



# League of Women Voters® of Falmouth Bulletin

**June 2019**

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## Contact Us

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[bulletin@lwvf.org](mailto:bulletin@lwvf.org)

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

<https://www.facebook.com/LWVofFalmouthMA/>

## Member Event Calendar

June 2019

**7 & 8**

**LWVMA Convention**

Westford Regency Inn & Conference Center

**20 7:00 pm**

**Observer Corps Reports**

Town Hall Civil Defense Room

**25 7:00 pm**

**Board Meeting**

Gus Canty Center, Falmouth

August 2019

**13 Noon**

**Brown Bag Porch Party**

Judy Stetson's Porch

## LWVF Board of Directors 2019-2020

### STEERING COMMITTEE

First Vice-President	<b>Sylvia Szulkin</b> , Steering Committee Chair		
Second Vice-President	<b>Alice Carey</b>		
At Large	<b>Doris Epstein</b>		
At Large	<b>Joanne Treistman</b>		
Webmaster	<b>Joan Boyer</b>		
Secretary	<b>Marcia Easterling</b>	Membership	<b>Jacqueline Webster</b>
Treasurer	<b>Meghan Hanawalt</b>	Voter Service	<b>Carol McKeon</b>
Observer Corps	<b>Denise Morreale</b>	Natural Resources	<b>Richard Johnson</b>
At Large	<b>Kathy Mortenson</b>	Legislative	<b>Judith Ziss</b>
	<b>Misty Niemeyer</b>	Publicity	<b>Olivann Hobbie</b>
Social Media	<b>Penny Duby</b>	Follow-Up Coordinator	<b>TBD</b>

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.*

## **MESSAGE FROM THE STEERING COMMITTEE**

Sylvia Szulkin, Chair of the Steering Committee

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Our appreciation to all of you for making 2018-2019 a banner year for our League. Whether you participated in a League study and shared your findings at a monthly public League meeting or attended such a meeting and offered your feedback, you have made a positive contribution to our organization and to our Town. If you were part of the Voter Service Committee that put together an outstanding Candidates' Night this May or took attendance at Town Meeting in November 2018 and April 2019, you not only performed a public service, but reminded the public of the League's dedication to active, informed participation in government. This past League year our members presented programs running the gamut of public concerns, from "Fake News," and solar energy, to a discussion of the new state Civics Education law to an analysis of the effectiveness of appointed volunteer committees in Falmouth Town Government. Our programs were enriched by collaborations with other local groups with whom we share interests

The latter study will continue through April 2020, looking at the operations of an additional array of appointed volunteer committees. An organizational meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 5 at 2:30 p.m. in the home of co-chair Doris Epstein at 18 Lawrence Farm Road, Woods Hole. The committee welcomes new members. If you are unable to attend this meeting but would like to attend the next meeting, please contact Doris or co-chair Sylvia Szulkin at [dweepstein@comcast.net](mailto:dweepstein@comcast.net) or [szulkin@comcast.net](mailto:szulkin@comcast.net).

In the following pages you will read about other study committees that will be active in the upcoming League year and would welcome your participation. This year will offer a unique opportunity to join in our League's celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversaries of passage of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment and the establishment of the U.S. League of Women Voters. These centenaries come at a momentous and strategic time in our nation's political life. Please contact the Centenary Planning Committee's Chair Richard Johnson at [rtj04@verizon.net](mailto:rtj04@verizon.net) to find out more about this creative and dynamic group.

## **LWVF FRIENDS 2019**

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Barbara Douglass  
Sally Fritz  
Christina Jacobi  
Winnie and Bill Mackey

Jane Sambade  
Robert and Barbara Schneider  
Freddy Valois  
Helen Wilson

## *In Memoriam*

☞ *Richard Batchelor* ☛

Richard Batchelor, who was one of the cameramen filming events for FCTV, passed away on April 28<sup>th</sup>. Dick never said no when asked to film a League program. The most recent program he filmed was the November 2018 Solar Array presentation by Natural Resources Committee. He was a skilled filmmaker and a wonderful man. He will be missed.

