



THE CAPE COD VOTER

VOLUME 58 ISSUE 9

MAY 2019

CALENDAR

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



UPCOMING

Tuesday June 4
9:30am

BOARD MEETING
Cape Cod Five, Dennis

www.lwvcapecod.org

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**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 Mazza**’s presentation on the future of civic education in our schools.

We are pleased to be once again hosted by the *SeaView* restaurant in Dennis Port, with its view of Nantucket Sound and (weather-permitting) dramatic sunsets. Our evening will begin with beverages and buffet dinner from 5-6 pm and anniversary program (6-7:15) followed by a short annual meeting for members (7:15 - 7:45).

Please RSVP TODAY to: Amy Harris 508.432.0763 or amyharrisjge@gmail.com

Tickets are \$33 per person. Checks to: LWVCCA c/o Amy Harris,
4 Chapel Hill Lane, Harwich MA 02645

Name(s) _____

No. x \$33 _____ Note _____

Directions below

Directions to SeaView in Dennis Port: From Route 28 in Harwichport, take Lower County Road west 2.2 miles then left on Belmont Road...right on Chase Ave and SeaView is on your right.

From Route 6: take Exit 9A South on Rte 134 to Rte 28. Left onto 28 and shortly take right on Shad Hole Road. Left onto Lower County...right onto Inman...left onto Chase. SeaView will be on left.



A FOND FAREWELL TO PHYLLIS

It was back in 1968, as the youngest of her five children started pre-school, that at the urging of friends and neighbors in Acton, MA, Phyllis Walsh joined the League of Women Voters. It was a natural fit. The Acton League was, and still is, an active and vibrant group. (LWVMA current president, Mary Ann Ashton, is a former president of the Acton League.)

Phyllis immediately became an active participant in League activities, serving on the Board and working on many studies at local, state and national levels. She also became President of the Acton League. Has it really been 20 years?

In the community, Phyllis also served on the Acton, then Acton-Boxborough Regional, school committees~ crediting the knowledge and skills gained from the League for her success.

Next came thirty years in the field of high-technology! During part of that time, the Walshes lived in New Jersey and commuted to Acton on weekends.

Finally, in 1999, they moved to the Cape and Phyllis immediately joined LWVCCA. (*Has it really been 20 years?*) She has served on our board for many of those years, mostly as Chair of Membership. Her warmth and outgoing nature have been recognized and appreciated by dozens of new members and have contributed greatly to our recent increase in membership. In addition, she served as the Massachusetts League's Field Service Coordinator for the combined Cape Cod, South Shore and Martha's Vineyard Region.

Phyllis's husband Bill passed away in August of 2017 and she feels the time is right to move on, To a retirement community in Nashua, NH, near her family. But in her mind (and ours!) she will always be a part of LWVCCA.

Thank you, Phyllis, for all you have done! Slainte!

YOUTH SERVICE COMMITTEE REPORT

From Karen Mazza, Committee Chair

The Youth Service Committee met on March 18 to plan our spring town election projects and discuss ways in which the new civic education legislation may enable the League to grow its future support for civic education in schools in tandem with features of the legislation as they are implemented over the next few years.

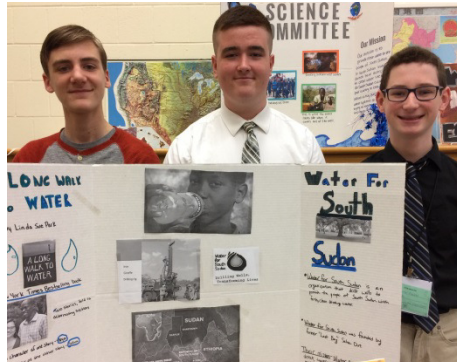
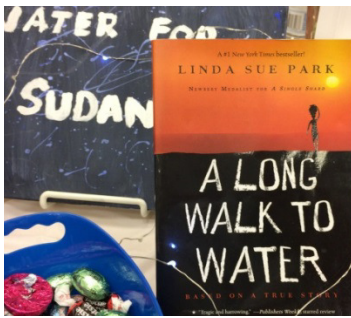
We revised our spring town election sheet for high school seniors to focus on the dates of upcoming local elections, town meetings and registration deadlines across all towns. We felt this one sheet would be less cumbersome for schools since their student populations come from several towns. This sheet is now available at the Nauset, Monomoy and Dennis Yarmouth regional high schools, with a specific variation for Mashpee High School.

