



# League of Women Voters® of Falmouth Bulletin

**February 2021**

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## Contact Us

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of Falmouth**

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*Visit our web site*

**[lwvf.org](http://lwvf.org)**

*Visit our Facebook page*

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

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

## Member Event Calendar

### February

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

### March

<b>18</b>	<b>7:00 pm</b>	<b>FCTV Panel Discussion "Our Covid-19 Election and Lessons"</b>
<b>23</b>	<b>7:00 pm</b>	<b>Board Meeting</b> Zoom

## LWVF Board of Directors 2020-2021

### Steering Committee

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

*Go to our website [www.lwvf.org](http://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**

Joanne Treistman, Member at Large

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The Steering Committee meets monthly before each Board Meeting. Our January discussion was concerned with ongoing issues and new topics that then need to be discussed by the wider Board meeting a week later. In January we focused on continuing items: How to include youth members that LWVMA and National will not charge to our chapter. Our by-laws include persons age 16 and up. A small committee will work through the idea of a 5 hour social action commitment with a write up in lieu of dues for that group. Also, how to be open to membership from many for whom \$50 membership dues is a hardship. In that event we suggested indicating all dues requests as \$50 or whatever people are willing to pay. We would include a suggestion for those so able to donate additional funds above their dues. This reflects our desire to honor our DEI (diversity equity and inclusion) commitment for membership. Secondly, we proposed a need to repeat our earlier calls to members to check on wellness but also ask for consideration of serving on committees and on the Board, which will have several openings for 2021-22.

A new discussion addressed the issue of members from three adjacent communities (Bourne, Mashpee, Barnstable) and how to respect their participation and include information relevant to their communities. We are excited to welcome them and encourage them in to join the Board and committees. Representation from all over the Upper Cape brings us great opportunities to do the League's work!

## **"OUR COVID-19 ELECTION AND LESSONS LEARNED"**

Judy Ziss, Chair

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Please put Thursday, **March 18 at 7:00PM** on your calendar and tune into FCTV for the 2021 Falmouth League Legislative Committee program, tentatively titled "Our Covid-19 Election and Lessons Learned."

State Senator Susan Moran, State Representatives David Vieira and Dylan Fernandes, and Town Clerk Michael Palmer have agreed to join our panel. Michael Palmer will take us behind the scenes to tell us how our election was conducted and protected under our emergency election rules. Then our legislators will join in to discuss which rules adopted due to the health emergency should become permanent.

We hope to include a Q and A period during the broadcast where your questions can be asked on the air by a Legislative Committee member. Please email your questions beforehand to us at [falmouthlwv@gmail.com](mailto:falmouthlwv@gmail.com). We also hope to be able to take questions during the broadcast, with your emails monitored by our Committee. More information will become available as we get closer to March 18.

## **LOTTE E. SCHARFMAN CITIZEN EDUCATION GRANT AWARDED TO LWV FALMOUTH**

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Congratulations to the LWVF Voter Service Committee: Alice Carey, Marcia Easterling, Olivann Hobbie, Carol McKeon, Misty Niemeyer, Sarah Pring, Libby Signell, Sylvia Szulkin, Oliva White and Jenny Putnam, Chair!

**LWV Falmouth received a Lotte E. Scharfman Citizen Education grant in January 2021 for their "Be a Voter"-Voter Art Campaign!** The Voter Art Campaign was designed to inform, inspire, encourage and remind the public to register and cast their votes and to educate them about the methods of voting and the various deadlines.



*Natural Brush Clearing and Poison Ivy Control*

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

Photographs of some of the Art Work and the Installation at Peg Noonan Park on Main Street are on our website.

The League of Women Voters Lotte E. Scharfman Memorial Fund, known as the LWVMA Citizen Education Fund, a non-partisan public policy educational organization, is offering grants through the Lotte E. Scharfman Citizen Education Grant program. The purpose of the grant program is to encourage local Leagues to carry out citizen education and voter service events.

Thank you for taking on such an ambitious program! It was an inspiration!

Not to rest on their laurels, this energetic group informed the Board of Directors that it is working to organize the next Candidate's Night in April partnering with FCTV. Libby Signell and Olivann Hobbie are spearheading an outreach effort to the high schools of Falmouth and Bourne to suggest a contest around "the importance of local elections". Stay tuned for more information.

## **CONGRATULATION HUMAN RIGHTS CELEBRATION HONOREES**

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Our Social Media specialist, **Penny Duby**, along with Amy Doherty and Sarah Swain were honored for the work they have done, and are still doing, in the field of Human rights on Cape Cod.

The Virtual Annual Human Rights Celebration was held on Tuesday, January 19, 2021. The event was sponsored by Church Women United of Cape Cod "Women of Faith".

Penny Duby, nominated by LWVF member Olivia White, was honored for her amazing organization, Masks for Falmouth. Congratulations, Penny!

## NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE PRESENTATION

Richard Johnson, Chair

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In the last session, a comprehensive Climate Roadmap Bill (S.2995) was passed comfortably by the Legislature in Boston, but then vetoed by Governor Baker at the very end of the session. The current legislature passed it again (now known as S9) and Governor Baker had until Sunday, February 7 to sign, veto or amend the bill. Baker is said to have somewhat different Climate objectives, so it was not unexpected that he sent it back to the legislature. He asked for revisions to the emission reduction goals in the timeline to be less stringent.

