



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF FALMOUTH

P. O. Box 450, Falmouth, MA 02541

web: www.lwvf.org

email: league@lwvf.org

Bulletin – Summer 2011

Member Events Calendar

July 2011

No Meetings

August 2011

9 Noon Porch Party at Judy Stetson’s House

September 15

15 7:30 pm Meeting: Smart Growth for Falmouth, Town Hall

LWVF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2011-2012

STEERING COMMITTEE

First Vice-President	Betsy Fontes
Second Vice-President	Barbara Kanellopoulos
Secretary	Sylvia Szulkin
Voter Service	Alice Carey
Development	Kathy Mortenson



Treasurer	Joanne Voorhis	Natural Resources	Pam Polloni
Bulletin/Web	Joan Boyer	Observer Corps	Deborah Siegal
Legislative	Meg Borden	Outreach	Landi Landrau
Local Study	Doris Epstein	Publicity	Marcia Easterling
Membership	Maureen Sullivan		

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

STEERING COMMITTEE REPORT

Alice Carey

Joan Boyer is leaving her role as LWVF Steering Committee member and is moving on to two new challenging undertakings. We congratulate her on being elected treasurer for the Massachusetts LWV and we greatly appreciate her taking on the job of LWVF Web Page manager and Bulletin editor. Her energy, creativeness and commitment will ensure her success. Thanks, Joan, for all that you are doing for the League and for being an inspiration to all of us.

Here in Falmouth, we are honored to have six life members in our league (50 years as members). The celebration in their honor will take place at Judy Stetson's Porch Party on Tuesday, August 9 at noon.

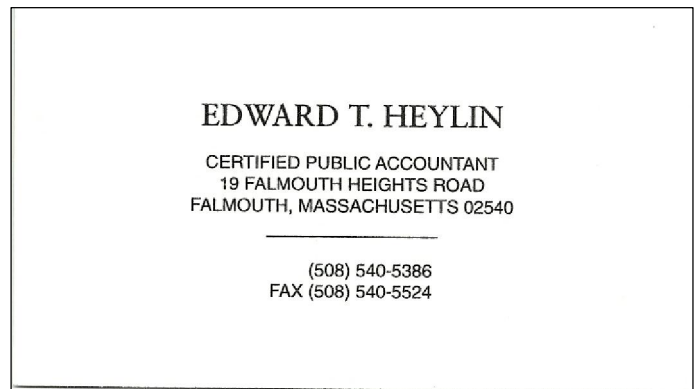
Compilation of the LWVF Calendar for the coming year is in process. On September 15, Falmouth's town planner, Brian Curry, will help us to understand Smart Growth.

At our Annual Meeting we voted to participate in two LWVUS studies:

1. "The Role of the Federal Government in Education" (see article in this bulletin). At our November meeting we will work together as a league to reach consensus on this issue.
2. "The Impact on Local Communities of Privatizing Government Services". This study will be the focus of our April meeting.



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League Members Can Make a Difference

Betsy Fontes' clients at Safe Harbors, a homeless shelter in Hyannis can always use **twin sheets, pots and pans, lamps, lamp shades, silverware, blankets and comforters, shower curtains, shower curtain liners, bowls and toddler bed frames and beds.**

If you should be cleaning out your house and want to give items to Safe Harbors, call Kathy Mortenson at 508-457-4410 to come pick up the items and deliver them to Betsy.

Annual Brown Bag Lunch on Judy's Porch

Please Come!!!!

Once again, rain or shine (the porch is very big and dry), we will gather for the ANNUAL LUNCH on Judy Stetson's porch at Noon on Tuesday, August 9, 2011.

Judy's address is 261 Quissett Avenue. There will be a big sign with 261 on it so that you won't miss her driveway. There is parking in a field by the street or proceed up the driveway for parking closer to the house.

All members are welcome and we encourage you to bring guests, particularly anyone interested in learning about the Falmouth League. The lunch is very informal and a great opportunity to meet other League members. Bring your own "brown bag" sandwich. Drinks and cookies are provided.

We will be honoring Falmouth's 6 Life Members for their fifty year memberships in the League.

