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**LWVCCA CO-PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE**

Since 1976, every U.S. president has officially designated the month of February as Black History Month to honor the triumphs and struggles of African Americans throughout U.S. history. Black History Month, also known as African American History Month, grew out of “Negro History week” created by Harvard-trained historian Carter G. Woodson in 1915, 50 years after the Thirteenth Amendment abolished slavery in the United States. He founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASNLH), an organization dedicated to researching and promoting achievements by Black Americans. This practice exists today to bring to light the unknown history of Black people in the United States and to celebrate their artistic, cultural, scientific, humanitarian, and political achievements in the making of our nation and our world. Pivotal milestones of activism like the Civil Rights and Black Lives Matter movements are also acknowledged.

The 2023 Black history month theme is “Black Resistance.” Black people have resisted historic and ongoing oppression to ensure a dignified life, equity, and civic engagement in a just democratic society. The history of voting rights and the fight for civic engagement and political representation

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

of Black people is circuitous. Here is a glimpse of that history.

- 1865: Black people freed by the 13th amendment
- 1868: citizenship guaranteed by the 14th Amendment
- 1870: Black males given the vote by the 15th Amendment and first Black man elected to serve in Congress
- 1890: poll tax, literacy tests tools used to exclude Black voters
- 1915: “grandfather clauses” instituted to suppress Black vote
- 1965: Voting Rights Act passed, extended in 1970, 1975, and 1982, abolished all remaining deterrents
- 2013: the Supreme Court struck down a key provision of federal oversight of voting rules in nine states

<https://www.lwv.org/blog/voting-rights-history-Black-history>

<https://www.loc.gov/classroom-materials/elections/right-to-vote/voting-rights-for-african-americans/>

Understanding this history is critical to support the ongoing fight for democracy. Two local activists who dedicated themselves to this fight are Eugenia Fortes and Margaret Moseley. Founding members of the Cape Cod chapter of the NAACP, who championed the 1965 Voter Rights Act, they traveled to Selma, Alabama with other women from the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) to work on the voting rights campaign. Along with the NAACP they led voter registration drives and “get-out-the vote” campaigns in the Black and indigenous communities on Cape Cod. In the 1960’s Eugenia organized sit-ins and marches on Main Street in Hyannis to raise awareness of the civil rights movement. We stand on the shoulders of these women and other Black Americans who dedicated

their lives - and in some cases lost their lives - to make sure that the voices of all Americans are included in our quest to grow a stronger democracy. You can find out more about Margaret in the book, "Moving Mountains One Stone at a Time" (see a short excerpt at <https://www.harvardsquarelibrary.org/biographies/margaret-moseley/>) and more about Eugenia in the "Black Heroes" biographies on display at the Zion Heritage Museum, 276 North street, Hyannis. <http://www.zuhmi.org>

There is still much history to uncover and work to be done. In 1969, 68% of Black people were registered to vote. Today only 42% of African Americans are registered to vote in Massachusetts. This is the lowest voter registration rate for any ethnic group anywhere in the country. Massachusetts is ranked 37th in the country for the gap between the BIPOC population and BIPOC legislative representation and 48th in the country for the gap between white and BIPOC voter turnout.

The LWVCCA celebrates our members who have African heritage from around the globe. We have several Black women who have been longtime members that have contributed to our success. These include, Matilda ("Mati") Ligon, Dr. Debra Dagwan, Carolyn Richardson and Dr. Peggy Alsop. They have paved the way for additional members of the Black community to join the LWVCCA. This year we have elected the LWVCCA's first Black co-president. These voices have enhanced the work of the LWVCCA.

The LWVCCA DEI committee and Board of Directors encourage you to celebrate Black History Month by learning the history and participating in community events throughout the month. Look for announcements of activities from LWVMA, LWVCCA, local newspapers and on the websites of community organizations (Falmouth Affirmative Action Committee, NAACP, MLK Action Team, Woods Hole Diversity - <https://www.woodsholediversity.org/events/Black-history-month/>, and Amplify POC Cape Cod - <https://amplifypoccapecod.com>)

