

# THE CAPE COD VOTER

VOLUME 50 ISSUE 9

MAY 2010

## CALENDAR

**Tuesday, May 4**  
**9:30 am**

**LWVCCA Board Meeting**  
**Cape Cod 5 Bank, Dennis**

**Saturday, May 15**  
**Noon**

**Annual Meeting**  
**Roadhouse Café, Hyannis**

### **Guest Speaker**

**Ian Hoffman-Terry**

**Social Studies Teacher at Chatham High School**  
**The Status of Civics Education in Massachusetts**

**Saturday, May 22**

**LWVMA Council**

**Wednesday, May 26**  
**TBA**

**Hot Topic Lunch Meeting**  
**“Open Cape Broadband Hwy”**

**Saturday, September 11,**  
**10:00 am**

**Coast Week Celebration**  
**Mass Audubon Long**  
**Pasture Sanctuary**

**September 19**  
**TBA**

**Civility in the Public Square**  
**Forum: Tilden Auditorium**

## Looking for 50 Year Members!

Could it be that you joined the League of Women Voters in 1960 or before?

If you even think you did, we'd like to know because we'd like to honor you at our Annual Meeting on May 15<sup>th</sup>.

If you think you may have joined in 1960 or earlier, please give the League phone a call: 508-945-0511.

\* \* \* \*

### **From your president ~**

Spring has arrived early on Cape Cod this year, and if you're like me, you are enjoying it immensely.

Spring is also the time of our **League Annual Meeting** which I hope you all have on your calendar for **Saturday, May 15 at noon**. (Please see the other article on the Meeting and the coupon to mail in your reservation elsewhere in this *Voter*.)

Our meeting will include a vote on a new dues category. The Board has decided to propose this because many persons we approach for membership question our current \$55 dues. Explaining how much we are obligated to send to State and National for our per member payments does not seem to relieve the objection.

So we have decided, with your approval, to experiment with a "special offer." Any person applying for membership for the **first time** will receive a one year dues reduction of \$25 dollars, making that person's dues for the year \$30. We hope this will take the "sticker shock" off and that in the remaining part of the year the vitality of our organization and its meaningful work will convince these new members that the League is worth every dollar. I hope that you will support this proposal. And I hope it will work as intended by increasing the number of members we have.

I invite you to read my annual report as well as other board members report in this issue of the *Voter*. Your Annual Meeting Workbook, with the agenda, nominating committee report, budget and the dues proposal are being sent separately, and in fact, should have arrived in your email by the time you receive this. There will also be a few copies of the Workbook available at the Annual Meeting, but I encourage you to print your own version and bring it with you.

Look forward to seeing many of you at the Roadhouse Café in Hyannis on the 15<sup>th</sup>.

In League,

Judy Thomas

## **BOARD NOTES**

**April 2010**

- Nancy Curley reported that we used money from the contingency fund to cover the shortfall for the Legislative Breakfast. The Board discussed the possibility of raising ticket prices in the future to cover the full cost of the Breakfast.
- Judy reported that the Civility Steering Committee met on Mar. 29 with representatives from the Young Professionals of Cape Cod and from the Falmouth and Plymouth Leagues. The Forum will be held on September 19. Paul Kirk, replacement for Ted Kennedy in the Senate until Brown was elected, will speak.
- Nancy Erskine presented the proposed slate of candidates for Board positions next year. The Board discussed the slate and added names. The Slate will be presented to the membership in an email rather than in the May *Voter* and voted on at Annual Meeting.
- Sally Cahill read Kathleen Vogt's report on unit meetings. The Board was impressed by the meeting, its conclusions and the report. The report is on file.
- Elizabeth Levy reported that Dr. Brian O'Malley spoke enthusiastically about Cape Care at the last Health Care Committee meeting and answered questions. The VA had a representative at the meeting.
- Nancy Curley reported that the Charter Review Committee would like a statement from the League. Other groups such as the Chamber of Commerce and the Roundtable have submitted reports. The League's Regional Task Force thought it could do this. The Charter Review Committee wants more time. It will produce its report in 2012. Nancy reported that we need more people to attend regional (county) government meetings on a regular basis.
- Elizabeth Levy reported that the "Don't Just Stand There, Run!" meeting was a "smash." Some of those attending suggested that this meeting be held again and earlier in the year. The town meeting tutorials at the Chatham and Nauset Newcomer meetings were also successful.
- The May *Voter* deadline will be April 25.

