



# League of Women Voters® of Falmouth Bulletin

## January 2020

### In This Issue

Steering Committee  
Message.....page 2  
In Memoriam .....page 4  
LWVF Friends..... page 4  
Membership Report...page 4  
Observer Corps  
Presentations.....page 4  
MLK Breakfast.....page 5  
Candidates Night.....page 5  
People-Powered Fair  
Maps.....page 6  
Women’s Suffrage Movement  
in Falmouth  
.....page 7  
Lobbying for Safe  
Communities Act.....page 9  
Local Program  
Planning.....page 10  
Centennial Grove Donation  
Form.....page 11

### Contact Us

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Visit our web site  
[www.lwvf.org](http://www.lwvf.org)  
Visit our Facebook page  
[https://www.facebook.com/  
LWVofFalmouthMA/](https://www.facebook.com/LWVofFalmouthMA/)

### Member Event Calendar

January	2020			
	<b>16</b>	<b>7:00 pm</b>	<b>National Planning Program</b>	Town Hall Civil Defense Room
	<b>28</b>	<b>7:00 pm</b>	<b>Board Meeting</b>	Gus Canty Center, Falmouth
February	2020			
	<b>20</b>	<b>7:00 pm</b>	<b>Local Planning/Observer Corps Presentation</b>	Town Hall Civil Defense Room
	<b>25</b>	<b>7:00 pm</b>	<b>Board Meeting</b>	Gus Canty Center, Falmouth
March	2020			
	<b>3</b>		<b>Presidential Primary/Local Special Election Primary</b>	
	<b>19</b>	<b>7:00 pm</b>	<b>Legislative Program</b>	Hermann Room, Falmouth Library
	<b>Tues 24</b>	<b>7:00 pm</b>	<b>Candidates Night</b>	
	<b>Thurs 26</b>	<b>7:00 pm</b>	<b>Board Meeting</b>	Gus Canty Center, Falmouth
	<b>31</b>		<b>Special Election for Vacated State Senate Seat</b>	

### LWVF Board of Directors 2019-2020

#### Steering Committee

First Vice-President		<b>Sylvia Szulkin</b> , Steering Committee	
Chair	Second Vice-President	<b>Alice Carey</b>	
At Large		<b>Doris Epstein</b>	
At Large		<b>Joanne Treistman</b>	
Webmaster		<b>Joan Boyer</b>	
Secretary	<b>Marcia Easterling</b>	Membership	<b>Jackie Webster</b>
Treasurer	<b>Meghan Hanawalt</b>	Voter Service	<b>Carol McKeon</b>
Observer Corps	<b>Denise Morreale</b>	Natural Resources	<b>Richard</b>
<b>Johnson</b>			
At Large	<b>Kathy Mortenson</b>	Legislative	<b>Judith Ziss</b>
	<b>Misty Niemeyer</b>	Publicity	<b>Olivann Hobbie</b>
	<b>Joanne Voorhis</b>	Social Media	<b>Penny Duby</b>

Bulletin Editors: **Denise Morreale, Brenda Nolan**

If you wish to join the League, membership dues are \$50 for an individual membership and \$25 for an additional household member.  
Send your check made out to LWV of Falmouth, P. O. Box 450, Falmouth, MA 02541. Include your name, mailing address, email address and phone number.  
You do not have to be a resident of Falmouth to join.

## MESSAGE FROM THE STEERING COMMITTEE LEAGUE PROGRAM

Joan Boyer, Steering Committee

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January is the month we focus on National Program Planning for the coming biennium. Our member meeting will be on January 16<sup>th</sup> in the Town Hall Civil Defense Room. League program is the education and advocacy platform that we adopt to move our mission forward. The following is material taken from [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)

### **LWVUS Recommended Program: The Campaign for Making Democracy Work®**

The LWVUS Board recommends that Program 2020-2022 continue the campaign for Making Democracy Work® with Leagues working on

- Redistricting
- Voting Rights
- Improving Elections
- Campaign Finance/Money in Politics

And also a **Proposed Concurrence on Electoral Systems**

**Position in Brief:** *Support electoral systems at each level of government that encourage participation, are verifiable and auditable and enhance representation for all voters. (See full position on next page)*

**Voter Representation/ Electoral System Concurrence Position Why?** The League of Women Voters currently does not have a position on how we elect our representatives. The purpose of having this position is to provide a clear, but flexible base of principles, for evaluating electoral systems that empower voters. (language is from 14 State LWV positions)

### **Accomplishments of the 2018-2020 Campaign for Making Democracy Work®**

Since Convention 2018, LWVUS sent 29 action emails to our network of grassroots activists on voter suppression tactics as well as supporting legislation like the *For the People Act* and the *Voting Rights Advancement Act*. These also include action alerts on immigration reform and gun policy.

