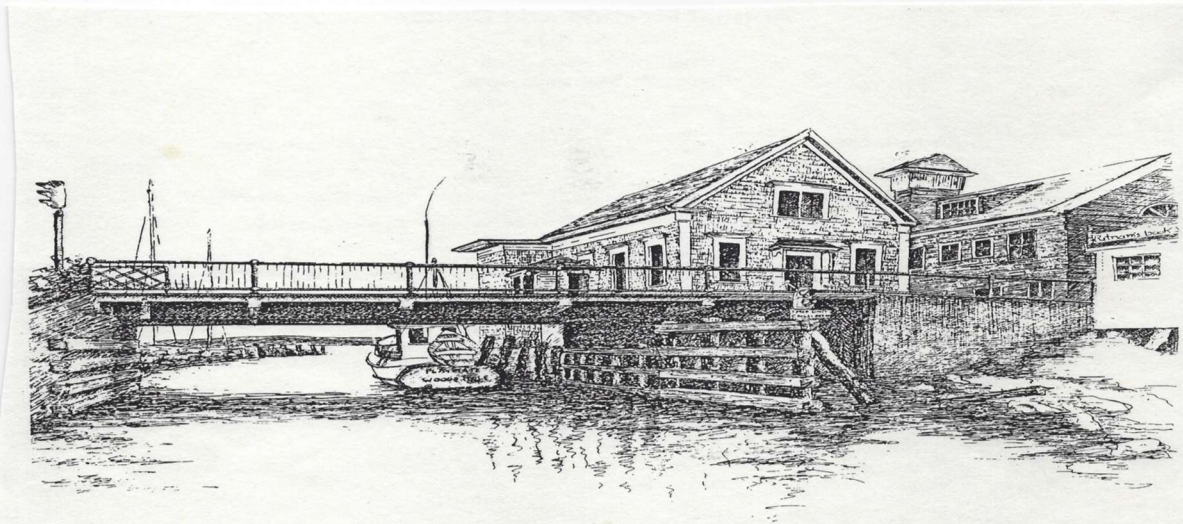


# Annual Report 2026

**May 18, 2026**



*Eel Pond Bridge, Woods Hole*

*Joan T. Kanwisher*

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## LEAGUE MISSION STATEMENT

The League of Women Voters, a non-partisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy



*IN  
MEMORIAM*

2025 - 2026

*Ann Powers Cleary 1931 - 2025*

*Anne Wright Dewees 1934 - 2025*

*Janice Hank 1955-2025*

*Robert Haskell 1948-2025*

*Barbara Nanos Kanellopoulos 1930 - 2025*

*Winnie Crane Mackey 1935 – 2026*



## **LWV 2025-2026 PROGRAMS**

Sept 18, Ranked choice voting film and discussion  
Oct 23 "Despite the Controversy What is DEI?", Dr. Seyana Mawusi  
Oct 25 LWVA league leaders luncheon  
Oct 29 UCT Upper Cape Tech members Luncheon  
Jan 22 2026 UCT members Luncheon  
Feb 19 Coastal Resiliency Program  
Mar 3 LWVUS survey  
April 7 International Women's Breakfast  
Apr 19 DEI Program, An Afternoon with Melissa Ferretti, Chair of the Herring Pond Wampanoag  
Apr 29 candidates night  
May 9 annual meeting  
June Observer Reports

## **FRIENDS OF THE FALMOUTH LEAGUE**

Maria Moniz  
Robert and Barbara Schneider



**LWVF BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2025-2026**

**Steering Committee**

**Chair and 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President -- Janet Lauer**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President – Sheila Scott Gordon**

**Secretary – Richard Johnson**

**Publicity/Bulletin Co-Editor — Mary Fran Buckley**

**Directors Diversity, Equity & Belonging — Don Gibbons**

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**Legislative & Civics — Judy Ziss**

