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**LWVCCA OPENING MESSAGE**

**And now, a word from our VPs**

Our fight for democracy is on! We’ve all been reading or hearing about the intentions and direction of the incoming administration. Because those soon to assume influential roles appear to favor the wealthy and already powerful, voters will have to be alert to prevent their rights and freedoms from being eroded. Traditional League programs to improve and promote voter franchise, voter education, women’s interests, and immigration reform will be more important than ever, as will our efforts to educate voters on impacts of politics on the economy and disinformation. All League members are encouraged to take steps to strengthen and support these initiatives in the year ahead. Here are some ways to participate:  
Plan to attend the January 13<sup>th</sup> meeting on Zoom

to explore leadership opportunities. [\(See article on page 3.\)](#)

Participate in a Reparations Consensus Meeting on February 3 or February 5. [\(See article on page 3\).](#)

Help us prioritize our goals at the Program Planning Meeting on February 27.

For all of these meetings, register with Karen Mazza at [mazzak1623@gmail.com](mailto:mazzak1623@gmail.com).

Two prominent women from the Cape LatinX community shared their accomplishments and concerns at the Holiday Member event in December. Natalia Frois and Katia DaCunha each portrayed the challenges already faced by immigrants on the Cape, and detailed the work their organizations do to support immigrants. They also spoke of the stress already being felt in their community regarding uncertainty about the future. Both women have worked with LWVCCA before and Ms. DaCunha, also a member, reiterated, “We need you.” Now clearly is the time for us to embrace their efforts and continue to work closely to support Cape communities. The active discussion that followed their presentation emphasized just how committed our members are to doing so. We expect to make 2025 a year to reinforce and expand bridges to our hard-working neighbors to identify and actively work to address their challenges.

In solidarity, Sue Cameron and Pat Burke  
Vice Presidents of Programs

**DID YOU KNOW...?**

...that under Section 203 of the federal Voting Rights Act (VRA), if a municipality has more than 10,000 (or more than 5%) of voting age citizens speaking a non-English language, election assistance and ballots must be provided in that language, in addition to English?

Section 203 forms the foundation for the rights of minority voters in certain states, counties, or municipalities to receive election assistance—including outreach, instructions, bilingual help at the polls, and ballots—in languages other than

English. According to Section 203 as amended in 1992, the protected language minority groups are Native American, Asian American, Alaskan Natives, and Spanish heritage. The Census Bureau is responsible for designating the jurisdictions subject to Section 203. In some jurisdictions, two or more minority groups may qualify for Section 203 election assistance.

The Department of Justice (DOJ), Civil Rights Division, enforces Section 203. It notifies each jurisdiction that it is subject to Section 203 and reaches out to minority communities to promote awareness of the law. The DOJ investigates and pursues allegations of violations of federal law, and takes appropriate enforcement action. [Learn more here.](#)

In Massachusetts, 19 of the state’s municipalities offer ballots in languages such as Vietnamese, Chinese, Spanish, and Khmer. At this year’s election, the City of Boston recruited 400 poll workers who spoke languages other than English to provide assistance at the polls and by telephone.

The LWVMA publishes its extensive online VOTE411 guide in Spanish and, this year, the Massachusetts Voter Table published voter guides in Spanish, Portuguese, Vietnamese, Haitian Creole, and Chinese. The Secretary of the Commonwealth’s Elections Division states that Portuguese is not one of the protected language groups under federal law.

According to the Census, in Barnstable County, 93.6% of residents speak English, 1.7% Portuguese, 1.4% Spanish, and 1.0% French as their first language. In the Town of Barnstable, 3.4% of the population speaks Portuguese, 1.6% Spanish, and 1.0% French as their first language.

--Carole Young-Kleinfeld and Lynne Pleffner

**CALENDAR**

JANUARY

**Board Meeting**

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

**LWVCCA Leadership Opportunities**

MONDAY JAN 13 | 6:30—7:30 p.m.  
Zoom Meeting: All LWVCCA members are invited.

UPCOMING

**Reparations Study Consensus Meeting**

MONDAY FEB 3 | 6:30—8:30 p.m.  
Zoom Meeting: All LWVCCA members are invited.

