



2023

Annual Report



LWVF ANNUAL MEETING
5/20/2023
COONAMESSETT INN
FALMOUTH, MA



2023 Program Overview

Breakfast Buffet
Welcome and Introductions
Presentation: *State of Housing in Falmouth*

Business Meeting
Raffle

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.

WITH GRATITUDE FOR THEIR KINDNESS

Mary Fran Buckley, Tracy Chapman, and Eileen Mattingly...for constantly offering their support, help, and proofreading skills to make our Annual Meeting effective.

Joan Boyer, Maggie Sweasy, and Sylvia Szulkin...for their sage advice and patience as the newer members step up to try to fill their shoes!

Fellow Board Members...for your timely answers to all of our questions.

Falmouth Printing...for excellent customer service and their flexibility with deadlines!

The Coonamessett Inn... for offering us a meeting space and for their wonderful staff and service.

Lastly, to the **LWVF Membership**... for their trust in me to pull off our 2023 Annual Meeting; it is an honor to serve with and for all of you.

League of Women Voters of Falmouth
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Steering Committee

Chair and 1st Vice-President: Janet Lauer
2nd Vice-President: Meghan Hanawalt
Voter Service: Sylvia Szulkin
Membership: Misty Niemeyer
Natural Resources: Richard Johnson

Treasurer: Karen Epstein

Observer Corps: Denise Morreale

Publicity: Mary Fran Buckley, Eileen Mattingly

Members At-Large: Lynne Rozsa, Maro Titus

DEIB: Chinna Mapp

Civics & Legislative: Judy Ziss

Annual Meeting Chair: Maro Titus

Secretary: Karen Dacey

Spokesperson: Sylvia Szulkin

Off-Board Specialists

Webmaster: Joan Boyer

Social Media: Penelope Duby

Historian: Kathy Mortenson

Nominating Committee: Stephanie Miele

LWVF 2023 ANNUAL MEETING
AGENDA
(Pages 3-5)

Welcome & Program Overview	Maro Titus
Presentation:	Kim Fish, Victoria Bowen
<i>FALMOUTH HOUSING CHALLENGES - CHALLENGES, STAKEHOLDERS, AND SOLUTIONS</i>	

LWVF BUSINESS MEETING

Call to Order	Maro Titus
Introduction of Parliamentarian	
Minutes of the 2022 LWVF Annual Meeting	
Treasurer’s Report and Proposed 2023-2024 Budget	Karen Epstein/Meghan Hanawalt
In Appreciation: Honoring Denise Morreale	Tracy Morreale Chapman Maro Titus
Steering Committee Report and Proposals	Janet Lauer

PROPOSED & approved: LWVF LOCAL POSITION CHANGES

The LWVF Local Study Committee reviewed our position on Transportation in 2022, considering the position from 1995, a more recent statement on DEI in transportation from 2021, the Clean Streets Study prepared for Falmouth by the Cape Cod Commission, the Falmouth Transportation Committee’s reports and a presentation by T4MA (Transportation for Massachusetts). The study was summarized in June 2022 in a YouTube video (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yLm7Wu1NG5w>).

Based on this, the Committee proposes the LWVF adopt a new position on transportation:

LWVF supports the implementation of the Clean Streets Report prepared for Falmouth by the Cape Cod Commission in 2022, minimizing carbon emissions related to transportation, reducing Steamship Authority traffic on Woods Hole Road and in Woods Hole, and facilitating equal transportation options for all residents and visitors. We support proposals that:

- Promote safe movement.
- Make electric vehicle use easy.
- Improve access to essential services.
- Promote the use of public transportation and bicycle transportation.
- Alleviate congestion in Woods Hole

PROPOSED & approved: MEMBERSHIP DUES INCREASE FROM \$50 TO \$55

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 for several years. If paying online, the cost was \$53 dollars to cover the PayPal fees. The Board has voted to propose an increase in dues to \$55/year, to be voted on at the Annual Meeting. **The proposal is to increase individual membership to \$55 and \$58 if paying via PayPal to cover additional fees.** This will cover the minimum membership dues owed to the National and State Leagues.

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 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.

