



## League Leader Update

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### Calendar

Saturday April 6	<a href="#">The Battle for the Bottle Bill</a> , Regent Theatre, Arlington MA
Wednesday April 10	Voter Registration Deadline for US Senate Primary Election
Monday April 29	LWVMA Board Meeting, 11:30am, LWVMA office
Tuesday April 30	US Senate Primary Election
Friday May 17- 18	<a href="#">LWVMA Convention</a> , Peabody MA
Wednesday June 5	Voter Registration Deadline for US Senate Election
Tuesday June 25	US Senate Election
Wednesday June 26	Annual LESF Board Meeting, 12:00pm, LWVMA office

### Are You Ready for Convention?



*"The Future of  
Our Democracy:  
What's Next?"*

Make your plans now to attend LWVMA's Convention 2013: The Future of Our Democracy: What's Next? Convention is set for Friday and Saturday, May 17-18, at the Boston Marriott Peabody Hotel in Peabody.

Registration and pre-convention materials

("Last Call") will be distributed via email Friday, April 5, to all members. Local League leaders are asked to make sure interested members who do not have email are informed of the convention. Full information is on the [lwwma.org](http://lwwma.org) website, click on Convention 2013 on the right.

### **Keynote Speakers**

Friday evening banquet: Meira Levinson, Harvard Associate Professor of Education  
Saturday lunch: Margery Eagan, Columnist, Commentator and Talk Show Host

Dr. Meira 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 No Child Left Behind.

Margery Eagan is a longtime columnist with the Boston Herald, a talk radio host, and a frequent guest on CNN, ABC, Fox News, and WGBH's Friday "Beat the Press" program on Greater Boston. Her radio show, which she co-hosts with Jim Braude, recently moved to WGBH Radio.

### **Silent Auction**

LWVMA is planning a Silent Auction fundraiser for this year's Convention. Popular prizes include concert and sports tickets, restaurant and services gift certificates, wine, etc. We are also asking local Leagues to consider putting together a basket of goodies for the auction. Think about creative ways to highlight your town or area - donations from local stores, museums, restaurants, and artists. The total value of the items in the basket should be at least \$50. Or, submit just one item from a local business or artisan. For more information, please contact Anne Borg, [aborg@lwwma.org](mailto:aborg@lwwma.org). Thank you!!

### **Agenda and Workshops**

The overall agenda and workshop topics are posted on the Convention 2013 section of [lwwma.org](http://lwwma.org). Workshop topics include ideas for increasing League activities and visibility, effective lobbying and advocating for League-supported positions, creating a Facebook page, League moderator training, and election reform efforts.

### **Local League Donations to LWVMA at Convention**

Traditionally local Leagues make donations to LWVMA at Convention. Please consider making a donation, perhaps in honor or in memory of a special person in your League. During budget preparation, your board and budget committee should discuss the possibility of donating to the state League. At Convention, Leagues will be given time to announce their gifts. If your annual meeting will not have taken place before state convention, your League can still announce a gift by adding the words "...pending the vote of Annual Meeting."

### **Advertising Option in Convention Program**

The Convention Program is a great way to advertise your business to fellow Leaguers. The Convention Program is an 8 ½ x 11 inch paper booklet folded to 4 ¼ x 5 ½ inches, which contains information on the agenda, lists donors, and displays the ads. 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. Local Leagues can also buy ads to express thanks or support.

The Convention Program will be in color.

Back page (outside, 4 ¼ x 5 ½)	\$150
Single page (right or left; 4 ¼ x 5 ½)	\$100

Half single page (top or bottom) \$ 50  
Quarter single page \$ 25

To advertise, click [here](#) for the advertising form and send your ad copy via email to [nkassabian@lwwma.org](mailto:nkassabian@lwwma.org). A check payable to LWVMA must be received no later than May 1.

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## Jimmy Tingle Salutes the Bottle Bill



Comedian Jimmy Tingle and the Sierra Club present "The Battle for the Bottle Bill," Saturday, April 6 from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Regent Theater in Arlington, an evening of comedy, conversation, music, and action! A Rally to Increase Recycling! LWVMA is a sponsor of this event, to raise funds to continue the battle to expand bottle deposits to non-carbonated beverages.

General Admission is \$15 in advance, \$20 on Saturday, \$10 for students and seniors and \$25 including a Meet & Greet with cash bar and complimentary appetizers at "Not Your Average Joe's". Click [here](#) for information or advance tickets.

