



League of Women Voters[®] of Falmouth Bulletin

February 2026

Steering Committee Report

February is Black History month, when we reflect on the words of Martin Luther King, Jr. who said "Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter."

In the current political climate, DEI has been under fire and the word "woke" has been weaponized. What is "woke"? It originated in a blues song in the 1930s, "Stay Woke," warning people to stay alert to injustice. (Google for the song and recent renditions.) Be vigilant, be aware, be awake, be woke. It's important in these times to be woke.

LWVUS issued [THIS STATEMENT](#) on **Federal Immigration Enforcement and Erosion of Constitutional Rights** via their social media accounts and websites. "The League of Women Voters reaffirms that the rights outlined in the Constitution belong to all people, without exception. We will not accept policies or practices that suppress civic participation, weaponize enforcement, or undermine fundamental rights and human dignity."

As a local league we signed on to support LWVUS litigation of the case, [League of Women Voters v. Department of Homeland Security \(DHS\)](#), challenging changes by the federal government to DHS's Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) system. These changes allow our federal government to abuse its power and access millions of Ameri-

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cans' personal information, with several states using these policy changes to harm voters. As a result of our lawsuit, an open comment period was launched by DHS, and another has been opened by the Social Security Administration (SSA). Litigation was filed in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. There was a delay due to the fall government shutdown, there is not yet a scheduled court date. Stay tuned. In the meantime,

Stay warm, stay safe, and stay awake!

— **Janet Lauer**

1st Vice President

Editor's Note: The URL for the League statement is <https://www.lwv.org/newsroom/press-releases/statement-league-women-voters-federal-immigration-enforcement-and-erosion>

Voter Service

“A Civic Moment” Grant

The Falmouth League of Women Voters has been awarded a \$400 grant from the Lotte Scharfman Memorial Fund to support a new project we are calling “A Civic Moment.”

“A Civic Moment” will be a series of small ads in the *Falmouth Enterprise* that highlight an aspect of civic information or participation in a “Did You Know?” style. For example, one ad might ask: *Name Three Examples of Civic Participation*, with the answers following immediately below:

- *Vote (in local, state, and national elections).*
- *Contact Your Elected Officials.*
- *Write to a Newspaper.*

At the bottom of each ad will be a credit to LWVF with our website. There will be a total of ten ads, which will begin in the next few weeks and run throughout the spring.

The goal of the “Civic Moment” campaign is to heighten public awareness of civics principles, a first step in building grassroots community-based participation in the democratic process. Beyond the ad series, we hope to extend the impact of Civic Moments by reaching out to student newspapers at the local high schools and community college, and radio stations, to offer this same content for their use.

The LWV Lotte Scharfman Memorial Fund is a Massachusetts-based fund that encourages local Leagues to carry out civic education and voter engagement activities. The fund was established in memory of Lotte Scharfman, a

League president who died in 1970 on her 42nd birthday. Lotte Scharfman was a refugee who escaped with her family from Austria during World War II; she devoted her life to working for the democratic process and to helping all people gain access to government. She is widely credited with coining the phrase, “Democracy is not a spectator sport.” Our Falmouth League has received many Scharfman grants for voter education and engagement projects.

— ***Susan Loucks***

Voter Service Committee

Candidates Night Update

The Voter Service Committee met to discuss the first steps in preparing for Candidates Night, tentatively scheduled for Wednesday evening, April 29, at 6:30p.m., in the Hermann Room as well as the Bay Room of the Falmouth Public Library. The members of the committee include Marcia Easterling, Lynne Rozsa, Olivia White, and we welcome two new members, Susan Loucks and Pam Morone. Lynne Rozsa serves as liaison with FCTV, our partner in presenting this important town event to the community. We are pleased to announce that Mindy Todd has accepted the invitation to moderate Candidates Night.

We hope everyone puts the date on their calendar and comes out to hear what candidates for local town positions have to say about their roles in serving the community.

— ***Felicia Bordick***

Legislative Committee

Meet Your Legislators

The LWVF Legislative Committee and FCTV will present a public program, “A Discussion With Our Legislators,” on Monday, March 23, 2026, 7 p.m., in the Hermann Room of the Falmouth Public Library.

At the public meeting our legislators, Representative David Vieira, Representative Thomas Moakley, and Senator Dylan Fernandes, will speak about issues of their choosing. An opportunity for questions from the in-person audience will follow.

