



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 – March 2011

Member Events Calendar

March 2011

- 10 7:30 p.m. **LWVF Workshop: Running for Office** (details inside)
Falmouth Public Library, Hermann Foundation Room
- 17 7:30 p.m. **Meeting: Local Study Report – Effectiveness of Local Government and State Program Planning** Falmouth Town Hall (Dinner at Peking Palace 6:00 pm)
- 22 7:30 p.m. **Board Meeting** (Board Room, Falmouth Hospital)

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)

Looking ahead

- March 25 **Cape Cod League’s Annual Legislative Breakfast** (registr. form inside; date change)
- April 13 **Day on the Hill – Massachusetts State House**
- May 12 **LWVF Annual Meeting**
- 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.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Kathy Mortenson

Please make the following addition to your 2010-2011 League membership (pale green) directory:
Add new member: Valerie May Douglas, 141 Homestead Lane, East Falmouth, MA 02536

LWVF BOOK GROUP

Kathy Mortenson

Please join us for the next book group discussion on Wednesday, March 16 at 3:00pm. We will be discussing the book - **At the Dark End of the Street: Black Women, Rape and Resistance - A New History of the Civil Rights Movement from Rosa Parks to the Rise of Black Power** by Danielle L. McGuire. You can reserve a copy of the book through CLAMS at the Falmouth Public Library's website www.falmouthpubliclibrary.org or call the reference department at the Library to request a copy for you. I have a copy of the book already and I will deliver it to you if you would like to read the book. Please let me know if you plan to attend. Kathy Mortenson 508-457-4410. Book discussions take place at Kathy's house - 116 Pin Oak Way (downtown near Mill Road) - last house on the left.

IN MEMORIAM

The League of Women Voters of Falmouth extends heartfelt condolences to our member Jayne Abbott and her family on the passing of Jayne's husband **Tom Abbott** on February 15, 2011. Tom was well-known and highly-regarded as a steward of Falmouth's coastline, a long-time Town Meeting member and former Chairman and member of the Falmouth Conservation Commission. As a member of volunteer organizations and town committees, Tom used his problem-solving talents for the benefit of our town.

The League of Women Voters of Falmouth records with great sorrow the passing of our member **Phyllis Goldstein** on January 25, 2011. Known for her creativity, energy and irrepressible spirit, Phyllis excelled as a teacher, entertainer, musician and community leader. She inspired and brightened the lives of her students, neighbors and many friends. 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

Kathy Mortenson

When I sent Judy Fenwick a list of all the items that we decided at the Board meeting should be included in the March Bulletin, she wrote back to me that such a large Bulletin is a "sign of the vibrancy of the League." I agree. The League of Women Voters just celebrated its 91st year of making democracy work.

Our local study this year is titled "the effectiveness of local government." Under the expert leadership of Doris Epstein and Alice Carey a committee of involved League members has met regularly to study, to plan, and to implement many programs this year. On March 10 the committee has planned a public meeting to educate anyone considering becoming an active member of town government. The workshop is titled "Running for Public Office." What a practical and informative workshop for the League to host. Do invite your friends and neighbors to attend.

The regularly scheduled League meeting on March 17 will be a presentation and summary by the committee studying Effectiveness of Local Government. Also a portion of the meeting will be devoted to state program planning.

The mission of the League to strengthen our democratic system and increase the public's participation is actively taking place in Falmouth.

LWVF TO HOST WORKSHOP ON RUNNING FOR OFFICE

On Thursday, March 10, 2011 at 7:30 pm in the Hermann Foundation Room of the Falmouth Public Library, the League of Women Voters of Falmouth will host a workshop on how to run for public office.

This meeting is open to any one who is interested in the possibility of seeking an elective, appointive, or voluntary position or in becoming better informed about the process for becoming an active member of town government.

A panel of citizens who are past or current holders of these three kinds of positions will speak from their experience and will answer questions posed by the public. Members of the LWVF will also offer informative handouts to attendees.

WANTED!!!

CANDIDATES for FALMOUTH Elective Offices,
Town Meeting Members and Volunteer Committees

Picture
Yourself
Here

YES, it could be YOU!!

