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**LWVCCA CO-PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE**

Greetings members.

On the eve of Women's History Month, we sadly report that the League's President passed away a few weeks ago. From the [LWVUS](#):

*"It is with profound sadness that the League of Women Voters announces the passing of our esteemed president, Dr. Deborah Ann Turner, who passed away on Sunday, January 28, 2024, from complications from a pulmonary embolism. A fearless advocate for voting rights and women's rights, Dr. Turner devoted her life's work to impacting meaningful changes in the lives of voters across the nation. As the 20th president of the 103-year-old voting rights organization, Dr. Turner played a pivotal role in fighting for a more fair and representative union, while uplifting racial equity in the League's mission work."*

In the spirit of Dr. Turner's work, our league, along with several local women-run organizations, will reprise of the International Women's Day

**CALENDAR**

MARCH



Women's History Month

March 1 – March 31

Board Meeting

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



**International Women's Day**

**International Women's Day Breakfast 2024**

FRIDAY March 8, 2024, 7:30 a.m. TO 9:30 a.m.  
[SEE the ATTACHED FLYER](#)

Meeting with Cape Cod Legislators

March 22, 2024 | 10:00 a.m.—12 noon  
Great Hall and adjacent Lecture Hall at CCCC.

**UPCOMING**

Board Meeting

TUESDAY APRIL 2 | 9:30—11:30 a.m.  
Zoom conference by invitation



compassion & choices  
Care and Choice at the End of Life

Talking About Death Won't Kill You

**The Massachusetts End-of-Life Options Act**  
THURSDAY, April 11, 2024—7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.  
[SEE the ATTACHED FLYER](#)

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.

Breakfast on Friday March 8<sup>th</sup>, 7:30-9:30am, formerly hosted by the Cape Women’s Coalition.

We will be presenting two panel discussions focusing on 1) local women who have been elected to office and 2) women and girls who are entrepreneurs and activists. We hope to see you there. The [event flyer](#) at the end of this issue provides details and sign-up info.

Also in March is our annual Legislative Meeting, in person at the Cape Cod Community College, Friday March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 10:00am-12:00 noon. Join us and learn about what your Cape Cod delegation is doing.

Coming up in April is a virtual forum: “Talking About Death Won’t Kill You.” The Health and Legislative Committees have teamed up to present a panel on the Massachusetts End-of-Life Options Act, Thursday, April 11, 2024, 7:00-8:30 pm. See the flyer in this issue for more about the event.

Strong member participation is fundamental to our league’s continued success in the years ahead. We can only accomplish this with YOU. Please consider active involvement.

Soon we’ll be turning the clocks forward (March 10<sup>th</sup>), greeting spring (March 19<sup>th</sup>), and continuing to work hard to get out the vote in this pivotal election year. All are welcome to help save democracy.

*Jeanne and Mary*

Jeanne Morrison  
Mary Hunter Utt  
*Co-Presidents, LWVCCA*

**VOTER SERVICE COMMITTEE**

We had a great meeting with the Town Liaisons. We told them how much we value their participation. We asked them to let us know if they know of any GOTV (Get Out The Vote) events that will benefit turnout in the Spring and Fall Elections. Members - we would appreciate it greatly if you would let us know of any GOTV events in your town.

Voter Services had an early St. Valentine's Tea on February 7th. Anita Rogers was kind enough to host. Everyone left with a Valentines Goody Bag. Our goal was camaraderie and getting to know each other a bit better.

COVID certainly was a pain!



Back Row: Carole Young-Kleinfeld, Rosemary Shields, Karen Mazza, Tova Soynt and Laurie Hutton-Corr.  
Front Row: Anita Rogers and Pat Burke.  
Photo by Lynne Pleffner

At The Voter deadline of February 15th, we were about to participate at the Dennis-Yarmouth Newcomers monthly event at the Yarmouth Senior Center on February 21st. We are one of two non-profits invited. We will be distributing information on topics important to Dennis and Yarmouth. We also will share with them the results of the 2023 Spring Elections, the dates for the 2024 Spring Elections and a schedule of the key 2024 Election Dates (See attached). Be on the lookout in the April VOTER for photos and further information.

