



The Mass. League Voter

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

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Calendar

Friday, Oct 25	LWVMA Board Meeting, 11am - 2pm, LWVMA office
Saturday, Nov 2	LWVMA Membership and Leadership Development Program Workshop, Needham
Saturday, Nov 2	Final collection of bottle bill signature pages
Tuesday, Nov 5	Election Day
Wednesday, Nov 6	Gun Law Lobby Day, State House, Boston 10am
Friday, Nov 15	Lotte E Scharfman Trustee Meeting, 11am - 2pm, LWVMA office
Sunday, Nov 17	Dan Scharfman Memorial Run, 9:30am, Belmont High School Track
Tuesday, Nov 19	"Pricing Carbon", 7pm, Babson's Sorenson Theatre, Wellesley
Friday, Nov 22	LWVMA Board Meeting, 11am - 2pm, LWVMA office
Thursday, Dec 5	Massachusetts Conference for Women
Friday, Dec 20	LWVMA Board Meeting, 11am - 2pm, LWVMA office

From Our Co-Presidents

As you will read, LWVMA has been very busy this fall. We are continually impressed at the energy, commitment, and hard work that League members bring to everything they do. Whether it's gathering thousands of signatures for the Updated Bottle Bill initiative, advocating for our positions at the state and local level, or holding voter registration events in our towns and cities, League members are making real improvements in their communities.

Several of us were pleased to meet with a delegation from Vietnam this summer. They were all elected officials and were very interested in the League's history and our advocacy. This was the

second visit with an international delegation in two years, and we hope that it will become a yearly tradition.

As we go to print, the Red Sox have won their first World Series game. Many League members enjoyed a "night at the park" at an August game. Several generous League members donated tickets for a local high school Girl Scout troop. We are planning a follow-up Red Sox event next year. We also have plans for a partnership with the Girl Scouts this spring - many of us were Girl Scouts when we were young, and we look forward to working with future League members!

We hope that you will support this year's Fall Appeal / Phonathon. Local Leagues are starting to make calls; please say yes!

And, finally, we want to welcome Rachel Lotte Scharfman as a trustee of the Lotte E. Scharfman Memorial Fund. Rae has all of the passion and devotion to League principles and ideals that her father, Daniel Scharfman, and grandmother, Lotte Scharfman, both had. We know that Rae believes in her grandmother's credo: "Democracy is not a spectator sport!"

-Marilyn and Anne

League Leads the Way in Bottle Bill Campaign

Go League! LWVMA, with 35 local Leagues participating, has been a leader in the signature gathering campaign to put the updated bottle bill on the November 2014 ballot. Just after the mid-point of the campaign, the League passed its pledge of 10,000 signatures-and we're not done yet! We plan to exceed that goal significantly to help with the overall effort and show the popularity of this proposal among the public.



The ballot question will ask voters whether the nickel deposit on beverages should be expanded to cover non-carbonated beverages such as water, tea and sports drinks, beverages that were not widely marketed when the original bottle bill was passed in 1983 with strong League backing. The expanded deposit is expected to have a major impact by increasing recycling and reducing litter. Currently, 80% of the containers with deposits are redeemed and recycled; only 23% of containers without deposits are recycled.

Other signature-gathering groups in the coalition have asked League representatives why the League has been so successful. That's easy! We know our communities and our communities know us. We know where to go and when, we are committed to the campaign, and we will make it happen!

The final collection is Nov. 3, and we will post the League's grand total on our website.

Great job everyone!

The League Depends on Your Support

Our annual Fall Appeal is the largest fundraiser for LWVMA and the Lotte E. Scharfman Citizen Education Fund. It's essential to our operations and we need your support.

The Fall Appeal is in full swing. Emails and letters asking for donations were sent to all members and prior donors. We have had a great response to these early requests, and we thank all of you who so generously donated.

Now the Phonathon segment of the fundraiser has begun. Local Leagues are calling members and former donors who have not yet responded to the appeal. The Phonathon began Oct. 19 and will continue into early January. If you receive a call, remember that the caller is a member of your League or another local League and please respond with a donation. The local Leagues making the calls will receive 10% of the funds they raise.

