

CALENDAR

BOARD MEETING

TUESDAY May 4 | 9:30 a.m.

Zoom conference by invitation



Cinco de Mayo
WEDNESDAY,
May 5



Mother's Day
SUNDAY May 9

LWVCCA ANNUAL MEETING

THURSDAY, May 13 | 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Location: Your computer, tablet, or phone



Memorial Day
MONDAY May 31

UPCOMING

BOARD MEETING

TUESDAY June 1 | 9:30 a.m.

Zoom conference by invitation

Go to

<https://tinyurl.com/LWVCCA-calendar>

to see our entire Google calendar. Click on any calendar listing to see more detail.

LWVCCA PRESIDENT'S GREETINGS

Members,

In the midst of another spring, a time for renewal, I find myself reflecting on many things. Perhaps the past year of COVID isolation has increased the time available to think about change. It is amazing how there are so many things that we learn over the years that get placed on hold or almost forgotten because we become engaged in other aspects of life. My thoughts recently have turned to education; what I've learned, what I have forgotten, what I once trivialized and what I now feel the need to relearn.

My focus has landed me on History. Beginning last year, with the Women's Suffrage 100th Anniversary, through our tumultuous election year, I have found myself drawn back into relearning many pieces of History that have been forgotten. Much of this self-education has taken place through books, but there have been some terrific movies and documentary pieces along with magazine articles and NPR discussions that have helped to fuel my curiosity and fill my soul with active energy.

I would like to share some of my learning journey with you if only to offer some beginning avenues for your own exploration. I watched a terrific movie entitled "The Best of Enemies" a true story of the difficulties and triumphs of change in the south in the 60's. The reality of today after watching that is so disheartening. This prompted me to explore the 1619 Project which looked at America's historical development with a focus on the role of slavery. This will be an ongoing study for me. I also read an article in Mother Jones Magazine that focused on the 14th Amendment and how government has always had one way to deal

with voter suppression but has never had the guts to use it. We need to enlighten our federal legislators as to their long forgotten abilities. My next exploration was to tackle the issue of the filibuster by reading the book "Killswitch" a startling history of the development and abuse of the filibuster in the Senate. This issue screams at us to change direction. Most recently, I watched a Frontline episode entitled "American Insurrection" which explored some of the groups and issues involved in the January 6th storming of our Capitol. This one was scary and heartbreaking at the same time.

There is so much more to question and to learn that will connect us to all that is swirling beneath the surface of our democracy. It is frightening that there is only a delicate lattice that holds it all together. That lattice is being strained from within and attacked from without. Those of us who labor to keep the network intact have a multitude of areas that need ongoing attention. Our democratic institutions are only as strong as those that keep a constant vigil. Thank you being a part of that watch and for helping to preserve our future.

Now, to summer on Cape Cod!

With Hope,
Suzanne



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APRIL 6 BOARD MEETING

- Minutes of the March 2 Board meeting were approved.
- The "Keys to Success for Effective School Committees" webinar went well; 69 people registered, 45 attended.
- Book discussion: summer reading list/selection process: Jeanne Morrison and a few committee members from DEI and other volunteers will select two books for summer reading by May 15 so it can be included in the June Voter. The May Board meeting agenda will take up how we want to plan the discussion for fall.
- DEI Committee will have their first meeting on April 23rd.
- Final, approved minutes will be posted on the Members Only pages of the website.

ANNUAL MEETING

**Please join us for our Annual Meeting on
Thursday, May 13, 6:30-8:30 P.M.
via Zoom**

The main business will be to approve, for 2021-2022, new program priorities, a new operating budget, and a new Board of Directors.

The meeting will begin with Patricia Comfort, Esq., Executive Director of the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts, speaking on **Expanding Access to the Ballot**.

Pattye has spent her career working in the public interest, most recently serving as Executive Director of the Women's Bar Association and Women's Bar Foundation of Massachusetts. She joins LWVMA with extensive experience managing a nonprofit, collaborating with members and Board, and in education and advocacy.

