

THE CAPE COD VOTER - Post Irene Edition

VOLUME 52 ISSUE 1

SEPTEMBER 2011

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

**Tuesday, September 6
9:30 am**

**LWVCCA Board
Cape Cod 5 Bank
Rte 134 Dennis**

**Friday September 9
11:00 am
Sanctuary**

**Coast Week
Wellfleet Audubon**

**Wednesday, September 14
10:00 am**

**Environment Comm.
Joan Grant's Home**

**Saturday, September 17
9:30 to 11:30 am
Center**

**Public Forum
"Governing Cape Cod"
Harwich Community**

**Tuesday, September 27
1:00 pm**

**Helen Aaron Ed Trust Board
Cape Cod 5 Bank
Rte 134 Dennis**

LOOK FOR THE COMING SPECIAL SECOND SECTION!!

--- LWVCCA GOALS AND ACTIVITIES ---

Dear Members ~

Thank you is the first word of order! Thank you to all our members who renewed their membership in our Cape Area League over the summer. We currently have 111 members and hope to see this number rise over the year as people become informed of our work -- particularly here on Cape Cod, but also in Massachusetts and the country.

The first thing “Cape Cod County” people will have an opportunity to see is our **September 17 forum “Governing Cape Cod: Meeting the Challenges.”** (You have all received a “Save the Date” on this wonderful program.) Here I offer my thanks to our Barnstable County Committee who have worked *tirelessly* throughout the summer months to develop, plan and make ready for implementation the program. Please see more information on this forum in this issue of the *Voter*. Plan to attend and bring a friend and/or neighbor. Encourage your town officials to attend. It will be a stimulating, worthwhile event.

I hope you have received your *new* **League Handbook**. This year the Handbook has a **new format and new information** about our committees and work as well as some of commercial supporters who have placed ads in the Handbook. These ads have helped tremendously toward the cost of the Handbook (about \$4 each). If you happen to go to one of these stores, please thank them for their faithful support through the years. Thanks to one of our newer members Joan Craig for facilitating the solicitation of the ads.

In the Handbook, you will also see what the current **plans** of each of **our current committees** are. The committees offer you opportunities to share your interest, ideas and skills. All of the chairs would welcome additional members. Some committees offer on-going work; some offer short term work. All of them are flexible enough to accommodate your interests and time commitments and constraints. So whether you might have an hour a week, a month or only once or twice a year time, please consider how you might help. League volunteers always gain from their League experiences. In fact, that is one of the primary reasons our members site for joining and continuing their membership!

I hope to see many of you at our first general meeting, the **Celebration of Coast Week, Friday, 11 a.m. at the Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary**. We'll enjoy the speaker, our bag lunches and meeting and greeting one another after the summer. There is more information on this event inside this *Voter*.

In League,

Judy Thomas

FORUM ALERT!!!!

“Governing Cape Cod –Challenges and Opportunities” is the focus of our public forum to be held on September 17, 2011 at the Harwich Community Center.

The keynote will be presented by Ronald J.Oakerson, PhD, an authority on metropolitan and rural governance . A panel of cape cod leaders will respond with questions and comments highlighting current issues confronting our current county structure. The panelists are: Robert O’Leary, Co-Chair, Special Commission on Governance; Paul Niedzwiecki, Executive Director, Cape Cod Commission; State Senator Dan Wolf; and Maggie Geist of The Association to Preserve Cape Cod.

This is a not to be missed program! Be sure to invite friends to join us. The beautiful announcing flyer is attached to this newsletter.

With this meeting The League continues to highlight the regional challenges confronting our County and add to the momentum which followed our January forum on county government. At that forum the recommendation was made for a special Commission to study county structure and function and recommend any needed changes. The League has actively supported the formation of the Commission and monitors its progress.

Jari Rapaport, Co-Chair, County Committee.

COAST WEEK CELEBRATION

Coast Week will be held Friday, September 9,2011, at the Audubon Wellfleet Bay Sanctuary beginning at 11:am. Bob Prescott, Sanctuary Director, will present a program about horseshoe crabs. Did you know that this ancient animal we love to see on our beaches also makes vital contributions to human health and to the food chain? Did you know the species faces serious threats and has been considered an endangered species? The Wellfleet Sanctuary is playing a special role in preservation of this species. It will be a fascinating morning. and your friends may be interested. Bring a brown bag lunch – drinks and desert will be provided. The Sanctuary is just off of Rte.6 as you cross the town line from Eastham to Wellfleet.

Joan Grant

THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

The Environment Committee will meet on Wednesday , September 14, 2011, at 10:am at the home of Joan Grant, 364 Tonset Road in Orleans. We are looking for new and interested members to help us move forward on the issues of waste water management and renewable energy. We are also planning for the league’s November Forum on environmental issues. Come and get acquainted! If you need directions, please call 508-255-0303 or email Joan at [HYPERLINK "file:///C:\\Documents%20and%20Settings\\Mary%20Rapaport\\My%20Documents\\september11voter\\grantoncape@yahoo.com" \o "blocked:grantoncape@yahoo.com" grantoncape@yahoo.com](mailto:grantoncape@yahoo.com).

Joan Grant

BOARD MEETING NOTES – JUNE 7, 2011

Committee goals: Committee chairs will send committee goals to Judy Thomas and Karen Mazza in time to publish in the Handbook to enable newer members as well as long term members to choose the committee areas which interest them.

Fundraising: The committee has set a goal of \$2000 for FY 12, to be designated for the Ed Trust. They will be seeking business donors who will be recognized in our publications. They are also considering several potential fundraising events.

