

# **THE CAPE COD VOTER**

VOLUME 54 ISSUE 9

MAY 2014

## **CALENDAR**

TUESDAY, MAY 6  
9:30 am

LWVCCA BOARD MEETING  
CAPE COD 5- DENNIS

THURSDAY, MAY 8  
5:00 pm

ANNUAL MEETING  
COBBLESTONE LANDING

SATURDAY, MAY 10  
10:00 am

LWVMA STATE COUNCIL  
FRAMINGHAM, MA

**COME CELEBRATE AT**

**OUR ANNUAL MEETING**

**MAY 8!!!**

Look Inside for Annual Reports, New Member Profiles, League Support Action,  
And Send In Your Annual Meeting Response Coupon!

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### Dear Members:

**The Year in Review:** Our May issue of the Voter provides a year in review look at our LWVCCA activities. It has been a very productive year and my thanks go to all of our committee members, officers and directors on the LWVCCA Board, and trustees on the Board of the Helen S. Aaron Educational Trust for all of your work in helping to plan and organize the events and services that our organization provides to Cape Cod. Thank you also to our faithful members who have attended so many of these events. This year we provided three forums on the important topics of Revitalizing Civic Education, Mental Health Parity and The Cape Cod Wastewater Challenge. We found a new way to celebrate Coast Day with a field trip to the Barnstable County Wastewater Test Site. We collected petitions to place the updated bottle bill on the State ballot. We heard presentations from Anne Van Vleck of the Cape Cod Young Professionals at our September opening meeting and from Anne Borg, Co-President of LWVMA at our December Holiday Brunch. Our legislative outreach included our March Legislative Luncheon with our State Legislators, and distribution of the revised Legislative Directory. We faithfully followed the Barnstable County Charter Review process and continued to be a public voice for regional planning. We supported a voter registration drive at Cape Cod Community College. In April and May we will be moderating local elections debates. In sum, this is a wide breadth of important educational and voter service activities and we should all be very proud of our combined efforts. Congratulations to everyone involved.

**Celebrate at our May 8 Annual Meeting!** After all of that hard work we should celebrate and enjoy each other's company. Annual Meeting is May 8 at Cobblestone Landing in Hyannis from 5:00 to 7:00 PM. A light supper will be provided. We will celebrate our 50 year members and our new members. **Remember to bring the Annual Meeting Workbook that I e-mailed to all members in April.** If you do not have it e-mail me ([lwvccapres2012@gmail.com](mailto:lwvccapres2012@gmail.com)) and I will send you another one. If you have not sent your check to Ira yet, please do so.

**Congratulations to Two Members!** LWVCCA has been blessed to have the long time support and leadership of two beloved members, Freddie FitzGerald and Jari Rapaport. Apparently other organizations feel equally blessed by their service because this spring both Freddie and Jari have been selected as honorees. Freddie is being honored for her long time service to the Lower Cape Outreach Council at a dinner on May 23. Jari was honored in April by the Community Development Partnership for excellence in community service in the lower cape. Congratulations to both of you and thank you for everything that the two of you do to support LWVCCA.

**See you on May 8<sup>th</sup>!      Karen Mazza**

## BOARD NOTES - April 1, 2014

- A total of 34 members attended the Legislative Lunch.
- Ira Seldin reported that the balance as of 3/31/14 was \$7,168.99.
- The board approved amending Article VIII Sec 1. Nominating Committee to read as follows:

*The nominating committee shall consist of four members: Two members from the Board of Directors and two from the general membership. The two general membership persons shall be elected at the Annual meeting. (The amendment reduces the number of people on the committee from 5 to 4 eliminating one general membership person.)*

- The League supports the Cape Cod Commission and encouraged members to attend town meetings and speak against the any petitions seeking town withdrawal. The County Committee has developed a letter which members can use to advocate which summarizes the history, accomplishment and benefits of the Cape Cod Commission.
- The following programs have been suggested for 2014/2015.
  - July – “1776” play at the Cape Play House in Dennis.
  - September – General Meeting – speaker on “Plymouth Pilgrim Power Plant”
  - December – speaker for the holiday lunch
  - January – coffee – Discussion of the LWVMA Study Report on money in politics
  - February – film – Robert Reich “Income Inequality”
- The Annual Meeting will be held May 8, 2014. The candidate debate in Dennis will be moderated by Judy Thomas on April 30. Barbara Wellnitz will moderate the Chatham candidate night on April 28. Time keepers and card sorters are needed for both events. Please contact Barbara if you are available.
- A moderator training session will be held in May or June. Please contact Barbara if you would like to participate in that session: 508-896-2023, [bwellnitz@comcast.net](mailto:bwellnitz@comcast.net).
- The board approved the following dues changes which will be presented at the Annual meeting for approval.

