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LWVCCA PRESIDENT’S GREETINGS

Greetings Members,

The hours of daylight are increasing and although the weather is all over the place lately, I believe the temps are migrating upward and the birds are returning in droves to my feeders in the yard. So, I will gladly harken the return of spring.

Along with spring, March brings us Women’s History Month. It still surprises me that with the overwhelming importance of women in every aspect of all societies, it was not until 1987 that women were officially recognized. Women’s History Day was first celebrated in 1978 in California, and that morphed into Women’s History Week in 1980. Since 1987, March has been crowned as Women’s History Month.

In honor of this occasion, I will borrow from the State League and share six famous women who

have helped moved the torch for us and were members of the League of Women Voters (except one).

- Jeannette Rankin was the first woman to be elected to Congress in 1916, before we even had the right to vote! The League of Women Voters had not yet been established.

- Eleanor Roosevelt served as the League’s Vice President for legislative affairs in the 1920’s and remained politically active during her years as First Lady.

- Shirley Chisholm was the first African American woman elected to Congress in 1968 and the first woman and African American to seek the nomination for President. She was a League member in Brooklyn, NY.

- Lady Bird Johnson was a League member even while she served as First Lady and actively worked to pass the Civil Rights Act.

- Betty Ford was a member of the Grand Rapids, MI league and continued her membership while she also served as First Lady. She was a strong advocate for the ERA and worked to raise awareness for breast cancer from which she suffered.

- Hillary Clinton joined the League at an early age and at 22 spoke at the League’s 50th anniversary convention. She has been active in politics over the years, served as First Lady and was the first woman to be an official party candidate for the office of President.

Without a doubt, there are countless numbers of other women, League members and not, who have made major contributions to our country as well as millions of others who have been a guiding light in the lives of those around them. Women continue to be the backbone of society, the keepers of home and hearth, the movers and shakers in their communities and still we continue to walk one step behind. Over 100 years ago we finally

received the right to vote after more than 70 years of effort. The ERA still has not been enacted and women still don't receive equal pay for equal work. The lack of affordable child-care still holds many women back in their careers. I guess the old adage "a women's work is never done" still holds true. There are still so many ways that we women can improve our communities, our states, our country. We just need more hours in the day.

I salute all of you, not only this month but every month. Thank you for working so hard to make a difference.

With Gratitude,
Suzanne

CALENDAR

BOARD MEETING

TUESDAY March 1 | 9:30 a.m.

[Zoom conference by invitation](#)

Meeting with our Legislators

FRIDAY March 18 | Time TBA

UPCOMING

BOARD MEETING

TUESDAY April 5 | 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.

FEBRUARY 1 BOARD MEETING

President's report: Suzanne Brock:

Committee chairs met with Florence Seldin to go over the LWVMA data collection form (using the WADADAM event as a practice review).

Florence will submit the LWVMA online form, using data supplied by event organizers.

Health Care Concurrence Vote: The Board voted unanimously to sign on to the letter at the LWV National Convention in June.

Vice Presidents, Programs and Planning, report: Karen Mazza, Jeanne Morrison: Jeanne reported that she has gotten positive feedback on the WADADAM event. The ACLU is planning a similar program on the role of sheriffs in MA.

From the ACLU: "ACLU is launching a new public education campaign about the power and role of sheriffs, up for election in November. The campaign will have a similar format to What a Difference a DA Makes and we'll also be releasing a poll about how voters view and understand sheriffs.

Nominating Committee Update: Karen Mazza The final slate of nominees will be sent out before the March 1 Board meeting. There is one vacancy: co-vice president for programs. If you are interested, send an email to Karen. Karen thanks Mati Ligon for her new-member interviews (published in the *Voter*), which provided essential information for the Nominating Committee. The committee is looking to identify at-large Board members from among the new members.

Member Interest project survey results (Suzanne Brock)

Only 19 members (of 100) have responded to the survey. Suzanne is making calls to try to determine why the response is not higher. Rosemary suggested that greater publicity for League events will translate into more interest.

DID YOU KNOW—?

