CALENDAR

Saturday March 4
9:30 - Noon

Jeff Clements, “American Promise”
Proposed Constitutional Amendment
Harwich Community Center

Please print and post the flyer at the end of this VOTER in your community

Tuesday March 7
9:30am

Board Meeting
Cape Cod Five Dennis

Monday March 20
10:00am

Third Week Coffee
Rendezvous, Hyannis
394 Main St. near JFK Museum. North side.

Friday March 24
8:30am

LWVCCA Legislative Breakfast
Lorusso Solarium, CCCC

Please use payment coupon at end of this VOTER

Thursday March 30
5 - 7pm

New Members Meet & Greet
Dolphin, Barnstable Village

LOOKING AHEAD

Tuesday April 4
9:30am

Board Meeting
Cape Cod Five Dennis

Tuesday April 18
10am

Third Week Coffee
Location tbd

www.lwvcapecod.org
www.facebook.com/LWVCCA
DEAR MEMBERS... 

From Scotti Finnegan, LWVCCA President

Spring is in the air and the smell of activism is everywhere. The fall of our despair has turned into the realization that our democracy is not dead. The energy growing out of a collective need and commitment to organizing, advocating and educating has renewed and strengthened our voices. The LWVCCA must renew our commitment to the mission and principles of the LWV and be a loud and strong voice for human rights, high quality education for all students, affordable healthcare, the environment, voting rights and reproductive rights -- and against the wholesale purchasing of political office. The challenge we face as a non-partisan organization must not render us voiceless as we decide which issues are partisan and which are not. The discussion of the League’s participation in the Women’s March was understandably measured at first but I believe the decision to participate was too long in coming. For many members the apparent lack of action was off-putting. The League was born out of the courage of many brave women who stood up even when their voices might have been faint from fear. Process is important but cannot cripple us to take a stand.

In my short time in the LWVCCA I have come to see that the commitment to non-partisan activism is authentic. What does non-partisan activism look like? What does it sound like? I have been thinking a lot about the League’s role to encourage people to vote. This is becoming more important than ever. The voter registration rolls may be healthy but what about voter turnout? An enthusiastic commitment on the part of every member is key here. Every one of us can get a non-voter to the polls. The spring local elections will be great practice since getting every voter to the polls in November 2018 begins now.

The desire to be active is palpable and it is the opportunity for the LWVCCA to renew and re-energize. We must sustain our membership, recruit new members and focus on how to have all members actively participate. I speak to many women who have not been politically active and are searching for the place to begin. The League is the place to begin informed activism. Our non-partisan identity should be a safe place for all ideas and opinions with the understanding that the League does take informed positions on specific policies and topics.

We have scheduled a Members Meet and Greet on Thursday, March 30, from 5:00 - 7:00pm at the Dolphin Restaurant on Main Street (Route 6A) in Barnstable Village. Delicious hors d’oeuvres and a cash bar, for all members and potential members. The cost is $7.00 for members and no cost to guests.

Hope to see you there!
LEGISLATIVE MATTERS
From Renate Sands, Legislative Chair

OUR 2017 LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST will be held at Cape Cod Community College on Friday, March 24, at 8:15 in the Solarium at the Lorusso building

Senators Vinny DeMacedo (Plymouth & Barnstable); Julian Cyr (Cape & Islands); Representatives Timothy Whelan (1st Barnstable); William Crocker (2nd Barnstable); Sarah Peake (4th Barnstable) and Randy Hunt (5th Barnstable) have indicated they will attend. Students from the CCCC Economics Club, Rotaract and Student Senate will also join us.

Please return payment coupon at the end of this VOTER to Treasurer Ira Seldin as soon as possible. Invite a friend or relative--anyone interested in meeting our local legislators.

*******

The LWVMA Legislative Action Committee is reviewing the bills that were filed in the new legislative session which began in January. No final decisions have been made and no information is listed under “2017 Advocacy and Legislation Agenda” on the LWVMA website.

Action Priorities for 2017 have been posted and are as follows:
Improving Election and Voter Turnout
Civic Education and Engagement
Money in Politics
Climate Change and the Environment
Addressing Income Inequality

*******

Day on the Hill has been postponed until Fall due to the renovation of the Gardner Auditorium at the State House.

*******

Interested in Criminal Justice Reform? In 2015, Governor Charlie Baker invited the Council of State Governments to study the criminal justice system in Massachusetts and report on its recommendations for legislative changes in 2017. The League will continue to support bills in line with its positions on our courts and corrections system. Check the LWVMA website for details.
IMMIGRATION MATTERS -- OUR VIEW

The following letter to the editor of the Cape Cod Times, written by LWVCCA Board Member Judy Thomas, appeared in the Times in January of this year.

To The Editor

The Cape Cod Times Jan 2, 2017 front page article, “Calls for deportation raise fears on Cape” reminded this reader of a national League of Women Voters study on immigration completed in 2008. Leagues throughout the U.S., including the Cape Cod Area League, which participated in the study, adopted a detailed position relating to immigration. In part the position states: ‘The League of Women Voters believes that immigration policies should promote reunification of immediate families; meet the economic, business and employment needs of the U.S.; be responsive to those facing political persecution or humanitarian crisis. . .All persons should receive fair treatment under the law.’

“In reference to the specific issue raised by the CCTimes article, the League position states: ‘In achieving overall policy goals, the League supports a system for unauthorized immigrants already in the country to earn legal status, including citizenship, by paying taxes, learning English, studying civics and meeting other relevant criteria. While policy reforms, including a path to legal status, remain unachieved, the League does not support deporting unauthorized immigrants who have no history of criminal activity.’

