

# **THE CAPE COD VOTER**

VOLUME 54 ISSUE 2

OCTOBER 2013

## **CALENDAR**

**Tuesday, Oct. 1  
9:30 am**

**Board Meeting  
Cape Cod 5 Dennis**

**Thursday, Oct. 10  
6:30 pm**

**Forum  
Tilden Arts Center  
Cape Cod Community College**

**Friday, Oct. 18<sup>th</sup>  
1:30 pm**

**County Committee  
Cape Cod 5 Dennis**

**Don't Miss Our Major Forum**

**Revitalizing Civic Education to  
Empower Youth**

**Presented by the LWVCCA and the LWV of Falmouth  
Co-sponsored by Cape Cod Community College and  
Cape Cod Foundation Youth Action Plan Coalition**

**Thursday Oct.10 2013 Tilden Arts Center  
Cape Cod Community College**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members:

Our fall activities have begun with very interesting and informative programs. Approximately 33 members and guests attended our September Social and Program to hear Anne Van Vleck of Cape Cod Young Professionals talk about the strategic planning that CCYP is conducting to learn more about the factors that affect the decisions that young people make to live on the Cape or exit the Cape. CCYP has grown to be a large organization dedicated to supporting the needs of young people and sustaining resources that will allow them to make the Cape their home. Members agreed that Anne is an excellent speaker and ambassador for CCYP. Thanks go to Marilyn Gullet, Co-Vice President for making all of the facility and food arrangements, and to the set-up team which included Marilyn, Mary Jane Byrne, Co-Vice President, Joan Craig, and Renate and Chuck Sands.

A smaller group of members and guests attended the discussion of alternative septic system strategies for Coast Day at the Massachusetts Alternative Septic System Test Center. George Heufelder, Director of the center was a highly informed and humorous presenter, explaining the science and technology behind each system and its implications for success for homeowners or communities. Who knew that wastewater discussions could be so entertaining?! The weather cooperated and we enjoyed a beautiful day for our field trip and picnic lunch at Ashumet Holly Wildlife Sanctuary. Thanks to Renate Sands and Judy Thomas for arranging this program.

**Our first major forum of the year, “Revitalizing Civic Education to Empower Youth,” is scheduled for October 10 at the Tilden Arts Center at Cape Cod Community College from 6:30 to 8:30 PM.** I first heard our keynote speaker, Dr. Meira Levinson, Associate Professor of Education at Harvard Graduate School of Education speak at the LWVMA State Convention. Fellow attendees Jari Rapaport, Florence Seldin and Judy Thomas agreed that she is an excellent speaker and her message about the need to be more successful in engaging young people in the civic process was dramatically highlighted by her revealing demographic information about current rates of participation. Her first-hand experience with teaching Social Studies at the middle school level in urban communities informs her perspective. Her book, No Citizen Left Behind, offers a carefully reasoned philosophic and experiential perspective as a case for action civics in our schools and in our communities. The panel is rounded out by presentations from two local civics teachers about their experiences, State Representative Vieira about the legislative report, “Renewing the Social Compact,” and a student from Cape Cod Community College sharing her perspective about what schools and colleges can do to be more successful in engaging youth in the civic process.

In planning for this event we have cast a wide net of invitations to local and state elected officials and to community organizations. This is a community conversation not just a school conversation because schools need help in raising the importance of civic education and because the local issues we face offer a community classroom that is ready made for action civics. Through mutual communication we can participate in a school community partnership for civic learning and the Youth Support Committee will continue to support that dialogue.

**I encourage as many members a possible to attend this important forum that is central to our mission as Leaguers of encouraging active participation in democracy. If you would like to come but need a ride, please call or e-mail your League town liaison listed below to seek assistance with car pooling, or using your handbook call a League friend that you know.**

Lastly, I would like to thank all our Town Liaisons for their assistance with communication. This is a new role that we have established and they have already been called into service around communication for our fall events. If you receive a call or an e-mail from a Town Liaison, thank them for the work they are doing because this is our organization's way of making sure that we reach out to our members.

Sincerely,

Karen Mazza

#### TOWN LIAISONS

(All contact information is in the League Handbook)

Barnstable	Phyllis Walsh
Brewster	Claire Gradone
Chatham	Nancy Erskine
Dennis	Rhondda Tewes (Phone only) Karen Mazza
Eastham & Outer Cape	Elizabeth Levy
Harwich	Kathleen Vogt
Orleans	Freddie Fitzgerald, Pam Herrick
Sandwich	Renate Sands
Yarmouth	Jan Hively

**BOARD NOTES - September 2013**

- Renate Sands was elected secretary
- Voted to support LWVMA in its petition drive to get an updated bottle bill on the 2014 ballot to require deposits on all beverage bottles. To be led by Environment Committee
- Agreed to invite LWVMA president to our December Program.
- Program Committee to be established by the Co Vice Presidents and to include reps from committees.
  - Members are participating in the regional wastewater working groups of the CCC developing the county wide plan to meet state requirements for clean water.
  - Health Committee is working on plans for February Forum on mental health.
  - Supported County Committee plan to meet with Cape Cod Times on ways to increase coverage of county government activities.
  - County Committee is planning Forum on County structure following Charter Review Committee report, probably in January.
  - Legislative Committee will promote communication with members on proposed legislation as well as with state and national LWV units and with legislators, and elected officials.

