



League of Women Voters® of Falmouth Bulletin

January 2021

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Contact Us

Our address:

*League of Women Voters
of Falmouth*

P. O. Box 450

Falmouth, MA 02541

Send us an email

FalmouthLWV@gmail.com

Visit our web site

lwvf.org

Visit our Facebook page

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

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

[instagram.com/lwvfalmouth](https://www.instagram.com/lwvfalmouth)

Member Event Calendar

January

21	7:00 pm	State Planning Program Zoom
25	7:00 pm	Town Meeting Virtual
26	7:00 pm	Board Meeting Zoom

February

18	7:00 pm	Local Planning/Observer Corps Zoom
23	7:00 pm	Board Meeting Zoom

LWVF Board of Directors 2020-2021

Steering Committee

First Vice-President		* Joan Boyer , Steering Committee Chair	
Second Vice-President		* Maggie Sweasy	
Local Study		* Kathy Mortenson	
At Large		* Joanne Treistman	
At Large		* Misty Niemeyer	
Secretary	Marcia Easterling	Membership	Jackie Webster
Treasurer	Meghan Hanawalt	Voter Service	Jenny Putnam
Observer Corps	Denise Morreale	Natural Resources	Richard Johnson
Board Moderator	Joanne Voorhis	Legislative	Judith Ziss
Annual Meeting	Alice Carey	Publicity	Olivann Hobbie
		Spokesperson	Sylvia Szulkin

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.

Go to our website www.lwvf.org, "join or renew" to renew and pay online, You do not have to be a resident of Falmouth to join.

MESSAGE FROM THE STEERING COMMITTEE

Maggie Sweasy, Second Vice-President

Welcome to 2021 everyone. In spite of Covid-19, the LWVF has had an amazing year. A standing ovation for all those who worked so hard and accomplished so much. Joan Boyer did a wonderful job of outlining the year's accomplishments in the November newsletter.

As is our mission, much of the focus of activities this year was voter access and getting the voters to the polls. The election cycle is now behind us so our focus is now ahead on some to the issues the League is addressing at all levels local, state, and nationally; namely diversity, social justice and climate change.

In the context of the broad categories we can focus on issues facing our own community.

- Diversity: we can seek an opportunity to enhance the diversity of the organization and the diversity of the leadership of our community to more closely reflect the population of the area.
- Social justice: given the new state and federal initiatives to address any biases in our justice system, the League may find ways to support those efforts.
- Climate change: LWVF for many years, has addressed the issue of climate change especially in the area of water quality. The town and the wonderful scientific resources of our community are continuing research and other activities to address many of these concerns as the League is in an excellent position to partner in these efforts.

The new year brings new optimism, renewed hope and energy to the Steering Committee and our membership in general. Please share any of your ideas with us. We will do this together.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Kathy Mortenson, Joan F. Power, Gail Simundza
Jacqueline Webster, Chair

Welcome to the three new members Andrea Bogomolni, Lynne Rozsa, and Carol & Warren Sterns who have joined the Falmouth League in January!

It is interesting for us to note that all three have paid their dues online.

The LWVF 2020-2021 Membership Directory (with a violet cover) was mailed to members on October 9. If you find errors, please let Jackie Webster know at 508-540-3893 or jwebster391@gmail.com

In Memoriam

Audrey Dorsey

Jane Holtz

Richard Kendall



STATE PROGRAM PLANNING MEETING JANUARY 21, 2021 via ZOOM

Maggie Sweasy, Chair

Please join us for the State Program Planning Meeting on January 21, 2021 at 7:00pm. A link to the Zoom meeting will be sent to you.

This year we will be reviewing the LWVMA plan for the years 2021-2023. We will provide feedback to the state league regarding LWVMA priorities, goals, potential studies and/or concurrences. In addition, we may choose to submit our own goals.

To prepare for this very important meeting, please read the State Program Planning Guide which you can find on the state website at <https://lwmva.org/member-resources/program-planning/>.

