

# League of Women Voters®

### Massachusetts

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#### **CALENDAR**

Friday, October 24 LWVMA and LESF Joint Board Meeting, Wellesley

Community Center, Wellesley, MA from 10:45 a.m. until 2 p.m.

Saturday, October 25 League Leader Lunch, Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel,

Marlborough, MA from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m.

Tuesday, November 4 2014 State Election

Saturday, November 15 IRS deadline for filing Form 990-N

## **HAPPENING NOW**

## Join Us at the League Leader Lunch Oct. 25

The League Leader Lunch, focusing on membership and leadership development, will be Saturday, October 25, in Marlborough. All local Leagues are encouraged to attend; there is no limit on number of participants per League. For more information and registration, click <a href="here">here</a>. Please register by October 20. Email <a href="here">Brynne Gorman</a> with registration questions.

## Fall Appeal Underway--Please Help with Phonathon

The Fall Appeal is an excellent way to show your support for the state League's work and earn money for your own League. For an individual contribution made by October 24, your local League will receive 10-15% of the amount! Click here to contribute online and click here to print out a form to mail in with your check.

Phonathon will kick off at the League Leader Lunch October 25. Making calls for Phonathon is a fun and easy way to support the work of the state League and earn 10% of the donations you raise for your local League!

Please contact <u>Brynne Gorman</u> by October 18 to let her know: 1) if your League will make Phonathon calls; 2) the name of your League's Phonathon coordinator; and 3) how many phone calls you expect your League will make.

#### **Take Action on Question 2**



We are down to the wire to get the updated Bottle Bill passed Nov. 4. Now is the time for League members to take action and assure the vote is YES on Question 2. To sign up with the Yes On 2 campaign, <u>click here</u>. See the recent LWVMA Action Alert for detailed information <u>here</u>.

#### **Online Voters' Guide Available**

Our new online voters' guide for the Nov. 4 election is up on the <u>state League website</u>. Once again we had 100% participation from the 21 candidates for the six statewide offices--governor, lt. governor, secretary of state, attorney general, treasurer and auditor.

Please link to guide on your local League website and, if you have one, Facebook page. If you included a direct link to our primary election guide, you will need to change that, because the primary election guide is still available as background information. You can either link to the <a href="https://example.com/home-page">home-page</a> with its big Voters' Guide button or <a href="mailto:directly-to-the-new guide.">directly to the new guide.</a>



## **LEAGUE ACTION**

## **From Your Nominating Committee**

We encourage you to "Mentor Up" and nominate a talented and committed local League leader to serve on LWVMA Board of Directors and/or the LWVMA Nominating Committee.

Our future as a preeminent organization dedicated to voter education, civic engagement and ensuring that democracy works depends on our ability to mentor new League leaders to continue our longevity.

As we approach the 2016 election season, consider the leadership that we will need for the next League term, and respond to the upcoming call for nominations.

The Nominating Committee will also contact League members across the state to request nominations as we work to develop a 2015-2017slate of officers, directors, and nominating committee members on which delegates will vote at the next convention.

We look forward to speaking with League leaders and members in the coming year. Sincerely,

The Nominating Committee: <u>Shelia Martin</u>, Chair, 617-542-0737; <u>Lee Bona</u>, 508-353-0366; <u>Cynthia Brubaker</u>, 413-253-6679; <u>Jean Cherdack</u>,413-625-6206; and <u>Andrea Kozinetz</u>, 617-780-0104

## Field Service Stands Ready to Help



LWVMA's Field Service (FS) team is made up of seven representatives with League knowledge and resources to share with local League leaders. They help build new connections among local Leagues, region by region, and create a link between local Leagues and LWVMA. Each League is assigned to a region with one or two FS representatives and LWVMA board liaisons. Click here to find your League's region,

representatives and liaisons.

The goal of Field Service is to strengthen Leagues, provide administrative and other assistance where needed, encourage regional public events, and foster communication among League leaders in the region. Your FS representative keeps in touch with the Leagues in your region and works hard to schedule two or more region meetings each year. At those meetings, leaders from the Leagues in the region get together, share ideas, ask questions and discover opportunities for collaboration. Region meetings are usually posted on the LWVMA calendar, or contact FieldService@lwvma.org for more information.

The FS representatives and their home Leagues are Bonnie Carter and Sharyn Roberts (Newton), Claire Fusaro (Needham), Lora Goldenberg (Bedford), Cindy Nock (Concord-Carlisle), Stefani Traina (Andover/N. Andover) and Phyllis Walsh (Cape Cod Area). Erin Pastuszenski (Concord-Carlisle) is the FS coordinator.

In September, the FS representatives and state board members participated in an annual training event in Concord and left with renewed commitment to help local Leagues and their leaders succeed. The FS team is eager to work with you and your League this year. Please contact your representative or <a href="FieldService@lwvma.org">FieldService@lwvma.org</a> to learn more about the program and its benefits for local League leaders, and read more on the Field Service web page.

## THE TO-DO LIST

## **Send in Program Ideas**

The program planning process is getting underway. We will be asking Leagues to indicate their preferences for 2015-2017 action priorities, action items and new studies soon. If your League has any priorities, action items or studies you would like to include on the list for Leagues to consider, please send them to <a href="Nancy Brumback">Nancy Brumback</a> by the end of November In the past, we've gotten good ideas from local Leagues without any way to determine if those proposals would be popular with other Leagues. We'd like to include as many ideas as possible in the first round of program planning information. Of course, your League can still suggest ideas later as well.

Action priorities are broad categories that form the focus of the state League's work for the next two years. Our current action priorities are improving elections, the environment, and civic education and engagement. We will also look at action items-specific projects to tackle. The third area is any proposed studies, restudies or concurrences you would like to suggest.

Please ask your board to consider and share ideas in these three categories as soon as possible, so your suggestions can be included in the program planning materials.

#### Reminder: IRS Deadline November 15

Local League treasurers need to file Form 990-N with the IRS by November 15 if your fiscal year ended June 30. Go to the website and follow the instructions.

#### WEBPAGE OF THE MONTH: Policies

When questions come up about the "League" way to do something, a good place to start is checking our established policies. Under the About tab on our website home page, you'll find a link to <u>state League policies</u>. The policies guide the state League on such topics as non-partisanship, diversity, advocacy and lobbying, participating in coalitions, conducting candidate forums and debates, and more. While the listed policies apply specifically at the state level, they can provide guidance to local Leagues and serve as models for developing local League policies in these areas.

The League Leader Update is distributed to local League board members and LWVMA leaders. Anyone can request the Update by clicking <a href="here">here</a>. Please review this Update for articles of interest to your League and include them in your local Bulletin.

#### **Quick Links**

Donate Now LWVMA / LWVUS LWVMA Board LWVMA Calendar



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