

THE CAPE COD VOTER

VOLUME 52 ISSUE 6

FEBRUARY 2012

CALENDAR

**Tuesday, February 7
9:30 am**

**LWVCCA Board Meeting
Cape Cod 5 Dennis**

**Wednesday, February 15
9:15 am**

**Nauset/Chatham/Harwich Units
Wise Living 18 West Rd. Orleans**

**Tuesday, February 21
10:00 am**

**Environment Committee
Hearth N' Kettle, S. Yarmouth, Rte. 28**

**Tuesday, February 21
1:30 pm**

**County Committee
Media Center Shad Hole Rd Dennis**

**Tuesday, February 28
10:00 am**

**Sandwich Unit
TBA**

WE WANT – AND NEED - TO HEAR FROM OUR MEMBERS

The future doesn't wait, so we want to start now to plan for the League's future.

This month, nationally and locally, Leagues are beginning program planning for the next year. Our activities must reflect the issues our members most care about. Is there something you would like to see added to our portfolio? Are there ideas you would like to pass on to our existing committees? Is there a specific concern you feel so deeply about that you would step forward to address it?

Over the years some issues come to be more timely at certain periods and then we take a break. Education, for instance was of particular importance when Massachusetts was concerned about education reform, and when special education and mainstreaming became critical issues. Once legislative action was taken the committee disbanded. Immigration also became a focus as we became aware of the “changing face of Cape Cod” even before national undertook a consensus study. Now that there is increasing pressure for national legislative action, we might again ask a committee to take stock of the current situation to give our members more information. These are just examples. What is important is that our League program continues to reflect the concerns of our members. Some of us worry about being over-extended, but there is always room for growth when one or two members stimulate the rest of us! And short term projects can be very effective.

We might just consider our own blog in the Voter, asking members to write in about something they are concerned about. A nice exchange could develop, and who knows where it could lead! So putting my computer where my suggestion is, look for The Editors Blog in this issue.

Jari Rapaport, Co-Editor

This is an Editor's Message, substituting for our monthly President's Message. You will all be glad to know that Judy is back home getting used to her new Knee and doing very well. So we gave her a vacation.

BOARD NOTES, January 2012

- Member donations this year have fallen short of previous years. The Budget committee will meet to consider cuts in spending.
- Vice-President Phyllis Walsh will be acting president from 1/6/12 through 2/10/12 as President Judy Thomas recuperates from knee surgery.
- Nominating Committee reports that Karen Mazza has agreed to accept the position of President next year.
- Legislative Breakfast plans were finalized. See details in February Voter.
- The Committee on Supporting Youth continues to work actively with the Cape Cod Foundation in developing a regional collaborative effort to support youth and Karen Mazza has been asked to represent the group on the team from the Workforce Investment Board.
- The Environment Committee is finalizing plans for the April 28th Forum on Climate Change. Speakers now include the President of the Woods Hole Research Center, the new Executive Director of the Association to Preserve Cape Cod, National Seashore staff responsible for natural Resource Management as well as the Seashore Chief Planner.
- The Voter Service popular “Don’t just stand there, Run” will be held on February 15th, at the Harwich Community Center. See details in this issue of the Voter.
- Unit Meetings on Aging in Place will take place on February 15, at Wise Living in Orleans. See details in this issue of the Voter.
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HELP WANTED

There are two Board positions that need special assistance, that of Treasurer and Editor of the Voter. Debbie Aikman, Treasurer and Jari Rappaport and Terry Chesney, Voter Co-Editors, have served tirelessly and need help. The idea is that someone who might be interested in the job but feel that they need training before plunging in could serve as an intern to learn the job before taking over the position in the future. In the meantime, this person could shoulder some of the responsibility.

The Nominating Committee is working to fill other Board positions as well. If there is an area in which you feel that you can make a contribution, please call one of us. Serving on the Board is a wonderful way to make friends with some of the most interesting women on Cape Cod!!

Jean Mangiafico

Nominating Committee:

Betsy Bray braybetsy@gmail.com 508-432-4824

Bonnie Brydges bonbry@verizon.net 508-432-2509

Nancy Curley nabby.curl398@gmail.com 508-398-2775
Freddie FitzGerald freddiecapecod@earthlink.net 508255-0247
Jean Mangiafico jmangiafico@comcast.net 508-945-3746

FEBRUARY UNIT MEETINGS

The Nauset and Harwich-Chatham Units will join forces for a discussion of “Aging in Place” on Wednesday, February 15, 2012 at Wise Living in Orleans. Coffee will be served at 9:15; the program will begin at 9:30.

Mary Lee Mantz, who is in charge of Outreach for Nauset Neighbors, and Betsy Loomis, the Outreach Coordinator for Harwich COA, will each speak about the issues that people struggle with while living at home and what resources are available to help. Each will make 20 minute presentations about their programs and then answer questions. All League members are invited

The Mid Cape/Upper Cape Unit members will be attending this meeting as well.

