
THE CAPE COD VOTER

VOLUME 53 ISSUE 3

NOVEMBER 2012

CALENDAR

Friday, November 2 1:00 pm	Debate, 9th Congressional District Harwich High School
Tuesday, November 13 9:30 am	LWVCCA Board Meeting Cape Cod Five, Dennis
Tuesday, November 13 12 noon	County Committee Meeting TBA
Saturday, December 8 9:30 am	Holiday Brunch The Riverway, S.Yarmouth

Reservations due by Monday December 3rd

ELECTION DAY

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 6, 2012

VOTE

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members,

Our **election activities** have kept us very busy during the months of September and October. We registered voters, sponsored 3 candidate debates, and provided a forum on Ballot Question #2. If you have not seen the debate among County Commissioner candidates or the Health Forum on Ballot Question #2 they are playing on Channel 99 every day until the election. Just go to www.capemedia.org and click on Today's Schedule to see when they will be broadcasting these forums on that day. The debate that was held in Sandwich for the 5th Barnstable State Representative Seat and the Barnstable Sandwich State Senate Seat is airing on Sandwich Community TV. Thank you to all of our League members who made these events so successful.

Thank you also to the 47 members who responded to our **survey**. We will be analyzing the results at our next Board Meeting and using the results to inform our planning. I will share those results in our next edition of the Voter.

I would like to invite you to our **December Social/Program** to be held at The Riverway Restaurant in South Yarmouth on December 8. This is a great opportunity to visit with League members, talk about what's happening in the League and listen to an interesting program that will be presented by one of our own newer members, Jan Hively. Jan is a long time member of the League and recently relocated to the Cape after a very interesting career in public service in Minnesota. Please read the description of the program later in this newsletter and do come.

As I write this letter we are all preparing for the upcoming storm that "Sandy" will bring to the northeast. We know the drill: prepare ahead of time, weather the storm as best we can, come together to repair the damage following the storm. There are analogies here for these final days before the election. We know that there will be a flurry of activity, and then the waiting, followed by the inevitable aftermath of healing divisions brought on by the polarized nature of politics today. As we work to heal those divisions, **it is my hope and aspiration that as League members we can play a significant role in helping people come together.** We need to forge new ways to educate and engage the community in collective dialogue about our common interests in the political and social compact that binds our future together. I believe this is a worthy goal and I invite your thoughts and participation.

Sincerely,

Karen Mazza

BOARD NOTES - OCTOBER 2012

- The motion to appoint Renate Sands as Secretary was carried.
- Due to our heavy schedule the board decided not to participate in LWVMA phonathon asking for contribution to the state office.
- The debate between the candidates vying for state representative and state senator of the 5th district will be held at Sandwich High School on Oct 17, 2012 in conjunction with the Cape Cod Times.
- Since no debate has been scheduled for the County Commissioner's race, Judy Thomas will investigate the possibility of doing a taped debate with Community TV.
- The forum "Prescribing Medication to End Life" will be held Oct. 20, 2012 at the Barnstable Senior Center.
- The County Committee: The Commissioners will take no action on recommendations of the Special Commission on County Government re County structure will be taken until after the elections. The Committee has proposed that making the County website more user friendly would be a major step in improving communication with the public
- Youth Outreach: The Cape Cod Foundation strategic plan on youth will restart in October.
- A motion to drop the \$35.00 introductory membership was proposed. The board decided further analysis was necessary before a final decision could be made.
- Three new members have joined: Marilyn Gullett, Christine Hart and Ellen Endris.
- The Ed Trust asked that requests for funding be submitted in advance, if possible, to help with budgeting.

COUNTY COMMITTEE

The Committee met in October to review the current status of action on the Special Commission recommendations on County structure and to follow up on our previous suggestions for action to improve the County's communication to the public. There is concern that no action has been taken on most of the recommendations, nor has there been action on the recommendations of the consulting company which was hired to conduct a study in 2011. The Commissioners have now embarked on hiring a consultant to help frame the required strategic plan for the next 5 years. We are unaware of any report on action on the last 5 year plan.

We agreed to prepare a brief statement on the need to follow through on response to the recommendations, and to issue a report on what has happened to date. We will also continue to urge attention to communication including the need for a user friendly website, since this is something that could be done without delay. This would be presented at the next meeting of the Board of Commissioners. We learned a few days after our meeting that the Commissioner's meeting for October 30th was cancelled and the next meeting will be on Nov.7, after the election. Our Committee will meet again immediately following the Board meeting on Nov.13. We plan to meet at a local Dennis restaurant at lunch time. Interested League members can contact Jari Rapaport at jari2@comcast.net for more specifics.

