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LWVCCA CO-PRESIDENTS’ MESSAGE

Welcome to fall! September 23 marks the equinox when daylight and nighttime hours are nearly equal followed by shorter daylight, earlier nightfall and crisper air.

After a rather quiet but active summer, the LWVCCA kicked off the fall season on September 13th with guest speaker Dr. Brian O’Malley who gave an informative and detailed presentation on universal healthcare. See the report on the Fall Opening Membership Meeting in this issue.

September 15th through October 15th, the LWVUS will “honor Hispanic and Latina trailblazers who have paved the way and power to our democracy.” Two examples are [Dr. Antonia Novello](#), the first woman and the first Hispanic to become Surgeon General of the United States, and U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor. The LWVUS encourages all Leagues to celebrate [National Hispanic Heritage Month](#) and pay tribute to

the many ways that Hispanic and Latinx culture and achievements have shaped our lives.

LWV members across the country also celebrated our collective unity and democracy throughout September and October. September 17th marked Constitution Day (and week) to commemorate the September 17, 1787, signing of the United States Constitution. The foundation of our American Government, its purpose, form and structure are found in the Constitution of the United States.

Penned by James Madison, the document that formed the model for the Constitution rests on the foundation of five basic notions, (1) recognition of the fundamental worth and dignity of every person; (2) respect for the equality of all persons; (3) faith in majority rule and an insistence upon minority rights; (4) acceptance of the necessity of compromise; and (5) widest degree of individual. For more information, see [the Senate and the Constitution](#).

As we celebrate the U.S. Constitution, we must acknowledge the important role of Indigenous Americans and their governments in helping our Founding Fathers in shaping it. The Iroquois Confederacy and Great Council leaders were in regular contact with Benjamin Franklin and others and were invited to advise the Continental Congress of the United States. For more information, see [How the Iroquois Great Law of Peace shaped US democracy](#).

Constitution Day now includes Citizenship Day and according to the Immigration and Naturalization Service, it is also “a time to honor those whose voluntary allegiance to the United States has given them citizenship through naturalization, and those who have most recently become citizens.” U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services welcomed more than [6,900 new citizens in over 130 naturalization ceremonies across the nation](#) between September 17 and 22.

National Voter Registration Day was September 17th. [Listen to Dr. Deborah Turner](#), President of the LWVUS, being interviewed by PBS News Hour. She states, “The right to vote is the backbone of our democracy and it is our mission as the League to ensure that every American can access the ballot.” The LWV is the nation’s largest and longest-standing volunteer-driven voter registration organization. This year we reached 100,00 voters on Voter Registration Day.

We also acknowledge the celebration of the Jewish holidays Rosh Hashana, September 15, and Yom Kippur, Sunday, September 24. League members attended a tour of Joint Base Cape Cod tour, September 22, and the LWVMA League Leader Lunch, September 30.

On September 17th, LWVCCA Co-President Jeanne Morrison was invited to participate in a community-building event with twelve other organizations, including organizations of color, that are doing impactful work in our community. The event was sponsored by the Building a Bigger Table Committee of First Parish Brewster Unitarian Universalist Church. It was held at the Dennis Cinema and included the showing of the new documentary, *Join or Die*. The focus of the film connected various ways Americans have typically been engaged in community -- through volunteerism, clubs, non-profit service organizations, etc. -- to promote civic engagement and a healthy democracy.

After the movie the organizations’ representatives shared information about their work and how people can become involved. Attendees had the opportunity to speak with organization’s representatives one-on-one at their designated tables. Rosemary Shields, our Voter Services Chair, was present and helped to answer questions. She signed up at least one new member and took names of others interested in joining the LWVCCA. In addition, other League members stopped by to say hello and comment on the “good programming we’ve been doing.”

The best thing about diversity is that we learn from our differences (variety). There are so many different organizations doing great work on Cape Cod. When we’re inclusive we make connections with each other and discover additional ways of doing things that help make Cape Cod a better

community for all. The event was a great opportunity to learn about the importance of community service and engagement to building a sense of connectedness and unity.



Representatives of various organizations involved in the *Building a Bigger Table* event.

