THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE CAPE COD AREA

INVITES YOU TO A HOLIDAY BRUNCH

“The League - Visible, Viable and Relevant”

Kris Eastman and Judy Zaunbrecher, LWVMA Voter Service

Lee Bono, LWVMA Vice-President

Saturday, December 2, 2017 -- 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

A GREAT SUCCESS!

A total of 57 members and guests were on hand for some inspiring words from three State board members.

Four guests joined LWVCCA as new members!

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL
From Co-President Amy Harris

Thanksgiving on Cape Cod. It’s hard not to think of our first immigrants, Pilgrims seeking freedom, landing in Plymouth after a dangerous voyage.

The League of Women Voters of the United States’ position on immigration may be found in “Impact on Issues.” In summary:

- Promote reunification of immediate families;
- Meet the economic, business and employment needs of the United States;
- Be responsive to those facing political persecution or humanitarian crises;
- Provide for student visas.
- Ensure fair treatment under the law for all persons. In transition to a reformed system, support provisions for unauthorized immigrants in the country to earn legal status.

I was encouraged that because of our established positions, our League of the Cape Cod Area was able to respond quickly in opposition to the inception of ICE 287(g). Being able to react quickly or reply to current issues is not only important for our members, but is a paramount part of our mission. I’m thankful to all those members who have gone before us in putting together positions and reviewing them and for taking action.

Today, in the spirit of giving thanks, I am grateful too to our current members and hard-working board. The time, energy and talents contributed to our League are so appreciated. A lot of our work does not get recognized even among ourselves. Please know we are grateful for your input, whether it’s a donation, a phone call or an email, or attendance at our events.

Wishing you all the best during this Season -- Amy

DATES TO REMEMBER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday December 2</td>
<td>Holiday Brunch, Riverway Lobster House</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:30-1130</td>
<td>1338 Rte 28 at West Main Street, S. Yarmouth</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday December 5</td>
<td>Board Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:30</td>
<td>Cape Cod Five, Rte 134, Dennis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday December 15</td>
<td>Legislative Committee meeting</td>
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<td>Times TBA</td>
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www lwvcapecod org   www.facebook.com/LWV   www.members lwvcapecod org
DID YOU KNOW LWVCCA HAS A BOOK CLUB?

It actually started in October, initiated by Co-President Scotti Finnegan, and met in the Eastham Public Library. But it was a rather well-kept secret, possibly because of its location. Here are the facts:

-- All members of LWVCCA are cordially welcomed, indeed encouraged to join.
-- Meetings--held monthly-- do not have to be in Eastham. In fact, Scotti would like to eventually have groups on both upper and lower Cape. *It depends on how many people would like to participate.*
-- Books are chosen by recommendations of members. November’s book is *Hillbilly Elegy* by J.D. Vance. December’s selection is *A Colony, A Nation* by Chris Hayes.

Interested? Please contact Scotti. It might be just the antidote for winter doldrums!

UPDATE

We mentioned last month that members Deb Dagwan and Britt Beedenbender were running for office in Barnstable. **The good news this month is that both won!** Deb was reelected for the second time (!) representing the Village of Hyannis. Britt will be serving her first term representing the Village of Centerville. Again, congratulations to both!
So many problems, so little time. Some events and issues that have been brewing on Cape Cod:

IMMIGRATION:
Barnstable County Sheriff Cummings has applied for the ICE 287(g) program and was supported by the three County Commissioners. Although presented as a benign program that would help the Sheriff’s Department access the ICE database, the 287(g) would have a negative impact on the Cape immigration population. According to Massachusetts Immigration and Refugee Advocacy Coalition (MIRA), the 287(g) program is the most extreme form of collaboration between law enforcement and ICE. It effectively deputizes local law enforcement (county sheriff personnel) as ICE agents at taxpayers’ expense. In case of a jail-based program, like the one contemplated in Barnstable County, it allows law enforcement to hold, question and transfer people directly into ICE custody and start deportation proceedings.
If you are in opposition to this program, there are three things you can do: Call the Sheriff’s office (508-563-4300), write a letter to the editor and/or join the Cape Cod Coalition for Safe Communities.

CAPE COD SAFE COMMUNITIES COALITION
Safe Communities held a meeting on Nov. 18 in Brewster. The Cape Cod Council of Churches, MIRA and members made presentations to clarify the various aspects of proposed legislation and how it would affect our communities here on the Cape.
FYI: The 278(g) program would be nullified if the state legislature passes bills S1305/H3269 “An act to protect the civil rights and safety of all Massachusetts residents” better known as the Safe Community Act. The following Cape legislators are supporters of the bill: Senator Julian Cyr, Representatives Sarah Peake and Representative Dylan Fernandez.

