



League of Women Voters[®] of Falmouth Bulletin

May 2024

Steering Committee Report

April and May are very active political months with Town Meeting, Candidates Night, and the May election all clamoring for attention. The Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) hearings for workforce housing on Main Street and a large 40B development on Sandwich Road have also captured our attention. Each of these events and issues will shape our future, so it is important that decisions be weighed carefully.

One of the great things about Candidates Night is the opportunity to see each candidate respond to the same question, not only in what they say, but in how they frame their responses. This evening is one of our few chances to see how they think on their feet. If you were unable to attend Candidates Night live, the tape is available for viewing at FCTV (<https://fctv.org/candidates-night-replays/>). It was gratifying to see the respect candidates gave to their competitors, something that is often not the case on the national stage.

May is also the month for the Falmouth League’s Annual Meeting, when we elect a new slate of officers, celebrate the officers stepping down, and provide direction to the Board on important issues to address in the coming year. Given so many uncontested races on the town ballot, perhaps an emphasis on training individuals to run for office is

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warranted, particularly from ethnic and socio-economic classes not well represented at present? An emphasis on the long view (climate change, sustainability, resilience) over short-term convenience is also warranted. The two speakers addressing the Annual Meeting will illuminate some of these thoughts. We hope to see a full house at the event, Saturday morning, May 18, 9:30-11:30, at the Coonamessett Inn.

— *Richard Johnson*
Steering Committee

**REMINDER: Deadline to RSVP
for Annual Meeting is May 10!**



Join us for our Annual Meeting - May 18

Opening Speaker - Travis Mapp
"Democracy and Marginalized Voices"

Time to roll up our sleeves, vote for new Board members and get ready for the coming year.

Inspirational Keynote by Susan Baur
"Change Follows Wonder and Joy"



Saturday, May 18

9:30-11:30am

Coonamessett Inn

Breakfast and program

Breakfast & program is \$25.

Additional donations are gratefully accepted .

RSVP by May 10th - email meghan@butter.toast.net

Bring payment to the meeting.

Transportation:***Report on the Bridges Project***

On April 25, 2024, the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (Mass DOT) presented, on Zoom, an update on the Bourne and Sagamore Bridges project. Presenters included Project manager Bryan Cordeiro, Roy Kirwa, Mark Kolonoski, Dave Anderson, and John Smith.

The presentation slide show was an update to the report that was presented last spring. There were interpreters in Spanish, Portuguese, and ASL. All of the documents are posted on Mass.gov. As of this writing, the documents are up to date to the Advisory group presentation of April 9, 2024.

The panel presented more details about the design plans for the bridges. The proposed design includes three lanes of traffic in each direction, with a space between the twin spans and a separate pedestrian span. The spans will be built offsite and lifted into place from a barge. Attendees were walked through three steps in the project: the Grant Phase, Impacts, and Identification of Build Alternatives retained for detail.

Mass DOT will hold an in-person Open House at the Bourne Veteran's Memorial Community Center, 239 Main St., Buzzards Bay, Monday, May 13, 2024, 12 p.m. to 3 p.m., and 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

To make a public comment, contact Carrie Lavalley, PE, Chief Engineer, Suite 6340, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, Attn: Program Management Project #608020

— ***Denise Morreale***
Transportation Committee

Civics Projects

In 2018 Massachusetts passed a law that requires high school students to do a civics project in order to graduate. The Falmouth League of Women Voters has coordinated with Mr. Michael Feeney, the Falmouth Public Schools social studies department chair for grades 7 through 12, to assist with the projects.

League members help students contact individuals in the town who might be able to give them insight into their projects and also work to encourage those individuals to respond whenever possible to student requests. The League has adapted a handbook, originated by the Town of Needham, to aid in this work.

In April, Falmouth League members Olivia White, Eileen Mattingly, Bob Haskell, Meghan Hanawalt, Janet Lauer, and Mary Harris attended Falmouth High School sophomores' Civic Action Project presentations at the invitation of Mr. Feeney. We were invited to observe students give their presentations in their classroom setting.

Examples of subjects the Falmouth sophomores covered were water quality, affordable housing, a later school start for high school students, teacher pay, and the shrinking number of healthcare workers. Most students did extensive research to prepare for their presentations. The teachers and students appreciated having observers from outside the school community as an audience.

