



THE CAPE COD VOTER

VOLUME 58 ISSUE 2

OCTOBER 2018

CALENDAR

Tuesday October 2
9:30am

Board Meeting
Cape Cod Five, Dennis

Sat. October 13 10am
Cape Cinema, Dennis

CANDIDATES DEBATE -
LWVCCA Moderating
State Senate - U.S. Congress

Monday October 17

Last day to register to vote --
See your Town Clerk

Saturday, October 20
10am - Noon
Cape Media Center, Dennis Port

HEALTHCARE FORUM
Mass. Ballot Question One:
Patient to Nurse Staffing Ratios

Mon. October 22 - Friday Nov.2

Early Voting period

COMING UP

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 6

ELECTION DAY

Tuesday, November 6
9:30am

Board Meeting
Cape Cod Five, Dennis

www.lwvcapecod.org

www.members.lwvcapecod.org

www.facebook.com/LWV

SEPTEMBER BOARD MEETING - SUMMARY OF MINUTES

From LWVCCA Board Secretary Mary Utt

The new Board met September 11. Amy distributed the just-printed 2018-2019 Member Directory and Handbook, which includes the roster of Board members, directory of the full membership, programs for the year and a calendar of events (which will be increased as more are added). Membership stands at 87.

Scotti Finnegan thanked everyone who worked over the summer to update the member directory, hold voter registration events, and plan activities for the upcoming year, among ongoing League activities.

The Holiday Brunch will be Dec 1. Speakers will be **Kate Boland, LWVMA membership chair**, and **Marie Gauthier, Franklin County (MA) LWV**, which she founded in response to the 2016 election.

The Voter Service Committee plans to hold a number of registration events, including events to register youth (with the Youth Service Committee). They are seeking venues, particularly in underserved communities, and volunteers to work registration tables. Contact Anita Rogers or Rosemary Shields to help.

The Health Committee is preparing an October 20th forum on Ballot Question #1--a proposed law that would limit how many patients can be assigned to each registered nurse in Massachusetts healthcare facilities. The format will be a debate. More information is in this issue.

Ann Ryan, VP of Programs, is working to plan monthly programs and has identified events for most months. Any LWVCCA member can propose an event: Ann maintains the "forum forms" of information about proposed events. The Communications Committee works with Ann to create invitations, posters, eblasts, etc. Contact Ann if you have a proposal.

This year is the 60th anniversary of the LWVCCA! Florence Seldin is looking for volunteers for a committee to work on this event to determine venues and activities. If you can help or have LWVCCA materials from years past to offer, contact Florence.

Florence also reported on LWVMA work to pursue a study of the state ballot initiative process: more information at [The LWVMA Study on the Massachusetts Ballot Question Process](#). The Board voted unanimously to form a local study committee. Contact Florence if you are interested in joining.

The board was saddened to learn that Debbie Aikman's 11-year-old grandson was seriously burned recently and was taken to Shriner's Hospital. He is now at home and doing his schoolwork at home.



HARVEST ALL-MEMBERS DINNER ENJOYED BY ALL



The gracious Dan'l Webster Inn in Sandwich was the venue for LWVCCA's Annual Fall Membership get-together. Shown here are, at left, President **Scotti Finnegan** and at right **Florence Seldin**. In center is **Kristy Senatori**, Acting Executive Director of the Cape Cod Commission and the evening's guest speaker. (*Note: Kristy's elevation to Executive Director was announced the following day.*) Members in attendance seemed delighted at the venue and the opportunity to meet fellow members. Reports are that **Membership Co-Chair Matti Ligon** inspired one and all with her reminiscences of her experience in the Civil Rights Movement in the 1960s

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Phyllis Walsh and Matti Ligon

Please welcome the following new members to our league~

Jeanne Sanchez

Jeanne was a past league member in New Jersey. As a retired R.N., she's interested in health advocacy.

Judith Burbine Sweeney

Judith found us on line. She is interested in legislative advocacy.

Lisa Draper

Lisa is a cousin of Program VP Ann Ryan and has already signed on for the Ballot Question Committee.

