

CONTENTS

LWVCCA OPENING MESSAGE	1
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE	1
RECOGNIZING JEANNE MORRISON'S SERVICE AS PRESIDENT	2
INCOMING PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE	3
2025 ANNUAL MEETING OVERVIEW.....	3
IN MEMORY OF JAN HIVELY	4
HELEN S. AARON EDUCATIONAL TRUST.....	5
CALENDAR.....	5
DID YOU KNOW...?.....	5
VOTER SERVICE COMMITTEE	6
VOTER SERVICES RECOGNIZED	7
HEALTH COMMITTEE	7
LWVCCA BOARD & CONTACT INFORMATION	8
BUSINESS SUPPORTERS OF LWVCCA	9
SUPPORT THESE BUSINESSES WHO HAVE SUPPORTED LWVCCA	9

LWVCCA OPENING MESSAGE

President's Message

Jeanne Morrison Past President, 2024-2025

June brings us to the close of another productive year and the beginning of a new year of providing valuable services to voters. I've also come to the close of my term as President. During this past year and the prior two years as Co-President with Mary Hunter Utt, I've gained valuable knowledge and experience as a leader. With that knowledge, I have also gained insight into the administrative operations of our League and the work of our committees. I've witnessed firsthand the dedication and hard work of our Board of Directors, Committee Chairs and members. I am grateful to have had the experience as President of the League of Women Voters of the Cape Cod Area.

Thank you all for your ongoing support and engagement. Whether it be becoming a member of our local League, advocating for legislation,

following us on social media, attending forums and meetings, volunteering at an event or joining a committee, your participation is appreciated. I extend special thanks to Karen Mazza, for her exceptional support, leadership and collaboration as Administrator. Working together, the LWVCCA has had a successful year of programming and has accomplished a lot. The details of this year's accomplishments can be found in the end of the year committee reports in the [May issue of the Voter](#).

I applaud your efforts to increase voter engagement through voter education and advocacy work across our diverse geographic and community networks and within the state. I wish to highlight some of that work. Throughout the year, the Voter Services (VS) committee held multiple candidate forums for general, state and local elections and brought voter information and registration to voters across Cape Cod. VS also supported the DEI Committee's "Get Out the Vote" rally and participated in Cape Cod 5 Savings bank's "Credit-for-Life" program to engage young voters and instill voting as a life-long responsibility.

This year we saw a record number of over 40 new members. We welcome these members and are excited to see them get involved. We also hosted our second successful International Women's Day Breakfast with several community partners. In attendance were 250 participants and 30 local nonprofits that support women and girls. The speakers were inspiring and well received.

In our efforts to make democracy work and to fight back against policies that target basic constitutional liberties and voting rights, we partnered with several local activist organizations to join "Hands Off" protests held across Cape Cod and Massachusetts. The Legislative Committee (LC) followed 35 bills that they advocated for, or

against. Of those bills, 10 were passed and signed into law. The Health Committee in collaboration with community based organizations and the Legislative committee, sponsored two educational forums, "*end-of-life options*" and the "*Act promoting midwifery care and out-of-hospital birth options*".

Youth Service Committee members collaborated with the Voter Service Committee conducting voter registration for high school seniors. Youth Service also assisted and supported schools with civics programs, as requested. A highlight for Youth Service was a panel discussion organized in collaboration with the Student Government Association of Cape Cod Community College. Their presentation, "*Why Your Vote Matters*, focused on encouraging students to vote by helping them to understand the impact that elected leaders will have on the issues that affect their lives". Recordings of this and other forums appear on the LWVCCA website.

I thank all of our board members and Committee Chairs who stepped down in May. These include, Mary Hunter Utt who served as Board Member at Large and many years as Board Secretary, publisher of documents, and two years as Co-President, Tova Soytor for one year as Treasurer, who served this role during a crucial transition of the membership system from local to national, and Karen Mazza stepping down from Administrator but remaining on Board as Chair of Youth Service and Seldin speaker series. I will also continue on the Board as Co-Chair of the Membership committee and Chair of the DEI committee.

I'm looking forward to continuing working with all of you. I welcome our new President, Lynne Pleffner, incoming Board of Directors and Committee Chairs who will begin their term this June. They are dedicated and capable members who are committed to the success of the LWVCCA. We are well poised to provide another year of robust programming.

