CALENDAR

Tuesday May 2
9:30am

Board Meeting
Cape Cod Five Dennis Branch

Thursday May 25
5 to 7pm

LWVCCA Annual Meeting
Sea View Restaurant, Dennisport

LOOKING AHEAD

Tuesday June 6
9:30am

Board Meeting
Cape Cod Five Dennis Branch

Wednesday June 2

Third Week Coffee
Location tbd

www.lwvcapecod.org
www.facebook.com/LWV
Come and enjoy wonderful food, a beautiful setting, a presentation from member Kathy Schatzberg “Women Overcoming Barriers – Are We There Yet?” and a short Annual Meeting. Cost for dinner is $31. Deadline for reservations is **Thursday, May 18. Directions and return coupon next page.**
Dear Members,

From Scotti Finnegan, President

It is the season for Town Meetings and local elections. As Tip O’Neil said “...all politics is local…”. Thank you to Debbie Beal and all our members who actively participated in the planning and implementing of candidates events.

The LWVMA Convention was held in Framingham on April 28-29. Seven LWVCCA members attended. Since I am writing this before the Convention I do not have anything to share, however I will share with you the focus group questions that will be discussed at Saturday’s session and what we will share about our LWVCCA accomplishments for this year. First the focus questions that will be discussed:

ANNUAL MEETING REPLY FORM

To reserve, please complete this form and send with your payment of $31 made out to LWVCCA to:
Ira Seldin, 321 Deer Meadow Lane, Chatham, MA 02633

Directions from Route 6: Take Route 6 to Exit 9A for route 134 south. Follow 134 south to route 28. Take a left onto 28 and shortly take a right onto Shad Hole Road. Take a left onto Lower County Road. Turn right onto Inman Road. Turn left at Chase Road and the Sea View will be on your left.

Directions from Chatham and Harwich: Take route 28 towards Dennis/West Harwich. Make a slight left onto Lower County Road (2.2 miles). Turn left onto Belmont Road. Turn right onto Chase Avenue. Number 76 Chase Avenue, Sea View, is on the right.

I will attend the Annual Meeting and Dinner and am enclosing my check for $31.

Name____________________________________________________

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Focus Group Questions
Many new members are joining the League to channel local grassroots activism.
1. What can the state and local Leagues do to capture the passion and enthusiasm of new members for activism?
What types of visibility/publicity and communications can the state League provide that would support local activism?
How do we create more opportunities for partnerships at the local level? Under what circumstances can we work with partisan organizations?

2. The League is known for having a thoughtful and deliberate process for advocating only in areas where we have a position. In areas where we don’t have a position, we can educate on public issues as long as we present both sides. Sometimes that may get in the way of our ability to respond to emerging events and questions.
How do we reconcile League process with rapid response to issues and events? "League process" is to study an issue, come to consensus, develop a position, and then take action.
What are the sticking points in League process?
What aspects of our process should be maintained no matter what?

3. The League must adapt to remain relevant as the world around us changes.
What does the League need to change to make it easier for new and younger members to participate? What should be changed and what must be retained?
Are there functions that your local League does that would be better handled at the state or national level? What should remain at the local League level?
How will current local League members react to changes in League structure or roles?

LWVCCA Accomplishments 2016-2017
--Enjoyable evening with Jimmy Tingle -- raised funds for Youth education in civics and service.
--Members meeting, Speaker Senator Dan Wolf on Charter Schools
--Charter Schools study
--Various candidate debates and forums (State Representatives)
--Guest speaker, Andi Gesner, Executive Director of We Can
--Forum on proposed Constitutional Amendment, speaker Jeff Clements of American Promise
--Hosted County Government meeting with new Administrator Jack Yunits
--Various forums on local candidates (Dennis, Harwich, Chatham)
--Meet and greets; third week Coffees; wine and cheese for all members and prospective members
--18 new members -- a 23% increase! Main reason-- concern for the current political environment. New members said they wanted to become better informed on issues, engage in the political process and support the League's mission.
--The LWVCCA Civic Education Grant Program: This is the second year of our mini-grant program to middle schools and high schools to support active civic learning. We awarded three grants this year and across the two years we have supported bus transportation that allowed more than 400 students to experience the educational simulations at the Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the United States Senate.

