

# THE CAPE COD VOTER

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VOLUME 55 ISSUE 5

JANUARY 2015

## CALENDAR

Tuesday January 6  
9:30am

Board Meeting  
Cape Cod Five, Dennis

Thursday, January 8  
2pm

Healthcare Committee  
Home of Joan Bernstein

Friday, January 9  
1:30pm

County Committee  
Cape Cod Five, Dennis

Wednesday, January 14  
9:30 - 11:30am

Program Planning Workshop  
Mayflower Place, Yarmouth  
*(See details page 3)*

Wednesday, January 28  
7-9pm - Bentley College, Waltham

LWVMA Forum - Economic  
Inequality/Money in Politics

## LOOKING AHEAD...

Tuesday, February 3  
9:30am

Board Meeting  
Cape Cod Five, Dennis

Tuesday February 17  
10am

Third Week Coffee  
Panera - Hyannis

*Wishing all our members a peaceful New Year!*

## MESSAGE FROM THE CO-PRESIDENTS

Dear Members:

We enjoyed seeing many of you at our December Social. Our speaker, Elisa Zawadzka, was a bright light of enthusiasm that brought hope for young people entering positions of leadership on the Cape. Thanks go to Kay Bryce for making the restaurant arrangements and to Judy Thomas for the wonderful collection of donated books from her church thrift shop.

**New Year Resolutions and Planning.** Just as we individually select resolutions for the New Year, this is also the time of year when we begin LWVCCA program planning. We do this both to provide input to the LWVMA at the state level and also to plan our own program for the Cape Cod Area. **We have selected January 14, from 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM as a special planning meeting** open to our entire membership. We would like to see as many of you as possible participate and contribute your thoughts about program priorities. (Please see details and directions next page.)

**Charitable Giving.** If you have not yet had a chance to send a contribution to the League of Women Voters of the Cape Cod Area (LWVCCA) or to the Helen S. Aaron Educational Trust for the LWVCCA, we would appreciate your support. Your check to the LWVCCA helps us meet our budget for the operational expenses of the League.

Your check to the Helen S. Aaron Educational Trust (tax deductible) helps us provide the educational services that we offer to the community. For a complete explanation of the Ed Trust please see page 7 of your Member Handbook.

- Checks made out to the LWVCCA should be mailed to Ira Seldin, 321 Deer Meadow Lane, Chatham, MA 02633
- Checks made out to the Helen S. Aaron Educational Trust should be mailed to P.O. Box 877, Orleans, MA 02653

**Third Week Coffees:**\* Since we are having our planning meeting on January 14, (at which we will serve coffee and bagels), we will not have a separate January coffee. We will reserve **February 17 as a Third Week Coffee**, to be held at **Panera in Hyannis at 10:00 AM.** (*\*Please note this is a Tuesday. We plan to alternate days, and have thus changed the name, to accommodate a variety of attendees.*) These are opportunities for our members to share good conversation and company. It's also an opportunity for League leadership to get to know our members better. So please plan to come in out of the February cold and join us for a hot beverage and good ~even hot~ conversation!

**Our very best wishes for a Happy, Healthy and Productive New Year!**

Sincerely,  
Karen and Marilyn

**Urgent - Coming next week:**

**IMPORTANT ALL MEMBERSHIP MEETING:  
PROGRAM PLANNING FOR 2015-2016**

**Wednesday, January 14 --9:30 to 11:30 AM**

**MAPLEWOOD AT MAYFLOWER PLACE  
579 BUCK ISLAND ROAD  
YARMOUTH**

Please join us to help us decide program planning priorities for LWVCCA for 2015 -2016.  
We will also be providing input to the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts  
regarding their program priorities for the next two years.  
Coffee and bagels will be served

There is no charge, but **PLEASE REGISTER** so we can order refreshments  
RSVP to [lwvccapres2012@gmail.com](mailto:lwvccapres2012@gmail.com) or phone Barbara Wellnitz,508.896.2023

**Directions to Mayflower Place:**

From Route 6, take Exit 7 Willow Street. Travel south on Willow Street and take a slight left onto Camp Street. Take a left on Buck Island Road. Maplewood at Mayflower Place will be on your right. This is a retirement community. Enter the main lobby and go to the dining area.

**Parking:**

Please park only in spaces that are **NOT** numbered.

*All members invited ~ we need YOUR ideas!*

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## **LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

*From Renate Sands*

The new State legislative session will begin on January 7, 2015 and run for two years. Bills must be filed by January 16, 2015. Normally about 6,000 bills are filed ~ although fewer than 200 are usually signed into law. Any bills not passed during the last legislative session are considered dead and need to be refiled.

LWVMA has a Legislative Action Committee which consists of a legislative director and 13 specialists who sift through and evaluate bills. They make recommendations on whether the League should support or oppose the bills. The board then votes on their recommendations.

Once the board decides to act on a bill, the bill is tracked through the entire legislative process. The sponsors of the bill are contacted and informed of the League's position. When the bill comes up for a committee hearing, the specialists give in-person or written testimony. An Action Alert may be sent out to members to attend a hearing or give support.

