



THE CAPE COD VOTER

VOLUME 55 ISSUE 10

JUNE 2015

CALENDAR

Tuesday June 2
9:30am

Board Meeting
Cape Cod Five, Dennis

Friday June 5
1:30pm

County Committee
Cape Cod Five, Dennis

LOOKING AHEAD...

Tuesday September 1
9:30am

Board Meeting
Cape Cod Five, Dennis

Sunday October 18

Fundraiser
Details in the Fall

***Congratulations to The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts
on its 95th Anniversary!***

See page 11

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MESSAGE FROM THE STEERING COMMITTEE

Greetings from your new Steering Committee:

First off – we want to extend our heartfelt thanks and gratitude to Karen Mazza and Marilyn Gullet for their leadership this past year. Their foresight and initiative have moved us forward in many ways. It's taking three of us in 2015-2016 to try to accomplish what Karen did alone or with Marilyn as co-president! While this new “three-headed monster” is sorting itself out, rest assured that your communication with any one of us will be relayed quickly to the other two. We hope for a seamless transition.

Karen's last official act as co-president was to preside at the Annual Meeting on May 13 at the Sea View Restaurant in Dennisport. A delightful dinner and interesting reports on trips to Cuba by Nancy Erskine, Virginia Clarendon, and Paula Bacon preceded the business meeting. The members voted unanimously to accept the slate of officers and directors of the board and the program proposed for the 2015-16 year.

On May 21 fifteen of our members met at the Media Center in Dennisport for coffee, cookies, a viewing and then discussion of a rebroadcast of a forum conducted by the LWVMA about rising income disparity, money in politics, and political participation by low- and high-income citizens. This subject will continue on our radar.

On June 2 the “old board” and the “new board” will meet to pass the torches and lay out plans for the summer and fall. We welcome your input.

Members: Please send in your dues - \$55 for a single membership, \$85 for a couple, or \$30 for an assisted single to LWVCCA, P.O. Box 2347, Orleans, MA 02653. **July 1st** is the deadline to ensure that you are included in next year's directory. Also, the League is only as strong as the activity of its members so your work on a committee adds greatly to our effectiveness. The Voter Service, Healthcare, County Government, Legislation, Fundraising, Membership, Youth Service and Economic Opportunity Committees would all welcome your help!

With best wishes for a wonderful summer,

Barbara Wellnitz
Lwvccasteer1@gmail.com

Chris Meade
lwvccasteer2@gmail.com

Joan Bernstein
joanbernstein@comcast.net



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Tuesday, May 26, 2015

CONTACT:

For The League of Women Voters: Karen Mazza, Youth Service Chair, Past President, mazzak@comcast.net

For The Cape Cod Foundation: Erin Maker, Marketing and Communications Officer,

Fund Established to Support Civic Education in Local Schools

YARMOUTHPORT-The League of Women Voters of the Cape Cod Area announced today, in partnership with The Cape Cod Foundation, the establishment of a fund that will support Action Civics for middle and high school students on Cape Cod. Action Civics combines traditional civic education, guided experiential civic education, and youth leadership development with the goal of creating an engaged citizenry capable of effective participation in the civic process, in their communities and in society.

The fund, known as the **League of Women Voters Civic Education Fund of The Cape Cod Foundation**, will support middle and high school teachers in initiating, or expanding, civic education opportunities for their students. Examples of fundable activities include: civic-related field trips, entrance fees for students to special events, consultant fees for leadership development for students, fees to cover a special program for students, or a professional development experience for teachers that will help them offer action civics curriculum. The goal is to fund at least one activity in each school district on Cape Cod annually.

“The establishment of this fund is at the core of the work of the Youth Service Committee for the League of Women Voters of the Cape Cod Area,” stated Karen Mazza, Youth Service Chair and immediate past President of the League. “We feel it is critically important to support our schools as they help students learn about government and civic participation in the context of real world issues that affect their lives. We are pleased to partner with The Cape Cod Foundation on this initiative as they have extensive knowledge in the grantmaking field.”

“We are honored to work with the League on this effort,” said Kristin O’Malley, Executive Director of The Cape Cod Foundation. “In addition to the great work that they do community-wide, they have also been actively engaged in the Cape-wide Youth Action Planning process that we have facilitated over the past four years. Action Civics is one of the key areas that was identified by the community in the

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(Press release cont.)

plan as a way to further support our youth. We are thrilled to see the League taking a leadership role in this area.”