...that All New England states, except for Massachusetts and Rhode Island, allow Election Day Registration? A UMass Amherst poll showed that 65% of voters in Massachusetts supported EDR and that EDR has been shown to significantly improve turnout in under-represented communities

....that the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact has been enacted into law in 15 states

and D.C.? These states, including Massachusetts, represent 195 or 70% of the 270 electoral votes needed for the National Popular Vote to go into effect. Nine(9) more states, representing 88 additional electoral votes, have already passed the NPV bill in one of their state legislative chambers. Learn more here:
<https://www.nationalpopularvote.com/>

ELIZABETH LEVY

Elizabeth Levy, LWVCCA President from 2002 to 2007, passed away on December 31 of last year.

“She was the longest-serving president of the Cape Cod League of Women Voters and worked as an advocate for Lower Cape Outreach. Throughout her life, she was a donor of many organizations and charities benefitting Democratic and environmental causes and she was a passionate activist for women's rights.”

“A woman of grace, generosity and deep intelligence, her smile lit up the room.”

The Levy family:

<https://www.capecodtimes.com/obituaries/p0181738>

“She was Grace personified. Combination of kindness and intellect. Beautiful inside and out.”
 -friend and neighbor Nancy Erskine

PLYMOUTH / HOLTEC

The day before Valentine's Day, Fishermen, Lobstermen, Shell fishers along with the usual suspects of the League, the Downwinders, Pilgrim Watch, the Sierra Club, and Indivisible showed up at Plymouth Rock on a snowy, windy, freezing afternoon. We endured such inclement weather to protest the possible, if not probable, dumping of one million gallons of radioactive water into Cape Cod Bay by Holtec LLC.



There were also property owners, pet companions and even a realtor who saw her business going down the tubes if this pollution release happens. Protest is one of many actions in our toolkit.

On February 15 the LWVCCA and the League of Plymouth presented testimony to emergency bill H4444 in the Joint Committee on the Judiciary. H4444 would prevent the discharge of radioactive materials:

<https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/H4444>

A PDF of Rosemary Shield’s testimony on behalf of LWVCCA is here:

https://my.lwv.org/sites/default/files/written_testimony_in_support_of_h_4444_15_feb_2022.pdf

WELCOME to NEW MEMBERS

“Over thirty years ago I joined the League of Women Voters in Scituate and later belonged to The League in Milton. Joining The League has been a very good way for me to learn about political candidates and current issues.”

Jane Eacobacce

Jane Eacobacce is no stranger to the League of Women Voters. During past years of her life she has held membership in two separate Massachusetts chapters of The League: The Scituate League of Women Voters and The Milton League of Women Voters. She very honestly and somewhat humorously recalls that she joined the League in Scituate many years ago because that League group arranged baby-sitting services for young mothers during League meetings! She also states that she was always appreciative of the learning opportunities to which she was exposed through League sponsored forums, panel

discussions, and presentations. Later when she joined the Milton League of Women Voters, she continued to utilize her membership by attending meet-the-candidates events and informational sessions organized by the Milton League.

After her 1966 graduation from Mount Mercy College (now Carlow University) in Pittsburg, she relocated to the Boston area; and lived in Brookline. Several years later she attained her Master degree from Cambridge College. Her professional career as a social worker for Catholic Charities of Boston started in 1969. She was a social worker with Catholic Charities for fifteen years. Jane's work was focused on adoption of children and assisting birth parents. She moved on to working with Wide Horizons for Children in Waltham. Wide Horizons processed both domestic and international adoptions.

Jane and her late husband raised five children to adulthood (1 daughter and 4 sons). She is the proud grandmother of 10 grandchildren. She is pleased to be retired and living on the Cape in a home that was converted from a summer home to a two story comfortable permanent dwelling.

Jane Eacobacce contends, *"By joining The League of Women Voters throughout my life, I have had opportunities to learn about what is going on in American politics and government. I am anticipating that I will continue learning even more about current political issues now that I have joined The League of Women Voters of the Cape Cod Area."*

Submitted by Matilda Ligon,
Chair, LWVCCA Membership Committee

NEW MEMBERS TEA

February 15th saw a small zoom gathering that shared some welcomed light conversation and time to get to know a few of our new members. During a short period of frustration for Membership Chair, Mati Ligon, working with technical difficulties, attendees were able to take part in a lovely "social hour." This is an activity that has been seldom enjoyed of late. Those present

interacted in lively chatter covering a wide variety of topics. We need to build in more time for this kind of connection, especially in today's stressful times.