Because the above process is time consuming, **Day on the Hill** is not scheduled this year until Tuesday, April 28. Our League is planning to hold our **Legislative Breakfast** beforehand, probably on Friday April 24, 2015.

## **COUNTY COMMITTEE**

It's a new year and new players! Newly-elected Commissioner **Leo Cakounes** joins Sheila Lyons and Mary Pat Flynn on the Barnstable County Board of Commissioners while the Assembly of Delegates welcomes **Linda Zuern** (Bourne, replacing Richard Anderson), **Ed McManus** (Harwich, replacing Leo Cakounes), **Ed Lewis** (Brewster, replacing Anthony Scalese) and **Bryan O'Malley** (Provincetown, replacing Cheryl Andrews).

We will continue to observe meetings of both groups and report back to our members. The dynamics will differ from past years and perhaps a more fruitful relationship may develop between the Commissioners and the Assembly.

The Committee would like to mark the new year by **welcoming new members!** We need your fresh insights and varied backgrounds. We generally meet once a month to review County issues, with a particular interest in the structure and responsiveness of our regional government. For more information, please call one of us.

*Nancy Curley, Jari Rapaport*

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## **EXPANDING LWVCCA VISIBILITY THROUGH LOCAL ACCESS TV**

*From Chris Meade*

While preparing for the Democratic Primary Debate held at Cape Cod Media Center (Channel 18) last Fall, Voter Service Co-Chair Chris Meade learned a lot about the Center--what it does, services it offers and, interestingly, their desire to support the efforts of the League. Subsequently, Chris mentioned this at a Board meeting and suggested that we tour the Media Center and other local stations to get a better understanding of what they do and how they can help us.

Several other Board members expressed interest ~ and an ad hoc committee was formed.

In addition to the Media Center in Dennisport, the committee has now visited the Lower Cape Community Access TV station and studio at Nauset Regional High School. This facility services the towns of Brewster, Orleans, Eastham, Wellfleet and Truro. Next on the committee's itinerary will be Sandwich Community Television.

These visits continue to result in a greater awareness of the potential of collaborating with the local community stations and their strong desire to work with us.

## **NOTES FROM DECEMBER BOARD MEETING**      *From Board Secretary Judy Thomas*

-- Treasurer Ira Seldin reported a November 30 checking account balance of \$8,466.

-- Fundraising activities for 2015 will include soliciting sponsors for the LWVCCA in *The Voter*. "Business cards" would be published for contributions (of \$75) to the League or Ed Trust. A special event featuring Kay Bryce's husband's jazz band is also in the planning stages.

-- Karen reported on her meeting with the Cape Cod Foundation executive director Kristin O'Malley. Work is in process toward a collaboration with CCF to fund grants for the Youth Support/Civic Action program. The Falmouth LWV has promised to contribute to this project.

-- The County Committee's letter to the State Ethics commission regarding a possible conflict of interest was sent about Nov. 29, 2014.

-- We will continue exploratory conversations with the Cape Women's Coalition re sponsoring and facilitating a "Don't Just Stand There, Run" program. Maggie French volunteered to help with this program.

-- The membership team is working to develop a new membership brochure.

-- Three board members will look into the possibilities of a program on energy.

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## **VOTER SERVICE**

*From Joan Grant and Chris Meade*

Looking ahead ~ Starting with the Town of Barnstable, we are gathering information on anticipated election-related activities to occur in each town in 2015 and 2016. This information will be used to help identify the priorities and focus for the Voter Service 2015 and 2016 plan.

## **LWVMA -- UPCOMING FORUM**

### **“WHOSE VOICE IS HEARD?” -- THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ECONOMIC INEQUALITY AND MONEY IN POLITICS**

The state League has prepared a forum "Economic Inequality and Political Participation--Whose Voice Is Heard?" co-sponsored by LWVMA and Bentley University's Valente Center for the Arts and Sciences to be held on **Wednesday, January 28, from 7 to 9 p.m. at Bentley University in Waltham.** The panel will take place in Bentley's Wilder Pavilion (Adamian Academic Center 165). If you would like to attend in person, you will need to register with the LWVMA office.

For most of us, traveling this distance at night will not be feasible, so we will make a viewing of this program available on our own local cable access stations as soon after January 28 as it can be arranged. We will keep you posted on this opportunity. A full description of the program is available on the LWVMA website.

## **HELEN S. AARON EDUCATIONAL TRUST**

The Ed Trust is looking at several ambitious projects in the coming year. Among them:

Introducing (and funding) a national League of Women Voters program called "Vote 411" -- a successful program to inform and involve voters in the issues and candidate positions during the next election cycle. Our Voter Service chairs have some great ideas...but they cost money.

Working with the Cape Cod Foundation in our LWVCCA/Youth Support program to offer grants to schools and/or teachers to foster active civic education. This is our own LWVCCA project and the Ed Trust is eager to support it generously.

As mentioned, projects of this scope aren't inexpensive. So if you haven't yet made a gift to the Ed Trust (tax free), please consider sending a check to: Helen S. Aaron Educational Trust Fund, P. O. Box 877, Orleans MA 02653.

Thanks very much,  
*Judy Thomas, President*  
*Richard Utt, Treasurer*