



League of Women Voters[®] of Falmouth Bulletin

May 2022

CANDIDATES NIGHT

*Co-Produced by the Voter Services Committee
and Falmouth Community Television*

Candidates Night for the May local election took place on April 27, 2022, in the Hermann Room of the Falmouth Public Library thanks to the coordinated efforts of the Voter Services Committee and Falmouth Community Television. Falmouth Public Library Director Linda Collins and the library staff worked with FCTV to ensure that both the in-person audience and the television viewers got a full view of all participants. Moderator Mindy Todd, WCAI's award-winning radio journalist, juggled written questions from the League and the audience with aplomb and grace.

From the League perspective, this year's Candidates Night was a work-in-progress with many moving parts, from the first Voter Services Committee meeting in September until five minutes before

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"showtime." There are two contested races with a total of nine candidates—three for Select Board and six for School Committee. One of the candidates did not respond to written and telephone invitations to participate. However, we were ready to welcome all



The candidates for School Committee, from left to right: Shea Brown-Kirlew, Michael Heylin, Melissa Keefe, Nancy Kerrigan, and Mark Mancini. Margaret Souza was unable to participate in Candidates Night due to illness.

Continued on next page

Candidates Night, cont.

candidates to the contest with name plates and seating at the front of the room. Another candidate was too ill to participate in person but e-mailed written answers to questions fielded by all the other candidates plus a summation of her qualifications for office. Mindy Todd read the missing candidate's answers in the order in which questions were asked of all candidates.

Another uncertainty was the ever-changing limitation on seating capacity for the Hermann Room. Fortunately, the capacity limits had increased to 60, with spill-over space in the Bay Room, by the day of the event. The Committee was very gratified at the large turnout.



Moderator Mindy Todd reads questions from League members and recognizes audience members with questions as well.

Special recognition goes to Debra Rogers, Bob Fenstermaker, and Tony Sadara of Falmouth Community Television, and to the nine core members of the Voter Services Committee, who worked diligently and insightfully to provide questions and instructions for the candidates and publicity for the event. Kudos to the following committee members: Alice Carey, Marcia Easterling, Sue Gnospelius, Olivann Hobbie, China Mapp, Carol McKeon, Jacqueline Rider, Lynne Rozsa and Olivia White. Our great appreciation to *The Falmouth Enterprise* for its coverage of Candidates Night.

—**Sylvia Szulkin**

Voter Services Committee Chair



Sylvia Szulkin chairs the Voter Services Committee, which organized and publicized Candidates Night to prepare voters for the upcoming election.

You can watch Candidates Night on FCTV

Wednesday 05/11/2022 12:00 a.m.

Thursday 05/12/2022 8:00 a.m.

Friday 05/13/2022 3:00 p.m.

Saturday 05/14/2022 8:00 p.m.

Don't forget to vote at your precinct on Election Day, Tuesday, May 17. The polls open at 7 a.m. and close at 8 p.m.

Annual Meeting

TOGETHER IS BETTER

IN-PERSON* ANNUAL MEETING

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF FALMOUTH

SATURDAY, MAY 21ST

10 AM

Coonamessett Inn

311 Gifford Street, Falmouth

*Masks Optional

Door Prizes • \$20 per person

Continental Breakfast, Meeting and
Presentation by Meghan Hanawalt:

*Greatest Of All Time – Goats doing
great work in Falmouth!*

Learn how local women business owners are managing to do it all with goats – provide dairy for food, soaps and lotions, provide meat for food, clear unwanted brush areas, all in a humorous manner enjoyable to children of every age and nature advocates alike! Learn more about this environmentally friendly way of living.

RSVP by May 16th

Make checks payable to the League of
Women Voters of Falmouth or “LWVF”
and mail to:

Maggie Sweasy
43 Woodland Trail
East Falmouth, MA 02536
maggiesweasy@yahoo.com
253-278-6502

If an alternate payment amount is more comfortable for you, just mention that to Maggie. Whether you pay on the 21st or before, **please RSVP by the deadline, as an accurate headcount is required.**

LWVF NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee has submitted the following names for leadership positions in the League of Women Voters of Falmouth for 2022-23. Membership will vote on this slate of candidates at the annual meeting in May.