Coming up in October:

- The 11th is Day on the Hill at the state house for League members to advocate for voting rights including same day registration, maternal health, gun violence prevention, and protection from forever chemicals known as PFAS. See the Calendar on page 4 of this issue.
- The 14th is the Seldin Speaker Series: “*Misinformation and the Protection of Democracy*.” See the Calendar on page 4 of this issue.
- The 18th is the ICE Out of MA presentation by the ACLU and sponsored by the LWVCCA and community organizations explaining and urging support for H.1401/S.997, An Act Relative to Massachusetts State Sovereignty. See the Calendar on page 4 of this issue.
- The Voter Services Committee is preparing for Town of Barnstable election forums. See Voter Services report.
- Although not a state holiday, as of October 2021, at least 20 municipalities in Massachusetts including Aquinnah, Falmouth, and Mashpee have officially changed the name of “Columbus Day” to “Indigenous Peoples Day” and will

celebrate on 9th while waiting for state-wide legislation to pass. October 3 is the LWVMA hearing date for the MA statewide [Indigenous Peoples Day](#) bill, which will replace Columbus Day as a state holiday, as a way to correct historic myths and honor Indigenous peoples of Turtle Island (what’s now known as the Americas). If you want to come in person: [Sign up here](#). Wear purple! [You can also send written testimony](#). How did Columbus Day become federal holiday? [Find out here](#).

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

**PLEASE ATTEND:
SPECIAL PUBLIC EVENT**

OCTOBER 14, 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

<p>How do you decide what to believe?</p>		<p>MEDIA, MISINFORMATION AND THE PROTECTION OF DEMOCRACY</p>
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Dr. Florence Seldin “Democracy Is Not a Spectator Sport” Speaker Series

MEDIA, MISINFORMATION and the PROTECTION of DEMOCRACY

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

OCTOBER

Board Meeting

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

LWV "Day On the Hill"

WEDNESDAY October 11 | All day
<https://lwvma.org/day-on-the-hill-wednesday-october-11/>
Register by October 4 at
[THIS LINK](#)

Massachusetts State House, Boston, MA

Seldin Speaker Series

SATURDAY October 14 | 10:00—11:30 a.m.
"Media, Misinformation and The Protection Of Democracy"
Knight Auditorium at Barnstable High School

ICE Out of MA

WEDNESDAY October 18 | 7:00—8 P.m.
ACLUM / LWVCCA / MAWOCC / Refugee Support Team of the Nauset Interfaith Association Co-sponsoring:
A forum about the ICE Detention Bill. - a bill to end ICE agreements in Massachusetts.
ZOOM registration required:
<https://tinyurl.com/ACLUM-Ice-Out-of-MA>

UPCOMING

NOVEMBER

Native American Heritage Month

Board Meeting

TUESDAY November 7 | 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.

LWVCCA 2023 Fall Opening Membership Meeting



Forty members and guests gathered at the Family Table Collaborative for our September 13 opening Membership Meeting. With some time to socialize, attendees had a chance to talk with members they'd not met before and to enjoy a delicious buffet dinner.



Our featured speaker, Dr. Brian O'Malley, was engaging and informative, providing an overview of the strengths and weaknesses of healthcare on Cape Cod. Summarizing our national healthcare "system," he said: "This country suffers from the lack of a health care system, rather, we have a medical marketplace, where access and quality of care are very much a function of one's economic status, and where corporate profit-making sets the direction. Health care has become for us a privilege, rather than a right - one which is recognized in nearly all the rest of the developed world." Dr. O'Malley offered some perspective on the perceived excellence of our healthcare. United States' "health care spending per person is twice that of Europe, Canada, and Australia, and is 50% higher than even Switzerland, the second most costly," with considerably worse outcomes. "The

US ranks 47th in the world for life expectancy, just under 80 years, compared to 85 years in the healthiest countries...we are in [the] same league as Paraguay and Uruguay." Compared to 10 developed nations that provide universal healthcare to all residents, U.S. outcomes rank last.



At the root of the problem is a profit-based, private-insurance-based, employer-based arrangement adopted in the 1940s as a way for corporations to raise compensation while wage controls were in place during WWII. Not only has it stuck, it has become entrenched.

