



League of Women Voters® of Falmouth Bulletin

Summer 2017

Member Event Calendar

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Contact Us

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Send us an email
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Visit our web site
www.lwvf.org

August 2017

22 7:30 pm Board Meeting
Falmouth Hospital Maternity Meeting Room

26 2:00 pm Observer Quarterly Meeting
At Denise Morreale's House, N. Falmouth

September 2017

14 7:30 pm Know Your League Reports
Hermann Room, Falmouth Public Library
Meet for dinner at Gourmet Garden at 6pm

26 7:30 pm Board Meeting
Falmouth Hospital Maternity Meeting Room

October 2017

19 7:30 pm We The People
Hermann Room, Falmouth Public Library
Dr. Jane Scarborough, Constitutional Scholar

LWVF Board of Directors 2017-2018

STEERING COMMITTEE

Steering Committee Chair
First Vice-President
Second Vice-President
At Large
At Large

Sylvia Szulkin
Betsy Fontes
Meg Borden
Alice Carey
Doris Epstein

Secretary
Treasurer
Webmaster
At Large

Catherine Kligler
Joanne Voorhis
Joan Boyer
Barbara Fanger
Kathy Mortenson
Olivia White

Membership
Voter Service
Observer Corp
Natural Resource
Legislative
Publicity
Bulletin Editor

Jacqueline Webster
Carol McKeon
Denise Morreale
Vacant
Margaret Cooper
Olivann Hobbie
Brenda Nolan

If you wish to join the League, membership dues are \$50 for an individual membership and \$25 for an additional household member.
Send your check made out to LWV of Falmouth, P. O. Box 450, Falmouth, MA 02541.
Include your name, mailing address, email address and phone number. You do not have to be a resident of Falmouth to join.

MESSAGE FROM THE STEERING COMMITTEE

Alice Carey

NEW LWVF VOTER SERVICE CHAIR

It has been my privilege to be your LWVF Voter Service Chair for over 10 years. During that time I have had wonderfully creative and dedicated League committee members to work with. Together we have shared challenges, met deadlines, experimented with various formats and venues and via League Candidates Nights informed Falmouth voters about candidates and issues. We have also forged lasting friendships and enjoyed many a laugh in the process. I am so grateful to everyone who has been a part of my Voter Service experience.

Now I am very happy to report that the position of LWVF Voter Service Chair will be taken up by Carol McKeon. She is a relatively new League member and a very energetic, organized and qualified woman.

The Voter Service Committee provides a very positive public image of the League in Falmouth. With Carol at the helm, it will surely achieve great things as it continues its goal of educating the public about voting issues.

WELCOME TO THE NEW LWVF MEMBERS who joined us in June:

Mary & Charlotte Harris, Serena LoPiccolo, and Joan Power

Message from the Membership Chair:

Renewal request letters for the 2017-18 LWVF year have been sent out through the US Post Office to those whose memberships expired on 30 June 2017. Thanks to those members who have already renewed.

NOTE: New members who have joined after January 31, 2017 have not been sent renewal requests; their memberships will not expire until June 20, 2018

Jackie Webster, Membership Chair

LWVF WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBER OLIVANN HOBBI

Marcia Easterling

The Board of the LWVF welcomes its new Board member and Publicity Chair, Olivann Hobbie. Olivann is a long-time resident of Falmouth and a recently retired founding faculty member of Falmouth Academy. Olivann is no stranger to the League of Women Voters; in the decade before moving to Falmouth in 1976, she was a member of the League in Raleigh, North Carolina. And in more than 40 years as a teacher of English and the humanities, she has honed her skills as a reader and writer. Moreover, she is currently co-editor of *Sprintsail*, the biennial publication of the Woods Hole Historical Museum.

Olivann is a long-transplanted Westerner. Born in Utah, Olivann spent part of her childhood in Wyoming before her family settled in Long Beach, California and where she attended high school. She is a graduate of the University of California at Berkeley where she met her husband John. Following their marriage, John's career took them to Indiana, Alaska, Sweden and then to North Carolina before John came to the MBL in 1976. Each of their three sons was born in a different place.

Among her many talents, Olivann is an accomplished pianist. She credits a beloved piano teacher, her wonderful mother, and some extraordinary female teachers as the salient influences of her life. Some years ago, League members may remember, she was a last-minute stand-in for a harpsichordist scheduled to play with the Simon Sinfonietta.

Olivann is a passionate environmentalist, world traveler, and student of world cultures and languages. She founded the World Cultures course for seniors at Falmouth Academy. She has also studied modern dance as an adult, purely for the joy of it. Asked what question she would like to address that had not been posed to her in our interview, Olivann wondered what actions the League of Women Voters might take to help restore greater civility and open-mindedness in our society. Olivann is looking forward to working with, and learning from, the committed members of the League of Women Voters of Falmouth and its Board.

