

Subject: April 2011 Bulletin
Date: Friday, April 1, 2011 6:35 PM
From: League of Women Voters of Andover/North Andover <league@lww-andovers.org>
Reply-To: league@lww-andovers.org
To: Kerri Ford kerriford@verizon.net
Conversation: April 2011 Bulletin



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

Bulletin

www.lww-andovers.org

April 2011

Bulletin Editor: Ann Cobleigh
President: Kerri Ford

Vol. 17 No. 4
Published Monthly September - May

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President's Letter

By Kerri Ford

March and April are busy months for the League. In March we held candidate forums in Andover and North Andover in advance of the town elections. Thank you to Stefani Traina, Heather McNeil, Sandy Glead, Ann Cobleigh, Kathy Stevens, Phila Slade, Cynthia Barakatt, and Maureen Sundberg for making our voter education efforts for the spring elections possible. Thank you also to Molly Bicking for organizing precincting at the Andover polls on March 22 and to those who gave their time to volunteer that day.

The League's Andover Town Meeting Preview, led by Stefani Traina, will be held on Wednesday, April 13 at 7:00 pm in the Board of Selectmen's room at the Town Offices. Our Andover Budget Forum, led by Bonnie Zahorik, will be held on Thursday, April 14 at 7:00 pm at Memorial Hall Library. The League is also hosting a local access television program with the Town of Andover's Planning Division that will provide information about three proposed zoning bylaw changes that are expected to be decided at Town Meeting.

Ann Cobleigh will lead that discussion with town planners and the program will be available on Andover Community Access and Media stations and online.

Due to Town Meeting Preview being held the evening of April

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13, we have rescheduled our monthly board meeting from that evening to earlier that day. We will meet at 9:15 am at Panera in North Andover. We will be discussing the League's local program planning for next year. All Members are welcome to attend and participate.

The League is currently accepting applications for the Virginia Cole Scholarship. Please see the article in this Bulletin for details and encourage qualified young women you know to apply. The application deadline is April 30.

Attendance at the monthly Panera lunches has been quite low. I encourage members who wish to continue meeting for lunch to do so but as of April we will no longer be hosting the lunches as a League event. The lunches were enjoyed by many over the years as a time to reconnect and socialize, however, as often happens, schedules seem to have gotten busy and attendance has dropped off. If there is a group that would like to reestablish a monthly gathering for coffee, lunch, etc in the future and would like to lead the effort please let me know.

Please save the date for the League's Annual Meeting to be held on Wednesday, May 18 at 6:00 pm at Atria Marland Place. More details will follow.

Andover Voter Service Update

by Stefani Traina, VP Voter Service

The Andover Candidates' Forum on Saturday, March 12 was attended by more than 50 people. We were pleased that all unopposed candidates attended in addition to the candidates for contested races. It wouldn't be possible to organize these events without the collaboration of many willing town staff members and volunteers.

Heather McNeil was an excellent moderator, and Andover High students Theresa Cloutier, Emily Granoff, and Ronan Maye provided cheerful and competent help with timing and question collecting.

President Kerri Ford collected email questions on her iPad. This was the first time this technology was incorporated into our procedures. The League web address was announced at the beginning of the broadcast and at least one question was submitted via email from a TV viewer.



Our team of question sorters, Cynthia Barakatt, Sandy Gleed and Maureen Sundberg ensured that many important topics were covered and that audience questions were answered.

The League is grateful to the candidates who shared their time with the voters, to Memorial Hall Library, for allowing us to use their facilities, and to Andover Community Access & Media for broadcasting the event live and for taping it for rebroadcast and posting online.

North Andover News

By Heather McNeil

The League contingent in North Andover has been busy with a Candidates Forum, a visit to the Senior Center as guests of their Lecture Series, and preparations for a series of cable shows to educate voters prior to our Town Meeting which begins on May 10th.

Our Candidates Forum took place on March 9th and featured the three candidates for two seats on the School Committee - Stanley Limpert, Stanley Frank Novak, and Brian Gross. Also present were three of the four Board of Selectman candidates vying for two seats - Tracy Watson, Richard Nardella, and Donald Stewart. Joe Edward Smith had been ill and was unable to attend. Also participating were Robert Bonenfant and Frank Rossi who were challenging each other for one seat on the Greater Lawrence Technical School Board. Questions were solicited ahead of time from the public and from League members. Stefani Traina was our moderator, and Sandy Gleed did hours of work along with Brian Frazier and volunteers from NA CAM to film and rebroadcast the event several times prior to the election which took place this past Tuesday. Phila Slade and I were time keepers and greeters.

Winners in our local election included Stanley Limpert and Brian Gross for School Committee, Don Stewart and Tracy Watson for Board of Selectman, and Frank Rossi for the GLTS seat. Ted Snell also won as he was unopposed for a seat on the Housing Authority. The swearing in of candidates is being delayed, to my knowledge, as the Board of Selectman and GLTS races were so close, determined by 12 or fewer votes.