When Mati was able to connect, she welcomed all with the thought that this was definitely the "Right Place to engage at the Right Time with the Right People!" There were only five new members who were able to join us: Mona Phillips, Madeline Zevon, Catherine Buchholz, Diane Growitz and Christine McCartney. We all wished that there could have been more but those new members present had a chance to share some of their backgrounds and the pathways leading them into the League. In turn, they were introduced to each of our Committee Chairs and had a chance to learn about the ways that the committees operate, both independently, as well as their interconnectedness with other committees and the Board.

The hour and a half spent together was a relaxing way to join in building friendship and for gathering useful information to be utilized both by new members and committee chairs. Moving forward, the Board is looking forward to interacting with this "new blood." On behalf of our Membership Chair, Mati Ligon, and the all of the Board members, thank you to all new members who have joined the LWVCCA. Another heartfelt thank you to those new members who were able to join in for an evening of tea and fellowship.

LWVCCA FORUMS

WADADAM

On January 26, ACLU Massachusetts presented its public education webinar "What a Difference a D.A. Makes" (WADADAM). The recording is now available on our Youtube channel at:

<https://tinyurl.com/What-a-Difference-a-DA-Makes>

COMMON START BILL FORUM



On February 5, 2022, the **League of Women Voters of the Cape Cod Area** and the **Cape and Islands Chapter of the Common Start Coalition** presented a panel discussion highlighting how parents, childcare providers, members of the business community, and Massachusetts lawmakers have worked together to develop model legislation—called the [Common Start bill](#)—that addresses the need for high-quality, affordable early education and childcare on the Cape and a “common start” in life for all Massachusetts children.

Speakers included:

- State Senator Susan Moran and State Representative Kip Diggs
- Amy O'Leary, Strategies for Children
- Noelle Pina, Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce
- Debra Murphy, Cape Cod Community College
- Rafaela Fonseca, Family Child Care Program Provider
- Lynda Allen, Crystal Garden Children's Learning Center
- Janae Mendes, a Yarmouth Port parent
- Eileen Elias, League of Women Voters of the Cape Cod Area
- Sandy Faiman-Silva, Cape and Islands Chapter of the Common Start Coalition

The panelists shared their viewpoints on the Common Start legislation’s funding proposals, its impact on the Cape’s workforce, and its professional development opportunities.

More than 50 attendees—in addition to the 22 members of the panel, planning committee, and translators—learned why passing this pending bill is important to Cape Cod. Many asked for suggestions on how to contact their legislators in order to promote passage of the bill and to share their personal stories about the need for this legislation.

The virtual program—available in English, Spanish, and Portuguese—was open to the public by advance registration. To hear a recording of the event, with closed-captioning in either English, Spanish, or Portuguese, click here: <https://tinyurl.com/Common-Start-Forum-Recording>

Submitted by Eileen Elias
Chair, LWVCCA Health Committee, and
Carole Young-Kleinfrld and Renate Sands
Co-Chairs, LWVCCA Legislative Committee

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

VOTES Act—S.2554

Will the *VOTES Act* be signed into law before local elections this Spring? Timing is essential now, because pandemic provisions have expired. All elections are now covered by prior laws, including regulations for absentee voting. It’s possible that the Conference Committee, both chambers of the State legislature, and the Governor may act favorably on the law in time for local election officials to be ready for the expanded voting procedures enacted by the law. However, the time is getting short for towns with Spring elections.

Note: Same Day Registration (SDR) was removed from the *VOTES Act* by the House of Representatives which voted to “study” it. Now, the LWVMA and members of the Election Modernization Coalition are gearing up to restore Election Day Registration (EDR) to the bill, as a compromise step in the right direction. EDR allows unregistered, eligible voters to register and vote only on Election Day instead of on all early voting days.

