



League of Women Voters[®] of Falmouth Bulletin

February 2022

Steering Committee Report

Given the time of year, it's hard not to think of Valentine's Day. For some, it's about the commercial holiday or simply the chocolate; however, for many, it is about showing love to those you care about in your life and your community.

As the two-year mark of the pandemic fast approaches, one positive outcome is a reminder to appreciate those people and the community we love so dearly. This incredible LWVF community has become such a core part of my life—I love all of you! I especially appreciate the League's strong history and the way its members continue to serve our community year after year.

The way I hope to show my love and appreciation for this league we all love is to help it grow and evolve. We must remember our roots to ensure we move into the future as strong as we are now, continuing the League's important work as we stay true to its mission. As Membership Chair, I will work with all of you to increase and diversify our membership, and I am open to new ideas; please send them my way.

We started this past year by including additional membership options in an effort to make joining the League more accessible and targeting funds to support these efforts. We are committed to developing additional initiatives to increase the student membership and the diversity of our membership. Our hope is that the next generations will continue the League's work far into the future, having a big impact on the community and world we all care so much about—the reason all of us are members of the League of Women Voters.

—Misty Niemeyer

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Interested in Joining the Voter Service Committee?

The Voter Service Committee presently includes: Sylvia Szulkin, Alice Carey, Marcia Easterling, Olivann Hobbie, Carol McKeon, and Olivia White. We are asking our members to please consider joining the VSC, or suggest names of members who could be contacted about joining.

Now is the time to recruit new members, invite them to attend our meetings, learn what we have accomplished and what we are planning to do. In this way, they would be ready to help in 2023. The committee's next Zoom meeting is scheduled for February 9 at 3:30 p.m. We would love to have three or four new members join us. If you have any interest, please give me a call or drop me a note. Thank you, and I hope to hear from you soon.

—Olivia White

Observer Corps

Local Study/Observer Corps Meeting February 17

Join us on February 17 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom for the combined Local Study/Observer Corps presentation. The membership will be brought up-to-date on the progress of the current Local Study on Transportation. The Transportation Study committee will be seeking to extend its study for an additional year.

The Observers who will present reports are Carol Chittenden, reporting on the non-profit Economic Development & Industrial Corporation (EDIC), and Marcia Easterling, reporting on the Library Board of Trustees. There will be time set aside for questions after the presentations. Based on previous Observer meetings, the membership always contributes valuable input.

One advantage of long-standing League participation is access to archived documents. Our Local Study for 2018-2019 final report was stalled because of the pandemic. The topic of that study was "The Role of Appointed Volunteers in Falmouth Town Government and How We Can Increase Volunteer Effectiveness and Satisfaction." Peter Clark wrote a guest commentary that was published in the October 8, 2021 *Falmouth Enterprise*, "Town Needs a Committee Support Process and Staff to Oversee It." The first line asks the question "How can the select board and town management more effectively value volunteer contributions on town committees?" The LWVF Local Study 2019 recommendations provided by Alice Carey will be summarized and available to members at the February 17 Zoom meeting. Many of the points brought to light in Mr. Clark's commentary were quite similar to ours.

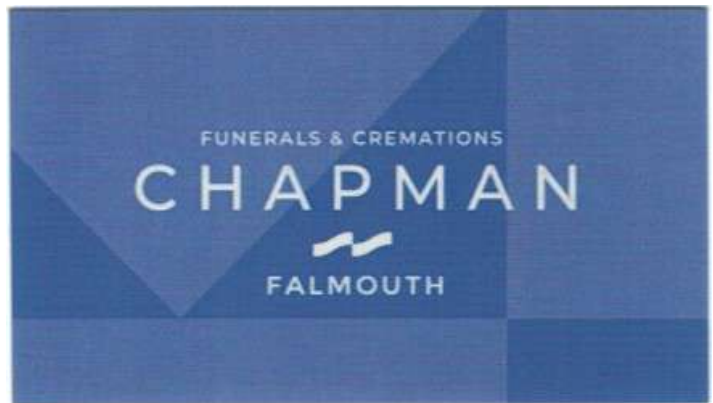
The LWVF Observer Corps reports from previous years were a catalyst to generating this important LWVF local study. Our Observers ensure the League membership is aware of the functioning of the town's local boards and committees. Let us consider how much our town government bodies would benefit from including our Observers' answers to

the town issues reported in our annual local studies, and implementing the recommendations in the League documents. This information should also be an integral part of the written report that is delivered to the Chair of the Observer Corps and published in the LWVF Bulletin and on the website.

