



The Mass. League Voter

A newsletter for members of the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts

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Calendar

Wednesday, July 17	<u>Election Reform Lobby Day</u> , State House 10:30am
Monday, July 22	LWVMA Board Meeting, 11:00am-1:30pm, LWVMA office
Friday, August 9	Deadline to apply for LWVMA Executive Director Position
Friday, August 9	Deadline to purchase tickets for League Night at Fenway Park on August 28
Monday, August 26	LWVMA Board Meeting, 11:00am-1:30pm, LWVMA office
Wednesday, August 28	League Night at Fenway Park, 7:10pm
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
Saturday, October 19	League Leaders Lunch, 11am-3pm, Florence, MA
Friday, October 25	LWVMA Board Meeting, 11:00am-1:30pm, LWVMA office

From Our Co-Presidents

We are still riding the high we got from May's LWVMA Convention. It was energizing to see the enthusiasm with which our members from all across the state came together, shared ideas and learned from each other, caucused for things they passionately believed in, and ultimately approved a robust program and budget for the next two years. That's League in action and we're proud to be part of it.

If you expected League members to be taking the summer off, think again. Our members are hard at work. The state

campaign finance study committee is up and running. They met with the Director of the Office of Campaign and Political Finance, the independent state agency that administers the state's campaign finance laws, to find out how campaign financing is actually policed in the state. Their findings will make for an interesting discussion.

The Legislative Action Committee never stopped work on upcoming bills in the state legislature, encouraging testimony at gun legislation hearings across the state, and ensuring a strong League presence at Lobby Day at the State House July 17 to ask legislators to support laws modernizing voter registration and elections. For sure, the League is being heard.

Other teams and committees are busy as well, crafting plans for the next biennium. The wonderful thing about the League is that there is something for everyone, whether you are an educator, an activist, an organizer, a political junkie, an environmentalist or just someone who cares about the world we live in.

So, please join with us this coming year, find something that catches your fancy or your passion, sign up for a committee or sign on for a one-time event. You'll be surprised at the friends you'll make and the fun you'll have. League is more than an organization. It's a family and you are part of ours.

-Anne and Marilyn

Convention Picks New Board



League delegates from across the state met for two days in Peabody in May, attending workshops, getting to know each other and making decisions about the state League's activities for the next two years.

Anne Borg of Newton and Marilyn Peterson of Acton were elected co-presidents of LWVMA. Other state officers are Karen Price, Needham, first vice president; Nancy Brumbach, Sudbury, second vice president; Dee Ortner, Concord-Carlisle, secretary; and Andrea Kozinetz, Newton, treasurer. The League's directors will be Jean Cherdack, Northampton; Marlene O'Brien,

Wellesley; Carole Pelchat, Greater Haverhill; Becky Shannon, Amherst; and Launa Zimmaro, Concord-Carlisle.

Two League members received the **Above and Beyond Award** from the state board. Erin Pastuszenski of the Concord-Carlisle League was honored for her work as a member of the Nominating Committee for four years and its chair the last two, plus the many other tasks she's taken on. Ruth Race of the Topsfield-Boxford-Middleton League was honored for her many years of outstanding service as the Field Service Representative for the Merrimack Valley/North Shore region.

The state League also thanks local Leagues which have **made generous donations totaling \$5,500**: Acton Area, Amherst, Andover/North Andover, Cape Cod Area, Concord-Carlisle, Falmouth, Hamilton-Wenham, Harvard, Lexington, Needham, Newton, Northampton Area, Norwood, Topsfield-Boxford-Middleton, and Wellesley.

Here's Our 2013-2015 Program

The convention delegates approved an ambitious program of study and action for the next two years.

A new study, *"Massachusetts after Citizens United. So What Do We Do Now?"* will consider whether the state League's existing campaign finance positions are adequate to meet the challenges of Citizens United and related recent Supreme Court decisions, and, if not, what additional positions are needed.

