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**LWVCCA PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE**

**Message from the President and Administrator**

We greet you this September, realizing it is a pivotal month of seasonal change, new beginnings and the lead up to one of the most consequential elections of our time. For our organization, just as it is for students and teachers, it is the beginning of a new year. We will resume our monthly Board meetings on **Tuesday, September 3** via Zoom and we would like to remind the membership that any member is invited to attend by Zoom as an observer. With prior request, a member who wishes to address the Board may do so. We will also hold an in-person Board Retreat on **Tuesday, September 10** to do some visioning work around issues that would take too long to discuss in a Board Meeting.

An all membership meeting is scheduled for **September 17** and our speaker will be Sheriff Donna Buckley, speaking on Sheriff’s Office initiatives and goals. This is a good time for

members to meet each other, socialize, and learn about important issues and upcoming events. Whether you are a new member or a long term member who has not participated in a while, we hope you will join us. Please see the description for the meeting and speaker in this newsletter and be sure to register.

The upcoming election is an all hands on deck time period for the League and especially our Voter Service Committee. Please see the Voter Service article in the newsletter and let Lynne Pleffner, Voter Service Chair, know if you can help to support any of the activities.

There are a variety of ways to participate in the League. Committee descriptions are listed on our website and articles in the Voter newsletter also explain work of the committees. Consider joining a committee or talking to Jeanne or I or membership chair, Elizabeth Harder, about any skills you would like to offer for volunteer opportunities.

As we face the November election, it is important to remember our roots as an organization empowering women to participate in the civic process and fight for our rights. In the year 2024 we still find it necessary to fight for those rights, for ourselves and for all. Let us join together in renewed energy and commitment.

In League,  
 Jeanne Morrison, President  
 and Karen Mazza, Administrator

**MEMBERSHIP NEWS**



Membership, as of this writing, stands at 112.



**CALENDAR****SEPTEMBER****Board Meeting**

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

**Board Retreat**

TUESDAY SEPT 10 | 9:30—11:30 a.m.  
Zoom conference by invitation

**Membership Meeting**

September 17 at 5:30 p.m.  
Sheriff Donna Buckley

**UPCOMING****Board Meeting**

TUESDAY OCT 1 | 9:30—11:30 a.m.  
Zoom conference by invitation

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

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

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

**DID YOU KNOW—?**

...that Cape Cod now has its own Cape-wide speaker series featuring presentations by nationally known experts on thought-provoking issues of local and national interest? The Cape Cod Speaker Series, Inc. is a 501(C)3 non-profit organization, similar to those on Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket, San Francisco, and Boston. Its first event, held in August and co-hosted by the Cape Cod Technology Council, featured Harvard Law School and Harvard School of Engineering and Applied Sciences professor Jonathan Zittrain speaking on *The Genius, the Eccentricities, and the Challenges of Artificial Intelligence*.

The Cape Cod Speaker Series is held at Cape Cod Community College's Tilden Arts Center. Their next program—on October 17, 2024 @7:30 pm—features Steven Levitsky, Harvard professor and co-author of the NYT Best Seller, *How Democracies Die*. Find out more and purchase tickets on their website

<https://www.capecodspeakers.org/>

*Submitted by Carole Young-Kleinfeld*

**OPENING MEMBERSHIP MEETING****SAVE THE DATE**

September 17 at 5:30 PM

To be held at the Hearth & Kettle Restaurant in South Yarmouth.

Dinner service will be offered, and Sheriff Donna Buckley, will be our featured speaker. Sheriff Buckley will address her experience as Sheriff since January 2023, how the Office has changed over the past year and a half, what remains to be done, and how we might help. Watch for more information to come. For now, please save the date: September 17 at 5:30 PM.

Best, Patricia Burke and Sue Cameron,  
Program VPs

**VOTER SERVICE COMMITTEE**

The Voter Service Committee has been quite busy since the Annual Meeting!

First off, we were thrilled that the turnout in the Yarmouth Spring Election increased to 17% participation versus 5% in 2023! We believe the Candidate's Forum helped with the increase.

