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**LWVCCA PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE**

Members,

I think spring has finally arrived. For many of us, spring has many meanings, like warmer weather, daffodils, long walks on the beach and vegetable garden beginnings. While my heart draws me towards those calming, idyllic activities, my head swarms with all of the unfinished business around us.

Our Annual Meeting is coming up on May 11<sup>th</sup>. This will be the first in person Annual Meeting since 2019. It will be a pleasure to see those of you who are planning to join us. The ultimate goal, of course, is to conduct business that will carry us into the next year’s operation. Some changes will take place but the work of the League will continue.

This spring the ongoing work of voter services will continue with the hosting and moderating of a

[www.lwvCapecod.org](http://www.lwvCapecod.org)

[lwvcca@gmail.com](mailto:lwvcca@gmail.com).

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

number of local election race debates. Those of you that can help in any way, please let Rosemary Shields and Anita Rogers know. They have been really swamped and would appreciate any assistance that members can supply. I am sure that there will be more debates in the lead up to the fall elections as well. This is a big part of what we do to ensure that the voters have the information necessary to vote effectively.

While some things slow down over the summer, the Board is busy behind the scenes getting things ready for the fall rush. This year’s midterm elections will be very interesting here in Massachusetts but incredibly tumultuous nationwide. The LWVUS National Convention will be held in June and I am expecting a number of National Action Alerts that will be developed by the members at convention. Please be on the lookout for these directions for action. We all know what has been going on around the country and it is only the voters that can be the true instruments of change.

This will be my final message to you as President. My time for passing the torch has come and the change will of course be bittersweet. I feel very thankful to have been able to work with such a talented group of men and women to serve the Cape community. Every member of the Board has been so supportive and worked together incredibly well in order to accomplish whatever goals we agreed on. I wish to thank all of you for all that you have done. You are the best.

To the new board, I wish you all my best. I am confident that you will succeed in whatever direction you choose to move the LWVCCA forward. If there is anything that I can help with, you know where I am. As long as you keep “improving our democracy” in your sights, your success is guaranteed. Thank you, all of you, for being there over the past few years as League

members. Let's continue to work together to keep our voices strong and to always advocate for the voters.

With much thanks and continued hopes for peace,  
Suzanne

**CALENDAR**

**BOARD MEETING**

MONDAY May 1 | 1:00 p.m.  
**Zoom conference by invitation**

**LWVCCA ANNUAL MEETING**

WEDNESDAY May 11 | 5:00 p.m.  
Clubhouse at Cobblestone Landing

**ACLU Know Your Sheriff Forum**

TUESDAY May 24 | 5:00 p.m.  
**Zoom Webinar:**  
**The Cape Media Center**



**Memorial Day**

MONDAY May 30

**UPCOMING**

**BOARD MEETING**

TUESDAY June 7 | 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.

**Remembering FLORENCE SELDIN**



Our Cape Cod Area League has been blessed to enjoy the leadership, friendship and wide ranging influence of Florence Seldin for 28 years. She has welcomed several generations of members to our League. We can list all the roles that she played, but that resume does not capture the impact of her personality, her drive,

her intellect, her in-depth knowledge of current issues, her mentorship, and her many gestures of friendship and outreach to newer members. It is the combination of all of these qualities that cause many of us to refer to her as a force of nature. In 2020, when LWVMA was planning its 100th centennial celebration, Florence served on the planning committee for that celebration. One of the festivities was to ask local Leagues to nominate someone from their League to honor for the role that they played at the local level. Florence encouraged us to recognize someone far in our past that none of us knew. We refused. It was clear to us that Florence was the person that we wanted to honor.

Here is what we submitted to LWVMA to celebrate Florence on their centennial.

- Florence has been a member of the League for 55 years.
- She served as President of LWVCCA from 1997 – 2000 and President of our Helen S. Aaron Education Trust for the LWVCCA
- Florence served on the LWVMA Board, on the Legislative Action Committee and served on 3 state nominating committees, chairing one of them.
- She served on the LWVMA study committee for the constitution and has been on the planning committee for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary activities.

