

March 2015



League of Women Voters®

Massachusetts

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## CALENDAR

Thursday, March 19	"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.
Friday, March 27	LWVMA Board Meeting, Wellesley Community Center, Wellesley, MA from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m.
Monday, April 6	Deadline for Daniel Scharfman Grant applications
Tuesday, April 28	Day on the Hill, the State House, Boston, MA from 10 a.m. until noon.
Friday, May 15 - Saturday, May 16	LWVMA Convention, Clarion Hotel, West Springfield

### *LWVMA Inequality Forum Thursday Night*

Don't forget our forum "Economic Inequality and Political Participation - Whose Voice Is Heard?" will be Thursday, March 19, from 7 to 9 p.m. at Bentley University, 175 Forest St., Waltham, in the Wilder Pavilion (Adamian Academic Center 165).

The forum is free and open to the public. Please bring your friends. If you were not able to register in advance, you are still more than welcome to attend.

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## HAPPENING NOW

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### Rosenberg to Keynote Day on the Hill

Senator Stanley Rosenberg, the president of the Massachusetts State Senate, will be the keynote speaker at this year's Day on the Hill lobby day, **Tuesday, April 28**.

Sen. Rosenberg, one of the three most powerful politicians in the state, will speak to the day's theme, "A Vision for Massachusetts," with his thoughts on the priorities for the new session of the legislature. We are particularly proud to note he is a member of the Amherst League.



Day on the Hill begins at 10 a.m. in Gardner Auditorium at the State House. Following Sen. Rosenberg's presentation, our legislative specialists will review some of the bills we are supporting to prepare you for visits to your own Senators and Representatives after our formal session ends at noon.

Please encourage your League members to attend Day on the Hill. We want a good turnout for Sen. Rosenberg, and nothing impresses legislators more than a personal visit from constituents. You can [register here](#) and the office will let your legislators know you are coming. All members will receive an information packet about Day on the Hill in early April.

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### Plan to be Part of LWVMA's 2015 Convention

Make your plans now to attend LWVMA's Convention 2015: Women Leading the Way, set for Friday and Saturday, **May 15-16**, at the Clarion Hotel in West Springfield, just off the Mass Pike.

Registration and pre-convention materials ("Final Call") will be distributed via email by Friday, April 3, to all members. We ask local League leaders to make sure interested members who do not have email are informed of Convention 2015. Full information is on the [lwvma.org](http://lwvma.org) website, click on "Convention & Council" on the right.

Here are some of the ways you can help prepare for Convention.

**Make Your Hotel Reservation Now-Get the good price and don't be shut out!**

Rooms are available at the Clarion Hotel for \$99/night single occupancy and \$104/night double occupancy (plus tax) and including full breakfast. You must **call** the hotel at 413-781-8750 and ask for League of Women Voters Convention rate. Do not reserve through the hotel website. To get a room at this rate you must reserve by April 24. There is no cost to make a reservation, just a credit card to hold it, and it can be cancelled up until 24 hours prior to arrival. Please note that the hotel reservation must be done separately from the Convention registration.

**Agenda and Workshops**

Updated information will be posted as it becomes available on the Convention 2015 [webpage](#). Workshop topics are being finalized, and will include ideas for increasing League activities and visibility, advocating for League-supported positions, preparing for the 2016 election, creating a Facebook page, implementing the 2014 election reform law, and much more!

**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. During budget preparation, your board and budget committee should discuss the possibility of donating to the state League. At Convention, Leagues will be given time to announce their gifts. If your annual meeting will not have taken place before state convention, your League can still announce a gift by adding the words "...pending the vote of Annual Meeting."

**Local League Showcase**

Once again, Convention will feature a one-minute presentation from all Leagues attending. The Showcase minute can cover a highlight of the past year or a quick summary of several highlights. Because of agenda time constraints, the one-minute rule will be strictly enforced.

**Delegates**

We hope every League will send delegates to Convention. The bylaws specify the number of delegates, based on each League's Feb. 1, 2015, membership total. All LWV members are welcome to attend Convention, but only delegates can vote. For the delegate count for each League [click here](#).