All members are invited to attend the LWVCCA Board Meeting on Tuesday, May 2 at 9:30 at the Cape Cod 5 in Dennis. Our annual members meeting will be on May 25.
Finally, please remember to attend your town meeting and to vote in your local elections: "Democracy is not a spectator sport”!

Happy May!
Scotti Finnegan
MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT 2016-2017
From Phyllis Walsh & Karen Mazza, Co-Chairs

2016-2017 was an exciting year for LWVCCA. We welcomed twenty-two new members and two renewals -- bringing our total membership to ninety. Not only was this a banner year for growth in our league, but this was also a growth year for LWV throughout the state and the country.

What were the reasons given for joining or renewing membership? The primary reason was concern for the current political environment. As a result, the new members said they wanted to:

- Become better informed on issues which concerned them.
- Engage in the political process.
- Support the League’s civic mission.

The membership team started the year with an outreach program to attract new members.

- Setting up a table outside newcomer’s events throughout the Cape;
- Speaking at newcomer’s events regarding early voting;
- Having a membership table and sign-up sheet at voter service programs and other events;
- Signing up potential new members at the January Women’s March in Boston;
- Setting up a table at the Women’s Coalition Breakfast in March;
- Encouraging referrals from existing new members.

The most successful program remains the membership referral program.
We thank everyone for their participation, whether new or long term members. There are many opportunities to become engaged in the political process through our league. Please invite your friends to join us.

New members 2016-2017

Peggy Alsup--Mashpee
Britt Beedenbender--Centerville
Patricia Cahill--West Barnstable
Marie Chatzenakis--Yarmouthport
Debra Dagwan--Hyannis
Susan Freudenheim--Chatham
Mary Malaguti Lanctot--Chatham
Regina Mullen--YarmouthPort
Anita Rogers--Orleans

Mary Anderson--Harwich
Marydean&Roger Burdick--Dennis
Carlyn Carey--Dennis
Roslyn&William Coleman--Chatham
Elaine&Arthur Dickinson--Harwich
Elizabeth Hogan--Brewster
Mary Lopez--Harwich
Shanna Nealy--South Harwich
Margaret Rose--West Harwich
YOUTH SERVICE COMMITTEE 2016-17 YEAR IN REVIEW

From Karen Mazza, Chair

This was the second year that The League of Women Voters Civic Education Fund of the Cape Cod Foundation was able to award grants to local schools to support active civic education. This grant program, initiated by the Youth Service Committee of the LWVCCA in partnership with the Cape Cod Foundation is also supported by the League of Women Voters of Falmouth and other donors. The 2016 Grant Awards were given to Barnstable High School, Dennis Yarmouth High School, and the Wixon Innovation School of the Dennis Yarmouth Regional School District. While grant programs have had diverse projects, many of them have asked for funds to support field trips to the Edward M. Kennedy Institute to participate in the simulation activities developed around the U.S. Senate. Across the two years of our grant program we have supported field trips to the EMK Institute for more than 400 students.

I had the pleasure of serving as a representative of the Massachusetts League to the Massachusetts Department of Education Task Force for Civic Learning and Engagement this year. The Task Force was charged with developing a strategic plan for the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education that could create the infrastructure support that would increase the capacity of school districts to develop robust civic education programs. The Task Force was comprised of stakeholders from many schools and civic organizations and the strategic plan was presented to the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education for approval at its April 18 meeting. For the
plan to be successfully implemented, funding will be necessary. There are bills pending in the state legislature that seek to support funding. These are all good steps in the right direction.

Simultaneously, a committee is working to revise the History Social Science Curriculum Framework. This is expected to support greater integration of civics into the curriculum and more active learning opportunities. The target date for completion and approval of the Curriculum Framework is June 2018.

The Youth Service Committee has taken an approach that is focused on supporting the capacity of schools to offer civic learning and engagement experiences. We are keeping a close eye on developments at the state level so that our future efforts can align with the capacity building approach that the state is taking. We expect that the next year will be a transition year for us as we consider the best ways to be helpful.

Thank you to committee members Bea Auty, Jan Hively, Claire Gradone and Florence Seldin. Additional members are encouraged to join us as we consider new direction.

**LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE 2016-2017**

*From Renate Sands, Chair*

The **190th session of the Massachusetts Legislature** began this past January with over 6000 bills submitted for consideration. Specialists from the LWVMA Legislation Action Committee (LAC) are reviewing the bills. The committee plans to complete the process by June and as the bills are earmarked they are posted on the website. A partial list was included in the April Voter.

