



# **THE CAPE COD VOTER**

**VOLUME 57 ISSUE 3**

**NOVEMBER 2017**

## **CALENDAR**

Tuesday November 7  
9:30am

**Board Meeting**  
Cape Cod Five, Dennis



## **LOOKING AHEAD**

**Saturday December 2**

**Holiday Brunch**

Riverway Lobster House, South Yarmouth  
*Watch for details to follow*

Tuesday December 5  
9:30am

**Board Meeting**  
Cape Cod Five, Dennis

**[www.lwvcapecod.org](http://www.lwvcapecod.org)**

**[www.members.lwvcapecod.org](http://www.members.lwvcapecod.org)**

**[www.facebook.com/LWVCCA](https://www.facebook.com/LWVCCA)**

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## FROM CO-PRESIDENT SCOTTI FINNEGAN

Dear Members,

The wind is howling this morning and I am hoping that it will bring cooler weather. Wrapping up in a cozy sweater and sitting by the fire reminds me to take time to breathe and to reflect on the conversations with family and friends during the summer. Those conversations often turn to the “forbidden” topic of politics. Considering the non-partisan principle of the League I try to engage in those conversations with an open mind and respectful, civil language. It is not always easy. Looking for common ground with friends who have very different points of view, we all agree that everyone is “for” the environment. Ah, good footing. Then they explain that the climate is changing but that the science is not clear however agree that humans have contributed to climate change. So if we agree that the climate is changing do we need to argue the science or can we build on the shared conclusion and have the conversation about solutions? My friends own guns. They have them locked and use them at a shooting range or to lawfully hunt. They advocate for the enforcement of existing gun laws and point out the absurdity that a spouse can get a gun permit without having any training on how to use a gun. I realize that my position on guns is “unless it’s a musket”, no guns anywhere for anyone will not allow for a respectful and informed conversation on gun control.

I will spare you the long list of issues that my friends and I disagree on including that the League is not really non-partisan. **In his presentation to the LWVCCA on Executive Power and the Constitution, Dr. Peter Ubertaccio pointed out that issues became partisan when one could not be a good republican or a good democrat unless you were committed to one side of any issue.** Using the example of reproductive rights, he noted that there had been pro-choice and pro-life Democrats and Republicans. Then through the impact of super-pacs, lobbyists, and the influence of special interests, reproductive rights became a partisan issue and not the right of a woman to choose.

We hear these words over and over again: the lack of civility, polarization, fake news, civil engagement, resist. These are not partisan words although we might be quick to assign them to specific parties or members of those parties. In a democracy every person is responsible for the care and feeding of that democracy. Some of us were quick to applaud Republican senators who spoke out against a Republican administration that is dysfunctional and potentially dangerous -- however those same Senators spoke out and gave up announcing they would not seek re-election because they could not win against potential candidates who would agree with the politics of the current administration. Although their messages could be respected on both sides, their decisions not to seek re-election are about being a Republican *politician* and not about fighting for what is right. So again a non-partisan issue, that of courage in the face of adversity, becomes a partisan issue and two powerful elected officials give up e of the dynamic growth of the LWV and specifically the LWVCCA following the 2016 election, we have the unique opportunity to recommit ourselves to our mission and principles. Let’s find a friend we disagree with and engage in a dialogue in which we will be better listeners, to find common ground, and to build better understanding of different points of view in a democracy and not partisan talking points.

I wish you, your family, and friends a joyful Thanksgiving and many wonderful and different points of view over dinner!

Scotti Finnegan



*Dr. Peter Ubertaccio speaking at the October 28 Forum*

## **MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**

*From Phyllis Walsh*

**Rosemary Shields joined LWVCCA (and re-joined LWV) in October** along with her sister Janet. Rosemary's membership in the League began in 1976 in Tennessee, where the League and other citizens' groups sued the Tennessee Valley Authority under the Clean Air Act over problems at its coal-fired plants. The suit went all the way to the Supreme Court and resulted in the TVA's having to install scrubbers and other improvements -- *monitored by the LWV and other groups*. Thus began Rosemary's life of advocacy.

