



League of Women Voters® of Falmouth Bulletin

September 2023

Steering Committee Report

Welcome to the September 2023 issue of the LWV Falmouth Bulletin!

We're absolutely thrilled to have you here, and we can't wait to share some of the exciting events we have lined up for you. Whether you're a seasoned member or brand new to the League, this is the place where ideas flourish, questions often find answers, and connections are made.

Here's a sneak preview of three upcoming events that you won't want to miss:

1. ****Meet and Greet, Sept. 21, 6:00-8:00 p.m.****

Join The Falmouth League for refreshments and the chance to mingle with League members while learning about the League committees. Explore a wide range of topics with committee chairs, thought leaders, and passionate community members. Expand your horizons and engage in thought-provoking discussions that will leave you inspired. Members: Bring a friend!! Location: DCOI (David Center) Building on WHOI's Quissett Campus, 360 Woods Hole Road, Woods Hole.

2. ****Natural Resources Event, Oct.12, 7:00 p.m.****

Get ready for an informative presentation on innovations in processing human waste! The program hosts [Brian Baumgaertel](#) for a discussion on I/A Septic Systems and Urine Diversion. Brian is the Director of the Massachusetts Alternative Septic System Test Center on Cape Cod. Dive into the excess nitrogen challenge that can be solved with creativity, problem-solving, and cutting-edge technology. Who knows, you might even discover your next big inspiration here! Location: Falmouth Public Library, Main Branch.

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3. ****The Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging (DEIB) Committee screening of the film *Just Mercy*, Nov. 9, 6:00 p.m.****

Mark your calendars for a night of connection and exploration of what justice means. On the second Thursday of November, we're hosting a film screening and guided discussion of the movie "Just Mercy," based on the book by Bryan Stevenson, founder of the Equal Justice Initiative. Engage in facilitated discussions, forge new understandings, and exchange ideas with fellow learners.

Remember, the journey is even better when we embark on it together. So, let's start this exciting adventure of knowledge exchange, collaboration, and eventful experiences. Your voice — as well as your vote — matters, and we can't wait to hear your thoughts! Once again, welcome aboard!

—Meghan Hanawalt
2nd Vice President

Member News

Membership

We have had no new members since the last meeting and the membership drive and renewals have slowed a bit. The drive needs to be wrapped up soon so that we can publish the membership directory.

Fifty-six members have renewed, although the numbers are a bit confusing, as we have new members who started before a certain time and lifetime members, both of whom do not need to renew their memberships.

We have 82 primary members who still need to renew. E-blasts and larger messages don't seem to reach everyone; personal calls and reach-outs work best. Typically, the individual emails scoop up quite a few members, and then the individual calls help get the rest! I have a general script for the calls and I will send some names to those who offered to help make calls. Thank you to those who offered to help!

I am hopeful that we will end up with slightly more members than last year. There have been 12 new members since last April.

—**Misty Niemeyer**
Membership Chair

In Memoriam Doris Curran

Doris M. Curran of Falmouth, born in Boston on June 22, 1929, passed away on August 8th at 1:18 PM, surrounded by family and loved ones....



Doris, along with raising four very... interesting children and traversing the globe, found joy in her years as both a lab technician and a paralegal. An active member of the League of Women Voters, she was also a long-time volunteer at Falmouth Hospital, and her viewership alone was responsible for a significant percentage of the ratings received for the television program "Law And Order."

Doris is pre-deceased by her noted husband, Professor William J. Curran, and her eldest son, Professor Brian A. Curran. Doris is survived by her adoring children and grandchildren: Keith R. Curran, Sheila M. Dennin (spouse Matthew, grandchildren Daniel [Ashley], Patrick [Sydney], Natalie [David], great grandson Colin and another on the way); Geoffrey M. Curran (spouse Jill, grandchildren Ned and Joe), and Mary J. Curran (widow of Brian).

ELL VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Teach English classes for adults for the Falmouth English Learning Collaborative at Falmouth High School, Wednesdays, 6:30-8:00 p.m., late September – April.

