



# THE CAPE COD VOTER

**VOLUME 57 ISSUE 7**

**MARCH 2018**

## **CALENDAR**

Thursday March 6  
9:30am

Board Meeting  
Cape Cod Five, Dennis

Thursday March 8

*International Women's Day*

*Wednesday, March 14*

*National School Walkout -- See page 3*

Friday March 16  
1pm

Legislative Committee  
Cape Cod Five Small Mtg Room

*Saturday, March 24*

*March for Our Lives -- Boston and ????*  
*See page 3*

## **LOOKING AHEAD**

Tuesday April 3  
9:30am

Board Meeting  
Cape Cod Five, Rte. 134, Dennis

April 20  
8:30am

**LWVCCA Legislative Breakfast**  
Cape Cod Community College

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members,

Last month at the LWVCCA Board Meeting we participated in Program Planning for 2018-2020. The Board and other members who were present identified the topics that we would focus on for the coming two years. A new LWVCCA member suggested that we focus on those issues that there are members who are prepared to lead the work and not take on issues that no one has the time to step in to lead the work. It was an excellent point and we prepared the Program to be ambitious but manageable with several important topics on which we will plan as the focus for forums and member meetings speakers.

Then it was Valentine's Day and all I could think of was the League's position on Gun Control and was that a topic on which we needed to focus? Seventeen teenagers murdered in their school. We have gun laws that are not enforced. You or a teenager can buy an AR-15, a gun built for the military. I and probably several of you, was working in a school for most of the worst school shootings, Columbine, Virginia Tech, Sandy Hook, to name three. As a principal I worked with the police to develop safety procedures, purchased thousands of dollars of security equipment, everything from security cameras to new locks on every classroom door. There were regular drills where Pre-School and Kindergarten teachers had to explain to three, four and five year olds that they had to get into the closet and be very quiet until the police and I came and unlocked the door (the older kids had to find a hiding place somewhere in their classrooms, away from the windows and doors). These drills always made me feel dread, not relief, that I could not really keep the teachers and the children completely safe. I am sure all of you who worked in schools during and since Columbine, had similar experiences.

So now I look to the kids to solve this horrendous situation. Since adults can't seem to figure this out without anger and bias, with more uncivil words and lack of courage among members of many states' legislatures and the United States Congress, and the power of the bottomless coffers of the NRA. Arming the teachers, blaming the mentally ill, creating prisons that are "called" schools are not solutions. Each of us have joined the League for different reasons but we are united by one call to action: Democracy is NOT a Spectator Sport! Teenagers across this country are not watching they are organizing and they will make Democracy to work!

*Scotti*



## SEIZE THE MOMENT: THE LEAGUE MOBILIZES ON GUN CONTROL

The League of Women Voters has a strong position on gun control, including a ban on assault weapons. You can read the Massachusetts position in [Where We Stand](#), page 47, and the LWVUS position [here](#). Local Leagues and League members can organize actions, contact legislators, write letters to the editor and generally take action in favor of stronger gun controls. Leagues should refrain from targeting specific legislators to avoid appearing to endorse or oppose candidates, but are free to act in support of gun law reforms.

Specifically, **actions are being planned nationwide on March 14 and March 24.** The March 14 action is a 17-minute walkout at 10 a.m. in schools across the country.(in memory of the 17 students who lost their lives in Florida). [#NationalSchoolWalkout](#). You can find out if schools in your area are participating [here](#). You can contact your school and the students organizing events to offer your help and support, but recognize this is a time-limited event. The LWVMA office has postcards on how to register to vote online and on pre-registration for 16- and 17-year-olds you can make available to schools.

[March for Our Lives](#) rallies are being planned nationwide on **Saturday, March 24.** There are already marches planned for Boston, Worcester, Chelmsford and Northampton, and more may be in the planning stages. LWVMA will offer voter registration at the Boston rally, and we urge other Leagues around the state to do the same in their towns. **We can help make sure every proponent of stronger gun laws is registered to vote.** We can also participate with signs and a strong presence. We will have more information on the March 24 rallies coming soon.

Urge your U.S. Senators to **oppose the Concealed Carry Reciprocity bill, HR38.** That bill has already passed the U.S. House. Even though Senator Warren and Senator Markey oppose this bill, they need reinforcement from constituents. This bill would allow someone granted a concealed carry permit in any state to carry concealed guns in any other state, regardless of that state's laws. See the [LWVUS letter](#) for talking points.

## **MEDIA LITERACY AND “FAKE NEWS”**

*Now playing on your local cable channel 99*



President Scotti Finnegan welcomes the panel and audience to LWVCCA Forum on the media February 10th. From left: Tim Wood, Editor, Cape Cod Chronicle; Mindy Todd, Editorial Director, WCAI (NPR); Matt Pitta, News Director, CC Broadcasting/Moderator; Bill Hough, Publisher, Falmouth Enterprise; Craig Salters, Editor, Barnstable Patriot and Paul Pronovost (hidden) Executive Editor, Cape Cod Times.

