



League Leader Update

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Monday May 6	LWVMA Convention Registration Deadline
Friday May 17- 18	LWVMA Convention , 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

Register for Convention NOW! See you in Peabody!



Registration Deadline: Monday May 6

Remember the deadline is Monday, May 6, to register for LWVMA's Convention 2013: The Future of Our Democracy: What's Next? The Convention is Friday and Saturday, May 17-18, at the Boston Marriott Peabody Hotel in Peabody.

Keynote Speakers

Friday evening banquet: Meira Levinson, Harvard

Associate Professor of Education

Saturday lunch: Margery Egan, Columnist, Commentator and Talk Show Host

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. Time will be set aside to make the donations during the Friday plenary session.

Convention Rules and Procedures

If you need to refer to the Convention Rules and Procedures prior to convention you can click [here](#). This information will be available in your convention workbook, which all delegates and observers will receive at registration, so there is no need to bring this document.

Does Your League Have Unused Delegate Slots or Need More Slots?

Each League is allotted a number of convention delegates based on the number of members, click [here](#) to see the delegate count. All Leagues have at least two delegate slots. Any number of members may attend convention, either as a delegate or an observer. Once a League's delegate slots are filled, the remaining members are considered observers. Observers may attend all of the convention sessions, can speak if recognized by the chair, but cannot vote.



The LWVMA Board has discussed the issue of "delegate sharing" for convention. Delegate sharing means that a local League not filling all of its delegate slots can release the slots to another requesting League which has filled its delegate slots and has observers registered for convention. The pro of sharing delegates is that more people can vote at convention. The con is that a League may be over-represented.

The Board decided that delegate sharing is permissible within certain guidelines. In an effort to be fair and equitable, we have developed the following procedure.

1. All local Leagues, regardless of whether they desire delegate sharing, should submit their [delegate forms](#) by May 6 indicating the names of the delegates, not to exceed the assigned number. Observers should not be listed on the delegate form. The information in the form may be put into an email to [Natalie](#), the form may be scanned and emailed, faxed to 617-248-0881 or mailed to LWVMA, 133 Portland St., Boston, MA 02114.
2. Registration for convention closes May 6. Delegate slot reassignment will begin May 7 and close May 13. Only observers already registered for convention are candidates for delegate reassignment.
3. Leagues willing to release delegate slots should email [Natalie](#) with the number of slots they are willing to release.
4. Leagues requesting slots from another League should email [Natalie](#) to request one or two slots (no more than two per League will be allowed). Include the names of the observers desiring a delegate position. Please do not telephone a request.
5. Natalie will match up Leagues with available slots, one per League in the order requested, then another per League if requested until all donated slots are reassigned.
6. In the event that the total number of requested slots exceeds the number that are donated, Natalie will identify other potential donor Leagues.
7. Natalie will provide the League requesting a delegate slot with the name and contact of the League that may be willing to release delegate slots. The League requesting the delegate slot should contact the donor League and obtain an email stating that "[Member name], from [requesting League name], will represent [releasing League name] at Convention 2013." **It is the responsibility of the**

League requesting slot(s) to obtain the consent of the donor League.

8. The requesting League should forward this email to Natalie and bring a printed copy to Convention for the credentials committee.
9. Deadline to reassign delegate slots is May 13.

LWVMA Joins Gun Safety Coalition



The LWVMA Board voted to join the Mass Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence, a group working to enact additional gun safety legislation in the state and to encourage stricter enforcement of existing laws. This move is consistent with LWVUS's decision to make gun safety a national League priority.

The coalition is supporting legislation that achieves

these goals:

1. Universal background checks for ALL gun purchases, including private sales and gun shows.
2. A strengthened background check system (by supporting MA joining the federal NICS database; MA is one of only nine states that has not yet joined).
3. A suitability standard for all gun licenses with discretion for local licensing authorities.
4. Prohibition of military assault weapons and high-capacity magazine clips.
5. Stronger penalties, improved enforcement and improved law enforcement training for gun-related crimes, including failure to report lost or stolen guns and trafficking of firearms.

Don't Forget to Update Your League's Information

When your League elects new officers, please remember to update the information in the national database and with LWVMA.

If you have questions about how to update the national database, contact Betty Taira at membership@lww.org.

Please send your new slate of officers to [Natalie](#) in the state office .

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 [here](#).

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 June 25 U.S. Senate election is June 5, so please take that date into account when you are scheduling your registration efforts. Also note that, because of the special election, you can only register students who will turn 18 by June 25. 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@lwwma.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 [here](#), including the recently updated manual from LWVUS.

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 LWMVA 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.