**Board Meeting**

TUESDAY FEB 4 | 9:30—11:30 a.m.  
Zoom conference by invitation

**Reparations Study Consensus Meeting**

WEDNESDAY FEB 5 | 9:30—11:30 a.m.  
Zoom Meeting: All LWVCCA members are invited.

**The Massachusetts Maternal Health “Momnibus” Law**

**What It means for the Cape and Commonwealths**

WEDNESDAY FEB 25 | 6:30 p.m.  
A virtual Forum

**Board Meeting**

TUESDAY MAR 4 | 9:30—11:30 a.m.  
Zoom conference by invitation

**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.***

## LWVCCA Leadership Opportunities

### THE LEAGUE BOARD

#### The Place to Be for People Who Like to Make Things Happen

Submitted by Karen Mazza

Do you like to be in the place where you know everything our organization is doing? Do you like to help an organization achieve its goals and continually improve? Do you like to coordinate activities and communication? Do you like to contribute your skills to the smooth running of an organization? If your answer to these questions is yes, then serving as a member of our Board is something you should consider.

**Please attend a virtual meeting via Zoom on January 13 from 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM to learn more about serving on the Board.** Present Board members will share their experiences serving on the Board, what they like about serving on the Board, and the supports available to help guide Board members. There will be a question and answer period. In late January, the Nominating Committee will begin contacting members to inquire if they would like to serve on the Board starting in the new term that will begin in June 2025. Interested members can self-nominate by letting the Nominating Committee know they are interested in serving on the Board.

We have made these jobs more doable by sharing many of them with a partner. So for example, we have often had Co-Presidents, Co-Vice Presidents, and Co-Voter Service Chairs. We do ask experienced Board members to serve as mentors for people who are new in a role. We have job descriptions and a Board Handbook that serve as a reference for Board members about timelines and procedures so you that you have a road map to follow and agreed-on processes that coordinate our work.

To ensure that the volunteer work that Board members do is not overwhelming, we need to have a continual rotation of new members into the Board, giving long serving Board members the opportunity to step down and assist our

organization in more limited ways. So whether you are relatively new to our organization, served a while ago and want to return to the Board, or have never served on the Board before, come to our meeting and learn more about how you can help.

**Please register with Karen Mazza at [mazzak1623@gmail.com](mailto:mazzak1623@gmail.com), so we know how many people to expect.**

## LWVMA REPARATIONS STUDY

### REPARATIONS STUDY NEEDS YOUR PARTICIPATION

Our League will participate in the LWVMA Reparations Study, by holding consensus meetings in February that will provide our input to the questions asked in the study. For your convenience we ask you to attend one of the two meetings. We have moved them to February to give members more time to read the study materials in January.

Select one of these two meetings:

February 3 from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM via Zoom or

February 5 from 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM via Zoom.

**Please register with Karen Mazza at [mazzak1623@gmail.com](mailto:mazzak1623@gmail.com).**

Member Sue Brock describes her past involvement in the study process:

"For those of you who have never participated in a consensus study discussion with the League, this is the actual "grass-roots" participation piece of the LWV. Without the study, the presentation, and the consensus discussion, the League would have no positions. It is through the work and voices of the members that we have built all of our positions at the local, state, and national level over the past 100 years.

The important part of the discussion is to come to the consensus meeting prepared. Materials for the study are located at the LWVMA website at: <https://lwvma.org/lwvma-reparations-study/>. Key Documents: are the **Study Guide** and the **Study Report**, under the heading "LWVMA Study Documents".

Please try to take the time to engage with this material so that you will be prepared to supply input into the discussion process. I have participated in a number of these over the years. The process is stimulating, sometimes challenging but always worth the involvement.”

If you have never seen the position statements from LWVMA they are published in a booklet called, “Where We Stand” and the LWVUS position statements are called, “Impact on Issues “ Both of these documents can be found on the LWVMA website at: <https://lwmva.org/league-positions/>. These positions statements are important because they guide League advocacy in supporting or opposing legislation and policy. This means that our members decide the direction of our advocacy, not an Executive Director or a Board taking action based on their own individual preferences.

We look forward to you being a part of the process!

