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**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

**LWVCCA CO-PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE**

Here's hoping your holidays were merry and bright!

For the annual holiday event – lunch at the Family Table Collaborative – 40 members and guests attended to hear Julia Johnson, Acting President of Zion Union Heritage Museum in Hyannis, provide an overview of the museum's unique look at Cape Cod's African American, Cape Verdean and Native American heritage and contributions to our community. She highlighted the value of the museum for both tourists and Cape residents. League member Mati Ligon introduced the program and League member Debra Dagwan, a co-founder of the museum, offered an overview of how the museum came to be. See the article in this issue for more details.

We'll be kicking off the new year with the Nominating Committee meeting to put together the slate of officers and committee chairs for the membership's vote in the May Annual Meeting. All committees will begin meeting in January to update our program priorities for the 2024-2025 year. The current priorities are listed starting on page 14 of the Members Directory and Handbook. The Board will be scheduling a meeting, open to the full membership, for feedback and input to the updates, which also will be voted on formally at the Annual Meeting.

The plans for the International Women's Day Breakfast are shaping up – two panels will address The Power of Women and Girls Creating Change: the first will celebrate elected women leaders making a difference and the second will celebrate local young women and girls making a difference economically and socially. You all received the Save the Date flyer earlier in December for March 8th 7:30-9:30 am. More details are coming. We hope to see you there.

The Legislative Committee is working on two spring events: the annual Legislative Meeting with the Cape Cod delegation of senators and representatives and a joint Health/Legislative forum on the end-of-life options bill. See the article in this issue and watch for more information.

The Voter Service Committee has set up voter registration/information tables at local high schools and is gearing up for upcoming elections. See the article in this issue and watch for more information.

And we'll all be gearing up to get out the vote for the pivotal general election in November. We welcome any and all of you to join us for an all-hands-on-deck effort to help save democracy!

Finally, it's still not too late to donate to the LWVCCA to support these and more events and activities.

To donate to the LWVCCA and/or the Ed Trust: See the 2023 Fundraising Letter here: <https://tinyurl.com/LWVCCA-2023-FundraisingLetter>

Or donate online at these links: <http://lwvcapecod.org/donate>  
<http://lwvcapecod.org/donate/#Donate-Ed-Trust>

Wishing you a happy and healthy 2024

*Jeanne and Mary*

Jeanne Morrison  
 Mary Hunter Utt  
 Co-Presidents, LWVCCA

**2023 HOLIDAY LUNCH**

Forty members and guests gathered at the Family Table Collaborative for our December 9 Holiday 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 light buffet lunch.



December 9 at the Family Table Collaborative

**CALENDAR**

**JANUARY**

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

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

**Board Meeting**

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

**UPCOMING**

**Board Meeting**

TUESDAY February 6 | 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.



Our featured speaker was Ms. Julia Johnson, Acting President of Zion Union Heritage Museum (ZUHMI) in Hyannis. Julia has been involved with the museum for many years and recently took a leadership role with the passing of the former President, John Reed. Julia, a second-generation Cape Codder, grew up in Dennis and raised her children there with her husband Larry. She earned Master of Library Science and Master of Science in Educational Technology degrees, and worked as a school library teacher and library media department chair in the Dennis-Yarmouth Regional School District for 31 years.

LWVCCA Membership Chair Matilda (Mati) Ligon kicked off the event and provided an overview of the importance of cultivating a diverse membership and services. She recruited several women of color from local churches and community organizations like the Zion, stating "if you want to attract diverse members of the community you need to meet them where they are," in spaces familiar to them. Mati introduced one of her recruits, Dr. Debra Dagwan, a retired teacher and former Barnstable Town Council President and School Committee Chair.

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LWVCCA Membership Chair Mati Ligon  
introduced Debra Dagwan

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Debra Dagwan introduced our speaker, Julia  
Johnson

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Dr. Dagwan gave a brief history of the origins of the “Zion Mission” chapel, founded in 1909 for people of color after The First Baptist Church on Main Street Hyannis discouraged their attendance. <http://www.zuhmi.org/mission-and-vision/history/>

The original Zion Mission Chapel is part of the museum and is a preserved relic, a stone’s throw away from the now defunct “Happy Hollow” (black) neighborhood. In the 1990s the houses of “Happy Hollow” were replaced by a large upscale development of town houses and stores. <https://www.barnstablepatriot.com/story/opinion/columns/guest/2020/05/29/happy-hollow-hyannis/1134526007/>.

The church, renamed Zion Union, continued to grow with the expanding “minority” population and early in the century built a large complex relocated to Attucks Lane in Hyannis. In 2007 in her role on the Barnstable Town Council, Debra was instrumental in encouraging the town to save the original Chapel building and repurpose it for a museum to memorialize and celebrate the heritage of people of color on Cape Cod. The Zion Union Heritage Museum was born and exhibits the past and living history of African-Americans, Cape Verdeans and the Wampanoag people of

Cape Cod, as well as other people of color that arrived here more recently from Brazil, Jamaica and other Caribbean countries.

