

CALENDAR

**NEW YEAR'S DAY**  
FRIDAY January 1  
**HAPPY NEW YEAR!!**



**BOARD MEETING**  
TUESDAY January 5 | 9:30 a.m.  
Teleconference by invitation

**Climate Collaboration Matters:  
Addressing Climate Mitigation on Cape  
& Islands**

SATURDAY January 23th | 10:00 a.m



**NEW MEMBER  
ZOOM "TEA"**  
TUESDAY January 26th | 7:00 p.m

UPCOMING

**BOARD MEETING**  
TUESDAY February 2 | 9:30 a.m.  
Teleconference by invitation



Go to  
<https://tinyurl.com/LWVCCA-calendar>  
to see our entire Google calendar. Click on any  
calendar listing to see more detail:

● 11am - 12:30pm	Climate Collaboration Matters: Ad	
● 9:30 - 11:30am	LWVCCA Board Meeting	■ LWVCCA Prog
● 10 - 11:30am	LWVCCA Program Planning	Saturday, February 13,
● 7 - 8:30pm	LWVCCA Program Planning	≡ We are offering two o:
● 9:30 - 11:30am	LWVCCA Board Meeting	• Saturday, Febru
● 9:30 - 11:30am	LWVCCA Board Meeting	• Thursday, Febru
● 9:30 - 11:30am	LWVCCA Board Meeting	Both will include some
		for State and local Ca



LWVCCA PRESIDENT'S GREETINGS

Fellow Members,

It is now a new year! Where has the time gone and what have we accomplished? Much, from my perspective. We were able to show appreciation for some of the essential workers on the Cape during the first round of Covid. Who would have thought that we would still be locked in that health care nightmare? We all have to hang tough and wait for our turn at the vaccine table.

Our Voter Service team worked tirelessly preparing for the election by registering and educating voters as well as encouraging people to complete their 2020 Census. They also sponsored candidate debates for state races as well as county races. And we worked with Cape Cod Media to generate and distribute three public service announcements for television regarding voting by mail procedures.

Our Legislative Committee team has been religiously following bills in the state legislature and notifying members when action needs to be taken. We had some successes there and some still pending.

Our Program VPs have been incredibly busy setting up and presenting meaningful programs to move our DEI program along. December's forum on "How Racism is Experienced on Cape Cod" was terrific. For those of you who missed it, I hope you have been able to see the recorded program at [LWVCCA December 7 Panel](#). A big thank you to all who have participated in our League's efforts to date. Our successes have truly been a team effort and the year is only half over.

One of the things that has been uplifting this year is the number of new members who have joined our ranks. So far in 2020, our League has



A recording of the discussion is posted on our YouTube channel at the link below:

[LWVCCA December 7 Panel](#)

Contact information for the panelists can be found at this link:

[LWVCCA December 7 Program Contacts](#)

We intend to do a Part II follow-up video, spending more time on what we can do about racism. This program is one of several that Co-Vice Presidents for Program Karen Mazza and Jeanne Morrison are sponsoring as part of our League's goal to support DEI in our League and pursue action steps that follow from it.

**2021-2022 PROGRAM PLANNING**

Members, it is that time again when we need to put our heads together to plan for the League's new year. The constraints of the Covid virus force us to conduct these planning session virtually, but we can accomplish much as long as we get good attendance. We are offering two options. The first one will take place on Saturday, February 13<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am and the second on Thursday, February 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. Both will include some discussion regarding suggestions for State and local LWVCCA program planning items. More information will be forthcoming when we will ask for your RSVP as to the meeting you wish to attend.

Remember, the directions that we move in each year are based on the suggestions that you, the members, make at these planning sessions. Please plan on joining us at one of these events and make your voices heard. Afterwards, get ready to roll up your sleeves and make things happen in the future! See you on the 13<sup>th</sup> or the 18<sup>th</sup>!



**VOTER SERVICE COMMITTEE REPORT**

On December 10<sup>th</sup> the Barnstable County Human Rights Advisory Commission (BCHRAC) awarded the LWVCCA one of their *Unsung Heroes: Celebrating the Strength of our Communities*

awards. The citation reads:

**“League of Women Voters Cape Cod and Falmouth, Voter Services committees**

**members-**tireless and creative volunteer efforts to ensure outreach and engagement of Cape Cod’s diverse communities, remote areas and vulnerable citizens including incarcerated individuals, providing voter education, registration, and support for maximum turnout. We are especially grateful for the LWV support and education of safe voting procedures during this pandemic.”

