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**LWVCCA CO-PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE**

Whew! It's been a very busy month! The Voter Service Committee spearheaded three forums showcasing candidates in midterm races:

The District Attorney and Sheriff forums were presented as a hybrid event with Spanish interpretation. Sponsored by the LWVCCA, Cape Media, and Cape Cod Times, the forums were hosted in person at the Cape Cod Community College Tilden Arts Center, and live streamed on Zoom and on local Channel 98 and Channel 99 by Cape Media. Many thanks to all involved.

The First Barnstable Representatives forum was hosted by Cape Media in person at their studio and on local Channel 98 and Channel 99.

In addition, we watched Falmouth's candidates' forums on FMTV. All in all, great coverage across the Cape for all of these important local races. For more details and links to the recordings, see the Voter Service report in this issue.

The first event in the Florence Seldin Speaker Series, "Youth Power: Claiming Our Future with Our Vote," took place October 25 as a Zoom Webinar, with a keynote address from Ruby Belle Booth, Election Coordinator from the Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and

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

Engagement at Tufts University and an excellent panel of young people. For more details and link to the recording, see the Seldin Committee report in this issue.

The LWVCCA was a sponsor of the Second Privilege Institute's White Privilege Symposium: WPS Cape Cod, "Race Our Hidden History," at Barnstable High School October 28 and 29. LWVCCA Voter Services hosted a voter registration and information table. Several League members attended and will share highlights in a later edition of The Voter.

We're hard at work planning the annual Holiday Brunch. See the article in this issue for more details, and stay tuned for a flyer with RSVP instructions.

We're also working with the Town Liaisons to clear the backlog of interviews with new members by the early next year. We've been fortunate in having a steady stream of new members over the past year. It's important to us that every new member is individually acknowledged and introduced to our membership and our committees. If you joined this year and haven't been contacted for an interview, not to worry -- one of our Town Liaisons will be in touch!

The LWVCCA received a generous donation from the Cape Women's Coalition which, we are sorry to note, is disbanding. They decided that their available funds should come to us, and we are working on ways to apply the donation to make a difference. Stay tuned for more details.

Finally: encourage everyone in your network or family and friends to VOTE on November 8th!!

*Jeanne and Mary*

— **Jeanne Morrison**  
 — **Mary Hunter Utt**  
*Co-Presidents, LWVCCA*

**CALENDAR**

**Board Meeting**

TUESDAY Nov 1 | 9:30 a.m.  
Zoom conference by invitation

**US & Massachusetts  
General Elections**

TUESDAY Nov 8 | 7 a.m. – 8 p.m.



**UPCOMING**

**HOLIDAY BRUNCH**

SATURDAY Dec 3 | 9:30 a.m.  
FAMILY TABLE COLLABORATIVE



**Board Meeting**

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

*To see our entire Google calendar, go to  
<http://lwvcapecod.org/lwvcca-calendar>.*

*NOTE: Click on "Agenda" to see a list of all events*

*Click on any calendar listing to see more detail.*

**DID YOU KNOW—?**

...that the LWVUS—along with 50 state Leagues and D.C.—has filed an *amicus brief* in an important North Carolina case before the Supreme Court, a case that centers on the “independent state legislature theory”, or ISLT? This legal theory argues that ONLY state legislatures—not state courts, governors, voters’ referenda, or state constitutions—have unconditional power to legislate on election issues. The Brennan Center for Justice at NYU Law School calls ISLT “a dubious reading of the Constitution” and that it would allow state lawmakers to gerrymander and suppress votes, without the traditional limitations on their powers. The case, Moore v. Harper, arose from a February 2022 North Carolina Supreme Court ruling that partisan gerrymandering violated the North Carolina constitution. North

Carolina lawmakers appealed that ruling to the US Supreme Court.

The LWVUS calls ISLT a “fringe theory” and “an assault on the American voter”, and notes that it has been rejected repeatedly in the past by the US Supreme Court. If it is accepted by the current US Supreme Court, state legislatures could have unchecked power to control elections in each state. Read the LWVUS press release about the amicus brief [here](#) which includes comments from the LWVMA. Stay updated through the LWVUS blog about the case [here](#).

