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LWVCCA OPENING MESSAGE

President's Message

We had another busy month which included our first nor'easter of the season! I hope you didn't lose power or too many trees. The winds were quite something!

The Barnstable Town Council always has their elections in November while the rest of the Cape elects in spring. This year Voter Service held a Candidates Forum for Precinct 12 and the School Board. Voter Service makes every effort to invite all candidates to participate in a forum. If there is a Precinct that has two candidates and only one accepts our invitation, we are unable to provide a forum for that individual as it would give that candidate an unfair advantage. The League besides being non-partisan is always fair. PLEASE VOTE IF YOU ARE A BARNSTABLE RESIDENT!!!!

Youth Service had an event at Dennis Yarmouth High School. The students were quite interested and understood that voting is their power.

The Legislative Committee held their annual Legislative Breakfast on the 24th. All members were invited and if you were unable to attend, please make a note. This is the one time that you

can ask a question of your legislator face to face. I know emails are great, but this is a once-a-year opportunity.

I attended the 2025 NETZERO Conference that was held at the Emerald Resort in Hyannis. The Welcome featured Heather Goldstone of the Woodwell Climate Research Center asking "Where We Started and Where We're Going" followed by the Keynote Speaker, Alison Alessi from A3 Architects. She spoke about their recent project with APCC's new barn on 6A. Were you aware that APCC sells rain barrels and has native plants for sale in the Spring? Don Schell of Cape Light Compact spoke about "Ready to Decarbonize? We're Here to Help!". On a personal note, I have had a home energy assessment done by them and strongly recommend that you book one for your home. I was able to attend one session, and it was "Is Our Infrastructure Ready?". The speakers were Nathan Raike from RENEW Northeast, Juan Matinez from Eversource and Julia Fox from MA Department of Energy Resources. It was moderated by Chris Rodstrom from CBR Energy Solutions. All of them said that electrification is coming and they are planning to upgrade power plants. Check out [Sustainability Report | Eversource](#) as this report specifically details the solution for the Cape.

This was also a sad month as we lost an angel among us. Izzy Thompson was not a member however she was very involved with social justice. Her colleagues – Dan McCullough and Rick Presby also passed this year.

By now I hope you have received our annual appeal via email. We thought the timing would be better as it seems the mail is heavier close to Thanksgiving. We have two ways for you to donate: (1) to the League itself, which benefits our programming and (2) the Ed Trust which has a non-profit designation that benefits our

educational efforts. We appreciate any amount as we know things are a bit tough this year.

It is hard to believe that it is November! I am looking forward to Thanksgiving and I wish you a lovely celebration too!

Lynne

CALENDAR

NOVEMBER

Board Meeting

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

ELECTION DAY

TUESDAY NOV 4 | ALL DAY

TOWN OF BARNSTABLE 2025 TOWN ELECTION

TUESDAY NOV 4 | 7:00 a.m.—8:00 p.m

DECEMBER

Board Meeting

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

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.

THIS is WHAT DEMOCRACY LOOKS LIKE!

On October 18, an estimated seven million Americans attended more than 2700 No Kings rallies around our country. In Boston, the estimates of crowd size topped 100,000. LWVUS was a national partner for this No Kings 2 event, celebrating and defending democracy.



LWVCCA members rally for democracy in Hyannis.



Some estimates say 5000 people at the Hyannis Airport Rotary...!

On Cape Cod, rallies and marches were held from Falmouth to Provincetown, including Hyannis, Chatham, and Eastham. League members in Hyannis--along with the several thousand people there--saw dancing, singing, cheering, honking, chanting, bagpipes, inflated frogs and axolotls, drummers, and ukuleles. Massachusetts State Auditor Diane DiZoglio was a guest speaker, calling for stipend reform and freedom of information in state government. Our members said:

- I was so hopeful after yesterday's event. So many people showed up, and so many in the rotary cheered us on with horns tooting and*

thumbs up. People coming together to raise our voices peacefully!

- *I found it exhilarating to be among so many like-minded, peaceful people! I could feel the joy.... and the hope that the America we know & love is still here!*
- *Wow! So many people, so many US flags! This was exciting and uplifting to share our love of our country with each other.*
- *This brought tears to my eyes. I felt so happy to be part of this— people coming together and celebrating our country!*

Submitted by Carole Young-Kleinfeld

DID YOU KNOW...?

