



THE CAPE COD VOTER

VOLUME 57 ISSUE 10

JUNE 2017

Looking ahead ~ Summer socials

July

“League 101” Garden Party

August

“League 101” Garden Party

Watch for further details as the actual dates come closer

www.lwvcapecod.org

www.members.lwvcapecod.org

www.facebook.com/LWV

FROM OUR CO-PRESIDENT

Amy Harris, LWV CCA Co-President

Greetings!

The calendar says that summer is around the corner and the number of cars on our roads has increased, so why haven't the temperatures risen too? Though there was plenty of warmth at our Annual Meeting and the increase of membership is energizing.

This summer, your League invites you to two "garden party" events, one in July and one in August, to continue learning how to "make democracy work." We're calling it "**League 101**" and appealing to new members especially in learning how the League itself works and how we may continue to engage and educate voters. We are looking forward to seeing you in Mashpee or Harwich or both!

Wishing you all a summer filled with good health, happy families, continued growth and a wonderful environment to share it all!

Amy



2017 ANNUAL MEETING OF LWVCCA

Thursday, May 25, 2017
Sea View Restaurant, Dennisport

It was a record turnout for our LWVCCA Annual Meeting ~ 46 members shared cocktails and hors d'oeuvres before our dinner and meeting. After dining on chicken francaise and baked honey ham at the Sea View in Dennisport, we opened our annual business session. We began by thanking the many new members who have joined this past year, many of them in attendance ~ and our enrollment increased even more in the course of the evening! Having so many men and women engaged and interested and appreciating that democracy is not a spectator sport bodes well for all our citizens.

The Annual Meeting was called to order with the introduction of the Parliamentarian, approval of 2016 Annual Meeting minutes and introductions of Board members, new members and fifty-year members. Special acknowledgement to our newest fifty-year member, **Elizabeth Levy**.

With the adjournment of the business meeting, we welcomed our speaker, **Kathy Schatzberg**, who shared her "Women Overcoming Barriers – Are We There Yet?" Dr. Schatzberg, retired President of Cape Cod Community College and a 30-year veteran of community colleges around the country, is founder and CEO of Bearwell Strategies, a consulting firm in the field of community colleges. She is also a Rotarian ~ and a Feminist. Kathy shared some of the triumphs--and roadblocks--in her life particularly as they have pertained to her gender.



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Annual Meeting cont.,

Kathy also recommended a recently-published book (also featured in your May VOTER) entitled , We The Resilient: Wisdom for America from Women Before Suffrage honoring a group of remarkable women, all born before Women’s Suffrage. Among them is Juliet Bernstein, nearly 104 years old -- a past LWV CCA President and Chatham resident who proudly voted last November for the first woman candidate for president! The book is available at Barnes and Noble and Amazon ~ but why not ask for it from our LWVCCA advertiser, The Yellow Umbrella on Main Street in Chatham.

“So that’s my story ~ what’s yours?” Kathy asked, winding up her talk. About a dozen League members responded, sharing some of their challenges. Many of their stories told of hard choices – women didn’t always have a lot of options or even opportunities to make a choice. Some of the shared anecdotes were humorous (a certain fraternal service organization welcoming a “Mario” who was actually “Maria,”) but all echoed the same theme – *there is still work to be done!* Male members in attendance proudly sported *“League of Women Voters – Not Just For Women”* buttons ~ reminding us once again that the League is grateful for ALL of our members. Thank you for Making Democracy Work!



