CALENDAR

Tuesday April 4
9:30am
Board Meeting
Cape Cod Five Dennis

Thursday April 20
10am
Third Week Coffee
Home of Jari Rapaport
20 Split Rail Road, Eastham

Rte 6 toward P’town to light at National Seashore Hdqtrs--stay to left. Take left onto Locust, then .3mile and right onto Split Rail. Jari’s #20 is on right.(255-2476)

LOOKING AHEAD

Tuesday May 2
9:30am
Board Meeting
Cape Cod Five Dennis

Thursday May 25*
5pm
Annual Meeting
Sea View Restaurant, Dennisport

*Please note change

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

From Scotti Finneghan, LWVCCA President

Happy Spring! This spring I think of the Bard and allow myself to paraphrase: This is the spring of our discontent. I notice things that are more alarming than simply issues of disagreement.

- Dumping mining waste into streams
- Rolling back internet privacy regulations
- Chaotic environment for immigrants
- Proposed Executive budget recommending crippling cuts to health, education, the arts, science and diplomacy
- Elimination of climate change agreement
- Disregard for civil dialogue
- Dark money in politics
- Disregard for a free press

Everyone could probably add at least one I have not listed. This is the time for advocacy and education. This is a new time, an important opportunity for the LWVCCA to be actively engaged in its mission: The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan organization of women and men that encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Recently you probably heard from a member of the nominating committee. Several members had wonderful suggestions for forums and studies including: the Electoral College; profit-making in health care: insurance industry, pharmaceuticals, medical devices; possible elimination of Civics from the Monomoy Middle School curriculum; the environment specifically the changes and impact of the recent those changes; fake news; the first amendment. Some suggestions were topics the League has already studied or have been the subject of past forums indicating that we might want to revisit some topics and/or expand the discussions. A shared thread however is the renewed interest to participate in our democracy. I urge you to renew your commitment to the League and to being an active participant in American Democracy. Please attend an event, a board meeting, and/or volunteer to be part of a LWVCCA committee and/or to help to facilitate an event. Please respond to the survey that you received. Your input is necessary to the success of the LWVCCA. Our League needs all members to actively participate in any way you can. This is what will make our League a stronger voice our democracy.

I wish you a warm and sunny April!

Scotti
LEGISLATIVE REPORT
From Legislative Chair Renate Sands

Our Legislative Breakfast was a sellout – with 43 members/guests and 15 students attending with six no shows. All legislators attended except Senator DeMacedo who was represented by Aide Lance Lambros. Sen. Julian Cyr and Reps. Sarah Peake, Randy Hunt, Tim Whelan and William Crocker all made personal appearances.

As usual, we were able to ask only half of the prepared questions so that audience members and students would have time to participate. The “Safe Communities” questions had mixed support with Sen Cyr and Rep Peake being sponsors of the bill but Rep Whelan feeling it was not necessary since police do not do immigration raids. The Barnstable County budget crisis did not garner much sympathy from the legislators. The effect of repeal of the Affordable Care Act is moot since it did not happen. All legislators shared the critical importance of the opioid crisis and Rep Hunt was praised for the work he has done. When asked about the best way to contact them, legislators had different recommendations. Some preferred e-mail, some phone calls, some letters. My plan is to contact them and publish their recommendations in the Voter.

CCCCC President Cox’s willingness to sponsor our event and provide the Solarium is greatly appreciated. His staff is most accommodating in setting up the room and providing the food. David Biggs, Coordinator of the Student Life Program, provided access to the Student Senate and Professor Gautam, advisor to the Economics and Rotaract Clubs, was our liaison with his students. Many League members contributed to our success. My first thank you goes to Joan Craig for moderating and for her lovely tablecloths which provide a festive air. Ira Seldin was very supportive when I started to panic at the number of people who were registering. Florence Seldin and Nancy Erskine shared in the “sausage making” of developing questions. Amy Harris’s name tags proved most helpful in moving people through the registration process. Also, a big thank you goes to Scotti Finnegan, Amy Harris, Karen Mazza and Carlyn Carey for being greeters and welcoming everyone. Thank you all for another very positive event! Renate ED: Thank YOU, Renate.

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From the LWVMA Legislative Action Committee (LAC), Chair Nancy Brumbach reports that the Committee is looking at a busy 2017-2018 Legislative Session.

