



THE CAPE COD VOTER

VOLUME 57 ISSUE 1

SEPTEMBER 2017

CALENDAR

Tuesday September 5
9:30am

Board Meeting
Cape Cod Five, Dennis

Thursday September 14
3:00pm

Legislative Committee--Inaugural Mtg
Cape Cod Five, Dennis

Thursday, September 14
5:00 - 7:30pm

Opening Membership Meeting & Potluck
Cultural Center of Cape Cod
307 Old Main St., South Yarmouth

Tuesday, September 26
10am - 4pm

Voter Registration Drive
Cape Cod Mall

LOOKING AHEAD

Tuesday October 3
9:30am

Board Meeting
Cape Cod Five, Dennis

Tuesday October 24

Day on the Hill, State House, Boston

www.lwvcapecod.org
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**YOU ARE INVITED!
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS CAPE COD AREA
OPENING MEMBERSHIP MEETING**



Please join us at the
Cultural Center of Cape Cod, 307 Old Main Street, South Yarmouth
On Thursday, September 14, 2017 -- At 5:00 PM
Light supper potluck buffet
RSVP Amy Harris

Our speaker is Nancy McGillivray, first woman US Marshal.

FROM CO-PRESIDENT SCOTTI FINNEGAN...

Dear Members,

Welcome to September! I hope you had a great summer filled with wonderful visits with family and friends. What did you read? What did you learn? How did you participate in our democracy? The disturbing events and subsequent tragedy in Charlottesville, followed by the peaceful counter-protest in Boston made it clear why participating in our democracy is vital. As an organization committed to civic education and advocacy in a civil society, reading, learning, and participating in the life of our politic makes the LWV's non-partisan principle ever more necessary. How do we focus on issues, delineate values from philosophies and create safe opportunities for dialogue on different points of view. Hate speak has no place in our democracy ~ that is a value. There are no "sides" to that. Discussion about the First Amendment and Free Speech is a topic for study and discussion. Individual ideas and beliefs will differ based on religion, education, traditions, culture, family and life experiences that formed those ideas and beliefs. *Continued next page...*

P3 -- LWVCCA September 2017

President's letter cont.

This morning I was listening to reports of Hurricane Harvey's anticipated catastrophic impact. A reporter asked if undocumented immigrants would be safe seeking refuge in public shelters. Given the current vitriol surrounding immigration issues, I wonder.

Democracy is complicated and messy but there are very clear values that are the foundation of our American Democracy. I challenge all of us to know the difference between what is right and what is open to informed and civil discussion.

In Peace and Compassion,
Scotti

"True ignorance is not the absence of knowledge but the refusal to acquire it."

Karl Popper, "The Open Society and Its Enemies"

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

From Renate Sands, Chair

"People often say that, in a democracy, decisions are made by a majority of the people. Of course, that is not true. Decisions are made by a majority of those who make themselves heard and who vote – a very different thing." Walter H. Judd, Congressman from Minnesota 1943-1963

Our first meeting September 14. Your LWVCCA Legislative Committee is looking to engage new and old members. Our goal is to increase LWVCCA's visibility and influence with state legislatures by (a) following bills on which the state League (LWVMA) has taken a position (support/oppose) and (b) by providing the tools to understand and influence the legislative process. *Key bills*, ones that are deemed particularly significant to the Cape region, will be selected by the committee. Once the bills have been identified, we will monitor legislative activities and advocate for these *key bills* with state representatives and senators.

The bills will be divided among various members of the committee. To be effective, we need at least one member for each state representative. So far, we have a member from the following districts: Representative Hunt, Representative Crocker, Representative Peake and Representative Viera. We do not have anyone from Representative Whelan's district. If you are interested in ANY of the districts, please contact me.

If you are a new member, this is a great way to get involved in the League. Our meeting on September 14 will have information on advocacy and legislators' contact information. Members can participate/advocate remotely (e.g. seasonal travelers) but computer literacy and access are required.

Day on the Hill will be Tuesday, October 24, 2017 at the State House in Boston. Save the date for this interesting event, a chance to advocate and meet your legislators.

P4 -- LWVCCA September 2017

Register! Educate! Vote!
NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION DAY SEPTEMBER 26
Your help is needed

Tuesday, September 26 is National Voter Registration Day across the United States and LWVCCA will be in the lead on Cape Cod. **Voter Service Chair Debbie Beal** has reserved space in Cape Cod Mall (near the food court!) for us to set up an information table, stocked with informational material, voter registration forms and everything a new voter will need to become an active voting citizen. Now all that's needed is you. Debbie needs LWV members to assist between 10am and 4pm. Please consider signing up for a one- or two-hour shift ~ the more of us who sign up, the shorter the shifts can be. (Ideal number per shift is three.)
Training. Debbie plans to hold training during the week of September 11 and is inviting people to her home for coffee and an information session. Please consider signing up -- contact Debbie.

