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LWVCCA PRESIDENT'S GREETINGS

Members,

Just a few thoughts this month. While it seems on some days that spring is upon us, the weather is subject to change just like so many other things going on around us. I know that all of you have received the save the date for this year's Annual Meeting. Please plan to join us on Wed. May 11th. We will once again be meeting in person and will have the opportunity to interact socially. For some of you, this may be the first time that I have had the chance to greet you in person. Be on the lookout soon for information regarding the food choices and our speaker for the event. I hope many of you are ready to return to a more normal way of interacting and will be able to join us on that evening.

We are in the throes of the new State legislative session and are following a number of bills through the House and the Senate. The Legislative Committee is great about informing you when your legislators need contacting, so please be on the lookout for taking up pen or phone. Nothing can get done without all of our voices. And, I am sure you are aware that the situation around the country is precarious when it comes to Voting Rights and Senate confirmations. We all need to keep our voices loud

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

and clear about those issues that are important to all League members in all 50 states.

As for what is happening in the world, I will close with a poem that I wrote years ago. The thought contained seemed eerily appropriate for the horror taking place in Ukraine. My heart goes out to those heroic citizens fighting for their lives, their country, and their democracy, as well as all of their loved ones in exile in neighboring countries. We need to remember how fragile Democracy can be and remember how important it is for all of us to protect our own.

Ages Past

Remember

*When the air was clean, and the birds flew free,
and the grass was green?*

Remember

*When the Twilight breeze blew clear and cool
'cross the green-blue seas?*

Remember

*When pillowy clouds floated white, so white,
past grey, out-lined towers?*

Remember

*Long before the war, when the world was young
and the bomb was lore?*

Remember, Remember

*When goodness reigned, so the world, in peace,
may be built again.*

With hopes of that day returning soon,
Suzanne



CALENDAR

BOARD MEETING

TUESDAY April 5 | 9:30 a.m.

Zoom conference by invitation

UPCOMING

BOARD MEETING

TUESDAY May 3 | 9:30 a.m.

Zoom conference by invitation

LWVCCA ANNUAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY May 11 | 5:30 p.m.

Clubhouse at Cobblestone Landing

Go to

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

MARCH 1 BOARD MEETING

Discussion included raising dues, though that was quickly vetoed. Our dues are \$55 of which \$32 goes to LWVUS and \$23 to LWVMA. In the case of household membership, the additional dues of \$24.25 goes to LWVUS and \$5.75 to LWVMA to make up the \$85. The option to pay by PayPal, using our website, is \$58 single and \$89 household to include the fees charged by PayPal. The dues are paid to the two entities four times a year. The Helen S. Aaron Educational Trust makes one of the payments, allowing LWVCCA to keep one quarter of the paid dues.

The longest discussion was about the thought that in keeping with DEI, we should have our publications or events available in languages that are not English. The Board also agreed that we should assess our documents to determine which should be translated. Jeanne Morrison suggested that the DEI Committee take this on as most

members are also members of other committees. The Voter Service Committee is already experimenting with translating a document to Portuguese and will report on it to the DEI Committee.

National Convention update/discussion. This year's conference is in person and via Zoom in Denver, June 23-28. Suzanne will attend in person. LWVCCA can send three delegates and there is money in the budget for attending; contact Suzanne if you are interested either in person or remotely.

The Annual Meeting will be held in person on Wednesday, May 11, from 5:00 - 7:30 p.m. at the Cobblestone Landing Clubhouse in Hyannis.

DID YOU KNOW—?

...that the Town of Barnstable is the only one of the 15 towns on Cape Cod with an elected Town Council and an appointed Town Manager – a city form of government? Its Town Council is both the policy-making and legislative body for the town. The other towns have policy-making Boards of Selectmen—or Select Boards—with appointed town managers or administrators, and Town Meeting as their legislative bodies. Town Meeting refers to both an entity and an actual meeting. An *open* Town Meeting form of government means that all registered voters (and sometimes certain property owners) can vote on town business at annual or special town meetings. *Representative* Town Meeting form of government means that elected representatives vote on behalf of residents at town meetings. More [here](#).

WELCOME to NEW MEMBERS

"I feel that voting is the most important issue of our time. I wanted to join an organization whose focus was on and was in line with my concerns."

Tova Soyt

Tova Soyt, a recent new member of the League of Women Voters of the Cape Cod Area clearly states that she definitely wants to be actively involved with the work of the LWVCCA. Tova moved from New York City to Boston thirty years ago (1991). She started a medical training

business while she raised her son as a single mother. Tova Soyt attained her MBA from Babson College.