GET INFORMED - THROW YOUR HAT IN THE RING.
WORKSHOP: HOW TO RUN FOR PUBLIC OFFICE
THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 2011, 7:30 PM, FALMOUTH PUBLIC LIBRARY
Sponsored by the LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF FALMOUTH



2011 Annual Town Election Schedule
Information provided by Falmouth Town Clerk

Wednesday	February 23th	Nomination papers available
Friday	March 25th	Last day to obtain nomination papers
Tuesday	March 29th	Last day to return nomination papers
Monday	April 4th	Drawing for ballot position
Thursday	April 14th	Last day to withdraw from Election
Wednesday	April 27th	Last day to register to vote for Annual Town Election
Tuesday	May 17th	ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION

TOWN WIDE OFFICES

Selectman	(elect two)	for three years
Trustee of the Public Library	(elect three)	for three years
Planning Board	(elect two)	for three years
School Committee	(elect three)	for three years
Housing Authority	(elect one)	for five years

TOWN MEETING MEMBERS

Elect nine in each Precinct for three years

Town wide offices are required to collect 50 signatures from registered voters of the Town of Falmouth.

Town Meeting Members are required to collect 10 signatures from registered voters in the Precinct they are registered to vote.

Town Meeting Members who are candidates for re-election do not need to take out nomination papers, but must return Notice mailed to them by the Town Clerk.

The order in which names of candidates, including incumbents, appear on the ballot will be determined by a public drawing on April 4th at 10 a.m. in the Town Clerk's Office.

SAVE THE DATE

League of Women Voters of Falmouth
Annual Meeting

Thursday, May 12, 2011

6:30pm - 8:30pm

at Unitarian Universalist Fellowship hall

desserts, fruit, and cheeses

cost \$15

Look for registration information in the *April Bulletin*

WANTED: A LWVF VOLUNTEER TO EDIT AND PRODUCE THE MONTHLY BULLETIN
Judy Fenwick

My commitments on the Falmouth School Committee and at WHOI's Deep Submergence Lab don't leave me with the time to continue editing and producing the League's monthly Bulletin. The Bulletin requires about 6-7 hours at the end of each month: collecting articles from League members, word processing and formatting the input, and creating pdf files with Adobe Acrobat for the web and print versions. If you and/or someone you know might be willing, please contact me (jfenwick@whoi.edu) or Kathy Mortenson (mortensonk@aol.com). Technical support will be available to get you going. You can job-share. Be creative. Have some fun.



SUMMARY OF THE LWVF SPONSORED MEETING: A CALL TO ACTION

Alice Carey

On January 27, 2011 the League of Women Voters of Falmouth sponsored a meeting held in the Falmouth Public Library entitled *A Call to Action* for people interested in working towards a more effective government for Falmouth. This meeting was a follow up to the *Government in the Round* session held on November 18, 2011.

The League would like to extend their thanks to the forty participants who attended despite the inclement weather and is grateful that everyone traversed the icy conditions without accident.

There was a definite sense of vitality in the air with everyone willing to think hard and share ideas.

- For some it was an opportunity for networking
- For many it afforded the gaining of new knowledge about areas of interest
- For the League it was a recognition of much unfinished business mentioned that they shall address

There were four group discussions – resulting topics as follows:

- CIVIC ENGAGEMENT (8 participants)
 - Absence of young people participating in local government
 - Need for strengthening communication among Precinct Captains, Town Meeting Members and Precinct Residents.
 - Need for Middle School and High School students to have a better understanding of Falmouth’s governmental structure
 - Communication between town officials and citizenry needs improvement from response to inquiries to a more effective town website
 - Several specific suggestions included: Town Facebook, Municipal Voter Guide, Citizen Academy, Committee Handbooks
- GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS (10 participants)
 - Reiteration of need for improvement of Precinct Meetings plus a need for representatives of town elected committees to attend these meetings to clarify warrant articles
 - Improve courtesy of town hall personnel toward residents either orally or in written responses
 - Need for training of Town Meeting Members
 - Establishment of intern program in town government – possibly grant funded
- ENVIRONMENT (12 participants) and AFFORDABLE HOUSING (10 participants)
 - The majority of participants in these two groups were from their respective fields allowing for networking and exchange of information. Both areas stressed the need for more volunteers.

For further information, you can access the Falmouth League of Women Voters website: www.lwvf.org.

CONVERSATION WITH OUR LOCAL STATE REPRESENTATIVES

Meg Borden

David Vieira and Timothy Madden chatted with us on topics ranging from transparency in the State House of Representatives to the current Bottle Bill. The discussion remained lively throughout the night. When asked if there were creative suggestions being offered to generate additional revenue to support local aid, both representatives concurred that was unlikely this session. David informed us that legislative bodies like the House and Falmouth Town Meeting have historically never been subject to the Open Meeting Law. It was noted that a bill to Audit House Accounts was voted in unanimously, after several members switched their vote on the floor. The updated Bottle Bill (H3515) was discussed with Timothy being generally in favor of it's passage and David questioning the economic implications of the act. David appeared concerned that this bill might represent a tax to the consumer.

