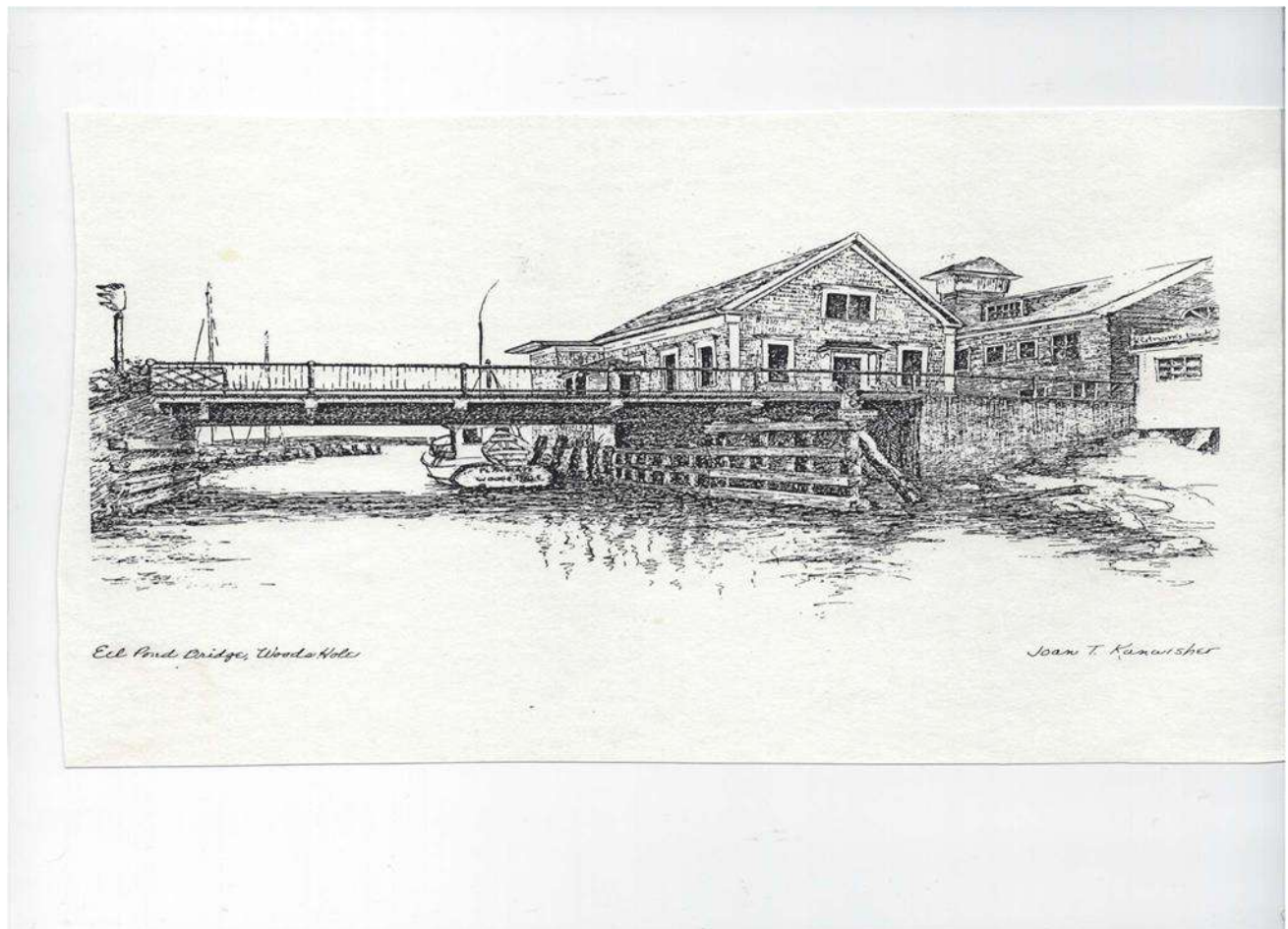




# ANNUAL REPORT 2025

May 17, 2025



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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***

