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Contact Us

Our address: League of Women Voters of Falmouth P. O. Box 450 Falmouth, MA 02541
Send us an email league@lwvf.org or bulletin@lwvf.org
Visit our web site www.lwvf.org
Visit our Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/LWVofFalmouthMA/

Member Event Calendar

February 2019

21  7:00 pm  Observer Corps Report Presentations
       Hermann Room, Falmouth Public Library

26  7:00 pm  Board Meeting
       Gus Canty Center, Falmouth

March 2019

20  7:00 pm  Legislative Program: New Civics Law
               Wednesday
       Hermann Room, Falmouth Public Library

26  7:00 pm  Board Meeting
       Gus Canty Center, Falmouth

April 2019

18  7:00 pm  “Appointed Volunteers in Falmouth”
       Town Hall Civil Defense Room

23  7:00 pm  Board Meeting
       Gus Canty Center, Falmouth

LWVF Board of Directors 2018-2019

STEERING COMMITTEE

First Vice-President Sylvia Szulkin, Steering Committee Chair
Second Vice-President Alice Carey
At Large Doris Epstein
At Large Joanne Treistman
Observer Corps Denise Morreale
Secretary Mariam Cronin
Treasurer Joanne Voorhis
Webmaster Joan Boyer
At Large Kathy Mortenson
At Large Olivia White
Social Media Penny Duby

If you wish to join the League, membership dues are $50 for an individual membership and $25 for an additional household member.
Send your check made out to LWV of Falmouth, P. O. Box 450, Falmouth, MA 02541. Include your name, mailing address, email address and phone number. You do not have to be a resident of Falmouth to join.
MESSAGE FROM THE STEERING COMMITTEE
Sylvia Szulkin, Steering Committee Chair

There are three upcoming monthly Falmouth League meetings listed on our front-page calendar, all open to the public. Each meeting reflects a great deal of group effort, including investigation, discussion and logistics. The study groups are supported by the work of Board members specializing in public relations and social media. You’ll be reading more about these monthly events as the dates approach. Please note these dates on your calendar. Don’t hesitate to invite your friends and neighbors.

We look forward to seeing you at the meetings. After all, among the payoffs of participating in League studies are the satisfactions of sharing information and encouraging informed and active participation in government.

MEET JUDY ZISS, OUR NEWLY-APPOINTED LEGISLATIVE CHAIR
Sylvia Szulkin, Steering Committee Chair

Judy was born in the Bronx, grew up on a poultry farm in a small Connecticut town, and earned a degree in political science from the University of Pennsylvania and a law degree from Columbia. For eight years she practiced law at the Justice Department, first doing civil appellate work in Washington and, after she married, transferring to the Antitrust Division field office in New York. When her daughter was born, she stopped working for a period of time and dipped a toe into local politics in northern New Jersey, winning a seat on the local borough council on her second try. However, shortly after her term began, she and her husband Alec moved to Massachusetts, first living in Wellesley and then coming here to Falmouth when Alec was named a Vice President at Falmouth Hospital.

After moving to Massachusetts, Judy practiced law at a small Boston firm, where she often represented patent owners in litigation with alleged infringers or sued insurance companies for failing to pay claims relating to environmental damage. For many years she worked part-time, specializing in legal writing, research, and analysis. Therefore, she often was able to work from home here on the Cape, using the law library in the Barnstable court complex for research.

Judy and husband Alec retired almost ten years ago. Alec died late last year. Judy’s daughter, a developmental pediatrician, lives in Pittsburgh.
Here in Falmouth Judy has been active in grass roots politics and also helped establish a group called Prevent Foreclosures Cape Cod, a spin-off from Occupy Falmouth. The group prepared a brochure, a website, and a series of articles in the Falmouth Enterprise to inform threatened homeowners of their rights. In addition, they lobbied members of the state legislature.

Judy’s prior League work has been primarily with the local study committees, beginning with a project several years ago studying civics education in our schools. As her first project as Legislative Chair, Judy’s aim is to focus on new legislation – the civics education law recently enacted here in Massachusetts. Judy says: “We are looking for new committee members so please, let me know if you are interested.”

LWVF FRIENDS 2019

Barbara Douglass  
Sally Fritz  
Christina Jacobi  
Winnie and Bill Mackey

Jane Sambade  
Robert and Barbara Schneider  
Freddy Valois  
Helen Wilson

ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM, MARCH 20, 2019  
Judith Ziss, Chair

Having just become Legislative Chair of the Falmouth League, I want to fill you in on plans for this year. The annual Legislative Program will be held in the Hermann Room of the Falmouth Public Library on Wednesday, March 20 at 7:00 p.m. However, instead of meeting with our legislators to discuss legislation that might be enacted in the future, we will focus on a law that has already been passed - the new Massachusetts statute promoting civics education in our schools. Dr. Sonia Tellier, Falmouth Assistant Superintendent of Schools, has enthusiastically embraced this idea. She and her colleagues will fill us in on plans for implementing the new law here in Falmouth.