—Denise Morreale

Chair Observer Corps

Co-Chair Local Study



Natural Resources

The Natural Resources Committee has been following several issues related to the decommissioning of the Pilgrim Nuclear Plant. There was a bill on Beacon Hill to strengthen monitoring of stored nuclear waste at the site, S.1507 An Act Relative to Monitoring Dry Casks of Spent Nuclear Fuel. Current monitoring standards are periodic visual inspections of these casks; the act seeks to include monitoring radiation levels and other measures to detect incipient leaks.

The House concurred with the bill and it was referred to the Joint Committee on Public Health last summer. More recently, Holtec, the company in charge of decommissioning Pilgrim, announced that they planned to release radioactive water into Cape Cod Bay. There was an immediate reaction from the public, environmental advocacy groups, and the LWVPlymouth, which was joined by our league and several others. Federal law does allow such radioactive water release from active nuclear plants, provided the plant meets certain standards of volume, radioisotope type, and concentration.

The fact that Pilgrim is inactive makes the application of the law unclear, and it is unclear what type or intensity of isotope(s) are in the water. Common sense suggests that releasing isotopes into fishery and recreational water is a bad idea, but there has not yet been a public presentation on the details, risks, and alternatives for dealing with this water. Opposition remains fierce and there have been a number of rallies to protest the release of radioactive water, as well as bill proposals on Beacon Hill to ban this action.

For more information check out <https://www.capeandislands.org/local-news/2022-01-24/scientists-weigh-in-on-dumping-of-radioactive-water-into-cape-cod-bay?eNews>

Isabel Harper at the Conservation Law Foundation noted that "An Act to Expand The Bottle Bill" (H.3289/S.2149) made it through the House this week for the first time on its own since the bill

passed in 1983. The bill came out of committee this week with a positive recommendation and is moving forward. This bill aims to expand the types of bottles included and raise the deposit fee from 5 cents to 10 cents. This expansion would reduce litter by including containers like plastic water bottles and nip bottles, ensure collected materials are recycled, and lower curbside recycling costs for cities and towns.

—Richard Johnson

Transportation Committee

Under the direction of Denise Morreale, the Local Study on Transportation is tackling a broad, crucial topic and turning it into a timely education-based report. Joined by Maro Titus, Richard Johnson, John Carroll and Dale Kapp, the team has identified key areas of focus and will be compiling its first (very rough) draft by the middle of March.

Denise will be providing an update at the February 17 League meeting, based on a recent Transportation Study team meeting; the next meeting is scheduled for March 18th. The group is having productive meetings via Zoom. If anyone has thoughts or questions to share about the topic, please email Denise or Maro directly.

—Denise Morreale

—Maro Titus



Richard A. Armstrong, D.P.M.
Ethel R. Baylor, D.P.M.

"Your Foot Health Care Team"

Falmouth Podiatry

Homeport
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Falmouth, MA 02540

508-540-5164
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Legislative Committee

The Votes Act

The Votes Act, S.2554, passed the Massachusetts Senate in a form favored by the Massachusetts League. Among other things, this strong bill made permanent most of the temporary changes enacted due to Covid, added some provisions to protect the voting rights of incarcerated individuals entitled to vote, and included some needed changes in prior law by amending the procedure followed when a driver's license applicant is registered to vote. The Senate bill also included same-day registration, long a priority of the Massachusetts League. However, when the bill passed by the Senate was taken up by the House, the House, in H.4359, agreed only to **study** same-day registration.

During House proceedings, the League was part of a coalition proposing a compromise. This compromise would have permitted Election Day registration but would have excluded registration during early voting. Although the Town Clerk's Association supported this compromise, the House leadership opposed it, and this measure lost by a vote of 93 to 64. Presumably the bill will now go to a conference committee to resolve this difference with the Senate version.

Radioactive Water in Cape Cod Bay?

After being notified by the Cape League that it was seeking Massachusetts League support for a group opposing the dumping of radioactive water into Cape Cod Bay, the Legislative Committee, after consulting with our Falmouth League Natural Resources Chair Richard Johnson, signed on to this effort.

We have since been notified that the state League Board acted quickly and voted to be included in the coalition being organized to oppose the dumping. A report of Rosemary Shield's January 31 presentation in Plymouth on behalf of the League was included in a WCAI news broadcast on February 1.

Along with the Cape and Plymouth Leagues, we are on record in support of H.2254/S.1507, a bill that would substantially upgrade the monitoring of dry casks already stored on the Plymouth site. These two issues are related. We understand that the spent fuel rods currently being stored in the dry casks had previously been stored in water, which is how the water became contaminated.