EDWARD T. HEYLIN, C.P.A. C.S.E.P.

19 FALMOUTH HEIGHTS ROAD
FALMOUTH, MASSACHUSETTS 02540

508-540-5386
FAX 508-540-5524

OBSERVER CORPS REPORT FOR JUNE 15TH MEETING

Denise Morreale, Observer Corps Chair

Our Observer Corps Meeting held on Thursday, June 15 at Town Hall was a wonderful success. The group of 30 or so League members, Observers, and interested parties decided to move the chairs into a circle. All were able to introduce themselves and briefly describe their individual reasons for attending.

Observer Doris Epstein reported on the EDIC, Kathleen Murray reported on Board of Selectmen and Stephanie Miele presented her report on the Board of Health. During the question and answer period, Selectman Sam Patterson, who had stated his mission to be a link between the town's organizations and the Board of Selectmen, answered many of the questions the audience asked regarding Open Meeting Law and information accessibility.

All of the new Observers, some of whom have already started their duties were in attendance. Richard Johnson, Zoning Board of Appeals Observer, delivered his report from the floor. The audience was also treated to exchanges from new Observers, old Observers, and members of the audience. The entire group was engaged and energetic.

The formal reports will be published in the bulletin as space dictates. Chairs of the Boards and Committees will receive written reports which pertain to their group.

During our Planning session for the coming year, the Board of Directors has set February 15, 2018 as a League Unit Meeting for Observer Reports, as well as June 21, 2018.

Our 2017-2018 Observers are:

- Richard Johnson -Zoning Board of Appeal
- Suzanne Thomas - Solid Waste Advisory
- Meghan Palanza - School Committee
- Mariam Cronin - Water Quality Management
- Aileen Jenson - Planning Board
- Kathleen Murray - Board of Selectmen
- Stephanie Miele - Board of Health
- Carol Chittenden - EDIC
- Jennifer Alai - Library Trustees
- Laura Brothers - Substance Abuse Commission

Denise Morreale, Observer Corps Chair

New Members Welcomed to the Observer Core

Mariam Cronin

My husband and I relocated to Hatchville five years ago to enjoy our retirement in a beautiful seaside location and to be closer to family, including 2 grown children. I joined the League's Observer Corps to learn more about the government of my adopted town. I chose to observe the Water Quality Management Board because I believe their mission is critical to the economic and physical health of all the residents in town and because I have a lifelong interest in ecology.



A Boston native, I earned a BA (Biology) and an MBA. My first career in NY was in marketing and new product development for Kraft/Nabisco and PepsiCo. My second career was in real estate in FL. In each location I was lucky enough to live on the water (lakes or the Intracoastal) where water quality issues were similar in magnitude, if different in detail, from Falmouth's.

I am a student of TaiChi, an Audubon volunteer, and a member of the year round informal Chappaquoit/Black Beach walking community.

Jenifer Alai

Jenifer is an Associate Professor of Chemistry at Cape Cod Community College. She has four grown children who attended Falmouth Public Schools. Jenifer grew up in upstate NY, attended grad school in CO and lived there for 13 years before moving to Cape Cod. In her previous life, she worked as an environmental consultant. She currently lives with her husband in Hatchville. Jenifer enjoys reading and gardening.



LWVF FRIENDS 2017

Sally Fritz
Christina Jacobi
Winnie and Bill Mackey
Robert Schneider
Freddy Valois
Helen Wilson

Observer Core Reports 2016-2017

Board of selectmen:

Susan L. Moran- Chairman
Douglas C. Brown
Samuel H. Patterson

Megan English Braga- Vice Chairman
Doug Jones

Meeting every other Monday 7:pm Selectmen's Meeting Room

The five selectmen work well together and I foresee that continuing to happen in the coming year. It is interesting to see individual strengths of the Selectmen working to make a cohesive entity. They prepare for Town Meetings aware of Falmouth finances.

Many executive sessions, mostly regarding litigation were held this year. The purpose of the executive session was posted and ended near the time scheduled for the regular meeting. Meetings are normally every other Monday and usually have some items of interest to the citizens of Falmouth. These items include just for discussion at that meeting or action then or later.



Early in the meetings proclamations are read and time for public comments is given. It was nice to see so many Eagle Scouts recognized this year. Allocating a time for brief non-agenda public comment worked again this year, following the rule of no comment by selectmen during the meeting. Public Hearings continue to be held as close as possible to the posted time.

Licenses are the responsibility of the Board. There has been an effort to organize renewal licenses in groups to improve efficiency. Many special events may now arrive as recurring and recommended. These two groups of items have shortened the length of time for Selectmen meetings. One day licenses, a new or changed license, and new events continue to be handled separately. While Special Event fees have been set they may come in for a waiver and are often granted.