The voter service committee participated in events done in conjunction with the Cape Verdean Society, NAACP, Barnstable High School alumni and woke teachers, Common Cause MA, and MA Women of Color Coalition. We extended our reach to under-served and under-represented communities and will continue to so in the future. It's never too soon to prepare for the 2022 election! And a huge THANK YOU to all Voter Service Team Members!

Submitted by Rosemary Shields and Anita Rogers, Co-Chairs for the Voter Service Committee.



**WELCOME to NEW MEMBERS**

*"My interest in joining the League is rooted in my desire to help ensure that our democracy lasts. It must last complete with constitutional rights for all Americans including our right to vote."*  
**Eileen Elias**

The League of Women Voters of the Cape Cod Area is fortunate to welcome **Eileen Elias**. Her life's amazing journey is a reflection of personal determination and purposeful struggle. As a first generation American born of Jewish-European immigrants in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, Eileen experienced anti-Semitic epithets hurled at her by her classmates during her youth. She worked at avoiding those anti-Semitic youngsters who physically shoved and pushed her. Due to continued steel workers and coal miners labor strikes her father lost his business, resulting in the

loss of their home. By the time she was 14 Eileen's family was forced into homelessness. Perhaps these harrowing experiences helped Eileen to establish her life-long empathy for people who are victims of systemic socio-economic maltreatment and damaging discrimination. Today she serves as the Chair of the Barnstable No Place For Hate organization where she works with members of the Steering Group to involve young people in the effort against micro aggression.

After graduating with honors from high school, Eileen graduated from Temple University with both undergraduate and graduate degrees. She became Massachusetts Commissioner of Mental Health during Governor Weld's administration. She also worked with the United States Department of Health and Human Services which has developed into a larger agency: The United States Administration for Community Living (ACL). She has been an outstanding pioneer. She was the first woman Commissioner of Mental Health in Massachusetts and the nation, and Deputy Director for the first office on disabilities within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

*"People can be powerful agents for positive change. You don't give up. I have found that partnership and networking are key actions in developing and managing system changes."*

Eileen Elias has been steadfast during her 40 years of activism in initiating and implementing programs aimed at enabling people with disabilities including those with mental disorders, brain injuries, and other cognitive challenges. Her personal values encompass a sense of giving back and a sense of purpose. She continues to express her concerns regarding the blatant disparities between opportunities for people of color versus the opportunities for their white counterparts. She contends that sharing and giving among people on Cape Cod should not merely be confined to the holiday season. Caring and giving needs to be evident throughout the entire year. This is especially true because of the economic problems caused by the current coronavirus pandemic.

Eileen Elias was an invited panelist on the LWVCCA's December 7, 2020 Zoom program regarding racism on Cape Cod. Eileen stated that her reason for focusing on young people in her efforts to develop dialogue concerning racism is simple:

*"The experiences and perspectives of young people are profoundly significant because the young people are the future. They speak the truth that cannot be refuted."*

**Eileen Elias**

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*"My mother was an inspiration as she was a League member. She modelled volunteerism for me. Right now in our country there is an urgent need for civil discourse about our future as a nation. The power of the vote is central to this discourse."*

**Nancy Skinner**

**Nancy Skinner** grew up in New Jersey and graduated from Harvard-Radcliff in the Class of '77. Perhaps unknown to Nancy during her undergraduate days on campus at Harvard were a few African American students whose life's achievements would head directly to the chronicles of American and World History. Among those African American Harvard students were Duval Patrick and Barack Obama. Nancy herself was among those women who were in one of the first Harvard graduating classes to have female graduates. After her Harvard graduation she taught American History and Latin American History at a private school in Connecticut. Nancy earned her MBA from Boston University. Afterwards she spent fifteen years in California



and Florida running non-profit organizations specializing in non-profit management and fundraising. Nancy ran theaters, was a consultant in arts education and the environment for non-profit organizations.. She has continued to work back in Boston and has her own consulting practice. She has clients in Boston, Ohio and elsewhere. She has been married to her husband for forty-three years. She met him at Harvard. Her husband has been Director of College Counselling for more than twenty years at Milton Academy. They have two adult married children and one grandchild. Nancy Skinner was raised as a Quaker and was taught that helping people is a most significant part of life. She believes that the non-profit sector is a way to do well by doing good. Nancy has spent many years of her life helping organizations that help people.

