



League of Women Voters® of Falmouth Bulletin

January 2019

In This Issue

In Memoriam.....page 2
 Get More Involved with
 The League.....page 3
 January 17th Presentation
 & Consensus Meeting
page 4
 The Falmouth League in
 Action.....page 4
 LWVF Letter to the FCC
page 5
 Open Meeting Laws & You
 the League Member
page 6
 Candidates Night
page 6
 Update on the Local
 Study.....page 7
 Natural Resources
 Presentationpage 8
 LWVF Friends.....page 9

Contact Us

Our address:
**League of Women
 Voters of Falmouth**
P. O. Box 450
Falmouth, MA 02541
Send us an email
league@lwvf.org or
bulletin@lwvf.org
Visit our web site
www.lwvf.org
Visit our Facebook page
<https://www.facebook.com/LWVofFalmouthMA/>

Member Event Calendar

January 2019

- 17 7:00 pm** **Ballot Question Process Consensus***
 Town Hall Civil Defense Room
 *Members are requested to bring their
 "2018 Information for Voters" red booklet
- 22 7:00 pm** **Board Meeting**
 Gus Canty Center, Falmouth

February 2019

- 21 7:00 pm** **Observer Corps Report Presentations**
 Hermann Room, Falmouth Public Library
- 26 7:00 pm** **Board Meeting**
 Gus Canty Center, Falmouth

LWVF Board of Directors 2018-2019

STEERING COMMITTEE

First Vice-President		Sylvia Szulkin , Steering Committee Chair	
Second Vice-President		Alice Carey	
At Large		Doris Epstein	
At Large		Joanne Treistman	
Observer Corps		Denise Morreale	
Secretary	Mariam Cronin	Membership	Jacqueline Webster
Treasurer	Joanne Voorhis	Voter Service	Carol McKeon
Webmaster	Joan Boyer	Natural Resources	Richard Johnson
At Large	Kathy Mortenson	Legislative	Vacant
	Olivia White	Publicity	Olivann Hobbie
Social Media	Penny Duby	Follow-Up Coordinator	Meghan Hanawalt

Bulletin Editors: **Denise Morreale, 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.

IN MEMORIAM

Sylvia Szulkin, Steering Committee Chair

Susan (Harris) Romann Kingwill, a former resident of Woods Hole, died December 6 at Ten Broeck Commons in Lake Katrine, New York. She was 79.

Susan was a distinguished musical director and arranger. She was one of only five women conductors in New York City during the 1970s. She conducted many productions, including "Promenade," and played piano for "Side by Side by Sondheim" on Broadway. She was also pianist for "The Fantasticks" and the pianist and rehearsal conductor at the New York City Opera for more than 10 years.

In her retirement, Susan was active in Falmouth's Democratic Town Committee and a member of the League of Women Voters of Falmouth.

She leaves her children, grandchildren, and extended family.*
*This information was taken from an obituary in the December 21, 2018 edition of The Falmouth Enterprise and from conversations between her son Racine M. Romaguerra and a representative of the Falmouth League.



Kathleen (Hurley) Murray passed away at home on November 18, 2018 at the age of 76. From the time she moved to Falmouth in 1983, Kathy immersed herself as a volunteer in the life of our community, holding elective public office as a Library Trustee and Town Meeting member and leadership positions in many and diverse non-profit organizations.

In addition to being a member of our League Board, Kathy distinguished herself as a long-term observer of the Board of Selectmen for the Observer Corps. When the Selectmen learned of Kathy's illness, they voted to issue a Proclamation of Gratitude to Kathy for her long and valued service. The Proclamation recognized her "keen intelligence, inquisitiveness, dedication and hard work" and "the love that your Townspeople feel for you." The Proclamation was read to Kathy by a League member a few days before she died. The Proclamation was read publicly and accepted by members of Kathy's family at the November 19th Board of Selectmen's meeting. Just a week earlier, Town Moderator David Vieira gave a moving tribute to Kathy during the opening hour of Town Meeting. Kathy was able to watch the proceedings on FCTV and indicated her appreciation for the honor.

