



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

May 2023

## ***Steering Committee Report***

The League has had a busy spring! Local programs have included presentations on housing, Common Start, engaging in the democratic process, and Candidates Night. In addition, through our Legislative Committee, we took stands on several articles that were on the agenda for the Spring Town Meeting. We presented a program entitled “My Future, My Vote: Student Involvement in the Democratic Process” for students from a number of schools during a conference at Falmouth Academy. The DEIB committee hosted Dr. B. Chad Starks for an open meeting about “Inclusion in the Democratic Process.” The Civics Committee has been working with the Falmouth High School social studies teachers and is observing the high school Civics projects presentations that are a state requirement. We are looking forward to local elections on May 16 and our Annual Meeting May 20. On June 15, Observer Corps members will present their reports on the town committees they observe. And if that isn’t enough activity this spring, the State League Annual Meeting is coming up in June as well. The 2024 elections seem a long way out, but electioneering has already begun at the national level.

Around the country, many state and local governments are proposing laws that could restrict voting and access to the information needed to make informed decisions. Protecting and expanding voting rights to ensure that everyone is represented in our democracy is fundamental to the League mission; at times it can seem that the League is under attack for these advocacy and educational programs. Our goal is to have every eligible voter be able to register and to vote, in every election.

Massachusetts is making voting easier now with online registration, early in-person voting, and the

## **Table of Contents**

Steering Committee Report .....	1, 2
Legislative Committee .....	2
Civics Committee .....	2
Report on Civics Initiatives .....	3
Candidates Night .....	4, 5
Observer Corps .....	6
DEIB Report.....	7
Volunteer as a Community Advisor .....	7
Membership update .....	8
Legislative and Press Directory.....	9
Board of Directors .....	10
Meeting and Event Calendar .....	10

option of casting a ballot by mail. We want voters to be informed on the issues, which is perhaps our greatest challenge. We study the issues and take considered positions on them, but sometimes we are less than successful in widely sharing that information with voters. In addition to our website, monthly Bulletin, and our social media presence, we are fortunate to have an active local newspaper, *The Falmouth Enterprise*; a local radio station, WCAI; and a local access cable television channel, Falmouth Community Television (FCTV). However, even all of these outlets reach only a fraction of the local electorate. There is no magic solution to this problem; we can only persevere in our efforts.

Our League is blessed with members who support our mission with their time and effort as well as with their dues. The dues we charge go directly through to the state and national Leagues; we rely on donations above the membership cost to fund our local

Continued on next page

## ***Steering Committee Report, cont.***

efforts. We are adept at stretching these dollars for greatest effect, but we could do more with more funds. Even with a tight budget, our committee members have produced great programs this past year and we are grateful for their skills and efforts.

One of the joys of being involved with the Steering Committee, Board of Directors, and various committees is the depth of expertise and knowledge we possess collectively. Someone in the group is bound to know about an issue, a past program, how another group approached an issue, or where to find more information. It is exciting and rewarding to work with these individuals. We invite more members to share in the process: join a committee, volunteer for a program, attend programs, become an Observer, share your experience and insights. You won't regret it.

**—Richard Johnson**

Chair  
Natural Resources Committee

## ***Important Dates to Remember***

Monday, May 8 - Friday, May 12 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. — In Person Early Voting at Falmouth Town Hall

Tuesday, May 16 — Annual Falmouth Town Election

Saturday, May 20 — the Falmouth League of Women Voters Annual Meeting

## ***Legislative Committee***

Now that the March 16 Legislative Committee public program is behind us, we expect to meet sometime over the summer to decide on issues to emphasize during the 2023-24 legislative session. A Massachusetts League Zoom program, which discussed 12 priority bills, may be useful in helping us make selections. We intend to continue supporting Common Start, we hope to include a housing bill, and we probably will support legislation in at least one other area, possibly a bill on regional transportation. We will decide, as a committee, when we meet.

**—Judy Ziss**

Chair  
Legislative Committee

## ***Civics Committee***

Classroom presentations of civics projects by Falmouth High School sophomores began on April 26. After Social Studies Department Head Michael Feeney provided us with the schedule, we were able to arrange for a League member to attend most of these presentations.

After the presentations are completed, Bob Haskell and I will meet with Michael Feeney to review League participation this year and discuss how we can best participate in 2023-24. Due to space limitations in *The Falmouth Enterprise*, our article to inform the public about student civics projects was published but appeared in truncated form.

