \$400,000 to each operating nuclear reactor impacting MA. This money would cover the costs to purchase, install and maintain real-time radiological air monitoring stations to be located in MA communities impacted by Pilgrim including the Cape. Filed by Rep. Peake.

H.2020: Create public education zones near nuclear facilities 10 and 35 miles from a reactor or nuclear fuel disposal site. The licensee, in coordination with the state, must distribute educational materials about what to expect in the event of an accident, and what plans are in place for public protection. **H.2167:** Require the state to assess the present preparedness in Barnstable and Essex counties to determine the need for additional specific steps for radiological accident at Pilgrim and Seabrook. Filed by Rep. Peake.

S 1797: Establish a fee on spent nuclear fuel stored in pools. A fee creates a strong incentive for Pilgrim to reduce the number of spent fuel assemblies in their spent fuel wet pool(s) and reduce the consequences of a spent fuel pool fire. **S.1798:** Require any MA commercial nuclear reactor to pay an annual \$25 million post-closure funding fee into a State trust to assure significant money is available for a timely and complete de-commissioning of the plant. The current fund for Pilgrim is considered significantly underfunded and MA tax payers would be responsible to pay the difference. Filed by Sen. Wolf.

All members are encouraged to attend an important consensus discussion on this issue on Thursday, September 24, 10:30-Noon at the Brewster Ladies Library. Additional information on the pending bills will be sent to all members prior to the meeting.

Steering Committee article continues. . .

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Steering Committee Message continued

LWVUS Constitutional Amendment Study & Money in Politics Review: At the 2014 LWVUS convention, delegates approved a national League program called “Key Structures of Democracy. Two parts involve member study and agreement using the consensus process:

- Constitutional Amendment Process Study focuses on the process of amending the U.S. Constitution. This study is not about particular amendments. It is about the constitutional convention *process* for amending the Constitution, as well as the considerations for evaluating amendments. Our responses are due to the LWVUS by December 1, 2015.
- Money in Politics Review and Update is a review of money in politics issues and update of the LWVUS’s campaign finance position as to whether the League believes that financing a political amendment is protected by the First Amendment. Our responses are due by February 1, 2016.

Consensus Discussions will be held in the fall to discuss these issues and determine our responses. Additional information and materials will be provided prior to the meetings.

Barbara Wellnitz
Lwvccasteer1@gmail.com

Chris Meade
lwvccasteer2@gmail.com

Joan Bernstein
joanbernstein@comcast.net

LWVMA request...LWVCCA response

Gov. Baker’s recently issued Executive Order 562 seeks to require all state agencies in the executive department (75) to conduct wide-ranging reviews of all regulations under their jurisdiction. In response to a request from LWVMA, LWVCCA’s Steering Committee submitted the following Letter to the Editor of the CCod Times. The letter was published on Sunday, June 28.

Editor:

“The League of Women Voters of the Cape Cod Area joins the Massachusetts League in opposing Provisions of Gov. Charlie Baker’s Executive Order 562, requiring all agencies, departments and authorities to review and revise all regulations.

“The League agrees that regulations should receive regular and objective review to assure that they are clear, relevant and effective in accomplishing their intended results. However, we urge the Governor to withdraw the provision that Massachusetts regulations not exceed federal requirements.

In many instances, particularly in health care, environmental protection and consumer protections, Massachusetts’ regulations do exceed federal requirements and, as a result, have clearly benefited the people of Massachusetts. Our state’s more comprehensive regulations have often served as a model for other states and for federal regulations. We hope to continue that leadership and view federal regulations as a floor rather than a ceiling.

“We also oppose the provision that all regulations not in compliance with the order automatically sunset on March 31. Proposed changes to regulations or elimination of regulations must include public hearings and a public comment period to allow input from interested parties and to assure that citizens are aware of pending changes.”