An enthusiastic group of League members and friends was on hand on the evening of February 10th for the second of our two forums this season. “[Media Literacy and “Fake News”](#): Decoding Media in 2018”. “The League is concerned,” President Scotti Finnegan said in her introduction, “that voters today find themselves in a predicament unheard of in previous decades. Accusations of biased reporting and ‘fake news’ have left many wondering whether local and national media outlets can be trusted to deliver accurate information to make smart decisions about local candidates and elections.”

Six outstanding representatives of Cape media outlets were on hand to discuss such topics as journalistic bias and voter confidence in the news...to share their thoughts and philosophies and to answer challenging questions from a large and involved audience. The program was taped and is currently available on Cape Media Channel 99. For exact schedule, [www.capemedia.org](http://www.capemedia.org) click on TV schedules, then “see the entire schedule”.

**To view:** <http://watch.capemedia.org/CablecastPublicSite/show/15678>

## LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

*From Renate Sands*

### **Update on Gun Control** *(from Patricia Ryle)*

With the latest horrific school shooting in the news gun control is once more in the news. Pat Ryle had this information for us:

“ I would like to share this great info about a MA law. I have a firearms license, so I have been notified of this new law which makes it illegal as of February 1, 2018 to possess so-called "bump stocks" and "trigger cranks" in Massachusetts. After the recent horror I am so happy that MA had already taken a stand when the Federal and other state governments have been unable to take action. I have also been contacting state and federal legislators to pass funds for gun violence research. Grandmothers Against Gun Violence has been a great resource for me. The important fact that horrified me was that, from approximately 1972 to 2012, there were 69 rabies cases and 89 research grants while in the same period 4,000,000 shootings and 3 research grants.”

### **Key Legislation**

When the LWVCCA Legislative Committee convened in the fall, members went through the LWVMA-supported and opposed legislation and each member picked five ‘key’ bills for advocacy and to monitor their progress through the legislator. We also followed the bills that concerned the closing of Pilgrim. Below is information we have been able to gather so far concerning some of the bills.

#### **Pilgrim** *(Elaine Dickinson, member of Downwinders)*

Unfortunately and disappointingly, none of the bills was approved even though two were in the last session. Four are now in extension.

It was reported that Senate members of the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy voted favorably on the 3 original Senate bills but House members voted No. So, with more House members on the committee, the vote stood. The Senate will now take up the bills in their chamber and make a recommendation to reverse the Joint Committee votes. Rep Hunt is on this committee.

The Joint Committee on Public Health was more supportive and put some of the bills in extension so we have additional opportunity to push for a favorable vote. **PLEASE contact** the committee and urge them to support S1185, H2472, H1131, H 1133, H1147 and S1250. Sen Cyr is on this committee.

The one bill in the Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security was put into study. We were given the impression by committee staff that, when a bill has passed a previous session (as this bill did), the bill is generally voted favorable again. That did not happen. We have asked Rep. Peake if she can determine why it did not pass. Rep Viera is on this committee.

#### **Automatic Voter Registration (AVR) H2091/S373** *(Renate Sands)*

AVR has been favorably reported out of the Joint Committee on Election Laws.

Both House and Senate must pass this legislation by July 31 and send it to the governor for his signature in order for it to become law. Sen Cyr, Rep Peake, and Rep Fernandez are co-sponsors. *Contiued...*

**Safe Communities Act S1305/H3269 (Renate Sands)**

The Safe Communities Act was recommended for further study by the Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security. Although this usually means the bill is not going anywhere, *the MA League has urged us to continue to advocate*. Rep Vieira is a member of the committee.

Co-sponsors are Sen Cyr, Rep Peake, and Rep Fernandez.

**Enhance Civic Education S215/H2016 (Patricia Ryle)**

On 2/15, the Joint Committee on Education concurred and accompanied a new draft S.2306. The bill was reported favorably to Senate Ways and Means. Sen Cyr, Reps Vieira and Peake are co-sponsors.

**Affordable Bonding Housing Bill H675 (Renate Sands)**

The Affordable Housing Bond bill was passed as H4131. The \$1.7 billion bonding will be used over many years to update public housing and add units for persons with very low income and those with disabilities. The Senate needs to vote on this bill and may do so with little notice, so contact your Senator to indicate your support. Julian Cyr is a petitioner of this bill.

**And watch for more information next month!**

## **MEMBERSHIP MATTERS -- NOMINATIONS**

It's that time of year...when we will need to fill positions on our board and on committees before our Annual Meeting in May. The nominating committee is in the process of formation and will be in touch with as many members as possible in the coming 4-5 weeks. (A number of wonderful individuals have already stepped forward.) Please give some thought as to where you can be helpful to the League in its ongoing work. If there are two members who would like to share a job (committee co-chairs, e.g.), that would be great. If you are willing to chair a committee, tell the nominating person that you will serve if we get you a co-chair. Everyone is busy, we are all involved in other efforts, especially in this election year. Remember that most League activities will be *ongoing* after election day.