Along with interest in a broad range of membership and advocacy issues, Pattye brings insight and expertise in women's issues. "I am passionate about leveling the playing field for women. With the celebration in 2020 of the 100th Anniversary of both the League of Women Voters and the passage of the 19th Amendment allowing women to vote, I am thrilled to contribute as LWVMA's next Executive Director."

Pattye has worked throughout her career to empower under-served constituencies through advocacy and education. In addition to her most recent position with the Women's Bar, she has worked with the Massachusetts Legal Assistance Corporation and with The Fund for the Public Interest. Pattye holds a B.A. in political science from Boston College and a J.D. from Northeastern University School of Law.

To conduct our business, we require a quorum of at least 30 members, so please put this date on your calendar and join us. You are all a vital part of the LWVCCA and I look forward to seeing you on May 13th.

The Zoom link will be sent out with a reminder closer to the date.

MARGARET "PEGGY" ROSE



We sadly announce the sudden death of a member of LWVCCA from Harwich, Peggy Rose. Always friendly, always positive, and always ready to lend a hand. Peggy was dedicated to her town of Harwich. She was brought up there, graduated from Harwich High School and after several years away returned to participate fully in the town. Florence Seldin once drove with Peggy from Harwich to Yarmouth - she took us on every back road and entertained us with anecdotes about just about every street and structure we passed. Peggy became a League member after one of the candidate forums we moderated in Harwich because she volunteered with the citizens' committee that sponsored those activities. She served on a Nominating Committee and was frequent attendee at LWVCCA events. Our condolences to her family.

[Peggy Rose: Cape Cod Times](#)

In lieu of flowers, please donate to The Children's Center, 115 Sisson Rd. Harwich Port, MA 02646, or the Harwich Historical Society, 80 Parallel St. Harwich, MA 02645.



DEI COMMITTEE

The DEI Committee's first quarterly meeting was April 23rd. Ten LWVCCA members have signed up for the committee, in addition to co-chairs Mati Ligon and Mary Hunter Utt, and advisory chair Jeanne Morrison.

- Meeting report and plans
The meeting consisted of introductions and review of LWVUS, LWVMA, and LWVCCA DEI policies and priorities. Many committee members already work with another committee and will continue to do so. Each member will pair with another DEI committee member, not on their other committee. Each pair will meet with the other committee to help meet the goal of applying a DEI lens to committee work across our league.
We also discussed other aspects of diversity that we would like to see the LWVCCA focus on this year, such as disability, mental health, gender identity, young adults.
- Reading list for fall/winter discussions.
Jeanne and three volunteers from the committee reviewed the list of books recommended by Board members and winnowed it down, using three objectives, to two books: *Waking Up White* by Deb Irving and *Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Man* by Emmanuel Acho. After Board review and approval, the list will be published to the general membership for continued learning in preparation for fall/winter discussions on racism.

Mati Ligon (508.539.4233,
ligonmatilda@gmail.com)

Mary Hunter Utt (mary.h.utt@gmail.com)

Jeanne Morrison (Jeanne137@verizon.net)



VOTER SERVICE COMMITTEE

The Census is Done – Now for the Hard Part

Submitted by Rosemary Shields,
Co-chair, Voter Service Committee

I attended the LWVMA “People Powered Fair Maps” webinar on March 31. It's the League's updated phrase to counter the sleight-of-hand that politicians pull every decade, assuring themselves vote-proof districts, or what we know as gerrymandering. Gerrymandering is where the politicians choose their voters rather than the voters choosing their representatives. So instead of drawing compact lines within neighborhoods, a district might end up looking like a salamander with a long tail, as Governor Elbridge Gerry fashioned in Massachusetts back in 1812. And thus a new word was coined: “Gerry(sala)mander.” The two major techniques of gerrymandering are “cracking” (*i.e.*, diluting the voting power of the opposing party's supporters across many districts) and “packing” (concentrating the opposing party's voting power in one district to reduce their voting power in other districts). So, since Massachusetts has a long history of these political shenanigans it is up to the citizens of Massachusetts to oversee this process in our state. And why now? Because the Census has been taken. But because of all the dissembling of the last Administration, trying to keep immigrants off the Census, the results of the Census will not be delivered until **September 30** (*vs.* April 1, when it's usually delivered). That only gives the redistricting committee in the State house a month and a week to draw the new district maps for the State Assembly and the Congressional districts. The districts must be established by **November 8th** in order to be ready for the next election.