**Membership – Misty Niemeyer**

**Natural Resources — No Chair**

**Observer Corps – Meghan Palanza**

**Publicity/Bulletin Co-Editor -- Eileen Mattingly**

**Treasurer – Joan Boyer**

**Voter Service – Felicia Bordick**

**At-Large – Susan Loucks, Marinna Martini, Bruce**

**Woodin**

**Off-Board Specialists**

**Web Administrator – Gayle Simundza**

**Historian & Email Communication - Kathy Mortenson**

**Nominating Committee – Kathy Mortenson**

**FCTV Representative—Lynne Rozsa**

**Nominating Committee**

**Kathy Mortenson, Chair; Felicia Bordick, Mary Harris, Eileen Miskell, Olivia White**



**LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS<sup>®</sup>**  
**OF FALMOUTH**

**Annual Meeting Program**

MBL Swope (Meigs Room), Woods Hole, MA  
Saturday, May 9th, 2026

**Introduction of Speakers**

Sheila Scott Gordon

Sheriff Buckley of Barnstable County is the guest speaker and she will be attending with with the new Bridge Center Coordinator, Courtney Henderson and the Government and Community Affairs Director, Hannah Buntich.

**Civic leadership Award Presentation**

Kathy Mortenson

**Call to Order**

Janet Lauer

- \* Greet New Members
- \* Introduction of parliamentarian Judith Fenwick

**Approval of Annual Meeting Minutes of May 2025**

Richard Johnson

- \*Appoint Readers for Current Meeting Minutes

**Treasurer's Report and Membership Report**

Joan Boyer

- \* Approve Proposed Budget for 2026-2027

**Steering Committee Report**

Janet Lauer

- \*Local Study Proposals Local Study progress (Meghan Palanza) \* Outgoing members of the board Bruce Woodin, Felicia Bordick \* Outgoing "member at large" Janice Rook

**Nominating Committee Report and Election**

Kathy Mortenson

**Introduction of the New Board Members**

Janet Lauer

- Marinna Martini, Lisa Halvorson (member at large) Robin Bowerman (new Membership chair), Lynne Rosza (new Voter Service Chair)

**League Leader Award Presentation**

Janet Lauer

**Direction to the Board**

Janet Lauer

**Adjournment**

LWV FALMOUTH PROPOSED	BUDGET 2026		
FALMOUTH			
	FY2025-2026	FY2025-2026	FY2026-2027
INCOME	Budget	Actual(as of 4/14/26)	Proposed Budget
Ads	200.00		\$ 175
Annual Meeting	1,000.00		\$ 1,000
Contributions - non Members	300.00	\$ 242.28	\$ 500
Contributions - Members	650.00	\$ 452.20	\$ 500
Dues	1,610.00	\$ 928.02	\$ 1,600
Development / Fund Raisers	5,000.00	\$ 5,413.69	\$ 5,000
Grants		\$ 400.00	
Transfer from Savings			
Replacement Checks		n/a	
<b>INCOME TOTAL</b>	<b>8,760.00</b>	<b>\$ 7,436.19</b>	<b>\$ 8,775</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			\$ 400
Action/Program	250.00	\$ 275.00	\$ 300
Administration	322.00	\$ 32.00	\$ 100
Road Race		\$ 1,141.40	
Postage	68.00		\$ 460
Web Site Fee	475.00	\$ 425.00	\$ 1,850
Annual Meeting & Report	1,000.00		
Bank & Paypal Fees	25.00		\$ 1,125
			\$ 300
Printing	750.00	\$ 270.15	\$ 300
Convention - National	-		\$ 300
Convention -State	500.00		\$ 325
Membership & Directory	400.00		\$ 200
Participation & Gifts *	525.00	\$ 225.00	\$ 200
Per Member Pay Mass. (PMP)	2,290.00	\$ 2,311.50	\$ 1,000
Per Member Pay US (PMP)	3,328.00	\$ 3,360.00	<b>\$ 6,860</b>
Voter Service	300.00		\$ 1,000
<b>EXPENSE TOTAL</b>	<b>10,233.00</b>	<b>\$ 8,040.05</b>	<b>\$ 7,010</b>
	(1,473.00)	\$ (603.89)	
checking acct		\$ 6,676.72	
LWV Educ Fund		\$ 150.00	
<b>TOTAL CASH</b>		<b>\$ 6,826.72</b>	



