

THE CAPE COD VOTER

VOLUME 55 ISSUE 4

DECEMBER 2014

CALENDAR

Tuesday December 2
9:30am

Board Meeting
**Harwich United Methodist Church

Saturday December 6
9:30 - Noon

December Social & Program
Riverway Lobster House

Details last page. See you there!

LOOKING AHEAD...

Tuesday, January 6
9:30am

Board Meeting
Cape Cod Five, Dennis

Thursday, January 8
2pm

Health Committee Meeting
Home of Joan Bernstein

*Happy Hanukkah! Merry Christmas! Joyous Kwanzaa!
Peace on Earth*

MESSAGE FROM THE CO-PRESIDENTS

Dear Members:

As the midterm election of 2014 is now over, we have learned that voter turnout was lower than other recent midterm elections. In Massachusetts only 48.89% of voters turned out. Nationally, only 36.4% of voters turned out and that is the lowest midterm turnout since 1942 according to an article in Time Magazine. Voter cynicism over Washington gridlock and perceived political corruption, disappointment in candidates and political parties, restrictive voting laws, and the barrage of negative advertising from uncontrolled dark money in politics may all have played a role in that outcome.

How do we as Leaguers react to this outcome? We choose to be in the League to join in collective action to make a difference. That energy from other Leaguers who continue to fight the good fight buoys the spirit. Author Jodi Picoult in Sing you Home writes: "Beliefs are the roads we take to our dreams. Believe you can do something--or believe you can't and you'll be right every time." Leaguers choose to believe that we can, and so we continue to fight the good fight to help make democracy work.

Progress on Program Planning Activities

Several members have been working to develop the programs we previously adopted for this year. A subcommittee focusing on the program topic, **Money in Politics**, has reviewed the LWVMA toolkit on this topic and will be sharing VOTER articles updating our membership with background information and initiatives related to constitutional amendment strategies and legislative action. A subcommittee on **Income Inequality** has begun to explore what is already being done on the Cape regarding this topic and how the League might participate in advancing discussion and collaboration among the parties already contributing to efforts to address this issue. LWVMA is co-sponsoring a forum in January with Bentley College that relates to the topics of Money in Politics and Income Inequality and we plan to make the program available on the Cape through our **local cable access stations**. We also have an ad hoc committee exploring how we can expand the visibility of our programming through cable and we are touring the local stations to discuss this. Our Health Committee continues to plan a forum for April. If you are interested in participating in any of these efforts please let Karen Mazza know (lwvccapres2012@gmail.com).

Third Thursday Coffee

We enjoyed our second Third Thursday Coffee on November 20 at The Hot Chocolate Sparrow in Orleans, with 9 of us present. We had an energetic conversation learning about each other's interests and activities and how they relate to our present League activities. For Marilyn and me, it was a great opportunity to see members we don't often see and learn more from each other. We have such talented members in our organization and these informal conversations are informative and great fun. We will have our next coffee in January at Panera in Hyannis. Some members have regular commitments on Thursday so we may try to alternate the day of the week but keep to the third week. We will let you know a specific date for January in the January Voter and by e-mail.

Continues...

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Co-Presidents' Message continued. . .

Things to Remember

-- Our December 6 Social – See last page – Please come!

-- Our Fundraising Letter -- Please remember the League in your charitable giving. Thank you!

We are grateful for the many ways that our members contribute to the betterment of our organization and the Cape and are thankful for your friendship.

In League,

Karen and Marilyn

Board Notes

Brief highlights of the November 4 Board meeting. Some details elsewhere in this issue.

- Treasurer's report: Bank balance of \$7,848. Discussion of possibility of including business ads in January.
- Whether to pursue advocating for a more inclusive name for LWV-- needs more research.
- Based on strong support in ballot question re Pilgrim Power plant, Renate and Judy offered to chair a forum on the topic of Pilgrim and nuclear energy in March.
- Members will tour the CCCCommunity Media Center in Dennis on Nov. 14.
- Nov. 12 will be a meeting to consider financial issues around "reserve" money and the League and the Trust.
- The Third Thursday program start in October was excellent. (See report on November gathering in Co-Presidents' letter above. No meeting in December.
- Holiday brunch December 6: Riverway Lobster House, South Yarmouth
- County Committee/Board will send ethics concern letter to State Ethics Commission.
- Ed Trust group will meet with CCFoundation re grant program for civic education program.
- Membership has defined new approach for 2015 re renewals
- Health Committee: Title of spring program will be "Progress on the Mental Health Front."
- Youth Support: An excellent program on October 10.
- Voter Service: Co-chairs thinking about 2015 and 2016.
- Joan Grant will be on nominating committee.
- December board meeting will not be at the Bank; but rather at Harwich United Methodist Church.