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE PRESENTATION

Richard Johnson, Chair

The Natural Resources Committee typically presents a public program in November but the Covid Pandemic prohibited public gatherings this year. Instead, the Committee prepared a video presentation and released it on YouTube. The presentation on "Falmouth's Progress Toward Sustainability" can be viewed by following the link on our LWVF webpage:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=avaMJ50DYOw>(link on our website)

The presentation covered many topics important to the League. Progress towards certification as a Green Community was addressed as well as examples of the types of grants this certification would allow the Town to get to improve energy efficiency. Zoning history related to large ground mounted solar arrays was summarized along with a discussion of the most recent and future additions to this energy resource in Falmouth. The town wind turbine stalemate was also discussed. Much of the presentation summarized the work of the Coastal Resiliency Action Committee and their work with the Woods Hole Group to assess the vulnerability of the shoreline and low-lying areas to coastal flooding and erosion due to climate change. We introduced the several studies and presentations made by this group, with examples of key findings, and links to the documents and presentations. These included the Vulnerability Study and the Surf Drive Study. The latter presented a series of mitigations which might be made for Surf Drive, with a timeline suggesting when each intervention would become necessary, related to sea level rather than date. WHOI/MBL prepared similar studies for Woods Hole with the same consultant, and these findings were introduced in the presentation. The source documents are mentioned in the presentation as well as in the introductory text on the YouTube link. We encourage those who have not yet watched the presentation to do so, and then explore the links for more information.



LOCAL STUDY PROGRAM PLANNING 2021-2022 FEBRUARY 18, 2021

Kathy Mortenson

A Local League program is adopted annually. State and National programs are two-year programs adopted in alternating years at conventions.

LWVF will be meeting via Zoom on February 18th for planning the LOCAL Program for 2021-2022. The recommendations for study at this meeting will be presented for adoption at our Falmouth League Annual Meeting in May.

Our members always have good ideas for local studies. Email or call any Board member listed in the front of Directory with your ideas if you will not be able to participate in the February 18th meeting. The LWVF needs your thoughts. Should we study a very local issue? Do you have concerns about Cape wide issues? Hopefully, when we commence the study we will once again be able to meet in person.

Kathy Mortenson, mortensonk@aol.com, 508-457-4410

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS CAPE COD AREA PROGRAM ABOUT RACISM ON CAPE COD

Denise Morreale

The Cape Cod Area League presented a program "How is Racism Experienced on Cape Cod and What Can We Do About It?" on Zoom.

LWVCCA website provides a **YouTube** link to the recording:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?t=1&v=8Tk3p287icQ&feature=youtu.be>

It is a very powerful program and I was moved to email Karen Mazza for permission to share this experience with our Falmouth League. Six members of the Cape Cod Community address the experience of racism on Cape Cod and how it affects people of color in the community. Through their sharing, the audience was informed of the work that is being done through their organizations to address racism. I came away with the realization that many of us want to be a part of this work.

The LWVMA has identified developing an Action Plan to encourage understanding of racial justice issues by Massachusetts Leagues as a **State Program Planning Priority**. In **partnering** with League of Women Voters Cape Cod Area chapter, our local Cape Cod chapters of No Place for Hate, NAACP, MLK Group, Amplify POC and other action-oriented groups we can move forward with greater speed.

The following Emails are from Co-Vice Presidents Karen Mazza and Jeanne Morrison:

Thank you for your kind comments on our recent program, "How is Racism Experienced on Cape Cod". We are glad that you also found it to be very powerful and we are happy to have you share the link to the video with LWV Falmouth. We intend to do a Part II follow-up video, spending more time on what we can do about racism. Perhaps this conversation will lead to some collaborative efforts. I am Co-Vice President for Program with Jeanne Morrison and Jeanne is the primary organizer of the panel and program that we featured on the video. This program is one of several that we are sponsoring as part of our League's goals to support DEI in our League and pursue action steps that follow from it. As always, we enjoy our collaboration with Falmouth.

Karen Mazza

Thanks for sharing your comments. Denise, I am glad you found the program useful. I'd love for us all to work together on some initiatives especially for DEI work. I was involved with Barnstable No Place for Hate planning the Youth listening program which Karen also assisted with. Falmouth No Place for Hate is interested in partnering with BNPFH on some of the recommendations that have come out of the youth surveys. That piece was a natural bridge to our panel discussion on race. I think Cape Cod and Falmouth LWV have an opportunity to partner with groups in our communities that are working to be part of the solution. I am really looking forward to part two and making those connections. Best wishes for the new year.

