



Bulletin

October 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

Voter Service

By Diana Walsh

Precincting – I would like to thank those volunteers who helped with “precincting” on primary day. Our Town Clerk’s Office is always appreciative of the help we give on election days. Please consider signing up for a shift on November 2. We anticipate a very heavy turnout and because of the new regulations in the HAVA (Help America Vote Act) the Town Clerks will be busy

answering questions about voter identification for first time voters and about provisional voting among other concerns. In Andover, we’re going to need 4 League members (two at the High School and 2 at the Senior Center) per two hour shift throughout the day to direct voters to the correct precinct. Please call or email me to volunteer for the shift you would like!

Voter Registration – Earlier this month five League members were deputized as Assistant Registrars by Andover Town Clerk Randy Hanson. After a training session we are ready to use a special state form to register voters and accept affirmation of their identity. By using this form, first time registering voters basically skip the step of providing photo identification with a mail-in registration form or showing the identification on election day, which requires additional time at the polls.

We held a very successful voter registration drive at Wyeth Industries, registering over 30 people. We are also attending school open houses over the next few weeks to offer another opportunity to register. A registration drive for Andover High School is on the cal-

endar for September 30 as well. And finally, several of us will be assisting the Town Clerk’s Office at the rescheduled Know Your Town Fair.

State Candidate Debates – Please note a change in the date for the debates: October 21, 7 PM at Andover Memorial Hall Library. Plan to attend and bring your questions. For State Representative in the 17th Essex District, the candidates are Barry Finegold and Erik Eldracher; for State Representative in the 18th Essex District, the

candidates are Barbara L’Italien and Maria Marasco; for State Senator, the candidates are Sue Tucker and Deborah Jones. I anticipate great interest in these races and look forward to an informative event.

Presidential Debate Watching – Let’s watch some of the debates together. Because the Affordable Housing Forum is scheduled for the same night as the September 30 presidential debate, I plan to record the debate and invite League members to my house the next morning (October 1) to watch and discuss. We’ll start at 9:30 AM and I’ll have refreshments. No need to let me know – just arrive.

I also invite you to the last debate on October 13 at 9 PM, my house again. I’m at 23 Greymbirch Road off River Road in West Andover. I may add another gathering but will let you know via email.

**Andover/North Andover LWV
State Candidates Debate
Thurs Oct 21 - 7:00 PM
Andover Memorial Hall Library**

**Tour the
Andover Water
Treatment Plant
Wed Oct 6 - 10:45 AM
Rte 133/Haggetts Pond**

**Know Your Town Fair
Old Town Hall, Main St., Andover
(Rain Date)
10AM-1PM, Sat., October 2**

Information – Continue to stay informed about the election by using the web site www.votinginfo.info.

Important dates:

Sep 30 First Presidential Debate, 9 PM

Oct 1 Watch recorded debate, 9:30 AM, 23 Greybirch

Oct 5 Vice Presidential Debate

Oct 8 Second Presidential Debate

Oct 13 Last day to register

Oct 13 Third Presidential Debate

Oct 21 State Candidates Debate

Nov 2 Presidential Election

Reproductive Choice

by Faith Johnson

This election is vitally important for women's reproductive freedom. It is clear that the next president will have the opportunity to appoint Supreme Court judges. I hope that LWV members will take every opportunity to talk about this issue with friends and family. We cannot assume that every one understands the implications for reproductive choice of this election.

Good news! The nine year effort to impose a federal abortion ban on late term abortions has met with three defeats. On September 8, U.S. District Judge Richard Kopf in Lincoln, Nebraska, ruled that the so-called "Partial Birth Abortion Act of 2003" signed by President George W. Bush is unconstitutional because it lacks an exception for when a woman's health is at risk. Earlier in the summer, two similar decisions struck down the ban. U.S. District Court Judge Richard Casey in Manhattan said the Supreme Court has made it clear that any law prohibiting the performance of a particular abortion procedure must include an exception to preserve a woman's life and health. In June, U. S. District Judge Phyllis Hamilton in San Francisco also found the law unconstitutional, say-

Community Note

Merrimack Valley People for Peace

"Economic Justice: War and the Economy"

Tuesday, October 19 – 7-9 PM

Andover Memorial Hall Library

Mike Prokosch, former coordinator for the global economy education and organizing programs of *United for a Fair Economy* will discuss: Where Washington spends money; where it does not, the impact on state and local budgets, and strategic deficits and the strategy behind them.

ing it "poses an undue burden on a woman's right to choose an abortion."