- In the community, Florence has been on the Board of Selectman for Chatham, including serving as Chair, and also served on the Finance Committee.
- She has served on multiple community organizations to improve government, housing, the social safety net and the environment.
- For many years Florence has been a masterful moderator for candidate forums and this year she mastered the art of moderating debates via Zoom!
- LWVCCA thanks Florence for her continuing leadership and mentorship

In January 2017, Florence joined several League members who rode the bus from Cape Cod to Boston, to march in the first Women's March following the inauguration of Donald Trump. Florence was almost 86 at the time, and with her cane she walked throughout Boston Common and stood for hours adorned by her sign hanging from a lanyard, "Democracy is not a spectator sport." Florence was the personification of that statement. Thank you Florence, for all you have meant to us.



From the Cape Cod Chronicle:

<https://capecodchronicle.com/en/5715/chatham/8577/Florence-Seldin-Was-The-'Epitome-Of-A-Public-Servant'.htm>

<https://capecodchronicle.com/en/5715/obituaries/8600/Florence-Seldin.htm>

**“Democracy is Not a Spectator Sport.”**



### Remembering SUSAN QUINONES:

Another loss for the League this month was that of Susan Quinones. Susan passed away on April 8<sup>th</sup>. She just joined The League of Women Voters of the Cape Cod Area in mid-2020 with a strong desire to work with its Legislative Committee. Susan said, "If you are going to make lasting change, then the vehicle available to the public for doing so is legislation."

Susan was an active member of the League of Women Voters in New York during her many working years there before she moved on to Boston. However, for our League, Susan was a rising star. She was Coordinator of the Barnstable County Human Rights Advisory Commission. Part of the Commission's mandate is to receive and review complaints of alleged civil rights and human rights violations. Because of this and her enthusiasm, Susan was willing to jump right in to moderate our two Forums focusing on "Racism on the Cape." Notice of her passing can be found on the Commission's Facebook page and a notice and tribute wall call be found at:

<https://www.chapmanfuneral.com/obituaries/Susan-Leonor-Quinones?obId=24557628#/obituaryInfo>.

While Susan was involved in a number of other community organizations, she was also looking forward to becoming more involved in the League's Voter Service Committee, particularly with all of the fall elections coming up. While she was not able to meet that goal, we will be able to remember Susan's conviction for human rights and her willingness to get immediately involved in areas that she felt needed change, always striving towards an equitable and peaceful society for all.

<https://provincetownindependent.org/inner-voices/2022/04/13/remembering-susan-quinones/>



## APRIL BOARD MEETING

Annual Meeting updates:  
Wednesday May 11, 5:00 -- 7:30 p.m.  
Speaker: Anita Peters (Mother Bear) Mashpee Wampanoag tribal member. The Board agreed on Cobblestone Landing in Hyannis for the meeting and dinner, catered by Casual Gourmet

The Board agreed that we should require attendees to be vaccinated and tested; masking goes without saying except when dining.

The Board discussed and voted against attempting a hybrid meeting for the Annual Meeting, although the value and practicality of hybrid meetings should be investigated.

*ACLU Know Your Sheriff Forum*: May 24, 5:00 - 7:30 p.m. LWVCCA is the first organization to present this webinar, at the request of the ACLU. We will be reaching out to partner organizations as well. The Cape Media Center will be running the webinar (video and registration) and it will be available as a recording. The ACLU (which is partnering with LWVMA and the Mass Women of Color Coalition) will be creating flyers and press releases, which will be sent to the membership. This program, plus the *What a Difference a DA Makes* program, are important programs because of the upcoming DA and sheriff elections.

## DID YOU KNOW—?

.... that according to a 2021 Boston Globe article, “Massachusetts is the only state where all three branches of government claim they’re exempt from public records laws”? ...and that the Massachusetts legislature is one of only four in the nation to exempt themselves from such laws? However, as of July 2021, thanks to ongoing public pressure for transparency in legislative actions, “no” votes in House and Joint committees are available online for the public to see. Interestingly, “Yes” votes and abstentions are not.

