

# THE CAPE COD VOTER

VOLUME 55 ISSUE 2

OCTOBER 2014

## CALENDAR

Tuesday, October 7 9:30am	Board Meeting Cape Cod Five, Dennis
Wednesday, October 8 6:30 - 9:00pm	<b>Candidates Debate</b> Cape Cod Community College
Friday, October 10 8:30am - 3:00pm	<b>Civics Teachers Conference</b> Cape Cod Community College
Thursday, October 16 10:00am	“Third Thursday” Coffee Panera, Hyannis
Tuesday, Nov 4 <b>Election Day!</b> 9:30am	Board Meeting Cape Cod Five, Dennis

## LOOKING AHEAD...

Thursday, November 20 10:00am	“Third Thursday” Chocolate Sparrow, Orleans
Tuesday, December 2 9:30am	Board Meeting Cape Cod Five, Dennis
Saturday, December 6	Winter Social

*Last day to register to vote: October 15!*

## **CO-PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE**

Fall season is election season and the League is busy on many fronts. Thank you to all members who participated in voter registration drives at locations across the Cape. It was good to be helpful to new voters and those needing to change their addresses. It was also good to see the LWVCCA increase its visibility and to have the opportunity to provide non-partisan educational information about the upcoming elections. A very big thank you goes to our Co-Chairs for Voter Service, Chris Meade and Joan Grant who have assumed their roles with great vision, enthusiasm and energy. We are also very grateful to Joan Craig, who gracefully moderated one debate for us in August and will moderate another on October 8.

### **Debates**

We will be co-hosting two debates on October 8 from 6:30 to 9:00 at Cape Cod Community College. These debates are for the First Barnstable State Representative District being vacated by Cleon Turner and for the State Senate Seat for the Plymouth Barnstable District being vacated by Therese Murray. We hope that League members who live in these districts will be able to attend.

### **Ballot Questions**

Please review the LWVMA positions on ballot questions, available on their website, [lwmvma.org](http://lwmvma.org). Once at the home page, go to member resources and you will see information about the 2014 ballot questions. For your convenience, a brief summary is printed in the Legislative section on Page of this Voter following the Co-Presidents' Message. The League and many environmental groups, including the Association to Preserve Cape Cod, are waging a grass roots campaign to support a Yes on 2, Stop Litter campaign.

### **Thanks for the September Membership Dinner**

It will be good to see so many of our new and continuing members out for the September 30 membership meeting. Our topic on the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Plant is important and we look forward to learning about the latest efforts to deal with this major safety issue from our speaker Diane Turco, who has bravely led activist efforts along with others in the Cape Downwinders. Thanks to Kay Bryce, Second Vice President for making our dinner arrangements and to Helen Bresnahan, Membership Chair, for her assistance with hospitality.

### **Handbooks**

Our handbooks for the 2014-2015 year will be distributed at the membership meeting to those who attend. They will be mailed the next day to those who are not in attendance so if you cannot come, please look for them in your mail. Your Co-Presidents and First Vice President Barbara Wellnitz worked on the development of the handbook with Marilyn Gullet taking the major lead role. Thank you to Barbara, Helen Bresnahan, Debbie Aikman and Ira Seldin for their work on updating our membership directory and to Nancy Erskine for assisting with editing.

*Continued next page...*

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*Co-Presidents' Message continued*

**New Idea! Third Thursday Coffees!**

A few of us have been bemoaning the loss of units within our organization and looking for some informal low key ways that we can retain the opportunity to get together in smaller local groups occasionally. So we are starting an informal rotating coffee group to meet at local coffee houses on the Third Thursday of a given month at 10:00 AM for some coffee and light social banter among League friends. Please see the description later in this newsletter and join us!

In League,  
Karen Mazza and Marilyn Gullett  
Co-Presidents

## **VOTER SERVICE**

*From Chris Meade and Joan Grant*

### ***1<sup>st</sup> Barnstable District Representative Democratic Primary Race - Candidates Forum***

On September 4<sup>th</sup>, Elaine Bono and Barbara Wellnitz moderated a candidates forum with Alex Morash, Ian Ryan and Elisa Zawadzkas, Democratic primary candidates for the 1<sup>st</sup> Barnstable District Representative seat. Tim Whelan, the unopposed Republican candidate, was also asked to attend but was unavailable. The forum was held at Heatherwood at King's Way in Yarmouthport and was attended by about 24 residents. The well informed residents asked insightful questions on a broad range of issues which resulted in a very informative exchange between the candidates and residents. Literature on all four candidates was made available to the attendees.