*Jeanne and Mary*

Jeanne Morrison  
Mary Hunter Utt  
Co-Presidents, LWVCCA

**CALENDAR**

**Black History Month**

WEDNESDAY Feb 1 – TUESDAY Feb 28  
"Black Resistance" events

**Board Meeting: Program Planning**

TUESDAY Feb 7 | 9:30 a.m.  
Zoom conference by invitation

**LWV 103<sup>rd</sup> birthday!**

TUESDAY February 14 | 11:00 a.m.  
People Powered League [AT THIS LINK](#)

**UPCOMING**

**Board Meeting**

TUESDAY March 7 | 9:30 a.m.  
Zoom conference by invitation

**Dialogue with your Cape Cod Legislators**

FRIDAY, March 24|12:30 2:30 p.m.  
Cape Cod Community College

**LWVCCA Health Committee forum**  
**PREVENTING YOUTH SUICIDE**

TUESDAY March 28 | 6:30 8:00 p.m.  
YMCA, and by Zoom: Register [HERE](#)



**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.

**PROGRAM PLANNING**

All LWVCCA members are invited to the February 7 Board meeting to provide input for our 2023-2024 program priorities, which will determine the direction of our work for the year.



We will begin the planning meeting with two main agenda items that address our planning requirements:

1. LWVCCA Local Program Priorities 2023-2024: we will review updated current LWVCCA priorities for a board vote no later than our March 7 Board meeting, as required by the LWVCCA bylaws. The current priorities are on page 14-15 of the Members Handbook and Directory. Attendees should review these as background. Final approval will be by a vote of the entire LWVCCA membership at the Annual Meeting in May.
2. In addition, we will review and complete the 2023-2025 LWVMA program planning form for submission by March 10. The form is presented on pages 7-8 of the [2023-25 State Programming Guide](#). Attendees should review the state guide as background

Upon completion of the planning agenda, the regular board meeting agenda will be taken up. All are invited to stay.

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**Jeanne and Mary Morrison in the Cape Cod Times**



Jeanne Morrison and her mother Mary stand along the water at Eugenia Fortes Beach in Hyannisport. They were close friends of Fortes, who hosted Martin Luther King Jr., Thurgood Marshall and a young John Lewis at her home in Harwich. . Steve Heaslip/Cape Cod Times

In the article from the January 16<sup>th</sup> edition of the Cape Cod Times, linked below, LWVCCA Co-President Jeanne Morrison, and her mother, LWVCCA member Mary Morrison talk about their experience of racism on Cape Cod.

**On Cape Cod: Jeanne, Mary Morrison know frontline struggle for civil rights**

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**DID YOU KNOW—?**

...that the League of Women Voters of the United States believes that the president of the U.S. should be determined by popular vote and that the Electoral College should be abolished? The LWVUS issued its position statement in 1970 and, since that time, has testified frequently to Congress in support of its position. After a two-year study, the League’s 2010 National Convention voted to amend its position in order to support the National Popular Vote (NPV) Interstate Compact as an alternate way to elect the president, until the Electoral College is abolished. Read more [here](#).

[The National Popular Vote Interstate Compact](#) is non-partisan, favors voters regardless of their geographic residence, and has already been enacted into law in 15 states and D.C.—including in Massachusetts. In 2010 Massachusetts became the sixth state to join the Compact and to pledge its electoral votes to the winner of the national popular vote whenever the Compact eventually goes into effect. Currently, the Compact represents 195 electoral votes. The Compact needs 75 more electoral votes to go into effect, for the total 270 votes needed to elect a president. The Compact ensures that *every* vote, in *every* state, will matter in *every* presidential election. Its core features are:

- The national popular vote winner should become President
- One-person, one-vote regardless of where a voter lives
- Candidates will have a good reason to campaign in all 50 states to reach all voters

Thanks to our Massachusetts Legislators for their continued support for our state’s membership in the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact.

**WELCOME to NEW MEMBERS**

Introducing

- [Kathleen Sherman](#) ..... *by Elaine Dickinson*
- [Susan Guill](#) ..... *by Elaine Dickinson*
- [Tamora Israel](#) ..... *by Sue Brock*
- [Lindsay LaCorte](#) ..... *by Mati Ligon*
- [Mary Louise Morrison](#)..... *by Mati Ligon*
- [Donna Wald](#) ..... *by Sue Cameron*
- [Sara Porter](#) ..... *by Sue Brock*
- [Kathleen Borofsky](#) ..... *by Sue Cameron*

**Kathleen Sherman** brings a great deal of background to the LWVCCA. She summered on Cape Cod as a child, grew up in historic and progressive Avon, CT near West Hartford and moved here permanently in 2003. She graduated from Bryn Mawr and the University of Pittsburgh. With her Ph. D. in neuroscience/pharmacology, she worked in many locations with jobs in research, teaching and drug development. On the Cape she worked in the Aquarium at the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History.

