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**LWVCCA CO-PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE**

Tis the season! Holidays! There's no avoiding them, no matter whether or how you celebrate! Giving to those in need! Visiting old and new friends! Over-eating! Perhaps over-decorating! Wondering what 2024 will bring for a pivotal national election in November.

We wish you and your families all the best this season. We've got work to do in 2024 as the League continues to advocate, educate, and get out the vote to help save democracy! We'll keep you up to date in this newsletter and via email on our activities and how you can contribute. See you there!

Also, please consider a year-end donation to the LWVCCA and/or the Ed Trust:

See the 2023 Fundraising Letter here:

<https://tinyurl.com/LWVCCA-2023-Fundraising-Letter>

Or donate online at these links:

<http://lwvcapecod.org/donate>

<http://lwvcapecod.org/donate/#Donate-Ed-Trust>

And finally, we hope you'll join us at the Holiday Lunch at 1:30 on December 9<sup>th</sup>:

See the link below:

<https://tinyurl.com/2023-Holiday-Lunch>

*Jeanne and Mary*

Jeanne Morrison  
 Mary Hunter Utt  
 Co-Presidents, LWVCCA

**CALENDAR**

**DECEMBER**

**Board Meeting**

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

**HOLIDAY LUNCH**

SATURDAY December 9 | 1:30 p.m.  
 Family Table Collaborative.

<https://tinyurl.com/2023-Holiday-Lunch>

**Barnstable County Human Rights Advisory Commission 2023 Annual Human Rights Awards Celebration**

MONDAY December 11 | 8:30—10:30 a.m.  
<https://www.capecod.gov/departments/human-rights-advisory-commission/calendar/awards/>

**Grandmothers Against Gun Violence Vigil**

THURSDAY December 14 | 11:30—11:30 a.m.  
 Hyannis Rotary - details below

**UPCOMING**

**Board Meeting**

TUESDAY January 2 | 9:30—12:30 a.m.  
 Zoom conference by invitation

**To see our entire Google calendar, go to**

<http://lwvcapecod.org/lwvcca-calendar>.

**NOTE:** Click on "Agenda" to see a list of all events. Click on any calendar listing to see more detail.

## DID YOU KNOW—?

.... that Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island have entered into an agreement to encourage multi-state offshore wind proposals? Governor Healey, quoted by WBUR, hopes to “leverage our collective buying power, lower project costs and maximize benefits for ratepayers across the region” by working together. The agreement allows any two or all three states to agree on a proposal and split the megawatts from a project. Multi-state projects would expand clean energy benefits to more than one state at a time, create high-paying jobs, and promote environmental responsibility. Multi-state project proposals are due in late January 2024.

The LWVMA supports renewable energy sources. It has recently sponsored a three-part webinar series—along with the Environmental League of Massachusetts—to inform LWV members about the status of offshore wind power, the benefits to our state, information about environmental effects, and strategies for advocacy. Two of these webinars have already been recorded and are available on YouTube on the LWVMA website. Click here to watch <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kT8aUoLWmY>. The third webinar is scheduled for January 18, 2024. Learn more and register here: <https://lwwma.org/whats-up-with-offshore-wind/>

In late October, more than 300 Barnstable residents, many from Centerville and Osterville, attended a community meeting with the Barnstable Town Council to express concerns about a potential offshore wind project located off Barnstable’s shore. Their comments reflected concerns about cabling under a local beach and conduits along the main streets of the two villages. Negotiations between the Town of Barnstable and the wind power company, Avangrid, had already been placed on hold by the Town Council. Reportedly, Avangrid has praised the multi-state partnership, and looks forward to reviewing its details.

Currently there are only two offshore wind farms operating in the U.S.—in Virginia and Block Island. Nine more are currently in review. Two are expected to go online this year, including Vineyard Wind off the south coast of Martha’s Vineyard.

