

# THE CAPE COD VOTER

VOLUME 54 ISSUE 8

APRIL 2014

## CALENDAR

**Tuesday, April 1  
9:30 am**

**LWVCCA Board Meeting  
Cape Cod 5 Dennis**

**Monday, April 7  
1:30 pm**

**County Committee Meeting  
Cape Cod 5 Dennis**

**Saturday, April 12  
10:00 am**

**Harwich Community Center  
Oak St. Harwich**

**LOOKING AHEAD: Mark your calendar now for our Annual Meeting!  
Thursday May 8, 5 to 7 pm!**

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**APRIL 12 FORUM**

**THE CAPE COD WASTEWATER CHALLENGE**

**CAN WE CLEAN UP?**

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## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Dear Members;

As I write this letter during our spring blizzard I am glad to focus on upcoming spring events for the League!

**On April 12**, we will have a very important Forum prepared by our Environment Committee entitled, The Cape Cod Wastewater Challenge: New Developments, New Opportunities! This forum will provide us with information on the final state of the "208" draft plan being prepared by the Cape Cod Commission Wastewater team in concert with town stakeholders. This information will help all of us be better informed as wastewater plans are discussed at our respective town meetings. Details are included later in this newsletter.

**Mark May 8** from 5:00 to 7:00 PM on your calendar for our annual meeting. We will have time to visit over a light supper and then conduct our annual meeting, which will approve officers and our program for the following year. Arrangements are not yet complete and we will send a special e-mail with that information.

**May 10** is the Call to Council from the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts. This event will be held at Framingham State University from 10 AM to 4 PM.

The topic is Civility in Politics: Challenges to Good Government and the keynote speaker will be Susan M. Jeghelian, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Office of Public Collaboration. Her office now oversees fourteen qualified community mediation centers across the state. There will also be workshops and opportunities for networking with other Leagues across the state. I will be attending and I would look forward to having a team of members come from the Cape. Please let me know if you would like to attend and we can arrange car-pooling. This is a good way for newer members to learn more about the League. Details are available at [lwvma.org](http://lwvma.org) under Call to Council.

Snow and blizzard conditions today but 50's on Friday! Think spring!

Cheers,

Karen Mazza

## BOARD NOTES –March 4, 2014

-The President will alert members to the need for candidates for the following positions for 2014-15: Vice President for events planning, legislative activity, environment director, voter service co-director.

-The Board agreed to support the Cape Cod Commission and to help develop material on the benefits to localities for use by members at town meetings where town warrants include a petition for withdrawal.

-The Program committee presented suggestions for the 2014-15 program.(see below)

-Legislative Luncheon questions will be based on Day on the Hill material and may also include questions from our committee chairs. Judy Thomas will focus on closing the Pilgrim power plant.

-Budget committee formed to prepare budget for annual meeting.

- Ed Trust has received many contributions in memorial to Terry Chesney.

-County Committee is concerned about conflict of interest due to Assembly of Delegates rejection of charter review committee recommendation which would have created new representative body.

-Youth Support Committee chair Karen Mazza met with representatives of Nauset Regional School system in preparation for a teacher workshop on civic education.

### **Program for 2014-2015.**

The Program Committee (Judy Thomas, Nancy Curley and Joan Bernstein) presented the following for LWVCCA program for 2014-2015.:

**Voter Service:** Voter registration, voter and civic education – Action.

**County Government:** Monitor the progress of the strategic plan; encourage communication about county government and transparency in county government.

**Environment** (this to be included only if a director is found for the environment committee): promote sound environmental policies across Cape Cod regarding clean renewable energy and scientifically based wastewater management.