The success of past fundraisers has let us do such programs as the Daniel Scharfman Civic Education Grant Program, testimony on a wide range of legislation including gun safety and election reform, participating in programs such as "How Women Become Political," and keeping the per-member-payment from local Leagues at the same level for the past 13 years.

League Night at Fenway Park



Natalie Kassabian, LWVMA staff, on the field, broadcast on the jumbotron for all to see

The Boston Red Sox hosted the first ever League Night at Fenway Park Aug. 28 in celebration of Women's Equality Day. Over 120 League members, spouses and friends watched the Red Sox defeat the Baltimore Orioles, and our members also donated 20 tickets to the Girl Scouts. We aim to make a League night at Fenway an annual event, so watch for your chance to participate in 2014.

Rachel Scharfman Joins Education Fund Board

Rachel Scharfman has joined the board of trustees of the Lotte E. Scharfman Citizen Education Fund, filling the Scharfman family seat formerly held by her father, Daniel Scharfman, who died in January. Rae is the granddaughter of Lotte Scharfman.

Rae currently lives in Arizona, but will participate in trustee meeting in person when she can and by phone other times. She continues her family's passionate commitment to the League's goals and mission and brings a welcome fresh perspective to the board of trustees.

Scharfman Grants Go to Six Local Leagues

Six local Leagues received Daniel Scharfman Citizen Education grants in October for four projects, one project a cooperative effort of three Leagues.

LWV Greater Haverhill presented " Money in Politics: Is Our Democracy at Risk?," an educational forum on the influence of money in politics and public policy and what average citizens can do to regain their voice in the face of current campaign finance laws and corporate lobbying. It was held in association with Northern Essex Community College Contemporary Affairs Club, Haverhill Matters and the Republican and Democratic City Committees.

LWV Arlington co-sponsors an annual Candidates' Night for town offices with a Town of Arlington Committee called Vision 2020, preparing and printing the Voter's Guide for Candidates' Night, a pamphlet that contains a picture, brief biography and response to questions posed by LWVA for each candidate.

LWV Westford is developing a "Guide to Running for Local Office in Westford" booklet. This booklet will be available in printed form and online. It will discuss the entire process of running for local office. LWV Westford will also hold a forum on running for office in January, all in an effort to increase the number of candidates for local offices.

LWVs of Sudbury, Wayland and Weston jointly held a pre-primary Candidates' forum for the 10 candidates running for the 5th Congressional District seat vacated by Edward Markey. The grant will fund the preparation of DVDs of the forum to be distributed to other Leagues in the Congressional District for their cable stations, as well as costs related to holding the event. The three also paid for DVDs of the forum to be distributed to other Leagues in the Congressional District for their cable stations.

The Daniel Scharfman grants of up to \$250 are made to local Leagues four times each year and are financed by donations to the Lotte E. Scharfman Citizen Education Fund. The next submission deadline is December 2. To see the projects which have received grants in the past, click [here](#).

Legislation Update



The Legislation Action Committee (formerly known as the Program & Action Committee) is tracking numerous bills and hearings as the State Legislature works through its agenda before it formally recesses Nov. 15 until after the first of the year.

[LWVMA testified](#) on behalf of stronger gun safety legislation at five public hearings around the state and is encouraging its members to participate in a lobby day on behalf of gun safety Wednesday, Nov. 6, at 10 a.m. at the State House. Please join us and the other members of

the Massachusetts Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence and counter the forces opposing stronger gun laws.

The Joint Committee on Election Laws reported out a much weaker election reform bill, H.3647, than the omnibus election law the League and the Coalition for Election Modernization supported, S.327. We hope that bill will be strengthened with amendments in the House and Senate, including an early voting provision that adds evening and weekend hours, and a provision for post-election audits of random precincts. Check this [action alert](#) to review the needed changes and urge your legislators to support those changes.

