

THE CAPE COD VOTER

VOLUME 55 ISSUE 1

SEPTEMBER 2014

CALENDAR

Tuesday, September 2 9:30am	Board Meeting Cape Cod Five, Dennis
Tuesday, September 9	Mass. Primary Day
Monday, September 22 1:30pm	County Committee Location tba
Tuesday, September 30 5-7pm	Membership Dinner Riverway, S. Yarmouth
Tuesday, October 3 9:30am	Board Meeting Cape Cod Five, Dennis

Voter Registration Events: See Page 4

**BUSY FALL SEASON COMING UP
SEE YOU AT OUR OPENING MEMBERSHIP DINNER**

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CO-PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

Dear Members:

We hope you are enjoying this beautiful summer season. As we move closer to September our thoughts are turning to our start up activities for the League of Women Voters of the Cape Cod Area and we would like to share those plans with you so that you may make plans to participate where you can.

Voter Registration: Voter Service Co-Chairs Chris Meade and Joan Grant have been working with Town Liaisons to plan a variety of voter registration events across Cape Cod for September. Please see the article about voter registration in this issue of The Voter. This is an important service to the Cape and an easy way for members to participate in a League activity. It is also a way to increase our visibility and recruit members. Thanks Chris, Joan and Town Liaisons for your initiative!

Committees: One way to be actively involved in the League is to participate in our committees. Our active committees this year are the County Government, Health, and Youth Service Committees, and the Membership Committee. Please see descriptions of their activities in this issue of The Voter. We are always glad to have members join these committees. We are also interested in maintaining a committee operating by e-mail on the Environment, to update our membership about important environmental information. Contact the committee chairs, listed with each committee report, if you would like to know more about ways you can participate.

Opening Membership Meeting: Our opening membership meeting will be a dinner and program on Tuesday, September 30, from 5:00 – 7:00 PM at The Riverway Restaurant in South Yarmouth. This is a good way to visit with League members and join us in listening to an informative program about the current status of advocacy efforts regarding The Pilgrim Nuclear Power Plant. Diane Turco of Cape Downwinders will be our speaker. Detailed information appears later in The Voter. Please join us for this kick-off event for the year!

We look forward to seeing you at the September 30 meeting! If you have questions about how to be involved in League activities please feel free to contact either of us and we will be happy to help you make contact with the appropriate League representative.

In League,

Marilyn Gullett and Karen Mazza
Co-Presidents

Marilyn@gullett.org lwvccapres2012@gmail.com

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Opening Membership Meeting

**You are cordially invited to attend the
Opening Membership Meeting of the
League of Women Voters of the Cape Cod Area**

TUESDAY, September 30, 2014

5:00-7:00 P.M.

**THE RIVERWAY LOBSTER HOUSE
1338 Route 28, South Yarmouth***

**Speaker: Diane Turco, Cape Downwinders
Topic: Current Efforts to Close Pilgrim Nuclear Plant**

The mission of Cape Downwinders is to take action to protect the lives and welfare of the residents of Cape Cod, Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket against the threat of death or injury resulting from the use of nuclear energy at Pilgrim and other locations. Ms. Turco will share the recent work of Cape Downwinders and discuss the status of current efforts to influence decision makers regarding the closing of the plant.

A light dinner will be served and will include:

To Start

Cheese & Fruit Crudites

Buffet

Caesar Salad

Pasta Pomodoro

Meatballs

Chicken & Broccoli Alfredo

Assorted Desserts, Coffee & Tea

A cash bar will also be available.

The cost of the dinner is \$18.

The deadline for reservations is **Monday, September 22**. Please use the coupon on the last page and send with your check for \$18 to Ira Seldin, 321 Deer Meadow Lane, Chatham MA 02633.

We have held previous meetings at this venue and have had favorable feedback.

For directions please see last page of this issue.

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VOTER SERVICE EVENTS

Sunday, September 7	Voter Registration & Education – Eastham
Friday, September 12	Voter Registration & Education – Sandwich
Saturday, September 13	Voter Registration & Education – Orleans
Wednesday, September 17 6:30 - 8:30	Voter Registration & Education -- Chatham/Harwich Monomoy Regional High School
Thursday, September 18	Voter Registration & Education - Cape Cod Community College
Sunday, September 21 11:30 - 3:00	Barnstable 375 th Anniversary Town Picnic – Hyannis
Wednesday, October 8 6:30 - 9:00	Candidate Debates – Cape Cod Community College

Voter registration and education events are currently being planned for most towns. Town liaisons and members are working together to select dates, times and locations. Once details on the events are final, a notice will be sent to all members with specific locations and times. If you would like to participate in an event, please contact Joan Grant (joanwittgrant@gmail.com) or Chris Meade (cameade@comcast.net).

Barnstable 375th Anniversary Town Picnic – September 21 -- Hyannis Town Green

We will celebrate this significant anniversary and hold an enhanced voter registration and education event. Creative ideas are still being solicited for ways to recognize the history of Barnstable and Cape Cod and the importance of active democracy through the many years up till today. We are looking for ideas that are fun and will attract and inform picnic attendees of all ages. If you have ideas and/or would like to participate in this event, please contact Chris Meade (cameade@comcast.net).