Kathleen’s interest in the LWV locally goes back to a forum on county government that the LWVCCA held back in 2010/2011. She remembers our dear Florence from that forum “especially her dedicated attendance at the County Commission and Assembly meetings, sometimes as the only other ‘public’ there”

Kathleen is interested in learning more about the local political workings of Cape Cod including Barnstable County Government. She has followed past debates concerning climate change which featured wind turbines and solar energy. Kathleen is also concerned about the Cape Cod aquifer, our sole source of water, and wonders if it is in peril. With her science background she will be an asset to our local chapter. Welcome, Kathleen.

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**Susan Guill** (pronounced ‘gwill’) first came to the Cape in 1975 as a graduate student studying economics in Boston... and she’s vacationed here ever since.

Initially, Susan worked as an economist and over time her specialty evolved from consulting work to strategic planning and construction of large commercial real estate developments across the US. Like most women in traditionally male fields, mentors were few and far between. In 1986, she was inspired, along with two other women, to form a professional organization specifically for women working in commercial real estate that provided networking and mentoring opportunities across the United States. She is proud to say that organization continues to thrive today.

In 1994, when her husband’s job took him to Germany for a year, she took the opportunity for her and her daughter to experience another part of the world. She wrote letters home about her misadventures and her friends suggested she send the letters to the Mainline Times for publication. The editors agreed and she continued writing humorous articles for the paper for the next 15 years. She taught humor writing seminars for writers interested in learning how to write humor. She was offered a position teaching English and Writing in a local university and truly enjoyed the life of a professor for the next several years.

As retirement approached, she and her husband bought a dilapidated house in Barnstable Village’s historical district and restored it so they could retire here. Like most renovations, the project was much more involved than anticipated and it occupied the next 2 years. They moved here full-time in 2014 and greatly enjoy all that Barnstable has to offer. Susan, however, has been anything but retiring since the move; her volunteer work has included serving on the boards of both the Cape Cod Art Center and Sturgis Library in Barnstable Village.

Around 2020, Susan and three friends bonded over concerns about the increasing rise in misinformation, discrimination, divisiveness and attacks on democracy itself. They decided to become more active in countering these trends,

and all four have joined the League! Her particular interests are Legislation and Voter Services.

We look forward to seeing where this next chapter in Susan’s life takes her as an advocate for protecting and expanding the democratic process!

**Susan Guill**

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I am delighted to welcome new member, **Tamora Israel** (ta-more-a, for pronunciation). Tamora is a younger member, 39, is happily divorced and single living in Dennis Port with her dad and her brother. Her journey to the Cape has been an off again, on again one over the past 15 years. She was born and raised in Freeport, New York. After some turbulence, Tamora returned to the cape full time one year ago with a renewed focus on her future plans. After completing her GED, she enrolled in Cape Cod Community College and is finishing her Associate’s Degree in Communications.

In addition to pursuing her degree, Tamora holds down two jobs, one as a goldsmith, creating jewelry. She has also started her own production company called “[Communi-T Productions](#)” with a friend. Her production company focuses on telling stories that highlight the BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) and LGBTQIA communities. Tamora also serves on four clubs and committees. She is the Public Relations Officer for [Barnstable Sunrise Rotary](#), she sits on the board of the [Cordial Eye Gallery and Artist Space](#), she serves on the events committee for [Amplify POC Cape Cod](#), and is the secretary for the Dennis Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee.

When I asked Tamora what drew her to the League of Women Voters of Cape Cod, she replied “Jeanne Morrison.” Why am I not surprised! She knew Jeanne through other avenues and was curious about the League. Jeanne encouraged her to join. Thank you, Jeanne!