## 2022 ANNUAL MEETING

As Suzanne Brock notes above, this will be our first “in-person” meeting in two years. By now you should have gotten the flyer announcing the 2022 Annual Meeting - and the update with corrected

mailing address! 😞

We’re hoping you can join us for this important meeting. There’s an April 29 deadline for registering- we need to give the caterer a final count by May 1.

**The good news: if you’ve missed the mailing date, you can still sign up by credit card or PayPal.**

**The link below will take you to the LWVCCA PayPal page**

**For a single reservation:**

<https://tinyurl.com/LWVCCA-2022-one-reservation>

**For two reservations:**

<https://tinyurl.com/LWVCCA-2022-two-reservations>

This is a great deal – you get a meal for \$28, and save a stamp!

## WELCOME to NEW MEMBERS

*"I always admired The League's activism which for me means the informational programs; and The League's intention to educate voters. The League of Women Voters' programs that I have attended have always been informative, interesting and worthwhile." Maria Rita Rudden*

**Dr. Maria Rita Rudden** was born in the Philippines. Her father was a diplomat in Washington, D.C. during her childhood. Maria identifies herself as an immigrant. Throughout her life she has maintained a strong interest in United States immigration issues. She graduated from Maryknoll College which is a small liberal arts college located in Quezon City in the Philippines. She did her graduate work at the University of Florida and Pennsylvania State University where she earned her Doctorate in Communications degree. At the completion of her graduate studies, Maria started her academic career by teaching at the State University in Albany, New York. Many years of her career were spent traveling throughout the New York State University campuses doing professional management development for New York State

University managers. Her extensive traveling throughout the State of New York took her to many of the more than sixty-four New York State University campuses. She also worked with contract negotiations. Maria negotiated contracts with United University Professions as she was negotiating on the side of New York State. Later she moved on to Digital Equipment Corporation as a management developer for ten years. She worked for two other high tech corporations after Digital Equipment Corporation. She currently enjoys volunteering with the Family Pantry of Cape Cod. Maria is a member of the Cape Cod Coalition for Safe Communities. She has been married for forty-nine years and has one daughter and one grandson who live in California.

As Maria Rita Rudden is warmly welcomed into the League of Women Voters of the Cape Cod Area, she brings with her a definite desire to learn and serve within The League. Her new membership offers the LWVCCA an opportunity to benefit from her wealth of professional and personal experiences.

**Maria Rita Rudden**

259 Spruce Rd  
Harwich, MA 02645  
774-408-7941  
[mrudden@gmail.com](mailto:mrudden@gmail.com)

In addition, we welcome these members, and look forward to sharing their stories in future issues of the *Voter*:

**Margaret Castellani**

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Submitted by Matilda Ligon,  
*Chair, LWVCCA Membership Committee*

## 2021-2022 YEAR-END COMMITTEE REPORTS

### DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION (DEI) COMMITTEE

The overarching goal of our committee is to permeate DEI throughout the LWVCCA and apply a DEI lens to all league activities. We also aim to reach outside the LWVCCA and partner with community organizations who are pursuing DEI goals.

We believe that DEI is every LWVCCA member's job. The foundation of our DEI programming is based on the teaching modules provided by the LWVUS that includes, definitions and tools to facilitate this work in our league.

The following sections provide more information about our work in 2021-2022.

#### **Book discussions**

The committee compiled a list of DEI books: [Reading List](#).

We planned three book discussion sessions. The first -- *Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Man*, Emmanuel Acho -- kicked off in September with 37 readers divided into five groups of 8 to 10, each meeting for two sessions. Each group included women of color. Thanks to Jeanne, we had five incredible facilitators. Most were women of color. The discussions were rich and the feedback positive: a detailed report on the project appeared in the [December Voter](#).

In January, J. Marie Stevenson hosted a smaller group discussion of *Waking Up White* by Deborah Irving, a lively and positive discussion. The committee is currently planning discussions of *The Sum of Us: What Racism Costs Everyone and How We Can Prosper Together* by Heather McGhee.

