

# THE CAPE COD VOTER

VOLUME 54 ISSUE 7

MARCH 2014

## CALENDAR

Tuesday, March 4

LWVCCA Board Meeting

9:30 at Cape Cod Five, Dennis

Friday, March 7

International Women's Day Breakfast

8 to 10 am at Double Tree by Hilton, Hyannis

Sunday, March 9

Women Rock

3:00 at Cultural Center of Cape Cod, S. Yarmouth

Thursday March 13

Environment Committee

1:30 at Cape Cod Five, Dennis

Tuesday, March 25

Moderator Training

2 to 4 pm at Brewster Ladies Library

Friday, March 28

LEGISLATIVE LUNCH

Noon at 4Cs Applied Technology Building

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Dear Members:

**Legislative Luncheon:** The Legislative Luncheon is one of our most important events of the year. This year it will be at noon at the Cape Cod Community College, Applied Technology Building on March 28. This is an opportunity for League members to discuss issues and priorities with our state legislators who have graciously made their time available to spend with us. **If we want to be an influence on Cape Cod it is important that all of our members who are able to attend, make the effort to do so.** If you want to go with someone, please call your town liaison, or call me (508) 694-6843 and one of us will find someone near you who is attending. Please see the registration information later in this bulletin.

The program will begin with some prepared questions that will be based on state or local league advocacy priorities. We will then open to general questions from our members and invited guests. We will close with remarks from the legislators about issues they would like to discuss with us. I look forward to seeing you there.

Sincerely,

Karen Mazza

## **COMMITTEES**

### **LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE**

#### **Legislative Lunch**

The day is approaching swiftly. On March 28 @ noon, our very own League of Women Voters will have as its guests five State Representatives or their designees and one State Senator. We are creating questions that will be asked of the legislators. This event alone will make for very interesting discussions for lunch. We hope that you are planning on attending. Please make sure your \$15 per person is in by March 21. Send check to Ira Seldin 321 Deer Meadow Lane Chatham, MA 02633.

Regards,

Helen Bresnahan, Legislative Liaison

## HEALTH COMMITTEE

Dear Health Committee Members and Board Members:

I would like to thank the Health Committee for presenting such an important and informative forum on Mental Health Parity last Saturday. There were approximately 65 attendees and many of them were from the health care field. From the conversation around the stage after the forum it looks like this was a topic that deserves follow-up as it appears there is more to work out in terms of funding and insurance implementation. Good job committee members and thanks for your initiative in pulling this together.

## ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

### **Report from the Feb. 6 Water Quality Stakeholder Meeting**

February 6 was a fascinating day for five LWVCCA members (Paula Bacon, Helen Bresnahan, Renate Sands, Florence Seldin (a designated stakeholder) and Judy Thomas). Along with nearly 300 other people (including staff and others), we attended the 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. meeting in Hyannis of the Section 208 Area Wide Water Quality Management Plan Update Stakeholder Summit. Renate, Paula and Florence contributed to this report by sharing aspects of the conference that most impressed them. All agreed on the attendance, keen attention and participation of participants. Other aspects are woven in below.

Paul Nieldsziecki stated wastewater was the #1 issue when he became executive director of the Cape Cod Commission six years ago and it remains that today. Paul emphasized that as the work of the 170 stakeholders and the Commission continues, all options for solutions will be put on the table for discussion, all will meet water quality standards and the decisions will *absolutely* be made locally. Two goals that he highlighted are, first, to build collaborations that are watershed based and second, the lowering of costs by adaptive management. Adaptive management is "structured approach for meeting water quality goals that monitors outcomes, assesses programs over time and requires recalibration of plans and projects, as necessary, based on reviews and evaluation of monitoring." (Paul added the definition may not be final.) New tools, such as the very impressive "Triple Bottom Line" assessment tool, which shows that the "footprint" of the area that must be treated can be reduced by differing means thereby cutting costs. "Triple Bottom Line" refers to 1) social: employment, revenues (property values, full and part time residents and system resilience for flooding, sea level rise etc.) and growth compatibility; 2) environmental; 3) financial.

Commissioner of the MA Department of Environmental Protection Kenneth Kimmell reminded the attendees of the DEP's role and expectations: a holistic watershed-based plan, what's needed but no more than what's needed, full weight to be given to alternative solutions, that there should be economies of scale with costs spread evenly, the exploration of multiple wins. The MassEPA is actively engaged with the Cape in the problem and through Commissioner Kimmell it is showing a great commitment. Commissioner Kimmell stressed that regional does NOT mean Cape-wide, but does mean the facilitation cooperation among the towns. He praised the CC Commission for its committed staff with their expertise and said the work done could be a model

for the Commonwealth and the nation!