MEET YOUR NEW LWVCCA BOARD

The following new Board members were elected at the Annual Meeting:

Officers (one-year term)

Co-Presidents:	Scotti Finnegan	2017-2018
	Amy Harris	2017-2018
Vice-President	Carlyn Carey	2017-2018
Secretary	Mary Hunter Utt	2017-2018
Treasurer	Ira Seldin	2017-2018

Directors (two-year term)

Communications	Carlyn Carey	2016-2018
Membership	Phyllis Walsh	2016-2018
	Matti Ligon	2017-2019
Voter Service	Debbie Beal	2016-2018
	Anita Rogers	2017-2019
Voter Editor	Nancy Erskine	2017-2019
Legislative	Renate Sands	2016-2018
Health	Amy Harris	2017-2019
Youth Service	Karen Mazza	2017-2019
County Government	TBD	2017-2019

Directors (one-year term)

At Large	Florence Seldin	2017-2018
At Large	Jari Rapaport	“ “
At Large	Judy Thomas	“ “
At Large	Richard Utt	“ “

Remember that ALL members are welcome at our Board meetings, first Tuesday of each month at the Cape Cod Five Cents Savings Bank branch on Route 134 in Dennis.

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Thanks to our hardworking nominating committee: Debbie Beal, Amy Harris, Carlyn Carey and Freddie FitzGerald.



MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

From Phyllis Walsh

We continue to welcome new members who want to be involved in our democracy

Barbara Wood is a resident of Truro who has lived on Cape Cod full time for six years, preceded by twenty years as a part time resident. Barbara and her husband moved here from Connecticut, where she worked at IBM. Barbara has already been actively involved in civic engagement as a board member of the Community Development Partnership and she has also served as a library trustee in Truro for five years. She is very interested in affordable housing, economic development, and women's health care. The League has always been on her radar, and with a recent invitation from Anita Rogers, she felt this was a good time to join.

Anne Grammer has been involved with politics her whole life. Right now she is part of an organization called Grandmothers Against Gun Violence. In addition, she's a member of the Democratic Party and costume curator for the Historical Society of Old Yarmouth.

Anne knew the LWV when she lived in Swampscott. She indicated that the league was always an organization she could rely on when she wanted information on candidates and issues. The information was accurate and prompt. Please welcome Anne to our organization.

Congratulations to all our new members!

Peggy Alsup, Leora Amir, Mary Anderson , Cynthia Battis, Britt Beedenbender, Therese Bilodeau, Marydean and Roger Burdick, Patricia Cahill, Roz and Bill Coleman, Debra Dagwan, Elaine and Arthur Dickinson, Brenda Fanger, Susan Freudenheim, Anne Marie Grammer, Elizabeth Hogan, Mary Malaguti Lanctot, Robert MacCready, Holley and Carol Mitchell, Regina Mullen, Shanna Nealy, Carolyn Richardson, Jeanette Stevenson and Barbara Wood

And to our noble 50-year members!

This year we welcome our newest "golden" member, **Elizabeth Levy**. She joins a noble cohort: Debbie Aikman, Deborah Ecker, Ann Evans, Mary Lou Petitt, Helen Pickett and Florence Seldin. ***You are all inspirations!***

YOUTH SERVICE REPORT

LWVCCA Youth Service Chair **Karen Mazza** was one of five panelists participating in a May 18 forum on civic education in Boston, jointly sponsored by The Boston Foundation and the Tisch College of Tufts University. Entitled, *Engaging Citizens: Civics, Education and the New Political Landscape*, the forum can be viewed on the website of The Boston Foundation, tbf.org, and going to their ustream tv link for videos. Karen, who served as the LWVMA representative to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Task Force, was asked to represent the task force and offer a school district perspective on the challenges of civic education.

The keynote speaker was Kei Kawashima-Ginsberg, Director of CIRCLE, Tisch College of Civic Life at Tufts. Other panelists were Gary Blank of Generation Citizen, Caroline Angel Burke, representing the Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the U.S.Senate, Kevin Dua, a history teacher from Somerville Public Schools, and State Senator Eric Lesser.

