



League of Women Voters[®] of Falmouth Bulletin

November 2021

LWVF STEERING COMMITTEE REPORT

We hope that everyone has recovered from the Nor'easter in late October with minimal damage and distress. The loss of power delayed a number of LWVF and LWVMA activities that will have taken place by the time this bulletin is published.

Town Meeting is November 15, and we hope our members who are town meeting members had a chance to study the proposed Mixed Residential and Commercial Overlay District, as was suggested in the October Bulletin.

The Natural Resources Committee will present a program at 7 p.m. on November 18 in Falmouth Academy's Morse Hall. Speakers Betsy Gladfelter and Mark Kasprzyk, both of the Falmouth Conservation Commission, will speak on the Coonamessett River Restoration and also address invasive species control at the River and at the Peterson Farm Vernal Pool. We ask that attendees wear masks to enter the building and hall; however, the room is large and we can spread out if you prefer to remove your mask while seated.

The **State League** has developed a form to document participation in each League event so that we can develop a more accurate record of our members' interests and involvement. Several informational programs on the form and documenting participation will have taken place in November prior to this Bulletin publication. We hope to implement documentation at the November 18 meeting and future meetings.

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One of our valuable league functions is the **Observer Corps**, whose members attend meetings of town boards and committees and report back to us on critical issues, efficacy of the board or commission, and observation of the Open Meeting Laws. We always need new observers. If you have considered being an observer but hesitate to commit, consider attending a few meetings of the board of your choice to see how they operate and if they sustain your interest. You can find the list of boards and commissions on the town website at <https://www.falmouthma.gov/156/Boards-Committees>.

Some of these groups meet via Zoom, some in person, and some meetings are televised by FCTV. Therefore, it should be possible to find a board or committee that suits your schedule and pandemic-exposure comfort level. It would be wonderful to

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Steering Committee Report, cont.

have observers of some of the regional groups as well, such as the Cape Cod Commission and the Barnstable County Commission. Observer reports are generally printed in the March and Summer Bulletins. Refer to these bulletins for examples of the reports and each committee's work.

Lastly, the **Steering Committee** encourages each member to be involved in the work of the League, as they are able, by attending programs, joining committees, and/or calling or writing to your legislators to advocate for legislation that aligns with our mission. There is plenty to do for the energetic and many things that can be done simply and quickly for those with less time. Every little bit counts!

—Richard Johnson

Steering Committee Member

Directions to the

Natural Resources Committee Presentation

The meeting will be on Thursday, November 18, 7 p.m., at Falmouth Academy (Morse Hall)

Directions to the presentation:

Falmouth Academy is at 7 Highfield Dr, Falmouth.

Morse Hall is on the second floor of Falmouth Academy. Park in Visitor Parking, come in the front door, and proceed up the main stairs. There are several ADA parking spaces and a ramp near the front door. You can also park in the Faculty lot and enter the side door. We will put up signs directing you to the elevator if you prefer not to use the stairs.

Please wear a mask indoors as a courtesy to other attendees and our hosts at Falmouth Academy.

Alternative Gift Market

The Alternative Gift Market is sponsored by seven local houses of worship—but it isn't a religious group! The committee carefully vets charitable organizations, checking their status with Charity Navigator and reading their audited financial reports to ensure that the bulk of the money collected goes to programming and not to PR or salaries.

Each year, twenty organizations are selected for the market, drawn from local, national and international charitable organizations. This year, the Market concentrated on smaller organizations with small budgets with little left for advertising expenses, and on organizations that meet a great need.

The Market is currently online only, due to restrictions imposed by Covid. The website is <https://alternativegiftmarketcapecod.org/>. At the site, you will find a list of the twenty organizations, with a brief description of the work they do. You can download quarter-page notes to include with a holiday, birthday or whatever celebration card, letting the recipient know that a gift in their name has been made by you to a particular organization.