Thanks to Joyce Flynn, Anita Rogers, Carol Sheingold, Mary Bridgett O'Connor, Rosemary Shields and Carole Young Kleinfeld for attending the Voters Service Pot Luck Dinner at Lynne Pleffner's home. Great food, great conversation!

June 9<sup>th</sup> was Race Amity Day in Mashpee however the weather wasn't cooperative and the turnout was less than expected. Thanks to Rosemary Shields and Anita Rogers.

Race Amity Day June 9<sup>th</sup>



Marie Stevenson.  
LWVCCA member



Jeanne Morrison  
LWVCCA President

Next up was Juneteenth in Brewster at Drummer Boy Park. We had many lovely people stop by and they all were registered and determined to vote. Lots of interesting conversations.

We were looking forward to participating in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Amplify POC Summer Festival on June 30<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers were ready to go however Mother Nature had other ideas and the event was postponed due to torrential downpours to July 13<sup>th</sup>. Mother Nature struck again and now the event has been postponed to August 31<sup>st</sup>.

The weather cleared up overnight and the next day, July 14<sup>th</sup> was clear, hot and humid and time for Independence House's International Day! There was a steady stream of people. We spoke to around 60 people over the 4 hours event. Fifteen told us they were really impressed with the work we do. Thanks to Rosemary Shields, Kathy Bronsky, Carole Young Kleinfeld, Carol Sheingold and Pat Lombardi for holding the fort!



International Day  
Pat Lombardi  
answering  
questions

On July 31<sup>st</sup> we participated in the Leadership Cape Cod's Community Engagement and Resource

Fair that was held at the Cape & Island Association of Realtors in West Yarmouth. Thanks to Rosemary Shields and Elizabeth Harder for participating! This was a great event with 32 nonprofits focused on the local community. Between walking around and folks who came to the table we probably chatted with 60 individuals of all ages.

Leadership Cape Cod  
Community Engagement and Resource Fair



Elizabeth Harder and Lynne Pleffner

Unity Day/People of Action was August 4<sup>th</sup> at the Hyannis Green from 4 to 7 pm. This is an event that you should put on your calendar! Free hotdogs, hamburgers, soda and ice cream! Now that is a great event! We had approximately 60 folks who stopped by to ask questions and pick up information. Other passersby gave us a thumbs up when they saw our "Voting is Your Superpower!". We had 3-4 folks stop by to ask where they could expect their mail-in ballots. The answer? Call your Town Clerk! And yes, we gave them the phone number to speed things along. Thank you, Janet McCroskery and Rosemary Shields, for femaling (nope not manning!) this event on one of the yuckiest humid days!



Unity Day 4 Aug 2024 Janet McCroskery

On September 6<sup>th</sup> we are participating in the Brewster Ladies Library Volunteer Fair that will be held from 10:30 to 1 pm. Further information will be available in the October VOTER.

We are in the process of nailing down venues for the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Barnstable District races along with the State Senate and Barnstable County Commissioner races.

Needless to say, I expect that the Voter Service Committee will be very busy!

Lynne Pleffner  
Chair

## LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Members,

For those of us who have attempted to follow bills through the myriads of legislative twists and turns, it has been a challenging and somewhat frustrating process. This is a short summary of our legislative successes and failures. It is actually hard to fathom how to improve the system. Here's an article from the Commonwealth Beacon that I subscribe to. Hopefully you will be able to read the article. It gives us a lot to think about and things to focus on going forward.

<https://commonwealthbeacon.org/opinion/the-compelling-case-for-massachusetts-legislative-reform/>

We followed 60 bills through the 2 year 2022-2024 session:

**Article V Convention** - 1 proposed a Constitutional Convention which we opposed. Thankfully, this failed so we get to count it as a win!

**Affordable Housing** - 8 housing bills were favored. Of those 8, 7 are still in legislative limbo.... There is a slim possibility that some of them may pass in informal session which lasts thru December, but it must be by unanimous consent with no debates or any amendments. The one that did make it through, did so through the budget process and not as a bill codified in law. The Access to Counsel piece was included in Gov.

Healy's housing budget Section. If anything changes with this or the other housing bills, I will let you know.