Other Legislative News

The *Common Start* bill will move forward with an extension to May 1, 2022. The *Safe Communities Act* and *Medicare for All* also received extensions for additional debate and advocacy. The *Parity on Boards* bill is still in the Ways and Means Committees of both chambers. Several other bills were sent to “study” recently, including duplicative

voting bills, ranked choice voting for municipal elections, and voting age legislation. Bills that the LWVMA opposed, such as allowing overseas voters to transmit their completed ballots electronically and requiring a photo ID to vote were also sent to “study”.

Emergency Bill—H.4444/SD.2971— Preventing Discharge of Radioactive Materials

Senator Moran, Rep. Cutler, and Rep. LaNatra have introduced an emergency bill to prevent radioactive discharge into the Commonwealth’s waters. The Cape Cod League moved speedily to seek the enthusiastic endorsement of the LWVMA and to submit strong supportive testimony to the Joint Committee of the Judiciary at its Feb 15 hearing. You can show your own support by contacting your legislators to get this bill passed. Cape Cod’s Senators Moran and Cyr, along with State Representatives Diggs, Whelan, and Peake are petitioners for the bill. [Read the bill here.](#)

Alert for Sandwich Voters:

A local ballot question requesting Holtec to withdraw any plans to discharge any radioactive water into Cape Cod Bay was adopted by the Sandwich Board of Selectmen at their meeting on February 10, 2022. The ballot question will appear on the ballot at Sandwich’s May 5th Town Election. For Sandwich Election Information and Sample Ballots, click [here](#).

Save the Date—Online Legislative Breakfast with Cape Cod’s Legislators:

March 18 @ 9 am is the date for the LWVCCA’s Legislative Breakfast with the Cape Cod delegation. The Zoom event offers a chance to hear from our legislators and to seek their support for League legislative priorities, such as voting rights, clean water, affordable housing, and more. Pour yourself a cup of coffee and join us!

A lawsuit was filed by Massachusetts taxpayers to end the 287g program which gives local officers the power to act as ICE agents. The suit was filed with the Supreme Judicial Court, the state’s highest court, by Lawyers for Civil Rights and Rights Behind Bars to end an agreement between the

Barnstable County Sheriff’s Office and the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Submitted by Carole Young-Kleinfeld, Renate Sands, Elaine Dickinson

Co-Chairs, LWVCCA Legislative Committee

DEI COMMITTEE

DEI book discussion update:

Marie Stevenson facilitated discussion of *Waking Up White*, by Deborah Irving. Four LWVCCA members participated in a 1.5 hour session on February 18, sharing experiences with racism. We agreed that the author, while getting the book off to a slow start, has worked hard at anti-racism.

The book subcommittee of Maureen Grandmont, Jeanne Morrison, and Mary Utt met and discussed inviting *The Sum of Us* author Heather McGhee to attend our final meeting. Maureen contacted her agent but her speaker costs are too great: \$20,000 for her participation via Zoom (more for in-person). Maureen also spoke with Stefanie Corbin, owner of Footprints bookshop, who is offering a 10% discount on the paperback edition. Mary sent this information to the 20+ LWVCCA members who are interested in reading and discussing the book.

Translating/interpreting LWVCCA forum and event materials:

Two LWVCCA events -- “What a Difference a DA Makes,” and the “Common Start Bill Forum”-- provided flyers translated into Spanish and Portuguese. In the case of the Common Start Bill forum, Spanish and Portuguese real-time interpretation was provided. There were a few glitches but thanks to the hard work of the Communications Committee and the event organizers, both events went well. This is a new initiative for the League; we regard this as an important way to reach out to and engage diverse groups on the Cape. See the *March Voter* for details.

LWVMA DEI Peer Group Meeting, Feb. 26:

Mary Utt and Mati Ligon attended this Zoom meeting, along with about 20 other representative of

local Massachusetts Leagues. Mary outlined our translation/interpretation work in February and asked if any other local Leagues were also doing this work: none are, although there was general agreement that this is good – once again the LWVCCA is ahead of the curve! The Peer Group’s excellent minutes will be distributed shortly and will be forwarded to our league.

