



Bulletin

November 2004

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P.O. Box 514
Andover, MA 01810

www.LWV-Andovers.org

President: Peggy Kruse Membership: Jennessa Durrani Editor: Michael Frishman

League of Women Voters of Andover/North Andover

President’s Message

Chocolate at the Addison I hope you can join us for a lively affair at the Addison Gallery of American Art – 7:30 PM, Thursday, Nov. 11. In addition to a social hour complete with chocolate tasting (brainchild of Membership Chair Jennessa Durrani!), we can tour the gallery and discuss art with the new director of the Addison, Brian Allen. Please bring a friend/prospective member. Since we expect a good turnout, please help with an RSVP to Jennessa, 978-470-3290.

Our energetic Sustainability and Natural Resources group has two events this month. The first is a forum on Water Quality and Conservation Monday, Nov. 8. The second, “Easy Steps to a Clean, Green, and Healthy Home” Nov. 15, is the first in a planned series of informal discussions. Bring your thoughts and questions.

Happy 10th birthday to the League’s Community

Sustainability Presents

“Water Quality & Conservation Forum”
Monday, November 8 - Edgwood, N. Andover

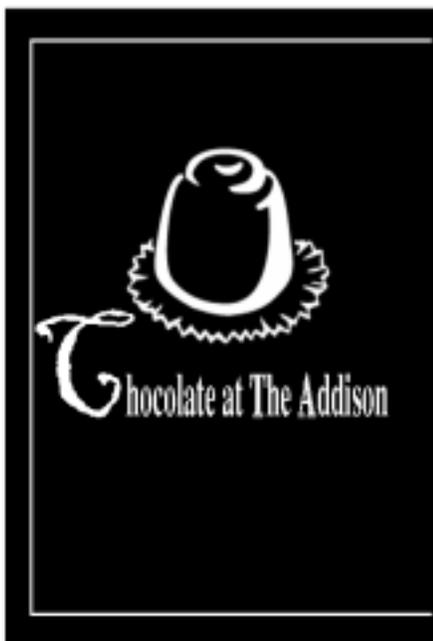
“Easy Steps to a Clean, Green and Healthy Home”
Monday, November 15 - The Savings Bank, Andover

See Page 5 for reproducible “Water” poster.

Read-Along. Planning for this annual match-up of elementary school classes with Andover officials, League members, and senior citizens is well-underway.

The quadrennial election is upon us. The interest in the political process running up to these elections is stronger than I’ve encountered in many years. Thanks to Diana Walsh for heading up the League’s numerous voter service activities – voter registrations pulled in

hundreds of new voters; a LWV talk to a local singles group went overtime with questions; our candidate debate was well attended; the debate watching parties were



Bring a friend and join the
LWV of Andover/North Andover for
Chocolate at The Addison
an evening of
Chocolate, Art and Networking
Thursday, November 11th, 2004, 7:30 p.m.
The Addison Gallery, Phillips Academy
180 Main Street, Andover
Brian Allen, Director of the Addison Gallery of
American Art, will lead an informal discussion
of issues in the art world.
Kindly Respond by November 5th
Jennessa Durrani, 978.470.3290
jennessa@fourcreations.com
Cost: \$5 suggested donation

!Sign Up Now!

Holiday Dinner

&
LWV State
Position Meeting
Wed. Dec. 1
See Page 3

invigorating. We'll give Diana a week off before signing her up for a new project. Remind your neighbors and co-workers to VOTE on November 2, and, for Andover residents, don't forget Special Town Meeting Tues, Nov. 9.

As League voter service chair and president respectively, Diana and I have been careful to remain, and to ensure that the League remains, strictly non-partisan during this election season. Many other League members have been full participants in the seasonal political activity, as the non-partisan requirement does not extend to any other individual League members.

Thanks go to Heather Holman for her infectious enthusiasm in organizing Know Your Town Fair. The rain held off long enough to slip it in on its rescheduled October 2nd date; and a lot of networking occurred – a not-insignificant amount occurring among the personnel from the various organizations. A great place to make contacts!

Thanks are due to Coldwell Banker Realtors and especially Colleen Kiezulas for hosting the annual state League Phonathon. Thanks also to all contributors and to those who donated their time to make phone calls.