Board Members

1 st Vice President	Janet Lauer (2022-2024)
2 nd Vice President	Meghan Hanawalt (2022-2024)
Secretary	Karen Dacey (2022-2024)
Treasurer	Karen Epstein (2022-2024)
Legislative	Judith Ziss (2022-2024)
Natural Resources	Richard Johnson (2022-2024)
Voter Service	Jackie Rider (2022-2024)
Spokesperson	Sylvia Szulkin (2022-2024)
Publicity	Olivann Hobbie (2022)
Membership	Misty Niemeyer (2021-2023)
Observer Corps	Denise Morreale (2021-2023)
Bulletin Co-Editors	Mary Fran Buckley (2021-2023) Eileen Mattingly (2021-2023)
At Large	Lynne Rozsa
At Large	Maro Virginia Titus

Off Board Specialists

Historian	Kathy Mortenson
Facebook	Penny Duby
Webmaster	Joan Boyer

Nominating Committee (2022-2023)

Chair	Stephanie Miele
Off Board	Kathy Mortenson, Olivia White
Board Members	Karen Epstein Misty Niemeyer

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

We have no new confirmed members since the last meeting. We did receive notification that there are two women who plan to join the Falmouth League, Shea Brown and Samantha Haywood; however, we have not received their official registrations or dues. I am reaching out to them and will update next month, when their information is confirmed.

The Membership Directory updates have been completed, and Kathy Mortenson has sent them out to all members. If there are significant changes, I will send an updated directory to all members by the Annual Meeting. Printed copies will be sent to those who receive printed bulletins and to those who request them.

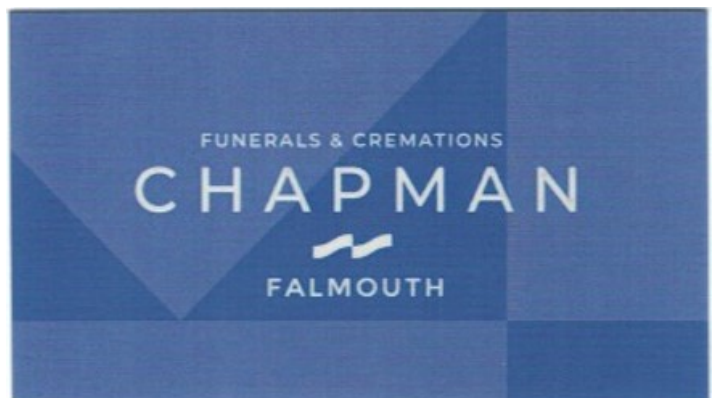
The current membership count is now 147 total members (120 primary and 27 additional household members). We received a bit of a jump in renewals over the past month, thanks to the help of several board members who called members to remind them of dues renewals. This just left 12 members (10 primary, two additional household members) who did not respond, which is a great improvement from earlier this year. Over the past year, 14 members (11 primary, three additional household members) notified us that they were not renewing or were sponsored memberships that were not renewed.

We are working on efforts to improve the membership renewal process this year and we hope to expand membership with new members, but it does seem that this year's membership count is closer to what typically happens year to year.

—Misty Niemeyer
Membership Chair



Stephanie Miele
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FALMOUTH

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Barring some last minute actions, the good news is that, as of this writing, none of the bills on our advocacy list are definitely dead. On the other hand, the bad news is that, as of this writing, none has been signed into law. And there is a recent development. Some of the emphasis has moved from enacting laws to obtaining favorable votes on budgetary matters.

Here is my latest information:

- The VOTES ACT, which was passed by both houses but with slightly different versions, is still in Conference Committee to resolve the election-day registration issue.
- Driving Families Forward passed both the Senate and the House with a veto-proof majority.
- The Senate Judiciary Committee has held a hearing on Senator Susan Moran's bill to prevent dumping of radioactive water into Cape Cod Bay. There appear to be several bills on this topic before the House and/or Senate.
- The bill to monitor dry cask storage is now in Senate Ways and Means and apparently has no impending deadline that would kill it if it were not reported out by a specific date.
- The Safe Communities Act has to be reported out of Committee by June 1. If not, it will die for this session unless given another extension.
- Similarly, Common Start must be reported out of the Education Committee by May 15.
- As noted above, some of the lobbying effort has moved from the passage of legislation to the budgetary process.
- An amendment to the House budget to double funding for Civics Education to \$50 million was co-sponsored by 56 Representatives. We contacted the offices of both our House members, David Vieira and Dylan Fernandes, and were delighted to learn that both had signed on as co-sponsors. Unfortunately, though, the increase was not adopted by the full House. All is not lost yet. There will be another chance in mid-May when the MA Senate votes on its budget.
- Amendments to increase funding for Early Childhood Education (including initiatives that Com-

mon Start promotes) have been included in the House Budget but the Common Start Coalition is pushing for additional funding in the Senate.