Those interested in supporting the fund can donate online at www.capecodfoundation.org or send a *check* to The Cape Cod Foundation, 259 Willow Street, Yarmouthport, MA 02675 and note: **LWV Civic Education Fund** in the memo.

Schools looking to apply can visit www.capecodfoundation.org, Receive, Current Grants. Deadline to apply for 2015 is September 28.

The Cape Cod Foundation is a community foundation whose mission is to build permanent charitable resources for community betterment through informed grantmaking and civic leadership. The Foundation has distributed more than \$50 million in grants and scholarships since its founding in 1989.
www.capecodfoundation.org

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization encouraging informed and active participation in government. It influences public policy through education and advocacy. The local chapter started in Orleans in 1959 and later expanded to become the League of Women Voters of the Cape Cod Area. www.lwvcapecod.org.

From Youth Service Chair Karen Mazza -- The LWV Civic Education Fund initiated by that the Youth Service Committee of the LWVCCA with the Cape Cod Foundation is now operational. The foregoing press release will appear in local newspapers to announce the establishment of the grant fund and to commence fundraising. We are reprinting it here so that all members will be aware of its existence. The Youth Service Committee is now in the process of contacting businesses and organizations to solicit donations. If you have contacts to suggest to us, or would like to help with solicitations, please contact Karyn Mazza, mazzak1623@gmail.com. Our goal is to raise enough money to award mini-grants of up to \$1,000 to each Cape school district, charter school or vocational high school -- a total of \$13,000.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT ~ DAY ON THE HILL

From Renate Sands, Legislative Chair

The League of Women Voters “**Day on the Hill**” was held on April 28, 2015. Senator Stanley Rosenberg (D-Amherst), President of the Senate, was the keynote speaker. He stressed that three issues he felt strongly about were the Earned Income Tax Credit, Pay Equity and Transparency. The state League supports legislation on all three issues. They are:

H.2479/S1477 An Act improving the earned income credit for working families

H.1733/S.983 An Act to establish (gender) pay equity

[H.2772/S.1676](#) An Act to improve access to public records

All the legislators were extremely busy on the day of our visit because budget hearings were in progress. However, when we went to the café we met and were able to shake hands with Sarah Peake, Timothy Whelan and Sheriff Cummings plus some of their staff.

LWVCCA members who attended were Helen Bresnahan, Diane Suhm and Renate Sands.
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VOTER SERVICE

From Joan Grant and Chris Meade

Proposed Program for 2015-2016

During the Annual Meeting, the LWVCCA Proposed Program for 2015-2016 was approved by the members. The studies and actions for this year's program will focus on educating the voter and getting the vote out for the 2016 elections. To support this key focus, Joan and Chris proposed specific activities for 2015-2016 at the May board meeting. In June, board members will discuss the proposed activities and make final approvals/commitments. Following the June meeting, Joan and Chris will seek members to join subcommittees to work on two key activities that will begin in 2015.

2015 Town Elections

Earlier in the year, candidate debates had been scheduled for Chatham, Brewster and Dennis. As the election drew near it became clear that there would be no contested races. In Chatham, instead of a formal debate, Nancy Erskine and Joan Craig organized a "Conversation with the Candidates" with Joan facilitating informal conversations with the two unopposed candidates for selectman and two unopposed for Housing Authority. None of the three candidates (also unopposed) for Monomoy Regional School Committee appeared, but one candidate submitted a statement which Joan read aloud. Kay Bryce and Judy Thomas were on hand to assist. The event was shown live on Chatham's Channel 18 and was repeated several times in the lead-up to the election.

In Brewster, we co-sponsored a "Meet and Greet the Candidates" event with the Brewster Ladies' Library. There were 2 candidates running for the Board of Health and 2 candidates running for the Recreation Committee. Barbara Wellnitz served as moderator. The meet-and-greet approach (5 minutes for each candidate to introduce him/herself, background, why they are running, key focus) was used due to the nature of the positions. Neither the Board of Health nor the Recreation Committee had issues appropriate for a traditional debate format. The event was sparsely attended but was taped and aired on the town TV station.

The scheduled Dennis debate was canceled by Town officials.

Several towns had uncontested races or open seats with no candidates. In at least 2 situations, the seats were won by write-ins (Sandwich and Orleans). Voter Service will conduct a review of all the 2015 town elections to learn how many seats were uncontested or had no candidates, how many women ran for and won seats, overall voter turnout, etc. In June, they will contact the town liaisons and ask for their assistance in gathering this information for their towns.

