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LWVCCA CO-PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

It's been a busy summer and, as always, committees are at the core of our work.

We took a break from Board meetings in July and August but many members and committee chairs were hard at work in the midst of summer vacations.

The summer activities began with Co-President Jeanne Morrison helping to kick off of the first Falmouth Juneteenth celebration, as described in the July (Summer) issue Thank you to members Voter Services and volunteers who staffed the voter information tables at this and other community events throughout the summer, including the 3rd annual Independence House International Day Festival, the town of Barnstable Unity Day, both in July, and the AmplifyPOC Cape

Cod Vendor Day in August. These events were a great way to register and inform voters about the upcoming elections, important deadlines for the primary and general elections, contested races, the ballot question, and the importance of voting. Co-chairs Rosemary Shields and Anita Rogers emphasize that it's very satisfying – *and fun* – to work a voter information table. More information tables and voter engagement events are planned for September and October. So please sign up to join in the fun and help get voters to the polls.

On August 11, the new board, the previous board, committee chairs, new and longtime members gathered for an informal luncheon to spotlight and discuss some of our work as members mingled to share interests and ideas. We also bid farewell to Jan Hively, a 50+ year member who is moving to Oregon to be with family. She shared experiences with the League and living on Cape Cod and expressed her gratitude. In appreciation of her service, she was presented with a beautiful glass art from Sandwich Glass Co. We wish Jan well. She will be missed.

The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee met this summer to start charting fall and spring activities, including working with other committees as a resource to ensure that all committees' work focuses on multiple aspects of diversity, including disability, mental health, gender identity, racial identity, and youth.

The Legislative Committee has been following the bills through the end of the legislative session, July 31st, and provided a list of bills that passed and did not pass. Voting rights, reproductive rights, economic growth, gun control, among others, were wins. Health care, education, affordable housing, infrastructure, parity on public boards among others, were not and will be followed up in the next session. The committee is partnering with the Health Committee to support mental health, affordable early education, and

other commonwealth initiatives. The Health Committee is planning a mental health forum for the spring.

Youth Service Committee members attended Generation Citizen MA Civics Day on June 5 and celebrated Barnstable High School Civics Day on June 15, presenting them with an award. Under Karen Mazza's leadership, the LWVCCA is part of the ongoing efforts with the state league to support student civics projects and outreach to civically engage young people.

We are very pleased with the recent uptick – 12! -- in new members including new residents to Cape Cod, a new college graduate, and a high school senior. Welcome, all. We're looking forward to your participation, joining committees to help us educate voters and advocate for issues that affect all of us.

Special appreciation for former LWVCCA president Sue Brock's attendance at the biennial LWVUS convention. She has provided a report that gives a glimpse of upcoming changes and initiatives.

As we head into September, we will resume our regularly scheduled monthly board meetings. The September and October meetings are on the calendar on page 1 or 2 of the newsletter, as well as other upcoming events. We will continue Zoom meetings for the immediate future but are exploring hybrid options, so that forums and meetings will continue to be virtual to remain accessible to the greatest number of people, as well as allow in-person participation.

Our annual membership meeting is coming up in September. Details will be coming in early September.

We are working with the Voter Service chairs and our partners -- the Massachusetts Women of Color Coalition, the Cape Cod Times, and the Cape Media Center -- preparing for the upcoming mid-term elections, with the candidate forums for sheriff and DA taking precedent. This important event on October 12th, hosted by Cape Cod Community College, will be hybrid. See the article

inside – volunteers are needed to help run this event.

Also keep watch for the announcement of a new "Florence Seldin *Democracy is Not a Spectator Sport Lecture*" series.

As always, we welcome new ideas, energy, motivation, and committee chairs and members who engage, lead, and encourage action to strengthen and ensure democracy for all Americans. This issue includes a call for members to build up and expand the work of the Membership, Environment, Hospitality, Youth Services and Communication committees. We also need new Town Liaisons for Chatham and Yarmouth. See the article appealing for help in these areas for details.

Finally, we are sorry to report that longtime member Nancy Erskine passed away. She held several LWVCCA posts, most recently as a member of the Legislative Committee and as a Town Liaison. Please see the tribute to Nancy in this issue.

Hope you all had a wonderful summer. Looking forward to working with you this fall.

Jeanne and Mary

- **Jeanne Morrison** 774-487-0287
 - **Mary Hunter Utt** 978-618-9772
- Co-Presidents, LWVCCA*

NANCY ERSKINE**May 3, 1935 — August 4, 2022**

I first met Nancy Erskine the summer or early fall of 2003 when she, along with recently deceased Leaguer Florence Seldin, were co-leading a small group of Chathamites dealing with a response to the Patriot Act. One of Nancy's responsibilities was drafting the meeting notes. I was struck by the graciousness with which she did this. Grace was a feature of every thing Nancy did in her years of membership in the Cape Cod Area of League of Women Voters.

