

**CONTENTS**

**LWVCCA OPENING MESSAGE .....1**  
 MESSAGE FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR ..... 1  
**CIVIC CONVERSATIONS AROUND the CAPE .....1**  
**CALENDAR.....2**  
**DID YOU KNOW...?.....2**  
**VISIT to CAPE COD from LWVMA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.....3**  
**HELPING HIGH SCHOOLS REGISTER STUDENTS to VOTE .....3**  
**VOTER SERVICE COMMITTEE .....4**  
**LEGISLATIVE and HEALTH COMMITTEES COMBINED REPORT .....5**  
**LWVCCA BOARD & CONTACT INFORMATION .....6**  
**BUSINESS SUPPORTERS OF LWVCCA .....7**

**LWVCCA OPENING MESSAGE**

**Message from the Administrator**

We are in the home stretch leading to the November 5 election. Early voting begins on October 19. The red booklet, "Information for Voters" published by the Secretary of the Commonwealth has arrived with its background information on the pros and cons of the five ballot questions that will be on the ballot. The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts has chosen not to take a stand on these ballot questions, so we will all need to do our own homework to make our choices.

Our Voter Service Chair, Lynne Pleffner, and the Voter Service Committee have organized an impressive array of candidate forums for state senate, state representative and county commissioner races. Please review the information in the Voter Service Report and plan on attending or viewing the forums on TV.

The September 17 membership meeting at the Hearth and Kettle to hear Sheriff Donna Buckley was a great success. One member commented that it is gratifying to hear someone who campaigned on a platform to focus on programs and services that would help inmates be prepared for entry back to the community talk to us a year and a half after election, able to discuss the programs that she has been able to implement and the progress that has been made, particularly on meeting the needs of women inmates. Thank you to our Co-Vice Presidents, Pat Burke and Sue Cameron for organizing this program.

Our next membership meeting will be on December 5 so save the date. Look for future communications on that event. In the meantime, let's all "Do Something" to be involved in getting out the vote and supporting our democracy.

Karen Mazza  
Administrator

**CIVIC CONVERSATIONS  
AROUND the CAPE**

Submitted by Karen Mazza

The League does its fair share of promoting civic discussion in the community by organizing candidate forums and special topic forums. But I am heartened to see that we are not alone in that endeavor. In September and October, notable programs have or will occur of great civic value. On September 18 and 19, the Cape Cod Commission presented its tenth One Cape Summit. This program brings together state officials, county commission staff, local elected officials and state legislators, experts on topics dealing with the environment and housing, and interested citizens to discuss the challenges our region faces in these areas and the exciting research and initiatives that offer potential solutions.

On October 17, Housing to Protect Cape Cod will present its third annual summit and it will focus on the opportunities created by the recently passed Affordable Homes Act. On October 5, the Brewster Ladies Library will present its annual Nickerson Memorial Lecture and the speaker will be nationally known historian, Michael Beschloss. And also on October 17, in the evening, the newly created Cape Cod Speaker Series at Cape Cod Community College will feature Harvard Professor, Steven Levitsky, speaking on Democracy’s Struggle. For more information and tickets on this event go to

<https://www.capecodspeakers.org>

**CALENDAR**

**OCTOBER**

**Board Meeting**

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

**Seldin Speaker Series**

WEDNESDAY OCT 9.  
Cape Cod Community College

**UPCOMING**

**Board Meeting**

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

**Election Day**

**TUESDAY NOV 5**

**Members Holiday Meeting**

THURSDAY DEC 5:  
Save the Date

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.

We are very fortunate to live in an area where these resources are available to bring the community together for these valuable civic discussions. When a community joins together in building a network of support for civic discussion, learning and problem solving, it builds the supportive fabric of our democracy. I am happy and proud for our League’s part in that network.

**DID YOU KNOW...?**

....that, according to its Action Newsletter, the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts is *taking no position* on Ballot Questions 1-5 for the November 5, 2024 election. This means that:

“League members may participate in Yes or No campaigns for Ballot Questions 1-5 as individuals but should not do anything to make the public think that LWVMA or a Local League has endorsed a Yes or No campaign”.

Local Leagues may hold informational forums on these ballot questions.

**Q. 1: State Auditor’s Authority to Audit the Legislature**—would give explicit authority to the State Auditor to audit the Legislature.

**Q. 2: Elimination of MCAS as High School Graduation Requirement**—would eliminate the requirement that a student pass the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) tests in order to receive a high school diploma.

**Q. 3: Unionization for Transportation Network Drivers**—would provide transportation network drivers with the right to form unions.

