



THE CAPE COD VOTER

VOLUME 58 ISSUE 4 DECEMBER 2018

Best wishes for a happy holiday season and for peace in our world in 2019

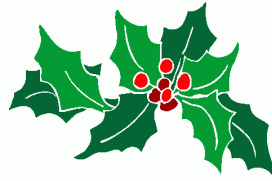
CALENDAR

Saturday, December 1
9:30 - 11:30am

Holiday Brunch
Riverway, Rte 28 at West Main St.
Yarmouth

Tuesday, December 4
9:30 - noon

Board Meeting--all welcome
Cape Cod Five, Dennis



UPCOMING

Tuesday, January 8
9:30am

Board Meeting
Cape Cod Five, Rte. 134, Dennis

Tuesday, January 15
9am - 1pm

Consensus Meeting on
Ballot Questions Study
Harwich Community Center, Oak Street

Wednesday January 23
9:30am - Noon

New Members Welcome Brunch
Hyannis Golf Club, Iannough Rd.

www.lwvcapecod.org

www.members.lwvcapecod.org

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Happy Hanukkah ~ December 2nd through 8th.



MEMBERS NEW AND OLD ~ SAVE THE DATE--JAN 23!

From Membership Chairs Phyllis Walsh & Mati Ligon

Everyone's invited -- to a warm welcoming January brunch to meet our newest members. Phyllis and Matti have been working with Program Chair Ann Ryan to bring together a convenient venue and a warm-the-innards brunch *to be held on Wednesday, January 23 from 9:30-noon at the Hyannis Golf Club on Iannough Road (Rte 132)*. Directions and additional details will be in the January VOTER.

Please note: this event is NOT for new members alone! Long-time members and especially current board members/committee chairs are particularly requested to come and share their experience with our new members. Cost is only \$7 and new members are our guests.



INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE DAY, DEC 12

is the third anniversary of a unanimous United Nations resolution calling for all countries to provide affordable quality universal health coverage to their citizens.

The Harvard, Mass. LWV will observe the occasion on Thursday, Dec 13 with a gathering to screen a documentary entitled, *“The Time is Now--Healthcare for Everybody”*. All welcome, of course. You can get the details at (978) 456-3552.

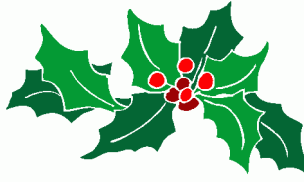
Annual Holiday Brunch ~ a festive start to the season



Above: Saturday morning, December first, saw LWVCCA members gathered to enjoy a hearty breakfast and to hear from **Kate Boland, Massachusetts LWV Membership Chair** and **Marie Gauthier, Founder-President of the Franklin County LWV**. Franklin County, on the Vermont state line, is the least populous county in Massachusetts ~ and it had no League of Women Voters until Marie came along, saw a need and decided to found a new League organization. She is one of a new generation of League leaders who is bringing a new spirit and new enthusiasm to the League.



Pictured at the brunch, *standing l to r*, are: Steering Committee members **Suzanne Brock**, also Co-Chair of our Environment Committee; **Richard Utt**, also co-chairing the Environment Committee and **Scotti Finnegan**. Seated: **Kate Boland**, LWV Membership Chair and **Marie Gauthier**, Founder and President of the new Franklin County LWV.



YOUTH SERVICE COMMITTEE REPORT

Submitted by Karen Mazza

Civic Education Bill passed

The civic education bill that LWVMA has been supporting, formerly known as Senate Bill 2631, is now ***Chapter 296, An Act to Promote and Enhance Civic Engagement***--
<https://malegislature.gov/Laws/SessionLaws/Acts/2018/Chapter296>.

The bill received broad bi-partisan support including that of our Cape delegation. The League's participation in the Mass. Civic Learning Coalition helped keep us in touch with legislators as the bill was shaped and amended while making its way through the Legislature. The LWVMA Legislative Action Committee and Legislative Envoy Program helped to let legislators across the state know this was an important priority. The major components of the law are described below.