Two roles that Nancy played the longest were chair of the "Chatham unit" and serving as editor of the League's newsletter, The Voter. As chair of the Chatham unit, Nancy organized each year's candidate meeting for local races, usually selectmen/now selectperson and school committee. At times this could be a challenging task but Nancy handled those challenges with her typical grace. She also organized time keepers for Chatham's annual Town Meeting and any other special Town Meetings.

In her role as editor of The Voter, Nancy sought writers for articles, did any editing if needed and in general kept League members well informed.

Nancy was also a helpful member of several League committees: the health committee, county committee, the legislative committee, and the nominations committee.

Another organization where Nancy generously gave of herself was Habitat for Humanity. Friday evenings during band night in Chatham Nancy could be seen selling Habitat raffle tickets for some kind of watercraft on Main Street, hoping to snag concert goers.

In some ways Nancy was a quiet person, not seeking recognition, just doing what she could to

be supportive in any way she was able. As League colleagues we appreciated Nancy's many roles in the leadership of our League, her guidance on the Board, and her gentle manner and friendship. We will miss her and we offer condolences to her family

— Judy Thomas



<https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/chatham-ma/nancy-erskine-10873883>

DID YOU KNOW—?

...that The CIRCLE program—the independent, non-partisan Center for Information & Research on Civic Learning and Engagement at Tufts University—reports that young people are concerned with equal rights, gender identity, and racial justice--and "they see abortion as one such issue. Most data sources agree that young people (ages 18-29) are the age group most supportive of abortion rights." Reporting from a CBS /YouGov survey, CIRCLE reports that that more than 75% of young people think that abortion should be legal in all or most cases. Forty-one percent (41%) of these young respondents—a higher percentage than any other age group in that poll—said that their views would make them more likely to vote in 2022. Read more here--

<https://circle.tufts.edu/latest-research/major-national-issues-abortion-may-spur-youth-mobilization>

CALENDAR

BOARD MEETING

TUESDAY Sept 6 | 9:30 a.m.
Zoom conference by invitation

Massachusetts State Primary Elections

TUESDAY Sept 6 | 7 a.m. – 8 p.m.

MEMBERS' OPENING MEETING

THURSDAY September 15|: 5:30p.m.
**Clubhouse at
Cobblestone Landing**



UPCOMING

BOARD MEETING

TUESDAY Oct 4 | 9:30 a.m.
Zoom conference by invitation

D.A. & SHERIFF

CANDIDATES' FORUMS

WEDNESDAY Oct 12| 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.
**Cape Cod Community College
& by Zoom**

To see our entire Google calendar, go to <http://lwvcapecod.org/lwvcca-calendar>. Click on any calendar listing to see more detail.

2022 LWVUS CONVENTION

Suzanne Brock's report:



My 3 days in Denver at the 2022 National LWV convention began when I arrived about 5:30 pm on the evening of Thursday, the 23rd of June. I had made arrangements to room with a League member from Ft. Collins, CO to share room costs. Linda Hutchinson was a really wonderful person and eased me into CO life relatively easily. Registration for delegates had closed at 5 so I had to wait until morning to check in. This was my first disappointment with what was my 4th National convention. Registration should have stayed open at least until 7 if not 9 since members were coming from all over the US. We had members there from Alaska, Hawaii, even Puerto Rico. The rest of the evening was filled with getting to know my roommate and her two colleagues from the Ft. Collins League and finding something to have for dinner.

So here is a quick summary of the three days, Friday June 24 – Sunday June 26 in terms of Convention business.

First item on Friday was opening remarks made by LWVUS President Deborah Turner. Her remarks were inspirational and targeted on the importance of the League's role in protecting democracy.

Delegates then approved the credentials report: 878 delegates (both in person and virtual) from 51 states (DC included) and Puerto Rico, the order of business and convention rules. At that point the Nominating Committee presented the slate of officers and Board of Directors. Since there were no additional nomination from the floor, the delegates elected the new Board which included another 2 years for Deborah Turner as President.

On **Friday** delegates also voted:

1- To move to retain all current LWVUS Positions on Representative Government, International Relations, Natural Resources and Social Policy.

2- To move the LWVUS Program for 2022-2024, Proposed Campaign for Making democracy Work with the addition to elevate the “direct election of the President by popular vote’ as a prominent, listed component of ‘Making Democracy Work.’ This motion included both first using the National Vote Interstate Compact and eventually the Abolishment of the Electoral College by Constitutional Amendment.”

3- Moved two recommended concurrences. A concurrence is an acceptance of a position from a state study to be incorporated into an existing LWVUS position without further study. The first was a Health Care Update from NY and the second was to accept a Criminal Justice Position from CA.

4- Moved one additional non-recommended concurrence: Position on Digital Equity from CT.

5- Moved to add the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) to the LWVUS program so that resources and focus could be used to accomplish its passage and further our mission.

6- Moved to consider a study on Digital Democracy to better understand the threats that profit-driven online social platforms pose to democracy, its institutions, people, and values, and how the League can participate in shaping solutions.

