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LWVCCA PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

As we enter into the blissful months of summer we come to the close of another busy year and the end of my second year as Co-President with Mary Utt. Mary has stepped down from that role but will be staying on as a board member at large. I wish to thank Mary for her collaboration and exceptional attention to the details necessary to carry out the multitude of tasks of the President. I also thank you all for a vibrant and successful year of voter education and advocacy! This work cannot get done without your dedication and commitment. Whatever way you contribute to the LWVCCA, through leadership, membership, volunteer or committee work, I appreciate your support and teamwork.

I welcome all new members and the officers, directors and committee chairs joining the board in June. I also wish to recognize several long time members, board directors, officers and committee chairs who stepped down in May. The following leaders and committee chairs are recognized for

their years of service with the LWVCCA. Although, many of them will stay engaged in various activities. These include Mary Utt, outgoing Co-President 2022-2024, 14 years; Renate Sands, 18 years former BOD (Board of Directors), Legislative Committee Chair; Amy Harris, 9 years, outgoing Treasurer and Health Committee Chair; Rosemary Shields, outgoing BOD, Voter Services Chair; Anita Rogers, 5 years, former Voter Services Co-Chair; Mary O'Connor, 2 years, outgoing BOD, DEI Committee Chair; and Matilda (Mati) Ligon, 7 years BOD and Membership Chair, initiated DEI efforts. An official thank you and presentation of gifts of appreciation for their services occurred at our Annual Meeting, held at the Family Table Collaborative in Yarmouth, on Thursday May 16th.

We had a wonderful turnout of over 50 members and guests at the Annual Meeting, It was the final of our four yearly membership meetings. The meeting opened with a social time to meet and greet members, guests, board directors and committee chairs, followed by dinner and our guest speaker Andrew Gottlieb, the Executive Director of the Association to Preserve Cape Cod (APPC.org). He spoke about the environment, clean water, and the intersection with housing. Very interesting and thought provoking.

Mary Utt, with Mary O'Connor as Parliamentarian, presided over the business meeting that welcomed new members, the Board of Directors and volunteers; and recognized 50+ year members. We remembered Paula Bacon, a longtime member who passed away this year. Members approved the 2024-2025 program priorities and budget, and bylaw changes. Please review the annual reports of our accomplishments during 2023-24, in last month's (May) Voter. In addition, the new slate of officers, Directors and committee chairs was voted on and unanimously approved. They will be formally presented at the

transition board meeting on June 4th. Look for the updated Members Directory and Handbook to be issued this summer. It will include the 2024-25 program priorities, the list of Board members, Officers, and Committee chairs and member contact information. Special thanks to Vice Presidents Pat Burke and Sue Cameron for organizing the Annual meeting and to all volunteers who helped things run smoothly.

As always, I welcome members (new and old) to visit any board meeting and introduce yourself. All, please remember to renew your membership. Members who renew by the end of June will be listed in the new membership directory. Finally, thank you to Voter Services for your spring efforts with voter registration and GOTV and for hosting multiple candidate forums for local elections across Cape Cod. Thank you to Youth Services, Karen Mazza for including the LWVCCA in review of local high school civic projects. See Voter Services section for upcoming opportunities to get involved and help engage voters, leading up to the fall elections. The elections should prove to be momentous in many ways.

I'm looking forward to working with all of you for another productive and exciting year.

Jeanne Morrison
President, LWVCCA

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

LWVCCA Welcomes New Member Pat Lombardi

Patrick (Pat) Lombardi—a U.S. veteran—has lived on Cape Cod for 12 years, but is a New Englander through and through—growing up in Vermont and Connecticut and working for 30 years in the family business, harvesting water chestnuts from Lake Champlain. Working from boats and kayaks, Pat trained and supervised a crew of high school students who worked for the business during the summer months. As a veteran, Pat worked at the West Hartford (CT) Veterans Center, and received training at Fort Dix (NJ), Fort Devens (MA), and Fort Drum (NY) at

various times. A professional driver, he trained to drive the “deuce-and-a half”—a cargo truck that carries 2 ½ tons of materials and is known as “the truck that won WW II”.

Pat joined the LWVCCA because he’s read that thousands of eligible citizens are not registered to vote. He’s committed to helping to change that and to encouraging registered voters to turn out to cast their ballots on Election Day. He welcomed the chance to attend the League’s recent Legislative meeting and looks forward to learning more about the activities of the LWVCCA Voter Service Committee and helping at Voter Service events. Now a resident of West Barnstable, Pat is active in the Vet Center here and the Cape Cod Classic Cars Club. Like many of us, he worries about PFAs and water quality on the Cape.