After closing her business, Tova worked in the healthcare field within several hospitals in the Boston area. While living in Newton she volunteered on the Elizabeth Warren Campaign (2012). Later in 2016 she helped in the Hillary Clinton Campaign in New Hampshire.

Tova married ten years ago and moved to Brewster in 2017. Since relocating to the Cape, Tova has served as treasurer of a Jewish organization. She also has experience in volunteering with post card campaigns. During the last three years she has sent out reminders-to-vote cards. Tova Soyt has already contacted the Voter Service Committee of the LWVCCA. It is an obvious anticipation that she is rolling up her sleeves and preparing to get to work as a volunteer during the 2022 forthcoming elections. She brings into the LWVCCA her personal skills, her career experiences, and above all her absolute desire to fortify the democratic voting process by directly increasing voter participation.

Again, a resounding welcome and "Thank you for joining!" goes out to new member Tova Soyt.

Tova Soyt

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"I always wanted to join The League. I have traveled all over due to my professional nursing career in the United States military. I did not settle in one place until my retirement from the United States Army. This is my first time joining The League."

Marie O'Neil

Retired United States Army Colonel **Marie O'Neil** started her career in registered nursing at the Boston City Hospital School of Nursing Program. She later earned her B.S.N. from Boston College before attaining her Master of Science degree in Community Health Nursing from the Health Sciences Center at the University of

Colorado in Denver. She served 29 years in the U.S. Army Nursing Corps. Her U.S. Army nurses' services included assignments in Berlin, Germany (while The Wall was still there); and in Frankfurt, Germany. Korea was another country among her foreign assignments. In 1992 Marie retired from the United States Army Nursing Corps to San Antonio, Texas. Currently there are still many retired U.S. Army nurses and several military bases in San Antonio, Texas. Marie took advantage of some of the volunteer opportunities in San Antonio during her early post-retirement period.

Just as she had dedicated three decades of her life to the U.S. Army Nursing Corps, her post-career years have been spent in dedicated volunteer community service. She has joined organizations that are engaged in helping those who are less fortunate. Marie belongs to the Cape Cod Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America which gives scholarships to children and grandchildren of U.S. military veterans. She is with the Nauset Newcomers Group that raises funds for needy families. One of the goals of the N.N.G. is to help with Lower Cape outreach. Throughout her retirement she has enjoyed personal self-education projects (e.g., investment club and learning about stock purchasing and trading). Immediately after she retired she was a Tax Volunteer with the IRS/AARP program. She helped Seniors who were sixty-two and older with filing their taxes. Marie lives in Harwich Port where she has served five years on her condominium's Board of Trustees.

In welcoming Marie O'Neil into the League of Women Voters of the Cape Cod Area, her long-term professional service in the U.S. Army Nursing Corps is being gratefully acknowledged by the officers and members of the LWVCCA. The League's membership is profoundly honored that she has chosen to join its ranks!

Marie O'Neil

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Submitted by Matilda Ligon,
Chair, LWVCCA Membership Committee

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Many of the bills that the LWVCCA has followed have been passed by their various committees, or have received extensions, or have been sent to “Study”. Thanks to League President Suzanne Brock for her energy and her willingness to testify on our behalf on so many of our bills whenever needed. Our committee chairs and many of our members, along with the Legislative Committee, have also been tireless in following legislation and writing to our legislators. Thank you all for your enthusiasm.

Reportedly, the **VOTES Act** Conference Committee has not met yet to take on its task of resolving the differences in the House and Senate versions which focus on the inclusion of Same Day Registration--a voter-friendly measure that 21 other states, plus D.C. have already adopted. Nineteen (19) of these states allow Election Day Registration. We hope that this legislation will finally be passed in time for primaries and fall general elections.

An Act relative to preventing the discharge of radioactive materials--H.4444--is in the Judiciary Committee. Its report date has been extended to April 15, 2022. Thanks to LWVCCA members who marched on March 12 in Plymouth in the Walk to Save our Bay. See a photo on our LWVCCA Facebook page.

The **Common Start** bill has received an extension until May. The Coalition is planning a Boston Common rally on April 9th at 11 am with free bus service from the Cape. League members are invited to attend. Details on the [website](#). To read some personal stories about how the **Common Start** bill would affect the lives of Barnstable County residents, see [this](#).

The **Parity on Boards and Commissions Act**—S.2077/H.3157-- has passed the Senate Ways and Means Committee. The bill still must pass the House Ways and Means Committee. The **Medicare for All** bill and the **Safe Communities Act** have received extensions until May.

