CALENDAR

Tuesday February 7
9:30am
Board Meeting
Cape Cod Five Dennis Branch

Tuesday February 21
10:00am
Third Week Coffee
Buckies Biscotti, Dennisport
681 Main St (Rte 28) south side

LOOKING AHEAD

Saturday March 4
9:30 - Noon
Jeff Clements, American Promise
Harwich Community Center, Oak St.
See details next page

Tuesday March 7
9:30am
Board Meeting
Cape Cod Five Dennis Branch

Monday March 20
10am
Third Week Coffee
Rendezvous, Hyannis

www.lwvcapecod.org
Save the Date!

OPPONENT OF “CITIZENS UNITED” TO SPEAK ON MARCH 4

Jeff Clements, President of American Promise and co-Founder of Free Speech for People, will speak at the Harwich Community Center on Saturday, March 4, sponsored by the League of Women Voters of the Cape Cod Area. Both organizations are part of a national, non-partisan campaign to enact the 28th Amendment and overturn “Citizens United”.

Jeff was previously an Assistant Attorney General and Chief of the Public Protection Bureau in the Mass. Attorney General’s Office, where he was responsible for the enforcement of environmental, healthcare, financial services, civil rights, antitrust and consumer protection laws. He is the author of Corporations Are Not People: Reclaiming Democracy from Big Money and Global Corporations and he lives in Concord, Mass.

The public is cordially invited to attend this event.

Saturday, March 4 -- 9:30am to Noon
Harwich Community Center, 100 Oak Street (Across from Monomoy High School)
www.harwich-ma.gov/community-center

For further details please phone LWVCCA at 508.432.0763
Dear Members...  

From LWVCCA President Scotti Finnegan

The first month of 2017 has been an opportunity for all of us to reflect on the Mission and Principles of the League. On January 21, hundreds of thousands of citizens of every age, gender, political affiliation, religious belief and ethnicity gathered across our country and the world to speak out for social justice, gender equality, universal health care, reproductive rights. The power of our collective voice modeled by peaceful demonstration was clear. The League’s beliefs: ...

- Respect for individuals
- The value of diversity
- The empowerment of the grassroots, both within the League and in communities

Although these were the people’s marches our beliefs were loud and clear in the faces and behaviors of the marchers. This is a moment for the League to inspire and engage all members to actively participate in our democracy. This is a moment for the League to invite new members to join us in the important work of civic education and advocacy. More voices than ever are asking to be heard. The League provides a legitimate and respected platform on which to “do something” about the issues that will potentially push us back to “how things used to be”.

This is the time to come to a board meeting, attend a coffee and bring a friend, share your ideas and opinions in the context of the League’s mission and principles.

I send you this poem, written by Maya Angelou. Ironically I find it more comforting and inspiring today then I did when I first heard her recite it at President Obama’s first inauguration. It needs no introduction or comment, simply reflection.

_I, the rock, I the river, I the tree_  
_I am yours- your passages have been paid._  
_Lift your faces, you have a piercing need_  
_For this bright morning dawning for you._  
_History, despite its wrenching pain,_  
_Cannot be unlived, and if faced with courage,_  
_Need not be lived again. Lift up your eyes upon_  
_The day breaking for you. Give birth again to the dream._

_Women, children, men, take it into the palms of your hands._  
_Mold it into the shape you of your most private need. Sculpt it into the image of your most public self. Lift up your hearts. Each new hour holds new chances for new beginnings._  
_Do not be wedded forever to fear, yoked eternally to brutishness._  
_The horizon leans forward, offering you space to place new steps of change._  
_Here, on the pulse of this fine day You may have the courage to look up and out upon me,_  
_The rock, the river, the tree, your country. No less to you now than the mastodon then._  
_Here on the pulse of this new day, You may have the grace to look up and out_  
_And into your sister’s eyes, Into your brother’s face, Your country_  
_And say, simply, very simply. With hope. GOOD MORNING._

Sincerely and with hope, Scotti.
COUNTY COMMITTEE NEEDS YOU!