As a heads up, our Holiday Dinner is the first of December. A social hour and dinner (catered by Raspberries this year) precedes our biannual review of the state League positions. See the sign-up sheet inside.

Don't forget our monthly Lunch & Conversation. As Diane Hender observed recently, "The League lunches are great, they're relaxing and stimulating at the same time." Join us at Panera's Fri, Nov. 12. – *Peggy Kruse*

Revised A/NA Website

Check out our newly revised LWV Andover/N. Andover website at www.lwv-andovers.org. From this website you can access a calendar of upcoming LWV events, read the current and past Bulletins, and find contact information for elected officials, town departments and LWV personnel. Our new website is part of the League

Easy Web designed by the LWV CA, which allows a common look and feel among LWV websites and also allows non-HTML programmers to maintain the website. If you have ideas to improve the website, send an email to the webmaster link on each webpage. Feedback welcome!

Sustainability

By C. Joyce Ringleb

The committee met October 18, 2004 at our new meeting location. We now meet at The Savings Bank (next door to Bertucci's), 84 Main Street, Andover, and all are welcome.

Please join us 7:30 PM, Monday, November 8, at Edgewood, 575 Osgood, North Andover, for "Water Protection & Conservation: How and Why," a forum on water quality, quantity and conservation. We are co-hosts with the residents of Edgewood and the forum is free and open – there is room for 200 people, so plan to attend and bring a friend or two.

Mike Davis of Clean Water Action will discuss how citizens can be involved in drinking water protection – how we can work with local officials to ensure protection of our drinking water supplies.

Dennis Bedrosian, Superintendent North Andover Water Treatment Plant, will cover source water assessment plans. Cyndi Vaughn, Andover Water Treatment Plant, will address consumer confidence reports that help people interpret the technical jargon required by the EPA so you can have a better understanding of these reports. Everett Penny, Andover Healthy Director, will speak on the health issues that concern people about sodium levels.

Our next event, 7:30 PM, Monday November 15, "Easy Steps to a Clean, Green and Healthy Home", will be at The Savings Bank. We invite you to a talk by Beth Tener of Sustainable Step New England who will explore how to take effective action in response to the unprecedented environmental threats we face. She'll offer a framework and simple questions that lead you to ask new questions that inspire creative responses and ideas. She'll also

Election Reminder Service – **www.votinginfo.info** A service of the League of Women Voters

**REMEMBER
TO VOTE
NOV. 2**

Subscribe to this free, nonpartisan service to receive important election reminders
Sign up all the voters in your family, at your school, and at your workplace

- Do you
- ✓ Know the voter registration deadlines?
 - ✓ Know the dates of the election?
 - ✓ Know how to find out where your polling place is?
 - ✓ Know if you need to bring ID to the polls?

share case studies of local actions, many of which result in multiple positive benefits.

In Andover/North Andover, there are already some great initiatives underway from recycling to organic lawn workshops. This event will also provide a chance to brainstorm in small groups about what actions we can take in our towns, from personal practices to neighborhoods to town operations.

Turn off the depressing news on TV and come join your neighbors in taking positive action for change.

Legislative Action

By Carole Pelchat

H.R. 10 and S. 2845 are bills passed just before Congress recessed by the House and the Senate to address the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission. They are (as of October 16) in a conference committee to reconcile

the two very different bills prior to the election.

In a letter to the conference committee, LWVUS President Kay Maxwell urged them to be “very mindful of the need to preserve and protect our basic civil liberties.”

She expressed her concern that many of the provisions of H.R. 10 “would expand the government’s investigative and prosecutorial powers.” She further wrote that the LWVUS, which has been “steadfast in (our) conviction that the need to protect against security threats to America must be balanced with the need to preserve the very liberties that are the foundation of this country,” believes that “H.R. 10 goes far beyond that objective” in many of its provisions.

S. 2845 is noted to closely follow the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission and has the support of many of the Commission’s members.