We have [testified](#) in support of free-standing post-election audit bills and will speak at a Nov. 20 hearing on bills to require photo ID to vote and to introduce election day voter registration. We welcome League members attending the hearings to add their support for our testimony. You can confirm the time and location of hearings on the legislature's [website](#).

LWVMA [testified](#) in September in support of three campaign finance reform bills: the Massachusetts Disclose Act, S.321 and H.651, to make public the source of funding for campaign ads; bills to require corporations and associations to inform shareholders or members about campaign contributions, S.320 and H.559; and a bill to limit the amount of money an outside source can contribute to a local election, H.630. We are supporting two bills, H.2783 and H.2787, to improve access to public records.

We [testified](#) earlier in October on health care legislation, including proposals for single-payer health care. And we continued to urge legislators to update the bottle bill with deposits on non-carbonated beverages at a September hearing.

A [list of the bills](#) the League supports or opposes is on the website, with copies of our [testimony](#).

"Carbon Pricing": A Forum on the Carbon Tax

LWV Wellesley, with co-sponsors LWVMA, Citizens Climate Lobby and LWV Needham, is presenting a program, "A Good Tax," to discuss a revenue-neutral carbon tax on Tuesday, Nov. 19, at 7 p.m. The forum is at Babson College's Sorenson Theatre, 231 Forest St., Wellesley, and is free and open to the public.

Could such a tax accelerate the transition to a clean energy economy and help in the fight against climate change? The speakers will describe policy mechanisms for pricing carbon and their relative advantages and disadvantages, and what role there is for citizens and residents.

Steve Curwood, host of NPR's "Living on Earth," will be moderator. Speakers include Dr. Theda Skocpol, professor of government and sociology, Harvard; Dr. Joseph Aldy, assistant professor of public policy, Harvard Kennedy School; Dr. John Reilly, senior lecturer and co-director of the Joint Program on the Science and Policy of Global Change, Center for Environmental Policy Research, MIT Sloan School of Management; Dr. Fritz Fleischmann, William R. Dill Governance Chair, Babson College; and Dr. Gary Rucinski, New England coordinator, Citizens Climate Lobby.

Click [here](#) for the event flyer.

Steve Curwood of NPR's "Living on Earth" hosts...
PRICING CARBON

It's time to put a price on carbon pollution, but how? Come hear some of the world's preeminent scholars, economists and activists explain various methods of pricing carbon pollution, and how market mechanisms might offer a real solution to the climate crisis.

Joseph Aldy
Assistant Professor of Public Policy
Harvard Kennedy School

Theda Skocpol
Professor of Government and Sociology
Harvard University

John Reilly
Senior Lecturer and Co-Director of the Joint Program on the Science and Policy of Global Change
Center for Environmental Policy Research
MIT Sloan School of Management

Fritz Fleischmann
William R. Dill Governance Chair
Babson College

Gary Rucinski
New England Coordinator
Citizens Climate Lobby
Invited for a 2010 ballot measure for a revenue-neutral carbon tax.

WHERE: Babson's Sorenson Theatre
231 Forest Street, Wellesley

WHEN: Tuesday, November 19, 7:00

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
Get the details at [http://babson.com/cll](#)

CITIZENS CLIMATE LOBBY
Creating the Political Will for a Sustainable Climate

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

Sponsored by:
The League of Women Voters of Wellesley
Co-Sponsored by the LWV of Massachusetts and the LWV of Needham

Dan Scharfman Memorial Run



Dan Scharfman, son of Lotte E Scharfman, was a valued member of the Lotte E Scharfman Fund and a great asset to the Belmont community. He passed away suddenly in January of this year. He was 55. A father of two and an elected member of The Belmont School Committee and Belmont Town Meeting, Dan was a tireless advocate for the Belmont Public Schools. He was also an active member of the League of Women Voters in Belmont.