At this moment, several state efforts have the potential to move civic education to a higher level of priority in Massachusetts. The Task Force report, *Civic Learning and Engagement Strategic Plan*, has been presented to the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education. The Department of Education will proceed with the first year activities listed in the plan and the Department will be seeking additional funding for those recommendations that require it. The Department has convened a Review Panel to revise the History and Social Science Curriculum Framework. The Framework will integrate civic education throughout the K-12 curriculum standards. Several bills are currently pending in the state legislature to promote and fund civic education. The Legislative Action Committee (LAC) of the LWVMA is monitoring this legislation and Karen Mazza and Terry Yoffie (Newton) are reviewing this legislation for the LAC.

STATE CONVENTION ROUNDUP 2017

Delegates and observers from local Leagues across Massachusetts gathered at the end of April to exchange thoughts and views on, “The Future of Democracy: Facing the Challenges”. Thoughtful discussions ensued on the future of the League and how to best serve all of our new members and the greater community. A look into the thinking of the youngest members of the state legislature, speakers on the role of the press and the state of democracy all provided a glimpse into the changes coming to the League from the national level on down.

In the course of two days of study and discussion, the delegates determined the Massachusetts League’s legislative action priorities for the next two years--including campaign finance reform, civics education in our schools, climate change, equality and justice and civil discourse -- and conducted the League’s business, electing officers and a new board (*congratulations, Scotti*), approving a two-year state study on the ballot question process, defining our action priorities and action items for the next two years and approving a new position on charter schools.



LWVCCA members were among the more than 100 women and men from across the state who participated in the Massachusetts LWV’s biennial convention held April 28-29 in Framingham and themed “*The Future of Democracy: Facing the Challenges*”. In the course of two days of study and discussion, the delegates determined the Massachusetts League’s legislative action priorities for the next two years--including campaign finance reform, civics education in our schools, climate change, equality & justice and civil discourse. Shown in the photo are (l to r) **Carlyn Carey, Pat Ryle, Scotti Finnegan, Nancy Erskine, Karen Mazza, Judy Thomas and Florence Seldin.**

CONGRATULATIONS are in order to Scotti Finnegan whom the convention elected as a new member of the State Board!

Convention continues...

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State Convention continued...

LWVMA STUDY AND POSITION ON CHARTER SCHOOLS (2015-2017)

In keeping with a vote of the membership at the 2015 convention, LWVMA undertook a study of charter schools in Massachusetts, with our CCArea League one of over 20 Leagues statewide to participate. Responses were used to develop a position on charter schools. On receiving the results, a state committee drafted a position statement to reflect the concerns of local leagues. That position statement **was adopted unanimously at the Convention** and is published below.

The League supports:

- The exclusive authority of the state to establish and oversee charter schools, and to adopt and enforce regulations relating to them
- State approval and regulation of the number and location of charter schools
- The establishment of charter schools only on a not-for-profit basis
- Funding both district schools and charter schools in ways that do not disadvantage either type of school. The state should have a formula to adequately fund both district schools and charter schools, and should develop methods for addressing the financial impact of charter schools on sending school districts.
- State responsibility for fostering robust cooperation and collaboration between charter schools and district schools. This includes, among other things, fostering the sharing of innovation and ideas between charter and district schools and minimizing the competition between them for scarce resources.
- State responsibility for the accuracy, transparency and ease of accessibility of charter school reports, to ensure accountability
- Equal access to charter schools for all students. This includes making every effort to have charter school applicant pools be comparable to the populations of their sending districts.
- Community and parent/guardian engagement in governance of charter schools. A charter school board of trustees should include, among others, community representatives, and charter school boards should seek to actively engage parents/guardians of currently enrolled students.

The League opposes:

- For-profit charter schools

LWVMA BOARD RECOMMENDATION FOR **STUDY: BALLOT QUESTION PROCESS (2017-19).** Areas of study could include the goals of ballot questions, funding, signature requirements, length and complexity and regulations around accepting/rejecting signatures.

LWVMA BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS FOR **ACTION PRIORITIES (2017-19)**
Improving elections/Campaign Finance Reform; Equality and Justice; Civics Education/Civil Discourse; Climate Change and Environment.

