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LWVCCA OPENING MESSAGE

Mark your calendar for our **Annual Meeting scheduled for Thursday, May 22** at the Family Table Collaborative in Yarmouth. We have much to celebrate since in the past year we have been joined by nearly 40 new members! We will welcome them at this dinner meeting, and hear from our very special speaker, Dan Kennedy, a professor at Northeastern University’s School of Journalism. He specializes in opinion writing, media ethics and the future of local news. His blog, Media Nation, is a nationally recognized source of news and commentary.

Following dinner and Dan’s presentation, we will conduct our business meeting at which we will approve the budget, the slate of officers and directors for the Board, and approve our program goals for the coming year. This is a good time to hear about our plans for the future and learn more about how you can be involved. It is also a great time to visit with each other and get to know members.

Please join us for this meeting and feel free to bring a friend. Friends who are not members just need to be aware that we will conduct a business meeting at the end. They can stay and learn more about what we do, or they can feel free to leave at that point. More details about this event will be available soon. We do hope that all members who are able to attend will do so! It is always fun to have a gathering of friends and it would be wonderful to greet our speaker who is coming from Boston with a strong showing from our League.

Submitted by Karen Mazza, Administrator

DID YOU KNOW...?

...that the 194th Massachusetts legislative session—2025-2026—has begun and that the legislators from the Cape and Islands area have received their committee assignments? See the Massachusetts Legislature’s main website [HERE](#). From there, you can check for specific bills, watch archived hearings and sessions, and search for each legislator to see the bills they’ve sponsored or co-sponsored so far.

Over the next several weeks, the LWVCCA’s Legislative Committee will meet to review the proposed bills that the LWVMA has selected as priorities to support—or oppose—and identify any additional bills that have special significance for the Cape. Then, our committee members will prepare testimony for public hearings and start to make contact by phone, email and in-person with our local Cape delegation.

Here’s a list of each legislator’s committee membership and leadership assignments:

SENATORS

Julian Cyr (Cape and Islands. Assistant Majority Whip). *Chairperson*, Joint Committee on Housing. *Vice Chair*, Joint Committee on Public

Health. Joint Committee on Health Care Financing. Joint Committee on Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery. Joint Committee on Racial Equity, Civil Rights, and Inclusion. Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy.

Dylan Fernandes (Plymouth and Barnstable). *Chairperson*, Joint Committee on Agriculture. *Vice Chair*, Joint Committee on Cannabis Policy. *Vice Chair*, Joint Committee on Environment and Natural Resources. Senate Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs. Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security. Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy. Joint Committee on Transportation

REPRESENTATIVES

Chris Flanagan (1st Barnstable). House Committee on Climate Action and Sustainability. Joint Committee on Advanced Information Technology, the Internet and Cybersecurity. Joint Committee on Agriculture. Joint Committee on Emergency Preparedness and Management.

Kip Diggs (2nd Barnstable). *Assistant Vice Chair*, House Committee on Ways and Means. *Assistant Vice Chair*, Joint Committee on Ways and Means. Joint Committee on Health Care Financing. Joint Committee on Housing. Joint Committee on Racial Equity, Civil Rights, and Inclusion.

David Vieira (3rd Barnstable. Third Assistant Minority Leader). House Committee on Ethics. Joint Committee on Emergency Preparedness and Management. Joint Committee on Tourism, Arts and Cultural Development.

Hadley Luddy (4th Barnstable) House Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs. Joint Committee on Agriculture. Joint Committee on Bonding, Capital Expenditures and State Assets. Joint Committee on Tourism, Arts and Cultural Development.

Steven Xiarhos (5th Barnstable). *Ranking Minority*, Joint Committee on Emergency Preparedness and Management. *Ranking Minority*, Joint Committee on Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery. House Committee on Ways and Means. Joint Committee on Public Safety and

Homeland Security. Joint Committee on Ways and Means.

Thomas Moakley (Barnstable, Dukes, and Nantucket) House Committee on Federal Funding, Policy and Accountability. Joint Committee on Advanced Information Technology, the Internet and Cybersecurity. Joint Committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities. Joint Committee on the Judiciary. Joint Committee on Tourism, Arts and Cultural Development.