Housing is in the forefront of Tamora’s concerns for the Cape and the country as well. She sees a real need to make substantive change in this area and hopes that working with the League will be a good way to initiate this change. The other interest that she has is in legislation and advocacy, so I suggested jumping into the Legislative Committee with any additional spare time that she can find! For fun Tamora also plays softball and flag football.

Her addition to our membership roll will be terrific and we will look forward to interacting with Tamora in future activities. Again, welcome aboard, Tamora and thank you for joining us.

**Tamora Israel**

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“I joined The League because I want to learn more about what the Cape Cod League does.”

**Lindsay LaCorte**

As **Lindsay LaCorte** joins the League of Women Voters of the Cape Cod Area, she expresses her interest in and her personal support of the advancement of women's rights. She and her husband Seth chose Cape Cod as their permanent home destination four years ago when they moved to West Barnstable. They are currently raising their two sons ages four and six while Lindsay serves as an osteopathic physician. Her husband works from home as a financial advisor. Also, he is primary care-giver for their two young children.

Lindsay LaCorte was born in Boston, however, her family moved to other parts of the Commonwealth as Lindsay's childhood education progressed. Eventually Lindsay's family relocated to California where she graduated from high school. She earned her undergraduate degree from the University of California at Santa Barbara. Later it was at Nova Southeastern University in Florida where Lindsay attained her Medical Degree and became an osteopathic physician after completing a five year course of study. Her residency was completed in West Islip (Long Island), New York at

Good Samaritan University Hospital. She returned to New England anticipating working in a hospital where her career goals would be supported. She has fond childhood memories of her family vacations spent on Cape Cod. "Seth and I chose the Cape because we strongly felt that it is a great place to raise our children. We enjoy living near the ocean; being on the beaches; and sailing. Dr. Lindsay LaCorte is currently practicing osteopathic medicine on the Cape in conjunction with gynecology and obstetrics.

The officers and members of the League of Women Voters of the Cape Cod Area are indeed pleased to welcome Lindsay LaCorte to the LWVCCA as she has chosen to become a member. It is hopefully anticipated that Lindsay will be able to actively participate in spite of her super-busy schedule with her family and her medical career.

**Lindsay LaCorte**

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"I always wanted to be a part of the League of Women Voters and what they stand for. They seem to be getting things done. They are an important part of the voting process in the United States."

**Mary Louise Morrison**

The officers and members of the League of Women Voters of the Cape Cod Area respectfully welcome new member **Mary Louise Morrison**. Mary is the mother of LWVCCA's current co-president Jeanne Morrison. At age 90 Mary proclaims that she has witnessed many changes in both the general landscape of Cape Cod as well as the Cape's demographics. During the summers throughout her childhood, Mary's parents Winifred and Lincoln Hinds took Mary and her younger sister Jeanne from their home in the Hyde Park section of Boston to family vacations in Mashpee. Mary remembers spending her childhood summers on the Cape sometimes playing with Native Wampanoag children: swimming, bike riding and row boating. She

recalls, "Even five and six year olds were learning to row and swim at the beach."

During the years between World War I and World War II Mary's parents had become a part of the striving and developing African American middle class in the United States. It was in Mashpee where an African American, Eddy Mitchell, an entrepreneur from Virginia owned and rented cabins to vacationing African American families. Mitchell was one of several enterprising African Americans who during the 1930s through the 1980s owned and operated bed and breakfast establishments, cabins, and motels on the Cape for their African American vacationing patrons. When Mary was twelve years old her parents purchased property in Mashpee to be used as their family's private summer home. Their family expanded to include two additional daughters and one additional son. Today Mary Morrison proudly indicates that among her siblings one of her sisters holds a doctorate degree in physical therapy; one sister is a registered nurse; her brother is an attorney (married to a Medical Doctor); and two of her nephews are attorneys.

Mary graduated from Anna Maria College in Paxton, Massachusetts in 1953. She earned her Master of Arts degree at Laval University in Quebec, Canada prior to her marriage to George Morrison in 1955. They became the parents of seven children. Five of Mary's adult children are still living on the Cape. Due to her husband's employment with the United States military at Prairie View College in Texas, three of her sons were born in Texas. Their four other children were born in Massachusetts after Mary and her husband relocated to Hyannis in 1959

Mary Morrison was the first person of color (African American) to be appointed to the Nauset Regional High School's faculty. She was a teacher at Nauset Regional High School for thirty years; and taught at St. Francis Xavier Prep for ten years. Her husband died in 2006. As they raised their seven children ( 2 girls and 5 boys) in a predominantly African American community in Hyannis, Mary participated in NAACP activities on Cape Cod. She has been a devout parishioner at St. Francis Xavier Church for more than fifty years.