— ***Janet Lauer***
for the Civics Committee

Update to the League of Women Voters DEI Policy Statement

On Saturday, April 27, 2024, the Massachusetts League of Women Voters (LWVMA) Quarterly DEI Peer Discussion Group met via Zoom to discuss a Zoom presentation by the National League (LWVUS) DEI Committee regarding the new policy statement. The National League members are Alexis Juday-Marshall, Tracy Adkison, Vedna Heywood (from the Plymouth MA League), Toni Monette, and Regina Tillman.

The following is a brief summary of the slide presentation, taken directly from the slides in the show.

The 23-minute slide presentation tracked the National Transformation Journey from Organizational Assessment in 2016, through the Transformation Roadmap, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Commitment, Structure Transformation Plan, leading to Framing the Future.

For a stronger League, these are the DEI goals:

- Create and maintain an inclusive environment
- Implement learning opportunities
- Develop cultural leadership pipelines
- Realign and enhance current resources.

American democracy is under attack through gerrymandering; misinformation and disinformation; voter suppression; lack of civic education among young people and adults; and in many more ways.

The future “Moon Shot” is abolishing the Electoral College.

Please contact me if you would like to view the video.

— *Denise Morreale*

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS US DEI POLICY

***Updated by the LWVUS Board
January 1, 2024.***

Discrimination or harassment of any kind will not be accepted within the League, including but not limited to race, socio-economic status, age, ability status, religion, sexual orientation, national origin, gender identity, or marital status. The League is committed to fostering, cultivating, and preserving a culture of diversity, equity, inclusion, access, and belonging for all people. The League is an organization that respects and values the richness of our community and our members. The collective sum of our individual differences and life experiences represents not only our culture, but our reputation and the organization's mission and achievements as well.

LWVUS is giving the DEI policy equal weight with our Non-Partisan Policy.

Membership

During the League Annual Meeting on May 18, membership will vote on implementing an increase to the League's yearly (2024-2025) dues. This proposal has already been passed by the Board. The proposed language is as follows:

For the 2024-2025 Membership renewal, starting May 20, 2024, the proposal is to increase individual member dues ONLY from \$55 to \$65. This will allow a small amount of income from dues to the League to help with minimal costs. Dues are currently \$55 and go entirely to cover owed state and national dues, which also total \$55. Additional household members would stay at \$25. Part-time or full-time enrolled students will still be able to obtain free membership. The option for a \$25 individual membership is still available on the site for those who may need it, and waivers for dues can be obtained if needed in an effort to ensure access to joining the LWVF. Dues were also increased last year at the Annual Meeting from \$50 to \$55 to bring them to the same level as the state and national dues.

Please note that if the dues increase is passed, it will go into effect immediately. If you are attending the Annual Meeting, PLEASE be prepared to pay dues and bring a check or cash. Also note that the dues may be at the new rate of \$65.

This increase is partially to add to League revenue and partially to bridge the gap between the upcoming increase in dues that will be happening at the national level in

2025 to the suggested rate of \$75 for individual membership and \$112.50 for household membership. However, there will be a pay-what-you-can, down to a minimum of \$20, which can potentially be lowered by individual leagues if they choose to cover the minimum dues to the state and national leagues.

However, PLEASE keep in mind with this dues increase, there are still MANY dues options to ensure accessibility to the LWVF. There should be NO financial barriers to community members joining and current members continuing to be a part of the LWVF. Part-time and full-time students continue to have access to free membership. There continues to be a \$25 membership option available on the website, and membership waivers are available to anyone who needs them; to obtain a waiver, please email mistyniemeyer13@gmail.com.

The League is — and should be — accessible to ANYONE who wants to participate. We want to ensure income and continue fundraising events like the Falmouth Road Race, both of which enable us to continue our important and engaging programs and support membership as needed.

If there are any questions about the proposal or any additional membership suggestions, please reach out to mistyniemeyer13@gmail.com or 912-996-3985.

— Misty Niemeyer
Membership Chair

Road Race: Meet One of Our Runners, Brian Harrigan

Brian Harrigan is a beloved family member of Falmouth League Voter Service Chair Felicia Bordick and an advocate for the League of Women Voters. We are excited and grateful that Brian is running in the 2024 Falmouth Road Race to support the League and our mission! Please consider supporting Brian and our League's efforts; share his fundraising page far and wide.