APPROVED: NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Board Members
*Steering Committee

- 1st Vice President: Janet Lauer (2022-2024)*
- 2nd Vice President: Meghan Hanawalt (2022-2024)*
- Secretary: Richard Johnson (2023-2025)*
- Treasurer: Joan Boyer (2023-2025)
- Legislative: Judith Ziss (2022-2024)
- Natural Resources: **
- Voter Service: Felicia Bordick (2023-2025) & Chinna Mapp
- Spokesperson: Sylvia Szulkin (2022-2024)*
- DEIB: Chinna Mapp (2022-2024)*
- Membership: Misty Niemeyer (2023-2024)
- Observer Corps: Meghan Palanza (2023-2025)
- Publicity: Mary Fran Buckley & Eileen Mattingly (2023-2025)
- At-Large: Lynne Rozsa (2022-2024)
- At-Large: Karen Epstein (2022-2024)

Off-Board Specialists

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

Nominating Committee (2024)

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

* Steering Committee

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

Introduction of New Board Members
Farewell to Outgoing Board Members
Direction to Board

Meghan Hanawalt

Raffle

Maro Titus

Adjournment

Janet Lauer

2022 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

Saturday May 21, 2022 was truly a red-letter date for the Falmouth League. This in-person May Annual Meeting took place for the first time since 2019 because of Covid. Chair Maggie Sweasy and her committee members Maro Titus, Alice Carey, Kathy Mortensen, and Sylvia Szulkin welcomed members and guests to the lovely Garden Room of the Coonamesset Inn for a beautifully laid continental breakfast and Maro provided very special favors for every guest. Karen Dacey, Tracy Morreale Chapman, Andrea Bogomolni, and Chinna Mapp were introduced and welcomed as new members of LWVF. Karen is the new Secretary-nominee of the League and Chinna is a new member of the Voter Service committee.

League Treasurer Meghan Hanwalt introduced and participated in the interesting and entertaining program Goats Doing Great Work in Falmouth. Our two guest presenters, Li Ling Hamaday and Andrea Lawson, are Falmouth goat farmers, as is Meghan. All are committed to never spraying their land and to using their goats for various purposes including brush clearing, grass mowing and producing cheese, milk and other products from the milk. Andrea, who has raised goats for 30 years, runs her own local business Green Goddess Herbals and produces skin care products from her goats' milk. She kindly gave everyone thoughtfully wrapped samples of her soap. Thanks to these three delightful local goat farmers, their current goat population is about 21 including 13 kids! The happy laughter and warm applause from the audience were welcome sounds at this very special Annual Meeting.

The business meeting followed. The minutes from the September 2021 Annual Meeting, held at the Cape Verdean Club, were approved and readers for the minutes of today's meeting appointed. They will be Maro Titus, Linda Whitehead and Janet Lauer. Meghan Hanawalt presented the proposed budget for 2022-2023 which was unanimously approved. Our webmaster Joan Boyer, who created this year's especially attractive Annual Report, then presented a brief review of the 2021-2022 League highlights. These included emerging from Covid restrictions and Zoom meetings; focusing on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion; and holding the first post-Covid in-person Annual Meeting in September 2021 at the Cape Verdean Club where hostess Corrie Greene presented a program on the history of Cape Verdeans in Falmouth. The Board introduced a "pay what you can" policy to attract new members who might otherwise be hesitant to join the League.

Denise Morreale, standing in for Nominating Committee chair Stephanie Miele, presented the committee's report and nominations for the 2022-2023 Board. All were accepted and duly elected by the League members present. The new Board members were introduced, and outgoing Board members thanked for their service. Details are included in the Annual Meeting booklet.

Misty Niemeyer offered Direction to the Board for the year ahead to new Board First Vice-President Janet Lauer, for all League committees to embrace DEI as well as for the creation of a new LWVF DEI committee to build on the initiatives undertaken in 2021-2022. Denise Morreale emphasized the importance of attending the upcoming June 16 meeting at Town Hall on the Board of Appeals' presentation of the Transportation Committee Report. Maggie Sweasy called for Board and member attendance at the June Observer Corps meeting for reports from League Observers.

Finally, Maro Titus thanked Maggie for her leadership of the Annual Meeting Committee and awarded door prizes to two lucky winners, Mary Tamucci and Judy Ziss.

Following adjournment, members and guests pitched in to leave the Garden Room clean and ready.

