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LWVCCA CO-PRESIDENTS’ MESSAGE

Our June Board meeting welcomed the 2023-2024 Board of Directors elected at the May Annual Meeting. Many Board members are returning for the coming year, and we particularly welcome the new Co-Vice Presidents, Sue Cameron and Pat Burke (last year’s Secretary), new Co-Secretaries Laura Lerner and Debbie Winnick, new Voter Service Co-Chair Lynne Pleffner, and new Member-at-Large Carole Young-Kleinfeld. Thank you all! And we look forward to working with you. Our next Board meeting will be September 5.

As we welcome the new Board, many activities are under way. Heading into the summer, we brought new energy to our mission to promote

democracy and civic engagement within our communities. Every July we come together to celebrate the birth of our country’s independence in 1776 and this 4th of July we remembered the ladies. On July 4th 1876 the Suffragists crashed the Centennial Celebration in Independence Hall, Philadelphia, to present the Vice President with the “Declaration of the Rights of Women” and on July 19-20, 1848, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott spearheaded the first women’s rights convention in American History. Over 300 women and men came to Seneca Falls, New York, to protest the mistreatment of women in social, economic, political, and religious life. This marked the first public meeting calling for women’s right to vote. See the [National Women's History Alliance website](#) for other important historic milestones for women’s history that occurred in the month of our nation’s birth. Also remember that there is still work to be done to ensure everyone is included in our ongoing fight for freedoms and democracy. The American Revolution and early feminist movements brought liberty only to some. We are proud that the LWVCCA strives toward full inclusion through our DEI initiatives, education, and community partnerships.

Together with the LWVCCA members we continue to demonstrate the “democracy is not a spectator sport.” Jeanne, Mary, Suzanne Brock, and Scotti Finnegan are to revive the International Women’s Day Breakfast. We are collaborating with the Women and Girls Fund of the Cape Cod Foundation, the LWV Falmouth, Amplify POC, theHerring Pond Wampanoag Tribe, Cape Cod Voices, and the Cape Cod Cape Verdean Museum and Cultural Center. Plans are shaping up for March 8, 2024, and we will report details in an upcoming Voter.

On July 14 Pat Burke hosted a book discussion and signing of *In Other Words: Leadership: How a*

New England Governor and a Rural Mother Connected During COVID by Shannon Mullen, NPR journalist, author, screenwriter, playwright, podcast host, and producer. See the article in this issue.

Voter Services set up information tables at the June 11th Mashpee Race Amity Day celebration in Mashpee, the date? Independence House International Day in Hyannis, the July 9th Arts and Justice Festival and Amplify POC vendor event and Unity Day August 13, all in Hyannis. See Rosemary Shield's article in this issue.

The Seldin Speaker Series Committee is planning an October 14 in-person event on "Media, Misinformation, and The Protection of Democracy." See Karen Mazza's article in this issue

And the Town of Barnstable holds local elections on Tuesday, November 7th, 2023 in all 13 precincts for all 13 positions on the Barnstable Town Council and the Housing and School Boards.

If these events pique your interest and you can help out, please reach out to the members named in the articles. In addition, we're looking for a Town Liaison for Chatham and two members to co-chair the Environment Committee. This is an important committee whose work intersects with other committees, including health, housing, legislative, DEI. For more information on the positions, contact Mary or Jeanne.

And we hope you had a wonderful summer on Cape Cod!

Jeanne and Mary

Jeanne Morrison
Mary Hunter Utt
Co-Presidents, LWVCCA

DID YOU KNOW—?

...that the American Library Association, in its annual [book censorship report](#), documented 1,269 challenges to more than 2,500 books in 2022, the highest number of attempted book bans since the

association began tracking these efforts 20 years ago. This was almost twice as many challenges as in 2021. The association believes that the attempted bans showed evidence of an organized political/religious movement to remove books that contain material about race, history, gender identity, and reproductive health.

Arkansas is one of four states that recently passed laws that make it easier to prosecute--and even jail-- librarians over books that discuss gender identity and sexuality. A group of independent bookstores, libraries, and publishers has filed a federal lawsuit challenging the law.

Pushing back against this movement are states such as Illinois, whose governor has just signed a bill banning book banning. The New York Times reports that at least one other state is considering a similar law and that PEN America, a free speech organization, has sued a school district in Florida for violating the First Amendment by removing certain books.