“Bills listed on our website are the bills we have approved to support thus far,” but we will be adding more. Some 6,000 bills were filed in January for consideration in the new session and our legislative specialists are still going through them to see which ones they will follow this session and also determine which of the bills we supported last session that did not get through have been refiled. The new bills must be reviewed by the entire LAC at one of its monthly meetings to decide which we want to support and have the volunteer capacity to follow. We will add additional bills next week. If you have an interest in a specific bill, please don't hesitate to let me know. The LAC doesn't have an email list; that page on the website is the best spot to find the bills we’re following. As the session goes on and hearings are held, it will include links to our testimony on each bill and any other action we take. We hope to develop specialist "teams" of League members who would like more information on bills in a specific area. Our environment specialist, Launa Zimmaro, already has such a group working and if that is an area you are interested in please contact her lzimmer@lwvma.org. Otherwise, please stay tuned for updates.
BILLS TO BE FOLLOWED BY LWVMA IN THE 2017-1018 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

**Child Safety**
- An Act to lift the cap on kids (Repeal family cap on welfare benefits)

**Criminal Justice and Courts**
- S777 An Act to reduce the criminalization of poverty
- S874 An Act relative to medical placement of terminal and incapacitated inmates
- S779 An Act related to parole

**Education**
- S234/HD 2653 An Act relative to healthy youth (Sexual Health education)

**Elections and Voting**
- S371 An Act to establish election day registration

**Environment**
- H1726 An Act to promote green infrastructure, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and create jobs (Carbib Pricing)

**Health Care**
- S1174/HD3059 An Act to protect access to confidential health care
- S1305/HD3052 An Act to protect the civil rights and safety of all MA residents (Safe Communities Act)
- S669/H644 An Act relative to equal opportunity for high school graduates in the commonwealth (In-state tuition for some non-citizen students)

**Water Resources**
- S1128/HD2403 An Act providing for the establishment of sustainable water resource funds ( Permit "water-banking" fee on large-scale water users)
- S420/JD2739 An Act relative to streamflow standards
- S425/HD2398 An Act relative to drought management
- HD2348 An Act to improve water quality and pollution control programs

**Women’s Issues**
- S1023/H1038 An act establishing the Massachusetts pregnant workers fairness act
- S545 An Act providing for equitable coverage in disability policies

**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 Environment Addressing Income Inequality
MEMBERSHIP NEWS -- We continue to grow!

From Phyllis Walsh and Karen Mazza

Mary Anderson, of Harwich, joined the League March in response to the current political climate and a desire to find effective ways for civic engagement. Having been aware of our activities for some time, she decided this was the time to join. She has lived on the Cape for over eleven years, having moved here from southern New Hampshire where she worked for Verizon.

Mary has long been active in the Cape community, having served as Director of the Family Pantry, which her father had founded. She has two children and two grandchildren and enjoys quilting, gardening and Majong among other activities. Now she is looking forward to learning more about the League and will be joining us for some of our spring programs and activities. We look forward to having her with us.

Mary Anderson
Harwich

Roslyn and Bill Coleman are both active leaders in the Chatham community, having retired here in the late 1990s from careers in school counseling (Roz with an MA and PhD from Boston University) and the ministry (Bill with a doctorate in divinity from Hartford Theological Seminary and over 20 years’ service as a pastor in numerous communities in western Mass (campus minister at Mt. Holyoke) and in the Newton-Wellesley area.)

Their “retirement” was brief. Roz became a founding member of both the Marconi Maritime Center (2000) and Pleasant Bay Community Boating and is a 17-year member of the Chatham Finance Committee. Bill is on the board of Friends of Chatham Waterways, a member of the Pastoral Counselors Association ~ and yes, an enthusiastic catboat sailor and instructor!

The Colemans have two daughters, one the CEO of a company which raises funds for community health centers around the country and the other who edits scientific papers from home while raising three daughters.

Roslyn and Bill Coleman
Chatham

Successful sunset social welcomes new members

Some 30 League members, including several new ones, enjoyed getting together for drinks, hors d’oeuvres and conversation on March 30 at the Dolphin Restaurant in Barnstable Village. Current members welcomed new--and prospective-- members for an informal opportunity to hear about our League and some upcoming opportunities to become involved. Everyone agreed it should become an annual event!

New members continue next page
New members continued

Debra Dagwan is an embodiment of our motto, “Don’t just stand there, Run!” A retired teacher, she has been a member of the Barnstable Town Council for the last six years (one as President) and is currently running for re-election! She has also served six years on the Barnstable School Committee including a term as Chair.

