ENCOURAGING THE ACTIVE AND INFORMED PARTICIPATION OF CITIZENS IN THEIR GOVERNMENT
Message from the Co-Presidents

It is a great privilege to present the 2013-2014 Annual Report of the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts (LWVMA) and the League of Women Voters Lotte E. Scharfman Memorial Fund. The report highlights the programmatic activities of LWVMA, the Scharfman Fund, and our local Leagues, as well as the financial report for LWVMA and the Scharfman Fund.

We are proud to work with so many dedicated League members, and thank you for your support. In concert, the LWVMA and League members across the state advocate for legislation and issues in a variety of areas; sponsor public forums on important policy issues; provide voter service activities such as candidates’ forums, voters guides, and voter registration; and engage our youth in civic engagement projects.

No matter the activity, for almost 100 years the League has stayed true to its core mission: to encourage the informed and active participation in our democracy. The League’s work is needed now more than ever. We invite you to join us and support our mission as we look forward to our next 100 years.

In League,

Anne Borg and Marilyn Peterson

Message from the Executive Director

I was deeply honored to have been selected as executive director of the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts in November 2013, and I am thrilled to be a part of an organization that has made such important, lasting contributions to the political life of our country.

As LWVMA approaches its second century, my hope is that we will be able to preserve all that has made the League great—especially the commitment of its members to making democracy work at every level of government—while adapting to key social and political changes, including the increased use of technology to share ideas and inspire action. In 2013-14, we took our first step in that direction, transforming our annual student essay contest into a video contest to meet our youngest citizens where they increasingly live—in the digital world. I hope you will enjoy reading about the contest, as well as all the League’s numerous other accomplishments, in this report.

Thank you to all of our members and supporters for your invaluable contributions to our mission. I look forward to continuing to work with all of you to advance our common goals.

Thank you for your support,

Meryl Kessler
Our Mission
The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts (LWVMA), a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. The League does not support candidates or parties, but LWVMA and the local Massachusetts Leagues take positions on important issues of public policy after study and consensus.

Our Impact: Advocacy
As a grassroots organization, we make our voice heard through our members in over 100 communities throughout the state. We deliver legislative testimony, organize lobby days, write letters, work with coalition partners, participate in ballot initiatives, and inform the public.

We are a force for change in Massachusetts.

LWVMA saw major victories in the two-year legislative session that came to a close in 2014 as several bills that we have been supporting for years were signed into law:

- **Election Modernization**—Far-reaching law establishes early voting, online voter registration, post-election audits and pre-registration of teens.
- **Campaign Finance Reform**—Massachusetts Disclose Act requires timely disclosure of funding behind Super PACs and political advertising.
- **Reproductive Health Care Access**—Passed after the U.S. Supreme Court struck down previous “buffer zone” law, legislation ensures safe and unimpeded access to reproductive health facilities.
- **Gun Control**—Aimed at reducing gun violence, law brings Massachusetts into national background check system, requires background checks on private gun sales, and allows discretion by licensing authorities for rifle licenses.
- **Patient Safety**—Legislation permits hospitals, nurses, and nurse-managers to decide on the number of intensive care patients assigned to a nurse.
- **Transportation**—“Active Streets” law encourages communities to consider “active” use by pedestrians and bicyclists in designing public street projects.
- **Meeting Basic Human Needs**—Comprehensive welfare law includes provisions increasing educational and training opportunities for low-income families.

LWVMA members at “No More Names” Rally against gun violence in August 2013.
Spotlight on Advocacy: Campaign Finance Reform

The pernicious and distorting effect of money on our political system has been a matter of grave concern to LWVMA, particularly since the 2010 U.S. Supreme Court Citizens United decision opened the floodgates to unprecedented amounts of outside spending in elections and catalyzed the formation of “dark money” groups that do not have to disclose their donors.

In May 2013 at LWVMA’s biennial convention, our membership approved a study of this issue, resulting in the formation of the Campaign Finance Study Commission comprised of representatives of 18 local Leagues across Massachusetts.

The Committee had an extraordinarily productive year preparing materials to illustrate the need for action on this serious issue. Its Democracy in the Balance presentation is available on the LWVMA website as both a Powerpoint (with accompanying script) and a Youtube video. Committee members have shown the presentation at numerous venues across Massachusetts, and Leagues outside of the state have also used it as a tool to bring attention to the urgent need for campaign finance reform.

