



The Mass. League Voter

A newsletter for members of the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts

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Calendar

Friday February 1 - LWVMA Program Planning Deadline

Monday February 4 - LWVUS Database Update Deadline

Monday February 25 - LWVMA Board Meeting, 11:30am, LWVMA office

Saturday March 2 - LWVMA League Leader Lunch-West

Wednesday March 13 - LWVMA Day on the Hill

Monday March 25 - LWVMA Board Meeting, 11:30am, LWVMA office

Wednesday March 27 - LESF Board Meeting, 12:00pm, LWVMA office

Friday May 17 - Saturday May 18 - LWVMA Convention

Plan to Attend Day on the Hill-Make the League's Voice Heard



The League's annual Day on the Hill lobbying day at the State House is Wednesday, March 13. This year's theme is "Democracy is Not a Spectator Sport" with a focus on how to be an effective advocate. The Day on the Hill program runs from 10 a.m. to noon in the Gardner Auditorium at the State House.

Please plan to come, perhaps with a group of other interested members from your League. The more people who visit their legislators, the more influence the League has. There's strength in numbers.

Rep. Thomas Conroy will use an upcoming piece of legislation to illustrate the process of drafting legislation, getting sponsors, and the role advocacy plays, including how the state and local Leagues can be effective in presenting their positions on legislation. A second speaker from an advocacy organization will discuss the issue from that point of view.

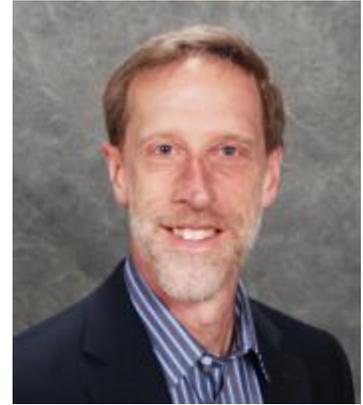
The state League's legislative specialists will talk briefly about key bills expected in this session of the legislature. Details on the bills, including specific talking points, will be distributed to local Leagues before Day on the Hill, so you will have the information you need to make the case with your legislators.

Please consider contacting your legislators in advance to make an appointment to discuss League-supported legislation with them right after the morning's program.

Remembering Dan Scharfman

Dan Scharfman, the trustee representing the Scharfman family on the board of the Lotte E. Scharfman Citizen Education Fund, died Jan. 20, of a heart attack at 55. His service on the Scharfman board brought both expertise and continuity to the fund established in 1971 in honor of his mother. He made a valuable contribution to and lasting impression on LWVMA and will be missed tremendously.

Dan was a valuable member of his community as well as the League, serving as a member of the Belmont School Committee. Click [here](#) to read a news article and his obituary in the Boston Globe.



The Lotte E. Scharfman Memorial Citizen Education Fund is a nonpartisan, not-for-profit fund. Its mission is to encourage informed and active citizen participation in government through citizen education and voter service projects. It serves the public, both individuals and organizations, by providing advice and training on how to make government responsive and accessible. Lotte Scharfman was president of the Massachusetts League when she died in 1970. She was a refugee from Hitler's Germany who devoted her life to working for the democratic process. She is widely credited with coining the phrase, "Democracy is not a spectator sport."

Nine Leagues Awarded Grants in Scharfman Citizen Education Program

Congratulations to the nine local Leagues receiving Lotte E. Scharfman Citizen Education grants under the second funding cycle of the new education fund program. These Leagues submitted seven grant applications, one from three Leagues working together. Each application requested \$250, and the total amount dispersed in this cycle for the seven grants was \$1,725. The application deadline for the next funding cycle is March 1, 2013.

These innovative and important programs that local Leagues are carrying out show the depth and breadth of LWV involvement throughout our state. The Lotte E. Scharfman Citizen Education Grant Program offers funds to help local Leagues in such endeavors. Generous contributions to the Lotte E. Scharfman Fund have made this successful grant program possible. Donations can be made through the website, lwvma.org; the fund is a 501(c)3 and contributions are tax-deductible. We would like to thank our past donors who helped make this grant program a success.