1. **Civics Project Trust Fund:** Will receive state funding and private donations to support professional development training in civic education, implementation of the history and social science curriculum framework, collaboration with institutions of higher education and other stakeholder organizations and to establish a competitive evaluation of student-led civics projects for Grade 8 students.
2. **High School Voter Challenge Program:** The Secretary of the Commonwealth will develop regulations to guide non-partisan voter registration programs in participating high schools. Superintendents must ensure outreach to all students and the programs may involve selected or elected students acting as outreach coordinators
3. **Updated language defining civic education:** The language expands the concept of civic education to include more critical thinking of complex issues and the ability to evaluate digital media as it relates to history and civics.
4. **Role of the Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Education:** The law requires DESE to provide professional development opportunities, tools to help school districts implement the History and Social Science Curriculum Framework and support through statewide and regional trainings and sharing of best practices in civics.
5. **Student-led nonpartisan civics projects:** Districts will provide these active learning projects in Grade 8 and at least one project at the high school level. "Civics projects may be individual, small group or class-wide, and designed to promote a student's ability to (i) analyze complex issues; (ii) consider differing points of view; (iii) reason, make logical arguments and support claims using valid evidence; (iv) engage in civic discourse with those who hold opposing positions; and (v) demonstrate an understanding of the connections

between federal, state and local policies, including issues that may impact the student's school or community. Any student choosing not to participate in a particular group or class-wide project shall be offered the opportunity to develop an individual civics project, with approval by the principal." (This last point was a compromise amendment with Governor Baker, who wanted to make sure projects were nonpartisan and that students had choices.))

6. The Commonwealth Civics Challenge: This will be available to Grade 8 students as a showcase for student-led civics projects that promote and demonstrate understanding of civic engagement, citizenship and community service. Selected projects would be showcased at a central location.

7. Promotion of Youth Participation on Municipal Boards: The state secretary shall disseminate information to cities and towns about encouraging the participation of youth on boards, committees and commissions.

8. Coordination with a DESE assessment in History & Social Science: This provision states that if DESE chooses a participatory form of assessment for the History and Social Science Curriculum Framework, that assessment will satisfy the requirements for a student-led civics project in this law.

This law is a major step forward in support of civic education and the expectations that it is an important role of schools. The form of pedagogy is a more updated active learning approach to civic education that emphasizes student engagement in learning about meaningful civic issues. The law complements the revised History and Social Science Curriculum Framework adopted in June 2018 and together they will foster greatly enhanced civic education learning that will be expected of all students.

***On a personal note:** It has been my great privilege to work with the State League for several years, through the long discussion on improving civic education. I represented LWVMA on the DESE Task Force to Develop a Strategic Plan for Civic Education, which in turn guided the revision of the History and Social Science Curriculum Framework and also informed the proposed legislation. Having served on the Task Force, I later represented the Mass. League's Legislative Action Committee in testifying before the State Joint Committee on Education and was later invited to speak at a crucial conference leading to formation of the Massachusetts Civic Learning Coalition which LWVMA has joined. Being LWVMA rep on the Coalition gave me the opportunity to continue to work on shaping the proposed legislation.*

As an educator, I feel gratified that our state has taken this badly needed step forward in civic education. As a League member, I am very grateful for the opportunity the League provides to influence policy and legislation in a positive direction. I never would have learned these skills nor had this opportunity if not for membership in the League.

So to new League members, my message is that the best reason to join is that you can make a difference and with the support of our organization we all can have a strong collective voice to make good things happen.

Continued...

Update on Student Voter Registration

This fall, members of our committee assisted by other League members, held student registration drives at three high schools and at parent orientation evenings for the Dennis Yarmouth Regional School District. Florence Seldin registered 50 students at Monomoy Regional High School. Marie Stevenson worked with a student who took on the challenge of registering students as her senior project and she registered 83 students at Mashpee High School. Rosemary Shields from the Voter Service Committee, Suzanne Brock from the Board and Environment Committee and I, registered 40 students at Dennis Yarmouth High School. Florence, Cindy Battis, Jan Hively, Carlyn Carey, Anita Rogers from the Voter Service Committee and I were able to register 35 parents and 4 students at the open house evenings. Thanks to everyone who participated. Teamwork gets the job done!



THE LATEST FROM PILGRIM

From Renate Sands and Elaine Dickinson

The LWVCCA OCTOBER Board Meeting approved the following email to be sent to Rep. Sarah Peake regarding the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station bills submitted to the 2017-2018 Legislative Session--

“None of the bills submitted to the Massachusetts Legislature regarding the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station were passed during the last Legislative Session, not even H.2472 An Act Relative to Nuclear Power Plant Protection. That bill progressed further than any of the others. The members of the League of Women Voters Cape Cod Area have been following the bills and have difficulty understanding why none of them made it through the legislative process. If you would please explain to us why this failure has occurred, perhaps we would be in a better position to advocate for any bills submitted to the next legislative session. The LWVCCA Board appreciates your efforts and hopes you can provide us with some guidance.”

