

# THE CAPE COD VOTER

VOLUME 50 ISSUE 6

FEBRUARY 2010

## CALENDAR

**Tuesday, February 2**  
**9:30 am**

**LWVCC Board Meeting**  
**Dennis Cape Cod 5**

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

**Forum on Women's Rights**  
**Harwich Community Center**

**Wednesday, February 17**  
**10 am**

**Tri-Town Septage Plant Tour**  
**See article for directions**

**Friday, March 19**  
**8 am**

**Legislative Breakfast**  
**See coupon inside**

**CELEBRATE THE 90<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**  
**OF WOMEN'S RIGHT TO VOTE**  
**And the founding of the League**

**COME TO THE FORUM ON FEBRUARY 6**  
**Naomi Arenberg, local host of "All Things Considered" will lead**  
**A discussion about the progress of women**

### *From our President~*

I've been fascinated by the calls the League phone has received in January. Citizens have called wanting to know how to register to absentee vote (a call from Florida), where to vote, where to register and how to get a ride to the polls. It's been fascinating, in part, because much of this information is available from other equally or even more convenient sources. BUT apparently there are people "out there" who, when they have a question that relates to voting, think first of the League of Women Voters. That speaks highly of our past reputation and the service we provide. I enjoy talking with these citizens and helping them with their questions.

However, I'm aware that for younger generations of citizens who have grown up with computers and the internet, the League may not be the automatic response for when a citizen has a question. And let's be honest, we will not replace the computer even if we do offer a warm, live voice to speak with. This suggests to me that our visibility as an organization is extremely important. We need to promote our public debates and forums very actively so that people will see we offer information in a format unavailable on the internet, unavailable at many other organizationally sponsored meetings. We need to have a presence at Town Meetings offering to hold up our "time" signs. We need to be registering voters next fall before the general election in supermarkets. Even if we do not register large numbers, we are still there so that shoppers can see our LWV signs, brochures etc. and that we offer services. We need to make sure that we are developing a current, timely reputation – a reputation to move us into the next decade.

I hope I will see many of you at our February 6<sup>th</sup> forum, celebrating the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of women's suffrage and the founding of our organization. We are honored and privileged to have Naomi Arenberg, a League member, as presenter and facilitator of the morning's program. Bring a friend or neighbor. We need to celebrate where we've been, the distance we've come, and together create a vision for where we need to be in the 2010s.

In League with you,

*Judy*

## **Thank You for Your Generosity!**

The League is most appreciative of the support given to it through our Annual Drive last November/December. At the January Board meeting, Nancy Curley (treasurer) reported that the Helen S. Aaron Educational Trust Fund received \$1,100 and the General Fun \$855. Without these additional resources, our budgets and programs would be greatly challenged. Thank you all very much for your wonderful contributions.

### **BOARD NOTES January 2010**

Laura Goldsmith has accepted a place on the Nominating Committee. Nancy Erskine has agreed to chair.

Elizabeth and Judy will meet to plan town meeting education presentations.

The February Forum on Women's Suffrage with Naomi Arenberg will be held at the Harwich Community Center. The Chatham/Harwich unit will provide refreshments.

The Child Care Forum will be held on April 24. Betsy and Joan Grant are working on it.

Elizabeth reported that Birthday Card volunteers will meet following the February Board meeting to review their follow-up with participating high schools and to discuss plans for 2010. Elizabeth will investigate sponsoring "Don't Just Stand There - Run!" again late this winter, possibly in March.

Elaine reported that she would soon attend a meeting of Field Representatives from our region in Shrewsbury.

Dates set: Legislative Breakfast, Fri, Mar. 19 at Ardeo's at Kings Way in Yarmouth; The Day on the Hill, Wed. April 28; The Council, May 22; and the National Convention, June 11-15 in Atlanta.

The Board unanimously approved two motions, both by Joan Bernstein. In the first, the Board decided that we would offer an introductory individual rate for new members for one year. In the second, the Board decided that the new individual introductory rate would be \$35 and that it would be subsidized using reserve funds. Both actions depend on membership approval at the Annual Meeting.

The Board decided to hold a meeting in late March to discuss hot topics and unit meetings and decide what we should do about them. Second Vice Presidents, all unit chairs, Florence, Joan and anyone else who is interested will attend.

Betty Floyd, Secretary

### **TRI-TOWN SEPTAGE TRIP**

The Environment Committee and the Brewster/Orleans Unit have organized a trip to the Tri-town Septage plant for 10:00am, Wednesday, February 17. The Lower Cape Unit is especially invited to join us. Please wear comfortable shoes as there are many stairs involved. After the tour of the plant which should take about an hour, we will meet for a discussion of wastewater issues at the Wise Living Facility, 18 West Road Orleans, (many

thanks to Lee Tupman). Bring your own sandwiches. Hot soup, tea and coffee will be provided. Those not wishing to tour the plant are also welcome at this part of the program which should start about 11:15. Please let Erica Parra know if you want to tour the plant. We can have a maximum of 25.[tel. 508-255-3116 or [HYPERLINK "mailto:frparra@comcast.net" frparra@comcast.net](mailto:frparra@comcast.net)] Wastewater problems are critical everywhere on the Cape. We welcome all members and others who are interested in this vital problem.

