



THE CAPE COD VOTER

VOLUME 57 ISSUE 2

OCTOBER 2017

CALENDAR

Tuesday October 3
9:30am

Board Meeting
Cape Cod Five, Dennis

Tuesday October 24
9:30 - noon

Day on The Hill
State House, Boston

Tuesday, October 24

Regional Technical High School Vote
*Absentee ballots to Oct 4. Check with your Town Clerk
For hours and locations*

October 24th is United Nations Day

Saturday October 28
9:30 coffee - Noon

FORUM on First Amendment
Harwich Community Center, Oak Street
Dr. Peter Ubertaccio, Stonehill College

LOOKING AHEAD

Tuesday November 7
9:30am

Board Meeting
Cape Cod Five, Dennis

www.lwvcapecod.org

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FROM CO-PRESIDENT AMY HARRIS

Greetings!

Autumn is here. Our League of Women Voters is in full swing for the 2017-2018 year. It was lovely to see so many of you at our Opening Meeting in September. Listening to Nancy McGillivray speak of the role of US Marshals in protecting our civil rights, I was reminded of how recent and young our achievements in equality and freedoms really are. I then had the pleasure of hearing members Florence Seldin and Debbie Beal on WOMR, discussing voter registration and the fact that democracy is not a spectator sport. Watching the PBS Ken Burns/Lynn Novick series on the Vietnam War further evoked other thoughts about citizen participation in government and the need for all of us to be educated on the issues.

Good governance needs every single one of us. Having the ability to respond and act requires knowledge. With that in mind, I look forward to seeing you all at our first FORUM of the year on October 28th at the Harwich Community Center. Full information in the article below.

As always, thank you for *making democracy work!*

Amy

FIRST LWVCCA FORUM OF NEW YEAR: SATURDAY OCTOBER 28 EXECUTIVE POWER AND THE CONSTITUTION

On Saturday, October 28, at the Harwich Community Center, Professor Peter Ubertaccio of Stonehill College will discuss Executive Power and the Constitution. Q & A will follow the presentation.

About Professor Peter Ubertaccio

Dr. Ubertaccio is the founding Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences at Stonehill. A former Chair of the Department of Political Science & International Studies, he is a respected media commentator on American politics and a longtime professor of the executive power, political parties, and American political history. Teaching at Stonehill since 2001, Ubertaccio received a bachelor's degree from The Catholic University of America and a Ph.D in politics from Brandeis University. He lives on Cape Cod.

Join us for coffee at 9:30am, program begins at 10.

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OPENING MEMBERSHIP MEETING A GREAT START TO THE YEAR

More than thirty members and potential members enjoyed the elegant surroundings of the Cape Cod Cultural Center in Yarmouth for LWVCCA's opening meeting on September 14 to share delicious potluck and hear the first woman U.S. Marshal describe the role of the Marshal Service and her successful career as a part of it.

Nancy McGillivray was appointed during the Clinton administration and is now retired after 24 years. In describing the Marshal Service as being the enforcement arm of the federal government, she stressed that the emphasis was on the protection of civil rights. Thus, Ms McGillivray found herself in New Orleans in 1960 where young Ruby Bridges needed four U.S. Marshals to enable her to enter elementary school. Ms McGillivray and Ruby have been friends ever since ~ and next to the speaker was the famous Norman Rockwell painting of that event.

A question from the audience asked how the Marshal's Service fits in with ICE and DEA when it comes to immigration issues. Ms McGillivray reiterated that the Marshals are there to protect and to be prepared for issues as they arise from Federal courts even if they may not always agree with some of those court decisions.

Thanks go to Amy Harris, Scotti Finnegan and Carlyn Carey for coordinating the event and to all who contributed to a delicious banquet.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

From Renate Sands, Chair

Legislative Committee

The Legislative Committee had its first meeting on September 14. We reviewed the legislation on which the LWVMA has taken a position and selected those we felt were of significance to the Cape region. The key bills were divided among the members of the committee to research and report on at the next meeting.

We have at least one member from each state district. Patricia Ryle is from the 1st Barnstable District, Debra Dagwan and Brenda Fanger from 2nd Barnstable, Therese Bilodeau from 3rd Barnstable, Elaine Dickinson from 4th Barnstable and Renate Sands from 5th Barnstable. If you would like to join the committee, please contact me.

(Ed note: The committee's next meeting is scheduled for September 29. Look for a report next month.)

