



League of Women Voters®

Massachusetts

## League Leader Update

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### Calendar

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| Wednesday June 5  | Voter Registration Deadline for US Senate Election |
| Monday June 24    | LWVMA Board Meeting, 11:00am-1:30pm, LWVMA office  |
| Tuesday June 25   | US Senate Election                                 |
| Wednesday June 26 | Annual LESF Board Meeting, 12:00pm, LWVMA office   |
| Monday July 29    | LWVMA Board Meeting, 11:00am-1:30pm, LWVMA office  |
| Monday August 26  | LWVMA Board Meeting, 11:00am-1:30pm, LWVMA office  |

### Convention Picks Co-Presidents



*Left to right, top to bottom: Marlene O'Brien, Andrea Kozinetz, Marilyn Peterson, Anne Borg, Dee Ortner, Carole Pelchat, Jean Cherdack, Karen Price, Nancy Brumback, Becky Shannon and Launa Zimmaro*

League delegates from across the state met for two days in Peabody, attending workshops, getting to know each other and making decisions about the state League's activities for the next two years. Kudos to the convention planning committee-Lora Goldenberg, Carin Kale, Natalie Kassabian, Karen Price, Marilyn Peterson and Cindy Nock-for a superb job!

Anne Borg of Newton and Marilyn Peterson of Acton were elected co-presidents of LWVMA.

Other state officers are Karen Price, Needham, first vice president; Nancy Brumback, Sudbury, second vice president; Dee Ortner, Concord-Carlisle, secretary; and Andrea Kozinetz, Newton, treasurer.

The League's directors will be Jean Cherdack, Northampton; Marlene O'Brien, Wellesley; Carole Pelchat, greater Haverhill; Becky Shannon, Amherst; and Launa Zimmaro, Concord-Carlisle.

These officers and directors will serve two-year terms, until May 2015.

Two League members received the Above and Beyond Award from the state board. Erin Pastuzenski of the Concord-Carlisle League was honored for her work as a member of the Nominating Committee for four years and its chair the last two, plus the many other tasks she's taken on. Ruth Race of the Topsfield-Boxford-Middleton League was honored for her many years of outstanding service as the Field Service Representative for the Merrimack Valley/North Shore region. Congratulations and thanks to both Erin and Ruth.

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## Here's our 2013-2015 program

The convention delegates approved an ambitious program of study and action for the next two years.

A new study, "Massachusetts after Citizens United. So What Do We Do Now?" will consider whether the state League's existing campaign finance positions are adequate to meet the challenges of Citizens United and related recent Supreme Court decisions, and, if not, what additional positions are needed.

LWVMA also adopted a new position on transportation by concurrence with the position of LWV of California. In brief, that position supports a transportation system to move people and goods which includes a variety of transportation modes, with emphasis on increased public transportation services and other viable alternatives to reduce vehicle miles traveled; is efficient, convenient, and cost effective; is safe and secure; serves all segments of the population and diverse geographic needs; minimizes harmful effects on the environment; is integrated with land use; and is supported by extensive public education.

We selected three areas for Action Priority. The state League and the local Leagues will seek opportunities to participate in action addressing these issues. Opportunities may include, but are not limited to, support or opposition of legislation at all levels of government, participating in approved coalitions, conducting issue forums, encouraging attendance at events and rallies, and lobbying officials.

- *Improving elections*, including, but not limited to, voting systems that are easy to use, administer and encourage voter turnout, election financing/money in politics, voter registration and engagement, and opposition to voter suppression efforts.
- *The environment*, including, but not limited to, reduction, reuse and recycling measures; measures to address climate change; and comprehensive water resource management.
- *Civic education and engagement*, including, but not limited to, encouraging civic education in our schools and civic engagement in our communities and our state and municipal governments.

Finally, LWVMA will establish two review committees which should report back to the membership at Council



2014. Those separate committees will:

- Consider the uses of technology in voter registration and voting and research the positives and negatives associated with each technology, including the security of such systems.
- Develop a plan for state action on transportation, taking into account local League studies and action on transportation.

This ambitious program will need many willing volunteers to make it successful. If you are interested in working on the Citizens United study committee, the voting technology review committee or the transportation plan committee, please email [Nancy Brumback](#).

A convention summary, including the workbook and budget information, photos, and workshop documents, is posted [here](#). If you have photos from the convention, we'd love to see them. Email them to [Natalie](#).