FOR A MORE COMPLETE REPORT ON THE CONVENTION'S ACTIVITIES AND DECISIONS, PLEASE GO TO www.lwvma.org 2017 CONVENTION ROUNDUP.

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State convention continued...

Convention delegates enjoyed a number of outstanding speakers including the newly-arrived Executive Director of the League, **Wylecia Wiggs Harris**, who energized the audience on Saturday morning. With a Ph.D. in organizational development and an MA in management, Dr. Harris comes to the League from 11 years as chief operating officer of the American Nurses Association.

On Friday evening, delegates enjoyed a thought-provoking yet somewhat tongue in cheek talk by Boston Globe Editor **Brian McGrory**. In his nearly thirty years with the Globe, South Shore native McGrory has held just about every position--local and national reporter, White House correspondent and columnist--before being named editor in 2012. Under his editorship, the Globe was awarded a Pulitzer Prize for its coverage of the Boston Marathon bombings in 2013, He has published four novels and a memoir about his family's pet rooster.

Rachael Cobb, Ph.D. is Chair and Associate Professor of Government at Suffolk University, where she specializes in US elections, electoral politics, civic engagement and political participation. She currently serves on the board of MassVOTE, iVote and the Boston Election Advisory Committee.

Enter the Millenials. Friday afternoon's session introduced a panel of our youngest State legislators ~ all under 36 years, one only 23 and the youngest member of the legislature. And an impressive group they are. Several are the first in their families to attend college and/or run for elective office. One is an immigrant to our country. All have participated in government programs on the state and national levels.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

From Renate Sands

We asked our local legislators for their preferred methods of contact and received the following replies. You may wish to print and save this page.

SENATOR VINNY (VIRIATO) deMACEDO

Lance Lambros responded that the best way to communicate with their office is to call or email. Plymouth 508-747-6500 Boston 617-722-1330 lance.lambros@masenate.gov, vinny.de Macedo@masenate.gov A good first step is to call our main line at 617-722-1570.

SENATOR JULIAN CYR Main office line 617-722-1570. Email Julian.Cyr@masenate.gov

Rachel Lake - Operations & Constituent Services Director - Contact for scheduling requests and constituent services Rachel.Lake@masenate.gov or 617-722-1570

Pat Johnson - Chief of Staff - Point of contact for Town Managers, Selectmen, County Commissioners/County Administrators, Assembly Members Patrick.Johnson@masenate.gov

Leslie Sandberg - District Director - Contact for district issues, local organizations, and the business community Leslie.Sandberg@masenate.gov or 508-237-7001

Jordan Velozo - Legislative Director - Contact for legislation, budget priorities

Jordan.Velozo@masenate.gov or 617-722-1570

Meaghan Callahan - Policy & Communications Director - Contact for School Committee members and Superintendents. Meaghan.Callahan@masenate.gov or 617-722-1570

REPRESENTATIVE RANDY HUNT -- “Any way you prefer is okay, but I personally read and respond to all non-blast emails. Filling in your name and address and clicking "Send" on a website is ineffective (cookie cutter emails). I also mentioned that if you need help, don't contact multiple legislators or, at a minimum copy everyone so that we can all see to whom the email was sent.”

REPRESENTATIVE TIMOTHY WHELAN -- By far best for our office to receive contact via email. We need name, home address and telephone number, in said mail. We get so many inquiries, several hundred per week, we have to prioritize constituents from the district. We also have an unwritten rule that we don't do constituent stuff for someone else's constituent.

REPRESENTATIVE WILLIAM CROCKER --“Best way, until I get an office assignment is to email: William.Crocker@mahouse.gov. My aide is **Erin Buckley** Erin.Buckley@mahouse.gov. In terms of info, nothing specific. As Shakespeare said, ‘Brevity is the soul of wit’.”

