



League of Women Voters®

Massachusetts

In This Issue

CALENDAR

[Holiday Best Wishes](#)

HAPPENING NOW

[LWVMA January Forum: Economic Inequality and Political Participation -- Whose Voice Is Heard?](#)

[Lights! Camera! LWVMA Video Contest!](#)

[Phonathon is On! Please Answer the Call](#)

AROUND THE LEAGUE

[LWV Convention in West Springfield May 15-16](#)

[Membership Ideas: Second-in-Household and Holiday Gifts](#)

[LWVUS Work on Money in Politics and Amendments Beginning](#)

THE TO-DO-LIST

[Daniel Scharfman Grant Deadline](#)

[Program Planning Underway](#)

[Don't Forget to Update Your Roster](#)

[LWVUS Legislative Priorities](#)

[WEBPAGE OF THE MONTH: LWVMA Newsletters](#)

CALENDAR

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|---------------------|---|
| Friday, December 19 | LWVMA and LESF Joint Board Meeting, Wellesley Community Center, Wellesley, MA from 10:45 a.m. - 2 p.m. |
| Monday, Jan. 12 | Daniel Scharfman Grant applications due |
| Wednesday, Jan. 28 | "Economic Inequality and Political Participation -- Whose Voice Is Heard?" Bentley University, 174 Forest Street, Adamian Academic Center 165 (Wilder Pavilion), Waltham, MA from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m. |
| Saturday, March 7 | League Leader Lunch, Norwood, MA |

Tuesday, April 28

Day on the Hill, the State House, Boston

Friday, May 15 -
Saturday, May 16

LWVMA 2015 Convention, Clarion Hotel, West Springfield, MA

Holiday Best Wishes



The LWVMA Board, LESF Trustees, and the staff thank all of you for your support and help over the past year and send our very best wishes to you and your families for the holiday season. Here's to another great League year in 2015!

Anne, Marilyn, Karen, Nancy, Dee, Andrea, Carole, Jean, Launa, Becky, Marlene, Sue, Claire, Rae, Terry, Meryl, Brynne and Martha

HAPPENING NOW

LWVMA January Forum: Economic Inequality and Political Participation -- Whose Voice Is Heard?

How is the marked rise in economic inequality affecting civic participation and political expression in the United States? Is the growing gap between the very wealthy and everyone else influencing whose voice is determining political and policy issues? What are the implications of extreme economic inequality for the democratic ideal of "one person, one vote"?

Please plan to attend the panel discussion, "Economic Inequality and Political Participation -- Whose Voice Is Heard?" co-sponsored by LWVMA and Bentley University's Valente Center for the Arts and Sciences on **Wednesday, January 28, from 7 to 9 p.m. at Bentley University in Waltham**. The panel will take place in Bentley's Wilder Pavilion (Adamian Academic Center 165).

Noah Berger, Executive Director, Massachusetts Budget and Policy Center; Hahrie Han, Associate Professor of Political Science, Wellesley College; and Kay Schlozman, J. Joseph Moakley Professor of Political Science, Boston College will be the speakers. Juliet Gainsborough, Associate Professor of Political Science at Bentley, will moderate, and Bentley President Gloria Larson will help us introduce the event.

This forum is **free and open to the public**, but we are asking LWVMA members and their guests to pre-register to ensure sufficient seating. Consider inviting students from your high school to attend the forum with you.

Please [click here](#) to let us know you're coming and bringing others. Questions? Please contact LWVMA Executive Director [Meryl Kessler](#) at 617-523-2998.

Lights! Camera! LWVMA Video Contest!

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 "There Oughta Be a Law" Student Video Contest.



What is the Student Video Contest? The next two-year session of the Massachusetts state legislature begins in January. LWVMA is asking Massachusetts high school students to submit two-minute videos letting our state legislators know what new legislation should be passed to keep Massachusetts healthy, productive, safe, and clean. 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. Questions or want to get involved? Email LWVMA Executive Director [Meryl Kessler](#) or call 617-523-2999.

Phonathon is On! Please Answer the Call



Many thanks to all of our members who have made Phonathon calls AND to those who have donated! Your support of Phonathon is critical to the ability of LWVMA to continue to advocate and educate successfully. Since membership dues do not cover all of our expenses, we rely on extra contributions from our members to fund our small, but highly effective, staff; our operations; and our outreach efforts.

This year's fundraising goal for Phonathon and Fall Appeal is \$63,000 -- and we are halfway there. Please help us reach our goal. If you received a pledge sheet, please return it with a donation. Or you can donate online by [clicking here](#). We depend on you!