Before Covid, the market was held at St. Barnabas church on the village green in Falmouth. It was a lot more fun and festive when it was "live." It was also easier for volunteers to explain the system. You select the organizations to which you want to donate and then at the end, make one payment. Your name isn't sent to the organizations, so you won't receive solicitations.

With the financial support of the seven churches and the volunteers involved, organizations receive 100% of your donation. Funds are funneled through the Unitarian Church in Falmouth, and each organization receives a check for the total amount raised. The Market will go live November 12 and run through November 21.

—Mary Fran Buckley

League Legislative Committee Program Report

The Legislative Committee's postponed program, "A Conversation with Our State Legislators," featuring State Senator Susan Moran, Representative David Vieira, and Representative Dylan Fernandes took place on Tuesday, November 9 at 7:00 p.m. on FCTV Channel 13. If you missed it, the final rebroadcast will be on Tuesday, November 16 at 8:30 a.m. You also should be able to access a replay of the program streaming on the FCTV website.

We emphasized five issues –Storage of Dry Casks at Pilgrim, Common Start, Voting, Immigration, and Redistricting. However, the scope of the program was supplemented by members of the public, who submitted questions, and by the legislators themselves. In his presentation, Representative Vieira touched on issues such as the debt load, a Cape Cod police academy, commuter rail, bridges, and the bike path extension. Representative Fernandes focused on national issues like the pandemic and global warming but also talked about opportunities from American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding that would permit generational level investments here in Massachusetts. Senator Moran, while praising the collegiality of the Cape's bipartisan delegation, also stressed one-time opportunities presented by ARPA.



Rep. David Vieira

Regarding Dry Cask Storage in Plymouth, all three legislators excoriated the federal government for failure to remove the waste. They also supported careful monitoring because of the high risk. Senator Moran mentioned that she had addressed this issue well before she sought her current seat in the State Senate and that she was a co-sponsor of the bill.

Turning to Common Start, both Senator Moran and Representative Fernandes are co-sponsors of the bill, which would support child care and early educa-

tion by providing financial help to families and to providers. Representative Vieira, as well as Senator Moran, serve on the Early Education Funding Commission. Representative Vieira, looking to his service on that Commission, said he is withholding an opinion on Common Start. He wants to explore possible interconnections with public schools and faculty and noted the possibility that the Commission will write its own bill. Since the Commission is still taking public comment, you still have the opportunity to make your own views known.

On Voting, Representative Fernandes voiced support for a new bill, called the VOTES Act, that has passed the Senate and that Senator Moran has already supported by her vote. This bill would continue virtually all of the Covid-related changes. It also includes new provisions such as same day registration, a long-time Massachusetts League goal.



Rep. Dylan Fernandes

While Representative Vieira was not able to discuss all the provisions in the lengthy VOTES Act due to time limitations, he stated he was against both the automatic mailing of early voting ballot applications and against same day registration, believing that these provisions would put too much pressure on Town Clerks. Representative Fernandes mentioned the bill permitting use of campaign funds for child care, stating it would be especially helpful to female candidates but would also assist male candidates. All three of our legislators support that bill.



Sen. Susan Moran

Turning to Immigration, one bill, supported by both Senator Moran and Representative Fernandes, would

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League Legislative Committee Program Report, cont.

permit issuance of a standard (as opposed to REAL ID compliant) driver's license to undocumented individuals. Representative Vieira opposes the bill, saying he would support it only if something like green-card eligibility was increased. Representative Vieira also opposes the other main immigration bill, the Safe Communities Act, which would keep state/local law enforcement separate from federal ICE law enforcement. He acknowledged that under the current rule the sheriff's office can notify ICE (leading to possible deportation) before releasing a prisoner even where the individual was not convicted of a state crime but may have violated a non-criminal statute. For his part, Representative Fernandes confirmed that our Barnstable County is the only county in Massachusetts that has an ICE contract. In voicing support for both the Safe Communities Act and the driver's license bill, he noted that the immigrant population is growing on the Islands, which are part of his district, and that he considers these bills a matter of public health and safety. Senator Moran agreed with Representative Fernandes.