Mary recalls attending Mass at St. Francis Xavier during the summers in the 1960s and 1970s at times when members of President Kennedy's family were in attendance coincidentally. She encouraged, supported and enhanced her own children's education as she became very active with neighborhood 4H Groups; Girl Scouts Leadership; and Boy Scouts Leadership. She continues to declare her love for children as well as her enjoyment that she experienced during her exemplary teaching career.

**Mary Louise Morrison**  
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Meet **Donna Wald**. She joined the League in October, after meeting Carole Young-Kleinfeld at a rally organized by Grandmothers Against Gun Violence, for which Donna serves as President for Cape Cod.

She is a life-long activist, from advocating for the very early environmental recycling programs, through the Vietnam years, and women's rights struggles. More recently on the Cape she was involved in an initiative which helped to save aquaculture while returning the much-debated land to conservation land. She also did her share of writing postcards for numerous political campaigns, supporting national and local candidates.

Grandmothers Against Gun Violence is an organization that is committed to educating, advocating, and collaborating with others to end gun violence in America. As President for the Cape Cod area, she has worked to engage with many other organizations on the Cape whose services and programs intersect with the gun violence issue. A motto she lives by is: Stand up, Show up, Speak up!

Donna grew up in Vermont and moved to Boston in 1968 to attend Northeastern University, graduating in 1972 with a BA in Sociology and Social Welfare. This is where she met her husband. They moved to Middlebury College where he taught and she worked as a retail manager. After their first daughter was born, they

moved to Minnesota and Donna began what grew into a full-fledged 27 year advertising and direct marketing career. She worked as an Account Executive on Fortune 500, non-profits, high profile automotive, recreational vehicle, and high-tech accounts. The last half of her career focused on the client side, as a direct marketing manager in two high tech startups, and the TORO company in Minneapolis.

She and her husband had vacationed on Cape Cod for decades, and decided to move to Yarmouth Port in 2005, enjoying the more temperate weather in a beautiful setting.

They have two children and four grandchildren - two in MN and two in CA.

For fun, she enjoys gardening, photography, watercolors, creating things, and getting outdoors.

Donna says: "I have always felt that the League fulfills a critical civic function in keeping voters informed and supporting our democratic process." She wants to focus her efforts on decreasing the level of gun violence in our communities, and supporting programs that give everyone a better chance at a good life. She feels that joining the Health Committee as a gun violence prevention voice would be a good fit. Between her position as president of GAGV and another gun violence enterprise idea she is working on, her time is best utilized in such laser focus. She is also interested in Legislation Committee activities.

**Donna Wald**  
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League members, meet new member, **Sara Porter**. Sara is a Yarmouth Port resident, whom I have had the privilege of working together with over the last year. One of the things that Sara was very passionate about was encouraging people to vote. So, over that past election year cycle, she was a "Get Out the Vote" leader having post cards and voters' lists from threshold states available for volunteers to pick up, write out and send off to potential voters. I can't remember how many

rounds I did, but it would have been zero without Sara’s prompting.

Sara grew up in Worcester and initially went off to college in Syracuse where she received a degree in Sculpture. But the 60’s were turbulent times and she got sidetracked like a lot of us. She ended up in New York City for a while and then left to pursue a Master’s Degree in Teaching from UMASS. Sara then returned to NYC and taught Art for a while in New Jersey, at the same time renewing her studies in Architecture at City College of New York. She successfully received her Degree in Architecture at age 33.

In 1981, Sara came to the Cape after reconnecting with her high school boyfriend, Jim McGuinness. They made a home here together during which time Sara worked with architects and building contractors. For about 20 years, Sara and her husband lived in the Thacher House and gave tours at the Winslow Crocker House acting as site managers and caretakers. When that opportunity ended, they purchased their home in Yarmouth Port. Sara was the sole proprietor of Sara Jane Porter, Architect and designed about 600 projects, including 22 buildings at Chatham Bars Inn, and others, mostly on Cape Cod. She retired in late 2016 so that she and her husband could travel. Sara lost her husband about 5 years ago, but continues to be involved in her community.