(Signed) Joan B. Bernstein, Chris Meade, Barbara Wellnitz

Youth Service Committee

From Karen Mazza

CIVIC EDUCATION FUND OFF TO A GOOD START

The focus of the Youth Service Committee over the summer has been on fundraising for the newly initiated League of Women Voters Civic Education Fund of The Cape Cod Foundation. This grant fund to support experiential civic education in our schools will support mini-grant awards of up to \$1000 to applying school districts. Applications are due by September 28 and grants can be awarded to applicants from both middle schools or high schools. Schools may use the funding to support experiential opportunities for civic engagement and civic learning -- such as field trips, special programs, and consultant fees for student leadership development or professional development for teachers.

To solicit funding, as Chair of the Committee, I have written six grant applications and distributed solicitation letters to local businesses. The Cape Cod Foundation has appealed to their donor distribution list. We have also publicized the fund in newspapers and in Chamber of Commerce newsletters. The first year of raising money for a new and unknown project is the most difficult. We have begun to receive donations but it is most likely that the level of funding will not be sufficient this first year to cover all potential applicants so that grants will need to be awarded on a competitive basis. I am told that after the first year of a grant program, when a track record has been established, it is easier to gain recognition and support.

When grants are awarded in October, we will be awarding them publicly in the receiving school communities and in newspapers, thus seeking to elevate the importance of civic education for all students. We are pleased that *Kathy Schatzberg* has agreed to join the Grant Review Committee.

This first year is a learning experience and we will no doubt develop additional ways to support this project and civic education in general. The Working Group on Civic Education and Engagement that was charged with the responsibility of assessing the status of civic education in Massachusetts presented its report to the Massachusetts Board of Elementary and Secondary Education in June. It will be interesting to see what level of support the committee recommendations will receive in the coming year.

Encouraging and celebrating the work of our schools in expanding civic engagement opportunities for students is an important and exciting effort. The committee needs your help. Please contact Karen Mazza at mazzak1623@gmail.com Thanks.

Highlights from the June 2, 2015 LWVCCA Board Meeting

From Judy Thomas, Secretary

1. Calendar for 2015-16 was approved. (In your Handbook and this issue of The Voter.)
2. “Third Week Coffees” will be on Nov. 17, Jan. 20, Feb. 18 and March 15.
3. Ads in the handbook will continue to be solicited.
4. “Don’t Just Stand There, Run”, a workshop for potential candidates, will be held in early 2016. Florence Seldin, Judy Thomas, Joan Grant and Chris Meade are the committee.
5. Campaign Finance: the committee is Nancy Erskine, Renate Sands, Karen Mazza, Joan Grant and Chris Meade.
6. Jazz Concert Fundraiser: Oct. 18, Yarmouth Port Congregational Church. Cost: \$20.
7. New members: Hilary Burkitt and Phyllis Koppel.
8. Economic Opportunity Committee: Members include Jari Rapaport, Mary Lou Petitt, Renate Sands, Diane Suhm, Annette Nickerson, Nancy Curley and Jan Hively with co-chairs Karen Mazza and Maggie French.
9. Facebook guidelines for posts will be developed.

Voter Service Committee

From Joan Grant & Chris Meade

Candidates' Workshop: "Don't Just Stand There--Run" -- This workshop for potential candidates is currently planned for January 2016. Committee members are Joan Grant, Florence Seldin, Judy Thomas and Chris Meade. Workshop topics will be similar to those of previous workshops including elected officials sharing their experiences. . . raising money and campaign financing... using the media (updated to include social media). . . nomination process. . . and guidance on running a campaign. Prior to the workshop, during this Fall, efforts will focus on partnering with the media and other organizations to encourage people to consider running and to publicize the workshop. The workshop will be held at the Cape Cod Community Media Center in Dennis so it can be recorded and aired across the Cape and for future election periods.

Massachusetts Election Reforms: Massachusetts passed election reform for online voter registration, early voting, and pre-registration for teens. This is an update on those changes.

Online voter registration went into effect in late June. Anyone with a driver's license or Registry of Motor Vehicle issued ID can register to vote online at the Secretary of State's online voter registration site. The link (<https://www.sec.state.ma.us/ovr/>) will appear on the LWVCCA website. Registration can be done on phones and tablets.