Recognizing Jeanne Morrison's Service as President

Submitted by Karen Mazza

Our League has been fortunate to enjoy the leadership of Jeanne Morrison for five years. She served for two years as Co-Vice President and for the past three years she has served as Co-President and now President. During this time she guided us in our commitment to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. She designed programs to expand our awareness, and helped us develop community partnerships with organizations that introduced us to a more diverse community. In the past two years Jeanne has led our League's involvement in reviving the International Women's Day Breakfast and has restored it to a major community event. Jeanne has done all of this while often experiencing very significant health challenges and has fought through the pain to fulfill her commitment to the League. She has also done this while simultaneously serving on other boards including the Board for the LWV of Massachusetts

I say this with affection--most people would have the good sense not to do so many jobs at one time. But she has done all of these things because she has a very deep sense of mission. We as an organization are much better and much stronger for the leadership that Jeanne has provided

While she is stepping down as President, she will still serve on the Board and we look forward to her continued work with us in other roles.

Jeanne, on behalf of the Cape Cod Area League, was presented the Sea Bubble from the Glass Studio of Cape Cod which has become our gift of honor for League Presidents, with our thanks and our affection for a job very well done.

Jeanne Morrison and Lynne Pleffner**Incoming President's Message**

First off, I want to thank all the members that have renewed. That action indicates the level of interest in our local area and democracy. For all the new members - thank you. You are in a welcome space and we want you to feel part of our family!

The Annual Meeting concludes our 2024-2025 year and now we begin the 2025 - 2026 year. The Summer will be busy with many events - our Voter Service Committee will be at many of them. Please stop by and say "hello" as that will put a smile on their faces. Please contact Judy Kelleher if you would like to be in the loop on these events. If so her email is jelleher@neuronascent.com.

The Board of Directors will be busy planning the September meeting where we look forward to seeing as many members as possible - after all this meeting is all about membership!

I also want you to know that there will be a few email blasts on opportunities for all members to participate. None of the requests will demand much time - just an email reply.

I look forward to seeing you and working with you as we work hard to keep our neighbors involved in this great adventure we call democracy.

Lynne Pleffner

2025 ANNUAL MEETING OVERVIEW**It was a dark and stormy night...**

with wind and rain whipping through the streets and rolling thunder soon to come. But not only did forty-four hearty members make their way to the Family Table Collaborative for the Annual LWVCCA Membership Meeting but our resilient speaker also drove through the rain all the way from Medford to join us that evening. Luckily, all would be rewarded. First, FTC put on a delicious buffet meal; next, we immediately got to the program.

Our speaker, veteran journalist Dan Kennedy, formerly a panelist on GBH-TV's popular *Beat the Press* weekly news show and now a professor at Northeastern, shared with us the lessons learned about local news from the research he did for his most recent book. In his remarks on "Local News and Democracy in a Time of Crisis," he brought forward several approaches to covering local information which has almost disappeared in the massive national consolidation of news media over the past decade. Across New England, however, local entrepreneurs in Maine, Connecticut and Massachusetts have found ways to meet the needs of their regions with non-profit and for-profit models, the former currently the most successful.

The audience appeared to enjoy Dan's relaxed but informative style. Members reflected their engagement with thoughtful questions, especially future-focused questions regarding the nature of news in a landscape of influencers and alternative media.

After a brief break, members got on to the business of the evening and moved quickly through our thirteen-item agenda. Jeanne Morrison, our President, recognized our three fifty-year members—Debbie Aikman, Bea Auty, and Jari Rapaport. Jeanne also honored those we lost during the year, and welcomed all the new members, who now represent almost a third of the total membership. Our 47 new members range across the Cape, from Bourne to Provincetown and will bring new energy to our activities.

Jeanne's oral year-end report included highlights of the committees' activities throughout the year. She graciously thanked both leadership and workers, highlighted major accomplishments, including the League's leadership role in the International Women's Day Breakfast and Get Out The Vote rally. She spoke about the importance of the League's work and commitment of our leaders and members. She mentioned as well an especially notable [thank you letter](#) from Southport regarding the spectacular job that Lynne Pleffner and her Voter Service Committee did in arranging and conducting the recent voter forums. She particularly highlighted this as an example of the hard work done by committees that too often goes unnoticed. She noted this as quite a tribute to the voter education and information mission, which is what we're all about

Jeanne moved on to discussion of several bylaws modifications and our 2025—26 Program Priorities, including the resurrection of a County Observers Corps to attend and track what's going on in local government meetings across the Cape.

Madeline Zevon gave the Nominating Committee's recommendations for the next year's officers and the slate was adopted as recommended: Additional Nominating Committee members remain to be recruited in the fall.