**Highlights From “YOUTH POWER: CLAIMING our FUTURE WITH our VOTE.”**

**The First Event In The Dr. Florence Seldin “Democracy Is Not a Spectator Sport” Speaker Series**

Our committee was pleased to be able to offer the first event in the Dr. Florence Seldin Speaker Series on October 25 through a webinar entitled, “Youth Power: Claiming Our Future With Our Vote.” Seventy-five people registered for the event and 45 of them logged in live. The event was recorded and is available on our YouTube channel:



**["YOUTH POWER" recording on YouTube](#)**

The keynote speaker, Ruby Bell Booth, Election Coordinator at [CIRCLE](#) (Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement at Tufts University) previewed that organization’s report, “[Growing Voters](#)” through a Power Point presentation. She showed data from the 2020 Presidential Election about how the youth vote impacted the election and in many instances

where the winning election margin was small, the youth vote made a difference in the outcome. The report shows that there are major inequalities in the rate of voter participation among youth based on racial background, educational levels, and opportunity to participate in voter outreach activities. The report calls for a paradigm shift in how we prepare young people to vote. Elements of that paradigm shift include starting to educate youth at a younger age about voting, doing more outreach into the community of those who have not participated before, making this a year round activity, and building more knowledge and a culture of how and why to participate.

I personally looked up one of the data tools in the report and found that for Barnstable County during the 2018 mid-term elections, 61.1% of 18 to 29 year old adults were registered, but only 28 % of them actually turned out to vote. This speaks to the issue that registration is only half the battle. The larger issue is making it far more likely that young adults will actually vote.

Ruby and other authors of the report make the point that a comprehensive approach to changing the paradigm of voter outreach requires help from every community institution. The authors assert that if we take a community wide approach of working together we can produce better outcomes for youth participation in voting and political engagement. The report offers a wide range of recommendations. It concludes with a tool to “Map Your Community Ecosystem.” This tool will be a good self-assessment for us as a League to use with community partners to gauge our strengths and identify where we can improve and build sustained new efforts to support a culture of voting participation. The Youth Service Committee has extended an offer to work with high schools who would like to take this topic up as a student-led civics project. We have offered to assist in guiding such a project and convening conversation among community resources and institutions.

The young adults who were invited as panelists gave inspiring reasons why voting is important to them. We heard from Maryana Crawley, a senior at Barnstable High School, Ben Stoffel, a first year law student in Chicago and Florence’s grandson,

Allison Carter, a new League member and Co-Chair of our Environment Committee, and Thalles DeSouza, a student at Cape Cod Community College who immigrated to the US from Brazil, and reminded us of how important our vote is because it affects not only our own country, but the whole world given the influence of the United States.

The Speaker Series Committee will regroup soon to discuss planning for a potential spring event. If you have ideas for a topic or speaker related to the challenges we face in preserving and strengthening our democracy, please email your nominations to me at [mazzak1623@gmail.com](mailto:mazzak1623@gmail.com).

Submitted by **Karen Mazza**  
*For the Speaker Series Committee*

### LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

The 192<sup>nd</sup> Massachusetts legislative session has ended, but the LWVCCA’s Legislative Committee members continue their advocacy on recently passed bills and on bills that may be returning with new bill numbers in the 193<sup>rd</sup> session starting in January.

At the invitation of LWVMA Immigration Specialist Jen Muroff, our LWVCCA Legislative Committee co-chairs have attended weekly online meetings with the *Yes on 4 for Safer Roads* campaign to promote a YES vote for Question #4 on this November’s ballot. A YES vote promotes safety on the Commonwealth’s roads by supporting the recently passed Family Work and Mobility Act which allows all Massachusetts drivers, regardless of immigration status, to meet testing, licensing, and insurance requirements. The LWVMA has supported and testified in favor of this bill. Legislative Committee Chair **Renate Sands** notes that the Boston Globe also endorsed a YES vote. The Safer Roads campaign has actively supported phone banking, TV ads, and leafletting. Renate has also contacted various organizations to urge them to vote YES to support the law.

Our Legislative Committee members have also joined with Grandmothers Against Gun Violence (GAGV) as they rally on the 14<sup>th</sup> of every month from 11:30-12:30 the Hyannis Rotary. All are welcome. The GAGV recently welcomed LWVCCA

Legislative Committee Co-chair **Carole Young-Kleinfeld** as their guest speaker at its monthly lunch meeting. League members and friends are invited to a special Get Out the Vote (GOTV) Rally on Nov. 4 at 11:30 at the Hyannis Rotary. Signs are provided or... bring your own!

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

**WELCOME to NEW MEMBERS**

**Sarah Hinckley** is a widely recognized painter living and working in Yarmouthport. Sarah received an M.F.A. from Columbia University with a concentration in painting, a B.F.A. from Tufts University and a diploma from the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.