LWVCCA Annual Legislative Breakfast - March 18, 2022

The LWVCCA recently held its Annual Legislative Breakfast –online this year—with the Cape Cod and Islands delegation. The League thanks our legislators for their attendance, collegiality, and thoughts about the legislation that we’ve been advocating for during the 192nd legislative session. See below for some highlights.

Radioactive Waste Dumping—There was general agreement on protecting the Cape’s waters from the dumping of radioactive water and that licensing regulations may be a way to prevent it. All thanked Senator Moran and Representative Whelan for initiating the emergency bill to protect the waters of the Commonwealth.

VOTES Act—Representative Peake described the differences between Same Day Registration and Election Day Registration—the disagreement that is delaying passage of the VOTES Act. Representative Fernandes noted that 19 other states have successfully enacted EDR and is confident that the Commonwealth’s election officials are fully capable of doing the same.

The Common Start Bill received support from the entire delegation with several personal experiences described. Rep. Whelan expressed thanks to the Common Start Coalition and to the LWV for their advocacy. Rep. Fernandes noted that housing and childcare are intertwined, especially for young families, and that the Cape and Islands must support these families in our Cape and Islands communities.

Parity on Boards and Commissions Act received the support of all the delegation with Representative Diggs calling it a “no brainer” and Representative Xiarhos observing that government benefits from everyone’s life experiences. Representative Vieira noted the need for recruitment and outreach to those who might be willing to serve on local and statewide bodies. Representative Peake expressed appreciation for the gender and racial diversity in the Cape and Islands delegation itself.

Unfortunately, time ran out before we could pose questions about ghost guns, transparency in legislative actions, Medicare for All legislation, and the Safe Communities Act.

In closing, legislators raised the following additional points:

- Importance of housing and the roles of local vs. state government in addressing the affordable housing shortage on the Cape and Islands
- Climate change and its dire consequences for threatened portions of the Cape and Islands
- Necessity of reliable, high speed Internet access for all residents of Cape and Islands
- Support for the Safe Communities Act
- Addressing health issues among the younger generation such as the opioid epidemic
- Thanked the LWV for their DEI focus and encouraged the LWV to promote engagement at the local level.
- Thanked Senator Cyr (in his absence) for his help with addressing the pandemic on the Cape and thanked Rep. Whelan for his service to the Commonwealth and his Barnstable District.

If you missed the program, you can view the recording on the League’s website—lwvcapecod.org or on the League’s [Facebook page](#) .

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

March 12 WALK TO SAVE OUR BAY

We walked from the Plymouth Town Hall to the Pilgrim nuclear plant, to share information about one million gallons of radioactive water to be dumped into Cape Cod Bay by the Holtec company. In wind and rain 70 people showed up at our starting point and 50 people walked the 5 miles to the Pilgrim nuclear Station. Japanese nuns and monks from the Grafton and Leverett Peace Pagodas chanted and banged their drums throughout the walk.



It was very calming and inspiring. Once at the Holtec station, they lay origami peace cranes under a huge rock at the entrance. I think we would’ve had five times as many people if the weather hadn’t been so inclement.



(See <https://my.lwv.org/massachusetts/cape-cod-area#MillionGallons> for action you can take before April 15!)

DEI COMMITTEE

All elections are important!

Mati has teamed up with LWVCCA members Debbie Dagwan and Carolyn Richardson to contact, in April, three Cape churches whose congregants are predominantly people of color. The message? *Vote in your town's local elections. All elections are important!* They will be using League materials and information prepared by the Voter Service Committee, as well as other materials they have prepared.

DEI book discussion update

The book subcommittee of Maureen Grandmont, Jeanne Morrison, and Mary Utt decided on June 2 as the date for discussing *The Sum of Us: What Racism Costs Everyone and How We Can Prosper Together*, by Heather McGhee.

Mary emailed a poll to LWVCCA members to gauge how many are interested in reading and discussing this book: all responders (22) signed up! Several members took advantage of a 10% discount offered by Stefanie Corbin, WOC and owner of [Footprints Cafe](#) bookshop in Bourne.

We slightly reworked the study questions on Heather McGhee's website to focus more on our organization and what we can do to move forward. We'll meet again to plan the details of the discussion format.

If you haven't already signed up, it's not too late: just email Mary or Jeanne.

Translating/interpreting LWVCCA forum and event materials

In their March meeting, the Board discussed translating materials into non-English languages for events, as we reported doing last month for the "What a Difference a DA Makes" and the Common Start presentations in February (see that month's [Voter](#)). The Board supports this idea but we need to learn more, including community outreach to determine the interests of potential LWVCCA members and audiences for events.