The League Position – The League opposed H.R. 10

LWV Andover/North Andover 2004-2005 MEMBERSHIP

_____ \$55 Individual _____ \$60 Contributing _____ \$75 Sustaining _____ \$100 (and over) Patron

_____ \$75 Household (2 persons in same household) _____ \$35 Senior Citizen (65 and over)

_____ \$55 Associate Member (non-voting)

_____ In addition to my membership, I’d like to make a contribution of \$ _____.

_____ Enclosed is a separate check, my tax-deductible contribution of \$ _____ to the Education Fund.

Send checks payable to: **LWV OF ANDOVER/NORTH ANDOVER:**

Membership, P.O. Box 514, Andover, MA 01810

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ Fax _____

E-mail _____ Areas of Interest _____

Thank you! Jennessa Durrani, Membership, 978-470-3290

HOLIDAY DINNER

Our holiday dinner will be held at the Andover Historical Society (Blanchard House, 97 Main Street) Wednesday, December 1, 6:30 to 9:00 PM. For a change of pace, the Board decided to have a catered event this year, with Raspberries providing a delicious buffet. Wine and hors d’oeuvres start at 6:30, dinner buffet at 7:15. We will start reviewing the State LWV positions around 8:00. \$20 per person, **RSVP please by 11/22/04**. For more information, call Amy Janovsky (978-475-8655).

RESERVATION FOR HOLIDAY DINNER

Name(s) _____

Number of people attending _____ Check enclosed for: \$ _____ (\$20 per person)

Please return to: Amy Janovsky, 6 Snowberry Road, Andover, MA 01810

because it went beyond the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission, expanded the government's investigative and prosecutorial powers, and threatens civil liberties. The legislation includes law enforcement powers not called for by the Commission, but included in "Patriot Act 2" and other similar proposals. One provision eliminates basic judicial review over unfair, arbitrary deportations of immigrants. Another broadens the definition of "material support" so that an individual who associated with a suspected terrorist group would be subject to indictment, even if that individual did not engage in any terrorist activities or provide funds for terrorist acts. Finally, H.R. 10 creates a de-facto national identification card.

The Senators appointed to the conference committee are Susan Collins (R-ME), Norm Coleman (R-MN), Mike DeWine (R-OH), Richard Durbin (D-IL), Bob Graham (D-FL), Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ), Carl Levin (D-MI), Trent Lott (R-MS), Joseph Lieberman (D-CT), Pat Roberts (R-KS), John Rockefeller (D-WV), John Sununu (R-NH), and George Voinovich (R-OH). The names of the Representatives are not available.

Reproductive Rights

By Faith Johnson

The **Child Custody Protection Act** would make it a criminal offense for a responsible adult, including a clergy person or a religious counselor, to accompany a young woman across state lines for an abortion if she has not met the terms of her own state's parental involvement law. This legislation would endanger teens who believe they cannot involve their parents because of abuse, incest, or fear of being forced to leave home. A potential consequence of this bill could be an increase in illegal abortions.

We do not know when this bill will come to the Senate for a vote. However, it is important to let your senators know where you stand. Because our senators have a good record on such initiatives, your strongest advocacy may be to talk with friends in other states and share your concern about this pending legislation.

The **Federal Refusal Protection Act**, introduced by Rep. Dave Weldon (R-FL) is similar to the so-called "Abortion Nondiscrimination Act," one of the anti-choice leadership's priority pieces of legislation. The act is an amendment to the house Labor Health and Human Services and Education Funding Bill. It is not only dangerous to women's health care rights, but also is an affront to all who respect religious diversity. Healthcare entities, including insurers and HMOs, will be given carte blanche to refuse

to: provide abortion services, counsel low income women about the option of abortion, or refer women to healthcare professionals who provide abortion services. It would allow some healthcare providers to place personal belief ahead of patient needs and rights. A woman who has been raped may seek treatment at a health care facility that will provide incomplete counsel at a time when she is too vulnerable to seek other assistance on her own. (This bill may have been passed before this newsletter is received.)

Affordable Housing

By Annette Nickerson

The Affordable Housing Study Group second public forum, "Initiatives for Affordability: What Other Communities are Doing," held September 30, the night of the first Presidential debate, was not as well attended as the February forum. The program was well received by those present; the videotape will be broadcast on local cable. Following is a summary of the presentations:

Lisa Greene: Staff Manager for North Shore Home Consortium and Grants Manager for City of Peabody.