These efforts resulted in 130,794 letters to Congress, 71,060 petition signatures, and over 12,000 contacts with the legislative branch of government. Through our outreach we were able to engage over 86,000 new activists.

## **Voter Representation/ Electoral Systems Position**

Recommended by LWVUS for Adoption via Concurrence  
at LWVUS Convention 2020

LWVUS promotes an open governmental system that is representative, accountable and responsive. We encourage electoral methods that provide the broadest voter representation possible. Whether for single or multiple winner contests, the League supports electoral methods that:

- Encourage voter participation and voter engagement
- Encourage those with minority opinions to participate, including under-represented communities
- Are verifiable and auditable
- Promote access to voting
- Maximize effective votes/minimize “wasted” votes
- Promote sincere voting over strategic voting
- Require the winner to receive a majority of the votes for executive and single seat offices
- Are compatible with acceptable ballot-casting methods, including vote-by-mail

The LWVUS believes in representative government. The League supports electoral systems that elect policy-making bodies--legislatures, councils, commissions, and boards—that proportionally reflect the people they represent. We support systems that inhibit political manipulation (e.g. gerrymandering).



*Natural Brush Clearing and Poison Ivy Control*

Meghan Hanawalt, Goatherd info@getmygoatscapecod.com  
774-521-8745 www.GetMyGoatsCapeCod.com

The LWVUS supports enabling legislation to allow local jurisdictions to explore alternative electoral methods, as well as supporting state election laws allowing for more options at both the state and local levels. With the adoption of any electoral system, the League believes that education of the voting public is important and funding for startup and voter education should be available. We encourage a concerted voter education process.

### **100<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS**

Thursday, February 6 2020 at 10:00 am in State House Room 428. Following the program, the League will support Election Day Registration in MA.

## *In Memoriam*

### *∞ Jean Halvorson ∞*

Jean was the president of our League from 1988-1990. Always active in the League, Jean was an observer for the Board of Health, and she never missed attending Day on the Hill or the Cape Cod Legislative Breakfast.

### *∞ Evelyn Gresser ∞*

Evelyn was a longtime member of the League of Women Voters both in New Jersey and Falmouth. She participated in Falmouth League studies on affordable housing and county government.

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## **LWVF FRIENDS 2019**

Sally Fritz  
Christina Jacobi  
Winnie and Bill Mackey

Robert and Barbara Schneider  
Freddy Valois

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## **MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

By Jackie Webster, Chair

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Welcome to new LWVF member **Maro Valerie Titus**, who has joined since our last Bulletin!

We have received some notifications from members of errors in the printed Membership Directory. We will soon be sending out an update. If you find any errors please notify Jackie Webster at [jwebster391@gmail.com](mailto:jwebster391@gmail.com), or 508-540-3893.

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## **OBSERVER CORPS PRESENTATIONS FEBRUARY 20<sup>th</sup>**

Denise Morreale, Observer Corps Chair

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The Solid Waste Advisory, Board of Selectmen, and EDIC reports will be presented at the joint meeting with Local Planning in the Town Hall Civil Defense Room at 7 pm. We still need Observers. Contact Denise Morreale if you are interested.

## **MLK COMMUNITY BREAKFAST ON JANUARY 20**

Meghan Hanawalt

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We encourage you to join us in attending our local No Place for Hate Falmouth's **MLK Community Breakfast on January 20**. If you cannot attend, consider sending a donation to NPFH to help them reduce ticket costs for those who may not be able to afford it.

### **Martin Luther King Jr Community Breakfast**

Tickets for the annual Martin Luther King Jr. National Holiday community breakfast are now available. The event, which always sells out, will be held Monday, Jan. 20, 9:30-11:30 am at the Sea Crest Resort in North Falmouth.

