



# LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF FALMOUTH

P. O. Box 450, Falmouth, MA 02541

web: [www.lwvf.org](http://www.lwvf.org)

email: [league@lwvf.org](mailto:league@lwvf.org)

## Bulletin – September 2011

### *Member Events Calendar*

#### *September 2011*

- 15 7:30 pm Meeting: Smart Growth for Falmouth, Town Hall  
(Dinner at Peking Palace at 6:00 p.m.)
- 27 7:30 pm Board Meeting at Falmouth Hospital (Board Room)

#### *October 2011*

- 20 7:30 pm Program by the Natural Resources Committee  
(Dinner at Peking Palace at 6:00 p.m.)
- 24 7:30 p.m. Board Meeting (Board Room, Falmouth Hospital)

### LWVF BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2011-2012

#### STEERING COMMITTEE

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

Treasurer	<b>Joanne Voorhis</b>
Bulletin/Web	<b>Joan Boyer</b>
Legislative	<b>Meg Borden</b>
Local Study	<b>Doris Epstein</b>
Membership	<b>Maureen Sullivan</b>

Natural Resources	<b>Pam Polloni</b>
Observer Corps	<b>Deborah Siegal</b>
Outreach	<b>Landi Landrau</b>
Publicity	<b>Marcia Easterling</b>



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

Barbara Kanellopoulos

---

Once again we greet September with a challenging agenda, one that's sure to keep us in the forefront of national and local issues.

Our September 15<sup>th</sup> meeting with Brian Currie, Falmouth's Town Planner, is an opportunity to examine the principles of Smart Growth to find out how they apply to our community, and how they relate to conventional planning practices.

Our local study, *The Effectiveness of Local Government*, continues under Doris Epstein's able direction. Doris, Maureen Sullivan, Janice Perry, Barbara Fanger and I provided almost continuous coverage of the Selectmen's interviews of town manager finalists, and were able to chat with them. (To our delight, one candidate cited *Falmouth in Focus* as a source for his research.)

To help the Selectmen choose the best candidate, we have given them a list of the attributes of an effective town manager elicited from the community during three town wide forums sponsored by LWVF. The eleven-member group is staying involved in town government.

In November, participation begins in not one but two National studies, *The Federal Role in Public Education*, reported by Alice Carey in this issue, and *Privatization of Government Services, Assets, and Functions*.

LWVUS added this second study because privatization in state and local governments has been growing since the 1980s, raising concern over the public-private balance. Participants in the study will examine the history of privatization, the legal issues involved, current regulations, and case studies of successful and unsuccessful instances. Look for more information about this study in the November Bulletin.

Meanwhile, come to the September 15<sup>th</sup> meeting (7:30 in the Civil Defense Room at Town Hall) for a lively interactive discussion of Smart Growth. Join other Leaguers at Peking Palace before the meeting.



# LWVF 2011-2012 CALENDAR

To be published in the Membership Directory

**Public Meetings start at 7:30 P.M. and are held in the Civil Defense Room at Town Hall.**

*September 15, 2011* **SMART GROWTH. HOW COMMUNITIES CAN DEVELOP WITHOUT DISTRESSING THE ENVIRONMENT.**

Falmouth Town Planner Brian Currie will speak in a question-answer format.

*October 20, 2011* **PROGRAM BY THE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

*November 15, 2011* **LWVUS NATIONAL EDUCATION STUDY** led by Alice Carey.