To honor his passions and values, The Foundation for Belmont Education is sponsoring the Dan Scharfman Memorial Run, including both a 5K race and a companion 1 mile run. The proceeds from the races fund the Dan Scharfman Education Innovative Fund for the Foundation for Belmont Education's Innovative Teaching Initiative. This initiative combines two things that Dan was dedicated to: professional development for teachers and school technology.

Please join other League of Women Voters of Belmont members in support of this very worthy cause. To register to run, or to volunteer to help with the event, or to make a donation in support of the Scharfman Run, click [here](#).

Sharing Experiences with Visitors from Vietnam

LWVMA officers met with seven members of the Vietnam National Assembly touring the United States under the auspices of the U.S. State Department. The visit was designed to acquaint the Vietnamese with Congress and with our political system, and we were asked to talk about how a non-government organization works to achieve its legislative goals, both individually and in coalition with other such organizations.



Marilyn Peterson and Anne Borg, co-presidents, Karen Price and Nancy Brumback, vice presidents, and Natalie Kassabian, office staff, discussed the League's history and mission, our programs at the local and state levels, and our efforts to lobby the legislature on such topics as election law reform, gun control, and environmental issues.

Our visitors included the seven members of the National Assembly—one woman and six men, two interpreters and guides from the State Department and WorldBoston, a local council which first invited us to participate in such foreign exchange visits last year.

We met in a conference room at the State House, thanks to the effort of Sen. Michael Barrett's staff, and Sen. Barrett spoke to the group about the state legislature and the work the League does.

Questions from the delegates indicated their interest in the League. They asked whether we had any men as members, where our funding comes from, how we prepare information for the legislature, and what a legislative hearing is like. They were curious who the League would support in an election between a woman who didn't support our programs and a man who did, and we hope we made it clear that the League never supports individual candidates. And as one noted, "If you could get all the women to join you, you could take over. No one can stop all the wives and mothers."

LWVMA Council: Save the Date May 10

The 2014 LWVMA Council will be held on Saturday, May 10. Please save the date!

What is Council? Council is a one-day meeting open to the entire membership of LWVMA, held in opposite years from the two-day Convention. Council includes workshops, guest speakers, and presentations to the membership.

If you would like to be part of a planning committee for the 2014 Council, please email [Karen Price](mailto:karen.price@lwvma.org).

"How Women Become Political" is Online

The sold-out celebration of "How Women Become Political" can be viewed online!

The two-hour event commemorated Boston abolitionist Angelina Grimke's speech before the Massachusetts legislature in 1838-the first time a woman addressed a state legislature, with actress Anne Gottlieb delivering Grimke's remarks. And it featured inspiring commentary from women who have definitely made their mark in the political world:

- Gloria Steinem, feminist, activist, author
- Ayanna Pressley, Boston City Councilor at-Large
- Kerry Healey, President of Babson College and former Massachusetts Lieutenant Governor
- Ambassador Swannee Hunt, Chair with Healey of Political Parity



Panelists Ayanna Pressley, Gloria Steinem, Kerry Healey, and Swannee Hunt

Callie Crossley of WGBH moderated the program.

You can watch the event [here](#) through February, and a video will also be available on C-Span's website after Thanksgiving.

LWVMA is proud to have been a co-sponsor of this event, and we think you will enjoy every minute of it.

Mass. Conference for Women Coming Up



**THE MASSACHUSETTS
CONFERENCE
FOR WOMEN**

LWVMA will be exhibiting as a supporting organization at the [Massachusetts Conference for Women](#) Thursday, Dec. 5, at the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center. The conference provides connections, motivation, networking, inspiration and skill building for thousands of women each year.

Keynote speakers are historian Doris Kearns Goodwin, actress Kerry Washington, author Susan Cain, and Blake Mycoskie, founder of TOMS shoes, a manufacturer which donates shoes and eyeglasses to people in a number of countries. Dozens of [expert speakers](#) lead workshops and seminars on the issues that matter to women, including personal finance, business and entrepreneurship, health, work/life balance and more.

Click [here](#) to register and enter our discount code **SO13MA**. And stop by our table at the exhibitors' hall to say hello!

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