Massachusetts has also seen an increase in book challenges and complaints. The Massachusetts Library Association's annual survey found that informal challenges and objections nearly "quadrupled" between 2021 and 2022, with 78 book challenges, up from only 20 in 2021. The MLA held its annual meeting in Falmouth with book banning on its agenda. To find out more about book challenges in our state, read [here](#) or speak to your local Cape Cod library director and local bookstore staff.

Submitted by Carole Young-Kleinfeld

LWVMA CONVENTION

On June 10, LWVMA held their convention in Worcester.

A summary of the actions taken can be found at this link:

<https://lwwma.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Approved-Program-and-Action-for-2023-2025.pdf>

Jeanne Morrison, Karen Mazza, Carole Young-Kleinfeld, and Deb Dagwan attended the LWVMA Convention. Below are their reports on their experience.



Jeanne Morrison's report:

Jeanne was one of four panelists (joined by Katie Hallett, LWV Salem; Nancy Brown, LWV Concord-Carlisle; and Domenica Perrone, LWV Worcester Area) in a discussion about DEI best practices and challenges within the League. Moderated by Courtney Henderson, LWVMA Board Member. The panelists shared remarks, observations and opinions about equity/inclusivity and diversity work in their individual Leagues. The topics of discussion centered around the LWVUS DEI definitions and policy. Each panelist shared projects/activities that their Leagues have implemented; how to make inclusion a focus; challenges faced in doing the work; the “added value” of collaborating inclusively; and current DEI goals.” I enjoyed the company of my LWVCCA sisters and our travel to the conference. I thought the conference was well organized and the historic presentation about Worcester was interesting.

I saw many people I’ve met via Zoom for the first time in person. I also met new people from across the state. It was nice that members from different leagues sat with us at lunch. It was informative to hear the various work being done by other Leagues especially engaging young adults and youth (high schoolers). I was pleasantly surprised at the diversity of the new LWVMA board. Last an extended and passionate discussion ensued about reparations and affordable housing/homelessness and the proposal for updating it.

Jeanne Morrison



Carole Young-Kleinfeld's report:

One of the highlights of the LWVMA’s 2023 Convention was a panel discussion of local Leagues’ activities to build inclusiveness and to reach out to underrepresented communities. To rounds of applause, LWVCCA Co-President Jeanne Morrison “did us proud” by recounting activities by our League to welcome new members from communities of color, to offer Spanish and Portuguese translation at featured online events, and to encourage voter registration at fairs and festivals around Cape Cod. To watch the recording of the panel, click [HERE](#).

In addition, all three of our League’s submissions for Advocacy Goals were adopted by the delegates to the Convention!

- protecting Cape Cod Bay and other Commonwealth waters from radioactive wastewater pollution
- a concurrence with LWV Utah’s Death with Dignity position
- banning of 3-D printable ghost guns and parts.

The Convention’s afternoon session of small groups offered delegates a less formal and more interactive way to share ideas. My group discussed the implementation of the ERIC Program by our local town clerks, use of social media, and outreach to youth—*go where they are!*

Personally, I was excited to see the LWV of Worcester--the 1850 site of the first national convention of women advocating women’s suffrage--present an impressive PowerPoint “tour” of the diverse, second-largest city in New England. (My extended family hails from Worcester—parents, grandparents, cousins. My son graduated from Worcester Polytechnic Institute, one of the 10 colleges and universities that call Worcester “home.”)

Worcester has more foreign-born residents than any other Massachusetts Gateway City, with people from more than 85 countries. Did you know that Worcester has the first public park in the U.S. designed by Frederick Law Olmstead, was

the birthplace of the Worcester Lunch Car Company—the first “diner” and was home to Robert Goddard “father of the space age” who launched the first liquid fuel rocket in 1926? In 1909, Sigmund Freud gave his only U.S. lectures on psychoanalysis at Clark University.

Thanks to Worcester LWV for hosting our 2023 LWVMA Convention and for their work on civic engagement and for its pride in their city and people!

Carole Young-Kleinfeld

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### Karen Mazza's report:

#### Reflections on the LWVMA 2023 Convention

I have attended several LWVMA state conventions and I have always found them to be well organized, productive and informative. The convention held this year on June 10 in Worcester was no exception. I was particularly proud that this year, we have two LWVCCA members who were elected to serve on the LWVMA Board. Debra Dagwan will be serving her first term and will be joining Jeanne Morrison who will be starting her second term. We are very fortunate that they will be serving on the state board where I know their leadership skills will serve the League well.

