



League of Women Voters® of Falmouth Bulletin

JANUARY 2018

Member Event Calendar

In This Issue

Steering Committee
MessagePage 2

Local Planning
January 18Page 3

Observer Corps
February 15Page 4

Review of Climate
Change Forum
.....Page 5

Friends of LWVF
.....Page 6

In MemoriamPage 6

Live Survey Dialogue
.....Page 7

January 2018

18	7:30 pm	National & Local Planning Town Hall Civil Defense Room **Meet for dinner at Gourmet Garden at 6pm**
23	7:30 pm	Board Meeting Falmouth Hospital Maternity Room

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
At Large	Kathy Mortenson
	Olivia White
Membership	Jacqueline Webster
Voter Service	Carol McKeon
Observer Corps	Denise Morreale
Natural Resource	Vacant
Legislative	Margaret Cooper
Publicity	Olivann Hobbie
Bulletin Editor	Brenda Nolan

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

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 Meg Borden

Is the Falmouth League sustainable? It has been almost 100 years since the Woods Hole League of Women Voters held an initial meeting on November 29, 1920. In tracing the Falmouth Enterprise digital archive on the Falmouth Public Library web page, I discovered this interesting piece of trivia, but it appears that the Woods Hole LWV was short lived. The Falmouth League of Women Voters started meeting in 1953 and has been a steady, continuous voice for democracy in the town ever since.

The League is very strong on voters service. The Voters Service Committee and the Legislative Liaison have created platforms to meet, greet and sometimes interrogate our current and potential town and regional leaders. We host educational forums on relevant issues ranging from Constitutional rights to water resources and climate change. The Observer Corps shares their collective insight with members and the community at large through regular summaries in the Falmouth Enterprise.

Local and national planning will be the focus of our member meeting on Thursday, January 18th. The LWVUS Board recommends that the Leagues continue the *Campaign for Making Democracy Work*. In addition, they want to "engage new and future activists around the League's core issues".

I am heartened that we gained a number of new members in the past year. Now we have to integrate and engage these new members. That is the steering committee's goal for the rest of our term. So my answer is, "yes, the Falmouth League will be sustainable when these new members join the steering committee and board and lift this skein of geese onwards".



THOUGHTS AND COMMENTS IN PREPARATION OF JANUARY 18 LOCAL PLANNING

The State Convention approved four action priorities and five action items for the next two years. The action priorities are listed on our website and define the area we will focus on. The action items are specific projects we plan to accomplish. While these priorities and items are our focus, they do not preclude action in other areas.

Action Priorities:

- Improving Elections and Campaign Finance Reform
- Equality and Justice • Civics Education and Civil Discourse
- Climate Change and the Environment
- Action Items:
 - LWVMA will support legislation and efforts to enact Election Day registration, automatic voter registration, revise voter registration deadlines, and expand early voting.
 - LWVMA will develop an action plan to encourage civil discourse, to encourage civic education at the state and local levels, and to encourage an accurately-informed electorate.
 - LWVMA will advocate for legislation to improve women's economic security and reproductive rights.
 - LWVMA will support a steering committee to work with local Leagues to hold community or regional forums on the impact of climate change, energy and the environment.
 - LWVMA will advocate for criminal justice reforms, including repeal of mandatory minimum sentences.



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

Civic engagement on the part of Falmouth citizens is definitely on the rise:

- Town Selectmen are presently involved in creating more positive and productive communication between residents and Town Hall. Motivating individuals to run for town offices and/or volunteer for town committees is an ongoing challenge. Volunteerism is a basic part of life in Falmouth – to remain a vibrant community Falmouth needs to continue and actively promote this tradition.
- Falmouth is justifiably proud of the work engaged in by Town Clerk Michael Palmer in getting out the votes in both State/Federal and Town elections. There is still work to be done in improving communication between Town Meeting members and their constituents so that everyone is aware of what is going on in the town and can become active participants in the governing process.
- Promoting Civic Engagement among its students is an ongoing objective of the Falmouth Public Schools.

- The work of Engage Falmouth over the past few months is very impressive.

The amazing turnout of people at the January 2017 Volunteer Fair designed to connect area residents with local causes, and attendance at other scheduled events evidenced an unprecedented concern of residents for the problems facing all of us within today's political climate.

Please consider reviewing some of the positions and action items on the State League website. At the January 18th Program Planning Meeting, we will choose to propose a Local Program for study which will be brought to Annual Meeting in May for a vote.

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. The reports which were not presented last June will be delivered at this time. Our Observers cover the following Boards: Zoning Board of Appeal, Solid Waste Advisory, School Committee, Water Quality Management, Planning Board, Board of Selectmen, Board of Health, EDIC, Library Trustees, and Substance Abuse Commission. We are looking forward to another engaging program.



FUNERAL HOMES • ESTABLISHED 1862

475 Main Street • Falmouth, MA 02540 • (508) 540-4172

Thank You Kathleen Murray!