Jeanne ended the meeting with gracious thanks to the group, the board, and the leadership team, especially her right hand, Karen Mazza. We recognized Jeanne for her invaluable service to the League during a difficult time. By that time the storm had passed, and members headed home anticipating a new year in September.

Pat Burke and Sue Cameron

IN MEMORY of JAN HIVELY

Those of you who are long term members of our League will remember our former member, Jan Hively. I am sad to tell you that Jan passed away on May 24, in Portland, Oregon, where she and her partner, Tom, had moved a few years ago to be near her family.

Jan joined our League when I was President a decade ago. I remember that I asked her to be the speaker at one of our membership meetings and she was a great hit. She was very active in the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, in the United Nations social action projects, and in Age Friendly Communities. Jan initiated an intergenerational program between the Yarmouth Senior Center and Dennis Yarmouth Regional High School using the Model UN Program to join the two communities together in a shared program.

Jan was a wonderful woman full of life and courage. She and her partner Tom enjoyed jazz and I believe Jeanne knew them from some jazz sessions and also from attending the Symphony.

Her family started communicating with Jan's friends around the country through a social platform called CaringBridge. I was fortunate to be included in those messages which started when Jan broke her hip about a year ago. Just recently it was discovered that Jan had a brain tumor and was going into hospice care. The family encouraged people to be in touch with her and I took that opportunity to call her. I am so glad I had the chance to speak to her about two weeks ago. Jan often signed her emails with the closing -- Onward! And that was the spirit of our phone conversation. She did not talk about her health. She spoke about projects she cared about and she wanted to know if Oregon could get the civics model we had worked out in Massachusetts. She told me about advances in health care and that it could be possible for people to live to be 100 and still be in good health. She talked about leading an active life "til the last breath". That was Jan!

When Jan and I were at Dennis Yarmouth to meet with the Social Studies Department a few years ago, Carol Woodbury walked us out of the building and said to me, "I want to be like her when I grow up."

At this time, obituary information is unavailable.

With fond memories of a wonderful woman,

Karen Mazza

CALENDAR

JUNE

Board Meeting

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

H. S. Aaron Ed Trust Meeting

THURSDAY JUNE 12 | 1:00—2:00 p.m.
Zoom conference by invitation

SEPTEMBER

Board Meeting

TUESDAY SEPT 2 | 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 "Schedule" to see a list of all events. Click on any calendar listing to see more detail.

HELEN S. AARON EDUCATIONAL TRUST

You are invited to a quarterly meeting of The Helen S. Aaron Educational Trust for the League of Women Voters of the Cape Cod Area. That can be quite a mouthful, so we shorten it to The Ed Trust!

The Ed Trust was established in 1985 with a generous gift from Helen S. Aaron. The Ed Trust is a 501 (c) (3) organization which allows the LWVCCA to solicit tax-deductible contributions. The contributions fund the educational and voter service activities of the League.

For example - the Ed Trust pays to produce all educational pamphlets of the League, such as the "Directory of Elected Officials" updated by the Legislative Committee, meeting room rentals for educational forums, and a portion of the costs of the League's website and League phone.

The meeting will be held on Thursday, June 12th at 1 pm via Zoom.

We are looking forward to new folks becoming Trustees of the Trust so please let us know if you would like to join us on Zoom!

Please RSVP to lwvcca@gmail.com if you are interested in attending.

Thanks! Lynne Pleffner

DID YOU KNOW...?

...that 3,300 Massachusetts voters had their November 2024 ballots rejected because they were required to complete "provisional" ballots instead of regular ballots at their polling place?

Massachusetts is one of the states that still has not instituted Same Day Voter Registration (SDR) which allows eligible voters—whose names may be missing from the voter list or whose registration data may contain errors—to complete or correct their registration at early voting sites or on Election Day and to cast a regular ballot immediately. Secretary of the Commonwealth William Galvin has regularly expressed his support and his department's readiness to implement Same Day Registration, in agreement with 22 other states and DC which already offer it to their voters.

To uphold voters' rights in Massachusetts, the Election Modernization Coalition (EMC) is making Same Day Registration (SDR) a priority for the current legislative session. In mid-May, it launched its Voting Access Campaign—announced at a State House press conference. The LWVMA—as a member of its Steering Committee—was there.

As members of the EMC, organizations such as the LWV of Massachusetts, Common Cause MA, ACLU Massachusetts, and the MA Voter Table will work with the Voting Access Campaign to publicize the importance of SDR and other voter access measures, such as requiring accessible polling places and voting equipment, and

decoupling the municipal census from the voter registration rolls.

