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LWVCCA OPENING MESSAGE

Welcome to 2025!

LWVCCA is off to a strong start in the New Year with significant membership growth last year. That means we're looking to find opportunities for new members and old to contribute their talents to the League. On January 13, several of us attended a Zoom event designed to highlight some roles available in advance of the Nominations Committee contacting members and offering opportunities to serve. Members attending could learn about our structure and how Leaguers can participate at any level, from joining a committee to holding an officer position. If you couldn't attend and would like to take a look at the Zoom

recording; it's available [HERE](#) on LWVCCA's YouTube.

The Nominating Committee started in January organizing candidates for leadership in the 2025/2026 year. This involves recruiting Board Members and Committee Chairs. But you don't have to wait to be asked. If you have the skills and interest to more actively participate in League work, just contact our Nominating Committee Chair, Madeline Zevon at madeline.zevon@gmail.com or (914) 584-9968. Madeline or another committee member will be happy to work with you to refine your understanding of the various roles and decide where you best fit.

In addition to recruiting members, LWVCCA is beginning our annual Program Planning activities. We revisit what we've accomplished in the past year, review our priorities and goals, and decide what to focus on for the coming year. If you're interested in helping to shape next year's goals and activities—and we hope you are—mark your calendars now for a session February 27 at CobbleStone Landing Clubhouse from 9:30 to 12:00 noon. You'll hear more about this soon and we urge you to be there. Let your voice be heard by attending.

Submitted by Pat Burke and Sue Cameron
Co-Vice Presidents

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Congratulations to Jeanne Morrison

We are sharing this article about Jeanne Morrison, our President for the League of Women Voters of the Cape Cod Area. This award given to Jeanne on Martin Luther King Day is truly

deserved and our League is honored to have her serve as our President. By sharing her knowledge and insight she has helped our organization to grow as a more diverse, inclusive organization and we are stronger for it. Jeanne is a joy to work with and we have all learned so much from her. Thank you Jeanne for your outstanding leadership for our organization and the larger Cape Community. Congratulations Jeanne!

**Barnstable Resident Jeanne Morrison to Receive
MLK Action Team Racial Justice Award
Press Release**

MLK Action Team of Nauset Interfaith Association awarded its MLK Racial Justice Advocate Award to Jeanne M. Morrison of Barnstable. Ms. Morrison has been engaged in community activism and volunteer work since her earliest days growing up on Cape Cod and in retirement she has doubled down on her commitment to build a more just society. Civically committed she is serving or has served on many local and state boards and steering committees including League of Women Voters Cape Cod, Barnstable County Human Rights Advisory Commission, AmplifyPOC Cape Cod, and is a founding member of the award winning MLK Action Team's Conversations with Police Task Force.

The Racial Justice Advocate award is open to any Cape Cod resident whose striving for racial equity and justice embodies the principles of our mission statement: "to address systemic racial injustice by educating ourselves and others and building transformative relationships...".

Ms. Morrison received her recognition award at the annual MLK Breakfast event on January 20, 2025 at the Church of the Holy Spirit in Orleans. The Breakfast also featured local artist and educator, Carl Lopes speaking on "Facing Civil Rights Challenges" and a musical performance by Candida Rose.



"I was raised to serve," said Jeanne Morrison, 66, of Hyannis. Morrison, photographed at her home on Jan. 16, 2025, will receive the Racial Justice Award from the Martin Luther King, Jr. Action Team on Monday, Jan. 20, in Orleans. The Action Team is the racial justice arm of the Nauset Interfaith Association. *Steve Heaslip/Cape Cod Times*

An article about the award appeared in the Cape Cod Times on the 20th:

**'Raised to serve.'
MLK Day award goes to Hyannis resident**

Submitted by Karen Mazza.

Pat Ryle: In Remembrance

Submitted by Karen Mazza.

Sadly, I received communication from Pat Ryle's son-in-law, Colin Farrell, that Pat passed away on January 12 at her home in Maryland after a six year battle with ovarian cancer. Colin shared the following message with us.

"Patty Ryle's, son-in-law Colin Farrell here. I am reaching out to you to let you know Patty died yesterday down here in Maryland. As I believe you know, Patty was diagnosed with ovarian cancer about six years ago. At the time of the diagnosis the doctors informed her she might have six months left. As Patty could squeeze 12 dimes out of a dollar bill, clearly that prognosis did not fit her plans. Not only did Patty have grandchildren to educate about any and every topic (while providing them copious amounts of snack food), there were elections to contest, and important things to do.

