THE CAPE COD VOTER
VOLUME 57 ISSUE 6 FEBRUARY 2018

CALENDAR

Tuesday February 6
9:30am
Board Meeting
Cape Cod Five, Rte 134, Dennis

Saturday February 10
5:30 - 8:30pm
Forum: Media Literacy and “Fake News”--
Cape Cod Media Center Details p2

Thursday February 15
Acton MA
LWVMA Moderator Training
Sign up with Renate Sands

LOOKING AHEAD

Tuesday March 6
9:30am
Board Meeting
Cape Cod Five, Rte 134 Dennis

March/April TBA
LWVCCA Legislative Breakfast

www.lwvcapecod.org

www.facebook.com/LWV

www.members.lwvcapecod.org
Coming -- Saturday evening, February 10

MEDIA LITERACY AND “FAKE NEWS”
DECODING MEDIA IN 2018
Cape Cod Media Center, Shad Hole Rd., DennisPort
Doors open 5:30 - Taping starts 6:00 sharp

This panel discussion will feature distinguished veterans of the Cape press corps discussing topics of journalistic bias and voter confidence in the news. Moderator for the evening will be Matt Pitta, veteran Cape Cod broadcaster, professor of journalism at Emerson College and Suffolk University and currently News Director of Cape Cod Broadcasting Media.

Panel
Paul Provonost, Publisher, Cape Cod Times
Bill Hough, Publisher, Falmouth Enterprise
Craig Salters, Editor, Barnstable Patriot
Marianne Stanton Editor & Publisher, Nantucket Inquirer
Tim Wood, Editor, Cape Cod Chronicle
Mindy Todd, Managing Director, Editorial, WCAI/NPR

In looking ahead to the discussion, LWVCCA Co-President Scotti Finnegan said, “The League is concerned that voters today find themselves in a predicament unheard of in previous decades. Accusations of biased reporting and “fake news” have left many wondering whether local and national media outlets can be trusted to deliver accurate information to enable voters to make smart decisions about local candidates and elections”.

The program will be open to the public and questions from the audience will be welcome. Please bring your best questions! And your friends.

THOUGHTS FROM CO-PRESIDENT SCOTTI FINNEGAN

Dear Members,

Where do you begin to sort through the noise coming at us from every direction? The advent of the “Me Too Movement” has given us an opportunity to consider if in fact you have a “me too” story. The President’s disparaging remarks about countries and their citizens should force us to look into our own hearts and minds about our biases.

The game being played (at the time of writing) by Congress with a government shut-down; the dangerous talk with North Korea; using the future of the “Dreamers” as a bargaining chip along with health care for children; the broadening of the gulf between the rich and the poor; the precarious state of a woman’s right to choose; access to high quality health care for all Americans; affordable housing for everyone; jobs that will eliminate the underclass of the working poor; aid to Puerto Rico; support for California to recover from fires and mudslides; these are just a few of the real
issues that Americans need to understand to participate in our democracy. The incessant harping on the personality of this President is neither helpful or the subject we should continue to perseverate on. Participating in our democracy means gaining real knowledge and understanding of issues, policies, and the systems that support our democracy, not battling over the personality of one person. I believe that this is the responsibility of members of the League of Women Voters. Our Legislative Committee is a model for us. Renate Sands and the members of the LWVCCA’s Legislative Committee focus is on issues, on the core of our democracy in Massachusetts. Its work contributes to our knowledge and understanding of democracy in action.

On January 16, at Renate’s invitation, Nancy Brumback, Chair of the LWVMA Legislative Action Committee gave an outstanding overview of how the Massachusetts Legislature works and how each of us has a voice to impact the work of that body. The feedback I heard from that event was that it was both enlightening and motivating. I did not hear one comment on the personality of a specific lawmaker, only more questions about issues and process or commitments to participating in our democracy.

The Amherst LWV is developing a day-long workshop with Democrats and Republicans who want to have civil dialogue on issues. The workshop is called: Bridging the Political Divides: a LWVA Facilitated Community Conversation. This is a brave and necessary endeavor and should be happening in all communities. Focusing on the personality of one person, no matter what his position will not empower us only the knowledge and understanding of issues and policies and civil discourse among adults with differing points of view will impact positive progress and change. Scotti

EAGER TO WORK ON THE ENVIRONMENT?
From Co-President Amy Harris

We are fortunate to live in one of the prettiest places on earth and are endowed with water and food and shelter. How do we protect our gifts and ensure their legacy? How are we managing currently? Where do we need improvement? How can we advocate for our concerns?