REPRESENTATIVE SARAH PEAKE --For **Constituent Form emails** Campaigns (such as asking Rep. Peake to support or oppose legislation), email directly Sarah.Peake@mahouse.gov. **Constituent Matters** (e.g. MassHealth, Health Connector, Unemployment, etc.), **Communications** (press releases) Legislative Aide **Kaelyn Hilliard** - Kaelyn.Hilliard@mahouse.gov or call 617-722-2040

Dottie Smith - Chief of Staff – Constituent Matters, District Issues and Citation Requests - Dorothy.Smith@mahouse.gov or call 617-722-2040

Sarah Ferrara – Budget and Policy Director - (ex. Tourism, fishing, environment, etc.) - Sarah.Ferrara@mahouse.gov or call 617-722-2040

COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Member Paula Bacon, for many years a thoughtful and insightful observer of County Government recently had an excellent **Letter to the Editor** published by the Cape Cod Times.

“The populist virus at many government levels threatens the future of Cape Cod and the nation.

The duplication of services 15 times over in our region is of questionable value at a time when costs for everything are soaring and systems are more sophisticated to run. The County should be thinking bigger, not smaller and the services should not duplicate but replace town services. Funding changes are needed.

“The future of bicameral government in Barnstable County is in question. Encouraging efficient use of paid staff may be totally good. But a focus on the whole structure of county government may be more critical and long overdue, despite input from all sorts of sources, from governance experts to a citizens group overseen by Rob O’Leary and Henri Rauschenbach. Defining the problem is critical to a good solution.

“The current direction may give us more chiefs than Indians. Merge the County Assembly with the Board of Commissioners. Regional government is needed--but like national government, visionary leadership is needed along with structural change.”

Paula Bacon
South Dennis

**LWVCCA MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL
JULY 1 2017-JUNE 30 2018**

*Thank you to those prompt members who've paid their dues before our
June 30th expiration. You can ignore this renewal form!*

Name: _____ **Telephone** _____

Mailing address: _____ **Email:** _____

Town/Zip: _____

I wish to renew membership in the League of Women Voters of the Cape Cod Area

Single (\$55) _____ Household (\$85) _____ Assisted Single (\$30) _____

Please send this form and your renewal check to LWVCCA

c/o Ira Seldin, Treasurer, 321 Deer Meadow Lane, Chatham, MA 02633

Receipt of MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL by **JULY 1st** will ensure that you are included in



the **2017-2018 Members Directory**. If you have any questions about membership, please contact Membership Committee member Phyllis Walsh.

Please consider joining one of the committees listed below. We are grateful for help from all members in assisting with events such as voter registration and candidate debate public forums ~ especially in the busy election season coming up in 2018.

I am interested in the following committee(s):

Voter Service _____ Legislation _____ Healthcare _____

Communications _____ County Government _____ Youth Service _____

Adult Civic Education _____ Membership _____ Fundraising _____

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WOMEN'S MARCH - Jan 22 2017

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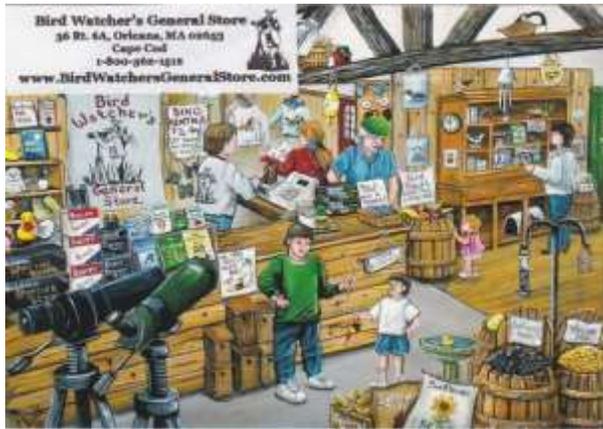
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