The Redistricting discussion was memorable because the legislators talked about the impact on the districts they hope to continue to represent. Senator Moran welcomed Mashpee as well as little Plympton across the bridge. Representative Fernandes, being a Falmouth resident, said he would miss Precinct 5 but noted that his district possibly had the largest population increase in the state due to increased population on the Islands. Representative Vieira welcomed Precinct 5 but was sorry to lose Buzzard's Bay and the Maritime Academy, especially since the *Ernestina*, a ship that transported immigrants from the Azores in the early part of the 20th century, was going to be docked there. Also, in view of his Azorean heritage, he made an impassioned plea to have New Bedford and Fall River in the same U.S. House District.

The program ended with questions from the public. Regarding the machine gun range on the base, the legislators focused on the National Guard itself. Representative Vieira believes the law should be

changed so the National Guard reports directly to the Governor. However, he thinks the Guard is nimble enough to respond to a variety of challenges. Representative Fernandes said that the federal government really controls the state National Guard. Senator Moran pointed to the Guard's disaster relief work and its recent tasking as school bus drivers, noted that machine gunners won't protect us in modern warfare, and reminded us that Ft. Devens is in the process of constructing a machine gun range.

Several of the questions from the public had health implications. All agreed there is an extreme shortage of mental health beds for young people, with patients being boarded in emergency rooms where the staff is not experienced in dealing with their special problems. Senator Moran noted that Senator Cyr has introduced a comprehensive bill now before the Senate. Representative Vieira suggested that infrastructure funds could be used to increase needed facilities, possibly reopening buildings that had been closed in the past. Representative Fernandes stated that the House just allocated \$250 million for mental health with the Senate expected to increase the allotment. He also noted that incarceration of the mentally ill only makes the problem worse.

The legislators disagreed regarding proposed Death with Dignity legislation. Both Representative Fernandes and Senator Moran support it, with Representative Fernandes stating it would prevent needless suffering. Representative Vieira opposes the bill. Senator Moran is optimistic about passage while Representative Vieira disagrees. And, on the question of abortion, absence of local services was noted with Representative Fernandes advising that the closest medical services available to those on Cape Cod or Martha's Vineyard are in Rhode Island. He suggested that the two Cape hospitals could provide abortion services.

This program was a collegial, group effort with Mary Tamucci, Margaret Cooper, and Kerry Walton, all members of the Legislative Committee, along with

Legislative Program Report, cont.

Board member Mary Fran Buckley playing crucial roles. And, of course, we could not have presented the program without the cooperation of FCTV and our three legislators, State Senator Susan Moran, Representative David Vieira, and Representative Dylan Fernandes. Heartfelt thanks to everyone.

—**Judy Ziss**

Chair, Legislative Committee

Note: In case you missed the Tuesday broadcast, you can view a rebroadcast on Channel 13 at Tuesday, 11/16 at 8:30 a.m. We expect you also will be able to access a replay on your computer or other devices through the FCTV website although there may be some delay until it becomes available.

Make Your Views Known

If you watched the program live or see a rebroadcast in the future and you want to contact our legislators to make your own views known, we are providing a list of bills on subjects that we featured in the broadcast. All of these bills are supported by the Massachusetts League and by your Legislative Committee – and we hope you support them too.