Respectfully submitted,
Marcia Easterling, Outgoing Secretary

TREASURER’S REPORT AND 2023-2024 BUDGET

To be distributed at the Meeting

COMMITTEE REPORTS

CIVICS and LEGISLATIVE

Judy Ziss, Chair

Civics

The Civics Committee, which started life as a subcommittee of the Legislative Committee, has now graduated to become a committee on its own. It functions on a cooperative basis among its members. Our main aim is to be a resource for the Falmouth Schools as they implement the requirements of the 2018 civics law entitled “An Act to Promote and Enhance Civic Engagement.” Among other things, this law requires each public school student to participate in a student-led non-partisan project both in eighth grade and in high school.

At Falmouth High School, these civics projects have been integrated into the sophomore social studies spring curriculum. Students, working either alone or in small groups, think of a change or improvement that they would like to promote and then advocate for it. However, as the law was first implemented, a serious communications problem developed. Under school rules the students were limited in their ability to communicate with members of the community, which made both research and advocacy difficult, especially under a tight timeframe.

The Civics Committee was formed to step into this void by offering to assist with these communications. In view of the Falmouth League’s broad membership and our members’ familiarity with activists in town, there was a substantial likelihood that we could be helpful. This year, at the suggestion of Social Studies Department head Michael Feeney, each of the four sophomore social studies teachers was matched with a member of the Civics Committee, who is available to facilitate communications.

As this Report is being written, the student projects are in progress. We look forward to evaluating our efforts when the projects are completed. So far, though, we ourselves have benefitted from our own knowledge of the projects that the students have selected. We are in awe of the wide variety of their interests and the public spirit that has propelled them into their choices.

We have also broadened our efforts to assist the students. We amended a Student Advocacy Guide prepared by the Needham League, making it appropriate for use here in Falmouth. In addition, we prepared an article for *The Falmouth Enterprise* to let the public know that they may be receiving messages on behalf of the students. As this is being written, we also look forward to our opportunity and the opportunity of other League members to attend student classroom presentations in small groups, probably in late April. And our activities have gone beyond Falmouth High School. On invitation, committee members have promoted voting both in neighboring Mashpee schools and at a community event for area students at Falmouth Academy.

Legislative

The Massachusetts Legislature operates on a two-year cycle, beginning in January on odd-numbered years. Because the Legislative Committee's primary function is to advocate for passage of legislation, the Legislative Committee's work is cyclical as well. Advocacy generally is carried out through contact with legislators, usually by phone or email, often at multiple times, as a bill slowly wends its way through various committees in the Massachusetts House and Senate. While our work is initially addressed to our own legislators, eventually we also contact relevant committees when their actions are needed to push the legislation along. During the 2021-22 legislative session we supported voting legislation, immigration legislation, and the Common Start program to establish a statewide system of affordable high-quality early education and childcare. We also worked on behalf of bills relating to the safe storage and disposition of waste at the closed Pilgrim nuclear power plant in Plymouth.

On the immigration front, we were delighted by the passage of The Work and Family Mobility Act, which then survived a repeal challenge in the November elections. Voting bills that we favored also were enacted, except for same-day registration. While Common Start ran up against the deadline for passage in 2022, I understand some funding was supported and early passage in the new term seems likely.

Each term the Massachusetts League has a team of volunteer legislative specialists, each of whom focuses on a subject. The list of supported bills is then published on the Massachusetts League website. When the Legislative Committee next meets, we will discuss which of these bills we want to support during the 2023-24 term. As of now, we are likely to add affordable housing to the mix. That interest, as well as our interest in Common Start, was reflected in our annual public program this past March 16. Our program, which was broadcast on FCTV, featured our three legislators, Senator Susan Moran, Representative David Vieira, and Representative Dylan Fernandes, along with two speakers, one with expertise on Common Start and the other with expertise on affordable housing.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION and BELONGING

Chinna Mapp, Chair

The inaugural Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging (DEIB) Committee began work this year to address the need for expanding the League's reach to all members of our community. In February the League was called to participate in a Social Justice forum hosted by Falmouth Academy. The DEIB Committee along with the Legislative and Voter Service committees answered. Eileen Mattingly provided a title and guidance on our presentation "My Voice, My Vote: Student Involvement in the Democratic Process."