Jari Rapaport. Co-chair

VOTER SERVICE

Voter Service wrapped its three candidate forums into one day – Wednesday, October 17th. The morning involved a Cape Cod Community TV candidate forum in the organizations new facility on Shad Hole Road in Dennis. This forum was co-sponsored with the Barnstable Patriot and featured Editor David Still II as one of the questioners, along with County Committee co-chair, Nancy Curley and Voter Service chair, Judy Thomas. Candidates were Mary Pat Flynn, Sheila Lyons and Eric Steinhilber.

In the evening, regarding Beacon Hill and the State House, the lack of contested elections meant that the League's efforts were focused on the western end of the Cape and took place in Sandwich. Once again the Cape Cod Times was a terrific working partner. Opinion page editor Bill Mills provided positive opinion on the format and suggested a new aspect of candidate dialog for 6 minutes at the end of the debate. The "double header" forum featuring candidates Randy Hunt and Patrick Ellis for the 5th Barnstable Rep seat and Tom Keyes and Therese Murray for the Barnstable Plymouth Senate District seat brought well over one hundred supporters and "undecided" to hear the issues discussed. Heather Wysocki of the Times and the audience provided numerous questions for both debates. The forum was moderated by member Emily Hannah of Orleans.

Other League helpers were Betsy Bray, Phyllis Walsh, Barbara Wellnitz (who will be taking over as Voter Service chair), Renate Sands, Karen Miller, Karen Mazza, Nancy Curley, Jari Rapaport and Emily Hannah. A team effort got the job done. Thanks to all.

Judy Thomas

SUCCESSFUL FORUM

On October 20th the Health Care Committee conducted an educational forum on the ballot question #2, "Prescribing Medication to End Life", a "Law Proposed by Initiative Petition" which will appear on the ballot on election day, Nov. 6th. About one hundred people attended.

An outstanding panel of experts addressed the medical, legal, and medical ethical issues involved. Rebekah Gewirtz, Director of Government Relations for the National Association of Social Workers, represented Dignity 2012, the sponsor of the ballot measure. Dr. Maryanne C. Bombaugh, who is practicing in Falmouth and Chair of the Committee on Legislation of the Massachusetts Medical Society and former president of the Barnstable Medical Society, presented the Massachusetts Medical Society's position. David Rehm, president and CEO of HopeHealth (formerly known as Hospice & Palliative Care of Cape Cod) discussed the intersection of palliative care and death with dignity. Last but hardly least, Dr. Marc D. Silverstein, recently retired as Chief Decision Scientist at the Institute for Clinical and Economic Review at Massachusetts General Hospital after a long history in medical ethics and currently serving on the Ethics Committee of Cape Cod Hospital, analyzed the decision process involved in medical ethics.

Following their presentations, the panelists answered questions from the audience submitted in writing for about 45 minutes. The Cape Cod Community Media Center taped the forum and will broadcast several times before the election on Channels 99 and 19.

DECEMBER 8 BRUNCH AND PROGRAM

Please join us for our all membership **Holiday Brunch**. This is a wonderful time to meet League members and enjoy an interesting program. Our speaker will be League Member Jan Hively who will speak on the topic of "Using Skills Learned through the LWV to Build Community."

Jan was former Planning Director and Deputy Mayor of Minneapolis, Minnesota. She is co-founder of Minnesota non-profits including: Vital Aging Network, Minnesota Creative Arts and Aging Network and SHiFT, Inc. The SHiFT network supports people in mid-life transitions who seek greater meaning in life and work. Jan earned her PhD in Education for Work and Community from the University of Minnesota, where her dissertation focused on "Productive Aging in Rural Minnesota". She has continued her focus on lifework planning for positive aging with national and international organizations.

DECEMBER HOLIDAY BRUNCH

**You are cordially invited to attend the
Holiday Brunch of the League of Women Voters of Cape Cod Area**

SATURDAY, December 8, 2012

9:30 A.M.

Brunch Buffet

**Fresh Fruit, Pastries, Quiche, French Toast, Bacon, Sausage,
Coffee, Tea and Juice**

THE RIVERWAY LOBSTER HOUSE

Route 28, S. Yarmouth

Speaker: Jan Hively

The Riverway Lobster House was the venue for our Annual Meeting. Since the feedback for this venue was so favorable, we've chosen it for our holiday brunch. The environment was comfortable, the food was delicious and the parking was ample.

