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LWVCCA PRESIDENT’S GREETINGS

Members:

It’s February already in 2022..... Mid-term election year. This month’s note will be short and not so sweet. As I said last month, we have got to get out of our Cape Cod bubble and put our working hats on. All of our energy needs to be focused on Voting Rights. The VOTES ACT (<https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/S2554>) for Massachusetts has not passed. Those legislators on the Cape that are still not on Board are Rep. Xiarhos, Rep. Whelan and Rep. Vieira. We need to target those legislators and garner their support and we need to get this moved out of Committee for a vote.

“When voters can’t participate in elections because MA law doesn’t allow expanded opportunities for mail-in voting during pandemics or expanded early voting, that affects accessibility for all of us. When MA law doesn’t allow Same Day Registration to correct registration errors, that also

affects accessibility. Same with disenfranchising those eligible incarcerated voters. Failing to partner with the other ERIC states affects the security and accuracy of our voter rolls. Enacting risk-limiting audits assures that our voting machines are functioning properly.” (Thank you, Carole Young-Kleinfeld!) All of these actions are covered in the VOTES ACT:

(<https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/S2554>).

At the national level MA legislators are on Board with the Freedom to Vote Act (incorporating some changes into the original For the People Act) and the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act. Both of these are supported by the LWVUS. And, just today I learned of a compromise bill put forth by Senators Durbin, Murkowski, Leahy and “Mr. Holdout” Manchin. You can access information about this here.

<https://www.judiciary.senate.gov/press/dem/releases/durbin-leahy-murkowski-manchin-announce-bipartisan-compromise-on-john-lewis-voting-rights-advancement-act>

We need to advocate for the passage of the first two or the compromise, if that fills the bill. In addition, we must target those mostly Republican legislators who may be swayed by bombarding them with postcards and phone calls. Our voices need to also reach the President. His [January 11 speech](#) was targeted and more forceful. Perhaps by the time you read this, some action may have taken place. If not, the time for diplomacy has come, been attempted and gone. Now it is time to play hard ball. All of us need to make this loud and clear.

Get ready to be busy. Let’s be part of the team that gets this done.

Thank you for your continued support.
Suzanne

DID YOU KNOW—?

...that the Massachusetts Bottle Bill hasn't been updated since its enactment in 1983, even though some legislators have tried and are trying again this year. The states with the highest bottle redemption rates—average of 85%—are states like Maine, Michigan, and Oregon with 10-cent (or mixed) deposits and more types of bottles included. In 2020, the Massachusetts redemption rate was 43%, the lowest of any Bottle Bill state.

...that the League of Women Voters was founded on February 14, 1920? ❤️

CALENDAR**BOARD MEETING**

TUESDAY February 1 | 9:30 a.m.
[Zoom conference by invitation](#)

Common Start Bill Forum

SATURDAY February 5 | 10 a.m.
[Zoom Webinar: Registration Req'd](#)

UPCOMING**BOARD MEETING**

TUESDAY March 1 | 9:30 a.m.
[Zoom conference by invitation](#)

Meeting with our Legislators

FRIDAY March 19 | Time TBA

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

JANUARY 4 BOARD MEETING

Vice Presidents', Programs and Planning, report: Karen Mazza, Jeanne Morrison: Jeanne began by thanking us for supporting the amplifyPOC holiday fair and the Annual Human Rights Awards breakfast of the Barnstable County Human Rights Advisory Commission.

Nominating Committee: Karen Mazza: The Nominating Committee consists of Judy Thomas and Karen Mazza (on-board members; and Nancy Erskine and Debra Dagwan (off-board members). They will meet January 7 at 10:00 A.M., via Zoom. They will begin by contacting all current board members about continuing on the Board.

Youth Service Committee update: Karen Mazza: The LWVMA Board has approved the proposal that the state committee Karen has led on civic education advanced to the Board. That proposal for the first year will encourage all local Leagues to reach out to the schools they work with to support some kind of celebration of student-led civics projects.

