

THE CAPE COD VOTER

Volume 52 Issue 10
2012

June

CALENDAR

Tuesday, June 5
Meeting
9:30 am
Bank
Dennis

June Board

Cape Cod Five

Tuesday, June 19
Committee
10:00 am
Bank

County

Cape Cod Five

Tuesday, June 26
Retreat
9:15 am
Condominium

New/Old Board

Colony

Brewster

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members,

New Beginnings: As I begin my term as President of the LWVCCA I would like to thank the membership for the honor of serving this vital organization. My participation in League events as Nauset Unit Co-chair and as a Board Member has helped me get to know important issues facing Cape Cod. I have enjoyed meeting and learning from the many leaders of our organization who have provided thought provoking forums, valuable voter services, and pioneering advocacy on issues affecting the progress of Cape Cod. I would particularly like to thank Judy Thomas for her inspiring leadership and her personal support of my participation in the League. With this tradition in mind, and awareness of our future challenges as a League and as a Cape Cod area, I look forward to working with you.

Outreach and Engagement: In my conversations with the Board and the Nominating Committee, there is a strong interest in energizing our League chapter through expanded membership recruitment and outreach to a new generation of participants and leaders. This goal will be in the forefront of my planning with the Board. We will be conducting a Board retreat on June 26 and a large part of our agenda will be to brainstorm new ways to recruit the next generation of members and new ways to engage our membership in meaningful activities that advance our work and that make participation in the League rewarding and enjoyable. If you have been thinking about activities that you wish were available through the League, I would be happy to receive your suggestions. Drop me an e-mail (HYPERLINK "mailto:mazzak@comcast.net" mazzak@comcast.net) and I will include your ideas in our Board retreat.

It will be a busy planning summer for Board members. We look forward to your participation in the fall. Best wishes for an enjoyable summer.

In League,
Karen Mazza

MAY BOARD NOTES

In hopes of increasing the number of member donations, it was suggested that an explanation regarding operating shortfall be added to the "Donation" line in the coupon for current membership renewals.

Board members decided not to support the National League's proposal to increase the dues by the cost of living index every two years

Judy Thomas made a strong appeal for keeping out units.

The forum on **Climate Change** held April 28, 2012 was well attended.

The **most effective way to advocate** is to send personal e-mails to your legislators

Candidate Debates in Sandwich, Dennis and Orleans went well. Chatham was cancelled due to the illness of one of the contestants.

Harriet Klebanoff is developing a 'members only section' on the website.

Taped forums cannot be put on the League website because they take too many megabytes

ANNUAL MEETING

Thirty-five enthusiastic members attended the annual meeting of the LWVCCA on Saturday morning, May 19, for a delicious brunch at the Riverway Lobster House in South Yarmouth. The room was cheerful with fresh flowers from Renate and Judy's gardens on the tables, the atmosphere was relaxed, the quiz was fun and challenging, our member speakers were engaging and interesting and, all in all, it was a great morning of fellowship. Our outgoing president, Judy Thomas received well deserved words of praise, a beautiful engraved glass bowl and a standing ovation. We voted in the recommended program, the slate of nominees, enthusiastically welcomed our new president and provided directions to the board for next year.

Thank you to all attendees and special contributors for making this year's annual meeting such a memorable success.

Phyllis Walsh, Vice President

WELCOME OUR NEW PRESIDENT

We welcome our new LWVCCA president, **Karen Mazza**, who is another in a long line of talented leaders of our league. She brings the opportunity to explore new ideas and new ventures for all of us

Karen's career has been in the field of education where she began as an elementary teacher and extended her career to service as an Assistant Professor of Education and a central office administrator. She retired in 2009 from the Chelmsford Public Schools as Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction where she led education reform initiatives for fifteen years. During her career in Chelmsford she became a League member. Karen and her husband became part-time residents of the Cape in 2003 and they moved here full-time upon her retirement. She joined the LWVCCA in 2010 and served as the Nauset Unit Co-chair and chair of the Youth Support committee in the 2011-2012 year.

Karen has already provided strong leadership to a new task force to help committees and our Board purposefully organize our work through goal setting and outcome evaluation. How fortunate we are to have such an experienced and talented individual as our leader. We wish her the best in her new role and offer our continued, strong support.

Phyllis Walsh, Vice President

DUES REMINDER

Please note that Ira Seldin, newly elected joint treasurer has taken over processing dues renewals.

Welcome Ira, and thanks to Debbie for so beautifully keeping track of us for all these many years!

If you have not yet renewed, please use the reminder coupon on the last page of this issue.