Patty's involvement with the League of Women Voters, the AAUW, and the Lions helped to keep her vital. Being of service, being useful, made her feel a part of the community and the world at large. As you all know, Patty could make her opinion known

with just a sideways glance, or a 10-minute soliloquy on the topic and hand. Or a topic not quite at hand. Whether requested or not.

We cannot thank you enough for your friendship to Patty over these many years. Your commitment to the community improved her life, particularly over these final years. And her involvement with your organizations helped Patty to set an example for her grandchildren. They witnessed her dedication to education, community engagement, and advocacy."

Pat was an active member of the Legislative Committee and the Health Committee, at one time co-chairing the Health Committee. I always found her to be enthusiastic, energetic, deeply committed to her work, and incredibly cheerful and positive in her approach to anything, including her illness. Renate Sands and Sue Brock worked with her on the legislative committee and they remember her as diligent, positive, and upbeat. Elaine Bono remembers her as an intelligent, strong woman.

Examples of Pat's advocacy can be seen in two pictures shown here. In one, Pat is on the right, holding a map of the Earth with Elaine Bono on the left, at a rally in Dennis to save the earth. In the other, Pat is pictured on the far left at our legislative advocacy Day on the Hill, with from left to right, Elaine Dickinson, Karen Mazza, Florence Seldin and Renate Sands. Pat will be missed. It was a pleasure and blessing to know her.

We will keep you informed about memorial arrangements which the family expects to hold sometime this spring.

For those who would like to leave a note.

View Patricia Ryle's obituary, send flowers and sign the guestbook.

[Patricia Ryle Obituary \(1949 - 2025\) - Legacy Remembers](#)

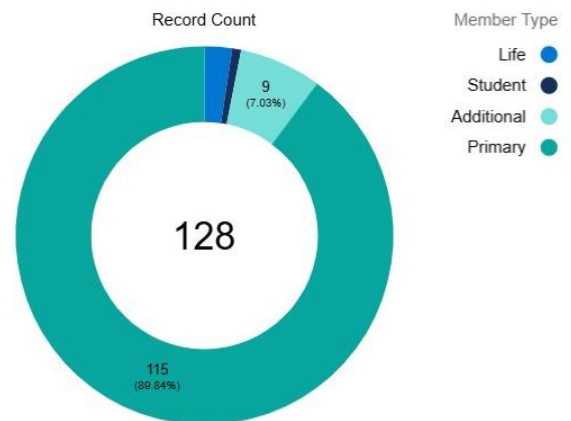


Pat Ryle (right) and Elaine Bono
At a 'Save the Earth' rally



Pat Ryle (left) with Elaine Dickinson, Karen Mazza, Florence Seldin and Renate Sands
at a 'Day on the Hill'

ACTIVE MEMBERS BY TYPE - CHART



Membership, as of this writing, stands at 128

CALENDAR**FEBRUARY****Reparation Study Consensus Meeting**

MONDAY FEB 3 | 6:30—8:30 p.m.
Zoom conference for LWVCCA members
Please register for one meeting

Board Meeting

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

Reparation Study Consensus Meeting

TUESDAY FEB 5 | 9:30--11:30 a.m.
Zoom conference for LWVCCA members
Please register for one meeting

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

**What It means for the Cape and
Commonwealths**
WEDNESDAY FEB 25

Program Planning Meeting

THURSDAY FEB 27 | 9:30—11:30 a.m.
Meetinghouse at Cobblestone Landing
50 Center Board Ln, Hyannis, MA 02601

Pogram Planning Meeting

THURSDAY FEB 27 | 9:30—11:30 a.m.
Meetinghouse at Cobblestone Landing
50 Center Board Ln, Hyannis, MA 02601

UPCOMING**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.***

PROGRAM PLANNING MEETING**Please Attend Our Special Program
Planning Meeting on February 27****Continental Breakfast Will Be Supplied**

Submitted by Karen Mazza

On February 27 from 9:30 AM to 12:00 PM the LWVCCA will hold a special program planning meeting to select our priorities for the coming year. What makes this meeting “special” is that we are going to examine the scope of what we do, assess our existing activities in relation to our mission, and identify those areas where we can have the highest impact in our service to the community. This means that we will do more than simply edit our existing program priorities. We will assess our ability to sustain what we presently do, consider how to be the most effective at the activities we want to retain, consider new activities that would fit within our mission and the scope of what we believe we can manage.