#### **Forums**

The committee helped to present two important forums: "What a Difference a DA Makes" (WADADAM) in January and "Common Start Bill" in February. WADADAM is an ACLU-developed program to educate voters about district attorneys, an elected position, by highlighting the key role that the Commonwealth's district attorneys play in determining the effectiveness and fairness of the criminal legal system. The DEI Committee provided support for translating the flyer into Portuguese and Spanish.

The Common Start bill aims to establish affordable, high-quality early education and childcare for all Massachusetts families, prioritizing the lowest-income, highest-need families. The Health and Legislation Committees collaborated with community partners to present this forum. Again, the DEI committee provided support for obtaining Spanish and Portuguese translations for the flyer and, for this event, interpretation for the forum speakers.

For the Common Start bill forum, we met with the Health and Legislative committees plus local partners to discuss involving diverse communities in the planning. We also provided contact lists for outreach, discussed language needs, and recommend panelists from diverse communities. Upcoming in May is the ACLU "Know Your Sheriff" forum. LWVCCA is the first organization to present this webinar, at the request of the ACLU, and we have partnered again with some of the local groups we partnered with for the DA education forum as well as the Massachusetts Women of Color Coalition, LWVMA, and MA Voter Table. This program, plus the WADADAM program above, are important state-wide programs because of the upcoming DA and sheriff elections. For the DA and Sheriff forums we partnered with local social and racial justice groups (Cape Cod Coalition for Safe Communities, MLK Taskforce, NAACP Cape Cod and Martha's Vineyard, Amplify POC, and LWVMV).

In December, Jeanne moderated the Annual Human Rights Awards Breakfast “Honoring the Wampanoag Nation — Keepers of the Earth,” held by the Barnstable County Human Rights Advisory Commission.

### **Work with other committees**

Within our league, pairs of DEI Committee members are scheduling meetings with other committees to review LWVCCA program priorities and facilitate discussion on how to apply a DEI lens to the other committees’ work. Mary and Jeanne developed a template and instructions for recording committee commitments and goals; and Jeanne has created a PowerPoint presentation to introduce overall DEI terms and concepts. This work is ongoing.

Mati, along with Voter Services, is working with three churches in Mashpee, all with diverse congregations, to get out the vote in upcoming local elections.

### **Hold on to your Constitution project**

*"The December 1865 ratification of the 13th Amendment to the United States Constitution can be viewed as the first pervasive attempt at initiating Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) in the United States. More than a century and a half of socio-political conflict and struggle has ensued (often with violence) pertaining to the full implementation for all Americans of the 13th Amendment and its related 14th and 15 Amendments".* Mati Ligon, Member LWVCCA

On January 14, 2022 one hundred twenty copies of the U.S. Constitution and Fascinating Facts About It (Oak Hill Publishers) were donated by the League of Women Voters of the Cape Cod Area. The books were given as gifts to all 8th graders enrolled in mandated civics education classes at Mashpee Middle/High School. Together Rosemary Shields (Voter Services) and Mati Ligon (Membership and DEI) initiated the "Hold On To Your United States Constitution" by writing a proposal for a grant from the Massachusetts LWV. During the school year of 2020-2021 a pilot project was conducted whereby the Constitution books were distributed to the students for their ownership and for in-school and at-home reference use. Mr. Brian Brodie, Chair of the Social Sciences Department at Mashpee MS/HS clearly indicated that the donated Constitution books were being used by the Mashpee students and their teachers. The Board of the LWVCCA voted to pay for the Constitution books through its Helen S. Aaron Education Trust for the school year 2021-2022 (again for the 8th graders in Mashpee). It is anticipated that the project will be expanded to other school communities across the Cape. Grateful acknowledgement to all of the LWVCCA members who assisted with the highlighting of the 13th, 14th, 15th and 19th Amendments; and the placing of memorial stickers inside the book covers: Carolyn Richardson, Maureen Grandmont, Debbie Dagwan, Marie Stevenson, Terri Bilodeau, Peggy Bent (former member) and Brenda Fanger (member of Florida LWV). Translation and Interpretation

### **Translation and Interpretation**

The DEI committee has taken a lead on providing translation of printed materials and interpretation for forums in real time, beginning with Spanish and Portuguese. We will be evaluating which of our league-wide print materials should be translated and working with committees to determine the need for translation of planned forum materials. The need for interpretation will be decided on a case-by-case basis.