*January 19, 2012* **LEGISLATIVE MEETING**

*February 16, 2012* **COMBINED NATIONAL AND LOCAL PROGRAM PLANNING**

*March 15, 2012* **LOCAL STUDY "The Effectiveness of Local Government"**

*April 19, 2012* **PRIVATIZATION STUDY** led by Barabara Kanellopoulos

*May 2012* **ANNUAL MEETING**

*June 21, 2012* **OBSERVER CORPS REPORTS**



**PGK SERVICES**  
YARD MAINTENANCE & LAWN CARE  
No Job Too Small • Free Estimates

508-457-9526  
508-542-4693 (cell) **Paul Kanellopoulos**  
[www.pgkserviceslandscaping.com](http://www.pgkserviceslandscaping.com)

**EDWARD T. HEYLIN**  
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT  
19 FALMOUTH HEIGHTS ROAD  
FALMOUTH, MASSACHUSETTS 02540

---

(508) 540-5386  
FAX (508) 540-5524

**Board Meetings are held at the Board Room, Falmouth Hospital at 7:30 p.m.**

Go to Lilly (main) Entrance of Hospital, enter Main door, pass Receptionist Desk, turn right, go through the doors, Board Room is on the left.

**BOARD MEETINGS:** *September 27, October 25, November 22, January 24, February 28, March 27, April 24, June 26.*

For five years the League Board has met every 4th Tuesday evening in the Hospital Board room. The Board would like to thank Falmouth Hospital for allowing the League Board the continuing use of the room once a month.

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

Alice Carey

---

## SCOPE OF THE STUDY:

1. The history, funding and equity issues which are addressed under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)
2. The Common Core of Standards/Assessment\* which are required for many federal grant programs which are national, not federal.

## TIMELINE OF STUDY:

November 17, 2011: LWVF Member meeting to study the "Role of the Federal Government in Public Education" and come to consensus.

March, 2012: LWVUS Board of Directors reviews consensus results for comment and approval.

On the LWVMA website-- <http://www.lwvma.org/> See bottom of left column for education study papers .

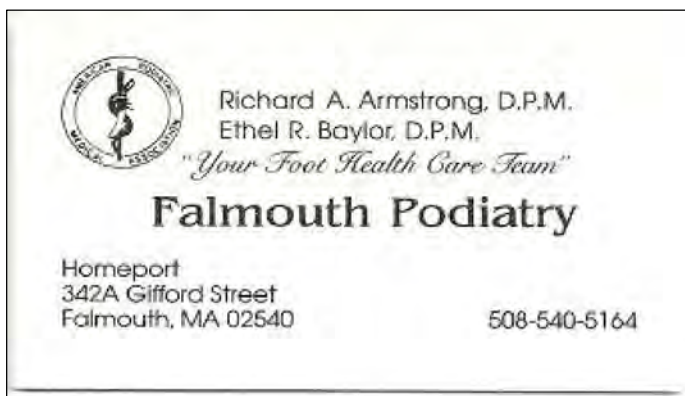
**WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE ON THE COMMITTEE THAT WILL HELP CLARIFY THE CONSENSUS QUESTIONS FOR THE LWVF MEMBERSHIP NOVEMBER 2011?**

**PLEASE CONTACT ME: ALICE CAREY, 508-548-7071 or [league@lwvf.org](mailto:league@lwvf.org)**

Welcome to new member Ann Mclaughlin, Falmouth!!

## LWVF FRIENDS FOR 2010-2011

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



## Legislative Report

Meg Borden

---

The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts supports a pending Senate bill to tighten state regulations on the purchase of guns and to curb access to illegal guns.

The League backs SB1195, the Prevention of Illegal Trafficking and Gun Violence, sponsored by Senators Sonia Chang-Diaz and Sal DiDomenico. Chief sponsors of the legislation in the House are Representatives Linda Forry, Cory Atkins, Russell Holmes, Ruth Balsar, Denise Provost and Benjamin Swan.

Major features of the proposed law are a limit on the number of guns a buyer can purchase in a year to prohibit the bulk purchase of guns; a state database to track the secondary gun market; and a prohibition on convicted felons working in gun shops. The bill would also close loopholes in the existing gun laws by requiring lost or stolen weapons be reported to police within 24 hours and requiring guns received as gifts or bequests to be licensed within 180 days.