A subcommittee comprised of Meghan Hanawalt, Chinna Mapp, and Eileen Mattingly presented on behalf of the League while Natural Resources Committee Chair Richard Johnson consulted with the Committee on presentation edits, assisted with technology, and table setup and breakdown at the event. Judy Ziss of the Legislative Committee and Sylvia Szulkin of the Voter Service committee also served as thought-partners and consultants for this event. The DEIB Committee presented its first ever community event on Thursday, April 20, at Falmouth High School: "Inclusion and the Democratic Process," which served as a fitting way to close out its first year. The Keynote speaker was Dr. B. Chad Starks of South Carolina, a nationally recognized expert on Diversity, Inclusion, Equity and the disruption of Implicit Bias. We are extremely grateful for the steadfast commitment and constant devotion to task shown by committee members Sandy Faiman-Silva, Meghan Hanawalt, Chinna Mapp, Eileen Mattingly, Denise Morreale, and Misty Neimeyer. This event would not have been as successful without the support of the LWVF's Board of Directors and Steering Committee, Waquoit Congregational Church, Racial Justice Falmouth, Ellen Hewett, Richard Johnson, Meghan Hanawalt, Chinna Mapp and other anonymous donors.

MEMBERSHIP

Misty Niemeyer, Membership Chair

Our league membership is our foundation, and continuing to foster and build our membership will be the key to our future success. For the 2022-2023 year, we currently stand at 145 members (122 - primary, 23 additional household members). This includes two student members! We have welcomed 20 new members, including our most recent member, who has joined since the last *Bulletin* was released. Please welcome to the League – Robert Mascali!

While we have added an electronic format option for the Directory, we brought back the printed Member Directory, thanks to significant work from Joan Boyer to pull it together, with a beautiful green cover and a big shout-out to Kathy Mortenson for shipping them out! If you haven't yet received yours, please let me know. In future years, we will need to consider which direction as a League we would like to go with the directory.

To improve the efficiency of the membership renewal process, we will be shifting the renewal process earlier for the 2023-2024 year. Reminders will be sent out in May, and membership renewals will be due in June 2023. We hope to wrap up the renewal season early this summer! Please keep this in mind and look for emails and notifications in the *Bulletin*. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out! If you have ideas for membership engagement, please feel free to reach out, or if you are interested in joining the Membership Committee, please drop me a line. Feel free to reach out anytime! Thank you all for being members of this great league; we couldn't do it without each of you!

NATURAL RESOURCES

Richard Johnson, Chair

The Natural Resources Committee's primary responsibility is to produce a public program once a year of a topic of interest and importance to the Town of Falmouth and LWVF, typically in November. In 2022 we thought that water quality and sewage/septic treatment would be of interest and concern. The town Wastewater Division was preparing plans to extend the sewer east of its present range and would need to enlarge its treatment and discharge capacity. We knew an offshore discharge tunnel was one of several options, as it had been recently in the Town of Bourne. Given that background, we decided to invite speakers for a panel discussion on November 17 at the Falmouth Public Library, and invited Falmouth Community Television to film and broadcast the discussion. Panelists included Amy Lowell (Falmouth Wastewater Division), Scott McGann (Falmouth Health Agent), Eric Turkington (Chair of the Falmouth Water Quality Committee, Andrew Gottlieb (Executive Director of the Association to Preserve Cape Cod) and Brian Baumgaertel (Executive Director of the Massachusetts Alternative Septic System Test Center).

As it happened, just as they had agreed to speak the DEP issued preliminary regulations on changes to the Title 5 laws that would mandate extensive changes in wastewater treatment affecting every resident across Cape Cod. This focused the discussion in a way that we had not anticipated, and which was very consequential. If you have not seen it, the discussion can be viewed on YouTube: <https://youtube/-RyHmdRUz3w>. Note that the first 5-6 minutes just show the title; fast forward through that to the presentation. The presentation was also summarized in the January 2023 *Bulletin*.

Throughout the year the Committee also monitors issues about sustainability and the environment. These include the proposed dumping of radioactive waste into Massachusetts Bay by the company decommissioning the Pilgrim Nuclear Plant, the proposed machine gun range at Camp Edwards (to be built on our single source aquifer) and SouthCoast Wind's proposed landfall at Falmouth Heights Beach. With the consent of the Board of Directors, the Committee has made public statements on each of these issues. We have also studied and made statements on a petition article before town meeting on plastic reduction and a proposed by-law change.

OBSERVER CORPS

Denise Morreale, Chair

An Observer for LWVF is an individual who attends a public Town Governmental meeting, makes notes on what happens at the meeting and reports back to the League. Observers monitor both the agenda issues as well as the process, which includes adherence to the Open Meeting Law. As of March 29, 2023, the temporary provisions pertaining to the Open Meeting Law have been extended until March 31, 2025. This further extension allows public bodies to continue holding meetings remotely, without a quorum of the public body physically present at a meeting location, and to provide “adequate, alternative” access to remote meetings.

Over the years, a substantial number of Observers have run for elected office or have been appointed by the Selectmen to the Boards and Committees they had originally observed as League members. Thus, the Observer Corps has become a path to participation in decision making for the community-at-large.

Awareness of the concerns coming before boards and committees will help the League choose local program studies which will be appropriate for action and helpful to the community. The Observer Corps written reports are critical for this purpose. Town Government bodies benefit from our Observer’s remarks in the form of the written report which is hand delivered to the Chair of the observed public body, published in the *Bulletin*, and posted on the website after the presentation at the Observer Corps meeting.

This year, our Observer Corps meeting is Thursday, June 15, 2023, at 7:00 pm in the Civil Defense room, downstairs at Town Hall., 59 Town Hall Square. Our current active Observer Corps is:

Stephanie Miele: Board of Health
Lynne Rozsa: Affordable Housing
Richard Johnson: Zoning Board of Appeals
Carol Chittenden: Economic Development and Industrial Corporation (EDIC)
Marcia Easterling- Library Board of Trustees

PUBLICITY

Mary Fran Buckley and Eileen Mattingly, Co-Chairs

The LWVF Publicity Committee has reached new levels of organization in the past year, increasing its level of effectiveness within our Organization. Now co-chaired by Mary Fran Buckley and Eileen Mattingly, all outbound communication aside from that with Falmouth Community Television (FCTV) filters through them. This has tightened up our messaging and allowed for greater consistency in our external communications to *The Falmouth Enterprise* and other news outlets and social media. The co-chairs have developed a new, one-page, simplified Publicity Request form that outlines all the mechanisms to be employed in promoting an upcoming event, already in use and helpful to event planners within the League.

The principal responsibility for the Publicity Committee is the League's monthly *Bulletin*. Mary Fran and Eileen edit, prepare, co-ordinate, and often write, the articles each month. Eileen is responsible for the bulletin's layout and posting the bulletin on the League's Facebook page.

VOTER SERVICE

Sylvia Szulkin, Chair

This past year was challenging and rewarding for the Voter Service Committee because it involved preparing two Candidates Nights, one for the May 2022 local election and one for the November 2022 mid-terms. The latter election included spirited contests for Congressional and County-wide offices. Additionally, in June 2022, the Voter Service Committee held a gathering on Falmouth's Inner Harbor to celebrate Juneteenth. The gathering attracted passersby who expressed interest in the work of our League. One never knows how and when these casual encounters will grow into new memberships that enrich our meetings and perspectives.

2022 – 2023 CALENDAR OF EVENTS
May 2022 – June 2023

The LWVF Board of Directors meets monthly on the last Tuesday of each month via Zoom.

Observer Corps Reports and Transportation Local Study Presentation, Civil Defense Room at Falmouth Town Hall, June 16, 7 p.m.

Membership Drive at Falmouth Farmer’s Market, September 1, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

“Is the Supreme Court on a Collision Course with Democracy,” presentation by Jane Scarborough, Hermann Room of the Library, Sept 15 7p.m.

Candidates Night State and Regional Elections, Falmouth High School Auditorium, October 19, 7 p.m. Televised and broadcast by FCTV.

“The Future of Wastewater Treatment in Falmouth,” Hermann Room of the Library, November 17, 7 p.m. Televised and broadcast by FCTV.

State Planning Session for LWVMA planning priorities, Zoom Meeting, January 19, 7 p.m.

LWVF “Meet & Greet” Session for new and existing members to get acquainted and learn about our various committees. Held at Peking Palace, February 15, 3-5 p.m.

“Common Cause and Affordable Housing in Falmouth,” Hermann Room of the Library, March 16, 7 p.m. Televised and broadcast by FCTV.

Voting Registration and Process presentation at a Social Justice Conference for High School Students from Cape and Island schools, Falmouth Academy, March 25, morning and afternoon.

“Inclusion in the Democratic Process” organized by the DEIB Committee. Presentation by Dr. B. Chad Starks, Falmouth High School Auditorium, April 20, 7 p.m.

Candidates Night for Local Elections, Hermann Room of the Library, April 26, 7 p.m. Televised and broadcast by FCTV.

LWVF Annual Meeting, The Coonamessett Inn, May 20, 9:30 a.m.

Observer Corps Annual Reports, Civil Defense Room at Falmouth Town Hall, June 15, 7 p.m.

ADDENDUM

IN MEMORIAM

Alice Carey
1934 - 2023

Megan Jones
1931 - 2022

Barbara Woll Jones
1940 - 2022

We are grateful for the time and talents you shared with LWVF and honor your memory.



PAST LWVF AWARDS

CIVIC LEADERSHIP and ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

2004	Margaret Russell
2007	Virginia Valiela
2008	Peter Kirwin
2009	Judith Fenwick
2010	Priscilla Roslansky
2011	Ruth Brazier & Virginia Gregg
2012	Doris Epstein

2014	Judy Stetson
2015	Jayne Abbott
2018	Joan Boyer, Kathy Mortenson & Pamela Polloni
2019	Alice Carey
2019	Sylvia Szulkin
2019	Joanne Voorhis [League Leadership Award]

LWVF PAST PRESIDENTS

1953-1955	Janet Litzkow Bosworth	1978-1979	Judith Stetson, Virginia Gregg,
1955-1957	Polly Corcor		Mary Lou Montgomery
1957-1959	Ruth Burrough	1979-1980	Judith Stetson, Mary Lou
1959-1961	Carol Walter		Montgomery
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, Kathy Mortenson, Misty Niemeyer, Maggie Sweasy, Joanne Treistman
2021-2022	Joan Boyer, Kathy Mortenson, Misty Niemeyer, Maggie Sweasy
2022-2023	Janet Lauer, Meghan Hanawalt, Sylvia Szulkin, Misty Niemeyer, Richard Johnson

Bylaws of the League of Women Voters of Falmouth

BYLAWS OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF FALMOUTH, MASSACHUSETTS
(ADOPTED 1954 AS AMENDED 1970, 1973, 1974, 1977, 1988, 1996, 1998, 2001, 2002, 2008, 2011, 2016, 2019, 2020)

ARTICLE I

Sec.1. Name. The name of this organization shall be League of Women Voters of Falmouth, hereinafter referred to in these bylaws as LWVF or as the League. This local League is an integral part of the League of Women Voters of the United States, hereinafter referred to in these bylaws as LWVUS, and of the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts.

ARTICLE II

Purposes and Policy

Sec. 1. Purposes. The purposes of the League are to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation in government and to act on selected governmental issues.

Sec. 2. Policies. The policies of the League are:

1. **Political Policy.** The League shall not support or oppose any political party or any candidate.
2. **Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Policy.** The League is fully committed to ensure compliance – in principle and in practice – with LWVUS’ Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Policy.

ARTICLE III

Membership

Sec. 1. Eligibility. Any person who subscribes to the purposes and policy of the League of Women Voters shall be eligible for membership.

Sec. 2. Types of Membership.

A) Voting Members. Persons at least 16 years of age who join the League shall be voting members of local Leagues, state Leagues, and of the LWVUS;

1. Those who live within an area of a local League may join that League or any other local League;
2. Those who reside outside the area of any local League may join a local League or shall be state members-at-large;
3. Those who have been members of the League for 50 years or more shall be life members excused from the payment of dues.
4. Those who are students are defined as individuals enrolled either as full or part time with an accredited institution.

(B) Associate Members. All others who join the League shall be associate members.

ARTICLE IV

Board of Directors

Sec. 1. Number: Manner of Selection and Term of Office. The Board of Directors shall consist of the officers of the League and not more than 16 Directors. At least four Directors shall be elected by the general membership at each Annual Meeting and shall serve for a term of two years, or until their successors have been elected and qualified. Additional Directors (not to exceed 16 in total) may be appointed by the Board of Directors as they deem necessary to carry on the work of the League. The terms of office of the appointed Directors shall be one year and shall expire at the conclusion of the next Annual Meeting.

Sec. 2. Qualifications. No person shall be elected or appointed or shall continue to serve as an officer or director of this organization unless that person is a voting member of the League of Women Voters of Falmouth.

Sec. 3. Vacancies. Any vacancy occurring in the Board of Directors by reason of the resignation, death or disqualification of an officer or elected member may be filled, until the next Annual Meeting, by a majority vote of the remaining members of the Board of Directors. Three consecutive absences from a Board meeting of any member without a valid reason shall be deemed a resignation.

Sec. 4. Powers and Duties. The Board of Directors shall have full charge of the property and business of the organization, with full power and authority to manage and conduct same, subject to the instructions of the general membership. It shall plan and direct the work necessary to carry out the Program as adopted by the National Convention, the State Convention, and the Annual Meeting. The Board shall create and designate such special committees as it may deem necessary.

Sec 5. Meetings. There shall be at least nine regular meetings of the Board of Directors annually. The President may call special meetings of the Board of Directors and shall call a special meeting upon the written request of five members of the Board.

Sec. 6. Quorum. A majority of the members of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum.

Sec. 7. Remote Meetings. If circumstances make it inconvenient or impossible for the board to meet, board members may conduct business by holding a meeting through electronic communications (e.g., e-mail or conference call by telephone or Zoom). Such meetings shall be referred to as remote meetings. All materials for consideration at a remote meeting must be distributed to all members of the board. Remote meetings may count as any of the nine regular board meetings required each year if minutes are kept.

ARTICLE V

Officers

Sec. 1. Enumeration and Election of Officers. The officers of the League of Women Voters of Falmouth shall be a President, a first Vice President, a second Vice President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer who shall be elected for terms of two years by the general membership at an Annual Meeting and take office as of July 1st.

Sec. 2. The President or Chair of the Steering Committee:

- A) shall preside at all meetings of the organization and of the Board of Directors.
- B) may, in the absence or disability of the Treasurer, sign or endorse checks, drafts and notes.
- C) shall be, ex officio, a member of all committees except the Nominating Committee.
- D) shall have such usual powers of supervision and management as may pertain to the office of the President and perform such other duties as may be designated by the Board.

Sec. 3. The Vice Presidents. The two Vice Presidents, in the order of their rank, shall, in the event of absence, disability, or death of the President, possess all the powers and perform all the duties of that office, until such time as the Board of Directors shall select one of its members to fill the vacancy. The Vice Presidents shall perform such other duties as the President and Board may designate.

Sec. 4. The Secretary. The secretary shall keep minutes of the meetings of the membership and of the board. The secretary shall notify all officers and directors of their election and shall sign with the president/steering committee designee all contracts and other instruments when so authorized by the board and shall perform such other duties as the president/steering committee designee and board shall direct.

Sec. 5. The Treasurer. The Treasurer shall collect and receive all moneys due. The Treasurer shall be the custodian of these moneys, shall deposit them in a bank designated by the Board of Directors, and shall disburse the same as required. The Treasurer shall present statements to the Board at their regular meetings and an Annual Report to the Annual Meeting.

Sec. 6. Steering Committee. When there is no candidate for President, or no sitting President, the Board of Directors (“Board”) shall nominate a Steering Committee drawn from the Board to perform the duties of the President. The Steering Committee shall not exceed 5 voting members and shall be elected by the general membership at the Annual Meeting for a term of one year. The Steering Committee shall choose a Chair. The Steering Committee shall meet as necessary prior to each regular Board meeting to make recommendations to the Board on matters of policy, procedure and concern.

ARTICLE VI Financial Administration

Sec. 1. Fiscal Year. The fiscal year of the League of Women Voters of Falmouth shall commence on the first day of July each year.

Sec. 2. Dues. Dues shall be voted by the membership at the Annual Meeting and shall be payable immediately. Members who fail to pay their dues within three months after the Annual Meeting shall be dropped from the membership rolls.

Sec. 3. Budget. A budget for the ensuing year shall be submitted by the Board of Directors to the Annual Meeting for adoption. The budget shall include support for the work of the League as a whole.

Sec. 4. Budget Committee. A Budget Committee to consist of a Chairperson, The Treasurer, and no more than two from the general membership, shall be appointed by the Board of Directors at least two months prior to the Annual Meeting to prepare a budget for the ensuing year. The proposed budget shall be sent to all members at

least two weeks before the Annual Meeting. The Treasurer shall not be eligible to serve as a Chairperson of the Budget Committee.

Sec. 5. Oversight. Annually a non-Board member will be appointed to review the treasurer's financial statements, records and bank statements. A report of good order shall be presented at Annual Meeting and a vote taken.

Sec. 6. Distribution of Funds on Dissolution

In the event of the dissolution of the League of Women Voters of Falmouth all monies and securities which may at the time be owned by or under the control of the League shall be paid to the LWVMA after the state and national per member payments and other obligations have been met. All other property of whatsoever nature, whether real, personal, or mixed that may at the time be owned or under the control of the LWVF shall be disposed of to such person, organization, or corporation for such public, charitable or educational use and purposes as the board in its absolute discretion may designate.

ARTICLE VII Meetings

Sec. 1. Membership Meetings. There shall be at least four meetings of the membership each year. Time and place shall be determined by the Board of Directors.

Sec. 2. Annual Meeting. Annual Meeting shall be held no more than 90 days prior to or 30 days after the end of the Fiscal year, the exact date to be determined by the Board of Directors. The Annual Meeting shall:

- A) Adopt a local Program for the ensuing year,
- B) Elect officers, directors and the chairman and two members of the Nominating Committee,
- C) Adopt an adequate budget, and
- D) Transact such other business as may properly come before it.

Sec. 3. Quorum. Twenty percent (20%) of the voting members shall constitute a quorum for conducting business at the Annual Meeting of the LWVF, provided written notice of the meeting has been sent to the membership at least one week in advance of the meeting.

ARTICLE VIII Nominations and Elections

Sec. 1. Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee shall consist of five members, two of whom shall be members of the Board of Directors. The Chairman and two members, who shall not be members of the Board, shall be elected at the Annual Meeting. Nominations for these offices shall be made by the current Nominating Committee. The other members shall be appointed by the Board of Directors no later than the subsequent January Board meeting. Any vacancy on the Nominating Committee shall be filled by the Board of Directors. Suggestions for nominations may be sent to the Committee by any voting member.

Sec. 2. Report of Nominating Committee and Nominations from the Floor. The report of the Nominating Committee of its nominations for Officers, Directors, Steering Committee, if necessary, and members of the succeeding Nominating Committee shall be sent to all members at least two weeks before the date of the Annual Meeting. The report of the Nominating Committee shall be presented to the Annual Meeting. Immediately following the presentation of this report, nominations may be made from the floor by any voting member provided the consent of the nominee shall have been secured.

Sec. 3. Elections. The election shall be by ballot, except when there is only one nominee for each office, the Secretary may be instructed to cast one ballot for the entire slate. A majority vote of those voting members present and voting shall constitute an election. Absentee or proxy voting shall not be permitted.

ARTICLE IX Program

Sec. 1. Authorization. The governmental principles adopted by the National Convention, and supported by the League as a whole, constitute the authorization for the adoption of the Program.

Sec. 2. Program. The Program of the League of Women Voters of Falmouth shall consist of action to protect the right to vote of every citizen and those governmental issues chosen for concerted study and action.

Sec. 3. Action by the Annual Meeting. The Annual Meeting shall act upon the Program using the following Procedures:

- A) The Board of Directors shall consider the recommendations from the voting members and shall formulate a Proposed Program.
- B) The Proposed Program shall be sent to all members AT LEAST two weeks before the Annual Meeting.
- C) A majority vote of voting members present and voting at the Annual Meeting shall be required for adoption of subjects in the Proposed Program as presented to the Annual Meeting by the Board of Directors.
- D) Recommendations for Program submitted by voting members one month prior to the Annual Meeting but not recommended by the Board of Directors may be considered by the Annual Meeting provided that
 - 1. The Annual Meeting shall order consideration by a majority vote and
 - 2. The Annual Meeting shall adopt the item by a majority vote.
- E) Changes in the Program, in the case of altered conditions, may be made provided that Information concerning the proposed changes has been sent to all members at least two weeks prior to a general membership meeting at which the change is to be discussed and voted upon.

Sec. 4. Member Action. Members may act in the name of the League of Women Voters only when authorized to do so by the Board of Directors or the President.

ARTICLE X
Parliamentary Authority

Sec. 1. Parliamentary Authority. The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the organization in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these Bylaws.

ARTICLE XI
Amendments

Sec. 1. Amendments. These Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the voting members present and voting at the Annual Meeting, provided the amendments were submitted to the membership in writing at least two weeks in advance of the meeting.

Reviewed by the Board of Directors November 27, 2018

Approved at the LWV of Falmouth Annual Meeting, May 4, 2019: change by LWVUS 2020
Joan Boyer