Dr. O'Malley has worked on formulating solutions for decades. Locally, he founded the Cape Care Coalition in 2003 to ensure healthcare access to all Cape residents. The adoption of the Affordable Care Act (ACA or ObamaCare) extinguished that effort. When the ACA left many access issues unresolved, he began advocating for Universal (single-payer) Health Care, financed through taxes, just like roads, schools, police and fire services, and water infrastructure. Dr. O'Malley explained that this solution, referred to as Medicare for All, modeled on the existing Medicare program offered to seniors in which health-related costs would pass through a single, tax-based, not-for-profit entity at far less cost than our current system.

MASSACHUSETTS MEDICARE for ALL

While Medicare was adopted in 1965 as a Federal program, passing Medicare for All in our current Federal legislative bodies is unlikely. Massachusetts is currently one of 23 states working to implement Medicare for All at the state level. Dr. O'Malley described the two Medicare for All bills in the Massachusetts Senate and House ([S.744](#) and [H.1239](#)). Developed over many

sessions and debates, these bills would establish an independent state Health Care Trust, with the role of collecting the premiums, and paying providers for all services. Implementation of Medicare for All would save our state millions of dollars - quantified independently by his organization with a sample of the calculations provided to attendees - and provide healthcare services to every resident, regardless of economic status.

We ask League members to contact your state Senator and state Representative to urge support of these bills.

Contact information can be found at:

http://lwvcapecod.org/government/directory-elected-officials#General_Court

*Submitted by Sue Cameron
and Pat Burke
LWVCCA Vice Presidents*

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

"The world is in a mess! I want to do something to help improve the overall situation. I am seeking a way in which I can do my part to ameliorate the current socio-political scenario through educational communication." Stef Stendaro

Stef Stendaro joins the League of Women Voters of the Cape Cod Area as she carries with her a broad spectrum of her life's experiences. She is a recent new member who currently resides in Eastham, and indicates that her areas of interest are inclusion, equity, reproductive rights and gun control.

Her memories include childhood summers spent on the Cape while she was being raised in Manhattan by her mother during the early school years of her life. Stef's father died when she was 5 years old. She remembers her various childhood homes in Manhattan where guests of diverse ethnic and racial backgrounds were welcomed. Her mother took a very young Stef to civil rights demonstrations and meetings.

Later when Stef was a college student at the City College of New York, she supported protest activities organized by the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC); and the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE). Stef vividly remembers being an active participant during her college days in a sit-in demonstration for a traffic light to be placed on West 137 Street in Harlem. She joined other college students and members of the Harlem community in successful efforts to advocate for the safety and welfare of children and other residents of Harlem.

After completing her undergraduate and graduate programs at City College of New York, Stef took her degrees to California that she had earned as an English and theater major. It was in California where she started her professional writing career. She became a freelance medical writer; and proceeded to editing and writing psychiatric and other types of medical reports. Stef moved on to become editorial director for medical communications companies.

For the past 11 years Stef Stendaro has been managing groups of volunteers for summer theater productions on Cape Cod. Currently she is anticipating retirement from her super-busy career. Hopefully she will seek and find her way to an appropriate service commitment (of her choice) within the League of Women Voters of Cape Cod and Area. The officers and members of the LWVCCA appreciatively welcome new member Stef Stendaro.

Stefanie Stendaro

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VOTER SERVICE COMMITTEE



Wednesday August 30 Lynne Pleffner and Rosemary Shields met with Congressman Bill Keating, per the encouragement by the LWVUS for local leagues to meet with House Representatives during their summer recess. The League asked us to urge support for the Freedom to Vote Act, S1 / HR11. HR 11 sets fair, national standards such as a guaranteed two weeks of early voting; automatic voter registration; vote-by-mail for all who want it, postage prepaid; voter-verified paper ballots; strict rules to prohibit purging of eligible voters from the rolls. MA already has most of these reforms already, but other states are rolling back the rights and the Leagues in affected states are suing.

LEAGUE LITIGATION NEWS

The League of Women Voters of South Carolina filed an amicus brief in the racial gerrymandering case Alexander v. SC NAACP, which will be heard by the US Supreme Court in the Fall. Full statement :

<https://bit.ly/3P0Adr8>

LWVUS also joined the Lawyer's Committee for Civil Rights Under Law's brief :

<https://bit.ly/44i2ptW>

And the League of Women Voters of North Dakota's members filed a motion to defend against a challenge to the state's mail-in voting processes. Full statement:

<https://bit.ly/44hvPIR>

Congressman Keating fully supports HR 11 and pointed out that the bill has such a "low" number because it was one of the first bills proposed in the new Congressional session.