Regarding Common Start, the Special Legislative Early Education and Care Economic Review Commission issued its Report this past March. Both Senator Susan Moran and Representative David Vieira were members of the Commission. I can't officially speak for Common Start but I am under the impression that the Common Start Coalition is generally pleased with the Report. While the Common Start bill itself is quite lengthy and complex, there is hope that at least some portions of the bill would be enacted this year. As noted above, currently special attention is being paid to increased funding, especially for early education, in the state budget.

As the legislative season draws to a close, we have been doing a lot of lobbying. 2021-22 is the first legislative term where I have been Chair for all of both years – and it's been quite exciting!

—Judy Ziss

Chair
Legislative Committee

Save the Date!

LWVF Observer Corps and the Local Study Transportation Committee will be presenting reports in person on Thursday, June 16 at 7 p.m. in the Town Hall Civil Defense Room. Presenters will be Richard Johnson (Zoning Board of Appeals), Stephanie Miele (Board of Health), and Lynne Rozsa (Affordable Housing). There will also be a Local Study Report from the Transportation Committee. We will have a question and answer session after the presentations. Copies of reports that had been presented in February, EDIC and Library Trustees, as well as the report on the School Committee, will be available for members who are interested.

CIVICS SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

This feels like a hurry-up-and-wait time for the Civics Subcommittee. Thus, this report's focus is mainly on activities in the future. Bob Haskell and Judy Ziss have an appointment to meet with Mike Feeney, Social Studies Department head, on May 13. He will give us an update regarding this year's civics projects, and he also promised to pass along some thoughts regarding League involvement. We already forwarded him the April 4 meeting minutes of the LWVMA Civic Education Collaboration Network, parts of which were summarized in the April Bulletin, and he appreciated receiving them. (Those minutes suggested ways in which local Leagues can be useful in connection with student civics projects.) We have also forwarded Eileen Mattingly's Vlogging suggestion, which would give students an option for making presentations to us or others by preparing a video beforehand. In addition, Judy Stetson has suggested that we contact VIPS (Volunteers in Public Schools) regarding ways we might be of help, and we will be following up on that as well.

The Subcommittee has its own meeting scheduled for May 18th, and we hope to plan implementation

of ideas discussed with Mike Feeney and any suggestions we receive from VIPS and from other sources. We also have been invited to attend Massachusetts Civics Day in Boston on the morning of June 6. This event, sponsored by Generation Citizen of New England, will showcase student projects in what presumably will be a civics version of a science fair. We expect some members of our Subcommittee to attend - and bring ideas back for next year.

We were delighted to learn that both of our State Representatives, David Vieira and Dylan Fernandes, were co-sponsors of an amendment to the House budget to increase funding for Civics education. Wearing dual hats as Falmouth Legislative Chair and as a member of the Civics Subcommittee, Judy Ziss contacted both offices, had nice chats, came away with this good news, and sent thank you notes to both legislators. Unfortunately, though, the increased funding was not in any of the megamendments to the House budget when the House budget was passed. Trying to get this funding into the Senate budget will be the next step.

—Judith Ziss

NATURAL RESOURCES REPORT

The Natural Resources Committee is tracking two significant issues: the proposed Camp Edwards machine gun range and Holtec Company's plan to dump radioactive waste in Cape Cod Bay.

The gun range is proposed to be on the Upper Cape Aquifer Protection Zone and would require clear-cutting a large area, the use of copper ammunition (copper can be toxic in high concentration), and significant noise impact on adjacent neighborhoods.

LWVF has joined with a number of environmental groups in opposing the gun range and has asked candidates for governor to oppose it. It is currently on hold, pending an Environmental Impact review.

Holtec, the company charged with decommissioning the Pilgrim nuclear plant, needs to dispose of a large quantity of radioactively contaminated storage water, either by releasing it into Cape Cod Bay, evaporating it, or shipping it out of state to another holding area. Releasing water into the Bay is the cheapest option but requires considerable permitting. Local towns and environmental groups are universally opposed to dumping the radioactive waste into Cape Cod Bay, and there are bills proposed on Beacon Hill to stop it. Holtec has so far declined to take that option off the table.