She has financially supported the national LWV most of her life and she decided to join the LWVCCA at the urging of a friend.

Sarah is a 13th generation Cape Codder born and raised here. She grew up in Cummaquid. She first attended college in California and then moved to Cambridge and later moved to New York City to attend graduate school and ended up staying for 30 years. She returned to the Cape in 2017 and now lives less than two miles from where she grew up. Her 95-year-old mother is nearby at Kings Way.

She would like to help in whatever way she can. She knows there are many people who were formerly summer residents or came to the Cape on vacation and have now returned in their retirement. They have the time, capacity and energy that could focus on protecting local resources while creating more opportunities within the unique environment of the Cape.

She would enjoy the opportunity to learn more about the League's committees and current work efforts so she can determine how best to participate and incorporate participation with the balance she requires in her life. She welcomes any informational sessions targeted on sharing this type of information. Voter registration including a focus on registering youth is of interest.

She identifies democracy along with a woman's right to choose as the most important issues facing our country. Choices of all types are the essence of how one chooses to live their life and is highly valued by Sarah. She has been a lifelong supporter of Planned Parenthood.

**Sarah Hinckley**  
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The LWVCCA welcomes **Janet Riggs** to membership in The League. Janet, a retired critical care nurse and researcher, brings extensive experience in voter registration from her work with the league in New Jersey. League volunteers were co-located at immigration services offices staffing tables every day to facilitate voter registration for an estimated 100 new citizens a day until Covid. Janet volunteered regularly in this effort for nearly three years. As a member of the South Jersey Progressive Democrats and South Jersey Women for Progressive Change she strategized on initiatives to register high school students to vote and learned the difficulties of accessing this population. Janet appreciates the positive orientation of the LWV organization as it actively promotes voter registration among all citizens across the nation. She is intrigued with the Leagues activities in MA which sometimes include collaboration on drafts of legislation with lawmakers.

In May 2022, Janet and her husband Rob relocated to Brewster full time with their standard poodle Roxie. Rob's grandfather built a home in North Chatham in 1954 so Janet and Rob spent many years visiting the Cape before the stars aligned and they were able to settle here permanently. Janet was able to return to gardening this summer successfully harvesting an array of vegetables.

While interested in ultimately becoming an active participant, Janet is taking time to learn about Massachusetts, its laws, the community, and the work of the LWVCCA. She is greatly concerned

about the rights of women and the importance of voter turnout. She is willing to help with voter registration and tracking legislation. She has begun participating on the social justice committee at the First Parish Brewster Unitarian Universalist Church outreaching to residents and encouraging them to vote.

Janet grew up in Lexington, KY in a very conservative family. She lived there until age 36 when she attended graduate school at the University of Alabama Birmingham. In Philadelphia she completed her doctorate in nursing working as a clinical nurse specialist and as a project manager for clinical trials. She has published several articles in her specialty area of heart failure. She also served as President of the American Association of Critical Care Nurses Philadelphia Chapter holding major conferences to raise funds for the chapter to support nursing research programs.

**Janet Riggs**  
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 Brewster 02631



*"I am seriously concerned about current events in the United States."*

**Marcia Fredlich**

The League of Women Voters of the Cape Cod Area continues to extend a sincere welcome to Marcia Fredlich a member who joined during the spring of 2022. She grew up in the Boston Area and relocated to Cape Cod from Needham where her adult son was raised. Marcia is among League members who are expressing their concerns regarding the current socio-political scenario in the United States (e.g., reversal of Roe vs. Wade; partisan divisiveness; unresolved immigration issues; racial/ethnic conflicts; January 6<sup>th</sup> attack; rising numbers of incidents fueled by hatred and violence, etc.). Marcia has entered The League wanting to be an active part of an organization that continues to focus on educating American voters regarding political issues; the importance of

voting in an on-going democracy; and "Getting Out The Voters!". Marcia relates that in the past she has attended programs sponsored and organized by the League.