- H. 2254/S. 1507 – Monitoring of Dry Cask Storage of Spent Nuclear Waste in Plymouth
- H. 605/S. 362 – Common Start Regarding Child Care and Early Childhood Education
- S. 2554 - The VOTES ACT (Passed by the Senate and Moving to the House)
- H. 3547/S. 2519 – The FARE ACT – Public Transit Would Be Free on Primary and Election Days
- H. 749/S. 475 - Campaign Child Care Expenses
- H. 3456/S. 2289 – Driving Families Forward - Standard Driver's Licenses for Immigrants
- H. 2418/S. 1579 – Safe Communities Act - Keeping State/Local Enforcement Separate from ICE
- H. 1477 - Barring Use of State/Local Funds for ICE Enforcement

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

The Falmouth League of Women Voters adopted the national LWV Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) policy soon after it was issued. It is posted on our website at <https://my.lwv.org/massachusetts/falmouth/diversity-equity-and-inclusion-policy>.

To use a cliché, DEI is a journey, not a destination, and many Leagues as well as members of the Falmouth League are at many different places along the journey. The LWVMA has a rich and varied collection of resources that are updated as the Massachusetts League learns more. You can access these resources here: <https://lwvma.org/toolkits-for-members/diversity-equity-and-inclusion-resources/>

If you are interested in taking action locally while learning more, No Place for Hate and Racial Justice Falmouth have extended an open invitation to join them any Sunday at noon at the Falmouth Village Green to stand or kneel as you are able for 9 minutes and 29 seconds in support of Black Lives.

—**Meghan Hanawalt**

Editors' Note: For more information about No Place for Hate, see their website at <http://www.npfhfalmouth.org/>.

Racial Justice Falmouth has a Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/RacialJusticeFalmouth>

For more information, see the Priority legislation sections of The Day on the Hill information package at <https://lwvma.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Member-packet-2021.final.pdf>. The bills discussed under Environment and Climate Change and Early Childhood Education and Care are sponsored by Dylan Fernandes and Susan Moran, respectively.

Treasurer's Report

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF FALMOUTH			
Treasurer's Report# 3 2021-22 9/28/2021-10/24/2021			
	Budget	Total this	This Reporting
INCOME	FY2021-22	Budget year	Period
Ads	\$250		
Annual Meeting	\$500	\$757	
Contributions - Friends	\$175	\$25	
Contributions - Members	\$1,500	\$1,042	\$15
Dues	\$7,711	\$3,835	\$50
Funds Raisers	\$250		
Grants	\$0		
Transfer from savings	\$0		
INCOME TOTAL	\$10,386	\$5,659	\$65
		Total this	
EXPENSES	Budget	Budget year	This Reporting
	FY2021-22		Period
Action/Program	\$150	\$100	\$100
Administration	\$350		
Web Site Fee	\$440	\$400	
Annual Meeting & Report	\$500	\$620	
Bank Fees	\$150	\$100	
Bulletin Postage	\$125	\$22	
Bulletin Printing	\$250	\$75	\$29
Convention - National	\$0		
Convention -State	\$0		
Membership & Directory	\$800		
Participation / Donation	\$75	\$100	
Per Member Pay Mass. (PMP)	\$3,508		
Per Member Pay US (PMP)	\$5,160	\$4,000	\$4,000
Voter Service	\$1,500		
Special Projects	\$0		
EXPENSE TOTAL	\$13,008	\$5,417	\$4,129
	07/01/20		01/25/21
checking acct	\$6,519	\$242	\$6,761
LWV Educ Fund	\$1,113	\$300	\$1,413
	\$7,632		\$8,174

—Meghan Hanawalt

Treasurer

Member Outreach Is Key To LWVF Longevity

Not long ago I joined the League with the aim of applying my interests in policy and voter rights here at home in Falmouth. Soon after I joined, our Observer Corps Chief, Denise Morreale, reached out to me. I recall how welcoming Denise was on the phone, immediately offering to meet for coffee to discuss ways in which I may be involved as a new member. During our coffee talk at Daily Brew, I learned so much about Denise, her work with the LWVF and her professional career. Ours proved to be an instant connection, and I readily signed on to be an Observer for the Falmouth Commission on Substance Use. With that, I ceased feeling like just someone on the roster and became someone who had a place in the League.