## **ANNUAL MEETING FALMOUTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY, MAY 4, 2019**

by Denise Morreale



More than 40 League members braved uncertain weather to partake in a lovely lunch and enjoy guest speaker, Susan Moran, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen. Her topic, *Volunteer Power*, dealt with her personal appreciation for the strong women's support network in Falmouth. She mentioned the mentors, many of whom are league members, and the value of Volunteer positions. Susan spoke of the times along her career path when a kind word and helping hand encouraged her to continue. She has paid it forward by supporting newer town government members and Falmouth citizens. With her seemingly boundless energy, Ms. Moran has given input to our Local Study,"

Analysis of the Role of Appointed Volunteer Committees in Falmouth Town Government"

Sylvia Szulkin was recognized with the Civic Leader Award. Sylvia is the Chair of the Steering Committee and First Vice-President. She is on the Local Study and Voter Service Committees and serves on the Board of Library Trustees.

Outgoing League Treasurer, Joanne Voorhis, was honored with the League Leader Award. Joanne has long been a leader in the Falmouth League and in this Town. She was League President for two years during our chapter's first decade and was the first woman ever to serve on our Town's Finance Committee. For years we relied on Joanne's skill as a moderator to run our Candidates Nights and to keep both candidates and



*Sylvia Szulkin, Kathy Mortenson,  
Joanne Voorhis*

audience members courteous and on point. As our Parliamentarian at Annual Meetings, Joanne has kept us all on track. Our long-time Treasurer, Joanne has been noted for the clarity and conciseness of her monthly and annual reports. Joanne personifies the adage "Brevity is the soul of wit." She will remain active in League in an advisory capacity and continue her Parliamentarian position.



Alice Carey

Alice Carey was recognized with the Civic Achievement Award. Alice is a member of the Steering Committee and Second Vice-President. Alice is on the Voter Services Committee and the Local Study and Centennial Committees.

## **LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT & NEW DEVELOPMENT ON CIVIC EDUCATION MANDATE**

By Judy Ziss

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With an eye toward advocacy during the 2019-20 state legislative session, members of the Legislative Committee have reviewed the list of bills that the State League supports and have selected a group of bills they hope to follow and support. These bills fall into a number of categories.

*Affordable Housing – H1305/S797 (rental vouchers); H1288/S775 (low and moderate income)*

*Criminal Justice and Courts – A large number of bills dealing mostly with teens and young adults, parole, and incarceration*

*Elections: Ranked Choice Voting – H719, S414, and H635/S420*

*Gun Control H2045/S1388 (data on guns used in crimes); H2092 (private gun sales)*

*Health Care: Single Payer – S683*

*Immigration – H3573/S1401 (safe communities), H3012/S2061 (drivers' licenses), H1368 (only federal funds for enforcing federal law), H1239/S740 and S739 (tuition)*

*Women's Issues – H3320/S1209 (abortion-Roe Act); H410/S263 (sexual health education)*

These are short-hand descriptions and more details are available on the State League website. If you would like to join the Legislative Committee and help advocate for passage of any of these bills, please contact Legislative Chair Judy Ziss for the date of the next meeting.

In furtherance of the League's interest in civics in the public schools, the Legislative Committee has already been following one piece of legislation, the state budget. The MA Civic Learning Coalition, of which the State League is a member, is seeking a \$1.5 million appropriation to fund the Civics Project Trust Fund, which was established by the new state civic education law. The House budget failed to include these funds but they were added to the Senate budget by amendment. Our three legislators support this funding. (Dylan Fernandes' Boston Office number is 617-722-2013; David Vieira's is 617-722-2230) Please encourage them to work to include it in the final budget.

**OBSERVER CORPS REPORTS**  
**THURSDAY, JUNE 20TH, 7PM**  
Denise Morreale, Observer Corps Chair

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Our Observers will be presenting their reports in the Town Hall Civil Defense Room on June 20, at 7:00. Reports will be given by Richard Johnson-Zoning Board of Appeals, Maggie Sweasy-Board of Selectmen, Stephanie Miele- Board of Health, Meghan Palanza-School Committee, Mariam Cronin-Water Quality Advisory Board, and Kerry Walton-Affordable Housing Committee.

We would like to welcome Marcia Easterling who will be the Observer for Library Trustees. The former Observer for Library Trustees, Jenifer Alai, has been elected to a position on the Board of Library Trustees. Congratulations, Jenifer.

Our Observer Corps is in need of members to Observe the Planning Board and Finance Committee along with many other town boards. If you would like to participate, please call me. This group is very lively and interesting. Participating in League activities is the spirit of Volunteerism!