The North Shore Home Consortium is an organization of 30 communities (including Andover/N. Andover). The Consortium acts as a conduit for HOME Investment Partnership funds from HUD (\$2.3M annually), which participating communities may apply for. Lisa gave examples of successful projects using Consortium funding:

Beverly: Bootstraps for low-income families

Salem Harbor CDC: Lease-to-purchase program to allow low-income renters to become owners

Peabody: Citizens for Adequate Housing

North Reading: Purchased two condos to add to the Housing Authority inventory.

Bonnie Heudorfer: Board Member of Citizens Housing and Planning Association (CHAPA), Author of "Taking the Initiative," a guidebook on creating local affordable housing strategies.

Communities should complete a "needs assessment"

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Water Protection & Conservation—How & Why

Monday, November 8th

7:30 p.m.

Edgewood, 575 Osgood Street, North Andover

Free of Charge & Open to All

Please join us for a forum on water quality, quantity and conservation that will be co-hosted with the residents of Edgewood.

Mike Davis, Drinking Water Advocate, Clean Water Action

Dennis Bedrosian, North Andover Water Treatment Plant

Cyndi Vaughn, Andover Water Treatment Plant

Everett Penny, Andover Health Director

The League of Women Voters of
Andover/North Andover



Community Read-Along

Calling all readers! The 10th Annual Community Read-Along is coming to Andover during American Education Week, November 15-19. If you want to be a reader, please let us know. Stefani Goldshein, 978-470-3140 or Sondra Finegold, 978-470-1584.

as a first step in developing an affordable housing strategy. Other important considerations are funding, zoning, re-use, and development of strategic alliances. Communities should consider underutilized second and third floors in downtown centers and “adaptive re-use” for mills, military bases, etc. Specific examples:

Cape Cod: “re-use” of motels for affordable housing: deed restricted “junior lots”

Montague: use of grant money & historic preservation

Lauren Rosenzweig: Planning Board Chair, Acton

Acton has encouraged development of diverse housing (such as store fronts with housing above) in more densely populated areas such as former “village centers.” Also use of small scale “in-fill”. The Acton Master Plan includes “overlay districts” in more densely populated areas; however, this is a complex by-law and incentives for developers are limited in a rising housing market. Acton is currently working on an overlay district in office parks.

Nancy Tavernier: Community Housing Chair, Acton

Acton is currently at 2.3 percent toward the 10 percent goal established by the state’s Chapter 40B. Acton has developed Local Initiative Programs to encourage friendly 40Bs which involve the community. Acton has successfully compromised with developers of large single-family home projects by encouraging developers to also build or re-hab affordable homes at other sites. Other examples:

Land taken by the town for taxes was used for four affordable units.

Adaptive re-use of primary school for 18 rental units.

Q&A:

Educating the public: Acton hired a consultant to facilitate open forums for the town. Emphasis was placed on the distinction between moderate and low-income. Moderate income is \$66,000 for a family of four.

CHAPA has a public service video for communities as an educational tool regarding Affordable Housing.

“Tear-down” issue: Possible use of CPA funds to purchase property. Incentives are needed to encourage sellers to sell as “affordable.” Demolition Delay by-law could

be proposed.

Other Funding sources: Priority Development Funds; Re-hab consortium: Community; Development 2 HUD; Regional Planning Agency.

Centers Study

The committee is hard at work finishing the research necessary to put the Unit Meetings together. At the October board meeting, the proposed consensus questions were approved. These will be used as a guideline and focus for our final work. A schedule of deadlines and dates for completion of the study has been completed. The consensus questions and Unit Meeting dates will be announced in the January Bulletin. All input is welcome. The committee next meets 10:00 AM, Wed., Nov. 10, Rusty Dunbar, 8 Alden Road, Andover. Contact Lolli Sumberg, 978-475-7455 or lollisumberg@comcast.net.

Read-Along

By Stefani Traina Goldshein

This month the Community Read-Along celebrates its tenth anniversary, with the theme “Readers First.” Students in Andover will be visited during American Education Week, November 15-19, by over 150 town officials, retired teachers, senior citizens, League members and other community leaders. Many thanks to the coordinators at each school, who partner with the League and work tirelessly to arrange the classroom visits, receptions and other Read-Along activities: Penny Kohut, Susie Novick, Stephanie Bryant, Renita Johnson, Karen Krichmar, Lori Aronovitz, Mary Ellen Hassey, Jane Sullivan, Deborah Sloan, Rhonda Wiener, Kelly Rehman, and Ronna Markell. Co-chair Sondra Finegold and I hope to expand the Read-Along program through the LWVM to other interested communities in Massachusetts.