Elaine reported on an upcoming public meeting of the Nuclear Decommissioning Citizens Advisory Panel and Holtex representatives to discuss the problems with dumping radiated water into Cape Cod Bay. The date is January 31 in the Plymouth Town Hall Great Room. There will be a public speak out at 5:00 P.M. before the meeting begins at 6:30 P.M. Elaine will forward the flyer to Richard to distribute.

Health Committee update: Eileen Elias: The Common Start Forum is scheduled for Saturday February 5, 10:00 A.M to noon. A flyer will be sent out next week, with translations to Portuguese and Spanish (with the hope of attracting Brazilian members).

Local program planning (Suzanne Brock): The planning will be discussed in an extended February 1 Board meeting with the general membership invited. The national program deadline is March 1, 2022.

"THE SUPER-CHARGED CAPE COD LEAGUE"

Renate Sands, Wendy Bierwirth, Phylis Helfrich, and Carole Young-Kleinfeld had a call with Representative Xiarhos hosted by Jen Muroff from LWVMA about the Safe Communities Act.

In her opening remarks, Jen called us "the super-charged Cape Cod League". So, thanks to all the things that our LWVCCA members do, that we have a reputation at the state LWV as being "high-powered". Very nice of her to say and good to hear!

Submitted by Carole Young-Kleinfeld,
Co-Chair, LWVCCA Legislative Committee

Takin' it To The Streets



The League of Women Voters has a long history of participation in demonstrations of solidarity with other organizations.

This year members again participated in stand outs.



Here, some members are present in Orleans remembering January 6, 2021, the day that over 2000 citizens stormed the Capital in an attempt to prevent the certification of the 2020 Presidential election results.

This group was joined by MA Senator Julian Cyr.



Photos also show members, including Suzanne Brock, standing in solidarity with others in Falmouth remembering the Anniversary of Roe vs Wade.

The League has had a position supporting Reproductive Choice since 1982 and members joined with numerous other groups to stand strong in that continuing support. MA Senator Susan Moran also joined in that support.

LWVCCA in the news:

CAPE COD TIMES

OPINION This piece expresses the views of its author(s), separate from those of this publication.

YOUR TURN: Right to vote a cornerstone of democracy

Suzanne Brock, guest columnist
Published 5:06 a.m. ET Jan. 8, 2022

LWVCCA President Suzanne Brock penned a "Your Turn" article for the Cape Cod Times about the events of January 6 and the year since.

You can see the article at the Cape Cod Times : here:

<https://tinyurl.com/CCTimes-Suzanne-Brock-Jan8-22>

And a PDF is here on our website:
<https://tinyurl.com/Your-Turn-Right-to-Vote>

The Enterprise

SERVING CAPE COD COMMUNITIES SINCE 1895

League Of Women Voters Gifts Mashpee Students With US Constitutions

LWVCCA Membership chair Mati Ligon and Rosemary Shield are mentioned in a Falmouth Enterprise article about the League's Constitution Project, which distributed copies of the U. S. Constitution to high school students

A PDF is here on our website:
<https://tinyurl.com/U-S-Constitution-Project>

WELCOME to NEW MEMBERS

"I want to understand the governmental structure and how it works on Cape Cod."

Diane Growitz

Diane Growitz joins The League of Women Voters of the Cape Cod Area with four years of experience as president of the Harrisburg, Pennsylvania's League. She joined The League in 1967. It was a friend who first introduced Diane to The League and encouraged her to be involved. While raising her two young children in Harrisburg, Diane was an active member for more than ten years. She has always been interested in the educational role of The League. She has a record of participating in a broad span of League related activities: Diane conducted interviews with candidates on local PBS stations.

She served on a state-wide finance committee with the Pennsylvania League of Women Voters for one year. She was active in the distribution of pre-election information as well as marching for the Equal Rights Amendment. Her service in The League added up to 37 years including her years in Fairfax, Virginia where she moved with her husband and their two young children. She became Assistant Vice-President in a Savings and Loan. Later she became a contractor to the Federal Aviation Administration. She worked on strategic planning in major acquisitions for 27 years. While living in Virginia she was a member of The League at the national level until 2017. She was a working mother as she did all of the "Mom Stuff" including Girl Scouts USA Leadership and PTA. Diane Growitz retired in 2017.