Newly elected State Representative Kip Diggs is on the Special Joint Committee on Redistricting, which will set districts based on the Census for the next ten years. Senator Cyr and Rep. Sarah Peake are also on the committee giving Cape Cod an over-sized share of what's going to happen.

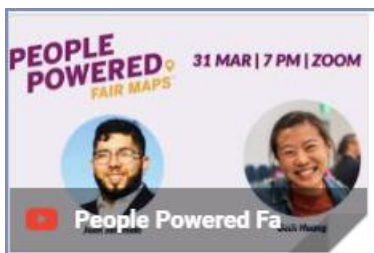
It's assumed that there will be lots of preliminary hearings for the public to chime in on this.

We need to let our Cape delegation know that this

is important to us. We want to make sure that districts are drawn to reflect the entire community -- "communities of interest." Communities of Interest are determined by where people go to school; what transportation mode most people use; how healthcare is delivered into a community; what are the major languages." Although racial gerrymandering is illegal, historically we've also seen districts drawn with white suburban neighborhoods dominating entire districts.

Another wrinkle in all of this is the towns will be RE-precincting their precincts and wards. We have to watch the agendas of our towns because who represents us on our town councils, boards, and commissions affects our daily life on the Cape. And re-precincting also goes into considering districts.

Phew! This is a lot. The March 31 webinar is now available:



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6452BNK3VTY>

WELCOME to NEW MEMBERS

Submitted by Matilda Ligon,
Chair, Membership Committee

"I joined the League of Women Voters of the Cape Cod Area because I wanted to get involved with racial justice efforts." **June Hager**

June Hager is the most recent new member to join the LWVCCA. In late March 2021 she participated in an interview for The Voter's current May 2021 issue. As with several of the LWVCCA's current members, June joins the ranks with a rich myriad of international and professional experiences. She proudly proclaims that she comes from a family of socio-political activists: Her brother has dedicated an outstanding portion of his time with gay rights

activism. One of her sisters has devoted considerable attention in studying Human Rights and situations in the Middle East. June has a sister in California who like June works with racial justice issues. Yet another sister in Colorado is involved with Audubon Animal Rights and saving horses. She also has a specific focus on saving the environment and anti-war issues.

During her fifty-eight years of marriage to her husband Michael (an attorney and a retired American diplomat) June and their three children traveled with Michael during some of his overseas posts. Their youngest child was born in Lebanon. Michael Hagar traveled and served in developing nations in Asia, Africa and the Middle East: Pakistan, Sri Lanka, India, Egypt, Liberia, Afghanistan and Nepal. June and their children did not join Michael when he was in "danger zones". June's husband set up headquarters in Rome for the founding of the International Development Law Organization (IDLO) whereby financing was directed to the developing nations. June herself was at the Vatican working as both journalist, editor, and translator. During fifteen years of service in Rome, June's husband trained international attorneys. Led by her husband, training programs were established to educate young people in underdeveloped countries in order to increase job skills and hiring opportunities.

Later during four years in Boston June focused on racial justice and immigration rights. In Boston June helped homeless artists of color and arranged art exhibits for them. In Washington D.C. she worked within a special homeless center for women to start on their life's journey toward independence from poverty and homelessness. During the span of four years on Saturdays June took groups of women of color from shelters to museums and exhibitions. It was noted that the women were enlivened by the museum visits. Today June Hager warmly remembers that the women were very bright but needed increased opportunities to develop skills in independent living.

June Ashley-Hager, a Wellesley College graduate who majored in German, is a member of the Racial

Justice Study Group in Wellfleet. She continues to speak out against voter suppression in the United States.

Virginia June Hager

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Welcome also to

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ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

MACHINE GUN RANGE:

Submitted by Florence Seldin,
Chair, Environment Committee

[National Guard finds proposed gun range wouldn't impact environment](#)

"Of the 367 public comments received by the Guard, 330 opposed the project, according to a public records request done by APCC. Nine comments were in support of the project...."