**—Judy Ziss**

For the Civics Committee

## ***Report on Civics Initiatives to the LWVMA***

*Karen Mazza, LWVMA representative to the Massachusetts Civic Learning Coalition and the Youth Service Committee Chair for the LWV of the Cape Cod Area, asked all Massachusetts League members who have subscribed to the Civics Education gmail group to describe the progress they have made in supporting schools in their civic education projects. Janet Lauer, our League First Vice President and member of the Civics Committee, responded:*

Under the astute direction of Civics Committee member Judith Ziss we have a good working relationship with the Falmouth HS social studies chair, Michael Feeney. We revised the Needham LWV Advocacy Guide so that it described the Falmouth town government and supplied it, along with a Town Organization Chart, to Mr. Feeney for use at Falmouth High School.

When Falmouth High School sophomores are doing the civics projects mandated by the civics education law passed a few years ago, they can run into a communications roadblock. We are trying get around that roadblock in two ways.

First, Social Studies Chair Mike Feeney has set up a system whereby each of four Civics Committee members has been matched with one of the four Social Studies teachers who will be supervising student civics projects. When a student needs to communicate with a member of the community and is having a problem, we will do our best to facilitate, acting on the assumption that a League member, or someone a League member knows, would have the necessary expertise to be of help. Students may need information or may want to encourage action.

Second, we had a guest article published in *The Falmouth Enterprise* advising the public of the student projects. Hopefully, by means of that article, government officials and community leaders will not be surprised if they are contacted in connection with a student project. We want the general public to know that, by responding to student inquiries or taking student requests seriously, they are helping to encourage a new generation of soon-to-be voters.

Currently, Falmouth League members are sitting in on Civics project classroom presentations in order to give support and feedback – and to enjoy learning about the students’ work.

In response to an invitation to our League, Civics Committee member Eileen Mattingly agreed to make a short presentation at the Student Career Day program for eighth graders at the Mashpee Middle-High School. She talked about how students can become involved in civic pursuits even before they can vote. A photograph of her in teaching mode appeared on the front page of the March 10 *Mashpee Enterprise*. She and Civics Committee member Meghan Hanawalt joined Chinna Mapp, chair of the DEIB committee, to make one of the presentations at the day-long Falmouth Academy Social Justice Conference on March 25, to which students from area schools were invited. Our League presentation was entitled "My Future, My Vote: Student Involvement in the Political Process."

Thank you for this opportunity to describe our work on Civics.

Janet Lauer, First Vice President , League of Women Voters of Falmouth

*[Karen responded: "Hi Janet, Thank you for your progress report. You have indeed made a great deal of progress. I like the way you have built the relationship with the Falmouth Schools and you have given me some good ideas that we can use. I will be doing a summary of all the strategies from the Leagues to share with our LWVMA civics ed group and this will be helpful to all. Thanks so much!"]*

## ***A Successful Candidates Night? Voters Will Decide***

Candidates Nights provide varying degrees of satisfaction for the hard-working members of League Voter Service committees who create them. Despite our best efforts, candidates sometimes overlook our letters of invitation and follow-up phone calls, and neglect to tell us whether they will attend. We understand that the candidates can lose track of all the requests to “say a few words” that they receive from media and civic organizations. On occasion, some candidates show up utterly unprepared, despite information they have been sent about the program format and at least one question they will be asked.

Happily, the April 26, 2023 Candidates Night appears to have resulted in satisfaction for nearly everyone involved. Our Candidates Night co-sponsor, Falmouth Community Access Television (FCTV Public Channel 13), broadcast the program live and will re-broadcast the event on a schedule posted on its electronic bulletin board and program guide, and in *The Falmouth Enterprise*.

Voter Service Committee members and League volunteers set up tables, signs, banners, and candidate nameplates well before the doors opened to the public. Other League volunteers handed out programs, greeted candidates, and gently persuaded attendees to take their seats in the Hermann Room before the program started.



*Mindy Todd, the host and producer of The Point on WCAI, ably chaired the meeting.*

The moderator, Mindy Todd, gave us the benefit of her professional experience as an award-winning radio journalist for WCAI. She asked her own questions in addition to written questions submitted by the League, as well as questions submitted by the audience in attendance and those who had sent questions to the League’s email address. Our committee was able to vet submissions ahead of time to eliminate duplicate questions and partisan zingers.

