



Plymouth Area League of Women Voters

March, 2018 Bulletin

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DATE	EVENT	TIME	LOCATION
Saturday, March 24, 2018	Update on Opiate Crisis: Focus on Youth Panel discussion on what is available and what else is needed in Plymouth Area to help combat the Opioid Crisis. Forum will include lunch, reservations will be required.	10AM	Plymouth Public Library Otto Fehlow Room 132 South Street Plymouth MA
Thursday, April 5, 2018	Monthly Board Meeting All members welcome to this monthly meeting of the Board	6:45 PM	Law Office of Alice Lague 18 Main Street Ext, Plym- outh - upstairs over Strega
Sunday, April 8, 2018	4th Annual Civics Bee Multi high school Civics game	1:30 PM	PCIS Auditorium Long Pond Road
Thursday, April 26, 2018	Candidates Forum Local Candidates forum	7:00 PM	Town Hall, Great Hall 26 Court Street,
Friday, April 27, 2018	Last Day to Register to Vote in Plymouth Town Election	7:30AM— 8PM	Town Hall 26 Court Street, Plymouth Clerk's Office
Saturday, April 28, 2018	Beyond The March—Women Leading the Way in Massachusetts Please join us for a full day of en- gaging speakers to explore lessons from women's activist past, the key role of women leaders today, and concrete steps we can all take to strengthen our democracy going forward	9AM— 3PM	Clark University, Tilton Wetzel Room 950 Main Street, Worcester, MA Click Here for more information
Saturday, May 19, 2018	Plymouth Town Elections	7AM— 7PM	Town Clerk's Office or Click Here to Find out where to vote

All league members are invited to attend the board meetings, and are encouraged to join a committee of their liking.

The more active members who share their ideas and talents, the stronger and more effective will our league become.

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Alice Graham Lague
Attorney at Law

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2017–2018 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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LYLE LAWRENCE	781-585-2644	Lyle.lawrence@comcast.net			

2017–2018 CURRENT COMMITTEES AND COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

* If at any time a member is interested in joining a committee or receiving more information on the charge of the committee, please contact the Committee Chairman, committee member or any member of the Board.

COMMITTEE	CHAIRMEN	PHONE #	EMAIL ADDRESS
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From The Board



Updates

From the Board:

We are happy to welcome Vedna Heywood of Plymouth to the Plymouth Area League of Women Voters Board of Directors.

New Members:

Please welcome our new members to the League!!

[Vedna Heywood—See New Member Spotlight Pg 12](#)

Sharon Reed-Eramian

Kathryn Holmes

Erin Pallidino

Cheryl King Fisher



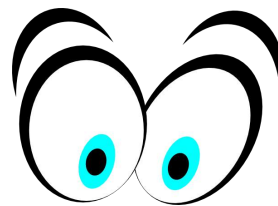
****Help Wanted****

The League needs your help being members of [Observer Corps](#) for the following committees:

Charter Review Committee

Nuclear Matters Committee

County Government Committee



Observer Corps: To monitor governmental bodies for information of Importance to the League and the community/state.

Click the [Observer Corps Link](#) to find out more about why this is so important!

From The Massachusetts League of Women Voters

For the League position on gun control [CLICK HERE](#) and urge others to as well.

Contact your State Legislators

Recent Events



Charter Review Committee

Martha Vautrain

Charter Review Observer Corps
Notes from Feb 22, 2018 From Martha Vautrain

	DISCUSSION	RECOMMENDATION
1	BOS using 3/5 or 4/5 vote to recommend release of T. Manager	Stay with 4/5
2	Number of town Meetings/year	Three: Spring (May thru April), Summer (May thru August), Fall (Sept thru Dec)
3	Number of TMM/Precinct	Stay with 9
4	Moderator ruling at T. Mtg.	Change to having an appeal process so T. Mtg can vote to change ruling.
5	Public Works director and Dept.	
6	Finance Director and Dept.	
7	Conservation Dept.	
8	Zoning Board of Appeals	BOS will try to appoint people to the Board so that membership includes: Architect/Engineer, Construction Tradesperson, Attorney, Environmentalist, At large.
9	Planning (started only)	

Next meetings: March 1 and 15.