We are looking forward to the Women's Day Breakfast on March 5th. We will be partnering with the Falmouth League.

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

## DID YOU KNOW—?

...that an environmental sciences professor—Dr. Petros Koutrakis at Harvard University’s Chan School of Public Health—is launching two new studies about the effects of radiation from nuclear power stations, like the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station? Professor Koutrakis is an award-winning researcher in exposure from radon and other sources. He reports that one of the projects will update cancer incidence data from towns near the Pilgrim, Seabrook, and Yankee stations.

The second, a limited pilot study funded by the Chan School of Public Health, will collect approximately 50 blood samples from those residing about 18 miles from the Pilgrim station. The pilot project’s goal is to collect enough data to acquire funding for a larger study focusing on the biological effects of evaporation of radioactive wastewater. Dr. Koutrakis is Director of the EPA/Harvard University Center for Ambient Particle Health Effects. Listen to his interview on WCAI, or read the transcript [here](https://www.capeandislands.org/local-news/2024-01-25/harvard-launches-two-studies-of-pilgrim-nuclear-plant-health-risks).  
<https://www.capeandislands.org/local-news/2024-01-25/harvard-launches-two-studies-of-pilgrim-nuclear-plant-health-risks>.

*Submitted by Carole Young-Kleinfeld*

## LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Greetings Members,

Things been moving furiously fast in the Legislature over the past few weeks. I guess I am still new at this because I can’t for the likes of me figure out why those on the Hill drag their feet for much of the first and half of the second year of the legislative cycle and then push out some bills quickly with amendments and ignore others.

We have had some successes (hopefully, since they have not been signed into law yet!). Eleven of our bills have had a favorable report out of committee, one of which is the End of Life Options

Bill. This doesn’t necessarily mean that they are moving on..... they could linger still, especially if there was a separate House and Senate version of the bill. Bills like this one will see some heavy lobbying in the coming months.

Nineteen of our bills have been given an extension. This means that they could still advance or remain in their respective committees to die a slow and lonely death! We will have to remain vigilant for these. And then, eight of our bills have been assigned to study. This is basically a death sentence. Those bills are: a housing bill to Increase Community Preservation Funding, two voting bills, Same Day Voter Registration and Ranked Choice voting, a health care bill to Establish the Family Caregiving Tax Credit, two immigration bills, to Ensure Tuition Equity to MA residents and ICE out of MA, a transportation bill, the Act to Restore Commuter Rail Service to Cape Cod, and a women’s issue bill to Promote Equality and Respect in the Legislature.

Then there are those four bills that have had no action taken. They are the Voting Access bill, the Medicare for All bill, and two Holtec bills, Improving Public Health and Safety around Aging Nuclear Power Plants and Monitoring Dry Casks of Spent Nuclear Fuel. Since the date for moving bills out of committee has past, there is little chance that these bills will move forward. But again...our committee will keep an eye on them, just in case.

Those bills with the most chance of making it to the Governor’s desk are the six that are currently in the Senate Ways and Means Committee: the Domestic Violence Bill (HB4241), the Common Start Bill (SB2619), the Language Access and Inclusion Bill (H3084/S1990), the Parity on Boards Bill (SB2029), and two natural resource bills, to Maintain Adequate Water Supplies (SB474) and Responding to Threats of Invasive Species (H890/S508). Usually assignment to Senate Ways and Means Committee indicates forward momentum on legislation to iron out differences between the House and Senate versions of the bill. Very heavy lobbying on these bills will be needed to get them over the hump.

Finally, two bills that have been hard fought are closer to the finish line. One, the Modernizing Firearms Laws (SB2584) has passed the House and

Senate and is in a Joint House and Senate Committee for finalizing the language. The other is the Salary Range Transparency Bill (HB4109) which is in a Senate Conference Committee in order to allow the Senate to add their two cents! Keep your fingers and toes crossed for these and if inclined, please pick up a pen or fire up your computer or phone and let your legislators know these are important to you and to the League.