Pre-registration of 16- and 17-year-olds goes into effect in August 2016. Teens who pre-register will receive notification and automatically go on the voter rolls when they turn 18. Registering can be done online or in person at the Registry of Motor Vehicles.

Early voting will take effect with the Presidential election in November 2016. This law allows early voting only in regularly-scheduled biennial state elections. Early voting can start on the Monday two weeks before the election and end on the Friday before the election, during normal business hours. Weekend voting is only allowed during that first weekend. In September, the Secretary of State's office will issue recommendations on implementing early voting for public comment. LWVMA will offer comments, particularly to encourage multiple early voting locations in larger cities and some evening and weekend early voting hours.

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SAVE THE DATE FOR A SPECIAL EVENT!

An Afternoon of Traditional Jazz

Sunday, October 18, 2015

3:00 to 5:00 P.M.

First Congregational Church of Yarmouth, 329 Route 6A, Yarmouth Port

Music, Conversation, and display of finest examples of instruments of the Jazz Era
Jamie Bryce, Mike Hasham, Paul Nossiter, and Friends

In addition to playing, the musicians will display examples of each of their finest instruments from the jazz era. They will tell stories and entertain questions from the audience.

Jamie and Mike will be presenting a similar program at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston in early October so we are very lucky to have them for the afternoon.

Admission price is \$20 and proceeds will benefit the activities of the League of Women Voters of the Cape Cod Area.

Light refreshments will be served.

CALENDAR 2015 - 2016 *(Please print and save)*

2015			
Tue	Sept 8	Board Meeting (Labor Day is Sept. 7)	9:30 AM
Thu	Sept 24	Coffee: Consensus discussion-Pending legisla- tion, Pilgrim Power Station-Brewster Ladies Lib.	10:30 AM
Tue	Oct 6	Board Meeting	9:30 AM
Sun	Oct 18	Fundraiser Concert with Social - Yarmouth Port	Afternoon
Tue	Nov 3	November Board Meeting	9:30AM
Tue	Nov 17	Third Week Coffee	10:00 AM
Tue	Dec 1	December Board Meeting	9:30 AM
Sat	Dec 5	December Social and Program (Speaker)	9:30 AM-12:00 PM
2016			
Tue	Jan 5	Board Meeting	9:30 AM
Wed	Jan 20	Third Week Coffee	10:00 AM
	Jan	Just Don't Stand There, Run Workshop	
Tue	Feb 2	Board Meeting	9:30 AM
Thu	Feb 18	Third Week Coffee	10:00 AM
Tue	Mar 1	Board Meeting	9:30 AM
Tue	Mar 15	Third Week Coffee	10:00 AM
Sat	Mar 19 or 26	Health Committee Forum	10:00 AM - Noon
Fri	Mar - April	Legislative Breakfast	8:30 - 10:30 AM
Tue	Apr 5	April Board Meeting	9:30 AM
	April - May	Moderate debates for local elections	
Tue	May 3	May Board Meeting	9:30 AM
Wed	May 18	Annual Meeting	5:00 PM - 7:00 PM
Tue	June 7	June Board Meeting	9:30 AM
Fall 2016			
Sat	Sept 24, Oct 15	Forum related to Election - Maybe a ballot question debate: ex. Marijuana	10:00 AM
		Moderate Debates for Nov. 2016 Elections	

Note: Further details about these programs, changes, and new programs will appear in The Voter. Committee meetings are scheduled by committee chairs directly with their members.

2015 - 2016 MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Mailing address: _____

Email address: _____

Single member \$55 /__ / Household \$85 /__ / Assisted single \$30 /__ /

*Please make out your check to LWVCCA and mail to Ira Seldin, Treasurer,
321 Deer Meadow Lane, Chatham MA 02633*

*Questions? Please contact Membership Chair Helen Bresnahan at
sunrisedawn110@aol.com or (508) 420 0308*

We welcome help from members to assist us with events such as voter registration
and candidate debates. Please indicate your interests:

Voter service _____ Legislation _____ Fundraising _____ Healthcare _____
County government _____ Youth services _____ Economic opportunity _____
Communications _____

THANK YOU