Karen Mazza and Sue Brock

## HEALTH COMMITTEE REPORT

**Save the Date:**  
**February 25, 2025|6:30 pm**

The LWVCCA’s Health Committee is presenting a virtual forum, “**The Massachusetts Maternal Health “Momnibus” Law -What It means for the Cape and Commonwealth**” on February 25, 2025 at 6:30 pm to explore the background, emerging initiatives, and the features contained in the recently enacted *Act promoting midwifery care and out-of-hospital birth options*. The League of Women Voters Massachusetts (LWVMA) co-sponsors this program which is open to the public.

This legislation will transform maternal health practices in Massachusetts to advance racial and economic maternal healthcare justice and expand coverage for midwifery, birth centers, doulas and treatment for postpartum depression. Five speakers—a state senator, physicians, midwifery providers, and a birth doula—will discuss the features and the impact of the new law from their unique perspectives.

We thank the LWVMA for their partnership and The Bay State Birth Coalition for their assistance in planning this program.

Watch for our flyer and registration information. For additional information, contact Eileen Elias, Chair, LWVCCA Health Committee, at [eileen.elias@comcast.net](mailto:eileen.elias@comcast.net).

We also thank Dr. Brian O'Malley, member of the Cape Cod Coalition for Universal Health Care (CCCUHC), who recently spoke to our committee about making Medicare for All a reality in the Commonwealth.

Carole Young-Kleinfeld and Eileen Elias

## VOTER SERVICE COMMITTEE

Lynne Pleffner reports:

On October 31st I was a guest on Natalia Frois' podcast. We discussed a number of topics dealing with voting and ballot questions. You can learn more by going to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2-ce4L8WRSE>. I appreciated Natalia's invitation, and I look forward to working with her to expand our presence in her community.

Then on November 14th I was the Guest Speaker at the Hyannis Rotary Club. There were approximately 35 folks in the room, and it was a great conversation! One of the members had recently moved in and was quite perplexed by the Barnstable Town Council and Spring Elections. Once the topic of Spring Elections was raised, I told them how important it was to participate. There were a few shameful faces in the crowd so hopefully they will be voting! All in all, a lively conversation.

I met with the Civics Committee of the Cape Cod Young Professionals on November 18<sup>th</sup>. A great group of women from all over the Cape. Key concerns: childcare and housing.

I finally was able to get all the information from the November election. This election had a great turnout in general: [See the numbers on Page 8](#). This is not the case with Spring Elections. So, I ask all of you to give it a thought on how best to increase your town’s participation in the Spring

Elections. I know that the Voter Service Committee will be happy to coordinate, attend, whatever to increase participation!

Then to finish off December I went to the MFA – Museum of Fine Arts in Boston to see a few exhibits. One that caught my eye was “Power of the People – Art and Democracy”. It runs until February 16<sup>th</sup>, and I strongly urge you to make a visit. You can get \$10 tickets at your local library and it does make for a wonderful afternoon!

Last but not least is a report on the last Credit for Life visit for 2024 submitted by Rosemary Shields.

After the presidential election, NOW WHAT? That was the question members of Voter Service Committee were asking themselves when we were preparing for our Voter Information table at Nauset High School during the Credit for Life seminar on Tuesday, December 17.

How do you follow a highly anticipated presidential election and result? Lynne Pleffner gave us the perfect setup. First, show the students the percentages of how many registered voters from their towns voted in the presidential election -- from 69 to 84%. Then show them the percentages from last year's local Spring elections -- from 9 to 41%. Yikes! was the reaction. How do we get people to show up at the polls for the more influential local election? Local elections decide school budgets, land use, affordable housing, property taxes. And as Tova Soyt pointed out, the state elections resulted in free tuition at the Community College. Why then are people not interested? To keep the conversation going, per Lynne's suggestion, we also asked the students who their "Influencers" are? In the old days we probably would have simply asked what interested them. Asking them about their "Influencers" just felt so hip. It worked as we got 33 suggestions! We assured the students that their answers were anonymous, so, of course, we got the wisecrack response Pablo Escobar, the Colombian drug lord. But then again perhaps the student was serious. Other influencers turned out to be @impact and @feminist on Instagram; an internet celebrity, Haily Welch; musician Pepe

