



THE CAPE COD VOTER

VOLUME 58 ISSUE 8

APRIL 2019

CALENDAR

Tuesday April 2
9:30am

BOARD MEETING
Cape Cod Five, Dennis

Sunday April 7

World Health Day
www.who.int

Monday April 15

Patriots' (Patriot's) Day Holiday

Friday April 22

EARTH DAY
www.international-mother-earth-day-2019



UPCOMING

Tuesday May 7
9:30am

BOARD MEETING
Cape Cod Five, Dennis

Wednesday May 22
5-8pm

**LWVCCA 60th ANNIVERSARY
& Annual Meeting**
Seaview Restaurant
76 Chase Avenue, Dennis Port

www.lwvcapecod.org

www.members.lwvcapecod.org

www.facebook.com/LWVCCA

APPRECIATIVE CROWD AT LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST

Renate Sands & Elaine Dickinson, Co-Chairs

Our annual Legislative Breakfast was held March 22nd in the Solarium of CCCC's Lorusso building. A considerable surprise greeted us as we entered the Solarium -- a large area was cordoned off by yellow tape and surrounded by caution signs and *the roof was leaking profusely*. What better way to convince our Legislators to vote YES on the "Cherish Act," a bill to increase funding for higher public education!



All six House members were in attendance. (Representative Peake pointed out that the House is the people's branch of the government, as illustrated by those who attended.) Representatives were ***Timothy Whelan, William Crocker, David Vieira, Sarah Peake, Randy Hunt and Dylan Fernandez***. Neither Senator Cyr nor Senator deMacedo was able to attend. ***Senator Cyr sent Patrick Johnson, his Chief of Staff***, to stand in for him. Senator deMacedo was short staffed due to illnesses and could not send anyone.

Even though a large area was unusable, the college staff managed to arrange all the tables to accommodate everyone. Below is a summary of attendees.

42 Members and guests (6 no-shows)

7 Legislators including Senator Cyr's Chief of Staff

3 Aides, one each from Rep Crocker's, Rep Peake's and Rep Vieira's office

10 Students

The inclusion of students from the Rotaract and Economics clubs has proved of considerable benefit to both groups--giving them unique access to the legislators. . .inviting them to speak at group meetings. . . and in the case of two students, serving as interns to Rep Crocker.

We owe President Cox and his staff a big thank you for hosting the Legislative Breakfast under stressful conditions. Also, a big thank you to ***Joan Craig*** for moderating, to Karen Mazza, Rosemary Shields and Elaine Dickinson for helping with the questions, to Scotti Finnegan for welcoming and to Elaine and Nancy Erskine for helping with the signing in.



l to r: Reps Tim Whelan, Will Crocker, Sarah Peake, Randy Hunt



Our "hostess with the mostest"





Save the date ~

*Wednesday, May 22nd
5 - 8pm
Seaview Restaurant
76 Chase Avenue, Dennis Port*

***2019 ANNUAL MEETING & 60TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF THE CAPE COD AREA***

“Empowering Voters & Defending Democracy - Past, Present & Future”

The League of Women Voters was organized in 1920 after the enactment of Women’s Suffrage. The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts was formed in the same year. Our own LWVCCA began in 1959 in Orleans, later expanding to the organization we know today. Sixty years is a long time and a proud history. (It’s also known as a diamond anniversary!)

Helping us to celebrate will be four outstanding speakers: keynote speaker, **Barbara Berenson**, author of just-published *Massachusetts in the Women’s Suffrage Movement*. . .special honoree **Wendy Northcross**, CEO of the Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce. . .LWVMA President **Mary Ann Ashton** on *Championing Support for Democracy in Modern Times*. . .and our own **Karen Mazda**’s presentation on the future of civic education in our schools.

Tickets to the 60th celebration are \$33 per person.

You may make a reservation at any time, now or at the end of the month, when you will receive an invitation. Questions? Please contact amyharrisige@gmail.com .