Diane Growitz' educational background includes her graduation from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst; and graduate work at George Mason University in Virginia and at American University in Washington, D.C. She wants to be involved in education programs (e.g., civics classes in secondary schools) because "... lack of information prevents people from being active." Diane has been active indeed in working on fundraising for the Centerville Historic Museum. She has participated with her church community outreach and fundraising. Diane refers

to herself as a "Dog Person". She has owned dogs since she was five years old. Diane loves cocker spaniels and believes in rescuing dogs. Diane Growitz is heartily welcomed to the League of Women Voters of the Cape Cod Area !

Diane Growitz

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"I've never been involved in politics. Maybe it is time for me to step up and speak up. I love my country. I have eight grandchildren. I want them to grow up in a democracy. I did. I want my grandchildren to grow up in a democracy."

Ellen Griffin

The Board and general membership of the League of Women Voters of the Cape Cod Area are honored to welcome new member **Ellen Griffin**. Ellen explained during her Voter interview that she independently sought information on-line regarding The League. Nobody solicited her membership. She was highly self-motivated in her efforts to learn about The League. Ellen joined because she has serious concerns regarding the future of American democracy and how it will impact the lives of future generations of American citizens including her own grandchildren. Her husband Edward Griffin is an American Veteran who served in Vietnam. They have been married for forty-eight years; and have raised four children. Currently their four adult children are employed in diverse careers and professions.

Ellen graduated from Mansfield High School in Mansfield, Massachusetts. Immediately after her graduation she worked at the Copley Square branch of the Boston Public Library. Later she worked at Merrill Lynch. Ellen enjoyed traveling and living in New Orleans for a while before returning to Massachusetts and getting married in 1974. Ellen believes that with her joining the LWVCCA she will be a part of an organization that is dedicated to preserving democracy in the United

States. Ellen Griffin's active membership will certainly be an asset to the League of Women Voters of the Cape Cod Area.

Ellen Griffin

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WADADAM

On January 26, ACLU Massachusetts presented its public education webinar “What a Difference a D.A. Makes” (WADADAM)

The webinar was hosted on Zoom by The League of Women Voters of the Cape Cod Area, and co-sponsored by a partnership of non-partisan organizations across the Cape and Islands:

- League of Women Voters Martha’s Vineyard
- NAACP Cape Cod
- NAACP Martha’s Vineyard
- MLK Action Team, of the Nauset Interfaith Association, and
- Cape Cod Coalition for Safe Communities.

This program is intended to educate voters about some important facts about their District Attorney. Did you know that:

- The DA is an elected official
- Over 72% of DA elections are uncontested
- The DA is answerable only to the voters:
- DAs have a very wide range of discretion in:
 - Whether a suspect is charged
 - What charges are brought
 - Setting bail
 - Confiscating property – even prior to a conviction
 - What sentence to recommend
 - Whether a suspect can be offered an alternative to criminal charges – i.e., counseling, etc.
 - Whether plea-bargaining will be offered

This can have an enormous impact on a suspect’s life: they may be released without a charge, they may sit in jail for months awaiting trial, or they may be charged with a wide range of

crimes, completely at the DA’s discretion. A conviction can affect their ability to get a job, or a drivers’ license, or to vote.

These decisions have historically been applied quite differently to different populations: Compared to the (mostly white) general population, Black and Latino people are charged and tried at a greater and receive longer sentences for the same or similar crimes.

The forum on January 26 was well-attended. It represents what we hope is just the beginning of a conversation leading up to next fall’s election of a DA for the Cape and Islands – the first contested election in a long while, and - with the retirement of the current DA - one that will result in the election of a new DA.

A recording of the webinar will be made available.

Two recent articles about the election, and about the candidates:

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

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

A special thanks to Jeanne Morrison and Karen Boujoukos for spearheading this event and herding all the cats to make it happen!