The convention is an opportunity to hear about the “State of the League” and the reports on achievements and goals from President Elizabeth Foster Nolan and Executive Director Pattye Comfort gave a reassuring and inspiring sense of progress and forward movement.

The business portion of the meeting was handled very efficiently and while there were a couple of debates on some issues, the discussion moved along. There was an opportunity to participate in small group discussion with other Leagues to share strategies and brainstorming about building a more inclusive electorate. The highlight of the

event for me was listening to the keynote presentation by Danielle Allen. She is a fabulous and inspiring speaker who spoke about democracy renovation work. I encourage you to listen to her presentation which is available on the LWVMA recap of the convention as are other parts of the convention. The link is here: [convention round up](#).

Two issues were particularly noteworthy in the business section of the meeting. First, a two year study was approved on the topic of reparations. Jeanne Morrison will be co-chairing the study committee. If any of our League members would like to serve on the study committee, LWVMA is recruiting. Also, the delegates approved by concurrence with Utah, a statement on death with dignity and that position will now allow us to advocate for pending legislation in Massachusetts. Here is the resolution that was adopted.

“Since approved at the LWVMA Convention, the LWVMA position is as follows:

1. The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts believes state laws should grant the option for a terminally ill person to request medical assistance from a relevant, licensed physician to end one’s life.
2. The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts believes such legislation should include safeguards against abuse for the dying and/or medical personnel.”

It was also a great deal of fun going with our three other delegates: Debra Dagwan, Jeanne Morrison and Carole Young-Kleinfeld. The conversation along the way and sharing the experience make it that much more enjoyable. I encourage League members to attend the League state convention or in off years, the council meeting. It is a good experience, always informative, and well worth the effort.

Karen Mazza

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BOOK DISCUSSION and SIGNING**In Other Words, Leadership :
How a New England Governor and
a Rural Mother Connected during
COVID**

On Friday, July 14, twenty-one LWVCCA members and guests gathered at the "Olde Colonial Courthouse" in Barnstable Village to enjoy a discussion with author Shannon Mullen, on her new book—*In Other Words, Leadership*—highlighting the compelling correspondence of Maine Governor Janet Mills and a young rural mother who reached out to her during the first year of COVID.

As the first woman to serve as governor of Maine, Janet Mills, had been in office a year when COVID-19 reached the U.S. The recently-widowed 72-year-old journaled there is "no playbook for a pandemic" as she imposed unprecedented restrictions on her state.

When early support for the governor's response curdled to rampant opposition, a young mother—Ashirah Knapp—sent a letter of support from a remote homestead in the Maine woods. Her dispatch detailed how the public health emergency was upending her family's life and livelihood, and she promised to keep writing every week to remind the governor how many Mainers supported her despite the disruption. Ashirah's letters helped keep the Governor grounded as she made wrenching, often unpopular choices.

Shannon A. Mullen is an NPR journalist, author, screenwriter, playwright, podcast host and film producer, who has been telling stories in one form or another since childhood. She grew up in New Hampshire and cherished summers with her aunt, Nancy Erskine, longtime LWVCCA member, activist and philanthropist in Chatham on the Cape.



Shannon Mullen and Nancy Erskine

Her book, released on June 20, 2023, is just such a story and has drawn much interest at events from Washington across New England, including a recent feature in The Boston Globe: <https://www.bostonglobe.com/2023/06/14/opinion/letters-time-pandemic/>.

We thank the "Olde Colonial Courthouse" (which also hosts <https://talesofcapecod.org/>) which attendees liked very much, and expect that it will be the site of future LWVCCA events

And we thank LWVCCA VPs Sue Cameron and Pat Burke for organizing this – and for the excellent refreshments afterwards.

SAVE THE DATE

OCTOBER 14, 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM

Dr. Florence Seldin "Democracy Is Not a Spectator Sport" Speaker Series

MEDIA, MISINFORMATION AND THE PROTECTION OF DEMOCRACY

KNIGHT AUDITORIUM AT BARNSTABLE HIGH SCHOOL

744 MAIN STREET, HYANNIS, MA 02601

This is our first in-person event in the Dr. Florence Seldin Democracy Speaker Series and we would like to see all members attend if you are able to. We will also be promoting it through wide outreach to the public. We are trying to build this speaker series into an annual event that will have high appeal and bring excellent speakers to Cape Cod on important topics related to preserving and defending our democracy. Invite your friends!

