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LWVCCA OPENING MESSAGE

President’s Message

We made it! Spring is here! The bunnies are back; the hummingbirds will be here soon and its Spring Voting Season!

A time to feel a little bounce in the step and a smile with the sun shining on you.

I tip my hat off to all members that have participated in the “No King” rallies across the Cape. I know that I am preaching to the choir, however I encourage you to speak to your neighbors as well as your friends and family across the country and encourage them to take their passion to the polls. There is no excuse for not voting.

Our Voter Service Committee and our Youth Service Committee members are doing what they can to encourage voter registration and voter engagement. Your help on either committee will give you a chance to speak to your fellow Cape Codders.

We will be holding our Annual Meeting on Monday, May 11th. This is an opportunity for you – as a member – to agree or disagree with the programs for 2026-2027, the proposed budget as well as the proposed leadership slate. A Save the Date email went out and I encourage you to mark it on your calendar. I hope to see as many of you as possible.

Take care – don’t work too hard on the winter cleanup and remember to vote in your town’s election and attend town meeting!

Best wishes,
Lynne

ANNUAL MEETING NEWFLASH

In a year when our elections may be in jeopardy and the League’s role in supporting free and fair elections is critical, we are fortunate to have the Commonwealth’s top elections official share her thoughts with us. Michelle K. Tassinari, the First Deputy Secretary of the Commonwealth and the Director and Legal Counsel of the Elections Division, will be the LWVCCA’s featured speaker at our Annual Meeting in May.

A graduate of Brandeis University and New England Law School, Ms. Tassinari has worked at the Secretary of the Commonwealth’s Elections Division for more than 20 years. She served as President of the National Association of State Election Directors from 2021-2022 and is an Advisory Board Member of MIT’s Election Data and Science Lab. Ms. Tassinari is also Massachusetts’ appointee to the U.S. Election Assistance Commission’s Standards Board and was named one of the 50 Top Women of Law by the Massachusetts Lawyer’s Weekly in 2020.

Ms. Tassinari is a member of the nationwide Committee for Safe and Secure Elections (CSSE)

composed of experts in elections administration and law enforcement personnel. The Committee promotes policies and practices to protect election workers and voters from violence, threats, and intimidation. They also work to strengthen ongoing, trusting relationships between elections officials and law enforcement personnel to secure our nation’s elections.

Please join us in welcoming Michelle Tassinari at the LWVCCA Annual Meeting on Monday, May 11 at the Bass River Golf Club.

Carole Young-Kleinfeld and Pat Burke

(faith communities, work places, book clubs, social groups, community groups...) once a month, or even just once, please let us know. Besides the Harwich Hub, Good Trouble in Dennis takes care of another Saturday in the month. We'd love to find other groups that might want to be part of these efforts to ensure people have the basics for food. The needs are great, and the abundance is great too. This is one way to bridge the gap.

For more information, contact Rosemary 202-222-5309 or shields_rosemary@yahoo.com

DID YOU KNOW...?

Latinx in Action (LIA) is working hard to meet the needs of our immigrant community members, who continue to face many challenges and obstacles in these times. The League has started small by joining the “Harwich Hub” (of LIA), which supports LIA's food distribution program. The Harwich Hub gathers culturally specific foods on the second Friday of each month. The next 3 months dates are: April 10, May 8, June 12.

The foods needed are: Vegetable Oil (not Olive Oil), White Sugar, Ground Coffee, White Rice, Bagged Beans, Cornmeal, Pasta, Potatoes, Sweet Potatoes, Carrots, Onions, Garlic, (all items family size, not bulk please). Gift cards are also welcomed and appreciated any time.

You are welcome to do one of two things: Make a contribution to Latinx in Action, (116 Stevens St, Hyannis 02601). Or drop off above-mentioned food items on Rosemary Shields's front porch, on the white bench, on Thursday, April 9, 93 Bay Road. On Friday, April 10 food items may be dropped in the purple- door shed at Deer Sullivan’s house at 17 Anne’s Way in Harwich before 4 pm OR at the Latinx headquarters in Hyannis at 116 Stevens St. (Hyannis, MA 02601) between 5:30-7:30 pm during the LIA board meeting. Just drop the food in paper bags at the front door and we will get it after the meeting.