Aside from working on voting rights issues, Sara served on her town’s Recycling and Solid Waste Advisory Committee. She serves as the only woman on the town’s Design Review Advisory Committee which reviews commercial projects to be built south of Rt. 6. in Yarmouth. Sara gave lectures focusing on historic architecture and was a member of the group instrumental in getting the Yarmouth New Church refurbished into Thacher Hall. Some of her spare time now is spent painting and creating sculpture.

Sara has been considering the League for quite a while. Along with the past election and state of affairs in the country, and the fact that a number of her friends had recently joined the League, Sara decided it was time to jump in. Her main concerns fall across the local, state and national lines; housing, voter participation and water quality.

She said that she has a lot to learn but will consider joining a committee and perhaps becoming involved in leadership after she gains more knowledge about the League and how it functions.

It is my pleasure to welcome you aboard, Sara. There is always a lot to do!

**Sara Porter**

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**Kathleen Borofsky** moved to Yarmouth Port from Stow Mass. in the fall of 2021. She was ready to retire, and was drawn to the Cape because her sister and family live in Dennis.

Kathy is not new to the League, having been an active member of the LWV Acton-Area for the past forty years. Impressive dedication! Her first foray into an active “civic life” was working on Father Robert Drinan’s successful campaign for US Representative in 1971. After settling in Stow, she hosted a coffee for him and this whole world opened to her. After she recognized that she could help get good representatives elected, she went looking for a place to funnel this positive energy.

It so happened at that time a group of women in Stow were in discussions with the Acton Area LWV about becoming a provisional league. They took on an environmental study through the National league related to air pollution. This was no small task, but they brought in new members and educated themselves on the issues as well as how the league process worked. Although the Stow league didn’t survive, she joined the Acton Area League, and Voter Service; sponsoring candidates night in Stow became her focus. In fact, she and other Stow members hosted an online candidates’ forum along with the local newspaper, and StowTV during the Covid quarantine. A challenging undertaking, but she was gratified that the voters were served.

Over the years she served in many local League board positions, including a term as Co-President. She also lobbied at the State house many times.



Kathy’s introduction to LWVCCA started when she attended the Candidates’ forum cosponsored by LWVCCA at the community college this election season. She was so impressed that she soon joined the Cape chapter. Kathy says she was once again proud to be a part of the League.

Kathy has a daughter who lives in Milton with her family, and a son who lives in Vermont with his family.

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**LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE**

It is with a great deal of pleasure that I would like to let all of you know of the transfer of leadership from Renate and Co. to myself. I know that I have some large shoes to fill and a lot to learn. When I first joined this League in 2009, I actually joined the Legislative Committee but unfortunately, I did not remain on long enough to learn all of the ropes. Because of this, I hope that you will be patient with me going forward. I have agreed to take on the role of Chair but will do so as an off Board position. When the Board needs my input or I need their decision-making authority, I will be present as needed.

Some of the Committee and I have had an initial meeting just to talk about best times to meet going forward, to discuss suggested changes for the Legislative Committee’s Program Priorities for the 2023-2024 year and to begin planning the Legislative gathering to take place in March. Prior to Covid, this meeting was held in person as a breakfast and was open to League members and invited CCCC students. During Covid, of course, we were forced to host this as a Zoom meeting.

It is with high hopes that we have decided to return to an in person meeting but there will be a few changes. Please save the date, Friday, March 31st from approximately 12:30 to 2:30 so that you can join us. President Cox, from CCCC, has approved our meeting in the Great Hall of the new

science building where we will begin with an informal meet and greet over coffee and cookies. During this time, participants can mingle with the legislators individually. About 1:00 we will move into a small lecture hall for the more formal part of the meeting where legislators will address legislation that we have shown an interest in and answer questions from the participants if time allows. Look for more information going forward, but please put this on your calendars.

Finally, I have included the members of the Committee to date. If any of you have questions or would like to join us, please feel free to contact me.