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Introducing. . . THE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY COMMITTEE

Submitted by Karen Mazza

During the 2014 program year, the topic of “Income Inequality” was raised as a program issue that LWVCCA should research. During the 2014-2015 year, a committee was formed to consider this topic and how we might address it. The committee met several times to outline the territory that goes with this topic and investigate written and video resources. It is a challenging topic because it is very large and it is difficult to narrow the focus and plan an approach where we can have some impact. After considerable discussion we are meshing our work with the 2015-2016 program priority of Voter Service and preparing for the 2016 elections by preparing one or two programs that will help voters better understand approaches to economic policies that promote economic fairness and opportunity.

We will continue our preparation for these programs by interviewing leaders from key organizations that can enlighten people about the economic needs of Cape residents and present opportunities that create economic opportunity on the Cape. We are interested in particular in approaches to broad-based economic opportunity that are sustainable and promote economic fairness and security. After our exploratory interviews, we will identify how best to put together informative programs that will help voters develop a better understanding of economic policy to inform their decisions as voters in upcoming elections.

Committee members are: Jari Rapaport, Mary Lou Petitt, Renate Sands, Diane Suhm, Annette Nickerson, Nancy Curley and Jan Hively. Co-chairs are Karen Mazza and Maggie French.

FUNDRAISING -- SAVE THE DATE

From Marilyn Gullett, Fundraising Committee

On a Sunday afternoon, October 18th, LWVCCA will hold a special fundraising event to benefit our activities. It will be held at the First Congregational Church of Yarmouth on Route 6A in Yarmouth Port. A jazz ensemble will entertain and refreshments will be served. Guests and the public will be welcomed. More details in the Septemer VOTER.

Notes from the May Board Meeting

- The treasurer reported an end of April bank balance of \$6,496.84. Re the 2015-2016 budget a new item has been added: \$750 for a membership meeting.
- The membership meeting September will be a fundraiser featuring a jazz band, open to the public, most likely on a Sunday afternoon and featuring a "social" as well.
- Program directors and at-large board members will have terms of two year to ensure continuity.
- LWVMA convention attendees will be Karen Mazza, Judy Thomas and possibly Suzanne Finney.
- A lengthy discussion was held on the emphasis the board and program of LWVCCA will give to voter-service related areas. Consensus was that every attempt will be to focus on voter service or voter/ballot-related issues.
- Amy Harris will moderate the health care forum since Joan Bernstein is away. Joan wrote an excellent "My View" piece for the Cape Cod Times.
- Maggie French as created a new Facebook page for the League. Title is **League of Women Voters Cape Cod**. Please take a look at the page and "Like" it. We need a minimum of 40 likes!

Submitted by Judy Thomas, Board Secretary

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MASSACHUSETTS -- 2015 CONVENTION

Members of Leagues from around the state gathered in West Springfield on May 15-16 for the 2015 LWVMA Convention. Anne Borg of the Newton League and Jean Cherdack of the Northampton Area League were elected as co-presidents of the state League for the next two years. Anne has been co-president and Jean has been a director for the past two years.

LWVCCA was represented by Co-president Karen Mazza and Judy Thomas, secretary, joined by Suzanne Finney and Pat Ryle.



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MA Convention continued. . .

The Convention approved a two-year state study of charter schools with the aim of developing a position on this subject to be presented to the 2017 Convention for approval. The LWVMA board will appoint a committee to determine the scope of the study and to develop information and consensus questions. Any League member interested in serving on that committee should contact Anne Borg.

As action items for the coming two years, the Convention approved a strong voter registration, information and education program centered on the 2016 election; development of an action plan on civic education and engagement; and extension of a committee to review and report on election-related technology. LWVMA action priorities for the biennium will be improving elections and voter turnout; civic education and engagement; money and politics; climate change/environment and addressing income inequality.



The Convention welcomed members of the newly-formed Springfield unit of the Northampton Area League, who are working actively in voter activities in Springfield and who hope to eventually form an independent League in that city.

. . .

On Friday evening Rosalee Keech, an LWVUS director and the LWVUS Observer to the United Nations, detailed her experiences in both those areas. Elizabeth Barajas-Román, CEO of the Women's Fund of Western Massachusetts, was Saturday's speaker. Ms. Barajas-Román, who works to fund programs improving the lives of girls and women in that region, discussed that work and how the League might help.

