

# THE CAPE COD VOTER

VOLUME 52 ISSUE 9

MAY 2012

## CALENDAR

**Sunday, May 6  
3:00pm**

**New Membership Wine  
and Cheese  
Home of Joan Bernstein**

**Saturday, May 19  
9:30am**

**Annual Meeting  
Riverway Lobster House**

**Tuesday, June 5  
9:30am**

**June Board Meeting  
Cape Cod Five Bank, Dennis**

## THIS ISSUE CONTAINS 2 SECTIONS

**1-May Bulletin**

**2 Annual Reports for 2011/12**

**The Work Book for the Annual Meeting is in a separate  
attachment for your ease in bringing it to the meeting**

## **SEE YOU ON MAY 19 AT THE RIVERWAY LOBSTER HOUSE**

Dear Members of the League,

Check your calendars. Do you have Saturday, May 19 at 9:30 marked LWV Annual Meeting? I hope so. We have important business to conduct – including electing new officers, our program for the coming year and a budget to adopt. We need your participation in these things and we always enjoy the opportunity the meeting brings to get to know one another a little

better! The priority League members place on good government and well informed citizen participation means we have much in common and therefore fully appreciate the camaraderie of our get-togethers!

A very special feature of the breakfast annual meeting will be the opportunity to hear from League members who are currently serving in positions on a County or Town board or committee. We believe there are about 12 such persons. What a delightful way to get a sense of what is going on in the Cape Cod Area and to offer our appreciation to our community workers.

Phyllis Walsh has given all the specifics and her own invitation on an inside page. I invite you to quickly print and fill out your form, and with your check, send in your reservation. See you on the 19<sup>th</sup>! And if you like, invite a friend or neighbor because:

“There couldn’t be a better time to promote the value of belonging to League. When I joined the League at age 29, I had college loans, a new mortgage and a fulltime job. I couldn’t go to the legislature; I couldn’t go to Capitol Hill; I couldn’t even attend county commission meetings. But, as a member of the League of Women Voters, I was supporting those women who did those things and their voice became my voice. Seeing the League work in all 50 states and in so many communities reinforces the fact that being in League makes us all smarter and more powerful because together we are powering our voices to *Power the Vote.*” Elisabeth McNamara, LWVUS president

The Annual Meeting Breakfast would be a convenient time for you to renew your own League membership for the new fiscal year – July through June 2013. Remember for returning members are dues are \$55/ 85 second in household and our bargain introductory rate is still \$35.

April 25, four of us participated in LWVMAs “Day on the Hill” in Boston. It was a gorgeous day for the drive – we actually sailed across the Sagamore Bridge at 8 a.m. and arrived in Boston earlier than anticipated. Please see inside my report.

This will be my final “President’s Message” to you as my term of office will end at the Annual Meeting. It’s whatever every outgoing president says, but it is so true. It has been a privilege and opportunity to serve the LWVCCA for these past three years as president. The rewards have been working with such a hardworking, committed Board, feeling great pride in the quality of the issue and candidate forums we have sponsored, and the deep satisfaction of knowing the involvement of meaningful work. Thank you for the opportunity you have given me.

Committedly, gratefully, in League with you,

Judy

## APRIL BOARD NOTES

- 2012-2013 Program Planning for the Annual Meeting:
  1. **Voter Service:** voter and civic education

2. **County Government:** regionalization opportunities, responsiveness and transparency, charter review
  3. **Water management:** Provide education and monitor town and county activities with a focus on regional wastewater initiative
  4. **Renewable energy:** focus on wind and local green energy initiatives
  5. **Health care** issues on Cape Cod
  6. Promoting a **positive future for Cape Cod Youth**
- The June board meeting will be joint, both new and old members will be attending.
  - The Strengthening Committee will hold a special retreat for the outgoing and incoming board members on June 26.
  - At the April 12, 2012 meeting of the Helen S. Aaron Educational Trust, the by-laws of the Ed Trust were revised and will be presented for approval at the general meeting.
  - The nominating committee presented its report. (Nominations are included in the Work Book.)