The Legislative Committee hopes you can attend in person or view the program on FCTV or fctv.org.



David Vieira

Dylan Fernandes

Thomas Moakley

Save the Date

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| April 7 | International Women’s Day Conference |
| April 19 | DEIB presentation with Melissa Ferretti on tribal sovereignty. |
| April 29, 6:30 p.m. | Candidates Night, Hermann Room, Falmouth Library |
| May 9, 9:30 a.m. | Annual Meeting Brunch, Meigs Room, Swope Building, Woods Hole. |

In Memoriam

Anne W. Dewees
Robert Haskell
Winnie Mackey

Program for New Members

The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts is hosting its first New Member Mingle on February 24 at 7 p.m. on Zoom. The purpose is to share information about the LWVMA, including staff, state Board, state committees, and local Leagues. This will be followed by small-group conversations and a quick look at upcoming events. New members and others who would like to connect with LWVMA are invited to join the event; non-member friends are also welcome. To register, go to <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/yT73QrD6RwWXIs7KDeNMjA#/registration>.

Help with Hunger

The Falmouth Service Center Food Pantry is experiencing an unprecedented need right now. You can help with a financial dona-



tion or a gift of non-perishable foods. You can even drop your food donations at the Falmouth Police Station 24/7. See <https://www.falmouthservicecenter.org/food-pantry-at-fsc> or the FSC Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=falmouth%20servicec%20center>

Falmouth Road Race

It is Falmouth Road Race Season again! The LWVF did get awarded five bibs, if we choose to continue forward. I believe last October we did vote to participate again, and I am willing to continue to be a Team Captain, but would like some support! Are there volunteers who would like to be a Co-Captain with me or on a committee to support this significant outreach and fundraising activity for the League?

—Misty Niemeyer

New LWVF Book Club Forming

Be sure to gather up your favorite titles and come to the planning session/first meeting of the LWVF Book Club this Monday, February 9 at 10:00 am in the St. Barnabas Parish House (behind and to right of church).



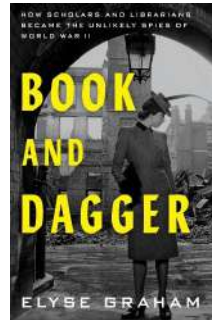
The church address is 91 Main Street, right across from the Village Green. Coffee and snacks will be provided. We will plan place, times, titles, and parameters. Bring along a favorite book or title that you have enjoyed and would like to share—or come without one....

Who says reading can be lonely and sedentary?!

Questions? Contact Linda Jeffries-Summers: 508-388-7144 home, 443-812-0067 cell.

Book Review

Book and Dagger: How Scholars and Librarians Became the Unlikely Spies of World War II



How does the United States create an intelligence agency after the bombing of Pearl Harbor? Author Elyse Graham notes that " Pearl Harbor was an intelligence failure." The U.S. had information on the possibilities of an attack, but didn't have the knowledge to interpret this information. An intelligence agency was of immediate importance, even though Secretary of State Henry Stimson declared, in 1929, that "Gentlemen do not read each other's mail," and stopped collecting intelligence "in any comprehensive sense."

William Donovan was tasked with creating an intelligence-gathering agency, which became the Office of Strategic Services (OSS), and eventually the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). Donovan knew he needed a corps of possible agents who could plow through pages of archives and library documents, and thus pave the way for the invasion of Axis countries.

Harper Collins notes that "... *Book and Dagger* is an inspiring and gripping true story about the academics who helped beat the Nazis — a tale that reveals the indelible power of the humanities to change the world."

Looking for a good book?

Here is an LWV booklist full of suggestions:

https://my.lwv.org/sites/default/files/leagues/wysiwyg/%5Bcurrent-user%3Aog-user-node%3A1%3Atitle%5D/2025_book_club_selections_2025.pdf



Coastal Resilience in the Town of Falmouth

Come join others in our community to learn from **Joshua K. Wrigley**, Falmouth's first coastal resiliency coordinator. According to the town warrant that established his position, the coordinator's task is to assume the "lead role in advancing the town's efforts to address current and future impacts of sea level rise and climate change." At this meeting, Mr. Wrigley will discuss both his mission and the strategies he is developing to safeguard our coastline, our environment, and our town.

7 p.m., on Thursday, February 19

Hermann Room, Falmouth Public Library

Sponsored by



Make your voice heard today!