With organizations actively fighting for survival at a time when many are spread too thin for much volunteer work, it occurs to me that such a connection is key to keeping our group thriving rather than just surviving. I was reminded of this recently when Denise reached out to talk about our Transportation Study. She asked if I could catch up that day, but I was busy with work and asked if she wanted to come with me on a walking tour the following day. We spent a breezy Friday morning discussing Falmouth history, the next steps with our study, and other League business, both before, during and after our nearly 90-minute stroll around Falmouth Town Green. Although both of us are longstanding Falmouth residents, there were still things to learn, making the familiar new again. It was invigorating at a time when we can all use a little boost!



I wanted to share this as much to illustrate Denise's contribution to LWVF's success as to offer a secret ingredient to keeping us strong. One-to-one connection formed over simple things like coffee or walking are vital. They give new members a place to belong and longstanding members a chance to offer their knowledge about our League. It's a form of recruitment that benefits everyone and we encourage others to do (or continue doing!) the same.

Here's the link if any of you would like to team up and go for a walk. Our guide was well-informed, and it was a great experience. <https://museumsongreengreen.org/2021-historic-walking-tours/>.

—Maro Titus
At-Large Board Member

A Message from Membership: Get to Know Your Fellow Members

Meet our newest member as of this month - **Dale Kapp**, welcome!

Tell us about yourself

Professionally: Former Director of a hospital Special Chemistry Lab, and Director of Regulatory Affairs in a pharmaceutical company. I also partnered to establish/teach a Biotechnology Degree program at a university evening school in Boston. Personally: I love gardening and garden design, playing Mah-jongg, and attempting watercolor. Current Memberships: Town Meeting, Affirmative Action/Diversity Committee, Cape Cod NAACP, and Falmouth Garden Club.



Why did you join the league?

Initially, I sought the LWV's assistance on a project to assure Precinct 3 Falmouth residents would have access to voting. It was a pleasure to find the League was already addressing that need within its larger focused efforts. After looking at the website to learn

more about the League, I saw that there were numerous worthwhile endeavors, one of which is the study of transportation issues. Improvements to our transportation routes will increase access to housing within the town, opening up possibilities for all residents.

What is one of your favorite things about Falmouth?

I have been coming to Cape Cod since the age of three; I purchased my first house in Falmouth in 1989, then my current retirement home in 2007. I became a full-time resident in 2009. I cherish the preservation of Falmouth's abundant natural resources and enjoy the beautiful wildlife and sunsets. My favorite place is just one of many solitary and tranquil scenic oceanside locations throughout Falmouth. I delight in the many and varied artistic, educational, and socially responsible opportunities offered through volunteerism.

—**Misty Niemeyer**



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Falmouth Heritage: The Falmouth Bell

Never was there lovelier town
 Than our Falmouth by the sea.
 Tender curves of sky look down
 On her grace of knoll and lea.
 Sweet her nestled Mayflower blows
 Ere from prouder haunts the spring
 Yet has brushed the lingering snows
 With a violet-colored wing.
 Bright the autumn gleams pervade
 Cranberry marsh and bushy wold,
 Till the children's mirth has made
 Millionaires in leaves of gold;
 And upon her pleasant ways,
 Set with many a garden home,
 Flash through fret of drooping sprar
 Visions far of ocean foam.
 Happy bell of Paul Revere,
 Sounding o'er such blest demesne
 While a hundred times a year
 Weaves the round from green to green.

Never were there friendlier folk
 Than in Falmouth by the sea,
 Neighbor-households that invoke
 Pride of sailor-pedigree.
 Here is princely interchange
 Of the gifts of shore and field,
 Starred with treasures rare and strange
 That the liberal sea-chests yield.
 Culture here burns breezy torch
 Where gray captains, bronzed of neck
 Tread their little length of porch
 With a memory of the deck.