Meghan Hanawalt, Goatherd info@getmygoatscapecod.com  
774-521-8745 www.GetMyGoatsCapeCod.com

**FALMOUTH LEAGUE CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE**  
By Richard Johnson, Chair

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The LWVF Centennial Committee is starting to plan events to mark the centennial of the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the United States

Constitution and the founding of the League of Women Voters, which will be in 2020. We are planning a program in September 2019 to kick off this celebration. One project being planned is the creation of a Centennial Grove of trees, to honor this milestone, to invest in the future of the League and in the health of our ecosystem.

Details of this project will be finalized for publication at the September 2019 program that will also cover some of the history of the suffrage movement and the formation of the League. A second public event will be planned around the planting of the grove in 2020. We have discussed participating in the Woods Hole July 4th Parade and the Falmouth Christmas Parade to mark the Centennial as well.



Here is a list of recommended reading material:

Massachusetts in the Woman Suffrage Movement by Barbara F. Berenson  
(The author will be speaking at the Museum on the Green in September '19)

Short Skirts! Oh My! A History of Women's Rights  
Mr. President, How Long Must We Wait? by Tina Cassidy

The Women's Suffrage Movement-Foreword by Gloria Steinem, Ed. by Sally Roesch Wagner

## **LWVF HOSTS CANDIDATES NIGHT**

By Carol McKeon, Voter Services Chair

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The annual LWVF Candidates Night was once again held prior to the Town Elections at the Falmouth Public Library on May 8, 2019, and was well attended. The program was jointly sponsored by Falmouth Cable TV (FCTV) and was filmed live and offered for replay on channel 13 in the weeks prior to the election day, May 21st. Mindy Todd of WCAI served as moderator. Members of the audience submitted written questions on cards provided as they entered the Hermann Room. Indeed, there were more questions than time, but candidates remained after the event to respond and converse with those in attendance.

The evening opened with candidates for uncontested town offices introducing themselves and their candidacy to voters. These were Stephen Patton for Housing Authority, Jenifer Alai, Katherine Elder and Sylvia Szulkin for Library Trustee, and Lisa Hart, Melissa Keefe and William Rider for School

Committee. Following this, candidates for Town Meeting Member were invited to come to the mic and also briefly introduce themselves.

Panels of candidates for each of the two contested town offices were then presented with questions composed by the LWVF Voter Service



*Mindy Todd, Selectmen Susan Moran, Meghan English Braga, and Douglas Brown; Marc Finneran*

Committee as well as the written questions from the audience. Paul Dreyer, Michael Heylin and Patricia Kerfoot competed for two positions on the Planning Board and Doug Brown, Megan English Braga, and Marc Finneran vied for two positions as Selectman.

The League received many positive comments on the value to voters of hearing from all candidates for Town Office at one event focused on substantive issues. We are grateful to FCTV, Mindy Todd, and the staff of the Falmouth Library, as well as The Falmouth Enterprise and Engage Falmouth who helped with publicizing the event.

## **MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

By Jackie Webster, Chair

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Welcome to the following new LWVF members who have joined us recently: Lisa E. Hart, Pamela Steudler.

At the LWVF Annual Meeting in May, a paper copy of our Annual Report was distributed. Copies are available for members who were not able to attend the meeting by getting in touch with Membership Chair Jackie Webster at [jwebster391@gmail.com](mailto:jwebster391@gmail.com) or 508-540-3893.

Renewals for membership in LWVF are due on July 1, 2019. For your convenience, a renewal application is attached to this bulletin. We hope you will renew promptly.



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

# CLIMATE EMERGENCY RESOLUTION

By the Natural Resources Committee

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LWVMA Environmental Committee is submitting the attached Resolution for a vote at the annual meeting in June. Some of us are attending and will be able to vote on it. Our local Natural Resources Committee should review it and consider asking the LWVF Board to adopt it as well.



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## League of Women Voters of Massachusetts Climate Emergency Resolution

Unanimously approved by LWVMA Environmental Action and Advocacy Committee, May 22, 2019 for submission to the LWVMA Convention, June 7-8, 2019.