The January grant recipients are:

LWV Belmont: A Guide to Conserving Land in Belmont

LWV Belmont plans to print 3,200 copies of a 16-page pamphlet about saving open space. The pamphlet provides information on preserving existing open space, a brief introduction to options for conserving land for homeowners, and sources for further information. Belmont plans to mail about 3,000 copies to donated lists and distribute the rest through Town Hall, the public library, etc. This grant will fund a portion of the total project cost.

LWV Brookline: Voters Guide 2013

The Voters Guide is the primary resource for Brookline residents to evaluate candidates for Town Meeting and town-wide offices. It is printed as an insert in the local newspaper, which goes to about 14,000 households in Brookline. Among residents of Brookline, the Voters Guide is perhaps the most visible and prominent League project. Normally there are about 100 candidates and the Voters Guide runs 16 pages. This grant will fund a portion of the total project cost. See Voters Guide 2012 [here](#).

LWV Concord-Carlisle: Yellow Rose Event Promotion Kit

A Yellow Rose Event raises awareness of the history of women in the United States and in the League of Women Voters and encourages participation of young women in our democracy. The kit will include digital copies/access to strategies and materials to engage young people, schools, libraries and other groups in Yellow Rose Events, including books to read, PPTs and movies to show, discussion topics and other tools such as curriculum materials for use at different school age levels, flyers and giveaways at events to connect attendees to the League and to the history of women in the US. Strategies using social media to attract and educate such as tweeting, emailing, and facebooking will be emphasized. Funds will be used for materials for a promotional display and printing collectable "bookmark" giveaways. The bookmarks include a picture of a notable woman in US history (Her face), a quote attributed to her (Her words) and a short bio (Her story). On the

reverse is a website of the local League or the state League urging people to "bookmark" the website, engage with the LWV and get involved in the women's movement.

LWV Lexington: LWVL Community Conversation: "Climate Change: How Can We Make a Difference in Lexington?"

The LWVL Second Annual Community Conversation will provide a forum to assess Lexington's readiness to adapt to the challenges of a changing climate. The event will be Feb. 26, 2013, 7:30 pm in Keilty Hall, 2001 Massachusetts Avenue, Lexington, MA 02420. The goals of this year's Community Conversation will be to raise community awareness about the impacts of climate change and the implications for Lexington; to encourage discussion and cooperation among the many groups in Lexington dedicated to environmental issues; and to come away from the evening having developed a realistic set of action items. This grant will fund a portion of the total project cost.

LWV Norwood: Candidate Forum

The Norwood League of Women Voters considers our voter service one of the most important things we do for our community. We plan to sponsor a voter service candidate's night in April 2013. The requested funds will cover about 2/3 of the cost of the project.

LWV Sudbury, Weston, Wayland: Civics Bee

The fifth annual LWV of Sudbury, Wayland, and Weston Civics Bee will take place on March 3, 2013 in Weston. The three leagues have cooperated to design an event which educates both participants and the public about how the US government works. Local public school middle and high school Social Science teachers support the Bee by recruiting and coaching student participants. Each town fields an inter-generational team of 3 adults, 3-6 middle school students, and 3-6 high school students to answer questions about civics in a format similar to a spelling bee. The winning town houses the Civics Bee Trophy at a local school for the next year, and a plaque with the town's name is added to the base of the trophy. Questions are designed to educate students and adults on how to register, how to vote, and how to get an absentee ballot while away at college. Other topics covered include the US Constitution, the three branches of federal government, and the organization of the three towns' local governments. When we started the Bee five years ago, we began with very easy questions and quickly learned that, to challenge the students, we have to ask AP Government level questions. The funds will cover about 2/3 of the project cost.

LWV Worcester Area: Civic Education Series

During the National Election cycle last November, the Worcester Area League of Women Voters, in collaboration with the local chapter of the NAACP, and WCCA Channel 13 (Worcester's local cable access channel) created four Public Service Announcements in English, Spanish, Vietnamese, and Hindi. In the PSAs, young people encouraged people to vote on Election Day and explained what paperwork voters might need to prove residency. Please view them at these links.