Moving to New York City in 1983, she became a member of the editorial board managing such *oped* contributors as David Brooks and Tom Friedman ~ leaving that marvelous job after 22 years ~ and only when invited to Washington by William Safire to become administrative director of the Dana Foundation, an endowment giving grants for medical research in the field of neuroscience. On Safire's death in 2010, Rosemary returned to New York ~ where she was again active in the League, no longer constrained by the rules of the *Times* editorial board.

Earlier this year (on April Fool's Day actually) Rosemary and her sister Janet McCroskery moved to the Cape and are again members of the LWV. Rosemary sees joining the League as a way to meet people and learn about issues on the State and Cape levels. Seeing voter information and education as the primary roles of the League, she looks forward to joining the Voter Service Committee.

**We're happy to welcome Rosemary and Janet to the LWVCCA!**

Rosemary Shields & Janet McCroskery  
93 Bay Road (POBox 1283)  
Harwich MA 02645  
(202) 222-5309

## **TURNING OUT THE YOUTH VOTE: HOW CAN THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS UP ITS GAME?**

### **Joint Youth Service and Voter Service Committee Report**

*From Karen Mazza, Debbie Beal and Anita Rogers*

Consider these facts offered by speaker, Dr. Felicia Sullivan at the League workshop held on October 20 at Cape Cod Community College for teams from 5 high schools and the 4 Cs.

- In the 2016 presidential election, a little less than 40% of eligible young voters (18-29) went to the polls.
- 79.5% of young registered voters in Massachusetts turned out.
- But . . . 43% of possible young voters in the state were not registered.

These facts mean that registration is only half of the battle in engaging the youth vote, and beyond that we must motivate young people to vote. Youth Service Committee Chair, Karen Mazza, challenged the teams present at the workshop co-sponsored by our Youth Service Committee and Voter Service Committee, to consider how schools and the League can up our game in improving this record of youth voting.

Dr. Sullivan's presentation served as a prompt for the school teams to start an action plan to improve registration and voter participation at their schools. Her recommendations included these actions that work in improving the youth vote based on research that young people indicated influence them.

1. Help develop voting as a habit. Voting
2. Voting is a learned, habitual behavior. Those who learn to vote and do so as a young person are much more likely to do so when they are older.
3. Involve parents in playing a support role. Millennials are most likely to vote if influenced by their parents and other family.
4. Encourage discussion among peers on issues and elections.
5. Facilitate high quality classroom discussion about civic issues.
6. Improve youth registration.
7. Reform elections to make it easier for people to vote.

After teams completed their plans participants were invited to tour the chart paper summaries posted on the wall. All the schools chose ways to improve student registration, including taking advantage of school events that required all students to be present or using time in required classes. Barnstable High School discussed establishing a Politics Club to increase awareness of issues, voter registration, and opportunities to hear speakers. Sturgis East talked about a voting club to raise awareness of local elections and a speed dating activity with elected officials to educate youth about town elections. Monomoy discussed involving the TV Production class in having an issue of the day featured in Morning announcements. Our League planning group, which also included a representative from the Falmouth League talked about increasing the venues for more targeted opportunities to register youth. *Continues. . .*

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We concluded the planning with two other brief presentations. Sara Cushing, Former Board member of Cape Cod Young Professional and a Barnstable Town Counselor sharing her reasons for being civically engaged and explaining the kinds of issues that are important to sustain a Cape Cod community that makes it attractive for young people to live here and raise their families here. League member and Co-Membership Chair, Matti Ligon shared a very tragic experience that influenced her as a young college student to remember how precious the right to vote is. Matti knew fellow student Andrew Goodman, who was one of the three young people murdered in Mississippi trying to register black people to vote. We closed by reminding students that there are still states that try to restrict access to voting and that the League of Women Voters is one of many organizations that fight these kinds of restrictions.