**Find Out More**

For further information, schedule of events, and convention costs see the "First Call" [email](#). To download a flyer [click here](#). For updates [click here](#).

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**Silent Auction at Convention Seeks Contributions**

Convention planning is well underway and the committee is again planning a Silent Auction. We already have contribution commitments from several Leagues and ask that your League consider donating to the auction as well.

Consider putting together a theme basket such as local goods, beauty supplies, books/entertainment items, or whatever else would entice your fellow League members. A basket filled with games, art supplies, wine, children's toys or one with enough items to make a meal such as pasta, sauce, pasta bowl and serving utensils.

Be creative - use your imagination. Single items are also appreciated such as concert tickets, jewelry, gift certificates to restaurants and coffee shops (chain merchants might be advisable, since people are coming from all over the state), sporting events, vacation homes, and sailing trips.

Please contact [Jean Cherdack](#) for further information or to donate a basket. Jean needs to know by May 1 what items you are donating so they can be included in the auction booklet. Donations can be brought to convention on Friday. The Silent Auction will be held Friday night. If you are soliciting donations and need a letter for the business, please let Jean know and she will see that you get one.

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## Student Video Contest in Full Swing!



"There Oughta Be a Law" -- or at least a video suggesting one!

This year's second annual student video contest runs until **March 31** and asks high school students across Massachusetts to submit a two-minute video on a law the new legislative session should pass.

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

Local Leagues are encouraged to spread the work about the contest to high schools, public and private, in their area. [Click here](#) to download and print a flyer. [Click here](#) to access the toolkit that contains ideas for publicizing the contest in your town. If you'd like to help with the contest, call 617-523-2999 or [email us](#).

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## Spring Means High School Voter Registration

It's not too early to contact high schools in your area and arrange to register students to vote. Local Leagues have run high school voter registrations in a number of ways, including a table at cap-and-gown pickup or on senior assembly day, bagels during an extended homeroom period, or just a table outside the cafeteria during lunchtime.



LWVUS offers a guide to high school voter registration [here](#) and also has a [webinar](#) on high school registration you can listen to. And please let us know how many students you register and in which schools, so we can publicize the League's success in this area. Send your League's information to [Nancy Brumback](#).

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## ADVOCACY

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### British Columbia and Carbon Pricing

A bill to establish a system of carbon pricing as a means to reduce emissions and spur a transition to clean, renewable energy has been endorsed by LWVMA. An Act to Combat Climate Change, which does not yet have a bill number, is based on the results of a Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources-commissioned [study](#) of the impact of carbon fees on Massachusetts residents and businesses.

British Columbia offers one of the best examples of an effective carbon pricing system. A delegation of government officials, including the Premier, will be in Massachusetts April 12-13 meeting with the Governor and public officials, and leaders and representatives from a growing coalition of good government, business, labor, social justice and environmental groups to talk about the successful British Columbia experience.

As advocates of carbon pricing, League members are invited to an address by BC Premier Christy Clark, followed by a panel discussion, midday on April 13 at MIT. This event will be free and open to the public and will be a great way to learn more about carbon pricing. Save the date and watch for information on the exact location and time.

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## AROUND THE LEAGUE

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### Per-Member Payment Update

As you work on your budgets, LWVMA is pleased to announce that there will be no increase in state PMPs (per-member payments) for the coming fiscal year. State PMPs will remain individual, \$23; second in household, \$5.75; and student, \$2.30.

LWVUS PMPs will increase by \$1 starting in July, to individual, \$32; second in household, \$16; and student, \$16. No PMP is required at the state or national levels for 50-year-plus members.

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### Enjoy Our 2013-14 Annual Report

We are pleased to share the [2013-14 Annual Report of the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts](#). The report recaps an extraordinary year of advocacy, voter engagement, and citizen education and celebrates the work of our 46 local Leagues throughout the Commonwealth. Many thanks to our members and supporters for helping us Make Democracy Work.

Note the button with the diagonal arrows at the bottom right of the screen will give you a full screen view, and you can also download the report as a pdf.

