



# League of Women Voters<sup>®</sup> of Falmouth Bulletin

## OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 2017

### Member Event Calendar

#### In This Issue

- Steering Committee  
Message.....Page 2
- Know Your League  
.....Page 2
- Updating LWVF Position  
on Land Use in  
Falmouth.....Page 4
- LWVMA "Day on The  
Hill".....Page 5
- LWV Friends .....Page 5
- Climate Change Forum  
.....Page 6
- In Memoriam ....Page 6
- Making Government  
Work for You.....Page 7

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*Visit our web site*  
[www.lwvf.org](http://www.lwvf.org)

#### October 2017

- |           |                |   |
|-----------|----------------|---|
| <b>19</b> | <b>7:30 pm</b> | <b>We The People</b><br>Hermann Room, Falmouth Public Library<br>Dr. Jane Scarborough, Constitutional Scholar<br>**Meet for dinner at Gourmet Garden at 6pm** |
| <b>24</b> | <b>9:30 am</b> | <b>Day on the Hill</b>  |
| <b>24</b> | <b>7:30 pm</b> | <b>Board Meeting</b><br>Falmouth Hospital   |

#### November 2017

- |                   |                |  |
|-------------------|----------------|--|
| Saturday <b>4</b> | <b>1:00 pm</b> | <b>Climate Change Forum</b><br>Falmouth Public Library |
| Monday <b>6</b>   | <b>7:00 pm</b> | <b>Town Meeting</b>                                    |
| <b>28</b>         | <b>7:30 pm</b> | <b>Board Meeting</b><br>Falmouth Hospital              |

### LWVF Board of Directors 2017-2018

#### STEERING COMMITTEE

Steering Committee Chair	<b>Sylvia Szulkin</b>
First Vice-President	<b>Betsy Fontes</b>
Second Vice-President	<b>Meg Borden</b>
At Large	<b>Alice Carey</b>
At Large	<b>Doris Epstein</b>
Secretary	<b>Catherine Kligler</b>
Treasurer	<b>Joanne Voorhis</b>
Webmaster	<b>Joan Boyer</b>
At Large	<b>Barbara Fanger</b>
	<b>Kathy Mortenson</b>
	<b>Olivia White</b>
Membership	<b>Jacqueline Webster</b>
Voter Service	<b>Carol McKeon</b>
Observer Corp	<b>Denise Morreale</b>
Natural Resource	<b>Vacant</b>
Legislative	<b>Margaret Cooper</b>
Publicity	<b>Olivann Hobbie</b>
Bulletin Editor	<b>Brenda Nolan</b>

*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 Sylvia Szulkin

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After each election, our representatives at all levels take an oath to “protect and defend the Constitution of the United States.” Yet, how many of the voters and those they elect have more than a passing knowledge of the history, intent and wording of the U.S. Constitution?

One of the few phrases in our federal Constitution almost universally recognized is the opening phrase: **“We the People”**. On Thursday, October 19, at 7:30 p.m. in the Hermann Room of the Falmouth Public Library, Dr. Jane Scarborough, Constitutional law scholar and retired law professor, will present a talk and lead a discussion on an essential question: “Who are “We the People?” Who was originally included in that ringing phrase, how has the meaning of that phrase changed over the course of 230 years and how will our current understanding of that concept affect the future of our nation?

This meeting, sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Falmouth, is free and open to the public. The library’s Meeting Room doors, on the Katharine Lee Bates side of the building, will open at 7 p.m. Please mark this meeting as a priority on your busy schedule and encourage your friends and neighbors to attend.

On Saturday, November 4, our League will sponsor a very timely and important forum titled “Extreme Events and Climate Change Boston Area and Cape Cod: What We Know and What We Can Do.” The program will be held in the Hermann Room of the Falmouth Public Library from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. and will feature scientists from Falmouth and Boston. Pam Polloni of our local league and her committee have been working hard on this program for many months, starting well before the hurricane season. Recent weather catastrophes have borne out the importance of informing ourselves on climate change and countermeasures, especially for those of us in coastal communities. We hope to see you on November 4<sup>th</sup>.

## LEAGUE REVIEWS ITS PAST AND LOOKS TO THE FUTURE

By Sylvia Szulkin

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By happy coincidence, our September 26 monthly meeting—KNOW YOUR LEAGUE-- took place on National Voter Registration Day, a signature event for the League of Women Voters. The gathering took place in the lovely Music Room at Falmouth Academy and featured a power point presentation by Karen Price, a Director on the Board of the Massachusetts League and President of the Needham League. Karen introduced Kate Boland, a

Hingham League member who has recently joined the LWVMA Board as Membership Chair. Karen's talk included a review of how the League is structured, how the national, state and local levels interrelate and how Leagues on all levels go about reaching positions on current issues and advocating for those positions. Even long-time members of our League found it helpful to refresh our knowledge and appreciation for the League's unique process of education, consensus and advocacy.

