



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF FALMOUTH

P.O. Box 450 • Falmouth, MA 02541

web: www.lwvf.org

email: league@LWVF.org

The League of Women voters, a nonpartisan national organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Any person of voting age, male or female, may become a League member.

Bulletin –April 2011

Member Events Calendar

April 2011

- 21 7:30 p.m. **Meeting: Local Program Planning**
Falmouth Town Hall (Dinner at Peking Palace at 6:00 p.m.)
- 26 7:30 p.m. **Board Meeting** (Board Room, Falmouth Hospital)

May 2011

- 4 7:00 p.m. **LWVF Candidates' Night** (Morse Pond School Auditorium)
- 12 6:30 p.m. **LWVF Annual Meeting** (Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Falmouth)
[mail response form inside]

Looking ahead

- April 13 **Day on the Hill - Massachusetts State House**
- May 17 **Falmouth Town Election**
- May 20-21 **Massachusetts League State Convention**

LWVF BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2010-2011

STEERING COMMITTEE

First Vice-President	Betsy Fontes
Second Vice-President	Barbara Kanellopoulos
Secretary	Sylvia Szulkin
President Ex-officio	Joan Boyer
Membership	Kathy Mortenson



Treasurer	Joanne Voorhis	Natural Resources	Pam Polloni
Bulletin	Judy Fenwick	Observer Corps	Deborah Siegal
Development	Sallie A. Giffen	Outreach	Landi Landrau
Legislative	Meg Borden	Publicity	Marcia Easterling
Local Study	Doris Epstein	Voter Service	Alice Carey

If you wish to join the League, membership dues are \$50.00 for an individual membership and \$25.00 for an additional household member.

Send your check made out to *LWV of Falmouth* to the address shown above.

Please include your name, address and phone number.

You do not have to be a resident of Falmouth to join.

League of Women Voters Massachusetts
Day on the Hill
April 13, 2011

Topic for discussion is **TRANSPARENCY IN GOVERNMENT**

9:30 a.m. Registration Gardner Auditorium

10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Program Gardner Auditorium

Featured Speakers:

Senator James Eldridge on Corporate Political Responsibility

Senator Stanley Rosenberg, Co-chair of Special Joint Committee on Redistricting
and **News from League Program Specialists**

[Suggested Donation \$10]

I encourage any member who is able to attend the state league sponsored "Day on the Hill". The state legislative committee has followed the progress of proposed legislation that is aligned with our positions on various issues. This is an opportunity to get up to date on what is happening on Beacon Hill so we can decide how to support the effort. If you desire further information on this event contact: Meg L. Borden, LWVF Legislative Liaison, 548-1305.

IN MEMORIAM

The League of Women Voters of Falmouth records with great sorrow the passing of
Caroline Esperson on March 13, 2011.

Caroline was an active member of the League in both Puerto Rico and Falmouth.

We extend our sympathy to her family.

LWVF FRIENDS FOR 2010-2011

Dorothy and Duncan Aspinwall

Frank Egloff

Sally Fritz

Avery Funkhouser

Avis and Marv Grosslein

Christina Jacobi

Susan Kingwill

Winnie and Bill Mackey

Polly Montgomery

Dorothy Ryder

Robert Schneider

Deborah G. Senft

John and Freddy Valois

Helen Wilson

STEERING COMMITTEE REPORT

Barbara Kanellopoulos

People who care about such things think that April gets its name from a Latin word for opening. The derivation may not be correct, but it feels right. All around town, the buds of leaves and flowers are visible, ready to open. Once more, nature renews itself. Like nature, organizations have to constantly renew themselves to survive. Yet we read that membership in the League has declined nationwide over the past thirty years. This can be a call for action rather than a reason for discouragement. Serious renewal efforts are under way at State and National; each one of us can support these efforts by simply asking people to join. Our recent public forums have garnered much positive publicity. Now is a good time to engage others in our work.

We're reminded by one of our members that not everyone will find the League to be a good fit. The person she invited to a meeting felt that there had been too much discussion; she wanted action. Explaining how the League works, handing out a League brochure, directing attention to our local and national websites are ways to fully enlighten interested people. Yes, we need to increase membership, but it's clear that the League won't appeal to those who prefer "...the comfort of opinion without the discomfort of thought."*

Local program planning is the theme for our April 21 meeting (7:30 P.M. at Town Hall.) Bring your 2010-2011 Membership Directory (the green booklet) and your ideas for local study. And, before the meeting, Peking Palace.

*The words are taken from a passage by John F. Kennedy. It reads: "The great enemy of truth is very often not the lie - deliberate, contrived, and dishonest, but the myth - persistent, persuasive, and unrealistic. Belief in myths allows the comfort of opinion without the discomfort of thought." I thank Megan Jones for the reference.

REPORT ON "RUNNING FOR OFFICE" WORKSHOP

Marcia Easterling

The culminating event of the League's Local Study Committee this year was the March 10 workshop at the Falmouth Public Library, "How to Run for Office." Committee chair Doris Epstein introduced the panel of experienced public officials: Paul Niedzweicki, executive director of the Cape Cod Commission, Virginia Valiela, former selectman many times over and former commissioner of the Department of Public Works, Judy Fenwick, captain of Precinct 1 and elected member of the School Committee, Stephen Fassett of the Finance Committee, and Susan Shephard, Precinct 1 town meeting member and experienced campaign manager. The panelists stressed patience, perseverance, integrity, an open mind, good communication skills, and a thick skin as qualities needed for successful public service. In addition all stressed the need for aspiring candidates to know the demands of the offices sought and to attend meetings of these. "You need people in government who are committed to solving problems for people"; the panelists reminded those attending that this should be the guiding principle of all public servants.