At this point, due to the news of the Roe decision the final action of business was the spontaneous adoption of a resolution which stated: “Be it resolved that the LWVUS supports the rights of women and those who can become pregnant to self-determination related to, and including, but not limited to bodily autonomy, privacy, reproductive health, and lifestyle choice.”

The meeting was adjourned here and we all left to join in a protest march to the capital building in Denver.

Saturday’s business began with a few speeches, the main one focusing on the continued fight necessary for Women’s Reproductive Rights. Then:

1- Members accepted the credentials report and then moved the proposed budget for 2022-2024 which included a PMP of \$32.00 per member per year. After a heated discussion the budget was approved. The discussion focused on the fact that the budget was to be acted on before the Bylaws amendment which included the Proposed Transformation Plan which may or may not affect the PMP.

2- The rest of the business on Saturday was spent dealing with four bylaws amendments. Of the three of which passed, two of those were amended slightly. Except for the 1st Amendment which dealt with the Unified Membership System, the rest of the Bylaws changes are structural and will not affect state or local leagues. If you wish to look at the specific language for any of the Bylaw proposals, please follow this link:

<https://www.lwv.org/league-management/council-convention/2022-2024-proposed-bylaws-amendments>

Proposals 1-3 passed on Saturday. Amendment proposal 4 was moved but debate and the vote to adopt was postponed until Sunday morning. This final bylaws proposal that would have dropped the voting age of League members to 16 was defeated after a lengthy debate.

Sunday morning was the final business session. Convention was due to finish by one in the afternoon since many had airplanes to catch. Because there had been time constraints during the first two business session (more later) speeches were eliminated. Members:

1- Debated and finally rejected the 4th proposed Bylaws amendment.

2- Debated and accepted to retain the current LWVUS positions moved on Friday.

3- Debated and voted to accept the Proposed Campaign for Democracy Program.

4- Debated and voted to accept the two proposed recommended concurrences, one on the

Health Care Update from NY and the second the Criminal Justice Position from CA.

5- Debated and voted to accept one non-recommended concurrence on Digital Equity from Connecticut.

6- Debated and voted **not** to accept the proposed new study on Digital Democracy. This study was rejected by delegates because the feeling was that no new resources should be diverted from the Campaign for Democracy Program. New studies require additional staff and funding.

7- Finally, there was discussion and approval of four additional resolutions, besides the one on Friday regarding women's reproductive rights. Those four had to do with support of Immigration Reform, the publicizing of a Declarations of Climate Emergency with appropriate action for implementation, providing continued and renewed support and action toward DC Statehood and advocating for comprehensive data collection and inter-agency cooperation to address the MMIP (Missing and Murdered Indigenous People) issue across the country.

President Turner adjourned the 2022 convention with the following words. "I believe in the power of women to form a more perfect democracy. I believe in us."

For those of you who would like to explore in more detail what took place during the 2022 LWVUS Convention, please use the following link.

<https://www.lwv.org/taxonomy/term/369>

In closing, this convention was very different from past conventions for me. I attended the national convention in 1980, 1982 and 2020. Working backwards, 2020 was totally virtual due to COVID. Caucuses (strategic planning meetings usually arranged to move amendments or new pieces of business not originally planned on) were held the week before the Convention and were only for an hour each. Debate during the business session was extremely short and very chaotic due to the fact that it was the first remote experience. Debate time was limited as was speakers' time. I

think most delegates came away extremely frustrated.

Conventions 1980 and 1982 were held in person. There was very little fluff. The only speeches were the opening evening. Caucuses were held after business sessions, at night, and ran well into the wee hours. I remember one night working until about 3 AM. Business sessions were that.... business. Those conventions started at noon on Friday and ran until 6, then again all day Saturday, finishing Sunday morning if necessary to complete the agenda. Debate on motions was extensive. Speaker's time was limited but the number of speakers was not.

This convention, 2022, treated caucuses as informational sessions. There were many of them, many having no relation to the topics to be covered in convention business. While a lot of the topics were interesting, these could have been handled as webinars throughout the year, open to all members. Because they were offered during the mornings on Friday and Saturday, it severely limited discussion and debate time during the business meeting. Each item had only a 10 minute debate time and speakers were limited to 1 minute each. This clearly was not enough time for many of the issues especially since this convention was also a hybrid. Due to this feature, there was time lost with technical issues when trying to engage with virtual delegates. There was a lot of discontent with the short time periods for debate so debate time was extended a number of times adding to the drama. The hybrid model and the fact that the whole convention was recorded required a huge bank of additional technical staff and equipment that was set up in the rear of the convention hall. Perhaps going forward, especially since I believe that hybrid events will become more prevalent, more consideration should be given to isolating the business portion of the meeting from the educational pieces. The purpose of convention is to carry out business and that should be the primary focus.