## Update Your League Leadership Info!



Many Leagues around the state are holding annual meetings and electing new boards. Please remember to update your leadership information in two ways:

Email [Natalie](#) with your updated list of board members. Include name, League position, email, and phone number.

Also please update the LWVUS database with new leader information by logging in to [lwv.org](#). If you need help doing this, contact [Natalie](#) or [Karen Price](#).

## And a Word to New League Leaders

The local League Sharing website includes documents from activities and programs around the state. The presentations and workshop materials from the LWVMA Convention are now available. To find these, go to 2013 LWVMA Convention. While you are there, browse some of the other documents and links to see what other Leagues are doing; it is a great source for ideas for your League.

To link to the sharing website click [here](#).

If you have documents or web links you would like to share on this website, email them to [Karen Price](#).

And we need your League's event information for the calendar on our website. That information goes to [web@lwvma.org](mailto:web@lwvma.org).

The screenshot shows a web page titled "Presidents-LWVMA" with a search bar. Below the title is a section "Documents to Share" with a sub-header "Documents and activities contributed by local Leagues. Browse through and get some ideas." There is a search bar for documents. The main content is a table of documents:

Document Title	Author	File Size	Created	Download
2013 LWVMA Convention	1-14-13 - Congress with political AF 2013	832K	May 28, 2013, 11:17 P	Download
2013 Congress	9th version of	184K	May 28, 2013, 11:23 P	Download
2013 Congress	working	865K	May 28, 2013, 11:23 P	Download
2013 Congress	2013-2014	47K	May 28, 2013, 7:53 P	Download
2013 Congress	2013-2014	14K	May 28, 2013, 10:12 P	Download
2013 Congress	2013-2014	47K	May 28, 2013, 11:23 P	Download
2013 Congress	2013-2014	77K	May 28, 2013, 11:23 P	Download
2013 Congress	2013-2014	10K	May 28, 2013, 11:23 P	Download

## Membership and Leadership Development Program 2013-2014

The Membership and Leadership Development Program (MLD) will be expanding to additional Massachusetts Leagues in the coming year. The MLD program encourages local Leagues to use best practices in visibility, resources for working with the media, and leadership development tools. The MLD program matches trained coaches with local Leagues to focus on strengthening and growing the League and the League's impact. Coaches are all trained in tried-and-true techniques proven to recruit new members and engage and retain current members. Typically MLD coaches hold monthly teleconferences with a small group of leaders from the local League.

If your League is interested in applying for the MLD program, contact [Pam Holland](#). The [LWVMA website](#) has more information.

## Did You Register Students to Vote?

If your League has held a high school voter registration drive, please send the total number of students you registered to [voterservice@lwwma.org](mailto:voterservice@lwwma.org). We'd like to put out a press release again this year on the statewide results of our efforts.



## Plan to Participate in LWVUS Agriculture Study



The national League is conducting a study this year on agriculture issues; information is available [here](#). The consensus questions are expected to be ready by the end of August. Consider using this study to explore agriculture issues in your area, perhaps inviting local farmers or agriculture organizations and commissions to speak on issues they face, perhaps sponsoring a joint forum with another League in your area.

## Tackling a Tough Issue

The *Palm Beach Post* newspaper in Florida recently ran an article on the new, activist face of the League in that state:

*TALLAHASSEE - Once known for registering voters and educating the public about candidates and issues, the League of Women Voters has broadened its advocacy role in Florida, earning cheers from supporters and jeers from critics who say its left-leaning positions undermine its credibility.*

*Deirdre Macnab, the League's Florida president, is unabashed about the nonpartisan group's role in helping shape public policy....*

Click [here](#) to read the entire article, with Deidre's spirited response to charges the League cannot be non-partisan if it takes positions on issues in the political arena, an argument we often face.

## Idea of the Month

So many Leagues described so many good ideas at convention that we thought we'd begin to share them with folks who couldn't be there.

**Drive-thru Voter Registration:** The Winchester League stationed members with clipboards and voter registration forms at the transfer station (the dump) on a designated, publicized date. Citizens could drive up and register to vote without leaving their car.



## Items in Stock!



We are now offering bumper stickers with the slogan "Democracy is not a spectator sport". 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

LWMVA office at (617)523-2999.

For an entire list of our wares, click [here](#). To make an order, call the

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The League Leader Update is distributed to local League board members and LWVMA leaders. Anyone can request the Update by clicking [here](#). Please review this Update for articles of interest to your League and include them in your local Bulletin.