<http://www.wccatv.com/video/specials/leaguevote>

<http://www.wccatv.com/video/specials/leaguevote2>

<http://www.wccatv.com/video/specials/leaguevote3>

<http://www.wccatv.com/video/specials/leaguevotespanish>

Based on the success of the PSAs, the Worcester League, WCCA, and the NAACP would like to create PSAs, ranging in duration from 30 seconds to one minute, focused on civics education. The Boys and Girls Club of Worcester has interested members who would like to work on this project and will be a new partner moving forward.

Topics could include the voter registration process, civic engagement, government structure, or various historical topics such as the suffrage movement. These young people will come up with topics, schedule, and scripts in English, Spanish, Haitian-Creole, Vietnamese and Albanian. Participants will also have the ability to train for and practice production and presentation skills.

The program will have three League members run the Civic Education Series and will have a new PSA run every 2 months, totaling six. Additionally, the team members will research and share with the Worcester community at least 5 pieces related to civic education throughout the year. The program will engage at least 10 young people from Greater Worcester. The approved funds will cover about half the project cost.

Save the Date for the LWVMA Convention!



The LWVMA 2013 Convention "The Future of Our Democracy: What's Next?" will be May 17-18 at the Boston Marriott Peabody Hotel in Peabody.

We are planning interesting workshops and scheduling stimulating speakers. All the details will be available in the Call to Convention in mid-February. Keep an eye on your inbox for that invitation, and put the date on your calendar. All League members in the state are encouraged to attend; each local League has a set number of votes depending on size.

At this convention, the state League will be adopting a two-year budget for the first time and will be electing officers and the board of directors for the next two years.

Looking for a League Treasurer

The Nominating Committee is looking for someone with a financial or accounting background to join the state League board. Our treasurer, Joan Boyer, after an admirable job steering LWVMA back to financial health, has decided not to remain on the board after her term expires in May. The Nominating Committee is now looking for someone to serve as state League treasurer. If you are such a person or know someone who is, let us know at nominating@lwmva.org, or call Erin Pastuszenski 978-369-3842.

In addition, if you know someone with a financial, accounting or auditing background who could serve as an advisor to the board, whether or not they are a League member, the Nominating Committee would also appreciate their contact information.

Thank you from the committee: Erin Pastuszenski, Nancy Brumback, Andrea Kozinetz, Florence Seldin and Terry Yoffie



Renewing the Social Compact



After a yearlong study of civic education and engagement in the Commonwealth, the Special Commission on Civic Engagement and Learning, chaired by Sen. Richard T. Moore, has released its report, "Renewing the Social Compact."

The Special Commission was revived in 2011 by the Legislature and charged with studying, reporting and making recommendations on civic engagement and learning. The Commission was comprised of legislative, administrative, education, and community groups and officials. The entire report can be found [here](#).

The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts had a seat on the Commission, and Terry Yoffie, our education specialist, represented us. There is much to do to implement the recommendations in the report, and Terry is looking for members who would like to assist her at the State House with that effort. You can contact her at tyoffie@lwmva.org.

New Items in Stock!



We are now offering bumper stickers with the slogan "Democracy is not a spectator sport," just in time for the elections. They make great, inexpensive gifts to members and friends or items to sell or distribute at your League events. They are \$15 for 10 stickers or 1 for \$2.

Other items newly in stock:



LWV Buttons

red/blue logo (approximately 2 inches round)
\$3.00 each; 5+ buttons at \$2.00 each



LWV Note Cards

LWV color logo + League of Women Voters on 5"x3-1/2" white folded cards/envelopes.
\$6.00/package of 10



LWV Ceramic Mugs

LWV logo + red, white and blue design with quote, "Give Democracy a Wake Up Call" on a white porcelain mug.
\$8 each

For an entire list of our wares, click [here](#). To make an order, call the LWMVA office at (617)523-2999.

The Massachusetts League Voter is distributed to all LWMVA members we have email addresses for. Anyone can request the Update by clicking [here](#).

Quick Links

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