

LEAGUE LEADER UPDATE

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF MASSACHUSETTS

March 2016

CALENDAR

Saturday, March 19	LWVMA Board Meeting, LWVMA Office, Boston, 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Saturday, April 9 - Sunday, April 10	New England States Leadership Development Conference, Wells, ME
Monday, April 11	Deadline for the next cycle of Daniel Scharfman Citizen Education Grants
Thursday, March 31	Deadline to enter the " YOUTH Should Vote" Student Video Contest
Saturday, April 30	Council, Clark University, Worcester, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

HAPPENING NOW

Early Bird Pricing for LWVMA Council 2016

We're anticipating a large turnout at LWVMA Council 2016 Saturday, April 30, at Clark University in Worcester to kick-off our MOVE 2016 Campaign for the November election and to get members up to speed on the Charter School study. Click [here](#) for program information and a flyer.



Encourage your members to sign up to be part of the state-wide movement to get out the vote for the presidential election. To encourage more member participation, we offer an early bird option for the full day of action:

- Early Bird registration (prior to April 8) \$35
- Standard registration (after April 8) \$45

Please click [here](#) to register. Registration deadline is April 25.

An anonymous donor has offered to subsidize the registration fee for 10 members who might not otherwise be able to attend. For confidential details, please contact [Brynne Gorman](#) at 617-523-2999.

Looking forward to seeing your local League at Council 2016!

Student Video Contest Needs YOU

LWVMA's third annual Student Video Contest is accepting entries through March 31. The theme this year is "YOUTH Should Vote!" To mobilize the youth vote in Election 2016, we are inviting Massachusetts high school students to send 30-second videos that encourage young people to register to vote and to turn out at the polls in November.



Please help us publicize the contest by sending information to your local high school, youth organizations, and cable news station; putting up flyers in your community; and posting information on your Facebook page; you can find information and a flyer to download [here](#).

You can also be a judge--no experience necessary, and you can watch and rate the videos from your own home. Please contact Executive Director [Meryl Kessler](#) to volunteer.

Help LWVMA Win Boston Globe GRANT

For the third year, the Boston Globe will be awarding grants of free advertising space to non-profit organizations. Please help us win ad space that we can use for a Get Out the Vote ad in early fall, right before the general election.

If you are a Boston Globe subscriber, you will receive notification about the GRANT program either by mail or by email. You may receive a paper voucher in the mail to cast your vote for the nonprofit of your choice; if you don't receive a voucher, you can vote online [here](#). Please select the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts Lotte E. Scharfman Memorial Fund as your nonprofit of choice. Information about the Globe's GRANT program is [here](#). The deadline to vote is April 30!



VOTING & ELECTIONS

MOVE 2016 Moves into High Gear

Our 2016 Massachusetts Voter Engagement campaign-MOVE 2016-is off to a great start and *moving forward* on a number of fronts:

- A dozen local Leagues are using VOTE411 for their local elections this spring, and we are also preparing an online Voter's Guide for the local elections in Framingham on VOTE411. VOTE411 allows voters to review information about candidates in their elections and access other voting tools by entering their address. In early summer, we will ask League members across the state to work with LWVMA to compile VOTE411 Voter's Guides for congressional and state legislative races. Stay tuned!
- We distributed over 5,000 online voter registration informational postcards to 32 local Leagues to share with the public at League events across the state. More postcards will be available over the summer as the general election gets closer. We will also be preparing postcards with information about pre-registration for 16- and 17-year-olds when that becomes effective in late summer!
- Our statewide high school video contest is in full swing, and we are receiving some amazing videos. Please be sure to spread the word-the contest ends



March 31!

- And, to help engage young people, don't forget to check out our League Choice Books [here](#).

Spring Means High School Voter Registration

It's not too early to contact high schools in your area and arrange to register students to vote. Local Leagues have run high school voter registrations in a number of ways, including a table at cap-and-gown pickup or on senior assembly day, bagels during an extended homeroom period, or just a table outside the cafeteria during lunchtime.



LWVUS offers a guide to high school voter registration [here](#). And please let us know how many students you register and in which schools, so we can publicize the League's success in this area. Send your League's information to [Mary Ann Ashton](#).

AROUND THE LEAGUE

Meet Other New England League Leaders

The tenth annual New England States Leadership Development Conference (formerly the Quad States Conference) is scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, April 9 and 10, in Wells, Maine. State League leaders from all six New England states will meet to discuss regional cooperation and issues.

Jean Cherdack, LWVMA president, is planning to go up Friday, April 8, for the weekend and would welcome any other League members to join her and perhaps carpool. Contact [Jean](#) if you are interested.

Details on the program and registration and hotel information are available [here](#).

Fall Appeal and Phonathon Return Money to Local Leagues

Thanks to our loyal donors and our local Leagues, LWVMA's annual Fall Appeal and Phonathon have so far raised over \$62,000 to support the operations and the programs of both the state League and the Scharfman Citizen Education Fund. The incredible generosity of our donors and the dedication of our callers made this campaign a success. The money raised through this annual appeal is a critical part of our budget and helps fund membership events, outreach, and support; citizen education projects; and voter service.



In February, as part of our local League revenue sharing program, LWVMA sent checks totaling approximately \$5,600 to 36 local Leagues. Shares were calculated as follows: Local Leagues received 15% of contributions of \$100 or more and 10% of contributions of less than \$100 made by their members before Oct. 30; and local Leagues that made calls for Phonathon received a 10% share of all money that they raised.

LWVMA applauds the efforts of the Leagues that made Phonathon calls: Acton Area, Concord-Carlisle, Hamilton-Wenham, Lexington, Needham, Newton, Northampton Area, Sudbury, Wellesley, and Winchester.

THE TO-DO LIST

Daniel Scharfman Grant Deadline

The deadline for the next cycle of Daniel Scharfman Citizen Education grants to local Leagues is Monday, April 11.

What citizen education project is your league doing? If it fits the Scharfman Grant guidelines. You can apply for a grant of up to \$250.

Check [here](#) for the application and guidelines. Questions? Contact [Sue Abrams](#).



Make Your League's Voice Heard at the LWVUS Convention

Thinking about attending Convention June 16-19, in Washington, DC? You can register for Convention (or Convention AND Lobby Day) using the [online registration form](#). And be sure to make your [hotel reservations](#) while rooms at the special League rate are still available. Full information on the US convention is [here](#).



Consider sending your League's full delegation to Convention 2016. Your League's delegate count is based on the number of members recorded in the "official member count" Jan. 31. Every local League gets one delegate. Leagues with 50 to 99 members get two delegates, and 100-149 members, three delegates. The formula is available [here](#). Questions? Contact membership@lww.org.

Action Alerts Are Important

You and your members will notice an increase in the number of Action Alert requests to contact legislators from now until the legislature's session ends July 31. These last months of the two-year session are when most of the bills we have been following actually come to the floor for a vote. So this is the time when we most need LWV members to contact Senators and Representatives.



Please encourage your members to respond when an Action Alert lands in their inbox. You do not have to argue the fine points of legislation. An email or a phone call to the legislators to let them know they have constituents with opinions on a given bill makes an enormous difference.

Our speakers at Day on the Hill pointed out that direct contact from people who live in their districts is the most effective form of lobbying.

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.