AROUND THE LEAGUE

LWV Convention in West Springfield May 15-16

The 2015 LWVMA Convention-"Women Leading the Way"-will be held May 15-16 at the Clarion Hotel in West Springfield, just off the Mass Pike. Convention will start at noon

on Friday, May 15, and continue through Saturday afternoon, May 16.

Our keynote banquet speaker will be Rosalee Keech. During the post-World War II period, the League helped lead the effort to establish the United Nations and to ensure U.S. participation. The League was one of the first organizations in the country officially recognized by the United Nations as a non-governmental organization (NGO); it still maintains official observer status today. Rosalee has held the LWV UN observer post for the past five years, as well as serving on the LWVUS board of directors.

The convention committee is seeking interested members to join in the planning. Please contact [Karen Price](#) if you would like to join us. All planning meetings will be by teleconference. Also please contact us with ideas for workshops or other activities for Convention 2015.

Please mark your own calendars and add LWVMA Convention 2015 to your local League calendars. Updates to Convention 2015 plans will be posted on the [LWVMA website](#).

Membership Ideas: Second-in-Household and Holiday Gifts

Here are two ideas for increasing your League's membership. There is strength in numbers when we advocate for our positions, and members help support the League at all levels. Please consider including one or both of these in your next bulletin/newsletter.



Second-in-household: Include a request for current members to sign up another member of their household. Most Leagues have a lower dues rate for such members, and the PMP is lower as well. Suggested wording: Did you know LWV of (town) has special membership rates for second member-in-household (\$ dues) and students (\$ dues)? Please consider signing up another person in your household or a student for full League member benefits at lower dues. What a bargain!

Gift memberships: Encourage your members to give the gift of League membership. Suggested wording: Looking for a unique present this holiday season? Why not give a League membership as a gift? No one has to find a place to put it or dust it, it's not fattening, and it will help support the League. A gift membership will put its recipient in touch with relevant issues and help the League continue to do the work that matters in our community. If there is no local League in his or her community, consider giving a [Membership-At-Large](#) to LWVMA.

LWVUS Work on Money in Politics and Amendments Beginning

LWVUS has posted its [Constitutional Amendment Study](#) webpage and the [Money in Politics](#) webpage on the LWVUS's Member Resources website. These two webpages include information on the scope of the study and review as well as a list of the committee members. As study materials become available they will be posted on the

pages as well.

Elisabeth MacNamara, US president, noted that at Convention 2014 we [adopted an ambitious program focused on the key structures of democracy](#) and these studies are part of that.

She added, "As those committees go about their work, there are things that Leagues can do to inform themselves and their communities about these essential topics. "Leagues can form study committees to help prepare the membership to address the material coming from the national study committees next year. Reading lists will be available shortly. Leagues can also start gathering information at the local and state level about state and local redistricting laws, [laws governing campaign contributions](#) and lobbying expenses as well as laws governing open government. Every state has a constitution and a process for amending it. Leagues can examine that process because the [process of amending the United States Constitution](#) depends a great deal on action by and in the states. This is also a good time to begin to identify scholars and pundits to work with the League in developing forums for community education."

THE TO-DO-LIST

Daniel Scharfman Grant Deadline

Applications for local League Daniel Scharfman citizen education grants are due January 12 to be considered for the next funding cycle. Information and the application are available [here](#).

Program Planning Underway

You should have received the program planning packet Dec. 2 with suggestions for your League's program planning efforts and the recommendation form to be returned by February 9. All the information is available [here](#).

Don't Forget to Update Your Roster

The deadline to update your local League's membership roster on the LWVUS website is Friday, January 31, at midnight. LWVUS and LWVMA will calculate your League's PMP assessment based on the number of active members in the roster on February 1. If you have questions, or need help with the updating, contact [Brynne Gorman](#) at the LWVMA office, 617-523-2999; or [Karen Price](#), LWVMA Vice President.

LWVUS Legislative Priorities

From LWVUS: The LWVUS Board will be setting legislative priorities for the upcoming session in January. If you would like to make suggestions for LWVUS advocacy priorities, please email Advocacy Committee Chair [Chris Carson](#). Please indicate whether the suggestions are from an individual member, a committee, Board or membership meeting. Suggestions must be received by January 12.

"The Board sets priorities using this filter: opportunities for the League to make an impact; program decisions made at Convention and/or Council; member interest; and

resources available to manage effectively. Realistically, we will have to expend resources on defending voting rights and threats to existing campaign finance law, good climate change work and the Affordable Health Care Act."

WEBPAGE OF THE MONTH: LWVMA Newsletters

If you are trying to remember something you know you read in a newsletter from LWVMA, no need to search through your email file. There's an [LWVMA Newsletters page](#) on our website where you can find all the issues of the monthly League Leader Update, the quarterly Mass. League Voter, and the Quarterly Update we send to friends and supporters.



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.

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