Students are of all ages and education levels and from many different countries. They buy a textbook, and teachers have freedom to include other material and activities in lesson plans. Beginner classes have a bilingual (Portuguese-English) co-teacher. Substitutes are available for a teacher's vacation absence.

The work requires commitment and enthusiasm, not necessarily experience in teaching or foreign language ability. Other skills can apply. It is a rewarding volunteer activity!

Further information and materials are available. Call Susan Morrison, 508-563-2492 or email Eileen Mattingly at eileenmattingly@yahoo.com for more information.

Upcoming Events

What's Up with Offshore Wind?

Massachusetts and other New England states are planning on offshore wind as a major factor in meeting renewable energy generation and emissions reduction goals as we transition off fossil fuels. Take a deep dive into the Northeast's offshore wind industry and learn about the value of critical offshore wind projects and threats to their timely deployment. Each session has a separate Zoom registration. Sign up for one, two, or all three! See full descriptions and registration links for each session on the [LWVMA website](#). This series is co-hosted by LWVMA and New England for Offshore Wind (NE4OSW).

What's Up with Offshore Wind? Current Status - Future Plans - Getting It Done

Webinars are 4-5 p.m. Eastern Time

Webinar I, Sept. 14: Collaboration and Ambition:

Where Offshore Wind Stands Now

Webinar II, Nov. 16: Opportunities and Obstacles: Costs and Benefits of Offshore Wind

Webinar III, Jan. 18: Conflicts and Solutions: Over-coming Offshore Wind Opposition

Democracy at Risk!

A discussion with Nancy MacLean, author of

Democracy in Chains: The Deep History of the Radical Right's Stealth Plan for America



September 11, 7 p.m.

The program will take place at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 28 Mugford Street in Marblehead and live on Zoom. Register here:

<https://www.uumarblehead.org/lectures>

Natural Resources

SAVE THE DATE

Natural Resources Committee of LWVF Presents:

Who: Brian Baumgaertel, Director and Senior Environmental Specialist, MASSTC

About: I/A Septic Systems and Urine Diversion

Where: Falmouth Public Library, Main Street Falmouth, MA

When: Thursday, October 12, 2023, 7:00 p.m.

For more information, see the article on the next page.

League Leaders Lunch

Massachusetts League leaders from around the state will gather September 30 at the Harvard Unitarian Universalist Church in Harvard, MA for the annual League Leader Lunch. This year's topic is the effect of climate change on our water supply, PFAS, and what it means for your community's drinking water, and what local Leagues are doing to solve the problem. The featured speaker will be Katharine Lange, Policy Director of the Massachusetts Rivers Alliance.

The second half of the program will be a panel of League members who are working on water-related issues. The Falmouth League Natural Resources Committee was suggested as a panel member because of our work done on wastewater management issues. Janet Lauer, first vice president, and Denise Morreale, Natural Resources member, will attend. When the panel format is known, the entire Natural Resources Committee will work on the presentation.

—Denise Morreale

Natural Resources Committee

Transportation Local Study Group

Let's Circle Back to Transportation Needs

The Transportation Local Study Group reconvened in August when it was apparent that transportation issues are mounting at the state, county, and local level. Instead of creating a stand-alone committee on transportation within the League, we are going to monitor areas of concern regarding representation, regional transportation (both intra and off Cape), Woods Hole congestion, Bourne and Sagamore Bridge renovations, and overall traffic challenges. In order to bring issues in a timely manner to those stakeholders who are most affected, a monthly update in the LWVF newsletter seems to be an efficient means of communication.

Our group will have more information for any League members who may be interested in joining us at the September 21 Meet and Greet.

***—Denise Morreale, Richard Johnson,
John Carroll, Maro Titus***

Voter Service

The first Voter Service committee meeting for this year is being held Monday, August 28. This is an organizational meeting to decide on the agenda for the year ahead. Areas of interest that have been identified so far are:

- Concentration on locally based voter registration and get-out-the-vote efforts based on concern that only 19% of eligible voters voted in the last local election.
- A get-out-the-vote campaign based on the question "Why bother to vote?" These government campaigns could be directed at local voters as well as nationally.

