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LWVCCA OPENING MESSAGE

As you read this message, we will be just days away from learning the results of the November 5 election. Our League has registered voters at multiple school and community locations, distributed election information, and moderated candidate forums. We held a Get Out The Vote Rally on the Hyannis Green and the Florence Seldin, “Democracy is Not a Spectator Sport” Speaker Series co-hosted a program, “Why Your Vote Matters” with the Student Government Association of Cape Cod Community College. Many of you have, apart from the League, participated in other get out the vote activities whether it was post card writing or phone banking or serving as a poll worker. THANK YOU, to each and every one of you for your efforts to help make our democracy work.

I have talked with friends and family who say they are nervous about the election outcome and the aftermath of reactions. Whatever the outcome, we know that there will be much to do following the election to continue to strengthen

democracy and to fight for truth and knowledge over disinformation and conspiracy theories. There is a role for the League to play in this continuing educational and healing work. As we approach Thanksgiving, let us hope that our weary nation can renew the spirit that is the promise of our nation and remember that there is more that unites us than divides us.

In League,

Karen Mazza
Administrator



MEMBERSHIP NEWS

**Membership, as of this writing, stands at 121:
That’s an increase of 9 since August.**

Rhondda Tewes passing

The LWVCCA Board would like to acknowledge the passing of Rhondda Tewes, a former Co-President during the 2001-2002 term. The League is fortunate to have many amazing women in our membership and you will see from this link to her obituary that she led an amazing life. Our organization is strong and we stand on the shoulders of leaders who came before us.

<https://www.capecodtimes.com/obituaries/pneo0980688>

Jari Rapaport 100!

Jari Rapaport, a long-time member of our League, recently celebrated her 100th Birthday on October 26th at the Chapel in the Pines in Eastham. She has been a member for more than fifty years and served as Co-president and on various committees. As Chair of the Barnstable County Government Committee; she dedicated her time to attending meetings; involving League members; educating the public through forums; and working with other organizations to improve the structure of the County Government. Karen Mazza, Elaine Bono and Renate Sands attended the ceremony. We all remember her dedication; sincerity; and kindness. Her sense of humor is still alive. When she was handed a flute of champagne, she raised her glass and toasted, "Here's to the next 50 years."



Jari Rapaport:

"Here's to the next 50 years."

DID YOU KNOW...?

...that you can still vote in person in Massachusetts, even if you requested or received a Vote by Mail ballot? The Secretary of the Commonwealth reminds voters that they can still

vote in person on Election Day or at an early voting location IF:

- You never returned your Vote by Mail ballot.
- You mailed your ballot back, but it hasn't reached your local election office. If your mail-in ballot reaches your local election office after you vote in person, the mail-in ballot will be rejected.
- Your ballot was received by your local election office, but it was rejected.

Once your mail-in ballot has been accepted by your local election officials, you have voted—and may not vote in person. You may not retrieve your ballot or vote again. The electronic poll books used at MA polling places alert poll workers if a voter has already voted. The Boston Globe reports that, in the March 2024 Massachusetts Primary, 60% of the votes were cast by mail.

By this time, many Massachusetts voters have already mailed or delivered their 2024 Vote by Mail ballot to their Post Office, Town Clerk's office, or official drop box. Others plan to use the Commonwealth's early, in-person voting option which ends on November 1.

One Barnstable voter is "curious" about the early voting process. Will there be throngs of voters lined up to vote early? Will she feel the same sense of civic pride and community spirit as when she votes in person on Election Day? When will her ballot be counted?

The Secretary of the Commonwealth offers a wealth of information for voters on schedules, accessibility, voting locations, and tracking your ballot. Click on the link below for more information:

<https://www.sec.state.ma.us/divisions/elections/elections-and-voting.htm>

Submitted by Carole Young-Kleinfeld

CALENDAR

NOVEMBER

Board Meeting

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

Election Day

TUESDAY NOV 5



UPCOMING

Board Meeting

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

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.

HEALTH COMMITTEE

The LWVCCA Health Committee is planning for a February 25, 2025 Forum 6:30 to 8:00 PM on how the Cape is meeting maternal and child health care needs.

The Forum will be co-sponsored with the LWVMA. It will be a facilitated, Zoom-based six presenter panel discussion. More information is forthcoming.