Teams left with enthusiasm about their plans. We have already heard from the Dennis Yarmouth team who let us know that they held a voter registration drive the next week at a fair that was being held for the senior class and they were able to register 40 students!

### **Request for League Volunteers**

We concluded the workshop by offering schools a variety of ways that the League can support their efforts to improve youth participation in registration and voting, upon request. At a minimum, keeping schools and the community informed about voter registration deadlines for local elections, dates of local elections and opportunities to learn more about local candidates are activities that League members can arrange to ensure that young people have the information they need to participate in voting. We can increase the visibility of local elections by producing a Voter's Guide for local elections through print media, our website, and the League's VOTE 411 web tool. The Youth Service Committee and the Voter Service Committee will be having a follow-up meeting to discuss these possibilities and others.

**These expanded opportunities require people who can look up the information about local elections and feed that to League representatives who will publish the information online.** This is an activity you can do from your home by visiting the town clerk website and by making some phone calls. If you are interested in helping with this springtime activity, please let Karen Mazza, Debbie Beal or Anita Rogers know. In particular we need to cover the towns of Sandwich, Barnstable, Harwich, Eastham, Wellfleet and Provincetown as we already have League members covering the other towns. **We also need to expand the number of people who are trained moderators for debates. If you are interested in being trained to serve as a moderator, please let Debbie or Anita know.**

\*\*\*\*\*

*Ed. Note* -- Tuesday, November 7 is election day in Barnstable. Congratulations to LWVCCA members **Deb Dagwan** and **Britt Beedenbender** for running for office in their respective precincts.

## LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

*Committee Chair Renate Sands recently wrote Nancy Brumback, Chair of the State League's Legislative Action Committee with some basic questions on the complex process of legislation's moving through the Legislature enroute to eventual passage (or not). Nancy's generous and informative answers formed the background for our committee's discussion at its last meeting.*

**Q.** If a bill was accepted in January and assigned to a committee but no hearing has been held so far, what are its chances of advancing?

**A.** All bills that were filed and given a number have to have a public hearing and the joint committees are still holding those hearings. You can see the current hearing schedule here on the legislature website: <https://malegislature.gov/Events/Hearings/Joint> Each hearing usually covers many bills. When you look up the bill number for the legislation you are following, under the "bill history" tab there will be a date when a bill is scheduled for a hearing.

**Q.** If a bill was accepted in January, assigned to a committee, had a hearing but no further action was taken, what are its chances of advancing?

**A.** Very few bills have actually come out of their joint committees yet--mostly just a few big bills like the budget and, now, the criminal justice reform bills. This is the point in the legislative session when the joint committees are doing their actual committee work. They are discussing all the bills that are before the committee, considering the testimony both from the hearings and written testimony submitted apart from the hearings, and in many cases, drafting new language for the bills based on testimony information. They often will combine several bills on one topic into a single bill. Very often, almost always in fact, a bill will come out of the joint committee with a new number, reflecting changes the joint committee has made. If you enter the old bill number on the legislature website, under that same "bill history" tab it will note if the bill has a new number.

So action is being taken right now, you are just not seeing it. I expect to see some bills coming out of joint committee between now and Nov. 15, when the legislature recesses for the holidays. That process will pick up significantly in January. With some exceptions, bills must be reported out of the joint committees by Feb. 7, otherwise they are no longer active in this session. So if the history tab for the bill you are following notes that the bill was "referred to study," that means it won't be reported out of committee and is dead for this session. (A session is two years.)

**Q,** Does the number of petitioners have any influence on the advancement of the bill? Or how many petitioners does it need to have a chance for advancement?

**A.** Yes, to an extent. Over 6,600 bills were filed this session. Ones with very few co-sponsors are less likely to go anywhere, just because of the sheer volume of bills. The leadership of the House and the Senate decides which bills will actually get to the floor for a vote and they are influenced by how much interest the members of their chambers have in a bill. So no hard and fast number, but more is better. It also depends on how powerful the people supporting the bill are.