Another aspect of this meeting that makes it “special” is that we have immediate past President of LWVMA, Elizabeth Foster Nolan, to facilitate the discussion for us. We wanted a facilitator for this discussion so that someone neutral could help us consider our choices with fresh eyes, not wed to our present activities. We have seen Elizabeth facilitate LWVMA meetings and have confidence in her skills and she has been a good friend to LWVCCA.

**PLEASE REGISTER FOR THIS MEETING WITH
KAREN MAZZA : mazzak1623@gmail.com
SO THAT WE CAN PLAN FOR THE QUANTITY OF
FOOD AND OTHER SUPPLIES.**

Meeting Location:
Cobblestone Landing Club House
50 Center Board Lane
Hyannis, MA

LWVCCA Leadership Opportunities

Video of League Participation and Leadership Options Now Available

We would like to share with our entire membership the recording of our January 13 Zoom discussion of participation and leadership opportunities in the League of Women Voters of the Cape Cod Area. If you would like to find ways to participate, please view this to hear more about the work that we do and how you can help, either on a committee or on the Board. If you are interested in serving on a committee please view the list of committee chairs in your Member Handbook and contact the chairperson. If you think you might be interested in serving on the Board, please contact Madeline Zevon, who is chairing the Nominating Committee. Madeline can be reached at madeline.zevon@gmail.com.

Our work is powered by our volunteers. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jeanne Morrison (President) and Karen Mazza (Administrator)

Link to recording:

[LWVCCA "Participation and Leadership Options"](#)

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.

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://lwmva.org/lwmva-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

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Hello Members,

The Legislative Committee is beginning to gear up since the new 2025-2026 legislative session has begun. Bills are being furiously filed. The filing deadline was January 22, so legislators are up to their eyeballs in paperwork. And, we actually have three new members to our legislator list. While Dylan Fernandes is not new to the legislative process, he is new to the Senate side of that process because he replaced Susan Moran as the Senator for the Plymouth Barnstable Senate District. For the 4th Barnstable District, Hadley Luddy replaced Sarah Peake, and in the Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket District, Thomas W. Moakley took Dylan Fernandes representative seat. For those of you who are affected by these changes,

The Legislative Committee is waiting on the State Legislative Committee to sort through all of the legislation being filed to generate their list of bills that they will be following for the next two years. Our local league uses that list to create our own list of bills to follow. There may be a few bills that are specific to the Cape that we may include on our list, such as the Transportation Bill that we supported last session. That bill proposed extending rail service from Boston to the Cape on a regular basis. The bill never made it out of committee but there may be a few that we will specifically target. However, it is much too early to specify any at this time.

Both the House (Rep. Ron Marian) and Senate (Sen. Karen Spilka) leadership have indicated a move towards increased transparency for this new session. They said that their new rules would spell out potential changes but as of yet a date for drawing up those joint rules has not been set. And, in case you have not been paying attention to the papers.... There is a fight brewing between those two legislative bodies and the new State Auditor, Diana DeZoglio. Question 1 on the ballot in the last election requiring the auditor to audit all activities of the state legislative process was overwhelmingly approved by the voters. However, the legislative leaders are digging their

heels in to prevent that from happening and attempting to ignore the will of the people. Seems to be a lot of that going around. So, stay tuned for more information regarding the workings of your State Government.

There were a number of last minute bills that were pushed through at the end of the last legislative session. Those bills moved after the theoretical end of session date which was August 31. Anything that happens after that is usually with fewer members present, subject to little or no debate, and sometimes attached to budget items which makes it difficult to find. The leadership has suggested in their rules changes that the formal legislative session may be extended past the August 31, 2026 date but we will have to wait and see.

If any of you have questions that I may answer, please do not hesitate to contact me. I may not know the answer but will do my best to find out what I can. In the meantime, do not hesitate to contact your legislator with concerns going forward. It is never too early to reach out, especially if it concerns legislation from last session. If you do contact your legislator, make sure you indicate your name and address so they know you are a constituent.

I am very thankful to have on my committee the following hard working members: Carole Young-Kleinfeld, Nancy Skinner, Renate Sands, Rosemary Shields, Susan Guill, Tamora Israel, Jeanne Morrison, Diane Turco, Eileen Elias, Elaine Dickinson, Mary Utt and Pat Ryle. If there are any additional members who would like to join us, please just let me know.

Finally, we should all be gearing up for ongoing legislative action on the national level. I believe that we are in for a tumultuous four years. I may be wrong, but forewarned is forearmed. And my heart goes out to all of those in the LA area who have lost everything. Where to begin again and how??? I have friends in the area. Not affected yet but are on constant evacuation alert. Those winds can shift in an eye-blink.