Continue with plan to bring recommendations for chapters 1 – 3, which covers bulk of the Charter, to Spring Town Meeting and remaining recommendations to Fall Town Meeting.

To assist in serving in the Observer Corps for the Charter Review Committee,
please contact Peg Bergiel or Martha Vautrain



Committee Reports**Charter Review Committee****Continued****Notes from Charter Review Committee Meeting March 1, 2018 Courtesy of Patricia Adelman**

Members present:

Dennis Begley, Chair, Bill Abbott, Joanne Aprea, Karen Buechs, Sergio Harnais, Beth Segal, Sarah Sibley

Tardy: Scott Vecchi

Absent: David Peck, Vice Chair

- The committee reviewed the April 7, 2018 Special Town Meeting Article 11 to be presented to the Select Board on March 6, 2018 and to the Advisory and Finance Committee on March 8, 2018. The article is broken down into sections intentionally to be voted on separately.
- Under old business the subject of the Finance Director's position not requiring a master's degree was discussed. The Department of Public Works Director's position requires a master's degree. Other director's positions require a specific number of years of paid professional experience within the field, but no mention of advanced degrees. Instead of adding an advanced degree requirement to the finance director's qualifications, a motion was made to remove the master's degree requirement from the DPW Director's position. After further discussion the motion was withdrawn.
- Discussion of requiring Town Meeting Members to be sworn in well in advance of Town Meeting was discussed.
- All Agreed for the COPC to review Town Meeting actions and to make recommendations annually in a report to the Town Clerk.
- A list reflecting the changes and how they will effect the by-laws will be sent to the COPC chair.
- Language regarding the form of sending material to Town Meeting members was changed to electronic.
- The appointing authority for the Advisory and Finance Committee was discussed at length. There was a suggestion of sharing appointing authority between the Moderator and the Precinct chairs.
- It was discussed that the hours of Town Hall's operations should be subject to Town Meeting approval.
- The Planning Board should have its own section in the Charter. Research on how other town charters write in the Planning board will be presented at another meeting.
- The appointing authority of the Planning Board needs to be cleaned up.
- The language stating that the Planning Board appoints 9 members of the Open Space Committee needs to be taken out. The Planning Board, the Select Board, and the Conservation Commission all make appointments to the Open space Committee.
- The Open Space Committee is not the single committee advising the Community Preservation Committee.
- The Community Preservation Committee needs to be in the Charter.
- There are 4 members to the CPC appointed at large by the Select Board. The other 5 members by statute are from the Planning Board, the Conservation Commission, the Historical Commission, the Housing Authority, and Parks /Recreation.
- The Building Committee is a good example of an effective committee added to the Charter, after a former Charter Review addressed the need for better supervision of school building construction.
- There are three elected boards with no section in the Charter: Housing Authority, Redevelopment Authority, and School Committee.
- The point was made that appointees may fear retribution from the appointing board, when a single board has sole appointing authority. The Zoning Board of Appeals and the Conservation Commission are appointed only by the Select Board. Change was suggested.
- All seven chapters of the Charter were surveyed. Committee will determine changes at future meetings.

Committee adjourned at 8:43 PM.

Committee Reports



Civics Bee

Deb Etzel/Lyle Lawrence

FOURTH ANNUAL CIVICS BEE

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THIS FUN AND EDUCATIONAL EVENT

The Civics Bee Committee is reminding everyone that the Fourth Annual Civics Bee will be held at **1:30 pm on Sunday, April 8th** in The Little Theater at the **Plymouth Community Intermediate School**.

This year we have nine high schools competing – our biggest participation ever - and expect an exciting contest. Will undefeated Plymouth North High School finally succumb to a rival, or will they take home the trophy for the fourth straight time?

The Committee is looking for volunteers to assist with the event. You can help by being a scorekeeper. Since questions are multiple choice, keeping score on our templates is fast and easy. Please call Lyle Lawrence at 774-343-5548 if you are interested in helping.