A Timely Topic: Alternative Septic Systems

In the Summer Bulletin, our committee reported on our June tour of the Mass Alternative Septic System Test Center (MASSTC) on Kitteridge Road in Sandwich MA. Our tour guide was Bryan Horsley. Our idea was to organize a field trip as our Natural Resources public program for the fall of 2023.

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) recently issued new regulations for Cape Cod requiring towns to obtain watershed permits to deal with pollution in ponds and coastal waters within two years. The permit is a 20-year permit allowing the community to design a system for the specific needs of that community. If any given town defaults, all existing septic systems in that town will need to be replaced with Innovative/Alternative septic systems within five years. In light of these regulations, the Natural Resources committee reached out to the MASSTC. Instead of arranging a field trip, our committee requested a presentation at our October monthly meeting to reach a larger number of people before Town Meeting.

Director and Senior Environmental Specialist Brian Baumgaertel has accepted our invitation to present a public program on I/A Septic Systems and Urine Diversion. The program will be held at the Falmouth Public Library, October 12, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. The November town meeting members will again hear a proposal for a sewer plan including the urine-diversion pilot project.

—Denise Morreale
Natural Resources Committee

- We learned that allowing political signs outside a Candidates' Night depends on the policy of the library or school where the event is held.

There will be more to share after the committee meeting.

—Felicia Bordick and China Mapp
Co-Chairs, Voter Service

League Policy Positions

Interested in the League Policy Positions? Check out *Impact on Issues: A Guide to Public Policy Positions of the League of Women Voters*.

The Introduction to this brochure presents the national League's public policy positions.

Impact on Issues is designed to help League members use LWVUS public policy positions effectively at the national, state, local, and regional levels. The intention is to inspire Leagues to use national positions to act in their own communities.

Impact on Issues has been organized so that "Taking Action" is front and center, followed by the League Principles. Then, for quick reference, the LWVUS public policy Positions in Brief summarize the more detailed positions presented in the sections that follow. For each of the major issue areas, the listing gives the full official statement of position in bold type. The history sections provide background for each position and trace significant actions and achievements.

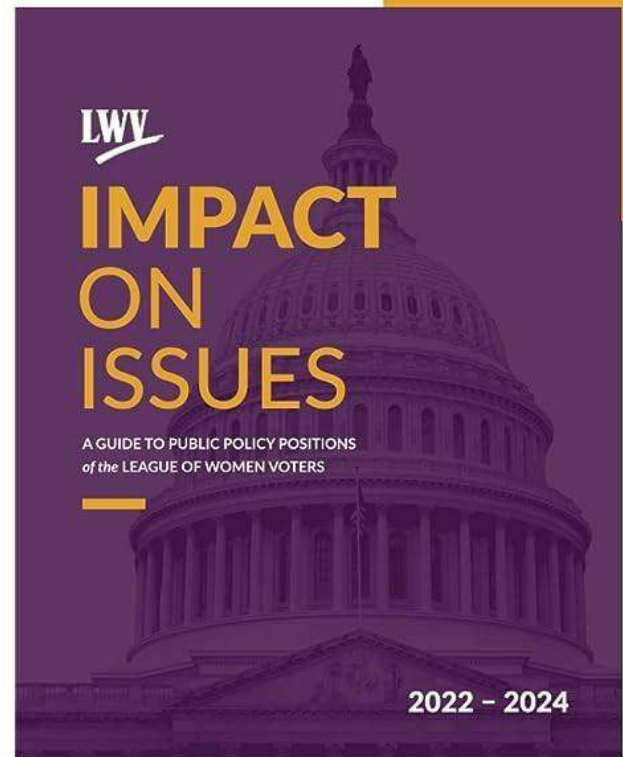
Since 1920, the League of Women Voters has been an activist, grassroots organization whose leaders believed that people should play a critical role in democracy. The League of Women Voters was founded by Carrie Chapman Catt in 1920, just six months before the 19th Amendment to the US Constitution was ratified, giving women the right to vote.

