



League of Women Voters®

Massachusetts

League Leader Update

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Wednesday March 13 - LWVMA Day on the Hill

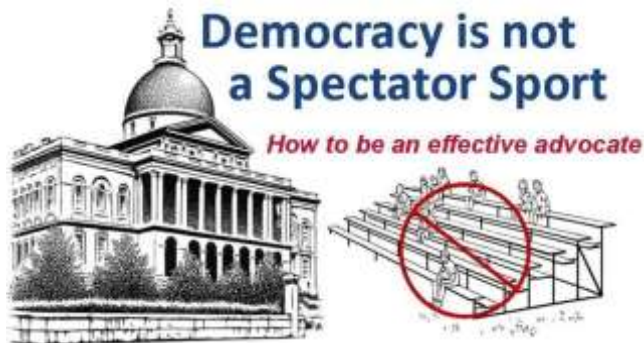
Monday March 25 - LWVMA Board Meeting, 11:30am, LWVMA office

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

Monday April 29 - LWVMA Board Meeting, 11:30am, LWVMA office

Friday May 17 - Saturday May 18 - LWVMA Convention

Don't Forget Day on the Hill!



Our annual Lobby Day at the State House is Wednesday, March 13, with the theme "Democracy is not a Spectator Sport: How to be an Effective Advocate" in the Gardner Auditorium. Registration is at 9:30 a.m., the program is from 10:00 a.m. to noon.

State Representative Thomas Conroy and Elizabeth Saunders, director of Clean Water Action, will discuss how League members can most effectively impact issues at the state and local level. State League Program Specialists will also provide briefs on key legislative initiatives.

Since hearing from constituents in person can make a major difference in the way a legislator will vote, we urge local Leagues to make appointments to meet their Senators and Representatives at the conclusion of the program to discuss legislation and local issues of importance to them. You will soon receive background information on legislation currently being supported by the League to support your discussion. For more information and an event flyer click [here](#).

March 15 Deadline to Suggest LWVMA Bylaws Changes

The Governance Committee is reviewing the LWVMA bylaws and will present proposed changes at the May Convention. If you would like to suggest a change to any section of the [current bylaws](#), please send your suggestions to Governance Committee chair [Muriel Zaginailoff](#). Please provide a description of your proposed change, specific language, your reason for the change, and your contact information. A form to use for proposed changes is [here](#). Deadline for suggestions is March 15.



Keep Track of Legislation on our Website



Program and Action Specialists have researched many of the bills submitted to the legislature at the beginning of the new legislative session. The bills the LWVMA Board has voted to support or oppose can be found on our [new website](#). You will be able to follow the progress of bills in which you are particularly interested, be informed of hearing dates, obtain contact information for legislators reviewing the bills, and know when debates are scheduled and votes are being taken. Click [here](#) to go directly to the legislation page on the website.

Current legislation topics being followed include water quality, recycling, and the environment; election and campaign finance reform; health care financing; civics education, and supporting low-income families to become financially stable. Additional topics to be investigated over the coming months include gun control, fiscal policy, agricultural initiatives, and voting rights.

Civic Engagement Specialist Headlines Convention Banquet

"The Future of Our Democracy: What's Next?" is the theme of our 2013 Convention, scheduled for May 17-18 in Peabody.

Offering her take on that theme, Dr. Meira Levinson, associate professor of education, Harvard University, will be our keynote speaker at the Friday, May 17, banquet.

For Dr. Levinson, "the future of our democracy" lies with engaging young people. Dr. Levinson writes about civic education, multiculturalism, and youth empowerment. Her latest book, *No Citizen Left Behind*, argues that the United States suffers from a civic empowerment gap that is as shameful and anti-democratic as the academic achievement gap targeted by the No Child Left Behind education law.

The First Call to Convention was distributed to members via email Feb. 18. The First Call and updates about Convention 2013 are posted as they become available on the [LWVMA website](#).



Advertise Your Business in the Convention Program



Leaguers from across the state will gather at Convention 2013 May 17 - 18. The Convention Program Book is a great way to advertise your business to fellow Leaguers. At Convention we will encourage everyone to look at the ads and to support our members' businesses. Whether you own a business, manage a business, or work at a business that we should know about, you can spread the word with an ad. We work hard to keep voters educated; now we can educate each other about the non-League work we do.

The Convention Program Book is 8 ½" x 11" and will be in black and white. Ad

rates are:

Full Page	\$200
1/2 Page	\$100
1/4 Page	\$ 50
1/8 Page	\$ 25

Please send your ad via email to nkassabian@lwvma.org and then send [this form](#), a copy of the ad and a check payable to LWVMA, to LWVMA, 133 Portland St., Boston, MA 02114. Checks must be received no later than April 12.

Wanted: Silent Auction Prizes

We are planning a silent auction fundraiser at Convention this May and need prizes such as concert and sports tickets, restaurant gift certificates, vacation homes for the weekend, wine, etc. Please contact [Anne Borg](#) if you would like to donate to the auction. Thank you!

Plan Your Spring High School Voter Registration Drive

It's time to plan a spring voter registration drive at the high schools in your town, and perhaps at high schools in neighboring towns that don't have local Leagues. This year you can encourage students to register in time to vote in the special election for U.S. Senate.



Note that the registration deadline for the April 30 primaries is April 10 and the registration deadline to vote in the June 25 final election is June 5, so please take those dates into account when you are scheduling your registration efforts. Also note that, because of those special elections, you can only register students who will turn 18 by those election days. It's a good idea to check with your town clerk or city election officials to determine if there are any local elections scheduled that might also affect the date students need to be 18 to register. You're safe, of course, if the student is already 18.

Be sure to let LWVMA know how many high school students your League registers, so we can publicize the statewide total in June. You can send that information to voterservice@lwvma.org, and if you have any questions, use that email address as well.

LWVMA and LWVUS materials for high school voter registration are posted on [our website](#), including the recently updated manual from LWVUS.

Information Available on LWVUS Agriculture Study



LWVUS has made available information on the "Agriculture Update" study to update the League's positions on agriculture.

Here's the scope of the project: The Agriculture Update will focus narrowly on: 1) current technology issues in agriculture including genetically modified organisms (GMOs), herbicides, pesticides, agriculture water pollution, aquifer depletion, antibiotics in livestock, and accurate food labeling; and 2) current agriculture finance issues including consolidation in agriculture industries, crop subsidies and the federal agricultural regulatory process.

The timeline can be found [here](#). The timeline gives September 2013 to April 2014 as the period during which

state and local Leagues may form study committees, examine study materials, hold public meetings, hold consensus meetings, etc.

Please keep this in mind as you plan your calendars and activities for next year. Consider joining together regionally for study committees, public meetings, etc. You might want to sponsor a public forum on agriculture issues and invite local farmers and state legislators to speak. This is a great opportunity to participate in the discussion of this important national issue!

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

LWMVA office at (617)523-2999.

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

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.