## LWVF Annual Meeting Minutes

May 17, 2025, Swope Hall, MBL, Woods Hole, MA  
45 members and guests in attendance

Janet Lauer, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President welcomed attendees to the breakfast meeting at 10:04 am and then invited 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President Sheila Scott Gordon to introduce two program speakers, Patricia Gadsby and Jeny Christian to speak about Farming Falmouth.

Patricia began with the history of the group, inspired by a presentation by former Commissioner of Agriculture Greg Watson about the loss of farmland and farmers in the commonwealth and the resulting dependence on imported food from out of state. Several individuals who heard that talk banded together to form Farming Falmouth, a non-profit organization whose mission is to cultivate an informed and engaged local food community. Several of these individuals served on the Town Committee to guide the future of Tony Andrews Farm, now home to Farming Falmouth's Service Garden and Community Orchard. Jeny elaborated on the programs for farmland conservation, the service garden, community orchard, growing together workshops, gleaning, community gardens, share your bounty, farm to school and the Falmouth Food System Assessment. The service garden and orchard are cultivated by volunteers and used as teaching facilities for permaculture practices. Produce grown in the Service Garden is donated to the Falmouth Food Pantry. Falmouth Farming also operates three community gardens with a total of 170 garden plots and a long waiting list for local residents. Farming Falmouth also operates Share Your Bounty, encouraging gardeners who produce more food than they can use to share it with the Food Pantry. Volunteers also glean produce from cooperating farm fields after the farmers feel harvest is no longer economic, donating this food to the Food Pantry as well.

Working with the 300 Committee, Farming Falmouth is purchasing an existing small farm, The Patch, to keep it in agricultural production. The Falmouth Food System Assessment established a base line to track changes in Falmouth farm and food supply chains and to nurture a resilient and sustainable food future in Falmouth

Janet Lauer opened the business meeting at 10:34 with a welcome to new members: Bernadette Levesque and Lisa Halverson. Judy Fenwick was introduced as Parliamentarian.

The Minutes of the last Annual Meeting were presented by Richard Johnson (Secretary) as printed in the program and were approved as written by the Annual Meeting. Maggie Sweasy and Nancy Copley will serve as Readers for this year's minutes.

Joan Boyer (Treasurer) presented the treasurer's report and proposed 2025-26 Budget as printed in the program. These were approved by the Annual Meeting.

Janet Lauer introduced the five topics for a new Local Study suggested at a meeting in February: study alternatives to our existing form of government, school system reorganization, election security, fire preparedness and bicycle connections through/around town. Several expressed interest in the form of government (open town meeting as compared to representative town meeting); Judy Fenwick explained that the form of government is mandated in the Town Charter and any change involves altering the Charter and petitioning the Massachusetts Legislature. Misty Niemeyer noted that the County is about to undertake a fire study. Sandy Faiman-Silva suggested that affordable and workforce housing would be a worth-while topic, to inform the public and dispel misinformation. Meghan Palanza spoke in favor of this suggestion. Misty Niemeyer, Judy Fenwick, Kathy Mortenson and Sheila Gordon Scott also spoke in favor, noting that there are good resources in the town (Kim Fish, Housing Coordinator) to contact. Misty Niemeyer moved to adopt this





topic, Stephanie Miele seconded the motion and the Annual Meeting voted to approve. Meghan Palanza, Bernadette Levesque, Lynne Rozsa and Sheila Gordon Scott agreed to be on this Committee.

Janet Lauer thanked outgoing members of the Board: Karen Epstein (member at large), and Nominating Committee Chair Stephanie Miele and member Olivia White.

