



League of Women Voters® of Falmouth Bulletin

FEBRUARY 2018

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Contact Us

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Member Event Calendar

February 2018

15	7:30 pm	Observer Corps Reports Town Hall Civil Defense Room **Meet for dinner at Gourmet Garden at 6pm**
27	7:30 pm	Board Meeting Falmouth Hospital Maternity Room

March 2018

Please Correct your Membership Directory with the following date:

Tuesday 13	7:30 pm	Legislative Program Hermann Room, Falmouth Public Library
27	7:30 pm	Board Meeting Falmouth Hospital Maternity Room

LWVF Board of Directors 2017-2018

STEERING COMMITTEE

Steering Committee Chair	Sylvia Szulkin
First Vice-President	Betsy Fontes
Second Vice-President	Meg Borden
At Large	Alice Carey
At Large	Doris Epstein
Secretary	Catherine Kligler
Treasurer	Joanne Voorhis
Webmaster	Joan Boyer
Facebook	Penny Duby
At Large	Kathy Mortenson
	Olivia White
	Membership
	Voter Service
	Observer Corps
	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

By Alice Carey

As we enter 2018, I can think of no better message to share with you than this letter from the President of the Massachusetts League. It is inspirational in its essence and specific in showing the many ways that we, as League members, can be proactive in the coming months.

From the LWVMA President

Dear League Members,

This January marks the anniversary of the women's marches around the country, and for many of you, when you joined the League. While many of us marched again this January, all of us have been active in the civic engagement that has always characterized the League.

Now is the time to act. We have particularly focused on **four areas for legislative advocacy** this year: **automatic voter registration, safe communities, comprehensive criminal justice reform, and carbon pricing/energy bills.** Criminal justice reform is with a conference committee to combine the House and Senate versions, **but your help is urgently needed to get bills related to the other three priorities out of joint committees. Join us on January 31 at the State House to lobby for automatic voter registration, and call your legislators to request action on immigration and climate change legislation. Consider becoming a Legislative Envoy** to keep your local members informed about the progress of bills and the positions of your legislators.

Be Vigilant. Now more than ever it is vital that we all pay attention. The League will always protect the rights of voters, ensure all eligible voters are able to participate, and provide voters with accurate information about who and what is on their ballots. Our League Candidate Forums provide a service to our communities... For those of us with spring elections in our towns, urge new people to run for elected office, and encourage a robust turnout for these local elections, where every vote can make a difference.

Educate yourself. League members pride themselves on being smart, savvy consumers of news, and taking the time to learn about issues. Watch for more information about our spring conference (**save the date for Saturday, April 28**), where we'll bring together League members and members of our communities eager to learn more about the issues facing all of us today, and the role that women especially can play in defending and strengthening our democracy.

All of us on the LWVMA Board are here to help you engage and be a part of our work. **Thank you for everything you each do!**

Mary Ann Ashton

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

Margaret Cooper, Legislative Chair

The League will conduct our annual discussion with our legislators on Tuesday evening, March 13 at 7:30 in the Hermann Room in the main library. For the first 45 minutes State Senator "Vinny" Demacedo and state Representatives David Vieira and Dylan Fernandes will be asked to comment on four bills that LWVMA is supporting this legislative session.

H2091 / S 373 is an Act to automatically register eligible voters and enhance safeguards against fraud.

H1726 / S1821 is intended to combat climate change, promoting green infrastructure, reducing greenhouse gas emission and creating related jobs.

S777 / H2359 is intended to reduce the criminalization of poverty.

H673 / S 723 focuses on building more affordable housing, zoning changes to increase development, accessory units in single family housing and community scale housing.

The remaining 45 minutes will be devoted to Q&A from the audience. Before the meeting, we will submit an announcement to the Enterprise that will invite the public.

Unlike past years, we are pleased that this year's meeting is being planned by a committee. Three enthusiastic new members have agreed to help research the bills to be discussed: Olivia White, Liz Brown and John Carroll. In addition, they are preparing a brief slide show to facilitate the discussion. They will also help to present information to the legislators along with Joanne Treistmann, a new member of the Voters Service Committee.

Moreover, another new member, Carol Rader, volunteered to track and support the Safe Communities Act. In discussing this bill with Representative Vieira she learned that a different but important bill (one submitted by Governor Baker) is scheduled for a hearing on January 30. She passed this valuable information on to our state league.



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OBSERVER CORPS PROGRAM FEBRUARY 15

Denise Morreale, Chair

The Observer Corps will be presenting some of the reports for the 2017-2018 meetings on February 15, 2018 at 7:30pm in the Town Hall Civil Defense Room. Some of the reports which were not presented last June will be delivered at this time.

For the February 15 meeting on Thursday, Carol Chittenden (EDIC), Mariam Cronin (Water Quality), Suzanne Thomas (Solid Waste Advisory), Jennifer Alai (Library Board of Trustees), and Laura Brothers (Substance Abuse Commission) will present reports and respond to a short question and answer period.

This evening is a chance for you to meet some of the new Observer Corps members and reacquaint yourselves with some of our seasoned veterans. Our Observers are amazing! The enthusiasm, willingness to inform

themselves of background issues brought before their respective boards and ability to absorb, retain, and respectfully report the details of the meetings while watching the participants is quite an art.

It may come as a surprise to most of you that very few Massachusetts Leagues have an active Observer Corps. It is a difficult and time-consuming job but an extremely important one. Ensuring the Open Meeting Law compliance remains understood by all Boards and Committees is a responsibility this brave group does not take lightly. Thank you to all our Observers. Fantastic job! At last count, there are 40 town Committees in Falmouth. This means there are many more spots for potential Observers. We would love to have you on the team.