...that, beyond base salaries, 149 of Massachusetts' 200 legislators receive extra payments—or stipends—for chairing committees that review proposed bills before those bills are sent to the House and Senate floors for a vote? Committees like the important Ways and Means Committee or the Revenue Committee are led by legislators individually selected by the House Speaker and the Senate President. The [Globe reports](#) that—beyond legislators' base pay of \$82,046—stipends can vary from \$7,776 to \$119,632, plus travel and expense allowances.

Chairing influential committees often comes with a heavy workload. However, the actual legislative work done by many committees varies. The Boston Globe [found](#) last year that "... 12 of the Legislature's committees—more than 20 percent—had not held a single hearing or considered a single bill during the legislative session." Those committee leaders argue that their work consists of researching, assisting, and advising on policy measures, rather than holding hearings on new laws.

Now there is a growing movement to reform the stipends system. Proponents say that reform is necessary to link extra pay to workloads and to performance. They also want legislators to retain

the independence their voters expect from them. They say, for example, that legislators must be free to speak to the media without permission from the legislature's leadership and without retaliation for voting independently in committees. Commonwealth Beacon [notes](#) that, in 2024, 85 percent of House Democrats voted with the Speaker 100 percent of the time. (See list [here](#).) A new bipartisan group, the Legislative Effectiveness and Accountability Partnership ([LEAP](#)), filed ballot question language with the Attorney General's office in August, intending to present voters with two questions on the 2026 ballot—either to regulate or to eliminate the stipend system. LEAP's chairperson, John Lippitt, says that "...stipends would be paid only to those doing significant committee work and meeting transparency standards like public debate, public mark-up, and public votes." The LEAP coalition is collecting the signatures necessary for the questions to be put before the voters in November 2026. Stay tuned!

--Carole Young-Kleinfeld

HEALTH COMMITTEE

The LWVCCA Health Committee' planned Forum on Understanding the Impact of Domestic Abuse (know this title may change) will be Cape Cod centric and provided by a selection of experts. It is being planned by and will be provided in partnership with the Cape's WECAN and the Mass Family organizations. The forum's objective is to help the Cape's providers, elected officials, judges, lawyers, police, victim advocates, faith-based and community at large understand domestic abuse and identify how all involved can work towards a coordinated service approach. The Forum's panel will include panelists' attention to current state bills addressing domestic abuse. At this time the Committee is identifying supporting data and resources. The forum will occur on March 19, from 6:30 to 8:30 PM. More details to follow.

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

VOTER SERVICE COMMITTEE

Notes from the Voter Service Committee:

Voter Service and Youth Services Committees are combining forces to volunteer at all the high schools this year. For the first time Cape Cod 5, who sponsor the Credit for Life (CFL) seminars, has put the League's "table" on the roster. "Prepare to Vote" is our slot on the "passport" each student is given.

So, Pat Anderson, Heather Kissel Walsh, Rosemary Shields and Carol Woodbury were at Sandwich High School on October 2. And on October 17 at Dennis Yarmouth High School Pat Anderson and Rosemary Shields were joined by Joyce Flynn.

Rosemary Shields, from the Voter Service Committee, is the lead contact for each of these four events across Cape Cod. She explained the whole process :

"There were about 110 students participating at each event. Each student had to visit 12 different tables. Now, if this was an "orderly" crowd we would get about 10 students every few minutes. But that's not how life works. So, we often got line-ups of students. In case we got clogged up, Youth Services made a large poster board clearly illustrating the 3 steps the students were about to take. Step no. 1 – Are you registered to vote? But actually, we don't ask them that. What we do ask is, "Do you have a driver's license?" Since Motor Voter was passed in 2023, if you have a license, you are most probably registered to vote. Once we get a "yes," which we normally get from 3/4 of the students, we hand them a QR code card that takes them to the Secretary of the Commonwealth's website where they can double check the status of their registration.

"If they don't have a driver's license, we ask if they want to register to vote? So far during both events we only had 2 students say no. We respect choice and consent, so we allow them to "slip through our fingers" hoping they change their minds at a future event. Another 6 students let us know they weren't citizens and they told us they weren't allowed to get registered. Our immigrant

students are on top of their civics. One student, however, told us she was going become a citizen in November, "and when I do, I am going to contact the League of Women Voters and let you know." The energy and responses of all the students were great fun to experience.

"For the other quarter of the students who did not have driver's licenses and wanted to register to vote we asked them if they knew the last 4 digits of their Social Security Numbers (SSNs). About ten students did not, so we gave them voter registration cards to take home to fill out. The others who knew the last 4 digits of their SSNs were registered right there on the spot.