Debra graciously introduced Julia Johnson who presented a slide show of various exhibits currently at the ZUHMI museum, some of the featured artists, and stories of individuals and families of color who have contributed to the community.

The museum is easily recognized by an iconic life sized sculpture that stands in front of the building:




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Bronze life size African-American/Cape Verdean male holding a globe, with his left hand on Africa, pointing towards the US. The Cape Verdean Islands off of the west coast of Africa can be seen with a ship departing from the area and arriving at Cape Cod.

*Artist: Michael Aifano*

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We encourage League members to visit ZUHMI in the spring when the Museum re-opens with

regular seasonal hours. The museum is located at 276 North Street, Hyannis.

<http://www.zuhmi.org/visit/>

We held our traditional book swap and introduced a new activity for a little fun. A deck of cards containing Cape Cod Trivia was placed at each table. All were encouraged to play the game at their table and winners of each table were recognized before we adjourned.



Julia Johnson with LWVCCA members Mary Morrison, Debra Dagwan, Co-President Jeanne Morrison, and Membership Chair Mati Ligon.

*Submitted by Sue Cameron and Pat Burke*

**REMINDER! LWVMA hosts WHAT'S UP WITH OFFSHORE WIND?**

**Final Webinar Jan.18, 2024 @ 4 pm—  
Read about it and Register [here](#).**

LWVMA has sponsored a timely, three-part webinar called *What's Up with Off-Shore Wind--* benefits and costs, current status, and overcoming objections. All three webinars will be recorded and posted for later viewing.

Off-shore wind has been a topic of discussion in Barnstable where residents of a couple of villages have raised this topic with their Town Councilors.

In the final installment of this three-part webinar series, you will learn about opposition messaging prevalent in the Northeast offshore

wind sector and best practices for setting the record straight about this important clean energy resource.

The third part of the series is scheduled for January 18, 2024 at 4 pm. Register [here](#).

Co-hosted by the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts and [New England for Offshore Wind](#).

*Submitted by Carole Young-Kleinfeld*

**DID YOU KNOW—?**

...that only 12 states and Washington, D.C. ban firearms at polling places? NYU's Brennan Center President and CEO Michael Waldman reports that, following the New York Bruen case heard by the U.S. Supreme Court, even Justice Clarence Thomas acknowledged that Americans have always agreed there are certain sensitive places where guns do not belong, such as legislative gatherings, courts, and polling places. One former election official recalls that voters would call her office to ask whether guns were allowed in their district's polling place, because "...if guns are allowed there, I'm not voting."

Several gun violence prevention organizations, such as Everytown, Giffords Law Center, and Brady, have called for banning guns wherever election administration activities occur—at drop boxes, polling places, ballot counting locations, and election offices. Massachusetts' proposed bill—An Act Modernizing Firearms Laws—includes a ban on guns in polling places and public buildings. According to the Brennan Center, "It's common sense, it's constitutional, and it's necessary." Read the Brennan Center's report *Ban Guns at Voting Sites* [here](#).

*Submitted by Carole Young-Kleinfeld*



## MEDICARE FOR ALL IN MASSACHUSETTS

### LWVCCA Supports An Act Establishing Medicare For All in Massachusetts S.744/H.1239

On November 14<sup>th</sup>, Madeline Zevon, LWVCCA Legislative Committee member, delivered a statement at the hearing of the Joint Health Care Finance Committee on behalf of the LWVCCA. There were over 70 statements delivered. Speaker after speaker told heartbreaking stories of their struggles to navigate a broken healthcare system. Several doctors spoke of their decision to leave medicine because of frustrations caused by corporate takeover of hospitals and medical practices.

Madeline opened with the statement that the LWVUS has supported single payer health care since 1992. This type of legislation has died in our state legislature for the past 25 years. Madeline continued: “ We ask the question: Why, if Medicare for All covers everyone in the state of Massachusetts more comprehensively, at a significant financial savings, and is supported by the majority of the population, has it not passed, or even been brought up for a vote in our state legislature? Can't we at least move this bill into the Ways and Means Committee?”

“The LWVUS favors a national health insurance plan covering all US residents, financed through general taxes instead of individual insurance premiums. But, until that happens, the LWVCCA supports a healthcare program administered by the Healthcare Trust for all the residents of the Commonwealth. It also proposes no co-insurance, co-payments, deductibles, or any other form of patient cost sharing.”

The LWVCCA thanks Madeline for volunteering her time to write and deliver testimony on our behalf to the Massachusetts Legislature. Our League volunteers are essential to keeping our citizens informed and in making democracy work.