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*Legislative committee cont.*

**Q.** When is the best time to advocate for a bill? Prior to a hearing? Once it is assigned to a new committee? Anytime?

**A.** No bad time to advocate. But the stage we are in now is important. At this point, we need people to tell their own senators and representatives that they are interested in and support a bill, so those legislators in turn will go to the leadership and say they have received a lot of public interest in a specific bill. That's why we are urging League members to contact their representatives to get the automatic voter registration bill out of committee, for example. When a bill finally is coming to the House or Senate floor for a vote, you need to contact your representative or senator and ask them to vote for (or in some cases, against) the bill.

**Q.** How many times should someone contact their legislator (state representative or senator) about a bill?

**A.** Once is good, five times is better! The idea is to make a legislator aware that the public is interested in a specific bill. The more calls and emails that come in about the bill, the better. Especially when a bill is coming up for a vote, the staff is tallying how many people call on each side. So whenever you see a notice in our action newsletter asking League members to call about a bill, that's a key time to do it.

**Q.** Any suggestions on how to gauge whether a bill is progressing or not would be greatly appreciated.

**A.** Check with the Legislative Action Committee specialist ([specialists@lwwma.org](mailto:specialists@lwwma.org)) for the bill you are following. You can also call the office of the bill's sponsor and ask the staff where that bill stands.

Brumback: "Those are fantastic questions, Renate. Thanks for asking and don't hesitate to ask again! I'd also urge the members of your legislative committee to take a look at the new Legislative Envoy program LWVMA is starting and see if one or two of you would like to take on that task. You can read about it here on our website: <https://lwwma.org/?s=legislative+envoy> .



An advertisement for RPM Carpets &amp; Floor Coverings. The ad features a QR code on the left, the Mohawk Floorscapes logo in the center, and contact information on the right. The contact information includes the address 192 Rt. 137, E. Harwich, MA 02645, phone number 508-432-4151, fax number 508-432-4162, and email rick@rpmcarpets.com. The website www.rpmcarpets.com is listed at the bottom left, and the slogan MOHAWK MAKES the ROOM is at the bottom right.

## CONDOLENCES...

### ***Helen Rice Pickett 1929 - 2017***

LWVCCA bade farewell last month to another of our pioneers, 50-year-member Helen Pickett of Chatham. Born in South Africa to Congregational missionaries, Helen devoted much of her life to mission work. After attending college in Washington State, she attended Chicago Theological Seminary, where she met and married ministerial student Eugene Pickett. Together, they went on to serve churches in the South during the Civil Rights era, including Miami, Richmond and Atlanta. After 20 years in the South, the Picketts moved north when Gene was assigned to denominational headquarters in Boston. Helen worked at Wellesley College, but also joined the Cecilia Society, one of the city's oldest choral groups, where she sang soprano and also served as president for two years. In 1979, Gene became president of the Unitarian Universalist Association and he and Helen traveled extensively both at home and abroad. In 1986, Gene was named minister of the Church of the Larger Fellowship; Helen was part of the staff and was also appointed to the UUA's Hymnbook Commission--which six years later produced "Singing the Living Tradition".

The Picketts moved to the Cape in 1991. Helen continued her music mission as editor of "Rejoice Together" and "For All That Is Life" Both Helen and Gene became members of LWVCCA and were much-appreciated member of the Chatham Unit. Despite Helen's long struggle with Alzheimer's Disease, Gene has maintained their membership in the League and we are most grateful. Our fondest condolences are extended to Gene and their daughters.

### ***Hoyt Ecker, 1926 - 2017***

Condolences to 50-year League member Debby Ecker on the death of her husband, Hoyt. He was a graduate of Harvard and later of Harvard Business School. His business career was as a successful backer of start-up businesses, many in the computer field, including the launching of the first laptop. (He took great pride in the fact that none of his projects was associated with the military.) An avid sportsman and devotee of Dixieland jazz, Hoyt took his greatest pleasure in his home and family. In his retirement years, he was an avid sailor and conservationist and was especially appreciated for his restoration and trusteeship of his family's historic Stage Harbor Lighthouse in Chatham.