Candidate Debates - October 8, 6:30 - 9:30pm -- Cape Cod Community College

The Cape Cod Times and LWVCCA will co-sponsor two debates on Wednesday evening, October 8 from 6:30 to 9:00. The first debate, beginning at 6:30, will be between candidates for the 1st Barnstable District Representative seat. The second debate, beginning at 9:30, will be for the Senate seat for the Plymouth, Barnstable District.

HEALTHCARE

Submitted by Joan Bernstein

In 2014-2015 the Health Committee will continue studying issues of mental health parity and prepare a program for April 2015 to follow up on 2014's health care forum on the topic. Our first meeting will be in September, exact time to be set. The committee welcomes additional

members interested in this study and program preparation. Call or email Joan Bernstein at 508-896-8383 or joanbernstein@comcast.net if interested or if you have questions.

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COUNTY GOVERNMENT-- SUMMER EVENTS

The summer began with the major conflict between the Commissioners and the Assembly over the county budget for 2014/15. It wasn't approved until the last moment at the end of May. In July the Commissioners and the Assembly agreed to hold a series of special workshops to read through the Home Rule Charter providing the opportunity for the two groups and the public to really look at what is required of each branch. It will also allow them to point out areas that are unclear or might be looked at in subsequent charter review committee work. The Assembly is also looking at hiring separate counsel for the Assembly. County Administrator Brillhart made a well-received report on capital budgets to the Assembly in July. Mr. Brillhart also met with our County Committee and described his work in carrying out the administrative recommendations contained in the County Strategic Plan. Much progress was reported. In July the Assembly raised questions about the Commissioners' work on Temporary Assignments. The Commissioners are asked to discuss this at the August Assembly meeting. Unfortunately any report to our membership will have to wait until the October Voter.

Jari Rapaport. Co-chair, County Committee

YOUTH SUPPORT COMMITTEE

The Youth Support Committee has planned a teacher conference day for October 10, 2014, entitled "Resources and Models for the Active Civics Curriculum". This conference day is co-sponsored with the Cape Cod Collaborative, which is responsible for planning the All-Cape Teacher Conference Day. The workshop will feature as keynote presenters, representatives of the Edward M. Kennedy Institute, which is scheduled to open in spring 2015 on the campus of UMASS Boston. The EMK Institute will sponsor civics education activities for students and teachers and will include simulation experiences using a replica of the US Senate Chamber, and numerous opportunities for the interactive use of technology in researching and simulating civic experiences. The largest portion of the day will be devoted to teacher sharing of civics curriculum and resources presently in use. We will conclude with a discussion of ways that the development of grant funding to support school efforts at civics education might help schools expand civic engagement to a larger percentage of their student body.

If the schools agree that grant funding will enhance their work, then the focus of the Youth Support Committee will turn to working with the Cape Cod Foundation to create this grant fund and administer the awards of grant funding to school projects. We might also work with the local press to celebrate the resulting work of students on civic projects.

We welcome new members to the committee to help us develop this support system for civic education in the schools and the community. Our teacher conference day will be open to committee members and volunteers who wish to help with note taking and support for the day. Location details have not yet been finalized but we expect it will take place at Cape Cod

Community College. Please contact Karen Mazza, Chair, at 508-694-6843 if you would like to join us.

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LWV NATIONAL CONVENTION

From Co-President Marilyn Gullett, Delegate

Let me first thank the membership of LWVCCA for sponsoring my attendance at the National Convention held in Dallas June 6-10. It was a stimulating, instructive, and enriching experience to be surrounded by so many women and men dedicated to the mission of the LWV.

There were 643 voting delegates representing 47 states and D.C. The days were jammed from early morning to late at night with speakers, workshops, plenary sessions and candidate forums. Officers and Directors were chosen for the next two years. The nominating committee presented a slate and, to add to the excitement, there was a challenge from the floor for the Board President. Instead of just talking about it, we all participated in a real campaign.

The Massachusetts delegation was one of the highlights of the Convention. They led the effort to make money in politics a top issue. A caucus was held with standing room only. The resolution put forward was adopted with widespread enthusiasm. It is:

- 1) Study process of amending the Constitution
- 2) Review and update of campaign finance position in light of 40 years of change
- 3) Review redistricting process for U.S. Congress

LWVMA has developed a primer on “Money in Politics: Developing a Common Understanding of the Issues”. They also have a very informative and effective PowerPoint presentation that will be available for use by all leagues.

In the interest of the length of this month’s *Voter* and also in the interest of holding your attention, I shall write further “chapters” about the Convention in the upcoming issues in order to address it in more detail.

Some of the other resolutions considered:

- ~Carbon emissions and the climate system
- ~Restoring voting rights in federal elections to citizens who have completed their terms of incarceration and parole and to work to repeal state felon disfranchisement laws
- ~Human trafficking
- ~Promoting legislation for a living wage
- ~Study Economic Inequality

The plenary speakers offered insights and predictions on a variety of topics.

