

THE CAPE COD VOTER

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2014

JANUARY

CALENDAR

Tuesday, January 7
9:30 am

Board Meeting
Cape Cod 5 Dennis

Thursday, January 16
12 Noon

County Committee Pot Luck
Home of Jari Rapaport

Saturday, February 8
10:00 am

Mental Health Forum
Harwich Community Center

*Special invitation to members to join the program planning
Board Meeting on January 7, 2014! Your ideas are needed!*

*Mark your calendars now for the forum on February 8, 2014
“Our Community Challenge: Mental Health Parity”
HAPPY NEW YEAR!*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members:

Happy New Year! As the New Year encourages us to reflect on our accomplishments and think of our challenges for the coming year, it is a good opportunity to begin Program Planning. We will start this process at our January 7 Board Meeting and all members who are interested in providing input to our goals for the year commencing in June 2014 are welcome to attend. **The meeting starts at 9:30 AM at the Cape Cod Five Bank in Dennis off of Route 134.**

To prepare your thoughts please look at our present program goals that are listed in our current members Handbook on page 14 and look at our positions listed on pages 15 to 16. For our existing goals, you might think about next steps in the evolution of those program topics or suggest changes or deletions. You may also think of new program areas that you believe we would have the capacity to study. For positions, you may consider any updated statements that need to be made or any positions that need to be reconsidered.

After we receive input from members, our Program Committee will meet to consider the input and develop a proposal for Board Review at the February Board Meeting. **If you plan to attend our January board meeting, please send me an e-mail to register, so that I can ensure I have enough coffee cake and coffee. My e-mail is:** HYPERLINK "mailto:lwvccapres2012@gmail.com" lwvccapres2012@gmail.com.

If you are interested in reviewing the position statements on issues developed at the national level, they are listed in a publication called "Impact on Issues 2012-2014 on the LWVUS website. That address is: HYPERLINK "http://www.lwv.org/content/impact-issues" www.lwv.org/content/impact-issues 2012-2014. LWVUS is asking state and local leagues to suggest review of existing League Positions, or input on new studies or program items. If nothing else, this is a good document to review to see the positions of the League and see how broad a range of issues they cover. Please join us for our health forum, Our Community Challenge: Mental Health Parity, prepared by our Health Committee. It will be at the Harwich Community Center on February 8. Please see the details later in this newsletter.

Sincerely,

Karen Mazza, President

BOARD NOTES

December 3, 2013

Barbara Wellnitz was appointed to the Nominating Committee.

At the January board meeting we will discuss the program planning of the national League. The LWVUS Planning Guide is available online.

Members will be encouraged to come to the meeting to share their views and provide input regarding our program for the coming year.

Mary Jane Byrne will lead a Program Planning Committee in late January. Please contact her if you are interested.

The annual Holiday Brunch was held on Dec 7, 2013 at the Riverway Lobster House in South Yarmouth. Ann Borg, CO-President of the LWVMA was the speaker.

Since the Assembly of Delegates has delayed the vote on the recommendations of the Charter Review Committee until next year, the County Committee is not planning on having their scheduled January forum.

Judy Thomas thanked the committee for all the work they have done.

Erin Perry of the Cape Cod Commission gave an excellent presentation on the Cape Cod Commission's update of Section 208 (of the Clean Water Act) at the Environment Committee meeting on Nov 19, 2013 at the County Complex.

The Environment Committee will sponsor a forum on Saturday, April 12, 2013 at the Harwich Community Center. Paul Niedzwiecki will be the principle speaker.

The film "Saving Paradise" developed by the Association to Protect Cape Cod will be shown at the forum.

Judy encouraged everyone to look at U tube videos which explain wastewater problems and are on the Cape Cod Commission website under 'Initiatives.'

Donations of \$260 were recently deposited in to Ed Trust.

The mental health forum will be held Feb 8, 2014 at the Harwich Community Center at 10 AM. The following four speakers have been confirmed:

Ron Holmes: NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness)

Diane Wolsieffer: Psychiatric nurse at CCH and an organizer of Cape Cod and the Islands Behavioral Health Summit, Oct. 4, 2013.

Beth Albert: Director, Barnstable County Dept. of Human Services

Dan Wolf: Cape and Islands State Senator

Harriet reported that she will be leaving for Florida soon and returning April 4, 2014.

Please contact her by e-mail.

Moderator training will take place on March 25, 2014 in the meeting room at the Brewster Ladies Library from 2 to 3:45 PM.

