



THE CAPE COD VOTER

VOLUME 59 ISSUE 3

NOVEMBER 2019

CALENDAR

Tuesday November 5
9:30am

Monday November 11



Thursday November 28

BOARD MEETING
Cape Cod Five, Dennis

We thank them

Thanksgiving

UPCOMING

Tuesday December 3
9:30am

Saturday December 7

December 22 – December 30

December 25

December 26 – January 1st

BOARD MEETING
Cape Cod Five, Dennis

Holiday Brunch

Hanukkah

Christmas

Kwanzaa

www.lwvcapecod.org

www.members.lwvcapecod.org

www.facebook.com/LWV



LEAGUE of WOMEN VOTERS of the CAPE COD AREA

*Time is short ~
Join us and reserve now!*



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE CAPE COD AREA

INVITES YOU TO A

HOLIDAY BRUNCH

Saturday December 7 – 9:30-11:30am

Hyannis Golf Club - 1840 Iyannough Rd – Hyannis

Our Speaker ~ Kristin Andres

Director of Education and Outreach of the

Association to Preserve Cape Cod

“State of the Cape”

The Association to Preserve Cape Cod is the Cape’s only regional environmental advocacy organization, working to protect the Cape’s natural resources for over 50 years. APCC’s education & outreach director Kristin Andres will talk about the pressing environmental issues facing Cape Cod and what’s being done to protect the Cape’s natural resources.

\$18 per person, bring a friend!

RSVP to Ann Ryan by 11/22/19 – ryan.annp@gmail.com

Checks to LWVCCA c/o AMY HARRIS, 4 Chapel Hill Lane, Harwich 02645



Welcome to three new members!
Please add them to your directories

Jane Clark

POBox 1165, 1 Higgins Hollow Road, Truro MA 02666
508 349-9159 janiemoonclark@gmail.com

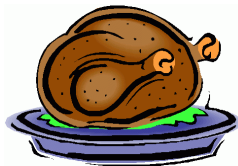
Joan “Marcie” Gauntlett

6 Nancy Way, West Yarmouth MA 02673
508 775-3186 marciegauntlett2@gmail.com

Jeanne Morrison

7 Coastal Lane, Hyannis MA 02601
774 487-0287 Jeanne137@verizon.net

And a correction: Rosemary Shields’ correct area code is 202. Please also include her landline, which she prefers – 774 237-0279



LWVUS Diversity Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Policy
Adopted June 24, 2019

“The League of Women Voters is an organization fully committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion in principle and in practice. Diversity, equity, and inclusion are central to the organization’s current and future success in engaging all individuals, households, communities, and policy makers in creating a more perfect democracy.

“There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, gender identity, ethnicity, race, native or indigenous origin, age, generation, sexual orientation, culture, religion, belief system, marital status, parental status, socioeconomic status, language, accent, ability status, mental health, educational level or background, geography, nationality, work style, work experience, job role function, thinking style, personality type, physical appearance, political perspective or affiliation and/or any other characteristic that can be identified as recognizing or illustrating diversity.” *Thanks to Karen Mazza for providing this and article below*

REPORT FROM OCTOBER LWVMA LEAGUE LEADERS LUNCH

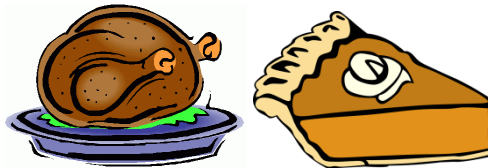
From Youth Service Chair Karen Mazza

More than 70 representatives from 33 local leagues, attended the 2019 annual Massachusetts League Leaders Lunch held in Worcester on October 26th. Co-Presidents Mary Ann Ashton and Judy Zaunbrecher shared information on what's new at LWVMA and LWVUS, with particular emphasis on the Fair Maps Campaign to ensure full participation in the 2020 census and fairness in upcoming redistricting processes. (Several documents related to the presentations are available on the LWVMA website.)

There was also a presentation on the League's policy statement on diversity and a discussion about challenging all Leagues to think about the ways that traditional practices may be barriers to inclusion and how we might do things differently. A Ted Talk on this theme was also shown and can also be viewed on the website.