Our League chapter has focused on civics education in the past. Several years ago our Local Study Committee presented a program on
The importance of civics education has only increased in the interim and, today, civics education is more crucial than ever. Our country’s future depends on the ability of voters to evaluate information they receive with a practiced eye, considering the source along with the message. I hope you will come and see how our local schools plan to meet the challenges ahead.

While I have become the new Legislative Chair, our Committee has yet to be formed. If you are interested in helping with this program and/or in helping guide the path of the Legislative Committee in the future, please contact me at 508-548-1339 or at judith_ziss@comcast.net

**LWVF SOUTHEAST REGION FIELD SERVICE MEETING**

Alice Carey, Second Vice-President

The LWVMA Field Service program provides opportunities for local League leaders to meet, share, and plan within defined geographical areas. The goal of the program is to support local League leaders, strengthen local Leagues and encourage regional collaboration.

Field Service meetings are held in the winter (January-February) and spring (May-June) of each year.

The winter LWVMA Southeast Region Field Service Meeting was held on Wednesday, January 9, 2019 in the Sandwich Public Library. Falmouth League members in attendance were Alice Carey, Kathy Mortenson and Jacqueline Webster. Other leagues represented were Plymouth, Marion-Mattapoisett-Rochester, and the Lower Cape League.

Kate Boland, Lee Bona, and Kris Eastman represented the State League and Scotti Finnegan, President of the Lower Cape League now serves as Field Service Rep for the Southeast Region.

Topics covered included current membership numbers for attending leagues, recruiting accomplishments and challenges, action priorities, proposed by-law changes for the State League, a job description for membership on a League Board of Directors and an updated list of legislative priorities.
• Information on coming projects and events was provided including: the 2019 LWVMA video contest for high school students
• Suggested legislative actions for Congressman Keating, Congressional District 9
• Notice of a Webinar entitled “It’s Happening, It’s Now: The Climate Reports of 2018 scheduled for Wednesday, February 6, 4-5 P.M.EST. featuring Professor Michael Oppenheimer from Princeton University.

These meetings are important in assisting local Leagues to keep up with both state and national goals, projects and plans. Our League is always represented and will continue to take advantage of this opportunity to share and keep lines of communication open and current.

LWVF PARTICIPATES IN ENGAGE FALMOUTH FAIR
Carol McKeon, Voter Service Committee

The LWVF participated in the third annual Engage Falmouth Volunteer Fair held on Sunday afternoon January 27th at the parish hall of St. Barnabas Church in Falmouth. “Cross-pollination” was the theme of this year’s event and the aim was to foster deeper conversations between organizations and community members. Attendees learned about Cape-based opportunities to work on environmental issues, women and LGBQT rights, racial and immigrant justice, and caring for children, elderly and homeless members of the community. Each participating organization was also asked to provide volunteer opportunities for young people.

Sylvia Szulkin, Judy Stetson, Jackie Webster, and Carol McKeon represented LWVF. They staffed a table with posters displaying the variety of issues for which the League advocates along with information on the League’s legislative agenda for 2019-2020 and the League’s Legislative Envoy program. A poster and hand-outs also encouraged high-school students to participate in the League’s video contest: “The Climate Change Challenge”.

Jackie Webster (Membership Chair) reported that 15 people signed up as potential LWVF members and Jackie will be sending them membership
applications. As always, the Engage Falmouth Fair brought together a lively group of organizers and community members and many interesting discussions resulted.

THE BALLOT QUESTION PROCESS CONSENSUS MEETING
Alice Carey, Committee Chair

Every two years, MA voters may be called upon to vote whether or not to enact new laws, amend the constitution, or repeal recently passed laws through ballot questions.

LWVMA has not studied the initiative and referendum process in MA and has no positions on this aspect of voting/elections. This proposed study incorporates the intersection of the League’s areas of mission: voting and advocacy.

Local leagues were requested to give support to this process via consensus meetings.

LWVF members met in the Civil Defense Room in Town Hall on Thursday, January 17, 2019 as part of the LWVMA Ballot Question Process study. Discussion was lively and productive.

The study included fifteen questions, divided into six sections:
1. Section I: Understanding the Ballot Questions.
2. Section II: Signature Requirements
3. Section III: Signature Gathering
4. Section IV: Legislative Involvement and Responsibilities
5. Section V: Campaign financing for ballot questions
6. Section VI: The Initiative and Referendum Process in Massachusetts

Participants discussed these questions and together decided YES – NO – or NO CONSENSUS

A report of LWVF responses were forwarded to LWVMA. When all the results from participating local leagues are tabulated, LWVMA will decide whether to proceed with the Ballot Question Process study.

The state league should be congratulated on their remarkably thorough job of providing local leagues with background material for the consensus process.
The LWVF Ballot Question Process Committee members who guided members through the questions deserve thanks and recognition for a job well done. They were: Alice Carey (Committee Chair), Judy Fenwick, Barbara Kanellopoulos, Carol McKeon, Kathy Mortenson and Judy Stetson.

If you wish to know more details regarding this question, go to lwvma.org and look for “Ballot Question Process” under ADVOCACY.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT
Jacqueline Webster, Membership Chair

Welcome to the following new LWVF members who have joined us recently: Mary Fran Buckley, Laurel Hallman, Diana Lingafelter, Cynthia Rankin, Gayle Simundza, Kelly Welch.

