



# League of Women Voters<sup>®</sup> of Falmouth Bulletin

January 2022

## **LWVF STEERING COMMITTEE REPORT**

### ***An Innovative Leadership Model***

At the Massachusetts League Leader Event, November 6, 2021, the theme was Leadership Development. I represented the Falmouth League on a panel describing "Local League Governance Models."

Apparently our model of a Steering Committee reporting to a Board of Directors is unique in Massachusetts. We have been using this structure for 10 years now, although there have been changes over time. We first used the steering committee model when we were unable to find a president and decided that the current "Executive Committee," which included all the officers, would have to fulfill the duties of the president.

The next adjustment was made a year or two later because a few members of the Executive Committee did not want the extra responsibility of the presidency. It was decided that the members could just as well be chosen from among the Board of Directors. It was formalized that the Steering Committee would be a group of five, chosen annually by the Board of Directors for a one-year term and elected at Annual Meeting. The most recent change was having a formal Chair of the Committee.

This structure has resulted in a more decentralized operation. We depend on our excellent committees to do the work of the League: Legislative, Membership, Natural Resources and Voter Service. This model has worked well for us, although we have retained the option to elect a president to guide us.

**—Joan Boyer**

Chair and First Vice President

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Some suggested reading for you from Joan Boyer: The guest column in the *Cape Cod Times*, 1/8/22, "YOUR TURN: Right to vote a cornerstone of democracy" by Suzanne Brock, President of the League of Women Voters of the Cape Cod Area, at <https://tinyurl.com/CCTimes-Suzanne-Brock-Jan8-22>.

## ***Transportation Committee***

Our first Zoom meeting was on December 3 and went well. A huge thank you to Maro Titus for hosting this meeting! We are taking the perspective of "Upper Cape" instead of just Falmouth since we have members who live in Bourne and Mashpee; furthermore, the Cape Cod Commission Transportation subcommittee and many other groups will impact our support positions.

The Transportation Committee will meet again via Zoom on Jan. 21, and there will be a combined Observer Corps/local study on Transportation via Zoom in February

**—Denise Morreale**

## National Program Planning

Every two years, in January, the national League (LWVUS) asks the local leagues for input on their program planning activities for the next biennium.

At our Zoom meeting at 7:00 p.m. on January 20, 2022, we will discuss and make recommendations to the national League on the four main areas of action they have proposed. These are:

- Expanding Voter Access
- Fighting Voter Suppression
- Money in Politics
- Redistricting

It will be important to get our creative juices flowing as we examine our own activities and the ways in which they complement the objectives of national. As a start, I encourage all of our members to read the full League proposal on the national website before the January meeting. The link is: <https://www.lwv.org/league-management/policies-guidelines/leaders-guide-lwvus-program-planning-2022-2024>.

Looking forward to a lively meeting. Please email or call me if you have any questions.

—**Maggie Sweasy**

[maggiesweasy@yahoo.com](mailto:maggiesweasy@yahoo.com)  
253-278-6502

## Natural Resources Program

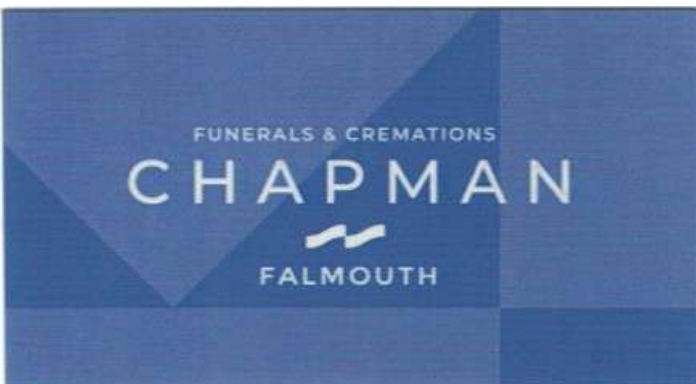
The Natural Resources Committee held a public program on November 18 at Falmouth Academy. Speakers Betsy Gladfelter and Mark Kasprzyk, both of the Falmouth Conservation Commission described the work done to restore the Coonamessett River to its precolonial condition, as well as the restoration of the Vernal Pool at Peterson Farm. The meeting was attended by 25-26 people, including six men and one younger adult).

