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Idea of the Month

CALENDAR

Friday, Jan. 24	LWVMA Board Meeting, 11am - 2pm, LWVMA office
Saturday, Jan. 25	Field Service Meeting Metro SW Region, 10am-1pm, Newton
Friday, Jan. 31	Deadline to Update LWVUS Membership Database
Saturday, Feb. 1	Launch of LWVMA Student Video Contest
Monday, Feb. 17	Daniel Scharfman Citizen Education Grant Deadline
Friday, Feb. 28	LWVMA Board Meeting, 11am - 2pm, LWVMA office
Saturday, March 1	LWVUS Program Planning Due
Saturday, March 8	League Leaders' Lunch, 11am - 3pm, Wellesley Unitarian Universalist Church
Wednesday, March 26	LWVMA Day on the Hill, MA State House
Friday, March 28	LWVMA Board Meeting, 11am - 2pm, LWVMA office
Monday, March 31	Deadline for Student Video Contest Entries
Saturday, May 10	LWVMA Council 10am - 4pm

EVENTS

LWVMA Student Video Contest Launches Feb. 1



Interested in getting involved with a high school program sponsored by the League? You and your members can be part of a fun and exciting initiative to boost youth civic awareness! LWVMA seeks volunteers now to publicize, judge, and sponsor its "Dear Future Governor..." Student Video Contest.

What is the "Dear Future Governor..." Student Video Contest? The Massachusetts gubernatorial election is just 10 months away! LWVMA is asking Massachusetts high school students to submit two-minute videos illustrating a problem or issue in their communities that the next Governor should

address. First place wins \$1000; second place wins \$500; and third place wins \$250.

Who can enter? The contest is open to any Massachusetts high school student in grades 9-12.

When is the contest? Entries may be submitted online starting Feb. 1. The deadline for submissions is March 31. Judging will take place in April, and winners will be announced in May.

What can you and your members do? We need League volunteers to help publicize the contest at local high schools and community centers. We also need judges and sponsors. For further information about the contest and to [download a flyer](#), visit www.lwvma.org. Questions or want to get involved? Email LWVMA Executive Director Meryl Kessler at mkessler@lwvma.org or call 617-523-2999.

Day on the Hill is March 26

Make your voice heard at the State House. The League's annual lobbying day is Wednesday, March 26, starting at 10 a.m.

The Legislative Action Committee is hard at work lining up speakers for this event. And your legislative specialists will have information on bills the League supports so that you can effectively ask your Senators and Representatives to take action on them.



Remember, the more people who visit their legislators, the more influence the League has in election reform, gun safety, campaign finance reform, environmental issues, and other important areas.

Consider organizing a carpool of interested members from your League and then contact your state legislators for an appointment after the morning's program ends at noon.

If you plan to invite your legislator to lunch, please schedule lunch after 1 p.m. so other Leagues in that legislator's district can talk to him or her between noon and 1.

Let's Make Massachusetts the Biggest Thing in Dallas!



The League of Women Voters of the United States Convention will be in Dallas June 6-10, and the Massachusetts League board urges all of our local Leagues to consider sending delegates. Every local League gets one delegate, with two delegates for Leagues with 50-99 members, three for 100-149 members and an additional delegate for every additional 50 members. Let's make the Massachusetts delegation the biggest in Texas!

LWVUS has posted its [Guide to Convention 2014](#) which can answer your questions about how to register, how many delegates you can send, and what happens at Convention. If you plan early, you can take advantage of some very good fares to Dallas available now!

ADVOCACY

Several Important Bills Coming Up

With the legislature back in session after its holiday break, several bills the League has been working on are likely to come to the floor for votes over the next few weeks. Look for Action Alerts and urge your members to contact their legislators when alerted to do so. Even when legislators are supporters of a bill, it makes a big difference if they can tell the leadership their constituents are in favor of legislation.

Election Reform: The House-passed election reform bill, H.3788, renumbered as S.1975, is expected to be voted on in the Senate on Jan. 16. The Senate version has strengthened early voting, provides for teen pre-registration, and reforms the inactive voter system. Amendments to include post-election audits and Election Day registration will be introduced on the Senate floor. See this [Action Alert](#) and contact your Senator. And click [here](#) to read our co-presidents' Letter to the Editor that was printed in *The Boston Globe* today! Also see *The Globe's* editorial that includes a shout out to the League [here](#).

Campaign Finance - "Disclose Act": Massachusetts' version of the Disclose Act, S.321/H.651, is expected to be reported out of committee soon with some provision to require real-time disclosure of the source of campaign contributions.

Gun Safety: A gun safety bill should also be reported out of the joint committee, perhaps by the end of January. The Massachusetts Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence, which LWVMA belongs to, is monitoring that situation, and we will recommend action once we know what provisions are in the bill.

