



OCTOBER 2021

VOLUME 61 ISSUE 2

CALENDAR

BOARD MEETING

TUESDAY October 5 | 9:30 a.m.
[Zoom conference by invitation](#)

HALLOWEEN

SUNDAY October 31



UPCOMING

BOARD MEETING

TUESDAY November 2 | 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.....

October is upon us.... Including a touch of fall in the air. It has been a different kind of summer. The weather has been strange.... hot, humid with not enough rainfall. The crowds have been unusually large and angry and we seem to have regressed in terms of the Covid crisis. It is very difficult to determine the way forward.

Our opening meeting was terrific in all ways except for the small turnout. I had so wished that we would be meeting in person, but it was not to be. I believe that those who attended the virtual meeting were so glad that they did. The speaker,

www.lwvCapecod.org

Jane Scarborough, was dynamic, enlightening and brutally realistic. Please view the recorded session if you were unable to attend: the meeting report below includes a link. There is always much to do to make our communities more resilient and your participation as members can help that process.

The same could be said for our political horizon. Over the summer the League has been following a number of local issues that matter to us. Joint Base in Sandwich has attempted to develop a machine gun range. The League and citizens have attended hearings and submitted testimony only to be ignored, until recently. Apparently, some documents were conveniently misplaced or forgotten or whatever. It remains to be seen the direction that the process will now take but thanks to the continued pressure from courageous citizens there may be a change of direction.

Our League, the Plymouth League, the Falmouth League and the State League have all been monitoring and staying involved in the closure of the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Plant. Once again, all is not copacetic in the process and members of the League and the public have been following legislation and submitting comments to ensure the best possible outcome.

Members have also been involved in following the many meetings held by the Joint Legislative Committee on Redistricting, again submitting testimony when needed to inform our legislators of the needs and wishes of their constituents with regard to the new redistricting boundaries that are being drawn. We are awaiting the drafts of the new maps when we will again have a chance to comment before the maps are complete.

Whether it be within our local, state or national communities, it is the consistent influence of citizens and League members that drive position change. It may not happen overnight, but without

<http://www.facebook.com/LWVCCA/>

our efforts it may not happen at all. Do not doubt for a moment that what we do has merit. Each one of us can influence change by participating in the wheels of democracy. Talk to people, share ideas, collaborate on issues, educate yourselves and others. We CAN make a difference working together.

Towards justice for all,
Suzanne

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SEPTEMBER 14 BOARD MEETING

Minutes of the June and July Board meeting were approved.

Only three businesses made donations and supplied their cards, down from six last year. “Disappointing,” says Suzanne, and urges members to continue to try for more.

Members Directory and Handbook distribution: the books are printed. Richard Utt and Anita Rogers will get the books ready to mail and mail them. The budget includes the cost of the mailing.

Karen Mazza has been named chair of the LWVMA Committee on Civic Education, which has 18 members from around the Commonwealth, the Berkshires to Martha’s Vineyard. They will be focusing on providing diverse civic engagement.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee has organized the book discussion of Emmanuel Acho’s *Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Man*. Five groups will meet in late September to talk about the book.

The board voted unanimously to support the October 2 Womens March to Defend Reproductive Rights: <https://womensmarch.com/>.

2021 MEMBERS OPENING MEETING



Our opening meeting, held on September 11, the 20th anniversary of the attack on the World Trade Center, was a portentous beginning for the new League year. We remembered those that were lost on that day as well as those that have been lost during all of the conflicts associated with that initial attack. If we had been able to meet in person, the remembrance would have been more memorable. But our thoughts were shared through the airways.

Our speaker, Jane Scarborough, was terrific. I wish more of you could have joined us. Her presentation regarding the State of our Democracy was unfortunately very realistic. Our members had many questions, especially about the imbalance on the Supreme Court. For those of you who could not join us, please view the recorded meeting on YouTube through the link here:

<https://youtu.be/iUsrcp9BpE1E?t=1>

Or catch it on our website. The good news takeaway is that the League is doing all the right things to help to preserve our Democracy..... registering voters, educating voters and encouraging voters to VOTE, VOTE, VOTE. The bad news is that we have to continue to push for more voters to get involved in the process and be ever vigilant of those that are attempting to limit voting rights for all. Beyond voting rights, the League's work in legislative advocacy and when necessary, court action, remind us of the power of our work in continuing our mission to make democracy work.

Suzanne Brock, President

WELCOME to NEW MEMBERS:

"In my opinion The League of Women Voters has always been on the right side of history. At this time I am interested in doing my part in reinvigorating American democracy."