Originally from Maryland, Deb met and married her husband, a Cape Codder, while she was teaching at Boston’s Girls Latin School. After ten years in Boston, the Cape called and they “retired” here some 30-plus years ago. Deb has continued doing some teaching at the Bridgewater State campus in Hyannis.

Deb was introduced to LWVCCA at our December brunch by her friend, LWVCCA member Mattie Lignon. Since then she has attended one of our Board meetings and signed up to work with Karen Mazza and Renate Sands on civic participation and running for office.

Debra Dagwan
Hyannis
New members, cont.

Welcome back to Regina Mullen who is re-joining LWVCCA after a several-year hiatus. A retired attorney who grew up in Newton, Regina keeps busy these days with the Yarmouth Garden Club, volunteer work and “a bit of golf”. She is also renovating a home in Jupiter, Florida, twenty minutes from West Palm Beach, where she was a recent participant in the West Palm Women’s March!

Regina Mullen
COUNTY NEWS

From members of the County Committee

John “Jack” Yunits, Barnstable County’s Administrator, was a welcome guest at our Board meeting on March 7th. Formerly the Mayor of Brockton, Jack has been on the job at the County for just over a year. In talking with the League, he was generous with both his time and his thoughts and gracious in answering questions from board and other interested LWVCCA members.

On the role of county government, Yunits identified two roles of primary importance: the protection of the Cape’s sole source aquifer and helping to provide vital services which our fifteen individual towns would find impractical to provide on their own -- e.g. dredge, Human Resources Commission, Children’s Cove, Section 208 Water Quality program, among others. Other roles, like wastewater treatment, Yunits feels, belong with the towns.

Regarding finances, Yunits reported that the budget runs to around $20 million annually, 75% of which is salaries and benefits. With regard to revenue, Yunits said that excise tax is the biggest funder, contributing $3.2 million annually. (Fees from the registry of deeds cover only the cost of that department.) Some $5 million in additional revenue comes from grants.

Regarding the Section 208 Water Quality program, the Administrator commented that Commissioner Leo Cakounes has started a good debate regarding the role and positioning of the Cape Cod Water Collaborative -- while stressing that monitoring must be maintained. The Research & Development budget has been reduced, but the Department is still critical in order to apply for private-sector grants to obtain more funding.

Among other funding sources to be considered: expanding the role of the county dredge; maintaining programs with Mass Maritime Academy which generate valuable income; encouraging the growth of commercial shellfish farming, which provides commercial jobs while fighting nitrogen pollution.

A new environmental concern for county attention: a Massachusetts entomologist has found a new virus in ticks in Truro called the Powassan virus. In a conversation Mr. Yunits held with Assembly member Dr. Brian O’Malley, Dr. O’Malley felt strongly that information on the new virus needs to be disseminated. www.cdc.gov/powassan.

As you know, our League--and particularly our dedicated County Committee--have been diligently following Barnstable County government for some years ~ and will continue to do so as the County, like the country, is finding ever new challenges. Mr. Yunits’ willingness to address our Board was in a sense an acknowledgment of those efforts. We thank him and look forward to an ongoing dialogue with the County and our various officials.

The County Committee needs more help. New members please note. . .
www.facebook.com/LWVCCA -- A Primer

Most of you, I venture, are very familiar with Facebook through sharing in the lives of your friends and family. Not so, I’m embarrassed to say, your editor. Recently, our Facebook custodian, member Richard Utt, sent some basic guidance for those of us still trying to get our heads around it all.

1. The LWVCCA Facebook page is https://www.facebook.com/LWVCCA/posts/
   You can see this page without having a Facebook account. You can bookmark it and re-visit it to see the latest posts. You can copy links that appear on the page. You will not be able to “like”, share or comment on the posts.

2. Confusingly, Facebook offers you a choice of either “Home” or “Posts”
   “Posts” will get you more directly to what you want to see.

3. If you do have a Facebook account, once you’ve gotten to the page, you’ll want to “Like” and “Follow” the page.
   Under Follow there are options. I suggest setting to “See First” so that LWVCCA posts appear at the top of my newsfeed. I also suggest asking for notifications. Those choices are up to you.

4. Security If you’re new to Facebook you’ll need to set up security, i.e. who can see what you post, information about you, who can contact you, and so on.

   Facebook provides some guidance: https://www.facebook.com/about/basics/usr1#toptopics

   You can also go to https://www.facebook.com/settings which shows all your account settings.

   Or perhaps you might check with Richard.
## Calendar - April - May – June

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