**Q. 4: Limited Legalization and Regulation of Certain Natural Psychedelic Substances**—would allow people aged 21 and older to possess and use certain natural psychedelic substances within specific parameters.

**Q. 5: Minimum Wage for Tipped Workers**—would gradually increase the minimum hourly wage an employer must pay a tipped worker to 100% of the state minimum wage over five years.

The LWVMA 's Action Newsletter further describes the reasoning behind its decision to take no position on several of these questions, despite the League's support for legislative transparency, for a living wage, and for setting minimum standards in education. Check the LWVMA website for more information:

<https://lwmva.org/ballot-questions-for-november-election/>

In September, the Secretary of the Commonwealth's Elections Division will distribute to all households in Massachusetts an Information for Voters booklet including the text of each question, a summary and text of the proposed law, pro and con arguments, and the implications of the final Yes/No vote. See the Secretary of the State's website for additional ballot question information:

<https://www.sec.state.ma.us/divisions/news/middle-story.htm>

*Submitted by* Carole Young-Kleinfeld

**VISIT to CAPE COD from LWVMA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

*Submitted by* Karen Mazza

On Friday, August 16<sup>th</sup>, several members of the LWVCCA Board and Off-Board Chairs were able to join Pattye Comfort, LWVMA Executive Director and Susan Garvey, LWVMA Development Officer for a lovely dinner at the Mattakeese Wharf Restaurant on Barnstable Harbor. Pattye and Susan were visiting the Cape for the Falmouth Road Race, in which five League members are running as a fund raiser for LWVMA and LWV Falmouth. Pattye and Susan extended the dinner invitation to us as they wanted to visit with the three Leagues in the southern coastal tier of Massachusetts. Prior to meeting with us they had also made a stop to visit with members of the LWV South Coast. Beyond fundraising, the entry into the Falmouth Road Race was also intended to raise the visibility of the League.

The state League provides a good deal of support for local Leagues and it is good to have opportunities like these to get to know our state

League executive staff and visit with them informally. In addition to having a fun night out, we were also able to ask a few business questions and get some answers. We are very fortunate to have such capable staff members at the helm of LWVMA. Jeanne Morrison has had a very good experience working as a Board Member for LWVMA and I have enjoyed a good relationship with their staff in support of the civic education project that I lead at the state level. Our League has also received grants from the Lotte Scharfman Memorial Fund. Personally, when LWVMA requests donations, I do look at those requests favorably as I think the state League provides valuable leadership, support and advocacy.



Seated from left to right:  
 Karen Mazza, Susan Garvey( LWVMA),  
 Jeanne Morrison, Susan Cameron, Tamora Israel  
 Standing from left to right:  
 Elizabeth Harder, Pat Burke, Patty Comfort(LWVMA)

**HELPING HIGH SCHOOLS REGISTER STUDENTS to VOTE**

*Submitted by* Karen Mazza

In conjunction with the Massachusetts Civic Learning Coalition, The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts has collaborated on the development of a tool kit in the form of a resource document to give high schools all the information they need to run their own high school voter registration drives. The document is titled, "Resources about Voter Registration and How to Hold a Voter Drive at Your School." (Voter Registration Resources for High Schools) I spearheaded this effort working with Executive



Director Pattye Comfort and the Voter Service Co-Chairs for LWVMA. LWVMA has sent this document to all local Leagues across the state and MCLC is also distributing it through member organizations. Our own Cape Cod Area League has done a great job of registering students to vote at local high schools, partnering with Cape Cod Five to register students during the Credit for Life Fairs organized by the Bank. This is a time that students are available to visit our voter registration table as one of the stations that they see.

For schools that don't have a local League or other non-partisan organization to help them, this document helps them be organized with everything they need to know about putting on their own voter registration drive.

**VOTER SERVICE COMMITTEE**

Amplify POC event happened on August 31st. The third time was the charm for this event as the weather was wonderful! Plus, there were a lot of folks on Main Street in Hyannis due to the Labor Day weekend. Thanks to Lynn Carlson, Patrick Lombardi and Rosemary Shields for representing the League. We had great conversations with several people. One of our visitors was from the Newton League. She shared that they were at every Farmers Market. That is a great idea, however on the Cape these Markets are heavily attended by folks on vacation. The Orleans Winter Market would be a good place for us to participate.