## VOTER SERVICE COMMITTEE

In December we sent out letters to each of the town clerks on Cape Cod to show our appreciation for all the hard work they do. For the Barnstable Brewster, Harwich and Dennis town clerks we added our special thanks for their help in our candidates forums on October 24, April 25, April 20 and April 18, respectively. Here is the general letter that we personalized for each town clerk:

*To the Town Clerk and Staff,*

*The League of Women Voters of the Cape Cod Area thank you for the hard work you do day-in and day-out to ensure that voting and our local elections proceed unimpeded. The Pandemic certainly could have caused a snafu in voting. But your herculean efforts with mail-in voting ensured that democracy endured. And for that we are most appreciative.*

*In this upcoming Presidential election year of 2024, the League is redoubling our efforts to "Get Out The Vote" (GOTV). This year we participated in numerous local events, such as Amity Day, Unity Day, International Day, and registered students at most of the Cape High Schools. We set up GOTV tables with plenty of non-partisan voter information. With that in mind, we are already anticipating more local events plus candidates forums for various local and county-wide races. Already we see the open seat for State Senate of the Plymouth and Barnstable District and the race for Superior Court Clerk.*

*We hope you will let us know if there is anything we might do to further our mutual goal of getting the word out on local elections. Please check out our Facebook / LWVCCA Page where we post important notices and information on community issues.*

*Happy Holidays,*

*Lynne Pleffner and Rosemary Shields*

*Co-Chairs Voter Service*

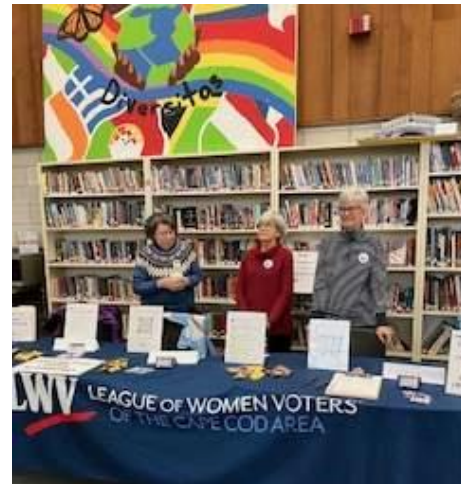


Bourne HS Gymnasium

Finally, we had more voter registration / information tables at Bourne (Dec 8) and Nauset (Dec. 13) High Schools in conjunction with the Credit for Life seminars put on by Cape Cod 5. At each event there were around 100 students, at least half of whom stopped by our table. Those with drivers' licenses checked their registration status with our QR code. They found that they were, indeed, registered to vote thanks to MA Automatic Voter Registration (AVR). The AVR law passed four years ago with persistent lobbying by The League and our election-reform coalition partners. The students without drivers' licenses were given voter registration cards to fill out. Students 16 and older can pre-register to vote. Those who knew the last digits of their Social Security number, filled in the registration cards right then and there. The others were given registration cards to take home, fill out and mail to their town clerks. We had plenty of election information at the table, such as the 2024 election dates. **(See attached!)**

We also had the results of the fall and spring elections on Cape Cod (see December's *Voter*) and a QR code for the Secretary of the Commonwealth's website where they can find their polling places, sign up for a mail-in ballot, etc. We talked up the 2024 elections, both local and presidential. Local elections and town meetings decide on school budgets, affordable housing and environmental protection. The

presidential election has many issues at stake, such as women's health. We got a lot of nods on those issues. At a closer look at the 2024 election dates, you could practically see the lightbulb go off when students realized they'd be 18 for the March primary or the November election. They looked up and told us, "I'll be 18 by then, whoa!" The enormity of that hit them and THAT was great to see.



Many thanks to Karen Mazza, Anita Rogers and Suzanne Kenney for helping us at the high schools.



Nauset HS Liberatoria

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

## HEALTH COMMITTEE

The League of Women Voters of the Cape Cod Area Health Committee, in partnership with the Legislative Committee and Compassion and Choices Organization is planning the April 11, 2024 7:00 PM Zoom-based forum supporting the Massachusetts End-of-Life Options Act: ***Talking About Death Won't Kill You***. Speakers for the Forum's panel will be identified by mid-January. Promotion of the Forum will begin in January, targeting the Cape's older adult programs and staff. Do contact Eileen Elias at [eileen.elias@comcast.net](mailto:eileen.elias@comcast.net) if you would like to join the Health Committee.

Eileen Elias – Health Committee Chair

## LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Happy New Year all,

My hope is that all of you enjoyed a peaceful holiday over the past couple of weeks. This report will be short because for those of you who read last month's *Voter*, you will remember my rather extensive update on bills in motion. Since the Legislature has been out on break and operating in "informal session," little has changed. The legislative break is over Jan. 3<sup>rd</sup> so I am anticipating a return to more rigorous scrutiny of bills and the status of those we are following. If any of you have questions or interest in any particular bill, please contact me and the committee and I will do our best to get back to you.