SANDWICH UNIT MOVES AHEAD

The Sandwich Unit met on Thursday, January 19 and with guidance from Judy Thomas and Phyllis Walsh we have created a plan for the winter and spring leading up to town meeting and local elections. Our goal remains to increase voter involvement and participation in local government through voter education. We have tried to stick to our Last Tuesday of the month meeting format. We are still working on details of each meeting and will update ASAP

- Tuesday, February 28, 2012 10am Meeting: Discussion&Discovery of new brochure on Sandwich Town Government. Location -TBA
- Tuesday, March 27, 2012 10am Meeting: Meeting with Town Clerk Taylor White (we are hoping to partner with Mr. White in his discussion and registration of the new 18yr. old voters). Location -TBA
- Tuesday April 17 or 24: Candidate Forum for local elections (partnered with the Sandwich Enterprise)
- April: partner with town manager, Bud Dunham, in town warrant informational meeting: Time and location -TBA
- May 5, 2012 State League Council: We hope to have a few Sandwich Members attend.
- May 18, 2012 LWVCCA annual meeting.

Thank you all for your continued support.

Paige Lyons, Chair

FINANCE DRIVE

To date 27 members have donated a total of \$1225 to Ed Trust and 20 members have donated \$845 to the General Fund. This support is much appreciated!

There's still time to participate in our annual appeal, if you haven't already done so. Checks are payable as follows:

General Fund (not tax deductible) *LWVCCA*

Ed Trust (tax deductible) *Helen S. Aaron Educational Trust*

Please mail to Debbie Aikman, 78 Water Street, Chatham, MA 02633.

COUNTY COMMITTEE

The Committee will hold its next meeting on Tuesday February 21, at 1:30pm at the Media Center in Dennis. The County Committee continues to observe both Commissioners' meetings and those of the Special Commission on County Governance. That process is nearing conclusion and recommendations are planned to be agreed on by the end of February. The League Committee will then report to the Board and help develop the League response. We will also summarize the Commission's work in the March Voter for our membership.

The Special Commission has scheduled meetings at 6:30pm on Wednesday Feb 8th and Thursday Feb.16th. If any readers are interested in visiting one of the meetings, do let Jari Rapaport or Renate Sands know. There are frequent changes and we will keep you informed. The meetings take place in the Superior Court House in Barnstable, in rooms 11/12 on the ground floor. You can also visit the county website and look for the Special Commission. Minutes of the earlier meetings can be found there. Don't forget that the County website also makes available town by town listings of County services for each in the past year.

The League's long term interest in county government has its roots in the recognition that Cape Cod, by its geography, and its physical attributes, requires a genuine regional approach. If any member has a special interest in this, please join our committee. The observation of a working government is very interesting. Call Jari or Nancy Curley the co-chairs for information.

Jari Rapaport, Co-Chair

JANUARY HEALTH FORUM

Despite the snow, a good sized crowd showed up for the health care forum, "Navigating Health Care on Cape Cod." Michael Lauf, President and CEO of Cape Cod Healthcare, headlined our excellent panel of speakers that also included Dr. Brian O'Malley who spearheaded Cape Care Coalition for many years and currently is on the board of Cape Cod Preferred Physicians, Sonja Brewer, Regional Director of the Cape and Islands SHINE, and BL Hathaway, Director of Oral Health Excellence Collaborative (OHEC). Michael Lauf gave a summary of progress made financially at Cape Cod Hospital and improvements in services and expertise.

Lauf and O'Malley tackled the question of what is an Accountable Care Organization and what they mean to doctors and patients. SHINE provides free counseling for Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries at town COAs to help make the best decisions regarding medigap insurance, Medicare Advantage Plans, prescription drug programs and other health care financial assistance programs. OHEC has 4 goals: to reduce incidence of dental disease, increase access to dental care, build capacity, services, and skills to serve special populations, and to expand oral health programs and services. BL Hathaway probably provided the most memorable sentence of the forum: "dental disease is the most common chronic infectious disease among seniors, adults, and children." Moreover, there is a great shortage of dental health professionals on the Cape, and MassHealth, since 2010, does not cover restorative dental care for adults. The Cape also suffers a shortage of psychiatric professionals. The health care committee will prepare a more complete summary this spring for those who missed the program or who want to refresh their memories. Stay tuned.

Joan Bernstein, Chair, Health Committee

DON'T JUST STAND THERE.....RUN!

This wonderful workshop will be held on February 15th at 7pm at the Harwich Community Center. It provides a close up look at what a candidates need to know, and also at the rewards in the array of opportunities for public service. It is just as informative for all of us who vote, so it's really worth your attendance. Here is the agenda Elizabeth Levy and the Voter Service Committee have developed.

AGENDA

Nominating Process: deadlines, signatures, regulations	Linda Hutchenrider Barnstable Town Clerk
Serving the Community: using talents, interests	David Schropfer Eastham Town Moderator
County Government: Assembly of Delegates	Mary LeClair Former County Commissioner
Campaigning: staffing, raising money	Sarah Peake State Representative
Using the Media	Sean Gonsalves Cape Cod Times

SAVE THE DATE!

Day on the Hill

Wednesday, April 25, 2012

An opportunity to mingle with League of Women Voters members from all over Massachusetts and to meet your legislators at the State House for small group discussions on the important issues and hot topics. Mark your calendar for this important event. More information will follow.

EDITORS BLOG

To contribute, just email your editors your ideas and we'll add them to this page and print it in the March Voter.

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- Agriculture as well as aquaculture is becoming a more vibrant part of the Cape economy. And more than cranberries! Maybe we could repeat the tour of local farms that we sponsored a few years back. Any interest? Jari Rapaport