

**LWVMA League Leader Lunch
Local League Sharing Roundtable
Ideas for Engaging and Retaining Members
October 14, 2017**

Red Team:

1st Friday: morning meetings at the Lexington Library on different local issues (e.g. Refugee Assistance Program); 8 sessions/year; Concord, Newton and Winchester doing similar events – **Lexington League**

League Book Club: old tradition; morning and evening meetings; books for the next year selected at a social gathering in the Spring; Lexington doing similar event; **Concord League**

Anti-Bullying Program: Forum on weekday evening with school principals and therapist; **Concord League**

Education Committee: follows school budgets and transparency issues; concern about school committee led to study group; brings in young people with children in school; **Concord League**

Citizen's Warrant Article: to ban plastic bags; passed at Town Meeting and got visibility; **Grafton League**

"Candidating" Forum: innovative approach to Candidates Night (similar to speed dating; each candidate moves from table to table at the sound of the bell, talking directly with small groups; **Springfield League**

Ranked Voting Speaker: recorded on Cable; millennial interest; **Grafton League**

How to Run for Office Series: 3 evening meetings: Mayor, Town Clerk, and head of Democratic and Republican Committees; **Waltham League**

Don't Just Stand There; Run: 1 evening with the Town Clerk on candidate finance reporting, media and ex-officios (run and serve); **Newton League**

Town Meeting Forum Series: 4 sessions: Moderator, Articles on Warrant (Town Clerk), Hearings on Articles, How to Participate; sessions were taped on LWV cable channel; purpose was to get more voters to attend Town Meeting; **Concord League**

Yellow Team:

Collaborations: small local League of 13 members, 6 towns and 1 tribe; collaborated with NAACP on Black History Month forum and the Portuguese on Sanctuary Issues forum; rely on cable TV for candidate information; very aware of diversity issues; **Martha's Vineyard League**

“LWV 101”: used as a mechanism at many community meetings; “No better time to be a member of LWV than right now.”; Charter Commission meetings, Forums on Gerrymandering and Fake News; **Harvard League**

Meeting with Town Social Worker: after LWV study; Know Your Town; **Sudbury League**

LWV 101/Essentials: League runs from Sandwich to Provincetown; 20 new members since the election; 5 women of color (what are they interested in?); send written notes to new members; Book Group for discussion; **Cape Cod League**

Green Team:

Voter Registration

Education

Outreach/Diversity/Collaborations with community groups, religious groups, etc.

Forums: How to Run for Office, etc.

Monthly session of LWV at local restaurant – current topics, issues

Publications: history of government, voting, etc.

1st Tuesday at coffee shop as well as evening event at local pub – unstructured/open discussion

Book group – monthly

Civics Bee – coordinated with High School teacher, multi-generational

Topic Meetings: Opioids, etc. (breakfast/lunchtime

Current Issues

Blue Team

Collaborating with local activist/interest groups (e.g. immigration meetups, PTO/PTA/PTC

Volunteerism – soup kitchen

Topics of Interest/Civic Education

Leveraging local experts

Centennial (voting and League)

Book Groups – themed

Recruit new members to Board ASAP

Town recycling

Lime Team

Finding Common Ground – Peace Circle: LWV sponsored monthly discussion; recruited different viewpoints, seeking areas of consensus

Survey to Members: what topics they want local League to pursue (study or advocacy) for the coming year. Recruit workgroup from responders.

Social Media: posting on social media sites regarding League activities. Keep Facebook page updated.

Website: used new model from LWV California

Civic Happy Hours: discussion

Partnerships: NAACP, climate change groups

Orange Team

League Ladies Night Out: restaurant with area on the side; LWV pays for appetizers (\$100 budget); just hang out/no agenda; bring them up to date on what's coming up; post on Facebook/bring a friend; 1 per year in the fall (20 of 48 members show up); **Hamilton Wenham League**

First Tuesday: 10 a.m. – 12 noon at local bagel shop (upstairs room); **Third Thursday** at a bar for working members (men attend); no agendas – generally discussion hot local issues; **Non-fiction Book Group:** topics vary; try once a year to get author to lecture; held in the library; **Acton Area League**

Weston League is looking for ways to get active; lots of members don't live in Weston anymore; Weston no longer participates in the annual 3-town Civics Bee (Weston/Wayland/Sudbury)

Monthly Forums: topics: e.g. Planned Parenthood, Justice Reform; program committee develops ideas for forums; last year used First Baptist Church as venue; this year want to find additional venues to attract non-League members; **Warrant meeting** before Town Meeting to educate people on what TM is; **Worcester League**

Forum with Town Social Worker; Women's abuse group working with the **Book Group;** **Civics Bee;** **Candidate Forums;** **Sudbury League**