The cost of the brunch is **\$15**, the same as the cost for our May annual meeting brunch. The deadline for reservations is **Monday, December 3**. The reservation form and where to send it is shown below.

Attendees are invited to bring a wrapped "shelf" book* to share in a holiday grab bag.

***Shelf book – a book you have read or will read from your shelf that you would like to pass on to someone else.**

Directions to: Riverway Lobster House, 1338 Route 28, South Yarmouth,
Take Exit 8 Station Ave. from Route 6 toward Yarmouth

Drive south 2.1 miles to Main St. and go .04 miles.

Make a second right onto Rt. 28.

Riverway Lobster House will be .03 miles on the right.

Note: The Riverway Lobster House is around the corner from the Cultural Center in South Yarmouth.

Coupon

The breakfast including tax and gratuity is \$15.00 per person. Please make your check payable to LWVCCA and return this coupon with your check, no later than Monday, December 3, 2012, to:

Ira Seldin, 321 Deer Meadow Rd., N. Chatham, MA 02633

YES! I'll be there. My \$15 check is enclosed.

High lights of the LWVMA Leadership Luncheon on Saturday, October 13

Karen Mazza and I attended the LWVMA Leadership Luncheon on Saturday, Oct. 13. Here are some highlights.

LWV Concord-Carlisle "Democracy in the Balance" Project - There is a DVD and a discussion kit, "Pushing Back on Money in Politics", produced as the result of a Concord/Carlisle LWV May 2012 public forum on this topic. Karen and I are reviewing this material for potential use with our membership. Lawrence Lessig, the main speaker at the May 2012 public forum in Concord, is also available for public forums. His availability is January to May. He's booked until the end of this year.

LWVMA Program Planning - One of the members of the state board reviewed the LWVMA program planning process prior to state convention on **May 17-18, 2012**. Our league will receive a Program Planning Guide with a requested response to this guide by **February 1, 2013**. The responses will be consolidated. The state board will then make their program recommendation to local leagues for the upcoming biennium by **April 5, 2013**, six weeks before LWVMA convention. Local leagues can submit recommendations for changes to this material by **April 23, 2013**. Delegates will then vote to adopt the LWVMA program for the next two years at **state convention**.

Education Grant Program - There were four leagues that applied for and obtained grants from the LWVMA Lotte E. Scharfman Citizen Education Fund. Thanks to Joan Bernstein's leadership, our league was one of them. See the four leagues below with the amount granted:

- Brookline: Brookline Votes 2012, \$250
- LWV Westford: Town Meeting and Special Town Meeting Warrant Reviews (\$80)
- **LWV Cape Cod Area: Public Educational Forum on MA Ballot Question 2 (\$250)**
- LWV Worcester Area: New Citizen Education and Registration (\$245)

The next deadline for filing an application grant is January 3, 2013.

LWVMA Website - Watch for a new and improved LWVMA website after the first of the year.

Tools for A Local League Board - One of the off board members reviewed a Local League Vitality and Training Self-Assessment Tool which is designed to help local league boards evaluate their goals and identify areas needing improvement. She said her board used this tool recently and found it very helpful. Karen and I have a copy of this assessment tool.

If you have questions or want more information about the October 13 LWVMA Leadership Luncheon, please e-mail me at walshpf@comcast.net.

Phyllis Walsh, Vice President

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Betsy Bray, Membership Co chair, participated in a volunteer fair sponsored by the Brewster Ladies Library on October 20. The event was well organized with about 15 booths from many organizations across the Cape. Betsy gave out about 10 membership brochures and used her I Pad to show potential members the LWVCCA web site so that she could talk about the LWV goals and activities. She was joined by three LWVCCA members: Claire Gradone, Daryl Bladen and Alyce Favreau who were representing other organizations.

WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBER

Christine Hart, Chatham, has lived on and off-Cape but was raised on Cape Cod and is a Chatham High School alumna. She has been active in AFS (American Field Service) Intercultural Exchange and she and her family have hosted eight students over the years. It was a wonderful experience for them, helping her daughters to think globally, and giving Chris and her husband 'sons and daughters' in many corners of the world. Her interests are many, including politics which she finds both interesting and frustrating. She thinks the League is great for educating students about issues and the need to vote. An RN, Chris also has a great interest in Health Issues and Federal Education. She looks forward to participating in the LWVCCA.