

THE CAPE COD VOTER

Volume 51 ISSUE 8

APRIL 2011

CALENDAR

Monday, April 4 7:00 pm	Sandwich Candidates Forum Sandwich Town Hall
Tuesday, April 5 9:30 am	LWVCCA Board Meeting Dennis Cape Cod 5
Wednesday, April 13 9:30 am	Day on the Hill State House, Boston
Saturday, April 16 9:00 am	“Water Justice” Conference Barnstable U/U Church
Wednesday, April 27 9:30 am	Orleans Warrant Meeting Place TBA
Wednesday, April 27 9:30 am	Eastham Warrant Meeting Council On Aging
Monday, April 25 1:00 pm	Health Committee Media Center, Yarmouth
Thursday, April 28 7:00 pm	Candidates Night Dennis Town Hall

LOOKING AHEAD

Sunday, May 1 3:30 pm	New Member Tea Home of Joan Bernstein
Saturday, May 14 9:30 am	LWVCCA Annual Meeting Harbor Point Restaurant

April 2011 President's Message

Dear Members,

There are at least two important Cape wide League events scheduled before our program year ends in mid-May. The first is our second annual **Membership Wine and Cheese/Tea and Treats** gathering to be held at the home of Joan (and Mert) Bernstein in Brewster. We have done a great job with membership thus far for this year (12 new members), but Betsy Bray, your membership chair, and I would like to do even better! The tea will be Sunday, May 1 from 3:30 to 5. It would be wonderful if you would reach out to a neighbor, co-worker, fellow club member, church member etc., and invite him or her to our tea. Often I think we are prone to make assumptions about what someone might like (or not like) to do. I urge you to just go ahead and ask. The person you ask may be someone who is looking for an organization of interesting, concerned people who desire to be more informed about local issues and to work on making our democracy ever healthier. While we are not primarily a social organization, we do thoroughly enjoy one another's company and the pleasure of working and learning together. Please call the League phone: 945-0511 with your reservation. Thank you!!

The second event is our **Annual Meeting to be held on Saturday, May 14 at Harbor Point**. Please be reminded that the time of this meeting was changed for our members who are opera goers. It will now **begin promptly at 9:30 with brunch** and the business meeting to follow. Harbor Point is a beautiful location and we'll have a wonderful ambience in which to conduct our important organizational business. This business includes the election of officers, the approval of the budget and local program for 2011-2012 and, significantly this year, the approval of our revised by-laws. All the information for this meeting, *which you will need to review ahead of time and bring with you to the meeting*, will be coming to you in a document separate from this *Voter*. Please be on the watch for your **Annual Meeting Handbook** mid April.

A third event, but statewide, is **Day on the Hill** to be held on April 13 in Boston. The speakers LWVMA has chosen are particularly important: **Senator James Eldridge will speak on Corporate Political Responsibility and Senator Stanley Rosenberg, who is co-chair of the Special Joint Redistricting Committee**, will address redistricting. The census data has revealed that Massachusetts will lose a congressional seat (who will be in? Who will be out? of the incumbents) and that state senate and representative district lines will likely shift to the west. Our own newly elected senator, Dan Wolf, and Representative Demetrius Atsalis (parts of Barnstable and Yarmouth) have been selected to be members of the 24 member Redistricting Committee. If you have interest in this Boston event, please call the League phone (945-0511).

Looking forward to seeing you ~

Judy Thomas

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BOARD NOTES

New Unit in Sandwich: The Board agreed to support the formation of a Unit in Sandwich If there are sufficient members.

Nominating Committee: The committee reported on progress and the full slate will be included in the annual meeting Workbook.

Annual Meeting: The Board approved the recommended Local Program and By-Laws revisions to be presented at the Annual Meeting May 14. Watch for this in the Workbook to be sent out in mid-April.

PA system: A new PA system has been selected and will be purchased.

Membership: We have five new members. May 1 is the Tea/Wine and Cheese.

Health Care Committee: A Health Care meeting is scheduled on March 28, at 1:00pm, at Channel 17.

County Government: There has been no action taken as yet on the recertification of the Charter Review Committee. There was discussion in holding a general membership meeting on April 9th to discuss Charter issues.

Annual Meeting Workbook: Members should print copies of the work book to bring to the meeting on May 14. Minimal copies will be available at the Annual Meeting.