Please mark your calendars – **Tuesday, AUGUST 9, 2011**



September Meeting Barbara Kanellopoulos

"Smart Growth." The phrase is used frequently these days, but what does it actually mean? At our September 15th meeting, Brian Currie, Falmouth's Town Planner, will explain the concept and discuss its relevance for the

future of Falmouth. To focus his talk, he has requested questions from League members about the topic. Send them to Barbara Kanellopoulos or to league@lwvf.org.

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LWVUS Study: THE ROLE OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IN PUBLIC EDUCATION

Alice Carey

At the LWVF Annual Meeting in May, 2011, the membership voted to participate in the National League's Study: "The Role of the Federal Government in Public Education"

SCOPE OF THE STUDY:

1. **The history, funding and equity issues which are addressed under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)**

SAMPLE QUESTIONS:

- **Should funds be distributed based on need, population, enrollment, those who best qualify for competitive grants? Should mandates and funding be related?**
2. **The Common Core of Standards/Assessment* which are required for many federal grant programs which are national, not federal.**

DEFINITION:

- **Common Core Standards define the knowledge and skills students should possess at critical points in their educational career.**

* *Written and funded by the National Governor's Assoc. (NGA) and the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO). Focus will be on how these new standards will be used by the federal government.*

TIMELINE OF STUDY:

MAY – NOV. , 2011:	Local leagues study the "Role of the Federal Government in Public Education" and come to consensus.
NOVEMBER 30, 2011:	Consensus reports due to LWVUS website at www.lwv.org
DEC. 2011-FEB. , 2012:	National Committee analyzes data from consensus and writes position paper.
MARCH, 2012:	LWVUS Board of Directors reviews consensus results for comment and approval of the position for the "Role of the Federal Government in Public Education"

IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT THE LWVF MEMBERSHIP UNDERSTAND THE ISSUES INVOLVED IN THIS STUDY SO THAT WE CAN REACH CONSENSUS.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE ON THE COMMITTEE THAT WILL HELP CLARIFY THE CONSENSUS QUESTIONS FOR THE LWVF MEMBERSHIP IN THE FALL OF 2011?

PLEASE CONTACT ME: ALICE CAREY, 508-548-7071 or league@lwvf.org

LWVF POSITION ON EDUCATION can be found on Page 14 of LWVF Directory
STATE POSITION ON EDUCATION can be found on Page 18 of LWVF Directory

LWVMA Convention May 20-21, 2011

Joan Boyer

The 89 members attending elected Eva Valentine of the Haverhill League the new President. I was elected Treasurer at the convention themed "Women Making a Difference". The following remarks are excerpted from an article by Judy Thomas in the "Cape Cod Voter".

The *Statement of Strategy (Strategic Plan)* of the LWVMA was presented and approved. The plan was the result of more than a year of study. This important document includes five goals:

1. Change the funding model and expand revenue sources, while limiting expenditures.
2. Create strong connections between the SWVMA and local Leagues through communications and leadership development. (Lack of regular communication from state was an identified problem as well as inadequate leadership development and training.) A new Presidents Council/Network of local presidents will be part of this plan.
3. Focus on voter service activities. (This activity had been included in a program and action priority. The decision to separate the two and place a greater emphasis on voter service for the near future was a consequence of repercussions from the LWVUS Clean Air Act commercials.)
4. Program and Action. (LWVMA advocacy for positions that have been part of the LWVMA program for some time.)
5. Shift LWVMA Board structure and operations to implement strategic priorities.

The major topic of discussion was the Clean Air Ads of the LWVUS. Judy Davis, national board rep to Massachusetts, apologized to the convention on behalf of the national board for their failure to give

timely information and useful resources to Massachusetts Leagues prior to the running of the ad. She labeled this failure a disaster. Three resolutions about the ads were adopted:

1. Resolved, that before June 2012 the LWVMA will draft a written policy with regard to its own advocacy to be presented to local Leagues for their input and approval before the 2012 Council.
2. Resolved, that the board of the LWVMA urges the LWVUS to disclose the organizations and individuals who fund advocacy ads concurrent with the appearance of those ads.
3. Resolved, that the LWVMA urges the National League Board, prior to conducting media campaigns within states, to provide state and local Leagues in those states with a plan for public relations and media communications including, but not limited to, drafted press releases, letters to the editor and a list of who from the national and state Leagues will be available to respond to the press.

