



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
OF ANDOVER/NORTH ANDOVER**

# Bulletin

[www.lwv-andovers.org](http://www.lwv-andovers.org)

**March 2012**

Steering Committee: Maureen Sundberg and Stefani Traina

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## From Your Steering Committee

By Maureen Sundberg and Stefani Traina

Dear League Members,

Super Tuesday is just around the corner. And if you are voting in Andover, you may want to check your precinct before you leave home by going to [the Secretary of the Commonwealth](http://theSecretaryoftheCommonwealth.com) website.

Precinct boundaries changed on January 1, and this could mean that you will be voting in a different precinct at a different location. The two polling locations are the Andover Senior Center, Whittier Court (precincts 1, 7, 8 vote here) and the Andover High Collins Field House (precincts 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9 vote here).

On March 27 all voting will take place at the Andover High Collins Field House.

In North Andover all voting will take place at the [North Andover Middle School](http://NorthAndoverMiddleSchool.com) for both the presidential primary and local elections on March 27.

Since both towns will hold local elections on March 27 this year, be sure to mark your calendars and attend one of our events to meet the candidates. We are sponsoring a March 10 Candidates' Afternoon in Andover and a March 14 Candidates' Night in North Andover. Details about who is running for local office appear later in this Bulletin.

Thank you to Lois Karfunkel for organizing "Political Advertising and the Voter" held on February 29th. Dr. Harry Wessel from Merrimack College presented an informative program using political



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ads throughout history to discuss what's effective and what's not. Lois Karfunkel, an attorney, discussed the legal rules governing political advertising and Marjory Sherman-Bindman, a journalist, talked about how to find out whether the claims in ads are true or false. For those of you who missed it, the program will be rebroadcast on local cable channels and available online. Find links to the program and Marjory's handout on our [website](#).

We are delighted to feature Andover's Library Director, Beth Mazin as our guest columnist this month. Memorial Hall Library is a community resource for everyone.

Finally, we are pleased to be the subject of the editorial in the March 1 **Andover Townsman**. We appreciate the recognition and support for our work in our communities. You can read the editorial [here](#).

## Winter/Spring 2012 Calendar

For the most up-to-date calendar visit our [website](#).

### March

- 6 Tue MA Presidential Primary  
Polls open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- 7 Wed Last Day to Register to vote in  
Andover & N Andover Town Elections
- 10 Sat Andover Candidates' Afternoon  
1:00 p.m., Memorial Hall Library
- 14 Wed League lunch, noon, Panera  
Business meeting to follow
- 14 Wed North Andover Candidates' Night  
7:00 p.m., NA Senior Center
- 21 Wed Andover Budget Forum, 7:00 p.m.  
Memorial Hall Library
- 27 Tue Town Elections

### April

- 4 Board meeting, 9:00 am, 6 Roulston  
Circle
- 9 Youth in Town Government Day
- 25 Wed LWVMA Day on the Hill, 10-12noon
- 30 Mon Andover Town Meeting - 1st night  
7:00 p.m., AHS Field House

### May

- 1 Tue Andover Town Meeting - 2nd night  
7:00 p.m., AHS Field House
- 2 Wed Board meeting, 7:00 pm, 23 Oak St.
- 16 Wed Annual Meeting

**June**

- 6 Wed Board meeting, 12 noon, Panera Bread
- 8-12 F-M LWVUS 50th Annual Convention  
Washington Hilton
- 12 Tue North Andover Town Meeting

**The Library as Community Space**

by Beth Mazin, Andover Library Director

About once a week, I hear or read about someone saying that public libraries are no longer needed because of the Internet. Tell that to the 1300 people a day who visit Memorial Hall Library! We are busier than ever and loving every minute of it. Formats come, and formats go, but libraries have been very successful in changing to meet the changing needs of our patrons.