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### Daniel Scharfman Grant Deadline

The deadline for local Leagues to submit applications for the next round of Daniel Scharfman Citizen Education Fund Grants is Monday, April 6. You can find an application and instructions [here](#).

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### Help LWVMA Win *Boston Globe* Grant

For the second year, the *Boston Globe* will be awarding grants of advertising space to non-profit organizations. If you are a *Boston Globe* subscriber, when you receive a

silver envelope announcing the grant program, please consider listing the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts Lotte E. Scharfman Memorial Fund on your voucher. Last year, the Scharfman fund received advertising space worth \$6,800, an eighth of a page, thanks to *Globe* subscribers.

If you are a *Globe* subscriber but don't have the mailed voucher, you can participate in the program online [here](#). The deadline is April 30.

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## Wrapping up the League Leader Lunch

Thirty-six people attended the March 7 League Leader Lunch in Norwood, which had two focuses: fundraising and voter service.

The fundraising portion featured general fundraising principles and resources, followed by representatives from Leagues around the state presenting their successful fundraisers, and finishing with a roundtable discussion to share more fundraising successes.

For the voter service portion resources, empty chair debates, encouraging people to run for office, and ideas for LWVMA voter activities were the highlights.



For a slide show, agenda, and handouts from the Lunch [click here](#).

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## Feedback Requested on Municipal Conflict Resolution Study

Last fall, Massachusetts League members were invited to participate in a statewide survey of municipal conflict resolution needs, conducted by the Massachusetts Office of Public Collaboration (MOPC). MOPC Executive Director Susan Jeghelian spoke about her office's work on municipal conflict resolution at our Council last May.

MOPC recently released its Interim Report on this study and is asking League members to provide feedback by taking part in a brief survey. Your answers will be important to the development of strategies to help communities and municipalities manage public conflict. Participation in this survey will take about 10 minutes. The survey will remain open through the month of April.

To read the report and learn more, please visit: [Municipal Study Webpage](#), [Municipal Study Interim Report](#) and [Executive Summary](#). To take the survey, please [click here](#).

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## Roundup of News from LWVUS

**50-year Member Certificates:** LWVUS can send a certificate of congratulations to a 50-year member directly or to a leader of your League to present at an upcoming League event. Please [contact them](#) with the 50-year members' names and allow two weeks for processing. Leagues are not charged annual PMP for these life members.

**Four Massachusetts Leagues win:** The Leagues of Sharon-Stoughton, Bedford and Needham have won prizes in the second round of the LWVUS Roster Challenge, chosen at random from the Leagues which entered at least 85% of active member birthdates to their member records in the national database. The Arlington League won a prize in the first round.

**Sunshine Week Template Letter to the Editor:** Please use the LWVUS [letter to the editor template](#) to mark Sunshine Week March 15-21. Customize the letter to talk about the work your League is doing to protect open and transparent government.

**Webinar on Putting Together a Local Action Plan:** LWVUS will put on a webinar March 25 from 3-4 p.m. EDT outlining the basics of creating a local action plan. You can [register for the webinar here](#). For further information or questions, contact [Betsy Lawson](#).

**How to Create a Facebook Page for Your League:** [This new document](#) will walk you through the process of setting up an organizational Facebook page for your League, including explanations, tips and best practices.

**LWVUS Online Store Closing April 30:** LWVUS will close its online store at the end of April, while exploring alternative avenues to offer core organizational publications. Between now and store's closing, there's one last opportunity to get branded LWV items and publications at rock bottom prices. Some items are even free (shipping and handling charges apply)! Check out what is available in [the online store](#). The last day to order is April 15.

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## WEBPAGE OF THE MONTH: League Connections

Explore some of the speakers and resources available to your League from LWVMA on the new League Connections [webpage](#)! The page includes a variety of available topics, but we will work with you on any program needs you may have.

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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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## Quick Links

[Donate Now](#)  
[LWVMA / LWVUS](#)  
[LWVMA Board](#)  
[LWVMA Calendar](#)



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