If anyone has any connections to groups that might want to participate in a food gathering effort

CALENDAR

APRIL

Board Meeting

MONDAY APRIL 6 | 9:30—11:30 a.m.
Zoom conference by invitation

International Women’s Day Breakfast

TUESDAY APRIL 7 | Save the Date
Details to Follow

Health Committee Virtual Forum:

“We Can Help - Domestic Abuse Resources and Legislation”
TUESDAY APRIL 14 | 7:00 p.m.
Register at
<https://tinyurl.com/We-Can-Help-Forum>

MAY:

Board Meeting

TUESDAY MAY 5 | 9:30—11:30 a.m.
Zoom conference by invitation

LWVCCA Annual Meeting

MONDAY MAY 11 | .
Bass River Golf Club

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.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

The newly formed Finance Committee is doing more than budget preparation. Your Board approved the creation of a new standing committee, a Finance Committee. We are 5 members and had our first meeting in December. I'd like to tell you what we've accomplished and what's still on our plate.

We are creating policies and procedures to guide financial administration. Once adopted, these will be incorporated into our existing Board Manual to help future LWVCCA leaders.

The first policy we tackled addressed minimum cash reserve levels. As your new Treasurer, I thought we were in great fiscal health. I felt the Board was not as confident. The Finance Committee therefore evaluated fixed expenses and expense levels for programs that LWVCCA have traditionally organized. We determined a prudent amount of cash reserves that we should retain. We presented that information to the Board and have now established a reserve level that ensures our viability during difficult periods, yet allows us to spend reasonable amounts investing in our programs.

The second policy we tackled addressed the budgeting process. I felt we could produce a more robust budget for our next fiscal year by including the Vice Presidents of Programs and all Committee Chairs on the front end of budget preparation. The Finance Committee agreed. We drafted a document that provides structure to budget prep, including general timelines, defining revenue sources that should be projected, and requiring expense line items for every program. The document also provides general guidelines on financial administration during the year. It addresses spending authority and how to handle expenses that may arise which have not been budgeted, or if the budget allocation is insufficient. This document goes to the Board for a vote at the March meeting.

Next on our agenda is to draft a document providing information about funding program

expenses. This document is expected to inform everyone in LWVCCA leadership the funding sources available for their program activities.

Respectfully, Sue Cameron, Treasurer

HELP STILL WANTED

Our Nominating Committee is still seeking a Website Administrator to manage and maintain our website. We'd love to speak with you about the details and scope of this job if you're interested, or if you know someone who might be.

Questions? Contact any of us. We're in your 2025-2026 Members Directory and Handbook or by email below.

Carole Young-Kleinfeld
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Judy Kelleher-Andersson
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Debra Dagwan
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HEALTH COMMITTEE

The Health Committee partnership-based virtual forum titled: ***"We Can Help - Domestic Abuse Resources and Legislation"*** is scheduled for Tuesday, April 14, 2026 at 7:00 PM. Register at <https://tinyurl.com/We-Can-Help-Forum>. If interested in joining the Health Committee, contact Eileen Elias, Committee Chair at eileen.elias@comcast.net.

Presented By:



We Can Help

Let's Talk About Domestic Violence

Join us for Resources, Legislation, Support & Anonymous Q&A



Alex Mariah, Facilitator
 Dr. Alex Mariah is a former national education speaker, writer, educator, and domestic abuse survivor. She is dedicated to inspiring and assisting women around the world.



Lysetta Hurge-Putnam, Panelist
 Lysetta Hurge Putnam has been the Executive Director of Independence House since 1999. She is an advocate for families experiencing domestic abuse. Her organization helps up to 10,000 Cape Codders per year.



Annie Catalano, Panelist
 In 2018 Annie became the first civilian Victim Advocate at the Yarmouth Police Department where she helped to build their Special Victims Unit. She assists victims of violence with safety planning and refers them to support services in the community.



Margie Palladino, Panelist
 Margie Palladino is executive director of Mass Family Advocacy Coalition (MFAC), a non-profit dedicated to improving the Massachusetts family law system on behalf of women and children through advocacy, collaboration, and education.

[Register Here](#)



April 14, 2026
 7:00-8:30 p.m.
 Free Webinar via Zoom
(designed for privacy)

Scan QR Code

*There is no registration deadline

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Members,

The legislature is mired in the budget battle. The Governor's proposed \$62.8 billion budget, filed as House 2, does not propose any new taxes or fees and represents 1.1 percent growth over estimated FY26 spending, the lowest spending rate since taking office and well under the rate of inflation. This includes \$2.7 billion in Fair Share surtax spending. Alongside House 2, Governor Healey also filed a Fair Share supplemental budget bill to spend \$1.15 billion in surplus FY25 surtax revenue on education and transportation initiatives.