If anyone is interested in joining our revived Environment Committee, please contact Scotti Finnegan scottifinnegan@gmail.com or Suzanne Brock sailnsue22@gmail.com. We look forward to having your support and enthusiasm!

LWVCCA’s positions on natural resources are as follows: Also in your Handbooks, pp 19-20.
--We support action to protect Cape Cod’s ground and surface waters and other finite resources.
--We believe it is important to monitor the implementation of the goals as stated in the Cape Cod Commission’s Regional Policy 208 as well as the Comprehensive Water Management Plans—(CWMPs)—of our local towns.
--We support Capewide efforts to protect open space by encouraging conservation restrictions, land donations and financing of land acquisitions and by promoting density in defined village centers and clustering residential development to avoid urban sprawl and create open space.
--We support action which promotes safe regional disposal of solid waste, including hazardous waste and which preserves the cleanliness of town water supplies.
--We support continued community education and action regarding solid waste management, as well as continued support for the development of source reduction and regional recycling programs.
--We support environmentally sound renewable sources of energy such as wind and solar energy as well as the adoption of strong, effective energy conservation measures.

February 2018
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT
From Renate Sands, Legislative Chair

Ed Note--Please read the Co-President’s letter above which describes the outstanding program put together by Renate on January 16 with guest speaker Nancy Brumback, Chair of the State League Legislative Action Committee who gave a most enlightening talk on the legislative process.

The Massachusetts House and Senate reconvened on January 3, 2018 for the second year of their two-year session. Most bills must be reported out of their joint committees by February 7 to remain active. You can help make this happen.

**Automatic Voter Registration** (AVR) H2091/S373 has not been moved out of the Joint Committee on Election Laws. Please contact your legislators and ask them to support H2091/S373 and also ask the Speaker of the House to bring the AVR bill to the floor for a vote. Advocacy Day for this event is Wednesday, January 31 at the State House. If you need more information on the AVR bill or if you are interested in going to the Advocacy Day, please contact me at rhsands@comcast.net. See January VOTER for LWVCCA Letter to the Editor to the Cape Cod Times published Dec. 16, 2017.

The **Safe Communities Act S1305/H3269** has not been moved out of the Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security. Please contact your legislators and ask them to support S1305/H3269. A Day of Action is planned for Wednesday, Jan 31, 2018 which primarily involves calling your legislators. More information will be coming from the state League. For our area, the Safe Communities Act is a very significant bill. Sheriff Cummings has applied and been accepted for the ICE 287(g) program. The Safe Communities Act would nullify the program by stating that local police officers cannot be deputized by ICE to do the federal government’s work.

The Legislative Committee would like to thank everyone who attended Nancy Brumback’s excellent presentation and asked many interesting questions. Thank you also, to those who brought snacks and helped set up (and clean up) the room.

For a complete summary of Nancy Brumback’s presentation, please see Amy Harris’s excellent notes at the end of this issue of the VOTER.

February 2018
MEMBERSHIP MATTERS
Membership chairs Phyllis Walsh & Matti Ligon

Ed. Note: With our membership rolls now numbering 105, and 14 of those having joined just since September, please remember to record the names in your Handbooks--in individual town listings and/or in the “Notes” section at the end of the book. For your convenience, we’ve listed them all at the end of this section. If you see errors, please notify Phyllis Walsh, cc Amy Harris, Debbie Aikman & Nancy Erskine.

Warm welcomes to:

Mary Chaffee, Brewster
After growing up in Western Massachusetts (Degrees in Nursing and Public Health from UMass-Amherst), Mary served for the next 26 years in the Navy in a variety of clinical, policy and leadership roles including Director, Navy Medicine Office of Homeland Security, where she was part of the emergency operations center in Washington following 9/11. She retired with rank of Captain. Along the way, she also added an MS and a PhD in health policy and nursing administration from the University of Maryland.
Throughout her career, Mary has been a patient advocate and a leader in preparing nurses to be effective in policy and politics and was co-editor of many journals and books, notably Policy and Politics in Nursing and Health Care. Most recently, she earned a law degree from UMass Dartmouth and is a member of the Class of 2018 of the Emerge Massachusetts program developing Democratic women to run for office.
Although Mary and her husband have now retired to Brewster, she has hardly reduced her advocacy efforts ~ serving as a member of the Brewster Board of Health and as Brewster’s delegate to the County Assembly of Delegates. Her “spare time” is devoted to writing, kayaking, open-water swimming, birding and photography. She writes that she has always admired the League of Women Voters and “looks forward to meeting and working with others who care about the future of our community”.