The 2018-2019 Membership Directory (with a purple cover) was mailed out to all members in October via US Postal Service. Please review your listing and let Jackie Webster (jwebster391@gmail) know of any errors.

OBSERVER CORPS MEETING FEBRUARY 21
Denise Morreale, Observer Corps Chair

One of the most valuable services a local League can offer its members, and often the community, is to observe town boards and committees. The Falmouth League has had a very active Observer Corps for many years, and it is well respected in the Town.

Considered the eyes and ears of the League, the Observer Corps is dedicated to ensuring compliance with the Open Meeting Law.

On February 21, 2019 at 7:00 pm in the Hermann Room at Falmouth Library, there will be the first of two Observer Corps Report presentations. Laura Brothers-Substance Abuse Commission, Jenifer Alai-Library Trustees, Carol Chittenden-EDIC, Richard Johnson-Zoning Board of Appeals, and Suzanne Thomas-Solid Waste Advisory will be presenting at this meeting.

The next Observer Corps Report Meeting will be June 20.
SAVE THE DATE LWVMA STATE CONVENTION JUNE 7 & 8

The 2019 LWVMA Convention, “100 Years: Looking Back, Moving Forward,” will be held June 7 and 8, 2019 at the Westford Regency Inn and Conference Center in Westford, MA. Convention brings local League delegates together to hear distinguished speakers, approve program for the next biennium, elect a new board of directors, approve the budget, and network with leaders from across the state. We encourage every local League to send their voting delegates, and other members are urged to come as observers.

Noted environmentalist Bill McKibben will be the keynote speaker at the Friday night banquet. McKibben is an author, environmentalist, and activist. He is a co-founder and senior advisor at 350.org, an international climate campaign that works in 188 countries around the world. He is the Schumann Distinguished Scholar in Environmental Studies at Middlebury College and a former staff writer for the New Yorker who continues to write numerous magazine articles.

Make plans to have your League well represented at LWVMA Convention 2019! More details about the agenda and registration are coming soon. See you there!

HATS OFF TO WOMEN

You are invited on Sunday, March 31st, from 1pm-3pm to the Waldorf School, 140 Old Oyster Road in Cotuit. A Special Tea Party will celebrate the 100th Anniversary of Waldorf Schools, and the completion of a project by the 7th and 8th grades to promote voting. Called HATS OFF TO WOMEN, this celebrates leaders of the Women’s Right’s Movement 1776-1920 and mirrors the 100th Anniversary of the Women’s Right To Vote! The program is presented by Donna and Ron Laskin of Courtship Tea, Osterville. Seats are $20 (Hats optional) and reservations are a must. For information, contact Joanne Treistman, 508-335-1071
WOMEN’S MARCH AND RALLY ON THE GREEN
Sylvia Szulkin

On January 19, despite frigid temperatures and threatening skies, approximately 100 people gathered on the Falmouth Village Green to mark the third anniversary of the national Women’s March. Reflecting dissatisfactions with some of the original leadership of the 2017 March, Penny Duby of Falmouth brought together a group of Upper Cape women to stage a “Women’s Rally and Call to Action.” The group, calling itself the “Upper Cape Cod Women’s Coalition,” showed remarkable organizational and strategic skills in quickly bringing together members of diverse organizations to discuss principles and a methodology for achieving solutions to women’s issues.

The rally featured three speakers—Deborah Rudolph, the 2018 Democratic candidate for the State Senate seat representing Falmouth, Plymouth and the Cape and Islands, Emily Norton, Executive Director of the Charles River Watershed Association, and Susan Moran, Chair of the Falmouth Board of Selectmen and Falmouth’s representative to the Barnstable County Assembly of Delegates. Each speaker struck a distinct theme related to the exercise of women’s power. Ms. Rudolph spoke of learning to “speak her truth,” while struggling against personal poverty and workplace injustices. Ms. Norton spoke of the threats that climate change disproportionately imposes on women. She asserted that women will solve environmental problems once given a “seat at the table.” Ms. Moran related her personal approach to asserting her political voice—“Don’t preach,” she cautioned “Just reach out a hand to try to find the common good.”

In her introductory and concluding remarks, Penny Duby declared that merely showing up for a rally or casting a vote is not enough. She urged the crowd to follow up with specific action, working together in support of a common goal. Penny noted that the approaching 100th anniversaries of both the 19th Amendment and the founding of the League of Women Voters offer a unique opportunity to move for the expansion of women’s rights.

After the outdoor rally, the group proceeded to the meeting hall at the First Congregational Church, where they sat at round tables of six to talk about what they hoped to achieve through the rally and what they were willing to do to follow up. Some of the attendees wrote cards to their legislators calling for specific action. Everyone appeared to be energized.
February 2019 Bulletin

JOIN
THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
Democracy in Action

SAVE THE DATE
League of Women Voters of Falmouth Annual Meeting
Saturday, May 4, 2019 11:30am at the Falmouth Historical Society