—Richard Johnson

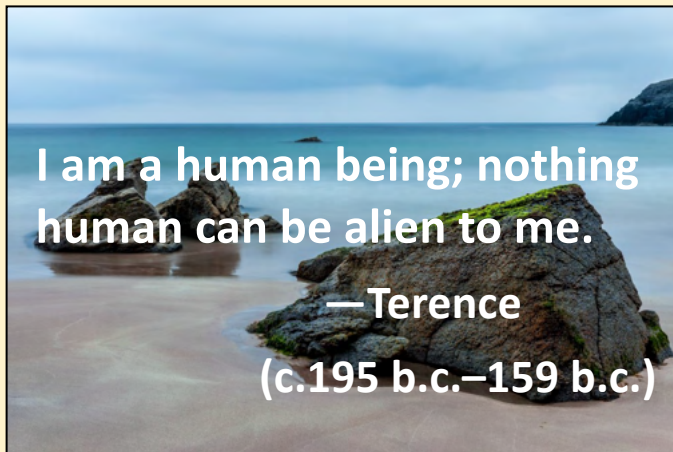
LWVF Budget, 2022-2023

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF FALMOUTH			
Budget			
	through 5/5/2022		
	FY2021-22		FY2022-23
INCOME	Budget	Actual	Budget
Ads	\$250	\$50	\$1,250
Annual Meeting	\$500	\$217	\$250
Contributions - Friends	\$175	\$75	\$175
Contributions - Members	\$1,500	\$1,131	\$1,500
Dues	\$7,711	\$5,460	\$6,675
Development / Fund Raisers	\$250	\$-	\$250
Grants	\$-	\$300	\$-
Transfer from savings	\$-	\$-	\$-
INCOME TOTAL	<u>\$10,386</u>	<u>\$7,233</u>	<u>\$10,100</u>
	FY2021-22		FY2022-23
EXPENSES	Budget	Actual	Budget
Action/Program	\$150	\$225	\$1,300
Administration	\$350	\$-	\$-
Web Site Fee	\$440	\$443	\$445
Annual Meeting & Report	\$500	\$620	\$500
Bank Fees	\$150	\$142	\$175
Bulletin Postage	\$125	\$80	\$125
Bulletin Printing	\$250	\$193	\$250
Convention - National	\$-	\$-	\$-
Convention -State	\$-	\$-	\$500
Membership & Directory	\$800	\$-	\$600
Participation & Gifts	\$75	\$100	\$175
Per Member Pay Mass. (PMP)	\$3,508	\$3,025	\$2,915
Per Member Pay US (PMP)	\$5,160	\$4,448	\$4,272
Voter Service	\$1,500	\$218	\$1,500
EXPENSE TOTAL	<u>\$13,008</u>	<u>\$9,493</u>	<u>\$12,757</u>
	07/01/21	05/05/22	<u>-\$2,657</u>
checking acct	\$6,519	\$4,520	\$1,863
LWV Educ Fund	\$1,288	\$1,598	\$1,598
TOTAL CASH	\$7,807	\$6,118	\$3,461

—Meghan Hanawalt
Treasurer

Expressions of Empowerment

Two months into authoring this brief section of the LWVF Bulletin, and I'm experiencing the benefit of sisterhood. I heard from many of you, including Marcia Easterling, offering praise for the new section...and learned that within our League chapter, I have a fellow Seven Sister in Marcia (Vassar '58). This month's Expression of Empowerment comes from her:



For those who don't know, the Seven Sisters Colleges were founded in the early to late 1800s to promote education for women that would be comparable to the coursework being offered to men at the time. It was not until 1927, at the Seven College Conference, that the term "Seven Sisters" came into use. The Seven Sisters colleges are: Smith, Wellesley, Mount Holyoke, Bryn Mawr, Vassar, Radcliffe and Barnard. The name Seven Sisters is also a reference to the Greek myth of The Pleiades, the seven daughters of the Titan Atlas, and the sea-nymph Pleione. The daughters—Maia, Electra, Taygete, Alcyone, Celaeno, Sterope, and Merope—were collectively referred to as The Seven Sisters. In the field of astronomy a star cluster, in the constellation of Taurus, is also referred to as The Pleiades or the Seven Sisters.

So, let me hear from any other 7S alums in LWVF! Keep shining brightly!

—**Maro Titus**
(Smith '91)

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

Congressman Bill Keating

508-771-6868

Info.keating@mail.house.gov

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Richard A. Armstrong, D.P.M.

Ethel R. Baylor, D.P.M.

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774-521-8745 www.GetMyGoatsCapeCod.com

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

There will be no Bulletin in June. Submissions for the summer issue (July/August) of the LWVF Bulletin are due on July 18, 2022. Please send copy, photos, and other material to both of these addresses:

maryfran55@earthlink.net
eileenmattingly@yahoo.com

Member Event Calendar

**Saturday,
May 21** **Annual meeting, 10 a.m.
Coonamessett Inn**

(Please note: There is no regular Board meeting in May.)

**Thursday,
June 16** **Meeting to hear LWVF Observer
Corps and Local Study Transporta-
tion reports, in person in the Town
Hall Civil Defense Room, 7 p.m.**

**Tuesday,
June 28** **Board Meeting, 7:00 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 below. 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.



Contact us:

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

Email: FalmouthLWV@gmail.com

Website: www.lwvf.org

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