

VOLUME 59 ISSUE 4

JANUARY 2020

CALENDAR

Tuesday January 7
9:30am

BOARD MEETING
Cape Cod Five, Rte 134, Dennis

Monday, January 20

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. Holiday

Wednesday, January 15
9:30-11:30

PROGRAM PLANNING

home of Amy Harris, Harwich

or

Monday, January 27
2:30-4:30

home of Jan Hively, Yarmouth

or

Wednesday February 5
6:00-8:00 PM

home of Mati Ligon, Mashpee

or

Wednesday February 19
11 am to 1 pm

home of Barbara Wellnitz, Brewster

UPCOMING

Tuesday February 4
9:30am

BOARD MEETING
Cape Cod Five, Rte 134, Dennis

Monday February 17

PRESIDENTS DAY Holiday

Friday, March 13
9:00 AM

LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST
Lorusso Solarium, CCCC

www.lwvcapecod.org

www.members.lwvcapecod.org

<http://www.facebook.com/LWVCCA/>

WANTED: NEW EDITOR FOR VOTER. EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY.

Writing, editing and computer-design skills are priorities. People skills helpful. Curiosity, determination, accuracy always needed.

Our VOTER editor for the past five (or more) years, Nancy Erskine, has announced her retirement. She may show up from time to time, but at this time she feels it's time for someone else to take up the ongoing monthly responsibilities.

These include: receiving and editing regular reports from LWVCCA Steering Committee and other committee chairs (Legislative, Voter Service, Youth Service, Membership), attendance at monthly board meetings, inclusion of board-approved minutes, coverage of past League events and previews of upcoming events, keeping track of County concerns (Assembly, Cape Cod Commission), State League and National League positions, awareness of related activities of other like-minded organizations (Cape Downwinders, Indivisible, Cape Women for Change) and others.

2020 will be a busy year for the League in all its endeavors. If you have experience ~ or interest in gaining such ~ our League needs you. There are those, including Nancy, ready and willing to help if needed.

Please contact Suzanne Brock sailinsue22@gmail.com or 508-385-9350 to explore further. Thanks!



100 YEARS! VOTES FOR WOMEN!

March in July 4th Parade

In celebration of the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment giving women the right to vote in national elections LWVCCA is planning to gather 100 women dressed in white blouses and blue or white skirts wearing a hat and proudly sporting a Votes for Women sash to march in the Hyannis 4th of July parade. We will be enlisting women from many Cape organizations to join us. We have already registered with the parade committee. If you are interested please email Florence Seldin: florencecape@comcast.net. As we get closer to the event we will send you information about where to meet, time, etc. You can find several sites online which advertise the Votes for Women sashes.

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PROGRAM PLANNING WORKSHOPS

Calling all membership!

What should be the LWV CCA focus and programming be in 2020-2021? What do you think of the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts' priorities? We need your input. Our Program Planning sessions are spread out geographically and timewise so we may attract as many members as possible. Please choose one that fits your schedule and come and let us know your priorities for your League.

Wednesday January 15, 2020 9:30-11:30	Harwich	Amy Harris rsvp amyharrisjge@gmail.com 508-432-0763	4 Chapel Hill Lane, Harwich
Monday January 27 2:30-4:30	Yarmouth	Jan Hively rsvp HIVEL001@umn.edu 508-957-2620	121 Camp Street, #100, W. Yarmouth
Wednesday February 5, 2020 6:00-8:00 PM	Mashpee	Mati Ligon rsvp 508-539-4233	43 Gold Leaf Lane, Mashpee
Wednesday February 19, 2020 11 AM – 1 PM	Brewster	Barbara Wellnitz rsvp barbarawellnitz2@gmail.com 508-896-2023 bring a brown bag lunch	8 Woodward Road, Brewster



FACING HARD TRUTHS ABOUT THE LEAGUE'S ORIGIN

In August of 2018 the president of LWVUS, Chris Carson and the CEO, Virginia Kase issued a statement basically admitting that the League had not been welcoming to women of color through most of its existence. It is a very interesting telling of our shortcomings in this regard.