The Study Committee also focused its efforts on garnering support from League members across the nation for action on this issue. At the League of Women Voters’ national convention in June 2014, the Massachusetts League asked local Leagues throughout the United States to support a review of the League of Women Voters’ national position on campaign finance in light of U.S. Supreme Court decisions over the last 40 years. Recognizing the strong concern about the role of money in politics throughout the nation, local Leagues responded, and the LWVUS board adopted our recommendation as part of the recommended 2014-2016 Program, which was then adopted by the convention delegates. As a result, the national League has formed a Money in Politics Committee to update the League’s position on campaign finance and shape the contours of the League’s future advocacy on this important issue. LWVMA is proud that Launa Zimmaro, a member of our Board and the Concord-Carlisle League, and Corlette Moore McCoy, a member of the Needham League, have been named members of that committee.
Spotlight on Advocacy: The Updated Bottle Bill

Throughout its history, LWVMA has been at the forefront of efforts to protect and preserve the environment in Massachusetts. As one of the organizations responsible for the passage in 1982 of the original Bottle Bill – legislation that encouraged recycling by placing a five-cent refundable deposit on certain beverage containers – we were ready to step up when it became clear that the law needed to be expanded to include containers for water, sports drinks, and juices.

After years of inaction by the legislature, we joined with MassPIRG, the Sierra Club, and the Environmental League of Massachusetts to organize and lead the effort to pass a ballot question updating the Bottle Bill. In support of this initiative, our local Leagues across the state sprang into action in the fall of 2013, collecting over 20,000 of the 130,000 signatures initially gathered to put a question on the ballot. In May and June of 2014, our members answered the call again, collecting thousands of additional signatures in the second round of signature gathering.

LWVMA’s Bottle Bill Steering Committee worked tirelessly with our coalition partners to expand the Bottle Bill, including attempting to achieve a legislative compromise in the spring of 2014. When it became clear that compromise was not possible, the coalition launched a far-reaching field campaign to pass the ballot initiative.

Despite prominent media endorsements (including one from the Boston Globe), support from a wide range of elected officials (including Governor Deval Patrick), and polling that showed strong public desire for an updated Bottle Bill, the coalition was unable to counteract the heavy (and sometimes misleading) advertising from the beverage industry. Outspent by a margin of approximately 6-to-1, we were unable to prevail in the polls in the November election. Although the Bottle Bill initiative could not withstand the influence of corporate spending, we are proud of our work drawing public attention and concern to the issue of recycling.
Our Impact:
Citizen Education and Voter Engagement

Through the League of Women Voters Lotte E. Scharfman Memorial Fund (also known as the LWVMA Citizen Education Fund), a nonpartisan 501(c)(3) organization, the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts educates citizens about issues of public importance and engages voters in the democratic process.

The Scharfman Fund is named after an LWVMA president who devoted her life to strengthening democracy and helping citizens gain access to government. She is widely credited with coining the phrase, “Democracy is not a spectator sport.” Since its founding four decades ago, the Scharfman Fund has supported a wide variety of activities, including educational forums, candidate debates, voter registration, election guides, and youth programs. (Please see page 6 for a recap of the memorable 2014 Student Video Contest, supported by the Scharfman Fund.)

In 2013, the Scharfman Fund named the Daniel Scharfman Citizen Education Grant Program in memory of Scharfman Trustee Dan Scharfman. The purpose of the grant program is to help local Leagues carry out events and projects that increase citizen participation in the democratic process, study key community issues in an unbiased manner, and/or enable people to seek positive solutions to public policy issues through education and conflict management. Projects funded through the program must be educational, must be open to and benefit the general public, and cannot be related to League membership activities.

In 2013-14, the Daniel Scharfman Citizen Education Grant Program was proud to fund the following 11 projects or programs organized by local Leagues:

LWV Greater Haverhill: Forum: Money in Politics -- Is Our Democracy at Risk?
LWV Arlington: Candidates’ Night
LWV Sudbury, Wayland and Weston: 5th Congressional District Candidates’ Forum
LWV Amherst: Reaching Out to the Community through Facebook
LWV Cape Cod Area: Forum: Our Community Challenge -- Mental Health Parity
LWV Needham: Civics Bee
LWV Westwood-Walpole: Candidates’ Night
LWV Hamilton-Wenham: “Know Your Town” Informational Publication
LWV Acton Area: Civics Bee
LWV Needham: Signage and materials for candidate forums
Spotlight on Education and Engagement: “Dear Future Governor” Student Video Contest

What important issue would YOU tell the next Governor of Massachusetts to put at the top of his or her agenda?