Mona Phillips

A cheerful and grateful welcome to LWVCCA's newest member **Mona Phillips**. Mona proudly states that it was her beloved mother who introduced Mona to The League of Women Voters. Her mother was heavily involved with the work of The League in Springfield, New Jersey while raising her three young children. During recent socio-political turbulence in the United States Mona herself has gotten seriously involved with voter support issues starting with her involvement in the organization INDIVISIBLE. She strongly feels that the program of letter writing (promoted by INDIVISIBLE) was a powerful participatory experience. The experience offered her increased understanding regarding the voting process as well as increasing her awareness of non-partisan voter outreach and voter support organizations. Mona enjoyed participating in computer based training as she moved on and volunteered in different organizations.

As the 2020 presidential election approached, Mona introduced herself to VOTE AMERICA which was specific in providing helpline support for those who needed help navigating the North

Carolina voting requirements. She positively contends that VOTE AMERICA has a substantial website and calling capabilities in terms of reaching out to voters. Once Mona started learning about Stacey Abrams' NEW GEORGIA PROJECT, she also developed a focus on young unregistered voters among people of color. She continued to involve herself with letter writing campaigns. Mona was determined to help voters wind through the complexities of the voting process (e.g., when voters relocate; when disabled people have voting challenges; when voters feel intimidated). Her helpline work supported those who called with individual voter questions and concerns regarding voting. During her service with the voter helpline Mona received harassment calls. She appreciatively credits the organization's training she received that prepared her for appropriately countering harassment calls. She became director of the helpline. She continues to advocate for educational efforts regarding unregistered voters via mail, technology and phone as they can be viable tools in the work at getting voters out and attracting future registered voters.

Mona Phillips retired in 2018 from corporate management and planning. Her career experiences were richly varied. She was involved with the economic development of a small New Jersey municipality. Noteworthy indeed is her experience as a Certified Cancer Registrar whereby her position involved handling files of cancer patients for statistical and research purposes. She has two adult children who were raised in New Jersey. Mona has resided on Cape Cod for four years. It is most certain that Mona's experience with voter rights and voter education in addition to her LWVCCA membership will quickly become significant assets for The League of Women Voters of the Cape Cod Area.

Mona Phillips

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LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Here's What's Happening...!

The Legislative Committee met, via Zoom, on September 13, 2021. Our Legislative Committee Chair **Renate Sands** welcomed **Judy Ziss**, Falmouth LWV's Legislative Committee Chair as guest speaker. The two committees have decided to share newsletters, collaborate on legislation, and share information about events. We also plan to coordinate transportation when it's possible to go into the State House for events.

Our committee members have been working hard to follow and take action—on behalf of the LWVCCA—on the bills listed below. Please let your state legislators know that you—their constituents--support them, too. Information for advocating for the bills with committees and legislators is available online [here](#). When time is short, a telephone call to your legislator's office is a quick and simple way to take action. All you need to do is say who you are, where you live and why you are calling. Remember, "Democracy is not a spectator sport."

H584/S365 - Anti-racism, Equity and Justice in Education.

Susan Quinones submitted written testimony to the Joint Committee on Education on behalf of the LWVCCA at the State House public hearing on Sept 13, 2021. Several hundred people provided written and oral testimony, demonstrating the strong interest in the bill. In brief, the bill establishes the Commission for Anti-Racism and Equity in Education to develop strategies for age-appropriate anti-racism education, including identifying curriculum materials with a social justice perspective, ensuring that teachers and school counselors have access to professional development, and promoting efforts to increase, support, and retain teachers and school counselors of color.

H3157/S2077 - Parity on Boards

LWVCCA's Co-VP **Jeanne Morrison** has been following this bill, as a League member, and as a representative of several supporting organizations. The LWVCCA lobbied the LWVMA's Legislative Action Committee (LAC) to adopt the bill for advocacy. More than 200 individuals and organizations, including the LWVCCA and LWVMA, joined the Parity on Board (POB) coalition to advocate for the bill which ensures that Massachusetts appointed public boards and commissions reflect the gender and racial attributes of the public. A hearing was scheduled at the State House on Sept 22, 2021 LWVCCA President **Suzanne Brock** testified in behalf of the LWVCCA.

H605/S362 - Common Start Legislation

Provides a plan to increase the scope of public investment in early education and childcare that prioritizes the lowest-income, highest-need families. It uses a combination of direct-to-provider funding and ongoing family financial assistance. LWVCCA Health Committee Chair **Eileen Elias** has selected this bill for a forum in early Spring as a joint effort with the Health Committee, the Legislative Committee, the LWV Falmouth and the Common Start Coalition. Many believe that passage of the bill will require time and hard work. A hearing for this bill is scheduled for Nov 23rd at the State House.