I will say in closing, however; that for me the personal connections that took place in person were the highlights. I met so many terrific men and women from around the country and having

open discussions with them, including brainstorming sessions on ways to improve League member interactions was great. And, it was also terrific to just kick back at the end of the day and have a glass of wine and discuss ways to prevent our democracy from imploding! The other very positive takeaway was how comforting it was to be surrounded by action oriented men and women when the Roe decision was announced. There were tears, shouts of anger, group hugs and then instantaneous discussions as to how to move forward as we all left the convention hall to march to the capital building in Denver. Much was done but there is so much more left to do.

Thank you so much for allowing me to represent our League. It was my pleasure.
Suzanne

— **Suzanne Brock**
outgoing President, LWVCCA

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Two valued members of our committee, Susan Quinones and Nancy Erskine passed away this year. Susan was an outstanding advocate for human rights and Nancy was a kind, supportive member throughout her long membership in the LWVCCA. They will be missed.

Legislative Committee Update

The following bills have either been passed by the legislature, and signed by—or awaiting action by—Governor Baker.

VOTING RIGHTS

H805/S459 The VOTES Act—making permanent many of the 2020 voting reforms—was finally passed and signed by the Governor after differing versions were resolved by a House/Senate conference committee. Unrestricted mail voting and expanded early voting are now law. It reduces the registration deadline before elections from 20 days to 10. Massachusetts must join the interstate Election Registration Information Center (ERIC) to clean up its voter rolls. It does not include same-day voter

registration, but LWVMA pledges to be back next legislative session with a bill to get that done.

REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

H. 4954 An Act expanding protections for reproductive and gender-affirming care. Signed into law by Governor Baker on 7/29/2022. Co-sponsored by Reps. Peake, Fernandes, and Sen. Cyr. This from Senator Julian Cyr, “The new law will make abortion more accessible and affordable; it will protect providers who offer abortion and gender affirming care; and ensure no one is forced to leave the state to receive reproductive and gender affirming care.”

ECONOMIC BILL

H5034/S3030 Economic Growth and Relief for the Commonwealth was in conference committee in late July. It included rebates of \$250 to eligible individual taxpayers and \$500 to married taxpayers. The outlook for this bill was optimistic until the legislature was informed of a 1986 law that may trigger 3 billion in tax relief. The excess revenue law, triggered only once in 35 years, caps allowable state tax collections at a level tied to annual wage and salary growth. Revenue above that cap is supposed to be returned to taxpayers through a credit. If there is unanimous agreement in both chambers, an economic impact bill could be passed before January 2023.

- Included in this bill is a partnered amendment by Senator Cyr and Senator Moran that would ensure public input and transparency by requiring Holtec to participate in a Special Commission before any radioactive water is discharged into Cape Cod Bay.

ENVIRONMENT

H5060 An Act Advancing Clean Energy and Offshore Wind has been signed by the Governor.

MENTAL HEALTH—ABC Act 2.0

S3097 An Act Addressing Barriers to Care for Mental Health. Sponsored by Senator Cyr, signed by Governor Baker on 8/10/2022. Comprehensive legislation to reform the way mental health care is delivered in Massachusetts. Guarantees annual

mental health wellness exams. Creates an online portal that enables access to real-time data on open beds. Establishes requirements for data collection and reporting.

GOOD GOVERNMENT

H4991 Remote Access to Public Meetings-- Hybrid meeting provisions were extended to March 31, 2023, by both the House and Senate, and signed by Governor Baker. Unfortunately, the Senate failed to accept the House's amendment to make these requirements permanent after that date. More to come in January about making those requirements permanent.

GUN CONTROL

The legislature safeguarded Massachusetts' gun control laws following the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in the *NY Bruen* case. The new law was sent to the Governor at the end of the session. Supporters plan to submit an omnibus gun violence prevention bill in the new legislative session which will include ghost guns/3Dprinting and gun data analysis.

BILLS THAT DID NOT PASS

Medicare for All—S766/H1267 An Act establishing Medicare for all in Massachusetts

Safe Communities Act—H2418/S.1579 An Act to Protect the Civil Rights and Safety of all Massachusetts Residents (Safe Communities Act)

Common Start Bill—H605/S362 An Act to provide affordable and accessible high-quality education and care. Will be resubmitted in the next legislative session. A high point for early education and child-care occurred when the budget included more than \$500 million for various programs, a historic high point of MA investment in early education.

Parity on Boards—An Act to ensure gender parity and racial and ethnic diversity on public boards and commissions

Racial Justice—H1819/S1051 An Act to amend the definition of Hate Crime Statutes

Environment

- H851/S524 An Act preserving open space in the Commonwealth
- H878/S610 An Act to save recycling costs in the Commonwealth

Affordable Housing An Act codifying the MA rental voucher program

Pilgrim Bills -

- H2254/S1507 An Act to monitor dry casks of spent nuclear fuel
- S1412 An Act relative to responsible emergency planning
- H4444 An Act relative to preventing the discharge of radioactive materials

VETOED

Funding in H.5065 General Government Infrastructure Bond Bill that the Legislature authorized for grants to expand remote and hybrid access to public meetings in municipalities throughout Massachusetts. Vetoed by the Governor.