As a first step, Mary compiled an inventory of LWVCCA documents (e.g., the LWVCCA brochure,

flyers for events) so we can start planning translations.

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

Jeanne and Mary are planning to update and record Jeanne's DEI PowerPoint presentation to share with LWVCCA committees for their DEI goal setting. We have developed an instructional guide and a template to prepare for these meetings.

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*

HEALTH COMMITTEE

The Health Committee, following the February 5 Forum on the Common Start Bill, continues its advocacy in support of this Bill. The Forum was developed by members of the League and the Common Start Coalition to both provide education on the bill and explain why advocacy-based actions are necessary. Advocacy is key to ensure the Commonwealth's children the best chances for a full life with availability of quality childcare and early education.

The Committee is reaching out, through this article, to all the Chapter's members, to make every effort to attend the Common Start Coalition's Rally on Saturday, April 9, 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM at the Boston Common, at the Parkman Bandstand. You can RSVP at: <https://bit.ly/csrallyrsvp>

In addition to the Common Start Bill, we are reviewing both the Medicare for All Bill and the Medical Aid in Dying: Compassionate Care Bill regarding advocacy action steps. The Committee is also following the Governor's recent announcement on expanding funding in support of increasing mental health services in conjunction with Senator Cyr's sponsored bills to expand mental health parity and address barriers to care.

The Health Committee's next meeting is on Thursday, April 21, 2022, at 4 pm via Zoom. If you are interested in joining the Health Committee, contact Eileen Elias at eileen.elias@comcast.net.

VOTER SERVICE COMMITTEE

In the last weeks of March, in collaboration with the Youth Service Committee, the Voter Service Committee is rounding up volunteers to work with high schools on voter registration and voter information. If you're interested contact either Anita (earogers2@comcast.net) or Rosemary (shields_rosemary@yahoo.com).

The VOTES Act

On Jan. 27, the House passed, 124-34, a strong voting reform bill, H.4359, which almost matched the Senate version, S.2554. Unfortunately, the House version did not include same-day voter registration (SDR), which was included in the Senate bill. These two versions of the VOTES Act are now in conference committee to iron out the differences. This voting reform bill, which the League with our partners in the Election Modernization Coalition was instrumental in drafting and getting through the legislature, does many, many good things:

- Makes unrestricted voting by mail permanent
- Requires the Secretary of State to send voters applications to vote by mail
- Expands the in-person early voting period before general elections and adds in-person early voting for primaries
- Reduces the deadline to register to vote from 20 to 10 days before an election
- Encourages ballot dropboxes
- Implements jail-based voting reforms
- Allows election officials to process mailed ballots as received and includes other provisions to help election officials
- Requires Massachusetts to join the ERIC voter clearing house by July 1, 2022

The Coalition offered a compromise amendment on SDR. Rather than SDR that would have allowed people to register and vote during the early voting period, we suggested Election Day Registration (EDR), limiting to Election Day the ability to register and vote, a compromise supported by the town clerks' association.

But House leadership is opposed to any form of SDR and submitted an amendment to our

amendment that requires a report from the Secretary of State on SDR before any action. The leadership amendment passed by a 93-64 vote (note that 64 votes is a very strong vote against leadership). Therefore, the House version of the VOTES Act does not include any form of SDR . Representatives Sarah Peake and Dylan Fernandes bravely voted against leadership. They are in favor of EDR. Secretary Galvin's office said that he knew nothing about the amendment or a report, and instead he urges the legislature to pass same-day or Election Day voter registration.

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



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 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
BOURNE	4/02/2022	5/02/2022	5/17/2022	508-759-0600
BREWSTER	4/22/2022	5/14/2022	5/24/2022	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	5/2/2022	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 coproduces with the Falmouth cable television station.

The table above is also available on our website:

[Cape Cod Town Election Dates](#)

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


BUSINESS SUPPORTERS of LWVCCA

Support these businesses that support LWVCCA!



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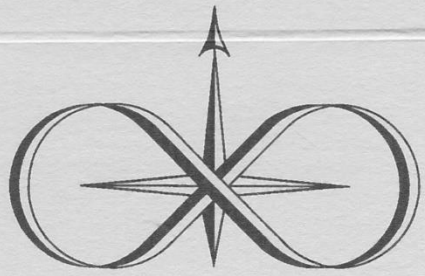
A Lifetime of Memories
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Terry Moore

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Jon Vaughan

A gallery with a different point of view