H2254/S1507 - Relative to Monitoring Dry Casks of Spent Nuclear Fuel

Some background - The LWVMA Legislative Action Committee (LAC) had not been active on any of the legislation regarding the decommissioning of the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Plant until recently. **Elaine Dickinson** introduced us to the bills and **Rosemary Shields** advocated successfully with the LWVMA's LAC to approve our League's advocating for the bills. Recently the LWVMA informed us that they have now adopted the above bill for advocacy. Their support also was instrumental in organizing the program on nuclear waste that LWVCCA's **Rosemary Shields** and LWV Plymouth's **Henrietta Cosentino** presented on Sept.14,2021 via Zoom. View the program [here](#).

H805/S459 - VOTES Act

Rosemary Shields, Carole Young-Kleinfeld, and **Nancy Skinner** have all been active advocates for this bill which makes many of the election reforms passed in July 2020 permanent. The bill provides for expanded in-person early voting, expanded access to mail-in voting, automatic ballots upon request, prepaid postage, provisions for drop boxes, same-day voter registration, and allows corrections officials to facilitate voting for those incarcerated who are eligible to vote. The bill also includes risk-limiting post-election audits every two years and requires Secretary of State to join Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC) by June 30, 2022, as already required by Massachusetts law in 2018.

Lobby Day for the VOTES Act on Oct 6 and **"Day on the Hill"** will provide two opportunities for advocating for the bill.

Upcoming Events

Virtual "Day on the Hill" (mid to late October, TBA).

- The VOTES Act - [H805/S362](#)
- Promoting Offshore Wind - [H3302/S2155](#)
- Common Start Bill - [H605/S362](#)
- Medicare for all - [H1267/S766](#)

Next Legislative Committee Meeting will be October 27, 2021 at 10 AM.

PLYMOUTH / PILGRIM

Click below to the LWVMA, LWVCCA and LWV Plymouth You Tube Presentation on the Plymouth / Pilgrim Nuclear Site. Learn the background, League history and what you can do now. Support S.1507/H.2254, An Act Relative to Monitoring Dry Casks of Spent Nuclear Fuel. "The operator of a nuclear site shall report to the department of public health, on a continuous real-time basis, the temperature of and the rate of heat, helium and radioactivity release of each dry cask." This is but a start. With so many safety exemptions from the Nuclear Regulatory

Commission, it's hard to know where to begin. At least with real time monitoring it gives us a chance to remediate a dangerous release of radiation.

Swift passage of the bill to monitor the disposal of spent nuclear fuel—[S.1507](#) / [H.2254](#) An Act Relative to Monitoring Dry Casks of Spent Nuclear Fuel—is critical to keeping everyone in the Commonwealth safe from spent nuclear fuel (SNF) at the decommissioned Pilgrim Nuclear power station. The dangers were outlined in a webinar Sept. 14.

Watch the recording of the event [here](#).

Link to our toolkit [here](#).

Additionally, here is a WBUR (our NPR affiliate) 8 minute presentation and good background on the Decommissioning at Plymouth / Pilgrim:

Pilgrim's Progress: The Pace Of Decommissioning Plymouth's Nuclear Plant Picks Up
<https://www.wbur.org/news/2021/09/16/decommissioning-plymouth-nuclear-plant>

Submitted by Renate Sands and Elaine Dickinson
Co-chairs, Legislative Committee

HEALTH COMMITTEE**Health Committee Report July 22, 2021
Zoom Meeting**

The Health Committee discussed various opportunities it can address for this year. Decision made that primary effort and attention be given to inform and support the State's Common Start Bill so as to accomplish one activity really well.

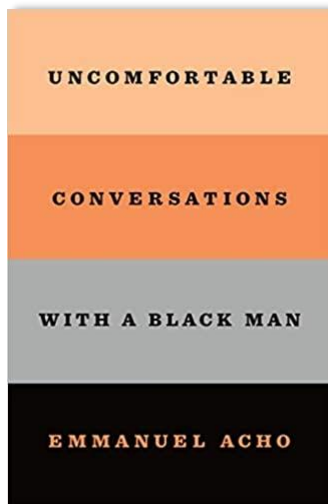
The Health Committee members will partner with the Legislative Committee in supporting the Common Start Cape Chapter. Also, the plan is to hold an education-based legislative forum in March/April for League members to understand this Bill as well as provide information at the League's legislative breakfast. The Committees submitted a proposal for the proposed forum to the Board's review. Our next meeting is scheduled for late September.

The Health Committee is seeking new members – do contact Eileen Elias if you have questions or if you are interested at eileen.elias@comcast.net.