Submitted by Judy Thomas, Secretary

ELECTION RESULTS -- *Compiled by Renate Sands*

BALLOT QUESTIONS			
Question 1	Eliminating Gas Tax Indexing	YES	57%
	Expanding Beverage Container Deposit		
Question 2	Law	NO	73%
Question 3	Expanding Prohibition on Gambling	NO	55%
Question 4	Earned Sick Time for Employees	YES	53%
Question 5	Extending Nuclear Safety Zone	YES	73%

The following information covers only the period from Oct 16 to Nov 1. Updated reports will be filed the end of November.

- During that time groups spent over \$28 million dollars to promote or defeat the four ballot questions. Casino companies spent \$14 million to defeat the ballot question to repeal the state's 2011 casino law. Anti-casino activists spent \$658,526.
- Opponents of the Bottle Bill spent \$8.8 million. Supporters spent \$1.5 million.
- The repeal of the state law indexing the gas tax generated \$2.7 million in spending.
- The question allowing workers to earn paid sick time generated \$800,000.

Ballot question 5 was a non-binding referendum only on the ballots in Senator Dan Wolf's district.

CANDIDATES

Governor	Charles Baker	R
	Vinny	
Senator: Plymouth Barnstable :	deMacedo	R
Senator: Cape & Islands	Dan Wolf	D
	Timothy	
1st Barnstable District	Whelan	R
2cd Barnstable District	Brian Mannel	D
3rd Barnstable District	David Vieira	R
4th Barnstable District	Sarah Peake	D
5th Barnstable District	Randy Hunt	R
	Timothy	
Barnstable, Dukes, Nantucket	Madden	D
Board of County Commissioners	Leo Cakounes	R

*Names **highlighted** are newly elected officials.*

Federal Government: Both Senator Edward J. Markey (D) and Representative William Keating (D) were re-elected.

Assembly of Delegates: Patrick Princi retained his seat in Barnstable. **Edward Lewis** was elected in Brewster and Harwich elected **Edward McManus**. There were no other changes.

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Voter Service Committee

Submitted by Joan Grant and Chris Meade

Once again we would like to thank all the members of LWVCCA who supported the numerous Voter Service activities held during the recent election season. Outcomes from this season will serve as the foundation for the 2015/16 Voter Service Plan currently being drafted. Over the next couple of months, we will work be working through the development process with the Board and expect to have the final Plan completed in the first quarter of next year.

Membership Committee

Submitted by Helen Bresnahan

Committee members Joan Craig, Maggie French and Helen Bresnahan met on November 11. Maggie was able to digitize the introductory booklet. We also added a number of possible changes to be Board permitted.

Among the changes:

- Optional Assisted Single Membership dues of \$30
- Colored pictures showing the League in action
- Deletion of Units (with added potential of village sections for Barnstable)
- Registered ® symbol where necessary
- Larger print for quotes
- Bullet points closer to left
- Lower case where necessary

Welcoming Maggie French

From Helen Bresnahan

Maggie is a full-time coach of Living Whole. She believes that when someone is ill, it is a community responsibility to respond. Living Whole advocacy helps women strengthen their belief in self and in the importance of a strong educational foundation. This advocacy shifts the perspective on life. Maggie considers writing a part of life.

She is also an experienced financial executive. Realizing that a technical career was necessary for her future, she attended Bryant College and majored in marketing. Subsequently she got an MBA from the University of Hartford, discovered her strengths in budget analysis and worked for BF Goodrich in Vermont and Colt Manufacturing in Connecticut. Coming to Chatham in 1992, she became CFO of the VNA/Independence Center and later CFO of Outer Cape Health Services. She has also volunteered for Hospice.

Maggie is married, enjoys movies, cooking and reading action mysteries.

December Social and Program

You are cordially invited to attend the
December Social and Program of the
League of Women Voters of the Cape Cod Area

Saturday, December 6, 2014
9:30-12:00

THE RIVERWAY LOBSTER HOUSE
1338 Route 28, South Yarmouth

Speaker: Elisa Zawadzkas

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 \$15. The deadline for reservations is **Monday, December 1st.**
Please complete the form below and send with your payment of \$15 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.

.....
I will attend the December Social and Program on December 6 and I am enclosing my
check for \$15.00. Guest brunch also \$15.00.

Name _____

Guest _____