
THE CAPE COD VOTER

50 ISSUE 2

VOLUME
OCTOBER 2009

CALENDAR

HEALTH CARE --- WHAT NOW?

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3

*Dr. Richard Salluzzo, President and CEO of
Cape Cod Healthcare, Inc*

Coffee 9:30 a.m. Program 10 a.m.

Harwich Community Center

**Tuesday, October 6
9:30 A.M.**

**LWVCCA Board
Harwich Community Center**

**Monday, October 19
1 p.m. to 3 p.m.**

**Unit Chairs
Cape Cod 5, Dennis (off exit 9)**

**Thursday, October 22
1:30 p.m.**

**County Govt. Observer Volunteers
Harwich Community Center**

**Monday, October 26
1:30 p.m.**

**Environment Committee
Erica Parra's home, E. Orleans**

**Wednesday, October 28
8:30 a.m.**

**Coffee, Conversation in Chatham
Old Harbor Coffee Shop**

BOARD NOTES

After an active summer, the Board met on September 8, 2009. There was much to discuss and decide.

Judy Thomas, President, announced that because attendance at most town meetings was low, she had offered to give League presentations to the Chatham/Harwich and Nauset Newcomer meetings in March and April respectively. These presentations will be based on those given in Acton and its study of the project and the effect on town meeting attendance.

Judy also announced that Vicky Anderson had resigned as Chair of the Outer Cape Unit. The Nominating Committee is looking for a new Chair for the Unit. Board members signed a card for Vicky.

The Board approved a trial of small breakfast meetings called "Hot Topics." They will be open to all and will meet in local restaurants to discuss topics of current or local interest with local experts present. Two groups will meet on September 24. One meeting, from 8:00 to 9:00 am at the Hot Chocolate Sparrow in Orleans, will be hosted by Joan Grant and will discuss child care on the Cape. Florence Seldin will host the other meeting in Chatham from 8:30 to 9:30 am at the Harbor Restaurant. Chatham schools will be the hot topic.

Dates for unit meetings have not yet been set. The Board discussed how units and unit meetings might be improved. Sally Erskine and Kathleen Vogt will hold a meeting of unit chairs and all others who are interested and report back to the Board.

The Board moved that the new electronic newsletter be named *The Cape Cod Voter*. Any suggestions for the Voter should be sent to Jari

Rapaport or Terry Chesney (new e-mail address: bandtches@comcast.net).

The County Government Committee reported that the County Commissioners' meetings can now be seen on Community Access TV, on the web at <http://www.barnstablecountyvideo.com/1.html> and streamed live.

The Holiday Party will be held on December 6. Time and place have not yet been decided. The Legislative Breakfast will be held on March 19.

Betty Floyd, Secretary

UNIT CHAIRS TO MEET

There will be a meeting on Monday, October 19, from 1 pm to 3 pm at the Cape Cod Five Cents Saving Bank off Exit 9 in Dennis. Unit Chairs and other interested parties are asked to attend. We will be planning this coming year's unit meetings and are open to new ideas.

Sally Cahill

Kathleen Vogt

CHATHAM CONVERSATIONS

Interested Chatham members and friends are invited to 2nd Coffee and Conversation on Wed., Oct. 28 from 8:30-9:30 at the Old Harbor Coffee shop on corner of Depot Rd. and Old Harbor Rd. The first session in Sept. drew only 3 members but we had a lively conversation focusing largely on Chatham schools and we want to do some visiting and get more information.

Florence Seldin

COUNTY GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

See Your Government in Action

The County Observer Corps is moving full speed ahead and observers have signed up to attend meetings of the County Assembly of Delegates and the Board of County Commissioners through the month of October.

At a meeting of the volunteers on September 22, we discussed the League's priority focus on transparency in government and our own efforts to assure videotaping of the Commissioner's meetings, which can be viewed on Community Access TV, on the web at www.barnstablecountyvideo.com/1html and streamed live.

The observer corps is a fascinating way to see how county government operates, and to meet the real people who wield power and responsibility for many of the county's programs and departments. As an observer you will learn about the many ways in which our County government provides services to our community, and how these services affect our towns and us as individual citizens. Perhaps of utmost importance, observers will learn how the League can respond to many critical issues facing our community today and tomorrow.