The National Guard Bureau has issued a finding of NO Significant Impact for their proposed machine gun range at Joint Base Cape Cod. The finding is being issued despite overwhelming public opposition to the project.

As noted by Andrew Gottlieb, Exec. Dir. of APCC "This project remains substantively flawed and poorly sited. While not the last step in the process, this action is a clear and unmistakable

statement of intent by the Guard Bureau to proceed no matter the extent of public opposition or environmental damage that may result".

The focus will now shift to stopping this project at the state Environmental Management Commission. Susan Starkey, a member of the Environment Committee and co-chair of Faith Communities Environmental Network tells us:

"The Environmental Management Commission (EMC) has promised to set up an online Public Meeting as soon as the ANG's response to all of our comments comes out and we need to show up in strength. Stay tuned and prepare your organization to show up ready to ask the tough questions."

Take individual ACTION:

Write a letter to Len Pinaud, EMC Environmental Officer, or email leonard.pinaud@state.ma.us.

Asking for the date of the Public Meeting and share that this project is wrong for JBCC and wrong for Cape Cod.

Leonard J. Pinaud | Executive Director/Environmental Officer

T + 339-202-9487 | T + 508.946.2871,
Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs, Environmental Management Commission, Building 3468, Beaman Street, Camp Edwards, MA 02542-5003

Write, call or [send an email](#) to Rep. Keating requesting an immediate response to the question, what are you doing to stop this project? Where is the promised letter to the Pentagon asking for a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on this project? You might also contact [Senator Warren](#) and [Senator Markey](#) as well.

Congressman Bill Keating, 259 Stevens Street, Suite E, Hyannis, MA 02601

Phone: (508) 771-6868

LWVCCA strongly opposed this project and submitted letters to that effect.

Environment Committee

SUICIDE PREVENTION FORUM



A sign from the Samaritans on Cape Cod and the Islands offers suicide prevention information for motorists crossing the Sagamore Bridge. *Merrily Cassidy/Cape Cod Times File*

On Thursday April 29, The LWVCCA sponsored a forum “Suicide Prevention: Understanding The Mental Health Needs Of Older Adults And People Of Color.”

The forum was moderated by Eileen Elias, Former Massachusetts Commissioner of Mental Health and current Chair of the *Barnstable No Place for Hate*.

Panelists were:

Karen Ellery Jones, Assistant Director of the Samaritans on Cape Cod and the Islands,

Ayanna Parrent, Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker and CEO and Founder of *B Free Wellness, Inc.*, and

Heather White, Member of the executive Committee for the Massachusetts Coalition for Suicide Prevention, and Chair of the MCSP Advocacy Committee

The forum was well attended, and has been recorded. The recording will be made available on our YouTube channel and on our website,

Panelists and attendees identified a number of resources dealing with mental health and suicide prevention. The list of resources will be made available on the Health Committee section of our website.

2020-2021 YEAR-END COMMITTEE REPORTS

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, and INCLUSION COMMITTEE

LWVCCA DEI 2020-2021 Goals and Initiatives

The League of Women Voters of the Cape Cod Area is committed to advancing diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) in all of its work. In September 2020 we conducted a 10 question survey to obtain membership input to help to direct our ongoing work. Thirty six respondents identified the top three topics they thought could raise awareness and increase understanding. The top three topics identified to advance our DEI knowledge includes:

1. "Understanding how racism is experienced on Cape Cod and resources for addressing it",
2. "Increasing understanding of implicit bias, white privilege, and how to become a better ally, and
3. "Understanding systemic racism and how it operates in a variety of institutions."