Welcome, Pat!

Submitted by Carole Young-Kleinfeld



Membership, as of this writing, stands at 122.



RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

*Don't Forget to Renew your membership by June 30
See the [Membership Form](#) attached!*

MILESTONES

Congratulations to **Tamora Israel!** She graduated from Cape Cod Community College on May 23rd. She received an Associates Degree in Communications. She is ready to apply the skills she has acquired to the growth of her company, [Communi-T Productions](#), a media production company that champions BIPOC and LGBTQIA+ stories through film and performance.

Tamora plans to give back by listening and better understanding the nuances of the Cape Cod community. She says:

“I joined the LWVCCA because I believe in the power of community and active change. LWVCCA is an organization that fosters positive change and that's right up my alley.”

CALENDAR

JUNE

Board Meeting

TUESDAY JUNE 4 | 9:30—11:30 a.m.
Zoom conference by invitation

JUNETEENTH,

A Celebration of Freedom

WEDNESDAY, June 19, 2024
[SEE DETAILS](#) IN THIS ISSUE

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Due by June 30!
[See the renewal form attached!](#)

UPCOMING

Board Meeting

TUESDAY SEPT 4 | 9:30—11:30 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—?

Did You Know.....?

...that two Barnstable High School students were recently named to Governor **Maura Healey's** Youth Advisory Commission? Centerville teens **Laik O'Reilly** and **Piper Hunt** were sworn in at a Boston ceremony with 58 other young people, from across the Commonwealth. The Council includes members with varied diverse backgrounds—racial, gender, ethnic— and members of the LGBTQ+ community. They speak 14 different languages and will serve for two years.

According to Governor Healey, "We hear from young people all the time about the issues that matter to them most – everything from climate, to

education, to mental health, to gun violence. This advisory council opens up the door for conversation, recommendations and action. I look forward to working with each and every single member as we work together to make Massachusetts more affordable, competitive and equitable for all." Read Governor Healey's Executive Order establishing the Youth Advisory Commission [here](#).

Laik and Piper are members of the Barnstable Youth Commission which serves as a communication channel between the town and its young people, educates the community and Cape Cod's state legislators about issues that affect Barnstable youth, and provides workshops and resources for local students and their families. State Representative **Kip Diggs** serves as an advisor to the Commission.

Congratulations to Laik and Piper!

Submitted by Carole Young-Kleinfeld

VOTER SERVICE COMMITTEE

Spring Elections were blooming all through May. At publication we still don't have the town voter participation results but we'll publish them in the next Voter.

The Voter Service Committee spent the past month scrambling to put together Candidates Forums for the contested races. Why scrambling, you ask? We just have weeks between the posting of the official-ballot candidates and the election. Then we need to determine which races are contested. In the past, we have had co-sponsors for our Dennis, Brewster and Harwich Candidates Forum, which makes the set-up of the venue, date and time so much easier. But it still leaves us little time to contact the candidates and get their willingness to participate. I am happy to announce for most races we got 100% participation. And for the two candidates in just one race, who were reluctant to sign on to our Forum, it just means we need to do a little more education on how non-partisan and fair our Forums strive to be. And Lynne Pleffner did yeoman work on putting together from scratch

the Yarmouth Select Board race. She got the co-sponsor of the Cultural Center of Cape Cod, who set up the venue in their beautiful lobby. After the date and time were established, Lynne contacted Cape Media who videotaped the proceedings. Next, she got 100% participation with her invitation to the candidates. Finally, we had to advertise -- get the word out to our coalition partners and media contacts. Glad to report that we had enthusiastic audiences in all our Forums and filled auditoriums for the Select Board races.

Rosemary has been doing Candidates Forums since 2018 and every time she learns something new – the intricacies of how towns work or water resources are protected or libraries provide services. Candidates Forums provide faces and personalities of the candidates, so they are not just names printed on a ballot. And this is what the League does – provides practical, useful information to voters so they can make informed choices. We didn't get to provide Candidates Forums for ALL the contested races on Cape Cod, but it wasn't from not trying. Consider joining the Voter Service Committee and volunteer your time and expertise. We'd really love to get co-sponsors from other non-partisan organizations in other towns. If you have connections with a Chamber of Commerce or Rotary Club or a “we're up for suggestions” organization, let us know. NOW is always a good time to start working on the September 3 State Primaries and the November 3 Presidential Election. We were about to write the “BIG ONE” next to the November 3 Election. But for our money, when it comes to property taxes, school budgets, wastewater, affordable housing, etc., it's the Spring Elections that really, truly are the BIG ONES. Spring Elections matter. Hope the turnout is good. We'll report back in the next Voter.

