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LWVCCA OPENING MESSAGE

President's Message

Our June Board meeting welcomed the 2025-2026 Board of Directors elected at the May Annual Meeting. Many Board members are returning for the coming year, and we welcome the new Co-Vice President Carol Woodbury, new Voter Service Chair Judy Kelleher, and new Member-at-Large Gail Spink. We did a mini retreat at my house so that we could meet in person. We are all ready to roll up our sleeves and make this a good year ahead for our League. We need your help as well. Are you a wiz on the computer? Do you like playing around with graphics? The September meeting will provide you with options whether you have an hour a month or time only in the summer!

Many activities have been going on this summer. The Legislative Committee met to review

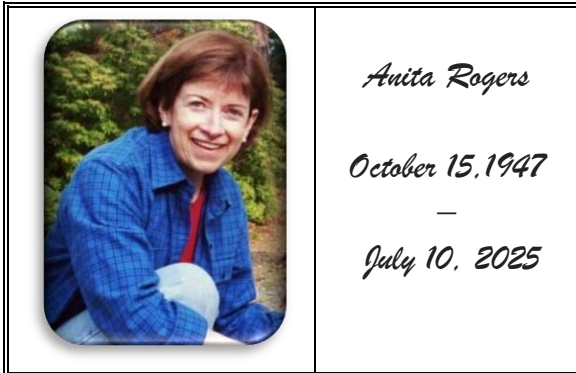
the thirty-five pieces of legislation they are following to see what their status was once the Legislators left town. The Committee is gearing up for the "Day on the Hill" which is September 18th. At this event they will be meeting with our local legislators.

Voter Service was busy over the summer with the Mashpee Race Amity Day, Juneteenth, the Independence House's International Day in Hyannis, the Unity Day in Hyannis as well as the Amplify POC vendor event that was at the end of August. They will be holding a National Voter Registration Day at Cape Cod Community College. Voter Service will be returning to the Cape Cod Young Professionals "Back to Business Bash" on September 12th with Cape Cod Community College being a new venue for the Bash.

This has been a busy summer not only for our Committees, but for our members and neighbors. Every day is something new to cause head spinning. I applaud every member and neighbor that stood peacefully in protest on No Kings Day on June 14th as well as Good Trouble Lives On in honor of Rep. John Lewis held on July 17th. Protests were held in Provincetown, Eastham, Chatham, Hyannis, Falmouth, and Bourne. Some protests were held at one's personal address. We were all in solidarity.

Our September Membership meeting will be on Tuesday, September 16th at the [Family Table Collaborative](#) in South Yarmouth. I hope to see you there!

Lynne Pleffner, LWVCCA President

In MEMORY of ANITA ROGERS

Dear Members,

It is with a heavy heart that I share with you the news of one of our members - Anita Rogers.

Anita was a gentle force of nature; always with a smile. She will be greatly missed.

Now, my fellow members I would like you to know more about Anita and her role in the League from her dear friend Rosemary Shields:

Anita Rogers was co-chair of the Voter Service Committee from 2018 to 2022. In those years Anita and I shared the work, the creativity and the laughs that it takes to supply non-partisan voter information to all citizens. With the help of members of the Voter Service Committee, Anita seemed to be everywhere – setting up voter information tables at festivals; visiting all the high schools on the Cape to register and pre-register students; and holding as many candidates forums for contested races that she could muster. Anita also took the lead of approaching the Barnstable County jail to make sure prisoners awaiting trial could get absentee ballots and vote. It was a lot of work but Anita so believed in what she was doing, she kept volunteering and searching out more opportunities. And as if that wasn't enough, it was also during this time that Anita was Chair of the Board of the Orleans Council on Aging, working on budgets and making presentations to the City Council. When Anita left the voter service committee in 2022, she left big hole for us to fill. But Anita had to leave, so she could care for her husband, Ernie, who became incapacitated in the last year and a half of his life. Since Ernie's death

Anita was working on her house but was also busy with her neighbors. To culminate the friendships, Anita and the neighbors decided to have a monthly movie night using the big screen TV in her den, popcorn and all. And so, it was during her daily walk around the neighborhood that Anita collapsed and never regained consciousness. The doctors believe it was a brain aneurysm. Surrounded by her brothers and nieces and nephew, Anita passed away on July 10th. Anita has left yet another big hole for us who knew and loved her. May her memory be a blessing.