Membership

Chocol-Art!

By Jennessa Durrani

Chocolate at The Addison – Thursday, November, 11, 7:30 PM, the LWV Andover/North Andover hosts an evening of chocolate temptations, art discussion, and networking at our third annual new and prospective member event to be held at the Addison Gallery of American Art on the Phillips Academy campus. Bring friend(s) or prospective LWV member(s) for a fabulous evening! Guests will be guided through the Addison Gallery by Brian Allen,

the gallery's new director who will also lead the group in an informal discussion on the art world. To help assure chocolate for all, please reply if you can by November 5 to Jennessa Durrani, jennessa@fourcreations.com, or 978.470.3290.

Member Renewal We have added member renewal information to the mailing label to make it even easier to stay current on your membership dues. If your mailing label has "Membership Expired", then please submit your membership fee and the membership form on page 3 to maintain your current membership. "Member Thru June 05" means you are current and paid through next June.

We would like to provide a warm welcome our newest members:

Marion Finbury
30 Royal Crest Drive, #6
North Andover 978.682.4595
mkfinbury@comcast.net

Ellen Marcus
167 Hidden Road
Andover 978.475.0842
etmarc@comcast.net

Mary Marzec
26 Capital Street
Methuen 978.682.8647
jmarzec@comcast.net

Mary Beth Nason
55 High Street #2
Andover 978.474.0593
mbnason@comcast.net

Observer Corps

Andover Planning Board

By Gail Mann

Summary of September 28 and October 12 Meetings (This summary is based on post-meeting discussions with Chairman Paul Salafia and Planner Stephen Colyer. I was not in attendance at these meetings.)

Planning Session Discussions

The Planning Session discussions held prior to the regular meetings provide a forum for the Planning Board, planning staff and the public to discuss broader planning issues impacting the Town. Discussions in the previous two sessions focused on four topics: (1) Rewriting of the zoning bylaw amendments that were withdrawn at the 2004 Town Meeting; (2) "mansionsization", (3) revised signage bylaws, and (4) development of special permits for "less impactful" development.

The zoning bylaw amendments submitted at the 2004 Town Meeting were withdrawn due to a lack of time for the Town Planners to fully review and evaluate the impact of the proposed language changes to clarify some lot, setback, and conversion requirements. The Planning Board and Town Planners are reviewing the bylaws to be rewritten and resubmitted to the 2005 Town Meeting. The Board recognizes the need for these revisions in order to provide

improved language that will clarify and eliminate ongoing misinterpretations of the current laws. These misinterpretations result in costly and time-consuming legal filing and additional workload for the Planning staff as well for the owners, builders and developers.

In the meantime, the Board has adopted a procedure to triage zoning change requests and speed up the review process. This new procedure will classify and evaluate requests according to the follow criteria: (1) Need for language improvement/correction of a by-law; (2) Need for revisions to strengthen and improve implementation of an existing approved by-law; (3) Need to create a new bylaw to meet current land use regulations.

"Mansionization" and "less impactful" development continue to be discussed by the Board and staff. Both are difficult to tackle because of the restrictions that would be imposed on property owners. Nonetheless, the Board is discussing ways to support development that would complement and better "fit" in designated areas. Referred to as "context-sensitive" design and "performance zoning," this approach would encourage land use that is more sensitive to the environment and adjust zoning regulations to limit negative impact on a neighborhood. For example, allowing a super driveway as an alternative to a town street that requires more land and incurs more cost for the Town. Overall, the "less impactful" approach would look at ways to preserve more of the natural landscape, limit sprawl and minimize the environmental disturbance of a site.

Proposed amendments to the Sign Bylaw were reviewed at the October 12 meeting. The Planners prepared a document with the revisions. Some of the key areas of changes include size and height of projected signs; elimination of animated, flashing, neon or other gaseous tube signs, and the placement of contractor/construction signs.