Karen also addressed the many innovations the Massachusetts League has introduced over the last two years to encourage local League members to participate in the State League's research and advocacy activities. For example, the LWVMA now offers statewide Issue Groups, such as the LWVMA Steering Committee for Environmental Action and Advocacy. Pam Polloni represents the LWV Falmouth on the environmental Steering Committee. You need not leave your home to participate in planning events with other League members throughout the state. The 17 members of the Environmental Steering Committee hold monthly teleconferences to share information, and discuss action and advocacy. Regional conferences are planned via teleconference and webinars have already been held.



The State League now e-mails an Action Newsletter to every League member at the beginning of each month listing action and advocacy items on which members may want to join together at the State House. In addition, the LWVMA now offers its members a handbook titled The Citizen Lobbyist with tips on influencing government and making your voice heard. Finally, the latest innovation is the "Legislative Envoy Program" which links the State League's Legislative Action Committee and local Leagues across the Commonwealth.

There are now Coalition Lobby Days at the State House which individual League members may want to attend to lobby state legislators. For example, January 25 will be the date for League members to lobby for the Clean Energy For All bill. On January 31, League members will be able to join with other Leaguers to lobby on the Sexual Health bill. Further information on all of these initiatives can be found on the State League website: [www.LWVMA.org](http://www.LWVMA.org).

Our September 26 meeting owed its success to people in and out of the League. Our gratitude goes to George Scharr, Chair of the Falmouth

Academy Arts Department, for helping us find the right room and equipment for our meeting and to the Academy's maintenance staff who were so accommodating in setting up the space. And where would we have been without League member and retired Falmouth Academy Arts Department Chair Olivann Hobbie, who introduced us to George Scharr and got his approval for use of the room. Thank you too to the following League members who took care of all the details that made the meeting run smoothly: Alice Carey, Kathy Kligler, Carol McKeon, and Kathy Mortenson. Their graciousness and support are the best advertisement for joining the League.

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

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## **UPDATING LWVF POSITION ON LAND USE IN FALMOUTH**

Denise Morreale

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Committee Members are needed to join our Local Agenda program scheduled to be presented on April 19, 2018. Time commitment would probably be three meetings. Please email [joanboyer@verizon.net](mailto:joanboyer@verizon.net), if you can contribute.

At the annual meeting on May 13, 2017, the League of Women Voters of Falmouth voted for "Updating of LWF Position on Land Use in Falmouth" as our Local Study Program.

The current Land Use Position is in our Membership Directory under Local Positions. Consensus was first reached in 1972, It was last updated in 1991. Because of the current housing, zoning and economic realities facing us in 2017, the proposal is to review and update the position we have.

The League of Women Voters MA position on Land Use starts on page 29 of the "Where We Stand" position paper. Growth policy was the major focus of LWVMA's land use action in 1975 and 1976.

Community Preservation, Local Planning, Coastal Resiliency Action, Affordable Housing, Changes to Conversion Bylaw, Transfer of Development Bylaw, and Zoning Bylaw Restructuring are possible topics of consideration.

## **LWVMA DAY ON THE HILL**

**Tuesday, October 24, 2017 9:30-Noon**

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Two of the highest ranking women in the state legislature—**Rep. Patricia Haddad, Speaker Pro Tempore of the House**, and **Sen. Cynthia Creem, Assistant Senate Majority Leader of the Senate**—will be the keynote speakers at the League’s annual lobby day Tuesday, Oct. 24.

Day on the Hill’s theme is *Moving the Needle on League Priorities*, and the event will focus on legislation in four areas identified as priorities at the League’s convention last April:

- Elections: Automatic Voter Registration bill
- Climate Change: Carbon Pricing bills
- Immigration: Safe Communities bill
- Criminal Justice Reform: Comprehensive reform legislation

Day on the Hill is in the Great Hall at the State House. Registration and coffee begins at 9:30 a.m. and the program runs from 10 a.m. to noon.

Register for the lobby day on the LWVMA website. The LWVMA office will notify legislators to expect visits from their League constituents who register before Oct. 16 after the morning’s program. **League members can also make their own appointments with their legislators.**

Priority Legislation for Day on the Hill:

Automatic Voter Registration, S373/H2091

Carbon Pricing, S1821/H17256

Safe Communities Act, S1305/H3269

Omnibus Criminal Justice Reform Bill

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## **LWVF FRIENDS 2017**

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





## CLIMATE CHANGE FORUM

Pamela Polloni

The Falmouth League has two excellent local people, Stephanie Madsen and Robert Max Holmes, who have agreed to participate with Ellen Douglas in our forum on **November 4th**.