Jeanne Morrison

OBSERVER CORPS REPORTS, FEBRUARY 18, 2021

Denise Morreale, Chair

Traditionally, the second portion of the February meeting is dedicated to the presentation of half of the Observer Reports since the June presentation. Since nothing has been traditional this year, we have decided to use the allotted time slot to have the Observers share some of their observations of the boards and committees who have been diligently performing their duties on Zoom. For the most part, our hardy group have been satisfied with the efficiency of the meetings. The actual Observer Reports will be written and reviewed by the Steering Committee and then posted to our LWVF website. The February Zoom meeting will be a short platform for the current observers to share their impressions, thoughts, and suggestions.



Natural Brush Clearing and Poison Ivy Control

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

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF FALMOUTH DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION PEER GROUP

Meghan Hanawalt, Treasurer

I attended a MA DEI meeting December 30, 2020 where we discussed LWVMA helping local leagues build / strengthen their DEI structures and lenses. One of the tools MA has used is a DEI self-assessment. We discussed whether or not leagues had complied with the LWVUS requirement to update their Bylaws and adopt a DEI policy.

The LWV US has published resources and their policy here:
<https://www.lwv.org/league-management/policies-guidelines/diversity-equity-and-inclusion-policy>

I hope that our Falmouth LWV will include agenda items for bylaw changes, policy adoptions and displays of our policy.

A MESSAGE FROM LWVMA

"Hello Massachusetts League Leaders -

I wanted to be sure that you all received this important guidance from LWVUS regarding the use of images without a license, as we have just wrapped up this exact issue with one of our local Leagues.

On the advice of LWVMA's pro bono counsel at Goulston & Storrs, one of our local Leagues just paid a \$750 fine to avoid a lawsuit over an alleged license violation for two images owned by the Associated Press. I will be sending out some additional guidance on this issue later this month, but in the meantime, PLEASE READ the email, below, from LWVUS and please call or email me if you have questions or want to discuss further.

**All best,
Patty**

Patricia E. Comfort, Esq.
Executive Director"

The message above was sent to the League Leaders of Massachusetts in the middle of November. The Board of Directors, Bulletin Editors, and Publicity committee were concerned about our possible liabilities in regards to use of images. Our action oriented, efficient, Steering Committee member, Kathy Mortensen, combed through 5 years worth of LWVF Bulletins and catalogued all of the photos. Archived what could be and arranged a report for the Board. Anyone who wishes a copy of the list, please contact a member of the Steering Committee.

Thank you, thank you Kathy for a job well done!

IN CASE YOU DID NOT KNOW

Denise Morreale

As often happens while I am searching for one item on my computer, I stumble upon a real gem. In this case, it is an FCTV program which is available to stream directly from the FCTV website. The program is called **"The Conversation"**. It is a wonderful example of community involvement. As we try to understand the depth of turmoil in our country, this program brings racial justice issues home to Falmouth.

LWVF FRIENDS 2020

Sally Fritz
Christina Jacobi
Maria Moniz

Robert and Barbara Schneider
Freddy Valois

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Judy Ziss, Chair

In December, as the extended session of the Massachusetts legislature was drawing to a close, the Committee reviewed and emailed two advocacy letters to the appropriate legislators urging passage of an Act Relative to Work and Family Mobility (S.2641) and the Safe Communities Act (H.3573/S.1401). Both bills were pending before one or both legislative Ways and Means Committees. Alas, so far as I as I can tell, neither bill was released from committee before the session ended so our work will have to continue.

Both letters emphasized the special importance of passing these bills now in view of the Covid-19 threat. I signed the Safe Communities Act letter on behalf of the Legislative Committee. While I mentioned League support of the bill in the driver's license letter, I signed it in my own capacity because it included personal views and also relied heavily on the broadcast I attended virtually by the "Driving Families Coalition" roundtable. While I expressed my own sympathy for the plight of immigrants, the letter emphasized the importance of the law for the safety of everyone, regardless of one's views on immigration. Afterwards I forwarded copies of the letters to Jen Muroff who heads up immigration advocacy for the Massachusetts League of Women Voters and who had advised me of the roundtable. She responded, asking for permission to share the letters with the Safe Communities Coalition, and, of course, I said "yes."