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## Next Deadline for Local League Grants is June 2

The Trustees of the LWVMA Lotte E. Scharfman Education Fund (LESF) have added another funding cycle for the Citizen Education Grant Program. The deadline for local Leagues to submit a grant application is June 2, and the money would be dispersed no later than mid-July.

This funding cycle was added because the first fall deadline (2013) will be October 1, with payments disbursed at the end of October. While the grant committee felt this date will allow Leagues to hold their first fall board meeting before the deadline, it may be late for those Leagues planning early fall events or projects. Leagues can submit an application June 2 for planned early fall activities.



The current guidelines should be followed for the June 2 grant submission. See details on how to apply and past grant recipients on the [LWVMA website](#). Grant applications should be submitted to [Karen Price](#).

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## State Legislature in Full Swing



The Massachusetts legislature is in active session, and LWVMA is there, testifying for the bills we support. We have already testified on election reform measures March 27 and April 3 and on proposals for a progressive income tax structure April 2.

You can keep track of the legislation the League is following on our website [here](#) and read the testimony we have submitted [here](#). The LWVMA testimony is a great resource for local Leagues to use to communicate with their legislators, write

letters to the editor, or other outreach efforts to advocate on behalf of League-supported bills.

Watch for action alerts about upcoming hearings and votes. Encourage your League members to contact your Senators and Representatives and ask their support for the bills we are backing.

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## 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.

Note that the registration deadline for the April 30 primaries is April 10 and the registration deadline for 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@lwmva.org](mailto:voterservice@lwmva.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.

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## Good Turnout, Great Speakers at Day on the Hill

Whether you are a legislator working on a favorite bill, an activist arguing for a favorite cause, or a League member lobbying for supported legislation, a long-term view is key, speakers at LWVMA's annual Day on the Hill at the State House reminded the audience.

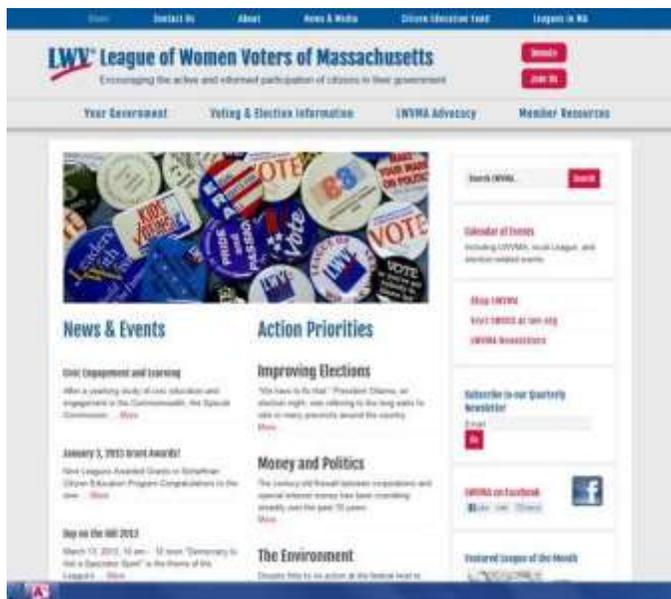


Over 80 League members from around the state attended the morning session, "Democracy is not a Spectator Sport: How to be an effective advocate," then fanned out to the offices of their state Senators and Representatives to seek support of the legislation LWVMA specialists highlighted during the session.

Rep. Thomas Conroy of the 13th Middlesex District led off, using a bill he has introduced to establish a carbon tax in Massachusetts, H.2532, to illustrate the steps a legislator takes to persuade colleagues to support a bill. Then Elizabeth Saunders, Massachusetts director of Clean Water Action, provided pointers on working effectively with those legislators who support a group's aims.

You can read more about Day on the Hill and view photos of the event on our website [here](#).

## Remember to Check the LWVMA Website Often



Our new website, [www.lwvma.org](http://www.lwvma.org), is packed with news about League events and information to make your League better and your role easier in the [Member Resources](#) section. Local Leagues can submit all of their events to be posted on the [website calendar](#) by emailing [web@lwvma.org](mailto:web@lwvma.org). Check it often for updates on legislation and upcoming events, and take a look at the [Featured League of the Month](#).

**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.