Mary Chaffee
1554 Main Street, Brewster 02631
mwchaffee@aol.com  508.896.0384

Nancy Names, Mashpee
Nancy has lived on the Cape for 38 years, most of them in Sandwich, but latterly in Mashpee and now in Southport. For 24 of those years, she was a fourth-grade teacher, at the Wing School in Sandwich ~ retiring in 2010. But retirement wasn’t for her and she returned to teaching, this time remedial reading, part-time. With her move to Southport, she found an active group of tennis enthusiasts (which she too has been for most of her life) and now plays twice a week, indoors in winter and on Southport’s courts in good weather.
Apart from work and tennis, Nancy takes care of her granddaughter who lives in Wareham with her parents, (Mom is Nancy’s daughter). Other daughter lives in Florida, where Nancy visits as often as she can. She’s also a member of two book clubs.

February 2018
Nancy says she joined the League “because of living daily with a low level of anxiety due to the chaotic nature of our national leadership” and because of wanting to know more about the workings of government and the League. She is also looking forward to getting to know other members.

Nancy Names  
31 Pine Hill Blvd., Mashpee MA 02649  
nancyncc@comcast.net  
(508) 539-8136

Helen Marks, Cotuit  
Helen is a retired educator, originally from New Jersey, who spent most of her professional career in the Midwest. Upon graduating from Albertus Magnus College in New Haven, she spent several years as a high school teacher of English in small towns in Ohio, followed by two decades as an adult educator and educational administrator in suburban Detroit. Making a mid-career change, she then earned a master's degree in Higher Education and a Ph.D in Educational Policy and Leadership, both from the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor. After three years as a post-doctoral researcher in school reform at the University of Wisconsin in Madison, she became a tenured associate professor in Educational Studies at Ohio State University in Columbus.  
Helen has lived in Cotuit for five and a half years. She joined the League of Women Voters to become part of an organization working on behalf of voter education and the electoral process, two areas that have often been part of her academic research. Valerie Lee, another new member, invited her to join our league. She attended her first meeting this month at the Sandwich Library on the topic of the MA legislative process.  
Helen’s interests in retirement are reading, usually taking a trip somewhere each year, occasional peer review of journal articles, volunteering with Cape Samaritans, playing mah jongg, bridge and backgammon, completing a crossword puzzle every day, and going to the gym.

Helen Marks  
81 Rahlyn Rd. Cotuit, MA 02635  
614-266-2304 Marks.50@osu.edu

NEW LWVCCA MEMBERS 2017-2018

Leora Amir, Harwich  
Therese (Terri) Bilodeau, Mashpee  
Suzanne Brock, Dennis  
Mary Chaffee, Brewster  
Anne Grammer, YarmouthPort  
Christina Joyce, HarwichPort  
Valerie Lee, Mashpee  
Helen Marks, Cotuit  
Nancy Names, Mashpee (Southport)  
Ann Ryan, Chatham  
Laura Samuels, Mashpee (Southport)  
Rosemary Shields, Harwich  
Beth & Seth Taylor, Chatham

February 2018
REGIONAL COMMITTEE MEETS

From Phyllis Walsh, Regional delegate

LWVMA sponsors a Field Service program to provide opportunities for local leagues to meet, share and plan within defined geographical regions. The state league’s goal for the program is to support local league leaders, strengthen local leagues and encourage regional collaboration.

There are six geographic field service regions across the state. LWVCCA is part of the South Shore, Cape and Martha’s Vineyard Region. We meet twice yearly. I am the coordinator for this region. We have board representation from the state league and the local leagues in our region.