In addition, we are planning to print a **60th Anniversary Program Book** as we did for our 50th

Year and are seeking financial support from businesses, other organizations and individual League members. If you wish to be listed in the program book as a supporter, please send a check--before May 1st--in any amount you wish, to Florence Seldin, 321 Deer Meadow Lane, Chatham 02633. Proceeds from the program book will help offset costs associated with the event and also support LWVCCA programs on an ongoing basis. Thank you.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBER EMILY MILAN

From membership chairs Phyllis Walsh & Mati Ligon

The Milan family--Emily, her husband and 3 daughters--moved to the Cape from Raleigh, North Carolina fourteen years ago. During that time, Emily has become an active member of the Harwich community. In addition to her full-time job as Assistant Director of the Brooks Free Library, Emily has become involved with the Voter Information Committee in Harwich and is also a member of the Harwich Garden Club and produces that organization's Annual Yearbook.

During her time on the Harwich Voter Information Committee, Emily has met a number of League members* and actually joined LWVCCA at the Immigration Forum in February. With her natural interest in education, she'd like to work in the area of voter information ~ including helping on the Voter Service Committee.

**Christina Joyce and Margaret Rose are also on the Harwich committee*

Emily Milan
560 Queen Anne Road, Harwich 02645
774-316-0300
Emilymilan7@gmail.com

H-2B VISA UPDATE: GOVERNMENT RAISES QUOTA--GOOD NEWS FOR THE CAPE

Modesty prevents our taking credit...but since our recent February forum, the Department of Homeland Security has increased its quota on H-2b visas, the type most vital to Cape and Islands business owners. In addition, an exemption on returning workers, eliminated by the Trump administration, has now been returned, meaning that experienced individuals are now eligible. Congressman Keating's office has been active in the effort to eliminate the quota caps.

SANDWICH H.S. INVITES LWVCCA TO BE FEATURED

AT 2ND ANNUAL HUMANITARIAN FAIR & EXHIBITS

Legislative Chair Renate Sands has written that LWVCCA has been asked to participate in the 2nd Annual Sandwich Humanitarian Fair & Exhibits at the Sandwich High School Library on Friday April 12 from 8 -10:30. And not just to participate, but to be a featured presenter!

According to the request received by Renate, the event is “an entirely student-organized event aimed at providing an opportunity for students, faculty and the community to create meaningful conversations, raise awareness for an array of issues and discover the humanitarian efforts made by students, community leaders and organizations.

COURSE ON THE SUFFRAGE MOVEMENT PART OF SPRING LEARNING SERIES AT CHATHAM’S ELDREDGE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Beginning on April 23 and for 5 successive weeks, historian and educator John Kennedy, Ed.D. will walk the class through the struggles of the American women’s movement from the Seneca Falls conference in 1948 through to the 19th Amendment in 1920. Class will meet on Tuesdays from 1:30 to 3:00. All are welcome.

There is a \$15 charge. Phone 508-945-5170 or learningseries@eldredgelibrary.org.

MARCH BOARD MINUTES

SUMMARY

Pending approval at April board meeting

Attendees: Richard Utt, Scotti Finnegan, Renate Sands, Rosemary Shields, Nancy Erskine, Anita Rogers, Amy Harris, Elaine Dickinson, Laura Samuels
Meeting chaired by Steering Committee Member Richard Utt. Laura Samuels served as recording secretary.

Treasurer’s Report: Amy Harris

Few changes from last month – \$90 received so far for Legislative Breakfast; \$100 in contributions for Annual Appeal and \$11 collected for the New Member Breakfast Orientation. The only expense was \$15 in refreshment for the Visa Forum. Other treasuring activity in February included a meeting of the Budget Committee: Debbie Aikman, Richard Utt and Amy put together a budget to be presented at the April Board meeting -- when we can do a review and make additions/corrections to be included with the Annual Meeting Workbook.

Nominating Committee update: Florence Seldin

Scotti said it has been a struggle to get people to serve on the committee or on the board. She suggested we all take six names and call members in hopes of gaining some volunteers. She suggested a number of measures designed to lighten the load of responsibility for anyone willing

to take on these assignments. 2-year elected terms, 1-year appointed terms, at-large committee members, more co-chairs to share the work, as has worked well with the current co-chairs. Make clear that people don't have to be in charge, but simply help with decision making. Suggested that Scotti will draft an email to members outlining these measures and clarifying the responsibilities of board members, co-chairs and serving on a committee.