Why support SDR? Data shows that SDR increases voter turnout, especially among young people and voters of color, and helps to keep voter rolls accurate and updated. Moreover, voters appreciate it. UMass Amherst/CommonWealth Beacon's 2024 survey shows that nearly 70% of MA respondents support registration on Election Day.

The LWVMA, along with the LWVCCA and local Leagues throughout the state, will advocate for the passage of H.834/S505 *An Act establishing same day registration of voters*—already introduced in the current legislative session.

--Carole Young-Kleinfeld

VOTER SERVICE COMMITTEE

This has been a very busy Spring Election period! I remember a time when there were few if any contested races so this is really good news plus it shows that democracy is quite alive here!

First out of the gate, on April 15th, was at the Brewster Ladies Library. We collaborated with the Brewster Chamber of Commerce and their wonderful Executive Director, Kyle Hinkle. We held two forums – one for the Select Board and one for the Recreation Commission. Approximately 64 residents attended and submitted great questions.

Brewster Ladies Library
Spring 2025 Candidate Forum



Next up, on April 30th, was at the Dennis Town Hall. Terri Bunce, the Town Clerk, was very

helpful in arranging the Forum for the Water Commission. Approximately 35 residents attended.

The next day, Thursday, May 1st was quite busy. We had two Forums basically at the same time at different ends of the Cape! The Chatham Select Board race started first and was recorded at Cape Media in Dennisport. We collaborated with the Chatham Chamber of Commerce and their Executive Director, Angela Bucar. Approximately 15 residents attended. In Mashpee we presented the Select Board Forum which was a collaboration with the Mashpee Chamber of Commerce and The Mashpee Register. This was the first time we had held a Forum in Mashpee and the response was very positive. We were quite fortunate in getting a Moderator from off-Cape. Jack Eklund from Mattapoisett did the moderating and if that name sounds familiar he helped us out last October for the State Senate Forum. Great attendance, great questions and great feedback after the Forum from the attendees. We expect that we will be holding more Forums in Mashpee!

On May 6th we were back at the Brewster Ladies Library for the Planning Board Forum. Attendance was a bit sparse however the questions were quite good.

On May 8th we held a Select Board Forum for Yarmouth at Cape Media in Dennisport. Of course, it was one of the most spectacular days of May so we weren't sure about attendance! Fortunately, we were not disappointed. Approximately 25 attended and after the Forum a woman came up to me as she wanted to learn more about the League.

Our last Forum was held in Harwich at their Town Hall. We collaborated with the Harwich Voter Information Committee chaired by Tricia Murray. The Forum covered three (!!!) contested races: Select Board, Monomoy School District and the Water/Wastewater Committee. This was quite well attended!

They say it takes a village, and it certainly did with all these Forums. These are the wonderful Voter Service Committee members that volunteered at these Forums: Rosemary Shields, Debbie Winnick, Mary O'Connor, Anita Parker,

Anita Rogers, Judy Kelleher, Laurie Hutton-Corr, Joyce Flynn, Tova Soy, Karen Mazza, Karen McPherson, Lynn Carlson, Kathy Borofsky, Mati Ligon and last but certainly not least Carole Young-Kleinfeld. I cannot thank you enough for stepping up!!

We ended this wonderful month with a Credit for Life event at Sturgis High School in Barnstable. The kids were very interested as it gave them a good idea if their dream job would pay the bills! Backing up a bit there was another Credit for Life event at Bourne High School.

Four juniors came up to Rosemary Shields and asked her if she would take a photo of them. She said sure and then got into the photo. They had fun trading movie lines while she handed out QR code cards. Soon there were over 25 students around her chanting League of Women Voters.

Credit for Life event at Bourne High School



Students chanting "*League of Women Voters*" surrounding Rosemary Shields

The gym was filled with chants!

We expect that the Summer – June, July and August – will be quite busy with events throughout the Cape. We hope to see you at one of them – come over and say "Hi"!

Happy Summer!

Lynne Pleffner – Outgoing Chair
Judy Kelleher – Incoming Chair

Voter Services Recognized

On behalf of the LWVCCA, I commend the work of our Voter Services team for their excellence and

successful candidates' forums this past spring. These included this: 2 forums in Brewster, Chatham, Dennis, Mashpee and Yarmouth.