Misty Niemeyer discussed the new Membership procedure administer by LWVUS in which you join/renew on line on their website, selecting LWVF as your local league, for a fee of \$75. That fee is distributed to US, MA and local leagues automatically. It is a “pay what you can” membership, more or less than \$75 if you wish. Misty also announced that four runners have volunteered for the Road Race and that she would welcome others and any member who wishes to help on the Committee.

Stephanie Miele presented the Nominations for the 2025-26 Board as printed in the report, She thanked those Board Members continuing in their roles and noted that Susan Loucks would be willing to serve as Member-at-large, Eileen Miskell and Mary Harris would join the Nomination Committee and that Kathy Mortenson was willing to serve as Chair of the Nomination Committee. She also noted additions to the printed slate in that that Voter Service will have co-chairs (Chinna Mapp and Felicia Bordick) and Natural Resources will have a Steering Committee of Bruce Woodin, Denise Morreale, Kathy Mortenson and John Carroll. The Annual Meeting voted to approve the slate as amended.

Janet Lauer announced the 2025 League Leader Award given to Meghan Hannawalt. Meghan has served as 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President, Treasurer, member of local and state DEIB Committees, Road Race Runner, representative to the International Women’s Day Breakfast Planning Committee and others. She will join the LWVMA Board at their Annual Meeting next month. The Annual Meeting expressed their gratitude for Meghan’s service.

Janet Lauer invited attendees to give Direction to the incoming Board. More community voter engagement was suggested as was increasing younger membership. Janet then thanked Sheila and her committee for organizing and arranging the Annual Meeting venue, program and meal, with a round of applause from the attendees. The next LWVF event will be the Observer Corps Reports on June 26<sup>th</sup> in Town Hall.

The Annual Meeting adjourned at 11:10am.

Richard Johnson, Secretary

## LWVF LOCAL STUDY REPORT 2025

### LWVF Local Study 2023-2025- FALMOUTH IN FOCUS UPDATE

Members of Study: Judy Fenwick, Chair; Richard Johnson, Kathy Mortenson

At the May 2023 LWVF Annual Meeting it was suggested that the iconic LWVF publication, *Falmouth in Focus*, should be updated. This has become the 2023-2025 LWVF Local Study, "Falmouth in Focus - Sixth Edition."

The last edition of *Falmouth in Focus* (fifth edition) dates back to 2010. An electronic version, titled *Know Your Town*, and listed as the 2019 update of the fifth edition, can be found in the recesses of the LWVF website.

The final edits for this sixth edition are in progress and the committee expects to conclude its work this summer. We plan to print a limited number of copies and to make it available as a PDF on the LWVF website as well as a print-on-demand booklet through an online bookseller for others who would like copies.

My collaborators, Richard Johnson and Kathy Mortenson, have been super researchers, fact checkers, and editors. They have made this project more fun than I expected. This collaboration reminds me that I have never met a League study, project, or committee that I didn't like; and that goes back to my first League involvement in the 1992-1993 "Children in Focus" study under the direction of League Vice President, Lillian Spongberg.

*Submitted by Judy Fenwick*

## PROPOSED LOCAL PROGRAM 2025

The LWVF Study Committee is reviewing the proposed "Transfer Tax," which would allow Cape Cod communities to apply a local-option fee on the sale of high-value real estate. The proposal is currently before the state legislature and must be enacted into law before any community on Cape Cod can adopt the fee.



**NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT 2026**

**Nominating Committee Report 2026**

Kathy Mortenson, Chair  
Felicia Bordick, Board member  
Mary Harris, Eileen Miskell, Olivia White, Members

- 1st Vice President Janet Lauer 026-2027
- 2nd Vice President Sheila Scott-Gordon 2026-2028
- Secretary Richard Johnson 2025-2027
- Treasurer Joan Boyer 2025-2027
- Legislative Judith Ziss 2026-2028
- Natural Resources
- Voter Service Lynne Rozsa 2026-2028
- DEIB Don Gibbons 2026-2028
- Membership Robin Bowerman 2026-2028
- Observer Corps Meghan Palanza 2025-2027
- Publicity Mary Fran Buckley and Eileen Mattingly 2025-2027
- At-Large Susan Loucks 2025-2027
- At-Large Marinna Martini 2026-2028
- At-Large Lisa Halvorson 2026-2028

**Nominating Committee 2026-2027**  
**Olivia White**



## Annual Meeting LWVF 2026 Report **LWV Member Rights and Responsibilities Policy**

*Approved by the LWVUS Board of Directors April 29, 2023*

### **I. Introduction**

The purpose of the Member Rights and Responsibilities policy is to ensure that all active members of the League of Women Voters (LWV)<sup>1</sup>, including Board members, members of state and local Leagues, members-at-large (MALs), and Inter-League Organizations (ILOs), are committed to maintaining the [mission and integrity of LWV](#). The grassroots influence of LWV is strengthened by a unified understanding of the responsibilities of being a League member as well as what members can expect from LWV. The Board of Directors of the League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) and its Governance Committee will review these policies from time to time and revise as needed.

### **II. Member Rights**

Individuals who join the League of Women Voters as voting members become part of a highly trusted, 100+ year-old organization comprised of a large grassroots network of activists, with Leagues in 50 states, plus the District of Columbia and the US Virgin Islands. LWV is committed to providing opportunities for members to amplify their individual political power by participating in local, state, and national League actions. Additionally, League voting members in good standing<sup>2</sup>:

1. Are automatically members of their local and state Leagues and LWVUS.
2. Can join any local League they choose. However, an individual may be a voting member of only one local League and its related state League.
3. May participate in LWV-sponsored events and activities, including access to members-only opportunities.
4. Can participate in their local League's annual meetings and their state and national LWV conventions according to the bylaws of their local and state Leagues and LWVUS.
5. Elect their local, state, and national leaders according to the respective local and state Leagues' bylaws and the LWVUS Bylaws.
6. Are eligible to run for LWVUS leadership positions and leadership positions in their local and state League according to the respective bylaws.
7. Are entitled to full participation in LWV without barriers as stated in the local, state, or national Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Policies.

### **III. Member Responsibilities**





To promote the success of LWV and help ensure a safe environment for collaboration, all members must:

1. Abide by the applicable rules of LWVUS and their state and local Leagues as set out in each League's [bylaws](#) and official policies.
2. Abide by the applicable [nonpartisan policies](#) when acting on behalf of LWV. LWV members are free to participate in partisan politics on their own, including campaigns and being a candidate themselves, but they must not identify themselves as a LWV member or use any League's nonpublic resources when doing so. Members in LWV leadership positions should further consult their local, state, and national LWV nonpartisan policies.
3. Abide by the applicable [diversity, equity, and inclusion \(DEI\) policies](#).
4. Engage in behavior that promotes respectful discourse and refrain from physically or verbally abusive behaviors toward any LWV member, employee of any League, or members of the public when participating in LWV activities, including undertaking any duties they may have as leaders of a League, promoting [LWV policy positions](#), or identifying themselves as LWV members. This includes online activity. LWV is committed to creating an inclusive environment for all, particularly for members of historically marginalized groups.
5. Commit LWV to action only when authorized to do so by their state or local League or LWVUS.
6. Not act in opposition to a League position or policy when authorized to act on behalf of LWV or when identifying themselves as LWV members. Members are not required to agree with all LWV positions and may choose to not participate in activities that promote positions they oppose.
7. Not make statements on behalf of LWV or purport to represent LWV through any public medium, including online media, unless specifically authorized to do so by their state or local League or LWVUS.
8. Comply with all LWVUS brand standards to protect its trademarks.