In addition, the Committee will be discussing 'single payor healthcare' and its implications for Massachusetts after the Thanksgiving Holiday, This discussion will be facilitated by one of the Committee's members, Madeline Zevon.

Eileen Elias, Health Committee Chairperson.

LWVCCA and 4Cs STUDENT GOVERNMENT Host Seldin Speaker Event:

WHY YOUR VOTE MATTERS

On October 9, the League of Women Voters of the Cape Cod Area and the Student Government Association of Cape Cod Community College co-hosted a panel presentation, "Why Your Vote Matters" for students and staff at the college. Participation from the Student Government Association was spearheaded by Thalles DeSouza, SGA President and for the League by Karen Mazza, Chair for the **Florence Seldin "Democracy Is Not a Spectator Sport" Speaker Series**, a committee of the LWVCCA. We began planning this event with the SGA in March. We were assisted by Leondina Dankese, a student representative to the SGA. and by faculty advisors.

Our goal was to encourage students to vote in the November election by helping them understand the impact that elected leaders will have on the issues that affect their lives. Students selected the issues that we would ask speakers to address in a panel presentation. The panel consisted of faculty and administration from the college and three community leaders.

Each speaker was asked to give a non-partisan five minute look at how policy direction on the selected issue can have helpful or harmful consequences. The topics and panelists were:

- Voting Rights: Claudine Barnes, Professor of US History and Government
- Environment: Lisa Heller, Professor of Communication, with degrees in Communication and Environmental Studies
- Immigration: Michael Mecenas, CEO and Founder of Health Ministry
- Women's Health Issues: Julia Kehoe, President and CEO of Health Imperatives
- Housing Affordability: Alisa Magnotta, Chief Executive Officer of Housing Assistance Corporation
- Cost of Higher Education: John Cox, President of Cape Cod Community College

Oct 9 LWVCCA & 4Cs Seldin Event



Approximately 30 students and staff attended the event.

Students asked questions of the panelists that fostered a good discussion of issues. People asked how they could learn who their legislators are and how to influence them. One student asked about how misinformation in the media can be addressed and we shared a very helpful resource from the college library that gives tools for fact checking, understanding criteria for professional journalism, and recognizing misinformation.

Alisa Magnotta made a very helpful summary comment pointing out that each of the issues discussed all relate to economic development and opportunity. One person asked about how one can be an advocate on these issues and another question asked about careers in these fields.

All in all, it was a good experience and with this first co-planning, co-hosting experience, we learned a good deal about logistical issues that can help us in future endeavors.

Thalles DeSouza is to be congratulated on his leadership role and vision for making this event happen. It would not have happened without his continuous commitment and persistence.

Speaking for LWVCCA, I can say that working with students to co-plan programs is a very worthwhile and enjoyable partnership. Thank you to Ashley Clark, immediate past Miss Cape Cod, for volunteering to help the League on the day of this event as part of her service project on voter outreach.

Thank you also to the Seldin Speaker Series Committee for their support through the planning

process and to the Seldin family donation to the Ed Trust that made this program possible.

Submitted by Karen Mazza

Oct 9 LWVCCA & 4Cs Seldin Event



Sara Gutierrez, Student Trustee, Karen Mazza, Michael Mecnas, Julia Kehoe, Alisa Magnotta, John Cox, and Thalles DeSouza



Thalles DeSouza, Karen Mazza, Ashley Clark, Sara Gutierrez

VOTER SERVICE COMMITTEE

September 17th was National Voter Registration Day as well as Constitution Day. We had a Get Out the Vote table at Cape Cod Community College. Lower Cape TV was there,

and filmed Anita Rogers. The next day Rosemary Shields was at their studios to cover the Constitution. Check out the great video: <https://vimeo.com/1011411100>



**National Voter Registration Day
September 17th**

Anita Rogers at LWVCCA's Get Out the Vote
Table at 4Cs

Thanks to Anita and Rosemary for representing us!