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*

VOTER SERVICE COMMITTEE

The Voter Service (VS) Committee hit the ground running by holding two organizational meetings in early February to plan for the 2020 spring elections, candidates forums, the September 6 primary and the November 8 mid-term election. League members stepped up to be moderators and monitors at candidates forums; “adopt” coalition partners. where they feel a connection; and volunteer to be “on call” for any Get Out the Vote (GOTV) events we set up. In fact, mark your calendar for National Voter Registration Day, September 20th and be ready to join us at that event.

At our organizational meetings we got fresh ideas on spreading the word of the League's good work. One suggestion is to get our program “What a Difference a DA Makes” out on social media and cable access a few weeks before the election, in an effort to highlight the Cape's DA election and how important that vote is. We hope all League members will be on the lookout for voting issues that need ATTENTION via letters to the editor, public service announcements, social media coverage and other “loud speaker” technologies that we don't even know exist but are willing to learn.

Again, we urge all members to become expert in all things voting. How? By getting on the Secretary of the Commonwealth's website, press on the red “Elections and Voting” icon and see how to find out whether you're registered to vote, how to register to vote on line, find your polling place, track your ballot and much more. You need to be expert so you can help family and friends vote. If we can make sure 5 of our friends get out and vote, we are really doing our part in making democracy work. Become an expert, just click: [William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts](#). This site is the principal information resource for our state. For other states, use the LWVUS site, [Vote411.org](#).

Local elections are coming up this Spring; that information is printed below, with thanks to the liaisons and volunteers who helped us put it together.

Notes: All dates are as of 2/1/2022 and are subject to change. We suggest calling the Town Clerk's Office a month before the date you are checking, for updates and for questions such as absentee voting, sample ballots, and the deadline to vote in the Town Meeting which may be different than the deadline to register for the Town Election listed below.

2022 SPRING TOWN ELECTIONS

Town	Final Date to Register for Spring Election	Town Meeting Date	Town Election Date	Town Hall Phone
BREWSTER	4/2/2022	5/2/2022	5/17/2022	508-896-4506
CHATHAM	4/22/2022	5/14/2022	5/19/2022	508-945-5100
DENNIS	4/13/2022	5/3/2022	5/10/2022	508-760-6112
EASTHAM	4/12/2022	5/2/2022	5/17/2022	774-801-3225
HARWICH	4/12/2022	5/12/2022	5/17/2022	508-430-7516
MASHPEE	4/19/2202	5/2/2022	5/7/2022	508-539-1400
ORLEANS	4/19/2022	5/9/2022	5/17/2022	508-240-3700
PROVINCETOWN	4/20/2022	4/4/2022	5/10/2022	508-487-7013
SANDWICH	4/12/2022	5/2/2022	5/5/2022	508-888-0340
TRURO	4/6/2022	4/26/2022	5/10/2022	508-349-7004
WELLFLEET	4/5/2022	4/25/2022	5/2/2022	508-349-0301
YARMOUTH	4/6/2022	4/26/2022	5/17/2022	508-398-2231

Barnstable, which consists of 7 villages, is not on this list because it is considered a city and run by an elected Town Council, rather than a town run by a Select Board. Barnstable never has Spring elections. In 2022, Barnstable will participate in the September 6 state-wide Primary Election and the November 8 State Election. In odd numbered years, Barnstable holds Municipal Elections and the next one will be November 7, 2023.

And finally, we are also keeping in contact with the Falmouth Voter Service Committee. They have let us know that they are planning for Falmouth's Candidates Night, which will take place on April 27. The Falmouth League co produces with the Falmouth cable television station.

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

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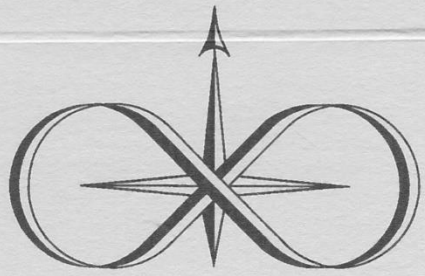


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Jon Vaughan

A gallery with a different point of view