Renate Sands, Secretary

Help the Youth Committee Identify Speakers for Civic Classes

Our Youth Committee, dedicated to supporting civic education, recently received a request from a local civics teacher. The teacher would like to have access to a League list of recommended local speakers who can inform students about a branch of government that he or she has served in. Who do you know who lives locally that you would recommend as an effective speaker to high school government classes? Do you know a retired judge? Retired legislator? Retired executive within the state or federal executive branch? If you have suggestions please contact me at [HYPERLINK "mailto:lwvccapres2012@gmail.com"](mailto:lwvccapres2012@gmail.com) lwvccapres2012@gmail.com. Thank you.

Mary LeClair Receives Human Rights Award

League member, Mary LeClair received the Rosenthal Award from the Barnstable County Human Rights Commission at the annual Human Rights Day Breakfast held on December 10. Mary, a former County Commissioner, played an important role in the establishment of the Human Rights Commission. She served as a county commissioner for 12 years. She has served on the Board of Gosnold of Cape Cod and has just completed her term as chairwoman. She serves on many other organizations on the Cape. Congratulations to Mary for excellent leadership and outstanding service!

FEBRUARY MENTAL HEALTH FORUM

The LWVCCA Health committee will present a forum, OUR COMMUNITY CHALLENGE; MENTAL HEALTH PARITY on February 8th at the Harwich Community Center 10 am to 12 noon.

The presenters will include: Ron Holmes, Executive Director of the National Alliance on Mental Illness, Cape Cod & thr Islands (NAMI); Diane Wolfseiffer, Psychiatric Nurse, Cape Cod Hospital; Beth Albert, Director, Barnstable County Department of Human Services; and State Senator Dan Wolf. These speakers will explore issues in recognizing mental illness, current resources, the needs and gaps, and help for meeting those gaps.

This is an exciting opportunity to learn from some of the major players in this effort to engage all to meet this challenge. Look for more detailed information soon. Mark your calendars!

COUNTY COMMITTEE

The Committee will meet for a pot luck New Year's luncheon on Thursday, January 16, at noon at the home of co-chair Jari Rapaport. We will also work hard as we review county action on the recommendations of the Charter Review Committee.

The Committee's recommendations which called for a strong Administrator and a new legislative body were finally presented for discussion to the Assembly of Delegates in December. This would replace both the Board of Commissioners and the Assembly of Delegates. The discussion was hot with very vocal opponents to the proposal for the new legislative body and loss of town representation and weighted votes.. The proposed new legislative body would be elected through 11 electoral districts each with equal representation and vote. The new proposal was based on assuring "one person one vote" for Cape Cod citizens. Because the presentation was for discussion and not on the official agenda, Speaker Ron Bergstrom did not call for a vote. It will be placed on the agenda for action at the next meeting of the Assembly on January 15th. Several members of the Assembly did support the recommendations, noting that the County government is a regional government and deals with issues that transcend the focus of town government and affect the region as a whole.

The new County Administrator, Michael Brillhart, was introduced, and Mark Zeilinski, former Administrator has become the Finance Director, his original position.

The Committee would welcome new members. Please let Co-chairs Nancy Curley and Jari Rapaport know of your interest.

Jari Rapaport, Co-chair

HOLIDAY BRUNCH CELEBRATION

The annual Holiday Brunch was held on December 7, 2013 at the Riverway

Lobster House in South Yarmouth. It was a very festive occasion. A buffet brunch was served and there were 33 members in attendance.

To encourage our aim of getting to know each other, attendees were assigned to specific tables hosted by at least one Board member who introduced some "ice breaking" questions that really got the conversations rolling at full speed. Mission accomplished!

The speaker, Anne Borg, Co-President of LWVMA, presented the state organization's plans for the coming year and emphasized reaching out to all units and members.

The Brunch included an optional book exchange at the end. In keeping with the book

theme, bookmarks were given to all from both LWVMA and the LWV of the Cape Cod Area. Members also shared recommendations for good books. See the list below.

All in all it was a very convivial gathering and we hope that others who could not be there will be able to come to one of our social gatherings in the future. It is a fun way to get to know other members.

Marilyn Gullet, Vice President

BOOKS ENJOYED BY MEMBERS

At our Holiday Brunch, table groups brainstormed some books they have enjoyed recently. In case you are looking for some good book reads, we share these recommendations with you.

the 100 Year old Man Climbed Out the Window and Disappeared
The Light Between Oceans
Lawrence in Arabia
Air Frame
The Favored Daughter
The Unraveling of America
Americanah
Book of Ages by Jill Leore
The Excellent Journey of Harry Truman
David and Goliath
Death Comes to Pemberly
Angela's Ashes
The Fence
And the Mountains Echoed
Team of Rivals
Wild
Autobiography of Sonia Sotomayor
The Book Thief
Gone Girl