LWVMA also adopted a new position on transportation by concurrence with the position of LWV of California. In brief, that position supports a transportation system to move people and goods which includes a variety of transportation modes, with emphasis on increased public transportation services and other viable alternatives to

reduce vehicle miles traveled; is efficient, convenient, and cost effective; is safe and secure; serves all segments of the population and diverse geographic needs; minimizes harmful effects on the environment; is integrated with land use; and is supported by extensive public education.

We selected three areas for Action Priority. The state League and the local Leagues will seek opportunities to participate in action addressing these issues, including support or opposition of legislation at all levels of government, participating in approved coalitions, conducting issue forums, encouraging attendance at events and rallies, and lobbying officials.

- *Improving elections*, including, but not limited to, voting systems that are easy to use, administer and encourage voter turnout, election financing/money in politics, voter registration and engagement, and opposition to voter suppression efforts.
- *The environment*, including, but not limited to, reduction, reuse and recycling measures; measures to address climate change; and comprehensive water resource management.
- *Civic education and engagement*, including, but not limited to, encouraging civic education in our schools and civic engagement in our communities and our state and municipal governments.

Finally, LWVMA will establish two review committees which should report back to the membership at Council 2014. Those separate committees will:

- Consider the uses of technology in voter registration and voting and research the positives and negatives associated with each technology, including the security of such systems.
- Develop a plan for state League action on transportation, taking into account local League studies and action on transportation.

A convention summary, including the workbook and budget information, photos, and workshop documents, is posted [here](#).

League Night at Fenway Park



The Boston Red Sox are celebrating Women's Equality Day with the first ever League of Women Voters Night! It's Wednesday, Aug. 28, at 7:10 p.m. when the Sox play the Baltimore Orioles at Fenway Park. Plan to arrive by 6:45 for pre-game ceremonies.

There's a special ticket rate for this event--bleacher seats for \$28 and covered outfield grandstand for \$30. The Red Sox will reserve a section for Leaguers and their friends to sit together. A portion of the ticket sales will be donated to LWVMA, and LWVMA will be donating some tickets to Girl Scout troops. **The deadline to order tickets and for LWVMA to receive your payment is Friday, August 9.** Click [here](#) for information and to order tickets.

Make Your Voice Heard on Gun Laws

The Massachusetts Legislature's Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security has scheduled five public hearings to take testimony from people across the state about the need for strengthened gun laws in Massachusetts. These hearings will inform the Committee's work in crafting a gun safety bill for consideration by the full House and Senate, with floor debate likely this fall.

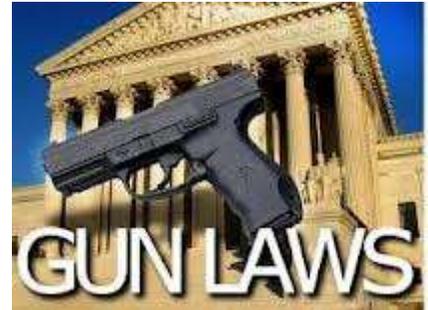
The first hearing was June 19 on Cape Cod, and the second in Worcester July 8. The Cape Cod Area and Worcester Leagues spoke at those hearings.

The schedule for the remaining hearings as it stands now is:

- North of Boston - Masconomet Regional High School, Topsfield, Friday, July 26, 10 am
- Springfield, Griswold Theater at American International College, Friday Aug. 2, time TBA
- Boston, State House (Gardner Auditorium), September, time and date TBA

We will update the hearing schedule on our website [here](#) as information becomes available.

We strongly encourage local Leagues and individual members to attend these hearings and speak up on behalf of your local League. Background information and talking points are available [here](#) (scroll down under related documents).



The gun lobby is expected to turn out for these hearings in force. Don't let the NRA control this debate any longer.

2013-2015 Scharfman Trustees Elected

Trustees were elected for the Lotte E. Scharfman Education Fund in June. Officers are Anne Borg, chair, Newton; Marilyn Peterson, LWVMA co-president, Acton Area; Andrea Kozinetz, treasurer, Newton; and Dee Ortnier, secretary, Concord-Carlisle. Trustees are Susan Abrams, Sudbury; Nancy Brumback, Sudbury; Jean Cherdack, Northampton Area; Carole Stanley Pelchat, Greater Haverhill; Karen Price, Needham; and Claire Russell, Rochester-Marion-Mattapoisett.

