



League of Women Voters[®] of Falmouth Bulletin

June 2024

VOTE411

If you have questions about voting procedures and voting options—or any other voting-related questions—there is a terrific website that will assist in answering any concerns or confusion. The best news is, this site was founded and is supported by the League of Women Voters Education Fund, and as such adheres to the League’s mission to be nonpartisan. As the website explains:

“Launched by the League of Women Voters Education Fund (LWVEF) in October of 2006, VOTE411.org is a ‘one-stop-shop’ for election-related information. It provides nonpartisan information to the public with both general and state-specific information on the following aspects of the election process:

- Absentee ballot information
- Ballot measure information (where applicable)
- Early voting options (where applicable)
- Election dates
- Factual data on candidates in various federal, state, and local races

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Arts Alive Falmouth



LWVF Presents “We The People” at Arts Alive

Saturday, June 15, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Sunday, June 16, 9 a.m. to noon

on the Falmouth Library Green

Come view Falmouth High School students’ artwork depicting voting rights in our Constitution. Get registered to vote. Write postcards to family and friends reminding them to vote. Take the American citizenship quiz and get your free copy of the Constitution.

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Annual Membership Dues



It is time to renew your LWVF Membership Dues for the 2024-2025 year. If you have already renewed, are a lifetime member, or joined in 2024, you are all set, and please disregard this notice. Otherwise, please log on and renew (register your information online) and pay via PayPal or send in a check.

We need your renewed membership now to continue our amazing programs and prepare for the upcoming election season.

Go to our website, <https://my.lwv.org/massachusetts/falmouth>, and click on the JOIN or RENEW button. Instructions on how to register online and either pay online or mail in a check are included. Checks should be mailed to the address below; however, a registration/renewal form must be submitted online. If you are unable to submit via computer, email or call Misty Niemeyer for a paper version of the form to include. Please consider registering/renewing online as it eases the work of the Membership Committee and ensures your information is correct for the Membership Directory.

LWVF
PO BOX 450
Falmouth, MA 02541

Membership Dues must be paid by June 22, 2024!

Individual membership dues have increased this year, as voted on by the Board and membership at the Annual Meeting, May 18, 2024. See dues rates at right.

Current Membership Dues (as of May 18, 2024):

- Individual Membership = \$65 *increased
- Individual Membership via PayPal = \$68
- Additional Household Member = \$25 (same rate), Household Membership = \$90
- Household Membership via PayPal = \$93
- Affordable Membership option = \$25
- Student Membership = waived for Full/Part-time students - please register online each year to update your information.

Because we want to ensure that the League is accessible to all, money is allocated annually for scholarships, and the membership fee should not prevent anyone from joining or renewing. Please reach out to Misty Niemeyer. (See contact information on next page.)

National and State League Membership Fees

The increases in membership dues now cover the dues paid to the LWVMA and LWVUS. Our League is left with a very small additional amount that primarily funds operating costs, programs, and scholarship memberships. Additional funds to bridge the gap are raised through donations, bulletin advertisements,

Continued on next page

VOTE411, cont.

- General information on such topics as how to watch debates with a critical eye
- ID requirements
- Polling place locations
- Registration deadlines
- Voter qualifications
- Voter registration forms
- Voting machines”

The website further points out: “An important component of VOTE411.org is the polling place locator, which enables users to type in their address and retrieve the poll location for the voting precinct in which that address is located. The League has found that this is among the most sought after information in the immediate days leading up to, and on, Election Day.”

VOTE411.org is a superb election resource for nonpartisan content that is updated continuously throughout the year. Their mission: “Vote411 is committed to ensuring voters have the information they need to successfully participate in every election. Whether it’s local, state, or federal, every election is important to ensuring our laws and policies reflect the values and beliefs of our communities.”

Peruse their website, and consider supporting this important work to ensure full voter participation.

Annual Membership, cont.

and event charges.

- LWVUS – Individual = \$32
- LWVMA – Individual = \$23
- Total LWVUS & LWVMA = \$55
- LWVUS & LWVMA – Additional Household member = \$25
- LWVUS & LWVMA – Student = Waived

Paying membership dues on time helps minimize the workload on our committee, allowing us to focus on recruitment and membership engagement. Please get your renewals to us ASAP, and if you know of potential new members, please encourage them to join, or contact me, and I can reach out.