Prior to her retirement Marcia had a wide range of career experiences. After her graduation from the University of Wisconsin she worked in Washington, D.C. as a paralegal during the 1980s. Later she moved to Boston and worked with the administration at Bentley College in Waltham planning meetings, and organizing seminars and other events. Most of Marcia's professional career, however, was involved with her work at Lasell Village in Newton. Lasell Village, located on the campus of Lasell College (now Lasell University), was started as an innovative senior housing complex. Marcia rendered viable contributions during her twenty year tenure in initiating and developing studies and programs which were aimed at promoting intergenerational human dynamics. Her dedicated work with Lasell Village's senior residents resulted in seniors being encouraged to participate in 450 hours of educational activities as well as projects that brought together seniors and young students (elementary through college)! Marcia reports that Lasell Village in Newton since its inception has served as an outstanding socio-model for residents of senior housing complexes across the United States. Undoubtedly the success of Lasell Village's programs has influenced Marcia's interest in working with the LWVCCA's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee. It is certain that Marcia's participation with the DEI Committee will prove to be a huge benefit to the overall mission of The League.

**Marcia Fredlich**  
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*"I am excited about joining The League. Now that I am partially retired and residing permanently on the Cape, I have some time to volunteer. I am looking forward to volunteering with the League of Women Voters of the Cape Cod Area."*

**Christine McCartney**

**Christine McCartney**

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## VOTER SERVICE COMMITTEE

### Anatomy of a candidates forum

(OR: the making of war and sausage is best done out of the public eye – old military saying)



When organizing a candidates forum, as Mary Utt observed, "there are many moving parts." First, we knew there were two very important races we wanted to make known. One is for the Sheriff of Barnstable County and the other is for the District Attorney of the Cape and Islands. For the first time in over 20 years both incumbents of these offices were not running. These races were wide open for voters to decide on candidates who best reflect the voters' philosophies. The best way to demonstrate a candidate's thinking and inform voters of the issues and personalities is to hold a candidates forum. In early August, with Jeanne Morrison's guiding hand, we lined up 3 key co-sponsors to reflect the community at large – the Cape Cod Times, the MA Women of Color Coalition (MAWOCC) and Cape Media Center. Next, we needed a venue. We were fortunate to have Dr.

John Cox, president of Cape Cod Community College (CCCC), contact us through Renate Sands, who has done great work over the years with the College hosting our Legislative Breakfasts. Dr. Cox wanted to do an election event with the League and our plan for a candidates forum fit the bill. And finally, with early voting starting Oct 22 to Nov 4, we had to choose an early date that didn't conflict with other major events. So, in mid-August Richard and Mary Utt and Rosemary Shields met with Vana Trudeau, CCCC Events Coordinator, at the main auditorium of the Tilden Arts Center, along with Jay Sheehan, the IT specialist from Cape Media center. With calendars in hand and with other major events blocked off, we came upon Wednesday, October 12 as the date everyone could agree on.

As if the previous month of communications and coordination weren't enough, NOW the solid, day-in-and-day-out work could begin. Right then and there we divvied up the tasks. We were so fortunate with the professional staff at CCCC who not only could do a hybrid meeting – both live in the auditorium and on Zoom – but also could manage registration through Eventbrite and set up Spanish interpretation on Zoom. Jay would bring Cape Media cameras to CCCC in order to enable close-ups of the speakers on Zoom, making the event much more interesting and appealing to viewers. And with the help of Kate McMahan, Cape Media would broadcast the event live on Channel 98 and 99 and record it for future broadcasts up until election day, November 8. Rosemary Shields composed the language for all the multiple invitations that needed to be sent out to the public and the candidates themselves. Rosemary also wrote out the run-of-show minute by minute outline; and the script for the event. And to keep us on track, all of the sponsors met via Zoom every two weeks to give progress reports of where we were in the process.

More behind the scenes tasks included Richard Utt designing the sponsor logo used as a backdrop on the stage. Richard also designed all the graphic invitations that he sent out to our coalition partners. He performed myriad IT (information technology) functions on our website and

Facebook page too numerous to list. Finally, he monitored and passed along all questions sent in-advance from audience members as they signed up to attend either event. These questions were reviewed and consolidated by a panel of League experts, led by Karen Mazza and Carole Young-Kleinfeld. With the help of Jeanne Morrison, we found our Spanish interpreters, Jeb Mays and Coqui Negrón, who also needed all English materials in advance in preparation for translation. Jeanne also coordinated with Anne Brennan, executive editor of the Cape Cod Times, to bring in a reporter to ask the first two questions. Jeanne also got Debra Dagwan, former Barnstable Town Councilor, and member of MAWOCC, to ask the next two questions. Jeanne also tirelessly worked the phones urging coalition partners to attend and submit questions. Mary Utt found our moderator, Dr. Kathleen Leslie of the Plymouth League. Anita Rogers kept the Voter Service Committee informed and found 12 volunteers to act as door monitors (no campaign buttons, T-shirts or signs allowed into the room), ushers, index card distributors and collectors, time keepers, Zoom chat monitor and index card sorters. We want to thank Renate Sands, Lynne Pleffner, Debbie Winnick, Elaine Bono, Janet McCroskery, June Hager, Dianne Ashley, Susan Cameron and all the League members mentioned above for volunteering the night of the event.