Jari Rapaport, editor

**HELEN S. AARON EDUCATIONAL TRUST  
LWVCCA  
End of Year Report FY 2012-2013**

**Cape Cod 5 Checking**

Beginning Balance 7/1/12		\$4383.62
Income	2690.94	
expense	(2716.20)	
		<u>(25.26)</u>
Ending Balance 6/30/13		\$4358.36

**Cape Cod 5 CD Balances 6/30/13**

#1	\$5882.88	
#2	\$5684.24	
Total	\$11567.12	\$11567.12
	Total Assets 6/30/13	\$15925.4

*Submitted by Debbie Aikman, Treasurer*

## **ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

**Updated Bottle Bill Citizen Petition Drive:** The League's participation with LWVMA and numerous environmental partners is now in full swing. Nine members of LWVCCA have volunteered to gather signatures around the Cape where our League has committed to gathering between 200 and 500 signatures. The petition merely indicates agreement that the question regarding updating the bottle bill of 1983 (which covered only carbonated beverages and beer) should be a question for the voters to determine in the November 2014 election. If passed, the new law would include water, sports drinks, flavored teas, juices and other beverages. The ballot initiative would also re-establish the Clean Environment Fund, directing the state to spend any forfeited 5 cent deposits in improve recycling, help clean up our parks and fund other environmental improvement projects. More information can be found at: [updatedbottlebill@lwwma.org](mailto:updatedbottlebill@lwwma.org)

A huge thank you is extended to our volunteers: Bobbi Greer, Barry Thomas, Debby Ecker, Jari Rapaport, Bonnie Brydges, Chris Meade, Joan Bernstein, Karen Mazza and Judy Thomas.

**Coast Day Report:** About 18-19 persons enjoyed a beautiful morning and a most interesting tour of the Massachusetts Alternative Test Site adjacent to the Otis/MMR site. Of those attending, about 50% were League members and 50% from the public.

George Heufelder, director of the site, explained about 10 of the various projects the site was testing. Vendors apply to have their technology tested at the site and pay for the performance evaluation. The test site tightly controls all aspects of the testing, insuring accuracy and non-partiality. Results are posted on-line. Fees paid by the vendor cover almost all the costs of the test site, although George is part of the County Health Department and he is paid by the County. One aspect of costs to an alternative system that is not always relayed to a potential user is the cost of electricity, another the on-going oversight and maintenance of a technology. In some cases, George said, these can be quite high, especially the electricity.

Following the tour, the League members picnicked at the Ashumet Holly Wildlife Sanctuary – a lovely place for an autumn hike – just off Rt. 151.

Judy Thomas, chair

## **ELECTED OFFICIALS DIRECTORY CHANGES**

Please note that your Handbook listing of elected county officials should be corrected to list Teresa Martin as Deputy Speaker of the Assembly of Delegates as of her election last January

## **COUNTY COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES**

### **Charter Review Information**

The Charter Review Committee has put forward 3 distinct options regarding possible county government restructure for consideration. Three meetings have been scheduled for public comment in October. The Committee presented our consensus position on structure at the first meeting of the Committee. We will provide further commentary at each of the public meetings. Individual league members are encouraged to attend. The options can be found on the County website under Charter Review Committee. The third option calls for a strong Executive and an elected representative board representing districts of nearly equal population. While our position is not as detailed as that option, the general outlines are similar. The current Board of Commissioners and the Assembly of Delegates would be eliminated in both proposals.

The public meetings are scheduled as follows:

- Sandwich (Main) Town Hall, 130 Main St., Wednesday October 2, 2013 at 7 p.m.
- Orleans Town Hall, 19 School St., Wednesday October 9, 2013 at 4:30 p.m.
- First District Courthouse Rt 6A, Barnstable County Complex, Wednesday October 16, 2013 at 5:30 p.m.

The Charter Review Committee aims to make final recommendations in early November to meet conditions for legislative action in the 2014 legislative session. Any recommendations would have to be approved by both the Board of Commissioners and The Assembly of Delegates before being considered by the state legislature. Our County Committee is planning a Forum in January to bring the results of this process to the public and to assess the possible impact on our regional county government.

### **Current County Issues**

We are following with interest the interviews with the 2 finalist candidates for the new position of Interim County Administrator. It is a time limited position because of the possibility of major changes in the duties of the position pending action on recommendations of the Charter Review Committee.

Co-Chair Nancy Curley, with the support of the League Board, is arranging a meeting with Cape Cod Times news staff, as suggested by the CCT editor, to discuss the need for greater public information on county issues and county government.

The Cape Cod Commission and the Board of Commissioners have developed an extensive Joint County Communication Plan which should be very valuable in this effort. County programs and services are a best-kept secret here on the cape. Accurate, timely information for the public is essential to support action to meet the rapidly changing economic, environmental and social issues we face.

Jari Rapaport, Co-chair