



League Leader Update

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Calendar

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| Monday, August 26 | LWVMA Board Meeting, 11:00am-1:30pm, LWVMA office |
| Wednesday, August 28 | League Night at Fenway Park, 7:10pm |
| Saturday, September 21 | LWVMA Field Service Brunch and Training, 10am-1pm Concord |
| Friday, September 27 | LWVMA Board Meeting, 11:00am-1:30pm, LWVMA office |
| Monday, October 7 | How Women Become Political, 6pm, Back Bay Events Center - John Hancock Hall |
| Wednesday, October 16 | Deadline to register to vote for November 5 election |
| Saturday, October 19 | League Leaders Lunch, 11am-3pm, Florence, MA |
| Friday, October 25 | LWVMA Board Meeting, 11:00am-1:30pm, LWVMA office |
| Tuesday, November 5 | Election Day |

Taking the Updated Bottle Bill to the Voters



LWVMA member Lynn Wolbarst (right) helps hold the sign outside the Attorney General's office where the petition was filed on Wednesday, August 7

It's time to put the updated Bottle Bill to a vote! On Aug. 7, LWVMA joined with coalition partners MassPIRG, the Sierra Club and other organizations, and presented a petition to the Attorney General for a statewide ballot question on expanding the five-cent bottle deposit to non-carbonated beverages.

The legislature has had more than 10 years to update the Bottle Bill - and has refused to do it. We will ask the voters in November 2014 to do it instead.

It will take 70,000 voter signatures to put the Updated Bottle Bill on the ballot. The League has pledged to collect at least 10,000 - and we are sure we can do more. Thirty years ago, the

Massachusetts League worked to make the original bottle bill initiative a success, leading to the 1982 law; we'll work again to make the updated bottle bill a reality.

Lynn Wolbarst and Launa Zimmaro, our environmental specialists, are coordinating the state League effort. We will be contacting local Leagues very soon with information on how you can join this campaign. Meanwhile, be thinking of ways your League could effectively gather signatures-through a fall town fair, working with town environmental organizations, at the dump, whatever will work in your town. The legal time frame to gather signatures and have them certified by town and city clerks will be sometime in mid-September to mid-November, so we'll have to work fast.

Watch for lots of information on this exciting campaign!

Plan to Attend Oct. 19 League Leaders Lunch

The next League Leaders Lunch will be Saturday, Oct. 19, from 11 am to 3 pm at the Florence Congregational Church, 130 Pine St., Florence, MA, near Northampton, with lunch provided by the Side Street Café.

An organizing committee is planning the agenda through an evening teleconference call in early September. If you have any suggestions or would like to be included in the teleconference, please email [Jean Cherdack](mailto:Jean.Cherdack@lwvma.org). The lunch is a great opportunity to find out what Leagues across the state are planning, share successes, and get to know one another. We hope to meet newly-elected leaders as well.



All local Leagues, not just those in the western part of the state, should consider sending two or three leaders. Save the date! It's a beautiful time of year to visit western Massachusetts.

Exciting Evening on How Women Become Political

Do you think it's time to see more women in office, from Selectman to Senator? Consider inviting high school and college students and even twenty-somethings you know to join you at this inspiring program on women and politics.

In 1838, a Boston abolitionist, Angelina Grimke, became the first woman to address a state legislature, in Boston. To honor her courage and example, a public event, "How Women Become Political," is scheduled for Monday, Oct. 7, 6 to 8 pm. in the Back Bay Events Center - John Hancock Hall, 180 Berkeley St., Boston. Admission is free.



An exciting lineup of speakers-women who have definitely made their mark in the political world-is scheduled:

- Gloria Steinem (photo above) , feminist, activist, author
 - Elizabeth Warren, U.S. Senator from Massachusetts (Senate schedule permitting)
 - Ayanna Pressley, Boston City Councilor at-Large
 - Kerry Healey, President of Babson College and former Massachusetts Lieutenant Governor
- Ambassador Swanee Hunt, Chair, Political Parity

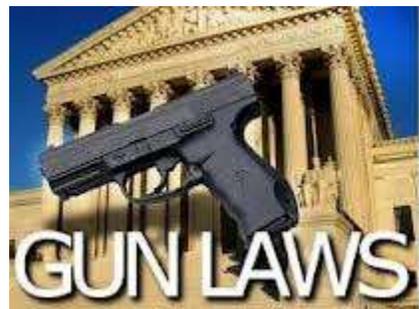
While admission is free, you need to register in advance. Go [here](#) to receive an email with the ticket to be printed out. Find out more at the [event website](#).

LWVMA is a partner in this event, along with such groups as the Women's Bar Association of Massachusetts, Massachusetts Women's Political Caucus, Massachusetts Caucus of Women Legislators, Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women and Simmons College.