Renate Sands, secretary

## **NEW AND PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS WINE AND CHEESE**

A new and prospective member wine and cheese will be held at Joan and Mert Bernstein's home in Brewster on Sunday, May 6 at 3:30 pm. This is a wonderful orientation for prospective members as well as for those who have recently come aboard. All new members who joined the League this year will receive invitations. If you know of anyone who might be interested in joining the League please email Betsy Bray, Membership Chair [braybetsy@gmail.com](mailto:braybetsy@gmail.com) with contact information so she can send them an invitation.

Betsy Bray, Chair

## **League of Women Voters Massachusetts**

### **Day on the Hill**

**April 25, 2012**

Our Cape Area delegation of four (Karen Mazza, Barbara Wellnitz, Florence Seldin and Judy Thomas) arrived at Beacon Hill after a very smooth commute to Boston from the Cape. Entering Gardner Auditorium, the deteriorating condition of this meeting space was obvious as in previous years. The upholstery on the seats is dirty and weak. The springs of some seats are easily visible where the fabric is simply worn through. The room has a very tired look. Fortunately the content of the state League's program was in much better condition. Energetic. Fresh. Vital. The theme: Money and Politics.

After a welcome from state president Eva Valentine, the program began with a talk by Pam Wilmot, executive director of Common Cause of Massachusetts. Pam stated that "democracy is the question of the day – is it working or not?" She added that the biggest threat to democracy is apathy and cynicism on the part of the public. Not helping this situation is the US Supreme Court decision "Citizens United." "When special interests have a great influence and the substance of issues not, we have a problem."

In Massachusetts, Citizens United struck down statutes over 100 years old regarding corporate influence, thus tilting the scale toward the wealthy even more than before. Common Cause and the LWVMA are pushing for passage of S304, an act relative to disclosure of political spending. We lobbied our Cape delegation on this bill which sets forth requirements of any electioneering communication, including on the internet, which is paid for by an entity other than an individual and prohibits contributions by any foreign national or foreign corporations.

A second bill of comment was the expanded bottle bill, SB1650/HB890, a bill with several components to encourage more recycling and including plastic water bottles. Movement on the bill is currently being blocked by Speaker DeLeo in spite of tremendous public support and the co-sponsorship of 80 legislators. Ms. Wilmot reminded Leaguers that public initiative and referendum was how the bottle bill passed the first time, and could be an option again. She stated ballot initiative is the alternative to use when leadership and legislature refuse to do what the majority wants. It is very time consuming and costly.

The second featured presenter was Jay Kaufman, state rep. from Lexington. Rep. Kaufman, chair of the Commission on Revenue, stated that he too had great criticism of the Citizens United decision. In addition, he worries about the wealth discrepancies which are growing in the state. As an example, he said Fenway Park is no longer affordable for most people – even in the bleachers. Meanwhile the luxury boxes have become more luxurious. As a people, he fears we've accepted the divides between rich and poor.

Rep. Kaufman lamented the lack of opponents in many representatives' districts in this fall's election. Thus far, of 160 seats, only 25 seats are known to be contested. He cites as reasons the high cost of running for office (money), the stresses of the job, a press that skews the image of legislators (the vast majority of which are ethical with only a few succumbing to favor granting), and laziness. (Earlier Ms. Wilmot had stated that when you're in politics, there is always a target on your back.)

Following these presenters, League program specialists described numerous bills the League is supporting. At noon, we adjourned to lobby. First stop, en mass, the Speaker's office to urge passage of the expanded bottle bill. Our full number (85-100?) filled the hallway and we chanted, bottle bill now. The result was Eva Valentine and two League specialists were invited into the office to talk with three of the speaker's aides.