This was the first candidate forum we've done in Mashpee. It resulted in a lovely thank you letter from an attendee to the Mashpee Select Board candidate forum and a new member joining our League. Congratulations! Outstanding job of leadership and hard working volunteers who fairly and professionally informed voters about their choices in candidates and provided an opportunity for voters to hear candidates' views on local issues. The Voter Services Committee has demonstrated the importance and value of providing ongoing voter information and candidates forums. Well-deserved recognition of your team's efforts are both validating and encouraging for all of us. Thank you! [The thank you letter attached below](#) shares public gratitude for your hard work. Bringing voters information and engaging them in the democratic process is our primary purpose, and what our work is all about.

Jeanne Morrison, outgoing President

HEALTH COMMITTEE

The Health Committee is addressing two topics by two of its members --Donna Wald and Madeline Zevon.

Donna Wald talked about the referendum concerning our new gun. The referendum vote, which will take place in the 2026 midterm, seeks to repeal our Firearms Modernization Act #4885 law passed last July

Donna Wald, President of the Cape's Grandmothers Against Gun Violence, presented on and facilitated the Committee's discussion on this law. Donna identified that Massachusetts is a model for other states regarding gun control. Even so, there is a push to repeal this law. The November 2026 election will have voters address this repeal challenge.

Madeline Zevon presented on and facilitated the Medicare for All discussion. The Medicare for

all bill is S.860 "An Act establishing Medicare for all in Massachusetts"

Madeline identified the bill's cost savings on prescription and medical service provision. She identified that information can be found at Cape Cod Coalition for Universal Health Care's PSA Medicare for All in MA on Vimeo at this link: <https://vimeo.com/1081873971>. Madeline is a member of Mass-Care. She explained Mass-Care's mission on ensuring all State residents can access comprehensive, equitable, and quality health care that is publicly financed at no out-of-pocket cost.

Further updates on each will continue in the Committee's June 3 Meeting. Do let Eileen Elias, Health Committee Chair know if you are interested in joining the Committee (eileen.elias@comcast.net).

Health Committee Chair Eileen Elias

LWVCCA Board & Contact information

LWVCCA DIRECTORS 2025-2026

Officers for 2024-2025

President Lynne Pleffner

Vice Presidents

Programs Patricia Burke

Operations Carol Woodbury

Treasurer Sue Cameron

Secretary Debbie Winnick

Committee Chairs:

Legislation Suzanne Brock *

Membership Jeanne Morrison
Elizabeth Harder *

Voter Service Judith Kelleher-Andersson

Youth Service Karen Mazza

**Diversity, Equity,
and Inclusion** Jeanne Morrison

Health Eileen Elias *

Communications Richard Utt

Newsletter Richard Utt

**Florence Seldin
Speaker Series** Karen Mazza *

Member At Large:

Gail Spink

* = Off-Board

Contact LWVCCA:

LWVCCA

P. O. Box 2347

Orleans, MA 02653

Phone: 508-945-0511

Email: lwvcca@gmail.com

Website: <http://www.lwvcapecod.org>

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

BUSINESS SUPPORTERS of LWVCCA

Support these businesses who have supported LWVCCA



www.capeair.com | 1-800-CAPE-AIR



Restaurant and Grille

715 Main Street

Route 6A

Yarmouthport, MA 02675

508-362-2288

www.ScargoCafe.com

David@ScargoCafe.com



David W Troutman

Pun Time Specialist

W- 508-385-8200

C- 508-274-8901

PO Box 1025

Dennis MA, 02638



A gallery with a different point of view

525 Main Street Chatham, MA 02633

(508) 945-1288

www.yankee-ingenuity.com

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE

SOUTHPORT – MASHPEE

May 9, 2025

To: Lynne Pleffner – Chair, Voter Service Committee League of Women Voters of the Cape Cod Area

Dear Lynne:

On behalf of the Government Relations Committee, I extend to you, your committee, and the League of Women Voters our sincerest appreciation for conducting a local candidates forum here in Mashpee. Given the short time here between declaration deadline and actual voting – putting together such a professional event was amazing!

Impressive organization supported by great questions, good candidate responses, and staffing by your masterful members resulted in producing a very informative forum. Our committee, with the support of our Board of Governors and staff assistance, was able to E mail all Southport residents, including sending them streaming information and links. We also posted a flyer in our news board box at the Village Center.

We look forward to working with you on future elections. Thank you again for all your hard work to keep voters better informed.

Sincerely,

Barbara Kidd

Joe Crowley, Chair

Ellie Beth

Merrill Blum

Mary Gately

Anne Macdonald