CALENDAR

Tuesday April 3
9:30am

Thursday April 12
6:30pm

Friday April 20
10:30am

Saturday April 28
9:30 - 2:30

Board Meeting
Cape Cod Five, Dennis

“Making A Killing: Guns, Greed & the NRA”
Cape Cinema, Dennis

LWVCCA Legislative Breakfast
Cape Cod Community College

LWVMA Spring Conference
Clark University, Worcester

LOOKING AHEAD

Tuesday May 8
9:30am

Thursday May 17
5 - 8pm

Board Meeting
Cape Cod Five, Rte. 134, Dennis

LWVC CA Annual Meeting & Dinner
Seaview Restaurant, DennisPort

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**********LWVCCA LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST **********
FRIDAY, APRIL 20 10:30 AM
CAPE COD COMMUNITY COLLEGE
SOLARIUM, LORUSSO BUILDING

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

RETURN COUPON -- Deadline Monday, April 16

Cost of breakfast is $12.00 per person. April 16, 2018 is the deadline for reservations. Please complete the form below. Make checks payable to LWVCCA and send to Ira Seldin
321 Deer Meadow Lane, Chatham, MA 02633

I will attend the Legislative Breakfast (Name)______________________________

I am bringing the following guests (Names)______________________________

Check enclosed payable to LWVCCA for $12/per person__________________

The following legislators have been invited:
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 David Vieira, 3rd Barnstable District *
Representative Sarah Peake, 4th Barnstable District
Representative. Randy Hunt, 5th Barnstable District
Representative Dylan Fernandes, Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket District
*Cannot attend due to school vacation week.

Feel free to bring a guest. Students from the CCCC Economics Club, Rotaract Club and Student Senate have also been invited.

Print and save this page
Your help is needed

2018 is already turning into a very busy year for all of us. Much needs to be done ~ and as always, our fellow citizens look to the League of Women Voters. In this and subsequent issues of the VOTER, we’ll try to include a listing of upcoming events that our members want and need to know about ~ events which the League sponsors, co-sponsors or has agreed to participate in ~ on hand to register new voters…we may be moderating local candidates forums…and, as time goes on, we look forward to co-sponsoring more State and national forums. To do this, we need everyone’s help. If you know of an upcoming event, please get in touch with Voter Service Chair Anita Rogers -- And please let her know if you are willing to help!

Following are two events happening very soon.

Saturday April 7
10am - 1pm
Cape Cod Children’s Place Family Fair
Orleans Elementary School, 46 Eldredge Parkway
Registration

Monday, April 9
7pm
Democratic Gubernatorial Candidates Debate
Monomoy Reg. HS, Oak Street Harwich
FYI only
Kids are running this

Thursday April 12
6:30PM
“Making a Killing: Guns, Greed and the NRA”
LWVCCA IS A CO-SPONSOR
CAPE CINEMA, DENNIS
Registration

Thursday April 26
Dennis Candidates Debate
Moderated by Florence Seldin
Needed: 2 timers and 2 question sorters. Sorters from Dennis preferred.
Please contact Anita Rogers if you can help.

To be decided
Chatham Candidates Debate
Sorters and timers will be needed

Democracy is NOT…
it IS up to us.
At long last, two major breakthroughs for civics education are close to the finish line!

1. **April 3 is a Lobby Day to support S.2355 An Act to Promote and Enhance Civic Engagement**

   Breakthrough #1--The Massachusetts Senate has just voted to approve **S.2355 An Act to Promote and Enhance Civic Engagement** and it will move forward for action in the Massachusetts House of Representatives. A **Lobby Day of April 3** has been scheduled to speak to State Representatives to enlist their support for this bill. A working group of legislators from the Senate and the House worked together to write this legislation, consulting with many constituent groups and educators along the way. Major features of the bill include:
   a. A requirement that all public schools teach American history and civics education.
   b. Establishment of a Civics Project Fund to support curriculum and professional development.
   c. A requirement for students to participate in at least 2 student-led civics projects.
   d. Regional Civics Councils to be established by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to monitor and support schools in their implementation of civics education.
   e. Supports to encourage student voter registration.

   A coalition of many civic and educational organizations committed to civics education has been formed, called **#MACivicsForAll**. The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts has joined the coalition and I have represented LWVMA on the coalition. Members have worked with the legislative working group to comment on and fine-tune the legislation. This has been a very rewarding experience to participate in and I have seen how the work of this coalition has increased the influence of our collective voices. To learn more about this bill please visit the website **www.MAcivicsforall.org**.