After a very quick bag lunch, we met several of the Cape delegation in a hearing room our legislative chair, Joan Craig, had arranged for through the office of Rep. Sarah Peake. Karen Mazza lobbied for an act preventing students from dropping out of school; Florence Seldin lobbied for an act relative to Technology Producer Responsibility, Judy Thomas, an act relative to political spending. A roll call for House Reps cut short our meeting so that Barbara Wellnitz did not have the opportunity to lobby for an act relative to patient safety. On the way out we stopped in the House chamber to see the activity. A rep. was at the podium speaking on some aspect of the budget under debate, there were many empty seats, and as best we could see no one was paying attention to the speaker. Everywhere there were side conversations. Interesting. . .

We returned to the Cape, satisfied with our work, knowing that lobbying is not a job designed for people who are impatient, but for those who are committed to making democracy work. That was us, that is the League of Women Voters.

Judy Thomas

## **CAMPAIGN FINANCE**

Here is an excerpt from Elizabeth McNamara, LWVUS President, Leaders Update, April 12, 2012 on current League activity.

“The **LWVUS** Campaign Finance Task Force is now up and running. Its members are: Chris Carson (CA), Pat Donath (MI and LWVUS Board), Allison Feher (WA), Susan Lederman (NJ and former LWVUS President), Ann Luther (ME), Theresa Schneder (MT), Jill Ward (ME), and Co-Chairs Norman Turrill (OR and LWVUS Board) and Judy Duffy (MN and LWVUS Board). The Task Force has been formed to serve as a resource to the Board and provide information and input on campaign finance issues, including short- and long-term strategies for reform. In the short term, the Task Force will be researching and providing information to members on the proposed constitutional amendment proposals which have been introduced in the U.S. Congress in reaction to the Supreme Court's decision on *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*.”

## 2012 ANNUAL MEETING BRUNCH

You are cordially invited to attend the  
Annual Meeting of the League of Women Voters of Cape Cod Area

SATURDAY, MAY 19, 2012

9:30 A.M.

Brunch Buffet

Fresh Fruit, Pastries, Quiche, French Toast, Bacon, Sausage,  
Coffee, Tea and Juice

THE RIVERWAY LOBSTER HOUSE

Route 28, S. Yarmouth

LWVCCA members who are currently serving on County and town boards and/or committees have been asked to briefly share an important issue facing their town, our county or a particular civic topic that is one of their passions.

The Riverway Lobster House is a new venue for us with a comfortable, private dining room. We will have the restaurant to ourselves so please join us for a morning of learning, socializing and business.

**Parking Lot Access:** It is easy for both handicapped and non-handicapped.

**Directions to:** Riverway Lobster House, 1338 Route 28, South Yarmouth,

Take Exit 8 Station Ave. from Route 6 toward Yarmouth

Drive south 2.1 miles to Main St. and go .04 miles.

Make a second right onto Rt. 28.

Riverway Lobster House will be .03 miles on the right.

Note: The Riverway Lobster House is around the corner from the Cultural Center in South Yarmouth.

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**Coupon**

The breakfast including tax and gratuity is \$15.00 per person. Please make your check payable to LWVCCA and return this coupon with your check, no later than Monday, May 14, 2012, to:

Debbie Aikman, 78 Water St., Chatham, MA 02633

\_\_\_\_\_ YES! I'll be there. My \$15 check is enclosed.  
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## LWVCCA DUES REMINDER

Dues for 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.

Your continuing support is much appreciated.

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*Please send your check payable to LWVCCA to:*

*Debbie Aikman, 78 Water Street, Chatham, MA 02633*

NAME(S) \_\_\_\_\_

SINGLE \$55 \_\_\_\_\_

FAMILY \$85 \_\_\_\_\_

DONATION \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_

For publication in the Member Handbook:

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.

## SECTION TWO ANNUAL REPORTS 2011/12

### Report of the President

2011-2012

Judy Thomas

It has been an extremely busy year for the Cape Area League. The Board has worked with great commitment and we have accomplished a much.

