

THE CAPE COD VOTER

VOLUME 53 ISSUE 5

APRIL 2013

CALENDAR

Tuesday, April 2
9:30 am

Board Meeting
Cape Cod 5 Dennis

Wednesday, April 3
2:00 – 4:00 pm

Moderator Training
Brewster Ladies Library

Monday, April 8
Committee
1:30 pm

County Government

Cape Cod 5 Dennis

Saturday, April 20
10:00

Forum: Money in Politics
Harwich Community Center

Thursday, April 25
1:00 pm

Helen Aaron Ed. Trust Board
Cape Cod 5 Dennis

Thursday May 9
5:00 -- 7:00 pm
Clubhouse

Annual Meeting
Cobblestone Landing

WHAT'S INSIDE: President's Message; Board Notes; Legislative Activity; County Committee; Sandwich Program; Nominations Report; Forum Announcement; Annual Meeting Registration

MAJOR FORUM: MONEY IN POLITICS April 20, 2013

**Featuring Sen. Dan Wolf, Mary Zepernick, Tyler Creighton.
Be There! Bring your friends and neighbors!**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members,

As we look forward to spring blossoms and warmer weather it is also a time for renewal in our organization. We invite you to help us renew the vitality of our organization by helping us to recruit new members, participating in upcoming events, and renewing your own membership for the coming year early.

Membership Recruitment

One of our best ways to recruit new members is by personal invitation. Help us reach out to the next generation of League members by thinking strategically about your contacts, both men and women. Are there new neighbors, or new contacts in other organizations that you belong to who might have an interest in civic engagement? Are they at a point in their life where they might have the time to participate? Do you know any parents of high school age children who are about to become empty nesters or any new retirees? Through rare in our times, do you know any stay at home moms? Perhaps an organization you belong to might give you five minutes to speak about membership in the League.

If you do know individuals you would like to invite, please tell them about our organization and encourage them to view our website to learn more (HYPERLINK "<http://www.lwvcapecod.org/>" www.lwvcapecod.org). Invite them to call our League phone number (508-945-0511) and I will be happy to speak with them. If they have a serious interest, bring them with you as our guest to our **May Annual Meeting, on Thursday May 9 from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM**. We will not be having a separate New Members event this year as our annual meeting will be starting with an opportunity to mingle while we enjoy a catered meal of finger food. The annual meeting is also a discussion of our program for the coming year. It will be a good opportunity to meet our members and learn more about our activities.

Upcoming Events

**League Forum – Money in Politics: Where Do We Go From Here?
Saturday April 20, 10:00 AM, Harwich Community Center**

League Forum –Money in Politics

State Senator Dan Wolf

**Mary Zepernick, Co-founder of the Program on Corporations, Law and
Democracy and Co-President of Move to Amend on Cape Cod**

Tyler Creighton, Assistant Director of Massachusetts Common Cause

This forum has been planned by our Program Committee as a follow-up to the successful ballot initiative where Cape and Massachusetts residents voted overwhelmingly to instruct their State Senators to support a constitutional amendment to overturn Citizens United. We will explore with our presenters how citizens can stay involved in supporting a constitutional amendment, while also pursuing legislative pathways to mitigate the impact of Citizens United and support fairness in campaign finance reform. As the special election for US Senator to fill John Kerry's position comes up in June, we will see the effects of unchecked Super Pac advertising from outside groups if the candidates do not agree to the People's Pledge taken by Brown and Warren in the recent election. So it is timely that we continue to advocate for Campaign Finance Reform and join other organizations in thinking strategically about ways to do that. Please come and tell interested friends.

Other Events of Interest

Documentary – The Invisible War

Sunday, April 14, 2PM- 5PM, Cape Cod Community College, Science Building, Lecture Hall A (Free admission)

We are co-sponsoring this presentation that has been organized by the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Cape Cod Branch and by the Veterans For Peace, Cape Cod, Corporal Jeffrey M. Lucey Chapter. This Oscar nominated documentary exposes the frequency and the mishandling of sexual assault in the military. You may have heard the recent testimony of veterans before Congress on this topic. Information about the film is available at HYPERLINK "<http://www.notinvisible.org/>" www.notinvisible.org. The testimony is shocking and calls for public outrage.

Speaker – Jonathan Kozol

Monday, April 22, 7PM, Tilden Arts Center Cape Cod Community College

Presented by Cape Cod Child Development in partnership with Cape Cod Community College

Jonathan Kozol has been an advocate for education equity and justice for over 50 years. In addition to his talk, he will have a book signing for his new book, [Fire in the Ashes: Twenty-Five Years among the Poorest Children in America](#).