*Submitted by Carole Young-Kleinfeld*

## GRANDMOTHERS AGAINST GUN VIOLENCE



*Grandmothers Against Gun Violence Rally at the Hyannis Rotary*

The Cape Cod Grandmothers Against Gun Violence (<https://www.capecodgag.org/>) holds its next monthly rally on December 14, 2023 at the Hyannis Rotary, 11:30-12:30.

Everyone is welcome! We encourage other groups on the Cape and beyond to join us in our remembrance.

(It could be cold-munchkins and hot chocolate provided) Parking in Staples lot.

The December rally will honor Sandy Hook, Parkland, Lewiston, and all the victims of gun violence. They deserve to have their lives remembered. All are welcome. The LWVCCA will be there!



Join Grandmothers Against Gun Violence as we honor victims of gun violence with others across the nation during the month of December. Feel free to invite anyone you know and help us hold the signs that represent just a few of the lives we have lost to gun violence. We know it's a busy time, but we cannot forget, and we need to remind others.

*Submitted by Carole Young-Kleinfeld  
and Donna Wald*

## VOTER SERVICE COMMITTEE

### Spotlight on Community Collaboration

Young voters are among the populations we target to increase voter participation. One way we accomplish this involves Cape Cod 5 Bank(CC5), Cape Cod high schools, and the Credit for Life (CFL) program.

CFL is a financial literacy program that aims to help students learn to live within a budget.

**DID YOU KNOW...**A survey by the Barr Foundation in 2019 showed that 86% of high school students said the most important skill they needed post-graduation was to understand personal finance, and only 30% believed that their schools were providing that?

An innovation grant from the Commonwealth of MA helped get CFL off the ground about 10 years ago, and now the program is offered at many high schools across the state. On the Cape, CC5 and individual high schools organize the event, aided by community volunteers. Students choose a profession and are given its take-home salary. They proceed to visit 10 stations where they allocate their income in areas such as housing, transportation, food, utilities and fun. After the Fair, students can evaluate where they need help and may access on-line modules with topics such as paychecks and taxes, budgeting, credit scores, loans, credit cards, fraud and risk, and compound interest.

Voting information is adjunct to the official CFL program -- CC5 views voting and civic engagement as a valuable lifelong habit. (We heartily agree!)

Students who are between stations or finish early can stop by the Voter Registration and Information table and can get current information such as how to find out if they are registered, how to change their address if they move, where to vote, and upcoming election dates. Typically, 25-50 students check their registration status at the table and register right there via their phones. If they don't have a driver's license, we will register them then and there on our paper registration forms. Many students take the check-your-registration QR cards for their friends. We give away lots of the MA voter information QR code cards. Students are always amazed at the chart that shows the low percentage of citizens who voted in their towns during the last election and how much their vote counts in local elections. So far this fall we've been to Sandwich High, Bourne High, Monomoy High, Dennis Yarmouth Regional High School; 3 more are scheduled before year end.

A big thank you to Cape Cod 5, the high schools that participate, the Credit for Life non-profit organization, and LWCCCA's cadre of volunteers including Rosemary Shields, Lynne Pleffner, Anita Rogers, Karen Mazza, Sue Cameron, Marie Sullivan, Maureen Grandmont, Carole Young-Kleinfeld, Sue Cameron, Tova Soyt and Karen Boujoukos. If you have questions about this program or want to participate, please contact Rosemary Shields or Anita Rogers.

And just to give you a flavor of the day, on November 3 we went to Monomoy Regional High School where they set us up right in front of their philharmonic-quality gong.

Mercifully, the student gave us a 10-second warning before he bonged the gong, which signaled the students to go to their next station. Each station introduced them to the next work/life situation in determining their financial fitness. Once a group finished a station near us, we had them check their voter status on the QR code business cards (see below).



On November 17 we set up our voter information table at the CFL event at Barnstable High School. We had a good response from the students who seemed enthusiastic to check their voter status on the QR code business cards we supplied.