Lynne

CALENDAR**SEPTEMBER****Board Meeting**

TUESDAY SEPT 2 | 9:30—11:30 a.m.
Zoom conference by invitation

Membership Kickoff

TUESDAY SEPT 16 | 5:00—7:00 p.m.
Family Table Collaborative
South Yarmouth

Day on The Hill 2025

THURSDAY SEPT 18 | 11:00 a.m.
MA State House 24 Beacon Street, Boston

OCTOBER**Board Meeting**

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

DY Newcomers Meeting

WEDNESDAY OCT 15 | 5:30—7:00 p.m.
Yarmouth Senior Center
LWVCCA will have an information table.

To see our entire Google calendar, go to

<http://lwvcapecod.org/lwvcca-calendar>

NOTE: Click on "Schedule" to see a list of all events. Click on any calendar listing to see more detail.

DID YOU KNOW...?

...that campaign finance regulations for ballot questions in Massachusetts—such as the recent MCAS question or the legislative audit question—are not as strict as regulations for candidate spending? According to CommonWealth Beacon, Common Cause MA, and LWVMA, two legislators have proposed new bills that would close off the loopholes in the state's spending rules for ballot questions to make them mirror the rules for candidates. These bills would require reporting of both fundraising and spending during the January to September period before Election Day, and would disclose who is backing each side of ballot questions. The LWVMA supports the bill, stating that it will also require ballot question committees "...to report in-kind contributions that exceed \$50, detailing an alphabetical list of contributors, the nature and value of contributions, and any new debts incurred."

Senator Sal DiDomenico (Middlesex and Suffolk) and State Representative Dan Ryan (Cambridge/Everett) have sponsored The Ballot Spending Transparency Act, in both the Massachusetts House and Senate as H.868 and Senate as S.507.. Currently, unlike candidate campaign finance reporting—required on a monthly basis before elections—ballot question reporting of year-long fundraising and disclosure of all donors is not required until September, just weeks before the start of early voting.

Common Cause Massachusetts was instrumental in drafting the Act. Executive Director Geoff Foster said, "Massachusetts voters deserve to know, in real time, who is funding the ballot questions that will impact their lives." Common Cause reports that Massachusetts ranks among the states that consistently raise the most money for ballot question campaigns. The Commonwealth also spends more on ballot question campaigns than the national average.

For more than 50 years the LWVUS has fought for campaign finance reforms to reduce abuses and to close loopholes in various election laws. In

concert with our national organization, LWVMA supports greater transparency in campaign financing, including more disclosure in ballot question campaigns. The Ballot Spending Transparency Act—H.868 and S.507—will help voters to make informed choices at the polls and to know who and what organizations are behind ballot questions from the beginning, not just 60 days before an election or referendum in November

--Carole Young-Kleinfeld

VOTER SERVICE COMMITTEE

After numerous weekends of rain showers this spring and early summer, the summer festivals have been sunny and beautiful. On June 8, Rosemary Shields, Judy Kelleher, and Carole Young-Kleinfeld attended the Fifth Annual Race Amity Day Festival, at the Mashpee Community Park. There were numerous tables in the Park, to discuss concerns around race and equality. We start the conversation with "Are you registered to vote?" And follow it up almost immediately with "What town are you from?" We then refer them to our Spring Election Chart to see what percentage of registered voters in their town actually voted. There were shrugs of resignation or eyebrow-raising surprise that the town votes were just 8% to 30%. Rosemary suggests, "You know more of your pocketbook issues are decided in the Spring elections than any other election. Property tax overrides, the operating budget, the school budget, waste water management and affordable housing are decided in many of the ballot questions." Besides talking to 20 to 30 people at Race Amity Day, what made this day outstanding was the unbelievably great live music.

Race Amity Day, Mashpee



Community getting together at Fifth Annual Race Amity Festival June 8 at Mashpee Community Park



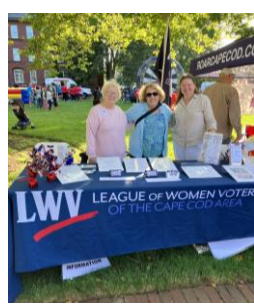
LWVCCA voter registration volunteers, Carol Young-Kleinfeld, Judy Kelleher and Rosemary Shields.

A Juneteenth event at the Hyannis Green was well attended by a host of League volunteers, as organized by Jeanne Morrison, past LWVCCA President.