Description:

As we approach the 2024 federal elections, what is the impact of misinformation and

disinformation on our democratic processes? Is it difficult to discuss issues because the accuracy of information is in dispute? Do we read/listen to news to confirm our existing opinions? Our speakers for this program will discuss how misinformation is spread and what we as consumers of news can do to protect ourselves from it and ensure that we ourselves are not disseminating it.

Too often, misinformation divides people into polarized camps and casts aspersions on groups differentiated by race, religion, ethnic origin, LGBTQ identity, political identity, or disability. These divisions create impediments to effective dialogue and consensus - building necessary for the functioning of democracy.

Our presenters will identify:

- available resources and tools to help participants understand the differences between accurate news and misinformation;
- the challenges that the development of AI tools present to voter decision making;
- potential safety measures, laws and policies that government/news media could take to address these challenges.

Presenters:

Dr. Joan Donovan, Assistant Professor of Journalism and Emerging Media Studies at Boston University's College of Communications and Past Director of the Technology and Social Change Project at the Shorenstein Center on Media, Politics and Public Policy at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government

Dan Kennedy, Professor of Journalism at Northeastern University, nationally known media commentator, and a weekly columnist for GBH News in Boston

CALENDAR

Board Meeting:

TUESDAY September 5 | 9:30—11:30 a.m.
Zoom conference by invitation

LWVCCA Opening Meeting

"Better Together:

Building an Inclusive Electorate"

WEDNESDAY September 13 | 6:00 p.m—8:00 p.m.

For LWVCCA members and guests

\$36 per person

Featured speaker: Dr. Brian O'Malley

UPCOMING

Board Meeting

TUESDAY October 3 | 9:30—11:30 a.m.
Zoom conference by invitation

Seldin Speaker Series

TUESDAY October 14 | 10:00—11:30 a.m.

"Media, Misinformation and The Protection Of Democracy"

Knight Auditorium At Barnstable High School

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.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Members,

It is my pleasure to introduce you to this year's Legislative Committee: Sue Brock, Carole Young-Kleinfeld, Renate Sands, Eileen Elias, Jeanne Morrison, Susan Guill, Debra Dagwan, Elaine Dickinson, Nancy Skinner, Patricia Ryle, Rosemary Shields, Tamora Israel and Diane Turco. We all have been very busy over the summer tracking bills and submitting testimony when appropriate. The beginning of a new legislative two year cycle is always crazy. For me it was especially so, since this was my first go-round and the learning curve was steep. Our League is following 40 out of the

approximately 100 LWVMA targeted bills from the over 6000 bills filed in the Legislature. Personally, I think it would be terrific if our elected officials could become more judicious in their bill filing. It is somewhat disheartening for me to realize how much time and energy is wasted on bills that never see the light of day.

The Legislative Committee met a couple of times over the summer to make sure everyone was comfortable accessing the mass.gov website to find and track bills. Committee members were checking their bills about once a week to see if hearings had been set and then produce written testimony if needed. So far, the committee has submitted testimony for 18 bills in the name of the LWVCCA. At this point, things are at a temporary standstill since the legislators left on Aug. 1st for their extended summer break. During this time committee members will try to meet with our legislators in their home offices to follow up on targeted bills.

A couple of new bills were added recently to our original list. One is S.1331, An Act Relative to the End of Life Options. This has come up before and has not made it out of committee. However, there seems to be more support for it this time around. Rosemary offered to investigate different religious organizations to see where they stood on this bill as well as the Council of Churches and other supporting organizations. At our last committee meeting we discussed the idea of a forum surrounding this topic for late fall/early spring lead by the Health Committee. Look for more information coming in the fall.

The other important piece of legislation that was introduced late as a part of the budget was the Omnibus Gun Bill, HD.4420. Unfortunately, this was put on hold until the legislators return from their break. Speaker Mariano decided to postpone movement efforts in hopes that legislators would have more time to study it. This is a huge bill with many parts. Negative NRA pressure, opponents saying existing laws are not being enforced and mental health issues used as negative talking points are all obstacles to be overcome. We all need to let our legislators know that gun violence laws need to be improved. Questions arose as to how to find out which state legislators have received funds from the

NRA. Unfortunately, with the ongoing legislature lack of transparency issue, it may be very difficult to extract this information. There was a rally scheduled at the statehouse in Boston by Grandmother's Against Gun Violence in support of the bill, but that has been postponed due to the bill being put on hold till fall. More information regarding the rally will be distributed as we are made aware of it. In the meantime, please remember that the Cape Cod Grandmothers Against Gun Violence rallies on the 14th day of every month at the Hyannis Rotary (Rte. 132 and 28) from 11:30-12:30. All are welcome. Several League members usually attend. It's a friendly, welcoming group.