Membership Renewal

Please set a goal for yourself of renewing your membership in LWVCCA by May 17. . This helps us because it gives us time to form our membership directory and edit addresses and e-mails with good lead time before we go to press with a new handbook which is printed in the summer. The membership directory, and editing for accuracy is the

most tedious part of the handbook and it helps to get going on it early. Please send your check to Ira Seldin, 321 Deer Meadow Lane, Chatham 02633. Thank you.

Sincerely, Karen Mazza

BOARD NOTES - March 5, 2013

TOWN LIAISON: The Board approved the role of the Town Liaison as the communication link between Town and the League.

PROGRAM: The Board also approved a program for the coming year which includes monthly general meetings as appropriate as well as 2 meetings focused on individual towns concerns and information.

LEGISLATION: The Directory of Public Officials is now available and ready for distribution.

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE: The Committee developed specific ideas for public outreach on wastewater management issues for presentation to the Cape Cod Commission.

YOUTH OUTREACH: The Chair, Karen Mazza, continues to meet with appropriate officials on civic education in the schools. The Committee will review the Special Commission report to the State Legislature "Renewing the Social Compact: Civic Education and Community Service".

MEMBERSHIP: Members are encouraged to bring prospective members to the Annual Meeting, as there will not be a new member wine and cheese party this year.

Nominating Committee

The nominating committee for next year's Board has assembled a stellar group of candidates which you will vote on at the annual meeting. Because we have experienced a slow demise of units, we decided on a new way to coordinate our geographically sprawling League.....by having a liaison person who would serve as a communication link between the League and the town. Liaisons will be in touch with their members to alert them to League happenings, and in touch with town needs, such as candidate debates.

As of now we are still seeking liaisons for Barnstable and Yarmouth, a third person

for the membership team, and most importantly, a Board secretary. We encourage nominations and/or volunteers from you, our members.

Please let us hear from you.

Elizabeth Levy

For the Nominating Committee

COUNTY GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

The Committee will meet in April to consider a response to the current actions of the County Commissioners and the Assembly of Delegates with regard to county structure. The Assembly voted in March to approve a resolution calling for a five person Board of Commissioners and keeping intact the 15 person Assembly. The Assembly has also voted to appoint a Charter Review Committee to review the county charter and make recommendations for changes to the structure. The committee will include 3 members appointed from the public as well as a designee of the commissioners and 2 members of the Assembly and is to be chaired by the speaker of the Assembly, Ron Bergstrom. Leo Cakounes, author of the resolution to keep the assembly intact while electing a 5 member Board of Commissioners, feels the Assembly committee should only focus on the resolution already approved by that body, rather than an over-all review.

The members of the Board of Commissioners have suggested that the Assembly Charter Review Committee also study the recommendations the Special Commission on County Government presented a year ago after a more than 6 month study. That study recommended merging the Assembly with the Board of Commissioners for a more efficient policy-making representative body. It would consist of 2 commissioners elected at large and 5 elected from districts representing separate sections of the cape.

Our committee will follow actions of the Charter Review Committee and recommend a League response as appropriate in the light of the League's consensus developed last year. We will also provide our members with background issues to clarify some of the issues.

The charter forming the basis for our current government is just over 20 years old, and it seems time to review the effectiveness and efficiency of our current governmental structure. Our county with its home rule charter is unique in Massachusetts.

Jari Rapaport, co-chair

County Government Committee

Sandwich Unit Special Forum

The Sandwich Unit will sponsor a forum on civic engagement entitled "**The Power of Civic Engagement: What Steps Can You Take?**" It will take place Monday, April 29th at 7:00 p.m. in the Sandwich High School Library. The panel will represent political scientist, media, and people engaged in public service. It will be moderated by Peter Ubertaccio, Ph. D., Director of the Martin Institute at Stonehill College. All are welcome to join the Unit at this Forum.

Linell Grundman

For the Sandwich Unit

Legislative Activity

March saw two events – LWVMA's Day on the Hill (DOTH) on March 13 and LWVCCA's Legislative Breakfast on a snowy Friday, March 22.

BUT first a word of explanation. When events coordinator and VP Phyllis Walsh received a call from Cape Cod Community College (host facility for our Legislative Breakfast) on Thursday, the news was not good. Because of the possibility of significant snow, we were being warned that there were three possibilities: the college could be closed, the college could have a delayed opening of two hours, or the college could open as usual, the decision to be made Friday a.m. between 5:30 and 6. Our catering order was in for 45 persons. I immediately contacted the delegation to see if they had late Friday a.m. appointments to know whether a 9:30 start was feasible. Three, including Sen. Dan Wolf, did. We decided we would go for 7:30 if the college was open. While the storm did drop 5-8 inches on the Cape, the college opened as usual.