We also visited the North Andover Senior Center as part of their Lecture Series. Kathy Stevens, Sandy Gleed, Phila Slade, and I spoke about the League, its history here in North Andover, and current projects including our work to bring nonpartisan information to voters via NA CAM. The discussion was lively including comments about CPA funding; it was recommended as a possible study our League could do in North Andover in the future. We also discussed that the League takes Voter Service very seriously in trying to bring balanced and nonpartisan information to voters. There was a discussion regarding the need for more nonpartisan shows on NA CAM as well as shows depicting both liberal *and* more conservative perspectives. And we encouraged the attendees to be part of the process by putting articles on the warrant and creating shows for NA CAM. Sandy spoke about the shows she has had a large part in producing over the last year on behalf of our joint Andover/North Andover League. These include:

- the 2010 Census with Town Clerk Joyce Bradshaw and then Representative Barbara L'Italien,
- Preparing for Annual Town Meeting with Town Moderator Charles Salisbury,
- the Legislators and Leaders Forum, co-sponsored with Stand for Children, that was the 1st live cable production in the rotunda at Stevens Memorial Library,
- Preparing for our Fall Special Town Meeting with Finance Committee Chair Mark Rodgers,
- a Meet and Greet with candidates running for state office in November,
- Running for Public Office Workshop,
- a show on the 90th Anniversary of the League of Women Voters, and
- the Candidates Forum discussed above.

We would like to encourage more people to use this medium for information as busy lives and other obligations make it difficult to keep informed about the goings on in town government. We want to make keeping engaged and informed easier.

Our next endeavor is preparing voters for North Andover's Town Meeting which begins on Tuesday, May 10th at 7:00 PM at the North Andover High School. We will be doing a series of interviews with town officials to air on NA CAM leading up to Town Meeting. So stay tuned to the League website as well as to NA CAM stations 24, 26, and 28 for

Verizon customers and 8, 10, and 22 for Comcast customers.

Andover Town Meeting

The first night of Town Meeting is Wednesday, April 27 at the Collins Field House.

The League is trying some new ways to help educate voters this year. We'll be organizing a cable television show with **Lisa Schwarz**, Senior Town Planner, and **Jacki Byerley**, Town Planner, of the Andover Planning Division that will provide information about three warrant articles which will be coming up at Town Meeting. The three articles being presented:

ARTICLE 31. Zoning By-law Amendment - Off-Street Parking Requirements

ARTICLE 39. Zoning By-law Amendment - Open Space Residential Design (OSRD) Special Permit

ARTICLE 47. Zoning By-law Amendment - Political Signs

The show will be taped on April 6. Stay tuned for details about when it will air.

Andover Town Meeting Preview

The League will also host a Town Meeting Preview of other warrant articles on Wednesday, April 13 at 7:00 p.m. in the Board of Selectmen's room, Town Offices. Various town officials and others have been invited to make presentations, and League members will pose a set of questions about each warrant article to help elicit information about financial implications and other issues. Audience members may ask questions, as well. The format varies from previous years when League members would research articles and present the pros and cons of each. The program will air live on Andover Community Access & Media stations and be taped for rebroadcast and posting online.

Andover Budget Forum

by Bonnie Zahorik

On Thursday, April 14, the annual Budget Forum will be held at Memorial Hall Library at 7:00 p.m. Following brief presentations of the annual budget, there will be time for questions and answers. The event is free and open to the public. It will also air live and be taped for rebroadcast and posting online.

Email questions to voterServiceAndover@lww-andovers.org.

LWW Virginia Cole Scholarship

Each year we recognize a female student graduating from Andover High School who has demonstrated the ideals of the League of Women Voters. We announce the winner at our Annual Meeting in May. Please encourage graduating seniors you know to apply!

Our overarching mission is the promotion of political responsibility through informed and active participation in government. Any female student demonstrating these principles through volunteer efforts in government, education, environmental protection or similar endeavors in the Greater Lawrence area will be considered.

To apply, the applicant should complete the [application](#) found on our website and submit two letters of recommendation: one demonstrating volunteer experience within school; the second demonstrating community service/volunteer work outside of school. All items are mailed to:

LWW of Andover/North Andover
Virginia H. Cole Scholarship Award
P.O. Box 514
Andover, MA 01810

Award: \$500.00

Deadline: April 30, 2011

LWW History Presentation at Andover Senior Center

by Stefani Traina

The League was invited to make a presentation at the Andover Senior Center during Women's History Month.