### **Quarterly committee meetings**

To plan the activities above, the committee met for three quarterly meetings in July, October, and January. A fourth will be held in April.

### **LWVMA DEI Peer Group meetings**

Mary and Mati have attended these quarterly meetings organized by the LWVMA. This is a great opportunity to meet and interact with members of local leagues across the state, ask questions, and discuss DEI work. For example, we learned that our league is the only one currently doing translation/interpretation for forums. And other leagues learned that we are a resource when they consider doing this.

### **In memoriam**

Sadly, we note the passing of committee member Susan Quinones on April 11. She expressed the hope of seeing Judge Katanji Brown Jackson confirmed as Justice to the US Supreme Court: surrounded by her family, she did.

*Respectfully submitted by Mary Hunter Utt and Mati Ligon, Co-chairs of the DEI Committee, and Jeanne Morrison, Co-Vice President of Programs and Planning and advisor to the DEI Committee.*

## **HEALTH COMMITTEE**

The Cape Cod League of Women Voters Health Committee accomplished two objectives: 1. Reorganizing the Committee into a comprehensive working group, and 2. Educating and advocating for the Common Start Early Education and Child Care Bill. In addition, the Committee has begun addressing availability of mental health services and the Cape's health care disparity challenges. The Committee has begun developing advocacy actions for the Medical Aid in Dying and Medicare for All Bills. In addressing these plans, its intent is to do so in partnership with other Cape organizations and in coordination with the LWVMA and the LWVCCA.

The Committee organized and provided, in partnership with the Cape Common Start Coalition, the educational virtual February 5, 2022 Common Start Forum for League members and the community on the Common Start Bill. Participants represented the Cape's Spanish, Portuguese, and English-speaking communities. The Forum was provided simultaneously in English, Spanish, and Portuguese. The translators were Katia Regina Dacunha, who translated English into Portuguese, and Natalia Frois, who translated English into Spanish. The Forum was facilitated by Suzanne Brock, Cape League President.

Panelists for the Common Start Bill's Forum were: the legislative delegation, represented by Senator Susan L. Moran (the Senate sponsor of the Bill) and Representative Kip Diggs (House of Representatives sponsor of the Bill); parents represented by Janae Mendes, a Yarmouth Port parent and Action Team member of the Cape and Islands Common Start Coalition; childcare providers representing family and center-based childcare: Rafaela Fonseca, a family childcare provider and Lynda V. Allen, Director, Crystal Garden Children's Center, Hyannis; Business Community represented by Noelle Pina, Chief of Staff at the Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce; Education/Training represented by Debra Murphy, Early Childhood Coordinator at Cape Cod Community College; and the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care (EEC) represented by Amy O'Leary, Executive Director of Strategies for Children and the Advisory Committee for Dept of EEC.

The Forum provided opportunity to understand the Bill's importance by hearing from all the panelist stakeholder representatives. Its Question & Answer portion supported enhanced understanding of the Bill. Needed advocacy action steps were emphasized. The Forum both educated the community and was the League's first education program provided through simultaneous translations. It was recorded and is available on the League's website and Facebook page.

Submitted by Eileen Elias,  
Chair, LWVCCA Health Committee



## LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Our committee members have followed many bills as they move through the state legislature on their way to becoming laws. This year, we and our LWVCCA officers have advocated for voting rights, climate, health, affordable early education/childcare, safety at the Pilgrim facility, gender and racial parity on public boards and commissions, immigration issues, racial justice in education, and rental assistance. We appreciate the hard work and diligence of all our LWVCCA members in submitting written testimony, contacting their legislators, testifying at hearings, and participating in virtual lobby days. This year all of the Legislative Committee Meetings were via Zoom.

### EVENTS

**September –Legislative Committee Meeting**, Guest Speaker Judy Ziss, Chair, Legislative Committee of LWV Falmouth. LWVCCA and LWV Falmouth will share newsletters and information about events and legislation.