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**LWVF AWARDS**

**CIVIC LEADER AWARDS**

- 2004 Margaret Russell
- 2007 Virginia Valiela
- 2008 Peter Kirwin
- 2009 Judith Fenwick
- 2011 Ruth Brazier, Virginia Gregg
- 2012 Doris Epstein
- 2014 Judy Stetson
- 2019 Sylvia Szulkin
- 2021 Mindy Todd
- 2026 Michael Palmer

**CIVIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS**

- 2010 Priscilla Roslansky
- 2015 Jayne Abbott
- 2018 Joan Boyer, Kathy Mortenson, Pamela Polloni
- 2019 Alice Carey

**LEAGUE LEADER AWARDS**

- 2019 Joanne Voorhis
- 2021 Richard Johnson,  
Carol McKeon  
Denise Morreale  
Brenda Nolan  
Jenny Putnam  
Jacqueline Webster  
Judith Ziss
- 2025 Meghan Hanawalt
- 2026 Felicia Bordick



## PAST PRESIDENTS

1953 – 1955	Janet Litzkow Bosworth	1978 – 1979	Judith Stetson, Virginia Gregg
1955 – 1957	Polly Corcoran		Mary Lou Montgomery
1957 - 1959	Ruth Burrough	1979 – 1980	Judith Stetson, Mary Lou Montgomery
1959 – 1961	Carol Walter		
1961 – 1963	Janet Litzkow Bosworth	1980 – 1982	Elizabeth Phelps
1963 – 1965	Joanne Voorhis	1982 -1984	Janet Fredericks, Elaine Tripp
1965 - 1967	Elizabeth Starbrough	1984– 1988	Judith Coleman
1967– 1969	Megan Jones	1988 – 1990	Jean Halvorson
1969 – 1971	Dorothy Hahn	1990 – 1994	Deborah Hitchings
1971 – 1973	D'Maris Mangelsdorf	1994 – 1998	Lillian Spongberg
1973 – 1975	Heather McMurtrie Paine	1998 – 1999	Helen Warren, Doris Curran
1975 – 1977	Victoria Lowell	1999 – 2001	Joan Boyer, Monica Riley
1977 – 1978	Susan Goux, Virginia Gregg	2001- 2005	Helen Warren
	Judith Stetson	2005 – 2009	Deborah Siegal
		2009 – 2011	Joan Boyer

## PAST STEERING COMMITTEES

2011-2014	Joan Boyer, Betsy Fontes, Kathy Mortenson, Sylvia Szulkin, Joanne Voorhis
2014 – 2016	Alice Carey, Betsy Fontes, Kathy Mortenson, Barbara Kanellopoulos, Sylvia Szulkin
2016 – 2017	Alice Carey , Doris Epstein Betsy Fontes, Barbara Kanellopoulos, Sylvia Szulkin
2017 – 2018	Meg Borden, Alice Carey, Doris Epstein, Betsy Fontes, Sylvia Szulkin
2018 – 2019	Alice Carey, Doris Epstein, Denise Morreale, Sylvia Szulkin, Joanne Treistman
2019 – 2020	Joan Boyer, Alice Carey, Doris Epstein, Sylvia Szulkin, Joanne Treistman
2020 - 2021	Joan Boyer, Marcia Easterling, Misty Niemeyer, Maggie Sweasy, Joanne Treistman
2021 – 2022	Joan Boyer, Marcia Easterling, Misty Niemeyer, Richard Johnson, Maggie Sweasy
2022 – 2023	Janet Lauer, Meghan Hanawalt, Misty Niemeyer, Richard Johnson, Sylvia Szulkin
2023 – 2024	Janet Lauer, Meghan Hanawalt, Chinna Mapp, Richard Johnson, Sylvia Szulkin
2024 – 2025	Janet Lauer, Sheila Scott Gordon, Richard Johnson, Mary Fran Buckley, Joan Boyer
2025 – 2026	Janet Lauer, Sheila Scott Gordon, Richard Johnson, Mary Fran Buckley, Don Gibbons

