



THE CAPE COD VOTER

VOLUME 58 ISSUE 7

MARCH 2019

CALENDAR

**Tuesday March 5
9:30am**

**BOARD MEETING
Cape Cod Five, Dennis**

Friday March 8

**INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY
*Cape Women's Coalition Breakfast March 15***

**Friday March 22
9 - 11am**

**LWVCCA LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST
Cape Cod Community College
Lorusso Solarium**

**Thursday March 28
5:30 - 7pm**

**FORUM: RANKED CHOICE VOTING
Cape Media Center, Dennis**



UPCOMING

**Tuesday April 5
9:30am**

BOARD MEETING

Monday April 22

EARTH DAY

www.lwvcapecod.org

www.members.lwvcapecod.org

www.facebook.com/LWVCCA

The League of Women Voters Cape Cod Area

LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST

Friday, March 22, 2019

9 am

Cape Cod Community College
Solarium, The Lorusso Building

The following legislators have been invited:

Senator Vinny DeMacedo
Plymouth and Barnstable District

Representative David Vieira
3rd Barnstable District

Senator Julian Cyr
Cape and Islands District

Representative Sarah Peake
4th Barnstable District

Representative Timothy Whelan
1st Barnstable District

Representative Randy Hunt
5th Barnstable District

Representative William Crocker
2nd Barnstable District

Representative Dylan Fernandes
Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket District

Students from the Economics Club, Rotaract Club and Student Senate at CCC have also been invited.

The cost of the breakfast is \$15.00 per person. **FEEL FREE TO BRING A GUEST.**

Directions: From campus entrance, go around campus road to parking lots 10 and 11. Walk to the Lorusso building and follow signs. Handicapped parking is up the hill next to the building.

I will attend the Legislative
Breakfast: _____

I will bring the following guests: _____

Name (s)

Enclosed is check payable to LWVCCA for \$15/per
person: _____

\$

Total Amount

Please mail check (payable to LWVCCA) and completed form to:

Amy Harris, 4 Chapel Hill Lane, Harwich, MA 02645

Deadline for reservations Monday, March 18

Don't miss this important educational forum--
RANKED CHOICE VOTING (RCV)
Thursday evening March 28 5:30 - 7:00
Cape Media Studio, Dennis
Guest speaker from Voter Choice Massachusetts

Ranked Choice Voting appears to be an idea whose time has come.* When legislation was introduced at the start of the current legislative session, it proved to be one of the most popular issues on Beacon Hill, with a record 82 co-sponsors in the Legislature and tens of thousands of enthusiastic supporters in the ranks of **Voter Choice Massachusetts**, a non-partisan, politically diverse organization dedicated to educating the Massachusetts public about electoral reforms., and part of a coalition of which LWVMA is also a member in the effort to get RCV passed by the Legislature in time for the September 2022 primaries

As its name implies, RCV offers voters a chance to rank candidates in order of preference. It welcomes all candidates into the race. Candidates do best when they reach out to a wide range of voters, hopefully eliminating many internal party hostilities, especially in primaries. Experience has also shown (RCV already exists in 21 states) that wider access to the ballot clearly encourages more women and people of color to enter the political process.

Don't miss this opportunity to see what may be the future of our electoral process!

*Despite its newly resurgent popularity, Ranked Choice Voting has deep roots in Massachusetts going back to 1941, when Cambridge became the first city to hold RCV elections (though the practice goes as far back as 19th century England).

www.voterchoicema.org

We welcome Pat Canavan who retired to the Cape ten years ago, after a career in community development, including more than a decade as housing advisor to Boston Mayor Thomas Menino. Hers has been an active "retirement" though. A volunteer for the National Seashore's Atwood Higgins House in Wellfleet and a member of Friends of the National Seashore, Pat has just completed a term as editor of the Friends' Annual Magazine. She also volunteers for an Orleans thrift shop and for Nauset Neighbors.

Pat joined the League because of her respect for the League's thoughtful approach to issues and the League's non-partisan efforts to engage in the electoral process. She will be joining our Voter Service committee and hopes to become a League moderator.

Pat Canavan, 33 West Road, Apt. 6B, Orleans 02653. Email patnmatt@yahoo.com

FORUM ON H-2B VISAS DRAWS APPRECIATIVE AUDIENCE



The panel at our February 9th forum on the shortage of H-2B Visas for Cape businesses was, l to r: Amy Voll of Mac's Seafood; Andrew Nelson, aide to Rep. Bill Keating; State Senator Julian Cyr; Wendy Norcross, President & CEO of the CC Chamber of Commerce and Sean Summers of Chatham, owner of Summers Home & Office Services. Florence Seldin served as Moderator.