To address these topics we took an organizational approach. The Board developed policy statements and definitions on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, posted on our website. The VP's of Programs met with all committee chairs to identify opportunities to integrate organization-wide DEI initiatives, making it central to our organization's work. In addition, we recently started a DEI Committee which has an advisory chair from the BOD, two co-chairs and 10 members representing other committees. Throughout the year our systemic approach to DEI work has been categorically focused on two broad categories:

Education for ourselves and the Cape Cod community

Events/Initiatives include:

- Website links to LWVUS DEI Guide and LWVMA resources of educational reading materials, videos and learning modules.
- LWVCCA participation in quarterly LWVMA DEI Peer Group to share information across Leagues about advancing DEI work.
- Newly established 10 member DEI Committee that will guide the integration of our DEI commitment ensuring DEI programming is in all of aspects of our work.
- Voter services partnered with young women and diverse organizations attending BLM rallies and Cape Verdean cultural events to educate voters from diverse communities on the importance of voter registration, voter turnout, census and ongoing voter engagement.

- We partnered with community organizations to produced 3 educational programs to educate ourselves and the community on issues of racism
 - September 24th, 2020 Annual meeting DEI presentation “Notable African American Women in the Massachusetts Woman Suffrage Movement” and LWVUS workshop modules 1&2 “DEI Basics /Diversity lens and DEI Commitment and Goal setting“
 - December 7th, 2020 “Understanding how racism is experienced on Cape Cod”
 - February 25th,2021 “How Can the Cape Cod Community Collaborate To Eliminate Racism?”
- We have put together a summer reading list for individual learning and understanding of the impact of racism and how it can be eliminated
- We are selecting to books for fall discussions

Advocacy for systemic change

- With membership services and through Board referrals we have recruited members representing diverse populations to membership and Board leadership
- We have partnered with state and local organizations and coalitions to advocate for legislation and make public statements of advocacy to addresses issues related to social justice, equity, equal opportunity, racism, voting rights, safe communities, and police reform and accountability
- We have formed ongoing relationships with five local civil rights organizations, following panel discussions on racism we are in discussions with these organizations to partner to potentially build a coalition that would work toward a Cape Cod-wide action plan with to solutions address systemic issues and work towards eliminating racism on Cape Cod
- The legislative committee partnered with the local ACLU to hold a meeting informing members and invited community organizations about the police reform bill
- We joined the DEI Peer Support Group facilitated by the LWVMA for sharing ideas and identifying best practices

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

We’ve added 30 new members, and now have a total of 107 members - our largest in years.

We’ve interviewed and welcomed the new members, and published the interviews in the *Voter* to introduce them to our everyone.

Since we couldn’t meet our new members in person, we held a Virtual “Tea Party” for new members in January. Board member Judy Thomas and Membership Chair Mati Ligon sent out personal invitations, complete with a tea bag. This was an opportunity to let them introduce themselves – and to introduce ourselves to them! The “Class of 2021” is a very impressive group, and some are already active in various committees. The “Tea Party” was well-attended, and a big success. We hope to do it again next year - in person.

VOTER SERVICE COMMITTEE

Despite the pandemic, we managed to carry out many of our regular programs.

To summarize the past year:

The Voter Service team participated in several in-person activities (while adhering to COVID restrictions) armed with *Voter information and Registration* forms. Events and venues included a student led Power to the Polls rally in Hyannis, Women's Equality Day rally in Hyannis organized by Barnstable High students/alum/teachers, Black Lives Matter rally & march in Dennis, National Voter Registration Day in Hyannis, Mondays on Main St. in Chatham, St. Joseph Homeless Center in Hyannis, and the Cape Verdean Cultural Center.

The most requested information at these semi-public events was about key voting dates, mail-in voting, early voting, students voting away at college, ballot questions, ranked choice voting, and resources such as the Secretary of the Commonwealth's website. As mentioned previously in the *Voter*, now that MA has implemented Automatic Voter Registration, our experience is that folks are more interested in voter information handouts than in registering to vote.

In adapting to COVID conditions, virtual *Candidate Forums* replaced in-person events. We collaborated with Cape Cod Young Professionals (CCYP) and the Cape Cod Media Center to livestream and broadcast these events. Our first forum was on October 1st and included all the candidates for the all the contested State Representative races – 1st Barnstable District (Rep Timothy Whelan / Josh Mason), 2nd Barnstable District (Rep William Crocker / Kip Diggs), and 5th Barnstable District (Steven Xiarhos / James Dever). On October 15th the candidates for Barnstable County Commissioners (Mark Forest / Abraham Kasparian / Sheila Lyons) were presented. These forums were informative, giving the electorate a good feel for the candidates and what issues were important to them.