Our two timekeepers sitting front row center seamlessly ensured that everyone had an equal opportunity to respond to questions. The 12 candidates running in three contests were knowledgeable and prepared to speak about the offices they are seeking. The candidates’ credentials for office and positions on issues distinguished them sufficiently from each other to hold the attendees’ interest.



*Candidates for the two Library Trustee positions include Camille Romano (left) and Jane Ziegenfus-Martin. The third candidate, Judith Fenwick, was unable to participate due to illness.*

Continued on next page



## ***A Successful Candidates Night? Voters Will Decide, cont.***

One of the gauges of success for a Candidates Night is the size of its live audience. By that measure, the 2023 Candidates Night was a great success, with almost every seat in the Hermann Room taken. We hope that the League ad in *The Falmouth Enterprise* and several e-blasts to our membership boosted attendance.

Of course, the ultimate gauge of success is the size of voter turnout. Dare we hope that this year, at least in part because of the Voter Service Committee's work, the voting public will be energized to

cast its votes in support not only of the candidates who made the effort to run, but the democracy that depends on informed voter participation. Please tell your friends and neighbors that Election Day in Falmouth this Spring is Tuesday, May 16. Visit the Town Clerk's webpage to learn about the locations of polling places, early in-person voting and the options to cast a ballot without going to the polls. Sitting out the election is not an option.

**—Sylvia Szulkin**  
Voter Service Chair



This year's candidates for the two Select board positions are (left to right) Robert Dugan , Nancy Robbins Taylor, and Robert Mascali.



Candidates for three-year positions on the School Committee (left to right) are Michael McCarthy, Christopher Lumpkin, Susan Kinchla Augusta, Terry Alves-Hunter, Alison Brodet, and Terri Ann Medeiros. Heather Goldstone (not pictured) is running unopposed for a one-year position.

## ***Watching the Observers of our Town Government: Observer Corps Report***

By the end of May, there will be a few new faces in Falmouth's town government. There will also be some changes in our LWVF membership, leadership, and committees, including the Observer Corps. Over the last 10 years as the chair of the Observer Corps, I have experienced many changes and have never ceased to be amazed at the number of smart, responsible, socially gifted people who are willing to take time from their busy lives to become engaged in the running of our wonderful town and/or become members of our League.

The current active Observers and their respective Boards or Committees are Stephanie Miele, Board of Health; Richard Johnson, Zoning Board of Appeals; Marcia Easterling, Library Board of Trustees; Lynne Rozsa, Affordable Housing; and Carol Chittenden, Economic and Development Industrial Corporation (EDIC).

When I volunteered to become chair of the Observers, I met with the previous chair and was handed a folder with mimeographed sheets of Observer duties, a booklet entitled "Observing Your Government in Action" and another titled "The Open Meeting Law" (complete with typed sheets of changes in the laws). Another folder had copies of the LWVF *Bulletins* and Observer Reports dating back to 1992!

It is now time for a new Chair for the Observer Corps and I am so pleased to introduce Meghan Palanza as the new Chair. Meghan was our observer for the School Committee for several years. Her job has recently included more travel, therefore she can no longer attend the School Committee meetings as an Observer. We have had many wonderful Observers who have gone on to become members of the Boards or Committees they had been observing. Others have remained in the League to take on many of the other important work in which this League is involved.

At the June 15, 2023 Observer Corps meeting, there will be a list of current committees, their meeting times, frequencies, number of members, and other information. The purpose is to let members know where the League needs an Observer. At this time, we need observers for the School Committee, Select Board, Water Quality, and Planning Board, to name a few. Please join us on June 15, 2023 at 7 p.m. in the Civil Defense Room, on the lower level of town hall. Involvement in the LWVF Observer Corps is a wonderful way to learn about the workings of our town government.

**—Denise Morreale**

Chair, Observer Corps



### ***OBSERVER CORPS PRESENTATIONS***

***JUNE 15, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.***

***Town Hall Civil Defense Room, Lower Level,  
59 Town Hall Square***

All Observer reports will be presented on that evening. Some members will have submitted a report to be read in their absence. Those in attendance will be offered a chance to participate in a Q&A limited to the remaining time.