This was the question we asked Massachusetts high school students to answer in two-minute videos for our first ever statewide student video contest.

Conceived as a way to engage young people in public policy, the contest spurred students across Massachusetts to share their ideas on many topics, including gun control, crime, gangs, the environment, education, campaign finance reform, legalization of marijuana, immigration, minimum wage, economic growth, bullying, veteran’s benefits, and alternative energy.

The Judging Committee (LWVMA members and students from the Governor’s Statewide Youth Council) had a difficult task, but ultimately selected its winners: First Place: “Restore Democracy,” by TJ Horgan (with Tommy Bezreh, Pranav Menon, Joe Kim), Burlington High School (campaign finance reform); “Change,” by Addison Dlott and Kidest Assefa-McNeil, Natick High School (minimum wage); “Implementing Youth Courts Throughout Massachusetts,” by Rezwana Uddin, Durfee High School (Fall River) (youth justice).

Teacher Pauline McGrath and her students at FRED-TV, Durfee High School, Fall River, also received special recognition for their group’s outstanding video submissions.

The award ceremony at the Massachusetts State House was attended by the winners, friends, parents, as well as State Senator Richard Ross, legislative aides, and Evan Falchuk and Donald Berwick, candidates for Governor. What a memorable way to recognize the civic engagement and activism of the next generation!
Spotlight on Education and Engagement: Public Forums and Presentations

How does LWVMA educate and engage citizens? One way is through public conversations on important and timely issues. In 2013-14, we were a partner or co-sponsor for three public forums that focused on political activism, the environment, and women’s history in the United States:

Gloria Steinem and Boston City Councilor Ayanna Pressley spoke at *How Women Become Political* on October 7, 2013 at John Hancock Hall in Boston. Other speakers included President of Babson College and Former Lieutenant Governor Kerry Healey and Ambassador Swanee Hunt. WGBH’s Callie Crossley moderated a panel discussion, and Senator Elizabeth Warren sent a video message to the audience as well.

On November 19, 2013, NPR’s Steve Curwood moderated *Pricing Carbon*, a panel discussion at Babson College in Wellesley that focused on the emerging national dialogue about a revenue-neutral carbon tax. Speakers included Dr. Theda Skocpol, Professor of Government and Sociology, Harvard; Dr. Joseph Aldy, Asst. Professor of Public Policy, Harvard Kennedy School; Dr. John Reilly, Senior Lecturer and Co-Director of the Joint Program on the Science and Policy of Global Change, Center for Environmental Policy Research, MIT Sloan School of Management; Dr. Fritz Fleischmann, Professor of English, Babson College; and Dr. Gary Rucinski, New England Coordinator, Citizens Climate Lobby. The panel was co-sponsored by LWV Wellesley and LWV Needham.

*Remember the Ladies*, held on March 24, 2014 at the Omni Parker House Hotel in Boston, featured NPR’s Cokie Roberts speaking about the contribution of women to American history. The other keynote speaker was Valerie Boyd, biographer of the African-American writer, Zora Neale Hurston.
Local League Roundup: Celebrating the Work of Our Members Across Massachusetts

During 2013-14, our 46 local Leagues were busy *Making Democracy Work* in their communities across the state. Through a wide range of activities – running voter registration drives, organizing candidates’ forums, moderating town meetings, publishing “how to run for office” materials, participating in government observer corps, collecting signatures for the Updated Bottle Bill, conducting studies on important local issues, holding public forums, and many other activities – these local Leagues play a vital role in connecting the citizens of Massachusetts with government.

It would take many pages to list all of the achievements of all of our local Leagues in 2013-14, but here are some representative highlights:

**In 2013-14, our local Leagues registered 1,264 new voters.**

- **Acton Area:** Produced a video with ActonTV on “How to Run for Local Office,” held its third annual Civics Bee with over 40 teams, hosted two candidate forums in Acton and Stow, organized four programs focused on local agriculture, and held a panel on mental health resources.

- **Amherst:** Published election guide about candidates for Town Meeting and town-wide office, revised and printed *They Represent You* (a yearly directory of local officials and Town Meeting members), and hosted several presentations and panels, including “How Public Works Works,” “The Ins and Outs of Amherst Finances,” and “The Challenge of Affordable Housing in Amherst.”