With hopes for a successful legislative advocacy year,

Sue Brock

2023 Legislative Committee Members:

- Debra Dagwan | Eileen Elias | Elaine Dickinson
- Jeanne Morrison | Nancy Skinner | Patricia Ryle
- Rosemary Shields | Terri Bilodeau | Renate Sands
- Carole Young-Kleinfeld | Susan Guill | Tamora Israel

Submitted by **Suzanne Brock**  
*Chair, Legislative Committee*

**SAVE THE DATE: Dialogue with your Legislators at CCCC**

**Friday, March 24 / 12:30 – 2:30pm**

LWVCCA Legislative Meeting  
"Dialogue with Your Legislators"  
Cape Cod Community College  
In person.

**YOUTH SERVICE COMMITTEE**

**Our Youth Service Committee’ Progress:**

We sent our package of services and resources to area school districts regarding our support for student-led civics projects. We will respond to requests and invitations that they send us in response to our offer to help. Thus far, we have heard back from three school districts. We were invited to meet with the Barnstable Social Studies

Coordinator to discuss partnership with them and to invite our participation in their Civics Showcase event in June. The Social Studies Department Head in Sandwich invited us to meet with his department to discuss the package of services and resources. The Dennis Yarmouth Social Studies Department Head felt that the Cape Cod Civic Resource Directory will be very helpful and also invited us to be involved in their Civics Showcase event in June.

#### **Civics Education Progress at the State Level:**

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) has announced their two state civics showcase events for student-led civics projects. They will host one in Worcester on June 2 at Clark University and the second one, which will be exclusively for school districts that participate in the Generation Citizen's curriculum will be held on June 5<sup>th</sup> at the Edward. M. Kennedy Institute in Boston. Two of our Cape districts, (Barnstable and Dennis Yarmouth) use that curriculum. LWVMA and our LWVCCA will recruit members to serve as judges at these events.

DESE is continuing to produce history and civics curriculum for Grades 5-7 and is starting to develop it for Grades 3-4. This is especially important since textbook publishers do not produce curriculum that matches the Massachusetts State Curriculum Framework for History and Social Science. In addition to the Grade 8 curriculum that is already in use, this will greatly strengthen history and civic education in the state. DESE is also developing an assessment to match the Grade 8 curriculum and is developing professional development modules for elementary teachers to give them the content background they need to teach the curriculum.

DESE continues to maintain employment of Civics Fellows, experienced civics teachers, who provide virtual professional development to teachers across the state in the implementation of the student-led civics projects

#### **Civics Education Progress at the Federal Level:**

The year-end omnibus appropriations bill passed by Congress just before the holidays includes a significant increase in funding for K-12

civic education, from the current \$7.75 M to \$23M. In addition to maintaining the \$3M appropriation for American History and Civics Academies, Congress appropriated \$20M for a competitive grant program, "Civics National Activities." Eligible recipients for this program include institutions of higher education and nonprofits that use evidence-based practices to improve teaching and learning about the history and principles of the Constitution of the United States. The CivXNow Coalition, made up of 260+ organizations, including the Massachusetts Civics Learning Coalition, led the charge for this federal investment.

#### **Other State Education News:**

Governor Healey has appointed Patrick Tutwiler, former Superintendent of Lynn Public Schools, as Secretary of Education. He is Black, holds a Ph.D from Boston College, and has a very deep public school administration background, and experience in both suburban and urban school districts. His appointment matches Governor Healey's commitment to equity in outcomes across state departments, and it is anticipated that he will have the kind of understanding needed to improve educational reform and outcomes in public schools.

Submitted by **Karen Mazza**  
*Chair, Youth Service Committee*

### **DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION** **COMMITTEE**

Contextualization. In our discussion this means putting a person in context. Going beyond our first impressions and implicit biases to flesh out a deeper understanding of a person.

I first encountered the term when Prof. Regina Austin spoke to a professional group regarding defendants in criminal court appearances. She emphasized the need for the court to see the defendant through their story. She used videos about the person to present more information to the court than it would normally receive.

Contextualization is not limited to court environments. I recently attended a lunch with a

government official and members of a tour group after a tour of the Massachusetts State House. During the ride over to lunch, one of the college student aged women talked excitedly about her studies in globalization and experiences she hopes will make her a global citizen. During lunch, we each introduced ourselves. This young woman gave her name, her college status and not much else. I was sitting next to her and told her to tell everyone how she wants to be a global citizen. She went with it and captivated all of us with her enthusiasm.

