



League Leader Update

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Calendar

Monday February 25 - LWVMA Board Meeting, 11:30am, LWVMA office

Wednesday March 13 - LWVMA Day on the Hill

Monday March 25 - LWVMA Board Meeting, 11:30am, LWVMA office

Wednesday March 27 - LESF Board Meeting, 12:00pm, LWVMA office

Friday May 17 - Saturday May 18 - LWVMA Convention

Plan to Attend Day on the Hill March 13



The League's annual Day on the Hill lobbying day at the State House is Wednesday, March 13, with a focus on how to be an effective advocate. The Day on the Hill program runs from 10 a.m. to noon in the Gardner Auditorium at the State House.

Please plan to come with a group of other interested members from your League. The more people who visit their legislators, the more influence the League has.

Rep. Thomas Conroy will use an upcoming piece of legislation to illustrate the process of drafting legislation, getting sponsors, and the role advocacy plays, including how the state and local Leagues can be effective in presenting their positions on legislation. A second speaker from an advocacy organization will discuss the issue from that point of view.

The state League's legislative specialists will talk briefly about key bills expected in this session of the legislature. Details on the bills, including specific talking points, will be distributed to local Leagues before Day on the Hill, so you will have the information you need to make the case with your legislators. Please consider contacting your legislators in advance to make an appointment to discuss League-supported

legislation with them right after the morning's program.

Check out Our New Website!

LWVMA has a brand new website--www.lwvma.org! We think it will provide lots of information to the general public, but we also hope local Leagues will find it valuable.

League leaders should check out the [Calendar](#) on the home page. Local League events of all sorts can be listed in the calendar, especially forums and voter service events. Listed events should be open to the public, and event information should include a website or email address (we have anti-spam software) for further information, but no phone numbers or home addresses. To post an event email the information, flyer or press release to web@lwvma.org. To get the Calendar started, the website committee 'seeded' the calendar with some local League events from a few individual League websites.



Much of the information for League leader events and many useful toolkits are under [Member Resources](#). If you look for something and cannot find it, please let us know! You can use the "[Contact Us](#)" button on the home page or email web@lwvma.org.

Local League websites are listed under [Leagues in MA](#) on the home page. Please contact us if your website was missed, is not correct, or the towns your League serves are wrong.

Attention local League webmasters: Links to pages on the lwvma.org website have changed, please check links on your League websites.

We hope you will help us keep this website current and lively.

LWVMA Convention Is May 17-18



LWVMA 2013 Convention "The Future of Our Democracy: What's Next?" will be May 17-18 at the Boston Marriott Peabody Hotel in Peabody.

Keep an eye on your inbox for Call to Convention in mid-February, and put the date on your calendar. All League members in the state are encouraged to attend; each local League has a set number of votes depending on size.

At this convention, the state League will be adopting a two-year budget for the first time and will be electing officers and the board of directors for the next two years.

March 2 League Leader Lunch West Postponed

The March 2 League Leader Lunch West, scheduled for March 2, has been postponed until the fall. We encourage all members to plan to attend the two other LWVMA events this spring, Day on the Hill on March 13 and Convention May 17-18.

No Increase in State Per-Member-Payment

The state League board has voted not to increase per-member payments for the coming two-year budget period, fiscal years 2014 and 2015 starting July 1. The Massachusetts PMP remains \$23, as it has for the past 13 years, since 2000.

The board is grateful for the generous donations from local Leagues which have enabled us to hold the line on the PMP. Individuals can make a donation to LWVMA at any time by clicking the [donate button](#) at lwvma.org.



Next Citizen Education Grant Deadline is March 1; MassVOTE also Offers Grants



Friday, March 1, is the next deadline for local Leagues to apply for the Lotte E. Scharfman Citizen Education grants of up to \$250 for local Leagues to carry out Citizen Education and Voter Service events and programs. Click [here](#) for guidelines and to download the application form.