Single membership	\$55
Household (two members)	\$85
Assisted single membership*	\$30

\*This represents a reduced amount available to those who wish to be active in the LWVCCA but for whom the full amount would be an impediment to joining.

Renate Sands, Secretary

## **LWVCCA HIGHLIGHT : NEW MEMBERS**

Joan Craig of the Membership Committee has interviewed 2 new members in this issue and will continue interviews with others next month.

### **Diane Suhm**

Diane Suhm is a community organizer and networker who has been building bridges of understanding from a multi-faceted, multi-cultural perspective. Originally from Wisconsin, she gained a global perspective when her parents moved the family to Indonesia, where her father worked for the United Nations, and then to Mexico. After several years in each location, the family settled in Florida. While there, Diane earned a Business degree, began a career in crisis intervention, parent education, and community development, and eventually went on to study International Relations and Law. Seven years ago she married and moved to Cape Cod to join her husband, an oceanographer at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI), and five years ago they settled in East Sandwich.

While in graduate school, Diane interned in Nepal, where she developed recommendations for national best-practice standards of discipline for facilities housing survivors of human trafficking – recommendations that were later implemented in Nepal, India and Thailand. She also interned at the International Bar Association, where she researched and wrote about human rights issues and wrote grant proposals, garnering \$250,000 for a joint project with an international criminal tribunal. Later, she would become the managing legal editor for a web-based university course in human rights law

After moving to the Cape, Diane volunteered as an immigration and asylum lawyer in the Boston area. She also started a social justice group at the Unitarian Church in Barnstable, which hosts a monthly film and discussion series to raise awareness and inspire action on issues with local and global significance, from environmental degradation and pollution to gender and income disparity. Several years ago, she chaired a cluster of Unitarian Universalist churches, which collaborated with a variety of local and national organizations to host a regional conference about water justice.

Diane has always been inspired by nature. But it was on Cape Cod that she became a passionate gardener. This year she is training to become a Master Gardener with the Cooperative Extension service, and this spring she will be certified in Permaculture Design, which stresses sustainable agriculture by connecting to the land – working with, rather than against, nature. She hopes to combine and develop her skills to promote economic and environmental wellbeing on Cape Cod.

A lover of travel, Diane has occasional opportunities to reach out to areas less travelled, including occasional research trips with WHOI and her husband. She has been able to meet with folks in Latin America and Asia and learned how local, organic farming is doing worldwide. (She found they are also facing pressure from agribusinesses and economic disparity.)

In closing, Diane hopes to learn more about politics on Cape Cod and, with her diverse background, she is eager to learn and to offer her expertise as a new member of LWVCCA. We welcome Diane to an organization that will certainly be a good fit for her beliefs and her passions.

## **Kay Bryce**

Chatham resident Kay Bryce grew up in the South, where her father was a hospital administrator and her mother a nurse. She spent a better part of her earlier years in Charleston, South Carolina, where she graduated from the College of Charleston with degrees in English and Biology. Kay went on to the Medical University of South Carolina, earning her degree in Pharmacy. She has been a practicing pharmacist since

Kay may look familiar to many of you. She retired in September of 2013, having been the pharmacy manager at Stop & Shop in Harwich for fourteen years. Kay was the clinical coordinator for the Stop & Shop Supermarket Company, and on the teaching faculty of the American Pharmacist Association where she was a national immunization trainer. She is quite proud of the fact that the Stop & Shop Pharmacy in Harwich jump started the immunization program, initially immunizing over a 1000 individuals for shingles or flu.

Kay met her husband James in South Carolina where their twins, Thomas and Sarah, were born. They spent many summers in Chatham in the family home, and in 1992, they made the decision to move permanently to Chatham. A third child, Asa, was born here. Thomas is currently studying for an Engineering Degree at Wentworth Institute in Boston, while Sarah is in graduate school at the University of Chicago at the school of social services and administration. Asa is study at the Eastham School of Music in Rochester, New

The musical talents extend to husband James, who is a professional musician, with a specialty in banjo. His band performs locally, but he also played at Carnegie Hall for the *Your Father's Moustache* Reunion. James also is a collector and dealer of high-end banjos, dating back to the late 1800s. James is also a professional pilot and flying instructor.

