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CALENDAR

- Wednesday, July 23 Cocktail reception with remarks by Jennifer Grace Miller, Massachusetts Assistant Attorney General and Chief of the Government Bureau, home of Terry Yoffie (Newton), 5:30-7:30
- Friday, July 25 LWVMA Board Meeting, Wellesley Community Center, 11am-2pm
- Wednesday, August 20 League of Women Voters Night at Fenway Park, starts at 6:45.

EVENTS

Behind the Scenes of a Supreme Court Case



All League members are invited to a cocktail reception **Wednesday, July 23**, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., hosted by Terry Yoffie (at her home in Newton) to benefit the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts Citizen Education Fund.

The reception will feature remarks by **Jennifer Grace Miller, Massachusetts Assistant Attorney General and Chief of the Government Bureau**, who will discuss her representation of the Commonwealth before the U.S. Supreme Court in *McCullen v. Coakley*, a challenge to the Massachusetts law establishing a "buffer zone" around reproductive health

facilities. The decision in *McCullen* is due any day, and LWVMA signed an *amicus* brief in the case.

You will find suggested donations and an RSVP form [here](#). Please RSVP by **July 16**. The address of the event will be provided upon registration. Space is limited. Your contribution to support our educational programs is greatly appreciated.

Take the League out to the Ball Game

The second annual League of Women Voters' Night at Fenway Park is **Wednesday, Aug. 20**. The game against the Los Angeles Angels will begin at 7:10 p.m., but plan to arrive by 6:45 for pre-game ceremonies saluting the League.

Ticket prices for this event will be \$35 for covered outfield grandstand seats (price includes a handling charge and a donation to LWVMA). The Red Sox will reserve a section so that Leaguers and their friends can sit together. To order tickets by mail, please [click here](#) for the order form. To order tickets online, please [click here](#). Don't wait--**the deadline to order tickets is July 31**. Please contact [Brynne Gorman](#) 617-523-2999 for further information.



LWVUS Convention Roundup

Massachusetts Leagues sent 27 delegates to the U.S. convention in Dallas June 6-10, and the state League's Campaign Finance Study Committee played a major role in the program with both a caucus and a workshop on the key issue of campaign finance reform. There were 643 voting delegates at the convention, representing 47 states and the District of Columbia.

For photos and more information about the Massachusetts League at the convention, click [here](#) on our website.

The convention adopted as its major program project for the coming two years a three-part program combining study and review of key structures of American democracy: (1) a study of the process of amending the U.S. Constitution, including constitutional conventions; (2) a review and update if necessary of the League position on campaign finance; and (3) a review of the redistricting process for the U.S. Congress.

The convention also adopted a position on human trafficking by concurrence with a position of the LWV of New Jersey.

Details on both of these programs and other convention activities are available on the LWVUS website [here](#).

The three winning videos from our "Dear Future Governor" Student Video Contest were also shown to a full house on the big screens in the convention hall.

Convention delegates voted to maintain the U.S. per-member payment at \$31 for this fiscal year, and raise it to \$32 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2015.

U.S. President Elisabeth MacNamara was re-elected to a third two-year term.

Video Winners Honored

The high school students who submitted the three winning videos in the "Dear Future Governor" Student Video Contest, sponsored by the League's Citizen Education Fund, were honored at an award ceremony at the State House, along with 14 students from Durfee High School in Fall River who submitted an outstanding group of videos as part of the FRED-TV program at that school.

Donald Berwick and Evan Falchuk--the two gubernatorial candidates who were able to attend the ceremony--encouraged the students to continue to communicate their ideas and advocate for their beliefs. Senator Richard Ross and several legislative aides were also on hand to present the students with citations.

You can view the award-winning videos on our [website](#), and also see photos of the award ceremony [here](#).

ADVOCACY

Legislation Update

Two major bills that we have been working on this session--a gun violence prevention bill and the Disclose Act campaign finance bill--have finally come out of their joint committees and are expected to be voted on very soon. If you have not done so, please call or email your Senator and Representative and urge them to support H.4121, the gun control bill, and H.4197, the Disclose Act.

As the legislative session heads toward its end on July 31, all pending bills must be passed by that date or they will die and have to be reintroduced in the new session beginning in January, so there will be a crush of activity in the next few weeks.

Below are some of the other bills LWVMA has supported this session that may still come up for a vote. If you feel strongly about any of these bills, you should ask your Senator and Representative to support them now. If there are other bills you are interested in, you can learn their status by entering the bill number [here](#).