**Nancy Skinner**

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 617-943-8174



*"I feel that The League is a grassroots organization dedicated to voters' rights. Voting is the most powerful tool we have whether it is through the electoral process or through our spending patterns."*  
**Mary O'Connor**

July 1, 2020 **Mary O'Connor** and her husband moved to the Cape. She had done thirty years of summering on Cape Cod and had built a year-round home in Eastham. She states that she is a daughter of immigrants from "North of Ireland" whose grandparents left Ireland to escape persecution. Her parents were young children when they were brought to NYC from Ireland. A most harrowing experience occurred in 1990 while Mary and an aunt were visiting an elderly uncle in Belfast, Ireland. The car that they had rented was blown up the day before they were scheduled to return to London's Heathrow Airport

to fly back to New York. Fortunately nobody was killed or injured in the explosion.

Her own life's journey reflects diligence and hard work in pursuing progress in her chosen profession. Mary graduated from the University of Connecticut as a home economics major with a concentration in family finance. After college graduation Mary worked at a community action agency in charge of grants for four community centers in Norwalk, Connecticut. Following that job experience she worked as legal secretary in a private law firm and a researcher for a major insurance corporation. Noteworthy indeed is the fact that Mary O'Connor maintained employment before and during law school. After seven years of working to help pay for her law school education, she entered the University of Connecticut Law School and earned her JD. She also attained her Master of Science degree in Communications and Information Management from Bay Path University in Longmeadow, Massachusetts while working for the judicial branch of the state of Connecticut . She has lobbyist experience with the Connecticut Bar Association. Mary also served as a volunteer tour guide in the Connecticut State Capitol in Hartford after she retired in 2016.

Mary O'Connor's many years of service in the Connecticut state court system included several roles: Counsel to Executive Director of the Superior Court Operations; Director of Judge Education for the Superior Court; and Coordinator of Magistrates for Motor Vehicle Court and Small Claims Court.

**Mary O'Connor**

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We also welcome new members **Margot Critchfield** and **Françoise M. Rocher**. We hope to tell you more about them in coming issues of the *Voter*.

**TO ALL NEW MEMBERS:**

We'll be hosting a virtual "Tea Party" for everyone who has joined us in the last year.

We hope you all new members will join us!

Watch for your invitation!

**SAVE THE DATE:**

**TUESDAY January 26th | 7:00 p.m**

**□APPY □EW YEAO□!**

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**LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT**

The present legislative session ends January 5, 2021. Many bills that the Legislative Committee has been following have not been acted upon.

One of the bills that has been acted on is the Police Reform bill. To increase our understanding, we invited Matthew Allen from the ACLU to make a presentation which was summarized in the November Voter. We also met with Yarmouth Police Chief Frederickson to gain more information.

The bill, which the conference committee sent to the Governor's Office in early December, was sent back to the legislature with amendments that were accepted by both the Senate and the House. On 12/23/2020, the bill was sent back to the Governor for his signature.

**Summary of S.2963 An Act Relative to Justice, Equity and Accountability in Law Enforcement in the Commonwealth**

The bill would create, for the first time in Massachusetts, a system of certifying police officers. The MA Peace Officers Standards and Training Commission (POST) would oversee this process and consist of 9 members, mainly civilians. The new Commission would have the ability to (a) revoke an officers' license if an officer is convicted of a felony, (b) "knowingly" files a police report with false information or (c) is found to engage in other misconduct. The bill also ties qualified immunity to the new licensing process, where officers could lose the personal legal protection in cases where their conduct results in decertification.

The POST Commission, in the original bill, was also delegated to oversee the training of police officer. Governor Baker strenuously objected to a civilian board overseeing the training and threatened to veto the bill. The oversight of the training will be done within the Municipal Police Training Committee under Baker's executive office of public safety. This committee and the POST Commission will work together in creating the rules and regulations of police use of force.

Governor Baker also had a problem with the banning of the use of facial recognition for law enforcement. The limits on the use of facial recognition have been loosened.

Many racial justice advocates and people of color feel this bill compromises meaningful reform and police accountability. Advocates for the original bill were frustrated because they hoped to push through a more ambitious proposal after demonstrations against police brutality and racism resulting from the death of George Floyd.

Senate President Spilka said that the legislation was "not a magic bullet" and inferred more needed to be done. House leaders repeatedly referred to it as only one step in legislating change. House Speaker DeLeo said he was confident the House would "build on this achievement in the time ahead."

The Legislative Committee also met with Yarmouth Police Chief Frederickson to gain more information. A report on his point of view is below:

**Summary of Chief Frederickson’s remarks.**

**S.2963** - The bill was poorly written. The bill asks for 8 different committees to be established. Funding will be an issue because no information as to how programs/commissions will be funded is in the bill. Any money available would be spread among more agencies and could affect money available for training.

**Certification** - Certification of police officers is a good idea. Recertification would take place every three years. An officer could be decertified for excessive use of force.