COUNTY GOVERNMENT:
The Cape Women’s Coalition held an educational breakfast to help attendees understand Barnstable County Government. Commissioner Leo Cakounes represented the executive branch and Susan Moran spoke about the legislative branch (Assembly of Delegates). Kristi Senatori, Deputy Director, explained the role of the Cape Cod Commission. A question and answer period followed during which time Leo Cakounes explained that changing the number of Commissioners from 3 to 5 would require a charter change. The change would also have to be put on the ballot and approved by the voters, all of which would require several years to complete.
Continues...
MASSACHUSETTS: CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM
Both the state House and Senate have passed their bills on criminal justice reform. Now the two bills
must be reconciled in a conference committee before being sent to Gov. Charlie Baker. Some major
differences that need to be reconciled are: (1) The Senate bill endorses raising the age for juvenile
court proceedings from 18 years to 19 years old. (2) The Senate bill includes a rollback on
mandatory minimum sentences for lower-level trafficking offenses (up to 100 grams of cocaine) but
it does not eliminate mandatory minimums for higher-level drug trafficking. (3) The House bill
suggests that the Commonwealth should allow individuals who committed certain nonviolent crimes
before the age of 21 to petition to the courts to expunge their records.

PILGRIM NUCLEAR POWER PLANT (written by Elaine Dickinson)
On November 6, Elaine Dickinson, Diane Turco, Susan Carpenter and Henrietta Constantino (of
Plymouth) traveled to the State House for the hearing on bills H.1765, S.1837 and S 1836.

The following testimony was given by Elaine Dickinson:
We support H.1765 (Rep. Muratore) and S.1837 (Sen. deMacedo)-- Acts relative to the prompt
decommissioning of nuclear power stations--and urge the members of the Joint Committee on
Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy to immediately vote the bills out favorably. These
identical House and Senate bills will protect the economic interests of the State by requiring Entergy,
the owner of the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station (PNPS) in Plymouth, to pay an annual fee--not a
tax--of $25,000,000 into a post-closure fund if the station is not fully decommissioned within 5 years
of the time the power station ceases generating electricity. Entergy is a limited liability company
whose fiduciary responsibility is to its shareholders whereas the Commonwealth’s fiscal
responsibility is to protect the welfare of its citizens.

The following testimony was given by Diane Turco:
Current monitoring mechanisms are insufficient to determine the path of a radioactive plume that
could expand to hundreds of miles downwind. In the event of an accident and plume release,
populations may thus be evacuated to heavily contaminated areas as they were in Japan during the
Fukushima disaster. The three reception centers for Plymouth are at Taunton, Braintree, and
Bridgewater State University, all within 30 miles of Pilgrim. The current coverage for monitoring
does not include that area or the 50 mile Emergency Planning Ingestion Pathway Zone, including
metro Boston.

LATE DEVELOPMENT:
On November 17, Downwinders Diane Turco and Guntrum Mueller of Newton met with Rep. Balser
(D) of Newton, who has agreed to file a bill increasing the radius to 50 miles around Pilgrim and
Seabrook, the area where MEMA would have to (a) file emergency evacuation plans
(b) institute KI (potassium iodide) pill distribution and (c) install an adequate number of radiation
monitoring stations
**“RETIREMENT DOESN’T MEAN BEING COMPLACENT”**

*Reprinted kindness of the Cape Cod Chronicle*

by Debra Lawless

In 1920, when American women were given the right to vote, Florence Seldin’s mother was a 15-year-old for whom this historic victory was of vast significance.

“She voted religiously and taught her kids to vote religiously,” Seldin recalled during a telephone interview last Saturday. “Maybe my roots in activism start there.”

Seldin, now 86, served from 2009 to 2015 on the Chatham Board of Selectmen and is currently a member of the Chatham Finance Committee. Since the inauguration of President Donald J. Trump last January, Seldin has had a busy few months. During this period Trump has created much controversy in trying to rescind the Affordable Care Act (ACA), question climate change and destroy a free press. Seldin has responded by stepping up her activities as an activist.

“Activism has been a technique to show that people are together, you’re not alone,” she says. “It doesn’t matter what your party affiliation is, if you believe in something, you should stand up for it.”

On Jan. 21, the day after Trump’s inauguration, Seldin climbed onto one of seven buses hired by the League of Women Voters of the Cape Cod Area and headed up to the Boston Women’s March for America. There she joined roughly 100,000 others in raising their voices against government policies that hurt women and the vulnerable.