Nine local Leagues received Scharfman grants in January in the second round of funding in the new grant program. These Leagues submitted seven grant applications, one from three Leagues working together. Each application requested \$250, and the total amount dispersed in this cycle for the seven grants was \$1,725.

The local Leagues receiving the awards and their projects were: LWV Belmont: A Guide to Conserving Land in Belmont; LWV Brookline: Voters Guide 2013; LWV Concord-Carlisle: Yellow Rose Event Promotion Kit; LWV Lexington: LWVL Community Conversation: "Climate Change: How Can We Make a Difference in Lexington?"; LWV Norwood: Candidate Forum; LWV Sudbury, Weston, Wayland: Civics Bee; and LWV Worcester Area: Civic Education Series Public Service Announcements. For detailed information about these Leagues' projects, click [here](#).

[MassVOTE](#), a non-profit organization supporting voter rights and education, is also offering mini-grants to Massachusetts 501(c)3 non-profits and community groups to carry out short-term civic engagement projects such as door-to-door voter education, non-partisan meet-the-candidates forums, and candidate guides, etc. -- and to combine these electoral efforts with grassroots issue advocacy campaigns. For information or an application for the MassVOTE grants, click [here](#). The deadline to apply is Feb. 22 and a required orientation for grant winners will be March 7.

Great Program Planning Response

Thanks to all the local Leagues which submitted state program planning forms, and for your thoughtful comments. The Program and Action Committee and the Board will consider your input and make recommendations on studies and action items for consideration at Convention.

Special Election Brings Voter Service Opportunities

With John Kerry's appointment as Secretary of State, Massachusetts now has a special election scheduled to fill that U.S. Senate seat. The primary election will be April 30 and the special election will be June 25. That means opportunities for local Leagues to plan candidate forums for these elections and to make them a theme of your high-school voter registration drives this spring.

We encourage local Leagues, maybe three or four in adjacent towns, to work together to present candidate forums before the primary and/or before the final election. You can find a lot of information about organizing such multi-League forums in the Voter Service Toolkit on the new website [here](#). If you plan a pre-primary forum, be sure you have an up-to-date list of the candidates who are



running-it's still in flux at the moment.



Voter registration deadlines are April 10 for the primary and June 5 for the special election. We hope all local Leagues are planning to hold high school voter registration drives again this spring. Note that students will have to be 18 by those dates to register to vote.

The LWVMA voter service committee is happy to answer any questions; email us at voterservice@lwmva.org.

Thanks for Updating the LWVMA Membership List

Massachusetts Leagues did a great job updating their membership rosters. The final official membership for LWVMA for this year is 2,743. Our Leagues range in size from 4 to 189 members, with Amherst the largest. Large or small, all our Leagues continue to make an impact in their communities.

Looking for a League Treasurer



The Nominating Committee is looking for someone with a financial or accounting background to join the state League board. Our treasurer, Joan Boyer, after an admirable job steering LWVMA back to financial health, has decided not to remain on the board after her term expires in May. The Nominating Committee is now looking for someone to serve as state League treasurer. If you are such a person or know someone who is, let us know at nominating@lwmva.org, or call Erin Pastuszewski 978-369-3842.

In addition, if you know someone with a financial, accounting or auditing background who could serve as an adviser to the board, whether or not they are a League member, the Nominating Committee would appreciate their contact information.

Thank you from the committee: Erin Pastuszewski, Nancy Brumback, Andrea Kozinetz, Florence Seldin and Terry Yoffie

Renewing the Social Compact

After a yearlong study of civic education and engagement in the Commonwealth, the Special Commission on Civic Engagement and Learning, chaired by Sen. Richard T. Moore, has released its report, "Renewing the Social Compact."

The Special Commission was revived in 2011 by the Legislature and charged with studying, reporting and making recommendations on civic engagement and learning. The entire report can be found [here](#).



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

call the LWMVA office at (617)523-2999.

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

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