**LWVCCA
BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2012/2013**

Officers

President: Karen Mazza

Vice-President: Phyllis Walsh

Secretary: Joan Craig

Treasurer: Debbie Aikman; Ira Seldin

Directors

Public Relations: Harriet Klebanov and Dottie Kelly

Legislative: Judy Thomas

Environment:

Voter Service: Judy Thomas ; Barbara Wellnitz

Health Care: Joan Bernstein

Membership: Betsy Bray and Joan Grant

The Voter: Terry Chesney and Jari Rapaport

Nominating Committee: Elizabeth Levy Emily Hannah

BOARD RETREAT

A Board Retreat for members of the 2011-2012 Board and the 2012-2013 Board will be held on **Tuesday, June 26 from 9:15 AM to 3:00 PM at the clubhouse at The Colony, a townhouse community in Brewster.** The purpose of the retreat is to have extended time to deliberate on issues that require significant brainstorming and discussion. The topics are derived from issues we have discussed on our committee that reviewed some of our organizational practices in connection with committees and Units. The broad topics will include: (a) Engaging our membership, (b) Technology for communication, (c) Brainstorming outreach activities to expand membership, and (d) Review of selected organizational practices. More specific information and directions will be forwarded directly to Board members. Please reserve the date.

Karen Mazza, President

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Mary Jane Byrne spent every summer of her life on the Cape and has resided year-round in Orleans since 1985. In the 1970s, she was Voter Service Chair for

the LWV in Chatham, NJ. She raised her two children in White Plains, NY. On the Cape, she worked as mortgage officer, business manager and office manager prior to retiring.

She continues to be active at several local theaters, currently, Cape Cod Opera. She is embarrassed that she knows very little about her town, county or state and looks forward to changing that via LWV membership.

Martha B. Crane, Harwich, was a business and university librarian before retiring to the Cape about four years ago. She has always been interested in politics and has worked on campaigns. Wherever she has lived, she utilized the LWV's educational voter information handbooks to be clear on the issues. She is interested in promoting Civics classes in high schools in order to educate our future voters.

COUNTY GOVERNMENT UPDATE

The League Committee on the County is continuing to follow action on the February 2012 recommendations made by the Special Commission on Governance.

The Board of Commissioners has been reviewing the recommendations throughout the spring. Two actions have been taken related to them. First, The Commissioners charged the Cape Cod Commission to develop a plan for the solution of the critical wastewater problems in consultation with the public and the towns. This is underway. Second, they established the office of Strategic Information in the Cape Cod Commission to implement The Regional Umbrella of Service Systems, the county-wide network made possible by the Broadband installation through Open Cape.

The Board is now developing an orderly system for considering the remaining items. In addition to the recommendations for structural change, many deal with items that can be carried out under existing powers. The Board has requested the Administrator to prepare a matrix to clarify such possibilities as well as those needing structural action and/or state legislative approval. This matrix will be presented at an upcoming meeting and our Committee will be following up the action throughout the summer. If you would like the complete list of recommendations, please let me know and I will forward them to you.

The Assembly of Delegates has decided to wait to comment until the Commissioners have conducted their review and proposed action. As might be expected, many members of the Assembly have expressed opposition to recommendations for structural change which would merge the Assembly with the Board of Commissioners for a smaller legislative body. One member has proposed an ordinance which would require that the position of County Finance Director be appointed and not folded into the work of the County Administrator. This separation is among the recommendations to be considered by the Commissioners.

The County Committee will hold its next meeting on Tuesday June 19 at 10:00 am. Please join us if you are interested in what happens next!

Jari Rapaport, Co-Chair, County Committee

LWVCCA DUES REMINDER

Dues for the 2012-2013 membership year are now being accepted. Fifty year (Life) members pay no dues. New members joining after 2/1/11 are paid up to 6/30/12. Renewal rates are listed below.

Your continuing support in the new membership year is much appreciated.

We value your interest and participation. Perhaps this gentle reminder has overlapped with your payment. If so, please disregard this notice. Thank you.

Please send your check payable to LWVCCA to:

Ira Seldin 321 Deer Meadow Lane Chatham 02633

I enclose the dues payment for 2012/2013

NAME(S) _____

_____ **SINGLE \$55**

_____ **FAMILY \$85**

_____ ***DONATION**

_____ **TOTAL**

***Along with your membership renewal, please consider an additional donation which offsets the LWVCCA's operating budget (phone, postage, etc.). Thank you.**

For publication in the Member Handbook: please fill in the requested information.

Address _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Members with e-mail: Please provide your current e-mail address in order to electronically receive *The Cape Cod Voter* (LWVCCA monthly newsletter), along with e-mail reminders and alerts.

Volume 52 Issue 10