**October –Votes Act Lobby Day** via Zoom.

**November – Day on the Hill** via Zoom.

- **Common Start Rally**—Hyannis Village Green in partnership with LWVCCA Health Committee. Several legislators attended.
- **DEI Meeting with Legislative Committee** - Jeanne Morrison helped us to put a DEI lens on our committee work, resulting in identifying DEI goals for the Legislative Committee.

**January—Meeting with Representative Xiarhos** (Barnstable 5<sup>th</sup> District) to urge his support for the Safe Communities Act.

**February--Common Start Forum** with the Health Committee, LWV Falmouth and the Cape Cod Chapter of the Common Start Coalition.

**March—Legislative Breakfast** via Zoom with Sen. Moran, Reps. Whelan, Diggs, Vieira, Peake, Xiarhos, and Fernandes. Sen Julian Cyr did not attend. Several human rights organizations and neighboring Leagues were invited to attend.

### BILLS

The legislative session does not end until July 31, 2022, so a lot can still happen. The bills listed below are still active as of April 15, 2022. Thanks to the members listed for their testimony on the following bills. Suzanne Brock and Rosemary Shields appeared at legislative hearings via Zoom to provide testimony.

#### **Bill in Conference Committee.**

- Votes Act—Suzanne Brock

#### **Bills with Extensions in Committees.**

- Safe Community Act--Suzanne Brock, Renate Sands
- Regulating 3-D printed weapons and “ghost guns” -Pat Ryle
- Common Start--Suzanne Brock, Karen Mazza, Renate Sands
- Medicare for all in Massachusetts--Renate Sands
- 100% Clean Act—Suzanne Brock

- Reforming Hate Crime Statutes—Suzanne Brock, Susan Quiñones
- Save recycling costs– Renate Sands
- Preventing the discharge of radioactive materials—Rosemary Shields, Suzanne Brock

#### **Bills in the Ways and Means Committees**

- Gun crimes data analysis and reporting
- Gender and racial parity on public boards and commissions—Suzanne Brock, Jeanne Morrison, Renate Sands
- Open space in the Commonwealth – Terri Bilodeau
- Rental Voucher Program--Susan Quiñones, Renate Sands
- Anti-racism, equity, and justice in education - Susan Quiñones
- Monitoring dry casks and spent nuclear fuel —Rosemary Shields, Suzanne Brock, Renate Sands.

#### **OTHER**

- Carole Young-Kleinfeld’s writing skills have kept all of us informed by researching bills, writing summaries of the bills and writing testimony for us to use.
- Suanne Brock and Rosemary Shields testified on behalf of the LWVCCA to the Special Joint Committee on Redistricting.
- Rosemary Shields and Elaine Dickinson have kept us informed regarding the decommissioning of the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Plant by attending the Nuclear Decommissioning Citizens Advisory Panel and rallies.
- Renate Sands presented a petition to the Sandwich Selectmen to put an item on the town ballot to support the banning of the discharge of radioactive material into Cape Cod Bay.
- Eight Action Alerts were sent out to all members with the help of Richard Utt. Richard also organized the webinar for the Common Start Forum and the Legislative Breakfast, via Zoom.

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

### **YOUTH SERVICE COMMITTEE**

The Youth Service Committee continued to support civic education in the schools. We started the school year by sending our updated Cape Cod Civic Resource Guide for Student-Led Civics Projects to Social Studies leaders in Cape school districts for distribution to their department faculty. This had been updated with the inclusion of a section on Racial and Social Justice. We also let schools know that we would like to celebrate the civic projects that students completed. Because schools still struggled this year with the impact of Covid-19 on attendance and reduced instructional time, for many, this project was not high on their priority list.

We then turned our attention to working with LWVMA to create a celebration of student- led civics projects that could be done by all interested Leagues across the state. LWVMA authorized the creation of a state-wide committee to plan such an effort and Karen Mazza chaired the committee. LWVCCA Youth Service Committee members gave Karen input on ideas for celebration strategies. By January, the state committee’s proposal was approved by the LWVMA Board and a google group network to support local Leagues in reaching out to schools in their area was created. Karen facilitates this group with the assistance of Mary Sterling, a League colleague from Concord-Carlisle.