From Judy Thomas, Chair

As this VOTER is about to be completed and sent to members, the County Committee will be meeting at the home of member Mary Lou Petitt in Eastham to prepare for an upcoming meeting of the LWVCCA Board with County Administrator Jack Yunits.

The November election, as you are all aware, brought major changes to both the Board of Commissioners and the Assembly of Delegates. Commissioner Leo Cakounes and newly-elected Commissioner Ron Beaty are expected to become a frequent voting majority, leaving re-elected Commissioner Mary Pat Flynn as a minority of one. Based on previous statements from Mr. Cakounes and Mr. Beaty, we can expect to see a shift in priorities as well--with emphasis on smaller county government and perhaps less focus on regionalism. At the Assembly of Delegates, long-time Speaker Ron Bergstrom (Chatham) has been succeeded by Suzanne McAuliffe (Yarmouth).

All of this bears careful watching. LWVCCA, as we hope you know, has been and continues to be a strong supporter of regional approaches to issues facing Barnstable County. We have and continue to support changes in the structure of County government which we believe will hold for greater efficiencies. Thanks to the commitment of our dedicated committee members, we have kept a keen eye on, and shed light on, the workings of both the Commissioners and the Assembly.

There are even signs that some of our efforts may be on the verge of fruition. But we must keep up the effort. The League, through the County Committee, needs your help. Do you have errands in Hyannis? Could you arrange to do them on Wednesdays ~ after attending the Commissioners’ Meeting(s) in the morning? Or could you take in an Assembly of Delegates meeting on a first or third Wednesday afternoon at 4:00? If you can help, even one morning or one afternoon a month, please get in touch with Judy Thomas at 508.432.2775 or jmtrevd@aol.com. Thanks very much.

Ed. Note: Our best wishes to Mary Lou, who is now dealing with a neurological problem which is limiting her mobility. The committee and LWVCCA continue to be grateful for her experience, wisdom and ongoing participation.
Main Street Wine & Gourmet LLC
Orleans
February is Black History Month
WELCOME TO . . .

From Phyllis Walsh, Membership Committee

Please welcome our newest members, Elaine and Arthur Dickinson. They are both committed members of the Cape Downwinders advocating for the early closure of the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Plant in Plymouth. They were originally involved in the Occupy Movement. As that movement faded, the Dickersons and others became active members of the Downwinders. Elaine is also volunteering every Thursday at the Harwich Family Pantry.

Elaine and Arthur came to the Cape twenty years ago. Elaine was a teacher at the Nauset Middle School, retiring in 2010, which has allowed them more time for volunteer activities. One of Elaine's students was Julian Cyr, our new state senator. Elaine and Arthur worked on his successful election campaign. Because of this involvement, they attended several league sponsored candidates' debates for various offices where they met some league members and reconnected with Nancy Erskine. As an outgrowth of a county commissioner debate sponsored by our Cape Area League on October 21, they invited the candidates for county commissioner to their home on November 3 for a "Meet the Candidates" evening.

Elaine and Arthur are looking forward to participating in our league's activities as time permits. Their league interests would be County Government and Civic Education.

Their contact information is: Elaine & Arthur Dickinson, 56 Hillcrest Drive, Harwich MA 02645 508 432-5023  edickinson1149@gmail.com
REMEMBERING . . .

JEAN GARDINER . . .

Jean Gardiner was a very loyal and interested member of the League. She served as Membership Chair for several years and I was lucky to serve on her very active committee. She was open to new ideas and how best to attract new members.

When she was no longer membership Chair, Jean continued her interest in the League and its many projects, always addressing problems with a constructive, balanced outlook and a fine sense of humor. She followed the same approach to the vicissitudes of life, to the admiration of everyone who knew her.