Michael T. Corgan of Falmouth died on November 20, 2018 at the age of 77. Although Michael had only recently joined our League chapter, he was already well-known to our membership as a guest lecturer at our monthly meetings, and well-known to the community at-large for his engagement in numerous civic activities. After moving to Falmouth in 1991, Michael served on the town Charter Review Committee twice, on the Cable Advisory Committee, and on the Falmouth Community Television Board of Directors. Michael taught Joy of Learning classes at the Falmouth Public Library, wrote a monthly column for The Falmouth Enterprise titled "All Politics is Local," and hosted an FCTV program called "Falmouth Issues and Answers."

For all these local endeavors Michael was able to draw on a variety of accomplishments, including graduation from the U.S. Naval Academy, teaching assignments at the Academy, National Defense University and the US Naval War College, a masters degree in public administration from the University of Washington, his Ph.D from Boston University in political science and many years as an associate professor of international relations at Boston University.

Michael retired twice, once from the U.S. Navy with the rank of Commander, and once from academe as an Associate Professor. At the time of his death, his new career as a volunteer citizen was well-launched and greatly appreciated.



IS THIS THE YEAR YOU WANT TO GET MORE INVOLVED WITH THE FALMOUTH LEAGUE?

Denise Morreale, Observer Corps Chair

This is an exciting year for Falmouth League of Women Voters! We have many opportunities to join a Committee or Study available. There is a Committee to discuss the Annual Meeting which will be held in May. The Centennial Celebration of the League in 2020 needs a committee to organize ideas for our participation. That group is looking for ideas and input. The Observer Corps has a need for an Observer for the Planning Board and Finance Committee along with other Committees and Boards. If one of these ideas "speaks to you", call us or send an email.



Natural Brush Clearing and Poison Ivy Control

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JANUARY 17, 2019 PRESENTATION AND CONSENSUS MEETING

Alice Carey, Second Vice-President

The League of Women Voters MA issued a call to the membership to participate in the study of the Massachusetts Ballot Question Process. The Study Scope was to review the Massachusetts laws and regulations that govern statewide citizen-initiated ballot questions (initiative and referendum process); consider the consequences of current laws and regulations; and propose concrete next steps that LWVMA could take to enact change, if the study results in recommended change.

The hardy group assembled to tackle the volumes of data for this study will present an overview of the material which can be found on the State League website (lwwma.org) on January 17, 2019 at 7:00 pm in the Town Hall Civil Defense Room. The purpose of the meeting is to vote on the consensus questions. All League members are asked to bring their red booklets "2018 Information for Voters" if they still have them. The study and consensus process is a vital part of the League. It answers the basic questions of how the League determines its position on key issues which leads to lobbying to enact change.

THE FALMOUTH LEAGUE IN ACTION

Sylvia Szulkin, First Vice-President

At our May 2018 Annual Meeting our members discussed how the Falmouth League could increase its impact in our community. One suggestion called for more frequent collaboration between the League and other community groups on issues of mutual interest.

As you know, the Falmouth League often works with FCTV, our community cable station, to present programs that benefit the community and the station, including our semiannual Candidates' Nights, and presentations by experts in such fields as constitutional law, politics, and the environmental sciences. An issue arose recently on which the Falmouth League Board agreed to support FCTV and other community cable stations in their opposition to a proposed FCC regulation. That proposed regulation would allow cable companies to substantially decrease their financial contributions to community cable stations, forcing the stations to decrease the number, variety and professionalism of their offerings. The following letter was sent to the FCC by the Falmouth League of Women Voters:



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

December 10, 2018

The Honorable Ajit Pai, Chairman
The Honorable Michael O'Reilly, Commissioner
The Honorable Brendan Carr, Commissioner
The Honorable Jessica Rosenworsel, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
455 12th Street, Southwest
Washington, DC, 20544

RE: MB Docket No 05-311 In the Matter of Implementation of Section 621(a)(1) of the Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984 as Amended by the Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992

I am writing on behalf of the League of Women Voters of Falmouth, Massachusetts in support of the Comments of the Cable Act Preservation Alliance ("CAPA") in the Second Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making. We oppose the tentative conclusions of the FCC in the proceeding because of their impacts on our community.