Committee Reports



Opioid Committee

Alice Lague—Chair



Opioid Forum Focusing on Teen Addiction

Saturday, March 24, 2018

Plymouth Public Library, Otto Fehlow Room

Time- 10:00 am-1:00 pm

Reservations are required. Visit our website www.plymouthlww.org or our Facebook page @plymoutharealwv for a link to register via Eventbrite

A light lunch will be provided and space is limited.

PRESENTED BY

THE PLYMOUTH AREA LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS



[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER VIA EVENBRITE](#)

A VIEW FROM THE COURTS FEATURING:

Judge Mary O'Sullivan Smith and Probation Officer Janet MacFarlane both from Plymouth Juvenile Court



A VIEW FROM THE SCHOOLS FEATURING:

Superintendent Gary Maestas, Ed. D, Plymouth Public Schools

A VIEW FROM RECOVERY:

Katie Morini, VP Board of Directors, Plymouth Recovery Center
Shannon Mountain Ray, MSW, LICSW, Wareham Pediatrics



Featuring "HIDDEN IN PLAIN SIGHT" EXHIBIT



Recent Events



Legislators Night

Mary Lesuer

More than thirty attended PALWV's annual dinner event with our local legislators. Vinny deMacedo, our state senator and former state representative, reminded everyone that this was the 19th time he had attended this event! He was joined by State representative, Mat Muratore. Unfortunately neither Representatives Calter and Hunt could attend at the last minute – though Monica Mullin (aide to deMacedo), Betty Debenedictis (aide now to Muratore) and Meghan Cleaves (Calter's aide) were. We were sorry to hear that Randy Hunt's aide, Matt Liber, was recovering from stab wounds from a recent totally unprovoked attack in Boston.

As usual the agenda was demanding and though the meeting did begin at 7 it did not end until 8:45 p.m., due to the important but "added" gun control item. (The legislators had been sent the proposed program prior to the tragic Florida school shootings.)



Among the Highlights:

Both legislators noted the tight gun control laws already "on the books" in MA.

In preparation for the meeting, Vinny had "researched" his rating by the NRA which he shared, noting that he had not received a high mark. He reiterated that he has "reasonable" priorities. MA does have on the "books" the Extreme Risk Protective Order that allows families and police officials the power to temporarily remove dangerous arms from a person considered dangerous to himself or others. Unfortunately, due to the lateness of the hour we were unable to delve into their po-

sitions on other specific issues, such as "armed" teachers.

Muratore favors Automatic Voter Registration. deMacedo shared Secretary of State Galvin's concerns about "potential" hacking. He also noted Galvin's absolute requirement that MA maintain paper ballots for all elections.

Vinnie noted the practicality of affordable housing legislative language that requires state funding for low and middle class housing be near public transportation, citing the Cordage housing units in progress. He added that fortunately local legislators in anticipation of this development had been successful in saving the adjacent train location a while ago before the state would have closed it!

When asked the status of a bill for additional monies for Plymouth County government, they responded that it had been voted out of committee favorably. We then expressed our concern that additional monies might be provided. (Some in attendance were unaware that our League has a position that recommends the abolishment of Plymouth County Government).

In response to our question regarding long term plans for climate change amelioration, deMacedo referenced Senator Marc Pacheco's omnibus bill proposal that has passed the senate and awaits house action. (For details please refer to his [Omnibus Clean Energy Bill](#))

Regarding the need for increasing funding for the opioid crisis, they "happily" shared that the recently passed Care Act provides new monies for beds and education, including recovery coaches. Though they acknowledged that the opioid crisis is still a major problem, they noted that there has been a 30% reduction for related drug prescriptions and an 8% reduction in deaths.



Recent Events



Ranked Choice Voting

Deborah Etzel

The forum on Ranked Choice Voting and Automatic Voter Registration was held on March 1st. The two speakers Deb Otis and Jonathan Cohn gave informative presentations on the two subjects. The forum was filmed and shown live on PACTV and we hope to have the video available shortly.

The MA LWV has a position supporting the Automatic Voter Registration legislation now pending in the State House. Please watch for updates and calls for support. Ranked Choice Voting has a ballot initiative for the 2020 election cycle so stay tuned.

The Plymouth Area League of Women Voters presents:

Exploring 21st Century Voting:
Ranked Choice Voting &
Automatic Voter Registration

Thursday, March 1, 2018

7:00 p.m.