A warm hug and a hearty "Thank You" to Kathleen Murray, our retiring Board of Selectmen Observer. Kathleen has been a member of the Observer Corps for many years and has been a very diligent, thoughtful, knowledgeable and caring Selectmen Observer. She certainly will still be a local government participant and member of the League. We look to Kathy to be a valuable resource for the newer members of the Observer Corps. Thank you!

Introducing the New Board of Selectmen Observer

The Observer Corps has a new member, Maggie Sweasy, who will be observing the Board of Selectmen. Maggie is fairly new to Falmouth, having moved here from Seattle, Washington. We are delighted she decided to join the League and become an Observer. Welcome, Maggie.

REVIEW OF CLIMATE CHANGE FORUM IN NOVEMBER

For those of you who were not able to participate in the Climate Forum on November 4, there is an article with photos and copies of the slide presentation and links to the other forums in the series on the state LWVMA website. Our local TV station FCTV Channel 13 has broadcast the forum also.

Congratulations to Pamela Polloni, former Chair of Natural Resources, for the fantastic program.

Almost 100 people came to hear Dr. Ellen Douglas' frank discussion of sea level rise and climate change, a topic of particular interest to coastal communities such as Falmouth. Two Cape-based speakers, Stephanie Madsen and Max Holmes, joined her in a panel discussion to provide the local perspective.



LWVF FRIENDS 2017-2018

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



LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

Margaret Cooper, Legislative Chair

Date Correction

Please mark your calendar for 7:30 pm on TUESDAY evening, March 13, for our annual discussion with our three state legislators. Yes, it's Tuesday, not our usual Thursday because the state senate often meets on Thursday evening. Representatives David Vieira and Dylan Fernandez along with state Senator "Vinny" Demacedo have agreed to come. The public will be invited.

Joining Forces on Social Media

The League of Women Voters of Falmouth has a web page and a Facebook page along with our bulletin, newspaper, flyers and email blasts which has worked fairly well to get our message out to the public. It has been suggested that we embark on an updated media program which includes Twitter, Instagram, and other social media avenues. All members interested in getting involved with this project, please contact Steering Committee member, Sylvia Szulkin, for more information.

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

19 FALMOUTH HEIGHTS ROAD
FALMOUTH, MASSACHUSETTS 02540

508-540-5386
FAX 508-540-5524

Are You Interested in Legislation at the State Level?

If that's a possibility, we need you on the Legislative Committee. One thing you could do is follow a piece of legislation on the LWVMA priority list which appeals to you. To see the list, go to lwwma.org, select LWVMA Advocacy from the menu bar, and scroll down to League-supported/opposed legislation 2017-2018.

In Memoriam

☞ *Jean Carlton* ☞

☞ *Jean Bigelow* ☞

VOLUNTEER AT LIVE SURVEY SPONSORED BY FALMOUTH BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Promoting civic engagement is one of the League's major goals. Our League is honored and very pleased that we've been asked by the Town Administration to participate in **Live Survey**. We need **6 volunteers** to work the microphones at the rehearsal and actual event so that townspeople who attend can literally be heard.

Here's what each volunteer will be asked to do:

1. Attend a one-hour rehearsal on Saturday, January 27 in the Falmouth High School auditorium starting at 1 p.m.

2. On Saturday, February 3 starting at 9 a.m. sharp carry a microphone to audience members wishing to speak. Since there will be one microphone for each volunteer, there will be no need for volunteers to run from one part of the auditorium to another. The February 3 program will end at 10:30 a.m. Light refreshments will be available from 8:30 a.m. until the program starts.

Please contact Sylvia Szulkin no later than January 22 if you want to volunteer. Sylvia can be reached at szulkin@comcast.net.

Falmouth Residents: We Want to Hear From YOU SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2018 @8:30am Falmouth High School Auditorium *the Live Survey Checklist*

- if you have never attended a Falmouth Town Meeting... or you always attend
- if you don't typically speak up but have ideas that may help your neighbors or community
- if you write letters to the Editor or send emails to public officials or have thought of doing so
- if you want to hear what your neighbors or community thinks is important for Falmouth
- if you want to feel engaged with how Falmouth is run but aren't sure how to do it
- if you want to be heard with your concerns, priorities or ideas for living and working in Falmouth

If you have a checkmark next to any of these statements, or are just curious, then please come to this first-ever Live Survey! This event, sponsored by your Board of Selectmen & facilitated by your neighbor, Linda Poque, seeks to promote civic engagement and inform the Selectmen strategic plans.

No presentations, just dialog among community members.

Live Survey Questions:

- What are the issues or situations you feel need to receive more attention than they currently have?
- What are your suggestions for encouraging civic engagement and discourse among all Falmouth-ites?
- What's on your wish list for ways to help and benefit this community, your neighbors, yourself?

Agenda

8:30am-9:00am: Find a seat, grab a bagel and cup of coffee
9:00am Sharp: Live Survey Begins & 10:30am Done!

[Type text]

[Type text]

[Type text]