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CALENDAR

Thursday, April 30	Deadline to order Mother's Day Cards
Saturday, May 3 - Sunday, May 4	Quad States Leadership Development Conference, Hampton Inn, Wells, Maine
Saturday, May 10	LWVMA Council, Framingham State University, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Tuesday, May 27	"Why You Need Single-Payer Healthcare," Worcester Public Library, 3 Salem Square, Worcester, 6 - 8 p.m.
Monday, June 2	Deadline to apply for Daniel Scharfman Citizen Education Grants
Friday, June 6 - Tuesday, June 10	LWVUS Convention, Dallas

EVENTS

Register for LWVMA Council--All Welcome!

The 2014 LWVMA Council will be **Saturday, May 10**, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Framingham State University, with the timely theme, "Civility in Politics: Challenge to Good Government." Council is an all-day, all-member event featuring a general assembly, buffet lunch, guest speaker on the theme topic, and workshops. It is a great opportunity

to meet other League members, get ideas to improve your League, and hear about what's happening around the state.

Please register by May 5. To register for Council, click [here](#).

Encourage members from your League to come and attend these workshops:

- **Spread the word on money and politics!** Sample the Campaign Finance Toolkit, "Democracy in the Balance," and learn how your League can bring this important information to your community.
- **Bringing civility to local government.** Tips and a toolkit on how to start the conversation, create awareness, and effect change.
- **Expanding our membership demographics.** A task force has been researching demographic groups and has prepared guidance for making the League attractive to them.
- **Is your League ready for the November election?** We'll discuss ballot question forums, multi-League candidate nights, and advocating for League-supported ballot questions. We'll also review opportunities to work on election projects at the state level.

For full information on Council 2014, visit the Council [webpage](#).

For the Council flier with the full agenda, click [here](#).

LWVUS Convention in Dallas June 6-10

We hope to have an impressive Massachusetts presence at the LWVUS Convention in Dallas **June 6-10**. LWVMA will be presenting a resolution at the Convention urging the national organization to support amending the Constitution to grant to Congress and the states the power to regulate expenditures by campaigns and contributions to campaigns, and to support state and local Leagues in efforts to have state legislatures pass resolutions in favor of such an amendment.



LWVMA will hold a caucus to explain and encourage support of this resolution and to present the campaign finance reform materials our Campaign Finance Study Committee has developed on Friday, June 6, from 8 to 10 p.m.

The state League will also sponsor a get-together for the Massachusetts delegates during the Convention.

Note that LWVUS has increased the number of delegates for Leagues this year. Leagues with 1-49 members can send one delegate; with 50-99 members, two delegates; and with 100-149 members, three delegates. For each additional 50 voting members, a local League gets an additional delegate.

If your League does not plan to send your full allotment of delegates to the convention, there are other Massachusetts League members who would like to use those slots to attend. If your League has extra slots available or if you have more members who wish to attend than you have slots for, please contact Executive Director Meryl Kessler, mkessler@lwwma.org or 617-523-2999, and she will match up slots with delegates.

The online registration deadline is May 23.

Full Convention information is available [here](#).

Join Elisabeth MacNamara at Quad States Conference

Four New England state Leagues--New Hampshire, Vermont, Maine and Rhode Island--have been meeting as a regional group, and this year they have invited the Massachusetts and Connecticut Leagues to join them. And we have just received exciting word that LWVUS President Elisabeth MacNamara plans to attend; details to follow.

The Quad States Leadership Development Conference is scheduled for May 3-4 at the Hampton Inn in Wells, Maine, with the keynote topic, "Energy and Energy Efficiency." Speakers include Jack Cashman, former member of Maine's Public Utilities Commission. Pam Person, a Maine League member who serves on the LWVUS climate change task force, will hold a workshop on that effort.

For more information on the conference and to register online, click [here](#). There is also a registration form on the website to download to pay by check. Advance registration of \$25 is required by April 22. For a room reservation, call the hotel at 207-646-0555 and mention the League.

Registration starts at 9 a.m. Saturday, May 3, and the program starts at 10 a.m. and runs until 5 p.m. Sunday's program runs from 9 to 11:30 a.m.

Several members of the LWVMA board are planning to attend, and encourage other interested League members to join them. For more information, email LWVMA Co-president [Marilyn Peterson](#).

Health Care Forum in Worcester

LWVMA's Health Care Committee is hosting a forum, "Why You Need Single-Payer Health Care," Tuesday, May 27, 6-8 p.m., at the Worcester Public Library, 3 Salem Square, Worcester. The Worcester Area League is a co-sponsor, with other organizations and some legislators.

Speakers will be Gerald Friedman, professor of economics, University of Massachusetts Amherst, explaining how a single-payer health care system could save money and provide quality care, and Ture Turnbull, director, Mass-Care, on the legislative efforts required to enact a single-payer system in Massachusetts.



The program is free and open to all.

ADVOCACY

Spread the Word about *McCutcheon*



The U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *McCutcheon v. FEC* continues the trend of allowing more and more money into our political system.

"This is yet another irresponsible decision on money in politics by the Roberts Court," said Elisabeth MacNamara, president of the League of Women Voters of the U.S. "The Court has used the *McCutcheon* decision to continue dismantling the wall of protection against corruption - case by case, brick by brick." You can read more about the decision and the League response [here](#).

League presidents can inform their communities about the impact of this latest decision with a **letter to the editor** of your local paper. [Here](#) is a template you can use, and we encourage you to take this action to combat the money in our politics.