Brian Harrigan is the Head of School at Francis W. Parker Charter Essential School in Devens, MA. Parker educates students in grades 7-12 from 40 cities and towns across Massachusetts. It is a mission-driven public charter school where students are known personally, use their minds well, prioritize depth over coverage, demonstrate mastery, and support one another with a tone of decency and trust. Parker puts students at the center of all learning, with “students-as-workers” and “teachers-as-coaches.” As the Head of the School, Brian promotes a positive school culture that is rigorous, inspiring, loving, inclusive, and welcoming to all students.

Brian has more than 20 years of experience in education: he has taught social studies at Gonzaga College High School in Washington,

DC; served as the vice principal of Westwood High School; and been principal of Natick High School. During this time, he developed a close partnership with Starfish International, a school for girls in The Gambia, West Africa. Brian earned his bachelor's degree at Amherst College and three master's degrees from Catholic University, Georgetown University, and Boston College. Most recently, Brian earned a Doctorate of Education from Boston College.

Brian is an avid runner who has completed 15 marathons. Brian and his wife Laura live in Hopkinton, MA, where they raised their two college-aged daughters, Siena and Bailey.

The reason Brian is running to support the League in the 2024 Falmouth Road Race: “I am thrilled to support the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts. As a school leader and the father of two college-aged daughters, this is personal! Now more than ever, we need to support democracy and make sure the voices of all people, particularly young people, are heard. Thank you for your support!”

—*Misty Niemeyer*

Please support Brian here:

[https://raceroster.com/
events/2024/83188/the-2024-asics-
falmouth-road-race/pledge/
participant/25719719](https://raceroster.com/events/2024/83188/the-2024-asics-falmouth-road-race/pledge/participant/25719719)

Voter Service Report: Candidates Night

Candidates Night was held in the Hermann Room of the Falmouth Public Library, Wednesday evening, April 24. Initially, 11 candidates were invited to participate; by the time of the event, seven candidates remained, four vying for three seats on the School Committee and three competing for one seat on the Select Board. In addition, a few uncontested candidates were present and were invited to introduce themselves and speak briefly.

Mindy Todd moderated the panel discussion of contested candidates using the League's prepared questions as well as a select few from the audience.

The reception table offered guests information on when, where, and how to vote, a card with a QR code for vote 411, specifics on early voting, and a program with space for writing a question to be submitted to a candidate. A separate display offered a preview of an upcoming event, "We The People," about our US Constitution and voting. (See more information about this event on page 8.)

In-person early voting at Falmouth Town Hall will take place May 11 and May 13-17 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Election Day is May 21.

***— Felicia Bordick
Voter Service Chair***



Many interested Falmouth residents attended Candidates Night this year. They had the opportunity to hear candidates answer question and make their positions clear.

Continued on next page

Candidates Night, cont.

The four candidates below are running for the School Committee. From left to right: Glenda Cohen, Christopher Matthews, Katrina Nevin, and Kelly Welch.



Three candidates running for the Select Board are pictured above: Richard Duby, Heather Goldstone, and Thomas Zine.

Mindy Todd (right), host and producer of The Point on WCAI, proved to be an excellent moderator for the discussion.

Upcoming Events

LWVUS Convention

The LWVUS convention is June 27-30. We have positions available to LWVF members who would like to attend virtually. The cost, which will be reimbursed by LWVF, is \$125, and up to three members attending would be fully reimbursed. If four members wish to attend, the reimbursement will be \$110 each because of budget limitations. See Janet Lauer for more information on this.

The LWVUS Convention is taking place in Washington, D.C., and will be a hybrid event. Here is the Convention webpage where you will find all of the information including registration costs (\$550 for in-person and \$125 for virtual) and hotel blocks:

<https://www.lwv.org/league-management/council-convention/first-call-2024-national-convention>.

The number of local League delegates to the Convention is determined by League size. For a chart showing how many delegates each League in Massachusetts is allotted, see <https://lwvma.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/League-delegate-count-to-LWVUS-convention.pdf>.

Any member is welcome to attend the Convention, but voting during the Convention is reserved for delegates.

Please contact Janet Lauer if you're interested in attending.

Observer Corps

An Observer for the League of Women Voters of Falmouth is a League Member who attends a public town government meeting, makes notes on what happens at the meeting and reports back to the League. Considered the eyes and ears of the League, the Observer Corps members are dedicated to ensuring compliance with the Open Meeting Law. The Observer is there only to observe, not to speak to issues or answer.

