

**LOCAL LEAGUE SHOWCASE
LWVMA CONVENTION 2017**

Acton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Panel discussion about “Balancing Family, Work, and Caregiving”, co-sponsored with United Way; covered elder law, services available from Minuteman, police, fraud • Value of partnering with other local organizations
Amherst	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harnessing post-election energy to increase collaboration with local social justice organizations and recommit to civics education. • Held a discussion on the social safety net, followed by postcard-writing effort to legislators to preserve and improve those services. Also donation drive for menstrual hygiene products. • Have provided speakers to community on providing health care coverage to all residents. • Co-sponsored event on immigration and national security with local cross-cultural peace-building organizations • Civic Fest: state rep as emcee, civics-based trivia competition, debates by high school students, and dramatic skits with audience participation
Arlington	<p>3 new initiatives (plus candidates night, legislators brunch, rides to the polls, registering high school students, and local study of government)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candidates night for sheriff (50 attended). Recommend debate for district attorney • Partnered with native Spanish speaker and held 2 new voter classes to explain how to vote (through Arlington’s Community Education program • Sheriff Koutoujian invited us to help individuals get their absentee ballots. Of the 24 people we assisted, many had not voted before. There is interest in the state house in continuing this program
Boston	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boston is back! Has grown from 41 to 67 members. • Running general information sessions • working on immigration
Cape Cod	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 23% growth this year (20 new members) • brought in Jimmy Tingle for a fund raiser • legislative breakfast for senators, representatives, and college
Concord/ Carlisle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 222 members • partnered with Lowell Votes • Congressional forum at Lowell High School • ACLU at breakfast
Franklin County	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open meetings rather than board meetings. • Between 20-60 members come • Legislation 101 presentation
Grafton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 new members (new energy) • registered voters at high school • warrant article for town meeting banning single use plastic bags.
Hamilton- Wenham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10% growth in membership; 4 are under 18 years old. • Civics Bee, with funding from the Local Cultural Council and SalemFive, and donations of prizes from local businesses. Students provided refreshments and raised \$600.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will host Eric Liu, who will address Power and Citizenship in our Community. • Will have forum in fall on Media Literacy.
Harvard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town-wide forum on racism and hate speech in response to Nazi symbols on school buildings • Forums on fakes news, single payer health care for MA, candidate's night • 10 new members
Haverhill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registering voters and candidates nights • Educational forums • Expanding into other communities for voter registration • Immigration services in Lowell and Lynn • Young league
Hingham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sip and chat • Governance of town • 10 new members • 84-year-old league, so working on archiving.
Lexington	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuing their first Friday panels: talked about refugees, sustainability, demographics • Candidates night • Voter registration • Partnering with other organizations
Marblehead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dinner at restaurant • Composting at high school – made \$4000 • A lot of activity at high school level: had a forum on the supreme court, and over half of the attendees were students from the high school
Marion/M/R	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Older membership; some growth • Candidates nights • Meet and Greet • Voter registration • Partnering with other organizations • Tri-town directory for fund raising. • Gave over \$10,000 in civic grants.
Needham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the fall of 2015 LWV-Needham celebrated its 75th Anniversary with a series of high-energy, high-visibility events, culminating in the “High Tea” in November and a front page feature story. • A thorough archive review was assembled into the narrative “Through the Decades,” an 8-foot wide printed timeline, and a 10-minute documentary video. • In 2016 we created the LWV Needham Education Fund. The 501(c)3 Fund includes the “Endowment for Civic Awareness, Education, and Engagement.” • On our own and with coalition partners, we held 15 forums over the past two years on a wide range of topics. • This past fall we introduced Needham Votes 2016, a series of activities related to the fall election. We held two ballot question forums, spread the word on early voting, and 15 members read the book <i>E is for Election Day</i> to all of the fifth grade classes in town.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since the election, we have formed four priority action teams, and we welcomed 28 new members and look forward to integrating them into committees, teams and leadership roles.
Newton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Challenging year, president stepped down • City Charter commission signed the proposal – will vote on it tomorrow. 16 new members.
Northampton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many candidates debates in first half of year • New website • Advocacy letters/postcard writing sessions on healthcare and climate change
Norwood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candidates night • CPA forum • Voter registration
Plymouth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civics bee – 7 high schools • Candidate forums
Springfield	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candidating (speed dating applied to candidates nights); tables of folks with candidates moving between tables; >100 people attended • 3 new high school members plus a high school intern
Sudbury	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Sudbury League has 11 new members this year. To get these members actively engaged, they asked 2 to join the Board. They had a coffee so that new members could meet each other and the chairs of each activity. Several new members took membership forms to sign up their friends. • They will have a criminal justice round table that will include our League specialist, clergy, and their 3 state legislators to discuss criminal justice legislation on Beacon Hill.
Waltham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forum on ballot questions • Collaborated with WATCH (a local low-income housing group) for voter registration: knocking on doors in low-voting neighborhoods & setting up a table at the grocery store • Participated in charter school study • How to Run for Office 3 part series • Monthly Member shops: informal, bring a friend; at local coffee shops • Began a study of the Waltham City Charter
Williamstown	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joined other groups at the “4 Freedoms” March, celebrating FDR’s proclamation by marching as well as running a table; • Annual SBA dinner had “Hamilton” as a theme. Speaker discussed the roots of nationalism, distinguishing civic nationalism based on shared public values, and ethnic nationalism based on ethnic characteristics. 80 people attended. • Increased interest in the League that may result in a new League in Berkshire County. • \$200 contribution.