On Wednesday, September 15th Voter Service participated in the Cape Cod Young Professional's largest fundraiser "Back to Business Bash" at the Cape Cod Airport. We had the first table on the right by the "check-in for your flight" location- a great spot. They had 725 folks registered and by the end of the evening we spoke to easily 250 to 300 of the attendees. We received many compliments that folks were happy to see us there. That tells me it is worthwhile to be out and about in the community. By the way I spoke to one person who confessed that she was not registered! No worries, I figured she was registered by the end of the evening!

Saturday, September 28th was a new event spearheaded by our DEI Committee headed by Tamora Israel. It was a GOTV event at the Hyannis Green from 1 to 4 pm. The weather was perfect! We had a representative from the Barnstable Town Clerk's office which was very helpful to Barnstable voters. We had great entertainment and chatted with lots of registered voters.

In our effort to reach more voters, Voter Services created "Voting Behind Bars". Our team consists of Rosemary Shields, Amy Harris, Ashley Mahler and Anita Rogers. They were able to speak to 2 units at the Barnstable County Correctional Facility (BCCF) in Bourne on September 30th. Inmates housed there may vote if they are at least 18, US citizens, serving time for a misdemeanor or awaiting trial. Accurate information, however, was slow to get to eligible voters and misinformation was widespread. For example - inmates were told they could not vote while incarcerated and felons were told that they would never be able to vote. Thanks to the VOTES Act and the progressive leadership at the jail, new procedures have been implemented to provide consistent and timely voting information to inmates. The LWVCCA team briefly described voting rights such as who can vote and how.

Most of the meeting was for Q & A's, and attendees raised excellent questions such as what address to use for the Voter Registration application, what to do if your voter status is inactive, and voter eligibility to vote if you are on parole. Several inmates completed the voting registration form while we were there, and in person-to-person conversations after the meetings, a few inmates made unsolicited comments on improvements in the jail conditions in the past year such as women now have scheduled time outdoors and coffee stations have been added to common areas in the units.

The Voting Behind Bars effort is part of the Voter Service initiative to reach marginalized groups. We hope to speak to more units at BCCF in the future. We thank Barnstable County Sheriff Donna Buckley, Assistant Deputy Superintendent Major James Anglin and Director of Communications KC Myers for all of their support for making this first LWVCCA in person visit possible.

LWVCCA “Voting Behind Bars” event at the Barnstable County Correctional Facility



Major James Anglin, Rosemary Shields, Ashley Mahler, Anita Rogers and Amy Harris

Monday, October 7th we held our first Candidate Forum for the 2nd Barnstable District. This race was between Susanne Conley and Kip Diggs. We held it in the Barnstable Town Hall on the second floor where the Town Council holds their meeting. The audience provided us with many questions that we posed to the candidates. Thank you Carol Sheingold, Carole Young-Kleinfeld, Anita Parker, Anita Rogers, Rosemary Shields, Debbie Winnick (a fabulous moderator!), and Janet McCroskery.

Video of Oct 7 2nd Barnstable District forum:
<https://youtube.com/watch?v=ezmzt667JLo>

Tuesday, October 8th we held a Candidate Forum for the 1st Barnstable District. This race was between Christopher Flanagan and Gerold O’Connor. We held the forum at Cape Media in Dennis Port. Thanks to Rosemary Shields, Laurie Corr and Debbie Winnick.

Video of Oct 8 1st Barnstable District forum:
<https://youtu.be/T3xYADrmWHA?si=PnwkkYo27s-6xdh&t=1>

Wednesday, October 9th we went to a Nauset Newcomers event arranged by Debbie Winnick. The meeting was held at Wellfleet Cinema. While

there we spoke to folks about joining the League and the numerous opportunities to volunteer from a little to a larger commitment. We also shared information on upcoming Candidate Forums and the ballot questions.

Oct 9 Nauset Newcomers:

Our Table



Following that event Voter Service was present at the Seldin Speakers event held at Cape Cod Community College. Read Karen Mazza’s report above for additional information. We were there prior to the event and spoke to several students about registration and voting early. Thank you for volunteering Carol Sheingold!

Oct 9 4Cs:

Karen Mazza and Carol Sheingold



Wednesday, September 16th we held a candidate forum at 3 pm for the Barnstable County Commissioners at Lower Cape TV in Orleans. Our moderator had to be from off-Cape to maintain our non-partisan approach. Jack Elkund was from the South Coast League and did a wonderful job. Thanks to Rosemary Shields, Joyce Flynn, and Karen McPherson.