I have to say that this being my second year at the Legislative helm, I am very much concerned at what seems like a very convoluted and sometimes ineffectual pathway for enacting legislation. Some of the bills that fly through are so inconsequential and then those that could be the most impactful linger and die due to inaction. I realize that those items that do not require funding are much easier to get passed but that suggests to me that we (legislators and citizens alike) need to have a much deeper dialogue surrounding issues of importance for the majority of us. Unfortunately, (or fortunately) it is those of us that vote who have the most say but that is much too small a number in today’s troubled times.

Please pay attention the Action Alerts coming through and act when called on! Thank you.

Towards More Transparency,  
Suzanne Brock – Legislative Chair

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

Introducing  
**Heather Walsh** .....by *Mati Ligon*

*“I am trying to do something to make a difference; and to preserve our democracy.”* **Heather Walsh**

The League of Women Voters of the Cape Cod Area gratefully and respectfully welcomes Heather Walsh as a new member. Heather gladly announces that her fourteen year old son will be old enough to vote, for the first time, in the next presidential election! Her daughter who is a year younger than her brother is benefitting from having a mother who has volunteered for many years as a Girl Scouts USA Leader. Heather Walsh throughout her life has always wanted to make a positive difference. The absolute evidence of this

fact is her active community service with Friends of the Library and Youth Basketball.

Prior to the birth of her two children, Heather practiced law for five years in Boston. She is a 1994 graduate of Syracuse University. She majored in political science and economics. She also earned a Master degree in journalism at Syracuse University. Heather worked for the United States Justice Department in Washington, D.C. before moving to Massachusetts. In 2005 Heather Walsh attained her law degree from Georgetown University where she met and married her husband after passing the Massachusetts Bar Exam. She moved to Sandwich with her family in 2014.

Perhaps her decision to become a member of The League was influenced by an aunt who has been active with voter registration drives in Haymarket, Virginia. Perhaps her decision to develop a career in law was influenced by the fact that her father is an attorney. He served as an attorney for the 1980 Winter Olympics in Lake Placid, New York near where Heather grew up.

The LWVCCA is indeed impressed with Heather’s expressed desire to be directly involved with organizations that focus on the empowerment of girls and women. It is certain that with her career’s experience and her willingness to serve she will be a powerful asset in her service within The League.

**Heather Walsh**  
[heatherkissel@gmail.com](mailto:heatherkissel@gmail.com)  
(617) 272-6996  
21 Crestview Dr  
East Sandwich, MA 02537



Introducing  
**Alice A. Mitchell** ..... by *Sue Cameron*

Born and raised in Wellesley, MA, Alice is a graduate of the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. In 1968 she accepted a teaching position at Berlin High School in Berlin, Ct. and a few years later, after receiving her Masters in school counseling from Central Ct. State University,

became a school counselor at Berlin High School. In 1988 she was one of the creators and then the Director of the Berlin Upbeat Program. Upbeat is a comprehensive school and community-based character development, community service and leadership training program. As Director, Alice coordinated an extensive student, peer leadership program. The leadership program involved over 200 students who were actively engaged in planning and implementing projects and volunteering with various clubs, civic groups, local schools and government agencies. She also conducted training workshops for both students and adults, oversaw community service projects and led an Adult Community team that planned and implemented a variety of events including a yearly, town wide picnic. During her 40 plus years of working with high school students, Alice developed a deep appreciation for the many creative and positive things teens are doing in their communities.

In 2019, Alice retired and moved to the family home in South Yarmouth. Becoming a full time, year round resident of Cape Cod. Alice learned about the League of Women Voters here on the cape, from current members and after attending the holiday luncheon applied to join. She is a strong believer in the importance of everyone voting in every election and more importantly that voters be well informed about the candidates and the issues impacting the cape. She looks forward to helping out with the league and their projects here on the Cape.

**Alice A. Mitchell**

[aamitch3@sbcglobal.net](mailto:aamitch3@sbcglobal.net)

860-967-9620

12 Sparrow Way

South Yarmouth, MA 02664



## DIVERSITY, EQUITY, and INCLUSION

DEI is about more than the “WOKE” hot-button issues we hear so much about - such as race, gender, etc.: It includes a lot more.