On February 27, 2024, two reports were presented; Carol Rador on the Planning Board and Carol Chittendon on EDIC. The remaining reports will be read on June 5, 2024 at 7:00 in the Civil Defense Room at Falmouth Town Hall. The report readings always generate excellent discussions. Thank you to all the Observers and their hard work and diligence throughout the year.

We the People

The Voter Service Committee will have a booth at Falmouth's Arts Alive on Saturday, June 15, from 9 a.m. to 4



p.m. In celebration of our US Constitution, the League's booth will offer photographs of high school student artwork depicting voting rights embedded in the Constitution; the American Citizenship test; postcards to write to friends and relatives reminding them to vote in the Presidential election; cards with the Vote411.org QR code; local voting information; and free copies of a pocket-size Constitution. The Preamble, the Declaration of Independence, and The Bill of Rights will be on display along with a six-foot mural reflecting voting rights.

Reading List: David Brooks on Ethical Leadership

Democracy Expanded

As members of the League of Women Voters, we support voting rights and the continuance of democratic governance — among many other issues. David Brooks, in a thought-provoking column in the April 11, 2024 *New York Times*, “The Quiet Magic of Middle Managers,” expands the definition of “democracy” in a unique way.

But first, Brooks extolls the “magic” that middle managers exhibit: “So how do these managers work their magic? When I hear people in these roles talk about their work and its challenges, I hear, at least among the most inspiring of them, about the ways they put people over process, about the ways they deeply honor those right around them. A phrase pops into my mind: ‘Ethical leadership.’ This is not just management. Something more deeply humanistic is going on.” A few of the features of ethical leadership that he notes are:

- ◆ Creation of a moral ecology
- ◆ Hyperattentiveness
- ◆ Absence of heroic sense
- ◆ Preservation of the moral lens
- ◆ A posture of joy



Moving beyond the business model, the features of ethical leadership, if implemented in our daily lives, would perhaps inspire us to embrace our shared humanity. Brooks concludes: “America’s founding fathers understood that when private virtue fails, then relationships fail and the constitutional order crumbles. The crucial struggle of our time is not merely the global macro struggle between democracy and authoritarianism; it’s the day-to-day micro-contest between the forces that honor human dignity and those that spread dehumanization.

The democratic fabric is held together by daily acts of consideration that middle managers are in a position to practice and foster. The best of them don’t resolve our disputes but lift us above them so that we can see disagreements from a higher and more generous vantage point. **Democracy is more than just voting; it is a way of living, a way of living generously within disagreements, one that works only with ethical leaders showing the way.”**

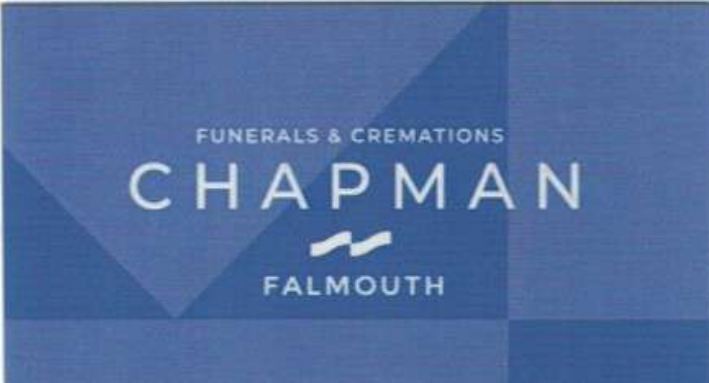
—Mary Fran Buckley

[Editor’s Note: To read Brooks’ full essay, see <https://www.nytimes.com/2024/04/11/opinion/middle-managers-business-society.html?searchResultPosition=3>. His most recent book is *How to Know a Person: The Art of Seeing Others Deeply and Being Deeply Seen.*]