### ***Registration and Education Events***

Over 15 registration and education events were held in nearly every LWVCAA town. The events were held in a variety of locations including elementary, middle and high schools, Cape Cod Community College, a town meeting and several shopping centers. The actual number of registration forms distributed will be reported in next month's Voter. In addition to the goal of registering new voters, there was also a focus on educating voters and increasing LWVCCA's visibility. The most popular handout was information on the ballot questions and 15 event locations supported increased League visibility.

This significant effort could not have happened without the extensive support from Bea Auty, Paula Bacon, Elaine Bono, Betsy Bray, Sally Cahill, Nancy Curley, Debby Ecker, Nancy Erskine, Maggie French, Claire Gradone, Marilyn Gullett, Amy Harris, Jane Hinckley, Jan Hively, Mary Hunter-Utt, Elizabeth Levy, Matilda Ligon, Karen Mazza, Karen Miller, Erica Parra, Jari Rapaport, Renate Sands, Barry Thomas, Judy Thomas, Richard Utt, Phyllis Walsh, and Renate Wasserman. We extend thanks and deep gratitude to all these members. Everyone did a great job.

### ***Two Candidate Forums on October 8 at Cape Cod Community College, Tilden Arts Center***

The Cape Cod Times and LWVCCA are co-sponsoring two forums on Wednesday evening, October 8 from 6:30 to 9:00. The first debate, starting at 6:30, is between Republican Tim Whelan and Democrat Elisa Zawadzkas, candidates for 1<sup>st</sup> Barnstable District Representative seat. The second debate, starting at 7:45, is between Matthew Patrick (D), Vincent deMacedo (R) and Heather Mullins (L) -- all candidates for the State Senate seat from the Plymouth, Barnstable District.

## LEGISLATION

*Submitted by Legislation Co-chair Renate Sands*

### LWVMA 2014 BALLOT QUESTION POSITIONS

Four ballot questions will be on the statewide ballot Nov. 4. The Massachusetts League has positions on three of them.

**Question 1: Eliminating Gas Tax Indexing.** This proposed law would repeal a law passed in 2013 and eliminates the requirement that the state's gasoline tax be adjusted annually based on the Consumer Price Index. **LWVMA opposes this question and urges a NO vote.** We believe indexing the gasoline tax to the CPI provides funding needed to maintain and improve the state's transportation infrastructure.

**Question 2: Expanding the Beverage Container Deposit Law.** This question would update the state's current deposit law, the Bottle Bill, to include most non-carbonated beverages. It would also require that unclaimed bottle deposits be dedicated to recycling efforts. **LWVMA supports this question and urges a YES vote.** We believe an expansion of the Bottle Bill will greatly increase the rates of recycling, reduce litter and save cities and towns money in cleanup costs.

**Question 3: Expanding Prohibitions on Gaming.** This question would prohibit casinos, any gaming establishment with slot machines, and wagering on simulcast greyhound races, even if licenses have already been granted. **LWVMA supports this question and urges a YES vote.** We have long opposed casinos and other gambling in Massachusetts, arguing the costs in services needed and social impact outweigh projected gains in tax revenue and employment.

**Question 4: Earned Sick Time for Employees.** This question would entitle employees in Massachusetts to earn and use sick time according to certain conditions. The League has no state or national positions that would enable LWVMA take a stand on this question and so we neither support nor oppose this question.

*Please go to [lwmva.org](http://lwmva.org) for more detailed information under Member Resources.*

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**The following bills supported by the LWVMA were passed by the Massachusetts Legislature in the last two-year legislative session:**

- Massachusetts Disclose Act (Disclosure of funding for SuperPacs)
- Election Reform (Early voting, on line voting, pre-registration for teens)
- Reproductive Health Care Access (Revised rules for protests at women's health clinics)
- Gun Control (More background checks, regulation of private gun sales and licensing by authorities)
- Health Care (Concerns the number of intensive care patients assigned to a nurse)
- Transportation (Encourages use of streets by pedestrians and bicyclists)
- Basic Human Needs (Welfare bill that increases education and training opportunities)

*Continues . . .*

*LWVMA-supported legislation cont.*

**Bill presently in the House Ways and Means Committee:**

- H.4065 “An Act Promoting the Planning and Development of Sustainable Communities”.  
The bill would reform our state’s zoning laws which are 40 years old. State Sen. Dan Wolf is a lead sponsor of the legislation and Rep. Sarah Peake is a strong supporter.