Thank you all. We cannot do this amazing work without you. We are grateful to have you as a part of the League, and we look forward to next year!

Please reach out to me with any membership questions!

— **Misty Niemeyer**

Membership Chair

Email: mistyniemeyer13@gmail.com

Cell: 912-996-3985

In Memoriam

Doris Epstein

Doris Epstein was an indefatigable member of the League and a mentor to many. She was a member of the Steering Committee of the League of Women Voters of Falmouth from 2016 to 2020. She received the LWVF Civic Leader award in 2012.

In Memoriam

Jack Easterling

A teacher, administrator, and coach for many years, Jack retired in Falmouth and continued to serve his community as a member of the LWVF, Neighborhood Falmouth, and the Friends of the Library. His wife Marcia has been an active member of the League as well.

Transportation: Update on the Bridges Project

On May 13 the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (DOT) held an open house on the Cape Cod Canal Bridges project in Buzzards Bay, which was attended by several members of the LWVF Transportation Committee.

There were presentation boards on each bridge and the several approach roadway configurations being considered on the north and south sides on the canal. Detailed construction staging plans for each bridge were presented that showed the potential impacts on neighborhoods.

The intent is to build the new bridge foundations farther in-land than the existing bridge piers, prefabricate the new bridge spans off site and then float in and lift the steel structures into place from barges. The concrete roadways will then be built around the steel, minimizing the impact to canal traffic. Much of this information can be found at this website: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/massdot-open-house-document-cape-cod-bridges-program-bourne-51723/download>.

The Environmental Impact Study for the project is expected to be complete within two years and the bridges can then go out for bidding and construction; there is still time for public comment.

One omission in the planning is the lack of commuter facilities at the Bourne Bridge. The Sagamore Bridge Commuter lot, bus terminal, and EV charging stations remain intact during and after construction. There are no plans for a comparable facility on the Bourne end of the canal. Those of us commuting from Falmouth to Boston for work or to reach Logan Airport or South Station/Amtrak still have no viable option for overnight or longer term parking to take advantage of bus travel. Please consider making a comment about this omission on the following link:

https://pima.massdotpi.com/public/comment/project-comment-dynamic?project_id=13868

—Richard Johnson

Your Diversity Alphabet

Most diversity programs have morphed to become DEI programs, to better embrace the equity and inclusion components of a truly diverse society. Some, like our Walkout committee, have added a B for “belonging” to encompass the full breadth of diversity.

This can seem a bit like alphabet soup to people not actively involved in these efforts. As a member of the LGBT community that has morphed into the LGBTQIA community, I occasionally get asked about “why all the letters.” All this alphabet soup signifies different members of my community, and the D, E, I, and B all matter for creating true diversity.

But don’t fret the alphabet. The League has a robust resource page and the LWVMA has summarized many of those resources at <https://lwmva.org/diversity-equity-and-inclusion-resources/>. You can drill deep, or if you just want to get some initial clarity go to the “Basics” page at <https://www.lwv.org/league-management/diversity-equity-inclusion/diversity-equity-and-inclusion-guide-section-1-dei>.

June is a special month for diversity as we celebrate gay pride and Juneteenth. LWVMA has written good brief histories of both the

start of the Gay liberation movement at Stonewall tavern in New York and the Juneteenth celebration of news of the emancipation proclamation reaching enslaved people in Texas, on this page: <https://lwmva.org/diversity-equity-inclusion-corner/>.

—Don Gibbons
DEIB Chair

Editor’s Note: Don Gibbons, a new member of the League and the incoming chair of the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging committee, has a long history of interest in voting issues, including voting rights, voter suppression, and gerrymandering. A graduate of Indiana University, he was a writer and editor for the Medical World News until it was purchased by the Sackler publishing company. He then became head of communications for Stanford Medical Center and later Associate Dean for Public Affairs at Harvard University Medical School. He served on diversity committees at both these universities. When Meghan Hanawalt invited him to join the League of Women Voters, it seemed like a natural fit for his interests.



Falmouth Road Race

Welcome Our New Runner

Mae, a high school sophomore, is one of the runners representing the League of Women Voters in the Falmouth Road Race in August. She brings an array of athletic talents as well as a personal perspective on the right to vote to her first road race.