Beginning last fall, under the leadership of Karen Mazza, a special task force committee and then the board took an in depth look at the functioning of our committees. The “look” was expanded to include, but to a lesser degree, the functioning of units and the board, all with an eye to efficiency, productivity and future leadership. In February, the suggestions were reviewed and a time line added for various items. One of the challenges the League is facing is increasing our leadership base from all our members, but particularly our newer members. As the days pass (and we age), this newer base is crucial for the League to be able to continue its work with the strength and vitality for which it is known.

Throughout the year, the County Committee, chaired by Jari Rapaport and Nancy Curley, has worked tirelessly monitoring County government and the progress of the Special Commission on County Governance. This work resulted in “study” meetings in late March and the League reaching consensus on the Special Commission’s recommendation for a single strong executive and a legislative branch of reduced size. Our committee will be sure to follow this work in the coming year and would value highly additions to the committee. This is what Special Commission member Mimi McConnell had to say of the League and its county government work on a March 1, 1012: “Hats off to the League of Women Voters, who got us into this in the first place!”

The environment committee has also worked extremely hard to bring together very knowledgeable speakers on climate change and the future of Cape Cod. A most successful forum was held in late April. I extend my appreciation to Rory Marcus, committee member, who spearheaded the work with great knowledge, passion and a lot of hard work. Rory will be increasing some of her other commitments for 2012, as will Joan Grant (board rep for the environment committee) who will be giving leadership to Lower Cape Outreach Council. Thus, this committee needs someone or some pair to hold the reins and guide it as it follows up with the issues raised at the forum. Any who are interested in serving and providing just a portion of the leadership should contact the nominee for president, Karen Mazza ([mazzak@comcast.net](mailto:mazzak@comcast.net) or 508-896-3539) to volunteer their service.

Another significant forum was held on health care in January under the leadership of Joan Bernstein. Please see her and all the other committee reports include in this *Voter*.

Speaking of the *Voter*, Jari Rapaport and Terry Chesney make sure it get outs every month. Mary Utt sees the hard copy mailing.

Joan Craig organized a great Legislative Breakfast in a fantastic setting at 4Cs, redid the Directory of Elected Officials and, through the office of Sarah Peake, made arrangements for meeting space with our Cape delegation for State's "Day on the Hill." Joan also worked to get some corporate donors for the Ed Trust publication, Directory of Elected Officials.

My member handbook includes penciled in information for ten new members. A few of these are late renewals (see this as a plug to get your dues in promptly during the month of June), but seven are new. We warmly welcome them! Our new member tea, under Betsy Bray's leadership, will happen later in May. Betsy is tremendously busy and we appreciate her continuing work with and for the League.

Betsy has also given very professional direction to the Helen S. Aaron Education Trust which continues to fund important educational outreach work of the League.

Jane Teixeira-Henry left the board to become a worker for a state official and Renate Sands agreed to pick up the secretarial duties in January. Renate is one who does so many jobs so efficiently. If she is available, she is "Renate on the spot."

Voter Service is always an important function of the League. Elizabeth Levy has organized several spring candidate forums this spring and worked to determine how we might best carry on our youth/young adult voter registration program. Elizabeth will be leaving the board this year. What a loss.

So too will be the loss of Sally Cahill, Jane Colby and Paige Lyons (resigned for health reasons) from work with the units. I hope new structures within the League will lure them back.

Karen Mazza has given leadership to the Youth Outreach program particularly through the Cape Cod Foundation.

Vice-president Phyllis Walsh has done a superb job in coordinating our special event meetings, helping to set up the mike system with Renate in various venues, and filling in for me during my January-February absence.

Dottie Kelly has kept the press informed of our work along with Harriet Klebanoff, who has kept our website up to date.

Debbie Aikman keeps track of and pays our bills and also keeps the data base with LWVUS current.