I was happy to add more context to my knowledge of Jeanne Morrison and her mother, Mary Morrison, by reading the recent Cape Cod Time article about some of their experiences in civil rights struggles. Please read the article and take up the challenge to learn one new thing to add to the context in which you know Jeanne and Mary. (You can read the article at <https://www.capecodtimes.com/story/news/history/2023/01/16/cape-cod-mother-daughter-know-frontline-struggle-civil-rights/69791876007/>).

Here's to our members who often see beyond first impressions and implicit biases!

(Note: Prof. Austin worked with the Bronx public defenders in their provision of "holistic defense," which includes strategies of contextualization.

See <https://www.youtube.com/@penncareylaw> for more information about the concept.)

Submitted by **Mary O'Connor**,  
*Chair, DEI Committee*

**VOTER SERVICE COMMITTEE**

Oooooo, warm scones and cucumber sandwiches – the Voter Service tea on January 20<sup>th</sup>

The Voter Service Committee had a lovely time getting together on a rainy, Friday afternoon for the comforts of warming tea and good company. Though we have met in twos and threes at Voter Service Get Out The Vote (GOTV) tables all during to the run-up of the 2022 mid-term election, this was the first time we met all together in one room.

It's funny how two-years of quarantine make these face to face visits so special. And we talked. We talked about how we got to the Cape and what we did for a living; what we're doing now and how we happened to join the League. You could feel the experience and wisdom surrounding us as if wrapped in a tea cozy. We all seemed to agree that the mission of getting out non-partisan information about candidates and elections was what attracted most of us to join the League. We are determined to spread the word of the importance of the vote, especially to the young and people who may be restricted, either in assisted living facilities or the county prison. We also had time to review and tweak the Voter Service Program Priorities that are on page 14 of the membership directory and handbook. All the priorities will be reviewed by the entire Cape Cod Area league membership later on this year at our annual meeting. Be on the lookout in our upcoming date.

**S\*E\*C\*R\*E\*T\*S** of the Voter Service Committee:

Actually, there are no secrets. Everyone can become a voting expert. All you need is this QR code to the Secretary of the Commonwealth's Elections Division Page:



And from here you can check your registration, how to vote by mail, your polling place, how to track your ballot and much, much more. You, too, can be a voting expert.

And in case you didn't see this, the LWVMA sent out a synopsis of how The VOTES Act regulations, passed last summer, affects mail-in voting and in-person early voting in local town elections:

From Nancy Brumback [nbrumback@lwvma.org](mailto:nbrumback@lwvma.org), LWVMA legislative specialist, voting and elections 1/15/2023:

***The new law requires towns to offer mail voting in local elections unless the town governing***

*body opts out after a public hearing. The Select Board, town council or city council may opt out of offering mail voting only if it holds a public hearing and takes a public vote on the issue more than 45 days before the election. The option applies only to local elections not held on the same day as state primary or general elections.*

***Towns are not required to offer in-person early voting for local elections, but have the option to do so.*** *The Select Board, town council or city council can authorize in-person early voting only after a request from at least 50% of the town's registrars.*

*Local Leagues should note that, since there is no state election this year, the Secretary of State will not be sending mail ballot application postcards to voters. Voters can download a mail ballot application from their town clerk's website or from the Secretary of State website (see QRCode above).*

*The deadline to submit a mail ballot application is five business days before the election; it is wise to submit those applications much earlier to avoid delays in receiving and returning a mail ballot. If voters requested that mail ballots be sent for every election on their application last year, that request expired Dec. 31, 2022, and voters wishing to vote by mail need to send in a new application. Local Leagues may want to publicize this application information.*

*If Leagues want to ask their towns to offer in-person early voting, look first at how many voters used that option compared to mail ballots and Election Day voting in the September primary and November general elections to see if it would be worth the effort and expense. Town clerks have that voting information.*

A REMINDER: Celebrate the LWVUS' 103rd birthday on Tuesday, February 14 with a national

day of action! Through storytelling, digital actions, local events, and advocacy, we will flex the breadth of our League people power and advance our priorities. There will be a marquee event with featured speakers livestreamed on LWVUS' Facebook page at 11am ET on February 14.

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

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