Mae sees running in the Falmouth race as her contribution to an organization that is dedicated to giving people a voice in who represents them. With her grandparents living in Falmouth, she can attend Lacrosse Camp at Falmouth High School, enjoy biking the rail trail, watch Commodore baseball games, bring friends to the beautiful beaches, and attend Cape Harmony concerts.



She is the secretary of her high school class of 2026, captain of the soccer team, as well as a lacrosse player. More recently, she has added track and lifeguarding to her schedule. This semester Mae was inducted into National Honor Society.

Although the family is very pleased with her accomplishments, they are most proud of the person, the humanitarian who devotes her time as a volunteer with disabled students and her role in the Appalachia Service Project (ASP). With her friends in her ASP cohort group, Mae has learned and applied carpentry skills to assist people in need, renovating,

repairing, and building, while cultivating friendships with fellow workers and the residents of the community they served. Their skills were used in building a wheelchair ramp, repairing a porch, and adding insulation to a home.

So come out and enjoy the Falmouth Road Race on Sunday, August 18, and cheer on Mae and the LWV team of runners!

Meet our LWV Falmouth Road Race 2024 Team

Exciting news! We officially have a full team of incredible runners, thanks to our very own board member, Meghan Hanawalt, who has joined the team as the fifth and final runner.

The League team now includes Brian Harrigan, a family friend of board member Felicia Bordick; Mae A., the granddaughter of board member Felicia Bordick; board member Meghan Hanawalt; Anne West, who represents the LWVMA; and Tanya Roy, the Treasurer and board member of the LWVMA and a member of the Wellesley League. Go team LWV!

Please share the team link via email, word of mouth, Facebook, or Instagram to help our incredible team fundraise and help each of our runners meet their goals. Their success is our success! Let's start supporting and rooting for our team now at this website:

<http://raceroster.com/events/2024/83188/the-2024-asics-falmouth-road-race/pledge/team/645656>

New Member: Linda Jeffries-Summers



Please welcome our newest League member, Linda Jeffries-Summers, who joined in May. Get to know her in her own words:

What inspired you to join the LWVF? A very dear Maryland friend who has died and who ran membership in a Maryland League.

What is your favorite thing about or place in Falmouth? Sider's Pond

What topics/issues are you most passionate/interested in? Securing rights for all who live in the country.

What career field do/did you work in or what community interests do you have? I was a school library media specialist, and taught Language Arts in grades K-12 as well as college classes.

What recent books, music, movies, and or podcasts have inspired you? My favorite author is Penelope Fitzgerald.

Where are you from? What path did you take to get to where you are now? Or are you local to the area? I'm from Highland, Maryland, near Ashton, between Baltimore and Washington. I retired here to be near my grandchildren.

What do you do that makes you happy? Drives you? Inspires you? Calms you? I sing, read, walk, garden, and practice yoga.

Is there a League committee that interests you or particular work that the League does or has done that interests you? Voter registration and assistance.

What is your favorite ice cream flavor? Or alternative to ice cream? Fresh cantaloupe!

Who inspires you? Why? Elizabeth Warren. She does not quit.

Anything else about yourself you want to share? I grew up in Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania, and I have started learning French.

Civics Committee

The 2023-24 school year is drawing to a close. This spring six LWVF members attended in-class presentations by Falmouth High School sophomores of their 2024 civics projects. Most attended more than one class. This group included four Civics Committee members, Meghan Hanawalt, Bob Haskell, Janet Lauer, and Eileen Mattingly. We publicized this opportunity within the LWVF and were especially pleased that LWVF members Mary Harris and Olivia White also joined in.

The Civics Committee intends to continue our work in the 2024-25 school year and will be getting feedback from Social Studies Chair Michael Feeney later this spring.

***—Judy Ziss for
the Civics Committee***

Annual Meeting

First Vice President Janet Lauer and Second Vice President Meghan Hanawalt welcome guests to the annual meeting on May 18 at the Coonamessett Inn.



Our opening speaker was educator and instructional technology advocate Travis Mapp, who spoke on the subject of “Democracy and Marginalized Voices.”



A Word of Thanks

I would like to thank board members for their sage advice when making decisions concerning League activities and communication. I would also like to thank Committee chairpersons for their vision and leadership, as well as members of those committees who make light work for committee chairs so that we are able to continue our mission to promote advocacy and education through program planning and implementation.