Those attending the workshop received handouts of 2011 Town Election Schedule, Vacancies in Town wide Offices, Town meeting members needed in specific precincts, and requirements for submitting nomination papers. They also received a list of town Committee vacancies and the meeting schedules of all the committees. Several, including some who had already declared their intention to seek office, said they had found the workshop very helpful. And some League members have decided to take out nomination papers for town meeting members.

To publicize the event, the Local Study Committee distributed 80 posters around town and bought an ad, which appeared twice in the Enterprise. All other local media were also contacted.

LWVF LOCAL STUDY COMMITTEE REPORT

On Thursday, March 17 at 7:30 pm at Falmouth Town Hall, the League's Local Study Committee presented an overview and evaluation of its three major public events of 2010-2011. Chairman Doris Epstein explained the process by which the committee decided on the content of each one and introduced the speakers. First, Megan Jones spoke about the charter review initially undertaken in September by the Local Study Committee. However, she strongly reiterated the Board of Selectmen's need to appoint a Falmouth Charter Review Committee immediately to conform to the terms of the Charter itself. Barbara Kanellopoulos explained how the League committee decided to postpone its own review of the charter on recognizing the imperative need for Falmouth citizens to have an opportunity to identify key issues confronting the town, and to host the well-attended "Government in the Round" meeting in November. Over 60 citizens attended and identified four outstanding public issues: environmental concerns, the need for more affordable housing, greater civic engagement, and more knowledge and understanding of local government operations.

Maureen Sullivan spoke about the follow-up meeting in January; "Joining for Action," in which attendees interested in greater civic involvement were paired with representatives of various organizations to find out how to become more active citizens.

Finally, Marcia Easterling presented an overview of the culminating public event, the March 10 workshop, "How to Run for Public Office" and the various ways this event was publicized.

To close, Meg Borden presented some questions posed by the State LWV for local Leagues to consider for the year ahead. The next LWVF meeting will consider local program items for 2011-2012 to present for adoption by the membership at the Annual Meeting in May.

BYLAWS COMMITTEE REPORT

Joan Boyer

The LWVF Bylaws Committee composed of Joan Boyer, Judy Stetson and Sylvia Szulkin are recommending the following changes (**in bold**) to the bylaws:

- Article V Sec. 1. Officers shall take office **July 1st** (instead of after Annual Meeting).
 Sec. 4. Sentence to be deleted: **The Secretary shall notify all Officers and Directors of their election.**
- Addition of **Sec. 6. Steering Committee. When there is no candidate for President, or no sitting President, the Board of Directors ("Board") shall nominate a Steering Committee drawn from the Board to perform the duties of the President. The Steering Committee shall not exceed 5 voting members and shall be elected by the general membership at the Annual Meeting for a term of two years. The Steering Committee shall meet as necessary prior to each regular Board meeting to make recommendations to the Board on matters of policy, procedure and concern.**
- Article VIII Sec. 1. Nominating Committee. The other members shall be appointed by the Board of Directors **no later than the subsequent January Board meeting.**

	LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF FALMOUTH		
	BUDGET FOR 2011-2012		
	Budget	Budget	Budget
INCOME	2009-2010	FY2010-11	FY2011-12
Ads	675	475	525
Annual Meeting	1350	750	600
Contributions - Friends	800	700	800
Contributions - Members	1140	1250	1100
Dues	4175	4750	4500
Funds Raisers	80	60	
Interest Income			
Transfer from savings	1500		737
INCOME TOTAL	9720	7985	8262
EXPENSES	Budget	Budget	Budget
	2009-2010	FY2010-11	FY2011-12
Action/Program	50	50	150
Administration	100	100	300
Web Site Fee	200	200	200
Annual Meeting & report	1400	750	600
Bulletin Postage	500	162	165
Bulletin Printing	1090	288	260
Convention - National	1500	450	750
Convention -State	100	500	500
Membership & Directory	300	300	280
Participation	75	100	100
Per Member Pay Mass. (PMP)	1920	2184	2097
Per Member Pay US (PMP)	2435	2850	2710
Publications	25	25	25
Voter Service	25	25	125
EXPENSE TOTAL	9720	7985	8262
7/1/11-6/30/12 INCOME from dues \$4500 EXPENSE PMP's \$4807			
Respectively Submitted, Budget Committee			
Barbara Peri, Chair, Stephen Fassett and Joanne Voorhis			
<i>The League gives special recognition and thanks to Barbara Peri who has done so much for such a long time in this job.</i>			

EVERYONE IS INVITED TO ATTEND

CANDIDATES' NIGHT

Sponsored by the
FALMOUTH LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS



THURSDAY, MAY 4, 2011

MORSE POND SCHOOL

FALMOUTH, MA

7:00 P.M. - MEET THE CANDIDATES

7:30 P.M. - PROGRAM BEGINS

VOTE MAY 17!!

Please join us at
the League of Women Voters of Falmouth

ANNUAL MEETING

for dessert, fruit, and cheeses

Thursday, May 12, 2011, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

At the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
of Falmouth

840 Sandwich Road, Hatchville

Make \$15 check payable to *LWV Falmouth*
and mail by May 6 to:

Betsy Fontes

48 Churchill Drive

East Falmouth, MA 02536

Telephone: (508) 540-9698

✂

 ✂

Name(s) _____

Phone _____ Email _____

of people _____ Amount enclosed (\$15/person) \$ _____

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April 2011 Bulletin



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*Democracy in Action***

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