Day on the Hill

Day on the Hill will be Tuesday, October 24, 2017 in the Great Hall at the State House. Registration begins at 9:30 AM and the program runs from 10 AM to noon. The morning is reserved for speakers and the afternoon for meeting with your legislators. (For those members who are new

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to the League, 'Day on the Hill' traditionally is held in the spring. However, this year it was postponed to the fall due to renovations at the State House.)

This year, the speakers are two of the highest ranking women in the state legislature: Rep. Patricia Haddad, Speaker Pro Tempore, and Sen. Cynthia Creem, Assistant Senate Majority Leader will discuss the outlook for legislation selected by the LWVMA for support or opposition. Legislative specialists will discuss the bills on automatic voter registration, carbon pricing, immigration and criminal justice reform.

The State League will be sending registration information shortly. The LWVMA will set up meetings with legislators after the morning's program for members who register in advance or you can contact your own legislator to set up a meeting.

If you are interested in attending, please let me know. Also, if you are willing to drive into Boston please let me know. Unfortunately, my husband is scheduled for surgery that day so I will not be able to participate. However, I am planning on organizing the event.

YOUTH SERVICE COMMITTEE PREPARES FOR OCTOBER 20 WORKSHOP WITH AREA SCHOOLS

From Karen Mazza, Chair

As reported in the last issue of the Voter, the Youth Service Committee in conjunction with our Voter Service Committee, will sponsor a workshop for area high school teams and a team from Cape Cod Community College to help schools develop action plans that will encourage young people to preregister to vote and to participate in local elections and town meetings. Beyond registering, we want to help students and schools play a role in increasing motivation and preparation to vote.

Our two committees met on September 18 to finalize details and preparations for the workshop. We are working with a consultant from the Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement, (CIRCLE) at Tufts University as our primary consultant.

The committee also began to discuss our work beyond this workshop. Since the focus of the workshop is expanding the youth vote, we are hoping that one outcome of the workshop will be a discussion of ways that our League can provide voter services to schools beyond voter registration. There is a need for better information available to youth and the community about local elections and we are hopeful that we may discover a new role and set of relationships that we may be able to sustain as a routine role of our organization. We expect to have broader discussions of this possibility with the LWVCCA board and members following our October 20 workshop.

I have continued to follow what is happening at the state level to advance civic education in the schools. The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education continues working with a committee to revise the History and Social Science Curriculum and the new framework is

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expected to expand civic education in the K-12 curriculum. If all things go well, they hope to complete this by June 2018, but sometimes approval of frameworks does not go as quickly as hoped.

In the meantime, the state legislature is pursuing potential legislation to strengthen civic education. LWVMA has testified in a hearing about this (I represented LWVMA) and we continue to watch the progress of legislation.

There is an interesting new development in efforts to strengthen civic education in the state. A coalition is developing among various community, educational and civic organizations to band together and advocate for stronger civic education. There has been one exploratory meeting and a second meeting is scheduled for October. Steven Rothstein, Executive Director of the Foundation for the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum in Boston, has spearheaded this effort along with Louise Dubé of iCivics. I attended this meeting and will continue to monitor its progress. *Members of the Youth Service Committee, chaired by Karen, are Bea Auty, Cindy Battis, Jan Hively, Florence Seldin and Marie Stevenson. Voter Service chairs are Deb Beal and Anita Rogers.*

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

From Phyllis Walsh

Phyllis and Matti Ligon continue to interview our many new members.

New members Beth and Seth Taylor, Chatham

Please welcome the Taylors to LWVCCA. Seth is a former selectman and currently a member of the Retired Men's Club. Beth is a member of the Garden Club, the Chatham Music Club and several private music groups. Woodwinds are her specialty including recorders, transverse flute and piccolo.

Seth grew up and was educated in Chatham, where his family has lived since the 1600s. He and Beth met in Guatemala while both were members of the Peace Corps and subsequently have lived in many places in the United States and abroad during Seth's career with the U.S. Treasury and Homeland Security Departments. Before retiring from her teaching career, Beth was head of the science department in the middle school in Branford, CT. At one point, she was a semifinalist for Connecticut's Teacher of the Year. They have four sons and now four grandchildren.

Both Beth and Seth believe strongly in the principles of the LWV: open and nonpartisan, with the goal of educating and engaging the electorate. With this in mind, Beth is interested in voter service activities. Seth is interested in the integrity of the voting process and has considerable experience with institutional compliance.

Beth and Seth Taylor
P.O. Box 752, Chatham MA 02633

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NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION COMES TO THE MALL

September 26th was National Voter Registration Day across the nation ~ and nowhere more visible than at Cape Cod Mall ~ where LWVCCA set up near the food court to raise awareness and encourage unregistered voters to sign up. The day's results: 10 new voters were registered.