"What a Difference a D.A. Makes" Webinar

A group of organizations sponsored a non-partisan webinar entitled "What a Difference a D.A. Makes," which aired on January 26. Although we did not join as a co-sponsor of this program about district attorneys in Massachusetts, we publicized the webinar to our membership. This webinar was especially timely because our long-time Barnstable County DA is not seeking reelection. Two individuals have announced their candidacy, one from each major party.

The main speaker, who was from the ACLU, described the important role that district attorneys have in our criminal justice system. Among other things, the DA decides whether to charge an arrested individual with a crime, what crime or crime will be charged, and what sentence to recommend. The speaker emphasized the paucity of public information available regarding incarceration rates of various population segments and made it clear that, based on the information that is available from private sources, there are significant racial disparities. For more information, check the lengthy article about the program in the January 30 issue of the *Cape Cod Times*.

***—Judy Ziss
Chair,
Legislative Committee***

Treasurer's Report

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF FALMOUTH			
Treasurer's Report# 452021-22			
11/23/2021-1/23/2022			
	Budget	Total this	This Reporting
INCOME	FY2021-22	Budget year	Period
Ads	\$250		
Annual Meeting	\$500	\$717	
Contributions - Friends	\$175	\$25	
Contributions - Members	\$1,500	\$1,252	\$83
Dues	\$7,711	\$4,685	\$400
Funds Raisers	\$250		
Grants	\$0		
Transfer from savings	\$0		
INCOME TOTAL	\$10,386	\$6,679	\$483
		Total this	
		Budget year	This Reporting
EXPENSES	Budget	Budget year	Period
	FY2021-22		
Action/Program	\$150	\$100	
Administration	\$350		
Web Site Fee	\$440	\$400	
Annual Meeting & Report	\$500	\$620	
Bank Fees	\$150	\$121	\$12
Bulletin Postage	\$125	\$53	\$31
Bulletin Printing	\$250	\$124	\$19
Convention - National	\$0		
Convention -State	\$0		
Membership & Directory	\$800		
Participation / Donation	\$75	\$100	
Per Member Pay Mass. (PMP)	\$3,508	\$3,025	
Per Member Pay US (PMP)	\$5,160	\$4,000	
Voter Service	\$1,500		
Special Projects	\$0		
EXPENSE TOTAL	\$13,008	\$8,543	\$62
	07/01/21		01/23/22
checking acct	\$6,519	-\$1,864	\$4,655
LWV Educ Fund	\$1,113	\$335	\$1,448
	\$7,632		\$6,103

—Meghan Hanawalt

Treasurer

Mark Your Calendar for These Upcoming Events

Editor of The Emancipator to Speak in March

The *Boston Globe* is launching a new initiative to “[reframe] the conversation on racial justice and equity to hasten the reality of an antiracist society.” This is *The Emancipator*, a newsletter that revitalizes the concept of the abolitionist newspapers of the 19th century, updating it to cover contemporary issues and events. You can read more about it here:

<https://apps.bostonglobe.com/opinion/the-emancipator/>

The co-editor of *The Emancipator*, Amber Payne, will be the speaker at the LWVF meeting on March 17. Ms. Payne is an award-winning journalist and was an Emmy-award winning producer for NBC. She was founding managing editor of NBCBLK and followed that as executive producer for *Teen Vogue*. She is executive producer of the film *Harlem Rising* (2020), a documentary about the Harlem Children’s Zone, and *Avenues of Dreams: Reclaiming MLK Boulevards*



Candidates Night

Candidates Night this year will take place on Wednesday, April 27, at 7 p.m. in the Hermann Room of the Falmouth Public Library. As in the past, FCTV and the LWVF Voter Service Committee are jointly planning this important event. Because of Covid, in-person attendance will be limited to 25 people unless that limit has changed by April.

For LWVF members and the public in general who do not attend, the League will provide information through various media on how citizens can submit questions to the candidates in advance. Tuesday, March 29, is the last day for prospective candidates to return nomination papers, so as of April 1 we will know who all the candidates are.

All town-wide offices will elect officers for three years: Town Clerk (elect one), Select Board (elect two), Trustee of the Public Library (elect two), Planning Board (elect two), and School Committee (elect three); Town Meeting Members from all nine precincts (elect nine). Also, Precincts One, Two, Five and Seven will elect one Town Meeting member for one or two years; there are more openings in other precincts.

The Voter Service Committee is grateful to Linda Collins, Director of the Falmouth Public Library, and Bob Fenstermaker of FCTV for their help in getting started with planning Candidates Night.