"Steps #2 and #3 are to scan and save to your favorites the QR codes for two informative sheets composed by the Youth Services Committee: "How to Choose a Candidate" and "How Your Vote Affects Your Finances". We ask them to read them over and use them when it's time to vote.

"Once the students have completed all three steps, we initial their CFL passport and they go on to the next table. It's a learning process for ALL of us, students and league members alike, and it's great fun. On October 17 Jim Curran, the CFL organizer and presenter, congratulated us. He could see from the other side of the gym on how busy our table was and how involved the students were. Good for us, LWVCCA!"



Photo by Carol Woodbury: LWVCCA Volunteers Pat Anderson, Rosemary Shields and Heather Kissel Walsh at the CFL on October 2nd, Sandwich HS

The next CFL fair is on November 7th at the Monomoy Regional High School.

Judy Kelleher, Chair

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Friday, October 24th had the LWVCCA fully engaged with most of our Cape legislative delegation. To that end, I want to thank my committee from the bottom of my heart. There were a lot of bumps in the road getting there but you all were terrific. Thank you again.



LWVCCA October 24 Welcome Table



LWVCCA members at the Cape Cod Synagogue on October 24

Those missing from the event were Representatives Flanagan and Vieira. For those of you who missed it, there was time to interact one on-one with the legislative members over coffee and baked goods provided by Legislative Committee members.

We met at the Cape Cod Synagogue, courtesy of Rabbi David Freelund. The venue was relaxed and able to accommodate the 50-60 attendees easily.

We even had attendance by DA Rob Galibois and a couple of Barnstable Town Council candidates. Certainly, a good event to do some last-minute politicking even though the League is non-partisan. We do welcome all comers to our events.



LWVCCA Legislative Committee Chair Sue Brock with Cape Cod Senators Julian Cyr and Dylan Fernandes, and Representatives Kip Diggs, Hadley Luddy, Steven Xiarhos, and Thomas Moakley



Representatives Steven Xiarhos and Thomas Moakley, a.k.a “X-Man and Mighty Moak”

When we moved into the formal Q & A portion of the program, the legislators were engaged not only with the attendees, but also with each other. There seemed to be a more relaxed, “work together” atmosphere among the representatives and senators. The two new additions to our Cape delegation, Representative Luddy from the 4th Barnstable District and Representative Moakley from the Barnstable, Dukes & Nantucket District seemed right at home and eager to work hard for their constituents and with the rest of the more seasoned legislators. Last season’s Representative Fernandes, now Senator Fernandes, also appeared well settled into his new role.

Topics discussed with the group began with housing issues on the Cape and Islands. The consensus was that there is a lot of work to do, but that a lot of the housing issues need to be addressed, at least initially, at the local level through zoning and planning board changes. That would be a great place for some League members to become engaged in.

There was discussion of the upcoming November 4 ballot referendum which proposes undo some - or all - of the gun legislation (“*An Act Modernizing Firearm Laws*”) that was passed overwhelmingly

last session - as well as a number of additional bills that are targeted at loosening parts of that legislation. I got the feeling that most of them were not concerned that those changes would go through. However, Rep. Xiarhos was enthusiastic regarding some of them.

We also touched on Medicare for All which has little chance of passing according to Sen. Cyr given the fiscal issues of the state and federal policies overall. PFAS were discussed, age-appropriate sex education, controlling and abusive litigation, same day voter registration, commuter rail service to Cape Cod and of course immigration rights, along with a number of other topics. Discussion was civil and engaging by all of the participants.

I know that all of us have busy lives, but engagement like this is truly one of the bulwarks of the League. We are not just an education machine. Advocacy is our strength and it is what we build our reputation around, especially now, given the chaos enveloping our country. The more voices heard, the better our changes of influencing change. Get out, talk to your neighbors, engage with your legislators. **Democracy dies in silence.** Let's not be silent. Let's make some good noise and "good trouble." See you next time.

Sue Brock – Legislative Committee Chair

Legislative Committee Members: Carole Young-Kleinfeld, Lisa Nagel, Mary Utt, Nancy Skinner, Jeanne Morrison, Susan Guill, Rosemary Shields, Eileen Elias, Penny Holeman, Renate Sands, Diane Turco and Elaine Dickinson

LWVCCA Board & Contact information

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