HEALTH COMMITTEE



**A virtual Forum on the Massachusetts Common Start Legislation:
 Understanding Its Impact on Cape Cod’s Families and Providers**

**Saturday, February 5, 2022,
 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM**

Join us for a public forum and panel discussion highlighting how parents, childcare providers, and

Massachusetts lawmakers have worked together to develop model legislation to address the need for affordable childcare and a “common start” in life for all Massachusetts children.

Learn how the proposed Common Start legislation can help the Commonwealth’s children get an equal start in life, strengthen our economy and our workforce, meet the needs of working parents, and reduce racial, gender, and income inequality in our state.

Guest Speakers

- State Senator Susan Moran—*Senate Sponsor*
- State Representative Kip Diggs—*Joint Committee on Education*
- Janae Mendes, *a parent*
- Rafaela Fonseca, *Family Child Care Program Provider*
- Lynda Allen, *Executive Director, Crystal Garden Children's Learning Center*
- Noelle Pina, *Chief of Staff, Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce*
- Debra Murphy, *Early Childhood Coordinator, Cape Cod Community College*
- Amy O'Leary, *Executive Director, Strategies for Children*

Registration is required:

<https://tinyurl.com/Common-Start-Forum>

Simultaneous translation in Spanish and Portuguese will be available. The forum will be recorded, and streamed on Facebook.

Submitted by Eileen Elias
Chair, LWVCCA Health Committee

VOTER SERVICE COMMITTEE

Planning for 2022 has started. We aim to build partnerships with diverse, marginalized, disenfranchised and/or underserved groups on the Cape. We'll begin with a focus on Spring local elections, and then shift to Fall federal elections. Our democracy is so fragile at the moment -- we always say "every vote matters" but this year is more critical than ever - it starts with voter registration, but then how can we motivate people to actually vote? If you want to be involved beyond what you do as an individual and we

haven't contacted you, please call or email Rosemary Shields (shields_rosemary@yahoo.com, 202-222-5309) or Anita Rogers (earogers2@comcast.net, 508-255-6360).

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

DEI COMMITTEE

The DEI Committee held its quarterly meeting on January 22. Discussion included the following projects.

Hold on to Your US Constitution Project update

Mati Ligon recounted the background to this project, which she initiated two years ago. This year’s Constitution books were delivered this month to Brian Brody, chair of the Social Studies Department at the Mashpee Middle and High School for distribution to students in the Civics classes’ [link to Mashpee news article] She thanks all the League members who helped with the project, and she plans to write an article about the project for the March Voter.

DEI book discussion update

Mary Utt polled the members who responded affirmatively to last summer’s questionnaire about reading and discussing *Waking Up White*, by Deborah Irving. Seven members responded “yes” and J. Marie Stevenson has agreed to facilitate discussion(s). She and Mary are working on setting up the discussions.

The book subcommittee of Maureen Grandmont, Jeanne Morrison, and Mary met and are planning to offer *The Sum of Us: What Racism Costs Everyone and How We Can Prosper Together*, by Heather McGhee to read and discuss this winter/spring. They will meet again to plan the discussion format: perhaps a panel or a single presenter with the goal of making the discussions as interactive as possible. Mary emailed a poll to the membership to gauge how many are interested in reading and discussing this book.

Translating/interpreting LWVCCA forum and event materials

Two upcoming LWVCCA events will provide flyers translated into Spanish and Portuguese:

“What a Difference a DA Makes,” and the “Common Start Bill Forum.” In the case of the latter, Spanish and Portuguese real-time interpretation will be provided for the forum. This is a new initiative for the League and we expect that more will be done over the coming year to provide a good understanding of where and when to provide these services and the resources needed. We regard this as an important way to reach out to and engage diverse groups on the Cape.

Note: translation involves *written content* presented in one language and rendered into another language; interpreting involves doing the same with *spoken content*.

