



League of Women Voters® of Falmouth Bulletin

March 2020

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Contact Us

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Visit our web site

www.lwvf.org

Visit our Facebook page

*[https://www.facebook.com/
LWVofFalmouthMA/](https://www.facebook.com/LWVofFalmouthMA/)*

Member Event Calendar

March 2020

	19	7:00 pm	"Voting: Let's Get It Right!" Hermann Room, Falmouth Library
Tues	24	7:00 pm	Candidates Night Hermann Room, Falmouth Library
Thurs	26	7:00 pm	Board Meeting Gus Canty Center, Falmouth
Tues	31		Special Election for Vacated State Senate Seat

April 2020

13	7:00 pm	Town Meeting Lawrence School
16	7:00 pm	An Analysis of Appointed Volunteer Committees in Falmouth Town Government Hermann Room, Falmouth Library
28	7:00 pm	Board Meeting Gus Canty

LWVF Board of Directors 2019-2020

Steering Committee

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

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

Doris Epstein

Most often our Steering Committee members are concerned with issues requiring further study or the appropriate action needed. So, seldom do we look around to see the new folks who have joined and gone right to work alongside we elders. Welcome and thank you! They, too, found a group of like-minded ones supporting valuable ideas. The fact that they are younger means that the vitality of the LWV will continue.

Many of us are concerned about the divisions in our country. So, it's more important than ever that we continue to study issues, reach consensus and lobby on local, state and national levels for the legislation we consider important.

In my opinion, putting greater and more frequent effort into lobbying is necessary. Let us review League positions on all three governmental levels soon and often so action can be planned and taken. We may be few in number in the total population but we have studied, discussed and agreed on the values and issues. ACT!

STUDENT VIDEO CONTEST

Joanne Treistman

This year's student video contest, the Teen Voting Rights Challenge, asks high school students throughout the Commonwealth to make a 30-second video answering the question "Should 16-Year-Olds Have the Right to Vote?"

Please help us get the word out by contacting schools in your area, download a flyer and post it in your community, and share information on Facebook and Twitter. Contest details are [here](#).

Entries should be submitted online through March 31. Winners will be announced by May 15. First place wins \$500, second place wins \$250, third place wins \$100, and honorable mention wins \$50. Winners will be invited to an award ceremony at the Massachusetts State House in June.



Richard A. Armstrong, D.P.M.
Ethel R. Baylor, D.P.M.

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In Memoriam

∞ *Dr. Frank Egloff* ∞

LWVF FRIENDS 2019

Sally Fritz
Christina Jacobi
Winnie Mackey

Robert and Barbara Schneider
Freddy Valois

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Jaqueline Webster, Membership Chair

The Membership Team is planning a reception for LWVF members who have joined us in the past couple of years. It will be an informal gathering at a member's house in the beginning of April, with invitations going out by US Post Office in March. The purpose of the gathering is to acquaint members with opportunities to participate in League activities, and to provide an occasion for getting to know each other.

PROCLAMATION



On Monday, February 10, the Board of Selectmen presented the League of Women Voters of Falmouth with a certificate indicating that February 14, 2020, the 100th anniversary of the 19th amendment, would be proclaimed League of Women Voters Day.

Sylvia Szulkin, Chair of the Steering Committee and First Vice-President was on hand to accept the award.





PROCLAMATION

League of Women Voters of Falmouth Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the League of Women Voters of the United States

Whereas, the League of Women Voters was founded in 1920 as a “mighty political experiment” by the foremothers of the suffragist movement at the National American Woman Suffrage Association, and;

Whereas, their goal was to help the 20 million women who were granted the right to vote by the 19th Amendment understand and carry out their new responsibility as voters, and;

Whereas, with the success of this effort and the tireless efforts over the last 100 years to strengthen and uphold its mission to empower voters and defend democracy, the League has become a trusted nonpartisan, grassroots organization, and;

Whereas, the League has sponsored legislation and fought in the courts to protect and strengthen voting rights and access, and for free and fair elections, civil rights, children, community health, and education, and;

Whereas, the League has consistently been noted for its nonpartisan election information, including sponsorship of candidate forums and information on state and local ballot issues, as well as its commitment to register, educate, and mobilize voters, and;

Whereas, the League champions government systems that are open, transparent, inclusive, and equitable, and;

Whereas, the League believes that active and engaged citizens, irrespective of gender, ethnicity, or political affiliation, are the hallmark of democracy;

Now therefore be it proclaimed **February 14 as League of Women Voters Day in the Town of Falmouth Massachusetts.**

We honor and congratulate the League of Women Voters on its 100th Anniversary and commend the League for its significant contributions to empowering voters and making democracy work.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, We, Megan English Braga, Douglas C. Brown, Douglas H. Jones, Susan L. Moran and Samuel H. Patterson have hereunto set our hand and caused the Great Seal of the Town of Falmouth to be affixed on this 10th day of February, 2020.

Megan English Braga

Susan L. Moran

Douglas C. Brown

Samuel H. Patterson

Douglas H. Jones

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

SUFFRAGE SNIPPETS IN OUR *ENTERPRISE* FILES

Olivann Hobbie

2020 is the centennial year of the passage of the 19th amendment, granting suffrage to American women, as most of you probably know. Not at all coincidentally, 2020 is the centennial of the founding of the League of Women Voters. Once women had suffrage, they no longer needed an organization pushing for suffrage but rather one that would help to create an informed female electorate.

The fight for suffrage, however, had been a real struggle. It is hard today to believe some of the arguments about the unsuitability of the female mind for making rational decisions that men used against woman suffrage. Of course some anti-suffrage women accepted these arguments. On November 29th, 2019 an *Enterprise* article "The Women's Suffrage Movement in Falmouth" chronicled the ups and downs of the suffrage movement in Falmouth, using material that Judy Ziss and Richard Johnson gleaned from the old *Enterprise* files. Since then, our weekly local paper with enthusiastic support of Editor Bill Hough, has been printing weekly "suffrage snippets," facts gleaned from the decades of the struggle for the vote. Here are a few of the most striking ones:

Wyoming was the first territory in our nation's history to grant women the right to vote. Legislators passed the Wyoming Suffrage Act in 1869, motivated in part perhaps by the low ratio of women to men in the territory: six men to one woman. When Wyoming became a state in 1890, women retained their suffrage rights.

The Utah territory granted women suffrage in 1870, but that right was taken away when Utah, after having outlawed polygamy, became a state in 1890. Utah women didn't reclaim suffrage until 1896.

FALMOUTH FORUM FEBRUARY 21, 2020

Richard Johnson, Chair, LWVF Centennial Committee



"The Woman's Hour: The Great Fight To Win the Vote"

The League of Women Voters Falmouth co-sponsored a presentation with the Marine Biological Laboratory Falmouth Forum by award-winning journalist and author Elaine Weiss on February 21st at the Lillie Auditorium in Woods Hole. Ms Weiss spoke about the history of the United States

Suffrage Movement from its early beginnings coming out of the Abolition

movement, through the passage of the 19th Amendment, and particularly about the campaigns to ratify the amendment. At that time (1919-1920) thirty-six of the forty-eight states needed to ratify the amendment to become law. Many of the newer western states already had woman suffrage, but there was great resistance to granting the vote to women in much of the country. By August of 1920 it came down to Tennessee, and pro- and anti- suffrage activists converged on Nashville to sway the governor and legislators before their vote. The anti-suffrage factions considered it a state's right to determine who could vote along with other motives to keep women and particularly black women from voting. In the end, the youngest legislator changed his vote from anti to pro at the urging of his mother. The story was fascinating, filled with details about the activists and politicians of the moment; WWI had recently ended and it was a presidential election year with both candidates under heavy lobbying on the issue. Parties in power were very nervous about significantly expanding the voting population in an election year. Business factions were worried about women espousing child labor and equal pay laws. There was a question from the floor about the aftermath; Ms. Weiss noted that only a small percentage of eligible women voted in November of 1920, and they tended to vote for Warren Harding. The percentage of women voting increased from then on, reaching parity with men in about 1964; since 1984 a greater percentage of women vote than men.

Ms. Weiss's book is available in a number of libraries in the CLAMS network. The lecture was filmed and will be available on the MBL website: <https://www.mbl.edu/falmouth-forum/>

Save the Date:
League of Women Voters of Falmouth Annual Meeting
Saturday, May 16, 2020 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm
Falmouth Historical Society
Museum on the Green

MARCH 19TH PROGRAM "VOTING: LET'S GET IT RIGHT!"

By Judy Ziss

"Voting: Let's Get it Right!" The Legislative Committee of the League of Women Voters will present a panel discussion on Thursday, March 19, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. in the Hermann Room of the Falmouth Public Library.

This program, which is open to the public, will feature a discussion during which our two state Representatives, David Vieira and Dylan Fernandes, will have the opportunity to converse with Falmouth Town Clerk Michael Palmer about election-oriented bills introduced in the Massachusetts

legislature during the current term. This program was designed to encourage a discussion of the bills from both the legislative and administrative points of view.

The bills introduced this term cover a wide spectrum relating to the convenience of voting, the vote-counting process, and the candidate pool. We hope to touch briefly on all of them. However, we expect our main focus to be on election-day registration and ranked-choice voting. Election-day registration would supplement our current early voting programs by encouraging more eligible voters to actually vote. Ranked-choice voting became a center of public attention during the recent Nevada caucuses, and we hope to demonstrate how it works.

The focus is on voting and elections to honor the Centennial of women's suffrage and the founding of the national League of Women Voters. The panel discussion will be preceded by a brief humorous Centennial surprise inspired by early 20th century articles published in the Falmouth Enterprise. After the panel discussion, members of the public will have the opportunity to ask questions and make comments.



FEBRUARY 20TH MEETING OF OBSERVER CORPS AND LOCAL PLANNING

By Alice Carey, Second Vice-President and
Denise Morreale, Observer Corps Chair

The first portion of the meeting was the Observer Corps reports. Three Observers presented their reports to a very enthusiastic audience. You can read the reports here in the bulletin. They will be printed as space permits. The reports will also be posted on our LWVF website in their entirety.

Observer Maggie Sweasy, reported on the Board of Selectmen. As the executive branch of town government, Maggie informed us that a major focus at the present is the question of Land Use. This question is a serious concern of Affordable Housing, 300 Committee, Conservation Commission and many other boards and committees. Public meetings on issues seems to be successful. Maggie also informed the group that she will be moving on to Observing another Board. She is willing to guide and mentor anyone in League who is willing to observe this Board.

The next observer was Suzanne Thomas for Solid Waste Advisory Board. Did you know that Falmouth disposes of 11,000 tons of trash per year? The latest composting program seems to be quite successful and has made the

front page of the Falmouth Enterprise. With additional publicity and our position on Climate Emergency, now is a good time to investigate our role in helping to spread the word. Since there is a lack of funding for educational programs around recycling, perhaps League members could volunteer to help in any way they can.

Observer Kerry Walton's report on Affordable Housing was read by the Observer Chair. Kerry has been the Affordable Housing Observer for 2 years and has now been appointed to be on the Affordable Housing Committee. As often happens, observers become aware of openings on committees they watch and realize that they could fill a need. This is exactly what happened with Kerry. She was attending her first meeting as a member of Affordable Housing instead of being at this meeting. She will continue to be part of the Observer Corps and will now turn her attention to Observing Affirmative Action Committee which is in the process of reorganizing.

Over the last few months, Observers have been working on a new Handbook. It is on its final draft. Thanks to all who contributed to this effort.

Remember, the reports will be on our website and also printed in the bulletin when space permits.

Denise Morreale

Local Planning moderator, Joanne Voorhis, led the members in the second portion of the meeting. Judy Stetson was the scribe. Ideas for the Local Study were:

1. Ways to improve consistent structure of presentation for all Precinct meetings and better communication with Town Meeting Representatives.
2. Affordable Housing
3. Transportation
4. Assessment and updating of LWVF Local Positions
5. Form Based Zoning
6. Climate Emergency
7. Criminal Justice Reform

After much serious discussion, it was decided to present Assessment and updating of LWVF Local Positions for approval by LWVF members at Annual Meeting.

In our response to LWVUS Program Planning Survey, the LWVF has requested to have LWVUS add "Climate Emergency" to their "Making Democracy Work" program which will be voted upon at June National Convention. Our Survey results from the January Meeting was sent to League of Women Voters MA.

Alice Carey

Save the Date:
Local Study Committee Final Report
April 16, 2020 7:00 pm
Hermann Room, Falmouth Public Library
An Analysis of Appointed Volunteer Committees in Falmouth Town
Government

CLIMATE EMERGENCY DECLARATION

Rosemary Dreger Carey, LWVF Natural Resources Committee

League of Women Voters Falmouth endorses and supports a "Climate Emergency Declaration" petition that will be presented at Falmouth's Spring 2020 Town Meeting. The petition is part of a coordinated, Cape-wide effort to compel all 15 Cape Cod towns to declare a similar resolution (or bylaw) through its Spring 2020 Town Meeting warrant. It is also part of a global effort in which governments in the U.S. and around the world are taking actions to declare a Climate Emergency, adopting an emergency response to climate change and the ecological crisis.



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

Here is the Falmouth petition:

ARTICLE 37: To see if the Town will vote to adopt the following resolution: Be it resolved that the Town of Falmouth recognizes that the climate emergency, driven by human activity including energy consumption and land use practices and leading to global warming, rising seas, deadly storms, dangerous heat waves, acidifying oceans, and melting ice sheets, poses a threat to the health, safety and economic security of the residents of the Town. The Town of Falmouth therefore adopts as its policy the objective of reducing net greenhouse gas emissions from human activity within and by the Town to zero at the earliest technically and economically feasible time, and requests the Board of Selectmen to direct all officers and departments of the Town to take such measures within the scope of their respective responsibilities and authority as may be necessary and prudent to facilitate such policy and objective. On petition of Rosemary Carey.

The idea for a Climate Emergency Declaration was developed by grassroots activists, political leaders and organizations who see a need for a WWII-scale

mobilization to address the climate crisis on the scale and in the timeframe needed. According to the National Climate Assessment, the world is steadily getting warmer due to human activities, namely the burning of fossil fuels, and we are already seeing the devastating effects. Yet, governments are not acting with the requisite sense of urgency to keep emissions increases below 1.5 degrees Celsius, the threshold scientists say is needed to avoid catastrophic, runaway climate change.

To date, more than 1,300 governments around the world have declared a Climate Emergency, including 78 U.S. municipalities and town councils like Amherst, Boston and Worcester, Massachusetts. While the petitions vary slightly from town to town, the common denominator is an acknowledgement of the threat of health, safety and economic security to the residents of the Town, declaration of an emergency, and adoption by officers and departments of a policy to reduce net greenhouse gas from human activity by the Town to zero at the earliest technically and economically feasible time.

The Falmouth petition has been submitted as a resolution, leaving discretion to town leaders to take the necessary and feasible actions while guided by the statement from our representative Town Meeting to act in their official capacity with a sense of climate urgency. This is not just a feel-good resolution; it is a critical first step. We believe that in telling the truth about the climate emergency, we can transform our response into personal and collective action. We can improve our focus, encourage creativity and collaboration, and take the steps necessary to confront the challenges before it is too late.

The Climate Emergency Declaration has been endorsed by the following organizations on Cape Cod and the list is growing every day:

Endorsed:

Association to Preserve Cape Cod

350 Cape Cod

Cape Cod Women for Change

Citizens Climate Lobby South Shore/Upper Cape

Coalition for Social Justice

Cape Cod Democratic Socialists of America

Engage Falmouth

Extinction Rebellion Cape Cod

Falmouth Climate Action Network

Falmouth Energy Committee

The Green Center

Rev. W.H. Mebane, Rector, Saint Barnabas Memorial Episcopal Church



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Sierra Club Cape Cod Chapter
Social Justice Committee, Falmouth Jewish Congregation
Upper Cape Women's Coalition
Young Voices for the Planet

CENTENNIAL GROVE PROJECT

To commemorate the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th 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 100th anniversary of the 19th 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.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

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

Total: _____

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

LWVF, POB 450, Falmouth, MA 02541

You may also use PayPal: payments to flwv434@gmail.com



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

March 2020 Bulletin

JOIN

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
Democracy in Action

Town Meeting is April 13, 7:00 pm at Lawrence School