Problems with the AV equipment required a change of computers in the middle of the presentation, but the speakers took and answered questions in that period and the audience maintained their attention during the whole program, which ran long. The audience reaction was quite positive. The room was large with well-spaced chairs and everyone wore masks throughout, except for the speakers at the podium.

To learn more about the Coonamessett River project, visit the webpage Coonamessett River Trust: Restoring a River at <https://www.crivertrust.org/>. For the Peterson Farm, a trail map, slide show, and additional information can be found at <https://300committee.org/conservation-lands-2/peterson-farm/>.



Wetlands at Peterson Farm. Photograph courtesy of The 300 Committee Land Trust.



## Legislative Committee



We have learned that the Cape League is one of the sponsors of an ACLU voter education program, *What a Difference a DA Makes*, which will be a free virtual event available via ZOOM, January 26, 2022, 6-7:30 p.m.

As you know, district attorneys, who are elected officials, wield great power because they decide who gets charged with a crime, whether a plea deal will be made, and what sentence to recommend. To attend this valuable event, please use this link to register. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar. To register, go to:

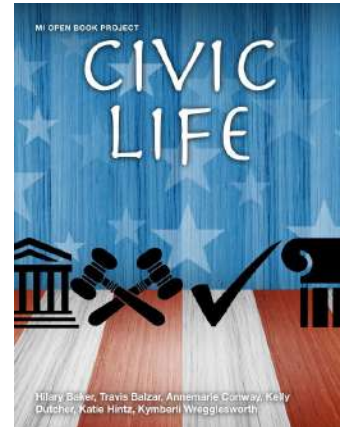
[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_yGcaguM4STaCXXSFbFqimg](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_yGcaguM4STaCXXSFbFqimg)

—Judy Ziss

Chair, Legislative Committee

## Civics Committee

Civics education in the schools has always been important to the Fal-mouth League. The civics law passed a few years ago requires students to undertake civics projects. We hope that our newly-formed Civics Committee will be available to support our high school students by attending the presentations of their civics projects or by helping in some other way.



We are now a Committee of three – and would love to have some more members. If you are interested, contact me at [judith\\_ziss@comcast.net](mailto:judith_ziss@comcast.net) or 508-548-1339.

—Judy Ziss

Chair, Legislative Committee

## WHAT A DIFFERENCE A D.A. MAKES

A VIRTUAL PUBLIC EDUCATION WEBINAR

Presentation by Whitney Taylor:  
ACLU of Massachusetts Political Director

Wednesday, January 26 | 6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.  
Register: [bit.ly/WADADAMCapeCod](https://bit.ly/WADADAMCapeCod)

What a Difference a D.A. Makes is a public education campaign launched by the ACLU of Massachusetts to highlight the key role that the Commonwealth's district attorneys play in determining the effectiveness and fairness of the criminal legal system – and to inform and educate Massachusetts residents so they are more aware and engaged in their local district attorney elections.



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## Treasurer's Report

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF FALMOUTH			
Treasurer's Report# 4 2021-22			
10/25/2021-11/22/2021			
	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	\$1,048	\$6
Dues	\$7,711	\$3,935	\$100
Funds Raisers	\$250		
Grants	\$0		
Transfer from savings	\$0		
<b>INCOME TOTAL</b>	<b>\$10,386</b>	<b>\$5,765</b>	<b>\$106</b>
		Total this	
<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Budget year</b>	<b>This Reporting</b>
	<b>FY2021-22</b>		<b>Period</b>
Action/Program	\$150	\$100	
Administration	\$350		
Web Site Fee	\$440	\$400	
Annual Meeting & Report	\$500	\$620	
Bank Fees	\$150	\$104	\$4
Bulletin Postage	\$125	\$22	
Bulletin Printing	\$250	\$104	\$29
Convention - National	\$0		
Convention -State	\$0		
Membership & Directory	\$800		
Participation / Donation	\$75	\$100	
Per Member Pay Mass. (PMP)	\$3,508	\$3,025	\$3,025
Per Member Pay US (PMP)	\$5,160	\$4,000	
Voter Service	\$1,500		
Special Projects	\$0		
<b>EXPENSE TOTAL</b>	<b>\$13,008</b>	<b>\$8,475</b>	<b>\$3,058</b>
	07/01/20		01/25/21
checking acct	\$6,519	-\$2,710	\$3,809
LWV Educ Fund	\$1,113	\$300	\$1,413
	\$7,632		\$5,222