Legislative Chair: Joan Craig will succeed Elaine Bono our new Legislative Chair.

County Government: The Committee has continued observing both the Commissioner's meetings and those of the Delegate Assembly. The committee has assisted the president in promoting our support for the Special Commission on Governance, and for maintenance and guidelines for public input at Commissioner's meetings. In addition a smaller subcommittee has been developing plans for a September forum on county governance.

Health Care: The committee met with Dr. James Butterick, Chief Medical Officer of CC Healthcare. He provided information about Gov. Patrick's plan for Accountable Care Organizations to be implemented across the state. As a result Cape hospitals are attempting to form large groups of physicians needed for implementation. They will share a pool of patients and receive a "global" payment, and work as a team to promote preventive care and reduce cost. Thus reduced costs becomes the responsibility of the physicians. There is considerable controversy. The Committee is working toward a Healthcare Forum in January.

Youth Outreach: Under Karen Mazza's leadership this new group is actively exploring youth issues on the Cape and is working with the Cape Cod Foundation to promote a positive future for Cape Cod youth.

Jari Rapaport, Co-Editor

LWVCCA ACTIVITIES AND GOALS

For the first time both the structure of our League and the goals of our various committees has been published in one place- the new 2011/2012 Handbook. It will also appear on our website. In addition, it will be sent to our members as a second section of this issue of the Voter. You might want to keep your copy in a special place for continuing reference. Several new programs have been initiated, and we, the Board, hope that this will help our membership consider where they might most like to participate. And sometimes it has been something of a mystery to really see all this League is involved in, and also what needs to be done to keep our organization running and thriving! Now you have it all in one place. When it comes to volunteer effort, the more the merrier, the more we get to know each other, and the more we can accomplish. Many thanks to Karen Mazza for her efforts to make this listing happen.

VOTER SERVICE

September 2011 - June 2012 is an "off-year" for state and federal elections, and an opportunity for the League to focus on local voting---for school boards, selectmen, and town issues. To that end we plan to repeat our "Don't Just Stand There, Run" public forum which presents information, advice, and encouragement to prospective candidates from elected officials, newspaper reporters and town clerks.

We will use newcomers meetings and other venues to encourage town meeting attendance, and will circulate our town meeting brochure. Voter Service is not a formal committee, but rather individual Leaguers who sign up for activities such as time-keeping or moderating candidates forums, working on projects with students, circulating information to town halls and libraries.

VOTERS is part of our name. We should all be involved in supporting that function.

Elizabeth Levy, Chair

OBSERVING COUNTY GOVERNMENT AT WORK

At a time when it is tempting to despair of the ability of government organizations to work effectively, it was little short of inspiring for six of us from the League to join county officials on **August 17TH** for a visit to a series of outer Cape projects supported by the Barnstable County Extension Service. From Provincetown to Eastham, we looked in on a diverse group of projects, ranging from oyster and clam aquaculture, to deer tick control, to harbor water testing, to 4-H and other community gardening activities, to education about nutrition and safe food handling. The common denominator of these projects seemed in their origins in the thinking of creative individuals who saw a need and the opportunity for their development provided by outside assistance, including small, but significant stipends of seed or support money from the county. At the Truro library, for just one example, we saw evidence of a vibrant children's 4-H club, which we learned had been started by two or three people whose idea had caught the imagination of their library and town, thereby gaining gardening and other activity space, and had gone on to receive help from the county for some of its on-going expenses. One of the additional virtues of this project, and in different ways most of the others we saw, was that it could serve as a model which people with similar concerns could replicate in the future.. A "lot of bang for the buck"!

In addition to Jari Rapaport, who made League participation possible, Jody Mines, Mary Lou Petitt, Jane Hinckley, Bonnie Brydges, and Kathleen Vogt took part in this observational experience led by Bill Clark of the Extension Service. We were also joined by Terese Martin, LWVCCA member and the Eastham representative to the Assembly of Delegates. and County Commissioners Bill Doherty, Mary Pat Flynn and Sheila Lyons.

Kathleen Vogt

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

We welcome Rory Marcus this month:

Rory Marcus has lived on the Cape for ten years now. Though her parents were from New Bedford, she grew up in New York City. There she established a career in broadcast journalism at NBC, WCBS and WNEW, producing news, documentaries and talk shows. She also worked in State government before moving to Los Angeles to pursue a career in film and TV development, writing a screenplay that became a CBS movie. On the Cape, she has contributed to the growth of arts organizations as a specialist in public relations and marketing. She admires the work of the League and has a strong interest in protecting the Cape's natural environment.

Karen Miller, Membership Committee

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

The Fundraising Committee has been busy working on letters to a number of major donors in the Cape Cod area. The Helen S. Aaron Education Trust, a 501(c)(3) tax exempt fund allows the League to request funds to support educational information and forums. By pursuing donations, we are able to utilize these funds for special educational programs which our operating budget is unable to support.

If you have done business with or know of a pro-active business that might consider becoming a donor, please contact the committee chair, Joan Craig at [HYPERLINK "mailto:joanmrcraig@comcast.net" \o "blocked::mailto:joanmrcraig@comcast.net" joanmrcraig@comcast.net](mailto:joanmrcraig@comcast.net). Business names, addresses and the names and titles of the individuals to whom the letters are addressed are helpful. Examples: the insurance company, accounting firm, or the legal firm you use. The letters to prospective donors are sent out under the signatures of LWVCCA President Judy Thomas and Trust President Betsy Bray and no other individuals are mentioned in the correspondence.

Joan Craig, Chair
Fundraising Committee
508-259-357