“The League hopes residents of the Cape will show the greatest compassion toward those who these days feel threatened and fearful.”

Judy Thomas
Past President LWVCCA (2009–2012)
MEMBERSHIP NEWS
Phyllis Walsh, Membership Chair

Carpe diem. . . it's a great day for the League!

Ed. Note. A 45-year-old mother of three in Western Massachusetts, had never been particularly interested in political activity. Yet last November, a week after the election, she phoned the state office of the LWV said she wanted to start a chapter in Franklin County, where she lived. A 51-year-old woman in Savannah has done the same with a once-defunct chapter there. They aren’t alone. Across the country, the League has experienced a level of interest that most members have never seen before. National president Chris Carson has said she hasn’t seen it in her 33 years with the League.

According to Membership Chair Phyllis Walsh, LWVCCA is no different. Our membership is back up to 81 and continues to climb. New member Elaine Dickinson carried a sign-up sheet on the bus to the Women’s March in Boston ~ and got eight signatures from our area. Renate, Amy and Phyllis have been following up, with Nancy helping out while Phyllis is away. Brief biographies of three of our new members are below, with several more to come in upcoming issues of the VOTER. And we are looking forward to meeting all of them at our Meet and Greet on March 30 in Barnstable.

Marydean and Roger Burdick are new members, not only to LVCCA, but to the League of Women Voters nationally. Their decision to become involved was inspired not just by the current political climate, but also by their wanting to become better informed on the issues which affect them, their two sons and two daughters.

The family moved to Dennis thirteen years ago, although Roger is still on the job as an engineer with Aero Gear in Windsor, Connecticut and commutes to the Cape on weekends. Marydean is enjoying her retirement from a nursing career at UConn Health Center in Farmington, CT. A lifelong painter, she now has the opportunity to devote more time to her art. Currently she’s enjoying a weekly life drawing class in Provincetown. She’s also a swimmer and a walker.

We welcome the Burdicks to our Cape Area League and look forward to having them as active participants in our activities and events.
Susan Freudenheim was an active LWV member in Birmingham, Michigan, a Detroit suburb and recalls being a poll watcher in nearby Pontiac, way back in 1972, when Shirley Chisholm was running for president.

Subsequently, the Freudenheims moved to New Canaan, Connecticut, where they lived for seventeen years before moving to Chatham in 1997.

Given the current political environment, Susan says she is now ready to become involved again in the League ~ a decision in which she was encouraged by both Scotti Finnegan and Florence Seldin, a fellow book club member. We are delighted to welcome her to LWVCCA and look forward to her active participation.
INDIVISIBLE
From Florence Seldin

Here on Cape Cod, as across the country, citizens concerned with issues of equity, inclusion and fair-ness have become involved in grassroots advocacy, challenging their elected representatives to respond to the issues that affect their lives and those of their neighbors.

On the Cape, a number of these groups have organized. There is an outercapeindivisible, which describes itself as a “broad-based coalition, across all political spectrums, empowering reasonable people to act to preserve American democracy”.

There is a lowercapeindivisible group who “want to demystify political aktivisms and share the tactics that are most effective”.

There is an indivisiblemidcape. All these indivisible groups have websites and you can easily add your name to their mailing lists.

All Indivisible groups everywhere base their strategies and tactics on the Indivisible Guide www.IndivisibleGuide.com, was written by a group of former White House and Congressional staffers.

In addition to the indivisible groups there are several other groups such as Stronger Together, Cape Cod Women for Change, Huddle and more.

It may all come down to the League slogan, “Democracy is Not a Spectator Sport”.

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The following legislators have indicated they will attend:

Senator Vinny DeMacedo, Plymouth and Barnstable District
Senator Julian Cyr, Cape and Islands District
Representative Timothy Whelan, 1st Barnstable District
Representative William Crocker, 2nd Barnstable District
Representative Sarah Peake, 4th Barnstable District
Representative Randy Hunt, 5th Barnstable District

Feel free to bring a friend or relative who would be interested in this event. Students from the Economics Club, Rotaract Club and Student Senate at Cape Cod Community College have also been invited.

Directions: From the campus entrance, go around the campus road to parking lots 10 and 11. Walk up the hill. Handicapped parking is up the hill next to the Lorusso building.

______________PLEASE RETURN THIS COUPON WITH PAYMENT______________

Cost is $12.00 per person. March 20, 2017 is the deadline for reservations. Please complete the form below. Make checks payable to the LWVCCA and send to Ira Seldin
321 Deer Meadow Lane, Chatham, MA 02633

I will attend the Legislative Breakfast. ________________________________

I am bringing the following guests. Name(s)______________________________

Enclosed is a check payable to the LWVCCA for $12/per person.
“National Citizen Uprising vs Citizens United”

American Promise Leader Jeff Clements to speak in Harwich on March 4

Author and constitutional lawyer Jeff Clements, founder of “American Promise”, cross-partisan effort to win a 28th Amendment, will be guest speaker at Harwich Community Center sponsored by League of Women Voters of the Cape Cod Area. This event is free and open to the public.

Date: Saturday, March 4
Time: 9:30 - Noon
Place: Harwich Community Center, Oak Street (across from Monomoy HS)

Further details: 508.945.0511

Sponsored by

The League of Women Voters of the Cape Cod Area
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