Betty Floyd, Secretary

## **HOT TOPIC LUNCH**

Cape, Orleans and Brewster Units will be holding a lunch meeting on Wednesday May 26, 2010 to learn more about the new County Open Cape project The Lower which has recently received a 32 million dollar grant. Because of the importance of the topic we believe it will attract interest in the broader community.

The goal of the project is to build telecommunications capacity which will not only strengthen local economic development but will be of great value in enabling regional sharing of data and collaboration. The League has been supporting regional approaches for many years. Look for more details through our own email alert system within the next week.

## ANNUAL REPORTS – 2009-2010

### President's Annual Report May, 2010

My report begins with a huge thank you to the Board. We got off at a running pace in June with a brainstorming/planning session (separate from the June meeting), followed it quickly with a super focus group facilitated by 1<sup>st</sup> vice president Betsy Bray and the pace has been very lively the remainder of the year. Everyone did her own job and more, and to each one I'm most appreciative. And to hear them talk at our mid-April new and prospective member tea/wine and cheese gathering, I can assure you that they are as excited and enthusiastic about our organization as ever.

The Board was willing to experiment and so we changed our location from the Harwich Community Center to a slightly more central location at the Cape Cod 5 at exit 9. We tried scheduling some unit meetings on the weekend hoping to enable those who are employed the chance to participate. In the coming year, we will try to be innovative in other ways as we are constantly mindful of the need to reach out to prospective members in many different situations and make our organization accessible.

Like so many other organizations, the increased cost of postage and publication caused us to go to an electronic version of our renamed newsletter, *The Voter*. There were several hurdles to overcome to achieve this and all of *The Voters'* readers are indebted to Jari Rapaport and Terry Chesney, co-editors for their perseverance and hard work in making the e-version happen. Florence Seldin pitches in by mailing hard copies to those unable to receive the e-version.

I think a significant highlight of the year was our well-received February forum honoring 90 years of women's suffrage and 90 years of the League of Women Voters US. The forum featured Naomi Arenburg with wonderful audience participation in the sharing of stories. Through it we have gained at least three new members.

Harriet Klebanoff did an excellent job getting our news events into the paper and on our website, HYPERLINK "<http://www.lwvcapecod.org/>" [www.lwvcapecod.org](http://www.lwvcapecod.org). Recently she sent me a report indicating the site has had thousands of hits, many from various searches.

I encourage you to read all the committee chair reports: Voter Service – Elizabeth Levy, Health Care – Rhondda Tewes, Environment – Joan Grant (assisted by Erica Parra), Legislation – Elaine Bono (who helps greatly with e-communication), and County Government – Karin Roche. You will be impressed with the work done.

What lies ahead? Look for the improved structure and functioning of the units next year, largely due to the persistence and hard work of Sally Cahill and Kathleen Vogt, 2<sup>nd</sup> vice-presidents. This is not to say the units were not busy this year! There were great informational

meetings all around the Cape coordinated by the unit chairs (Joan Bernstein, Freddie Fitzgerald, Nancy Erskine, Bonnie Brydges, Ellen Barber and Phyllis Walsh).

Look also for a significant forum in September on Civility which will be co-sponsored with Cape Cod Community College. Our League has been so fortunate to have the support and assistance of President (and League member) Kathy Schatzberg on this endeavor.

Sadly, this year we said goodbye to three members: Sally Garvin, Dorothy Halsey, Marion Greene and Nancy Terry. At the same time, we are delighted to welcome our ten new members: Caitlin Johnson, Walter Diggs, Jane Texeira-Henry, Gail Burke, Virginia Nordin, Judy Staples, Elizabeth Kuetchenmeister, Barbara Wellnitz, Dottie Kelly and Susanne Albert. We also have eleven national members in our area.