The voter Service Committee again set up a table at the Hyannis Green, for the International Day event held on July 13th, from 12 to 4 p.m. This had a bit of an International-flair, but mainly had numerous tables of organizations centered around the welfare of the community. This event was not well attended, unfortunately. There was some very good music and a poignant display of two-dimensional red metal cut-outs, to memorialize those that had been killed by domestic violence in our community.



Hyannis Green International Day: Independence House's poignant reminder of those lost due to domestic violence



Unity Day in Hyannis: LWVCCA voter registration volunteers, Carol Young-Kleinfeld, Judy Kelleher and Bonnie Lilienfeld.

Hopefully next year, with a bit more advertising, there will be more attendees to speak with about voting in those local elections

One of the largest events of the summer festival season probably was the 9th Annual Unity Day - Barnstable, again at the Hyannis Green on August 1st from 4-7pm. Even though it occurred on a Friday evening the event, put on by the Barnstable community policing division was well attended. There was music, food, a bouncy castle and numerous police vehicles with equipment on display. Numerous community tables were set up, including a LWVCCA Voter Service table with volunteers, Rosemary Shields, Carol Young Kleinfeld, Bonnie Lilienfeld, Judy Kelleher and even the LWVCCA President, Lynne Pleffner came by for a visit. Most people attending had voted, but we reminded those Barnstable residents of upcoming elections (for the even precincts) on November 4th.

There is one more event of the summer, the Amplify POC Summer Festival on the 30th of August. We appear to have a good contingent of LWVCCA volunteers, so hope to see you all there. The location is the Hyannis Green from 11-4 pm. There is expected to be good food, a DJ and numerous vendors.

Judy Kelleher Voter Service Committee

HEALTH COMMITTEE

Domestic Violence Forum Coming Next March

The Health Committee is planning a forum next March on the prevention of domestic violence. The program will include a panel discussion—including legislators and other service providers—to explore several domestic violence prevention issues, such as the role of the Cape's law enforcement officials.

Recently, members visited Independence House in Hyannis and met with its Executive Director, Lysetta Hurge-Putnam – to understand how domestic violence is addressed on Cape Cod. Independence House provides an array of critical Cape-wide services in cases of domestic and

sexual violence, including emergency housing resources, counseling, and advocacy.

The visit to Independence House complemented our League's advocacy for proposed legislation—H. 1594/S.1205, *An Act relative to controlling and abusive litigation*. See the LWVMA summary [here](#). Our LWVCCA testimony has already been submitted in June to the Joint Committee on the Judiciary by Renate Sands, a LWVCCA Health Committee member. The Second Step, an organization that provides free, trauma-informed services for survivors of domestic violence throughout Greater Boston and beyond, has also submitted supportive [testimony](#).

LWVCCA members interested in joining the Health Committee can contact Eileen Elias at eileen.elias@comcast.net.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Hi Members,

September tends to bring a cooling off for the weather but a heating up for the League's activities. Actually, the eleven members of the Legislative Committee have been busy since March deciding on the bills to follow this session, attending legislative hearings for some of those bills and writing and submitting testimony for all of the bills that we are supporting or opposing. Sometimes I send out an alert to our communication team to notify all of you, the membership, to send a message to your own legislator reinforcing our message of support or opposition. I hope that some of you have been able to follow through on those requests. I know that nationally, there are troubling actions taking place, but here in MA, I am operating on the assumption that the more our voice is heard the better our chances of getting positive results.

We are following 39 bills so far. Many of the bills have both a House and a Senate number but are virtually the same legislation. The topics and brief title of the bills are listed on our website. Please check out the list so that you can see where we are focusing our efforts. We all know that there are probably a thousand different directions

that we can move in, but unfortunately time and manpower help us to draw the line and select those that we feel are most important and have a higher probability of passage.

I realize that in some ways trying to pay attention to what is happening at the State House may seem tedious and boring. However, Democracy begins at home, initially at the community level. The state becomes the next level up. If we ignore what is happening or file it under "it doesn't apply directly to me" we end up with what is going on in Washington D.C. and all over the nation. Sometimes we have to act locally while thinking globally. I never expected to have to fear for the loss of Democracy in America. How naïve am I? It is now my grandchildren that I worry about growing up under an authoritarian government. This is not a pretty picture, so I do everything I can locally and at the state level to build resistance to what may be a larger, drawn out fight.