Jane Teixeira-Henry, Secretary

The LWVCCA Board is pleased to bring you this special announcement about the Water Justice Conference, an important event to inform our community and lead to necessary action.

WATER JUSTICE CONFERENCE

Mark your calendars for the upcoming regional conference, “Water Justice: Our Well Being, Our Rights, Our Responsibilities,” on Saturday, April 16th.

Water justice embodies the notion that everyone – including all living creatures – should have access to clean, safe water. At this conference, nationally recognized speakers will discuss current threats to the local and global water supply and provide practical tools for residents of southeastern Massachusetts to improve our quality of life, both at home and in our communities.

The event will be from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Unitarian Church of Barnstable in Barnstable, Massachusetts. Registration details are available online at <http://www.bcdoua.org/>. The \$15 registration fee includes lunch and refreshments. Youth activities and childcare will be available if requested by April 2nd at no additional charge.

The event is sponsored by the Cape & Islands Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Cluster, the Cape & Islands Unitarian Universalist Growth Council, the Cape Cod and the Islands Group Sierra Club, GreenCAPE, and the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee.

Diane Suhm, Conference Chair

**Water Justice:
Our Well Being, Our Rights,
Our Responsibilities**
A regional conference for residents
of southeastern Massachusetts

Saturday, April 16, 2011

9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Unitarian Church of Barnstable
3330 Main Street • Barnstable, MA

Water justice embodies the notion of clean, safe water for everyone – for all living creatures. This conference will shed light on current threats to the local and global water supply and provide practical tools for improving our quality of life, both at home and in our communities.

The \$15 registration fee includes materials and
buffet lunch by Casual Gourmet.
Youth activities and childcare available if requested by April
2nd.

Sponsored by the
Cape & Islands Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Cluster
Cape & Islands Unitarian Universalist Growth Council
Cape Cod and the Islands Group Sierra Club
GreenCAPE (Cape Alliance for Pesticide Education)
Unitarian Universalist Service Committee

Register online at www.bcdoua.org or by mail.

Mail registration form with check to BCD Office, 325 West Elm Street, Brockton, MA 02301.
Registration form available online and at any of the eight Unitarian Universalist churches
on the Cape & Islands:

We Need Your Help!

There will be a New Member Wine and Cheese Gathering on Sunday May 1 at 3:30 p.m. at the home of Joan Bernstein. It will be a relaxing afternoon of wine, cheese and good company. Several Board members will be there to discuss the League and its activities. If you know anyone that you think would like to join the LWVCCA please email: Betsy Bray braybetsy@gmail.com, or Mary Hunter Utt mary.h.utt@gmail.com and we will make sure they get an invitation.

TOWN MEETING WARRANT REVIEWS

Spring brings a focus on local Town issues as we all get ready to vote at Town Meetings throughout the cape. There are myriad decisions to be made on many sensitive areas. Finance and budget items are always foremost. This year we have continuing controversies on wastewater proposals and wind turbine regulations in some towns. Meetings with Town Administrators to review the warrants for town meeting have been scheduled for members from Orleans and Eastham.

-John Kelly, Orleans Administrator will meet with Orleans members on Wednesday, April 27 at 9:30. More details will follow.

- Sheila Vanderhoef, Eastham Administrator will meet with Eastham members on Wednesday, April 27 at 9:30 at the COA on Nauset Road.

These are good opportunities to invite other interested residents to join with us.

HEALTH CARE COMMITTEE REPORT

This year the Health Care Committee has been studying the delivery of health care on Cape Cod. On March 28th we began a review of changes that are being planned by Cape Cod Healthcare. One of our committee members, Walter Diggs, reported on recent developments at Cape Cod Hospital. A number of community hospitals in Massachusetts have become part of large for-profit health care systems. Cape Cod Hospital and Falmouth Hospital continue to be non-profit community hospitals.

However, a newly formed physician organization, Cape Cod Preferred Physicians (CCPP), and Caritas, a group of Massachusetts for-profit hospitals, have established a business relationship. Caritas has recently become part of Stewart, a larger for-profit group of hospitals. However, CCPP is a non-profit institution that is not owned or supported by Caritas, and doesn't have any clinical affiliation with their hospitals.

Yarmouth. Prior to our next meeting, our committee is planning to explore these and any other plans for institutional change with the appropriate Cape Cod management officials. If you would like to learn more about these changes, you are invited to join us on Monday, April 25th at 1:00 p.m. at the Media Center (Channel 17), 307 White's Path, South Yarmouth.