For a closer look, come to our next briefing on Thursday, October 22 at 1:30 pm at the Harwich Community Center or check out our "action discussion" on November 4, after the Board meeting at noon.

If you have any questions call or email Karin Roche or Jari Rapaport.

All are welcome!

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Coast Week – Wet But Successful

The Coast Week Celebration suffered from horrible weather, but Judith Bruce more than made up for it by giving us a very interesting talk on protecting our Cape Cod waters. We had many questions for her and a lively discussion.

For more information on clean waters the Orleans Pond Coalition is sponsoring a public meeting Thursday, October 22, 7 pm at the Church of the Holy Spirit, corner of Monument Road and Route 28 in Orleans. Experts in the field of waste water will answer questions on this important subject.

The next meeting of the Environment Committee will be Monday, October 26, 1:30 pm at Erica Parra's home, 60 Payson Lane, East Orleans. Telephone Erica (508 255-3116) if you need directions. Weather permitting – after the meeting those who want to could again go to Pochet Island.

LOOKING FOR HISTORY

In planning for our 50th birthday last year we uncovered major treasures in members' basements. Wonderful scrapbooks, newspaper coverage of our programs, copies of the Bulletin, photos of events. I am now trying to put together a storage system for our archives in one place and I would love to find even more items, which tell the story of our League and its impact.

I am particularly interested in Handbooks -- the earliest is 1969-70. It would be nice to find something from the 1980's and from 1990 to 1996, 2003-04, 2004-05, older Bulletins as well.

Thanks for any help you can give.
Jari Rapaport

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear League Members,

The Cape Area League is off to a wonderful start with an excellent program for Coast Week, attended by 25-30 persons. Many thanks to Erica Parra for hosting. The Observer Core for our county government is launched and the trial "Hot Topics" breakfasts have taken place. Our first forum is this coming Saturday, Oct. 3 at 9:30 a.m. at the Harwich Community Center and the topic, Health Care, couldn't be more timely or hot. We trust our audience will be cool . . .

Sadly, I must report two Board member resignations. Vicky Anderson resigned in August as unit chair for the Outer Cape and in mid-September, long time Board member Jane Colby resigned as director for membership. We have much appreciated the many contributions of Vicky and Jane and will miss their presence at Board meetings as well as the work each carried on in their particular areas.

As the League, along with many other non-profit and volunteer organizations, move into a new era of communications methods, we need your input and feed back. Some of you are receiving the *Voter* by US mail, but many of you are now receiving the *Voter* via email. Jari Rapaport, jari2@comcast.net and Terry Chesney, bandtches@comcast.net are eager to hear your thoughts on the *Voter*. Similarly, Harriet Klebanoff, hklebanoff@comcast.net is curious about your response to the website. If you haven't looked at it, please do: www.lwvcapecod.org and give Harriet your feedback. Is it clear? Can you or could a friend easily find the information you or they might be looking for? Help us to make this tool the most useful one we can offer to our members and the public. Thank you.

And lastly, a huge thank you to Betsy Bray for taking on the responsibility of putting together

the new Handbook. The look of the cover is fresh and contemporary with the logo. Inside is a great deal of information about our League, its positions, the non-partisan policy and so much more. The Handbook is a monumental task and one almost impossible to do without additions and corrections needed. Your next newsletter will contain some of both, including some membership updates.

I hope to see a great many of you at the forum on October 3.

In League,

Judy Thomas

HOT TOPICS

The first Hot Topics Breakfast Meeting in Orleans was held on Thursday, September 24th from 8 to 9 am at the Hot Chocolate Sparrow. We had nine people in attendance, and they were a vocal and interested group. Mary Pat Messmer, Executive Director of Cape Cod Child Development was our kickoff speaker. Elizabeth Aldred of Cape Cod Children's Place also attended. They both spoke knowledgeably and with passion about the continuing need for child care on Cape Cod. Funding, which always has been inadequate, has been cut even further. The ramifications are being felt, not only by families who find themselves on longer and longer waiting lists, but also by agencies that have had to cut staff and some that have closed altogether. Without child care people cannot go back to work, and without workers, small businesses suffer. The effect of inadequate child care eventually reaches all of us in one way or another. We need to be vocal about and act to support child care as a priority not only on Cape Cod but nationwide.

Joan Grant

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