## ***Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging Committee***

The Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging Committee met April 23rd at 7:30 p.m. to discuss the outcome of our first program, “Inclusion in the Democratic Process,” a lecture by Dr. B. Chad Starks, the founder and CEO of a consulting firm that focuses on achieving social justice and equity. We identified several areas of opportunity to address next year for improvement with program planning.

Member Denise Morreale provided a league tool with a checklist for programming.

We have not identified a co-chair for the 23-25 term, but plan to do so in May.

Karen Epstein provided the chair with information on Racial Equity Grants and it was passed to the committee for a vote. The committee voted unanimously to address the steering committee with possibly writing a grant for Rockland Trusts' Racial Equity Grant Program.

**—Chinna Mapp**

Chair, DEIB Committee



*Dr. B. Chad Starks addressed citizens of Falmouth in the auditorium of Falmouth High School on April 26.*

## ***Volunteer as a Community Advisor at a statewide civics showcase!***

In early June, the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and Generation Citizen will host two statewide civics project showcases in Worcester and Boston. During these “science fairs for civics,” 8th-12th grade students from across the state will share about real-world action they are taking on community issues, from student mental health to environmental justice to educational equity.

To support this event, **DESE and Generation Citizen are looking for community members to serve as volunteer Community Advisors.** Advisors will have short conversations with students about their projects, asking questions and offering feedback based on their own expertise. Given the wide range in project topics, we are looking for advisors from a diversity of backgrounds: community organizers, legislators, non-profit and business leaders, educators, healthcare workers, and many more. Please share this invitation with those who may be interested in your networks.

To learn more about each event and register as a Community Advisor, click the links below:

DESE’s **Massachusetts Civics Project Showcase** will take place on **Friday, June 2 at Clark University in Worcester.** ([Community Advisor registration](#))--register by May 19!

Generation Citizen’s **Civics Day** will take place on **Monday, June 5 at the Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the Senate in Boston.** ([Community Advisor registration](#))

Reach out with questions to Rebekah Judson at [rebekah.m.judson@mass.gov](mailto:rebekah.m.judson@mass.gov).



## ***Membership Update***

We would like to welcome two new members to the league, Robert Mascali & Krista Hennessy.

### **Membership Updates**

We will be renewing our membership early this year, trying something new! I'll be sending out reminders this week, but membership renewals and dues will be due by **June 15, 2023** for the 2023-2024 year. This does not include members who joined in 2023, Lifetime members, or Student members. If you have any questions, please reach out to Membership Chair Misty Niemeyer at [mistyniemeyer13@gmail.com](mailto:mistyniemeyer13@gmail.com) or 912-996-3985.

Our membership is integral to the success of our league and the growth of our membership is key to the future of our league! Please keep an eye out for renewal info and renew before the deadline! If you know of potential new members to join our league, please consider reaching out to them and encourage them to consider joining our league! Please wait for the renewal reminder before renewing; instructions will be sent out.

### **Dues Update**

At the Annual Meeting, we will be voting on a dues increase. Each year we pay a total of \$55 dollars to

the National and State LWV for dues for each member; however, membership dues have remained at \$50. The Board has voted to propose an increase in dues at the Annual Meeting to \$55 dollars to cover the minimum membership dues owed to the National and State League. If paying online, the cost was \$53 dollars to cover the PayPal fees. The proposal is to increase individual membership to \$55, and \$58 if paying via Paypal to cover additional fees. The additional household membership has not changed.

There will still be an option for a \$25 membership fee to ensure the membership is accessible, and students enrolled part or full-time will have membership dues renewed. This increase will at least allow us to maintain an even budget and not have to pay additional costs to the National and State League for dues. However, dues do not cover funds for general operational costs or funding for programs. Membership will vote on this proposal at the Annual Meeting on May 20, 2023. If you have any questions please reach out to Misty Niemeyer. (See above for contact information.)