I was pleased to make a presentation on the new legislation on Civic Education and ways the League can partner with schools to support their implementation.

To view these materials, go to www.lwvma.org and the article, "Successful 2019 League Leader Lunch."



Voter Service Committee gearing up for pre-Election Year

From Rosemary Shields and Anita Rogers, Co-Chairs

Final Update from National Voter Registration Day, September 24

LWVCCA participation netted 6 new voters...we are small, but the national effort was mighty!! Across the country, 19, 916 volunteers registered **473.725 new voters!** There were 4,083 "community partners" and 54 "premier partners" including the League of Women Voters, American Library Association, Democracy Fund, Rock the Vote, VH1, Univision, United Way, YMCA and many more. Now we're looking forward to participating again next year, in preparation for the 2020 election.

Other Collaborations

Anita Rogers and Pat Canavan were part of Monomoy Regional High School's Credit for Life Fair, where we registered 41 students and were very impressed by all the students' energy and interest in the 2020 elections. The kids scooped up handouts on the Cape's elected officials and key dates for the 2020 state and federal primary elections.

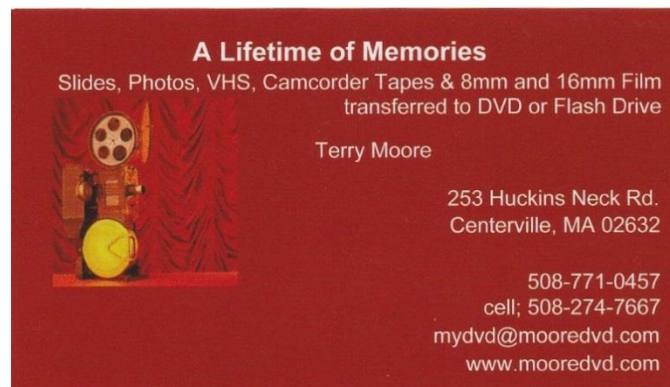
Rosemary and Anita, with help from Renate Wasserman, also offered voter registration at the Brewster Historical Society's Harvest Festival at Drummer Boy Park. We registered 2 gung-

ho millennials (who were amazed at how easy the registration process is) and gave out handouts from our Legislative Committee on current bills in the State Legislature supported by LWVMA. Looking ahead, we are working with Professor Kristen Traywick of Cape Cod Community College to plan voter registration events for 2020.

Pocket Constitution Project – and a Scharfman Grant for LWVCCA!

With Automatic Voter Registration in place in Massachusetts, voter registration tables are going to be increasingly focused on voter education. Committee member **Mati Ligon** urged us to include the Constitution, in small booklet form (*pocket Constitutions*) in the materials we distribute at our events. Subsequently, Mati and Rosemary applied for a *Lotte E. Scharfman Citizen Education Grant* from LWV Massachusetts – which we received! We are thrilled to add pocket Constitutions to our efforts.

The Preamble of the Constitution was aspirational, even futuristic, invoking the spirit of the people, even when not all the people were included. “We the people . . . in order to form a more perfect Union, establish justice . . . note that Justice is mentioned first -- and it's an ideal we are still striving to make a reality. The words and concepts of the Constitution are familiar, having been cited so often and for so long. It gives insight on what it means to be an American. The U.S. Constitution is our central document and the nation's fundamental law. **We are looking forward to great conversations on this topic.**

A red rectangular advertisement with white text. At the top, it reads "A Lifetime of Memories". Below that, it says "Slides, Photos, VHS, Camcorder Tapes & 8mm and 16mm Film transferred to DVD or Flash Drive". In the center, there is a small image of a film camera and a film reel. To the right of the image, the name "Terry Moore" is listed. Below the name, the address "253 Huckins Neck Rd. Centerville, MA 02632" is provided. At the bottom right, contact information is listed: "508-771-0457", "cell; 508-274-7667", "mydvd@mooredvd.com", and "www.mooredvd.com".

A Lifetime of Memories
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LWV AND THE EFFORT TO ELIMINATE GERRYMANDERING

Submitted by Off-Board Member Judy Thomas

Is gerrymandering undermining democracy?