The League of Women Voters is a nationwide non-partisan political organization which never supports a political party or political candidate. Our mission is to encourage informed and active participation in government and to increase understanding of major public policy issues. We present a number of public forums on policy issues. Most of these programs are televised to our community by FCTV, our community cable television station.

Our signature events are our semi-annual Candidates' Nights. Candidates' Nights provide a town-wide forum for all candidates in local and regional races to answer questions on issues that concern the voters. Almost one-third of Falmouth's year-round residents are senior citizens. Many of them cannot attend Candidates' Nights due to physical limitations. **They rely on our community cable television station FCTV for its broadcasts of the League's Candidates' Nights to inform themselves about the candidates and the issues.** Through the auspices of FCTV and the League they can hear their own and their neighbors' questions answered in real-time as well as in re-broadcasts on FCTV. The fees paid to the Town of Falmouth by Comcast, our cable news carrier, enable FCTV to provide this valuable service. A picture is worth a thousand words; a live broadcast of the candidates in action is worth a ream of newsprint. Democracy in action is priceless.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Sylvia L. Szulkin, Chairperson
Steering Committee of the League of Women Voters of Falmouth
szulkin@comcast.net

OPEN MEETING LAWS AND YOU, THE LEAGUE MEMBER

Denise Morreale, Observer Corps Chair

One of the most valuable services a local League can offer its members, and often the community, is to observe town boards and committees. The Falmouth League has had a very active Observer Corps for many years, and it is well respected in the Town. Considered the eyes and ears of the League, the Observer Corps is dedicated to ensuring compliance with the Open Meeting Law.

On February 21, 2019 at 7:00 pm in the Hermann Room at Falmouth Library, there will be the first of two Observer Corps Report presentations. Laura Brothers -Substance Abuse Commission, Jenifer Alai -Library Trustees, Carol Chittenden -EDIC, Richard Johnson-Zoning Board of Appeals, and Suzanne Thomas -Solid Waste Advisory will be presenting at this meeting.



Considering the Local Study consists of a review of some of the Town's Boards and Committees and the Charter Review Committee is in the process of reviewing the Falmouth Town Charter, these reports will certainly add to the citizen's understanding of Falmouth Boards and Committees.

LWVF HOSTS CANDIDATES NIGHT

Carol McKeon, Voter Service Committee

The LWVF Candidates Night was held at the Falmouth High School auditorium on Wednesday October 17, 2018, one week before early voting began in Falmouth. The program was jointly sponsored by Falmouth Community TV (FCTV) who filmed the program live and offered it for replay on channel 13 in the weeks prior to the election. Mindy Todd of WCAI once again generously served as moderator.

The evening opened with candidates in uncontested races introducing themselves to the audience: Dylan Fernandes for state representative for Falmouth and the Islands; David Vieira for state representative for Mashpee and Falmouth; Susan Moran for Barnstable County Assembly of Delegates.

Following this, each pair of candidates for a contested race came to center stage and responded to questions from the moderator. Initial questions were prepared by the League and additional questions had been

submitted by the public in advance. The moderator ably maintained a fast-paced and informative exchange, and there was a brief time at the close of the evening for live questions from the audience.

Candidates Ron Bergstrom of Chatham and Leo Cakounes of Harwich competed for a four-year term on the Barnstable County Commission. Joseph Ferreira, Democrat, of Plymouth, and Thomas Keyes, Republican, of Plymouth vied for Governor's Council. Running for a two-year term in the Massachusetts State Senate were Vinny deMacedo, Republican of Plymouth, and Debra Rudolf, Democrat of Plymouth. William Keating, Democrat from Bourne, and Peter Tedeschi, Republican from Plymouth, faced off as candidates for the US House of Representatives, Ninth District.