Jean Mangiafico and the nominating committee put in many hours to give us a slate for the Annual Meeting on May 19.

I'm sure I've missed some of the bases in this report. And I know I've missed names I should have mentioned. Be assured, very assured, that the work of each and every volunteer in our organization is very much appreciated by myself and the board. We are all so grateful. As with any volunteer or paid job, there were occasional hitches in getting the job done. Our volunteers persevered and they and we sailed on. It was and is a great team effort we bring to our mission.

As I said in my president's message, this is my last year to serve in this capacity. What a wonderful journey it's been – challenges, rewards, new experiences, personal growth, new learnings, new skills developed and old ones brushed up on. Thank you for the privilege. I look forward to supporting Karen in any way (well, almost!) that she chooses and to ongoing work as a board and committee member.

## **COUNTY COMMITTEE**

The Committee continued its focus on County government and possibilities for a more responsive structure to cope with regional imperatives. The committee planned the September Forum around this issue and presented a noted scholar, Dr. Ronald Oakerson as keynote speaker, and a panel which included Co-chair of the Special Committee on Governance Rob O’Leary, APCC Exec. Director Maggie Geist, Paul Niedzwiecki, Exec. Director of the Cape Cod Commission, and State Senator Dan Wolf.

Members closely followed the Special Committee on Governance through its conclusion in February 2012. The League provided testimony to the Commission. We are continuing to follow the responses of the County Commissioners as they study the Committee recommendations.

The Committee put together information for use by the League in the March consensus on structure. The resulting position was presented to the County Commissioners and to the Assembly of Delegates.

Throughout the year the members observed the meetings of the Board of County Commissioners and the Assembly of Delegates.

Nancy Curley, Jari Rapaport Co-chairs

## **SUPPORTING YOUTH COMMITTEE**

This committee participated in a strategic planning event sponsored by the Cape Cod Foundation that involved a variety of private and public agencies and government offices in planning strategies for a comprehensive regional collaborative effort to support a positive future for Cape Cod youth. The LWVCCA Board voted to commend the Cape Cod Foundation for their leadership on this initiative and to encourage the Foundation to support the implementation of the plan. The LWVCCA is offering its support to the plan in areas involving civic education, voter service and regional collaboration. On a different project, Karen Mazza, from the Supporting Youth Committee initiated a pilot community service project on voter registration with three students from a Communication and Persuasion class at Cape Cod Community College. At the end of the semester the pilot will be evaluated to improve the support and success of this project.

Karen Mazza, Chair

## **Health Care Committee Report**

Despite the snow, a good sized crowd showed up for the health care forum, “Navigating Health Care on Cape Cod.” Michael Lauf, President and CEO of Cape Cod Healthcare, headlined our excellent panel of speakers: Dr. Brian O’Malley, a physician practicing in Provincetown who spearheaded Cape Care Coalition for many years and currently is on the board of Cape Cod Preferred Physicians, Sonja Brewer, Regional Director of the Cape and Islands SHINE, and BL Hathaway, Director of Oral Health Excellence Collaborative (OHEC). Michael Lauf summarized the progress made financially at Cape Cod Hospital and improvements in services and expertise. Lauf and O’Malley tackled the question of what is an Accountable Care Organization and what they mean to doctors and patients. SHINE provides free counseling for Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries at town COAs to help individuals make the best decisions when choosing medigap insurance, Medicare Advantage Plans, prescription drug programs and other health care financial assistance programs. OHEC has 4 goals: to reduce incidence of dental disease, increase access to dental care, build capacity, services, and skills to serve special populations, and to expand oral health programs and services. BL Hathaway probably provided the most memorable sentence of the forum: “dental disease is the most common chronic infectious disease among seniors, adults, and children.” Moreover, there is a great shortage of dental health professionals on the Cape, and MassHealth, since 2010, does not cover restorative dental care for adults. The Cape also suffers a shortage of psychiatric professionals. The health care committee plans to prepare a more complete summary of the information provided at the forum for those who missed the program or who want to refresh their memories.