Having a Say on Gun Laws

The League of Women Voters has made its voice heard at the hearings on gun control legislation held around the state by the Massachusetts Legislature's Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security. The last of the five scheduled hearings will be in September, in the Gardner Auditorium at the State House, and the State League will testify. We will post the date and time on our website as soon as it is announced.

League representatives have testified at all four of the previous hearings. The Cape Cod Area and Worcester Leagues spoke at hearings in their areas. The State League, backed up by members from Northampton, Amherst and Sudbury, testified at the Springfield hearing, held just down the street from Smith & Wesson's headquarters and attended by about 300 employees in identical t-shirts. Representatives of the Greater Haverhill and Arlington Leagues testified at the Aug. 12 hearing in Wilmington.



The joint committee will probably draft legislation with elements from the large number of gun-related bills that have been filed, and that new legislation is likely to be what is reported out of committee later this fall. The State League has not formally endorsed any bill yet, awaiting that new legislation.

We encourage any interested League members to attend the final hearing at the State House. We will keep you updated as legislation progresses and urge you to contact your legislators when a bill comes to the floor. We can't let the NRA be the only voice heard on this issue.

Another Chance to Speak Out on Guns

Boston Mayor Thomas Menino and other Massachusetts mayors and law enforcement officials will honor and remember the over 7,800 people who have been killed by guns since the massacre in Newtown last December. The No More Names event aims to bring together organizations and survivors to remember those lost to gun violence and to appeal for peace and common sense gun control laws.

The event will be Aug. 28, the anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King's "I have a dream" speech, at 11 a.m. at City Hall Plaza in Boston. If you or your League would like to participate, please contact [Terry Yoffie](#). Local Leagues are encouraged to send this information directly to their members. There will be time slots for organizations and survivors to sign up and read the names of those killed since December 2012. Survivors and organizations are encouraged to bring identifying signs and banners.

Thank you for supporting League Night at Fenway Park!



LWVMA Night at Fenway Park!
Wednesday, August 28, 7:10pm



We reached our goal and sold more than 100 tickets for the first League Night at Fenway Wednesday, Aug. 28! That means the Red Sox will provide LWVMA with a table (near Gate A) to offer voter registration and distribute information about the League.

If you purchased tickets, you will receive them by mail in advance of the game. If you have any questions, contact [Natalie](#).

Thank you, too, to those who purchased tickets for the League to donate to the Girl Scouts.

LWV of Boston at Fenway Aug. 27

In a double play for the League, the League of Women Voters of Boston will be hosting LWVBoston Help Fund Youth Jobs at Fenway Park Tuesday, Aug. 27 at 7 pm. Tickets are still available for that event. Click [here](#) for more information and to buy tickets for the Aug. 27 game.

Changes to the Popular Local League Grant Program

The Trustees of the Lotte E. Scharfman Citizen Education Fund have made several changes to the local League grant program as we begin the next year of funding. Before applying, be sure to review the complete guidelines and requirements [here](#).

- The program has been named the Daniel Scharfman Citizen Education Grant Program in honor of our late Trustee, Dan Scharfman.
- The application deadline for the next funding cycle is Oct. 3. Future deadlines are Dec. 2, Feb. 17, and June 2. It takes approximately 3-4 weeks to receive the money from the

time of application.

- A total of \$4,000 is available for the program in fiscal year 2013-2014.
- The project for the grant should take place or begin within six months of the receipt of check.
- Multiple local Leagues may submit a collaborative grant for a single project (maximum \$250).
- Local League applicants must have submitted a final report from all previous grants in order to be considered for a new grant.
- Refreshments are not an acceptable use of grant funds.
- A local League may receive up to two grants per fiscal year; and only one grant per funding cycle.

The Daniel Scharfman Citizens Education Grant Program helps local Leagues carry out events and projects in the areas of citizen education and voter service. Generous contributions to the Lotte E. Scharfman Fund have made this successful grant program possible. Donations can be made through the website, lwvma.org, and a big thank you to those of you who have donated in the past.

Upcoming Hearings in the Legislature



Joint committees of the Massachusetts legislature have several hearings scheduled this fall on issues of concern to the League. If you have a special interest in any of these areas, please consider attending the hearing to lend your support to League specialists who are testifying. The schedule listed by the legislature is subject to change, so please confirm the date, time and location by going to the legislature's [website](#).

Sept. 17 - **Updated bottle deposit legislation**, 1 pm
Gardner Auditorium, State House. Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy

Sept. 18 - **Election-related legislation**, 2 pm, hearing room A-2, State House. Joint Committee on Election Laws. Hearing covers a variety of laws, including ones calling for audits of election results, but not the omnibus election reform law we are lobbying for, which was the subject of a hearing last April.

Oct. 16 - **Campaign finance reform legislation**, 2 pm, hearing room A-2, State House. Joint Committee on Election Laws.

Nov. 20 - **Photo ID to vote and other election legislation**, 2 pm, hearing room A-2, State House. Joint Committee on Election Laws.