I conclude by giving special thanks to retiring Board members Bonnie Brydges, Betty Floyd and Ellen Barber. During the year Vicky Anderson, Jane Colby and Karin Roche found it necessary to resign. The help of all was most appreciated.

And so as this year ends, I look forward to working with the new board beginning in June. I look forward to new programs and events. I look forward to increased participation by our members and increased service to our constituents – the citizens and residents of Cape Cod. *With all of us working together, we will make a difference!*

Judy Thomas

## **UNIT MEETINGS**

In 2009-10 units pursued topics related to regionalization, the environment, and women's issues and concerns, experimenting with new meeting places and times. Lower/Outer Cape met on Sundays, in November ( at Orleans Place ) to discuss regionalization with selectmen from Orleans and Eastham, and in January (at Willy's Gym) on women's suffrage through a showing and discussion of the film "Iron-Jawed Angels;" in February the unit joined the Environment Committee to tour the Tri-town septage facility in Orleans. Chatham/Harwich met in December (at Harwich Comm. Center) with Ro Morrissey, President of WE CAN, to learn about this organization's work in behalf of women in transition; in January this unit joined with Mid/Upper Cape (at Thirwood Place) to view "Iron-Jawed Angels "; in March Betsy Bray talked about the life and work of Beatrix Potter in a meeting she hosted in her home. Mid/Upper Cape was the host for the "Angels" film in January and in March sponsored a session on regional planning (at the Osterville library) with Paul Niedzwiecki as speaker. Members of units met with officials of their respective towns in April to review the warrants for May town meetings.

Sally Cahill, Kathleen Vogt - 2nd VPs

## **ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

This Year the Environment Committee concentrated on the contentious waste water problem. In September Judith Bruce gave us a comprehensive view of the problem. In February we organized a tour of the tri-town septic facility in Orleans, followed by a wide-ranging discussion of the various options open to our towns again led by Judith Bruce. The Upper Cape Unit also arranged a very interesting program on waste water in the Osterville Library led by Paul Niedzwiecki of the Cape Cod Commission.

Next fall we plan to go to Audubon's Long Pasture sanctuary in Barnstable for Coast Weeks.

Erica Parra, Chair

## **VOTER SERVICE**

Voter Service started the year with the distribution of birthday cards (with voter registration forms enclosed) to Cape high schools, to be sent to students reaching their eighteenth birthday. We plan to continue this program, with some modifications, next year.

To encourage participation in local government we ran "Don't Just Stand There, Run", a program we first presented several years ago. The reception was enthusiastic and we were urged to make it a yearly event.

We did a reprinting of our Town Meeting brochure and, together with selectmen and moderators, presented a program to two Newcomers groups, stressing the history and importance of this venerable and uniquely New England institution.

Several Leaguers did a training session to become moderators and presided at candidates' debates. We have a good corps of moderators and time-keepers now and hope to serve more towns next year.

In many of our endeavors we are funded by the Educational Trust. We do not have a voter service committee with regular meetings, but rely on members who sign up for specific activities: voter registration, birthday card distribution, candidates' forums, etc. To them and to donors to the Trust we say "thank you".

Elizabeth Levy, Chair

## **COUNTY GOVERNMENT**

The Observation Committee has continued to attend County Commissioners meetings and those of the Assembly of Delegates. In addition we have been attending meetings of the Charter Review Committee which recommends to the Assembly of Delegates changes in the County Charter as part of a 5 year review process. This year the Commissioners' meetings have been televised, a satisfactory conclusion to our long campaign for such transparency. We encourage more members to join our Observation Corps.

Jari Rapaport, Karen Roche, Co-Chairs

## **HEALTH COMMITTEE**

The Health Care Committee started off the year with a public forum October 3rd on the current state of health care both nationally and locally. Our speaker was Dr. Richard Salluzzo, President and CEO of Cape Cod Healthcare, Inc. Dr. Salluzzo discussed the probable effects of proposed national legislation on all of us, the insured and the uninsured, with particular attention to how the passage and implementation of proposed plans might affect the delivery of health care to residents of Cape Cod.