LWVCCA 60th Anniversary Committee: Laura Samuels outlined the celebration program to be presented at the Annual Meeting. The theme will be: “*Empowering Voters & Defending Democracy – Past, Present & Future.*” Highlights include: Keynote speaker, **Barbara Berenson**, author, *Massachusetts in Women’s Suffrage Movement*; honoree **Wendy Northcross**, CEO, CC Chamber of Commerce; **LWVMA President Mary Ann Ashton**, on “*Championing Support for Democracy in Modern Times*”; presentation by Karen Mazza on the future of civic education in our schools. A brief Annual Meeting will follow. After some discussion, the plan was tentatively approved.

2019-2020 Program Planning, local LWVCCA: Florence Seldin.

In Florence’s absence, Scotti outlined the actions LWVCCA will take through forums, guest speakers and advocacy in 2019-2010 in support of LWVMA positions reviewed previously:

1. Voter Service:

- a. Ranked Choice Voting replaced early voting and same-day voting.
- b. Register voters added. (*Continues...*)

Health: add the words “especially on the Lower and Outer Cape” and community health centers and Medicare for All to the existing verbiage.

3. Environment:

- a.: add “Monitor 208 Plan
- b.: add “erosion” to the key environmental issues impacting Cape Cod.

4. Youth Service:

- b.: Support the resources for civel education projects in schools, as called for in the History, Social Sciences Curriculum framework and in recent legislation (Ch 296, an Act to Promote and Enhance Civic Engagement).

5. Legislative :

- Add d.: Update and publish directory of elected officials
- Add e.: Coordinate with committee chairmen on bills relevant to their committees.

Committee Updates:

Communications/website -- Laura Samuels, Richard Utt

- a. Website: Richard discussed current status, monthly updating, hosting by Godaddy, possible change to Bluehost. The last two will not be worked on until June/July time frame
- b. Virtual Phone: Richard will try to have that in place by beginning of new Board term.
- c. PayPal: ditto.

4. Recent Visa Forum --Laura said the press release for the Visa Forum had good pickup in the media. Richard noted there is a website link to the Cape Cod Chronicle report on the forum.

Voter Service Committee : Anita Rogers, Rosemary Shields

- a. Yarmouth Chamber of Commerce requested us to moderate an event on the primary race for Selectman, tentatively scheduled for April 24.
- b. Moderator training update postponed.
- c. Ranked Choice Voting Forum will be held on March 28, 5:30 – 7:00 pm at Cape Cod Media Center, 17 Shad Hole Road, Dennis. Cosponsor is Voter Choice Mass, which is sending speaker Joel Paul to explain how Ranked Choice Voting can benefit voters.

Youth Service Committee: Karen Mazza

Legislative Committee: Renate Sands, Elaine Dickinson

The annual Legislative Breakfast will be moderated by Joan Craig, with cooperation from the CCCC faculty (advisors to the Economic Club and the Student Senate).

Health Committee: Sally Cahill, Pat Ryle. (See program planning).

Environment Committee: Suzanne Brock, Richard Utt. (See program planning)

Voter: Nancy Erskine

The deadline for submissions to the newsletter is the 15th of every month. Many statements of support and appreciation to Nancy for a fine most recent issue of the Voter.

Thanks to Laura Samuels for graciously stepping in to record the minutes

February 6 2019 Minutes

SUMMARY

Note: February minutes are included here because a lack of quorum at March board meeting precluded their being approved at that meeting; they were approved at the April board meeting along with the March minutes.

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

Membership is at 96. The main business of the meeting was **Program Planning**, led by Florence Seldin, which determines the topics we will be addressing through forums, guest speakers, and advocacy in 2019-2020. The topics reflect the positions that the 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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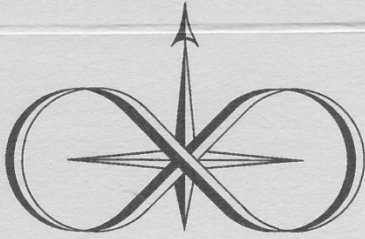
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