One of Kay's favorite pastimes is shell fishing. She finds it a peaceful transition from her busy life. She is a fair-weather fisherman and gets her limit every week, and she enjoys sharing her clams with friends and neighbors.

Kay is on the Chatham Charter Review Committee, which has been meeting twice a month over the past year, and their goal is to bring recommendations to Town Meeting in 2015. Along with Charter Review, she is on the Board of the Monomoy Theater, an organization that the family has been involved with for years. Kay and James have hosted theater members as well as individuals associated with the Chatham Anglers, and they plan to continue that tradition. She states, "It's easy to be involved, if you want to be."

Kay refers to herself as a "political nerd" and has mentored her children about the importance of voting, "If you don't vote, you can't complain." She is putting forth an article for spring Town Meeting regarding the Grange property in Chatham. Kay is looking to add her expertise in the healthcare profession to work with the League on issues concerning the healthcare system. Of concern is the lack of civility she finds in current town politics, and the polarization within groups. She credits her friendships and counsel from some of our senior League members in helping her to cultivate her skills going forward, and she hopes to learn from their experiences. Please welcome Kay to the LWVCCA, and introduce yourselves when next you meet.

## **ANNUAL REPORTS**

### **HELEN S. AARON EDUCATION TRUST**

The major work of the Trustees for 2013-2014 was the review and eventual amending of Article III – Board of Trustees of the Trust Agreement. The number of trustees was reduced from eleven to seven including the two *ex officio* trustees. All amendments, current and former, were incorporated into the new document with indication of the year amended included. To further ease use of the document a summary of the document was created as well as a new list of “common practices.” The Trust provided funds for the Civic Education Forum, the Health Care Forum, and the Wastewater Challenge forum. Funding was approved for the “off-year” but needed update of the Directory of Elected Officials because of new officials and errors and for the purchase of a second LWVCCA banner which is used at all forums and candidate debates. Florence Seldin was appointed Emeritus Advisor for the 2014-2016 cycle, Laura Kahkonen declined to serve a second term. Trustees elected to serve for the 2014-2016 cycle are Debbie Aikman, Phyllis Helfrich, and Richard Utt. Continuing on in their terms, due to expire in 2015 are President Judy Thomas, Secretary Nancy Curley. Richard Utt was elected treasurer. The Trustees thank Debbie Aikman for her many, many years as treasurer. A budget relying on about 30% reserve funds was approved. A task for the coming year will be to discuss effective ways of increasing income.

### **ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

Because of the importance of the wastewater crisis on Cape Cod, the committee spent its energy in this one area. Members followed the progress of the Cape Cod Commission’s “Section 208,” a plan devising its name from the portion of the Federal Clean Water Act which requires periodic update of a locale’s water quality management plan. The committee met in the fall with Erin Perry, special projects coordinator (wastewater) for the Commission and with her valuable assistance planned and executed an April 12 public forum: “The Cape Cod Wastewater Challenge: New Developments, New Opportunities.” Approximately 80 persons attended or participated. In the fall, as part of the focus on wastewater, a group of League members visited the Alternative Septic Test site in Sandwich where director George Heufelder conducted a most interesting tour. Regular *Voter* articles kept the membership abreast of committee activities.

There were many issues of importance for which the committee’s resources did not allow study or action – global warming/sea level rise and the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Plant to name just two. It is hoped that some future committee will be able to undertake these or other issues as well as follow the wastewater crisis as it moves toward a resolution that will leave the Cape’s waters significantly more nitrogen free and cleaner.

As I leave the position of chair, I wholeheartedly thank committee members Bobbi Greer, Jan Hively, Chris Meade, Jari Rapaport, Renate Sands and Richard Utt for their work throughout the year.

Judy Thomas, Chair

## **HEALTH COMMITTEE**

During the 2013-2014 year, the Health Committee focused on the lack of resources and costs for those dealing with mental health issues. We found that mental illness is the leading cause of disability worldwide. Moreover, it costs more to ignore mental illness than to treat it. When we fail to treat people who suffer from mental disorders like schizophrenia, bipolar disorder and major depression, the economic burden of lost productivity and lives lost or imprisoned is more than 10 times the budgets now spent to treat people with mental illness even though low-cost, effective treatments currently exist.