The response from Kaelyn Hilliard, Legislative Aide in Rep. Peake’s office is below:
Continued...

“Hi Renate--Once again, I’m sorry for my delayed response back to you. While Rep. Peake’s bills regarding Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station were put to study this session, progress has been made with the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Plant Decommissioning Commission Panel which was created by the Legislature’s Acts of 2016 Chapter 188 Section 14 (as stated below):

SECTION 14. (a) There shall be created a nuclear decommissioning citizens advisory panel which shall consist of the following members or their designees: the secretary of health and human services, who shall serve ex officio; the secretary of energy and environmental affairs, who shall serve ex officio; the commissioner public utilities, who shall serve ex officio; the secretary of housing and economic development, who shall serve ex officio; the director of the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency; 1 member from the Plymouth Nuclear Matters Committee as appointed by the Plymouth Board of Selectmen; 1 member from Massachusetts Department of Public Health Radiological Control Program appointed by the Bureau of Environmental Health; 1 representative of the Old Colony Planning Council or designee, selected by the Council; 2 representatives of the Town of Plymouth as selected by the Plymouth Board of Selectmen; 2 members appointed by the Governor; 2 members appointed by the Speaker of the House; 1 member appointed by the minority leader of the house of representatives; 2 members appointed by the President of the Senate; 1 member as appointed by the minority leader or the senate; 2 representatives of the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station, also known in this section as PNPS or Station, as selected by the owner of the station; and a representative of the Utility Workers Union of America, UWUA, Local 369 selected by the UWUA who shall be a present or former employee at the PNPS.

(b) Each appointing authority initially shall appoint a member for a 3-year term and a member for a 4-year term. Subsequent appointments under this subdivision shall be for terms of 4 years. Ex officio members shall serve for the duration of their time in office or until a successor has been appointed.

(c) The commissioner of public utilities shall serve as the chair until the panel elects a chair or co-chairs under subsection (d).

(d) The panel annually shall elect a chair or co-chairs, and a vice chair, for 1-year terms commencing with its first meeting following the effective date of this section.

(e) A majority of the panel's members shall constitute a quorum. The panel shall act only by vote of a majority of its entire membership and only at meetings called by the chair or a co-chair or by any 5 of the members. The person or persons calling the meeting shall provide adequate notice to all its members.

(f) Members of the panel who are not ex officio members, employees of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, representatives of the PNPS, or members representing towns outside Massachusetts, and who are not otherwise compensated or reimbursed for their attendance shall be entitled to \$50 per diem and their necessary and actual expenses..

(g) The executive office of energy and environmental affairs shall furnish administrative support for the panel.

(h) The chair shall: (1) manage the provision of administrative support to the panel, including scheduling meetings and securing meeting locations, providing public notice of meetings, producing minutes of meetings, and assisting in the compilation and production of the panel's annual report; (2) keep the panel informed of the status of matters within the jurisdiction of the panel; (3) notify members of the panel in a timely manner upon receipt of information relating to matters within the jurisdiction of the panel; (4) upon request, provide to all members

of the panel all relevant information within the control of the department of public utilities relating to subjects within the scope of the duties of the panel; (5) provide workshops or training for panel members as may be appropriate; and (6) hire experts, contract for services, and provide for materials and other reasonable and necessary expenses of the panel as the commissioner may consider appropriate on request of the panel from time to time.