Smith, aka Joey Smith; Father Tom Durkin; Saturday Night Live; WOMR, The Moth; Red Puckett (Little Red Riding Hood animation); the rapper, Lil Uzi; two teachers -- Mr. Leonard and Mrs Novacon; and endearingly, many mentions of parents, grandparents, family, aunts and friends. All in all we spoke to 75 to 85 students. Hopefully they will share their experience with us and become engaged voters! We need to put our heads together and figure out how we can use this information. Does Lil Uzi rap about social issues and elections? Can we fashion stills from SNL to illustrate the importance of voting. How could Red Puckett save us from the big, bad wolf of voter apathy. Or perhaps asking about their Influencers was just a great icebreaker that kept us engaged and conversing. Talking with the students was just plain fun. A few students told us how voting for the first time can be intimidating. It got Tova Soyt to thinking, perhaps we could make an instructional video for students, "So this is your first time voting?" We'll be looking into this.



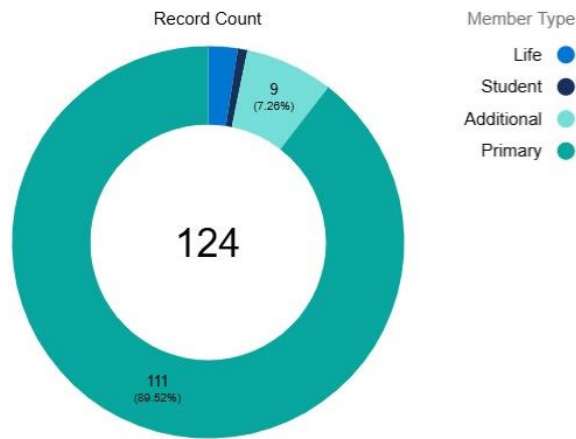
**Credit for Life December 2024**  
Tova Soyt and Rosemary Shields

I wish you and your family a happy and healthy year ahead!

Voter Service Chair Lynne Pleffner

**MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

ACTIVE MEMBERS BY TYPE - CHART



Membership, as of this writing, stands at 124:



**HAPPY NEW YEAR!!**



**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 Soytt
<b>Secretary</b>	Debbie Winnick

**Committee Chairs:**

<b>Voter Service</b>	Lynne Pleffner
<b>Youth Service</b>	Karen Mazza
<b>Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion</b>	(Open)
<b>Communications, Newsletter</b>	Richard Utt

**Member At Large:**

Mary Hunter Utt

**Off-Board Committee Chairs**

<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

**Contact LWVCCA:**

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Website: <a href="http://www.lwvcapecod.org">http://www.lwvcapecod.org</a>
Facebook: <a href="http://www.facebook.com/LWVCCA/">http://www.facebook.com/LWVCCA/</a>

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## ELECTION TURNOUT NOVEMBER 5th 2024

<u>TOWN</u>	<u>REGISTERED VOTERS</u>	<u>VOTES CAST</u>	<u>ELECTION DAY VOTERS</u>	<u>EARLY VOTERS IN PERSON</u>	<u>MAIL IN BALLOTS</u>	<u>VOTER TURNOUT %</u>	<u>Year Round Population as of 2022</u>
Barnstable	37,611	27,997	13,568	4,338	10,091	74%	48,922
Bourne	16,311	12,272	5,061	2,821	4,390	75%	20,455
Brewster	9,018	7,349	2,447	1,404	3,498	81%	10,341
Chatham	6,230	4,901	1,799	1,203	1,889	79%	6,607
Dennis	13,414	10,316	4,011	2,448	3,857	77%	14,742
Eastham	4,972	4,164	1,286	963	1,915	84%	5,724
Falmouth	28,849	22,252	8,484	4,569	9,229	77%	32,694
Harwich	12,117	9,365	3,420	2,296	3,649	77%	13,440
Mashpee	13,297	10,498	3,078	2,822	4,598	79%	15,144
Orleans	5,870	4,822	1,420	1,092	2,310	82%	6,322
Provincetown	3,470	2,671	936	765	970	77%	3,630
Sandwich	17,581	13,770	5,111	3,444	5,215	78%	20,419
Truro	2,308	1,840	935	314	591	80%	1,627
Wellfleet	3,197	2,517	1,002	468	1,047	79%	4,352
Yarmouth	22,558	15,507	6,371	3,114	6,022	69%	25,017
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>196,803</b>	<b>150,241</b>	<b>58,929</b>	<b>32,061</b>	<b>59,271</b>	<b>76%</b>	<b>229,436</b>