

THE CAPE COD VOTER

VOLUME 53 ISSUE 2

OCTOBER 2012

CALENDAR

Tuesday, October 2
9:30 am

LWVCCA Board Meeting
Cape Cod 5

Thursday, October 4
5:00 to 7:00 pm

Membership, Social Program
Cobblestone Landing Clubhouse
Hyannis

Saturday, October 20
10:00 am
Hyannis

Health Care Forum
Barnstable Senior Center

Monday, October 22
1:30 pm

County Committee
Cape Cod 5, Dennis

CANDIDATE DEBATES

Wednesday, October 10
7:00 pm

9th Congressional District
Duxbury Senior Center
Plymouth Area

LWV Sponsor

Wednesday, October 17
6:30 pm

5th State Rep. District *and*
Barnstable/Sandwich Sen.Dist.
Sandwich High School
LWVCCA/Cape Cod Times Sponsors

See Voter Service Page for More Details
OCTOBER 17----- LAST DAY TO REGISTER TO VOTE

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members,

Your LWVCCA Board is interested in learning about ways that we can be responsive to the needs of our existing members and to prospective members. We would like to hear from you about your interests and the ways that you would like to be involved in League activities. There are several ways that we would like to hear from you.

First, we are sponsoring our kick-off general membership meeting for October 4, from 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM and we look forward to meeting with you over food and conversation and a special program to hear Dr. John Cox, the new President of Cape Cod Community College. We have specifically chosen this after work time to meet the needs of our newer members. We are supporting carpooling for people who need a ride. Please see the description and directions that were sent to you by e-mail and that are also located in this newsletter.

Second, we will be sending a survey to our membership via e-mail sometime during the month of October to elicit feedback. When you receive it, please complete it and return your form to us.

Third, I would call your attention to the Member Handbook, specifically pages 12-13 and pages 18 -24 to identify ways that you can be involved in supporting League activities. Call or e-mail your interests or questions to the contact people that are listed or to me at lwvccapres2012@gmail.com. We are also still seeking members who are willing to share responsibility with another member for representing their town or Unit in the League. We have created a support structure for people serving in that role to make it an easier role. Towns or Units still needing a representative are Brewster, Orleans, Barnstable, Dennis, Yarmouth, and the Sandwich Unit. I would be happy to answer questions about this role from anyone who might be interested.

In closing, I will mention that while registering young people to vote I recently met several young people who proudly told me they were registered and they sported their labels that said their vote counted. I also met a few young people who said, “I don’t really follow politics and I don’t feel that I should vote if I am not informed.” Educating the public about our civic responsibilities and our commitments to each other is important work. As League members we know that democracy is not a spectator sport. I welcome your involvement.

In League,
Karen Mazza

BOARD NOTES – September 4, 2012

President's Goals: Karen Mazza reported 2 predominant goals for the presidency, in response to her request to the Board. They were: (1) fostering membership growth, involvement and commitment and (2) outreach to the public, increasing visibility through calling attention to the organization and its activities and fund raising.

October General Membership Meeting: See article on page 3.

December Holiday Gathering: The event will be held at Riverway Restaurant in Yarmouth on Saturday, December 8.

Unit Structure: There was a lengthy discussion of the role of units, relationship to localities and leadership job descriptions. There was discussion as well of a newly proposed "Program Committee" to assist leaders. As result a proposal was adopted to modify the current structure and develop the new Program Committee proposal.

Voter Service Committee Report: See article in this Voter issue.

Environment Committee: Judy Thomas reported on actions related to current wastewater issues and potential committee follow- through on education and support for credible solutions.

Membership Committee: Betsy Bray reported that The League had 113 total members in 2011-2012. Twenty one came in on the introductory rate, Including 8 from Sandwich. As of September we have 93 members. Eight "introductory" members renewed, including 3 from Sandwich. A motion was made to drop the introductory rate. However, this action can only be taken at our annual meeting in 2013 and it was decided to plan for fuller discussion at a later meeting. Betsy also reported that she and Joan Grant are working with Survey Monkey, a tool to take on line surveys to ascertain member's interests, preferences for meeting times, etc. All members are urged to respond when the survey arrives.

Public Relations/Website: Harriet Klebanoff has set up a "members" only page on the League website. It will require a password, and membership will be informed when this occurs.

Fundraising/Program Committee: Karen requested suggestions for persons to serve on Fundraising or the Program Committee be sent to her as soon as possible.