LWVMA-Local League Phonathon: Excellent Fundraising Opportunity

The annual LWVMA Fall Appeal will kick-off in mid-September with a request for donations to LWVMA, either through email or regular mail. The Phonathon will begin on October 19, with materials available for local Leagues at the League Leaders' Lunch. Calls should be made between October 19 and January 30. If your League has not done the Phonathon in the past, this would be a great year to start!



Members giving \$100 or more before October 11 will have 15% of their donation distributed to their local League. Members contributing by the deadline (October 11) will not be called during the Phonathon.

What does participating in the Phonathon involve?

- Participating local Leagues will receive pledge forms for each potential donor.
- Each local League will call its own members and can also call members from Leagues not participating in the Phonathon.
- Local Leagues may participate during the three-month calling period (Oct 19-Jan 30) in the following ways:
 - Conduct a phonathon calling session from an office during the evening.
 - Conduct one or more calling sessions by gathering at a member's home using individual cell phones. This can be done at any time when callers feel they are most likely to be successful in reaching members.
 - In addition, individual callers may phone from their own homes to complete the lists.
- The local League share of contributions:
 - 15% for contributions of \$100 or more made prior to the calling deadline (October 11). So, you should urge your members to send in their donations after the first email comes out.
 - Donations obtained by calling donors will generate a 10% share of all money received for the local League making the call.

How much can a local League expect to make?

- For one night of effort, the Phonathon is an excellent fundraising option for local Leagues. Local Leagues can earn \$200 to \$500 in one night, depending on the number of calls made.

What local Leagues need to do:

- Email [Natalie](#) to indicate your League will participate in the Phonathon.
- Identify a Phonathon Coordinator from your League. She/he will serve as the primary contact with LWVMA for the Phonathon.
- Estimate the number of telephone calls your local League will make. You will receive materials based on your estimate. (Complete above 3 steps by October 1.) We estimate each person can make 20-30 calls per night.
- LWVMA will provide pre-printed pledge sheets and window envelopes.
- Local Leagues must pay for the cost of postage for pledge sheets, but can be reimbursed by LWVMA.
- Attend the League Leaders' Lunch October 19 to receive materials and training. (If not available to attend accommodations will be made.)
- Arrange for volunteers, location for Phonathon, short training, snacks, and stamps.
- After calls are made, stuff and stamp pledge sheets envelopes and mail.
- By February 15, return materials to LWVMA office.

Note to Gmail Users

If you receive email from the League at a Gmail account, please note. Gmail has set up new "tabs" to help users organize their inbox, separating emails into "Primary," "Social," and "Promotions" tabs. Emails from the League may bypass your Primary tab and land in the

Promotions tab. If you're not checking that tab regularly, you may miss time-sensitive communications from us.

If this email went into your Promotions tab:

Go to your Promotions tab and click on this message and drag it over to the Primary tab, then select "yes" when Gmail asks if you'd like future messages from us to go to your Primary tab.

Or click the Star icon on this message to mark it as important. That should indicate to Gmail to move messages from the League to your Primary tab in the future.

If this email went into your Primary tab or your inbox hasn't changed yet, click the Star icon on this message to mark it as important. That should indicate to Gmail to keep future messages from the League in your Primary tab.

[Tackling the Future of LWVMA](#)



The Membership and Local League Services Committee is convening two task forces. Each will spend a year researching their topic area and report back to the membership at Council in May 2014. Both of these critically important task forces are focused on ensuring the future of our League. Please email [Jean Cherdack](#) if you are interested in serving on one (or both) of these task forces, which will primarily meet through teleconference.

Exploring and expanding demographics of League members-- Age, gender, ethnicity, socio-demographics will all be explored.

Research will include programs of other non-profits, other state Leagues, and our own local Leagues. The task force will determine the exact scope and timeline.

Maintaining, supporting, and expanding local Leagues--LWVMA needs to do more to support existing Leagues and to start new Leagues. This task force will investigate current programs and solutions.

Idea of the Month

Fifty years as a League member is a special milestone, and one that should be recognized. Here's a tip from LWV Newton: If a local League emails LWVUS, they will send a 50-year member certificate, signed by Elisabeth MacNamara, for your long-time member. Just email [Betty Taira](#), with the name and National ID number of the member and she will mail the certificates to the local League.

Sign Up Now for National Voter Registration Day

Once again, the national League of Women Voters will be an official coalition partner for National Voter Registration Day (NVRD) 2013. This was a wildly successful event for 200+ Leagues in 2012. So far, 95 Leagues have already signed up to participate again this year! Don't miss out. Sign up to participate by hosting a registration drive in your community on Tuesday, Sept. 24. If you participated last year, please sign up by clicking on the customized link you received in an email from Maggie Duncan of LWVUS recently. If your League will be joining the NVRD effort for the first time this year, sign up by going to the [NVRD registration page](#).

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

For an entire list of our wares, click [here](#). To make an order, call the LWMVA office at (617)523-2999.

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.

Quick Links

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