See our DEI statement at

<http://lwvcapecod.org/diversity-equity-and-inclusion-cape-cod>

Back in the mid-1980s, I was lucky to work with a young deaf woman. She is proficient in reading lips yet explained to us, her colleagues, she often only got 50% of what we were saying. She offered to teach us sign English to help us communicate better.

She opened a whole new world to me. Suddenly, I was excited about learning a foreign language. My experience learning French was rocky and abandoned the day I graduated high school. My experience with Spanish was better although I’m left with just enough to get me into trouble. We won’t even discuss my sad attempts to learn Irish.

I noticed I learned to understand foreign language speakers before I was comfortable speaking the language. I had the reverse experience with signing; I could sign to a person more easily than I could read their signs to me.



It turns out sign English is not the language most deaf Americans use. They use American Sign Language (ASL). More than fingerspelling, it is its own language with its own syntax.

Interested in learning more about the deaf culture and signing? Take a look at the recent article in DEAF, Inc.’s newsletter entitled, “Customer Service: The Ideal Deaf Experience” at

<https://www.deafincma.org/post/customer-service-the-ideal-deaf-experience>.

Need a quick reference to some ASL signs? There are numerous apps and Internet sites you can find. I use the app *ASL Translator* on my iPhone.

As with many things, a smile goes a long way in navigating a new culture.

*Submitted by*  
Mory O'Connor  
Chair, DEI Committee



## YOUTH SERVICE

### Massachusetts Civic Learning Week

MASSACHUSETTS CIVIC LEARNING COALITION PRESENTS:  
**MASSACHUSETTS CIVIC LEARNING WEEK**  
 March 11 - 15, 2024



We are excited to announce that registration is now open for Massachusetts Civic Learning Week 2024. The theme this year is **2024 and Beyond: Civic Learning as a Unifying Force**, and we have a full lineup of free, virtual events that are open to the public.

[Register Today](#)

The Massachusetts Civic Learning Coalition is presenting Massachusetts Civic Learning Week March 11 - 15. This also coincides with National Civic Learning Week. This is virtual programming primarily for teachers and students but there are sessions that will be of interest to the general community. I have organized a session on March 15 entitled The Power of the Youth Vote and this will be co-hosted by The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts, CIRCLE (Center for information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement, and Massachusetts Women of Color Coalition.

*Submitted by*  
Karen Maza  
Chair Youth Service



## The week features something for everyone

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### Daytime events

intended for classrooms of students

including opportunities for students from the elementary to the high school grades to speak directly with judges

### Afternoon Events

professional development for educators

including insights from educators on effectively using grant funding to build a robust civics program, and other sessions on assessment practices and teaching controversial issues and other topics

### General sessions

to inform and inspire

including the Opening Session featuring the experiences of youth civic leaders and an in-person Legislative Session for educators and students to share their work directly with legislators

[Check out the Toolkit](#)

And check out the [Educator Toolkit](#) to access resources for planning and communicating your participation in Civic Learning Week. The toolkit includes planning resources, sample social media posts, graphic assets, and more.

Civic Learning Week reminds all of us of our role as part of this self-governing society, and that each one of us should strive to make civic learning and engagement a lifelong endeavor.

As Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor said, "*The practice of democracy...must be taught and learned by each new generation.*"

We look forward to coming together this March to highlight and further energize the movement for civic education in Massachusetts.

Find the full list of sessions and register now at [macivicsforall.org/clw2024](https://macivicsforall.org/clw2024).

[Register Today](#)

**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:**

LWVCCA  
P. O. Box 2347  
Orleans, MA 02653

Phone: 508-945-0511

Email: [lwvcca@gmail.com](mailto:lwvcca@gmail.com)

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

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





# International Women's Day

## 2024 International Women's Day Breakfast

**You're invited!**

### The Power of Women and Girls Creating Change

**March 8, 2024, 7:30 AM TO 9:30 AM**  
**Hyannis Resort and Conference Center,**  
**34 Scudder Ave, Hyannis**

#### Two panel discussions:

#### 1. Celebrating Women Elected Leaders Making a Difference

Mindy Todd, host of The Point, WCAI, will moderate and panelists include: Donna Buckley, Barnstable County Sheriff; Melissa Ferretti, Bourne Select Board member and Chair of the Herring Pond Wampanoag Tribe, and Onjalé Scott Price, Falmouth Select Board Member.