While Senator Moran's bill regarding Holtec is going nowhere, we hope that the recent tentative decision by the MADEP to deny Holtec a permit for discharge of the radioactive water will hold. There is a 30 day comment period regarding the denial. Please send in personal letters electronically to massdep.npdes@mass.gov and I will send in comments from the Committee.

Jen Muroff from LWVMA notified us that there may be some new bills added to the LWVMA state watch list. If so, there may be some additional work for the committee to do. Please try to respond with a personal note to your own legislator when asked by the League. Every voice helps.

Finally, Carole Young-Kleinfeld, Rosemary Shields and Renate Sands are our League's legislative ENVOYs for the LWVMA. The ENVOY program allows for quick link networking between the LWVMA Legislative Committee and local legislative committees. Recently, Carole and Rosemary spoke at a state LWV meeting on Aug. 1st highlighting the three areas that make the LWVCCA unique in its advocacy efforts:

- 8-member legislative delegation, representing 14 Cape and Islands towns
- strong committee structure
- updated databases containing contact info for legislators, their staff, and partner organizations.

Thank you Carole and Rosemary for your ongoing efforts to keep us linked to ongoing state advocacy efforts. This year is shaping up to be an extremely

busy one. Look for periodic notices for contacting our legislators from our committee as well as the LWVMA! More next month.

With eyes on the State House,
Sue Brock – Legislative Chair

VOTER SERVICE COMMITTEE

“The Tyranny of a prince in an oligarchy is not so dangerous to the public welfare as the apathy of a citizen in a democracy.” – Montesquieu

The death of democracy is not likely to be an assassination from ambush. It will be a slow extinction from apathy, indifference, and undernourishment. – Robert M. Hutchins

Spring election results – MEH

Cape Cod Spring Elections 2023

	Election Date	Registered Voters	Votes Cast	% of Voter Turnout
Bourne	May 16'	15391	874	6
Brewster	May 16'	8581	2512	29
Chatham	May 11'	5945	1118	19
Dennis	May 9'	12877	2186	17
Eastham	May 16'	4704	1171	25
Harwich	May 16'	11507	1959	17
Mashpee	May 6'	12658	1191	9
Orleans	May 16'	5652	1526	27
Provincetown	May 9'	3502	934	27
Sandwich	May 4'	17026	1412	8
Truro	May 9'	2181	590	27
Wellfleet	May 1'	3087	914	30
Yarmouth	May 16'	21869	1205	5

(Barnstable City Council elections will be on Tuesday, November 7.)

The participation in the Spring town elections is pretty disappointing. Yarmouth had a 5% turnout and Wellfleet a 30% turnout of registered voters. It makes us think that WE are not doing a great job getting out the vote. Local elections determine a town's priorities – how to pay for the school budget, to reduce waste water contamination, to solve our affordable housing needs. Orleans alone had 27 ballot questions!

They concerned a Rock Harbor dredging project; building a Meetinghouse Pond area collection system and the pumping station project; the downtown area sewer collection system. Voters also decided that the town should, for fiscal 2024, assess an additional \$47,484 in real estate and personal property taxes to fund the town's share of the Cape Cod Regional Technical High School assessment; and \$211,827 to pay for its share of the **Nauset Regional School District** assessment. For more information:

<https://www.capecodtimes.com/story/news/politics/elections/local/2023/05/17/orleans-election-results-health-board-race-nauset-cape-tech/70224497007/>

The Voter Service Committee is looking for ideas on how to inform the public of the importance of ALL elections, not just those included in the limelight of a presidential year (2024) or the recent mid-term elections (2012) – there was a 5 to 10% increase in last year's mid-term elections. The most likely reason was the issue of abortion rights being taken away in many states, which gave many the impetus to get out and vote (see the January Voter for the Cape Cod results).

https://my.lwv.org/sites/default/files/cape_cod_voter_vol_62_issue_5_january_2023.pdf



A CALL FOR IDEAS – How to Get Out the Vote (GOTV)?

A Voter Information Table at your favorite event, celebration or festival: Let us know your favorites and we'll set up a table.