Plymouth Town Hall - The Great Hall
26 Court Street, Plymouth

- Can we/should we modernize the electoral process in the 21st century and why?
- What is Ranked Choice Voting and how does it work?
- What is Automatic Voter Registration and how does it work?
- How would these new systems impact our elections?
- What can we do to support these changes?



Speakers

**Ranked Choice Voting**

Deb Otis serves as Regional Live Outreach Director for Voter Choice Massachusetts. She is committed to finding and implementing improvements to our electoral system which empower individuals and increase civic engagement. A key area of focus is to increase representation for women and people of color in statewide and federal offices. She holds bachelor's degrees in Economics and Physics from Boston University and lives in Newton.

**Automatic Voter Registration**

Jonathan Cohn is Co-Chair of the Issues Committee of Progressive Massachusetts, an organization that works to advance progressive values through issue organizing, electoral organizing, and education.

Educate • Advocate • Impact

For Your Information**Legislators Contact Info****CONTACT INFORMATION FOR OUR LEGISLATORS****U. S. Senator Elizabeth Warren**

317 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20510
Phone: 202-224-4543

Or

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U.S. Edward Markey

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Plymouth Office

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Randy Hunt

(Precinct 9)
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Mathew Muratore

(Precincts 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 12, 14, 15)
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For Your Information**Legislators Contact Info (cont.)****Plymouth Board of Selectmen****Kenneth Tavares, Chair**

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Betty Cavacco

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Shelagh Joyce

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John Mahoney, Jr.

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Plymouth Town Meeting Precinct Chairs

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- 2 Richard M. Serkey Chair rserkey@wwsr.com 60 Allerton St
- 3 Gerald E. Sirrico Chair lhsges@verizon.net 38 Mayflower St
- 4 Clare A. Montanari Chair cmontanari@aol.com 71 Harborlight
- 5 W. Wrestling Brewster Chair wwb@bpcs.us 39 Forge Drive
- 6 Megan Collins-Dempster Chair meganrcd@hotmail.com 18 Bartlett Rd
- 7 Karen Buechs Chair luckystz@aol.com 146 Bartlett Rd
- 8 Terese A. Brennan Chair atty.tbrennan@gmail.com 1035 Long Pond Rd
- 9 Francis E. Lydon Chair frankolyd@aol.com 74 Raymond Rd
- 10 Alan M. Costello Chair CostelloTownRep10@com 41 Huntington
- 11 Ronald Reilly Chair rreilly67@verizon.net 242 Plympton
- 12 Betsy R. Hall Chair bh2746@yahoo.com 43 West Long Pond Rd
- 13 Anita J. Hadley Chair nonni7111@verizon.net 235 Carver Road
- 14 Karen M. Keane Chair kmkcjk04@aol.com 87 Ellisville Green
- 15 Michael J. Hanlon III Chair mihanlon3@verizon.net 2 Wayside Path

**NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT**

Vedna Lacombe-Heywood

My name is Vedna Lacombe-Heywood. I've been a resident of Plymouth for 9 years by way of South Florida. I am married to Jim Heywood and am a mother a wonderfully precocious 5 year old boy. I am currently a nurse working at Brigham and Women's in the Burn Surgical Trauma Intensive Care Unit. I've been a nurse for 21yrs working in various areas, with trauma being the longest at 16 years. I currently chair the Practice Council in my unit and am part of various committees/taskforces hospital wide. I am currently working on a graduate degree in Nursing, specifically Psych to branch out into the area of counseling. My desired area is bereavement, trauma and relationships. I co-lead an infant early child loss bereavement group at Hope Floats in Kingston and am a bereavement specialist in the same area with Boston Medical Center.

I have always been drawn to working in underserved areas, generally where children and women are concerned. I have volunteered and been on the boards of the March of Dimes, DCF, and Plymouth No Place For Hate Committee since having moved to Massachusetts.

I welcome the opportunity to serve on the board of the League of Women Voters. I am interested in serving in the areas of local government, gun control and childhood education. I want to thank the League for giving me this opportunity and I look forward to working with everyone.