To read the entire article from the LWVMA, [click here](#). If you are interested in reviewing some of the workshop materials, they are being posted to the LWVMA website under [Convention and Council](#).

THE HELEN S. AARON EDUCATIONAL TRUST
of the
League of Women Voters Cape Cod Area

2014 - 2015 ANNUAL REPORT

The Ed Trust Fund trustees met three times during the 2014-2015 year, and once with a subcommittee including the Treasurer and Co-Presidents of the LWVCCA to deal with finances.

Expenses for the year included the usual: rental of the Harwich Community Center meeting room for the Health Care Forum, publication of a new Directory of Elected Officials, voter service support, allowed administrative expenses (a portion of phone, PO box and website) and the usual 25% of LWVUS and LWVMA per member payments – the single largest expense.

A major new expense was the Trust Fund Fund's support of the LWV [CCA] Civic Education Fund, a fund managed by the Cape Cod Foundation. As the name implies, moneys from this fund will go (no more than one per district) to school districts on the Cape who engage in specific civic educational engagement projects with students. The \$500 of support from the Fund includes a \$250 administrative fee to the CCF and a \$250 contribution to the CEF itself. This support will be re-evaluated every year.

The 2014-2015 fund's actual withdrawal of funds from reserves will be about \$300 more than projected in the current year's budget. The good news is that in the budget for 2015-2016 the withdrawal from reserves is reduced by about \$500 in anticipation of \$750 raised by business contributions. Should this fundraising fail, the reserve withdrawal would be considerably more, an amount the trustees recognize as unsustainable.

Fundraising for the fiscal year was \$1,175, an increase over the previous year. *The trustees express much appreciation to members who either gave for the first time to the Fund or increased their giving.* The budget for the 2015-2016 was approved with anticipated income of \$2,609 (which includes drawing \$538 from reserves) and matching expenses of \$2,609. New items in the budget include \$250 for a "Special Project Contingency" expense and contributions in support of the CEF.

Also approved by the trustees is the establishment of a "CD Ladder" investment program for our CDs. This program would increase revenue from our reserves held in our CDs from under \$15 per year to over \$125 per year depending on interest rates. The treasurer will initiate this program as the CDs come up for renewal.

Trustees and officers elected for the 2015 year (pending LWVCCA board approval in May) include President--Florence Seldin (trustee emeritus), Nancy Curley, Secretary and new trustee Gail Anderson. Ongoing trustees include Richard Utt -- treasurer, Debbie Aikman and Phyllis Helfrich.
Judy Thomas, Outgoing President

DUES REMINDER

Name: _____ **Telephone** _____

Mailing address: _____ **Email:** _____

Town/Zip: _____

I wish to renew membership in the League of Women Voters of the CCA

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

Please send this form and your renewal check to LWVCCA

Addressed to: Ira Seldin, Treasurer,

Name: _____ **Telephone** _____

Mailing address: _____ **Email:** _____

Town/Zip: _____

I wish to renew membership in the League of Women Voters of the CCA

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

Please send this form and your renewal check to LWVCCA

Addressed to: Ira Seldin, Treas. 321 Deer Meadow Ln, Chatham, MA 02633



Receipt of MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL by **JULY 1st** will ensure that you are included in the 2015-2016 Directory. If you have any questions about membership contact Membership Director:

Helen Bresnahan, Email: sunrisedawn110@aol.com or phone: 508-420-0308

As an ACTIVE member, we would like to facilitate your involvement in League activities. Please indicate your interest below. We welcome help from members to assist us with events such as voter registration and candidate debates.

LWVMA CELEBRATES 95 YEARS OF SERVICE

May 27th marked the 95th anniversary of the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts.

In its message to members, LWVMA stated that, “since its founding in 1920, LWVMA has provided the citizens of the Commonwealth with nonpartisan, balanced information on candidates, election issues and public policy matters, encouraging voter registration, informed voting and an understanding of government. We have striven to achieve legislation that promotes the public interest and we have worked to be a force for citizens and a voice for change.

“To our members and supporters: Thank you for helping us Make Democracy Work for 95 years!”

The occasion was marked by a certificate from Governor Charlie Baker and Lt. Governor Karyn Polito, on behalf of the citizens of the Commonwealth, expressing “warm greetings on the joyous occasion of your 95th anniversary”.