A key activity for our DEI commitment was **Outreach and Coalition Building** with organizations who advocate for under-served communities on the Cape. These organizations include: NAACP, No Place For Hate, Barnstable County Human Rights Advisory Committee, Veterans Services, Cape Organization for the Rights of Disabled, Barnstable County Correctional Facility, Common Cause of MA, Cape Cod Young Professionals, Cape Cod Media Center, St. Josephs Homeless Shelter, and senior communities. COVID limited what we could do, but we will continue to build on these relationships. In addition to reaching more potential voters, we also get to learn about the variety and wealth of resources on the Cape, and to meet the amazing leaders behind them.

More lessons learned: we must be nimble enough to respond to last-minute opportunities to reach voters that come up. We need to get smarter about social media. We learned that writing letters and postcards encouraging would-be voters is effective; post-COVID, perhaps we could have "postcard parties" to write these encouragements. It would also be a fun way to meet other League members. Our biggest disappointment this year was that COVID restricted our ability to work together in-person with League volunteers and the public.

All in all, we kept the wheels turning to register and inform voters and to get out the vote in spite of COVID. As a result of our team's efforts combined with that of many other pro-democracy groups across the Commonwealth, voters in Massachusetts turned out in record numbers. Nearly 3.7 million individuals (76% of registered voters) voted in the Nov. 3 general election.

Approximately 42% voted with mail-in ballots returned by mail or dropbox, 23% voted early in-person, and 35% voted in-person on Election Day. And the silver lining: voting reforms, such as voting by mail, may become permanent.

That being said, we can't wait to get back to seeing you and the public in person!

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

EVENTS

Police Accountability Meeting via Zoom – October 20, 2020 at 5:30 PM

The meeting was held on October 20, 2020 and all LWVCCA members were invited. Our guest speaker was Matthew Allen, Field Director of the ACLU of Massachusetts. Other organizations invited to the Zoom meeting were the Barnstable County Human Rights Advisory Commission, NAACP and the MLK Police Task Force.

Meeting with Police Chief Frederickson via Zoom– December 2, 2020 at 2 PM

The Legislative Committee met with Chief Frederickson of Yarmouth to discuss the Police Reform Bill.

Meet your Cape Cod Legislators via Zoom – March 26, 2021 at 12:30

The meeting was presented by the League of Women Voters of the Cape Cod Area in collaboration with Cape Women's Coalition and the Cape Media Center.

Legislators present: State Senator Susan Moran, State Representative Tim Whelan, State Representative Kip Diggs, State Representative Sarah Peake, State Representative Steven Xiarhos, State Representative Dylan Fernandes.

Legislators not present: State Senator Julian Cyr, State Representative David Vieira

The moderator was Nancy Brumback, Vice Chair of the LWVMA Legislative Action Committee. Rosemary Shields, Richard Utt and Carole Young-Kleinfeld were involved in organizing the event.

Legislative Committee Meetings - All meetings were via Zoom.

Wrote article on legislation for the *Voter* and sent out Action Alerts to members.

LEGISLATION

On Friday, July 31, 2020 the Massachusetts legislature took the unprecedented step of extending the present legislative session to the end of the year. Many of the bills we were following became inactive when the session ended. Some of the bills have been resubmitted for the 2021/2022 legislative session.

Once the LWVMA Legislative Action Committee (LAC) has reviewed the 7,000 bills that have been filed this year, our Legislative Committee will work on selecting bills for advocacy. We have sent letters to the LAC advocating for their adoption of the Parity on Board bill and Hate Crime bill. The Common Start Legislation (universal childcare) presented by Karen Mazza to the LAC was adopted and is waiting for approval from the LWVMA board.

Karen is a LWVCCA Vice-President as well as a legislative specialist for the LAC.

The following bills were signed by the Governor:

S2963 An Act relative to justice, equity and accountability in law enforcement in the Commonwealth.

H5250 which changed the zoning laws to allow local officials to approve zoning changes with a simple majority rather than a two-thirds majority.