**Federal Laws**

HR 3899 Voting Rights Amendment Act of 2014(VRAA) – The latest action was on 3/20/2014 when it was referred to the Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice.

**BARNSTABLE COUNTY -- Candidates for office**

*Submitted by Jari Rapaport*

**Candidates for County Commission & Assembly of Delegates**

**County Commission:** Mark Forest (D)  
Leo Cakounes (R)

**Assembly of Delegates:**

Barnstable Patrick M. Princi (Incumbent)  
Ronald R. Beaty, Jr.  
John E. Wargin

Bourne: Linda M. Zuern

Brewster: Jason Michael Klump  
Edward S. Lewis  
Madhavi Venkatesan

Chatham: Ronald J. Bergstrom (Incumbent)

Dennis: John W. Ohman (Incumbent)

Eastham: Teresa Martin (Incumbent)

Falmouth: Julia C. Taylor (Incumbent)

Harwich: Donald F. Howell  
Edward J. McManus

Mashpee: Marcia R. King (Incumbent)

*Continues. . .*

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*Candidates for County Assembly of Delegates, cont.*

Orleans: Christopher W. Kanaga (Incumbent)  
Provincetown: Brian O'Malley  
Sandwich: James J. Killion (Incumbent)  
Truro: Deborah L. McCutcheon (Incumbent)  
Wellfleet: Ned Hitchcock II (Incumbent)  
Yarmouth: E. Suzanne McAuliffe (Incumbent)

*For more information on local and state candidates, please see [lwvcapecod.org](http://lwvcapecod.org)*

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**NEW! THIRD THURSDAY COFFEES**

*Coming October 16 ~*

Join a group of your fellow League members for an informal coffee klatch on the Third Thursday of selected months. Get to know League members in your area in a more informal setting to just chat about whatever the conversation of the day may be – even if it isn't about politics or the League! We are interesting people who have many and varied interests. Let's share them.

We'll start our **first Third Thursday Coffee on October 16 at Panera's in Hyannis at 10 AM.** We will be wearing our LWV buttons so you can find us. Karen will be there and Marilyn will when her travel schedule allows. Chris Meade and Betsy Bray have also said they will participate.

October 16 at Panera's in Hyannis  
November 20 at the Hot Chocolate Sparrow in Orleans

Come join us for some good coffee and great conversation!  
*Submitted by Karen Mazza*

## **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

**Ann Evans** comes to us from Acton, Massachusetts near Concord. Originally, her family summer home was in Orleans. After deciding to become a year-round resident, she discovered many ties at King's Way -- and ultimately moved to Yarmouth Port. In the Fall and winter, Ann plans to live in Vero Beach, Florida.

A member of the League for 52 years, she was given her membership at age 21 by her mother. With her prior League experience, she served many terms as President of the Acton League and was on the Speakers Bureau of the LWVMA. She has seen the Bottle Bill grow from infancy and now hopes that, when it passes, it will include water bottle recycling.

After receiving her undergraduate degree from Tufts and an M.A. from Lesley, Ann went on to earn a Ph.D. in psychology from Harvard, specializing in Child and Family Psychology. She retired in 2009.

Widowed, Ann has two children and six grandchildren. Her outside interests are reading historical books (London), playing bridge (party and duplicate) and traveling.

**Amy Harris** grew up in Winchester, Mass., has been coming to Harwich her entire life and has owned a home here for the past 22 years. Then, three months ago, she moved here permanently from Wilton, CT and says she is grateful to return to the Commonwealth.

While living in Wilton, Amy joined the League of Women Voters in 1997 and held many positions over the years, retiring as President of that League. At her retirement, her well-wishers praised her as "an incomparable leader with a great sense of humor".

Along with her work in the League, Amy supported the community in many other ways -- as PTA President, spearhead of the 5th Grade Voter Education program and volunteer with the Wilton High School voter education drive. At the State government level, she was a Commissioner of the Connecticut SouthWest Regional Planning Agency.

A graduate of Fairfield University, Amy earned her accounting credits from Northeastern and did graduate work in financial accounting at UConn Stamford. She worked as CFO of a printing firm and an advertising agency and finally as Controller for a market research company before choosing to devote more time to community support and family life. She is the mother of three sons--one a graduate of Roger Williams University, another currently a student at Wentworth Institute of Technology and the youngest now at Oxford Academy in Westbrook, CT.

***Handbook update: Please add Christiane Perry, 36 Eldredge Sq., Chatham 02633 508-945-8041.***