Judge Kopf also ruled that Congress ignored the most experienced doctors in passing the ban. "According to responsible medical opinion, there are times when the banned procedure is medically necessary to preserve the health of a woman and a respectful reading of the congressional record proves that point," Kopf wrote. "No reasonable and unbiased person could come to a different conclusion."

Four physicians, including Dr. Lee Carhart of the Carhart vs. Nebraska case joined in the lawsuit brought by the Center for Reproductive Rights. The physicians and women's clinics in the two other cases filed against the ban have shown true courage in standing up to this deceptive and corrupt misinformation campaign to criminalize doctors and strip women of their ability to make medical decisions.

Both the ban passed by Congress last year and the Nebraska legislation would interfere with the basic responsibility of medical professionals to inform patients of all options and the ability of women to choose a procedure that is safest and most appropriate for them. Thirty years after Roe vs. Wade it should be unthinkable that a doctor could be prosecuted as a criminal for performing an abortion with a medically appropriate procedure, yet that is what would happen under this law. (*Adapted from a news alert from the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice.*)

President Bush has announced his plan to select Dr. W. David Hager to chair the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) Reproductive Health Drugs Advisory Committee. He has already been appointed to the committee that has not met for more than two years, during which time its charter lapsed. As a result, the Bush Administration will be filling all 11 positions with new members. This position does not require Congressional approval.

The FDA's Reproductive Health Drugs Advisory Committee makes crucial decisions on matters relating to drugs used in the practice of obstetrics, gynecology and related specialties, including hormone therapy, contraception, treatment for infertility, and medical alternatives to surgical procedures for sterilization and pregnancy termination.

Dr. Hager is the author of "As Jesus Cared for Women: Restoring Women Then and Now." The book blends biblical accounts of Christ healing Women with case studies from Hager's practice. His views of (continued page 4)

President's Message

As if our normal election season whirlwind of activity was not enough, Hurricane Ivan forced a postponement of the League's Know Your Town Fair (KYTF) to Saturday, October 2. This postponement is an opportunity to add new groups to the 42 who have already signed up; if you know of any non-profits that would like to participate in KYTF, give Heather Holman a call (978-500-0626).

Running debates, watching presidential or state-level debates, registering new voters, helping people find their precinct on election day ... if you've got a spare hour, or five or six, contact Diana Walsh, our voter service chair, and find out how you can help in this election season. More information inside.

Our study and action groups, 1) Sustainability and Natural Resources, 2) Affordable Housing, and the 3) Center Study, have attracted many energetic members who are busily planning their program for the year. New members are always welcome. Thanks to Sue Dennett, our Units chair, for sitting in on meetings of each group to explain the sometimes intricate League procedures. While the League procedures have stood the test of time and work to keep the League non-partisan and deliberative, these same procedures can seem inscrutable at times – especially to newcomers. Please feel free to contact either Sue Dennett or me if you'd like clarification on procedures.

Thanks go to the Affordable Housing group for presenting an informative forum on September 30 comparing approaches to affordable housing in neigh-

boring communities.

The LWV's annual Phonathon Sunday evening, October 3, is an important state and local League fundraiser. Thank go to all contributors and to those who volunteered their time.

All members and guests are welcome to join the LWV tour of the Andover Water Treatment Plant, Rt. 133 (Haggets Pond) at 10:45 AM, October 6. The tour is preceded by a board meeting, also at the Water Treatment Plant, to which all members are also welcome.

The state League's Fall Conference, Saturday, October 30, promises workshops and panel discussions on timely topics, such as the justice system, health care and elections. See inside for more details.

I'd like to take a minute to thank those who keep the LWV running, including Michael Frishman as Bulletin editor extraordinaire, who makes it look so easy! Also, thanks to Andrea Zaines for handling the key Bulletin tasks of production and mailing.