H5164 which incorporated the Roe Act to expand abortion access

S9 An Act Creating a Next Generation Roadmap for Massachusetts Climate Policy is the first major climate legislation to pass since 2008.

Bills that went nowhere:

Voting, Elections, Gun Control, Immigration and Pilgrim Decommissioning.

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

For a number of years LWVCCA has not had an Environment Committee but it was newly formed this year with three members. Our mission is education and advocacy about environmental issues that are so crucial for Cape communities. We continue to seek members with a goal of including one person from each town.

In January we sponsored a program about Net Zero featuring Moncrief Cochran, Executive Director of the Cape Cod Climate Change Collaborative with questions asked by Susan Starkey, co-chair of the Faith Community Network, as well as a LWVCCA member.

We submitted a letter opposing the Machine Gun range on Joint Base Cape Cod and also advocated for the Next-Generation climate bill which was finally passed this year.

We have submitted articles to the Voter on important climate issues.

We are now represented on the LWVMA Environmental Action and Advocacy Committee (EAAC) whose goals are to inform members across the state on critical environmental issues and policies impacting Massachusetts, and to support and promote sustainable energy and environmental policy that incorporates meaningful provisions around environmental justice and equity, legislation and local action. The EAAC meets monthly via Zoom.

Our members are:

- Florence Seldin, chair
- Jan Hively
- Susan Starkey

YOUTH SERVICE COMMITTEE

The primary goal for the Youth Service Committee for this year was to support resources for civic education projects in schools in support of the History and Social Science Curriculum Framework and the legislation passed in 2018 (CH. 296, An Act to Promote and Enhance Civic Engagement). In particular, we have been interested in supporting schools in their implementation of the requirement for student-led civics projects from Grade 8 through high school. This is consistent with our direction for supporting action civics since we formed the Youth Service Committee several years ago. Our activities to support this goal include the following actions:

1. We began work on a new section on Racial and Social Justice to add to the Cape Cod Civic Resource Directory for Student-led Civics Projects that we produced last year. Our work on this

section is almost complete and will be ready for distribution to schools in time for the beginning of the school year in September.

2. We informed the schools about the LWVMA video contest for high school students which focuses on a current civic issue. This year's contest topic is: What did you learn about our democracy in 2020?
3. We informed schools about the new cycle of civic education grants available from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and encouraged districts to work together to submit a regional grant that would give them a better chance of being competitive, since the demand for funding far outweighs the money available.
4. We shared information from the Massachusetts Civic Learning Coalition from their newly initiated newsletter and about their inaugural Massachusetts Civic Education Week, April 26-30, which consists of a week of virtual presentations on civic education models, resources, and information of interest to teachers, students, administrators and the community. Karen also shared this information with the 48 Leagues across the state.
5. To celebrate the achievement of students in completing their student-led civics projects, we invited districts to submit some of the best projects to our League website so that we can acknowledge and commend the student's projects. So far, we have received interest from two districts who would like to participate. These will be placed in a new section of our League's website called, "Spotlight on Youth Civic Engagement."
6. We distributed copies of a calendar that had been donated to us to each of eight high schools on the Cape, entitled "2021 Women of Color and the Fight for the Vote." This year, the calendar specifically focused on the achievements of women of color in the women's suffrage movement. We suggested that the information would be helpful to Social Studies teachers of American history as a research document to make the curriculum content more inclusive.

Our second goal was to support strategies to increase participation of youth in voting. During this year of Covid precautions, our efforts at voter service in the schools have been conducted electronically. We thank the Voter Service Committee Chairs for their collaboration with us in developing information for the schools. We sent a flyer about voting information for the November election to high school principals in the fall, asking them to distribute the information electronically to their seniors. Similarly, this spring, we sent a flyer to the schools encouraging students to vote in local elections. This flyer provided the dates for registration and elections in all local towns across the Cape.