**Carole Young-Kleinfeld,
Renate Sands, Elaine Dickinson**
Co-Chairs, Legislative Committee

HEALTH COMMITTEE

The LWVCC Health Committee mourns the passing of Nancy Erskine. She was always available to provide most informative and supportive planning recommendations.

The Committee has been monitoring, in partnership with the Legislative Committee, the mental health importance of the Common Start, Death and Dying, and Medicare for All Bills.

We are planning a Zoom supported panel-based Forum to address the Cape's youth who are at risk of mental health issues. It will consist of panelists representing the Cape's Legislative delegation, family members, public school guidance counselors or students, and community mental health and substance abuse providers. It will include attention to youth in crisis, including risk of suicide and on the impact of the recently signed

Massachusetts Mental Health Care Bills. The Forum will occur as an evening virtual event in late March, 2023. Its specific date will be identified in our October article.

The Committee looks forward to having new members join us. Do contact Eileen Elias, Chair at eileen.elias@comcast.net.

VOTER SERVICE COMMITTEE

It is very satisfying to work a voter information table



Anita Rogers, Rosemary Shields and Suzanne Brock

So, on the hottest day in the hottest week in July, the Voter Service Committee set up a voter information table at the International Festival on the Hyannis Green from 11 a.m to 5 p.m. on Sunday, July 24. Rosemary must have been a “mad Englishman” thinking we could tough it out in the midday sun. Maureen Grandmont took one look at our designated spot and led us across the path to set up under the shade of a tree. Maureen and the tree made ALL the difference in our having a very successful day, with the added benefit of no heat stroke. We also thank Suzanne Brock, Jeanne Morrison and Janet McCroskery for giving their time at this event.

It is very satisfying to work a voter information table. A steady stream of people approached us and appeared eager for information on the the upcoming elections. We pointed out that the races for Sheriff and District Attorney were wide open

because the incumbents are not running. This hasn't happened for at least 18 years. And we explained the important functions of both jobs (see the job descriptions below). We distributed information on the ballot question: The Massachusetts Income Tax for Education and Transportation Amendment (see below). We had voter registration information; the September 6 primary and November 8 general election dates with all registration and mail-in ballot deadlines; and the “Make a Plan” to get to the polls cards. A Stanford Study showed that when people make a plan on how they are going to vote, they are more likely to do it. We even registered one person the old fashioned way – with a paper registration card and pen. This is totally old school since people can register with their phones using a QR code to do it (see below). Automatic Voter Registration has been in effect since January 1, 2020, so most people we ask are already registered. We are trying everything we can think of to encourage everyone to get out and vote. According to the Cape Cod Times more than 3.6 million residents cast ballots in the state's 2020 general election, totaling 76% of all registered voters. Of those, 43% voted by mail in the general election. Another 23% voted during early voting windows.



Anita Rogers, Rosemary Shields, Carole Young-Kleinfeld, Mary Hunter Utt

On Unity Day, Friday, July 29 from 4 to 7 p.m. we set up a voter information table on the Hyannis Green. It was quite the party atmosphere with bouncy castles, music and free hamburgers, hot dogs, cold drinks and ice cream. And again a steady stream of people came by to learn about the

upcoming elections. We want to thank Mary Hunter Utt, Carole Young-Kleinfeld, Jeanne Morrison and Janet McCroskery for helping us out.

Finally, on Saturday, August 20 from 12 to 5 p.m. at Asleton Park in Hyannis, we set up a voter information table at the Amplify POC (People Of Color) Cape Cod*** event. We were grateful we could join the many POC vendors, sharing voter information. We got lots of positive feedback. Yet again, it was a “partay” with the live band, *Sista Dee and the Dis n Dat Band*, and the Caribbean and Portuguese food vendors. Think about volunteering with the Voter Service Committee if you want to have a joyous time. I want to thank Mary and Richard Utt for being there, especially for getting that umbrella in the ground. And of course, to Jeanne Morrison, who was there to offer encouragement and commentary .



*Jeanne Morrison, Rosemary Shields,
Richard Utt, Mary Hunter Utt*

Upcoming events – more voter information tables are in the works: September 14, “Club Day,” at Cape Cod Community College, when all the student clubs gather to share information. We love that the CCC thought of us as part of the Club. And on the next day, we’ll be going back to the CCC for Constitution Day. Consider contacting us if you’d like to join the fun. Or think of local festivals or events in your own neighborhoods where you’d like us to help you set up Get Out the Vote (GOTV) tables.

Finally, we are going to need around ten volunteers to help us with our upcoming Sheriff and DA Candidates Forum on Wednesday, October 12 at the Tilden Auditorium at the Cape Cod Community College. We need door monitors, ushers, timekeepers, and index card distributors to pull this off, so can we count on you? Contact Rosemary for more information or to volunteer.

Anita Rogers and Rosemary Shields
Co-Chairs, Voter Service Committee

SHERIFFS: A Brief Guide

WHAT IS A SHERIFF?