Karen is working with Pattye Comfort, Executive Director of LWVMA, to participate on a state showcase planning group that includes representatives from the Massachusetts Civic Learning Coalition and the two Social Studies Content Leaders from the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. This committee has been meeting twice a month and will continue to do so to develop a state showcase model that will be implemented in the spring of 2023. Karen continues to represent LWVMA on the Massachusetts Civic Learning Coalition.

Locally, our Youth Service Committee has reached out to the school districts of Mashpee, Barnstable, Dennis-Yarmouth and Monomoy to see if they were ready to plan some kind of celebration for their student-led civics projects this spring. Barnstable is planning a showcase celebration to which we are invited on June 17. Other districts are in the formative stages of thinking about this invitation. Committee member Jan Hively, and Karen attended a meeting with the DY Social Studies Department and the Superintendent. While they do not wish to do a celebration this year, we have begun a conversation with them about ways that we can be of assistance in their work with students for the coming year. Any other agreements with school districts will occur after the publication of the May newsletter.

We have learned from our contacts with Leagues across the state, that districts are in quite varied stages of implementing these projects and the impact of the pandemic is a large factor in the delayed response. Some have not done them this year, and others have done so on a very limited basis. A big part of our interest in supporting schools with these projects and involving Leagues across the state was to create a community support base to assist and motivate schools and raise the visibility of the importance of these projects to help students learn the skills of civic engagement and how to make democracy work. It is our aspiration locally and at the state level that this work will grow over time and that this effort will support a greatly strengthened civic education curriculum activities across the state. Students learn by doing and that is just as true with civics as it is with other content areas. Our conversations with schools locally will lead to identification of other ways that we can be helpful and we look forward to that partnership with the schools in the coming year.

*Submitted by lwvcca Youth Service Committee Chair Karen Mazza, and members Cindy Battis, Karen Boujoukos, Maureen Grandmont, Jan Hively, Florence Seldin, Jeannette (Marie) Stevenson.*

## VOTER SERVICE COMMITTEE

Because 2021 is an “off” year for elections and COVID protocols were in effect, much of the year we were in “planning and observing” mode. Mati Ligon and the Voter Service Chairs were working on ways to Get Out The Vote (GOTV) among communities of color and also the disillusioned and disenfranchised voters. We also have our eyes on youth and students and are planning events at High Schools and Cape Cod Community College. We have provided the League's GOTV services to many of our coalition partners, sending out letters and information sheets offering our support. Ditto on the regional high schools. We also have been in touch with the Falmouth League, collaborating on voter-related matters.

**Click here for links to some of our voting information sheets:**

[2022 Cape Cod Town Election Dates](#)

[2022 “Your Plan to Vote” Cards](#)

**CANDIDATES FORUMS:** The Voter Service Committee participated in a Candidates Forum September 21, for a special election in Harwich to fill a vacancy. Of the three candidates running, Julie Kavanagh won by 40 votes. A total of 1,383 votes were cast out of 11,589 registered voters. That's 12% of the voters who decided for the whole town. The Voter Service Committee is working with the Harwich Voter Information Committee and the Dennis Town Hall. We will be moderating candidates forums for their contested races.

In Harwich the candidates forum will be on April 28 for Town Clerk and in Dennis it's April 19<sup>th</sup> for Water District Commissioner. Both forums will be recorded. There may be other candidates forums in the offing. And finally, the Falmouth Voter Service Committee will have a Candidates Night on April 27. Check out Facebook / LWVCCA page for recordings of these recent Candidates Forums.

**ACTIVITIES:** On Friday, October 15, 2021 the Unitarian Church of Barnstable invited the League to their monthly "Stand Out for Racial Justice" event. This month the emphasis was to get out the vote for the Barnstable November 2, 2021 election.

A subcommittee of the Voter Service committee led by Anita Rogers has been working for Voting rights for the incarcerated with the Barnstable County Correctional Facility and the Sheriff's office. They worked to make sure ballots are available to those incarcerated, waiting for trial and not yet convicted.