**—Misty Niemeyer**

Membership Chair



## ***Annual Meeting***

***Saturday, May 20<sup>th</sup>***

***9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.***





**Stephanie Miele**  
Certified Piano Technician

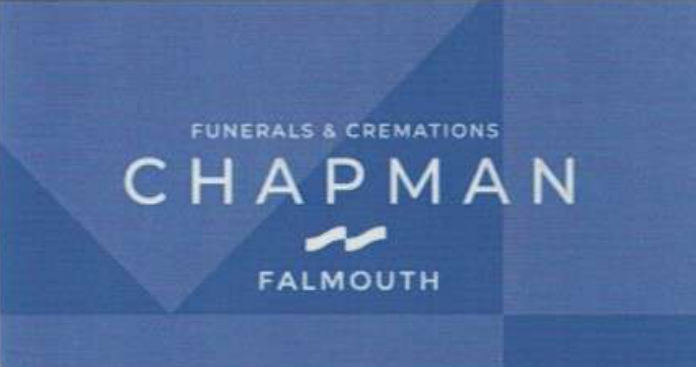
Tuning  
C: 508-685-9866  
H: 508-548-1759  
[steplen@comcast.net](mailto:steplen@comcast.net)



**Get my Goats**

Natural Brush Clearing and Poison Ivy Control

Meghan Hanawalt, Goatherd [info@getmygoatscapecod.com](mailto:info@getmygoatscapecod.com)  
774-521-8745 [www.GetMyGoatsCapeCod.com](http://www.GetMyGoatsCapeCod.com)



FUNERALS & CREMATIONS  
**CHAPMAN**  
FALMOUTH

"I can promise you that women working together—linked, informed and educated—can bring peace and prosperity to this forsaken planet."

—Isabel Allende

***Make your voice heard today!***

## **Contact Information for Your Legislators**

Senator Susan Moran  
617-722-1330  
[Susan.Moran@masenate.gov](mailto:Susan.Moran@masenate.gov)

Representative David Vieira  
617-722-2230 and press 5  
[David.Vieira@mahouse.gov](mailto:David.Vieira@mahouse.gov)

Representative Dylan Fernandes  
617-722-2013 and press 3  
[Dylan.Fernandes@mahouse.gov](mailto:Dylan.Fernandes@mahouse.gov)

Congressman Bill Keating  
508-771-6868  
[Info.keating@mail.house.gov](mailto:Info.keating@mail.house.gov)

## **Letters to the Editor**

### ***The Falmouth Enterprise***

Letters can be mailed to 50 Depot Avenue, Falmouth, MA 02540 or e-mailed directly to the editor at [saito@capenews.net](mailto:saito@capenews.net).

### ***The Cape Cod Times***

Email to [letters@capecodonline.com](mailto:letters@capecodonline.com) or mail to Letters, Cape Cod Times, 319 Main St., Hyannis, MA 02601.

### ***The Boston Globe***

Send an e-mail to [letter@globe.com](mailto:letter@globe.com) or mail to Letters to the Editor, The Boston Globe, PO Box 55819, Boston, MA 02205.

## LWVF Board of Directors 2022-2023

### Board Members

First Vice-President and Steering Committee Chair	Janet Lauer
Second Vice-President	Meghan Hanawalt
Secretary	Karen Dacey
Treasurer	Karen Epstein
Legislative	Judith Ziss
Natural Resources	Richard Johnson
Voter Service	Sylvia Szulkin
Spokesperson	Sylvia Szulkin
Publicity/Bulletin	Mary Fran Buckley,
Co-Editors	Eileen Mattingly
Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging	Chinna Mapp
Membership	Misty Niemeyer
Observer Corps	Denise Morreale
FCTV Liaison	Lynne Rozsa
Annual Meeting Chair	Maro Titus

### Off-Board Specialists

Historian	Kathy Mortenson
Facebook	Penny Duby
Webmaster	Joan Boyer

## Meeting and Event Calendar

<b>May 5</b>	<b>Deadline for your RSVP for the annual meeting</b>
<b>May 20, 9:30 a.m.–11:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Annual Meeting, Coonamessett Inn</b>
<b>May 23, 7 p.m.</b>	<b>Board meeting on Zoom</b>
<b>June 15, 7 p.m.</b>	<b>Observer Corps Reports in Town Hall Civil Defense Room, 59 Town Hall Square (downstairs)</b>
<b>June 27, 7 p.m.</b>	<b>Board meeting on Zoom</b>

## LWVF Friends 2022–2023

Barbara Douglass  
Maria Moniz  
Freddy Valois  
Robert and Barbara Schneider

## 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/>

Submissions for the June issue of the LWVF Bulletin are due on June 1, 2023. Please send copy, photos, and other material to both of these addresses:

maryfran55@earthlink.net  
eileenmattingly@yahoo.com

## 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. A discounted rate is available for students.

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](http://www.lwvf.org). Click on "Join" to join or renew and pay online.