   **PLEASE contact your state representative on April 3 and ask her or him to support approval of this bill.**

2. **Proposed Massachusetts History and Social Science Curriculum Framework Requires Civics Education for All**

   Breakthrough #2 --The Massachusetts History and Social Science Curriculum Framework has an updated draft that requires civics education for all students and is currently moving through the public comment and approval process with an expected approval date of June 2018. The revised framework reinstates a required civics education course for all students as a full year course in Grade 8 that will focus on United States and Massachusetts government and civic life. It integrates civics standards into every grade level. It creates a renewed mission on education for civic life in a democracy. The framework incorporates media studies. It fosters deeper understanding of content through emphasizing standards for History and Social Science Practice that foster research and inquiry. These standards for practice are intended to make the curriculum active and experiential.
The comment period in response to the framework ends on April 2 and the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education will vote on approval at their June Board Meeting. If the Board approves the framework, the 2018-19 year will be a year of curriculum and professional development and the 2019-20 year will be the first year of implementation.

It should be remembered that civics education is taught in schools now. But the problem has been that, when civics was no longer a required course, it became an elective experience and therefore did not reach all students. The new required Grade 8 course along with integrating civics standards at all grade levels will solve that problem.

IN CONCLUSION

Both the proposed legislation and the proposed revision of the History and Social Science Curriculum Framework go a long way to restoring and enhancing the teaching of civics education in Massachusetts. The legislature and the Department (DESE) have been in discussion about these changes for at least 10 years and I am hopeful that both the legislation and the History and Social Science Curriculum Framework will be approved. For those of us who care so much about the importance of civics education, adoption of these changes will represent a WooHoo moment! As we have seen from student engagement in the March For Our Lives, students have an important voice and they can make a difference. It is incumbent on our schools to give all students the knowledge and skills to make themselves heard and influence our collective future.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

From Renate Sands, Chair, on behalf of the committee

One way we can exert influence in this period of political divisiveness is to advocate for legislation that supports our principles. At the beginning of the legislative session, committee members selected bills they would follow. Their reports are below.

**H.3610 An act temporarily preventing firearm access for extremely dangerous or suicidal individuals**, known as the “red flag” bill is currently in the Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security. The bill would establish a civil procedure to remove guns from people who pose a threat of causing harm to themselves or others. Representative David Vieira is a member of this committee. Representative Dylan Fernandes was a petitioner of this bill. *Call your Senators and Representatives to advocate for the bill.*

**H2019 Automatic Voter Registration AVR H2091** (Renate Sands)

*All state representatives need to be contacted to move this bill forward.*

- Please call your state rep to get this bill to the House floor for a vote.
- Rep Peake and Rep Fernandes were co-sponsors of the bill.
H.2472 An Act relative to nuclear power plant protection (Elaine Dickinson)
H.1131 An Act increasing nuclear power plant protections to a twenty mile radius
H.1133 An Act to increase radiation monitoring funding
H.1147 An act relative to prompt decommissioning of nuclear power station
  • The above bills are in the Joint Committee on Public Health.
  • Their reporting date has been extended to 5/9/2018.
  • Contact members of the committee to move these bills forward.
  • Senator Julian Cyr is a member of this committee.

S.223 S.2325 An Act modernizing the foundation budget for the 21st century (Patricia Ryle)
  This bill updates the foundation budget formula for state aid to school districts
  • Reported favorably from committee.
  • Sent to the Senate Ways and Means Committee.
  • Senator deMacedo is a member of this committee so please contact.

S1849/H3395 An Act transitioning MA to 100% renewable energy (Terri Bilodeau)
  • The bill was sent to study.
  • However, some of S1849 has been included in the omnibus clean energy bill (below).

S.2302 Omnibus Energy Bill (Suzanne Brock)
  • LWVMA supports this strong, comprehensive energy legislation
  • In the Senate Ways and Means Committee
  • Expected to come to a vote in 6 to 8 weeks
  • Encourages us to call, send postcards and emails to our Representatives so that the House will move on this bill

H.3528 An Act promoting the proper disposal of miniatures (bill supported by LWVCCA)
  • Bill reported favorably out of committee.
  • Contact Speaker DeLeo and ask him to bring the bill to the floor for a vote

Two bills we have been following have run into roadblocks.
The original Safe Community Act was sent to study and a compromise Bill HD4603 was filed in the House. After studying the new bill, LWVMA decided they were unable to support the new bill. The Civic Education bill also faced some problems. A new amendment to the bill was not viewed favorably by the MA Civics For All coalition of which the LWVMA is a member. After a new study, the coalition decided to support the amended bill. (See Karen Mazza's report on previous page.)
PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

The following email was sent to the LWVMA League Leaders page:

“I just wanted to add that the marches haven’t ended. Black women have been marching. There is little to no press about it. They are women too. Marching for the same issues and the same rights. I’ve decided not to renew my membership with the League due to the history of the League and the willingness for pages across this country to share marches while simultaneously ignoring them. If your answer is that we have a Black President now … which I have heard you [LWVMA] say … then you might want to remove the bandaid. It is no different than saying Obama was President so no such problem exists. Good luck to you all. I see the good you do … but you have become political in a sense that does not offer a space for all women.”