Former Congressman William Clinger (R-PA, 1979-1997) believes it is and he is lecturing wherever he can to try to explain the situation and why he believes democracy is so threatened. With the Congressional disapproval rating at about 74%, mostly for inaction, democracy is not healthy. (This is by no means the only sign of a weakened democracy.) I recently heard Mr. Clinger speak at a forum in Naples, Florida. While gerrymandering has been around for a long time, Mr. Clinger said, two things make the situation more dire. The first is the Supreme Court decision ruling that gerrymandering is not unconstitutional so long as certain criteria are met.

This now means that if gerrymandering is to be eliminated or minimized it will have to be done *state by state*, a process that will take a long time.

The second significant change is that sophisticated computer technology has now enabled controlling-party state legislators to redraw district maps to meet the Court's criteria. With these lines being redrawn by the dominant party, the victory of incumbents is almost ensured.

What's wrong with this? We've all probably heard Republicans in blue Massachusetts comment "why should I vote? My vote won't count." This opinion is not uncommon in other states as well. In addition, moderates tend to lose in primaries where voter turnout typically is low, leaving the vote to those, on both sides, who desire the more "radical" candidate. Congress therefore tends to represent those on the fringes. Moderate incumbents then tend to side with their party's more extreme positions as they don't want to be "primary-ed" out of their jobs.

Gerrymandering happens in all but 7 states, those whose population size means there is only one representative to Congress. But a few other states are taking a different approach – often, Mr. Clinger said, because of the pressure and advocacy of such groups as the **League of Women Voters**. Mr. Clinger mentioned the League several times in his talk, always with praise and noting in one case a lawsuit in which the League, with other groups, won in court. [See note at the end of this article for more on the League's work on the issue.]

How did this get to be the crisis it is today? Clinger traces it back to 2008 when the GOP undertook a massive effort to focus on governorships and state legislatures. The result was that by 2011 many more states were Republican.

Drawing district lines doesn't have to be this way. Mr. Clinger pointed to California where, when Arnold Schwarzenegger was governor (2003-11), a non-partisan commission was appointed to redraw the state's 53 districts. Other states are moving in the same direction.

Clinger believes there will be changes in his former state of PA where he noted the **League** has done a great job – and he urges affiliation with, and support of, the **League** throughout the country. He also supports lawsuits currently pending in 35 states. He himself is part of a Reformer's Caucus which has identified a handful of states to be focused on as the 2020 census and redistricting requirements approach. As a trustee of the Chautauqua Institution, Clinger said there will be a gathering of Leaguers and other interested persons in late spring to be part of a conference and training program.

Finally, Mr. Clinger was honest enough to say he would not be advocating for his current position were he still an officeholder. I felt this comment was testimony to the extreme pressure members of Congress are under to toe the party line and hold onto their seats.

To read more about the issue and in particular about the League and this issue, please go to <https://www.lwv.org/voting-rights/redistricting>. A click here will give you more information including the LWVUS program "People Powered Fair Maps."



S U M M A R Y
**LWVCCA Board Meeting -- October 1
Cape Cod 5, Dennis**

In September, the LWVCCA lost an active member and valued friend, Freddie FitzGerald. The board signed and sent a condolence card to her daughter and companion, Debbie Beal. Freddie's obituary is online at <https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/name/winifred-fitzgerald-obituary?pid=193938633>.

The board modified September's plan to buy 100 calendars commemorating womens' right to vote.. The Ed Trust will buy 20 calendars to distribute to schools. The board voted unanimously to buy an additional 30 calendars for resale at the Holiday Brunch and other events for \$20 each.

Membership stands at 73. We are currently without a Membership Committee Chair. A "help wanted" ad for this position appears elsewhere in this issue. All members are urged to consider volunteering.

The Communications Committee is in the process of updating the league's website software between now and June. Members are urged to review the current site and provide feedback on website content and organization. What is missing? What is there that isn't useful? Contact Richard Utt with any comments, positive and negative.