Our third area of activity was above and beyond our goals. We received community input that more information should be available about elections for school committee to encourage people to run for school committee. To respond to that need, we organized a forum, "Keys to Success for Effective School Committees". We promoted this as a program for future candidates and interested community members. The forum featured Glenn Koocher, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Association of School Committees; two school committee members, Tina Games from Monomoy and Jeni Landers from Dennis-Yarmouth; and Mike Gradone, Superintendent of Truro and retired Superintendent of Nauset Regional Schools. Committee member Florence Seldin moderated the forum.

Our committee gained two new members, Wendy Bierwirth and Karen Boujoukos. Each of our committee members is involved in additional activities beyond this committee, related to schools. Wendy works with the Barnstable Human Rights Academy. Karen has worked with the MLK Action Committee to produce an anti-racism summer institute for teachers, "Educating All Cape Cod Children, Celebrating the Mosaic." Marie Stevenson has mentored Mashpee students to help them organize student voter registration efforts. Cindy Battis has worked with the DAR project for schools.

Jan Hively, has supported the partnership with the Dennis-Yarmouth Regional High School and the Yarmouth Senior Center to offer the Mock United Nations program. Karen Mazza continues to be the LWVMA representative to the Massachusetts Civic Learning Coalition. Wendy Bierwirth has agreed to co-chair the Youth Service Committee. Thank you to all of our committee members for their involvement and contributions!

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

With lots of help and input from LWVCCA Board members and committee chairs, we've worked to:

- Keep our website and Facebook page up-to-date, to provide timely resources for LWVCCA and others.
- Inform our members of events and action items via email.
- Provide a monthly newsletter.
- Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, much of our business has been conducted "virtually" – by Zoom.
- We've held all of our Board meetings remotely.
- We've held several Zoom Webinars:
 - Racism on Cape Cod Parts I and II
 - Getting to Net Zero – with the Cape Cod Climate Change Collaborative (CCCCC)
 - Keys to Success for Effective School Committees
 - Meet Your Cape Cod Legislators with the Cape Women's Coalition, and the Cape Media Center (CMC)

Thanks to all the members and committee chairs who have provided content and articles for Facebook, the website, and the *Voter*. Thanks to Rosemary Shields for her work on Facebook, and to Mary Utt for editorial and proofreading help.

ANNUAL DUES REMINDER



2021-2022

Greetings! It's that time of year. Getting your membership renewal paid by the Annual Meeting, May 13, ensures your inclusion in the 2020-2021 Directory. Receipt of dues after July 1st does not guarantee inclusion in our Directory.

League membership is open to anyone, male or female, who subscribes to the purposes and policies of the League. Voting members must be citizens at least 18 years of age.

Dues are **\$55 for a single membership** and **\$85 for two or more members residing in the same household**. Another available membership category is a single \$30 reduced amount available to those who wish to be active in the LWVCCA but for whom the full amount would be an impediment to joining.

Make checks payable to LWVCCA, and mail to

LWVCCA c/o
Amy Harris
75 Chipping Green Circle
South Yarmouth, MA 02664

Name(s) _____

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Membership Dues \$ _____ Contribution \$ _____ Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Dues are not tax deductible. Please write your check to: League of Women Voters of the Cape Cod Area

Comments (e.g. how you heard about the League, your interests): _____

I am interested in the following committees:

Voter Service Legislation Fundraising Health Environment Communication

County Government Youth Service Membership Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

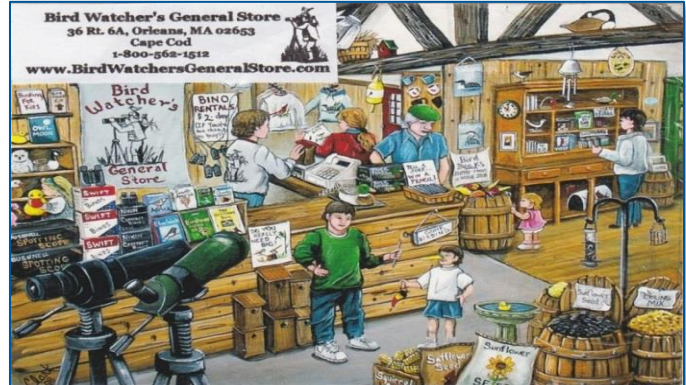
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