Planning Board Actions and Public Hearings

Approved items:

- Enterprise Bank, 8 High Street: Special Permit for Major Non-Residential Development
- Chinmaya Maruti Center: Request for modification and improvement of lighting, screening and drainage to be undertaken by the Center
- Charles Circle: Definitive Subdivision Plan and Special Permit for Earth Movement
- Cider Hill Way: Definitive Subdivision Plan and Special Permit for Earth Movement
- 34 Park Street: Modification of Special Permits

Public Hearings:

- Swan Crossing, 211-212 Beacon Street: Modification of Special Permit for New Multi-Family Construction-Attached Cluster and Special Permit for Earth Movement
- Crystal Circle: Definitive Subdivision Plan

- Woodman Ridge: Modification of Definitive Plan Approval and Special Permit for Earth Movement

Items Withdrawn:

- Reynolds Street Definitive Subdivision Plan

Andover Townwide PTO

by Diane Hender

October 8, 2004 Following up on last month’s discussion of busing concerns, Mim McLaughlin, transportation coordinator for the Andover Public Schools, reviewed the current plan and responded to questions. When asked about a ridership study, she commented that the elementary school buses are full, and that her department is waiting for a print-out from Trombly in order to assess middle and high school usage. When asked about reinstating the late buses for middle and high school students with PAC funding, Mim offered to get quotes from the two companies serving the system. She also promised to check the safety of walkers by the Salem Street construction site; one crossing guard at this “extremely dangerous” location does not seem sufficient.

Christy Pappas, moderator, related her talk with Julie Mofford, Director of Education & Research at the Andover Historical Society, about the many resources available to the schools, including hands-on materials for classroom use in conjunction with the third-grade visitation program, high school internship opportunities, extensive archives for primary-source and other research, and various interactive programs.

I explained Andover Dollars for Scholars, the all-volunteer organization charged with raising funds for the Town of Andover Scholarship Fund. The grants are open to all worthy citizens attending a post-secondary institution on a fulltime basis, regardless of age. Contributions can be made through the “tax check-off” included with property and auto excise tax bills, through a memorial fund, or as part of estate planning. In addition, named scholarship funds to be managed by ADFS can be established. The group’s fundraising activities include an annual walkathon and sale

of bottled water at Town Meeting.

Suzanne Hornick, Bancroft, reported the welcome addition of a 5th-grade teacher. The school is celebrating its 35th anniversary this year, to be highlighted by their World of Words’ creative writing week in March. Visiting authors will be funded by a PTO auction.

Mary Jo Gustus said that “Unlocking the Keys to Learning Success” is South School’s theme this year, with a focus on teaching respect and interpersonal skills.

According to Bill Pennington, West Middle School is building a sense of community among staff and students, aided by an improved auditorium and wireless network. He expressed concern that town-imposed costs and school department fees are negatively impacting donations, making it more difficult for the PAC to fund books for the media center, staffing, and other materials and services lost through budget cuts over the last few years, as well as to assist with the highly successful Zone. Bill requested an improved system of communication to parents in the event of emergencies, early dismissals, etc.

“After the Bell,” an after-school program run by the YMCA, is being introduced at Wood Hill Middle School. Transportation is a problem; Doherty students face the same problem, return of the late bus could help solve the problem.

Guest speaker, Jim McConaughy, Director, Multicultural Enrichment Partnership of the Greater Lawrence Educational Collaborative, gave a brief history of GLEC. The or-



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Jennessa Durrani
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jennessa@fourcreations.com

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ganization was founded in 1985 at the instigation of the superintendents of the five member districts: Andover, Lawrence, Methuen, North Andover, and the Greater Lawrence Regional Vocational Technical High School. Its primary goals are to “build bridges” between the school communities, to reinforce local academic goals, and to provide individual students opportunities to “shine and grow.”

Jim currently is responsible for the GLEC Pen Pals program (grades 1-6), publication of *AppleSeed* (3-5) and *AppleSauce* (6-8) semi-annual literary magazines showcasing outstanding student work submitted by teachers in the participating schools, GLEC Visual Arts award recognizing a body of work with a group show at the Lawrence Heritage Center, and the Greater Lawrence Academic Bowl (7-8) which pairs students from middle schools in different districts on teams (remember *College Bowl?*). The foreign language and service leadership programs in the high schools were eliminated this year because of inadequate funding.