LWVCCA DEI goal-setting and planning meetings with all LWVCCA committees

Jeanne Morrison began a series of meetings with all LWVCCA committee by meeting with the Legislative Committee to define that committee’s DEI goals and activities. The overarching goal of the meetings is to incorporate DEI into all committee work. The Legislative Committee meetings tested the model of pairs of DEI Committee members working with a committee, using a template to record DEI goals and activities. As a result the template is being refined, with more explanation. Jeanne has also created a PowerPoint presentation to present to the other committees to clarify DEI definitions and goals.

Submitted by Mary Hunter Utt and Mati Ligon, LWVCCA DEI Committee Co-Chairs, and Jeanne Morrison, Co-Vice President for Program and adviser to the LWVCCA DEI Committee

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

All of the bills that the LWVCCA is following must be passed out of their committees by February 2, 2022. If they don’t make it out of committee, they might be re-filed in the next legislative session, sent to “Study”, or just die.

We thank everyone who’s written, testified, and advocated for the many bills we’ve supported, including our President Suzanne Brock for helping all of us by testifying regularly—both in writing and in person—on behalf of the LWVCCA and the Legislative Committee.

Good News/Not So Good News. The LWVCCA has been actively advocating for the VOTES Act which has now been PASSED by the full House and Senate! The VOTES Act includes the popular voting reforms from 2020—mail-in voting, joining the interstate ERIC program for accurate voter record updates, and voting information for eligible incarcerated voters.

However, Same Day Registration(SDR) was removed from the final bill in the House. The LWVMA has noted that SDR increases voter turnout, corrects simple errors in voter registration data, and could provide a way to restore voters’ data in case of security breaches of our election systems. Thanks to State Senators Cyr and Moran, and State Representatives Fernandes and Peake for supporting SDR in the VOTES Act. Thanks to Suzanne Brock for writing AGAIN to our entire Cape and Islands delegation for one last push for passing the VOTES Act.

Common Start Forum--Feb 5. The Legislative Committee is partnering with the Health Committee, chaired by Eileen Elias, to promote the Common Start bill that establishes a model for high quality early education and childcare in the Commonwealth. Along with the Cape and Islands Chapter of the Common Start Coalition, the LWVCCA is hosting a public forum on Feb.5, 2022 with featured speakers from the business, education, and childcare communities as well as our own State Senator Susan Moran and State Representative Kip Diggs—both of whom are strong supporters of the legislation. Check the LWVCCA website for more information.

More Action. Additionally, our members have been following and advocating for action on the Parity on Boards bill (Thanks, Jeanne Morrison), on alarming plans to release nuclear wastewater into Cape Cod Bay (Thanks, Rosemary Shields and Elaine Dickinson), and on separating federal immigration enforcement from state/local law enforcement through the Safe Communities Act. (Thanks, Renate Sands). The Legislative Committee co-chairs and several members participated in a LWVMA-sponsored conference call with Barnstable 5th District Representative

Steve Xiarhos to urge his support for the Safe Communities Act.

Redistricting. Specialist Rosemary Shields reported to the Legislative Committee that the Cape and Islands' new State House District maps are completed—with the Town of Barnstable being divided into two House Districts instead of three, a change that the LWVCCA supported.

DEI. Finally, the Legislative Committee recently completed DEI Goals for its selection of 2022-2023 legislation and for promoting inclusiveness for diverse communities at programs and program planning.

Annual Meeting with our Legislators will be on Friday, March 19, 2022. Time TBA. We have been in contact with the new Advisor to the Economics Club at Cape Cod Community College and are working on a plan to include students.

Submitted by Carole Young-Kleinfeld, Renate Sands, Elaine Dickinson
Co-Chairs, LWVCCA Legislative Committee

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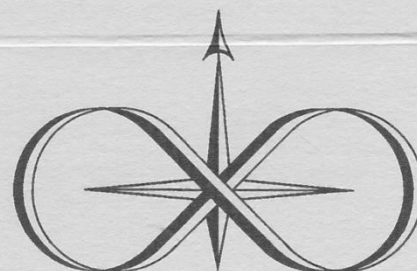


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Jon Vaughan

A gallery with a different point of view