Karen Mazza and Rosemary Shields at Monomoy

The gong was right behind us:



Barnstable HS Credit for Life Fair



Monomoy HS Credit for Life

And finally, the November 7 Barnstable Town Council election took place. Now how ALL of Cape Cod voted is in. Below are the numbers and percentages:

Cape Cod Spring and Fall Elections 2023				
Town:	Election Date	Registered Voters	Votes Cast	% of Voter Turnout
Barnstable	Nov 7'	36178	6738	19
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
Provincetow	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

*Submitted by*  
Anita Rogers, Voter Service Chair Emerita

## LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Hi Members:

I hope all of you had a lovely Thanksgiving and I wish you all a peaceful, relaxing upcoming holiday season. Here's hoping 2024 will bring more peace and tranquility around the world and at home.

Just wanted to give you a legislative update from both the state and our local Legislative Committee. Sometimes it feels like we are pedaling and not getting very far. But without the effort, we would not get anywhere.

So the state league is following 173 bills. Our local league tag teams on 44 of those bills. Of the 173, 18 bills have not yet had hearings: ~90% have had hearings. However, even though a bill has had a hearing does not mean that any additional action will take place. After a hearing, bills often languish in committees until they die without any further action.

And while the deadline for all bills to be reported out of committee is **February 7, 2024**, except for healthcare bills which are reported out in May, little action will take place for the next two months since the legislature has closed its formal session for now and is now in the informal session. What this means is that some conference committees can meet to discuss bills, but in these committees, only one **no** vote can kill the bill. It is also possible to for bills to move forward in conference committees but this happens pretty much in secrecy. There is little possibility to find out what happens to a bill during this period of time since the Leadership keeps everything "tight to its chest!" The informal session extends until January 3. It is still possible to lobby for bills during this time, it is just uncertain whether your messages will be heard. Transparency in the MA legislature is awful.

Below is a summary of the LWVMA bills that have seen action. Those with a red notation are bills also followed by our Legislative Committee.

### State bills that have already been enacted: Passed as part of the FY'24 budget:

- An Act relative to Universal School Meals
- An Act to ensure tuition equity for Massachusetts residents/ An Act providing access to higher education for high school graduates in the Commonwealth (H.1281/S.817 LC)
- An Act to improve the administration of justice in probate and family court: Addition of 8 family court judges

### Ongoing bills receiving funding towards our (LWVMA) priorities in FY'24 budget:

- Civics Project Trust Fund \$2.5M (veto override)
- Lift the Cap on Kids: incremental \$\$ (H.144/S.75 LC)
- Common Start \$\$ (H.489/S.301 LC)
- Regional Transit Authority \$\$

**One Bill which passed both chambers; headed to a conference committee.** The conference committee will hammer out any differences in the House and Senate versions of the bill.

- The Frances Perkins Workplace Equity Act was made up of these two bills:
- ✓ An Act relative to salary range transparency
- ✓ An Act relative to pay range disclosure

**One bill passed in the House and two bills passed in the Senate.** These bills must now be approved in the opposite chambers or their own versions drafted.

- H4135, An Act Modernizing Firearm Laws; Senate bill to be filed in January; likely heading to conference committee (HD.4607 LC)
- SB2251 - An Act to provide identification to youth and adults experiencing homelessness; referred to House Ways and Means
- SB2491 - An Act to increase access to disposable menstrual products; referred to House Ways and Means

In addition, **five bills were referred favorably out of first committee.** Hopefully, ongoing dialogue will produce a version of the bill that can be voted on by both chambers.