**Health Care** Issues: Mental and behavioral health parity as a challenge to the community – study.

**Youth Service:** Promote a positive future for Cape Cod Youth – action.

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## **Environment Committee**

Saturday, April 12 is the day for League members, friends and the public to receive their update on the Section 208 plan on wastewater at the League's forum, **The Cape Cod Wastewater Challenge: New Developments, New Opportunities!** As a reminder our forum will be held at 10 a.m. at the Harwich Community Center, 100 Oak Street – our usual forum gathering site. Jari has attached our flyer which includes all the information re speakers and theme. PLEASE ATTEND AND PASS ON THE FLYER TO YOUR FRIENDS. PRINT AN EXTRA AND ASK TO HAVE IT POSTED AT YOUR LIBRARY, POST OFFICE, COA. Thank you very much. (Poster is sent as a separate attachment in this mailing)

The March 24 Cape Cod Times carried an excellent report on the Section 208 Plan in a My View piece on the editorial page. The article, written by stakeholder and Orleans selectmen, John Hodgson, strongly affirms the work of the Cape Cod Commission in producing a set of cost-saving solutions that towns can explore, modify and utilize. To quote Mr. Hodgson, "Congratulations and thanks are in order to Mr. Niedzwiecki, the 208 plan scientists and the many citizen volunteers who have devoted so much time and energy to this process." As I write this, googling the title of the My View article, "Embracing big-sewer alternatives" will take you directly to it.

There is much more to the story than one My View article can convey. Our forum on Saturday, April 12 will make more complete the picture that the article sketches.

Judy Thomas, Chairperson

## **COUNTY COMMITTEE**

At the Board's direction, the committee has focused on developing material on the benefits of the Cape Cod Commission to the towns of Cape Cod. This was spurred by a campaign to urge towns to withdraw from the Commission. We are developing the factual material that can be used by our members in the affected 8 towns who want to oppose the petitions in their town meeting warrants calling for withdrawal. They will be compiled and published in a special edition of the Voter in early April.

The action of the Delegate Assembly in rejecting the recommendations of the Charter Review Committee in January, by a less than 2% difference, is of concern. It prevented the ability to set the recommendations before the public and a voter referendum. It raises the issue of conflict of interest, since the Assembly, which our home rule charter gives the authority to call for a charter review committee, also wields the authority to block consideration of recommendations they don't like. In this instance they refused to bring to the voters a recommendation to develop a new representative body, which would do away with the current Assembly and the members' current jobs. We are exploring that conflict issue.

Jai Rapaport, Nancy Curley, co-chairs

## **Legislative Liaison**

As of March 24, we had 36 signed up for the Legislative Lunch. This would include 3 legislators. The legislators in attendance will be State Senator Wolf, Representative Mannal of the 2nd Barnstable District, and Representative Vieira of the 3rd Barnstable District. In addition, Legislative Aides from the offices of Sen. Murray, Reps. Peake, Hunt, and Madden will be in attendance. My sincere thanks to Phyllis Walsh, Marilyn Gullett, Ira and Florence Seldin, our President Karen Mazza, Joan Craig for all additional help to make this a success. My thanks also to Crystal Kopf, Facility Manager and Jody of the Culinary/ Caterer division of CCCC. As host to the legislators, we plan on asking questions of the legislators that have reference to our own 2013-2014 forums and agendas.

Helen Bresnahan

## **International Women's Day Breakfast**

On Friday, March 7, 2014, the Breakfast was held at the Doubletree by Hilton Hotel in Hyannis. Cape Women's Coalition sought a new tradition: women of all political persuasions affiliated with civics groups gathered together to network and celebrate to change our Cape Cod. Cape Women's Coalition creates a pipeline for encouraging women to enter and succeed in public life. The focus was on breaking barriers that hamper women from participating in the civic life of Barnstable County.

We had a video address from U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren followed by a panel discussion moderated by LWVCCA member Sue Rohrbach, County Commissioner Sheila Lyons, Ret. Barnstable County Treasurer Mary LeClair, and State Representative Sarah Peake. The topic was how women could enter local boards considering there were few women on many town boards. On some boards only 12% of boards were represented by women.

The support generated was a collaboration of women's groups including our own LWVCCA, AAUW, HOW, WAVE (Women's Avenue for Voicing Empowerment), WE Can, and Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. Our league was represented by Helen Bresnahan and Ms. Rohrbach. We had the LWVCCA Directory of Elected Officials and Applications for membership available. There were 135 women in attendance.

Helen V. Bresnahan