Campaign Finance Presentations

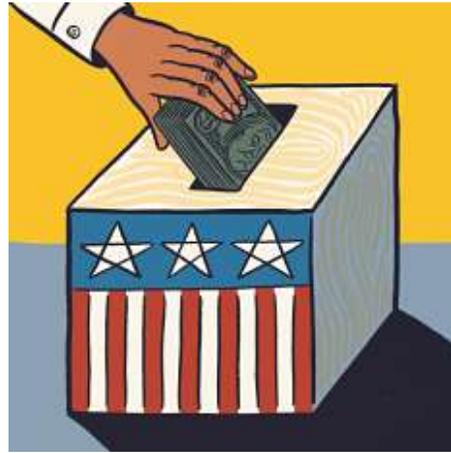
LWVMA's Campaign Finance Study Committee (CFSC) has been very active this winter as we plan and initiate our strategy for participation at the LWVUS Convention in Dallas, June 6-10. In December, CFSC submitted a Primer for consideration as the official LWVUS Primer on Campaign Finance at Convention 2014.

The CFSC has decided to postpone local League consensus meetings on the state study passed at the LWVMA convention until after the upcoming national convention in June.

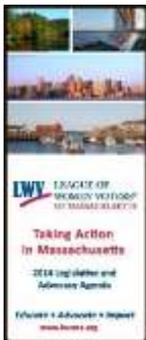
In the meantime, our PowerPoint presentation will soon be available for local Leagues to use to create your own program on this important issue.

Members of the Committee will give the presentations for two local Leagues in January - Westwood-Walpole Jan. 22 and Hamilton-Wenham Jan. 31. Please let us know if you would like guest speakers to present to your League.

The Committee hopes many Massachusetts Leagues will be sending delegates to national Convention and will join the CFSC in Dallas where we will be working with the national League to include a caucus, workshop, or both, on campaign finance reform. If you would like to join us in that planning, we would welcome your help. Contact cfr@lwwma.org.



LWVMA Advocacy Flyer



This year LWVMA has assembled a list of all the legislative and advocacy areas that we are supporting. This impressive list is part of a new brochure and is also available as a one-page handout that can be downloaded and printed [here](#).

This handout is perfect for distribution at membership meetings and meetings with legislators, posting on your websites, and handing out at events to reinforce the work of the state League in the upcoming year. For information on printing the brochure contact web@lwwma.org.

THE TO-DO LIST

LWVUS Program Planning due March 1

As your League fills out the [Program Planning Response Form](#) due March 1 to guide the Convention in setting the national program for the next two years, please consider [suggesting a review of the Campaign Finance position](#). If your League does not have a recommendation or has only one, you can recommend a review of the existing position on campaign finance. To do that, on the form, choose Review of an Existing League Position. Under "Position Heading" select Representative Government, and under "Position to Review," choose Campaign Finance Reform. In the summary section, you may note the need to review the campaign finance position and update it in light of recent U.S. Supreme Court decisions.

Your League can enter this as your first or second recommendation. Note that LWVUS has said: "Only two items will be accepted from any one League and the second item will be weighted at 50% of the first."

The LWVMA Board has voted to list as its first and only recommendation on the LWVUS Program Planning Form a review of the existing League position on campaign finance, requesting that the position be updated in light of recent U.S. Supreme Court decisions.

Local League Grant Deadline Feb. 17

The next application deadline for the Daniel Scharfman Citizen Education Grant Program is Monday, Feb. 17. The grant program offers up to \$250 to help Leagues carry out events and projects in the areas of citizen education and voter service. The next grant deadline after February is June 2.

For information, eligibility, and application click [here](#). To submit a grant application or for questions email jcherdack@lwwma.org.

Update LWWUS Membership Database by Jan. 31

The deadline to update your local League's membership roster on the LWWUS website is Friday, Jan. 31, at midnight. After that, your League's roster is "frozen" and can't be updated. LWWUS and LWWMA will calculate your League's PMP assessment based on the number of members on Feb. 1. If you have questions, or need help with the updating, contact [Natalie Kassabian](#) at the LWWMA office, during work hours 617-523-2999; or [Karen Price](#), LWWMA Vice President, 781-449-8823.

LWWUS has some membership incentives for January. In case you didn't receive the email, here is the information:

We want to reward you for the great work that your League is doing to recruit and retain members and to keep the member database as up-to-date as possible. As a way of saying thank you for all the hard work that Leagues do in maintaining these records, we are offering prizes including Staples gift cards and FREE registration to LWWUS Convention 2014. Find out how to be entered to win [here](#). For assistance on working in the database, [download the user manual](#) or contact database@lww.org.

OTHER

Idea of the Month

Liven up your town's Election Day by giving out "I Voted" stickers. Check with your town clerk or city election officials to see if League members can give the stickers to voters at the polls.

There are several suppliers of stickers that say "I Voted" and "I Registered to Vote" which you can use during your voter registration drives; you can find them by typing "I Voted Stickers" into Google. The Sudbury League has used stickers from printelect.com, which sells rolls of 1,000 stickers for \$6.



The League Leader Update is distributed to local League board members and LWWMA 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.