At the convention, there was not consensus on the appropriateness of the ads in our state. A number of delegates spoke in favor of the ads.

I think those were some of the major issues at the convention. Of course, LWVMA is very financially challenged now. More about that in a future bulletin.

LWVUS PRIVATIZATION STUDY

Barbara Kanellopoulos

The Impact on Local Communities of Privatizing Government Services was a study brought to the National Board and was accepted by a majority vote at Convention. The Seattle League mounted a strong argument for this Study. Please call or email Barbara Kanellopoulos at privatizationstudy@lwvf.org to participate in this study.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Kathy Mortenson

Thank you for renewing your dues in the League of Women Voters of Falmouth. If you haven't had time to send in your dues, send in your check as soon as possible. The renewal form was in the June Bulletin. The directory will go to the printer at the beginning of September.

Judy Stetson has become our League's 6th life member having paid League dues for 50 years. Congratulations, Judy!!!. In 1969 Judy joined the Cambridge League and as soon as she moved to Falmouth she transferred her membership to the Falmouth League.

All 6 life members of our League will be honored at the annual Porch Party at Judy Stetson's house on Tuesday, August 9th at noon. Ruth Burrough, Audrey Dorsey, Megan Jones, Julie Rankin, Judy Stetson and Joanne Voorhis are our honorary life members.

Returning members to our League are Jane Perry and Avis Grosslein. Marv Grosslein is a new member to the League. Marv and Avis have been long time friends of our League. Maureen Sullivan is the new membership chair. Her email is membership@lwvf.org.

LWVF FRIENDS FOR 2010-2011

Dorothy and Duncan Aspinwall
Frank Egloff
Sally Fritz
Avery Funkhouser
Christina Jacobi
Winnie and Bill Mackey
Polly Montgomery
Deborah G. Senft
Andrew Szent-Gyorgyi
John and Freddy Valois
Helen Wilson

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CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEES CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Megan Jones, former Chair, Falmouth Charter Review Committee

The Falmouth Town Charter is the constitution of our town. It was first adopted at the 1990 Annual Town Election and has been amended twice with recommendations from the 1997 and 2004 Charter Review Committees. The Charter requires that the Selectmen appoint a Charter Review Committee at least every seven (7) years.

Applications are now being accepted until July 29th for the seven member Falmouth Charter Review Committee.

As you will see from the list below, the two past Charter Review Committees have recommended significant Charter amendments which have been adopted first by Town Meeting and then by the voters. They include:

- Required the publishing of Town Meeting attendance in a local newspaper of general circulation
- Required a standing vote at Town Meeting whenever voice vote not sufficient as determined by Moderator
- Created the Town Meeting Rules and Procedures Committee
- Required an annual orientation for new Town Meeting members
- Clarified and strengthened the policy-making role of the Selectmen

- Clarified and strengthened the management role of the Town Manager
- Required Selectmen to work as a board and not as individuals
- Required Selectmen to make recommendations on all warrant articles not under the purview of the Finance committee or the Planning Board.
- Reduced Planning Board to seven (7) members
- Required the Planning Board to develop Master Plan for the town
- Adopted terms limits for appointed boards to three (3) three year terms
- Required the Selectmen to appoint a Charter Review Committee at least every seven (7) years


The Charter Review Committee is an important committee that needs knowledgeable and dedicated members with broad representation from the town. Similar to the past Charter Review Committees, one of new committee's first tasks should be to survey the town to determine whether there is still support for our present form of government. In the past support has been strong but it needs to be reexamined to see if that is still the case.
---as published in *The Enterprise* (edited)



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In Memoriam
Priscilla Roslansky

In 2010, the League of Women Voters of Falmouth awarded Pucky the Civic Achievement Award in recognition of her important contributions to the League and to the community over many years.

I would like to add a few informal memories of our dear friend. Pucky was always fun to be with. She was always doing something interesting and unusual and was happy to invite friends along for the ride.

Many of the rides I took with Pucky were to TV shoots. Pucky learned her camera techniques and editing skills at FCTV after she retired. She brought the same careful attention to her TV productions that she had to her scientific work. She also brought the intelligence and imagination that had made her an internationally recognized researcher.