- **Andover/North Andover:** Hosted annual “Running for Office” workshop and annual candidates’ forums, worked with the town moderator to boost participation in Town Meeting, organized third annual Youth in Town Government Day, updated and printed *Town Meeting Guides*, and co-sponsored “Farm to Plate: How Do We Sustain Local Farms?”

- **Brookline:** Organized a panel on incarceration and racial inequality, held open meeting on gun control, published a voters’ guide, moderated a local candidates’ forum and two forums on warrant article for Town
Meetings, held a “How to Run for Office” workshop, and organized five voter registration events.

**Cape Ann:** Received award from Gloucester Bar for registering voters, registered voters at four events, held televised debate for state representative, and organized forum to explain four statewide ballot initiatives.

**Cape Cod Area:** Co-sponsored forum on “Revitalizing Civic Education to Empower Youth,” sponsored forums on mental health and on the Cape Cod Commission’s wastewater planning process, participated in summit to develop a wastewater plan for the Cape, revised and distributed Legislative Directory, and organized several voter registration events.

**In 2013-14, our local Leagues collected 24,438 signatures to put the Updated Bottle Bill question on the November 2014 ballot.**

**Concord-Carlisle:** Sponsored Concord candidates’ forum, held four voter registration drives, created two candidate forum videos, published one voters’ guide in local newspaper, created two *Running for Office* videos for Concord and Carlisle, co-sponsored annual River Steward Award for Concord, Assabet and Sudbury Rivers Watershed, and conducted warrant reviews for special fall and spring Town Meetings in Concord.

**Falmouth:** Co-sponsored forum on “Revitalizing Civic Education to Empower Youth,” organized several programs including “Reflections on our Constitution Crisis,” an agricultural forum, “Getting our Youth Into the Booth,” and a candidates’ forum, and published several Observer Corps and civic engagement articles.

**Grafton:** Organized candidates’ night, published questions and answers with candidates for contested local offices in local newspaper, and completed study on services for seniors living in Grafton.

**Hamilton-Wenham:** Organized one forum on property tax exemptions and
another forum on issues facing fire departments, held candidates’ night (televised live), and registered voters.

**Hingham:** Organized two public forums (Hingham Warrant Review and Local Candidates’ Night), convened four member forums, held voter registration at high school, and conducted and wrote study entitled “A Charter for Plymouth County?”

**Lexington:** Sponsored panel discussion on the “Politics of Food – Why Should We Care,” ran a mock Town Meeting for 8th-grade students, held a forum on the violent effects of the media, hosted Candidates’ Night for Town Meeting and town-wide offices, and co-sponsored a televised candidates’ forum.

**Martha’s Vineyard:** Held four candidates’ forums, organized spring and summer voter registration drives, invited present and past school superintendents as guest speakers, and held Black History Month Program.

**Melrose:** Held multiple voter registration events, organized forum for candidates for School Committee and Board of Aldermen, sponsored and participated in annual walk and vigil for Melrose Alliance Against Violence, offered rides to the polls, sponsored and participated in annual MLK, Jr. Potluck and Family Program, and held annual meeting with mayor on state of the city.

**Needham:** Provided print and online voters’ guide for local election, held Civics Bee, co-sponsored “Pricing Carbon” panel discussion, organized warrant meetings, held Town Meeting candidates’ forum, provided rides to polls, and produced and aired local television programs on elected town boards and Town Meeting.

**Newton:** Sponsored televised debates featuring candidates for municipal offices, organized middle-school Civics Bee, co-sponsored Green Decade event on the state of the environment in Newton, held forums on changes to
LWVN transportation positions and on early education, published online voters’ guide, and conducted numerous voter registration drives.

**Northampton:** Provided a meal once a month at a Northampton Shelter from November through April, registered voters at annual naturalization ceremony in Northampton and on National Voter Registration Day, held a candidates’ night, participated in a celebration of the Declaration of Human Rights and Law Day, and produced a flyer called "Thank you, Northampton Taxpayers!"

**Norwood:** Organized public meeting with chief of police, held candidates’ forum, published *Town Meeting Guide*, and registered voters.

**Plymouth Area:** Hosted public forum on gun control legislation in Massachusetts, held annual spring candidates’ forum, conducted two high school registration drives, placed “Remember to Vote” signs throughout Plymouth, and monitored Plymouth County Commissioners via County Government Observer Corps.