In fact, the emergence of the Internet and electronic access to information has strengthened us. We are all about information, and are very happy and comfortable in the age of information. We offer databases with quality information that is not available on the "free" Internet. We provide computers with access to Microsoft Office products and the Internet, bridging the digital divide between technology haves and have-nots. We have a full-featured web page ([www.mhl.org](http://www.mhl.org)) that allows our patrons to do library business from their homes - reserve a book, book a museum pass, download a free e-book or audiobook, register for a library program, ask a reference question, learn a new language, get free and legal music for listening on a computer or MP3 player, request a personalized reading list.

Of course, we're also about "entertainment". Our patrons want popular and timely materials and we make sure we have plenty in all formats - hardcover and paperback books, feature film and documentary DVDs, large print, college lectures on CD and DVD, audiobooks on CD, music CDs, games, magazines, newspapers, materials for kids and teens. And our patrons have access to all the holdings of the 35 libraries in the Merrimack Valley Library Consortium. Our shared online catalog is accessible from any computer or mobile device (check out MHL-Mobile on our web page). We also

offer hundreds of programs every year for children, teens, and adults.

But I'm probably preaching to the choir. The League of Women Voters is our partner, and most of you, I know, use the library regularly for League and personal business. You have probably seen the metamorphosis that is happening at the library. We have just completed the renovation of our main reading room, and will be moving on to other areas. This renovation is based on the changes we have seen in how our patrons use the library.

In the good old days, people came in mostly to select materials. Most didn't stay long. Now we have seen the growing importance of the library as PLACE. People are hungering for community space. Job seekers want a place to focus and work. Self-employed people like to use our wireless Internet access. Teens want a comfortable place to be with each other. Moms and Dads want a place to mingle with other parents and kids. Tutors want a convenient place to work with students. Groups want meeting room space. Seniors enjoy sitting and reading magazines and newspapers by the windows. Students need tables for group study. The 21st century library is a place for people of all ages to be together. We're working hard to transform the library into that place. If you haven't been here for a while, do come and check us out. If you have been here, please keep visiting us often.

## **Voter Service News**

by Stefani Traina

### **Andover Candidates' Afternoon Saturday, March 10, 1:00 p.m. Memorial Hall Library**

We hope you'll join us to meet and hear from the candidates who are running for local office in Andover. Incumbent candidate, Sheila Doherty is running unopposed for Town Moderator. Incumbent candidate Marilyn Fitzgerald is running unopposed for one seat on the Greater Lawrence Vocational Technical School Committee. School Committee Incumbents David A. Birnbach and Ann W. Gilbert are running unopposed for two seats on the School Committee.

The candidates who are running for two open seats on the Board of Selectmen include Larry Bruce, Ann T. Cobleigh, Daniel H. Kowalski, Incumbent candidate Brian P. Major, and Paul L.D. Russell, Jr.

The League Moderator will be Heather McNeil of North Andover. We encourage you to email advance questions for the [candidates](#).

The event will air live and be taped for rebroadcast on local cable channels. Free and open to the public.

There are five additional candidates who will appear on the March 27 ballot for staggered terms as the Punchard Free School Trustees. They are Earl G. Efinger (Incumbent), Eric Stubenhaus(Incumbent), Donald F. Schroeder, James E. Sutton and John H. Atchison, Jr.(Incumbent).

## **North Andover News**

by Heather McNeil

### **North Andover Candidates' Night Wednesday, March 14, 7:00pm North Andover Senior Center 120R Main Street**

The League's annual candidates' night is an opportunity for North Andover residents to meet and hear from the candidates who are running for local elected offices.

The three candidates running for two open seats on the Board of Selectmen include Joe Edward Smith, Richard Vaillancourt, and incumbent Bill Gordon. The three candidates vying for two open School Committee seats are Andrew McDevitt, George Vozeolas, and incumbent Laurie Burzlaff. There are three candidates running for the position of Town Moderator including Ramsey Bahrawy, Mark DiSalvo, and Francis Macmillan, Jr. Stephen C. Long is running unopposed for the one open seat on the North Andover Housing Authority.