Jari Rapaport, Co-Editor and Judy Thomas, Secretary Pro-tem

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP KICKOFF MEETING AND PROGRAM

October 4, 2012, 5:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M.

Cobblestone Landing Clubhouse in Hyannis

Our kickoff meeting for the 2012-2013 LWVCCA season will be a potluck of appetizers, wine, non-alcoholic beverages and dessert. This is an opportunity to welcome our newer members and to help all our members greet each other as we move ahead this year. The meeting agenda will also provide the opportunity for our members, especially our newest, to share their interests and the kinds of activities and programs they would like to see develop and participate in. The League program is always evolving!

In addition, we will have Dr. John Cox, new President of Cape Cod Community College. Dr. Cox came to the college in July 2012 from Harford Community College in Maryland where he was Vice President for Finance, Operations and Government Relations. He has been a leader in the national sustainability movement and facilitated substantial expansion of environmental sustainability initiatives at Harford College.

There is no charge for this event; however, a reservation is required so that we can plan for the potluck. Our board members are bringing appetizer/finger food, and we ask other members to bring something to share for dessert, and/or a beverage. Please e-mail your reservation with what you're bringing to Phyllis Walsh at walshpf@comcast.net. If you need to car pool, let Phyllis know and she will help arrange it.

Lastly, and of great importance, please invite a friend who might be interested in our League activities.

We look forward to seeing you, your guests and to welcoming Dr. Cox.

Directions from Rt. 6, Exit 6:

1. Drive 1.4 miles south on 132 toward Hyannis until you reach Phinney's Lane on your right.
2. Turn right onto Phinney's Lane.
3. Drive .3 miles to a development on the left called Cobblestone Landing, Nantucket Village.
4. Turn left into the entrance and follow Sunnywood Drive bearing to the right until it ends at Centerboard.
5. Turn left onto Centerboard and go .1 miles to Clubhouse Drive on the right.
6. Turn right onto Clubhouse Drive and the Clubhouse will be at the end. Park your cars perpendicular to the lawn so there will be ample parking for everyone. The Handicap accessible entrance is on the left.

Directions from Rt. 28 and Phinney's Lane in Centerville:

Driving east on Rt. 28 after the Bell Tower Mall, turn left at Phinney's Lane stop light.

Drive 1/6 miles to Cobblestone Landing, Nantucket Village.

Turn right off Phinney's Lane into the Cobblestone Landing, Nantucket Village entrance and follow Sunnywood Drive bearing to the right until it ends at Centerboard.

Follow steps 5 and 6 above.

OCTOBER FORUM

On October 20th the Health Care Committee has arranged 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. The forum will begin at 10 am at the Barnstable Senior Center, 825 Falmouth Road (Rte. 28), Hyannis (south side of road about 1 and ½ miles west of the airport rotary, next to the Barnstable Middle School where additional parking is available).

To address the medical, legal, and ethical issues involved, a power house panel will speak: **Rebekah Gewirtz**, Director of Government Relations, National Association of Social Workers, representing Dignity 2012, the sponsor of the ballot measure; **Maryanne C. Bombaugh, M.D., MS.**, Chair of the Committee on Legislation of the Massachusetts Medical Society and former president of the Barnstable Medical Society; **David Rehm**, president and CEO of HopeHealth (formerly known as Hospice & Palliative Care of Cape Cod); and **Marc D. Silverstein, M.D.**, Ethics Committee member, Cape Cod Hospital.

Following their presentations, the panelists will answer questions from the audience submitted in written form on cards provided. Come at 9:30, to read a summary of the ballot question and to draft your own question. The program starts promptly at 10. The forum is open to the public, so bring your friends and neighbors.

Joan Bernstein, Chair

Welcome to Our New Member

Marilyn Gullett, South Yarmouth, moved to the Cape 3 1/2 years ago from Abilene, Texas where she lived for 10 years. She was involved with many volunteer activities, was a member of the ACLU Board of Texas, and worked with four other women to establish a Planned Parenthood clinic in Abilene. Prior to that, she lived in San Francisco, California for 30 years where she was a social worker for abused children and then a real estate broker. She is married with two adult children.

She has always been interested in politics and is concerned with the distortion and misinformation that abounds today, driven by the technology available to everyone. She is interested in doing whatever she can to encourage people to vote and to be informed on the issues and the candidates. She has already helped us register new voters!

VOTER SERVICE

Election time is always a busy time for the Voter Service arm of the League. It is never more busy than it is in a presidential election year! Our president Karen Mazza has had many calls on the League phone line with election related questions. Many League members have answered the call to help with Voter Registration events and debates.