Do it yourself (DIY) voter information table at your local library, church or professional organization activity. We'll supply you with all the swag you need to set up a table and one of us veterans will be on hand to help.

How can we supply information and hope to the underserved communities and people on the edge of poverty? Getting involved in the community generates connection and networking for all concerned.

HELP the Voter Service Committee come up with new and innovative thinking in GOTV.

A REMINDER: Please check out our Facebook/LWVCCA Page. We try to keep the page up-to-date and relevant, publishing town news, League activity and the latest issues that are important to our membership.

Sundays in the Park at our Voter Information Table events.

Each event probably had a crowd of 500 people. We talked to about 50 people or 10% at each event. Most were already registered but we handed out the QR voter registration cards, anyway. We asked them to pass the cards out to their friends and to spread the word about the November 7 election for the Barnstable City Council. We also asked if they had a plan on how to get to the polls. Studies show if people make a plan beforehand, they are more likely to vote in that election. As we sat at the table, we also got innumerable thumbs up, people who didn't stop but obviously appreciated the work we are doing. Each event was fun in its own way and very satisfying.

August 13 the International Festival, Aselton Park, right by the Hyannis Harbor:



At least 4 women stopped by the table and thanked the League for registering them before Covid, either at their high school or Cape Cod Community College. It was a wonderful feeling that they remembered us years later at what we do best. Another woman who had just relocated

to Centerville was so taken with the information we were telling her – how to re-register, how to find her new district and polling place, how to find out who's running, where to get a sample ballot, etc. that she sat down on one of our chairs and wrote down every word we were saying. There's nothing more gratifying than an attentive participant.

Unity Day, August 4, Hyannis Green:



With free hot dogs, hamburgers and ice cream, THIS was the place to be. Streams of people passing by and some stopping to find out what we had to offer – food for thought – election/voter information. We also met with our new Cape and Islands District Attorney, Robert Galabois; our new Barnstable Sheriff, Donna Buckley; Barnstable District 2's State Representative Kip Diggs; and Barnstable City Council President, Matthew Levesque, who incidentally gave a rousing rendition of the National Anthem. These elected officials see we are out there in the community drumming up voter interest in local elections. And each of them are beholden to us, their bosses – the electorate.

At the Amplify POC event on July 9:



With a wine bar next to us and the superb bands in front of us, it was quite the party atmosphere. We registered a newly-coined American citizen originally from Bulgaria who especially wants to vote in the upcoming elections. She brought her white Pomeranian and we just had to take a picture.



The LWVCCA set up our Voter Information table at the Amity Day celebration on Sunday, June 11 at the Mashpee Community Park. Many organizations — Barnstable County Human Rights Commission, No Place For Hate, Commission on the Status of Women, LINK (Linking Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Knowledge), PATH (People Against Trafficking Humans), The Cape Cod Cape Verdean Museum and Cultural Center, The Coalition for Children, Faith Communities

Environmental Network, the Cape Cod Branch of the NAACP and many others — came together in community, as community seeking justice, understanding and respect. We shall continue the work. And don't forget — be kind.



And lest we forget, we set up a Voter Information Table at the book discussion, *In Other Words: Leadership* by Shannon Mullen (Nancy Erskine's niece), on July 14, 7 pm to 9 pm. at the Olde Barnstable Courthouse, 3046 Main Street (Route 6A) in Barnstable.



We want to thank all the volunteers who came out to work on our Voter Information tables: Gloria Hanson, Mati Ligon, Jeanne Morrison, Mary Bridget O'Connor, Lynne Pleffner, Anita Rogers, Rosemary Shields, Tova Soyt and Carole Young-Kleinfeld.

Upcoming: National Voter Registration Day, Tuesday, September 19 at Cape Cod Community College from 11 a.m to 2 p.m. Come join us and volunteer.



AND FINALLY, a little background. Here's an explanation of [Proposition 2 ½ Overrides](#), which are on a lot of ballot issues and town meeting votes. These resources help clarify the difference between overrides, how they will impact a community's tax levy, and the process by which they are proposed and reviewed by voters: Debt exclusions, capital outlay expenditure exclusions and overrides enable a community either to permanently increase its levy limit or temporarily levy above its levy limit or levy ceiling. For more information see: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/proposition-2-12-overrides-exclusions>

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

YOUTH SERVICE COMMITTEE

League Members Celebrate Civics State and Local Showcase Events

Congratulations to Local Schools:

In June, the Massachusetts Department of Education hosted its first annual state civics showcase events in Worcester and in Boston. The Boston event was designed for all school districts who use the Generation Citizen curriculum model. The Worcester event was designed for all other schools that applied. Cape Cod has three school districts that participated. Monomoy Regional High School sent two Grade 8 teams to the showcase in Worcester and Barnstable High

School and Dennis Yarmouth High School sent teams to the showcase in Boston. All of these schools are to be congratulated for the work they are doing in civic education and for the extra work that it takes to select teams to attend the state showcase events.