***2024-2025***

*Jack Easterling 1939 - 2024*

*Doris Epstein 1924 - 2024*

*Sallie Giffin 1940 - 2024*

*Peter Collom 1930 - 2025*

*Sue Gnospelius 1939 - 2025*

## **LWVF 2024-2025 PROGRAMS**

Voter Security: The Truth About Election Lies, September 26

Candidates Night, October 22

Food Waste Composting, November 21

LWVMA Reparations Study Consensus, January 16, 2025

State and Local Program Planning, February 25

International Women's Day Breakfast, Hyannis March 11

"Meet your State Legislators", Falmouth Public Library, March 10

Film Viewing & Discussion, "Harlem Rising", April 19

Luncheon, Upper Cape Tech, April 30

Candidates Night for Falmouth Races, Falmouth Public Library. April 30

Annual Meeting, Swope Meigs Room, Woods Hole, May 17

Observer Corps Reports, Falmouth Town Hall, June 19



## **FRIENDS OF THE FALMOUTH LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS**

**Maria Moniz  
Robert and Barbara Schneider**

### **LWVF BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2024-2025**

#### **Steering Committee**

**Chair and 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President -- Janet Lauer  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President – Sheila Scott Gordon  
Secretary – Richard Johnson  
Treasurer -- Joan Boyer  
Publicity/Bulletin Co-Editor — Mary Fran Buckley**

#### **Directors**

**Diversity, Equity & Belonging — Don Gibbons  
Legislative & Civics -- Judy Ziss  
Membership – Misty Niemeyer  
Natural Resources — No Chair  
Observer Corps – Meghan Palanza  
Publicity/Bulletin Co-Editor -- Eileen Mattingly  
Voter Service – Chinna Mapp, Felicia Bordick  
At-Large -- Karen Epstein, Janice Rook, Bruce Woodin**

#### **Off-Board Specialists**

**Web Administrator – Gayle Simundza  
Historian & Email Communication - Kathy Mortenson  
Nominating Committee - Stephanie Miele  
Social Media - Penelope Duby  
FCTV Representative—Lynn Rozsa**

#### **Nominating Committee**

**Stephanie Miele, Chair; Karen Epstein, Kathy Mortenson, Misty Niemeyer, Olivia White**



## **LWVF Annual Meeting Program**

MBL Swope (Meigs Room), Woods Hole, MA  
Saturday, May 17th, 2025

### **Introduction of Speakers**

Sheila Scott Gordon

Patricia Gadsby and Jeny Christian will talk about Farming Falmouth, a young, fast-growing organization that supports local agriculture and believes in bringing people closer to where and how their food is grown.

### **Call to Order**

Janet Lauer

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

### **Approval of Annual Meeting Minutes of May 2024**

Richard Johnson

- \*Appoint Readers for Current Meeting Minutes

### **Treasurer's Report**

Joan Boyer

- \* Approve Proposed Budget for 2025-2026

### **Steering Committee Report**

Janet Lauer

- \*Local Study Proposals
- \* Outgoing members of the board. Karen Epstein (member at large), Stephanie Miele (Nominating Committee), Olivia White (Nominating Committee)

### **Membership Committee Report**

Misty Niemeyer

- \* New Membership Procedure

### **Nominating Committee Report and Election**

Stephanie Miele

### **Introduction of the New Board Members**

Janet Lauer

- \*Eileen Miskell (Nominating Committee), Mary Harris (Nominating Committee), Susan Loucks (member at large)

### **League Leader Award Presentation**

Janet Lauer

### **Direction to the Board**

Janet Lauer

### **Adjournment**



LWV TREASURER REPORT & PROPOSED BUDGET 2025				
			Proposed	
	as of 7/1/24	FY2024-2025	FY2025-2026	as of 4/30/25
INCOME	Actual	Budget	Budget	Actual
Ads	\$ 300.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	
Annual Meeting	\$ 63.97			
Contributions - Non-members	\$ 1,018.05	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 50
Contributions - Members	\$ 1,195.56	\$ 500.00	\$ 650.00	
Dues	\$ 8,830.75	\$ 7,335.00	\$ 1,610.00	\$ 4,722
Development / Fund Raisers	\$ 400.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 2,845
Grants				
Replacement Checks	\$ 535.00			n/a
<b>INCOME TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 12,343.33</b>	<b>\$ 11,035.00</b>	<b>\$ 7,760.00</b>	
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
Action/Program		\$ 50.00	\$ 250.00	
Administration	\$ 222.00	\$ 350.00	\$ 222	
Postage			\$ 68	
Web Site Fee	\$ 467.99	\$ 400.00	\$ 475	\$ 425
Annual Meeting & Report	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 1,000	
Bank & Paypal Fees		\$ 250.00	\$ 25	
Development/Road Race		\$ 200.00	\$ 1,150	\$ 1,150
Printing	\$ 170.00	\$ 170.00	\$ 750	\$ 650
Convention - National			\$ 500	
Convention -State		\$ 450.00		
Membership & Directory		\$ 400.00	\$ 200	
Participation & Gifts	\$ 250.00	\$ 425.00	\$ 525	
Per Member Pay Mass. (PMP)	\$ 2,323.00	\$ 3,006.00	\$ 2,290	\$ 2,984
Per Member Pay US (PMP)	\$ 3,392.00	\$ 4,350.00	\$ 3,328	\$ 647
Voter Service	\$ 499.78	\$ 850.00	\$ 300	\$ 265
<b>EXPENSE TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 7,824.77</b>	<b>\$ 11,401.00</b>	<b>\$ 11,083.00</b>	<b>\$ 6,121.00</b>

**TOTAL CASH ON HAND as of 7/1/24      \$12,843.15**

**TOTAL CASH ON HAND as of 4/30/25      \$ 8,279.63**



## **League of Women Voters of Falmouth ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES 2024**

May 18, 2024 at the Coonamessett Inn, Falmouth, MA

There were 38 attendees as the meeting began, with two more joining later in the program.

Meghan Hanawalt, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President opened the meeting at 10 am, introducing the first speaker, Travis Mapp, native to Trinidad and Tobago and resident in Falmouth since 2021. He has been a teacher for 20 years, currently at a charter school in New Bedford. He spoke on Democracy and Marginalized Voices, noting that there are 13.1 million legal resident non-US citizens (NPR) in this country according to the Department of Homeland Security. These individuals work, pay taxes, and are issued drivers licenses and Social Security Numbers but may not vote, run for elected offices or hold federal jobs. They are truly marginalized voices. Recent data for Falmouth lists a total population of 33,128 of which 2,700 are foreign-born and likely NPR. It is time to consider changing the law to allow these valued members of the community and economy a greater voice. Allowing NPR to run for local offices and vote in local elections would be a good first step, followed in time with similar rights at the state level. Ultimately, NPR may gain the right to vote in national elections.

The Business Meeting was then called to order, with a moment of silence to honor members who have passed in the current year: Olive Crowell Beverly, Doris M. Curran, Olivann Rumph Hobbie, Constance Kahler Martyna and Joanne Pumroy Vorrhis.

Meghan greeted new members who joined the league this year and introduced Judith Fenwick who will serve as parliamentarian for this meeting.

Richard Johnson, Secretary introduced the minutes of the 2022-23 Annual meeting which were approved as printed in the program. Meghan Hanawalt, Meghan Palanza and Linda Jeffries-Summers volunteered to serve as readers for the minutes of the current meeting.

Joan Boyer, Treasurer presented the Treasurer's report printed in the program, noting that there were a few minor additions since it was printed. The report was approved by the members. Joan went on to introduce the proposed budget printed in the program which was also approved by the members.

Membership Chair Misty Niemeyer proposed a change in the dues for 2024-25: she was not able to attend and her proposal was read by Meghan Hanawalt. Dues were proposed to increase from \$60 to \$65 for members, with no change for the second household member or student members. There are still scholarships available for those who need a more affordable option. This change was approved by the members.

Janet Lauer, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President read the report of the Steering Committee, thanking Meghan Hanawalt, Sylvia Szulkin, Chinna Mapp, and Richard Johnson for their service on that committee. The report detailed the activities of the League as listed on page 2 of the program and in the committee reports found on pages 9-15. She invited members to participate in the State League Council on June 22<sup>nd</sup> (via Zoom), and in the LWV National Convention June 27-30. LWVF is allowed four delegates at the annual meeting and will cover the registration cost for up to four members to participate via Zoom.

Stephanie Miele, Chair of the Nominations Committee presented the proposed slate of Board Members, printed on page 8 of the program. These were approved unanimously by the members. Several individuals are new to the Board: Sheila Scott Gordon, Don Gibbons, Bruce Woodin and Janice Rook. The other Board Members and Off-





Board Specialists continue to serve. The Nominating Committee was composed of Stephanie Miele, Kathy Mortenson, Olivia White, Denise Morreale and Misty Niemeyer.

Janet Lauer thanked the members stepping down from the Board for their service: Sylvia Szulkin, Meghan Hanawalt, Chinna Mapp and Lynne Rozsa.

The membership was invited to give direction to the Board for the 2024-25 year:

- Susan Moran suggested that more programming be planned for younger members.
- Richard Johnson suggested that the League encourage more people to run for local office and for volunteer Boards and Committees.
- Judy Fenwick suggested that the membership directory include any town office or committee assignments (eg. Town Meeting Member, etc.) individual members hold.
- Margaret Stephens suggested that we hold a workshop for members to successfully lobby/advocate for change at the local and state level.

The Business Meeting was then closed with a unanimous vote, followed by several announcements while the Keynote Speaker set up.

- Richard Johnson spoke for the Transportation Committee about the status of the Canal Bridges project, urging members to comment on the DOT website about the need for a significant commuter parking lot at the Bourne Bridge.
- Janet Lauer spoke for the Voter Service Committee requesting volunteers to staff the We The People event at Arts Alive in Falmouth this June.
- Sandy Faiman-Silva announced a No Place for Hate event scheduled May 19 in West Yarmouth. She is also forming a task force on Workforce Sustainability to address the need for workers and workforce housing in Falmouth, asking those interested in participating to contact her.
- Judy Ziss spoke for the Legislative Committee's interest in affordable housing and said that the committee would welcome additional members.

Meghan introduced our Keynote Speaker, Susan Bauer, who gave a presentation on "Change Follows Wonder and Joy." Susan is a retired psychologist and founder of Old Ladies Against Underwater Garbage (OLAUG). Susan

thanked the League for inviting her and for our work in increasing voter education and participation. She noted that activism involves disappointment, that change is never fast enough, and that changing behavior is like shaping a flint with a toothpick. She is a lifelong swimmer but gave up swimming in the ocean to swim in ponds on Cape Cod, becoming fascinated with turtles and appalled at how poorly ponds are treated. She wrote and illustrated books on Cape Cod ponds and turtles. This led her to examine the joy she experienced in ponds. She began to write about Joy and Wonder, how during the experience of nature we become one with our environment. Abraham Maslow and Patrick Curry wrote about this, and researchers in California and Chicago have found that groups experiencing shared natural wonder become more civically involved with greater empathy, confidence and self-esteem. As an example, she described OLAUG, a group of women 64-84 who work together cleaning fresh-water ponds of garbage: bottles, cans, golf balls, debris and objects lost/discarded from boats. Teams of snorkelers collect garbage, passing it to kayakers or canoers who take it ashore for disposal. They cooperate with pond associations and homeowners on the ponds, asking only for hot drinks and cookies afterwards. They experience joy in the work, and homeowners who participate become advocates for pond health and ecological stewardship. All involved benefit from the shared effort. Change follows wonder and joy. Susan's presentation was warmly received. *Minutes submitted by Richard Johnson.*



## LWVF LOCAL STUDY REPORT 2025

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

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

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

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

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

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

*Submitted by Judy Fenwick*

## PROPOSED LOCAL PROGRAM 2025

The LWV of Falmouth adopts a local program annually. Members vote on a local program at annual meeting. Once a program is chosen a committee is formed to study the information and present it to the community. Once a position is reached the committee takes steps to develop strategy to implement it.

The program for 2024 was to update the LWVF Falmouth in Focus publication.

Suggested programs for 2025-26 are as follows:

1. Town meeting format; does it meet town needs?
2. School system reorganization
3. Election safety and integrity
4. Impact of 40B housing in Falmouth
5. Bicycle path connection and extension
6. Fire preparedness and planning



## NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT 2025

Stephanie Miele, Chair

Karen Epstein, Misty Niemeyer, Board Members; Kathy Mortenson, Olivia White, Off-Board Members

### **Board Members**

\*Steering Committee

1st Vice President:	Janet Lauer (2024-2026)*
2nd Vice President:	Sheila Scott Gordon (2024-2026)*
Secretary:	Richard Johnson (2025-2027)*
Treasurer:	Joan Boyer (2025-2027)
Legislative:	Judith Ziss (2024-2026)
Natural Resources:	
Voter Service:	Chinna Mapp (2025-2027)
DEIB:	Don Gibbons (2004-2026)*
Membership:	Misty Niemeyer (2024-2026)
Observer Corps:	Meghan Palanza (2025-2027)
Publicity:	Mary Fran Buckley* & Eileen Mattingly (2025-2027)
At-Large:	Bruce Woodin (2024-2026)
At-Large:	Susan Loucks (2025-2027)
At-Large:	Janice Rook (2024-2026)

### **Nominating Committee (2025-2026)**

Chair:	Kathy Mortenson
Off Board:	Eileen Miskell, Mary Harris
Board Members:	Misty Neimeyer

\* Steering Committee

## COMMITTEE REPORTS 2025

### STEERING COMMITTEE

Janet Lauer, Sheila Scott Gordon, Richard Johnson, Joan Boyer, and Mary Fran Buckley.

The steering committee is made up of 5 members from the board. We meet when decisions need to be made outside regular board meeting times or to discuss topics to bring before the board. We also rotate writing the opening steering report for the monthly newsletter. The 1st VP and the 2nd VP rotate chairing for monthly board meetings.

I would like to thank board members for their sage advice when making decisions concerning league activities and communication. Also, I would like to thank committee chairpersons for their vision and leadership, as well as members of committees who make light work for committee chairs to continue our work to promote advocacy and education through program planning and implementation. It is the work of the committees that make the LWV of Falmouth successful.

### LEGISLATIVE

Helen Bresnahan, Margaret Cooper, Colleen Cunningham, Annie Holden, Deanna Jaroche, 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 bills on which we have taken a position. The Committee Chair and occasionally other members send emails or make phone calls to voice our support for a bill.

In the session ending in 2024, the Massachusetts legislature passed important bills in areas of interest to us, such as housing, gun control, early childhood education, and hybrid public meetings. It also agreed to allow the use of campaign contributions for a candidate's childcare expenses. However, bills we supported that would have limited the use of facial recognition technology or which would have provided for end of life options did not pass.

The Massachusetts League has a team of volunteer Legislative specialists, each of whom focuses on a specific subject. Local League members can seek assistance from them and often rely on their alerts regarding pending legislation.

In addition, each year the Legislative Committee presents a program for the public, usually in March, and we invite our three legislators to attend. Due to a last minute problem, this year only two of our legislators, newly-elected Senator Dylan Fernandes and newly-elected Representative Thomas Moakley, were able to participate. The program, which included a Q and A session, was broadcast subsequently by FCTV. 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 a number of years ago to serve as a resource for the Falmouth Schools as they implement a civics law enacted in late 2018. That law requires that students participate in one student-led, non-partisan civics project in eighth grade and another such project during high school.

In Falmouth High School, students do their civics projects in the spring of sophomore year as part of their U.S. History curriculum. Students work individually or in small groups and, at the end of their projects, they make classroom presentations. For several years, Civics Committee members and other Falmouth League members attended these presentations. This past year because of illness and scheduling issues, we were not able to do so. However, we believe that we will be able to resume this practice in the 2025-26 school year.

We have been told that the students appreciate our presence at their presentations, and it is a pleasure for us. If you would like to sit in on a classroom presentation in the spring of 2026, please let us know. And if you want to join our committee, we would love to welcome you.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

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

We are starting a new Membership Year with 133 members. Many new members have joined due to member meetings and events and our amazing league programming.

The National League has instituted a major change to the membership system, in order to decrease the administrative burden on local league volunteers. The change gives members more of a range of options in dues costs, with the hope of increasing membership and increasing diversity, in the form of pay what you can options, and increasing the percentage of annual dues that goes to the local leagues (20%) to go towards local programming and local work. Suggested dues have increased to \$75 per individual member, with no option for a household or student membership. However, there is a pay-as-you-go option as low as \$20. Our local league would receive 20% of all membership dues paid.

Last summer, for the first time, along with the LWVMA, we hosted a Falmouth Road Race team, with 5 runners. The Falmouth League garnered \$2,845! We are hoping to recruit 5 runners to run for the LWVF in the 2025 Falmouth Road Race. LWVMA is not participating this year. 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, recruit and support our runners, and cheer them on in August!





## **PUBLICITY/COMMUNICATIONS**

Mary Fran Buckley, Eileen Mattingly Co-Chairs

The publicity committee has two main functions: to publish the LWVF Bulletin on a regular basis and to assist committees in publicizing the events they have planned.

From June 2024-May 2025, the committee published ten *Bulletins*. They covered steering committee reports, promotions for upcoming events, articles on recent events, book reviews, a legislative directory, calendars of future events, and more. Much of the content was written by committee members and other articles were drafted by the editors of the *Bulletin*. Copies of the *Bulletin*, once cleared by proofreaders, were emailed to all members. Copies were also printed and mailed each month to seven members by special request.

During the same time period, the publicity committee assisted in publicizing the following events: the voter security meeting, Fall Candidates Night, the Natural Resources meeting on food waste composting, a meeting on the issue of reparations, Meet Your Legislators night, the Annual Meeting, a film on Harlem Rising for the DEI committee, and Candidates Night. Methods for publicity included local newspapers, social media sites such as Falmouth Patch and NextDoor, relevant community groups, and WCAI radio. In addition, the committee prepared a press release on Vote411 and created flyers for many of these events.

## **NATURAL RESOURCES**

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

In 2024-25 Natural Resources Committee followed a number of local/regional environmental issues and presented one public program on local Food Waste Composting. That presentation was made by Mary Ryther (Falmouth DEP Recycling and Solid Waste Coordinator, and Carmela Mayeski, Learning Partners Specialist at Falmouth Public Schools, and was filmed by FCTV where it may be seen on demand. Food waste accounts for a significant percentage of the town's solid waste and is a valuable resource for agricultural purposes once composted. All Falmouth Schools now compost food waste from their kitchens and cafeterias.

The Committee has also been following the proposed Gun Range at Joint Base Cape Cod and disposal of contaminated water by Holtec Corporation at the Pilgrim Nuclear Plant. The Gun Range was blocked by the Governor in September of 2024 for environmental reasons after significant public pressure (including LWVF) was exerted to protect the Upper Cape Water Supply Reserve aquifer on which the range was to be located. Holtec was blocked from discharging contaminated water into Massachusetts Bay after similar public and governmental pressure but there are ongoing efforts to block them from evaporating that water into the atmosphere. LWVF is cooperating with other activist environmental groups to fight this. Natural Resources Committee was interested in the health impacts of buried electrical cables associated with off-shore wind but has not been able to identify a well-qualified speaker on this topic.