Many thanks to Nancy Gump, Heather Holman, and Tina Girdwood for helping to re-enact the history presentation that was given at our holiday dinner last December. I shared the work prepared by Pat Edmonds, and Heather Holman shared the write-ups prepared by Rusty Dunbar, Nancy Mulvey and Sue Tucker. Nancy and Tina presented their decades, with Nancy and Heather performing the pro and con articles that appeared in the **Andover Townsman** before women won the right to vote. The assembled group enjoyed learning about the League's history in Andover.

I am happy to announce that the holiday dinner presentation is now posted online at:

<http://andovertv.org/lwv.90.years.03.21.2011.flv>.

At the National League...Proposed Amendment Reducing EPA's Authority in Air Pollution

By Ann Cobleigh

Below is an excerpt from one of a series of recent letters by the National League, along with many other respected organizations, urging Senators to oppose the proposed amendment reducing the Environmental Protection Agency's authority to continue addressing air pollution having significant impact protecting citizens' health.

*"American Rivers * Center for American Progress Action Fund * Center for Biological Diversity Center for Food Safety & the International Center for Technology Assessment Citizens for Pennsylvania's Future * Clean Water Action* Conservation Law Foundation Conservation Northwest * Defenders of Wildlife * Earth Day Network * Earthjustice Environment America * Environmental Defense Fund * Environment Northeast Interfaith Power & Light * Friends Committee on National Legislation * Greenpeace USA League of Conservation Voters * League of Women Voters * National Audubon Society Natural Resources Defense Council * Northern Alaska Environmental Center NC WARN * Physicians for Social Responsibility * Public Citizen Republicans for Environmental Protection * Safe Climate Campaign Sierra Club * Southern Environmental Law Center * The Center for the Celebration of Creation The Wilderness Society * Union of Concerned Scientists * U.S. Climate Action Network Western Nebraska Resources Council * World*

March 15, 2011

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the millions of members, activists, and supporters our organizations represent, we urge you to oppose Senator McConnell's amendment which adds the language of S.482: Energy Tax Prevention Act of 2011 to S.493: the SBIR/STTR Reauthorization Act of 2011. This reckless amendment puts America's health, prosperity, and national security at risk by gutting the Clean Air Act, overturning a decision of the Supreme Court, and dismantling the Environmental Protection Agency's ability to address life-threatening carbon dioxide and other pollution..."

To read more, go to...

<http://www.lwv.org/Content/ContentGroups/Advocacy/AdvocacyLetters/2011/caa.Rockefeller.March152011.pdf>

Editor's Note: Look for Member Profile Next Issue

By Ann Cobleigh

Due to increased League activity at this time of the year and the number of Bulletin articles, the next Member Profile will return in the May issue. If you wish to recommend a member for an upcoming Member Profile, please feel free to email the editor at: Ann@Realtor.com

Spring Calendar

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

April

- 7 Thu Last Day to register to vote at Andover Town Meeting
- 13 Wed Board Meeting, 9:15 am, Panera
All members welcome.
- 13 Wed Day on The Hill, 9:30 am.
Gardner Auditorium, Boston
- 13 Wed Andover Town Meeting Preview, 7:00 pm,
Board of Selectmen's Room, Town Offices

- 13 Wed Ballardvale Fire Station Relocation Public Meeting
7:00 pm
- 14 Thu Andover Budget Forum, 7:00 pm,
Memorial Hall Library
- 20 Wed May *Bulletin*, article submissions deadline
- 27 Wed Andover Town Meeting, 7:00 pm
Collins Field House
- 28 Thu Andover Town Meeting, 7:00 pm
Collins Field House

May

- 2 Mon Andover Town Meeting, Collins Center,
7:00 pm (if needed)
- 3 Tue Andover Town Meeting, Collins Center,
7:00 pm (if needed)
- 10 Tue North Andover Town Meeting,
North Andover High School
- 11 Wed Board Meeting, 7:00 pm
- 18 Wed LWV Andovers **Annual Meeting**, 6:00 pm
Marland Place, Steven St, Andover
All members encouraged to attend
- 20 Fri June *Bulletin*, Article submission deadline

June

- 8 Wed Board Meeting, 7:00 pm

Available Board Positions

If you'd like to have a greater impact on democracy in our communities, consider joining the League Board of Directors. The following positions are accepting applications/nominations for the current fiscal year:

Position	Primary Responsibilities
Clerk	Keep board and annual meeting minutes
Legislative Action Chair	Distribute Action Alerts, write monthly column for the <i>Bulletin</i>
Cable TV - Andover	Coordinate local cable coverage of events
Andover School	

Committee Observer Observe school committee meetings and write a summary monthly column for the *Bulletin*

About the League of Women Voters

The League of Women Voters is a 90-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.

Membership in the League is open to all women and men.

Membership Form

--Sign up [online](#) or complete and mail the below form. 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:
"LWV OF ANDOVER/NORTH ANDOVER"

Mail form and check to:
LWV of Andover/North Andover
P.O. Box 514, Andover MA 01810

Member Information

Name _____

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Email _____

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