

CONTENTS

LWVCCA OPENING MESSAGE1
MEMBERSHIP NEWS1
LWVMA REPARATIONS STUDY2
 PLEASE PARTICIPATE 2
 WHAT WE ARE ASKING YOU TO DO 2
 TO REGISTER:..... 2
DID YOU KNOW...?.....3
CALENDAR.....3
VOTER SERVICE COMMITTEE4
GRANDMOTHERS AGAINST GUN VIOLENCE.....5
 PREVENTING GUN VIOLENCE 5
LWVCCA BOARD & CONTACT INFORMATION6
BUSINESS SUPPORTERS OF LWVCCA7
2024 MEMBERS HOLIDAY DINNER: RESERVE NOW.8

LWVCCA OPENING MESSAGE

And now, a word from our VP’s

November was a busy month for all of us. Voter Services candidate forums have finally wrapped and the pre-election blitz of activities is over. We had an orderly election with few glitches—none on the Cape. Not all of us got the outcomes we chose but we saw a healthy turn out locally from Bourne to P-town and on the islands as well. There’s still plenty of work for the League to do to get the turnout to meet or exceed 2020 levels, though.

December brings a change of pace with the holidays and the bustle of holiday shopping—now that we have some time to do it. In the midst of that, let’s take time to be thankful for the past year’s achievements and plan for the year ahead.

We hope you will all plan to attend our **Holiday Membership Meeting December 5** at the Yarmouth House restaurant in West Yarmouth. We’re planning the usual book exchange for those who wish to participate—bring a book (banned or

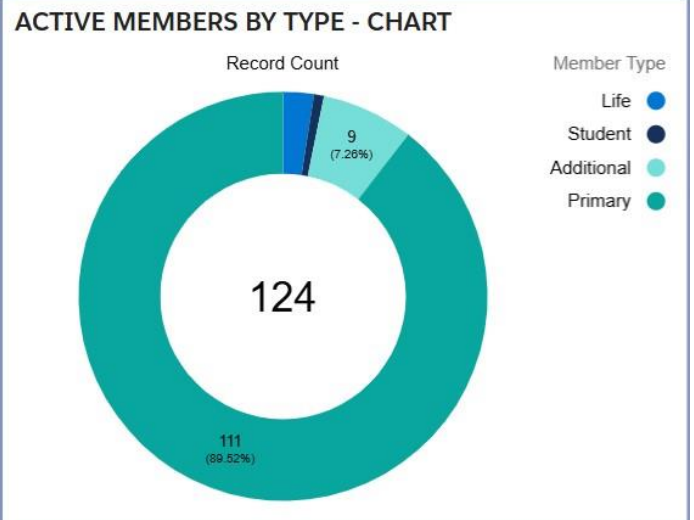
otherwise) that you’ve read and enjoyed and go home with someone else’s favorite. Two local CEO’s, Natalia Frois and Katia DaCunha, who head organizations that serve the LatinX community of the Cape, will provide insight on the contributions and needs of their community and how they and their organizations work with the League to stimulate civic engagement. They are great speakers and their presentation should encourage a lively discussion.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Patricia Burke and Susan Cameron

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Membership, as of this writing, stands at 124:



LWVMA REPARATIONS STUDY

Please Participate

In Our League's Consensus Meeting To Form Our Response To The Lwvma Reparations Study Guide

Did you ever wonder how the League decides to take a position for or against legislation or policy? **In January, you will have a chance to experience that process as our local League will form a Consensus Committee to respond to the LWVMA Reparations Study.**

The Reparations Study was authorized by members attending the Spring 2023 LWVMA Convention. An LWVMA Reparations Study Committee was formed to study the issue, research and develop resource information, and develop a Reparations Study Report based on the research and a Reparations Study Guide with information summaries and consensus questions to guide local Leagues in developing answers to these questions.

Local Leagues participate by forming their own Study/Consensus Committee to review the Study report and discuss the Study Guide. The Reparations Study Committee and State Board will use the responses from Local Leagues to identify a broad consensus of League input. This consensus will be used to construct position statements. To be adopted, the position statements must be approved by delegates attending the LWVMA Spring 2025 convention.

These positions statements will be published in the League's booklet, "Where We Stand" and can then be used by the state League to advocate for or against reparative legislation and policy and local Leagues can use them to advocate for reparative activities in their localities.

What We Are Asking You to Do

To ensure that position statements are representative of our membership, we need as much participation from Local Leagues as

possible. Our Cape Cod Area League will hold a consensus meeting to answer the study guide questions in mid to late January, date to be determined.

We are asking you to attend that meeting, and in preparation for the meeting, we are asking you to read the study materials developed by the Study Committee. The web landing page for the study with all of its materials is located at [Reparations Study for Black Americans](#). On this landing page, you can also find the Study Report, the Study Guide, and other study information, including a link to a YouTube [overview of the study](#).