**Amplify POC August 31st**



Lynn Carlson and Rosemary Shields



Rosemary with a registered voter



Pat Lombardi and Lynne Pleffner



Miss Cape Cod at Amplify POC

The Voter Service Committee held a fall meeting on Thursday, September 5th at Kathy Borofsky's home. We discussed key dates up to December 11th! This included the upcoming CCYP "Back to Business Bash", the GOTV event on September 28, Candidate Forums and Credit for Life. Committee members in attendance: Carole Young-Kleinfeld, Pat Burke, Anita Parker, Anita Rogers, Rosemary Shields, Debbie Winnick, Kathy Borofsky, and Mary O'Connor. Felicia Bordick from the Falmouth League was our guest.

**Voter Service Committee Meeting Sept 5**



The Brewster Ladies Library held a Volunteer Fair on Friday, September 6th from 10:30 to 1 pm. Committee member Suzanne Keeney was instrumental in getting us involved in the Fair. Rosemary Shields and I helped to answer questions. Approximately 44 people showed up at Fair and we probably spoke to 20 of them. We handed out approximately 10 pamphlets. We are always open to new opportunities!

## Brewster Ladies Library Sept 6th



Brewster Ladies Library: Our table

We are also working on the DEI Event: Get Out The Vote. This new event will be on Saturday, September 28th at the Hyannis Green between 1 and 4 pm. The goal is to attract 18- to 29-year-old adults and help them to register and/or encourage them to vote. The Barnstable Town Clerk's office will be participating, and rumor has it that an actual voting booth will be there!

Lynne Pleffner  
Chair

## LEGISLATIVE and HEALTH COMMITTEES COMBINED REPORT

**"We did it!"** Thanks to the [Bay State Birth Coalition](#), on August 26, **Governor Healey** signed *An Act promoting access to midwifery care and out-of-hospital birth options*. **Emily Anesta**, president of the Coalition, said the maternal health bill "will significantly improve access to high-quality, personalized maternity care for countless families across our state." The Coalition—which included the LWVMA and more than twenty other organizations—celebrated the signing of the bill with **Gov. Healey**.

The LWVCCA's Legislative Committee has followed and advocated for passage of this bill for several years through various legislative sessions. This omnibus bill—called the *Momnibus Bill* by some—will expand coverage for midwifery and doula services, license professional midwives, update regulations for birth centers, and increase screening

and treatment for postpartum mental health disorders, among several other initiatives.

**Senator Liz Miranda** (Boston) paved the way to success of the 2024 bill with her Birthing Justice bill first introduced in 2019 and again last year, legislation that both the LWVMA and LWVCCA supported through testimony, email, and phone calls to legislators. Cape Cod's **Senator Julian Cyr**, as co-chair of the Public Health Committee, was a strong voice for this legislation which eventually passed into law by unanimous votes in both chambers this August.

The LWVCCA Health Committee is planning a late winter forum to explore the progress in implementing this law.

**Looking ahead** to the next legislative session, two healthcare bills that have been proposed repeatedly but failed to become law will reportedly be re-introduced.

The first, Medicare for All (or a "single payer" plan) was proposed in MA in 2019. The plan is backed by the LWVMA and many of our partner organizations that work towards health care equity for all. When the bill is refiled in the new legislative session, both the Legislative and Health Care Committees will monitor its progress and continue their advocacy.

The second healthcare bill that did not pass was the End of Life Options Act—or the Medical Aid in Dying bill. In MA, introduction of this type of legislation began in 2012 as a ballot question sponsored by the Death with Dignity Coalition. Over the years, several similar bills have been introduced in the MA legislature supported by Compassion & Choices, medical professionals, and patients themselves. The LWVCCA co-sponsored an informational forum about this year's bill with Compassion & Choices in April. View a recording [here](#). Currently, 10 states and DC allow medical aid in dying with safeguards to protect the rights of patients, their family members, and the physicians that treat them. The LWVMA and the LWVCCA will once again work with several organizations to obtain passage of this legislation in the 2025-2026 legislative session.

Eileen Elias, Health Committee Chair  
Suzanne Brock, Legislative Committee Chair  
Carole Young-Kleinfeld, LWVCCA Member

**LWVCCA Board & Contact information**

<b>LWVCCA DIRECTORS 2024-2025</b>	
<b>Officers for 2024-2025</b>	
<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
<b>Committee Chairs:</b>	
<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
<b>Members At Large:</b>	
	Mary H. Utt
<b>Off-Board Committee Chairs</b>	
<b>Legislation</b>	Suzanne Brock *
<b>Membership</b>	Elizabeth Harder *
<b>Florence Seldin Lecture Series</b>	Karen Mazza *
<b>Health</b>	Eileen Elias *
* = Off-Board	

<b>Contact LWVCCA:</b>
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Facebook: <a href="http://www.facebook.com/LWVCCA/">http://www.facebook.com/LWVCCA/</a>

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