Thanks to member Freddie FitzGerald

MARY JANETH SCANLON

We were saddened to learn of the passing of Janeth Scanlon on January 12, just two months after her 100th birthday. There will be a memorial celebration of her life in the spring. As her daughter, Judy, said, “The cold and dreariness of winter did not seem fitting for someone with such inner light and warmth.” I got to know Janeth in her 80s and 90s as a vibrant book club member, participant in church activities and eager supporter of her daughter’s efforts for improved water quality, and I learned that she was always active and engaged in her community, earning a master’s degree in library science, working in school and college libraries and joining her husband to work with the Peace Corps in Africa. When mobility became increasingly difficult, she continued to take her citizen responsibilities seriously, attending as many town meetings she could - in a wheelchair if need be. And she made sure to vote! Her last vote was made from her hospital bed by absentee ballot last year, shortly before her birthday. May she be a model for us all!

Thanks to member Bea Auty
**Calendar - February - June**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Board Meeting</td>
<td>Cape Cod Five, Dennis</td>
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<td><strong>Jeff Clements</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Harwich Community Center</strong></td>
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<td>Annual Meeting</td>
<td>Sea View; Dennisport</td>
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*To be determined: Legislative Breakfast -- February/March  
State of the County -- April*
A Shy Person’s Guide to Calling Your Representatives

Board member Judy Thomas recently came across the following article on the Facebook page of former Sandwich Selectman and LWVCCA member Linnell Grundman, who has since relocated to Washington, D.C. Judy suggests it falls neatly into our League advocacy efforts.

“In the coming weeks and years you will be seeing a lot of requests to call your representatives about issues facing our country. But maybe, like me, you hate calling people SO MUCH. This is a guide for you.

I’m anxious on the phone. My blood pressure rises when I need to call a customer service line, or even just ask the hours at a restaurant. So calling representatives about political issues is one of my least favorite things to do. I posted on Facebook recently about my experience calling my reps and it got a good response. I think there are a lot of us who want to pitch in but hesitate to pick up the phone. With that in mind, here is my shy person’s guide to calling your representatives.

BEFORE YOU START:

**Pick an issue.** * Know that it’s FAST. It takes maybe 2 minutes to call one person, including the time it takes to look up their phone number. Think of it like ripping off a bandage.

* **Know you don’t have to be persuasive.** You are really just calling to put yourself on a tally that will be passed along to your representative. You don’t have to convince anyone and no one will try to argue with you. Just say your piece (as awkwardly as you want! they won’t care!) and get off the phone.

* **Know that calling is better than emailing.** I would much prefer to email, but your message is more likely to get lost in the deluge. When you talk to a staffer you know for sure your opinion is being recorded.

**Find your reps’ numbers.** Go [here](#) or [here](#) to find out who they are. Call their local lines when possible. Write down the numbers or save them as contacts so you don’t have to look them up every time.

**Take a deep breath.**

DURING THE CALL:

**Start with an introduction.** Hi my name is _____ and I’m a constituent of Rep./Sen. ____ calling about a concern I have. I see many scripts that omit how to start the call, and it helps me to know for sure how to begin. Be sure to say you are a constituent. They might ask for your zip code, so have that ready.

* **Have a script.** This is 100% the best way to keep you focused and calm. There are lots of good scripts you can use [here](#) or you can write your own. Say what you are comfortable saying. Remember, you are just calling to be counted.

**Expect their response.** The thing I see missing from most instructions for calling reps is what to expect in their response. Most of the time they will just tell you they’ll pass on your concern. Congrats - if they do that, you are done! They might read a prepared statement. They might even say your rep is not going to take action on that issue. What they WON’T do is argue with you or say, “what a stupid thing to be concerned about.” Don’t let your anxious brain convince you they will do this.

If necessary, **reiterate your request.** If they read a statement or say the representative won’t take action, don’t get flustered. Just say, *Once again, I’m calling on the Rep./Sen. to .....*

**Thank the staffer and hang up.**

AFTER THE CALL:

**Take another deep breath.**

**Congratulate yourself.**

**Do some self-care.** Maybe start [here](#) or [here](#). Do whatever makes you feel happy and rewarded.

**Know that it gets easier.** The more you call, the more you know what to expect. You may even get to know some staffers. You might never like calling, but I promise it gets less awful.”