We are fortunate that three of our members were on the LWVMA Reparations Study Committee: Jeanne Morrison, Debra Dagwan and Mary Hunter Utt. Jeanne was the Co-Chair for the Study Committee. They will be great resources for us.

To Register:

Please respond to Karen Mazza, <mailto:mazzak1623@gmail.com>, about your interest in participating in this local study and consensus meeting by December 16. Please indicate the time of day you that is best for you to attend a meeting (morning, afternoon, or evening). We may try to have more than one meeting to accommodate different schedules but you would only need to attend one. We may also try to have one meeting in person and one via Zoom. Thank you.

Submitted by Karen Mazza, Administrator

DID YOU KNOW...?

...that the Cape recently suffered a heartbreaking loss when a devastating 2-alarm fire destroyed the Brazilian Resource Center in Hyannis?



Brazilian Resource Center in Hyannis

The Center, founded by Michael Mecenias of the Health Ministry, was established to provide services for immigrants and anyone in need with employment help, citizenship classes, emergency food, and wellness care. Following a program earlier in the evening, a passerby spotted the fire in the early morning hours of November 13 and reported it to the police. Crews from Yarmouth, Sandwich, Dennis, and all of the Barnstable villages responded. According to the Cape Cod Times, the Center—established in 2017—provided food to more than 7,000 individuals since January this year, has assisted more than 16 homeless people, and has 140 people enrolled in English language programs.

Mr. Mecenias—a guest speaker at the LWVCCA’s recent program at Cape Cod Community College—gratefully acknowledged the immediate generous outpouring of support from the community, including a [GoFundMe](https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-our-community-rebuild-after-fire) site <https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-our-community-rebuild-after-fire> for those wishing to help with donations to rebuilding the Center.

In a letter shared by the LWVCCA on Facebook, Mr. Mecenias stated,

“Any donation, no matter the size, will make a tremendous difference in helping us rebuild our center and continue providing these essential services to our community.”

Submitted by Carole Young-Kleinfeld

CALENDAR

NOVEMBER

Board Meeting

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

Members Holiday Meeting

THURSDAY DEC 5

[Reserve Online by Nov 30!](#)

UPCOMING

Board Meeting

TUESDAY JAN 7 | 9:30—11:30 a.m.
Zoom conference by invitation

LWVMA-LWVCCA Health Forum

TUESDAY FEB 25 | 6:30—11:00 p.m.
Save the Date

International Womens’ Day Breakfast

TUESDAY MAR 11
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.

VOTER SERVICE COMMITTEE

The last candidate Forum was held on October 21st by Sandwich TV and The Enterprise. It featured Steven Xiarhos and Owen Fletcher and was held at Sandwich Town Hall. Their procedure is different from ours. Viewers, both in person and online, could submit questions specifically to each candidate as opposed to the same questions being posed to all the candidates as we do. Thank you, Carole Young-Kleinfeld, for attending the forum.

October was a busy month for the Credit for Life team headed up by Anita Rogers and Rosemary Shields. They partnered, along with Cape Cod 5 Cents Savings Bank, with Sandwich High, Dennis-Yarmouth Regional High, and Monomoy Regional High (Harwich) at Credit for Life (a financial literacy program aimed at high school seniors).

The most common questions were related to voter status, deadlines for registration and mail-in voting, and how to get info on candidates and the ballot questions. They spoke with and shared handouts with over 180 seniors across three schools. Big thanks to VS volunteers Renate Sands, Karen Mazza, Mary O'Connor, Carole Young-Kleinfeld, Tova Soyt, Marie Stevenson, Karen Kishpaugh, Pat Anderson, Deb Walker, Rosemary Shields, and Anita Rogers for staffing the voter tables at these 5 events!

Credit for Life



Pat Anderson, Deb Walker, and Renate Sands at Sandwich High



Deb Walker and students at Sandwich High

Credit for Life



Pat Anderson, Deb Walker, Karen Mazza, and Tova Soyt at D-Y High



Karen Kishpaugh, Anita Rogers, Rosemary Shields, and Mary O'Connor at Monomoy Regional High

October 22nd and October 24th we headed back to the campus of Cape Cod Community College for a voter registration drive. We partnered with the Student Government Association. The first time

we were in the cafeteria and the turnout wasn't great. The second time we moved our location to the connector between the cafeteria and other rooms and that seems to be the winner! We spoke to over 60 students and faculty members and through our QR code cards 4 people registered right there. We left feeling great! A very big thank you to Anita Parker and Rosemary Shields for handling this event.

On October 31st I appeared on a podcast with Natalia Frois of International Business Relations. We discussed voting and why it was important. Were you aware that in Brazil you are required to vote? You are fined if you do not vote. Consider that for a moment.

Thursday, October 14th was a beautiful fall day, and I responded to an invitation to speak to the Hyannis Rotary Club members during their meeting. The audience was approximately 25 members, and they were very attentive as I spoke about our League and all our activities. I did mention that Spring Elections have a poor turnout and that caused one newcomer to exclaim that he didn't know there were Spring Elections! So that gave me the opportunity to briefly describe our local governments and how the town's website and Town Clerk can be most helpful. I also suggested to everyone that they sign up for their town's email as that is usually chock full of interesting tidbits. I opened the floor to questions and several hands went up! One gentleman, after the questions had been answered, declared that voting was our responsibility.