Sheriffs are elected law enforcement officials. There are 14 sheriffs in Massachusetts—one for every county. They serve terms of six years, which is the longest term that state officials can serve in Massachusetts.

WHAT DO SHERIFFS DO?

Sheriffs play an important role in the criminal legal system. They have several key responsibilities that have profound effects on community safety:

- **Overseeing county jails and houses of Correction**, where over 6,000 people were housed in March 2022—more than half of the state’s incarcerated population. This includes people held on bail, and those serving sentences of up to two-and-a-half years. Sheriffs can also decide to hold immigration detainees for the federal government.

- **Providing necessary services for incarcerated people**, such as physical and mental health programs, drug addiction treatment and emotional support; skills, education and vocational training; and reentry services.

- **Controlling multi-million-dollar budgets** allocated by the state legislature.

HOW CAN SHERIFFS HELP WITH THE OPIOID CRISIS AND PUBLIC HEALTH?

Disproportionate numbers of incarcerated people live with substance use disorder. While incarcerated, they face significant risks of overdose and death. Sheriffs oversee the implementation of programs to help people get the

addiction treatment they need. Sheriffs can also help to limit outbreaks of infectious diseases like COVID by following the guidance of the CDC and other public health experts, and providing easy access to both preventative care and medical treatment.

HOW CAN SHERIFFS HELP LOWER RECIDIVISM RATES?

Sheriffs decide whether they focus on punishing incarcerated people or trying to assist them through education, substance use programs, and mental health services. As studies show, the latter approach helps people reenter society and stay out of jails, houses of correction, and prisons.

“What a Difference a D.A. Makes” (WADADAM)

Some important facts about the 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 rate and receive longer sentences for the same or similar crimes.

Statewide Ballot Question 2022

The Massachusetts Income Tax for Education and Transportation Amendment

The proposed Massachusetts Income Tax for Education and Transportation Amendment to the State Constitution is being presented to voters in a referendum this fall.

The petition for the amendment was first introduced in January 2019 by 45 petitioners. It was favorably reported out of the Revenue Committee by both House and Senate in April, 2019. In June 2021, the legislature's Constitutional Convention voted 159 to 41 to place the amendment on the November 2022 ballot.

The text of the referendum question is as follows:

“To provide the resources for quality public education and affordable public colleges and universities, and for the repair and maintenance of roads, bridges and public transportation, all revenues received in accordance with this paragraph shall be expended, subject to appropriation, only for these purposes. In addition to the taxes on income otherwise authorized under this Article, there shall be an additional tax of 4 percent on that portion of annual taxable income in excess of \$1,000,000 (one million dollars) reported on any return related to those taxes. To ensure that this additional tax continues to apply only to the commonwealth's highest income taxpayers, this \$1,000,000.00 (one million dollars) income level shall be adjusted annually to reflect any increases in the cost of living by the same method used for federal income tax brackets. This paragraph shall apply to all tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2023.”

The Board of the LWVMA has voted to take no position on this constitutional amendment because its earmarking (opposed by the League) is partially countered by the move toward a graduated income tax (supported by the League).

And the latest in registering people to vote – the QR code:



Rosemary Shields
Co-Chair Voter Service Committee

INFORMAL SUMMER LUNCHEON

Summer Luncheon Welcomes New Members and Wishes Jan Hively Well on Her Move Westwood



On August 11, twenty LWVCCA members met for a casual luncheon at Cobblestone Landing II Clubhouse in Hyannis. Attendees had the opportunity for casual conversation and a light lunch. Board members were present to share information about their respective committees and to answer questions for new members about our League and how it operates.

We took the opportunity to share good wishes with Jan Hively as she moves to Oregon to be closer to family. Jan has been a member of LWV in various places she has lived for more than 60 years. While here on the Cape she was a member of the Youth Service Committee, the Environment Committee and has been an active participant in events and annual goal setting. Karen Mazza recognized several of Jan’s additional activist endeavors while here on the Cape. These include:

- Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom
- Age Friendly Yarmouth Community Management Team
- Climate action through several organizations

Jan is a gerontologist. She is Co-founder and U.S. Liaison for the Pass it On Network—a global network for positive ageing advocates with liaisons in 70 countries, now based in Paris. This organization is a certified member of the UN’s Working Group on Ageing.

Jan shared with the new members, the impact that League membership has had on her and how valuable the skills she learned in the League became for her own career development.

On behalf of the LWVCCA Board, Karen and Jeanne Morrison presented Jan with a Cape Cod Glass Studio Heart to place in a window of her new home. The luncheon was hosted by Jeanne Morrison, Mary Hunter Utt and Karen Mazza.

Submitted by Karen Mazza

FLORENCE SELDIN LECTURE SERIES

TO PROMOTE PARTICIPATION IN DEMOCRACY

LWVCCA members were saddened last spring, by the passing of long time member, Florence Seldin. Florence’s family has proposed, and the LWVCCA has accepted, the creation of a lecture series to be known as the Florence Seldin “Democracy Is Not a Spectator Sport” Lecture Series. This lecture series will be supported by a generous donation from the Seldin family and

through additional donations that have been received from League members and friends.