**Children & Family Issues** - 3 were supported. Of these, 1 that passed was the Law to Prevent Abuse and Exploitation. The second, the Bill to Lift Kids out of Deep Poverty was addressed in the budget, but not strong enough and it is dependent on income for next year where the funding could then be eliminated. The third that addressed possible litigation relative to controlling and abusive behavior failed. Our legislators felt that some of this was included in the Abuse and Exploitation Law.

**Education Policy K-12** - 2 were supported. One, funding for Common Start, saw some increases in the FY'25 budget, but again this could change depending on the state income collected both in this year and next year. Gov. Healy did establish listening sessions taking place around the state so that she could get a sense of the specific needs in various areas, so that is a good thing. The other bill, to promote racially inclusive curriculum in schools, did not make it very far.

**Election & Voting** - 8 were supported. Here the only success we saw was the bill Supporting Parents Running for Public Office. The rest, including Same Day Voter Registration and Rank Choice Voting were virtually ignored. The leadership believed that they had addressed enough voting issues last session.

**Environment, Natural Resources** - 3 bills were supported. All three failed to move, one focused on maintaining adequate water supplies, one focused on the threat of invasive species and one that sought to protect MA public health from PFAS. However, on a positive note, the bill addressing PFAS in fire fighter's clothing passed and was signed into law. The State League followed this bill, however, our local League did not.

**Good Governance** - The 2 bills that we supported both failed.

**Gun Violence Protection** - 3 supported separate bills targeted Gun Violence. Thankfully versions

of all three were rolled into the Modernizing Firearms Protection law that was signed by the Governor. However, the anti-gun legislation groups are already gathering signatures to establish a ballot question to overturn the legislation so we must remain vigilant.

**Health Care** - We supported 4 bills included under the Health Care umbrella. The Medicare for All bill failed early and the End of Life Options failed partially because the leadership of the Senate, Mariano, opposed it. The attempt to establish the family care giving tax credit died early. But, we were successful with the passage of the Midwifery Care & Out of Hospital Birth Options bill.

**Immigration** - Of our 4 supported bills, three died early. The last one having to do with tuition equity was included in the Governor's budget. Again, the budget process for adoption is tricky because continuity is dependent on yearly income and budget whims of the House and Senate. But, we will take the partial win for now.

**Transportation** - 3 targeted transportation issues which we supported all died.

**Women's Issues** - We supported 5 separate bills addressing Women's Issues. 2 bills died, 1 dealing with birthing justice was included in the Midwifery legislation and the other two dealing with Salary Range Transparency and Transparency in the Workplace were passed bundled together.

**Holtec** - Our local League supported 4 bills addressing the ongoing Holtec closing. All four of these bills failed, though not due to lack of effort, especially by members, Diane Turco and Rosemary Shields. Thank you both for your diligence. I am not sure what that means in terms of protecting the citizens of the Cape.

Although the formal legislative session is over, I will continue to follow the informal session in case anything additional takes place. I wish I could say that we had a better year, success for 13/60 (including the few that were incorporated into the budget), but we all worked diligently following bills, writing and delivering testimony and

contacting our legislators as needed. Thank you all, committee members and League members alike for your ongoing support.

Working for justice,  
Suzanne Brock - Legislative Chair

## HEALTH COMMITTEE

### Good News and Not-So-Good News

The LWVCCA's Health Committee, chaired by Eileen Elias, reports that the 193<sup>rd</sup> session of the Massachusetts Legislature ended with some *very* good news along with several disappointments. First, the much-applauded *Act Modernizing Firearms Laws*—which restricts ghost guns and parts, bans firearms at polling places, and establishes improved firearms data collection—passed both chambers of the legislature, survived a conference committee negotiation, and was signed into law by Governor Healey. *Everytown Research and Policy* reports that that, in 2022, firearms continued to be the leading cause of death to children and teens and, therefore, present an alarming public health crisis.

In a surprise last-minute action in mid-August, a Senate/House conference committee, assigned to examine differences in the proposed H.4999 Maternal Health legislation, issued a consensus report. Both chambers quickly passed this bill and sent it to Governor Healey for her signature. This law allows for licensing midwives, establish a board to over licensure, requires MassHealth to cover midwifery services, supports doula care, increases perinatal and postpartum mental health services, updates regulations of birthing centers, and more.