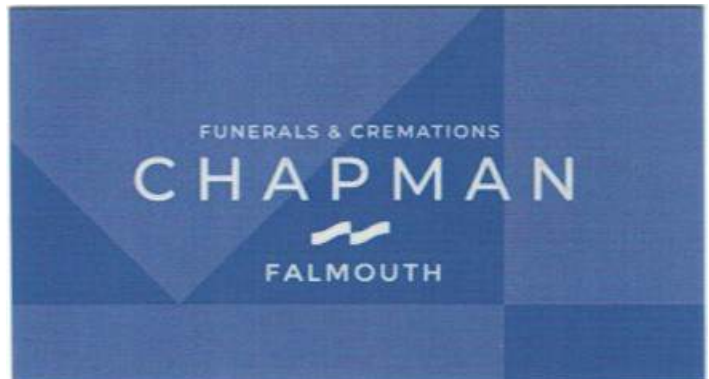
Ah, and here the tenderest hearts,
 Here where sorrows sorest wring
 And the widows shift their parts
 Comforted and comforting.
 Holy bell of Paul Revere
 Calling such to prayer and praise.
 While a hundred times the year
 Herds her flock of faithful days!

Greetings to thee, ancient bell
 Of our Falmouth by the sea!
 Answered by the ocean swell,
 Ring thy centuried Jubilee!
 Like the white sails of the Sound,
 Hast thou seen the years drift by,
 From the dreamful, dim profound
 To a goal beyond the eye.
 Long thy maker lieth mute,
 Hero of a faded strife;
 Thou hast tolled from seed to fruit
 Generations three of life.
 Still thy mellow voice and clear
 Floats o'er land and listening deep,
 And we deem our fathers hear
 From their shadowy hill of sleep.
 Ring thy peals for centuries yet,
 Living voice of Paul Revere!
 Let the future not forget
 That the past accounted dear!

—Katharine Lee Bates

—Submitted by Maro Titus

Editors' Note: In 1796, Paul Revere's foundry delivered a new 807-pound bell to the Town of Falmouth. The raised lettering on the bell reads, "The living to the church I call and to the grave I summon all." It still peals regularly from the First Congregational Church on the Falmouth Green. To learn more, see <https://www.capecod.com/lifestyle/paul-revere-bell-rings-daily-in-falmouth/>. And no, we don't know what a "sprar" is either.



LWVF Board of Directors 2021-2022

Steering Committee

First Vice-President, Steering Committee Chair	Joan Boyer
Second Vice-President	Maggie Sweasy
Secretary	Marcia Easterling
Natural Resources	Richard Johnson
Membership	Misty Niemeyer
Treasurer	Meghan Hanawalt
Bulletin Editors	Mary Fran Buckley Eileen Mattingly
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Observer Corps	Denise Morreale
Publicity	Olivann Hobbie
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At Large	Maro Titus
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Social Media	Penelope Duby
Webmaster	Joan Boyer
Historian	Jacqueline Webster

LWVF Friends 2021

Christina Jacobi
Maria Moniz
Robert and Barbara Schneider
Freddy Valois

Contact us:

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Falmouth, MA 02541

Email: FalmouthLWV@gmail.com

Website: www.lwvf.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/LWVofFalmouthMA/>

Member Event Calendar

November 18 **General meeting: Natural Resources. 7 p.m. at Falmouth Academy.**

November 23 **Board meeting, 7 p.m. Gus Canty Community Center**

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January 20 **State Program Planning meeting**

January 25 **Board meeting, 7 p.m. Gus Canty Community Center**

Join the League of Women Voters: Democracy in Action!

You do not have to be a resident of Falmouth to join. Membership dues are \$50 for an individual membership and \$25 for an additional household member.

If you wish to join the League, send your check made out to the address at left. Include your name, mailing address, and phone number.

If you prefer, go to our website at www.lwvf.org. Click on "Join" to join or renew and pay online.



Submissions for the next issue of the LWVF Bulletin are due on January 4, 2022. Please send copy, photos, and other material to both of these addresses:

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