**—Meghan Hanawalt**

Treasurer



## Membership

### Get to Know Your Fellow Members

Please meet our two new members, Christina Brodie and Tracy Morreale Chapman! Here is Christina Brodie, in her own words:

In 1974 I moved from Ohio to the greater Boston area where I eventually married and reared our children. Professionally, I was initially an educator but transitioned into business after being home with our children for 10 years. I became a business consultant with a narrow specialty--enabling cross-perspective teams to engage directly with their customers prior to making critical decisions that would impact them. For 15 years we owned a weekend cottage in Mashpee but in 2015, we moved full time to Falmouth. Locally I'm mostly involved in the empowerment of women and in housing issues--volunteering in multiple ways with WeCan and Habitat of Cape Cod and writing grant proposals for Belonging to Each Other (BTEO).



I joined the League because of its reputation for non-partisan involvement in politics and government. I think of it as facilitating fair elections and sharing objective information. Historically, I have worked for individual candidates and/or issues, but have committed anew to continuing to educate myself and to work to ensure our democracy survives the current threats to its continuing viability

We have been amazed at how Newcomers opened the Falmouth community to us in a way that has not been true in any of the three other towns in which we've lived. We have learned about the community--and how to get involved in it and built a cadre of friends and connections through its amazing array of programs, socials, and activities.

—Misty Niemeyer

## Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

### Reflections on January 6, 2021

As all of us likely are, I am proud to be a member of the League of Women Voters – “...which is committed to making democracy work.” Each of us has unique skills, knowledge, and talent we bring to and share with our League and community.

I chose to recognize the one-year anniversary of the January 6, 2021 attack on the U.S. Capitol with both reflection and action.

My three main reflections centered on:

- **OUTCOME:** I reflected on what the outcome might have been if the insurrectionists had succeeded.
- **RACIAL EQUITY:** I reflected on what might have happened if the insurrectionists were not white.
- **DEMOCRACY:** Wow, is it fragile and it is definitely not a spectator sport!

Action: I invite you to join me in taking action to sustain progress toward racial equity. First, understand the difference between equality and equity. Google “cartoon demonstrating equity” for some great examples.

Then, show up and speak up for equity. Attend No Place for Hate events, stand out for Black Lives Matter, learn about legislative efforts that support voting equity and call your representatives. All of us have a chance to help make democracy work.

—Meghan Hanawalt



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

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## 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

Christina Jacobi  
Maria Moniz  
Robert and Barbara Schneider  
Freddy Valois

### Contact us:

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

Email: [FalmouthLWV@gmail.com](mailto:FalmouthLWV@gmail.com)

Website: [www.lwvf.org](http://www.lwvf.org)

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

## Member Event Calendar (All meetings will be on Zoom until further notice.)

**Thursday, January 20** State Program Planning meeting,  
7:00 p.m.

**Tuesday, January 25** Board meeting, 7:00 p.m.

**Wednesday, January 26** D.A. meeting, 6:00–7:30 p.m.

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

**Tuesday, February 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](http://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 February 4, 2022. Please send copy, photos, and other material to both of these addresses:

[maryfran55@earthlink.net](mailto:maryfran55@earthlink.net)

[eileenmattingly@yahoo.com](mailto:eileenmattingly@yahoo.com)