It's a simple fact. According to Wendy Northcross, head of the Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce, Cape Cod's seasonal economy simply could not thrive, perhaps even survive, without the presence among us of hundreds of visiting workers, here under the federal government's H-2B Visa program. "Without sufficient seasonal workers," she explained, "local companies face the loss of sales revenue and goodwill and the state loses taxes." Amy Voll, who administers seasonal employment for Mac's Seafood, concurred, pointing out that her own job exists because of the H-2B program. Our own kids don't want to stay here," she said, ... not to wash dishes. Or to clean hotel and motel rooms, as the visitors do under Mr. Summers' firm.

Many firms depend on the same H-2B workers to return back year after year. They're already trained. They know many of their customers. They know Chatham. And they contribute more than their labor -- patronizing our stores, paying into Social Security and Medicaid without getting anything back. They send most of their money home, to create a better life for their families." Sen. Cyr, whose family ran a restaurant in Truro, spoke of their reliance on a group of folks from Jamaica, who honed their skills to the point where they could almost run the business. And they became real friends, the Senator said. Though his family has recently closed their restaurant, they're still in touch-- on email, on Facebook--and one just opened his own restaurant in Jamaica.

The program is not without its problems. There is currently a cap of 66,000 visas and there *has been* an exemption for returning workers (already vetted by the required government departments). That exemption has recently been stripped out -- a move Congressman Keating is now protesting.

YOUTH SERVICE REPORT: CIVIC EDUCATION BILL NEEDS FUNDING

Submitted by Karen Mazza

We were pleased in November when the legislature passed and the Governor enacted Ch. 196 An Act to Promote and Enhance Civic Engagement. This law establishes a **Civics Trust Fund** to support professional development and curriculum development needed by schools to implement the requirements of the legislation and the new History Social Science Curriculum Framework. However, Governor Baker's proposed budget does not presently fund the Civics Trust Fund. The Massachusetts Civic Learning Coalition, of which the League is a member, is currently lobbying legislators to support funding. The Civics Trust Fund is intended to be a public/private partnership. The Coalition is advocating for \$1.5 million dollars for the fund.

A Lobby Day to support funding is set for **Tuesday, March 5th from 12:30 to 3:30 in the House Members Lounge**. Anyone wishing to lobby in person is asked to please register at bit.ly/macivics ASAP so we can begin setting up meetings again with our legislators.

If you will not be attending in person, please call Sen. Cyr and your State rep and ask them to support funding for the Civics Trust Fund by signing on to Sen. Chandler's letter supporting that funding. So far, 53 state legislators have signed on to the letter.

The Youth Service Committee will be meeting on March 18 at 1:30 PM to begin to brainstorm ways the League can be a good partner to schools in supporting implementation of the new civic legislation. Anyone interested in joining the Youth Service Committee should call Karen Mazza or contact her at mazzak@comcast.net.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

from Renate Sands and Elaine Dickinson

Our Committee will hold two meetings in March. Both will be in the small board room at the Cape Cod Five in South Dennis, the same place where we hold the LWVCCA board meetings.

- **Wednesday, March 6 at 1 PM.**
- **Friday, March 15 at 1 PM.**

Our purpose is to look at the bills the Legislature will be considering in its 2019-2020 session. All the bills are either new or were *resubmitted* in January.

Bills are now being considered and reviewed by LWVMA which then selects those that align with LWV policies. When we receive the list of legislation published by LWVMA for this session, members of our committee will select their bills for advocacy. *Continued...*

While we do not yet know just how many bills LWVMA will choose to follow...the more members our committee has, the more bills we can follow and advocate for.

Please come to one of our meetings and hear what bills will be coming before the Legislature in the coming session and where LWV members can work to strengthen our democracy. Any questions or concerns, please contact Renate rhsands@comcast.net or Elaine at edickinson1149@gmail.com

Both Rep Tim Whelan and Rep Randy Hunt have one committee member from their district who contacts them regarding legislation. If anyone from their district is interested in exercising their influence during the legislative process, please contact us. Actually, the more people we have advocating, the more influence we have. Anyone is welcome to join.

Pilgrim – Elaine Dickinson and Diane Turco are scheduling a meeting with Senator Julian Cyr to discuss eight bills regarding the closing of the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Plant.