And a BIG THANK YOU to all our volunteers at the Candidates Forums. Time keeping and collecting index cards rank right up there with moderating – so thank you to all: Kathy Borofsky, Suzanne Brock, Jen Dames-Copp, Elaine Dickinson, Elizabeth Harder, Suzanne Kenney, Janet McCroskery, Mary O'Connor, Marie O'Neal, Honey

Pivrotto, Janet Riggs, Anita Rogers, Debbie Winnick and Carole Young-Kleinfeld.

Videos of the Candidates Forums:

Dennis Water Commissioner Race, April 16, 2024

See the [Dennis recording HERE](#)

Brewster Select Board Race, May 7, 2024

See the [Brewster recording HERE](#)

Harwich Library Trustees Race, May 14, 2024

See the [Harwich recording HERE](#)



Harwich Library Trustee candidates



Mary O'Connor, moderator

Yarmouth Select Board Race, May 15, 2024

See the [Yarmouth recording HERE](#)



Yarmouth Select Board Candidates



Debbie Winnick, Moderator

Get Out the Vote (GOTV) Tables

GOTV events are where we help voters check their voter registration status; register citizens to vote; inform people of upcoming town meetings and election dates; show where one can find her polling place, and get a sample ballot; apply for a mail-in ballot, track her ballot. Below are the events we participated in and shared our expertise. We set up tables on:

- April 12 – Barnstable County Human Rights Academy, Hyannis:

- April 10, 16, 17, 22 and 25 – Cape Cod Community College, Barnstable
 - May 8 Dennis Yarmouth HS Civics Day
- Thanks to volunteers: Kathy Borofsky, Laurie Hutton-Corr, Suzanne Kenney, Karen Mazza, Karen McPherson, Anita Rogers and Carol Sheingold.



April 12 – Barnstable County Human Rights Academy, Hyannis



CCCC GOTV tables set up April 10, 16, 17, 22 and 25. For April 17 -- Carol Sheingold and Rosemary Shields



Dennis Yarmouth High School
Civics Showcase, May 8

Submitted by
Lynne Pleffner and Rosemary Shields
Co-Chairs Voter Service Committee

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

First and foremost, I would like to thank my committee. Those members who have been so supportive and hard working through the first two years of my service are: Carole Young-Kleinfeld, Renate Sands, Rosemary Shields, Nancy Skinner, Eileen Elias, Susan Guill, Elaine Dickinson, Jeanne Morrison, Patricia Ryle and Diane Turco. You will recognize many of these names in other capacities but they have been a terrific group to work with for me. Thank you, all for your diligence.

Next, it may seem as if the Legislative Committee is not very active..... certainly not doing the multitude of Voter Service activities that have taken place under Rosemary, but for the LC much has happened behind the scenes.

The Legislative Committee has followed 51 bills this year covering the following area: Article V Constitutional Convention (1), Affordable Housing (8), Children and Family Issues (3),

Education Policy K-12 (2), Elections & Voting (8, but many of these were rolled into the ACCESS bill which is still in the pipeline), Environment, Natural Resources (3), Good Governance (2), Gun Violence Protection (3 – one of which is the umbrella Modernizing Firearms Protection bill that includes the other two but is still pending in Joint Committee), Health Care (4), Immigration (4), Transportation (3), Women’s Issues (5 – two of which have been combined) and Holtec (5). Of those 51 bills we have written and delivered testimony before the appropriate House or Senate Committee 37 times. Four members submitted testimony in person at various House or Senate Committee meetings. The Committee also submitted 3 additional pieces of testimony for bills that came to our attention that were related to LWVMA sponsored legislation.

In addition, the Legislative Committee hosted the Legislative event in March where the entire contingent of Cape Cod legislators were present. The Cape is the only League in the state that has 8 legislators to coordinate when trying to arrange a meeting. Also, a number of our committee have met individually or in pairs with their local legislators in order to lobby or solicit information regarding key legislation.

Members of the Legislative Committee attended the League sponsor lobby day at the State House and also attended an additional Gun Violence lobby day sponsored by the Coalition Against Gun Violence. Our Committee worked in conjunction with the Health Care Committee and Compassion and Choices to present a forum focused on Bill S1331 End of Life Options. This drew a large attendance and generated some great follow up questions.