 **Dee Engley** LCMT  
Therapeutic Massage  
508.495.9911

Licensed and  
Nationally Certified  
Member AMTA

314 Gifford St. Suite 4  
Homeport  
Falmouth, MA 02540

[www.DeeEngleyMassage.com](http://www.DeeEngleyMassage.com)



 **Stephanie Miele**  
*Certified Piano Technician*

Tuning and Repairing  
(508) 548-1759



**EIGHT COUSINS** INC.

189 Main St.  
Falmouth, MA  
02540



(508) 548-5548 *Quality Books for Youth*

web: [www.eightcousins.com](http://www.eightcousins.com) email: [cousin8@eightcousins.com](mailto:cousin8@eightcousins.com)

## Updated Bottle Bill: Press Event & Hearing, July 20, 2011 at the State House

Pam Polloni

SB1650/HB890: *An Act Updating the Bottle Bill*; Chief Sponsors: Senator Cynthia Creem/Representative Alice Wolf, Joint Committee: Joint Committee on Telecommunication, Utilities and Energy

On July 7, LWVMA members received an alert and request to attend two important hearings, both related to our environment, to be held at the state house. I forwarded the alert to LWVF members interested in natural resources and several of us determined that we could go to the bottle bill hearing on July 20<sup>th</sup>. On July 18, Joan Boyer forwarded a request from Launa Zimmaro, asking for local league representation at a press event and at the hearing, to expand the impact of the LWV's

support. We agreed to be there, and Ginny Gregg, Ruth Brazier, Carol DeYoung, and I went. At 7:00 AM we carpooled to Lakeville and took the train to South Station where as the train came to a stop Ruth said, "Now we run". We walked and ran uphill to the State House in time to gather with a large group of supporters at the foot of the steps for the 9:15 press event (the steps are now inaccessible to the public).



At the press event Janet Domenitz of MassPIRG introduces Chief Sponsor, Cynthia Creem, who is surrounded by Launa Zimmaro (LWVMA), Jay McCaffrey (Sierra Club Mass.) and many others.

The hearing followed at 10:00, and we listened to both opponents and supporters of the 14-year effort to update the Bottle Law. Supporters included many well-spoken individuals and representatives of groups, including Mass. Audubon, Environmental League of Mass., Sierra Club, and an impressive group of legislators. **There is no doubt that the bottle deposit is the best way to assure that municipalities don't bear the burden of clean-up and disposal of bottle waste.**

Opponents have argued that the deposit is a tax,

but purchasers get the deposit back when they return the bottles.

Ginny had agreed to speak for us in Falmouth where the town's tourism industry leaves the municipality with the expensive problem of clean up and disposal of bottle waste. Sadly, the LWVMA group was one of the last to be called, and we had been unable to stay to the end, but Lynn Wolbarst and Launa's group eventually were able to make their statements on behalf of the League.



“Bottle Bill” leads the rally for the update.

**Important facts:**

- Deposits increase recycling. The 20-25 % recycling rate for non-deposit containers jumps to 80% when containers are redeemable.
- Deposits reduce litter. In states with broader deposit systems, container litter goes down an average of 78%; all litter is reduced by an average of 45%.
- Saves money for towns. Recycling will save from \$4.53 to \$6.5 million annually in trash collection and disposal costs when consumers return containers for redemption rather than toss them in the trash or public spaces.
- Saves resources since PET plastic #1 is comprised of 99% petroleum.
- As with all deposits in MA, the 5 cent deposit is fully refundable when returned
- Successful expanded container deposit systems have been implemented in Maine, NY, CT, California, and Hawaii

- Prices in Bottle Bill and non-Bottle Bill states are comparable. A study funded by the National Food Processors Association found that soda in Massachusetts "costs roughly the same as soda in New Hampshire"
- 200 Municipalities have endorsed Update the Bottle Bill. Falmouth is not yet one of them.

