



In This Issue

CALENDAR

HAPPENING NOW

[Plan Now for LWVUS Studies](#)

[Online Voter Registration is Here](#)

[Membership Help Needed](#)

ADVOCACY

[Pay Equity Rally and Hearing](#)

[The Legislature is Busy -- And So Are We](#)

[Happy Birthday Medicare!](#)

THE TO-DO LIST

[Don't Forget to Fill out Your Survey Form](#)

[Designate a US Roster Manager](#)

[National Voter Registration Day is Sept. 22](#)

CALENDAR

Tuesday, July 21	A hearing on H.1733/S.983, a bill establishing pay equity, the State House, hearing room A2, 1 p.m.
Thursday July 23	LWVMA/LESF Board Retreat, North Hill Conference Room, Needham, from 1:30 p.m. until 6:30 p.m.
Thursday, July 30	Medicare Birthday Party, the State House, room 428, 1 p.m.
Saturday, August 1	Local League survey deadline for responses
Monday, August 10	50th Anniversary of the Voting Rights Act
Wednesday, August 26	Women's Equality Day
Tuesday, Sep. 22	National Voter Registration Day

HAPPENING NOW

Plan Now for LWVUS Studies

LWVMA co-presidents Anne Borg and Jean Cherdack attended this year's LWVUS Council in Washington, DC last month. A full report on Council will be in this month's Mass League Voter, but we wanted to share with local League leaders some important information about the two upcoming National studies: the Constitutional Amendment Study, and the Money in Politics review of the existing LWVUS position on campaign finance. **Note particularly that the deadlines for consensus on these studies are Dec. 1 and Feb. 1.** A complete timeline for the study and review, with key dates beginning this summer, is on our website [here](#). [Read more...](#)

Online Voter Registration is Here

Massachusetts citizens can now register to vote online!



As you plan voter registration efforts, please make sure your voter service chairs are aware of this new way to register to vote. You can offer to help voters register instantly on their phone or tablet, but it's a good idea to have paper registration forms available as well if something goes wrong.

The registration site is registertovotema.com (and also <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/ovr/> which that site links to). The step-by-step instructions as people fill out the registration form are clear and easy to follow. We will have [screen shots](#) of the registration form on our website so your voter service people can become familiar with them. If people are not sure whether they are already registered, they can click on a link on the registration page to find out.

To register online, citizens must have either a Massachusetts driver's license, or a state ID issued by the Registry of Motor Vehicles. If someone doesn't have an RMV ID, he or she can still use the online system to create an application, but must print and sign the completed form, and mail or bring it to the local election official. If you are doing voter registration and someone doesn't have a state ID, it will be easier just to have them fill out the voter registration card.

Membership Help Needed

With the new biennium, we will be looking for several folks to help with supporting our local Leagues. Several Field Service Representatives and Membership and Leadership Development (MLD) coaches are shifting gears and stepping away from their roles. Because of this, we're looking at the current model to see if it needs tweaking and whether we can support local League needs more effectively using different approaches, providing additional services or trying something all-together new.

If you are interested in joining our team and/or have suggestions for what we could do moving forward, please contact [Dee Ortner](#), LWVMA Membership Chair. Thanks!

ADVOCACY

Pay Equity Rally and Hearing

Shocking but true, we are still seeking pay equity for women in Massachusetts in 2015! A hearing on H.1733/S.983, a bill establishing pay equity, is scheduled by the

Joint Committee on Labor and Workforce Development for Tuesday, July 21, at 1 p.m. in hearing room A2 at the State House.

The coalition supporting this bill is planning a rally and press conference to make the point to legislators at noon at the Grand Staircase in the State House.

Come to the State House July 21 to make your voice heard and to support the LWVMA testimony on pay equity. That hearing will also cover H.1769, a bill defining rights for pregnant workers, which we support.

The Legislature is Busy -- And So Are We



LWVMA Good Governance Specialist, Carolyn Lee

After a slow start to the legislative session, the House and Senate have geared up, and the joint committees are holding multiple hearings on bills almost every day.

So far, your legislative specialists have testified on the earned income tax credit, improved access to public records, eliminating mandatory minimum sentences for drug offenders and bail reform, sex education, and toxic flame retardants.

Passing legislation to price carbon dioxide-emitting fossil fuels is LWVMA's top environmental legislative priority this session. LWVMA has joined the Massachusetts Campaign

for a Clean Energy Future, which is hard at work developing the advocacy network needed to support of passage of effective legislation.

You can find a [list](#) of the bills we are supporting (or opposing) on our website. As we submit testimony on these bills, that testimony is added next to the bill name.

Your League members can help in our advocacy efforts. If your League or individual members feel strongly about bills in that list, please contact your Senator and Representative and ask them to support those bills. Even better, when your legislators hold office hours in their districts, stop by and ask directly for their support of bills you want to see passed. Nothing beats a personal request from a constituent.

Happy Birthday Medicare

Medicare turns 50 on July 30. To mark the occasion and to continue the push for single-payer health care--Medicare for All--MassCare is holding a birthday party at the State House, co-sponsored by LWVMA.

The festivities are at 1 p.m. Thursday, July 30, in the new Senate Reading Room, room 428. There will be speakers, live music and cake.



For those of you in the western half of the state, the Amherst League is a MassCare partner in a series of celebrations on July 30: 9 a.m. Springfield City Hall; 11 a.m. Holyoke City Hall; 1:30 p.m. Northampton City Hall; and 3:30 p.m., Greenfield Town Common. Join the fun and keep the momentum going for Medicare for All.

If your League would like to send a letter to the editor of your town paper pointing out all the good Medicare has done over the past 50 years and urging its expansion, some information is available in [this article](#) by a Colorado League.

THE TO-DO LIST

Don't Forget to Fill out Your Survey Form

We need your response to the local League survey emailed July 9 by August 1.

Please designate one person in your League to fill out both parts of this survey: the names and contact information for your 2015-2016 board or steering committee, and information about your League's activities in the past fiscal year (July 2014 to June 2015) for inclusion in our annual report.

You can find the survey [here](#) and either print it out or [fill it out online](#).

Designate a US Roster Manager

LWVUS is doing final testing on the new member database; LWVUS will begin to roll out the database to Leagues from mid-July through September.

All local Leagues must have someone designated as a Roster Manager. Leagues will be invited to view a training webinar on the new system between July and September before gaining access to the database. *Leagues without a Roster Manager will not get an email invitation.*

Please choose a Roster Manager for your local League and then sign up [here](#).

National Voter Registration Day is Sept. 22



This year's National Voter Registration Day will be Tuesday, Sept. 22. Over 50 Leagues have already signed up to host voter registration events that day. The League is a major participant in this event and local Leagues are encouraged to hold a voter registration event that day. [Click here](#) to sign up. You need not know the details about your event in order to sign on as a partner now.

When entering your local League, please follow this format: League of Women Voters of [Location Name]. Signing up will make your League eligible for resources, publicity materials, communications templates and ideas, and training opportunities.

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.

Like us on Facebook 

Follow us on  twitter

133 Portland St, Boston, MA 02114 · 617.523.2999