This is part of that statement:

“The League was founded in 1920- just months before the ratification of the 19th Amendment – by American suffragist Carrie Chapman Catt. Catt was a complicated character, a political operative and by modern standards, yes, racist. While fighting for the 19th amendment she famously claimed, “White supremacy will be strengthened, not weakened, by women’s suffrage.”

“Even during the Civil Rights movement, the League was not as present as we should have been. While activists risked life and limb to register black voters in the South, the League’s work and our leaders were late in joining to help protect all voters at the polls. It wasn’t until 1966 that we reached our first position to combat discrimination. Still, our focus on social policy was from afar-not on the front lines.”

“Today we acknowledge this shortcoming and that we have more work to do.”

“We have embraced a new Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion policy....Today, we invite all people, regardless of gender, gender identity, ethnicity, or race, to join us as we commit to righting the wrongs of our past and building a stronger, more inclusive democracy.”

The African American women whose efforts contributed to the eventual success of the effort to enfranchise women, have not always been acknowledged as they should be. Although Sojourner Truth is quite well known, we need to learn more about women like Harriet Forten Purvis, Angelina Weld Grimke, Charlotte Rollin, Mary Ann Shadd Cary, Ida B. Wells, Frances Ellen Watkins Harper, Josephine Pierre Ruffin, Sarah Askin and others. Probably these women are not as well known to you so do a bit of research to learn more about one or two of these unsung heroines.

DIVERSITY, EQUALITY and INCLUSION (included also in the November 2019 issue of *The Voter*)

The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts adopted a diversity, equity and inclusion policy at the 2019 Convention.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Policy:

“LWV is an organization fully committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion in principle and in practice. Diversity, equity, and inclusion are central to the organization’s current and future success in engaging all individuals, households, communities, and policy makers in creating a more perfect democracy.

There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, gender identity, ethnicity, race, native or indigenous origin, age, generation, sexual orientation, culture, religion, belief system, marital status, parental status, socioeconomic status, language, accent, ability status, mental health, educational level or background, geography, nationality, work style, work experience, job role function, thinking style, personality type, physical appearance, political perspective or affiliation and/or any other characteristic that can be identified as recognizing or illustrating diversity.”

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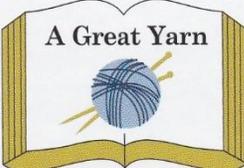


Terry Moore

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LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Legislative Priorities of the LWVMA

All bills not reported out of committee (or given a brief extension) by Feb 5 are dead for this legislative session. The bills listed below are of major priority for the 2019-2020 legislative session and need to be voted out of committee:

Election Day Registration: H685/S396

Climate Crisis: (Carbon Pricing H2810/S1924), (Implementation Roadmap H832) (Reforming Natural Gas Utilities H2849/S1940)

Reproductive Rights: Roe Act H3320/S1209

Please remember to advocate for the above listed bills.

Education Funding: Student Opportunity Act S2350 *Signed by Governor 11/27/2019*

Hearing on the Safe Communities Act December 2, 2019

The Safe Communities Coalition, which includes LWVMA, is planning a press event at 9 a.m. before the hearing at the State House and has recruited supporters to attend the hearing in shifts to ensure a crowd is in the auditorium all day. The bill provides clear guidance to police and court officials on their interactions with ICE.

- Ensures police and court officials do not inquire about immigration status unless required by law.
- Protects basic rights by ensuring that people in police custody are made aware of their rights and consent to questioning before ICE interviews.
- Creates guidelines limiting when law enforcement and court officials can notify ICE of someone's impending release from custody, such as when a charge is dismissed, or a person is released on bail.
- Prevents contracts with ICE that allow county sheriffs and the Department of Corrections (DOC) to act as federal immigration agents, at taxpayers' expense.
- Requires law enforcement training on this guidance.

Elaine Dickinson and Renate Sands plan to attend the event.

The Hearing has been postponed due to inclement weather.

Pilgrim Update

The LWV Chelmsford contacted Representative Golden, Co-Chair of the Jt Com on Telecommunication, Utilities and Energy, regarding the bill that “protects the taxpayers of the Commonwealth from the cost of decommissioning.” He stated he was “not on the League side, he felt the issues were with federal regs not state.” The LWV Concord-Carlisle contacted the other Co-Chair, Sen Barrett and have not received a reply. They plan to continue to reach out to him and are going to contact the Lowell League for additional support. Rosemary Shields is writing a letter to the Jt. Committee on Public Health regarding the “Community Radiological Emergency Response Funds” bill. The LWV Plymouth has already contacted the committee and is looking for additional support. The letter will be submitted to the board for approval.