The League encourages informed active participation in government. Running for public office exemplifies that level of participation. Please consider running for one of the open offices and urge your friends and neighbors to consider becoming a candidate.

—*Sylvia Szulkin,*
Olivann Hobie,
Marcia Easterling

Contact Information for Your Legislators

Senator Susan Moran
617-722-1330

Susan.Moran@masenate.gov

Representative David Vieira
617-722-2230 and press 5
David.Vieira@mahouse.gov

Representative Dylan Fernandes
617-722-2013 and press 3
Dylan.Fernandes@mahouse.gov



Supporting Young Citizens: The Civics Subcommittee

The Civics Subcommittee of the Legislative Committee, held its first meeting via Zoom on January 19. The members are Eileen Mattingly, Bob Haskell, Mary Fran Buckley, Janet Lauer, and Judy Ziss.

Our main goal is to serve as a resource to the Falmouth Public School's student civics projects. We will connect with Michael Feeney, Falmouth High School Social Studies Chair, to determine the areas in which we can support teachers. Judy Ziss and Bob Haskell plan to schedule a meeting with Mr. Feeney in February. The Subcommittee expects to hold its next meeting some time after that.

The Subcommittee will offer teachers a resource list from The Cape Cod Area League that was developed to assist teachers and students with the research they need for their civics projects. We also plan to be available to serve as an "audience" for oral presentations of projects and may publicize selected projects on our website and elsewhere. In addition, the Subcommittee will explore other ways to enhance civics education and to encourage students to learn about, and take part in, our democracy.

—Judy Ziss

Student Opportunities

MyImpact Challenge is a civic engagement contest hosted by the Bill of Rights Institute. Their goal is to foster a robust understanding of citizenship and get students active in their communities now! <https://billofrightsinstitute.org/my-impact-challenge>

The Massachusetts Civic Learning Coalition (MCLC) in partnership with teachers and students from across the Commonwealth is hosting Civic Learning Week March 7-11. Everyone is invited to attend and participate in Civic Learning Week events, including students, teachers, administrators, policymakers, parents, and the general public. Find out how to submit an event idea and/or register to attend the different events <https://www.macivicsforall.org/clw2022>.

Get to Know Our New Members

Jackie Rider

I've been coming to Falmouth for many years, since my parents had a summer home in Woods Hole. My husband and I recently moved here year-round from New York City, where I worked as an archivist at New York University. I've transitioned into user experience design and information architecture, which I love.



I was a member for 20+ years of the League of Women Voters of New Castle in Chappaqua, NY, where my husband and I raised our two sons, now ages 29 and 34. My husband is a retired Episcopal priest turned freelance photographer. We are so happy to be in Falmouth full time and enjoy hiking and biking throughout the Cape. A Falmouth favorite of mine: the Shining Sea Bikeway.

Tracy Chapman Morreale

I grew up in North Falmouth and have recently moved back with my husband and our fur babies after being away for about 27 years. I have a 26 year old daughter and am currently a therapist working through telehealth with my clients in Georgia until I can transition my license to Mass.



My mother, Denise, is very involved in the League and I love being able to follow in her footsteps and learn more about the League as we get settled. We have moved back to Falmouth to be close to family, but love the small town feel and the supportive community it affords. Nowhere has ever felt quite like home in our years away, and we are thrilled to be back! My husband and I love to run, cycle, kayak, and enjoy everything outdoors that Falmouth has to offer.

—Misty Niemeyer

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
Legislative	Judith Ziss
Observer Corps	Denise Morreale
Publicity	Olivann Hobbie
Voter Service	Sylvia Szulkin, Acting
At Large	Lynne Rozsa
At Large	Maro Titus
Board Moderator	Joanne Voorhis

Off-Board Specialists

Social Media	Penelope Duby
Webmaster	Joan Boyer
Historian	Jacqueline Webster

LWVF Friends 2022

Barbara Douglass
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 (All meetings will be on Zoom until further notice.)

Thursday, February 17 **Observer Corps Reports meeting, 7:00 p.m.**

Tuesday, February 22 **Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m.**

Thursday, March 17 **League meeting. Guest speaker Amber Payne. 7:00 p.m.**

Tuesday, March 22 **Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m.**

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 March 5, 2022. Please send copy, photos, and other material to both of these addresses:

maryfran55@earthlink.net
eileenmattingly@yahoo.com



League of Women Voters
P.O. Box 450
Falmouth, MA 02541

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JOIN

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

Democracy in Action



Image by Kit Irwin