Video of Sep 16 County Commissioners forum:
<https://vimeo.com/1020421610>

Then on to the Dennis-Yarmouth Newcomers monthly meeting! Kathy Borosky arranged this. Anita Parker and I managed the table and had great conversations!

Friday, September 18th was a remarkably busy day. We held our final candidate forum at Lower Cape TV featuring the candidates for the Cape and Islands State Senate seat. Our off-Cape Moderator was Elizabeth Foster-Nolan. She is a member at large of the Massachusetts League. Great turnout – approximately 35 people attended the 3 pm forum Also helping were Rosemary Shields, Karen McPherson, Joyce Flynn, and Janet McCroskery.

Video of Sep 18 Cape and Islands State Senate forum:

<https://vimeo.com/1021341916>

Then I was a guest speaker at the Latino Business Network event held at EcoDecor on Main Street in Hyannis. The topic of the event was Entrepreneurs Your Voice matters. I spoke to the audience on how they can make their voice heard. There were questions and answers, and this was a great evening!

Saturday, the 19th, Rosemary Shields was at Cape Media for their Annual Meeting. This is the one day a year when Cape Media welcomes in the community. She spoke with many people plus it was a beautiful day!

Just so you know Voter Service is not done! In the December *VOTER* you will learn more about my conversation with Natalia Frois as I will be her guest on her podcast on October 31st.

Lynne Pleffner
Chair

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Members, we are heavy into the State Congressional seat races. All of our legislators are up for possible re-election or replacement. It will definitely be an interesting start to the new legislative session. For certain, Rep. Fernandes' Falmouth, Cape and Islands seat will be filled with a new comer as will Senator Moran's district and Rep. Peake's 4th Barnstable district. Our Committee will have to form some new alliances in the coming months. Making connections and establishing a body of knowledge is so important

for League members, not just those on the Legislative Committee. So for now there is not a lot going on for us, but come Nov. 5th that will begin to change.

The topic of connections and establishing a body of knowledge brings up another issue that appeared late in the process for this election cycle. For those of you who have been paying attention, the sudden appearance of Ballot question 6 for Barnstable County is a case in point for continuing connections. The League of Women Voters (at all levels) have spent decades establishing a body of positions arrived at by involved study, discussion and consensus among members. For those of you who have never participated in a League study you have missed out on a fundamental League process. The last study done by the LWVCCA was one of County Government and after the study was completed, because there was a County Government Committee, there was a body of members who were willing to consistently observe meetings of the Board of Commissioners and the Assembly of Delegates. Judy Thomas (prior member, now living in Maryland) was very involved with sitting in on Assembly meetings. She, and then I with her direction, spoke before the Assembly a number of times, especially when the Charter Review process was taking place.

I mention this because Ballot question 6 stabs at the heart of oversight and transparency. Very few Cape residents understand the function of the County Government and over the years the attempts to change the Charter and streamline the governing body have failed to take place. Ballot question 6 is an attempt at change without the Charter Review process, and while this is perfectly legal in terms of the language of the County Charter, this procedure removes transparency and allows a handful of participants to make changes that the citizens should be informed about beforehand. Perhaps this is a long winded way of saying that without people willing to be involved with oversight, whether it is local town government, or county business or state or national issues, the voters are the ones that suffer. Local media is/was crucial to covering what is happening in local areas. Without a strong local

voice to help to educate the voters or elucidate the issues, the voters operate in a vacuum.

Many of you are quite busy, some with League functions and some not, but if you have a passion.....housing, environment, county government, whatever..... offer to sit in on one meeting a week, a month, a year..... whatever you can do and share your findings with those who can spread the word. People are hungry for the knowledge of what is happening around them. If there is no truthful sharing, they will latch on to whatever they get. Voters deserve a serious discussion of the issues before them.

Praying for a peaceful transfer of power,
Suzanne Brock, Legislative Committee



LWVCCA Board & Contact information

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* = Off-Board

Contact LWVCCA:

LWVCCA
P. O. Box 2347
Orleans, MA 02653

Phone: 508-945-0511

Email: lwvcca@gmail.com

Website: www.lwvcapecod.org

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

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