This summer, a committee was formed to organize the lecture series and two meetings have been held thus far. In thinking about this topic area, the Lecture Series Committee, is exploring how we can create a lecture series that offers programming that will encourage young people and people from underrepresented groups to increase their civic engagement. The committee hopes to be able to offer fall and spring programs. While we have good membership at the moment, other League members are welcome to join.

—Karen Mazza
Committee Chair
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DEI COMMITTEE

Quarterly Meeting July 29, 2022

The Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee of the League of Women Voters of the Cape Cod Area held its first quarterly meeting for the 2022-2023 year on July 29, 2022, via Zoom.

Mary O'Connor is serving as Chair of the Committee and welcomed all who attended. This included Maureen Grandmont, Mary Utt, and Marcia Fredlich.

We also welcomed Denise Morreale and Chinna Mapp from the Falmouth Chapter of the League so we might learn from and work with each other. They invited members to read [The League of Women Voters Falmouth Bulletin](#) as part of our efforts to work together.

Mary O'Connor thanked Maureen for her help while she served as co-chair and said we are happy she is staying on the committee and helping with the review of a possible book to be discussed this year.

The committee is looking to be a resource to the other committees to ensure our chapter becomes increasingly aware of ways we can encourage people to participate in League activities and,

especially, voting. To that end, each committee member serves as a liaison to another committee.

The current liaisons are:

Committee	Liaison
Health	Eileen Elias
Legislative	Renate Sands
Membership	Mati Ligon
Voter Service	Mary O'Connor
Youth Service	Maureen Grandmont &/or Marie Stevenson

We need liaisons for the Communications and Environment Committees.

While many of us focus on racial issues as part of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, there are additional aspects of the diversity lens to focus on this year, including disability, mental health, gender identity, and young adults.

The committee is not using acronyms as much as possible. We believe the use of acronyms distances the very people we want to involve because they are not familiar with the meaning of the acronyms. They can feel isolated and uninvited to participate. Even though it is much longer to say (or type) Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, we will do so and not use the DEI acronym as much as possible. This committee encourages all committees to refrain from using acronyms as part of this year's commitment to inclusion.

Meeting participants brainstormed ideas for 2022 - 2023 committee activities, especially with other committees. These included:

- Continuing book discussion groups
- Working with other committees in our chapter.
 - Encouraging use of questions during candidate forums about transportation, housing, health
- Addressing the impact of changes to voting polling places
- Addressing other barriers to voting
- Encouraging members of our chapter to take the Harvard Implicit Bias Tests.
- Meeting people where they are, e.g. donate socks for people who are homeless, provide needed transportation

Maureen Grandmont volunteered to review books from the book list created by our Board about two years ago and updated November 2021. She will use this list as a starting point to recommend a book for the 2022-2023 Book discussion project.

Mary O'Connor
Chair, DEI Committee

Help Wanted on Multiple LWVCCA Committees!

The League takes on many issues and it is only through members who have passion for particular areas that we are able to be productive. We're looking for volunteers to help in the following committees – and of course your help is welcome with any of our committees!

MEMBERS NEEDED for HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

The Hospitality Committee is a newly formed committee to assist the Co-Vice Presidents for Program with the membership events LWVCCA schedules that involve food. These three events are the September membership meeting, the December holiday brunch and the May Annual Meeting. The Co-Vice Presidents arrange the speakers for the programs. They need assistance with decisions about the venue for the meeting and food. If we meet at a restaurant, a member of the hospitality committee would work with the restaurant on selection of the menu. If we meet at a venue where we need to bring in food, we need committee members who can work with a caterer to identify the menu and who can help set up the buffet. Our League has experience with working with particular restaurants and caterers so new members would have a starting place to work from. If you are willing to help, please contact Emily Milan, Co-Vice President for Program at emilymilan7@gmail.com.

ADDITIONAL MEMBERS SOUGHT for YOUTH SERVICE COMMITTEE

The Youth Service Committee supports resources for civic education projects in schools and in particular, encourages schools to develop strong program support for the action civics projects that are required of students in Grade 8 and an additional grade in High School. By promoting student led civics projects, we hope students will develop the skills and interest in being civically engaged throughout their lives.

You do not have to be a teacher to be on this committee. You just need to value how important it is for students to develop civic skills and want to provide whatever assistance their Social Studies teachers would find helpful. Our committee has developed a good working relationship with local Social Studies Department Heads and teachers, so we are not starting from scratch.

This year, some of the activities we are considering are:

1. Offer schools a League assisted student led civic project on the development of a school campaign to boost youth participation in voting for current students and post graduate students.
2. Organize a regional conference for students to share civics projects on like topics and receive feedback from experts on the Cape.
3. Create a celebratory Zoom forum for showcasing the best student led civics projects by allowing schools to select their winning team to present their project to a Cape audience.
4. Offer to participate in school based showcase celebration events.