**Sudbury:** Co-sponsored 5th Congressional district candidates' forum, organized public forum on Health Care Options for All Stages of Life, held 58th annual Candidates' Night, registered high school students to vote, held Sixth Annual Civics Bee with Wayland and Weston Leagues, published voters' guide, co-sponsored annual River Steward Award for Concord, Assabet and Sudbury Rivers Watershed, and gave out "I Voted" stickers at election.

**Topsfield-Boxford-Middleton:** For 18th year, mailed birthday cards and voter registration forms to every person turning 18, registered newly naturalized citizens to vote, and ran a hazardous waste collection day.
Waltham: Interviewed 167 residents for Waltham Visions project, organized two candidates’ debates, attended and reported on government meetings through Observer Corps, presented "Iron Jawed Angels" at library, worked with Brandeis University class to produce "Brandeis Visions of Waltham," presented Waltham Visions and Brandeis Visions of Waltham to City Council, and co-sponsored 5th Congressional district candidate interviews for cable television.

Wayland: Co-sponsored Civics Bee with Weston and Sudbury Leagues, co-sponsored 5th Congressional district candidates’ forum, co-sponsored annual River Steward Award for Concord, Assabet and Sudbury Rivers Watershed, and co-sponsored programs with the Concord-Carlisle and Needham Leagues.

Wellesley: Registered voters at Wellesley High School, co-sponsored “Pricing Carbon” forum, held precinct meetings before Town Meeting, organized Meet the Candidates Night, and published voters’ guide to town election on Vote411 website.

Williamstown: Conducted two voter registration drives, held Susan B. Anthony dinner with guest speaker Lt. Gov. Elizabeth Roberts of Rhode Island, distributed “I Voted” stickers in local election, and produced three Citizens In League programs: Candidate's Night for the Board of Selectmen, Review of the Town Warrant, and informational session on the MGRHS warrant article.

Winchester: Held two voter registration drives, co-sponsored 5th Congressional candidate interviews for cable television, conducted Day at the Races Candidate Forum, organized Moveable Feast for town employees, and held program on retiree health care premiums.

Worcester Area: Hosted screening of Inequality for All, volunteered at naturalization ceremonies, and co-sponsored forum on single payer healthcare.
The Bottom Line: Our Year in Numbers

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MASSACHUSETTS
AND LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS LOTTE E. SCHARFMAN MEMORIAL FUND
COMBINED STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2014

<table>
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<th>SUPPORT, REVENUES, RECLASSIFICATIONS:</th>
<th>UNRESTRICTED</th>
<th>TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED</th>
<th>PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED</th>
<th>TOTAL ACTIVITIES</th>
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<td>9,427</td>
<td>108,363</td>
<td>297,075</td>
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| FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES:                   | --           | --                     | --                     | --              |
| Program Services                       | 97,062       | --                     | --                     | 97,062          |
| Administrative                         | 58,891       | --                     | --                     | 58,891          |
| Fund Raising                           | 20,934       | --                     | --                     | 20,934          |
| TOTAL FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES              | 176,887      | --                     | --                     | 176,887         |

| CHANGE IN NET ASSETS                   | 2,398        | 9,427                  | 108,363                | 120,188         |
| NET ASSETS – BEGINNING OF YEAR         | 311,072      | 3,294                  | 856,124                | 1,170,490       |
| NET ASSETS – END OF YEAR               | 313,470      | 12,721                 | 964,487                | 1,290,678       |

The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts and the League of Women Voters Lotte E. Scharfman Memorial Fund are deeply grateful for the generosity of our many supporters and our volunteers.

We wish to particularly acknowledge the ongoing financial support we receive from the Nathalie and Theodore Jones Trust and the pro bono legal support we receive from Goulston & Storrs.
About Us
Since its founding in 1920, the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts has been a respected and trusted voice for citizen participation in our democracy. With 46 local Leagues throughout the state, LVWMA has been at the forefront of efforts to empower and educate Massachusetts voters and effect change on a wide range of issues, including election laws and campaign finance, natural resources and the environment, women’s health, children’s issues, state budget and finances, public education, and public safety. Membership in the League is open to men and women of all ages.

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Marilyn Peterson, Co-President
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Nancy Brumback, 2nd Vice President
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Dee Ortner, Secretary
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