And, of course, the morning of the event, lots of moving parts sprung out and had to be put back in place. Because of all the unknowns and to calm her nerves as “show runner,” Rosemary decided to treat the day like a Saturday Night Live skit. CCCC wanted to know what we should do with people who didn't register but just showed up at the doors of the auditorium? We decided to just let them come in, fearless that 12 members of the LWV, led by Renate, would be able to handle any rowdiness. The Spanish interpreters needed to go over the order of questions and the script one more time. The choreography for the line-up at the podium was of concern that perhaps with so much up and down it might look choppy. We decided to wing it and hope for the best. Then there was the last minute question: would there a table and chairs for the index card sorters? CCCC offered not

only one table, but two – just in case the timekeepers needed one (they didn't). Our original Zoom chat monitor couldn't make it, so another volunteer seamlessly came to our rescue and brought her laptop to take on the duty.

Two hours before showtime we were informed that President Cox's schedule opened up and he would like to make opening welcome remarks. Mary Utt quickly rewrote the introduction to the script. And, finally, as we walked up the stairs to the stage, the CC Times reporter asked if she could share the duties of the questioning with another reporter. Quick, we had to add another name to all the scripts, especially Dr. Leslie's, who took everything in stride, as a good Emergency Room M.D. can. Rosemary's regret was with all the various iterations of the in-advance questions, she failed to make sure that the moderator had the final version. One question in the DA portion of the program that the MAWOCC representative asked was repeated later on in a slightly varied form by the moderator. Another very good question could have been used instead – ah, regrets.

To see the results of our collaboration, view here / you may skip the ad after 5 seconds:

[LWVCCA Candidate Forum for Sheriff and District Attorney 2022](#)

P. S. Renate proclaimed the crowd “well-behaved.”

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**Other stuff the Voter Service Committee did:**



Karen Mazza took pity on Rosemary and Anita and organized an entire candidates forum from scratch for the First Barnstable State Representative seat, the one vacated by Timothy Whelan who is running for Barnstable County Sheriff. The candidates are:

Chris Flanagan (D),  
 Tracy Post® and  
 Abraham Kasparian (Independent).

Mary O'Connor of Eastham moderated. Check it out:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mKFfdXcCOBc>

Dennis-Yarmouth High School. Rosemary Shields, Anita Rogers, Karen Mazza and Cindy Battis assisted. 140 seniors participated in the event, with many of them filling in voter registration cards or getting on-line to register.



Lynne Pleffner arranged with the store, Yankee Ingenuity, to set up a voter information table during the Chatham Oktoberfest on Saturday, Oct. 22. Owners Jon and Sharon Vaughan have been steadfast supporters of the LWVCCA for a decade and they offer their front porch for our Voter Information Table every election year. Information on the four ballot questions was what stopped most of the crowded pedestrian traffic and stimulated the most lively discussions. Three people put their hands over their hearts and thanked us for our service. Thank you Ann Ryan, Anita Rogers, and Rosemary Shields for assisting. Ann Ryan and Lynne Pleffner are pictured above.

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



The Voter Service Committee set up a voter registration table for High School Seniors at the "Credit For Life" event on Friday, October 21 at the



## HOLIDAY BRUNCH

On December 3, 2022, LWVCCA is sponsoring a Holiday Brunch from 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. at the Family Table Collaborative, 1338 MA-28, South Yarmouth MA 02664 (formerly the Riverway Lobster House).



Our guest speaker will be Anne Brennan, Editor of the Cape Cod Times, who will speak on “Cape Cod Times Role in the Community: Operating in the Current Media Landscape.”



The Family Table Collaborative. “Cape Cod’s Community Kitchen,” is a non-profit whose mission is to end hunger and improve nutritional security on Cape Cod by breaking down the barriers of access to both prepared meals and education. The Collaborative has served over 94,000 meals since March 2020.

### [Family Table Collaborative website](#)

There will be a book swap. Attendees who would like to participate in the book swap are asked to bring a wrapped used book from their own collection (banned or not!) , to exchange with others. Don't have a book to exchange? Don't worry--there will be extras.