State Treasurer Steve Grossman commented that the Cape needs buy-in from the whole Commonwealth. Cape Cod is a Commonwealth resource. He believes the environment needs a share larger than the current .6% of the state budget.

### **VOTER SERVICE: Calling All Moderators**

Ever consider being a moderator for a forum with candidates for local, county or statewide office? Come and see for yourself how rewarding – and fun – moderating can be.

Please attend the moderator training program planned by Voter Service for **Tuesday, March 25, 2-4 p.m.**, at the Brewster Ladies Library (ground floor meeting room). The library is located on Rt. 6A in Brewster, between Rtes. 137 and 124.

Judy Thomas will lead the training session, drawing on her experience as a moderator for several recent League-sponsored events. There will be ample time to ask questions and meet others on the Voter Service team.

The LWV has a longstanding tradition of sponsoring candidate forums, as well as forums on topics such as wastewater treatment. This is one of the most important services provided by the League.

And, not only is it fun to moderate these important discussions, it also is a good way to meet other LWV members. So, whether you are a long-term or recent member of the League, being a moderator is an excellent way to meet fellow members and provide this important community service. It begins with moderator training.

Please contact Voter Service Chair Barbara Wellnitz (508-896-2023; [HYPERLINK "mailto:bwellnitz@comcast.net" bwellnitz@comcast.net](mailto:bwellnitz@comcast.net)) by March 22 to sign up for Moderator Training. We hope to see you there.

### **COUNTY COMMITTEE**

On Wednesday, Feb. 19, 2014 the following statement in support of the Strategic Plan was read at the meeting of the Assembly of Delegates.

To Assembly of Delegates

The LWVCCA is writing to commend to the Assembly the presentation of the Board of Commissioner's Strategic Plan for the coming 5 years. We think this is a very valuable instrument as the county faces the many challenges ahead.

We are pleased with the extensive process the Commissioners undertook to develop the Plan. A member of our committee attended most sessions. We note that a strategic plan is required every 5 years and that we have been troubled by the fact that these plans never were evaluated as to progress in the periods between. We are particularly pleased that this Plan is a major effort to present to the public the major issues facing the Regional Government of Cape Cod with the goals to accomplish, and also outlines specific steps for implementation and a time frame for action and evaluation.

It is a comprehensive Plan and obviously there will be the need as time goes by, for not only evaluation but possible revision as events change both the physical and political environment.

Furthermore, the public, other governmental organizations, and observers like the League will have the opportunity to follow each step and discuss issues, raise questions and to support or not, the specifics as they come before the Commissioners and when appropriate, The Assembly of Delegates. Most important we now have the broad canvas of issues facing the county and steps to improve government function. We are particularly impressed with organizational goals to bring departments in close contact, integrating aspects common to them, creating depth, shared knowledge, and efficiency.

Nancy Curley, Co-chair

## SPECIAL EVENTS

### INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY EVENTS ON CAPE COD

The Cape Cod Women's Coalition invites interested women to an **International Women's Day Breakfast on Friday, March 7 from 8 to 10 AM** at the Double Tree by Hilton in Hyannis, 287 Iyanough Road. The Cape Cod Women's Coalition is a non-partisan coalition of groups and individuals working to create a pipeline for encouraging women to enter and succeed in public life. The program will focus on encouraging women's full and equal participation in the civic life of Barnstable County. Women of all political persuasions affiliated with all sorts of civic groups are encouraged to attend this program and networking opportunity. Space is limited: please r.s.v.p. by calling 617-888-3286 or email [HYPERLINK "mailto:capewomenscoalition@gmail.com"](mailto:capewomenscoalition@gmail.com) [capewomenscoalition@gmail.com](mailto:capewomenscoalition@gmail.com). This event is free. The League of Women Voters of the Cape Cod Area is a co-sponsor. International Women's Day Breakfast. Karen Mazza

This is a very new event that they hope to make an annual tradition. There will be guest speakers. We hope you can come. In addition to the registration information above you can also contact me at 508-420-0308 or [HYPERLINK "mailto:sunrisedawn110@aol.com"](mailto:sunrisedawn110@aol.com) [sunrisedawn110@aol.com](mailto:sunrisedawn110@aol.com) and I will forward to you an invite. Helen Bresnahan

### WOMEN ROCK!

Sunday, March 9: Women Rock! Arts, Activism, and Celebration! A program to honor International Women's Day with music, spoken word, dance, 3:00 p.m., Cultural Center of Cape Cod, Old Main Street, South Yarmouth. Admission on a sliding scale: \$10 to \$100. Benefits the Margaret Mosely Peace Education Fund, especially for attendance at the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary WILPF Congress in The Hague. This is a benefit for the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.

