

THE CAPE COD VOTER

VOLUME 50 ISSUE 5

JANUARY 2010

CALENDAR

*Reminder, Tuesday, JANUARY 19
Special Election for U.S. Senate*

**Monday, January 25
1 to 3 pm**

**Health Committee Meeting
Elaine Bono's Home**

**Tuesday, February 1
9:30 am**

**LWVCCA Board Meeting
Dennis Cape Cod 5**

**Tuesday, February 1
After Board meeting 12:00 noon**

**Voters Service Volunteers who
Distributed Birthday Cards
Dennis Cape Cod 5**

**Saturday, February 6 Forum
Coffee 9:30, Talk 10:00 am**

**Women's Suffrage – Naomi Arenberg
Harwich Community Center**

**Wednesday February 17
10 am**

Tour of Tri-Town Septage Plant

Hold These Dates

Wednesday, February 17, 2010, 10:00am

Tour of Tri-Town Septage Plant

Friday, March 19 – Breakfast with Legislators

Saturday, April 24 – Child Care Forum

Wednesday, April 28 – Day on the Hill with LWVMA

Saturday, May 15 – LWVCCA Annual Meeting

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE

\]The League of Women Voters of the Cape Cod Area

P. O. Box 2347, Orleans MA 02653

508 945-0511

From your president ~

Dates, dates and more dates. Our League is a busy organization with various kinds of meetings and opportunities for you to be more directly involved. (Something we highly encourage for any who have some discretionary time ☺).

The Board and I do have concern if sending the *Voter* electronically makes it more difficult to both keep all these days in mind and/or transferred them to a personal calendar. I print the entire *Voter* for my own records, but you may prefer to just print what you find most important and interesting. I hope you know that you can easily do this from the version of the *Voter* that comes as an attachment. By going to “File” on your tool bar and ⓧ “print” you can select only those pages you wish to print. I hope the calendar is one of these.

Another option, of course, is to read the *Voter* with your open calendar next to you making notations of the meetings in which you’re interested. (And forgive me if I have insulted your intelligence; we are just anxious to make sure our change to more use of technology isn’t interfering with our much desired participation by you.)

A date I hope you already have on your calendar is **Feb. 6, our public forum at Harwich Community Center**, when **Naomi Arenberg** will be our featured speaker. The suggestion to invite Naomi was inspired by comments of rave made by the president of the Marion-Mattapoisett-Rochester League at a Region 9 meeting of presidents. Please see Betsy Bray’s piece in this *Voter* for more information. I look forward to seeing many of you as well as guests at that meeting.

Yours in League,

Judy Thomas

BOARD NOTES

December 2009

Judy Thomas suggested that, in the absence of a Membership Committee chair, we continue having a number of people work on membership tasks for the rest of this year. Betsy Bray has agreed to take over as Membership chair next year.

Debby Aikman announced that Dorothy Halsey, a long time member and past president, has died. The Board discussed the problem of timing various meetings to avoid conflicts. Judy suggested and the Board agreed that the Board Meeting would be held during the first week of the month, units would meet in the second week and committees in the third week. The day of the week could be flexible and consideration should be given to weekends for unit meetings.

By consensus, the Board decided to hold all Board meetings at the Cape Cod 5 on Rte 134 in Dennis for the rest of the year.

The LWVMA decided to hold its annual meeting on May 22, the day we had scheduled our annual meeting. The Board agreed to move ours to May 15. Judy will urge the state league to set its schedule earlier in the future to avoid conflicts.

Joan Grant announced that the Environment Committee will offer a tour of the Tri-town Septage Facility on Wednesday, Feb. 17. Erica Parra will take reservations.

Rhondda Tewes reported that the Health Committee is reading Matt Patrick's bill in the state legislature on Cape Care. The Committee will put together questions and hope to reach consensus by February.

Betty Floyd, Secretary

FEBRUARY FORUM "WOMEN'S RIGHTS"

On Saturday, February 6 the League of Women Voters of the Cape Cod Area will present a Forum celebrating the 90th anniversary of women's right to vote and the founding of the League of Women Voters organization. Naomi Arenberg, local host of "All Things Considered" on the Cape and Islands NPR station and long time member of the League of Women Voters, will lead a discussion about the progress of women in all areas particularly in the media.

The event will be at the Harwich Community Center with coffee at 9:30 a.m. and the meeting at 10 a.m. The public is invited to attend.

Betsy Bray

REGIONALIZATION **Join the Task Force**

This newly forming Task Force (RATF) will be focused on developing a centralized, coordinated League approach to developing a regionalization advocacy plan for the Cape. Our past efforts in encouraging regional approaches to major Cape issues- energy, transportation, affordable housing, water, etc. need a fresh outlook which leads to change and the time is ripe. We'll be looking at town and county plans and examples and positive ways to move ahead. The Task Force (limited time frame) will begin meeting later in January. Come and join us, this is an action item! Call Mary Lou Petitt at 508 255-9342.

The Chatham/Harwich Unit held a meeting on December 16 at the Harwich Community Center.

In the spirit of our forthcoming year marking the 90th anniversary of Women's Suffrage, our guest and speaker was Ro Morrissey, President of WE CAN. This Cape-based organization's mission is to help today's women in coping with some of the present era's challenges: divorce, single parenting, job loss and the need to develop new skills, etc. Though attendance was sparse, we had a good discussion and came away much impressed with WE CAN'S accomplishments and aspirations.

Nancy Erskine

In Memoriam

Dorothy Halsey, who died in November at the age of 91 , was president of our League in 1987 to 1989. Dorothy retired to Chatham from New York and was devoted to both the League and her community. Early in the formation of the Women's Army Corps in World War 2, Dorothy joined the WAC and was a lieutenant colonel who continued to work as an executive in Germany during the reformation after the war.

Dorothy was a lady of grace and intellect and had a wonderful sense of humor. She liked to joke that she became president of the League because "the nominating committee plied her with martinis".

Jo-Ann Berry Speaks to Attendees of LWV Holiday Tea

The day was rainy and windy, but inside the Optimist Café in Yarmouthport where 31 Leaguers had gathered for the annual Holiday Tea, the spirit was warm indeed. Following a lovely tea, organized by first V.P. Betsy Bray, Jo-Ann Berry, 4th vice president of the LWVMA (filling in for Swine Flu stricken president Zaxaro Bennett), spoke to the group. Jo-Ann's primary responsibility is development, a position that had not been necessary until the current economic recession and loss of invested fund income.

Asked to describe the vision of the LWVMA, Jo-Ann began by praising our League for its strong program and then stated the vision of state is to become more visible, vibrant and viable. An example of greater visibility was the recent US Senate primary candidate forum which attracted good media attention and, in good League fashion, had candidates from both parties participating. About 400 attended this forum, including many students. The State League also hopes to generate broader participation from local Leagues by several means, including holding Board meetings around the state, not just in the greater Boston area. There are also many committees which are seeking new members. Committee meetings do not necessarily mean a trip to Boston; often "meetings" are held via conference call or email.

While the current state board does not see it necessary to "reinvent the wheel, Jo-Ann suggested there were areas where one of the wheels might need to be "changed," – a work in progress. Jo-Ann took questions from the members and addressed casino gambling, timely state League calendaring, diversity and the "image/perception" of the League.

Betsy stated president Zaxaro would still like to visit our League. You will be notified when that will happen. The meeting ended with the exchange of a "book shelf" book which it seemed all enjoyed.

Judy Thomas

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NOTICE: as suggested at the January Board Meeting, we are posting the date of the deadline for the February Issue of the Cape Cod Voter. Deadline: January 29, 2010

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