(i) The Panel shall serve in an advisory capacity only and shall not have authority to direct decommissioning of the PNPS. The duties of the panel shall be: (1) to commence public meetings beginning on or about June 1, 2017, at a frequency of quarterly until the shutdown of the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station (PNPS) for the purpose of discussing issues related to decommissioning planning activities; (2) to hold a minimum of four public meetings each year for the purpose of discussing issues relating to the progress of decommissioning of the PNPS beginning on or about June 1, 2019, or when the PNPS permanently ceases power operations; provided that the panel may hold additional meetings; (3) to advise the governor, the general court, the agencies of the commonwealth, and the public on issues related to the decommissioning of the PNPS, with a written report being provided annually to the governor and to the energy committees of the General Court; (4) to serve as a conduit for public information and education on and to encourage community involvement in matters related to the decommissioning of the PNPS and to receive written reports and presentations on the decommissioning of the Station at its regular meetings; (5) to periodically receive reports on the Decommissioning Trust Fund and other funds associated with decommissioning of the PNPS, including fund balances, expenditures made, and reimbursements received; (6) to receive reports regarding the decommissioning plans for the PNPS, including any site assessments and post-shutdown decommissioning assessment reports; provide a forum for receiving public comment on these plans and reports; and to provide comment on these plans and reports as the panel may consider appropriate to state agencies and the owner of the PNPS and in the annual report described in clause (3).

This session, Rep. Peake and the Cape Delegation made it a priority to give more resources to the Decommissioning Commission through a \$100k budget amendment in the FY2019 Budget to create a well-informed Commission Panel that can properly execute and function to prepare for the closing of Pilgrim in 2019. They have also brought the Decommissioning Commission Panel to the attention of Attorney General Maura Healey who has since strengthened her role helping to ensure a safe and proper closure of Pilgrim. The AG will be working closely with the Commission Panel over the next several months on strategy.

Rep. Peake has also been informed by representatives in Connecticut and Vermont who have faced similar situations to what we are currently facing with the decommissioning of Pilgrim. Vermont and Connecticut both say that forming a strong and sensible Decommissioning Commission Panel is the single most important thing Massachusetts can to ensure the safe closure of Pilgrim in 2019. Without a strong and informed Panel, there will not be the opportunity for citizen advocacy when it comes to the closing of Pilgrim. I hope this information helps.

Thank you,
Kaelyn

Kaelyn J. Hilliard, Legislative Aide, Office of Rep Sarah K. Peake, Third Division Leader, State House Room 163. 617-722-2040 kaelyn.hilliard@mahouse.gov

STUDYING THE BALLOT QUESTION PROCESS AND COMING TO CONSENSUS

See how the League works for change



January 15 2019 9am - 1pm

Harwich Community Center

Bring lunch: Coffee and soft drinks will be provided.

This is an opportunity to be part of a process unique to the League of Women Voters! In its almost 100 year history the League has been respected and praised because all the issues we advocate for, and act upon, have been the result of study and consensus at national, state and local levels.

Several years ago there was a national study on immigration; the position we have on this issue is the result of that study. At the state level you may recall that two years ago we studied Charter schools because we did not have a position on that issue.

LWVMA, at its state convention in 2017, agreed to sponsor a study on the ***ballot question process***. A 5-person committee from across the state was appointed to research and prepare background materials and then to develop the ***study questions*** that will guide local Leagues to reach consensus.

Our LWVCCA Board voted to participate in the study by appointing a 4-member committee, Lisa Draper, Scotti Finnegan, Margaret Rose and Florence Seldin, who have been studying the materials and will summarize them at the Consensus meeting. That summary is 36 pages long and is available, with all the background materials, at www.lwvma.org.

Participants in the Consensus meeting will also need the ***Study Guide***. This 18-page document includes the ***15 questions on which we will be asked to come to consensus***. . . what is occurring in MA. . . in other states . . . followed by Points of View Pro and Con. The Study Guide is available online. However, if you'd like a hard copy please email florencecape@comcast.net before Jan. 10. ALSO PLEASE SAVE YOUR RED VOTER INFORMATION BOOK.

Finally, what is Consensus? It is not a vote; it is a "collective opinion", a general agreement. Members participate in group discussion ~ and come up with a "***sense of the group***." All of these are reported to LWVMA and positions are reached.

Please plan to join us!

Thanks to Florence Seldin for this report.

LWVCCA BOARD MEETING - NOVEMBER 6 2018 SUMMARY

LWVCCA will be governed this year by a Steering Committee consisting of four members: Richard Utt, Suzanne Brock, Mati Ligon, and Scotti Finnegan. They will meet to decide who will speak for LWVCCA and how to share responsibilities. Scotti discussed the need for a strong team that shares activities and responsibilities, and the need to build leaders from within the membership.