## **BOARD NOTES – FEBRUARY, 2014**

The Board approved authorizing the Nominating Committee to seek two people to serve as Co-Presidents. This does not change our by-laws and it does not preclude the possibility of having only one person serve as President. One Co-President will focus on management, the other on communication and outreach.

The Board approved a motion which will be presented to the membership at the annual meeting to keep the dues at \$55.00 and authorize a subcommittee to investigate options for people who cannot afford it.

Joan Craig will hold a meeting on new member recruitment activities. If you are interested, please contact her.

The Legislative Lunch will be held in the Solarium at the Lorusso Tech Building, Cape Cod Community College, on March 28 at 12:00 noon.

The LWVMA Council will hold an event on “Civility and Politics: Challenge to Good Government” on May 10, 2014 at Framingham State University.

The Program Committee will review, update and develop programs for next year which will be presented to the membership at the annual meeting for approval. Please contact Mary Jane Byrne if you have any ideas.

The County Committee met in January to review their options. Members decided to continue to monitor the Barnstable County Government.

Some League members will be attending the 208 Area Wide Water Quality Management Plan Update Stakeholder Summit on Feb. 6, 2014 at the Cape Cod Resort and Conference Center.

The speakers are all confirmed for the forum “Cape Cod Wastewater Challenge: New Developments, New Opportunities” to be held on April 12, 2014 from 10 AM until noon at the Harwich Community Center

The Board of the Ed Trust met on Jan 23 and focused on a review of the Ed Trust Agreement. All the changes will come before the board for approval.

Joan Bernstein thanked everyone, especially her committee members, for all the work they had done for the forum “Our Community Challenge: Mental Health Parity.”

The “Day on the Hill” will take place on Wednesday, March 26, 2014. Please contact Helen Bresnahan if you are interested in attending.

The Youth Support Committee continues to support civic education in schools. Karen Mazza attended a session on civic education co-sponsored by Harvard University and the Edward M. Kennedy Institute. She also met with Cape Cod Community College, which has formed a planning group to develop strategies for civic engagement at the college. Karen has contacted the Edward M. Kennedy Institute and they are willing to attend a meeting of Cape civic education teachers. She has also met with the AmeriCorps worker who is developing a civic engagement plan for students at Cape Cod Community College.

Barbara Wellnitz has arranged for a Moderator Training Workshop on March 25, 2014 at the Brewster Ladies Library. If you are interested in the training please contact her by e-mail as she will be gone for a month.

**VOTER DEADLINE** is February 25, 2014. Please e-mail all articles to Mary Jane Byrne.

The Nominating Committee would be interested in receiving self-nominations as well as recommendations on other possible candidates. Please contact any of the following: Barbara Wellnitz, Helen Bresnahan, Debbie Aikman, Sally Cahill.

## *2014 Legislative Luncheon*

**You are cordially invited to attend the  
Legislative Luncheon sponsored by the League of Women Voters of  
Cape Cod**

Friday, March 28, 2014  
12:00 noon

Solarium of the Lorusso Tech building  
Cape Cod Community College

*State Senators and Representatives or their aides will be in attendance to discuss questions and concerns the League has relevant to our goals for the*

year and other priorities that were discussed during “LWVMA Day on the Hill”.  
(If you are interested in attending “LWVMA Day on the Hill” on March 26,  
please be in touch with Helen Bresnahan, email: sunrisedawn110@aol.com)

The cost of the lunch is \$15. Deadline for reservations is March 21.

To reserve, please complete the form below including your name and how  
many guests you have invited and send with a payment of \$15/person made  
out to LWVCC to:

Ira Seldin  
321 Deer Meadow Lane  
Chatham, MA 02633

Suggested parking lots are 10 and 11. There is also handicapped parking up the hill  
next to the Larusso building.

In case of inclement weather, please call 508-375-4070 to see if the college has a delayed  
start or possibly might be closed. This is extremely unlikely and given the later start time  
for the event, it is very probable that the parking lots will have been plowed unlike last  
year.

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I will attend the Legislative Luncheon. Name \_\_\_\_\_

I am bringing the following guests: Name \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is a check payable to LWVCC for \$15/per person \_\_\_\_\_

**Is your calendar marked for  
these special events?**

**Friday, March 28 at noon**  
**LEGISLATIVE LUNCH**  
**4Cs Applied Technology Bldg.**

**April 12, 10 a.m. Environment Committee Forum**  
**“The Cape Cod Wastewater Challenge”**  
**Harwich Community Center**