“It was really great, it really was,” Seldin recalls. “There was an energy, there was a feeling that people were together.” This type of activism is a family affair in the Seldin clan—her daughter, granddaughter and niece marched in Washington, D.C. while another granddaughter marched on the West Coast.

Instead of a pink “pussy hat,” Seldin wore a bumper sticker that she dressed up with ribbons. It said “Democracy is not a spectator sport.” People came up to her and asked if they could take her picture. By the end of the day, her feet were numb.

Since then, Seldin has also attended rallies in Orleans and Chatham. At one rally, she met a woman in her 80s from Barnstable who said she had never done anything like this.

Seldin earned a Ph.D. in education at the University of Rochester and worked as a teacher and administrator in elementary school education. At one time she was principal of an
elementary school and knew the names of all 650 students in the school. From 1988 to 1992 she served as the kindergarten through 12th grade superintendent in the town of Harvard school system. During the years she and her husband Ira raised their son and daughter, they moved several times between New York and Massachusetts. They settled in Chatham full-time in 1994 and they are now the grandparents of five.

Last winter Seldin attended the first meeting of Lower Cape Indivisible (LCI) at the Brewster Baptist Church. Seldin says the church was “packed.” People were asking “what can we do? Are there other people who feel like we do?” LCI is one of about 6,000 groups in the U.S. using the online “Indivisible Guide” to fight against political agendas “that subvert American democracy,” according to its website. Seldin now serves on LCI’s steering committee.

She notes that civil discussions are needed, not further polarization. And she speaks out on retaining the ACA.

“I believe strongly health care is a right,” she says. “Why should some people not be able to get health care because they can’t afford it?” She decries people going bankrupt trying to pay medical bills.

Activism is nothing new to Seldin, and as she defines it, it takes many forms. For example, in the 1970s, when she was a school administrator in New York State, she participated in a statewide commission looking at discrimination against women because only one of 19 or 20 school districts was headed by a woman.

On the Cape she delved into affordable housing issues and the affordable housing committee was her first board appointment. And, always circling back to her mother’s strong encouragement to vote, she affiliated herself with the Cape’s League of Women Voters and served as that group’s president from 1997 to 2000. She notes that in the 2016 election a disappointing 90 million eligible voters failed to vote but she applauds the Massachusetts law that allows 16 year olds to pre-register to vote when they turn 18.

So with all the chaos and noise at the national level, what can you do? Seldin has some answers. You can involve yourself in local get-out-the-vote efforts on election day. If you’re concerned about global warming, volunteer for your town’s conservation commission or planning board. That way you can oversee the protection of wetlands and make your mark protecting the natural world. You can become involved through something as simple as attending a meeting, or writing a letter to the editor.

Seldin’s work on behalf of the town and its citizens has paid off. Recently a stranger hugged her when she came out of the supermarket and said, “Thank you for what you did for Chatham.”

“I’m an activist for my grandchildren,” she says. “It would be easy to sit home. I’m old. Put my feet up, read my books.”

But, she repeats, “democracy is not a spectator sport.”

*Chatham’s Florence Seldin refuses to be complacent and has dedicated much of her retirement to activism of one kind or another. Her husband, Ira, is also active in town affairs. Both are members of the League of Women Voters of the Cape Cod Area, with Ira serving as Treasurer and Florence as an at-large member of the board.*
MINUTES - LWVCCA BOARD MEETING  
Tuesday, November 7, 2017 -- Cape Cod Five Conference Room, Dennis  

Attendees: Debbie Beal, Elaine Dickinson, Nancy Erskine, Karen Mazza, Richard Utt, Ira Seldin, Scotti Finnegan, Mark Ameres, Laura Samuels, Matti Ligon, Phyllis Walsh, Rosemary Shields, Anita Rogers

1. Call to Order (9:30)

Laura will be working with Carlyn in Communications, specifically press releases. She gave an overview of her newspaper background, and spelled out some of the rules for providing complete (5W’s), accurate, well-written, attractive releases. Rosemary added that letters to the editor are judged for inclusion by the 10-second rule.

Laura will send out a form for providing press release information. She will work with a single subject-matter expert (SME) to complete each release. Laura will work with Carlyn to determine which news organizations get the release and update the list of local press people. A suggestion was made to include local radio board execs.

Mark is taking over website responsibilities and urges all to check out the site and send comments via http://lwvcapecod.org/contact.html.