We also discussed the Equal Rights Amendment. Congressman Keating jokingly asked, "Is that still around?" We assured him IT IS --



THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

"Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex. The Congress shall have the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article."

On January 15, 2020 Virginia became the 38th state to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA), making that vote the necessary 3/4's of the states needed for an amendment to the Constitution. This historic vote followed recent ratifications by Nevada in 2017 and Illinois in 2018 after four decades of inactivity. Congress put an extended deadline for the ratification, which was not met in 1982. Can Congress rescind this deadline and make the ERA the 28th Amendment to the Constitution?

Senator Kirsten Gillibrand of New York and Representative Cori Bush of Missouri introduced a joint resolution on July 13, 2023 stating that the measure (ERA) has already been ratified and is enforceable as the 28th Amendment to the Constitution. The resolution states that the national archivist, who is responsible for the certification and publication of constitutional amendments, must immediately do so. We urged Congressman Keating's support on the ERA.

REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

We then pressed Rep. Keating to continue the fight to restore reproductive rights. After the Supreme Court's Dobbs decision, the US House of Representatives passed legislation, the *Women's Health Protection Act*, to codify an individual's right to receive, and a health care provider's right to provide, abortion services — but the [Senate failed to pass it](#). As such, since the decision, nearly half the state legislatures have passed laws to prohibit, restrict, or protect the right and access to abortion. This has had a devastating impact on people's health and lives, which will only worsen. (For more info: <https://www.lwv.org/blog/abortion-rights-and-access-one-year-after-dobbs>)

Because Michael Jackman, Congressman Keating's District Director, arranged the meeting, we praised Mr. Jackman's steadfast attendance to the bi-monthly Nuclear Decommissioning Citizens Advisory Panel (NDCAP) meetings. Mr. Jackman strongly advocates Rep. Keating's views in support of the community in and around the Plymouth/Pilgrim Nuclear station and questions the Holtec Company's disregard for environmental safeguards. Rep. Keating was delighted to hear this and regaled us with stories about Holtec CEO Kris Singh. In May 2022, at a Senate hearing in Plymouth, Mr. Singh promised to take into account the “stakeholders” wishes and then immediately contradicted his promises by saying he would not discharge contaminated waste water into Cape Cod Bay because the water, by his definition, is not contaminated. Huh? Double talk at its finest. Congressman Keating will continue in his fight to prevent Holtec from degrading the environment, especially after the revelation that Holtec is now planning forced evaporation of the contaminated water from the fuel pool.

Rights of the Disabled

On Friday, September 8 Lynne and Rosemary met with CORD (Cape Organization for the Rights of the Disabled) Program Director, Cathy Taylor. In our search to make connections with possible

under-served communities, we discovered a highly motivated, organized group, celebrating the 33rd anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. CORD actively fights for the fair and civic inclusion of people with disabilities in every political, social, and economic front. Their acronym “REV Up” stands for **R**egister to Vote, get **E**ducated on the issues, and **V**ote. **U**se your **P**ower. CORD aims to increase the number of people with disabilities who vote. CORD has the tools the disabled need to vote. CORD emphasizes “Who you vote for impacts your access to healthcare, education, transportation and the list goes on. The disability community needs your vote! Register to vote and sign up with REV UP. Join our voices as we support disability issues.

As a voter with a disability, you have the right to:

- vote privately and independently
- have an accessible polling place with voting machines for voters with disabilities

You may either:

- seek assistance from workers at the polling place who have been trained to use the accessible voting machines
- bring someone to help you vote

You may request your local election officials to tell you about any voting aids, voting assistance, and vote by mail procedures that are available.”

Talking with Cathy took our breath away. What could we add? Luckily we brought our QR Codes for registering to vote and accessing the Elections Page at the Secretary of the Commonwealths website. Alexa Paige, their young IT (Information Technology) person loved the QR Code format. Alexa is planning to create some public service videos and asked if we'd like to join in. We plan to do follow up with CODE. They are very supportive of the League and look forward to partnering with us.