After all of this, I wish that I had a final tally in terms of the outcome of our 51 followed bills, but I do not at this time. Many of the bills have passed the House or Senate. Some are still in Joint Committee to iron out details. Ten of the bills have been sent to study which in reality means they are dead for this session. Many have had the date extended by which some decision needs to be made. In short, your legislative body in Boston had 2 years to make some decision regarding the bills that are filed and yet, much of that work piles up until the last quarter of the 2 year session during which both houses are tied up trying to hammer out a budget. Unfortunately, the budget may be the final nail in the coffin for some of the legislation undecided since without funding little can be done.

The formal legislative session ends July 31 after which the branches enter into informal session. Little is accomplished in informal session. Bills **can** be passed here but there has to be a unanimous acceptance, no debate or nays. So unless there has been some understanding prior to the close of formal session, very few bills will move after the 31st of July. What can happen during this time is filing of new bills. The deadline for filing legislation is 5 p.m. on the first Wednesday in December preceding the beginning of the new biennial session. The new session begins on the first Wednesday in January, 2025. So many of our bills may, in fact, end up going through the process again.

The Legislative Committee will meet over the summer to try to determine the final outcome of our list of bills and will have a report come September. For those of you that answered the call to contact legislators over the past two years, thank you. It not only takes a village to raise a child, it takes a heck of a lot of committed League members to get a bill passed and signed into Law!

Have a great summer!
Sue Brock – Legislative Chair

DEI COMMITTEE

Juneteenth, A Celebration of Freedom

Juneteenth is a blending of the words June and nineteenth! According to Wikipedia, it is a day also known as Jubilee Day; Freedom Day; Black Independence Day; and Emancipation Day (Texas).

The celebration originated in Galveston, Texas on June 19, 1865, the day Union Army General Granger publicly announced “The people of Texas are informed that, in accordance with a proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free...”

Texas was the last state of the Confederacy reached by the Union Army to enforce the Emancipation Proclamation, which President Lincoln delivered two years earlier.

African Americans have been celebrating Juneteenth since 1866 starting in Texas. Celebrations are now held nationwide and include people of all races as it is now a federal and state holiday. Celebrations will occur up, down, and all around Cape Cod this year.

Some of the celebrations include:

BARNSTABLE:

There will be an historical overview, reading of the proclamation, and flag raising at the JFK Museum in Hyannis on June 19, 2024, at 1:30 pm

BREWSTER

- Drummer Boy Park will be the site of a reenactment on June 19, 2024, from 10 am to 3 pm.
- Juneteenth Celebration at Cobb House Museum.
See [Cobb House Museum Juneteenth](#)

FALMOUTH:

- Arts Alive 2024 will be held Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, June 14 to 16, on the Falmouth Library Lawn and adjacent Peg Noonan Park and Shore Street Extended, celebrating the performing, visual, and literary arts, as well as

Juneteenth, Father's Day, and Pride Month.
See <https://artsfalmouth.org/>

- Highfield Hall
Join us for a Juneteenth Celebration under the tent, co-sponsored with the Woods Hole Diversity Advisory Committee. There will be activities for all ages! Dance to the tunes of Crocodile River Music from 11-11:45 am, enjoy refreshments and conversation, or take a reflective walk in Beebe Woods. There will be information about the Juneteenth celebration, coloring pages for children, lawn games and maps of several paths for contemplative strolls. A Juneteenth children's book will be featured for our Storywalk on the Beech Tree Trail. And more! This event is FREE and Highfield Hall will be open to tour. Rain or shine. While the event is FREE, registration is encouraged but not required. Go to www.Highfieldhallandgardens.org or call 508-495-1878 ext. 2 for registration.

WELLFLEET

Wellfleet Preservation Hall will host jazz violinist David Eure and Lee Adler on piano/keyboards celebrating Juneteenth on June 20, 2024, 5-7 p.m. Tickets are \$25 and may be bought at wellfleetpreservationhall.org.

MARTHA'S VINEYARD

Come celebrate the flavors of Juneteenth on Martha's Vineyard at the NAACPMV Branch's 3rd Annual Taste of Juneteenth event in Oak Bluffs! See [NAACPM Branch's 3rd Annual Taste of Juneteenth](#)

Check back on our Facebook page for updates!

Submitted by Mary O'Connor
Chair, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee

HEALTH COMMITTEE

The LWVCCA Health Committee is planning its 2024-2025 health related programs. The next issue of the Voter will provide information on these programs.

We are pleased that Anita Parker and Lynne Carlson, new Chapter members, joined the Committee. We continue to seek additional Committee members. Do contact Eileen Elias of your interest and to learn what the Committee addresses. You can reach Eileen at eileen.elias@comcast.net.