People Powered Fair Maps, a national redistricting initiative of the League of Women Voters, is focused on creating fair political maps nationwide. The program includes action in all 50 states and D.C. The work will look different in each state, but the program is comprised of five major focus area:

1. Ballot Initiatives or Referendums
2. State Constitutional options
3. State Legislative Fixes
4. Federal Legislative Fixes
5. Civic Engagement and Education

*The LWVMA Co-President, Judy Zaunbrecher, gave a presentation on **People-Powered Fair Maps** on Nov 21 at the Falmouth Public Library sponsored by the LWV Falmouth. Renate Sands attended.*



RECENT LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE EVENTS

Day on the Hill, State House October 17, 2019

Five members traveled to Boston on Oct 17 to attend “Day on the Hill” at the State House: Karen Mazza, Florence Seldin, Elaine Dickinson, Pat Ryle and Renate Sands.

Immigration Information, Zion Union Heritage Museum October 19, 2019

Mark Gabrielle presented five films: Immigration Enforcement, Detention, Deportation, DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) and TPS (Temporary Protected Status). The Safe Communities Act became part of the discussion throughout. The films helped to explain the different issues and generated lengthy discussions.

A big thank you to John Reed, the President, for opening the museum so people could view the museum’s exhibition. Another big thank you to Elaine Dickinson, Pat Ryle and Terri Bilodeau for all their help.

Legislative Envoy Meeting, Sandwich November 23, 2019

Rosemary Shields and Renate Sands met with other state LWVMA Legislative Envoys in Sandwich. Envoys from the LWV Hingham and Falmouth attended.

Legislative Committee Meeting December 5, 2019

The Legislative Committee will meet at noon in Sandwich. The next meeting will be on Friday, Jan 10, 2020.

HOLIDAY BRUNCH

Because the Cape’s environment IS its economy...”

Habitat loss and its restoration. Water--quality, quantity, waste, cleanliness--and climate change were among the topics at the “State of the Cape” talk at our Holiday Brunch on Saturday, December 7th at the Hyannis Golf Club. **Kristin Andres**, Director of Education and Outreach for the Association to Preserve Cape Cod (APCC) introduced us to the Association’s many accomplishments and its ongoing efforts to address regional environmental challenges.

APCC was founded in 1968 as a grassroots response to a plan by the Army Corps of Engineers to dredge Nauset Marsh for a deep-water port. The marsh was saved and APCC has been leading ever since-- studying, monitoring and advising on the state of our many natural resources, using science-based advocacy and collaborating with all fifteen Cape towns.

Volunteers are an integral part of APCC efforts. There are a variety of opportunities to being involved. For example, APCC “citizen scientists” are trained in keeping track of habitat...counting herring in the spring and observing algae blooms in our ponds are but two of the many needs within APCC restoration programs.

Remember also that LWVCCA and LWVMA have positions on the environment. Locally, our position calls for “protection of ground and surface waters.” Individual towns’ Comprehensive Waste Management Plans (CWMPs) all require monitoring.

Looking ahead, APCC continues to track four pieces of State legislation---one on habitat loss and three on climate change.

S497/H818 –An Act to Protect Pollinator Habitat (read bees [et.al.](#)) now in the Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture

H3983—An Act to Create a 2050 Roadmap to a Clean and Thriving Commonwealth, now in House Ways and Means

S10—An Act Providing for Climate Change Adaptation Infrastructure Investment in the Commonwealth (Joint Committee on Revenue)

H.3997—An Act Relative to Greenworks (Senate Bonding Committee).

Additional information at www.apcc.org and KAndres@apcc.org .





LWV CCA SURVEY re PARTICPATION

We are looking for your input. Though we had a good turn-out at our Holiday Brunch, the response has been greater in other years. At the December Board meeting, we discussed sending out a survey. Please check your inbox for the opportunity to give your opinion and thoughts on attending League events.