The Health Committee studied the resources available to those with behavioral or mental health issues in light of the Affordable Care Act's requirement that health insurance policies provide parity for mental health. Our work culminated in a forum titled OUR COMMUNITY CHALLENGE: MENTAL HEALTH PARITY on February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at the Harwich Community Center.

Speakers included Ron Holmes, Executive Director, National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) of Cape Cod; Diane Wolsieffer, a psychiatric nurse at Cape Cod Hospital (CCH) and an organizer of Cape Cod and the Islands Behavioral Health Summit held in October, 2013; Beth Albert, Director, Barnstable County Dept. of Human Services; Howard Baker-Smith, Director for the Southeast Region, Department of Mental Health; and State Senator Dan Wolf who discussed recent or proposed legislation designed to address the twin problems of lack of trained personnel and affordable facilities for mental health treatment.

Joan Bernstein, Chairperson

## **COUNTY COMMITTEE**

The Committee continued to observe the meetings of the Board of Commissioners and the Assembly of Delegates. We also followed the work of the Charter Review Committee and recommended that the League support the recommendations for a more representative legislative body and strong executive function, based on our own consensus on county government in 2012. However the recommendations were not accepted by the Assembly, in an extremely close vote. We are writing to the Attorney General's office to clarify the ethics of granting the power to any legal governmental entity to prevent public referendum on proposed changes to its structure and powers. We have also followed recent attempts to petition towns to withdraw from the Cape Cod Commission and have prepared materials to be used support the Commission. See our President's MY VIEW published in the Cape Cod Times and included in this Voter issue.

We are also monitoring action on the Strategic Plan developed by the Board of Commissioners to guide them for the next 5 years. Several members observed the plan development process. We felt it was a very valuable instrument and commended it in a message to the Assembly of Delegates.

Jari Rapaport, Nancy Curley, co-chairs

## **YOUTH SERVICE COMMITTEE**

The Youth Service Committee presented a successful forum in October on Revitalizing Civic Education. Our keynote speaker was Meira Levinson, Associate Professor at Harvard, and author of No Citizen Left Behind. Following that forum, Karen Mazza was invited to attend a networking meeting of civic educators at Harvard, co-sponsored by Harvard and the Edward M. Kennedy Institute. The EMK Institute's mission is to promote civic education and they will have many opportunities available for schools. Our committee has been successful in requesting that the EMK Institute staff attend a conference day for teachers of civics on Cape Cod in October 2014. The LWVCCA will co-sponsor this forum with the Cape Cod Collaborative and the EMK Institute. We hope to continue to provide support for local school efforts in civic education with the development of mini-grant funding to support active civic engagement.

We also continue to serve as a liaison to civic and community service efforts at Cape Cod Community College. This spring we prepared a class that selected conducting a voter registration drive on campus as their service project.

## **VOTER SERVICE**

Thanks to the expertise of Judy Thomas, we trained five new LWV moderators on March 25<sup>th</sup>. Five more members have indicated interest in moderator training, which we will schedule for later this spring.

LWV Cape Cod Area members also have moderated a candidates' night in Chatham on April 28<sup>th</sup> and one in Dennis on April 30<sup>th</sup>. We also called upon our LWVCCA card sorters and timekeepers for these events. This year's local election cycle has been less busy than last year, in terms of our involvement, but we anticipate once again co-sponsoring a candidates night with the Cape Cod Times for state office candidates in the Fall.

Barbara Wellnitz, Chair  
Voter Service Committee

## **LEGISLATIVE LIAISON**

A 2014 revision of the 2013 "Directory of Elected Officials" was printed in January 2014. Distribution is ongoing.

On March 26 "Day on the Hill" in Boston was cancelled due to inclement weather.

Our Legislative Lunch was held on March 28 with 33 members in attendance. Mass legislators Senator Dan Wolf, and Representatives David Vieira and Brian Mannal were guests. In addition, three legislative staff and aides from the offices of Senator Murray, and Representatives Peake and Madden were also present.