The League of Women Voters of Falmouth  
and the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts  
present

**Extreme Events and Climate Change  
Including Impact on Cape Cod:  
What We Know and What We Can Do**

**Saturday, November 4, 2017  
1:00 - 2:30 pm  
Falmouth Public Library  
300 Main Street**

**Speakers: Dr. Ellen Marie Douglas**  
School for the Environment, University of Massachusetts Boston

With local perspective from:  
**Stephanie Madsen, Sustainability Coordinator**  
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution  
**Dr. Robert Max Holmes, Deputy Director and Senior Scientist**  
Woods Hole Research Center

- What have we observed from our changing climate?
- What changes are in our future, especially for Cape Cod?
- What plans are in the works to adapt to these changes?

The event is free and open to the public.  
For information email LWV-Falmouth at [league@lwvf.org](mailto:league@lwvf.org).

Ms. Madsen is Sustainability Coordinator and Administrative Associate at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI) "for nearly a century one of the best known and most trusted names in ocean science and exploration." She was a longtime member of WHOI's Coastal Systems Group exploring climate and landscape and is now leading efforts secure the Institution's sustainability, reducing its climate-impacting energy footprint.

Dr. Holmes is Deputy Director and Senior Scientist of the Woods Hole Research Center "an independent research institute where scientists

*investigate the causes and effects of climate change to identify and implement opportunities for conservation, restoration and economic development around the globe."* He is an earth system scientist who studies rivers and their watersheds and how climate change and other disturbances are impacting the cycles of water and chemicals in the environment.

*In Memoriam*

*☞ Shirley Mossman Lisbet ☞*

## MAKING GOVERNMENT WORK FOR YOU

Denise Morreale

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September 18, 2017/Arlington, MA–Nearly 100 people filled the First Unitarian Universalist Church in Arlington to learn some of the finer points of changing laws and public policies from featured speakers Colleen Kirby, criminal-justice legislative specialist for the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts, and the 4th Middlesex (MA) District’s newly elected state senator, Cindy Friedman.

Lori Kenschaft, Coordinator of Mass Incarceration Working Group of the First Parish Unitarian Universalist of Arlington introduced the Speakers. Brenda Nolan and I attended the workshop and walked away with a better understanding of the complexity of our State Legislative system. There were several handouts addressing the paths a bill takes and the potential barriers along the way.

This year there are 5000 to 6000 bills presented. Chances of a small number becoming laws points to the need for collaboration, cooperation, and condensation. State Senator Friedman spoke of an Omnibus Criminal Justice Reform Bill being drafted by the Joint Committee on the Judiciary. This bill would include components of the number of Bills filed including repeal of

mandatory minimum sentences, reforms on solitary confinement, bail and parole practices, fines and fees, medical release, removal of mistaken arrests and juvenile arrests, support and expansion of restorative justice programs and other Criminal Justice Reform legislation.



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

*"Your Foot Health Care Team"*

### Falmouth Podiatry

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The League of Women Voters MA has this Omnibus Criminal Justice Reform Bill as one of its Priority Legislation for Day on the Hill, October 24<sup>th</sup>.

There is a lot of information on our State League website in reference to this meeting and the importance of advocating. Please consider joining a coalition, advocacy group, study group which is working on an issue you feel is particularly important to you. Your voice can be heard!

Reference materials offered were:

Miriam Stein’s short book “Make Your Voice Matter with Lawmakers: No Experience Necessary”

“The Citizen Lobbyist-Making Your Voice Heard: How to Influence Government Decisions” download on the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts.



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LEAGUE OF  
WOMEN VOTERS®

## OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 2017 Bulletin

### JOIN

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
*Democracy in Action*

### **DR. JANE SCARBOROUGH TO SPEAK ON THE CONCEPT OF "WE THE PEOPLE"**

On **Thursday, October 19 at 7:30 p.m.**, in the **Hermann Room of the Falmouth Public Library**, Dr. Jane Scarborough, retired law professor from Northeastern University School of Law, will discuss the concept of "We The People" as it appears in the Constitution of the United States and as it is used today in our national discourse. Dr. Scarborough describes the substance of her talk as follows:

#### ***Who are "We the People"?***

***These three words in the opening sentence of the Constitution are recognized around the world, even by those who have never read the Constitution: "Government of the people, for the people, and by the people" from Lincoln's Gettysburg Address was a call to return to those first principles as the Country faced the difficult task of reunion.***

***But from the beginning, "We the People" was not an inclusive concept. And ironically, with our population now more diverse than ever in its history, there are calls to limit who can claim membership in this "privileged" group. What lessons can we learn from the wise men who so long ago in Philadelphia understood that the starting point and foundation for our democracy was "We the People"?***

The talk is open to the public and admission is free. Dr. Scarborough holds a Ph.D in American Constitutional History from Rice University. Her continuing education courses on and off-Cape have won her a devoted following. Arrive early for this lecture.