- An Act improving protections relative to domestic violence (coercive control) is now part of HB4115 - An Act to prevent abuse and exploitation; await next steps (followed by LWVCCA LC H.1547/S1077)
- HB249 - An Act to mandate domestic violence and sexual assault awareness education for aestheticians, barbers, cosmetologists, electrologists, hairdressers, manicurists, and massage therapists is now SB2477 - An Act to mandate domestic violence and sexual assault awareness education; referred to Senate Ways and Means
- HB4101 - An Act relative to accelerating improvements to the local and regional public health system to address disparities in the delivery of public health services (SAPHE 2.0); referred to House Committee on Ways and Means
- HB3084 An Act relative to language access and inclusion; referred to House Ways and Means

- SB1990 An Act relative to language access and inclusion; referred to Senate Ways and Means

(Both of these are being followed by our Legislative Committee: HB 3084 & SB 1990)

As you can see, there has been little success on bills in the Voting rights area, environmental protection, immigration or housing. And, Diane Turco is still deeply immersed in the Holtec bills discussions. Typically there will be an uptick in activity soon after Jan. 3 when the formal session returns. There will be an increase in lobbying activity then and the LWVMA as well as our own LWVCCA will network with other coalitions to work toward more bill passages. In April and May the budget process starts separately for the House and Senate so it will become more and more difficult to move legislation forward during this time. The budget needs to be approved before the end of the formal session on July 31, 2024. After that the legislators are on a "legislative break1" So there is much to do and little time to get it done.

Finally, the Legislative Committee has been working with the Health Committee to put together a forum on H.2246/S.1331, an Act Relative to End of Life options. This is scheduled for April 11, so please put it on your calendar. And, our Legislative Coffee is scheduled for March 22<sup>nd</sup>. We hope to have it in the same location that we had last year at CCCC. So please put that on your calendars as well. It will be a last minute push to ferret out positions from our legislators on bills still outstanding.

Thank you, members, for all of your ongoing calls, emails and support.

With hopes of increased transparency,  
Sue Brock - Legislative Chair

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

Introducing  
[Bonnie Shepard](#).....by *Mati Ligon*

*"I joined because of the good work that The League has done in elections, and because I have worked with members of the Cape Cod League to advocate for current legislation: Medicare for All in Massachusetts."* **Bonnie L. Shepard**

The officers and members of the League of Women Voters of the Cape Cod Area gladly welcome new member Bonnie L. Shepard. After graduating from the Country Day School of the Sacred Heart in Newton, Massachusetts, she received her BA in Psychology at Swarthmore College in 1975, her M.Ed. in Multicultural Education from Boston University in 1979, and her M.P.A. from the Kennedy School of Government of Harvard University in 1988. During her days in college Bonnie was politically active in the movement against the Vietnam War, and subsequently in the feminist movement, and many peace and justice campaigns.

Beginning in 1981, Bonnie focused her professional career on reproductive and women's health issues in both the United States and Latin America. She is fluent in both Spanish and Portuguese and lived for eight years in Chile. In the 1990s, she directed the regional Sexual and Reproductive Health Program for the Ford Foundation in the Andean and Southern Cone Region. Based on those experiences, she researched and published the book: *Running the Obstacle Course to Sexual and Reproductive Health: Lessons from Latin America.* (2006. Praeger). Since 1998, she has been an independent researcher and consultant on programs evaluations for U.S. and global foundations and non-profits. She served on the Board of Our Bodies Ourselves from 2000-2006, and then as Chair of the Board from 2016 to 2018. Recently retired, she helps to coordinate the Cape Cod Coalition for Universal Health Care and serves on the Wellfleet Democratic Town Committee and the Planning Board. She is open to doing pro bono

work on evaluations. The LWVCCA welcomes Bonnie Shepard and hopes that she will soon have the time to engage in committee work as a most capable and active member

**Bonnie Shepard**  
[bonnie.shepard@gmail.com](mailto:bonnie.shepard@gmail.com)  
 (508) 214-0232  
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 Wellfleet, MA 02667-8825



**LWVCCA Board & Contact information**

**LWVCCA DIRECTORS 2023-2024**

**Officers for 2023-2024**

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

**Committee Chairs:**

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

**Members At Large:**

Madeline Zevon  
Carole Young-Kleinfeld

**Off-Board Committee Chairs**

<b>Legislation</b>	Suzanne Brock *
<b>Housing</b>	Open *
<b>Florence Seldin Lecture Series</b>	Karen Mazza *
<b>Health</b>	Eileen Elias *

\* = Off-Board

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