P4 -- LWVCCA September 2017

YOUTH SERVICE COMMITTEE
TO ENCOURAGE YOUTH VOTER PARTICIPATION

Report Submitted by Karen Mazza, Chair

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. We are hiring a consultant from the Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement, (CIRCLE), a research center located at the Tisch College of Civic Life at Tufts University to be the keynote presenter. CIRCLE "focuses on the political life of young people in the United States, especially those who are marginalized or disadvantaged." Our consultant, Dr. Felicia Sullivan, will present research on youth voter participation and suggestions for strategies that have proved to be successful in engaging the youth vote. Each school will attend with a faculty member and at least two students who will begin to develop an action plan for their school on expanding the preregistration of students to vote and develop a plan to help students have better access to information about local elections.

The workshop will also include discussion of issues that are important to youth in shaping life and opportunity on Cape Cod. Sara Cushing, a former Board Member of Cape Cod Young Professionals and a Barnstable Town Counselor, will speak on the Shape the Cape report from CCYP and her experience as a Barnstable Town Counselor. We are in the process of contacting additional speakers.

This half-day workshop will be held on October 20 at Cape Cod Community College in the morning. Funding for the workshop will come from the LWV Civic Education Fund of the Cape Cod Foundation. Enrollment is limited to local schools and a maximum of 10 League participants from the Youth Service and Voter Service Committee and Board officers.



A SUMMER SOCIAL ~ OR LEAGUE 101

From Membership Co-Chairs Phyllis Walsh and Matti Ligon

It was a lovely July afternoon at the home of Elaine and Arthur Dickinson in Harwich. A group of about twenty members of the League -- a nice mix of board members and brand-new members, gathered to socialize, learn about our League and share thoughts and ideas about the League's work and how each member can contribute and have an impact.

Membership Chair Phyllis Walsh led a "League 101" seminar ~ providing a history of the LWV as well as its current focus on voter registration, education and the critical issues at local, state and national levels. Several board members spoke of their particular areas of interest/committees they led. After hearing from these committee chairs, most of the new members took advantage of the occasion to sign up to help with committee work. A guest who was not yet a member signed on then and there and offered her expertise on the Communications Committee.

All new members went home with new League buttons, business cards and information folders. *Special thanks go to the Dickinsons for their hospitality, to new Membership Co-Chair Matti Ligon who personally introduced many of our new members to the League and to all the new and old members who made this first "summer social" such a success.*

Warm welcomes to our newest members

Leora Amir and her husband have owned a house in Harwich for seven years although she's been vacationing on the Cape since 1970. She became a full time resident of Harwich three years ago and a resident of MA a month ago when she got her Cape Cod MA license plates. This was a banner day for her since she'd wanted to become a MA resident since she was seventeen. She cried when the RMV person showed her the Cape and Islands plates. Just recently, Leora's husband sold his business in Elmira so he too will be living on the Cape full time.

Leora grew up in NY City until she was eleven when her family moved to upstate NY where she went to high school. At eighteen she registered to vote AND became a member of the League of

P6 -- LWVCCA September 2017

New members continued

Women Voters of Chemung County, where she served on the board for 20 years. After high school she went to Tufts for her Bachelor's and Master's Degrees and to Syracuse University for her Doctorate. She later became an Attorney admitted in the State of NY.

She was a college professor in Elmira NY and a CEO of Joint Education and Training, Inc. (JET) in Elmira. She works part time now because she has a chronically ill daughter who is thirty-three years old. Her other daughter and her husband live in Acton, MA.

Leora is on the board of the Cape Cod Chapter of Ballroom Dancing, is interested in health and nutrition and is a certified health coach.

Leora Amir

8 Somerset Rd.

Harwich, MA 02645

P5 -- LWVCCA September 2017

Membership report continued

Anne Grammer has been involved in politics her whole life. Right now she is part of an organization called Grandmothers' Against Gun Violence. In addition, she's a member of the Democratic Party and costume curator for the Historical Society of Old Yarmouth.

Anne knew the LWV when she lived in Swampscott. She indicated that the league was always an organization she could rely on when she wanted information on candidates and issues. The information was accurate and prompt. We're pleased she is now one of us!

Anne Grammer

22 Amy Lane

Yarmouth Port 02675

Theresa (Terri) Bilodeau was aware of the League of Women Voters back when she grew up in Weymouth ~ "they were the people at the polls during elections". Moving on to earn a B.A. in Fine Arts from Boston University and an M.A. from Boston State College, Terri was a kindergarten teacher in Weymouth for 32 years, retiring in 2007.

Last year, Terri joined a local women's group called Women of Wisdom (WOW) and there met Matti Ligon, who told her about LWVCCA and some of what we are doing here on the Cape. Now Terri is a member of LWVCCA and in July attended the New Member Summer Social.

In light of the outcome of the last election, Terri wants to do something more than march and send postcards, something meaningful which she hoped to do as a League member. As a start, she has joined the legislative team under the leadership of Renate Sands.

P7 -- LWVCCA September 2017

New members continued

Terri has a son living in Northampton, MA, and a daughter with two children living in Bedford, NY.