Grant Program Named for Dan Scharfman



The trustees of the LWVMA Lotte E. Scharfman Education Fund (LESF) have named the local League citizen education grants program in honor of Dan Scharfman. Dan, Lotte's son and the trustee representing the Scharfman family on the board, died Jan. 20 at age 55. His service on the LESF board brought both expertise and continuity to the fund established in 1971 in honor of his mother. He made a valuable contribution to and lasting impression on LWVMA, and we honor his spirit with this local League grant program he supported, now named the Daniel Scharfman Citizen Education Grant Program.

The Massachusetts League's Education Fund created the grant program last year to assist local Leagues around the state with citizen education and voter service projects. To date, the program has awarded \$3,966 to 16 local Leagues. Projects funded have included an online interactive voter education tool, candidate forums, brochures on town meeting procedures, a civics bee, voter registration at naturalization ceremonies, and public service voting announcements. A full list of the projects is on the [website](#).

Three New Grants to Local Leagues in June

Congratulations to the three Leagues awarded Daniel Scharfman Citizen Education grants in June. The deadline for the next funding cycle is Oct. 3. For information on the grant program, [click here](#). **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.

The June grant recipients are:

LWV Andover/North Andover: Promoting Town Meeting (\$250)

LWV Andover/North Andover plans to promote Town Meeting among Andover and North Andover residents by printing reusable yard signs reminding residents to attend Town Meeting and producing two pamphlets (one for each town) that include history, process and procedures, terminology, resources.

LWV Waltham: Display for Waltham Visions (\$250)

One of the tasks in the Waltham Visions project is to find out what the people of Waltham want their city to look like in the future. To increase visibility for the project and the League, the grant will fund a permanent display for town fairs and events, a LWV banner, and a foam board mounted aerial photo of Waltham.

LWV Acton Area: Town Meeting How To (\$171)

"Town Meeting How To" is a vertical half-sheet card that tells town meeting participants the steps to speak, move the previous question, make an amendment, make a point of order, and the commonly used motions. The grant would fund the printing of 1,000 cards. The card may be viewed [here](#).

Seeking an Executive Director



LWVMA is hiring an executive director, and specific information about this position has been sent to all Massachusetts League members. It will be a part-time position, 25 hours a week, with flexible hours, a salary of \$35,000 to \$45,000 commensurate with experience, health benefits and paid time off. If you or someone you know would be interested in this position, please see the complete job description [here](#). Email a cover letter and resume to HumanResources@lwvma.org. **The deadline for applications is August 9.**

Two Task Forces Tackle the Future of the League

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 2014 (late spring). Both of these critically important task forces are focused on ensuring the future of the 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.

Preparing for the LWVUS Agriculture Study

The 2012 LWVUS convention voted to update the League's existing position on agriculture. While the current position is still important, there have been many changes to agriculture since it was adopted, and farming is being greatly affected by the changing climate and advances in technology.

The agriculture update will focus narrowly on 1) current technology issues, 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 agriculture regulatory process. Information is available [here](#).

A national study committee of League members from across the country is already in place and background research papers are being prepared, but we need a committee of interested members from across Massachusetts to assist local Leagues in preparing for the consensus meetings which will occur this coming year. No farming experience necessary but an open mind is important.

If you would be willing to be a part of this committee, please contact [Louise Haldeman](#), the LWVMA specialist in this area.

Lots of Volunteer Opportunities! Please Consider One!

At convention, we approved a study and two review projects, and the state League is also developing a directory of civic engagement programs for young people. All those activities need willing people to make them successful. Here's the list, with the contact.