**DIRECTIONS TO TRI-TOWN:** Coming from Orleans turn right (from Brewster take a left) off 6A on to Bay Ridge Rd. at the last set of stop lights in Orleans before Brewster. Pass the Orleans Parks Department and Curves. Take a left on Overland Way at the big brown sign which says Septage Plant. Follow Overland Way until you see the sign for visitors parking.

**LWVCCA ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST**  
**Friday, March 19, 2010, 7:30-9:30 am**  
**Ardeo at Kings Way, Rt. 6A, Yarmouth Port**

This is a special annual opportunity to meet and hear our state legislators speak on timely issues of importance to League members. Spouses and guests welcome! Don't miss it!

Coffee will be available starting at 7:30 am. Buffet breakfast will be served at 8 and includes freshly baked muffins, danish, fruit, scrambled eggs, bacon & sausage, home fries, waffles, coffee, herbal teas, and assorted juices. Cost is \$16.

Directions to Ardeo at Kings Way (via Rt. 6):

Take Rt. 6 to exit 8 (Union St./Station Ave.). Go north on Union St. about a mile until road comes to a T (gas station in front of you). Go right onto 6A, following 6A for about a mile, passing two pizza restaurants on the right and a small plaza and Manchester Rd. on the left. Kings Way is on your left (small white sign. (If you reach Peterson's/ RiteAid plaza or the Dennis town line, you've gone too far.) Go past the guard house and the tennis courts on your left. Take the next left into the parking lot of Ardeo.

Fill out and send in the coupon below, along with your check. ***Reservations must be received by March 13.*** Any questions? Call Elaine Bono, 508-375-9421.

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**REGISTRATION FORM**  
**LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST**  
**FRIDAY, MARCH 19, 2010, 7:30 AM**

Please note the location—Address:

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone No.: \_\_\_\_\_ (in case we need to call you for weather cancellation)

# Attending: \_\_\_\_\_ Amt. enclosed Ardeo at Kings Way, Rt. 6A,  
Yarmouth Port. Cost is \$16 per person and includes a full buffet breakfast, tax, and  
gratuity. Make your check payable to LWVCCA and send to:

Elaine Bono, 19 Pine Grove, Yarmouth Port, MA 02675

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

***Please note: no-shows might be billed.***

**Power to the People**

A guest article by Cam Koblisch.

Recently, I was privileged to have breakfast with some members of the LWV in Chatham. There, Judy Thomas suggested that I write a short article for the *Voter*. I am pleased to do that.

First, a brief background on the Cape Light Compact. The Cape Light Compact (CLC) was formed by municipalities in the late 1990's in response to the deregulation of the electric utility industry in Massachusetts. In 2005 CLC began negotiating for supply of electric power on behalf of the roughly 190,000 electricity customers on the Cape and Vineyard. What you see on your monthly electric bill is the result of those negotiations. The bill is in two parts. The first part is from NStar which *delivers* power. The second part of the bill is for the *generation* of electricity; that is the part that CLC helps provide.

Currently Con Ed Solutions of NY through CLC is the provider of our electric power. They contract with generating companies in New England for that supply. The theory is that aggregating all customers on the Cape and Vineyard will produce a better rate. Generally, that has been true. You can also elect to get power generated by NStar, or Dominion. You get to select based on price. Currently, rates for all three sources are very close. More importantly CLC administers the energy conservation programs made possible by the portion of our electric generation cost. The home and/or business energy audit is an example which is free and offers a great way to save money and make for a greener environment. If you have not had an audit, please go to the Cape Light Compact website

capelightcompact.org and sign up or call 800-797-6699.

Now for an interesting development that will likely come before the Chatham resident voters in the spring. While CLC is an aggregator of customers, the Cape and Vineyard Electric Coop (CVEC) is an entity that towns can join to actually own power generation facilities such as wind turbines and solar panels. Many of the towns have joined the Coop over the last year of its existence and currently 15 towns belong. The main benefit is a member town can receive electricity from the Coop's generation facilities (from green renewable sources) at very competitive rates for the indefinite future. Brewster and Harwich, among other towns, are in the planning or building stages through the Coop wind turbines and solar systems to be located on town land. Importantly, the Coop owns the generation facilities without the towns having to commit their credit or resources..

This spring, with Selectmen approval, voters will be asked whether or not Chatham should join the CVEC. From the perspective of the Chatham Energy Committee, the answer is "Yes". Much work remains to get the issue on the Warrant including debate and review by town counsel. If you would like to learn more, contact me, Cam Koblish at HYPERLINK "mailto:ckoblish@backaviation.com" [ckoblish@backaviation.com](mailto:ckoblish@backaviation.com) or 973-819-5537 or attend an Energy Committee meeting on the second Monday of each month at 9:30AM in Chatham Town Hall.

Many Cape towns are going to be asking for voter approval for wind and solar projects in the next several years. There are pluses and minuses. It is important to receive information so you can make an informed decision; power will be in the voters' hands.

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PAGE

PAGE 8