All candidates have been invited to make opening statements and respond to questions. Attendees can submit questions on cards at the onset of the event. You can also e-mail questions in advance of

the Candidates' Night, or even during the event, if you are watching live at home. Questions must apply to all candidates for a particular board and be of general interest. The event's moderator will be Stefani Traina, Andover resident and member of our LWV chapter.

The event will be broadcast live as well as replayed several times prior to the election on North Andover Community Access and Media (NA CAM). You can also watch the League of Women Voters recent interview with retiring Moderator Charles Salisbury. Listen to our long time Town Moderator's thoughts on the powers and responsibilities critical to success in the position. Visit [www.northandovercam.org](http://www.northandovercam.org) for programming information.

For further information on these events or to submit questions, contact Heather McNeil or Kathy Stevens, members of our local League, at [voterservicenandover@lww-andovers.org](mailto:voterservicenandover@lww-andovers.org).

### **Andover Annual Budget Forum**

by Bonnie Zahorik

On Wednesday, March 21<sup>st</sup>, from 7 to 9pm, join the League for Andover's Annual Budget Forum. To help voters make informed decisions at the annual Town Meeting in April, the League is once again sponsoring a forum for review and public discussion of the town's budget with leaders of town government.

Town officials participating in the Forum will include members of the Finance Committee, Board of Selectmen, and School Committee, as well as Town Manager Buzz Stapczynski and Superintendent Dr. Marinel McGrath.

Each year, the League offers this opportunity for residents of Andover to interact directly with town

leaders in order to learn more about the budget, ask questions, and voice concerns in advance of Town Meeting. The forum will be televised live and taped for rebroadcast on the local cable channel.

To make presenters aware of their concerns, residents may email their questions in advance, submit written questions at the event, or email additional questions during the forum. Whether you plan to attend in person, watch from home, or watch a rebroadcast, please send your questions to [league@lwv-andovers.org](mailto:league@lwv-andovers.org).

## **Introducing "Students in Town Government"**

by Molly Foley

This spring, the local League is partnering with Buzz Stapczynski, Andover Town Manager, and town department heads to offer a program called **Youth in Town Government**. Planned events will allow a group of Andover High School students to become directly engaged with local government.

Students selected to participate in the program will attend a morning staff meeting and then shadow a selected town official for the rest of the day. This will be a great chance for our youth to get involved in local government and learn firsthand how it functions. Following the day of job shadowing, the students will take part in the Town Meeting process by helping prepare the LWV Town Meeting Preview.

We are very pleased to help design and implement a new program that will help educate future voters! Watch the *Bulletin* for updates on this exciting new collaborative effort.

## **About the League of Women Voters**

The League of Women Voters is a 91-year old national nonpartisan organization that encourages the informed and active participation of individuals in government, works to increase understanding of

major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. The League neither supports nor opposes candidates for office, elected officials or political parties at any level of government.

The Andover/North Andover League focuses on topics directly impacting the citizens of our communities.

League membership is open to all citizens, both women and men.

### **Membership Form**

Sign up [online](#) or complete and mail the form below. When you sign up online you will have the option of paying by credit card or PayPal. The League's membership year is July-June.

\_\_\_\_\_ New      \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal

\_\_\_\_\_ \$55 Basic Member

\_\_\_\_\_ \$60 Contributing Member

\_\_\_\_\_ \$75 Sustaining Member

\_\_\_\_\_ \$100+ Patron

\_\_\_\_\_ \$35 Senior Citizen (65 yrs. old and over)

\_\_\_\_\_ \$35 Student (under 24 yrs. old)

\_\_\_\_\_ \$75 Household Dues (2+ persons in same household)

\_\_\_\_\_ In addition to my membership fee, I'd like to make a contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ Enclosed is a separate check containing my tax-deductible contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_ payable to the Education Fund, which supports the LWV's educational activities.

Please make checks payable to:  
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