#### 2. Celebrating Young Women and Girls Making a Difference at the Local Level

Erica Tso Haidas, of Belonging Books, will moderate and panelists include: Allannah Boddah, Karibbean Lounge owner; Henna Monty, entrepreneur; Natalia Frois, business owner and translator/interpreter; and Destinee Powell, 4Cs student and activist member of the YMCA Achievers Program.

#### Plus: Resource tables for information and services

**Please reserve by February 23:**

**\$15 per person with your credit card or with PayPal:**

<http://tinyurl.com/IWD-Breakfast-2024>

**Host organizations:** League of Women Voters of the Cape Cod Area, League of Women Voters of Falmouth, Amplify POC, The Women and Girls Fund of The Cape Cod Foundation, The Herring Pond Wampanoag Tribe, Cape Cod Cape Verdean Museum and Cultural Center





League of Women Voters of the Cape Cod Area

and

Compassion & Choices Massachusetts

present

***Talking About Death Won't Kill You***

The Massachusetts End-of-Life Options Act

A Virtual Forum

Thursday, April 11, 2024—7 PM to 8:30 PM

*Patient Choice*

*Alleviate Suffering*

*Strong Safeguards*

**Join us** to learn how legislation—H.2246/S.1331 now pending before the Massachusetts Legislature—would ensure that individuals with a terminal illness have the option to avoid unnecessary pain and suffering when their time comes. Hear from family members, faith-based community leaders, and medical professionals about the bill's importance and its safeguards. See why people with disabilities support it. Learn why Massachusetts voters and the League of Women Voters believe that NOW is the time to pass this law in our state.

Guest Speakers

- Sara Elkins—Senior NE Regional Campaign Organizer, Compassion & Choices
- Roger Kligler, MD—Retired Falmouth Physician, Advocate—Medical Aid in Dying
- Rabbi Elias Lieberman—Falmouth Jewish Congregation, Falmouth Clergy Assoc., Compassion & Choices Advocate
- Michael Martignetti—Member, Boston's Ataxia Support Group, Compassion & Choices Advocate

Open to the public!

All welcome!

Spanish & Portuguese Translation Available!

REGISTER here: <http://tinyurl.com/MA-End-of-Life-Options-Act>



SPRING ELECTIONS 2023

<u>TOWN</u>	<u>ELECTION DATE</u>	<u>REGISTERED VOTERS</u>	<u>VOTES CAST</u>	<u>% OF VOTER TURNOUT</u>
Barnstable	*	*	*	
Bourne	16-May	15,391	874	6%
Brewster	16-May	8,581	2,512	29%
Chatham	11-May	5,945	1,118	19%
Dennis	9-May	12,877	2,186	17%
Eastham	16-May	4,704	1,171	25%
Falmouth	16-May	27,448	5,084	18.5%
Harwich	16-May	11,507	1,959	17%
Mashpee	6-May	12,658	1,191	9%
Orleans	16-May	5,652	1,526	27%
Provincetown	9-May	3,502	934	27%
Sandwich	4-May	17,026	1,412	8%
Truro	9-May	2,181	590	27%
Wellfleet	1-May	3,087	914	30%
Yarmouth	16-May	21,869	1,205	5%

- Barnstable held their Municipal Elections in November 2023 and all 13 Districts were up.



### 2024 Election Dates and Information

The State of Massachusetts mailed out postcards to all registered voters in January 2024 to give you an option to Vote by Mail. Have you gotten your postcard? No? Check with your town clerk.

#### **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 in May – check with your Town Clerk**

September 3, State Primaries

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

Vote by Mail Application Deadline: August 26, 2024

November 5, Presidential Election

QR Code:

