



# League of Women Voters® of Falmouth Bulletin

## May 2020

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### 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

May 2020

<b>6</b>	<b>7:00 pm</b>	<b>Live Candidates Night</b> FCTV Channel 13
<b>7</b>	<b>11-12:30</b>	<b>MIRA Annual Immigrants Day</b> via Zoom
<b>19</b>		<b>Town Election</b> Early Voting available now
<b>26</b>	<b>7:00 pm</b>	<b>Board Meeting</b> Zoom

**Note to Members:** You will receive the 2020 Annual Report during the month of May. There will be instructions for your vote for Board Members and Officers.

### 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 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.

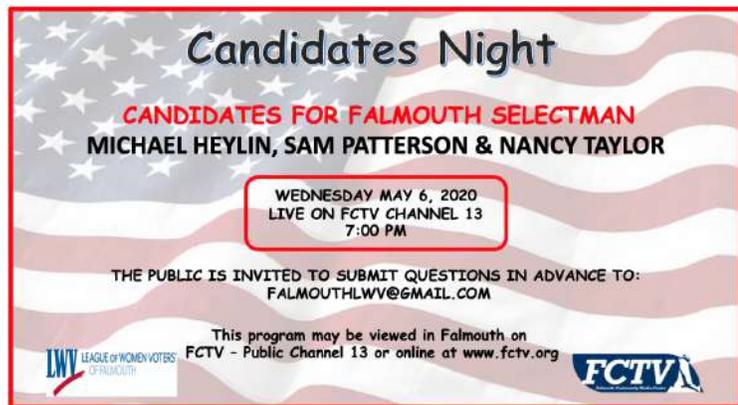
## MESSAGE FROM THE STEERING COMMITTEE

Sylvia Szulkin, Chair of the Steering Committee

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It takes more than a pandemic to stop the League. Although the Covid crisis has rained on the Centennial parade and numerous celebratory events have been cancelled or postponed, the League on all levels continues to pursue its study and advocacy programs. Depending on the length of the current siege, the League hopes to reschedule many of the events now on hold. You will be receiving periodic updates from the League Board when new dates are determined.

Here in Falmouth, the Voter Service Committee is working creatively with FCTV to produce a "Virtual Candidates' Night" on **May 6**. A debate will be staged using the Zoom platform, and broadcast starting at 7 p.m. on Channel 13. You will be able to watch the event from the comfort of your home. The Selectmen's race will be the only contest, with three candidates running for two positions. The candidates are Michael Heylin, Sam Patterson and Nancy Taylor.



Following the debate, candidates running unopposed for elective Boards and Committees will have a chance to address their constituents. The work these unopposed candidates do will have immediate and long-term consequences for you and for your Town, so please stay tuned after the Selectmen's contest.

We really miss you all and look forward to seeing you again in the flesh and closer than six feet away. Let's all stay well and virtually engaged.

### *In Memoriam*

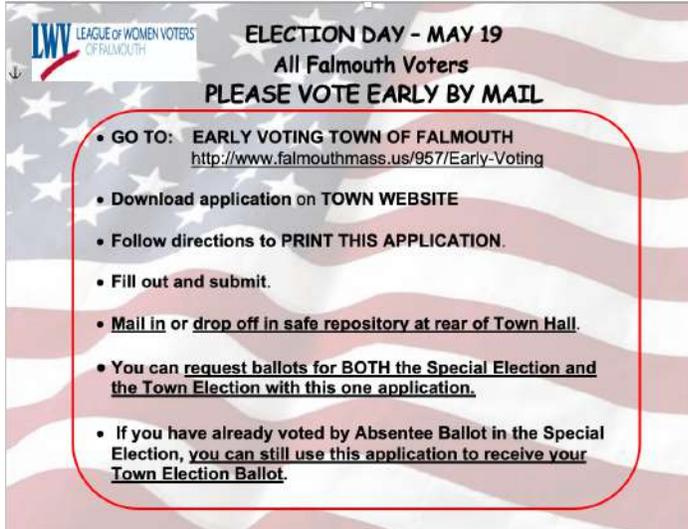
☞ *Marilyn Sanborn* ☞

**Marilyn Sanborn** was very active in the League of Women Voters of Falmouth. She was Second Vice President and member of the Observer Corps among other LWVF duties. Marilyn was the Founding President of the Friends of the Falmouth Public Library.

# LWVF INTERVIEWS TOWN CLERK REGARDING EARLY VOTING

Jenny Putnam, Voter Services Committee

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As of this Bulletin, Town elections as well as the Special Election for State Senator are to be held at the usual polling places on May 19<sup>th</sup>. However, Falmouth Town Clerk Michael Palmer is encouraging everyone to Vote Early by Mail. To provide voters with accurate information on the early voting process, Voter Service Committee Member Jenny Putnam interviewed Michael Palmer for FCTV. You can check the FCTV schedule for when the interview

is being aired or search online for "Falmouth Town Clerk Interview". The direct website is: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cHkozJIYhvQ>

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Jaqueline Webster, Membership Chair

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No new members have joined since the last Board Meeting. Membership recruitment letters were sent to the prospects suggested by board members. The LWVMA has updated their New Members Handbook. We have requested 20 copies, which will be posted to us once their staff is back in the office. Notice of postponement, due to the coronavirus pandemic, of the April 4 newish members gathering at Judy Ziss's home was sent by email to each of the 30 members on the invitation list.



## LWVF FRIENDS 2019

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Sally Fritz  
Christina Jacobi  
Winnie Mackey

Robert and Barbara Schneider  
Freddy Valois

## CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

Richard Johnson, Chair of Centennial Committee

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The Centennial Grove tupelo trees were planted at Peterson Farm on April 14. Tree locations were selected with Falmouth Conservation Commission agent Mark Kasprzyk and Falmouth Tree Warden Jeremiah Pearson, then a DPW crew planted the ten trees. This site is a vernal pool restoration with a spring puddle at the center that will dry up later in the season. Other native shrubs were planted in this area the next day; it is a natural area, not a park, so visitors should not expect to see lawn in the area. A bronze plaque will be installed on an adjacent marker stone soon. A local Girl Scout, Angelica Oshman will help care for the trees and will create several video presentations about the trees, woman's suffrage, and the climate as part of her work towards a Gold Star Award. Thank you to all of those who contributed to funding this project, which is one of the principal efforts of the LWVF to mark the Centennial of the Ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment and of the founding of the League of Women voters in 1920.

## 2020 CENSUS – STILL COUNTING

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The 2020 Census count and outreach to ensure a complete count in Massachusetts continues. The Census Bureau plans to restart field operations June 1 and extended the enumeration deadline to October 31. The Census Bureau will seek Congressional approval to delay reporting the results to the President by 120 days.



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

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Falmouth, MA 02540

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Even though the deadlines to respond have been pushed back, we continue to support outreach efforts to hard-to-count communities throughout Massachusetts. While many are focused on disruptions caused by the pandemic, it is critical to have a complete count so Massachusetts receives accurate information for fair state and local

redistricting, federal funding and Congressional seats.

Here is how you can help ensure a complete count:

- Post social media messages encouraging everyone to complete their census form. LWVMA and LWVUS regularly post messages you can share or repost.
- Write a letter to your local newspaper on the importance of the census.

- Ask your local officials how you can help support their complete count efforts.
- Check out the Census Response Rate Map updated daily to see how your area is responding. This can help you focus your efforts.

The following areas in Massachusetts are lagging in the count:

- The Cape and Islands
- Western Massachusetts
- Cities, such as Boston, Chelsea, Lawrence, Lowell, Lynn, Medford, Fall River, Springfield, Worcester, Fall River, and New Bedford

If you or your local League would like to contribute to outreach in one of these cities, please contact Judy Zaunbrecher.



*Natural Brush Clearing and Poison Ivy Control*

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## **INTRODUCING JENNY PUTNAM, IN-COMING CHAIR OF VOTER SERVICE**

Carol McKeon, Voter Service Chair

As the League begins its new year, the Voter Service Committee will be welcoming Jenny Putnam as the new Chair. Jenny joined our League and the VSC two years ago. She's deeply committed to educating voters and is full of good ideas. She's also at ease with today's communication platforms and has her own back-up team (aka husband Rick, also a League member).

For those who haven't yet met Jenny, I encourage you to watch her interview with Town Clerk Michael Palmer regarding voting by mail. (Search "Falmouth Town Clerk Interview" or go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cHkozJIYhvQ>).

Jenny initiated this interview when "Early Voting by Mail" was first announced and there was much confusion about the process. Her instinct to go directly to the person with the most expertise and facilitate getting his information to the public is one example of the kind of leadership Jenny will bring to VSC. By viewing her interview, you can "put a face with a name," and it will also give you a taste of Jenny's easy and direct style.



Jenny, a Falmouth native, attended Falmouth Academy. (Olivann Hobbie was among her teachers.) She maintains a part-time practice as a clinical social worker and has been transferring her practice from her office in Mashpee onto clinical tele-therapy platforms from her home office.

Jenny will be a great asset to our League and bring fresh energy and new ideas to Voter Service. I look forward to continuing to work with this committee of dedicated, hard-working, smart, and fun-loving Leaguers.

## LEGISLATIVE IMMIGRATION EVENT

Judy Ziss, Legislative Chair

Jen Muroff, the MA League Immigration Specialist, invited us to join the "virtual" MIRA's annual Immigrants' Day, Thursday May 7th from 11:00-12:30 via Zoom. There will be a 45-minute program with built-in digital advocacy opportunities. The purpose is to advocate for an equitable and inclusive COVID-19 response, highlight urgent needs, and push forward longstanding priorities like the Safe Communities Act. (The program will be followed by 45-minute regional programs. Unfortunately, none appear to focus on Barnstable County.) To register, [RSVP on Eventbrite](#) to receive the Zoom information. You also can share and invite people via the [Facebook event](#).



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### May 2020 Bulletin

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*Democracy in Action*