If this seems overwhelming, don't worry. As a retired Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, I know schools, I know how to organize these activities and I can provide guidance and support. Our committee just needs additional partners who want to participate and broaden our reach to the schools. New participants are especially needed now since one of our members passed away and another is moving away. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

— **Karen Mazza**
Chair, LWVCCA Youth Service Committee

508-694-6843
mazzak@comcast.net

MEMBERS NEEDED for MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

The Membership Committee supports all committees by contacting and welcoming new members and developing plans to recruit and retain members, including providing the membership brochure and other needed information to prospective members.

An important part of this committee's work is interviewing new members and matching their interests with the work of committees and alerting committee chairs. You will also be connecting new members with their town liaisons and in general making sure new members know about and are plugged into League activities, to the extent that they want to be.

Much of this work supports the Communication Committee, which is a resource for the mailing lists and contact information to help you get up to speed with the committee's work.

If you would like to help, Co-President Mary Hunter Utt, 978-618-9772 (leave a message), mary.h.utt@gmail.com.

ADDITIONAL MEMBERS SOUGHT for ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Cape Cod faces numerous environmental challenges – wastewater, sea-level rise, ocean warming, drinking water contaminants, and the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Plant, to name a few. The Environment Committee monitors the challenges, coordinating and collaborating with other environmental organizations to educate the League and the public on the issues and how to address them.

The committee works with other committees when issues intersect across committees; for example, working with the Legislative Committee to support legislation addressing the closing of the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Plant.

Committee members are often also members of community groups advocating for change, such as meeting Net Zero goals on Cape Cod. This means

that you will be joining a group who can help bring you up to speed and active in efforts to continue to monitor, educate, advocate, and bring solutions to Cape Cod.

For more information about joining this committee, contact LWVCCA@gmail.com

TOWN LIAISONS NEEDED

The LWVCCA covers 14 towns on Cape Cod, stretching from Sandwich to Provincetown. (Only Falmouth boasts a separate League but the two Leagues collaborate.) Because of the distances and the myriad local races for select boards, school committees, overrides, etc., the LWVCCA relies on Town Liaisons to welcome and offer support to new members in their towns, post event flyers and make reminder calls to town members about upcoming League events, and make sure town members receive information and materials as needed.

We have just lost two Town Liaisons, one in Chatham and one in Yarmouth. If you live in one of these towns, we ask that you consider being a town liaison. Current and former town liaisons can provide support information about the role. For more information, contact Co-President Mary Hunter Utt, 978-618-9772 (leave a message), mary.h.utt@gmail.com.

WELCOME to NEW MEMBERS

"I am definitely interested in doing more than just paying my dues in the League of Women Voters of the Cape Cod Area. I am interested in learning more about opportunities for me to actively work in the LWVCCA."
 Tricia (Patricia) Murray

The LWVCCA appreciatively welcomes **Patricia Murray** and her hit-the-deck-running attitude regarding her new membership in The League. Tricia, a retired attorney brings a myriad of community-focused career and volunteer experiences as she enters the LWVCCA. She moved to the Cape in 2018 and was a "C.C.C." (Cape Cod Commuter) to Boston until 2021. Now that Tricia has permanently relocated to her home in Harwich, the Boston commute no longer exists in her life. She has become increasingly involved with

community improvement programs on Cape Cod. Tricia is currently working with programs in Harwich as well as the Lower Cape. This fact helps to explain the reason for her current employment with the Community Development Partnership (CDP).

Patricia Murray's concerns are focused on socio-economic issues that involve Cape Cod residents especially those who are immigrants, international seasonal workers and people of color. Tricia's work also includes confronting the perennial affordable housing shortage existing on Cape Cod. Tricia Murray manages a business and credit program in the CDP's efforts to assist small Cape Cod businesses in underserved communities with micro loans and business plan development.

Patricia Murray grew up in Hopedale, Massachusetts. She is a graduate of both Boston College and the Suffolk School of Law. She lived in Charlestown for twenty-five years; and proudly announces that her son is a recent college graduate. Her community volunteer service has included her serving as poll worker; and being member of the Harwich Voter Information Committee. She volunteered with the League of Women Voters of the Cape Cod Area during a recent Candidates Forum regarding the Harwich election for Town Clerk. The officers and members of the LWVCCA are indeed grateful to welcome Tricia (Patricia Murray, who as a new member offers her willingness to serve as a viably active member.

Tricia (Patricia) Murray
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— **Matilda Ligon**,
Chair, LWVCCA Membership Committee

ABOUT the LWVCCA'S NEW MEMBERS

We make every effort to welcome all new members in a timely manner — to learn a little about who they are, and to introduce them to the membership.

But this last year, we've had a large influx of members — 28 in all, 12 just this summer – who have joined. Counting those who have left us, we have a net increase of 10 for the year. As a result, we've fallen behind on our 'welcome' interviews for the *Voter* – we've published 10 interviews, but there are still many more who have not been introduced.

We're making a commitment to remedy this: we look forward to talking to all of our new members in the coming months: watch this space!

—LWVCCA