3. Approval of Minutes: No changes, unanimous approval.

4. Treasurer’s Report: October income: $155.46, outgo $521.00; 10/31/17 balance $10.642.03. Expenses included envelopes for the solicitation letter. Scottie (as board pres.) and Florence Seldin (Ed. Trust pres.) will get this letter out.

5. President’s Report: The Holiday Brunch will be on December 2nd at the Riverway Lobster House in South Yarmouth, 9:30-11:30am, $16.00 each. Guests will be Kris Eastman and Judy Zaunbrecker, LWVMA Voter Service, and Lee Bono, LWVMA Vice-President.

Amy and Scotti will be sending out handwritten invitations. Phyllis will coordinate follow-up calls with town liaisons and offer to arrange rides if needed.

Communications Committee Update: Although Carlyn Carey has resigned as our VP, she will continue to work with this committee, along with Laura Samuels.

6. Membership Outreach Update, Phyllis Walsh: 99 members. Phyllis introduced new member Rosemary Shields to the board and called their attention to Rosemary's bio in the Voter.

Voter deadline is early this month -- November 17th -- because of the Thanksgiving holiday. This issue should include the December board meeting agenda.
7. Youth Services Update, Karen Mazza
The workshop developed by the Youth Services and Voter Services Committees for local high schools was held Oct 20th at the Cape Cod Community College. It went very well: congratulations to Karen and Mattie Ligon.
Dennis-Yarmouth High School followed up a week after the workshop with a voting event and 40 students were registered.
Karen reported that the committees will be following up to discuss “where we go from here.” League and schools need to up the game to get youth in the habit of voting: e.g., with press articles before elections, voter guides, checking with schools to keep the momentum going.

8. Legislation Update, Renate Sands
Renate was unable to attend, but Anita Rogers and Nancy Erskine reported on ongoing work on the legislative spreadsheet: Pilgrim bills are now included. They went to the Hill to hear testimony on these bills by Sarah Peake and Julian Cyr. They are trying to get better info on when bills come out of committee. The Legislative Envoy Program is working to formalize links between the state League’s Legislative Action Committee (LAC) and local Leagues (see https://lwvma.org/advocacy/lwvma-legislative-envoy-program/).

9. Voter Services Update, Debbie Beal: Debbie will be attending the final class for new citizens on November 14th in Hyannis. She is a presenter, talking about the importance of voting. There are 12 people in this class.

10. Unfinished Business (see last month’s minutes):
   a. Operationalize process to propose public forums: The forum on executive privilege drew only 30 people, but they were very engaged. Florence, Amy, and Scotti are the current planners, but we need to improve the process and engage more members internally to provide guidance and leadership to plan and publicize forums. Karen will provide a draft Forum Proposal Form to provide guidelines for planning. Scotti suggested topics: 1) the media, 2) millennials/young legislators (what is their vision, what drives them?).
   All events should be publicized in the Voter, the website, Facebook, and the press.
   Karen’s draft will be attached to December 5 agenda, as a starting point for discussion in December.

11. Recruiting new members as town liaisons: ongoing.

Other: issues, discussion, questions, concerns, new items for next meeting:

Adjourn: 11:27am
Respectfully submitted: Mary Hunter Utt, Secretary
2017 - 2018 LWVCCA BOARD

Officers (one-year term)

Co-Presidents:  Scotti Finnegan  2017-2018
                Amy Harris   2017-2018
Vice-President  Carlyn Carey*  2017-2018
Secretary       Mary Hunter Utt 2017-2018
Treasurer       Ira Seldin     2017-2018

Directors (two-year term)

Communications Carlyn Carey  2016-2018
Membership      Phyllis Walsh  2016-2018
                Matti Ligon    2017-2019
Voter Service   Debbie Beal    2016-2018
                Anita Rogers   2017-2019
Voter Editor    Nancy Erskine  2017-2019
Legislative     Renate Sands   2016-2018
Health          Amy Harris     2017-2019
Youth Service   Karen Mazza   2017-2019
County Government TBD          2017-2019

Directors (one-year term)

At Large       Florence Seldin  2017-2018
At Large       Jari Rapaport   “   “
At Large       Judy Thomas    “   “
At Large       Richard Utt    “   “

* We are sorry to report that Carlyn Carey, our Vice-President has resigned from that position due to her professional responsibilities. She remains, however, on the Communications Committee, working with Laura Samuels and other members of the committee.

REMEMBER that ALL members are welcome at our Board meetings, first Tuesday of each month at the Cape Cod Five Cents Savings Bank branch on Route 134 in Dennis. (You’ll be amazed at what you’ll learn!)