Donique R. McIntosh, EdD, is the keynote speaker with her presentation "A Restless Determination."

Tickets prices: In advance (online or by check) Adults \$22 / students \$12.  
At the door: Adults \$25 / students \$15.

On-line reservations: [npfhfalmouth.org](http://npfhfalmouth.org)

Send checks to: NPFH-Falmouth c/o Cape Cod Foundation, 261 Whites Path, Unit 2, S. Yarmouth, MA 02664.

Any Questions, contact Meghan Hanawalt, Treasurer, LWVF

## **CANDIDATES NIGHT ON MARCH 24<sup>TH</sup> STATE SENATOR FOR PLYMOUTH & BARNSTABLE COUNTIES**

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In anticipation of the March 31<sup>st</sup> special election of State Senator for Plymouth and Barnstable Counties, the League is planning to host a Candidates Night on Tuesday March 24<sup>th</sup>.

The program will begin at 7:00pm in the Hermann Room of the Falmouth Public Library and will be co-sponsored by Falmouth Community TV who will broadcast it live and offer it for replay on channel 13 in the week prior to the election.

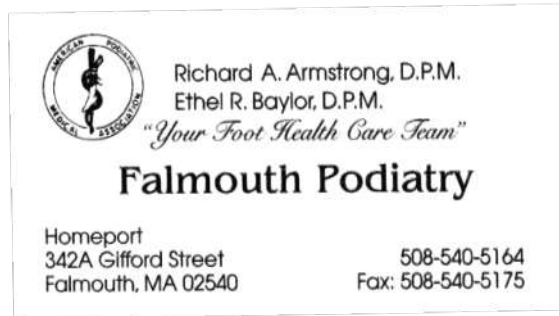
Primaries for the state senatorial position will be held on March 3<sup>rd</sup> (at the same time and on the same voting schedule as the Presidential primary). Once final candidates have been chosen by voters, they will be invited to present their views at the LWVF Candidates Night. Please "Save the Date", March 24<sup>th</sup>, and watch for further information and details of the program as they are developed.

## PROGRAM ON PEOPLE-POWERED FAIR MAPS

Carol McKeon, Voter Service Chair

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On November 21<sup>st</sup>, LWVMA Co-President Judith Zaunbrecher, gave a presentation on People Powered Fair Maps. People Powered Fair Maps is an initiative of the national LWV and is committed to creating fair and transparent, people-powered redistricting processes and to eliminating partisan and racial gerrymandering in every state nationwide. The program was organized by the Falmouth League's Voter Service Committee and was open to the public. It was presented in the Hermann Room of the Falmouth Public Library and was taped by FCTV. The taped program is currently available on youtube via the following links.



<https://lwmvma.org/lwmvma-co-president-judy-zaunbrecher-presents-the-people-powered-fair-maps-campaign/>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E15j\\_JyZJdA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E15j_JyZJdA)



Carol McKeon, Judith Zaunbrecher, Olivann Hobbie

## THE WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE MOVEMENT IN FALMOUTH GUEST COMMENTARY, OLIVANN HOBBIE, LWVF

Reprinted from *the Enterprise* and LWVMA website

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The League of Women Voters and the 19th Amendment, granting women the right to vote, share a centennial in 2020. As part of the many observances of these two landmarks, the Falmouth League (founded as a separate entity only in the 1950s) will offer some historical perspective as well as some fun (and sometimes hard-to-believe) facts on this early "women's movement."

The Women's Suffrage Movement in the United States was active from at least 1848, the date of the Seneca Falls conference. The declaration of the Seneca Falls women repeated almost word-for-word most of Thomas Jefferson's 1776 Declaration. But it attacked not the tyranny of a king over free people but the tyranny of men over women. The Western states were the first ones to grant women suffrage in the 19th century, Wyoming in 1869 and Colorado in 1893.

From the early 1900s the *Enterprise* aimed to keep its readers informed of developments both pro and con for women's suffrage. A long article in the *Enterprise* of November 29, 1902, quoted a suffragist commenting on the changes that Colorado had noticed since women could vote: "Women have shown themselves to be keenly alive to the investigation of social problems that have their solution directly through politics."



In April 1909 the Falmouth Lyceum, described as an organization "in which the younger men can acquire the art of debating," sponsored a debate on women's suffrage. Two "professional men" led the debate, "ladies [were] especially invited" and "will be expected to express their minds." The members of the Lyceum, unsurprisingly, used common arguments of the era: pro-suffrage speakers felt that women deserved this basic democratic right; anti-suffrage speakers often implied that, because women could never be logical in their thinking, giving them the vote would be unwise. Furthermore, one speaker argued, "Colorado politics are hysterical, to say the least."

The *Enterprise* article that covered this debate reported that the speaker favoring women's suffrage argued that women's "intuition in reaching conclusions [is] usually more correct than the reasonings of men," while his opponent, although accepting the opinion about women's intuition, countered that "they did not have the time and the disposition to vote" on issues such as free trade.

Efforts on the Cape also attracted interest from activists in Boston. On August 23, 1913, the *Enterprise* reported on four large and enthusiastic

meetings" that were held in Falmouth at various locations, featuring "suffragists from Boston on their present end-to-end campaign of the Cape." One speaker quoted President Wilson, who noted that mothers teach citizenship to their children and it "must be lived by her before" she can teach it. Another speaker repeated one of the "suffrage slogans": "We prepare children for the world; let us prepare the world for our children."

That same month the paper noted local fundraising efforts. Card parties and bake sales were popular ways to raise money for the cause. "On Saturday, Aug. 15th, suffragists of Woods Hole, with a card party at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Gilman A. Drew...raised the sum of \$40 to send to the campaign fund of the national Suffrage Association."

Enterprise articles over several months of 1915 attest to the steady growth of support for women's suffrage. The June 5 edition reported that "The 'Votes for Women' campaigners struck Falmouth Wednesday evening." In the June 11 edition, readers learned that "A suffrage rally was held in front of the postoffice at West Falmouth Tuesday evening." Efforts continued into the fall. "Fully 150 persons listened intently" to the September 15th speech of Mrs. Gertrude Newell," where she expressed hope that the women of Massachusetts will gain the right to vote now held by "women in 12 western states."

The Enterprise also chronicled the appearances on October 11, 1915, of the "Campaigners against Woman Suffrage." Perhaps in reaction to the enthusiastic turnout at the pro-suffrage rallies, the anti-suffrage men spoke at four different locations: "from 11:30 to 12 noon opposite the drinking fountain at North Falmouth"; "from 12:15 to 12:45 p.m. in front of the post office at West Falmouth"; "from 1:00 to 1:30 p.m., opposite the Elm-Arch Inn, Falmouth"; and "from 2:30 to 3:00 p.m., opposite the library at Woods Hole." Opponents of women's suffrage often relied on the importance of women's philanthropic work or on the "woman's place is in the home" argument. As Mr Magee had said at a Falmouth Lyceum meeting, reported on April 17, "If the women would stay at home and teach the children, there would be no danger in the future for the welfare of the country."

The women's battle wasn't over, as supporters must have learned with disappointment from the November 6 Enterprise that year. With "an unusually large vote being polled in the Woods Hole precinct last Tuesday" the amendment "Relative to Woman Suffrage" got 49 yes votes and 61 nay votes. The town-wide vote was even more lopsided: 172 yes votes and 384 no votes. But the women didn't give up, as their intrepid fight for the right to vote continued.

*Ms. Hobbie is a member of the League of Women Voters of Falmouth.*



## **LOBBYING FOR SAFE COMMUNITIES ACT**

Judith Ziss, Legislative Chair

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The **Safe Communities Act, H.3573 (Reps. Baler and Miranda) and S. 1401 (Sen. Eldridge)**, which is pending before the Massachusetts Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security, is set for a public hearing at **11:00 a.m. on Friday, January 24** at the State House in Boston. This hearing had initially been scheduled for December 2 but was postponed due to an impending snowstorm. The bill is the centerpiece of the Massachusetts League's legislative immigration agenda.

The hearing will be before the Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security. **David Vieira is the Ranking Minority Member on that Committee.** It is important that we in Falmouth and elsewhere on the Upper Cape urge him to vote to report the bill out of committee **favorably** so that it can be considered by the entire legislature.

Last June the Falmouth Enterprise published a letter to the editor of the Falmouth Enterprise signed by Sylvia Szulkin as Steering Committee Chair and Judy Ziss as Legislative Chair. That letter has been re-purposed and has been emailed on behalf of the Falmouth League to David, to the Chairs of the Committee, and to the Committee membership. As the two main substantive paragraphs of the letter state:

*A major aim of this bill is to encourage individuals to communicate with state and local police without fear of being questioned about their immigration status. For example, immigrants who have been abused in their homes or have had wages withheld illegally would feel free to report these crimes to the police. Similarly, witnesses of crimes would be able to work with law enforcement without endangering themselves. This provision would send a strong message that here in Massachusetts our police protect us all.*

*Other sections of the bill apply only to individuals who are in state or local police custody. The aim is to ensure that such individuals are accorded due process. For example, individuals in custody would be notified of their rights if federal immigration law enforcement officials, familiarly known as ICE, seek to question them. The bill also would specifically prohibit contracts with ICE whereby state and county personnel act as federal immigration agents, such as the agreement currently in effect between the Barnstable County Sheriff's Office and ICE.*

Please make your own voice heard. Contact David by phone at 617-722-2230 and press 5, by email at [David.Vieira@mahouse.gov](mailto:David.Vieira@mahouse.gov), or by mail at State House, Room 167, Boston, MA 02133. If you email or write, please copy the Chairs of the Committee at [Harold.Naughton@mahouse.gov](mailto:Harold.Naughton@mahouse.gov) and [Michael.Moore@masenate.gov](mailto:Michael.Moore@masenate.gov).

Falmouth League Members Brenda Nolan and Judy Ziss are planning to attend the hearing in Boston. If you are interested in attending the hearing or want to present written testimony or if you have any questions, please contact Judy at [judith\\_ziss@comcast.net](mailto:judith_ziss@comcast.net) or 508-548-1339. If you want to contact all the members of the Joint Committee, let Judy know and she'll email you the addresses!

## **LOCAL PROGRAM PLANNING: IT'S YOUR CHOICE**

Sylvia Szulkin, First Vice President, Steering Committee Chair

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On Thursday, February 20, you will have the opportunity to set next year's League local program by participating in the selection of a local topic for study and discussion. The event will take place at 7 p.m. in the Civil Defense Room on the ground floor of Town Hall. Is there an aspect of Town government that you think merits in-depth examination? Is there a Town-wide issue that would benefit from a League study of relevant facts? Have you wondered, for example, how certain decisions are made that influence the Town's fiscal priorities?

This year we are wrapping up a two-year study of the Effectiveness of Appointed Volunteer Committees in Falmouth Town Government. The 6-member local study committee has learned quite a lot about the ways in which volunteer committees appointed by the Board of Selectmen influence the operation of Town government. The topic was chosen by consensus and has yielded some interesting insights not only about how volunteer committees operate, but on how volunteer effectiveness and satisfaction could be improved. On April 16, the committee will report to the public about what it has learned.

The League's local program planning session is a unique way to influence the League's role in Falmouth, regardless of whether you ultimately participate in the study chosen.



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## Centennial Grove Project

To commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the US Constitution and the founding of the League of Women Voters, LWVF proposes to plant a grove of ten Tupelo trees, one for each decade, at a restored vernal pool at Peterson Farms. The site was selected with the Falmouth Tree Warden, Conservation Commission and 300 Committee. Trees will be watered the first year with the assistance of the local Girl Scouts and others, and an engraved boulder will be placed marking the grove.

Planting will take place in May 2020 on a date chosen by the Department of Public Works.

The engraved text will read:

In recognition of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the United States Constitution and the Founding of the League of Women Voters, a grove of Tupelo Trees was planted on this site in 2020 by the League of Women Voters of Falmouth with the assistance of the Falmouth Conservation Commission.

To participate, LWVF is seeking donations in the amount of \$50 or more per individual. If you would also like to receive a 1 gallon Tupelo tree to plant in your own yard as an extension of the grove, please give \$35 per tree additional. Please send your donation so the trees can be ordered.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

Donation to the Centennial Grove (\$50 or more): \_\_\_\_\_

Individual Trees for your home (\$35 each): \_\_\_\_\_

Total: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send a personal check in this amount with a copy of this form to:

LWVF, POB 450, Falmouth, MA 02541

You may also use PayPal: payments to [flwv434@gmail.com](mailto:flwv434@gmail.com)



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

**January 2020 Bulletin**  
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***Democracy in Action***