Submitted by Eileen Elias
Chair, Health Committee

DEI COMMITTEE

Book Discussion: *Uncomfortable Conversations With a Black Man* by Emmanuel Acho



The DEI Committee has been very busy preparing for and hosting five groups to discuss *Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Man* by Emmanuel Acho. ([See last month's Voter.](#))

If you haven't yet read the book, you can find it at the link below:

[https://www.google.com/books/edition/Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black/B2yWzQEACA-AJ?hl=en&kptab=overview](https://www.google.com/books/edition/Uncomfortable%20Conversations%20with%20a%20Black%20Man/B2yWzQEACA-AJ?hl=en&kptab=overview)

And you may want to watch Acho's Emmy-award-winning podcast:

<https://uncomfortableconvos.com/watch>

Or:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h8jUA7JBkF4&list=PLXAptcMQLoM6jeadgiA4YZZbgW4BDovTB>

The discussion sessions are ongoing at this date, and will run into early October. Each group had eight to ten members and included at

least two people of color. For most groups, the facilitators are women of color.

The discussions are guided by a set of questions created by Jeanne Morrison and Maureen Grandmont.

Informal preliminary feedback indicates that discussions have been informative and valuable. Survey results will be summarized and presented next month for the board and *The Voter*. Feedback also will be used to inform organizing and conducting a second book reading over the winter. Watch for details.

Submitted Mary Utt,
Co-chair, DEI Committee

VOTER SERVICE COMMITTEE

The Voter Service Committee participated in a Candidates Forum for the special election in Harwich to fill the vacancy left by Steve Ford's death. Joan Craig did a great job moderating, and Lynne Pleffner and Anita Rogers assisted at the meeting. The three candidates were Jeff Handler, Julie Kavanagh and Mark Kelleher. The election was held on Tuesday September 21 and Julie Kavanagh won. Julie Kavanagh, 582; Jeff Handler 542; and Mark Kelleher 243 were the totals out 1,383 votes cast. You may see the Candidates Forum

here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pPB3oW5poww>

Mati Ligon and Anita continued doing outreach planning to reach disenfranchised and/or disillusioned voters from marginalized communities. After discussions with the Town Clerks in late September, we decided to focus on planning for the fall 2022 mid-term election. (When calls were made to all the Town Clerks, half knew they wouldn't have elections this year, and most of the other half didn't yet know if they would or would not.) P.S. Let us be thankful every day for our Town Clerks - the large majority on the Cape are knowledgeable and responsive (and still

recovering from 2020). Anne Quirk of Barnstable is a treasure.

A National Voter Registration Day event is planned for September 28 at Cape Cod Community College, but as of this writing it's unclear if the campus COVID protocols will allow it.

Rosemary is monitoring the redistricting process that happens every ten years after the Census is completed. Final information on the 2020 Census will be released on September 30. Anyone concerned about voter suppression and is not up to speed on the huge part redistricting plays, should refer to the September Voter article on redistricting starting on Page 5:

https://my.lwv.org/sites/default/files/cape_cod_voter_vol_61_issue_1_september_2021_0.pdf

The MA legislature does a good job, but that's certainly not the case in 45 other states that have been sued for their map drawing. True confession: until this year, I (Anita) used redistricting and reprecincting interchangeably – horrifying....but I'll bet there are a lot of people like me.

The Falmouth Voter Service Committee Chair, Sylvia Szulkin, contacted us to talk about redistricting but also how we might collaborate on voting-related matters. The Falmouth League was very fortunate to hold its Annual Meeting at the Cape Verdean Cultural Center and Museum on Saturday, September 11th. Corrie Green and other Club members not only catered the event but presented a film on the Club's history. Corrie was very helpful in promoting the Falmouth League's Get Out the Vote effort in 2020. We look forward to share Voter service events with the Falmouth League.

Submitted by Anita Rogers and Rosemary Shields,
Co-chairs, Voter Service Committee

2021-2022 MEMBERS HANDBOOK AND DIRECTORY



Watch for your Handbook in the mail!

It has been printed, and it's in the mail: you should have it by the time you see this.

BUSINESS SUPPORTERS of LWVCCA

Support these businesses that support LWVCCA!




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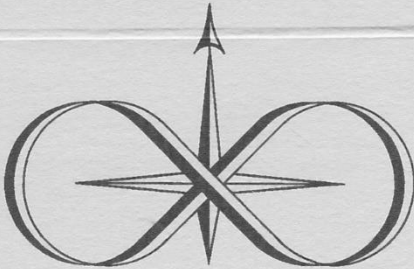


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Jon Vaughan

A gallery with a different point of view