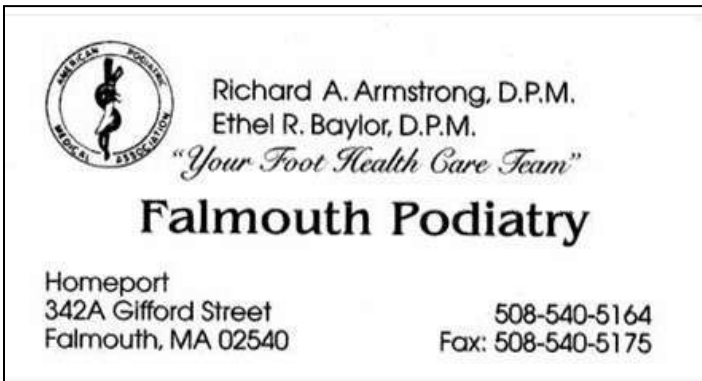



Stephanie Miele
 Certified Piano Technician

Tuning
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 steplen@comcast.net



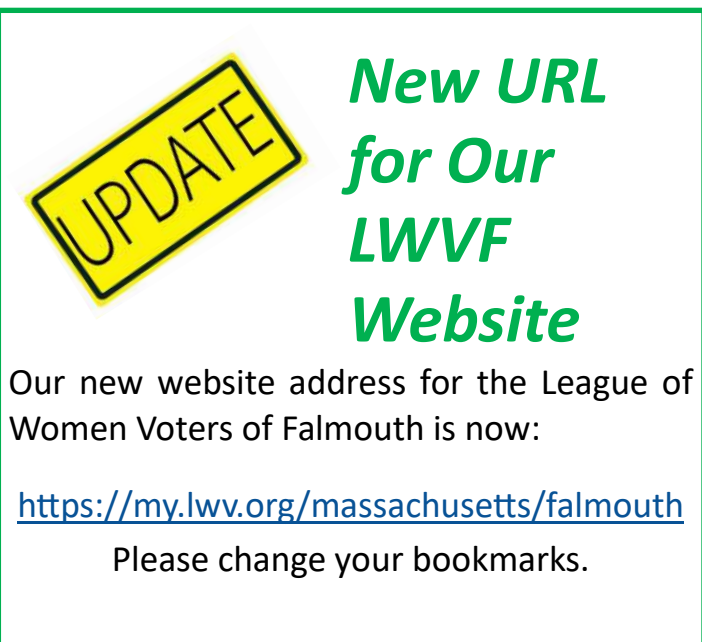
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 Ethel R. Baylor, D.P.M.
"Your Foot Health Care Team"
Falmouth Podiatry

Homeport
 342A Gifford Street
 Falmouth, MA 02540

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



 **New URL
 for Our
 LWVF
 Website**

Our new website address for the League of Women Voters of Falmouth is now:
<https://my.lwv.org/massachusetts/falmouth>
 Please change your bookmarks.

Make your voice heard today!

**Contact Information
for Your Legislators**

**(Be sure to include your name, address,
and phone number when writing.)**

Senator Susan Moran
617-722-1330
Susan.Moran@masenate.gov

Representative David Vieira
617-722-2230 and press 5
David.Vieira@mahouse.gov

Representative Dylan Fernandes
617-722-2013 and press 3
Dylan.Fernandes@mahouse.gov

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 contact 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.

LWVF Board of Directors 2023-2024

Board Members

First Vice-President	Janet Lauer*
Second Vice-President	Meghan Hanawalt*
Secretary	Richard Johnson*
Treasurer	Joan Boyer
Legislative	Judith Ziss
Natural Resources	Richard Johnson,
Voter Service	Felicia Bordick and Chinna Mapp*
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Social Media	Penny Duby
Email Communication	Kathy Mortenson
Web Administrator	Gayle Simundza

Nominating Committee

Chair	Stephanie Miele
Off Board	Kathy Mortenson, Olivia White
Board members	Karen Epstein, Misty Niemeyer

*Member of Steering Committee

Meeting and Event Calendar

May 18, 9:30-11:30	Annual Meeting, Coonamessett Inn
June 5, 7 p.m.	Observer Corps Reports, Civil Defense Room, Town Hall
June 11, 7 p.m.	Board meeting
June 15, 9 a.m. -4 p.m.	We the People booth and event, Library lawn

Contact us:

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P.O. Box 450
Falmouth, MA 02541

Email: FalmouthLWV@gmail.com

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

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

Join the League of Women Voters: Democracy in Action!

You do not have to be a resident of Falmouth to join. Membership dues are \$55 for an individual membership and \$25 for an additional household member. A discounted rate is available for students.

If you wish to join the League, send your check made out to the League of Women voters to the address in the "Contact us" box above. Include your name, mailing address, and phone number. You may also join online through our website at <https://my.lwv.org/massachusetts/falmouth>.

Just click on "Join" and pay online.



Submissions for the June issue of the LWVF Bulletin are due on June 4, 2024. Please send copy, photos, and other material to both of these addresses:

maryfran55@earthlink.net
eileenmattingly@yahoo.com