Bottle Bill Needs All Hands on Deck--Again!

Remember last fall's enormously successful effort to gather signatures to put the Updated Bottle Bill on the November ballot? Well, the fight is not over. We have to do one more round of signature-gathering in late May-early June.

Please help with this spring drive! Fill out this [web form](#) and choose a number of signatures your League can gather. Choices are <100, 100, 200, 300, 400, 500, >500. If you have had a change in bottle bill coordinators, please let us know in the comment field provided.



The road to passage of the Updated Bottle Bill has many hurdles. We passed the big one in the fall, the first signature collection, and now we are faced with the next one, the second signature collection. Massachusetts Leagues totally stepped up to the plate in the fall, but, to continue with the baseball metaphors, we are only on first base, and only a home run, the passage of the bill into law, will make all our efforts worth it.

The good news is this round requires far fewer signatures, about 22,000 total from all the coalition members, instead of the over 130,000 the coalition gathered in the fall. Please help meet this goal by pledging to help.

We've come too far to slow down now. The LWVMA Updated Bottle Bill Steering Committee will have all the information, petitions, and support you need for the drive that will begin in mid-May.

Plan a "Day in the District"

The state League and especially the legislative specialists on the Legislative Action Committee were terribly disappointed when we had to cancel our annual Day on the Hill lobby day in the face of a threatened snowstorm.

But you can still make an impact. Please use the information in the Day on the Hill packet you received, particularly the information in the featured bills section, and ask your State Senator and Representative for a meeting in your district to discuss those bills. You can find the packet [here](#) on our website.

Before this legislative session ends in July, there is much to be done. Please let your

legislators know we want action on election reform, the campaign finance disclose act, a stronger gun safety law, disposal of electronic waste, dropout prevention, earned income tax credits, health care reforms, and more. An in-person meeting with your legislators will work wonders.

AND MORE

No Increase in State PMPs

As you work on your budgets, LWVMA is pleased to announce that there will be no increase in state PMPs (per member payments) for the coming fiscal year. State PMPs will remain the same in FY14, as they were in FY13: individual, \$23; 50-year-plus member, \$0; first in household, \$23; second in household, \$5.75; and student, \$2.30.



LWVUS has discussed an increase, but it is not clear when or even whether any increase might go into effect. National's current PMPs are: individual, \$31; first in household, \$31; second in household, \$15.50; and student, \$15.50.

Join Membership and Leadership Development Program Coaching Corps

The Membership and Leadership Development (MLD) program links coaches with local Leagues to provide ideas, tools, and guidance to help increase membership and develop leaders. The [program](#) has been running in Massachusetts for three years and has helped many Leagues.

Ann Grantham, MLD coach, has resigned from the program. We thank her for her service over the past two years.

We are seeking new coaches for the program next year. Coaching is a great opportunity for experienced League members to help sustain our Massachusetts Leagues. You hardly need to leave your home to do it! There is a monthly conference call with the other state coaches and the national coach, plus monthly conference calls with a small group from the League you are coaching; and there is a training event for MLD Leagues in the fall.

If you are interested in coaching or just want to discuss what is involved, please contact [Pam Holland](#) or [Karen Price](#).

The To-Do List

Salute Someone Special with Our Mother's Day Card



New This Year! For a \$25 donation, LWVMA will send a card to a special woman in your life, wishing her a Happy Mother's Day and letting her know that you have made a donation to the League in her name.

This is a great opportunity for you to recognize a mother, grandmother, sister, daughter, aunt, niece, cousin, friend...or anyone else! You can also forward this

information to your own family and tell them that this is the gift *you* would like for Mother's Day!

Donations will go to our Citizen Education Fund to support our voter service and education programs and are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law.

To order by check or credit card, please click [here](#). Order(s) must be received by **Wednesday, April 30** to ensure delivery by Mother's Day, May 11.

Apply for Daniel Scharfman Citizen Education Grants by June 2

As you plan your fall events, consider the opportunity to receive up to \$250 from the Citizen Education Grant Program. These popular grants can be used to fund voter/citizen education programs and projects. Projects funded so far have included Town Meeting guides and resources, voter awareness, Civics Bees, community forums on a variety of issues, and many more.

For information on the program and past awards, click [here](#).

The one-page application is easy to complete. Application and guidelines are available [here](#).

Submit your League's application by June 2 to [Jean Cherdack](#).

Spring Means School Voter Registration

Please contact high schools in your area and arrange to register students to vote. Local Leagues have run high school voter registrations in a number of ways, including a table at cap-and-gown pickup or on senior assembly day, bagels during an extended homeroom period, or just a table outside the cafeteria during lunchtime.



LWVUS offers a guide to high school voter registration [here](#).

And please let us know how many students you register and in which schools, so we can publicize the League's success in this area. Send your League's registration totals to [Nancy Brumback](#).

Idea of the Month: Membership Renewals

It's that time of year when many Leagues are preparing membership renewal letters. The Membership and Leadership Development Program has produced a guidance and sample letter. If you've written basically the same letter for the past several years, take a look and see if there is something new you might add. Keeping members is vital to sustaining the League into the future, as is bringing in new members.

The materials are available in the [Membership Toolkit](#) at lwvma.org. See the [guidance](#) on membership renewal.

Click on "sample membership renewal letter" to download the sample letter in Word for easy editing. If you need help preparing or sending out renewal letters, LWVMA can help. Contact [Karen Price](#).

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.