## **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.

All the reports will be read in June 2025. 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. This past year, the ZBA report was published and included with a news story within the *Falmouth Enterprise*. It was an excellent example of how the Observer's reports raise awareness of the town committees' activities.

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; Lynne Rozsa- Affordable Housing

## **VOTER SERVICE**

Marcia Easterling, Michele Moore, Lynne Rozsa, Sylvia Szulkin, Olivia White, Barbara Kanellopoulos; Felicia Bordick, Chinna Mapp, Chair

The Committee presented a program entitled BUILDING TRUST IN THE VOTING SYSTEM In association with Falmouth Community Television (FCTV), on September 26, 2024. Michael Palmer spoke about voter security with mail-in voting and security at the polls. Larry Moore addressed voting machine security.

Candidates Night was held October 16, in the Falmouth High School Auditorium. The six candidates who spoke were positive and appropriate in their responses. They were David Vieira and Kathy Fox Alfano for State Representative, Dylan Fernandes and Matthew Muratore for State Senate, and William Keating and Dan Sullivan for US Representative. This was In association with Falmouth Community Television (FCTV).

Candidates Night was held in the Hermann Room of the library on April 30. Candidates for Select Board and School Committee participated. In addition, Mindy Todd moderated the panel discussion of contested candidates using the league's prepared questions as well as a select few from the audience.



## **DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION AND BELONGING**

Sandra Faiman-Silva, Meghan Hanawalt, Chinna Mapp, Travis Mapp, Eileen Mattingly, Don Gibbons, Chair

The committee started out the year looking for ways to increase the diversity of registered voters. We made simple 3-inch single fliers that talked about registering and had a QR code to the LWV VOTE-411 with appropriate translations for English, Spanish and Portuguese. The translations for the latter two provided by friends of Eileen Mattingly. They were put up at the front desk and the Falmouth and Bourne libraries. We also had a set for the Cape Cod Verdean Museum and the curator there Barbara Burgo thanked us saying "Our 20 somethings that were born here don't know they need to register."

Then in January we orchestrated a consensus meeting on the LWV MA desire to check the members preferences for reparations to black people living in the U.S. LWVMA Reparations Committee, which included LWVF Meghan Hanawalt, had studied the issue in depth and prepared a report on the reasons reparations are being considered. These include the effects of enforced slavery from the colonial era through the Civil war, the Jim Crow era, the impacts of segregation laws and bias towards whites in the Homestead Act, GI Bill, federal housing policies and others into the 1960's. Fifteen members of LWVF met to discuss the 12 questions proposed by the committee. A consensus was reached that all African/Americans should be eligible for reparations with priority given to descendants of enslaved Africans. There was no consensus reached on whether those reparations should be cash, but there was consensus that the Federal Government should provide the bulk of the reparations, and that State and local governments as well as businesses and other organizations should participate in reparations. The meeting went well with stewardship of Misty Niemeyer, Eileen Mattingly and Richard Johnson.

In April the committee arranged a showing of the movie "Harlem Rising" with an appearance and Q&A from the producer Amber Payne, who is a friend of Eileen Mattingly. We had 21 people attending with good questions for Amber and how the Harlem Children's Zone had set up a community of parents and a school that allowed kids to thrive, do well academically and most attended college.

Now and in the next couple months the committee intends to create an "observer" system to post a page on the LWVF web site to let our community know how local entities are doing with Diversity in the current climate from local banks, institutions and churches.

In the fall the committee plans to hold a DEI discussion for LWVF members with professional trainer, Seyana Mawusi entitled "Everyday every way - Developing Equity and Inclusion ( DEI)".



**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  
2025 Meghan Hanawalt

## PAST PRESIDENTS

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

## PAST STEERING COMMITTEES

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