Rondda Tewes, Chair

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE NEWS

The Environment Committee met in March to discuss our many pending problems. With the exception of Chatham no other town has started work on the actual infrastructure needed to solve our ever more pressing waste water problems. As League members we agreed we must keep ourselves informed and encourage our towns to act positively.

Orleans will have two important initiatives at the May 9th town meeting. An override needs to be passed to fund a study to determine whether Orleans should continue as planned to implement the “big pipe” solution’

The “small pipe” alternative needs to be scientifically evaluated. It is vital that an outside expert formulate this study to enable it to come up with an unbiased conclusion. Orleans needs to pass a long term financial plan which includes the cost of future waste water infrastructure.

The other towns are further behind in waste water planning. There could be capacity to serve both Brewster and Eastham in the new treatment center planned for Orleans, especially if another treatment center is made to serve part of Brewster and S. Orleans.

We were disappointed at the lack of progress for land based wind power. In Europe many of us had seen successful installations. We were pleased that NStar has put off its pesticide spray program pending more study.

We look forward to the Coast Week celebration next fall. It is planned for September 9th, at the Wellfleet Audubon Center. This is always a special occasion, and I hope to see many of our members there. This celebration was initiated by Wellfleet League member, Barbara Fegan, and it became a state wide event to help celebrate and protect our wonderful Atlantic coast.

Erica Parra, Chair

LWVMA DAY ON THE HILL

The annual Day on the Hill, an opportunity to tour the State House and meet and lobby with our legislators, along with hearing from League specialists on our lobbying issues, will be held on Wednesday, April 13. The program runs from 9 to 12. Then we grab a quick bite at the capitol café and visit our various legislators, lobbying them on League positions. We finally head back around 3, in time to beat the rush hour. If you are interested in going call the League office 508-945-0511. We will try to do some car-pooling. We usually drive to the Quincy commuter rail station and take the T to Boston.

Elaine Bono, Legislative Chair,

LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST:

On March 25th, 57 people, including 7 out of our 8 state legislators or their aides, attended the annual Legislative Breakfast.

We also had a surprise, and most welcome, guest, our new Congressman Bill Keating. Our breakfast provided our members with an opportunity to talk to not only our Cape

Cod state delegation but also to our Congressman, a rare opportunity indeed. It also afforded the legislators an opportunity to interface with the new Congressman in a more congenial, casual, but "League-like" atmosphere. As a matter of fact, after the breakfast a meeting that was to be held at the airport in Hyannis ended up right there in the restaurant since most of the participants were already at our breakfast--this was a meeting of the County Commissioners and several state legislators. Before we heard from the state delegation, Congressman Keating talked about happenings in Washington and his experiences as a new member of Congress. Then the state legislators talked about such issues as the state budget, entitlements, tourism, health care, and regional issues. It's events like the breakfast that show that our League has a presence on the legislative "scene" and that our legislators are aware of that presence. Now we're on the "radar screen" of our new Congressman too.

Thanks to all who came and to those who came early and helped with the setup. Special thanks to President Judy Thomas and Voter Service Chair and Moderator, Elizabeth Levy, who adjusted the program to meet all the last-minute changes.

Elaine Bono, Legislative Chair

And our legislators said . . . Notes from the Legislative Breakfast March 25, 2011

Congressman William Keating:

Two huge issues are currently confronting Congress. First, the budget where enormous cuts have been made in 12% of the budget while 88% has been untouched. Second, what to do about the debt ceiling – he feels it must be raised. Proposed cuts could result in loss of 700,000 jobs by 2012. Federal government must support job growth for another year. The decreasing middle class is very threatened by poor economy – “we must remain the land of opportunity.”

Monica Mullen representing MA Senate President Therese Murray:

The state budget is the big priority, made more difficult by the lack of federal stimulus dollars this year. No local earmarks are anticipated. Sen. Stanley Rosenberg is co-chairing the state's redistricting committee. Ten years earlier under his chairmanship, the MA redistricting plan was one of few in country unchallenged in the courts.

Tom Bernardo representing Rep. Demetrius Atsalis, 2nd Barnstable District:

Rep. Atsalis is member of the redistricting committee. He's working hard on a bill that would establish a Narcotics Offender Registry; would support the change of the county name to “Cape Cod” as it would match the name of the county government. The closest Redistricting Hearing (currently scheduled) is New Bedford.