For us, we had a very good event, but missed Reps. Hunt and Vieira who didn't come, and also missed about half of our registered attendees who simply couldn't get shoveled out etc in time for the meeting. Unfortunately we do not have the means to offer refunds as we were obligated to the caterer. (Many thank yous to Phyllis Walsh, her set up team and Trader Joe's for flowers.)

DOTH: Karen Mazza, Helen Bresnahan and Judy Thomas went to Beacon Hill to be part of the LWVMA program. Rep. Thomas Conroy (13th Middlesex District) described his anti-pollution/carbon tax bill. The concept is one favored by many academics and is employed in Australia and British Columbia, Canada. Elizabeth Saunders, executive director of Clean Water Action, challenged us to pursue more effective advocacy. She said there is nothing like direct, personal contact, be it in the form of an email, phone call or letter. (Form "clicks" are not nearly so effective.) Share stories with your rep. or senator. Build a relationship with your rep., senator or a staffer. Don't hesitate to make repeated contacts on the same bill. Ask your legislator to be an

advocate for your bill. And mentally -- be prepared for the “long haul.”

Using email and having your legislators contact is actually very easy. Essentially they all have the same address format. First name followed by a “dot” followed by surname @ mahouse (or masenate) “dot” gov. So if you know the name of your legislator you’ve got it. Examples: HYPERLINK "mailto:daniel.wolf@masenate.gov" daniel.wolf@masenate.gov. or HYPERLINK "mailto:sarah.peake@mahouse.gov" sarah.peake@mahouse.gov. I suggest entering the addresses in your computer address book. Then as you start to type, it will pop up, making it even easier.

Our Breakfast: 19 members were able to make the meeting, including one 4Cs student guest who from the start showed her engagement with the process. Sen. Wolf, Reps Peake, Turner, Mannal and Lance Lambros representing Sen. Murray were also present. They each responded with comments to the 6-8 LWVMA priority bills which were presented and advocated for by members. Be prepared to advocate as we receive “alerts” from LWVMA. Thanks.

LWVCCAs attractive new blue Directory of Elected Officials is available. If you call me (508-432-2775), I will be happy to send you one. After the April Board meeting, Board members will also have copies and soon they will be in our libraries and COA’s as deliveries are made.

Judy Thomas, Chair

A PUBLIC FORUM

Sponsored by Our League

MONEY IN POLITICS:

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

April 20, 2013

Harwich Community Center (directions below)

10:00 AM

The Massachusetts State Legislature has passed a resolution asking Congress to start a constitutional amendment process to overturn the impact of the Supreme Court Decision known as Citizens United. Voters across the state have passed similar ballot questions. Where do we go from here? How can citizens continue to play a role in advocating for fairness in campaign finance?

SPEAKERS

State Senator Dan Wolf

Cape and Islands District
Co-founder and CEO of Cape Air

Mary Zepernick

Co-founder of the Program on Corporations, Law and Democracy
Co-President of Move to Amend on Cape Cod

Tyler Creighton

Assistant Director of Massachusetts Common Cause

Directions to Harwich Community Center: (The forum will be in the multi-purpose room)

From the Midcape Highway (Route 6): Follow Route 6 to Exit 10. From the West, take a right off of the exit onto Route 124. From the East, take a left off the exit onto Route 124. You will quickly come to a 4-way stoplight. Take a left at the light onto Queen Anne Road. Once on Queen Anne, take your third right onto Oak Street. Follow Oak Street for about 1 mile. The Community Center is on the right-hand side, directly across the street from the High School.

ANNUAL MEETING

Thursday, May 9, 2013, 5:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M.

SOCIAL AND BUSINESS

**Cobblestone Landing Clubhouse in Hyannis
(Where we had September Opening Meeting - Directions below)**

Our annual meeting will be a light supper of finger foods, wine, non-alcoholic beverages and dessert. This will be an opportunity for our members to both socialize and conduct business in a comfortable, informal setting. We are responding to your request for more social opportunities.

The charge will be \$15/person for catered food. A reservation is required. The **deadline** is **Thursday, May 2**. Please respond by the **deadline**. Send the coupon below to:

Ira Seldin, 321 Deer Meadow Rd., N. Chatham, MA 02633

Annual Meeting Coupon

_____ **YES! I'll be there. My \$15 check is enclosed.**

-Directions from Rt. 6, Exit 6:

1. Drive 1.4 miles south on 132 toward Hyannis until you reach Phinney's Lane on your right.
2. Turn right onto Phinney's Lane and drive 3 miles to a development on the left called Cobblestone Landing, Nantucket Village.
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