There are two dates that I hope you will place in your calendar. Thursday, September 18 is "Day on the Hill." This is basically a day of lobbying arranged by the State League where members meet with legislators in their offices to advocate for specific bills targeted by the State Legislative Team. Notice has already gone out from LWVMA to all members but in case you missed it you can access the information with this link: <https://lwvma.org/day-on-the-hill/>. You are asked to register so the state league can plan on numbers and alert legislators about the number of constituents planning on attending. Members of the Legislative Committee are planning to attend and we will either carpool to Boston or to the commuter rail in Kingston. If you are interested in joining us you can let me know or go on your own and we will see you there. The other date is Friday, October 24th. We are still in the process of trying to arrange our Legislative Meeting event with our cape contingent of legislators. Please be on the lookout for future details. The greater our presence, the more attention paid to our message.

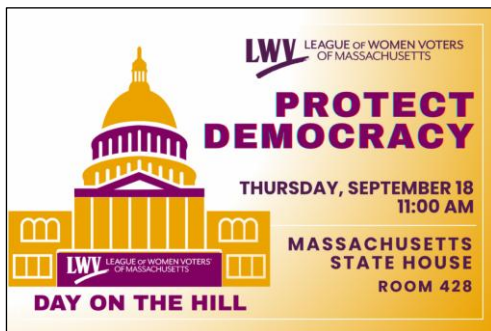
That's all I got for now, fellow members. Except, I would like you all to know who is on my hardworking team. A continuing thank you goes

out to: Carole Young-Kleinfeld, Lisa Nagel, Diane Turco, Eileen Elias, Jeanne Morrison, Mary Utt, Nancy Skinner, Penny Holeman, Renate Sands, Rosemary Shields, Susan Guill and Tamora Israel.

Pray for a return to normalcy.

Sue Brock – Legislative Chair

Day on The Hill



From LWVMA: Day on the Hill 2025

The calendar says summer but [Day on the Hill](#) is just weeks away! Join us in person for our once-per-session lobby day, *Day on the Hill: Protect Democracy*, Thursday, September 18 at 11:00 AM in Room 428 at the State House. Register [HERE](#) before September 10 to ensure we notify your legislators of your attendance.

Same Day Registration Back in the Spotlight

Same Day Voter Registration (SDR) is back in the public eye. Massachusetts' chief elections official, Secretary of the Commonwealth William Galvin, has filed an initiative petition recently to put the issue on the 2026 statewide ballot so that voters can decide on the question directly. After years of inaction on Beacon Hill, despite lobbying and advocacy by good government groups, such as Common Cause, League of Women Voters, and the MA Voter Table, now voters will have their say.

Currently, 23 states plus Washington, DC allow same-day registration and, reportedly, voters applaud it. However, in Massachusetts, eligible citizens may not cast a regular ballot unless they have registered at least 10 days before an election.

"Massachusetts has a great opportunity to strengthen our democracy by ensuring that every eligible citizen has a chance to cast a ballot on Election Day," said Geoff Foster, executive director of Common Cause Massachusetts. National studies show that same-day registration increases turnout from 3 to 11 percent.

Two legislators, Rep. Carmine Gentile and Sen. Cynthia Creem, have also co-sponsored a new bill to enact SDR and welcomed Galvin's move to put the question to the voters. Their bill—[H.834 and S.505 An Act establishing same day registration of voters](#)—allows eligible citizens to register as voters at Election Day polling places and early voting sites and to vote there. They must sign an affidavit of registration and present specific identification along with proof of residence.

Where does your State Representative and State Senator stand on Same Day Voter Registration?

--Carole Young-Kleinfeld

Due Process

Protecting Our Immigrant Communities Campaign

Have you heard about the LWVMA's *Protecting Our Immigrant Communities Campaign* and checked its [Due Process Toolkit](#)? It's an impressive and useful resource for League members concerned for protecting civil liberties and due process for all. It lists the three bills being followed—and supported—by the LWVMA and LWVCCA and provides fact sheets about each bill. Recently, the LWVMA has sent letters to *all* State Reps, *all* State Senators, and Governor Healey, expressing the League's support for these bills and for protecting the due process rights of all Massachusetts residents.

The LWVMA offers a [sample template](#) for contacting your own legislators to ask them to support the bills—either by sponsorship or by voting to adopt the bills. Our LWVCCA Legislative Committee is ready to submit testimony urging adoption on behalf of our League. Find your legislators [here](#).