When our region met at the Mattapoisett Public Library on January 9 we shared information and ideas on the following topics with handouts from the state league and links to the state league website:

- Upcoming state league events
- Taking Action – 2017 Legislative and Advocacy AGENDA
- Tools for Local Leagues prepared by the state league
- Explanation of the Legislative Envoy Program
- Tips for Being a Citizen Lobbyist
- LWVMA Video Contest Flyer
- Local Service Programs with handouts from LWVCCA on Turning Out the Youth Vote
- Membership – The leagues in the region are a mix of area leagues and town only leagues. Falmouth is a town only league which increased to 136 members as the result of a community fair a year ago. LWVCCA is an area league covering fifteen towns with 105 members. The Marion-Mattapoisett-Rochester area league (MMR) has forty-four members.
- Governance – The leadership structure varies by league; for example, our league currently has co-presidents. Falmouth has a steering committee. Engaging new leaders was part of this dialogue because MMR is struggling with getting new leaders. We discussed establishing new units within area leagues to engage membership on issues of importance and interest to their local community.
- PayPal – None of the leagues uses PayPal because of the cost. One of the MMR guests suggested we explore having the state league obtain a PayPal account which we could all use.

There were five guests from MMR who enriched the meeting with their participation. The next Field Service meeting for our region will be in June.
A VISIT FROM LWVMA LEGISLATIVE CHAIR

At an excellent and well-attended gathering on January 16th, Nancy Brumback, State League Legislative Action Committee Chair, walked us through the process of A. legislature action, then B. League action during the two-year legislative cycle.

Note: Get Citizen Lobbyist Handbook  https://lwvma.org/advocacy/the citizen-lobbyist/

Legislature:
Two chambers – Senate is 40 House is 160
All elected every two years
Two-year sessions begin in odd year, so we are currently in 13th month of Jan 2017-July 2018. A 19-month session? Yes-- leaves time for campaigning for November election and next session beginning in Jan/2019. (odd year). There are approx. 10,000 bills per session
Budgeting begins in April of odd year with June and July being crazy busy.

LWV:
Currently, coming into April and then in June/July we will be receiving loads of Action Alerts

Legislature: How a bill becomes Law
1. By petition. From Legislator or Governor or department/agency or citizen or home rule petition. Note that not all laws are written by the legislators.
2. First steps in putting together bill:
   a. Recruit co-sponsors
   b. Submit to House or Senate clerk
   c. Deadline: 3rd Friday in 1st year. Note – 10,000 submissions in 3 weeks
   d. Assigned a bill member and referred to Joint Committee (House and Senate)

LWV: Identifies the bills in which it has an interest and which ones the Legislative Action Committee (LAC) Specialists will review. LAC looks at what was supported in the past and if any fall within our positions. LWVMA can override authority. Some bills can be opposed.

Legislature – Joint Committee Hearings
There are currently 29 JCs. Hearings held in spring-summer-Fall of even year (2018)
Education is always a major committee. Karen Mazza is currently education specialist for LWVMA.
At this time, a bill can be combined into a new version. For example the criminal reform bill is a 15 bill-omnibus.
The Joint committee issues a report on each bill with recommendation (1) Out to pass, (2) Out not to pass,
(3) Send for further study or (4) Refer to another committee. It can be “condemned” to study.
Public Hearings – Held on every single (10,000) bills. Both written and oral histories are considered (though hearings often have less than one week notice).

LWV: LAC specialists (volunteers) do written and oral testimony on selected bills (posted on LWVMA website.) Testimony only happens if people are willing to make it happen – we need to stay on top of it.

February 2018
Action:
1. Work with coalition partners and joint committee
2. Build support – phone calls to legislators (to our elected representatives, not Jt. Comm. Members -- ask them to ask the committee to get the bill out. “Will you go to leadership and vote on the bill.”
3. Ways to do it: call and email and postcards -- Our representatives want to know what people who vote for them care about.

Legislature: House/Senate
Bill comes out of committee and there is another round of debates. The term is “Passed to be engrossed” and can be from one chamber.

LWV: 1--Action Alerts and 2--Lobby with partners and repeat for the next chamber

Legislature:
If amendments don’t pass, bill goes back to “Conference Committee” which again needs one from each party and one from each house.

In the end, roughly 100 bills get passed out of the original 10,000. That may include laws to “name a bridge,” “expand the number of liquor licenses in town or even “sick leave for some employees” ….

LWV: Reviews final version to make sure it’s still something to support.

Legislature: Bill sent to Governor who may (1) Sign it or( 2) Allow law without signature or (3) Veto it

All League Members:


Why Lobby?
--Make opinions known
--We educate the legislators
--Important to lobby our own reps, even when they are in agreement.
--The League is respected (we have members and other groups have email lists)
--Go in person whether to reps’ local office hours when they’re in town
--Contact reps’ State house office -- even if you get an aide. Be brief…bring some written info to leave behind
--Include your contact information. Humanize your note.

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 “ “

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!)