Among them,

Steve Murdock, Ph.D., an expert in Demography and Socioeconomic Impact Assessments

Annie Parker, mayor of Houston

Peter Harkness, founder and publisher of *Governing* magazine

Ray Martinez III, Voting rights and the administration of our elections

Wade Goodwyn, NPR

One evening between workshops and caucuses, we attended a performance of “Red Hot Patriot: The Kick-Ass Wit of Molly Ivins” which was offered as a fundraiser for LWV of Dallas.

In the next few issues, I shall write in more detail about the workshops, caucuses, and resolutions. Stay tuned!

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SOUTHEAST REGIONAL FIELD SERVICE LEAGUE MEETING

Submitted by Phyllis Walsh

On June 25 the South Coast and Cape and Islands leagues held their twice yearly meeting at the home of a Falmouth LWV member. The purpose of the meeting was to share ideas and information and learn from one another. There were ten attendees, representing Martha's Vineyard, Marion-Mattapoisett-Rochester, Falmouth, the Cape Cod Area and the Concord-Carlisle/LWVMA. Marilyn, Karen and I represented our league.

The agenda included the following topics:

- Report on National Convention
- Membership Discussion
- Report by Falmouth on their School Study
- Civic Education - A Discussion
- Report by MMR on the grant program for their schools
- Local League Programs for 2014-2015
- LWVMA Programs and Focus for 2014-2014

In this Voter I will elaborate on the membership discussion. Marilyn will provide information on national convention and Karen will give an update on plans for civic education. In subsequent Voters I will provide further information on some of the other agenda topics.

Membership

Our league had the most new members with eleven, bringing our total membership at the time of our meeting to ninety-five. Some reasons for new memberships were transfers from other leagues, recruited by current league members, saw information on our league at the Women's Coalition breakfast, were newly retired and had an interest in the LWV and our focus. Two of these new members are now board members.

Marion-Mattapoisett-Rochester has forty-five members, five of whom are new to their league. One way they recruit new members is by inviting them to meetings. They recruit teachers since they have a working relationship with some of the teachers.

Martha's Vineyard has thirty members, twelve of whom are active. Both of the attendees at the meeting were new to the MV league and to their board. When they retired they were looking for the league as an organization to join.

Falmouth has ninety members with three new members recruited by board members. Since they have an aging league, they initiated a new member recruitment program last Fall. They worked with the town clerk to obtain the names of newly retired and newly registered voters in the last three months. They work in batches of twenty-five. One person does a mailing and another

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Southeast Region, continued

follows up by phone. In the letter they indicate that the addressee will hear from someone in the Falmouth league within two weeks. Initially, they invited the potential members to an event in February. Since that time they've continued with the letters and the follow up. Some come to meetings but none have joined so far. This is a two year project which they'll continue through the next league calendar year.

Concord/Carlisle has 175 members. They give gift memberships and offer a one half membership for the second half of the year. If someone shows an interest in the league, a member has coffee with that person to gauge their interest and to provide information on the Concord/Carlisle league. To keep their members engaged and informed, they e-mail a Monday Member News Bulletin every Monday. The topics addressed could be updates or reminders for Concord/Carlisle programs, activities and/or action, for state and national programs or action or for programs in another town.

If you have further questions about the above, please e-mail me at walshpf@comcast.net.

UPCOMING PROGRAM PLANNING -- VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Our program topic for January is an update on Money in Politics. The LWVMA Campaign Finance Study Committee has produced a toolkit for sharing information about the status of campaign finance reform and the impact of Citizen's United on the influence of money on elections. Additionally LWVMA influenced the LWVUS convention to start a study on a constitutional amendment to reverse the impact of the Citizen's United court decision. We need a temporary committee to review this material and prepare a local program for our membership and guests and perhaps the wider public to provide an update on this issue and efforts to bring about change. Our resources will be the toolkit, contact with the LWVMA Campaign Finance Study Committee, and outside organizations and speakers. If you would be willing to work on this temporary committee to review the material and select resources for a program please contact Karen Mazza at lwvccapres2012@gmail.com or phone her at 508-694-6843.

Our program topic for February is Income Inequality. This program will explore the increasing gap in income between the super-rich and the middle class and its impact on economic growth and economic/social justice. As a resource, we will view the DVD program produced by former Secretary of Labor Robert Reich. We would like to show the DVD to our membership, guests and the general public and host a guest commentator or two to facilitate conversation about the implications of this issue for future directions for economic policy and legislative action. If you would be willing to work on this temporary committee to review the DVD and explore options for guest commentators, please contact Karen Mazza at lwvccapres2012@gmail.com or phone her at 508-694-6843.

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OPENING MEMBERSHIP DINNER -- PAYMENT COUPON & DIRECTIONS

Directions to Riverway: From Route 6 take Exit 8 south (Station Ave) for 2 miles where it joins North Main Street. Go right on N. Main then right again briefly to the traffic light and right again onto Route 28. Riverway drive is first on your right.

To: Ira Seldin
321 Deer Meadow Lane
Chatham MA 02633

I will attend the LWVCCA Opening Dinner Meeting on September 30 and am enclosing my check for \$18. (Guests also \$18.)

Name: _____

Name of guest if any: _____