We are now busy planning the Legislative public program for March. Susan Moran, David Vieira, Dylan Fernandes, and Town Clerk Michael Palmer have all agreed to participate and FCTV has agreed to run the program live and to provide technical help. The program is a work in progress but, as of now, we are expecting it to focus on voting with emphasis on the 2020 primaries and elections as impacted by Covid-19 - and any lessons learned for the future.

LOCAL STUDY

Kathy Mortenson, Coordinator

The new local study is an assessment and updating of LWVF local positions which are listed in the purple LWVF 2020-2021 Membership Directory starting on pages 23 thru 26. If you read through the positions, you will find a need for this review. Land Use is the position updated recently. Also the Town of Falmouth Charter Review Committee presented charter updates voted on in the Falmouth Town May election.

However, transportation, water quality, education, Falmouth Town Budget, affordable housing, and environment are in need of review.

If you are interested in assessing and offering updates for any of these positions, please call or email Kathy Mortenson, 508-457-4410. Any changes will be reviewed and voted on at the LWVF May 2021 Annual Meeting.

REPORT ON TRANSPORTATION CLIMATE INITIATIVE: CLEAN TRANSPORTATION FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES

Maro Titus, League Observer

**There was a lot of information relayed by 10+ different speakers during the webinar. I have included my notes, along with interesting ideas and statistics. Further processing of this information as the TCI rolls out will be important to undertake.*

Josh Ostroff, Partnership Director of Transportation for Massachusetts, (Website is <https://www.t4ma.org>) was the Coordinator of the Webinar presented 11/10/2020. Presenters included secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs, **Katie Theoharides**, State Senator **Adam Hinds**, Executive Director of the Franklin Regional Council of Governments, **Linda Dunlavy** and several other experts.

There were 21 co-sponsoring organizations, 165 active participants, with 300+ registered, including several elected officials and the press. Senator Adam Hinds offered opening remarks, echoed by other elected officials. Most of the participants were from Berkshire County, followed by Middlesex, Worcester...with a few from Barnstable County. Poll question: how many miles is your closest grocery store? Most answered 0-2 miles.

Focus of presenters was on rural areas of MA and the effects of climate change on clean transportation initiative. Transportation Climate Initiative (TCI)'s mission is to reduce emissions from transportation that contribute to climate change, and to improve quality of life for MA residents. Transportation is the largest source of air pollution of any aspect of the MA economy (waste, electricity, fuel, etc). MassSave program, an offshoot of RGGI, has been the primary reason why MA, under Gov. Baker's leadership, has resulted in a top ranking for pollution control in the nation.

Cap gets smaller over time, which reduces pollution annually, and eventual overall emissions decrease across the multi-state region as a result. Known as "MassSave for Vehicles."

Daily vehicle miles per household in Falmouth (pre pandemic) 50-60 miles/day, which is slightly better than most of the State, which is (prepandemic) 70+ miles/day. Not every gallon of fuel has the same carbon content. Even though this is a multi-state initiative, each state will determine its own investments.

Rural communities have higher percentage of older adults and people with disabilities.

Several Non-Transportation Solutions Proposed, including:

- ⇒ Electric vehicle subsidies
- ⇒ Increased funding for expansion of public and micro-transit
- ⇒ Create and improve rail access
- ⇒ Expand broadband access to increase viability of working from home

Wanted: Website Assistant

Need Help maintaining our website, www.lwvf.org. Please volunteer to learn how to work with and update our League website. Anyone with knowledge of Google Docs and/or Google Analytics would also be welcome. Also, anyone used to working with pictures digitally--or just willing to learn. Plenty of tutorial help is available; work from home; set your own hours. Give as much time as comfortable. Email me at Falmouthlwv@gmail.com. Thank you, Joan Boyer

We thank the IFAW (International Fund for Animal Welfare) for donating the use of their Zoom account for our Board Meetings and communication

<https://www.ifaw.org>

International Fund for Animal Welfare
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P. O. Box 450
Falmouth, MA 02541

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THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
Democracy in Action