We participated in three civics and voter service activities at local high schools:

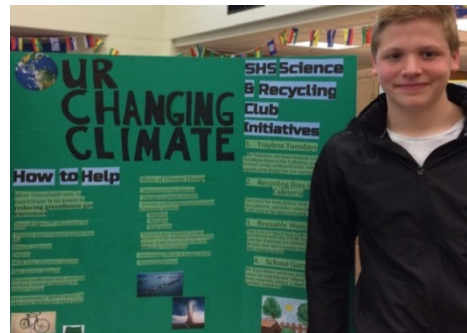
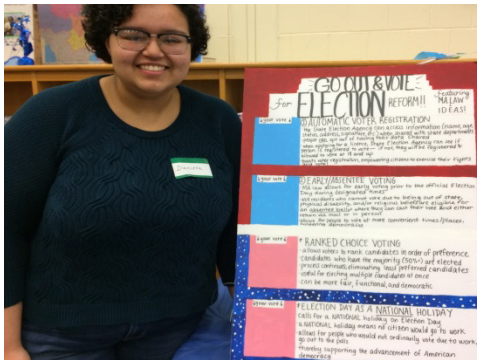
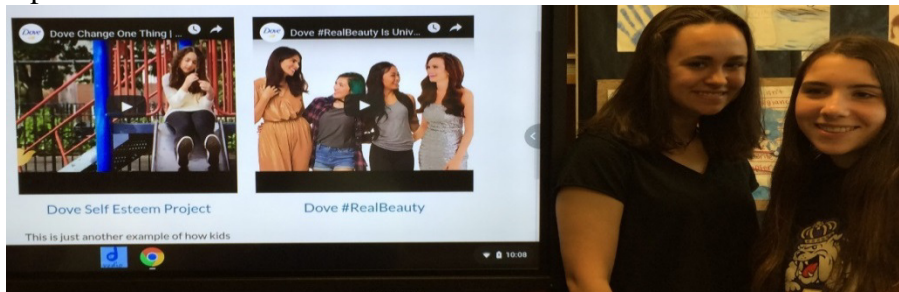
- During *Career Day at Dennis Yarmouth Regional High School*, we assisted in registering 44 students. This was a co-sponsored activity between Voter Service and Youth Service. Thanks to Rosemary Shields for her excellent organization and Steering Committee Member Sue Brock for helping to register students.
- Jan Hively and Karen Mazza participated in the *intergenerational Model UN* for D-Y students at the invitation of the Yarmouth Senior Center. Students and elders read material focused on the status and needs of women and met in teams to propose solutions for women in the countries they represented. Students did an excellent job of speaking from the perspective of their own assigned country and negotiating with other teams to find common solutions.
- Renate Sands, Anita Rogers and Karen Mazza attended the *Humanitarian Fair at Sandwich High School* organized by the students. The theme of the Fair was to focus on how we can make our community better. Students presented projects based on civic engagement around specific issues or topics -- including service projects from student clubs focused on assisting students at their school or community groups locally or internationally.

Some of the projects were outgrowths of interdisciplinary curricula that encouraged students to think about the civic action implications of what they were studying. For example the tenth grade English class read a book about Sudan and decided they wanted to earn money to

sponsor organizations that make clean water available in Sudan.



The Grade 8 English class read about children around the world and as an outgrowth of that reading, selected an issue children face in a particular region and created web pages for their reports on how to address those issues.



The Civic Action Club identified ways that elections should be improved.

Renate and Karen were invited to speak to students as part of a series of presentations by a variety of community leaders and organizations. We were paired with Cape Cod Women for Change and jointly addressed how our respective organizations empower members to improve the community. We also responded to student questions.