Our National Voter Registration Day event registered only four voters but was highly visible, partly because we gave out candy. With AVR, there are fewer unregistered voters to attend these events and we are more engaged in voter information (upcoming elections, etc.). Upcoming voter registration/information events include Monomoy High School, Drummer Boy (Brewster Historical Society event), two events at Cape Cod Community College, and a table at the Design Heritage Museum (Sandwich). Details are provided elsewhere in this issue. If you can help out at any of these events, contact Rosemary Shields.

Karen Mazza (Youth Services Committee) reports that the directory of resources for the student-led civics projects will be completed by the end of October. Karen will be speaking

at the League Leader Lunch October 29 on what is in the new civics education law. She will provide a summary for the website and *The Voter*.

Renate Sands (Legislative Committee) reports that both the Chelmsford and Concord-Carlisle Leagues have agreed to advocate for the Pilgrim bills with their legislators, Representative Golden and Senator Barrett, respectively. The committee has sent a letter to Rep Keating, Sen Warren, and Sen Markey about the decommissioning process, which appears elsewhere in this issue.

An immigration event will be presented by the Cape Cod Coalition for Safe Communities on October 29 at the Zion Union Heritage Museum in Hyannis. We will have handouts on the Safe Communities Act and the Work and Family Mobility Act (driver's licenses for undocumented immigrants) as well as contact information for legislators. The Day on the Hill will be Thursday, Oct 17.

Pat Ryle (Health Committee) reports that the committee has changed direction based on statistics on suicide. Although the Massachusetts rate for suicide is one of the country's lowest, Barnstable County is one of the highest in the state (the same is true of the islands). Pat and Sally have changed direction and will now be focusing on suicide.

The Holiday Brunch will be held on December 7, 2019, 9:30am. We are looking at several new venues. Details will be provided shortly. If anyone has any thoughts on how the cost of this event affects attendance, please contact Ann Ryan.

Richard Utt reported in the Sept 20 environment strike event at the Cape Cod Commission in Barnstable, one of many events throughout the Cape that day. This event was held to urge the Commission to revise the Regional Policy Plan to more urgently address climate change. There will be four public meetings in October and November. Richard will post information about the meetings on the website, the Facebook page, and in emails. Members are encouraged to attend.

The board agreed to focus on two areas of activities:

1. The 100th anniversary (2020) of the League of Women Voters. Florence Seldin noted that more, particularly new, members are needed to become involved and that the LWVMA website provides a comprehensive toolkit for 100th anniversary events and activities. Karen Mazza, Florence Seldin, and Elaine Dickinson volunteered to serve as "helpers." A call for more help and a coordinator will be in *The Voter* and volunteers will be solicited at the brunch. This is a short-term committee, with work starting Jan 1, 2020.
2. Register voters for next year's elections, especially in underserved areas. There is already some LWVCCA concentration in this area. Other, non-League committees and events are taking place locally and, as long as the events are non-partisan (even if the organization is not), the LWVCCA can support and help publicize such events in *The Voter*, Facebook, email, website.

Respectfully submitted: Mary Hunter Utt, Secretary

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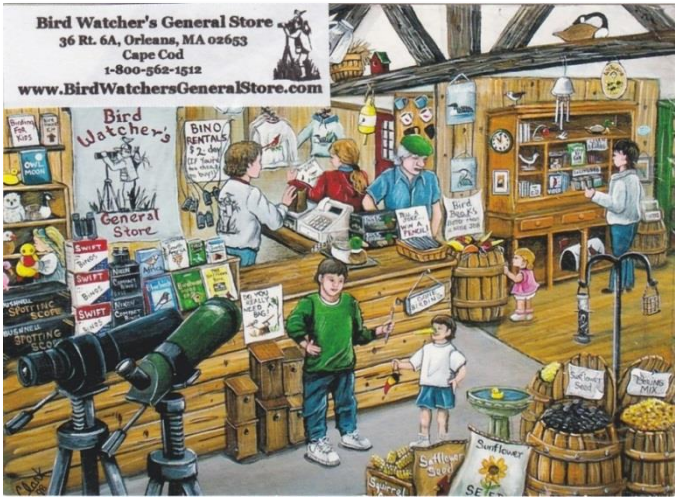


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