What's important to you? Join our Legislative Committee! New members are always welcome. We advocate to uphold good government and voters' rights, prevent gun violence, promote healthy families, support affordable housing, and protect our environment. Please contact Sue Brock, Chair, LWVCCA Legislative Committee at sailinsue22@gmail.com.

--Carole Young-Kleinfeld

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

I wish I had great news to share with you regarding legislation here in MA. The two Houses are still in discussion regarding joint rules for committees. The hope was that this process would be finished by now. However, in the meantime, bills are being filed and assigned to committees. Our legislators have been busy with the bill sponsorship process.

Our Cape delegation have sponsored the following number of bills: Flanagan – 17, Luddy – 21, Vieira – 35, Xiarhos – 37, Diggs – 28, Moakley – 25, Cyr – 89 and Fernandes – 48. In addition, they have all co-sponsored various other pieces of legislation. If you would like to check on the bills sponsored or co-sponsored by your legislator, please go to malegislature.gov and use the legislators drop down, enter your legislators name and his/her page will come up. Scroll down a bit and on the left there will be two tabs. The first, sponsored bills and the second co-sponsored bills. You can run through the list to see if there are any that you are interested in. If so, let me know if you have any comments or questions.

Unfortunately, the LWVMA has not finished creating their sponsored/opposed list of bills to follow this year. They are still sorting through the 6000 plus bills to determine their/our priorities. As soon as they finish their list, our Legislative Committee will be able to create our own list of bills to follow for the 2025-2026 legislative year. As soon as that is created, I will share it with all of you.

While our focus normally is state and local first, it is hard to ignore what is transpiring on the national level. More and more it is becoming crystal clear that if all of us, not just League members, all of us..... if we do not stand up and make ourselves heard, fight to protect our democracy, we may discover one day, soon, that we have nothing left to protect. It appears that those in power are not interested in respecting, protecting or defending the Constitution or the Rule of Law. We are becoming a nation in peril, perhaps even a non-nation. It is up to all of us to speak up loud and often. I attended the Town Hall being held by Representative Keating. Next month I will let you know what he has to say about what's happening in Washington.

In the meantime..... at this point, we are all "Freedom Fighters."

In solidarity,

Suzanne - Legislative Chair

HEALTH COMMITTEE REPORT

The Health Committee is pleased to welcome two new Chapter members as Committee members - Leandena Dankese and Sara Plehn.

Much appreciation to Jennifer Muroff, Massachusetts LWV Legislative Action Committee Chair for partnering with the Health Committee in providing the successful February 27 virtual Forum on Maternal Health Care. Do check the Chapter's website to view the Forum's recording at <https://my.lwv.org/massachusetts/cape-cod-area/massachusetts-maternal-health-momnibus-law>.

We will begin planning the Committee's action steps for 2025-2026 at our April 7 2:00 PM

Meeting. If you are interested in joining the Health Committee, do contact Eileen Elias at eileen.elias@comcast.net.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

CALENDAR

APRIL

Board Meeting

TUESDAY APR 1 | 9:30—11:30 a.m.

Zoom conference by invitation

HANDS OFF! RALLY

SATURDAY APR 5 | 12:00 p.m.

Hyannis Rotary

Read more and register [HERE](#)

Celebrate Earth Day

TUESDAY, APR 22 | 2:00 p.m.

Speakers Forum on Plastic Waste

Centerville Library – 585 Main Street

Read more [HERE](#)

UPCOMING

Board Meeting

TUESDAY MAY 6 | 9:30—11:30 a.m.

Zoom conference by invitation

ANNUAL MEETING

THURSDAY MAY 22

Family Table Collaborative

Speaker: Dan Kennedy

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

I had a good meeting with Teresa Martin of Lower Cape TV. We discussed having an event in the September/October time frame focusing on the County Administrator, a member of the County Commissioners, a member of the Assembly of Delegates and a representative from the Cape Cod Commission. Since this is the year of a mandated review of the County Charter, we felt it was important to put together this event. More details to come!

We attended the 9th Annual Youth Employment Fair at the Hyannis Community Center. This is a great event as it gives 14-year-olds and up an opportunity to meet several potential employers in a very non-threatening way.

We had a table leading into the Fair which was handled by Carole Young-Kleinfeld.