I would like to remind you of two upcoming events to put on your calendar. The Legislative Meeting with our Cape Cod contingent of legislators will be Friday, March 22 from 10 – 12. It will be held at Cape Cod Community College, in the Great Hall of the new science building. That is the same location as last year for those of you who attended. Please plan on joining us and bring along a friend. The meeting will be open to League members and guests. I believe it is important to have as large a turnout as possible. The legislative members need to

know that they are being held accountable. For those of you that do not know, Senator Susan Moran who has always been supportive of League causes is not running again. And word has it that Rep. Fernandes may run for her seat. Rep. Fernandes will be a great new voice in the Senate, should he win. In the meantime, that leaves an opportunity for a woman to run for Rep. Fernandes' district, Nantucket, Dukes and part of Barnstable.

The other event that is a team effort between the Health Committee and the Legislative Committee is the forum on the End of Life Options Bill. That will be held on Thursday, April 11 from 7-8:30 virtually. Some form of this bill has been attempted a number of times in MA but has not been successful. The forum will educate voters as to the bill's allowable actions, the rights of patients, and the responsibilities of physicians. This topic is important to so many. Please plan on attending so you can join us in advocating for this legislation.

That's all for now. More to come after the 3<sup>rd</sup>..... Enjoy your New Year's celebrations and drive responsibly.

With hope for increased transparency,  
Sue Brock - Legislative Chair

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Introducing  
**Carol and Keith Woodbury** ..... by *Mati Ligon*

*"We need to work harder at our children becoming civic-minded. I know about The League through the school where I worked; and where voter registration of students was encouraged."*  
**Carol Woodbury**

The League of Women Voters of the Cape Cod Area considers itself to be indeed fortunate: Both wife and husband Carol and Keith Woodbury recently joined the LWVCCA together. Apparently, they have grown accustomed to engaging in community-based activities including public education during their 44 years of marriage. Carol and Keith contend that both civic education and civic duty are important in a democracy. They have earnestly declared that they are among those

retired “who want to give back to their community”. Keith has served on the Monson (Massachusetts) School Committee. He was voted “Monson Citizen of the Year” in the early 1990s. Carol and Keith met in college at the Geneseo campus of the State University of New York. Carol earned her undergraduate degree with a dual major in elementary education and special education. Keith graduated as a speech pathology major in 1976. He worked in the Special Education State School in Belchertown, Massachusetts. Carol’s first teaching assignment was in upstate New York at Oneida High School before moving to Massachusetts. Carol worked in the Lower Pioneer Valley Educational Collaborative as a job counselor for teenagers who were enrolled in special education programs. She earned her master’s degree at Westfield State University right before her first child was born. They have two other sons. Carol and Keith are very proud of their three adult sons who participated in community service projects while they were in high school and college. Carol and Keith Woodbury firmly believe that for the good of the world’s population, current as well as future generations of American young people must responsibly give back in volunteer community service as their own sons have done. Carol Woodbury retired in June 2023 from her position of Superintendent of the Dennis-Yarmouth Regional School District. She had served in that position for eighteen years after having served as Superintendent of the Monson Public Schools for three years. Again, the officers and members of the LWVCCA cordially welcome Carol and Keith Woodbury as they join the League with decades of experience in devoted public and community service.

**Carol Woodbury**

[dysupt@yahoo.com](mailto:dysupt@yahoo.com)

Cell: 413-262-4557

Home: 508-420-5460

**Keith Woodbury**

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**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

**Contact LWVCCA:**

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Website: [www.lwvcapecod.org](http://www.lwvcapecod.org)

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

Are you ready for the big one? Are you ready for the 2024 elections? Here is information you need to share with your friends, take to your library, place on your grocery and church bulletin boards:

----- **CUT HERE** -----



## **2024 Election Dates and Information**

The State of Massachusetts will mail out postcards to all registered voters in January 2024 to give you an option to Vote by Mail.

### **We will have the following elections in 2024:**

#### **March 5, Presidential Primary Election**

**Voter Registration Deadline: February 24, 2024**

**Vote by Mail Application Deadline: February 27, 2024**

**2024 Spring Town Elections – check with your local town clerk**

#### **September 3, State Primaries**

**Voter Registration Deadline: August 24, 2024**

**Vote by Mail Application Deadline: August 26, 2024**

#### **November 5, Presidential Election**

[Source: Secretary of the Commonwealth webpage:

<https://www.sec.state.ma.us/divisions/elections/recent-updates/upcoming-elections.htm> ]

**2024 Election Dates and Information QR code:  
scroll down to the 2<sup>nd</sup> page:**