The Toolkit includes an invitation to you, as a LWV member, to attend [Day on the Hill](#)—our League Lobby Day on September 18.

Finally, the Toolkit invites you to join other League members at [Witness Wednesdays](#) each week at the Plymouth Corrections Center as they peacefully protest against due process violations. League members from near and far have been protesting since July. Have you attended? We'd love to hear your thoughts. E-mail us at lwvcca@gmail.com.

--Carole Young-Kleinfeld

YOUTH SERVICE COMMITTEE

PROJECTS FOR 2025-2026

The Youth Service Committee's projects focus on two primary goals. The first goal is to support high school voter registration. The second goal is to support student led civics projects which are required as part of the 2018 civics education legislation. Our committee met in June to develop an action plan for the specific projects we would implement this school year to support those goals.

For high school voter registration, we work with the Voter Service Committee to conduct voter registration during the Cape Cod 5 sponsored Credit for Life Fair at each of the Cape high schools. This year, our committee has a new and improved way to offer students voter information. First, the bank has agreed to place our League station at the fair on the student's directions card as one of the required stops. Second, we will be distributing to students a Voter Information Guide and checklist that will give students information about upcoming elections and how to vote after graduation if they are away from home. It will also provide a non-partisan checklist that will offer questions to guide research about candidates for office. Since this is a financial fair, we will offer a checklist of ways that voting decisions affect their financial future. Separate from the Credit for Life Fair, we would like to invite a Town Clerk to make a video about

the process for voting to help students feel comfortable with the process.

To support the student led civics projects we have a new menu of options to offer the schools for ways that we can enhance that student experience. They focus on possible ways to celebrate and provide awards to outstanding student projects. Another project would create a bank of short videos from local officials and community organizations to give students ideas about topics they might like to investigate for their civic projects. We will continue to serve as community advisors that listen to students present their projects in May and June at the state regional showcases and at local school showcases.

We are always happy to welcome new members to the committee. We especially need additional League members in May and June to participate with us as community advisors to listen to student civic project presentations at local high school showcase events. So even if you don't want to be a member of the committee, you can support our work by participating in this May and June visit to civics showcase events. Anyone interested should contact Karen Mazza, committee chair at <mailto:mazzak1623@gmail.com>.

Submitted by Karen Mazza

SELDIN SPEAKER SERIES

In June, the Florence Seldin, "Democracy Is Not a Spectator Sport" Speaker Series Committee met to select our focus for a speaker event this year. We have selected a focus on threats to democracy and reforms that we should fight for to protect democracy now and in the future. We have identified a number of potential speakers who could offer deep knowledge on this topic. We have also reached out to organizations that we could partner with to reach a wide Cape Cod audience. We are hoping for an in person event, but depending on the speaker or speakers that we are able to secure, we are also open to a virtual event. It is likely that an in person event with the caliber of people we are seeking will need to have

a ticket fee in order to pay for an anticipated larger speaker fee.

While we normally do this speaker event in the fall, it is important to us to get a commitment from the right speaker on a timeline that works for that speaker. Therefore, we are taking our time as we send out proposals to speakers and wait to hear back from them. As arrangements are secured, we will send out numerous publicity blasts.

An additional goal of our League is to provide resources on understanding democracy and issues related to it on our website. Our committee will begin to work with Richard Utt, our Communications Director on creating a section of our website devoted to that purpose and filling it with resource information.

New committee members are always welcome. Contact Karen Mazza, Chair of the Committee.
<mailto:mazzak1623@gmail.com>

Submitted by Karen Mazza

LWVCCA Board & Contact information

LWVCCA DIRECTORS 2025-2026

Officers for 2024-2025

President Lynne Pleffner

Vice Presidents

Programs Patricia Burke

Operations Carol Woodbury

Treasurer Sue Cameron

Secretary Debbie Winnick

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Membership Jeanne Morrison
Elizabeth Harder *

Voter Service Judith Kelleher-Andersson

Youth Service Karen Mazza

**Diversity, Equity,
and Inclusion** Jeanne Morrison

Health Eileen Elias *

Communications Richard Utt

Newsletter Richard Utt

**Florence Seldin
Speaker Series** Karen Mazza *

Member At Large:

Gail Spink

* = Off-Board

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