Monomoy Grade 8 team receiving their award at the Massachusetts Civic Showcase in Worcester.

Congratulations to a team from Monomoy Regional High School and a team from Dennis Yarmouth Regional High School for receiving special achievement awards at these respective showcase events.

Monomoy Grade 8 students won for their project on The Road to Recovery. In this project they studied the severity of the addiction problem among youth and identified recovery high schools as an important resource for helping students recover. Since there are no recovery high schools on or near Cape Cod, these Grade 8 students are advocating for a law and grant that would allow for a recovery high school to be started here.

The Dennis Yarmouth team won an award for Open Mindedness for building an active democracy and making community change for their project on the Housing Crisis.

These Grade 11 students studied the problem of students having to change homes and moving frequently due to the housing crisis and the resulting stress and impact on learning. They want to advocate for more housing. The Dennis

Yarmouth team was interviewed by a reporter from the Cape Cod Times . [You can read the article at this link.](#)



Dennis-Yarmouth Regional High School juniors Sam Smith-Walker, 18, of Dennis Port, left, and Jayden Wetherbee, 17, of Falmouth, right, listen to Tshauni Brown, 17, of Hyannis, talk on Wednesday at the school about her housing situation. Students in teacher Jared Hatch's class decided to take on the Cape's housing crisis as part of their civics education, and won an Open Mindedness Award.

MERRILY CASSIDY/CAPE COD TIMES

Thank You to Teachers and Department Heads:

We thank and commend all of the teachers who have guided students in the development of their student-led civics projects. It is amazing to see the significant and far ranging issues that students have selected for their civic action projects. We all came away impressed and thankful for the sincerity and civic awareness of the students. Project based learning presents many challenges. It takes time and teachers always have to balance the instructional time needed to cover expected content of the History/Social Science Curriculum Framework, while also providing time for students to do the research and community outreach needed to implement their projects. It also takes time to engage in the small group conversations needed to guide students. Curriculum leadership makes a difference in

supporting teachers and so we commend the Department Coordinators/Heads and teacher leaders who have provided that support: Andrew Vince for Barnstable High School, Tristan Williams for Dennis-Yarmouth, and John Dickson for Monomoy Regional High School. We also thank them for welcoming League participation.

Thank You to League Members Who Attended:

League members attend the state showcase events to serve as community advisors, responsible for listening to the student presentations, evaluating them and providing feedback. Susan Cameron and I, both from the Youth Service Committee, attended the Worcester event as did several League members from across the state. Seeing the significant issues that the students selected and hearing their presentations is a very heartening experience. Students learn about the legislative process, and they talk with local legislators and other community influencers. The students are impressive and we hope these projects ignite an awareness of the importance of citizens participating in our democracy and making change that can help our communities improve. We experienced the same feelings when visiting the local civics showcases at Barnstable and Monomoy.

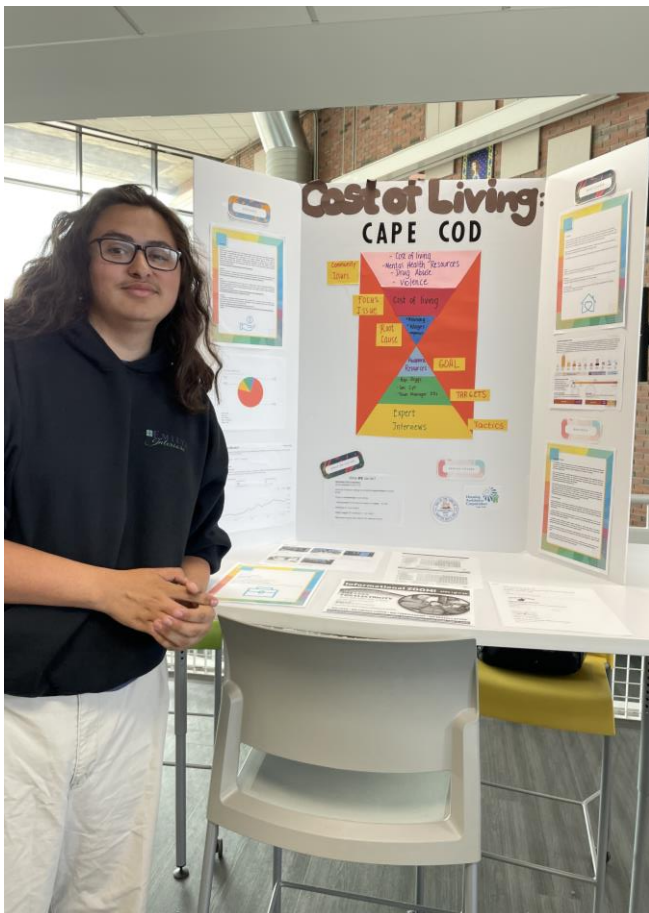
For our local showcase events we need participation from more League members beyond our Youth Service Committee so that we can provide a good audience for students. Thank you to all of these members who attended the local showcase events at Barnstable High School and Monomoy Regional High School.