“Beyond the Blue Bin” was a fairly early show. She thought of the idea, she organized the field trips and she contacted the appropriate experts for interviews. I was her interviewer. We followed the trail of the garbage and the recycling trucks out to the Waste Management Facility and then on to the transfer station at the Mass Military Reservation. She trained her camera on the garbage as it was dumped on the cement floor at the transfer station, sorted for unacceptable items, then pushed into waiting boxcars for the train trip to the incinerator in Rochester. We drove to that incinerator to take further pictures. And we went up to Avon where the recycling trucks delivered their mixed loads of paper, plastics and bottles. At one point Pucky had to haul her tripod and camera up a narrow steel stairway to get an overhead shot of the conveyor belt that sorted plastics. I would never have dreamed of doing any of this. Pucky

dreamed of doing it, did it, and created a compelling TV show that is still remembered in town.

The model airplane meet in Hatchville was another wonderful field trip. Pucky caught dramatic shots of the planes on the ground, taxiing down the field, lifting up to perform their aerial acrobatics and then landing safely. Several of the owners agreed to be interviewed and told us the stories of building and operating their prized model planes.

Pucky made at least two television productions of the Woods Hole Model Boat Show. Again, we had a fine time taking pictures of the boats and interviewing their proud owners. “Let’s get a picture of the model boats sailing in Eel Pond,” Pucky said, and led me up the ancient (200 year old?) wooden stairway between two restaurants to get the best view. I had never really noticed that stairway, let alone dared to climb it.

Pucky had to go alone to the opening of the MMR’s new wind turbine. She told me that she asked a perfect stranger to hold her steady while she pointed her camera straight up the inside of the towering structure. We were together again when she interviewed Bill Chapman about the need for an infiltration system for Long Pond. Pucky knew that Town Meeting and the voters needed more information about the expensive proposal, and needed a guided view of the existing equipment and the pond itself. She was no longer a Town Meeting member, but she knew that it was not ready to vote for the article without further information. So Pucky organized the interview with Bill Chapman,

collected me, and off we went on another field trip.

After every shoot, Pucky would spend hours in the editing room turning the raw footage into finished productions. "I saw you on FCTV last night," people would say to me after they had enjoyed a rerun of one of Pucky's shows.

Back in the days when we all had good knees and good eyes and strong arms, Pucky was a fine platform tennis player. That game is rather like playing ping pong on a giant's ping pong table. The court is a raised platform about half the size of a regular tennis court, made of metal with a nonskid surface and surrounded by taut chicken wire that bounces both balls and players back into the court. At the MBL court in Woods Hole, about 20 of us play a very local version of the national doubles game. We compete fiercely for every point, but we find it hard to keep track of the score and we never keep track of the games. Pucky was very good at it in her day, especially at net.

Pucky introduced me to Tai Chi more than twenty years ago. I was astonished at how hard it was to learn the 64 moves of our Guang Ping form. We would spend one hour learning one move. Then when we tried to practice that one move one hour later at home, we would discover that we couldn't quite remember which arm swept around in a warding motion and which one went forward in a punch. And just what was each leg supposed to be doing meanwhile? And where was our center of balance during that one move? Those first weeks were lessons in humility as well as in the basics of a martial art. It was most reassuring to have Pucky to confer with. We would each have a phone under one ear, our arms and legs waving tentatively in various directions as we tried to recreate the lesson.

When I first met Pucky she was working on horseshoe blood with Stanley Watson at Cape Cod Associates. So I knew she was a good scientist and a careful technician. When she and her colleague Monica Riley went off to international scientific conferences and field trips to places like Lake Baikal in China, I realized that she was a very good scientist indeed.

One day Pucky showed me the family history she was working on. I scanned up the generations until I came to the name of one of my own relatives. It turns out that Pucky and my mother are third cousins, Their great grandmothers were sisters in pre-Civil War New York sharing gay, social girlhoods. Clara Tileston was very sad when Mary went off to cold New England to marry a cold New Englander!

Pucky was intelligent, curious, imaginative, adventurous, creative; also careful, orderly and patient. Most of all Pucky was a great companion and a dear friend. ☺

Judy Stetson
June 2011