Regular business items normally are last following hearings, summary of actions and administrative orders. Various reports discussion of interest to the selectmen and the citizenry are made at this time. This year included water and wastewater monthly reports, including financials on Falmouth's huge project. That will soon be finishing while staying on time and on budget to the Town's great pleasure.

Competitive or new candidates for boards and committees are interviewed. Unfortunately, this is often late in the evening during the business portion. This could be difficult for needed candidates so I hope there is a way to do it earlier on the agenda.

Kathleen H. Murray

Board of Health

Mission Statement: "The mission of the Falmouth Board of Health is to protect and promote the health, safety, and well-being of the residents and visitors of the Town of Falmouth."

The primary functions of the Board of Health to achieve our mission are to:

- Prevent and control disease
- Enforce state and local regulations
- Promulgate local health regulations
- Identify and protect from environmental hazards
- Advocate for a healthy community

The Board of Health meets on alternate Mondays at 7:30 in the Civil Defense Room at Town Hall.

The members of the Board are:
Jared Goldstone, chairperson
Diana Molloy,
George Heufelder,
Stephen Rafferty
John Waterbury.



Richard A. Armstrong, D.P.M.
Ethel R. Baylor, D.P.M.

"Your Foot Health Care Team"

Falmouth Podiatry

Homeport
342A Gifford Street
Falmouth, MA 02540

508-540-5164
Fax: 508-540-5175

Also attending each meeting is health agent David Carignan, and assistant health agent Mallory Langler.

All meetings are recorded for clarification, when needed.

The Board is observant of the open meeting law. This was demonstrated in a discussion of upgrading the email list where the members discussed the types of things that they could and could not discuss via email so as not to violate the open meeting law. They also recently rescheduled a meeting which they realized had not been posted in a timely fashion due to a new policy of posting agendas on the new town website.

Mallory Langler joined the Falmouth Health Department last year as the assistant health agent and has been a presence at the Board of Health meetings reporting on her varied activities such as restaurant inspections, septic system inspections, and steps the Department is taking to educate the public about certain health risks such as tick bites.

One of the regular items of business is the granting of variances for septic upgrades. An issue that has arisen recently, with the installation of alternative technology systems, is the problem of non-compliance where the required schedule of inspections is not maintained. The Health Department must follow up on this by issuing a non-criminal citation that then becomes a criminal citation if the fine goes unpaid. But it is difficult to pursue because of the need to acquire a birthdate, social security number, or driver's license number of the offender.

One item discussed this year was the revision of well water regulations. Health Agent David Carignan said the impetus to review the regulations came after inquiries from one irrigation well driller who had potential customers in mind in the Little Pond sewer service area. Current regulations state that irrigation wells must be 50 feet from the property line but these properties are smaller and do not allow for that amount of space. New regulations allow for a distance of 10 feet for lots served by Town sewer irrigation wells provided that only subsurface irrigation is used. Irrigation wells are independent water systems that are not connected to town water and not subject to water meter charges. Drinking water wells must be 100 feet from the nearest septic system. All wells must comply with the same water use restrictions as the Town's public water supply.



Also discussed was updating the list of contaminants to monitor in well water and the effect that any state-mandated water restrictions may have in regard to drawing water from a well. Previous focus was on contaminants from the Ashumet Valley Plume but the Board wants to be certain that it monitors wastewater contaminants in the groundwater as well.

The results of the November election to legalize marijuana brought with it the question of whether or not to opt out of the retail sale of marijuana products. Although it is legal in the state to sell these products, each town has the right to opt out. Members of the Board were in favor of the opt out provision but it

was up to Town Meeting members to vote to put the question on the ballot for the election on May 16 and then for the electorate to decide.

Quite a bit of time was devoted to discussion about tick born diseases and how to educate the public on how to best avoid ticks, how to protect yourself from them when walking or working in wooded areas, and what to do when you find them. The Board also discussed the need to educate physicians on diagnosing tick diseases and treating them proactively.

The Falmouth Health Department is conducting a series of new public health seminars in an effort to reach out to the community, following the mission statement "to protect and promote the health, safety, and well-being of the residents and visitors of the Town of Falmouth." In addition to the talk about ticks and an April talk on substance abuse, there will be a seminar on heatstroke in June and mosquito awareness in July.

The Board works well as a unit and continues to be concerned and courteous to the people who appear before it.

Submitted by,
Stephanie Miele
League of Women Voters Observer

Environmental Forum Coming in November



The Environmental Forum will be on Saturday, November 4th at the Falmouth Public Library. The speaker will be Ellen Marie Douglas, PE, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Hydrology, School for the Environment, UMass Boston. She will be speaking on "Extreme Events and Climate Change: What We Know and What We Can Do" as it pertains to Falmouth. Mark your calendar!

rectory

Ellen Marie Douglas,
PE, Ph.D.