### ***Bruce Wellnitz***

We were saddened to learn, just as this VOTER was ready to close, of the death of Bruce Wellnitz, husband of member **Barbara Wellnitz** of Brewster. (You may recall that Barbara was one of our 3-member Executive Team during 2015-2016.) Bruce had battled glioblastoma for nearly two years, amazing his medical team with his resilience and enabling the Wellnitzes to celebrate their 50th and 51st wedding anniversaries, many family celebrations, even their annual trip to Florida.

Barbara and her family will hold visiting hours this Thursday, November 9, at Morris, O'Connor and Blute Funeral Home in Harwich Center. Funeral services will be held on Saturday, November 11 at 1:00pm at Pilgrim Congregational Church in Harwichport. Burial will be at the National Cemetery in Bourne on Friday November 10 at 9:15am.

*(Please note that if you would like to be in touch with Barbara, her email address has changed. Her address and phone number are in the Handbook.)*



## **NEW LWVCCA WEBMASTER**

**Mark Ameres** is our new LWVCCA Webmaster. A senior computer and systems consultant in Harwich with expertise in marketing, social media, electronic commerce, websites, telephony, banking and all types of electronic hardware, Mark and his partners specialize in helping the not-for-profit and small business communities use technology more effectively in order to reach their markets. A native of New Jersey and alumnus of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, he is a director of the Cape Cod Technology Council, Harwich Finance Committee and Chatham Rotary and a member of Cape Cod Young Professionals, TEDx, Mensa and Accenture Alumni. Of his new League of Women Voters association, Mark says he comes from a mixed political pedigree, but is trying to make them all proud. Mark can be reached at <http://www.Ameres.net> or [www.Ameres.US](http://www.Ameres.US).

*NOTE: All suggested matter for the website should be emailed to Carlyn Carey Amy Harris and Scotti Finnegan.*

Welcome, Mark!



### 2017 - 2018 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	“ “

**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. (You'll be amazed at what you'll learn!)**

## **NOTES FROM OUR LAST BOARD MEETING**

The LWVCCA Board of Directors met in its usual venue, Cape Cod Five in Dennis, on Tuesday, October 3rd. These are but a few notes from the minutes of that meeting, recorded by Secretary Mary Hunter Utt.

### **Special guest Diane Turco, founder and president, Cape Downwinders.**

Diane updated the Board on issues around the shutting down of Pilgrim and around the decommissioning of the plant. The facts are truly scary: Pilgrim is the worst plant in the country and an accident would affect the entire coast and inland as far north as Nova Scotia. Because of contractual agreements, the plant cannot be shut down before 2019, when planning for the shutdown will begin. The plan will not include removal of spent fuel rods; no one knows what to do about spent fuel. MEMA's plans for evacuation will not protect the public, based on studies by Duxbury, where cancer rates are high. Town can only review plans, they have no approval power. The biggest need is to educate the public about the issues of plant closure and decommissioning and to demand State government action and funding. So far, Gov. Baker, AG Healey and Congressman Keating have all said no to addressing the issues.

**LWVCCA votes concurrence.** The Board then reviewed the Plymouth League's statement on Pilgrim and voted unanimously to adopt it.

**Voter Service --** Committee chair Debbie Beal has been attending the final meetings of citizenship classes in Hyannis -- just before attendees take their final citizenship tests. Debbie covers the importance of voting, how to register, et. al. Ideally, League members would attend the actual naturalization ceremonies, but those have now been moved and prospective citizens must travel to Boston.

**Communications -- Laura Samuels** has joined the communications committee to provide support for press releases. Committees should feed her information to go to the press, providing all details -who-what-when-where-why-- to be included in the press releases. *Copies should go to Richard, Scotti, Amy, Carlyn, Nancy and Mary.*





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