Under the category of meeting basic human needs, still pending are H.135, which would provide housing and support services for unaccompanied homeless teens; S.35/H.114, which would establish a pilot program to provide educational and training programs to low-income families as a pathway to self-sufficiency; S.37/H.93, which would promote asset development in transitional assistance programs; and S.1317, improving Other pending bills include S.209/H.450, requiring age-appropriate and medically-accurate sex education; and H.2008, establishing licensing requirements and regulatory oversight for certified professional midwives.

Strong League Bottle Bill Signature Drive--Again

Once again the League made a major contribution to the signature collection effort, with 4,426 signatures to contribute to the over 27,000 signatures collected by the Update the Bottle Bill Coalition. This number gives us confidence that we will have the required 12,000 certified signatures to submit to the Secretary of State. Signature certification is going on now in cities and towns across the state. This was another tremendous team effort. Congratulations to everyone involved!



We encourage you to voice your support in your community and online by commenting on recent bottle bill articles, such as the Boston Globe's recent [editorial](#) and [front page article](#).

Many thanks to these eighteen Leagues and the coordinators who collected signatures this time:

- **500-1000 signatures:** Concord-Carlisle, Sharon-Stoughton, Needham, Lexington
- **200-500:** Shrewsbury, Sudbury
- **100-200:** Wellesley, Amherst, Plymouth Area, Newton, Cape Cod Area, Hamilton-Wenham, Winchester
- **Less than 100:** Brookline, Falmouth, Greater Haverhill, Williamstown, Northampton Area

There is still a slight chance the legislature will draft a compromise bill that both the bottle bill advocates and the opponents can agree on, and that the legislature will pass to keep the question off the ballot. But the chances of that happening grow less each day. If there is no acceptable compromise, our coalition will submit its signatures to the Secretary of State July 2 and the updated bottle bill question will be on the November ballot.

Ballot Questions Update Coming

The Secretary of State will determine by early July which petition questions will be on the November statewide ballot. Once the list is released, LWVMA will post its positions on each of the questions on our website, and the Legislative Action Committee is preparing a list of resources and speaker sources if local Leagues wish to hold forums on any of the questions. Please check our guidelines for such forums [here](#).

AND MORE

Three Scharfman Grant Winners



The Hamilton-Wenham, Acton Area and Needham Leagues have been awarded Daniel Scharfman Citizen Education Grants for the award cycle that ended June 2. These grants are made available by your generous donations to the Lotte E. Scharfman Citizen Education Fund.

Hamilton-Wenham put updated "Know Your Town" information on its website, along with information about town meeting in the two towns. It is printing basic town information and links to further information on a card to be mailed to all residents, and the grant will go toward that effort.

The Acton Area League grant goes toward its annual civics bee.

Needham will use its grant to update its large public signs used to promote candidate

forums, to purchase pitchers and League mugs to replace plastic water bottles for candidates at the forums, and to purchase League buttons to identify members working at the forums and other League events.

The next application deadline for the grants of up to \$250 will be in the fall. Grants can be used for citizen education and voter service projects, and the one-page application is easy to complete. For the application and more information, click [here](#).

Please Update Your Information

As we move through Annual Meeting season, please let LWVMA know your new leadership teams. Please send a list that includes name, email, leadership position, telephone number and address for each leader to [Brynne Gorman](#) at the LWVMA office. Thanks!

We'd like to publicize how many high school students our local Leagues have registered to vote this year. Please email your totals and your League name to [Nancy Brumback](#).

State Office Candidate Forums

Is your League interested in holding a candidate forum for candidates for state offices, either alone or with a neighboring League? LWVMA is working on a gubernatorial forum, but welcomes efforts by local Leagues to hold forums for the candidates for lieutenant governor, attorney general, treasurer, auditor, and secretary of state. Also consider working with Leagues near you on forums for Congressional races and U.S. Senate.

You don't have to include all the offices. For example, one local League is thinking of having the candidates for attorney general along with those for the county district attorney. It would also be logical to pair candidates for treasurer and auditor.

If you would like some help working on such forums, contact [Nancy Brumback](#).

Web Tip of the Month

As we start a new League year, we will highlight each month a feature of our LWVMA website that you might not be aware of. Let's start with a section that covers the publicity the League, at both the state and local levels, gets in the news media. From the [home page](#), go to News & Media at the very top of the page and click on LWVMA in the News in the dropdown menu. You might be surprised at all the coverage we are getting! Please forward any articles in your town paper about your activities to [Brynne Gorman](#) to add to this list.

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.

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