Above, Florence Seldin, Debbie Beal and Freddie FitzGerald . Below, Sheila Lyons, Joan Craig, Karen Mazza and Freddie FitzGerald. (Florence seems to have lost something under the table.)
Not pictured: Paula Bacon, Anita Rogers.



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HANDBOOK ERRATA

Have you received your new 2017-2018 LWVCCA Members Handbook?

If not, please email Amy Harris

Please also make the following additions and/or corrections in your copy of the Handbook--

Add: Nickerson, Annette, 685 Bridge Road, Eastham 02642.

Add: Sands, Chuck (Address and phone same as Renate Sands.)

Additional email: Taylor, Seth

Correct email: Terrone-Samuels, Laura, **Correct area code: 774**

Change town: Mewherter, Anita lives in **Orleans**, not Sandwich

Many thanks to Amy for her hours of work to produce our excellent Handbook.

WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OPPORTUNITY (WEES)

From Scotti Finnegan

The Massachusetts Treasurer's Office, in collaboration with SWIFT*, is hosting two free events in October, offering workshops in salary negotiation and financial education for women. The goal: to help women gain the tools so secure their economic future and reach their full financial potential. Sessions will be held on October 3 and 10 at Gus Cauty Recreation Center in Falmouth.

For more information, please contact Sara Erkal, Program Associate serkal@tre.state.ma.us or 617-367-9333, Ext 618.

*Supporting Women in Financial Transition

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**Statement to the Barnstable County Assembly of Delegates
on behalf of LWVCCA -- September 6, 2017**

Good afternoon. My name is Judy Thomas of Chatham. The statement I am about to read has been approved by the Cape Cod Area League of Women Voters.

Again the issue of County government structure has arisen, this time particularly the issue of the size of the executive branch. The proposal before you, to raise the number of the Board of Commissioners from 3-5 members, seeks to address a very real problem as has often been noted. That the board's work can be hampered in the absence of one member is absolutely true. In addition some have pointed out that it is impossible for one commissioner to have any kind of discussion outside a meeting with another commissioner without breaking the Open Meetings Law. While the latter argument is based on fact regarding the Open Meetings Law, we believe it is a weak argument and could easily result in decreased transparency in the work of the Board.

Some of the members of this body will remember previous statements of the Cape LWV to the Assembly, statements which followed a League study of county structure that resulted in a consensus position. Our view then, and now, remains that the Board of Commissioners be eliminated, replaced by a strong executive, and that the size of the legislative body be reduced and elected regionally. Currently that is not on the table. The proposal on the table is not something we can support or oppose as we have no position on it. We do recognize the problem it is trying to address.

In the winter of 2016 two members of the Assembly presented two options for restructuring, both of which called for the elimination of the Board of Commissioners. At that time as we along with many others gave testimony. We then observed and felt that neither proposal resulted in the kind of thorough discussion, I emphasize the word thorough, that the proposals should have had. It was our opinion that many speakers had good points to make. There was next to no discussion of these points. The proposals seemed to have been dead on arrival – no close examination needed. How, we wondered, could that happen? Were none of the points made by the many speakers, some of whom had extensive experience with county government, worthy of review, worthy of comment?

What we urge at the present time is a very thorough discussion, a close examination, of this proposal by Mr. Bergstrom. Not only the pros, as for sure they will be stated by its advocates, but the cons. Every potential solution to a problem has its helpful aspects, as this one does, but there are almost always some negative consequences as well. Without a thorough discussion, an open-minded discussion of the possible solution, especially for members of this body who are newer, the proposal will not get the in-depth understanding it deserves. For transparency reasons this discussion should be held at an Assembly meeting--for the Assembly, a body of 15, is not hampered by individual "conversations" among 2 or more of its members prior to meetings.

The League would particularly appreciate hearing the opinions of Ms. McCutcheon and Mr. Princi, delegates who preferred, just over a year ago, the elimination of the Board. To adopt a proposal because it is the only one politically feasible may be something that at times needs to be done, but that in itself is no reason to not have a full discussion in public. Surely, for something as significant as this Charter change, a full discussion would be time well spent and in the public interest. We hope a vote will not be taken at this particular meeting. The discussion points, however they turn out, need to be mulled over, "slept on," and then deserve a second discussion at a second time at least. We wish you a good and thorough and contemplative discussion.

2017 - 2018 LWVCCA BOARD

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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!)



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