## **LEGISLATION**

Throughout the 2011-2012 year, the LWVCCA email list was kept up to date, with the changes of current information and the addition of new members to our League.

Work was done to update and expand the content of the Directory of Elected Officials. Now that redistricting of our legislators is complete, the next printing of the directory will be a more accurate document.

We had a number of legislative alerts to our League Members throughout the year, including:

- Bottle Bill articles;
- LWVUS Guidelines;
- County governance;

- Additional items pertinent to the Cape Cod League.

The Legislative Breakfast, held on March 23, 2012 at the Cape Cod Community College Lorusso Applied Technology Building, was well-received by all in attendance. Special thanks goes out to College President Kathy Schatzberg and her staff and caterers for a great morning. There were 49 in attendance, and we appreciated the remarks by our legislators or their aides. Specific comments were made regarding items the LWVCCA felt were priorities, including:

- Money and Politics and concerns regarding the Citizens United decision and issues of campaign finance and transparency;
- Expanded Water Bill to include water, juice, iced tea and similar beverage containers to the current list of drinks with a 5 cent deposit;
- Casino Gambling and how it might impact the Cape;
- Waste Water Management and possible regional solutions to the Cape problem;
- Health Care and possible changes in the Massachusetts health care legislation.

The Day on the Hill, scheduled for April 25, 2012 at the State House will be attended by President Judy Thomas as well as Karen Mazza, Virginia Nordin, Renate Sands, Florence Seldin and Barbara Wellnitz. Our League members will then meet with our legislators from 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm.

It has been my pleasure to serve as Legislative Chair over the past year.

Joan Craig, Legislative Chair

## **MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT**

Ten new members have joined the League this year. Thanks to all who have helped recruit them. Thanks to Sandwich member Karen Miller for sending the welcome letter and Membership Directory to the new members. Karen also assisted writing the new member biographies for inclusion in The Voter. There will be a membership wine and cheese on May 6 at the home of Melt and Joan Bernstein. Thanks to Nancy Erskine and others for helping with the nametags and member recruitment when I have been unable to attend League events.

Betsy Bray, Membership Chair

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

Two Board meetings were held this year. At the April meeting, the following were elected: Phyllis Helfrich, Laura Kahkonen and Richard Utt to serve two year terms as new members of

the Board. Debbie Aikman will serve a two year term. Betsy Bray, Nancy Curley and Florence Selden will finish their terms ending in 2013.

The following officers were elected: Betsy Bray President, Debbie Aikman, Treasurer Nancy Curley, Secretary. The President and the Voter Services Chair will serve as ex officio members of the Board. The group also approved the budget for the year.

Betsy Bray, President

## **Voter Service**

Our busy year included:

- Contacting teachers and school officials to determine how we could help register students.
- Organizing and staffing local candidates' forums in four different towns.
- Supplying timers for a town meeting.
- Sponsoring our third "Don't Just Stand There...Run" program for citizens considering running for office.

All those who participated deserve our thanks, with a special bow to new member Jan Hively, who worked with one town clerk to create an eighteenth birthday message (with registration form enclosed). We hope it will be adopted by other towns. Jan will introduce this at the annual Cape Cod Town Clerks meeting this summer.

"Voter" is in our name. It's our number one job.

Elizabeth Levy, Chair

## **THE NAUSET UNIT**

The Unit conducted two meetings this year. The first was a fall meeting focusing on the topic of waste water management. Representatives from the towns of Brewster, Eastham, Orleans and Wellfleet presented the waste water management plans of their respective towns and discussed key issues the towns face in seeking support and implementing the plans. In the winter, a joint meeting of the Nauset Unit and the Chatham/Harwich Unit sponsored a program on the topic of aging in place. Representatives from Nauset Neighbors and from the Harwich Council on Aging presented the resources available through each organization.

Karen Mazza