It is the work of the committees that make the LWVFalmouth successful. I look forward to working with you as we as we navigate future challenges to promote a more inclusive democracy.

***— Janet Lauer
First Vice President***

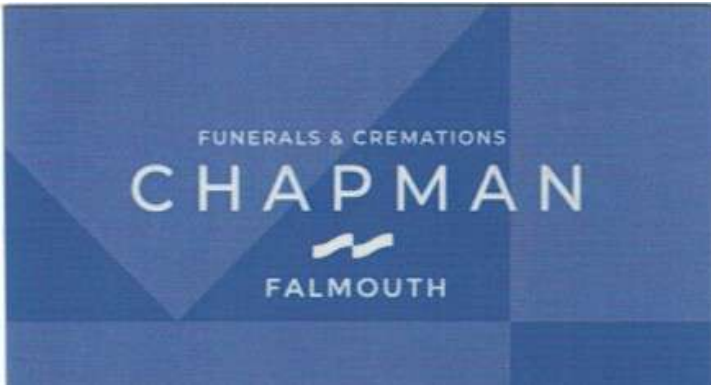


Keynote speaker Susan Baur held everyone’s attention with her inspirational talk on “Change Follows Wonder and Joy.”

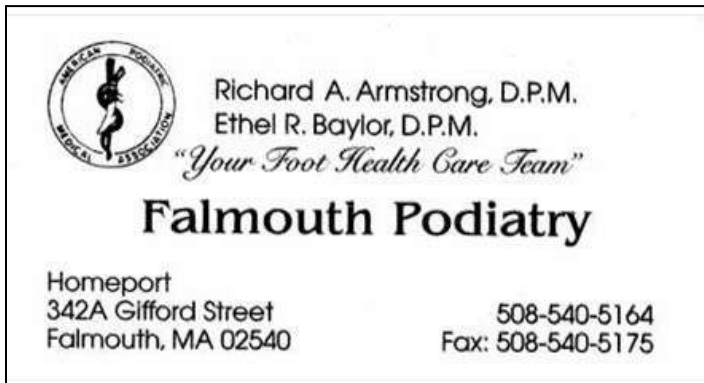



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 **New URL
 for Our
 LWVF
 Website**

Our new website address for the League of Women Voters of Falmouth is now:
<https://my.lwv.org/massachusetts/falmouth>
 Please change your bookmarks.

Make your voice heard today!

**Contact Information
for Your Legislators**

**(Be sure to include your name, address,
and phone number when writing.)**

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

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 paradise@capenews.net.
General contact email:
newsroom@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	Sheila Scott-Gordon*
Secretary	Richard Johnson*
Treasurer	Joan Boyer*
Legislative	Judith Ziss
Natural Resources	Shared Chairmanship**
Voter Service	Felicia Bordick and Chinna Mapp
Spokesperson	
Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging	Don Gibbons
Membership	Misty Niemeyer
Observer Corps	Meghan Palanza
Publicity/Bulletin	Eileen Mattingly, Mary Fran Buckley*
Co-Editors	
At-Large	Bruce Woodin
At-Large	Karen Epstein
At-Large	Janice Rook

Off-Board Specialists

Historian	Kathy Mortenson
Social Media	Penny Duby
Email Communication	Kathy Mortenson
Web Administrator	Gayle Simundza

Nominating Committee

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

*Member of Steering Committee

**Shared Chairmanship by Richard Johnson*, Kathy Mortenson, Denise Morreale, John Carroll, Sally Palmer. Richard Johnson is Board Representative.

Meeting and Event Calendar

June 5, 7 p.m.	Observer Corps Reports, Civil Defense Room,
June 11, 7 p.m.	New/old Board meeting
June 15, 9 a.m. -4 p.m.	“We the People” booth

No meeting in July

Contact us:

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

Email: FalmouthLWV@gmail.com

Website: <https://my.lwv.org/massachusetts/falmouth>

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 \$65 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 League of Women voters to the address in the “Contact us” box above. Include your name, mailing address, and phone number. You may also join online through our website at <https://my.lwv.org/massachusetts/falmouth>. Just click on “Join” and pay online.



Submissions for the Summer issue of the LWVF Bulletin are due on July 15, 2024. Please send copy, photos, and other material to both of these addresses:

maryfran55@earthlink.net
eileenmattingly@yahoo.com