The Voter Service and Youth Service Committees joined forces to set up voter registration tables at the Monomoy and Dennis-Yarmouth High School in late October during a senior student event. Florence Seldin registered 50 students at Monomoy and Karen Mazza, Rosemary Shields, and Sue Brock combined couldn't beat Florence's number. Marie Stevenson set up voter registration tables at the Mashpee High School.

Since the end of July, the two committees have sponsored 16 voter registration events in Chatham, Brewster, Hyannis, and at the Dennis-Yarmouth, Monomoy, and Mashpee High Schools. The work was shared by over 19 volunteers, who registered more than 138 voters.

The Cape Cod Times sponsored the **October 13 Candidates Forum at the Cape Cinema**. Scotti Finnegan was liaison with the Cape Cod Times and the candidates. Florence Seldin put together the agenda and the rules of the forum. Jo-Ann Berry, from the Acton Area League, was moderator. Anita Rogers organized the volunteers for time keepers and index card collectors. Rosemary Shields set up the logistics at the Cinema with Eric Hart, the owner. The forum was well-received by the audience of 300.

Karen Mazza, chair of the Youth Services Committee, is serving as an Education Policy Specialist on the LWVMA Legislative Action Committee. She will be working with two other education specialists.

About 30 League members and 18 non-members attended the **forum on Patient to Nurse Limits - Ballot Question #1**, sponsored by the Health Committee. A recording is now available on Channel 99: get the viewing schedule at

<http://watch.capemedia.org/CablecastPublicSite/?channel=1>

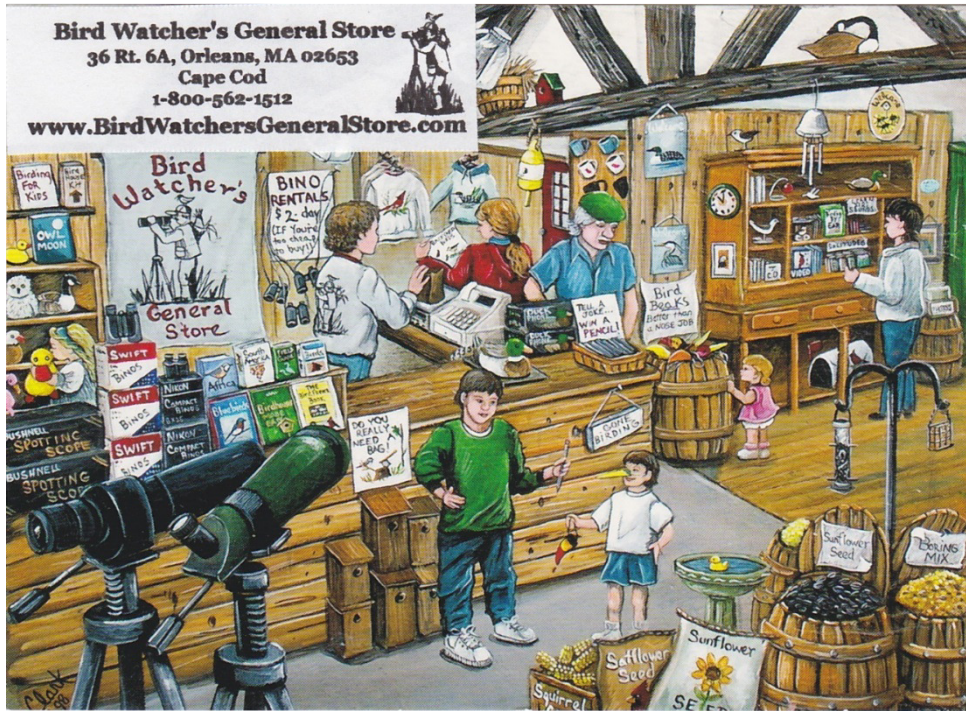
Or watch it on your computer/stream at

<http://watch.capemedia.org/CablecastPublicSite/show/16419...>

The committee would welcome new members and ideas for next year's Health Committee.

The consensus meeting for the LWVMA study on the ballot question process is planned for January 15 from 9:00AM – 1:00PM at the Harwich Community Center.

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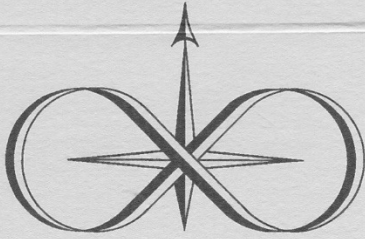
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