The representatives were asked if they felt that they had sufficient training and experience prior to taking on the responsibilities at the State House. Timothy responded with a description of boot camp for freshmen legislators that he attended at UMASS Amherst. He also listed his tenure as a Nantucket selectman; chairmanship of various boards; and a decade of experience working as Representative Turkington's legislative liaison. David has been studying for his part in the State House his whole life. In addition to preparing academically, his position as town moderator has afforded him first hand experience in the operation of a legislative body. We are fortunate that both of these men are well prepared for the challenges ahead.

Both representatives emphasized that we, as advocates need to read the bills that we are proposing that they should support. The bills that each legislator has sponsored can be found on his individual profile page: <http://www.malegislature.gov/People>. Search for the representative, then click on the name link to get the full profile page.

It was apparent that the Cape and Island representatives and senators work together to support local needs. It really is a team that we send to Beacon Hill to represent us. Please let your legislators know how they can support our community.

Contacts: Timothy R. Madden

Phone: 617-722-2810

Fax: 617-722-2846

Timothy.Madden@mahouse.gov

David T. Vieira

Phone: 617-722-7425

david.vieira@mahouse.gov

Thank you, Timothy Madden and David Vieira
Our State Representatives demonstrated their dedication to serving their constituents by participating in the February meeting. Both men tirelessly joined in our conversation after spending a full day on Beacon Hill. It was obvious that all in attendance appreciated their effort.

GOINGS ON

Events and Announcements of Interest to LWVF Members

The Falmouth Solid Waste Advisory Committee is cosponsoring a presentation on Zero Waste by Lynne Pledger at the Falmouth Library at 7:00 pm on March 23. This will follow the Selectmen's Workshop on Solid Waste, Monday March 14. We have an underused resource in our local Waste Management Facility. Perhaps this presentation will spark some ideas about how to divert more materials from the refuse stream using the Waste Management Facility.

From Ruth Brazier

TOWN MEETING ATTENDANCE TAKERS NEEDED

Spring means it's time for Town Meeting. The 2011 Spring Town Meeting will take place on April 4 and 5, starting at 7:00 p.m. in the Lawrence School Auditorium. We need four volunteers – two for each evening – to take attendance at Town Meeting. Please contact Alice Carey for more information or to sign up to perform this valuable service to the Town: Alice Carey, 508-548-7071, acarey034@comcast.net



LWVCCA ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST
Friday, March 25, 2011, 7:30-9:30 am
Ardeo at Kings Way, Rt. 6A, Yarmouth Port

(If LWVF members want to carpool to Yarmouth Port, contact Kathy Mortenson (508) 457-4410.)

This is a special annual opportunity to meet and hear our state legislators speak on timely issues of importance to League members. Spouses and guests welcome! Don't miss it!

Coffee will be available starting at 7:30 am. Buffet breakfast will be served at 8 and includes freshly baked muffins, danish, fruit, scrambled eggs, bacon & sausage, home fries, waffles, coffee, herbal teas, and assorted juices. Cost is \$20.

Directions to Ardeo at Kings Way (via Rt. 6):

Take Rt. 6 to exit 8 (Union St./Station Ave.). Go north on Union St. about a mile until road comes to a T (gas station in front of you). Go right onto 6A, following 6A for about a mile, passing two pizza restaurants on the right and a small plaza and Manchester Rd. on the left. Kings Way is on your left--small white sign. (If you reach Peterson's / RiteAid plaza or the Dennis town line, you've gone too far.) Go past the guard house and the tennis courts on your left. Take the next left into the parking lot of Ardeo.

Fill out and send in the coupon below, along with your check. **Reservations must be received by March 18. No refunds after March 18.** Any questions? Call Elaine Bono, 508-375-9421.



REGISTRATION FORM
LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST
FRIDAY, MARCH 25, 2011, 7:30 AM

Please note the location—Ardeo at Kings Way, Rt. 6A, Yarmouth Port. Cost is \$20 per person and includes a full buffet breakfast, tax, and gratuity. Make your check payable to LWVCCA and send to:

Elaine Bono, 19 Pine Grove, Yarmouth Port, MA 02675

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone No.: _____ (in case we need to call you for weather cancellation)

Attending: _____

Amt. enclosed: \$_____

Please note: no-shows might be billed.

(Reprinted in League of Women Voters of Falmouth Bulletin)

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March 2011 Bulletin



**JOIN
THE LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS
*Democracy in Action***

EIGHT COUSINS INC.	
<i>189 Main St. Falmouth, MA 02540</i>	A series of black silhouettes depicting various children engaged in reading. From left to right: a child lying on their stomach reading, a child sitting on the floor reading, a child standing and reading, a woman sitting in a rocking chair reading to a child, a child standing and reading, a child sitting in a chair reading, a child sitting on the floor reading, and a child sitting on the floor reading.
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