Rep. Randy Hunt, 5th Barnstable District:

Rep. Hunt believes wastewater is the biggest fiscal issue on the Cape. It's important to get the science right to avoid waste. He (along with Sen. Murray too) believes Governor over-estimated savings in health care. Believes the budget must be balanced and adjustments made mid-way when revenue is inadequate to fund the adopted budget.

Rep. Cleon Turner, 1st Barnstable District:

Rep. Turner summarized budget process with both houses of legislature and governor submitting proposals. Speaker DeLeo has refused to discuss increasing revenue which means there can only be cuts to balance the budget.

Sen. Dan Wolf, Cape and Islands:

Sen. Wolf serves on the County and Municipalities Committee which could prove very relevant to any charter review the county undertakes. He's impressed with the way the Cape delegation really understands the region. His great concern is the increasing wealth discrepancy in the state and nation. With a will, the state/nation can do better with the wealth that's already been created. Going forward there must be discussions about revenue enhancement – what we are currently doing is not sustainable. Courage must come from the populace as well as legislators.

Rep. Sarah Peake, 4th Barnstable District:

Rep. Peake concurs about the working relationship of the delegation being very good. Sen. Murray has arranged for delegation to visit the Plymouth Pilgrim power plant. Rep. Peake believes to increase revenues the state must invest in our economic engines. The room tax has been important in returning revenue to communities.

Rep. Tim Madden, the Islands, precincts in Falmouth and Barnstable.

Increasing jobs is crucial for Cape and Islands; we must put money into tourism business (He urges LWV support which would be helpful).

League Questions on:

Health Care Costs and Safe Staffing

- Mullen for Sen. Murray: One nursing association supports the safe staffing bill; one doesn't. Sen. Murray is very aware of problems and working on this.
- Rep. Turner: Insurance companies have been allowed to control payments too much. We need greater regulation.
- Sen. Wolf: Sen. Murray and Governor are working very hard on this. The state must look at single payer. More hospitals and MDs are now calling for single payer. Consider Accountable Care Agencies, something Governor is promoting.
- Rep. Peake: 75-80% of her aide's time is taken up with access to health care issues. She supports Medicare for All. (Doctors are not receiving any increases in reimbursements.)
- Rep. Madden: Also supports single payer. Also believes the public must have some self-restraint when it comes to our personal health care needs re tests, etc

.Rainy Day Fund

- Mullen for Sen. President Murray: Good idea but not feasible.
- Rep. Turner: The County should be looking at it when the economic condition improves.

Toxins/Pesticides

- Rep. Turner: Even if the state passed a law, some would be exempt, e.g. power companies. He's filed a bill to let communities make decisions regarding the use of herbicides very similar to Maine's bill.

LATEST

NEWS ON BARNSTABLE COUNTY GOVERNMENT

The recommendation that a special committee be created to review county government was unanimously adopted by the Barnstable County Commissioners on March 16, 2011. The Cape Cod Business Roundtable made this recommendation and several others to the Commissioners and the Commissioners reported on it to the Assembly of Delegates. According to the Barnstable Patriot article, "the county commissioner were enthusiastic, Assembly of Delegates members were decidedly less so."

Two former state Senators have been mentioned as possible co-chairs, Robert O'Leary and Henri Rauschenbach. The involvement of the former Senators and the possibility of a review were first made by Elliott Carr, co-chair of the Cape Cod Business Roundtable, at the LWVCCA forum held on Jan 29, 2011

titled "Barnstable County Government: Lose It? Change it?" Although both Senators have been approached by various people, nothing has been finalized.

Other suggestions made by the Cape Cod Business Roundtable were:

- An urgent need for strong executive county administrative leadership
- Review and perhaps revision of the role of the county Assembly and County Commissioners
- The need to strengthen direct relationships between county government and the 15 towns

At the last meeting of the Barnstable County Government Committee the members discussed what actions the LWVCCA should take. The general feeling was that we should support the creation of a special committee or task force but some questions remain. Who will be appointed? What segments will be represented? How many members will make up the task force? Should we recommend that a League member be part of the task force? Transparency? Is a time frame of 3 months too short?"

The Committee felt that we should encourage the Cape Cod Times to devote more coverage to regional issues including Barnstable County Government. To that end, Judy Thomas is going to contact Paul Pronovost, editor.