Attending Barnstable High School Showcase: Sue Cameron, Eileen Elias, Mati Ligon, Jeanne Morrison, Lynne Pleffner, Renate Sands, Rosemary Shields, Tianka Taylor, Carole Young- Kleinfeld, Karen Mazza and Janet Lauer from the Falmouth League

Attending Monomoy Regional High School: Sue Cameron, Elaine Dickinson, Mary Lanctot, Lynne Pleffner, Ann Ryan, Maria Rita Rudden, Mary Bridget O'Connor and Karen Mazza

Thank You to the Helen S. Aaron Educational Trust:

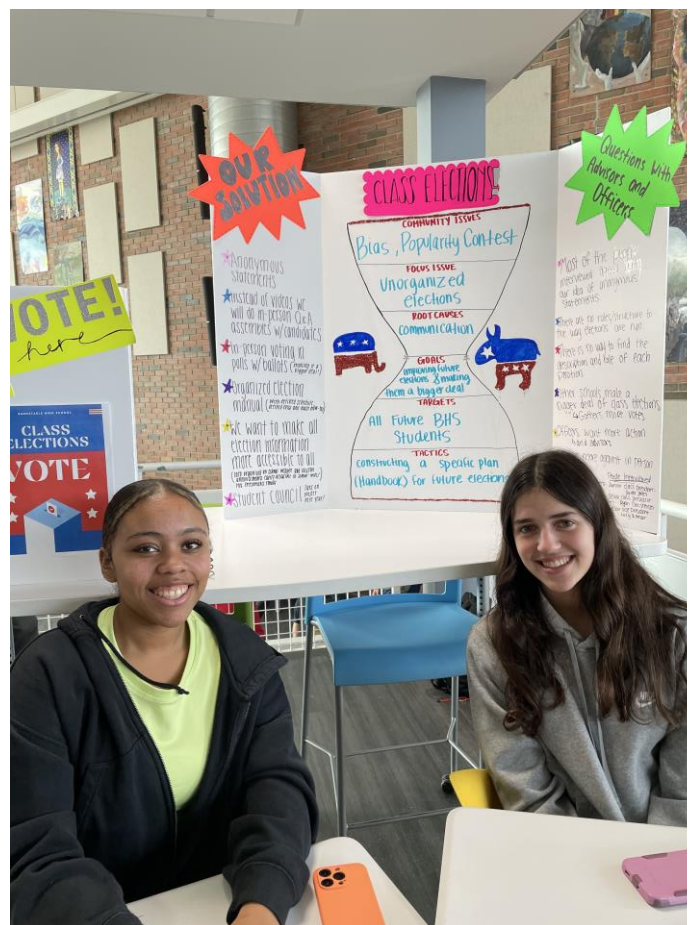
We offer certificates to recognize the classes that have completed the student-led civics projects. This year, only Barnstable High School has requested those certificates and given the numbers of students in their Grade 8 and Grade 11 classes, we provide a certificate to each of the 16 classes and their teachers in a frame that can be hung in the classroom. Thank you to the Helen S. Aaron Educational Trust for providing the funding.



A student presenting his project on the cost of living on Cape Cod.



Graduating senior and Youth Service Committee member Tianka Taylor, talking with Grade 8 students about their project on stress



Students talking about their project to increase student participation in elections for class officers.

Submitted by Karen Mazza

LWVCCA Board & Contact information

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