The November 14 Common Start rally at the Hyannis Village Green brought together members of the coalition, including the LWVCCA, where we gave out copies of our "Directory of Elected Officials" plus handouts on the Common Start legislation.

In addition to all the activities mentioned above, the Voter Service Committee was also in observation mode during 2021, keeping a keen eye on the redistricting of the state after the 2020 Census. On July 29, 2021 Suzanne Brock and Rosemary Shields testified during Congressional District 9's hearing. We asked the the Joint Committee on Redistricting to look at the town of Barnstable and to consolidate it into 2 State Representative Districts, instead of 3. In the final mapping the Joint Committee did just that. After 19 public hearings with lots of input from citizens on how they would like to see their neighborhood districts laid out, we believe MA did an outstanding job in redistricting the state, increasing the number of majority-minority representative districts from 20 to 33.

Submitted by Anita Rogers and Rosemary Shields  
*Co-Chairs of the Voter Service Committee of the LWVCCA*

### MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Seventeen new members have joined the LWVCCA since January 2021. The new members represent a diversity of personal backgrounds and experiences. On February 15th there was a "Welcome to the Members At-Home Tea" w/ discussion via Zoom. The new members were introduced to Board members who gave brief presentations pertaining to the current focus and projects of their committees. The new members shared background information about themselves including experiences with the League of Women Voters prior to residing on the Cape. Several new members immediately have gotten involved in joining and working with LWVCCA's various committees.

Even though COVID-19 and its variants have shut-down most League in-person meetings for more than two years, new members have been encouraged to attend monthly Board zoom meetings. The Board meetings are scheduled first Tuesday of each month at 9:30 am. All members are welcome to attend and listen in via Zoom link. This has been an effective way to keep updated with current events in the League. As of April 2022 the LWVCCA's membership total is 107.

Submitted by Mati Ligon,  
*Chair, LWVCCA Membership Committee*



## COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

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

With lots of help and input from LWVCCA Board members and committee chairs, we've worked to keep our website and Facebook page up-to-date, to provide timely resources for LWVCCA and others, to inform our members of events and action items via email, and to provide a monthly newsletter.

Once again, due to COVID-19 restrictions, much of our business has been conducted "virtually" - by Zoom:

- We've held all of our Board meetings remotely.
- We held our Members' meetings on Zoom—
  - September Opening Meeting,
  - December Holiday meeting,
  - February New Members' Tea
  - March [Meet with Our Legislators](#)
- We've held several Zoom Webinars:
  - January [What a Difference a D.A. Makes](#)
  - February [Common Start Forum](#)

We provided translation services for the Common Start forum, with mixed success, and provided Portuguese and Spanish translations for event flyers.

Submitted by Richard Utt,  
*Chair, LWVCCA Communications Committee*

**ANNUAL DUES REMINDER**



**2022-2023**

Greetings! It's that time of year. Getting your membership renewal paid by the Annual Meeting, May 11, ensures your inclusion in the 2022-2023 Directory. Receipt of dues after July 1<sup>st</sup> does not guarantee inclusion in our Directory.

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

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

Make checks payable to LWVCCA, and mail to

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

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Best Phone number: Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Dues \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Contribution \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

I am interested in the following committees:

- Voter Service       Legislation       Fundraising       Health       Environment       Communication
- County Government       Youth Service       Membership       Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Other \_\_\_\_\_

**OR: Renew using a credit card at this link: <https://tinyurl.com/Renew-Using-Credit-Card>**

**BUSINESS SUPPORTERS of LWVCCA**


**Support these businesses that support LWVCCA!**



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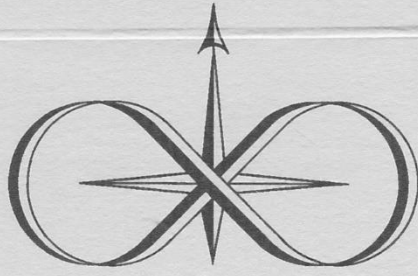


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Jon Vaughan

A gallery with a different point of view