Carole Young-Kleinfeld at the 9th Annual Youth Employment Fair



Carole handed out many of our QR code business cards which help voters to learn if they are registered to vote as well as give them an opportunity to register to vote. Rosemary Shields and I were in the Parents Lounge and had many interesting conversations.

We had a presence at the International Women’s Day Breakfast held on March 11th

Rosemary Shields at the International Women’s Day Breakfast held on March 11th



We had information available as well as pamphlets in case someone wanted to join. We were located right as you walked in, so we had a great location. This was such a great opportunity for women of all ages to share their experiences and wisdom!

Our Credit for Life participation with Cape Cod 5 Cents Savings Bank continues and I hope to have more details to share next month along with some great photos!

I am so happy that we have gone to daylight savings time as the days will start to get longer and we will all be able to enjoy that beautiful sunshine!

Lynne Pleffner
Chair

YOUTH SERVICE COMMITTEE REPORT

REQUEST FOR LEAGUE MEMBERS TO ATTEND LOCAL SCHOOL CIVIC SHOWCASE EVENTS

From the Youth Service Committee

May and June are the times that local school districts will be holding civics show case events where students will present their civics projects in

science fair style. We will be invited to attend showcase events for four school districts: Barnstable, Dennis-Yarmouth, Monomoy and Sandwich.

We need more League members to attend these events than just the members of the Youth Service Committee and we encourage you to join us to give the students a larger audience to appreciate their work. We attend as Community Advisors and our role is to listen to students make a five minute presentation of their project, ask them questions about the project and offer helpful and encouraging feedback. Projects are selected by students regarding an issue that they would like to improve. They explain the research they did on the issue, what they think is the root cause of the issue, they identify solutions and strategies to bring about change. The goal of these projects is to help students understand how to be a changemaker. We will each listen to several student groups during the time we attend.

Please help us give the students the attention they deserve. The only date that I have from the schools right now is from Barnstable. Their event is on June 9.

If you are willing to attend at least one of these events, please let me know which school or schools you would be able to attend, depending on the date. I will get back to you on the date when I have it. Contact me at mazzak1623@gmail.com

If you want to see one of the state regional Civics Showcase events you are welcome to join me at the May 27 event at UMass Dartmouth or attend the June 6 event at the Edward M. Kennedy Institute in Boston.

Submitted by Karen Mazza

2025 INTERNATIONAL WOMENS' DAY BREAKFAST

The League of Women Voters of the Cape Cod Area hosted a 2nd International Women's Day Breakfast on March 11th in partnership with seven community nonprofit organizations. The community partners and committee members who collectively planned the event included Amplify POC, Inc., Tara Vargas Wallace; Cape Cod Cape Verdean Museum and Cultural Center, Bre Rose-Brown; Cape Cod Commission On The Status of Women, Chinna Mapp and Amy Peters; Cape Cod Foundation's Women and Girls Fund, Kate Kane and Andi Genser; International Business Relations, Natalia Frois; LWVCCA, Jeanne Morrison, Mary Utt, Sue Brock; League of Women Voters Falmouth, Meghan Hanawalt; Upper Cape Women's Coalition, Penelope Duby. Special thanks to the planning committee and the LWVCCA Treasurer, Tova Soyot and Communications Chair, Richard Utt. Great teamwork!

EIGHT PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS WORKED TO PLAN THIS YEAR'S EVENT:



The event was "terrific"! There were 250 attendees and 30 community resource tables representing local organizations who provide services and resources for women and their families.

Four of Cape Cod's state legislators - Senator Julian Cyr, Representatives Kipp Diggs, Chris Flanagan and Hadley Luddy also attended.



Senator Cyr, LWVCCA President Jeanne Morrison, and Representative Hadley Luddy



LWVCCA member Tamora Israel performed two original poems

All these participants plus our generous Community Sponsors - Cape Air, Cape Cod 5, The Cooperative Bank of Cape Cod, Eastern Bank, TD Bank, Women and Girls Fund of The Cape Cod Foundation, Rockland Trust, Cape Cod Community College Foundation, Ed Trust of the LWVCCA; the League of Women Voters Falmouth, and community donors, assured a very successful event. One sponsor’s CEO reported that they were *“honored to sponsor the International Women’s Day Breakfast; if you missed it, you missed a morning of coalition building and positive energy”*.