Constitution Day



Constitution Day was Sunday, September 17. National Voter Registration Day was Tuesday, September 19. At the invitation of the Cape Cod Community College Student Engagement Group, the Voter Service Committee split the difference and set up a voter information table on Monday, September 18. We were in Building 7 in the Student Commons Building, right next to the cafeteria. It's a place where students eat lunch and work on their assignments between classes. Every hour around 35 students transitioned from class to cafeteria to tables and chairs. So for the four hours we were at our table, around 120 to 140 students went by and we interacted with around 40 of them. On one side of our table, we had our voter registration cards. On the other side, we made a QR code to download The Constitution and had posters of The Constitution, The Bill of Rights and a list of all 27 Amendments (sans the ERA). When classes let out, it was the most hectic, waving at students and asking if they were registered. When they came over, most claimed they were registered but if they happened to wonder aloud, "I THINK I am," we gave them the voter registration QR code to check. One student came back to us because he couldn't figure out how to fill in the QR form, so we gave him a paper registration form. Another student came out of the blue, pointed her phone like a pro at the downloadable Constitution, said, "thank you," and disappeared before we could ask her about her interest. Still another student took about 10 minutes reading our display of the Bill of Rights and all the Amendments. Impressive. The Voter Service Committee believes any time we can set

up a table and make a presence in the community, it's worth it. We would like to thank Nancy Dick, Carol Young-Kleinfeld and Susan Guill for helping us out at the table.

DOWNLOAD THE CONSTITUTION



CONSTITUTION DAY SEPTEMBER 17

Check out the resources at:

[Constitution 101 Curriculum | Constitution Center](#)

Constitution 101 is a 15-unit asynchronous, semester-long curriculum that provides students with a basic understanding of the Constitution's text, history, structure, and caselaw...

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

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Hi Members...

We are off to a new year.... Perhaps a brave new world. Not only is the Legislative Committee off to a flying start but next year is an election year, a big one, and it proves to be tumultuous. So I'm hoping all of you will stay focused and help us advocate for legislation that may prove helpful for many on the Cape and in Massachusetts as well.

To date, the Legislative Committee has produced written comments for 24 potential new laws. The legislative process is tedious and convoluted. Legislators propose legislation and then spend time arguing over the fine points. That's where we, the voters, come in. Calls, emails, visits to your legislators offices in the district or on a trip up to the State House for an official visit provides valuable input that legislators use to move bills forward.

Since the legislators returned to the State House at the end of August, members of the Legislative Committee have been busy checking on their bills. Many of these bills have been assigned hearing dates and that means Committee members will be hard at work preparing testimony either to be delivered in person on the scheduled hearing date or submitted via email to the committee in charge of the bill. Sometimes the work is tedious and definitely time consuming, but that is what this committee is all about. Once we have enough information to pass on to you, our members, then it time to advocate.

Carole and I made a trip to the State House to join the Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence to advocate for HD.4420, Rep. Day's bill Modernizing Firearms Laws. Groups present were the League, Grandmothers Against Gun Violence, Moms Demand Action, Everytown, Gifford's, and Stop Handgun Violence. The bill targets eliminating ghost guns, strengthening and monitoring red flag laws, establishing "safe zones" where guns are not permitted such as public buildings, schools, polling places, parks, playgrounds and government buildings and encouraging safe gun storage practices. There is much more included in this piece of legislation but our mission was to speak with legislators and let them know that their constituents want action. Here is the first place you can be of service. This bill is "stuck" in limbo since the House wants it assigned to one committee and the Senate to another. The other issue is that the bill is long so Senator Creem is taking a stab at writing a modified version. Please take a look at the summary: [https://goal.org/resources/DAY'S SUMMARY OF HD 4420.pdf](https://goal.org/resources/DAY'S_SUMMARY_OF_HD_4420.pdf) Contact your legislator and let them know what you feel is important to include in the bill such as those items listed above. Since it is in the draft phase, we as constituents could have some input into the substance of this important piece of legislation. Getting it passed may be a tough sell. The opposition is already very vocal, so your voice is so necessary.

The other piece of legislation that is new and could be very beneficial to cape constituents is Rep. Fernandes' bill HD.4555, An act to restore commuter rail service to Cape Cod. This bill will focus on extending the commuter rail service regularly and

daily to Buzzard's Bay initially and then possibly to Bourne, Falmouth, Sandwich and Barnstable. Please thank Rep. Fernandes for this possibility and let your Rep. and Senator Cyr know that this service could be vital to many who live and work both on and off the Cape.