Meanwhile, the House and Senate are busy pulling together their own versions of a budget which will have to be reconciled between the two houses and then reconciled with the Governor's. While it is important to understand the importance of putting together a budget, something that the federal government should learn or maybe relearn, the process is convoluted and takes up an enormous amount of time. During this process, little else is accomplished: Here's a [LINK TO OUR BILL LIST](#) for those of you that would like to see the progress.... However, some of this may even change between the time that I write this and the time that you get to read it.

We have been following a number of immigration bills. On Jan. 29, Gov. Healey filed legislation to keep federal ICE personnel out of courthouses, schools, childcare programs, hospitals and houses of worship. This legislation would also make it unlawful for another state to deploy its National Guard in MA without the governor's permission (although we have seen how that has played out in other states). And it would allow parents to pre-arrange guardianship for their children in case they are detained or deported by federal authorities. Healey said her bill is the most comprehensive effort in the country to protect against ICE activity in sensitive locations. The provisions were included in a fiscal 2026 supplemental budget bill that proposes

\$411.3 million in time-sensitive appropriations for deficiencies.

As of March 20, the bill was working its way through the House and Senate. With luck, there will be a positive outcome. But, like any bill sorting its way through the MA legislative process... the road is long and windy. I will keep you all posted and there may in fact be notices coming to contact those in office. Since the legislature adjourns official session on July 31st, pray for swift discussion and passage.

In the meantime, keep up the pressure to your federal senators to halt the movement of the new version of the Save Act. And if you are feeling particularly energetic let both houses in DC know that they need to do their constitutional duty and to approve or disapprove of the "Incursion" into Iran and control the flow of money. That is more of their major roles for which they have abdicated responsibility. We are now in a truly rudderless ship.

BTW: Save the Date: Thursday, April 9 Lobby Day at the State House. Preserve Democracy and keep nuclear safety Law on the books. Trump is removing safeguards on environmental reviews for new nukes, increasing allowable rad exposure, gutting the NRC and oversight, and pushing fast track nukes that put us all at risk. Now our Governor and legislators want to repeal this law for yet-to-be tested and built SMRs. This is a direct challenge to our democratic process. Keep democracy alive and let the people decide.

NB: This Day is to be focused on the repeal of the 1985 people's petition to have a voice about new nuclear builds in the state.

With prayers for peace and for our democracy always,

Suzanne Brock – Legislative Chair

VOTER SERVICE COMMITTEE

Members of the LWVCCA Voter Service Committee greeted more than 200 students who attended Barnstable's annual Youth Jobs Fair on March 4. Most older students were already

registered to vote but many 16-year-olds were interested to know that they could pre-register and automatically become voters when turning 18. Volunteers provided chocolate sustenance, distributed cards with registration QR Codes, answered parents' questions, and provided VOTE411.org information. Thanks to Judy Kelleher-Anderson, Carol Sheingold, Carol Woodbury, and Carole Young-Kleinfeld for representing the LWVCCA at the Fair.



Judy Kelleher-Anderson, Carol Sheingold, Carol Woodbury, and Carole Young-Kleinfeld at Barnstable's Youth Jobs Fair

Submitted by

Judy Kelleher, jkelleher@neuronascent.com,
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Rosemary Shields,
shields_rosemary@yahoo.com, 202-222-5309 (for
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LWVCCA Board & Contact information

LWVCCA DIRECTORS 2025-2026	
Officers for 2025-2026	
President	Lynne Pleffner
Vice Presidents	
Programs	Patricia Burke
Operations	Carol Woodbury
Treasurer	Sue Cameron
Secretary	Debbie Winnick
Committee Chairs:	
Legislation	Suzanne Brock *
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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Phone: 508-945-0511
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Website: http://lwvcapecod.org/
Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/LWVCCA/

Contact Information for Your Legislators

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<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/email-the-governors-office>

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Senator Dylan Fernandes

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Representative Kip Diggs

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Representative Thomas Moakley

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Senator Elizabeth Warren

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Senator Edward Markey

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[https://www.markey.senate.gov/
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Congressman Bill Keating

(508) 771-6868

Info.keating@mail.house.gov

For more contact information, go to our

Directory of Elected Officials page at

[http://lwvcapecod.org/government/directory-
elected-officials](http://lwvcapecod.org/government/directory-elected-officials)

BUSINESS SUPPORTERS of LWVCCA

Support these businesses who have supported LWVCCA

www.ScargoCafe.com

David@ScargoCafe.com



David W Troutman

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C- 508-274-8901

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