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

"Your Foot Health Care Team"

Falmouth Podiatry

Homeport
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Falmouth, MA 02540

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CLIMATE CHANGE FORUM UPDATE

In an Email from Karen Price, LWVMA Director and Program and Action Co-Chair/ Ballot Question Study Co-Chair, we have learned that the video of our November 4, 2017 Forum has been posted on the State League website and the LWVMA YouTube channel. Thank You to Chris and Pam Polloni for following up on this task. Here is the YouTube link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Ks8KqwN3CU&t=4s&index=3&list=PLvJISlqPXGfhIVI5TbrFdX-RbXXfyQP5e>

UPDATE ON MA SENATE COMMITTEE ON GLOBAL WARMING AND CLIMATE CHANGE

From Launa Zimmaro, LWVMA Legislative Specialist for the Environment

A Senate Committee on Global Warming and Climate Change met on January 24, 2018. The Report can be found on the MA State Legislature website.

This report from the Senate Committee on Global Warming on Climate Change is based on the 10 sessions held last year throughout the Commonwealth to hear the public's thoughts on climate change and the future of clean energy in MA.

A promising excerpt that includes a call for citizen action from the report follows:

"In order for your priorities to become law, you must continue to let your elected officials know where you stand on clean energy. You must continue to stay informed. You must continue to spread the word. If you're reading this, you're doing a great job of it already.

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

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We are currently drafting a substantial piece of legislation to further develop a clean energy future for the Commonwealth. There are several pieces before our body that provide a vehicle for an omnibus energy bill consisting of the people's priorities, and we look forward to unveiling the final result in the coming days."

There are actions we can take to let our legislators know that we expect MA to lead on clean energy through calls, emails, letters and participating in organized events such as the upcoming Valentine's Lobby Day at the State House on Wednesday Feb. 14th, 2018 - a date I'm sure of!



LWVF FRIENDS 2017-2018

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



REVIEW OF LOCAL PROGRAM PLANNING MEETING

By Sylvia Szulkin

On January 18, Falmouth Leaguers met in the old civil defense room in Town Hall to review current action priorities and to choose a new local study for the July 2018-June 2019 League year.

With regard to our Priority Action Items, the group decided to carry over three of the existing four priorities—Making Civic Engagement Collaborative, The Environment, and the Effectiveness of Town Government—and to re-categorize Water Quality as a Continuing Action Item. Leaguers at the meeting agreed that water quality issues were matters of ongoing concern but that government committees such as the Water Quality Management Committee and private non-profits were already taking effective action to ensure improvement of local waterways and the local water supply. The group agreed that Affordable Housing remain a continuing action item.

Discussion leader Sylvia Szulkin reviewed criteria for choosing a local study:

- (a) Is the suggested subject a significant public concern?
- (b) Is the study timely?
- (c) Is this a subject accessible to non-experts?
- (d) Is this a study which League members have the tools to research? That is to say, would undertaking the study require expertise and time beyond the resources of many laypeople?
- (e) Do we have someone willing to lead the study group?
- (f) Do we appear to have a sufficient number of Leaguers willing to participate in the study?
- (g) Is this likely to be a one or two-year study?

The Falmouth League's Steering Committee had suggested a study provisionally titled "Making the Most of Volunteers in Falmouth Town Government." An audience member suggested a study of the needs of Falmouth's senior citizens. A few of the members in attendance asked that we undertake a study only if it would foreseeably lead to some kind of action.

Following a spirited discussion, the group reached consensus on the following study: **"An Analysis of the Role of Appointed Committees in Falmouth Town Government."** **The consensus included a proviso that the study be followed by recommendations from the committee to strengthen volunteer satisfaction and effectiveness.**

Our thanks and admiration to Judy Stetson for keeping up with the many twists and turns in the discussion as she recorded emerging ideas on a large flip chart. Judy being Judy, she managed to add her own input while accurately and legibly recording the developing consensus.

Doris Epstein and Sylvia Szulkin have agreed to co-chair the study committee if the study is approved at our Annual Meeting on May 12. The committee would begin meeting in the early fall.

TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE

By Sylvia Szulkin

Our League Board has been hearing comments about the time that we begin our monthly meetings. Some members are suggesting that we hold all meetings during daylight hours because of the number of members who don't like to drive after sundown. Other members are suggesting that we begin our public meetings at an earlier evening hour such as 6 p.m. or 7 p.m. to accommodate those who don't like to stay up past 9:30 p.m. We have also heard a recommendation that we begin all our meetings at 4 or 4:30 p.m. to accommodate the dinner hour.

Other members are satisfied with the current 7:30 p.m. opening for our public meetings because it seems to allow those with day jobs and young children to meet their work and family schedules. We have also heard from a contingent that wants the study committees to hold both morning and evening meetings.

What do you think? Please weigh in by contacting Sylvia Szulkin, szulkin@comcast.net



League of Women Voters
P.O. Box 450
Falmouth, MA 02541

LEAGUE OF
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REPORT ON ENGAGE FALMOUTH JANUARY 29, 2018 VOLUNTEER FAIR

LWVF Participates in “Engagement Party”

The LWVF participated in the second annual Engage Falmouth Volunteer Fair held on Sunday afternoon January 28th at the Waquoit Congregational Church. Jackie Webster (Membership Chair) reported that over 30 people signed up as potential LWVF members and Jackie will be sending them membership applications. Carol McKeon, Sylvia Szulkin, Joanne Treistman and Olivia White also helped to provide information about the League and civic engagement. Despite the rainy afternoon, the “Engagement Party” brought together a lively group of organizers and community members.