In Memoriam

The Membership Chair received word last month of the passing of long-time LWCCA member **Harriet Chamberlain Wilson**. Harriet was an active and much respected member of the League for many years, remembered by many for the generous welcomes she arranged for us at Thirwood Place, where we gathered for, among other events, a showing of "Iron-Jawed Angels", the story of the Women's Suffrage Movement. Harriet died at age 101 in Ravenna, Ohio, where she had moved to be closer to her son Arthur, who wrote of her passing to LWVMA, who in turn notified us.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Renate Sands & Elaine Dickinson Co-Chairs

The **formal 2017-2018 session of the Massachusetts legislature ended July 31.**

As you know, our committee follows -- and advocates for-- only bills that are being supported by LWVMA...and are further selected by our committee. Below is a list of some of the bills that LWVMA supported and that were either signed into law or failed to be enacted. *Key bills* (*) are those selected by our committee members who were responsible for following those bills and *advocating* for them with their particular State representatives. *Thanks to Renate and Elaine, Terri Bilodeau, Debra Dagwan, Ann Ryan, Pat Ryle, Brenda Fanger and Rosemary Shields for accepting these ongoing assignments.*

Bills that LWVMA supported and were enacted:

- *Automatic Voter Registration
- * Civics Education
- Criminal Justice Reform
- Extreme Risk Protection Order
- Pregnant workers' fairness act
- Contraceptive coverage
- *Moderate-income and affordable housing
- *Earned Income Credit
- *Repeal of archaic laws targeting abortion and contraception
- Clean energy bill (included some of the provisions that the League supported)

Bills that the LWVMA supported and were NOT enacted:

- *Safe Communities Act
- *Modernize Foundation Budget school funding formula
- *Cap on kids
- Election Day registration
- Carbon Pricing
- *All Pilgrim Nuclear Power Plant related bills

The Legislature is now, until January, in **informal session**, when only reports of committees, resolutions, amendments, and other non-controversial issues are considered and approved--but only by unanimous voice vote. No roll calls are taken; if a member objects, the matter is not approved at this time. A bill regarding early retirement incentives for Barnstable County employees is being considered in the informal session.

LWVMA Legislative Action Committee deserves a great deal of credit for the effort put into the 2017-2018 legislative session. Nineteen legislative specialists followed 75 bills and provided written and oral testimony. Members also organized and participated in "Lobby Days."

The Mass League Action Newsletter was extremely helpful. Published monthly and bi-monthly since March, the newsletter contained legislative updates and useful information on ways to advocate for specific legislation

Legislative Committee continued...

PILGRIM GOING AWAY? NOT QUITE YET.

From Co-Chair Elaine Dickinson

The news that Pilgrim is scheduled to close in seven months--May of 2019 -- has many thinking that the nuclear problem is going away at last. Alas, not necessarily so: For so long as we have Pilgrim's nuclear waste--4000+ radioactive spent fuel rods the problem is still with us.

The owner/operator of Pilgrim, Entergy Corp of New Orleans, wants to sell the reactor to Holtec International of New Jersey, a subsidiary of Canadian giant SNC Lavalin Inc. a large engineering and infrastructure firm. .Holtec, based in New Jersey, specializes in the decommissioning of nuclear plants.

Pilgrim's decommissioning is overseen by a Nuclear Decommissioning Panel, which includes members of the public. At the August meeting of that panel in Plymouth, Holtec officials made a presentation of their capabilities and proposals. Among other major, unresolved questions is the final location of the casks in which the radioactive rods from the plant will be stored.

"Many of those in the audience were skeptical," Elaine reports, "including myself." The shortsightedness of government and the industry got us into this predicament, she feels -- and urges that citizens and decision-makers not be shortsighted now. The waste is likely to remain at Pilgrim until some community elsewhere agrees to take it ~ and planning for absolutely safe storage at Plymouth is where the planners should be concentrating.

(Ten bills relating to Pilgrim, including two relating specifically to decommissioning, were filed in the Massachusetts legislature this past session. None was enacted. They will no doubt be reintroduced in the next session.)