The last thought is to remind you all that the League's Lobby Day on the Hill is scheduled for October 11th. The State League is organizing the day. There will be an initial speaker, then organizing directions for the day, followed by moving to the State House to interact with legislators and aides. The issues targeted for that day include the Access voting bill, maternal health, firearms control and PFAS. We have some members planning to attend already and are trying to arrange car pools. Please let me know if you are interested in attending.

Thank you, committee members, for your ongoing efforts and to you the membership for your vocal support.

Democracy is NOT a Spectator Sport
Sue Brock
Legislative Chair

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

What? You never get a report from the Communications Committee!

But there's a lot to report, so here it is.

We've had a busy summer and fall – as always – getting out the *Handbook and Members Directory*, the *Voter*, and more.

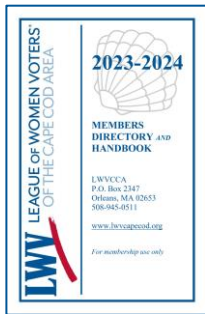
But I wanted to especially thank some people who did a lot of the work:

Rosemary Shields, who single-handedly takes care of Facebook.

Mary Utt, who produced the annual Fundraising Letter

Sue Cameron, for all the work she did on this year's Handbook and Members' Directory – most of the Handbook portion.

Carole Young-Kleinfeld, for all the work she did on the new Membership brochure – again, most of the work!



Cover of the new Handbook: You will have it soon: many were picked up at the Opening Meeting, and I've mailed the rest.

The first page of the proposed new Membership Brochure: The Board will be reviewing it at our October meeting, and we should be printing it soon.

If you have experience with editing, writing, and/or producing documentation you may want to join the Communications Committee: it's the help from volunteers that makes our work possible.

Submitted by Richard Utt, Communications Chair

after being on the books for more than 30 years. The Committee's plan is to understand how this Bill links with health access issues including inferior health care received by racial and ethnic minorities as well as people with chronic disease or disabilities or other health conditions who are financially challenged in the Commonwealth.

The End-of-Life Options Bill (**H.2246/S.1331**) pertains to individuals who are terminally ill, mentally capable adults with a prognosis of six months or less. This Bill grants an option to request, obtain and ingest medication to die peacefully if suffering becomes unbearable. The Bill includes specified safeguards. The Bill is modeled after other state laws including the Oregon Death with Dignity Act, which has been in practice for 25 years without a single instance of abuse or coercion.

The Committee looks forward to having new members join us. Thank you for contacting Eileen Elias, Chair at eileen.elias@comcast.net.

HEALTH COMMITTEE

The LWVCCA Health Committee 2023-2024 advocacy attention is on two State Legislature health care bills: *Health Care for All* and *An Act Relative to End of Life Options/Medical Aid in Dying*. The Committee's advocacy activities include providing information about Health Care for All and sponsoring a Spring 2024 forum focused on the End-of-Life Options Bill. This forum's planning will occur at the Committee's October meeting on October 4 at 7:00 pm.

The Committee decided to not address the Firearms Omnibus/Gun Violence Protection Bill at this time. The LWVCCA supports this Bill.

The Health Care for All Bill ([H.1239/S.744](#)) provides equitable health care access for every resident of the Commonwealth through a Medicare-like single payer. The film, "[Healing US](#)" - available for rental on Amazon for \$2.99- addresses the question "Why if the plan is more comprehensive, saves a lot of money and 70% of the US population support it, but has not passed

LWVCCA Board & Contact information

LWVCCA DIRECTORS 2023-2024

Officers for 2023-2024

Co-Presidents	Mary Hunter Utt and Jeanne Morrison
Vice Presidents	
Programs	Patricia Burke
Operations	Sue Cameron
Treasurer	Amy Harris
Co-Secretaries	Laura Lerner Debbie Winnick *

Committee Chairs:

Membership	Mati Ligon
Voter Service	Rosemary Shields Lynne Pleffner
Youth Service	Karen Mazza
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion	Mary O'Connor
Communications, Newsletter	Richard Utt

Members At Large:

Madeline Zevon
Carole Young-Kleinfeld

Off-Board Committee Chairs

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

* = Off-Board

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