Who are ‘all women’ on Cape Cod? Is LWVCCA unwittingly excluding women because of age, profession, citizenship status, education and/or color? Certainly not intentionally—but by design? I recently received a copy of an email sent to the LWVMA office from a woman saying that LWVCCA makes it difficult for working women to participate, specifically noting our moderator training that was scheduled for a morning. Has our League done enough to reach out to women who represent the diverse demographic on the Cape: single mothers, new citizens, young professionals, service workers, LGBT residents ~ have we tried? These are not accusations but questions for reflection. How does our local League encourage LWVMA to take up the issue of systemic racism. What will LWVCCA add to our programing to educate about, and advocate against, systemic racism and exclusion?

As we watched coverage of the March for Our Lives in Washington, it was clear that the "kids" showed they know that all children’s deaths by guns is unacceptable. The young speakers talked about their brothers, sisters, cousins, being gunned down in their neighborhoods as well as in their schools. Some of the speakers talked about how they had been trying to mobilize against gun violence long before Parkland [but clearly they were the wrong demographic: urban kids of color]. The students’ voices were a powerful call to activism, courage and change and a reminder that voices raised together do make a difference, that they -- "the new, diverse, and inclusive voters" -- will be the change. If nothing else let’s commit to assuring that every eligible teenager and her parents are registered to vote. Let’s not be fooled that, because voter registration in MA and on the Cape is high, we have no work to do. Our goal must be that 100% of all eligible Cape Cod residents are registered -- and vote.

In the last few months the ugly issues of sexual harassment, uncontrolled gun violence, and systemic racism have been laid bare and added to the shame of uncivil public discourse, and an executive branch that is enabled by the Congress. These are not Democrat or Republican issues, these are the issues that a democracy must address. It seems that each month my message feels urgent and I think it is because each month seems to highlight another issue that challenges our democracy.

Spring will eventually come to the Cape. Let’s be fierce in our commitment to being engaged in education and activism. Scotti
NOTES
LWVCCA Board Meeting -- March 6, 2018

Attendees: Elaine Dickinson, Arthur Dickinson, Renate Sands, Richard Utt, Scotti Finnegan, Mary Hunter Utt, Mark Ameres, Matti Ligon, Florence Seldin, Karen Mazza

Nominations for 2018-2019 board members and committee chairs
The Nominating Committee has been formed and consists of two Board members (Nancy Erskine and Phyllis Walsh) and two non-board members (Elaine Dickinson and Matti Ligon). Please contact any of the Nominating Committee members if you would like to help the LWVCCA in any way.

Website upgrade
The MyLO (My League Online) website software has many advantages: security, ease of use, ease of updates/maintenance, support. The Board voted unanimously to adopt MyLO; however, separate votes are needed for the budget. Members encouraged to provide feedback and suggest changes for the site.

LWVCCA turns 60 in 2018! A small committee will be formed to brainstorm ideas for an anniversary event. Contact Florence Seldin if you are interested in helping out.

Upcoming events
April 7, 10:00 am-1:00 pm, Cape Cod Children’s Place. LWVCCA will set up a table to register young parents as voters at a family fair. Contact Scotti Finnegan if you can help.

April 12, 7:00 pm, Cape Cinema, Dennis. Anti-gun film, “Making a Killing,” Cape Cinema. LWVCCA is co-sponsoring this film (along with various anti-gun groups). Proceeds will benefit student #NeverAgain organizations.

April 20, 10:30am, Annual Legislative Breakfast in the Atrium at CCCC. Joan Craig will moderate.
April 27 pm, Dennis Town Hall. Florence Seldin will moderate a debate -- 3 selectman candidates.
Annual Meeting May 17 5-8pm Seaview Restaurant, DennisPort.
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On hand for a recent salute to the late Mary Lou Petitt were Mary Lou’s daughter Julie Petitt Quigley and her granddaughter Katharine Petitt-Quigley. The event was the annual brunch sponsored by the Brewster Democratic Town Committee with Representative Sarah Peake as guest of honor. Mary Lou’s longtime friend Gwen Pelletier presented the framed salute acknowledging Mary Lou’s long service.