Briefly, the bill proposes:

Aggressive 5 year emissions limits, with specific plans for meeting and measuring these goals. These are broken down into six high priority sectors of the economy: eg transportation, industrial processes, etc. The State would be required to set numerical benchmarks for components of these limits, such as electric vehicles, heat pumps, energy storage, etc. It sets a net zero greenhouse gas emission limit for 2050, and requires 50% reductions by 2030 and 75% by 2040. It codifies environmental justice for frontline communities and low/moderate income individuals. It prevents wood-to-energy from qualifying for renewable energy incentive for a 5 year period. It would expand adoption of stretch energy codes by towns and would reassign energy code development to the Department of Energy Resources. It would align MassSave reporting and standards with climate policy and with precedents set in California, driving down emissions from common household and commercial appliances. The bill encourages and streamlines the development of off-shore wind utilities, prioritizes low-income communities for the state solar incentive program, and updates the state solar energy laws to encourage municipal and business solar installations. It would incorporate climate concerns into Department of Public Utilities regulations, provide new funding for green energy job training, and reform natural gas safety standards and fines. There is also an incentive for developing geothermal power. To read the entire bill, see <http://legiscan.com/MA/text/S9/id/2247232>



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## LWVF FRIENDS 2020

Sally Fritz  
Christina Jacobi  
Maria Moniz

Robert and Barbara Schneider  
Freddy Valois

**PLEASE ATTEND OUR FEBRUARY 18<sup>TH</sup> 7PM ZOOM MEETING:  
LOCAL PROGRAM PLANNING 2021-2022  
& OBSERVER CORPS REPORTS**

Kathy Mortenson and Denise Morreale

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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 18<sup>th</sup> 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 are not able to participate in the February 18<sup>th</sup> 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

**Observer Corps Reports for February 18 Zoom Meeting**

The Observer Corp members who will be presenting on February 18 via Zoom will be:

Marcia Easterling- Library Board of Trustees Observer

Carol Chittenden-EDIC Observer

Stephanie Miele- Board of Health Observer

There will be a short section of questions and answers via the Chat function of Zoom. We will be posting the reports to our website after the presentations.

*A note for you about Zoom Meetings. Many of us have been having internet issues lately. Getting on and off Zoom is intimidating, especially when the computer begins to "act up". There is an alternative in case you would like to participate without a computer. When the email comes with the link for the Zoom meeting, there are also a list of phone numbers. This is an alternative to the computer. If you dial the number and enter the meeting code and password when prompted, you will be able to participate via the phone line. Depending upon your telephone plan, there may be a charge. Back when the dinosaurs roamed and I was taking college courses "remotely", our connection was the telephone.*

My fondest hope is that there will be in person meetings very soon. Our League members are motivated, interested, "hands on" members. Decisions about our next move as a League should be determined by ALL of us. We need a list of possible studies for next year by May Annual Meeting. The more ideas presented, the better chance there will be that one idea that speaks to your heart.

## **DID YOU KNOW?**

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Steering Committee Member Joanne Treistman was interviewed on the FCTV "Conversations with Barbara" program titled "[Bringing a Y to the Upper Cape](#)". It can be viewed by typing the underlined title in the search function on the You Tube website.

## **RACISM ON CAPE COD PART II**

Denise Morreale

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The Cape Cod Area League of Women Voters Newsletter, "The Voter", for February has listed a second part of the Racism on Cape Cod to be broadcast on Thursday, **February 25 from 6:30 to 8:00 pm**. Please watch for more information as to Zoom link or registration. The first edition is on the [www.LWVCapeCod.org](http://www.LWVCapeCod.org) website. Email blast will be sent out by our League with detailed information.

## **LOCAL STUDY APRIL 15, 2021**

Kathy Mortenson, Chair

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The Local Study for this year, 2020-2021 is an assessment and updating of LWVF local positions. The current Local Positions start on page 23 of the Membership Directory 2020-2021. (Purple cover). The Land Use position is the only position updated recently along with the Town of Falmouth Charter Review Committee voted on in the Falmouth Town May election. The transportation, water quality, education, Town Budget, Affordable Housing and environment are in need of review. Meetings of this committee will most likely be held via email and/or phone, zoom, and facetime. Kathy would love to have another volunteer to look at the Transportation Position for review. Please contact Kathy or any of the Steering Committee members if you are interested.

## **MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

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A huge thank you to Kathy Mortenson, Joan F. Power, Gayle Simundza, and Jacqueline Webster, Membership Committee Chair. There have been no new members since the last bulletin.



## **"UNSUNG HEROES AWARD" PRESENTED TO THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS FALMOUTH**

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On behalf of the Barnstable County Human Rights Advisory Commission, the "Unsung Heroes Award" below was presented to the League of Women Voters Falmouth at the Human Rights Awards Breakfast on December 10<sup>TH</sup>.



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  
290 Summer Street, Yarmouth Port, MA 02675 | USA  
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P. O. Box 450  
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### JOIN

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
*Democracy in Action*