Under the beneficial guidance of the 2013-14 Legislative Liaison, our new co-Chairs, Renate Sands and Claire Gradone will successfully complete the goals of the position for 2014-2015

Helen Bresnahan, Legislative Liaison

## **LWVCCA SUPPORT FOR THE CAPE COD COMMISSION**

We reproduce here our President's **MY VIEW** article published in the Cape Cod Times in April

### **MY VIEW**

I am writing on behalf of the Board of Directors of the League of Women Voters of the Cape Cod Area (LWVCCA) to express our strong support for the Cape Cod Commission and the essential work that it does to protect our shared regional environmental and planning concerns. The LWVCCA, since its beginnings in 1959, has clearly recognized the interrelationship between land use, air quality, waste management and water resources. Further it has recognized that action by one town in any of these areas affects all who share the fragile environment of the Cape. Testifying in 1989 before the state Joint Committee on the Cape Cod Commission Act to urge passage, the League stated, "A common dependence on our environment requires common efforts to manage its finite resources. . . The League supports regional solutions to shared and complex problems."

Since the 1990 passage of the Cape Cod Commission Act, the Commission has over twenty years of accomplishments that have been achieved by establishing collaborative planning among Cape towns, securing financial resources to support town projects, completing studies and planning on water quality, open space, economic development, and wastewater management. The scope of these accomplishments goes far beyond what towns acting alone would have the staff or financial resources to do. A few of these accomplishments are listed below.

1. Fostered the Community Working Group's development of a master plan for the Massachusetts Military Reservation and the state's establishment of the 15,000 acre Upper Cape Water Supply Reserve.
2. Secured more than \$15 million in affordable housing funds for Barnstable County since 1992.
3. Prepared with other partners the region's annual projects list and long-range transportation plans that secure more than \$10 million annually for distribution throughout the region for road repairs and intersections, transit services, sidewalks, bicycle paths, and more.
4. Completed water quality studies of 28 coastal embayments in partnership with the state and Barnstable County to apply technical expertise about regional watersheds to the Massachusetts Estuaries Project.
5. Helped Cape communities with their comprehensive wastewater management planning, evidenced by an expansion from four towns to 14 now working on their plans.

6. Completed studies for the Cape's capacity for development that have influenced towns in setting goals for and pursuing open space protection and supported the work that led to the enactment of the Cape Cod Land Bank Act and the Community Preservation Act.
7. Partnered with the Cape Cod Economic Development Council and other organizations to pursue regional priority projects including the successful launch of the OpenCape broadband technology initiative and the "Smart Cape Cod" initiative with IBM.

Interested readers can review a much more comprehensive list of the Commission's benefits for our region and for local towns by reading the latest annual report of the Commission's activities on the Commission's website ([www.capecodcommission.org](http://www.capecodcommission.org)). This kind of regional planning provides technical expertise, collaborative planning and grant funding to towns at an economy of scale that individual towns by themselves would be unable to attain.

The Board of Directors of the LWVCCA, again express our unconditional support for county regional government and the essential protections provided by the Cape Cod Commission.

Karen Mazza, President, LWVCCA

*2014 Annual Meeting*

*You are cordially invited to attend the  
Annual Meeting of the League of Women Voters of Cape Cod*

**Thursday, May 8, 2014 5:00-7:00 P.M.**

**The Clubhouse at Cobblestone Landing**

**50 Centerboard Lane (for GPS) and follow directions from #4 below**

A light supper will be served. Cost is \$15 and the deadline for **reservations is May 1.**

**To Reserve**, please complete the form below and send with your payment of \$15 made out to LWVCC to:

Ira Seldin 321 Deer Meadow Lane, Chatham, MA 02633

Directions from Rt. 6, Exit 6

- 1) Drive 1.4 miles south on 132 toward Hyannis until you reach Phinney's Lane.
- 2) Turn right onto Phinney's Lane and drive 0.3 miles to Cobblestone Landing, Nantucket Village, a development on your left.
- 3) Turn left into the entrance and follow Sunnywood Drive bearing to the right until it ends at Centerboard.
- 4) Turn left onto Centerboard and go 0.1 miles to Clubhouse Drive on the right
- 5) 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.

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

- 1) 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.
- 2) Turn right off Phinney's Lane into the Cobblestone Landing, Nantucket Village entrance and follow the directions above within the development.

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I will attend the annual meeting on May 8.

Name -----

I will bring the following guests: -----

Total enclosed at \$15/person -----

**MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL**

**It's that time of year again!**

**Please fill out the necessary information below.**

**Checks are payable to: LWVCCA**

**Please print your contact information clearly so that we can improve the accuracy of information in our member handbook.**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Town:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip Code:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-Mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to: Ira Seldin  
321 Deer Meadow Lane  
Chatham 02633**