Directory of Civic Engagement and Leadership Programs: LWVMA plans to publish a new edition of our directory to civic engagement and leadership programs for Massachusetts youth. Some tasks include: (i) helping identify and research appropriate youth programs to add to our listings, (ii) data entry, (iii) computer technical assistance, (iv) working on solicitation of corporate, foundation and individual sponsors, and (v) publicity and public outreach. Contact [Marlene O'Brien](#), project chair.

Campaign Finance Study Committee: A new state study, "*Massachusetts after Citizens United. So What Do We Do Now?*" will consider whether the state League's existing campaign finance positions are adequate to meet the challenges of Citizens United and related recent Supreme Court decisions, and, if not, what additional positions are needed. Contact [Becky Shannon](#) to help.

Transportation Project: Develop a plan for state League action on transportation, taking into account local League studies, action and concerns on transportation. Contact [Nancy Brumback](#).

Voting Technology Review: Consider the uses of technology in voter registration and voting and research the positives and negatives associated with each technology, including the security of such systems. If you have a technical background, we particularly need you! Contact [Nancy Brumback](#).



"How Women Become Political" Event



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 group is working on a public event, "How Women Become Political," scheduled for Monday, Oct. 7, 6 to 8 p.m. in the Back Bay Events Center - John Hancock Hall, 180 Berkeley St., Boston.

We encourage local Leagues to consider bringing high school girls from your town to this event and inspire those girls to think about a future in the political arena.

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

- Gloria Steinem, 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.

LWVUS Council Report

Every two years, LWVUS holds a *National Council of Leaders* meeting where state and national League leaders gather for collaboration and training. This year's theme was Power: Our Votes, Our Voices. LWVMA had three representatives at Council: Co-Presidents Marilyn Peterson and Anne Borg and Vice President Karen Price.

Council was very inspiring and energizing; we heard from several interesting panels of voting and elections experts, networked and brainstormed with leaders from other states, and worked on an action plan for LWVMA. Council ended on a high note when we heard during our last session that the Supreme Court had upheld the National Voter Registration Act in *Arizona vs. ITCA, Inc.*

Weekend highlights were hearing from several state Leagues about their efforts against voter suppression. In 2011, LWV of Wisconsin sued the governor and other state officials, challenging the constitutionality of the state's new voter ID law. LWV of Minnesota was a key member of a coalition that defeated a November 2012 ballot initiative to amend the state constitution to require voters to present a photo ID at the polls. LWVUS supported both state Leagues through the 2011-2012 *Power the Vote* initiative.

And right after Hurricane Sandy severely damaged or destroyed voting locations in many New Jersey towns, LWV of New Jersey pulled together a coalition of public officials and private organizations to help residents vote. League members stood at polling places and directed voters to new, temporary voting locations. We were all thrilled to watch a documentary about LWV of New Jersey's very successful efforts.

Presentations by LWVUS staff members and LWVUS board members on social media, fundraising, membership and leadership development, public advocacy and team-building were informative. A skit and discussion by representatives of LWVUS' *Young People Task Force* were especially engaging.

The three of us returned to Massachusetts with a greater appreciation of the power of the League, at all levels, to address the issues facing our democracy. We look forward to partnering with our local Leagues in this work.



From L to R: Karen Price, LWVUS President Elisabeth MacNamara, Marilyn Peterson and Anne Borg

Have You Seen Our Website?



Take a look at www.lwvma.org, our recently re-designed website with both state and local League news and events.

The homepage "News and Events" is updated at least weekly and includes the top news and events going on in the state. Local League events are posted on the [calendar](#), also accessed from the home page.

A new feature is "[LWVMA in the News](#)." This area is updated daily, and includes articles from on-line news outlets (such as Wicked local and Patch) on any League event in the state. It is a great place to go to see what other Leagues are up to. Recent posts include a League forum in Marblehead about disaster preparedness, an affordable housing discussion in Brookline, and letters to the editor on a wide variety of local topics. If you do not see an article from your on-line media outlet, send it to web@lwvma.org and we will post it.

Also, check out the latest "[Featured League](#)," LWV Williamstown. And explore the wide variety of information and

services available under the Member Resources tab.

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 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.