Thanks to great publicity, the program attracted an audience of over 100 people. It was standing room only at the Harwich Community Center, and the next morning the Sunday Cape Cod Times had a page 1 article reporting on the event.

With health care reform the pre-eminent issue during 2009-2010, our Committee followed national developments closely throughout the year as the country moved toward a very modest reform bill - complex and costly but lacking the public option we all had hoped would be included.

Locally, we invited Dr. Brian O'Malley, founder of Cape Care, our local single-payer organization, to bring us up to date on Cape Care's attempt to get state legislative support for the single-payer plan they had worked long and hard to create for residents of Cape Cod.

Next year we plan to begin an in-depth study on how health care is provided on the Cape, its present strengths and weaknesses, and what we as citizens can do to bring about needed changes and improvements that will attract the best medical practitioners and increase the availability and quality of medical care on the Cape. All interested members are invited to join us.

Rhondda Tewes, Chair

## **REGIONALIZATION TASK FORCE**

The LWV Task Force on Regionalization, a limited-time committee, is meeting monthly to develop a plan to provide information and to advocate for regional efforts on the Cape. Focus will be on utilization of past League work and positions, publicizing current local and county regional initiatives, and developing a coordinated outreach effort to support future regionalization. The League has a long history on this issue and we need to build on that and move to action. For more information call Mary Lou Petitt at 255-9342.

## **LWVCCA Legislative Chair Report, 2009-2010**

Updated and maintained LWVCCA email list

Monitored legislation and forwarded alerts to email list

Held legislative breakfast at Ardeo at Kings Way on March 19, 2010. Attended by over 50 people, including seven out of eight of our legislators (or their staff representatives).

Day on the Hill, April 28, 2010—three board members went to this event at the State House. The theme this year was transportation.

Continued to hand out Directory of Elected Officials for 2009-2010—will update after November 2010 elections

Elaine Bono, Legislative Chair

## **HELEN S. AARON EDUCATION TRUST**

The Helen S. Aaron Education Trust was organized as a 501 c(3) trust so that League members and friends of the League could make contributions that are tax deductible to support the educational and voters' service activities of the League of Women Voters. These include candidate debates, brochures about Town Meetings, address lists of elected officials, and other governmental information that are available in libraries, town halls and other venues. These funds also support Forums.

Members contributions also go to supporting the educational funds of the Massachusetts and National League as part of our per member support of those Leagues. This year we are passing out envelopes explaining the Trust support of the Forums and are pleased to have received some contributions.

Terry Chesney Co-President

Judy Thomas, President, Cordially Invites You To The  
**League of Women Voters of the Cape Cod Area**  
**Annual Meeting and Luncheon**  
**Saturday, May 15, 2010**  
**12 Noon**

**The Roadhouse Café\***

488 South Street  
Hyannis  
508-775-2386

HYPERLINK "http://www.roadhousecafe.com/" [www.roadhousecafe.com](http://www.roadhousecafe.com)

\*Please Note: The Café is closed to the public for this event.

Enter from parking lot through the Back Bistro Door

Directions: The Café is located on the north side of the western end of South Street

First Course

Salad

Choice of Entrée

Spinach & Ricotta Ravioli with mushrooms and spinach in a  
pesto tomato sauce

Broiled Scrod Topped with cracker crumbs served with  
baked potato and vegetable

Chicken Parmesan served with penne pasta

Dessert with Coffee or Tea

Rocky Roadhouse Cake a la Mode

Cost per person is \$26. Tax and gratuity included.

Send check payable to: LWVCCA to: Elaine Bono P.O. Box 705 Yarmouthport, MA  
02675 Deadline: May 10, 2010. Sorry, no refunds after deadline.

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**Fill in, circle choices, and return with your check**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Guest: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Circle One:

Circle One:

Ravioli

Ravioli

Scrod

Scrod

Chicken

Chicken

## IN MEMORIUM

We sadly note the passing of Marion Greene, a long term member of our League. She actively worked for preservation of natural resources and for such causes as affordable housing. For years she hosted our Education Committee as it undertook three Consensus Studies.

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