We also discussed how we, the League, can educate ourselves and others about how to create a governing structure that would achieve our goals. We are exploring the possibility of a speaker, possibly from the Kennedy School or another well-known government scholar, to speak at a forum.

Renate Sands

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Linda Cebula, a Harwich Selectman, was elected in May 2010 and has owned a home here for 13 years. She is a self-employed financial consultant, Board member at the Chatham Historical Society and does volunteer work for Habitat for Humanity. Linda is interested "In the world around us" and joined the League because she believes it is important to present information in a non-partisan way.

Linell and Steven Grundman live in Sandwich. Linell was a national member and joined to support her local League. She is serving her second term as Selectman in Sandwich and is on the Board of the Cape Cod Water Management Collaborative. Steven works in aerospace and

defense consulting in Boston. Linell and Steven like the League's focus of non-partisan information and communication

Marcia King of Mashpee has lived on the Cape for 22 years. She is the Grant Coordinator for the Town of Barnstable, and also serves as the Mashpee delegate to the Assembly of Delegates. When asked why she joined the League she replied: "It was something I should have done many years ago."

Paige Lyons has lived in Sandwich for 19 years. She originally moved here to help her family run their restaurant, which has been sold. Paige still works in the food service business. She is excited about getting people in Sandwich to work together towards civic responsibility. Paige is forming a new Sandwich Unit (which will be voted on at the LWVCCA Annual meeting)

Karen Miller of Sandwich joined after attending the civility forum and several candidate forums. Before she moved to the Cape 13 years ago, she worked in university administration. On the Cape she worked at the NOAH Shelter and for a real estate company before retiring two years ago. Karen is anxious to learn more about the LWVCCA to see where she would like to be involved.

Jim Pierce is now serving as a selectman in Sandwich, has always called Cape Cod home. He turned a PhD in Chemistry into a career first as a scientist followed by 20 years in global management with DuPont before retiring to his hometown. Jim joined the LWVCCA expecting that an active Sandwich unit will become a conduit for non-partisan voter information.

Anne Swanson, Cotuit, a former national member has joined to support the local League

IN MEMORIUM

We report with sadness the death on March 26th of our member Lillian Thomas at the age of 98. Lillian's active interest and participation was carried on throughout the past decade and she is an inspiration to all of us. We both took front row seats at our events, and enjoyed our company as well as the programs. She will be missed. – Jari Rapaport

LWVCCA

IMPORTANT ANNUAL MEETING

We have many tasks to accomplish: the program for next year, elect new leadership and finalize the by-laws. We also need to celebrate our exciting 2010-2011 season. Please remember to bring the Annual Meeting Workbook.

BREAKFAST AT HARBOR POINT RESTAURANT

DATE: SATURDAY, MAY 14
TIME: 9:30 AM
COST: \$15.00

DIRECTIONS:

From Route 6 take exit 7 for Willow St. toward Yarmouthport, W. Yarmouth
Turn right at Willow St. (.2 mi.)
Turn left on Rte 6A (1.2 mi.)
Turn right at Bone Hill Rd. (.4 mi.)
Take first right onto Harbor Point Rd. (.3 mi.)

Fill out and send in the coupon below, along with your check. **Reservations must be received by May 9, 2011. No refunds after May 9.** If you have any questions please contact Renate Sands at 508-888-8349.

REGISTRATION FORM
ANNUAL MEETING
SATURDAY, MAY 14, 2011 AT 9:30 AM

The Annual Meeting will be held at the Harbor Point Restaurant. Cost is \$15.00 per person and includes breakfast, tax and gratuity. Make you check payable to **LWVCCA** and send to:

Renate Sands, PO BOX 1447, Sandwich, MA 02563

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone No: _____ (In case we need to contact you)

Amount Enclosed _____ # Attending _____



*League of Women Voters of
Massachusetts*

DAY ON THE HILL

Transparency in Government

Wednesday April 13, 2011

State House, Boston

9:30 a.m. Registration *Gardner Auditorium*

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 pm Program *Gardner Auditorium*

Featured Speakers



Senator James Eldridge
On corporate political responsibility



Senator Stanley Rosenberg
*Co-Chair of Special Joint Committee on
Redistricting*

And

News from League Program Specialists

Suggested Donation \$10.00