Since no action has been taken following the hearing, supporters have begun a move to put the bill on the November 2012 ballot. Association to Preserve Cape Cod (APCC) has urged supporters to help get enough signatures. For more information go to:

<http://apcc.org/content/its-time-update-bottle-bill-0>

and the Bottle Bill Coalition’s website:

<http://www.massbottlebill.org/ubb/index.htm>.

## Honoring our Life Members on Judy's Porch

Kathy Mortenson

The Board would like to thank Judy Stetson for hosting a wonderful brown bag lunch on her wide porch on August 9th. We would also like to thank Tom Stetson for helping to set up all the chairs on the porch and for mowing the field for parking.

We celebrated with our League's life members with a red white and blue LWV cake. We were sorry Audrey Dorsey was sick that afternoon and could not join us. Audrey Dorsey and Julie Rankin have been given their certificates.

Sylvia Szulkin presented Ruth Burrough, Megan Jones, Judy Stetson and Joanne Voorhis with a letter and certificate signed by the LWVUS President Elizabeth MacNamara honoring their dedication to the League of Women Voters.

The President wrote in her letter to each life member: "It is with great pleasure that I am writing to congratulate you on 50 years of outstanding service to the LWV. Please accept the enclosed certificate as a token of our appreciation as you become a Life Member in the League. Your dedication and continued contribution through the years are what make the League one of the most effective and powerful organizations in the country. It is the generous gift of time and other personal resources you've given that creates meaningful change in communities here and throughout the world. May your life of service stand as a model for the generations that follow you."



# Observer Corps Report Board of Selectmen 2010-2011

Kathleen Murray

---

Observing the selectmen can be interesting, as so many items seem to show up at one of the meetings eventually. It can also lead to boredom when one goes on and on without anything new being discussed.

I find it useful every year to review the Town Charter before writing my notes as an Observer for the Board of Selectmen. I also like to be aware of any changes in the Open Meeting law.

Unfortunately, as in past few years, there were many somewhat personal agendas. (This applied not only to the Selectmen but also to some of the populace that attended the meetings.) Talking more or longer does not necessarily lead to better and more informed decision-making. I can see the need for everyone's right to be heard but do wish the thoughts were organized and concise. Personal agendas lead to even longer meetings, some squabbling and even more than usual split decisions. It makes compromise and consensus difficult.

There was an effort to make the meetings briefer and ending by ten. I appreciate the effort but was not surprised it didn't work. There may have been several reasons for this besides the fact that all Selectmen were not always prepared for the meeting.

A lot, by necessity, comes before the selectmen.

They appoint various town boards and committees and interview new applicants.

Executive sessions are often held before the regular meeting and often not enough time is allowed.

Often insufficient time is allowed for a posted item. This sometimes resulted in a following item being postponed for another day.

Award-giving often takes more time than allotted.

Workshops with other committees take time and perhaps should be held on a separate day or be started earlier.

According to the Charter, "The Board shall set five-year goals and policies to be examined annually and modified as needed". To his credit, the chair did try to work on reviewing policies this year but the Board discovered the policies were many and took much time. A new approach to this problem may have to be found.

On the positive side:

Licensing powers come under the Selectmen and that did seem to go fairly smoothly this past year.

There was a strong effort to start all public hearings on time.

There was an attempt to cope with the problem of finances at an earlier date.

Certain items kept recurring and seemed to take many hours. These included water, wastewater, solid waste, and the eventual need of a new Town Manager.

There were changes to the Massachusetts Open Meeting Law this year and this occasionally caused discussion due to uncertainty. There is really no place to discuss items not on the agenda and it is certainly wrong to vote on an item not on the agenda. This did occur once and needed a second vote the following week. On occasion a time sensitive request is allowed without being on the agenda.

Last comments: Soft voices are hard to hear and I understand that this may also occur on the FCTV broadcast, so I wish all speakers would speak more loudly. Most of the Town Manager's Report is no longer read or discussed. Although it does save a lot of time, it might be nice to at least know what topics were covered.