**Public Complaints** - In the present bill, all internal affairs would be sent to the POST Commission. Police departments receive lots of complaints, there is no filter right now, and everything would go the Commission.

**Use of force** - Use of force, alleged biases crimes should be investigated.

**Choke Holds** - The police in MA are not trained in choke holds. The bill bans choke holds but he felt there should be an exception. An example would be if someone is strangling a person who is lying on the ground. You might need to use a choke hold to get him/her off that person or you would have to use a gun.

**Public records** - Any discipline an officer received cannot be made public.

**Unions** - Many different unions and organizations exist. Each local Police Department chooses which group to join. The union protects contract rights and provides attorneys.

**Community Policing** - Very important to engage people and have open communication. His department is proactive, Ex. Gives out boxes of food, does Shop with a Cop and holds Coffee with the Chief. The Yarmouth Police Department also holds Police Academies which allow the public to get acquainted with the department.

**Systemic racism** - When asked about the make-up of the police he said that you cannot ask questions about race when hiring people. He has 61 full time police officers, 8 dispatchers and

5 support personnel. In Yarmouth. Five of the officers are multi-racial and 3 are females.

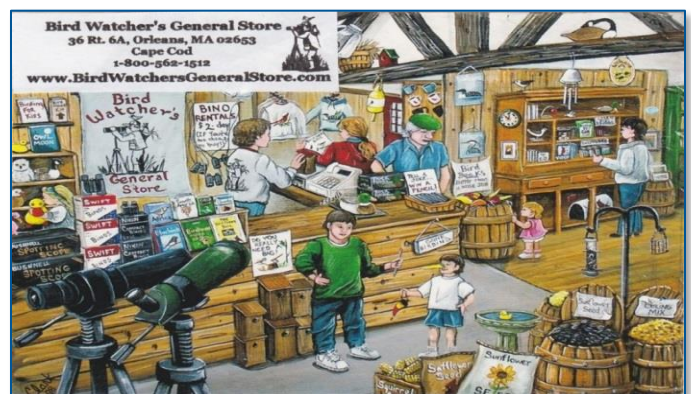
**Hiring** - Yarmouth is not part of the Civil Service which allows the Police Department more freedom in hiring police officers.

**Mental Health** - He has been trying to get more mental health training. The police are dealing with alcohol, homelessness, and drug related issues. When the police get called the situation is usually at its worst. Right now, they have one social worker for 10 hours a week. More mental health workers would be great but what happens when the call is at 1 o'clock in the morning. No way to staff that many people.

**Present status** - Their department needs more protective gear such as face shields. When he started in the 70's they had attack teams which have disappeared over time since they were not needed. Protests have started up again since the death of George Floyd.

Submitted by Co-chairs Renate Sands and Elaine Dickinson

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**



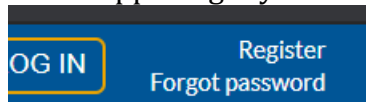


**MEMBER-ONLY PAGES ON THE WEBSITE**

There is content that you can only see if you have registered on the website as a member of LWVCCA. Since some members have had difficulty signing up, instructions are included below.


If you have not registered:

- Go to [www.lwvCapecod.org](http://www.lwvCapecod.org).
- At the upper right you will see this:




- Click on the word "Register"
- On the next page select this:



- On the next page, enter your username (first name and last name, with no space: e.g. my username is richardutt)
  - Enter your email address.
  - Create a password that you can remember, minimum 10 characters.
  - The rest of the contact information is optional.
  - Under "Local League Membership", scroll down until you see this:
- 
- Then click on the "I am not a robot", followed by "Create New Account"
  - That should do it!

**A Lifetime of Memories**  
 Slides, Photos, VHS, Camcorder Tapes & 8mm and 16mm Film transferred to DVD or Flash Drive



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**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

**ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

Climate Collaboration Matters: Addressing Climate Mitigation on Cape & Islands:

Saturday, January 23 10:00 a.m.

<https://tinyurl.com/LWVCCA-Climate-Collaboration-M>

In this online event Susa,n Starkey, Co-Chair of the [Faith Communities Environmental Network](#) will interview Mon Cochran, Vice President of the [Cape Cod Climate Change Collaborative](#). He will explain the vision of Net Zero held by the Collaborative, and focus attention on the key areas where we must reduce carbon pollution on the Cape and Islands. Mon will then describe examples of major clean energy projects currently underway in the region that are intended to mitigate some of the disproportionate impacts the climate crisis is having on low-income communities and communities of color. This will be followed by questions from participants. To close, Laura Zammaro, LWVMA's Climate Change Specialist, will provide a brief update on State Legislation.

Submitted by Committee Chair Florence Seldin.



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