I had hoped to include a breakdown of the November 5th election: registered voters, votes cast, election day voters, early voters in person, mail in ballots and the percentage of voter turnout in this VOTER. The Towns are still compiling information, so I hope to include this in the next VOTER.

Lynne Pleffner
Chair

Grandmothers Against Gun Violence

Preventing Gun Violence

For more than 30 years, the Leagues of Women Voters of the U.S. and Massachusetts have worked to inform the public about the dangers of gun violence, the importance of safe communities, and recommendations for reforms to firearm laws. The League supports strong federal measures to limit the accessibility and regulate the ownership of handguns and semi-automatic assault weapons by private citizens—including background checks, firearm safety education, and banning assault weapons. The LWVMA has been a strong advocate for the recently enacted omnibus firearm modernization bill—which includes banning ghost guns, 3-D printed weapons, and firearms at polling places.

Here, on the Cape, the LWVCCA has partnered with Grandmothers Against Gun Violence (GAGV) in their outstanding leadership efforts to enact this landmark Massachusetts legislation by educating the public about gun safety and by advocating—with testimony, phone calls, and lobbying at the State House. You can find them—along with several League members from our Voter Service and Legislative Committees—rallying for common sense measures to prevent gun violence at the Hyannis Rotary every 14th day of each month.

Grandmothers Against Gun Violence "November Gather Up"



Grandmothers Against Gun Violence hosted their "November Gather Up" meeting at the Cape Cod Synagogue on November 18th. They were joined by members of the League, Lower Cape

Indivisible, Christian Women United, Coalition for Social Justice, and friends from St. David’s Episcopal Church and many other members and friends of gun violence prevention. There’s always room for more advocates...capecodgag.org.

League members **Carol Sheingold, Elaine Bono, Joanne DiFrancesco, Anita Parker,** and **Carole Young-Kleinfeld** attended the [Grandmothers’](#) recent “Gather-Up” meeting. **Donna Wald**, GAGV President and League member, called the meeting, “...a testament to powerful women everywhere who stand up for so many causes every day to make our world a better place.”

Submitted by LWVCCA members
 Carole Young-Kleinfeld
 and Donna Wald , President of [Cape Cod Grandmothers Against Gun Violence](#)

LWVCCA Board & Contact information

LWVCCA DIRECTORS 2024-2025	
Officers for 2024-2025	
Presidents	Jeanne Morrison
Vice Presidents	
Programs	Patricia Burke
Operations	Sue Cameron
Administrator	Karen Mazza
Treasurer	Tova Soyt
Secretary	Debbie Winnick
Committee Chairs:	
Voter Service	Lynne Pleffner
Youth Service	Karen Mazza
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion	Tamora Israel*
Communications, Newsletter	Richard Utt
Members At Large:	
Mary Hunter Utt	
Off-Board Committee Chairs	
Legislation	Suzanne Brock *
Membership	Elizabeth Harder *
Florence Seldin Lecture Series	Karen Mazza *
Health	Eileen Elias *
* = Off-Board	

Contact LWVCCA:
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Phone: 508-945-0511
Email: lwvcca@gmail.com
Website: www.lwvcapecod.org
Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/LWVCCA/

BUSINESS SUPPORTERS of LWVCCA

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2024 MEMBERS HOLIDAY DINNER: RESERVE NOW

Please join us for our membership meeting

HOLIDAY DINNER



Thursday, December 5, 2024

Doors open 5:30 PM - Program 6:00 - 7:30

at The Yarmouth House, 335 MA-28, West Yarmouth

Featured Speakers: Ms. Katia DaCunha, founder of LatinX in Action, and Natalia Frois, CEO of International Business Relations and founder of the Latino Business Network

The Impact of LatinX Community on Cape Cod

Katia and Natalia will provide insight on the contributions and needs of their community and how they and their organizations work with the League to stimulate civic engagement. They are great speakers and their presentation should encourage a lively discussion.

Dinner service includes

- **House salad**
- **Entrée choice:**
 - **Chicken Piccata (lemon caper sauce)**
 - **Baked Haddock topped with seasoned crumbs**
 - **Vegetarian – Penne Primavera Agliolio**
- **Dessert – Cheesecake with berries**
- **Coffee & tea. Cash bar.**

Reserve by November 30 : Please specify your entrée choice.

Send checks for \$38 per person made out to LWVCCA to Tova Soyt, 91 Carlton Circle, Brewster, MA 02631.

If you are mailing a check, please RSVP YES to LWVCCA (LWVCCA@gmail.com)

Or pay \$40 per person online with your credit card or with PayPal

<http://lwvcapecod.org/2024-holiday-dinner-reservations>