GLEC is forming a Multicultural Enrichment Advisory Committee; parents and others are invited to join if they would like to help with any of the following: publicity, photography, leadership, newsletters, fundraising, producing special events, student recognition, teacher recognition, parent and community outreach, collaboration with service and cultural organizations, multicultural understanding, refreshments, decorations, poster design, web page design, and assistance at academic bowls, poetry readings, receptions and/or awards evenings. If you're interested, or would like more information, please contact Jim at 978-685-3000, extension 123, or at jmconoughy@glec.org.

The next meeting is 9:30 AM, Friday, November 12, second floor conference room, Andover School Administration building.

League Lingo

By Susan Dennett

Unit: A unit is a presentation to the membership of the results of a committee's study (in other words, a meeting). In our League, there are often two unit presentations of the same information, one during a weekday, and one on a Saturday morning. A discussion leader, not necessarily a member of the committee, runs the unit meeting, and a recorder, not a member of the committee, notes the results of the discussion. A unit can be an educational meeting, or can lead to a consensus.

Consensus: Consensus is the process the League uses to adopt a position on which the League can take action. A consensus is not the result of a vote, but a general sense that the members attending the unit have reached agreement. First, a study is adopted at Annual Meeting. It can

be on a new topic or a review of an old topic. Then a study committee is formed. It meets and decides on questions that guide the study. The questions must be approved by the Board and publicized in the Bulletin. The study committee gathers information to present to the membership at unit meetings. A debriefing meeting is held after the unit or units to decide if there is a consensus on the questions. If a consensus has been reached, the committee chair presents the results to the Board. The Board then decides on the wording and votes to approve (or not) the new position. At this point, the position becomes an official League position and action can be taken on the position. The membership re-affirms the position at the Annual Meeting as they do with all League positions.

Concurrence: A concurrence is treated exactly the same way as a consensus study except that members “concur” or agree to a position that has already been studied and approved by another League. There is the rare situation when a concurrence is done at a convention and so, technically, concurrence could be done at an Annual Meeting, but this is not the best idea for full member participation. A brief outline of the concurrence process is: First, Annual Meeting approves the concurrence study. Then the concurrence study committee prepares the background material and question(s) and provides them to the members (usually in a newsletter/Bulletin but it can be a separate mailing). The membership responds to questions and their response is tallied. In most cases the members mail back their response after the material and questions appear in the Bulletin. Following this, a concurrence review committee goes over the responses and determines if there is a concurrence and then submits a report to the board who then decide whether to approve the concurrence or not. Following board approval, it automatically becomes a League position. Concurrence is a shortcut to adopting a new position, and sometimes makes good sense.

!Did You Sign Up Yet?!

Holiday Dinner

(Catered by Raspberries)

&

LWV State Position Meeting

Andover Historical Society

Wed. Dec. 1

See Page 3

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League of Women Voters Andover/North Andover Calendar

NOVEMBER

- Tue 2 **Election Day**
Wed 3 Board Meeting – 7:15 PM, Diane Hender, 6 Millstone Ct, Andover
Mon 8 *Water Quality & Conservation Forum* – 7:00 PM, Edgewood, 575 Osgood St., N. Andover
Tue 9 Andover Special Town Meeting – 7:00 PM, Andover High School
Wed 10 Centers Study – 10:00 AM, Rusty Dunbar, 8 Alden Road, Andover
Thu 11 **Chocolate at the Addison** – 7:30 PM, Addison Gallery of Art, Phillips Academy, Andover
Fri 12 Lunch and Conversation – 11:30 AM Panera's (Rte 133 & 125)
Mon 15 *Easy Steps to a Clean, Green and Healthy Home* – 7:30 PM, The Savings Bank, 64 Main St, Andover
M-F 15-19 Community Read-Along – see Page 6 to sign up
Wed 17 December Bulletin Deadline (email frishma@comcast.net)

DECEMBER

- Wed 1 Board Meeting (if needed) – 6:00 PM
Wed 1 **Holiday Dinner** and LWV State Position Review – 6:30 PM, Historical Society, 97 Main St., Andover
Tue 14 Lunch and Conversation – 11:30 AM Panera's (Rte 133 & 125)
Wed 15 January Bulletin Deadline (email frishma@comcast.net)

League of Women Voters Andover/North Andover

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