MARKING NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION DAY SEPT 25TH

From Voter Service Chairs Anita Rogers & Rosemary Shields

Six breathtaking months of setting up at dozens of venues to encourage non-voters to become yes-voters, the LWVCCA Voter Service Committee marked the culmination of its efforts with a final registration push at Cape Cod Mall on September 25, National Voter Registration Day. In addition to the members shown below, **volunteers included Mary Dean Burdick, Susan Crasia, Marcia Otto and Charlotte Pike.**

In addition to the six registrations at the Mall, this team registered 4 people in Chatham (Mondays on Main), 2 at Drummer Boy Park in Brewster and one more at Barnstable Senior Center. Meanwhile, **Youth Service Chair Karen Mazza** reports that about 40 people were registered at events in D-Y and other schools. Thanks for this effort go to **Cindy Battis, Daryl Bladen, Carlyn Carey, Jan Hively, Kathleen Schatzberg and Florence Seldin** as well as Rosemary and Anita as needed.

All in all, 52 registrations in more than 14 events. Not to mention the wonderful visibility. During the last three events, Rosemary writes, everyone was abuzz over the ballot questions, particularly Question 1, nurse-to-patient staffing.

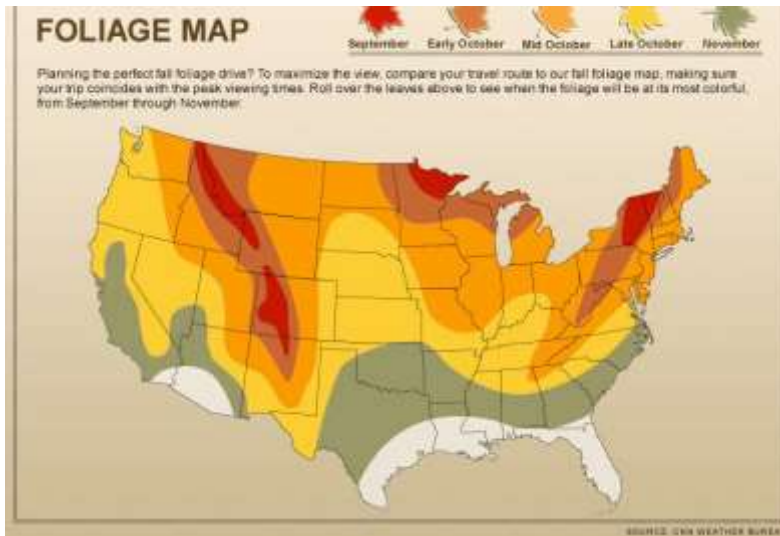


Ready to sign up new voters on National Voter Registration Day are, from left, Rosemary Shields and Anita Rogers (Co-Chairs of Voter Service); Carolyn Richardson and Legislative Chair Renate Sands. The result of their efforts: five newly registered voters and one absentee ballot completed.

Thanks to everyone for a great job well done!

LWVCCA CALENDAR 2018-2019

10/2/2018	Tuesday	Board Meeting, 9:30 AM Cape Cod Five, Dennis
10/20/2018	Saturday	Health Forum, Cape Media Center, 10 -noon
11/6/2018	Tuesday	Board Meeting, 9:30 AM Cape Cod Five, Dennis
12/1/2018	Saturday	Holiday Brunch, 9:30am Riverway Lobster House,
12/4/2018	Tuesday	Board Meeting, 9:30 AM Cape Cod Five, Dennis
1/8/2019	Tuesday	Board Meeting, 9:30 AM Cape Cod Five, Dennis
2/5/2019	Tuesday	Board Meeting, 9:30 AM Cape Cod Five, Dennis
3/5/2019	Tuesday	Board Meeting, 9:30 AM Cape Cod Five, Dennis
TBD		Legislative Breakfast
4/2/2019	Tuesday	Board Meeting, 9:30 AM Cape Cod Five, Dennis
5/7/2019	Tuesday	Board Meeting, 9:30 AM Cape Cod Five, Dennis
5/22/2019		Annual Meeting, SeaView, Dennisport





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Jon Vaughan

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