**Day on the Hill**, LWVMA’s annual lobby day at the State House, was been postponed this year from its usual spring date to next Fall because of ongoing renovations at the State House.

**Our annual Legislative Breakfast, always a highlight, was held at Cape Cod Community College on March 24th this year** and generated a great deal of interest with 43 members/guests and 15 students attending. Legislators who attended in person were: Senator Julian Cyr, Representative Sarah Peake, Representative Randy Hunt, Representative Timothy Whelan and Representative William Croker. Senator Vinny DeMacedo was represented by Lance Lambros. **Prior to the breakfast, Renate Sands and Carlyn Carey** attended a meeting of the Four Cs Student Senate to extend a personal invitation to the group.

Karen Mazza, Debra Dagwan and Renate Sands were invited to speak at the Economics Club at CCCC. Karen, our Youth Service Chair, spoke about civic engagement, Debra spoke about her successful run for the Barnstable Town Council and Renate, Legislative Chair, spoke about advocacy.

**An updated Directory of Elected Officials was published** reflecting the November elections. The following updates were made.

**State Government**

- **Julian Cyr** (D) replaced Senator Daniel A. Wolf in Cape and Island District.
- **Will Crocker** (R) replaced Representative Brian Mannal in 2nd Barnstable District.
Dylan Fernandez (D) replaced Rep Timothy Madden in Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket District.

**Barnstable County Government**

Ron Beaty joined the Board of County Commissioners.

Newly-elected members of the Assembly of Delegates are Edward Atwood from Eastham, Susan Moran from Falmouth, Thomas O’Hara from Mashpee and Lilli Ann Green from Wellfleet.

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**HEALTH COMMITTEE REPORT**

*From Amy Harris, Chair*

Going into a new LWVCCA year, our committee is looking for some new members. Are you happy with what has happened, or may be happening, to our healthcare? What about the status of legal recreational marijuana ~ on the Cape or elsewhere in Massachusetts? Or the mental/behavioral health needs of our population? Have you heard about our new, and more frightening, tick-borne virus, “Powassan”? Please think about joining the health committee in discussing these and other health-related challenges…and maybe even sharing our ideas in a public forum.

Phone me at 508-432-0763 or amyharrisige@gmail.com. I look forward to hearing from you.
MASS. STATE CONVENTION: LWVCCA MAKES GIFT IN HONOR OF MARY LOU PETITT

On Friday and Saturday, April 28-29, seven members of LWVCCA traveled to Framingham for the 2017 biennial convention of the Massachusetts LWV. Look for a report in the June VOTER.

Among the highlights of the convention was a donation to the State League of $200 in honor of our long-time and much-loved member Mary Lou Petitt!

Have you patronized our advertisers yet this year? Please let them know we appreciate their support!
WE THE RESILIENT:
Wisdom for America from Women Born Before Suffrage

New book celebrating the first generation of women empowered to vote includes Cape resident and former LWVCCA president Juliet Bernstein.

Juliet Bernstein will be 104 years old in July. In Chatham, she is an institution. Led the effort to have Chatham declared a nuclear-free zone. Offered a resolution at town meeting to defund the Chatham band until it allowed women to join (it passed). Was President of LWVCCA from 1975-78. Writes knock-your-socks-off letters to the editor of the Chatham Chronicle and the Boston Globe. And continues to amaze and inspire a generation of women, some of them half her age including a number of current members of the League. Now she is among some 180 women from all parts of the country being celebrated in a just-published book entitled, “We the Resilient: Wisdom for America from Women born before Suffrage”. And just to keep it in the family, Juliet’s name was suggested by Kathy Schatzberg, retired president of CCCC and a LWVCCA member.

The book was co-produced by Sarah Bunin Benor, Roberta Schultz Benor and Tom Fields-Meyer, all from Los Angeles, and was inspired by a photo of Roberta’s mother, age 98, casting her ballot for Hillary Clinton -- and asked Sarah to share it on Facebook! Within days it had over 1,600 likes and the rest is history. Now, thanks to a nationwide fundraising campaign, the book is available in bookstores around the country. If you don’t see it, ask for it www.iwaited96years.com. And if you need more encouragement: a portion of the proceeds will be donated to LWVUS.