REGISTRATION: On September 19th Karen and I worked the table with the students at Cape Cod Community College. It was a fascinating experience as we asked if student were registered – maybe about half answered yes. Out of the “No” answers we were only able to get 8 registered with two other students taking registration forms with them. Talking with the students, light-heartedly but also seriously challenging them to become involved was not always rewarding, but always very interesting. The experience confirmed for me the need for more civic education in high school. Some had no knowledge of the electoral college; one didn’t want to register because he thought it would lead to jury duty. Telling him it was not voter registration that led to that but his driver’s license did not change his “no” response. I came away feeling there must be more ways we can try to serve this population to help prepare them and interest them in participation in democracy.

On Sept. 25th the League held a drive in front of Trader Joe’s and next to the Christmas Tree Shop in Hyannis. Volunteers included: Betsy Bray, Marilyn Gullett, Nancy Curley, Phyllis Walsh, Mary Jane Byrne and Carroll Adams. Also on the 25th, National Voter Registration Day, we helped register voters at Harbor Community Health in Hyannis. Volunteers here included Debbie Todd, Karen Mazza (who made the arrangements), Pam Herrick, Mary Jane Byrne and Kathy Schatzberg. Much appreciation is extended to them for their volunteer efforts.

The deadline for registration is October 17th. Continue to ask newcomers to the Cape and others to register!

LOCAL ELECTION ACTIVITY: Politically on the Cape it has been an unusual time. Among all our reps and our two state senators there are only two contested elections: **the 5th Barnstable State Rep and the Barnstable Sandwich State Senate District. October 17 at Sandwich High School at 6:30pm** is the time and the place where we will co-sponsor debates between the candidates for those seats: first between Rep. Randy Hunt -R and his challenger Patrick Ellis -D ; and the second debate between

Senator Therese Murray -D and her challenger - Tom Keyes R. Once again our partner in sponsorship is the Cape Cod Times.

There is another local race of importance. There are three candidates for County Commissioner: Mary Pat Flynn -D, Sheila Lyons -D, and challenger Eric Steinhilber -R.

The **9th Congressional District** race includes Congressman William Keating - D and challengers Christopher Sheldon -R and Daniel Botelho -Independent. The Plymouth Area League is sponsoring a debate featuring these three on **October 10 at 7 p.m. at the Duxbury Senior Center**, 10 Mayflower Street, Duxbury.

There are three important **ballot questions**. Secretary of State Galvin's *Information for Voters* is helpful in providing the essential information and was mailed to all voters. Our issue forum on October 20 at the Barnstable Senior Center will deal with question 2. Become informed on all the candidates, the issues and

VOTE!

Judy Thomas, Voter Service Chair

National and Senate Candidates Debates to watch for:

- | | |
|------------|--|
| October 1 | Senator Scott Brown- Elizabeth Warren Debate at UMass Dartmouth
The LWVCCA is invited to watch at the 4C's, the same space as our
Legislative Breakfast in the Tech Building |
| October 3 | First Presidential Debate --Domestic Issues |
| October 11 | Vice-Presidential Debate |
| October 16 | Second Presidential Debate Domestic and Foreign Policy |
| October 22 | Third Presidential Debate Foreign Policy |

Coast Day - 2012

The Coast Day visit to the National Seashore's Highlands Center fascinated all who made the trip. The focus was the "Aerosol Project", funded by the Department of Energy's Atmospheric Radiation measurement (ARM) Climate Research Facility. This mobile facility is sited at the Center from June 2012 to June 2013. The facility includes nearly 2 dozen instruments for monitoring such things as clouds, aerosols (all particles in the air) and atmospheric radiation. In addition aircraft take periodic similar measurements at a specific site over the ocean and weather balloons are sent up 4 hours, 6 times a day.

We watched the launch as the biodegradable balloon spiraled up and up till out of view. They reach about 30,000 feet and typically burst somewhere in the Chatham vicinity.

Especially interesting was the fact that this or a similar installation spends a year in such other countries as Brazil and India. All this data can be used by the international community for understanding the climate and changes on our earth.

Highlands Center itself was also most interesting. It is the remains of a former air force station originally developed to monitor activity off the eastern coast. It is on the dunes, overlooking the ocean, feeling far removed from all else. There is also a non-profit partner, Highlands Center Inc. which does fund raising and helps to develop special use for the site. In addition to the facility we saw, the site includes Payomet Performing Arts Center and the Truro Center for the Arts has installed a wood burning Kiln for its ceramic programs.