And we'll see you at the Legislative Breakfast!

Our thoughts go out to Pat Ryle, Health Committee Co-Chair, who is currently staying with her daughter in Towson, Maryland while receiving chemotherapy for ovarian cancer. She reports she is getting excellent care at Greater Baltimore Medical Center. And as is her wont, Pat has already become active for legislation on awareness of that disease: she reports she will be “carrying on the League tradition from Maryland”.

Pat Ryle c/o/Kelly Farrell, 817 Trafalgar Road, Towson, MD 21204

LWVCCA CONSENSUS RESULTS APPROVED AND SENT TO STATE LEAGUE

The eighteen LWVCCA members who gathered on the morning of January 15 to participate in the unique League process of coming to consensus accomplished their goal: their report was approved by the LWVCCA Board at its February meeting and has been sent on to the State board. From the results of individual League returns, the state board will prepare a *position* to be recommended to membership and voted upon at the State convention. If it is passed, it becomes the League's official position and ready for League advocacy. *Continues. . .*

The subject of this year's consensus effort was the Ballot Question Process: Have you puzzled over sometimes “convoluted” questions in the informational “Red Book” prepared for voters? Should more efforts be made to ensure that the summaries in the Red Book are as clearly written as they should be? Should they be written by “proponents” and “opponents” as they are currently or by an independent entity? How are the questions financed? Should accurate information on campaign donations to ballot questions committees be available to the public prior to the election?

BOARD MINUTES SUMMARY -- February 6 2019

Mary Utt, Secretary

Attendees: Suzanne Brock, Florence Seldin, Richard Utt, Mary Utt, Elaine Dickinson, Renate Sands, Scotti Finnegan, Amy Harris, Phyllis Walsh, Mati Ligon.

Suzanne Brock chaired.

The main business of the meeting was **Program Planning**, led by Florence Seldin, which determines the topics we will be addressing in 2019-2020 through forums, guest speakers and advocacy in 2019-2020. Topics reflect the positions that LWVMA and LWVUS have taken.

Details about program planning and action priorities for 2019-2020 are provided on the LWVMA website under [Program Planning](#). This meeting used the [Program Planning Guide](#) with the goal of voting to agree on, add to, or modify the suggested action priorities before March 7.

Suggested action priorities are:

- Improving Elections
- Informed Voters and Civic Education
- Government for the Common Good
- Climate Change and the Environment
- Equality and Justice

The Board voted unanimously to support these five action priorities, with the addition of language to “Equality and Justice” to explicitly address racial equality and accessibility for people with disabilities.

Florence also distributed the “LWVMA Ballot Question Study Consensus Response Form” prepared during the January 15 Consensus Meeting, which approximately 18 LWVCCA members attended. The Board voted unanimously to support the response form, which will be used to prepare our report, due February 16, to the LWVMA.

Richard Utt has made a number of updates and improvements to the website, and can add upcoming events and reports on events. *Everyone is a reporter*: if you’re planning an event, get the information to Richard (after submitting a “forum form” to Ann Ryan and a press release form to Laura Samuels for the event).

A nominating committee is forming to develop the slate of candidates for the 2019-2020 board, to be voted on at the Annual Meeting in May. Scotti Finnegan and Florence Seldin will be the two Board members on this committee. Suzanne Brock will identify two non-board members. If you’re interested in working with this committee, please contact Suzanne.

More moderators are needed for candidate forums. Florence Seldin can conduct moderator training; she and Phyllis Walsh will meet to discuss possible dates and venues. If you're interested in being a moderator, contact either Florence or Phyllis.

The Board decided to charge members \$15 for the Legislative Breakfast (March 22). This will cover legislators and the 10 students from the Student Senate, Economics Club, and Rotaract Club (who are not asked to pay for this event).

Our Annual Meeting, to be held May 22 at the Seaview Restaurant in Dennis, will be a celebration of the 60th Anniversary of LWVCCA! A committee has been formed: Florence Seldin, Laura Samuels, Anita Rogers, Karen Mazza, and Nancy Curley. They have met and begun planning. If you'd like to help with this event, contact Florence.





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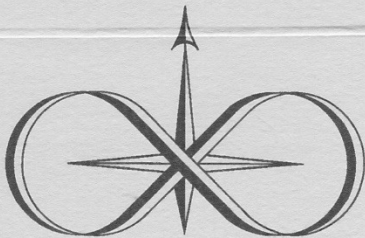
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