Submitted by Eileen Elias, Health Committee Chair

YOUTH SERVICE COMMITTEE

LEAGUE MEMBERS ATTEND STUDENT CIVICS SHOWCASE EVENTS

In May and June our committee, joined by additional League member volunteers, have the pleasure of serving as community advisors at local school Civics Days and at the state level civics showcase events organized by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) or Generation Citizen. It is inspiring to hear students identify issues they feel need improvement, listen to their research about the issue and its root causes and identify solutions. The goal of these projects is to help students understand the process of change and the skills of advocacy and to encourage them to stay civically engaged. Issues range from school based problems such as school start time, vaping, curriculum or policy issues to larger community based issues such as gun violence, poverty and gentrification, clean water, banned books, the foster care system, and racial discrimination in the immigration system. As community advisors, we listen to students present their projects, offer resource information where relevant, and celebrate their work.

This year, the Dennis Yarmouth Regional School District held their first Civics Day and nine of our committee and other League members

were able to attend. Thank you to Sue Brock, Elizabeth Harder, Sue Cameron, Alice Mitchell, Carol Woodbury, Karen Boujoukos, Marcia Fredlich and Kate Kane for attending. Several of us are scheduled to attend the Barnstable High School Civics Day in June and three of us are scheduled to attend a broader academic celebration day in Sandwich, where civics projects will be presented. Sue Cameron, Alice Mitchell and I were able to attend the DESE state civics showcase on May 28 and I was able to attend the Generation Citizen state civics day on May 20. It is a great experience to listen to the students present their projects and it gives one hope for the future to hear their sincerity about the issues they have researched and the solutions that they propose. I encourage League members beyond the Youth Service Committee to volunteer to be a community advisor. You will really enjoy it while also playing an important role in the students' completion of their projects.



Representative Kipp Diggs speaking to Barnstable High School Students at the DESE State Civics Showcase for the Southeastern Region.

Submitted by Karen Mazza, Committee Chair



Students around their presentation Board on Vaping in Randolph High School taken at the Generation Citizen Civics Day

LWVCCA Board & Contact information

LWVCCA DIRECTORS 2024-2025

Officers for 2024-2025

Presidents	Jeanne Morrison
Vice Presidents	
Programs	Patricia Burke
Operations	Sue Cameron
Administrator	Karen Mazza
Treasurer	Tova Soyt
Secretary	Debbie Winnick

Committee Chairs:

Membership	Elizabeth Harder
Voter Service	Lynne Pleffner
Youth Service	Karen Mazza
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion	Tamora Israel*
Communications, Newsletter	Richard Utt

Members At Large:

Mary H. Utt
Carole Young-Kleinfeld

Off-Board Committee Chairs

Legislation	Suzanne Brock *
Florence Seldin	Karen Mazza *
Lecture Series	
Health	Eileen Elias *

* = Off-Board

Contact LWVCCA:

LWVCCA
P. O. Box 2347
Orleans, MA 02653
Phone: 508-945-0511
Email: lwvcca@gmail.com
Website: www.lwvcapecod.org
Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/LWVCCA/>



MEMBERSHIP FORM | JOIN OR RENEW 2024-2025

Receipt of MEMBERSHIP DUES by **JULY 1st** will ensure that you are included in the 2024-2025 Directory.

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

Name _____

Name(s) of additional member(s) in household _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip Code _____

Cell phone _____ Home phone _____

Email address _____

Amount enclosed \$ _____

Annual dues are **\$55-for one member** and **\$85-two members in the same household**.

Other available single membership categories are

\$10-student, for those enrolled either as full or part time at an accredited institution, and

\$30-assisted single, a reduced amount available to those who wish to be active in the LWVCCA but for whom the full amount would be an impediment to joining.

Dues are not tax deductible.

Please write your check to: **LWVCCA** and send it to:

LWVCCA

P.O. Box 2347

Orleans, MA 02653

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

(A small fee is added to cover PayPal charges)

Tell us the areas that you want to know more about, or become involved in. I am interested in:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Voter Service	<input type="checkbox"/> Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
<input type="checkbox"/> Underserved voters	<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental issues
<input type="checkbox"/> Election day registration	<input type="checkbox"/> Healthcare issues
<input type="checkbox"/> Get Out The Vote efforts	<input type="checkbox"/> Housing
<input type="checkbox"/> Ranked Choice Voting	<input type="checkbox"/> Communication
<input type="checkbox"/> Legislative and Advocacy	<input type="checkbox"/> County Government
<input type="checkbox"/> Youth Service	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

Comments:
