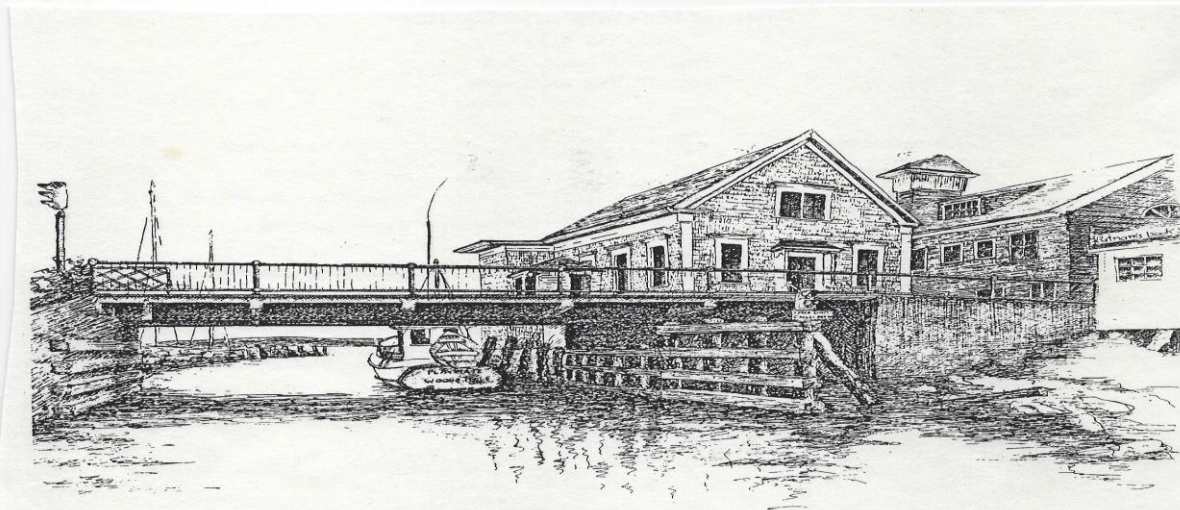


Annual Report 2024

May 18, 2024



Eel Pond Bridge, Woods Hole

Joan T. Kanwisher

Email: Falmouthlww@gmail.com

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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

2023-2024

Olive Crowell Beverly 1918 - 2022

Doris M. Curran 1929 - 2023

Olivann Rumph Hobbie 1935 - 2023

Constance Kahler Martyna 1934 - 2024

Joanne Pumroy Vorrhis 1930 - 2023

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LWVF 2023-2024 PROGRAMS

Fall Meet and Greet, WHOI David Center, September 21

"Adding Tools to the Wastewater Treatment Toolbox", Falmouth Public Library, October 12

Film screening "Just Mercy", Falmouth Public Library, November 9

Voter Service Committee special meeting, Voting Machine Accuracy - Larry Moore, November 14

Observer Corps Reports - EDIC and Falmouth Planning Board, Falmouth Town Hall, February 28, 2024

International Women's Day Breakfast, Hyannis Resort and Conference Center, March 8

"Meet your State Legislators", Falmouth Public Library, March 21

Candidates Night for Falmouth races, Falmouth Public Library. April 24

Annual Meeting, Coonamessett Inn, May 18

"We the People" A celebration of the Constitution, June 14 & 15 on Falmouth Library lawn

Observer Corps Reports, Falmouth Town Hall, June



FRIENDS OF THE FALMOUTH LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

**Barbara Douglass
Maria Moniz
Robert and Barbara Schneider
Freddy Valois**

LWV BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2023-2024

Steering Committee

Chair and 1st Vice-President - Janet Lauer

2nd Vice-President - Meghan Hanawalt

Secretary – Richard Johnson

DEIB - Chinna Mapp

Spokesperson – Sylvia Szulkin

Directors

Treasurer - Joan Boyer

Legislative & Civics– Judy Ziss

Membership – Misty Niemeyer

Observer Corps – Meghan Palanza

Publicity/Communications – Mary Fran Buckley, Eileen Mattingly

Voter Service – Felicia Bordick, Chinna Mapp

At-Large: Lynne Rozsa, Karen Epstein

Off-Board Specialists

Web Administrator – Gayle Simundza

Social Media - Penelope Duby

Historian - Kathy Mortenson

Nominating Committee - Stephanie Miele

Nominating Committee

Stephanie Miele, Chair; Kathy Mortenson, Olivia White, Denise Morreale, Misty Niemeyer



LWVF ANNUAL MEETING PROGRAM

Coonamessett Inn, Falmouth, MA..... May 18, 2024

AGENDA

Introduction of Speaker Travis Mapp “Democracy and Marginalized Voices “	Meghan Hanawalt
Business Meeting Call to Order Greet the New Members Introduction of Parliamentarian Judith Fenwick	Meghan Hanawalt
Approval Of Annual Meeting Minutes of May 2023 Appoint Readers of Current Meeting Minutes	Richard Johnson
Treasurer’s Report Approve Proposed Budget For 2024-2025	Joan Boyer
Proposal for Dues Increase	Misty Niemeyer
Steering Committee Report	Janet Lauer
Nominating Committee Report and Election	Stephanie Miele
Introduction of the New Board Members	Janet Lauer
Thanks to Outgoing Members of The Board	Janet Lauer
Direction To The Board	Janet Lauer
Adjournment	
Ending Speaker Susan Baur “Change Follows Wonder and Joy.”	

LWV OF FALMOUTH TREASURER REPORT AND PROPOSED BUDGET

	As of 6/30/2023		As of 4/30/24	
	FY2023-2024		FY2024-2025	
	Budget	Actual	Budget (Proposed)	Actual
INCOME				
Ads	\$ 200	\$ 200	\$ 200	\$ 100
Annual Meeting	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,028		
Contributions - Friends	\$ 800	\$ 759	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,640
Contributions - Members	\$ 1,800	\$ 1,892	\$ 500	\$ 515
Dues	\$ 7,000	\$ 6,915	\$ 7,335	\$ 4,241
Development / Fund Raisers	\$ 1,000	\$ 63	\$ 2,000	
Adjustment				\$ (80)
Replacement check				\$ 535
INCOME TOTAL	\$ 11,800	\$ 10,857	\$ 11,035	\$ 6,950
EXPENSES				
Action/Program	\$ 1,300	\$ 2,248	\$ 50	
Administration	\$ 350	\$ 303	\$ 350	\$ 170
Web Site Fee	\$ 468	\$ 443	\$ 400	\$ 468
Annual Meeting & Report	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,677	\$ 500	\$ 500
Bank & Paypal Fees	\$ 225	\$ 220	\$ 250	\$ 130
Bulletin Postage	\$ 150	\$ 121	\$ 200	
Bulletin Printing	\$ 300	\$ 247	\$ 170	
Convention - National	\$ 450			
Convention -State			\$ 450	
Membership & Directory	\$ 500	\$ 463	\$ 400	
Participation & Gifts	\$ 75	\$ 75	\$ 175	
Per Member Pay Mass. (PMP)	\$ 2,323	\$ 2,409	\$ 3,006	\$ 2,323
Per Member Pay US (PMP)	\$ 3,392	\$ 3,600	\$ 4,350	\$ 3,392
Voter Service	\$ 600	\$ 535	\$ 850	\$ 366
International Women's Breakfast			\$ 250	\$ 250
EXPENSE TOTAL	\$ 11,633	\$ 12,340	\$ 11,401	\$ 7,599
		\$ 5,895		\$ 6671
		<u>\$ 2,278</u>		<u>\$ 577</u>
TOTAL CASH		\$ 8,173		\$ 7248



League of Women Voters of Falmouth ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES 2023

May 20, 2023, Coonamessett Inn, Gifford Street, Falmouth

The meeting began with a breakfast buffet attended by 40 members and guests. Annual Meeting Chair Maro Titus then introduced the Program Speakers Kim Fish (Falmouth Housing Coordinator) and Victoria Bowen to speak about Affordable/Attainable Housing in Falmouth.

Kim recapped the Affordable Housing definition established by HUD which is based on the area median income for Barnstable County of \$115,600 for FY2022. If affordable housing in a town is less than 10%, developers may propose 40B projects that are exempted from the local zoning code provisions (density, setbacks, building heights etc.) provided that 25% of the units built will be set aside for sale or rent at affordable rates in perpetuity. 40B developments tend to favor ownership over rental, and 2-3 bedroom units over smaller units, exacerbating the shortage of smaller rental units in town. There are subsidized loans/rents for those meeting the criteria, but currently 48% of those employed on Cape Cod commute from off-cape because of the shortage of housing on-cape. Recent changes in the Falmouth Zoning Code (accessory dwelling unit, mixed retail/commercial overlay district) are intended to stimulate affordable housing development.

Victoria spoke about her search for rental housing. She is a Falmouth native, a manager at Falmouth Hospital and volunteers at the Falmouth Service Center and with Falmouth Hospice. She is single and searched for rental housing for over 6 months before finding housing in Bourne. She was not eligible for the affordable housing lottery as a single person (the lottery aims to fill bedrooms in each unit and there are few/no one-bedroom units). She notes that her discretionary spending and volunteer service will migrate closer to her new residence, and that even well-paid people struggle to find housing in Falmouth.

There were a number of questions from the floor, and Select Board member Doug Brown added significantly to the conversation. Kim will develop a Housing Page for the Town Website which will gather information into an easily accessible site. She suggested that people interested in this topic volunteer for the Town Committees that address it: Planning, Affordable Housing, ZBA, Community Preservation and others. Judy Ziss spoke about the recent LWVF program on Housing and Senator Moran's proposed legislation that addresses this topic. Kim is in the process of reviewing all Town-owned properties for their suitability for housing developments.

Maro Titus opened the business meeting and introduced Judy Fenwick as Parliamentarian.

The minutes of the 2022 Annual Meeting as printed in the program were approved.

The Treasurer's Report was tabled and will be reviewed/approved by the Board of Directors within 60 days.

Maro Titus and Tracey Chapman presented a gift to Denise Morreale in appreciation for her 10 years of service as Observer Corps Chair. Many of the Observers had sent in anecdotes about Denise's role as chair and mentor. Denise spoke about her nearly 30 years of history with the League on many committees and with the Observer Corps.

Janet Lauer, First Vice President continued with comments on the past year of activities, including the formation of the DEIB and Communications Committees, two candidate nights and many public programs (which are listed in the program). She noted that this is LWVF's seventieth year.

Janet read the proposed new Transportation Position into the record (page 3 of the program) and Maro Titus gave some background on how this was developed through the 2022-23 Local Study. Kathy Mortenson moved that the new position be adopted, which was seconded by Richard Johnson and the meeting approved the new position.

Janet read into the record the proposed increase in membership individual dues from \$50 to \$55, noting that all of those funds are paid to the state and national Leagues. Misty Neimeyer expanded upon the proposal, noting that student, additional household member and accessible membership rates would not change. A question from the floor asked why it was not raised more to provide funds for our own use; Misty explained that many members give above the membership level and we would continue to depend upon that for our own operating expenses. Maggie Sweasy moved that the \$55 rate be approved, Kathy Mortenson seconded the motion, and the meeting approved the change.

Janet read the Nominating Committee report, noting a number of changes made after the Program was printed. These changes are reflected on page 3 of this report -- "Board of Directors 2023-2024".

Judy Fenwick moved that the nominations be approved, Maggie Sweasy seconded and the meeting approved the new slate of officers and board members.

Meghan Hanawalt thanked outgoing secretary Karen Dacey for her service as well as others leaving the Board, and thanked Maro Titus for planning and organizing the Annual Meeting.

Directions to the Board: Judy Fenwick lamented the fact that "Falmouth in Focus" had not recently been updated. She noted that other groups in town had relied upon it. She asked that the Board work to re-publish it and volunteered with Joan Boyer to work on that effort. Joan suggested that be the Local Study for 2023-24. Kathy Mortenson moved that updating and publishing Falmouth in Focus be the 2023-24 Local Study with Judy Fenwick as Chair. It was seconded and approved by the meeting.

Kathy noted that she and Jackie Webster had recently gathered bulletins, annual reports and old versions of Falmouth in Focus to donate to the Falmouth Historical Society archives.

Raffle tickets were drawn and prizes were given to Judy Fenwick, Ed Dewitt, Doug Jones and Harvey Fishman.

Readers for these minutes were selected as Maro Titus, Sylvia Szulkin and Mary Fran Buckley.

Larry Moore reported on a fundraiser he had held to benefit LWVF, with Jane Scarborough leading a discussion on Democracy. The amount raised will be in the Treasurer's Report.

The passing of long term members Alice Carey, Meghan Jones and Barbara Woll Jones was noted.

Karen Epstein made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Sylvia Szulkin and Maggie Sweasy, which the meeting approved.

Minutes submitted by Richard Johnson

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT 2024

Board Members

*Steering Committee

- 1st Vice President: Janet Lauer (2024-2026)*
- 2nd Vice President: Sheila Scott Gordon (2024-2026)*
- Secretary: Richard Johnson (2023-2025)*
- Treasurer: Joan Boyer (2023-2025)*
- Legislative: Judith Ziss (2024-2026)
- Natural Resources: Richard Johnson, Representative**
- Voter Service: Felicia Bordick (2023-2025)
- DEIB: Don Gibbons (2004-2026)
- Membership: Misty Niemeyer (2024-2026)
- Observer Corps: Meghan Palanza (2023-2025)
- Publicity: Mary Fran Buckley* & Eileen Mattingly (2023-2025)
- At-Large: Bruce Woodin (2024-2026)
- At-Large: Karen Epstein (2024-2026)
- At-Large: Janice Rook (2024-2026)

Off-Board Specialists

- Historian: Kathy Mortenson
- Social Media: Penny Duby
- Email Communication: Kathy Mortenson
- Web Administrator: Gail Simundza

Nominating Committee (2024)

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

* Steering Committee

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

LWVF LOCAL STUDY REPORT 2024

LWVF Local Study 2023-2024- FALMOUTH IN FOCUS UPDATE

Kathy Mortenson, Richard Johnson, Judith Fenwick, Chair

At the May 2023 LWVF Annual Meeting Judy Fenwick suggested that the iconic LWVF publication, *Falmouth in Focus*, should be updated. This has become the 2023-2024 LWVF Local Study, "Falmouth in Focus - Update." 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 sixth edition, can be found tucked away in the recesses of the LWVF website.

The Study group began its weekly meetings in late January 2024 with section reorganization, research, and content updates, which will conclude in mid-May.

We are requesting a second year for the Study with the following goals: a first draft to be ready in mid-June; weekly editorial meetings to start in July; and several drafts to yield a final publication-ready document by September

We will concurrently be having discussions on: 1) publication strategies: print and/or electronic; 2) target audiences; 3) distribution methods; and 4) funding sources for publication/distribution.

COMMITTEE REPORTS 2024

LEGISLATIVE

Helen Bresnahan, Margaret Cooper, Colleen Cunningham, Annie Holden, Robert Mascali, Maura Powers, Kerry Walton, Judy Ziss, Chair

Legislative Committee members review the list of bills the Massachusetts League has decided to support and, as a group, select their own priorities from among them. Advocacy generally consists of contact with our own legislators or with members of legislative Committees considering legislation on which we have taken a position. The Committee Chair and sometimes other members send emails or make phone calls to voice our support for a bill.

This year we have emphasized bills relating to affordable housing, gun control, facial recognition technology, and death with dignity. We also took positions on bills regarding rural transportation, hybrid public meetings, and use of campaign contributions for a candidate's childcare expenses. In addition, we have occasionally continued support of

priorities from previous years such as Common Start and immigration. While the Massachusetts legislature meets over a period of two years, much of the activity gets pushed close to the end of the second year of each term.

The Massachusetts League has a team of volunteer Legislative specialists, each of whom focuses on a subject. Local League members who are concentrating on bills in a focus area receive information from these specialists and can seek assistance from them. The specialists also provide alerts regarding pending legislation, and we respond as appropriate.

In addition, each year the Legislative Committee presents a program for the public, usually in March, and we invite our three legislators to attend. This year's program was on March 21. As it turned out, the Massachusetts Senate was in session the evening of our program so Senator Susan Moran was unable to join us. Nonetheless, we did have a lively public program with both Representative David Vieira and Representative Dylan Fernandes on board. As in the past, the program, which included a Q and A session, was broadcast live by FCTV.

We were delighted this year to find that our Legislative Committee, which previously had only four members, has doubled in size. While everyone is not active, we welcomed a new group of capable and enthusiastic members who are providing important contributions. Stay tuned – or come join us. Advocacy is rewarding and is also fun.

CIVICS

Mary Fran Buckley, Robert Haskell, Meghan Hanawalt, Janet Lauer, Eileen Mattingly, Judy Ziss-Chair

The Civics Committee was founded several years ago to serve as a resource for the Falmouth Schools as they implement a civics law enacted in late 2018. That law, entitled "An Act to Promote and Enhance Civics Engagement," requires that students participate in one student-led, non-partisan civics project in eighth grade and also in high school. Among other things, the law is intended to help students learn "to analyze complex issues" and to "reason, make logical arguments and support claims using valid evidence." It also aims to help them "engage in civil discourse" and "consider differing points of view." These are all skills future voters need if they are to understand issues and know how to evaluate sources of information so that they can distinguish between fact and fantasy.

In Falmouth High School, students do their civics project in the spring of sophomore year as part of their U.S. History curriculum. Social Studies Chair Michael Feeney has purposely set the timing to coincide with Town Meeting in case students want to advocate for or against a proposition on the Town Meeting warrant. Students work in small groups or individually and, at the end of their projects, they make classroom presentations. One or two League members often visit a classroom to serve as an audience for these presentations. You don't have to be a member of the Civics Committee to participate in this way. We have been told that the students appreciate our presence. We have not yet directly supported the eighth grade projects but we expect to extend our scope for the 2024-25 school year.

We have engaged in other support activities as well. We adapted a guidebook prepared by the Needham League to fit Falmouth and Barnstable County. We then made the guidebook available to Mr. Feeney, and we are told it is considered a valuable resource. We also try to make the public aware of the student projects so that town officials and citizen volunteers respond to students when they are contacted. (Contacts are complicated by the school rule that students may not make emailed requests themselves. Instead, their teachers must make these requests for them.) One year we provided material for an Enterprise article, and this past year we provided information to the Chair of the Select Board so that she could help publicize the need for community input when students seek it.

We have been extraordinarily lucky that Mr. Feeney is the Department Chair. He has been welcoming to us and guided us in our efforts. And so we were very pleased when we learned that he recently received the Charles Mitsakos Award for Outstanding Supervisor given by the Massachusetts Council for the Social Studies. In his relationship with our committee, he has continually demonstrated the strong attributes for which he was honored by his colleagues in selecting him for this award.

In the League, an interest in civics goes with the territory. If you want to get involved at the school level and sit in on a classroom presentation, please let us know. And if you want to join our committee, we would love to welcome you.

MEMBERSHIP

Gayle Simundza, Kathy Mortensen, Joan Power, Misty Niemeyer, Chair

We are starting a new Membership Year with 154 members. This includes 130 primary members, 4 of which are student members, and 24 additional household members. In this past 2023-2024 membership year, we have 14 new members join our league! Many new members joined due to member meetings and events and our amazing league programming.

At the 2023 Annual Meeting, the membership voted to increase dues to \$55 for individual memberships; additional household members remained the same at \$25; this was to bring dues up to the same level due to State and National for each member. The \$25 membership rate is still available, and student memberships are still free for full or part-time enrolled students. It was also suggested at the meeting during a discussion about increasing the dues to above what is owed for State and National dues. . At this meeting, it is proposed to raise the dues to \$65.

Upcoming future changes at the National Level to Membership - The National League has been working on a major project to change the membership system, incorporate all of the local leagues, decrease the administrative burden on local league volunteers, and give members more of a range of options in due costs, with the hope of increasing membership and increasing diversity, in the form of pay what you can options, and increasing the percentage annual dues that goes to the local leagues to go towards local programming and local work. While there will be significant changes and a new interface, these look like new positive changes that will assist our Membership Committee, give more options for dues, and give a higher % of dues to our local league, which will help raise funds for our programming. Suggested dues will increase to \$75 per individual member and \$112.50 for a household membership; however, there will be a pay-as-you-go option to as low as \$20, and individual leagues can choose to set that lower and cover the cost. Our local league would receive 20% of all membership dues paid. These changes will likely not take effect till around February 2025 for new members and will not impact most league members until dues renewals the following year in May 2025. Information will be shared as the National League is rolling out the new websites and plans.

This summer, for the first time, along with the LWV MA, we are hosting a Falmouth Road Race team, with 5 runners working to fundraise to support our two leagues! This is an amazing opportunity to fundraise for our local league, raise awareness about the LWV, and potentially recruit members! Look for opportunities to help fundraise for our team, support our runners, and cheer them on in August!



LWV COMMITTEE REPORTS (CONTINUED)

NATURAL RESOURCES

The Natural Resources Committee is led by a Steering Committee of Denise Morreale, Kathy Mortenson, John Carroll, Sally Palmer and Richard Johnson. Pam Polloni, Rosemary Carey, Bruce Woodin, Deb Warner and Sam Patterson are also members of the committee.

In 2023 the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection revised the Title 5 septic law to be more strict on Cape Cod, expanding the mandate for Innovative/Alternative (I/A) Septic Systems. The Natural Resource Committee decided that I/A systems needed to be more broadly understood, and we began by scheduling a site tour of the Massachusetts Alternative Septic System Test Center (MASSTC) in Sandwich to learn about their work. We went in June and were quite intrigued: we went hoping that such a tour would be appropriate for our fall program and a larger attendance, but decided to might be physically challenging for many. Instead, we invited Brian Baumgaertel (the director) and Brian Horsley (specialist) to present their work at a public meeting in the fall. A Urine Diversion Pilot program was on the warrant for November Town Meeting and it seemed important to educate a broader audience about this and other I/A systems. The presentation was held in October and was well received and well attended. The Green Center in Falmouth (Earl Barnhardt and Hilda Maingay) had been advocating for years for urine diversion, and was working with MASSTC to develop the pilot program: several members of the committee signed up for a tour of the Green Center later in October, and have become advocates for urine diversion. The Falmouth Water Quality Committee was also involved in vetting the pilot program and we attended several hearings on those discussions. Funding for the Pilot Program is on the Spring 2024 Town Meeting Warrant. Two sticking points are: what urine diverting toilet brand/model could be approved by the State Plumbing Board, and what would happen to the collected urine, which is too strong to be disposed of at the town's wastewater treatment plant. It seems likely that those issues may be resolved before April Town Meeting

OBSERVER CORPS

Meghan Palanza, Chair

An Observer for the League of Women Voters of Falmouth is a League Member who attends a public Town Government meeting, makes notes on what happens at the meeting and reports back to the League. Considered the eyes and ears of the League, the Observer Corps are dedicated to ensuring compliance with the Open Meeting Law. The Observer is there only to Observe, not to speak to issues or answer.

On February 27, 2024, two reports were presented; Carol Rador on the Planning Board and Carol Chittendon on EDIC. The remaining reports will be read in June 2024.

The report readings always generate excellent discussions and are a great way to get a good understanding of what the observed committees have been addressing throughout the year.

Thank you to all the Observers and their hard work and diligence throughout the year.

Richard Johnson-Zoning Board of Appeals; Stephanie Miele-Board of Health; Carol Chittenden- EDIC; Marcia Easterling- Library Trustees; Carol Rader-Planning Board; Lynne Rozsa- Affordable Housing; Meghan Hanawalt- At Large





LWV COMMITTEE REPORTS (CONTINUED)

PUBLICITY/COMMUNICATIONS

Mary Fran Buckley, Eileen Mattingly Co-Chairs

Since September, 2023, the Publicity Committee has provided/will provide publicity for the following events:

- The Wastewater Treatment event sponsored by the Natural Resources Committee (October 2023)
- The viewing and discussion of the film *Just Mercy* sponsored by the DEIB Committee. (November 2023)
- The Observer Corps report sponsored by the Observer Corps (February 2024)
- The International Women's Day Breakfast sponsored by the Steering Committee (March 2024)
- Meet the Legislators evening sponsored by the Legislative Committee (March 2024)
- Candidates Night sponsored by the Voter Service Committee (April 2024)
- Annual Meeting (May 2024)

We have a publicity request form available on the website and copies can also be obtained from Mary Fran and Eileen. Among the options for publicity are inclusion in the Bulletin; efforts to place articles in *The Falmouth Enterprise*, other *Enterprise* newspapers, and the *Cape Cod Times*; FCTV; the League Facebook page; one or more e-blasts to membership; the League website; social media such as NextDoor; posters at selected locations; and outreach to other local organizations with shared interests. In these efforts we have been assisted by Joan Boyer, Gayle Simundza, Kathy Mortenson, Meghan Hanawalt, and others.

We have designed flyers when they are requested. However, physical flyers on local bulletin boards are probably the least likely way of attracting notice for our events, because the boards are overwhelmingly crowded. We ask the sponsoring committees to take over the task of posting flyers; we will continue to design flyers, when requested.

In addition to these publicity outreach efforts, we have continued publication of the monthly *Bulletin*, with eleven issues each year. Members of the Board and leaders of the committees have been very helpful in providing content for the Bulletin. The Bulletin is distributed by e-blast, posted on the website, and maintained there in an archive. Eight copies are also printed and mailed out each month to members, by special request.



LWV COMMITTEE REPORTS (CONTINUED)

VOTER SERVICE

Marcia Easterling, Sue Gnospelius, Michele Moore, Lynne Rozsa, Sylvia Szulkin, Olivia White, Barbara Kanellopoulos; Felicia Bordick, Chinna Mapp Co-Chairs;

In September 2023, The Voter Service Committee held its first meeting to establish an agenda for 2023/2024. The Committee's discussion included an original proposal to celebrate voting rights as related to the US Constitution through community participation at a public event entitled **We The People**. This eventually developed more specifically to be funded by a \$400 **Scharfman Grant**, hosted at a booth at Arts Alive Weekend on the Library green the weekend of June 14, 15, 16, 2024 and the inclusion of original pieces of art created by Falmouth High School students under the guidance of High School art teacher, Jane Baker. The discussion of appropriate readings and song selections continues at the time of this report. It was decided that there would be three monetary awards of \$200, \$100, and \$50 honoring three student submissions. All artwork, due to space limitations, will be displayed as photographs. In addition, at the conclusion of the event, the photographs of the artwork would continue to be displayed in the Falmouth Library for two more weeks. Local citizens attending the event will be able to try their knowledge at the test given to new citizens, receive a free copy of the Constitution, write postcards to friends and family with a reminder to get out and vote, take home cards with the vote 411.org QR code, and enjoy a presentation of the Preamble.

On November 14, 2023, the Committee hosted a special informational meeting **all about voting machines** with focus on the assessment of current concerns questioning the outcome of elections and its impact on our Democracy. **Larry Moore, founder of Clear Ballots**, presented the factual data on how voting machines work, how security is enforced to protect our ballots, and how voters are invited to witness the inspection of voting machines at their polling place days before the election. In addition, Mr. Moore presented more abstract concepts of innovations yet to come, and the impact and power of positive messaging.

The Voter Service Committee was represented at the **International Women's Day Breakfast** in Hyannis in March 8, 2024, with an informational table offering assistance on voter registration and other pertinent information related to voting.

Candidates Night was held in the Hermann Room of the library on Wednesday evening, April 24. Although initially eleven candidates were invited to participate, by the time of the event, seven candidates remained, four vying for three seats on the School committee and three competing for one seat on the Select Board. In addition, a few uncontested candidates were present and were invited to introduce themselves and speak briefly. Mindy Todd moderated the panel discussion of contested candidates using the league's prepared questions as well as a select few from the audience. In the future I would recommend soliciting questions from the community ahead of time and using them as the source of all questions. The more residents have input, the more they are motivated to participate. In preparation for the event, on April 5th, invitation letters with the empty chair policy attached and a request to respond by April 12th, were emailed to all candidates. On April 12th, confirmation letters with Candidates Night Guidelines were emailed to the candidates. A program was crafted to include a tear off for writing questions, an ad was placed in the



Enterprise, a short and long version of a press release were completed. A flyer advertising Candidates Night was posted in various spots around town. All publicity was previewed by Bob and Tony of FCTV before publication. An email blast resulted in new volunteers who assisted with the reception table and serving as time keepers. The reception table offered guests information on when, where, and how to vote, a card with a QR code for vote 411, specifics on early voting, and a program with space for writing a question. A separate display offered a preview of an upcoming event, We The People, about our US Constitution and voting, copies of the test given to new citizens, and copies of the Constitution. The Bay Room of the library offered overflow space for viewing Candidates Night on a large screen TV. The event was televised live on FCTV's channel 6, as well as FCTV's Roku and Apple stations. There were some technical difficulties but the follow up by FCTV after the event ensured that the community has multiple opportunities to view Candidates Night on TV before the upcoming election on May21, 2024.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION AND BELONGING

Members: Sandra Faiman-Silva, Donald Gibbons, Meghan Hanawalt, Travis Mapp, Eileen Mattingly and Misty Neimeyer . Chinna D. Mapp, Chair

The committee started the year with a Meet and Greet program held at WHOI's new building Thursday, September 21 from 6pm-8pm. Committee member Meghan Hanawalt secured facility and organized the presentation, set up and delivery of the program. The turnout was great, and attendees were able to sign up for membership, ask questions about committees and enjoy light refreshments and snacks. Many League members attended, participated, and contributed slides and explained the work of their committees.

In November, the committee organized and delivered a film screening program during the month of November. Committee member Travis Mapp provided the welcome, vision, mission and goals, Eileen Mattingly served as the program lead and Meghan Hanawalt provided the closing. Misty Niemeyer provided popcorn and snacks for the event and Mary Fran Buckley assisted with securing the library for the event. Members Sandy Faiman Silva and Donald Gibbons led organization of the committee discussion and finalization of questions for submission to the Voter Services Committee Chair Felicia Broderick. The committee raised the idea of partnering with the Federal Reserve Bank on a research initiative to learn more about exploring wealth disparities across Massachusetts. The committee is poised to explore the following things during the 2024-2025 programmatic year: educating black and indigenous people of color about civic duties, promoting the League's Vote 411 feature, celebrating Women's History Month and Economic Inclusion in the library during the 2024-2025 program year.

LWV National Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Policy

LWV is an organization fully committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion in principle and in practice. Diversity, equity, and inclusion are central to the organization's current and future success in engaging all individuals, households, communities, and policy makers in creating a more perfect democracy.

There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, gender identity, ethnicity, race, native or indigenous origin, age, generation, sexual orientation, culture, religion, belief system, marital status, parental status, socioeconomic status, language, accent, ability status, mental health, educational level or background, geography, nationality, work style, work experience, job role function, thinking style, personality type, physical appearance, political perspective or affiliation and/or any other characteristic that can be identified as recognizing or illustrating diversity

PAST 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

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



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, Kathy Mortenson, Misty Niemeyer, Maggie Sweasy, Joanne Treistman
2021 – 2022	Joan Boyer, Kathy Mortenson, 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