Unfortunately, this session did not pass the Medical Aid in Dying bill (aka the *End-of-Life Options Act*) which would have added Massachusetts to the 11 other states, plus D.C., where medical aid in dying—with strong safeguards against abuse—is available to mentally competent adults suffering from a terminal illness. This bill was supported by the LWVMA and the LWVCCA but did not get resolved by a joint

conference committee of the Senate and House. Finally, an Act Establishing Medicare for All was sent to “study” once again. The LWVMA notes that they have been advocating for this bill for more than a decade.

*Submitted by Carole Young-Kleinfeld*

## YOUTH SERVICE COMMITTEE

### What We and Other Leagues Across the State Are Doing to Support Civic Education

If you have been following the work of the Youth Service Committee, you know that we collaborate with schools to support civic education and in particular, to support the student-led civics projects which are now a part of the curriculum. In the June issue of the Voter we summarized our past year’s activity. I personally, have worked with LWVMA leadership to support other Leagues across the state to initiate their own projects to support schools in their areas in the showcasing of student civic projects. This year, a total of 10 Leagues across the state have done that and 8 of the ten have summarized their approach to working with schools on the LWVMA website under the Celebration of Student-Led Civics Projects page. Here is a link to view that information so that you can see what other Leagues are doing, in addition to our own.

[Celebration of Student Civics Projects](#)

### Next Steps for Our League

The Youth Service Committee met in June to discuss our next steps for supporting schools with the student led civics projects. We have been taking the approach of working with schools individually because each of them has been at a different stage in their readiness to help students engage with civics issues. We feel that it is time to design some kind of group event for all middle and high schools on the Cape that will facilitate greater resource provision to students of community expertise on specific civic issues and also facilitate greater sharing among students. Our major focus this year will be to explore this possibility with schools and collaborate on the development of such a program. We will also seek

financial support to support a program and reach out to community organizations and legislators to participate.

### Invitation to Join Us

While we already have a strong committee, we are always happy to have new members join us as well as League members who just want to be helpers for any event we host. If you are interested please contact Committee Chair, Karen Mazza at [mazzak1623@gmail.com](mailto:mazzak1623@gmail.com).

*Submitted by Karen Mazza, Committee Chair*

**LWVCCA Board & Contact information**

**LWVCCA DIRECTORS 2024-2025**

**Officers for 2024-2025**

|                        |                 |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Presidents</b>      | Jeanne Morrison |
| <b>Vice Presidents</b> |                 |
| <b>Programs</b>        | Patricia Burke  |
| <b>Operations</b>      | Sue Cameron     |
| <b>Administrator</b>   | Karen Mazza     |
| <b>Treasurer</b>       | Tova Soyt       |
| <b>Secretary</b>       | Debbie Winnick  |

**Committee Chairs:**

|   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| <b>Membership</b>                       | Elizabeth Harder |
| <b>Voter Service</b>                    | Lynne Pleffner   |
| <b>Youth Service</b>                    | Karen Mazza      |
| <b>Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion</b> | Tamora Israel*   |
| <b>Communications, Newsletter</b>       | Richard Utt      |

**Members At Large:**

Mary H. Utt  
Carole Young-Kleinfeld

**Off-Board Committee Chairs**

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

\* = Off-Board

**Contact LWVCCA:**

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

## GET OUT THE VOTE RALLY

**Mega Rally - Get Out the Vote!****Grandmothers Against Gun Violence Cape Cod**

September 14 - 11:30 -12:30 - Hyannis Rotary

We need forty people who believe in Democracy!

**Stand with us on the Line!**

We hope to fill our rally field on September 14th with at least forty people to hold VOTE signs. We welcome signs that support our right to vote and the importance of voting! You can use our signs or bring your own signage—as long as it does not support particular candidates or a particular political party. Feel free to bring friends!

**Everything is on the line in November.** Either we have the chance to get the comprehensive gun violence reforms we need OR we risk losing what we've accomplished and seeing the Office of Gun Violence Prevention in Washington disbanded.



**BUSINESS SUPPORTERS OF LWVCCA**

*Support these businesses who have supported LWVCCA*



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