Throughout the years, the League has continued its dual purposes of education and advocacy, engaging in studies on representative government, international relations, natural resources, and social policy. Although our history of advocacy goes back to our beginnings, this version of *Impact on Issues* covers our advocacy efforts beginning in the 1960s.

Impact on Issues is an indispensable resource for League members. A clear understanding of LWVUS positions, how they interrelate, and how they can complement and reinforce state, local, and regional Inter-League Organization (ILO) positions, strengthens the League's impact on issues at all levels of government.

In applying LWVUS positions to national, state, local, and regional issues, each appropriate League board — depending on the level of action — is responsible for determining whether member understanding and agreement exists and whether the action makes sense in terms of timing, need, and effectiveness.

To access the full report, go to: https://www.lwv.org/sites/default/files/2023-02/LWV_ImpactOnIssues2022-2024.pdf.



The League of Women Voters of Falmouth

Invites you to a

Fall Meet and Greet

Meet other members. Bring a friend!

Learn more about your League.

- Committee Chair presentations
- Light Refreshments

September 21, 2023

6:00–8:00 p.m.

Location: WHOI Quissett Campus

David Center

360 Woods Hole Road

Questions? Contact Meghan Hanawalt

at meghan@butter.toast.net



Stephanie Miele
Certified Piano Technician

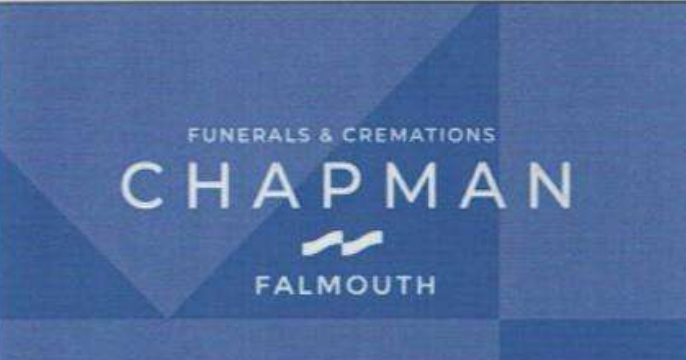
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Contact Information for Your Legislators

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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.

The Cape Cod Times

Email to 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 or mail
to Letters to the Editor, The Boston Globe,
PO Box 55819, Boston, MA 02205.

LWVF Board of Directors 2023-2024

Board Members

First Vice-President	Janet Lauer*
Second Vice-President	Meghan Hanawalt*
Secretary	Richard Johnson*
Treasurer	Joan Boyer
Legislative	Judith Ziss
Natural Resources	Richard Johnson, Kathy Mortenson, Denise Morreale, John Carroll, Sally Palmer
Voter Service	Felicia Bordick and Chinna Mapp*
Spokesperson	Sylvia Szulkin*
Publicity/Bulletin Co-Editors	Mary Fran Buckley, Eileen Mattingly
Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging	Chinna Mapp
Membership	Misty Niemeyer
Observer Corps	Meghan Palanza
At-Large	Lynne Rozsa
At-Large	Karen Epstein
Annual Meeting	Position Open

Off-Board Specialists

Historian	Kathy Mortenson
Social Media	Penny Duby
Email Communication	Kathy Mortenson
Webmaster	Joan Boyer

Nominating Committee

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

*Member of Steering Committee

Meeting and Event Calendar

September 21, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.	Meet and Greet. David Building, 360 Woods Hole Road, Woods Hole
September 26, 7:00 p.m.	Board meeting, Gus Canty Center, Falmouth
October 12, 7:00 p.m.	Presentation by Brian Baumgaerten on A/I Septic Systems and Urine Diversion. Hermann Room, Main Library
October 24, 7:00 p.m.	Board meeting, Gus Canty Center, Falmouth

Contact us:

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Email: FalmouthLWV@gmail.com

Website: www.lwvf.org

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

Join the League of Women Voters: Democracy in Action!

You do not have to be a resident of Falmouth to join. Membership dues are \$55 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. Click on "Join" to join or renew and pay online.



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

maryfran55@earthlink.net
eileenmattingly@yahoo.com



League of Women Voters

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JOIN

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

Democracy in Action



Image by Kit Irwin