Some of Terri's other interests include oil painting, reading, music, gardening, traveling, yoga and swimming. She was formerly an avid equestrian. She also chairs a chapter of the Herb Society of America, located in Wellesley.

Terri now lives in Sandalwood Village, a satellite community of New Seabury in Mashpee. She also enjoys spending time at her camp in Westport Island, Maine. A son lives in Northampton and a daughter and two grandchildren live in Bedford, NY.

Theresa (Terri) Bilodeau
97Amos Landing, Mashpee, MA 02649

Laura Samuels joined our league this past summer, at the invitation of Phyllis Walsh. Laura and her husband Ken reside in Southport on Cape Cod, the active adult community in Mashpee, where they retired in 2015.

Born in Brooklyn, NY, Laura moved to Rutherford, NJ in 1978 when she married Ken, a Hoboken, NJ native (and her brother's college roommate). There they raised their son Brian, now a financial planner in Chicago. Brian and his wife Megan are expecting their first child, Wyatt, momentarily. Laura attended Brooklyn College during the activist 1960s, majoring in English (with a concentration in writing). She was president of her house plan an elected member of the Student Government and the first female sports editor of the school newspaper, *Kingsman*.

Upon graduation, she worked as a proofreader and copy editor for Dell Publishing Company in Manhattan. But her desire to write brought her to Cape Cod – which her parents had introduced her to in the summer of 1963 – and a job as reporter/editor for the weekly *Cape Cod News* in Hyannis. From 1972-74, she wrote about news, politics, sports and entertainment on the Cape. She left in September 1974 with a book full of clips and soon landed a job back in New York with McGraw-Hill Publishing Company, editing a magazine called *Today's Secretary*.

For the next 40 years, she earned her living as a journalist and later a corporate communications professional for such companies as Quest Diagnostics, Sun Chemical, Hudson Group and IBM (where she became the first female speechwriter ever).

Laura's sole contact with the League was in college in 1971, when she worked to register fellow students to vote. This was the year that 18-year-olds first gained the franchise. She hopes to renew that voter registration effort again as a member of the League. She is also working with Carlyn Carey of the Communications committee on a LWV "road show" presentation for use with various organizations across Cape Cod.

IN MEMORIAM

Editor's note: Shortly after sending her Membership report, Membership Chair Phyllis Walsh suffered the sudden death of her husband Bill, a brilliant geophysicist. Phyllis and Bill had been married for 56 years and have five children. Our most sincere condolences go to Phyllis and her family. A funeral Mass will be celebrated on Saturday, September 9, with visitation the previous evening. Times and directions can be found at www.ccgfuneralhome.com/obit/dr.-william-p.-walsh.



MARY LOU PETITT
1927 - 2017

LWVMA and Cape Cod lost a passionate, humane and brilliant voice for justice, fairness and equity for all when Mary Lou Petitt died on July 31. As her daughter, Julia Quigley, noted, “I thought about the oyster shell. The oyster produces a beautiful pearl but not until an irritant is produced. She was an irritant that caused change, that caused something greater to happen”.

Since her arrival in Eastham in the mid-eighties Mary Lou had been that irritant who caused change for the greater good. Always concerned about the needs of people she was a founder of Habitat for Humanity, of the Community Development Partnership, of Homeless Prevention Council, of the Children’s Place, of the Lower Outer Cape Community Coalition, of the FLEX bus. She served as Eastham’s member of the Assembly of Delegates for 14 years.

She became a League member while living in New Jersey and continued that involvement here. She served on many committees devoting much of her time in the last few years to our County Government Committee.

Many of us Leaguers feel we have lost a friend and mentor. On a personal note I served with Mary Lou on a number of boards and committees beyond the League. No matter the group, no matter the issue Mary Lou spoke out on forcefully and passionately always on behalf of people in need and she always stuck to her principles. She led the way on so many things.

Our deepest condolences to her family. Her wise counsel, humor and intelligence will be missed by everyone who knew her.

Thanks to Florence Seldin for her remembrance

MEET YOUR NEW LWVCCA BOARD

The following new Board members were elected at the Annual Meeting:

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!)

P10--LWVCCA September 2017

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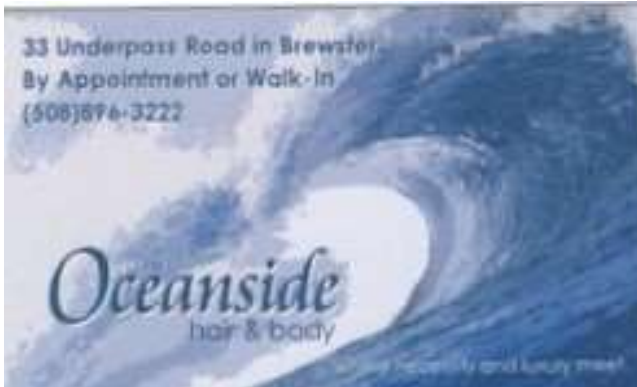
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