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The League received many positive comments on the value to voters of hearing from candidates for this range of offices. We are grateful to FCTV, Mindy Todd, and the staff of the Falmouth High School, as well as The Falmouth Enterprise and Engage Falmouth who helped publicize the event.

UPDATE ON THE LOCAL STUDY

Sylvia Szulkin, First Vice-President

The Local Study is "The Role of Appointed Volunteers in Falmouth Town Government and How We Can Increase Volunteer Effectiveness and Satisfaction." (What a clunker of a name!) We've been meeting twice a month since the beginning of September. So far we've selected 8 out of the town's **50** volunteer committees to study, have devised a standard questionnaire to interview each of the eight committee chairs, have begun sitting in on committee meetings, and selected towns of comparable population and geographic size to examine with relation to their use of volunteer committees to advise town staff. The interview questionnaire covers each committee's mission statement and goals, adherence to the Open Meeting Law, ability to get a quorum for meetings, communications with the Selectmen and other Town boards and committees, accomplishments, disappointments and suggestions for improving the volunteer experience. We also intend to speak to members of the Observer Corps who have been observing.

We will report to the membership in April but may be asking to extend the study over one more year. Since the study is being carried out simultaneously with the work of the Charter Review Committee, we hope that our findings may be used to inform the amended Charter's guidelines and rules for volunteer committees.



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

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If any of the Observers would like to join in the local study or know someone who may be interested, there is still time this year to join and make an impact before our presentation in April, or to join in the second year of the study, if that comes to pass.

Our meetings are usually held on Wednesday mornings at 10 a.m. at Doris Epstein's house, 18 Lawrence Farm Road, Woods Hole. It's a good idea to call ahead since we sometimes change meeting dates and times to accommodate members of the committee. Doris and I are the contact people.

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE CHAIR RICHARD JOHNSON'S SUMMARY OF PRESENTATION

Richard Johnson, Natural Resources Committee Chair

The Natural Resources Committee prepared and gave a presentation to the public on November 1 at the Falmouth Public Library on Solar Power for Falmouth. The presentation was motivated by a moratorium on solar power projects proposed by the Planning Board while they studied possible regulation of solar parking canopies in the Business Districts. The presentation grew to be a basic discussion of photovoltaics and how the Falmouth Zoning Code currently addresses regulation of solar power, as well as a discussion of the several Solar Warrant Articles up for votes at the November Town Meeting. The presentation was well attended by the public and a number of Town Meeting members, with Town Planner Thomas Bott and Planning Board Chair Jim Fox also in the audience. During the Question and Answer period, Mr. Bott and Mr. Fox clarified the language of the Articles and their intent. The Presentation was filmed for FCTV where it was broadcast several times prior to Town Meeting; a YouTube video of the presentation was also available online and had 85 views before Town Meeting.

At Town Meeting, the Article which would have brought solar parking canopies under Site Plan Review was rejected, a large ground mounted solar overlay district was approved, and the moratorium on solar projects was rejected. Several other Articles were unfortunately rejected: two proposing the possibility of large ground mounted solar arrays in all Light Industrial zones and in Agricultural zoned parcels greater than 20 acres, and a third calling for the Town to support liberalizing solar power regulation changes at the State level.



The Natural Resources Committee includes Richard Johnson, Chair; Denise Morreale, Kathy Mortenson, Kristin Moritz, Pam Polloni, Rosemary Carey and Joyce Johnson.



At the opening of the meeting, Dylan Fernandes, on behalf of the House of Representatives, presented Margaret Cooper a citation in recognition of her dedicated service to the League of Women Voters of Falmouth and the Falmouth community.

LWVF FRIENDS 2019

Barbara Douglass
Sally Fritz
Christina Jacobi
Winnie and Bill Mackey

Jane Sambade
Robert and Barbara Schneider
Freddy Valois
Helen Wilson