Praying for Calm Winds and Peace,
Suzanne – Legislative Chair

HEALTH COMMITTEE REPORT

The MA Maternal Health Law:
February 25, 2025|6:30 pm

The Massachusetts Maternal Health “Momnibus” Law:
What it means for the Cape and Commonwealth

SENATOR LIZ MIRANDA
MA 2nd Suffolk District

DR. HAFSATOU DIOP
MA Dept of Public Health

DR. WILLIAM AGEL
Cape Cod Healthcare

ERINN BRAY
By Your Side Doula

KATHERINE RUSHFIRTH
Boston Neighborhood Health Center

JODY SCHWARTZ BELSON
Women’s Health Services

FEBRUARY 25 AT 6:30PM ON ZOOM

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MASSACHUSETTS

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE CAPE COD AREA

The Leagues of Women Voters of the Cape Cod Area (LWVCCA) and Massachusetts (LWVMA) invite you to a virtual forum, **“The Massachusetts Maternal Health “Momnibus” Law: What It means for the Cape and Commonwealth”** on Tuesday, February 25, 2025 at 6:30 PM to explore the background, emerging initiatives, policies, and services contained in the recently enacted *Act promoting midwifery care and out-of-hospital birth options*. Register [here](#).

This comprehensive legislation will overhaul maternal health practices in Massachusetts and expand coverage for midwifery, birth centers, doulas and treatment for postpartum depression, among several other initiatives to save lives and to advance racial and economic maternal healthcare justice.

Six 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:

- **Senator Elizabeth “Liz” Miranda**, 2nd Suffolk District, Massachusetts Senate
- **Dr. Hafsatou Diop**, MD, MPH, MA Dept of Public Health—Assistant Commissioner for Health Equity
- **Dr. William Agel**, MD, Cape Cod Healthcare—Chief Medical Officer, Obstetrician/Gynecologist
- **Erinn Bray**, By Your Side Doula—Birth and Postpartum Doula
- **Katherine Rushfirth**, CNM, FACNM, Boston Neighborhood Health Center—Policy Director and Certified Nurse Midwife
- **Jody Schwartz Belson**, CNM, Outer Cape Health Services—Program Medical Director for Women’s Health Services, Certified Nurse Midwife

Register [HERE](#). Please share with your personal networks.

Carole Young-Kleinfeld and Eileen Elias

VOTER SERVICE COMMITTEE

Well, here we are – another year ahead of us! As I write this in mid-January I am reviewing what all the Voter Service Committee achieved last year. We were quite busy due to several contested races. Contested races mean that this is democracy at work. We have different opinions and goals and we deserve to have candidates that listen to us.

Speaking of candidates that listen to us – Rep. Hadley Luddy (4th Barnstable District) will be offering office hours one February 3rd at the Harwich Community Center from 4 to 6 pm and then on February 15th at the Eldredge Public Library in Chatham from 12 to 2 pm. Please let her know what your concerns are so that she is aware of them.

Please let us know if you have some interest in running for an office. We have women and men with a wealth of experience to answer any questions.

I know this is the time of the year that we make resolutions and then, perhaps, falter. However this year I have only one resolution. I plan to enjoy life – that is it. We live in a beautiful place with caring neighbors.

My last word is this – I am thankful for every member of the Voter Service Committee. You make all our events possible. Thank you!

Lynne Pleffner
Chair

DID YOU KNOW...?

....that the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline recently received an FCC upgrade which will make responses to crisis phone calls more efficient? People who call the 988 line can now be *Georouted* to a crisis center within their nearby area, based on the location of the cell tower where the call originates—instead of to a crisis center in their area code. This allows for more localized care for callers. The Pew Charitable Trusts reported that 80% of calls now come from cell phones, instead of landlines. Data also shows that 98% of 988 calls can be resolved over the phone without involving 911 emergency responders. The FCC believes that this new rule change will save lives. It has also voted to propose a rule requiring *Georouting* for 988 text messages, in addition to phone calls.

--Carole Young-Kleinfeld

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 Soyot
Secretary	Debbie Winnick
Committee Chairs:	
Voter Service	Lynne Pleffner
Youth Service	Karen Mazza
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion	(Open)
Communications, Newsletter	Richard Utt
Member 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:
LWVCCA P. O. Box 2347 Orleans, MA 02653
Phone: 508-945-0511
Email: lwvcca@gmail.com
Website: http://www.lwvcapecod.org
Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/LWVCCA/

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