As we go forward with our focus on supporting civic education in schools, we plan to interact with teachers and other civic education organizations to explore the best ways for League members to do that consistent with the features of the new civic education legislation. Karen has been invited to speak to the League of Women Voters of Hingham at their May Annual meeting and will also offer a much briefer summary on that topic at our own Annual Meeting on May 22.

REFLECTIONS FROM THE LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST

Renate Sands & Elaine Dickinson

At the Legislative Breakfast on March 22, each legislator was asked a question on a different subject. All the issues presented have the support of the LWVMA, which will be advocating for them throughout the current legislative session. Of the six issues listed below, four legislators were in agreement with the League but two were not.

Rep. Randy Hunt was asked about revising the funding formula for Education K-12.

Presently there are three proposals before the legislature:

H.586 Updating the education foundation budget

S.238 The PROMISE Act

Governor's Bill

There is strong agreement that the Foundation Formula for K-12 Public education needs revision. The three bills differ greatly in the amount of funding schools will receive. They also differ greatly in the amount of funding to be distributed to offset charter school assessments.

Rep. Hunt supports revising the formula. He was not sure which bill would pass but felt there probably would be an amalgamation of all three. (The LWVMA supports the Promise Act which would provide the most funding for public schools.)

Rep. William Crocker was asked about the Civics Trust Fund, an item that had been eliminated from Governor Baker's budget.

The Civics Education bill received strong bi-partisan support in the last legislative session. The Civics Trust Fund, which is essential for the implementation of the legislation, was not included in the Governor's proposed budget.

Rep. Crocker supports funding for the Civics Bill and feels there is strong bi-partisan support. The problem seems to be how to raise the money. A public/private partnership may be possible.

Rep. Sarah Peake was asked about the environment bills presently before the legislature.

H.2810 Reduce Carbon Emissions

S.1924 Omnibus Energy Bill

Carbon pricing is the simplest, most immediate tool for significantly reducing CO2 emissions in the near term. The carbon pricing and rebate bills are a much-needed complement to the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) because they focus on emissions of small emitters – motor vehicles and small-building heating and cooling.

Rep. Peake feels the bills are extremely important and supports them. She feels that working regionally is critical to reducing emissions and praised Governor Baker for signing onto a multi-state plan. She also feels that preserving estuaries is critical to Cape Cod.

Rep. David Vieira was asked about ranked choice voting.

H.719 An Act relative to ranked choice voting

S.414 An Act to use ranked choice voting in elections

LWVMA's legislative priorities this session continue with reform of our election processes. A question on ranked choice voting was included because we were planning a forum on the subject.

Rep. Vieira definitely did NOT support ranked choice voting. He felt elections should be run at the ballot box. Instead of ranked choice voting, have a second round of elections if needed.

Rep. Timothy Whelan was asked about the Safe Communities Act.

H.3573 / S.1401 An Act to protect the civil rights and safety of all Massachusetts residents
The Safe Community Act provides a number of protections for vulnerable immigrants and ensures those protections are statewide and extended to ALL communities.

Rep. Whelan does NOT believe in the Safe Communities Act since the State has already passed the Lunn Decision--which states local law enforcement officials cannot detain people on ICE detainers. (A Detainer gives ICE 2 days to look into a person's immigration status for potential deportation). He agrees with the 287g program which allows local law enforcement officers to act as ICE agents. (Sheriff Cummings participates in this program). He feels it would keep us safe from people who would commit rape, strangulation, assault and battery.


Rep. Dylan Fernandes was asked about gun control legislation.

H.2092 An Act relative to universal back ground checks for private gun sales
This bill would require all private gun sales to occur at licensed dealers to ensure background checks. *Rep. Fernandes is a sponsor of this bill and 38 other legislators have signed on as sponsors. We included this question because gun safety was one of the primary concerns of the members of the CCCC Student Senate last year.*

Neither Sen. Vinny deMacedo nor Sen. Julian Cyr was able to attend. Sen. Cyr sent his Chief of Staff, Patrick Johnson, but Senator deMacedo was unable to do so. We did have questions assigned to them but since neither was present, we are hesitant to publish any comments.



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Jon Vaughan

A gallery with a different point of view

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