Whereas on October 8, 2018, the United Nations released a [special report](#) that projected that limiting warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius this century will require an **unprecedented transformation of every sector of the global economy** over the next 12 years; and

Whereas on November 23, 2018, the [U.S. Fourth National Climate Assessment](#) was issued, which detailed the massive threat that climate change poses to the American economy and underscored the need for **emergency climate action at all levels of government**; and

Whereas the death and destruction already wrought by global warming of approximately 1.1 degrees Celsius above late 19th century levels demonstrate that Earth is already too hot for safety and justice, as attested by rising seas, increased and intensifying wildfires, floods, diseases, droughts and extreme weather; and

Whereas one million animal and plant species are now threatened with extinction, according to [a sweeping new United Nations report](#), driving the sixth mass extinction of species and – if reached – would require 10 million years for recovery; and

Whereas the impacts of climate change and ocean acidification include increasingly a rise in sea levels resulting in flooding and the displacement of thousands of coastal businesses and residences, damage to marine ecosystems and food sources, extreme weather events, devastating wildfires, and introduction of new vectors for infectious disease, increased asthma and other human health-related problems; and

Whereas climate change has a disproportionate effect on communities that typically have fewer resources for adapting to climate change and so consequently are the most vulnerable to

displacement, adverse health effects, job loss, property damage and other effects of climate change; and

Whereas the world's leading climate scientists predict that serious impacts of climate change will catastrophically worsen if prompt action is not taken to curb emissions; and

Whereas restoring a safe and stable climate requires a "climate mobilization" on an extraordinary scale at all levels of government to reach net zero greenhouse gas emissions; and

Whereas in the absence of effective federal engagement, it is the responsibility of the individual states and municipalities to take immediate leadership actions to address climate change; and

**Therefore, be it resolved,**

**We as delegates of Massachusetts local Leagues assembled at the 2019 LWVMA Convention call upon the LWVMA Board and local Leagues to advocate for declaration of 'Climate Emergency' and urgent relevant action by state and local governments.**

## **ANNUAL BROWN BAG LUNCH ON JUDY'S PORCH**

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PLEASE COME!

Annual Brown Bag Lunch on Judy Stetson's big porch  
Tuesday, August 13<sup>th</sup> at noon



Once again, rain or shine (the porch is big and dry) we will gather for lunch on Judy Stetson's porch at NOON on Tuesday, August 13. Judy's address is 261 Quisset Avenue. There will be a big sign with 261 on it so you won't miss the driveway. There is parking in a field by the street or proceed up the driveway for parking closer to the house.

All members and friends are welcome especially anyone interested in joining the Falmouth League. The lunch is informal and a great way to meet other League members. Bring your own "brown bag" lunch. Drinks and cookies are provided by Judy.

Please mark your calendar (for those of us who still use paper) for Tuesday, August 13<sup>th</sup>. Call Judy for directions at 508-548-2768. For more information, call Kathy Mortenson, 508-457-4410

## LWV-Falmouth Natural Resources Committee

### Sustainability Policy

The Natural Resources Committee of the League of Women Voters Falmouth believes that organizations large and small have an opportunity and a responsibility to contribute to a healthier, more sustainable future. Our sustainability policy is designed to conserve resources, avoid single-use plastic, and reduce our use of materials derived from fossil fuels.

#### Printed materials

Print on high content recycled paper (50% or higher)

Use a recycled paper logo and/or "printed on 100% recycled paper" on printed material. This notation helps educate others about such practices.

Print double sided as much as possible

Use Draft Mode on internal and draft documents to save ink and energy.

Be realistic when deciding the number of programs and other handouts to print rather than over-estimate.

#### Events open to the public with food:

Plan to have a low-waste event (or even zero-waste)

Use cloth rather than plastic or paper table covers.

Serve tap water in pitchers; no bottled water.

Serve foods that do not require utensils or plates.

Coffee and tea service should be limited to early morning events.

The following should not be out on the table at events: plastic table cloths, straws, coffee stirrers, small plastic creamers. Bring cream in larger container and share spoons. Provide mugs and encourage participants to bring their own mugs. Hot drink cups may be provided as a backup.

Food service material hierarchy:

- Reusable plates, cups and utensils. Collect, wash and reuse.

- Recyclable products

- Home compostable products (check label)

- Products made from recycled materials

Sort and dispose of waste using collection containers:

- Container for reuse (reusable items to be washed and reused)

- Container for composting (food scraps and napkins)

- Container for recycling

Use clear signage for all containers or bins.

#### Getting there:

Encourage attendees to car pool; walk or bike when possible.