This year's theme was: *Uniting Women, Empowering Equity: Building a Just Future Together*. The program was packed with a diverse line up of impressive speakers, most receiving standing ovations for their remarks. The program kicked off with local poet and LWVCCA member Tamora Israel, who performed two original poems, "Listen" and "Strong Woman". The poems were very powerful and popular. Tamora’s poetry is currently featured in her live shows currently on tour across the Cape into 2026, and will be published in her upcoming book, *Poetry From My Brain Parts*.

The program reflected the theme and centered on the resilience and strength of women taking action. Tamora was followed by several speakers who shared their stories reflective of the theme from their perspectives and experiences. The speakers included, Anita Peters (Mother bear) who presented her documented maternal lineage from the 1500’s. She talked about the matriarchal structure of indigenous communities and the importance of the women’s role in keeping their communities together, choosing and cultivating chiefs and other leaders in the tribe. As well as the necessity of teaching children to prepare them for roles in the “outside world”. Following Anita was Danielle Hill, a local single mother of 19 who accredited herself with the initials after her name, M.O.M. as a badge of merit that many women in audience could relate to. She told how motherhood and life challenges helped her to become a successful independent working women. Despite overwhelming obstacles and unfavorable odds, she defined her own destiny and is making a difference in the community.

The next part of the program included a video of vignettes of six women representing local organizations that support women. The presenters all shared information about their organizations and nonpartisan actions being taken to make a difference in the lives of women in today’s political climate.



State Senator Liz
Miranda, 2nd
Suffolk District

One of the highlights of the program was State Senator Liz Miranda, 2nd Suffolk District. She too discussed her road to success in running for office and the importance of women's ability to withstand and recover from challenges and difficulties to assume leadership in taking action. She strongly encouraged each one of us to not be bystanders, but become actively engaged. To speak up, find a place to make a difference and let your passion drive you. Newly elected State Representative Hadley Luddy, 4th District Barnstable, also shared her inspiring story of how motherhood and community engagement led to a successful run for office. She emphasized the importance of not only advocating for women's needs but also working together to pass legislation fighting for women's rights.



Youth panel discussion on
"Leading Change"

The speaking program culminated with a vibrant and insightful youth panel discussion on "Leading Change". Facilitated by Kalyani Clarke, a recent college graduate and youth educator, the panel expressed their need for and importance of mentors, opportunities to succeed and support. The message of unity was interwoven throughout the youth panel discussion. Their message is summarized in the words of Dave Chappell, "Our power lies in each other. We should unite to strengthen that power and use it". The program closed with group songs led by Jane Lowey,

Director of Common Voice Choir. In the spirit of our theme, the lyrics focused on uniting us together, building collective strength and accelerating action to make transformative change. Thank you to all who participated. For those who missed the event, we hope to see you next year!

Submitted by Jeanne Morrison,
President LWVCCA and Chair IWDB event

Quotes....

"Rep. Luddy was very inspirational, sharing her story about how and why she decided to run for office.

"On the whole, the morning was filled with emotionally charged comments that should help to energize action in our local communities."

"Senator Liz Miranda's live, virtual message was enough to make me think of different ways to interact within my community, and the personal vignettes gave us all something concrete to think about."

"The focus on action hopefully left attendees considering new avenues for engagement. With luck and determination, the momentum will carry forth into more local action."

"I just wanted to let you know how much I appreciated TD's sponsorship for the IWDB. The event was terrific!"

"Congratulations to all the organizers of the International Women's Day Breakfast yesterday- it was a wonderful event!"

"Congrats on a wonderfully inspiring event!"

"Inspirational and needed to bring us together. It fosters collaborations, empowerment, opportunities for advancement and collective support for the population of women and girls on Cape Cod. We can have experiences that are transformative."

"Thank you to you, Tara, and your committee for organizing another wonderful International Women's Day event. Everything went well and I got to see so many people."

"Liz Miranda was a highlight!"

"My big take away from the panel of young people was to have hope for the next generation. They were each so articulate about wanting to make a difference and the people who inspired them to grow and become the best version of themselves.... "



MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Membership continues to grow, and now stands at 143!

We welcome all new members, and look forward to helping you find opportunities to participate in our work.

LWVCCA Board & Contact information

LWVCCA DIRECTORS 2024-2025

Officers for 2024-2025

President 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

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