Contact Information for Your Legislators and Governor

Governor Maura Healey
[https://www.mass.gov/info-details/
email-the-governors-office](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/email-the-governors-office)
(617) 725-4005

Senator Dylan Fernandes
(617) 722-1330
dylan.fernandes@masenate.gov

Representative David Vieira
(617) 722-2230 and press 4
David.Vieira@mahouse.gov

Representative Thomas Moakley
(617) 722-2800 x7302
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Senator Elizabeth Warren
(202) 224-4543
[https://www.warren.senate.gov/
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Senator Edward Markey
(202) 224-2742
[https://www.markey.senate.gov/
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Congressman Bill Keating
(508) 771-6868
Info.keating@mail.house.gov

Letters to the Editor

The Falmouth Enterprise

Letters can be mailed to 50 Depot Avenue, Falmouth, MA 02540 or e-mailed directly to the editor at paradise@capenews.net.
General email: newsroom@capenews.net.

The Cape Cod Times

Email to letters@capecodonline.com or mail to Letters, Cape Cod Times, 319 Main St., Hyannis, MA 02601.

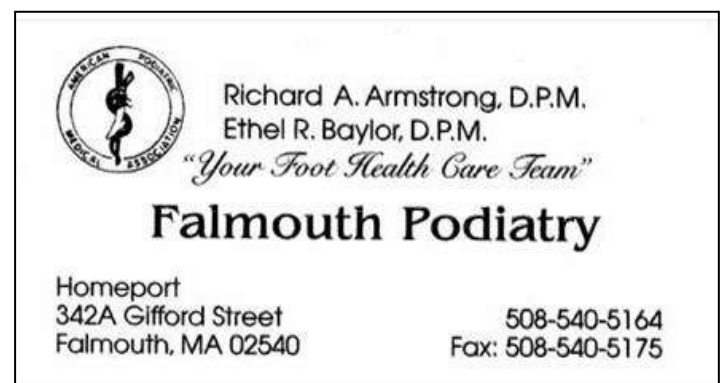
The Boston Globe


Send an e-mail to letter@globe.com or mail to Letters to the Editor, The Boston Globe, PO Box 55819, Boston, MA 02205.



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Tuning
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 Richard A. Armstrong, D.P.M.
Ethel R. Baylor, D.P.M.
"Your Foot Health Care Team"
Falmouth Podiatry

Homeport
342A Gifford Street
Falmouth, MA 02540

508-540-5164
Fax: 508-540-5175

2025 Friends of the LWVF

Maria Moniz
Robert and Barbara Schneider

LWVF Board of Directors 2025-26

Board Members

First Vice-President	Janet Lauer*
Second Vice-President	Sheila Scott-Gordon*
Secretary	Richard Johnson*
Treasurer	Joan Boyer
Legislative	Judith Ziss
Natural Resources	
Voter Service	Felicia Bordick
Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging	Don Gibbons*
Membership	
Observer Corps	Meghan Palanza
Publicity/Bulletin	Mary Fran Buckley*, Eileen Mattingly
At-Large	Bruce Woodin
At-Large	Susan Loucks
At-Large	Marinna Martini

Off-Board Specialists

Historian	Kathy Mortenson
Facebook	Eileen Mattingly
Email Communication	Kathy Mortenson
Web Administrator	Gayle Simundza
FCTV	Lynne Rozsa

Nominating Committee

Chair	Kathy Mortenson
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*Member of Steering Committee

Meeting and Event Calendar

February 9, 10 a.m.	Book club planning meeting, St. Barnabas
February 19, Hermann Room, Falmouth Public Library, 7 p.m.	Natural Resources presentation with Josh Wrigley on "Coastal Resilience in the Town of Falmouth"
Tuesday, February 24, 6 p.m.	Board meeting on Zoom
March 23, Hermann Room, Falmouth Public Library, 7 p.m.	Legislative Committee presents "A Discussion with Our Legislators"
Tuesday, March 24, 6 p.m.	Board meeting on Zoom

Contact us:

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Website: <https://my.lwv.org/massachusetts/falmouth>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/LWVofFalmouthMA/>

Please note: Submissions for the next issue of the LWVF Bulletin are due by March 5, 2026. Please send copy, photos, and other material to both of these addresses:

maryfran55@earthlink.net
eileenmattingly@yahoo.com

welcome

To our new and renewing members:

Jennifer Alai
Andrea Norris
Jennifer Owens
Kathrine Quinn