Thank you in advance for your help--We'll be in touch!

Phyllis Walsh

Nancy Erskine

Matti Ligon

Elaine Dickinson

**BOARD NOTES**  
**LWVCCA Board Meeting -- February 6th**  
Cape Cod Five, Dennis

The February Board meeting focused mainly on program planning (US and local). All members are encouraged to attend any and all Board meetings. Membership increased in January to 107.

The January 16 event, “Mass Action – Your Voice In Legislation” was very well-attended. Nancy Brumback, Chair, LWVMA Legislative Action Committee, spoke on how the MA committee works within the state legislative process. The Board recognized and applauded the work of Renate Sands, Legislative Committee Chair, for making this event a success.

**Program Planning:**

- **US planning:** LWVCCA follows state League positions.
  
- **Local planning:** areas of focus will be:
  - Top Priority: Voter Services focusing on the 2018 elections.
  - Other areas: County Government, Youth Services, Health (focusing on the opioid crisis), Environment (focusing on Cape Cod issues such as offshore drilling and closing the Pilgrim plant).
  - This planning will drive forums and events held by the LWVCCA in 2018-19. Any member can suggest such events using the Forum Proposal Form on the members-only area of the website ([members.lwvcapecode.org](http://members.lwvcapecode.org)).

Members will vote on the program plans at the Annual Meeting on May 17.

**Nominations for 2018-2019 board members and committee chairs:**

- Members are needed for the Nominating Committee: 2 board members and 3 non-board members are required to nominate candidates for 2018-19 Board and Committee Chair positions.
- Contact Florence Seldin if you can help.

**Environment Committee:** Interested members are encouraged to join this committee.

**Website upgrade:**

- The Communications Committee will be analyzing the current content for accuracy, relevance, and timeliness and validating/refining the structure of site content.
- Members encouraged to provide feedback and suggest changes for the site.

**Upcoming events: Planning for the Legislative Breakfast is under way. The date has now been set for Friday, April 20..**

## **ANOTHER COUNTY HEARD FROM**

*LWVCCA Members Judy and Barry Thomas are dividing their time between Chatham (Barnstable County) and Gaithersburg (Montgomery County) Maryland. A former president of LWVCCA, Judy was heavily involved in our County Committee. Following are some thoughts she recently shared..*

As some of you know, we have moved, seasonally, to Gaithersburg, Maryland , a city in **Montgomery County**, just north and a bit west of Washington D.C. Gaithersburg itself has a population of about 60,000 ~ but the County has slightly more than a million--more than 7 states and D.C. combined. It is ranked highest in the nation for ethnic and economic diversity. Obviously, it couldn't be more different from Barnstable County!

But it does have a League of Women Voters. A League that actually has an office and staff . And on February 11th (yes, a Sunday afternoon) I attended a meeting of a group of members discussing County Study consensus questions regarding economic development. -- the LWV lacked needed positions on the subject. (That might sound familiar.) As to the study itself, again it turned out that nothing could be more dissimilar to the Cape. You might think it would have something to do with limiting economic growth in this area that strikes me as extremely dense in terms of commercial development and housing, with not much open space except in the "rural," (western and northern) parts of the County.

Why did I choose to attend this meeting? Not because it was a dreary afternoon and I had nothing better to do. I attended because I was interested in learning about the area where I will spend six months of every year and **THERE IS NO BETTER PLACE TO LEARN THIS THAN THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS.**

Learn I did. What prompted the study was actually an action taken by the County executive in 2015 that *privatized* the core functions of the County Department of Development. Without going into detail, there was concern that economic development was slowing down. Apparently the County was getting a reputation for being unfriendly to business (taxes, lack of business incentives, etc.) So the County League needed positions to support the work of two organizations that had been established to support development.

The MoCo LWV doesn't have "units" as LWVCCA has had at times. There are just gatherings. Members go to a meeting that occurs at a time and place they can make. There were 7 at the meeting I attended, one of whom was a young woman, member for 4 years and pregnant -- can't remember the last time I was at an LWV meeting with a pregnant woman. And this young woman was planning to run for office -- as an Independent for state delegate (comparable to our state rep) -- but one district here typically has three delegates representing all residents). There is hope . . .

Fondest greetings to all. Do keep up the good work and **please say yes to the nominating committee!!! Judy**



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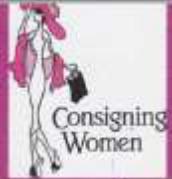
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## LWVCCA BOARD

### 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	“ “

*Ed. Note:* With our membership rolls now numbering 105, and 14 of those having joined just since September, please remember to record the names in your Handbooks--in individual town listings and/or in the “Notes” section at the end of the book. If you see errors, please notify Phyllis Walsh, cc Amy Harris, Debbie Aikman & Nancy Erskine.



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