

## County Governance Committee

The Committee has continued to observe meetings of the County Commissioners on a weekly basis as well as the meetings of the Assembly of Delegates which meets twice a month. We are the only group in attendance, aside from the press, which in any way represents the citizens they serve. For that reason we encourage our members to join us when possible, for it demonstrates each week to our elected officials an interested and concerned public to whom they are responsible.

A major interest is the compliance with the Open Meeting Law which requires transparency in the work of public officials. The League has addressed the Commissioners frequently calling attention to failures to comply, and the Barnstable Patriot filed a complaint with the Attorney General. We have also urged further work in providing essential information in their agendas and records of activity each month. Procedures have improved considerably. We continue to ask for action to inform the public on county services including a user friendly website and are pleased to report that work has begun on this front.

We have continued to follow implementation of the recommendations made by several organizations for a more effective form of county government, following the League's own consensus on this subject last spring. We have been troubled by lengthy delays in dealing with these recommendations, and by the resolution passed by the Assembly recently calling for a 5 member Board of Commissioners and retaining the 15 member Assembly. The Assembly has appointed a new Charter Review Committee to study all recommendations and prepare legislation for potential action by the state legislature next session. The Committee will monitor these sessions as well. We will be publicizing our concerns and our position on the need for a more effective governing structure in the coming months.

Jari Rapaport, Nancy Curley Co-Chairs