Last, but not least, come join us at our monthly Lunch and Conversation. Guaranteed: no awkward silences! This is a great way to meet people and catch up on happenings. Held the 14th of each month (Thursday, October 14) at Panera's in North Andover 11:30 AM – 1 PM. If the 14th falls on a weekend, the gathering moves to the Friday before the weekend. Mark your calendar for the year! – *Peggy Kruse*

**Register *today* for LWVMA
Fall Conference**
(see Page 7 - www.lwvm.org)

LWV Andover/North Andover 2004-2005 MEMBERSHIP

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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

reproductive health care are far outside the mainstream for reproductive technology. Dr. Hager is a practicing OB/GYN who describes himself as “pro-life” and refuses to prescribe contraceptives to unmarried women.

In the book Dr. Hager wrote with his wife, “Stress and the Woman’s Body,” he suggests that women who suffer from premenstrual syndrome should seek help from reading the bible and praying. As an editor and contributing author of “The Reproduction Revolution: A Christian Appraisal of Sexuality Reproductive Technologies and the Family,” Dr. Hager appears to have endorsed the medically inaccurate assertion that the common birth control pill is an abortifacient. (*Adapted from the National Women’s Health Network website*)

Sustainability/Natural Resources

By C. Joyce Ringleb

The committee met September 13 and it was exciting to see what we can contribute to the League.

We look forward to seeing you all at the Andover Water Treatment Plant October 6, 10:45 AM immediately following the monthly Board meeting at that location. Please arrive a few minutes early; unfortunately the building is not handicap accessible and we will be going up and down stairs. Invite a friend to join the tour and meet League members.

Join us November 8, 7:00 PM, Edgewood, North Andover, for a forum on water quality, quantity and conservation that we are co-hosting with the residents of Edgewood. Our presenters are Mike Davis, drinking water advocate; Dennis Bedrosian, Superintendent of the North Andover Water Treatment Plant; Cyndi Vaughn, Andover Water Treatment Plant; and Everett Penny, Andover Health Director. This tour is open to residents of both Towns so please plan to attend with several friends.

Our November 15 forum, “Taking Action Locally for a Healthy Positive Future,” will be 7:30 PM at The Savings Bank, 64 Main Street, Andover. At the town level there are many decisions we can influence that affect health, our environment and the quality of life for us and generations that follow – reducing energy consumption, minimizing use of toxics, restoring habitat, designing green buildings, and more. Beth Tener of Sustainable Step New England will be our guest speaker.

The next Organic Lawn Care Workshop will be Saturday, April 2, 2005 (not March 26 as in the Handbook Calendar) at West Parish Church in Andover. Our guest

The LWVMA PHONOTHON 2004

is Sunday, October 3 – Please be as generous when you get your letter/call! The League depends on your generosity especially in this important election year. A/NA calls (pizza & snacks too!) will be made 6:00 - 9:00 PM, at Coldwell Banker/Hunneman, 305 N. Main St., Andover – to volunteer to make calls contact Peggy Kruse, 978-474-0176

speaker will be Ann McGovern from DEP.

The next meeting is October 18, 7:30 at The Savings Bank, 64 Main Street, Andover.

Centers Study

The committee is actively researching its two goals. First, on formulating a proposed position on a senior center for the Town of Andover and second, on updating our current position on a youth/community center. (Please refer to page 20 in your League handbook, section C, under Youth Services and Facilities.) In preparation for Unit meetings, consensus questions have been sent to the Board for their approval. These will appear in a future Bulletin. The next meeting is Wednesday, October 6, 2 PM, location TBA. All comments and suggestions are welcome – and for location of next meeting, contact Lolli Sumberg, 978-475-7455, lolliumberg@comcast.net

Publicity Matters

By Cynde Egan, Publicity Chair

Sharing information about your committee’s upcoming or recent event not only helps build interest in your issue, it builds interest in the League!

Research shows that Americans believe they can be most effective in small groups working on specific, local issues and are more likely to join organizations that offer this type of opportunity to make a difference. You and your committee are proof that the League of Women Voters Andover/North Andover is such an organization – so please take the time to share your work!

My goal is to have the LWV-A/NA appear in the local news outlets at least twice a month and the Boston press once a quarter – but it cannot happen without you. So, let’s share!

An LWV Event Publicity Form is available to help

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.

you get started – contact me and I will email or send you the form. Simply provide as much information as you have and send it back to me by email (ddrin@aol.com), fax (978-749-8053), or phone (978-749-7158). I will draft a press release, poster, etc., for your review and send the final version to the appropriate news outlets.

Observer Report

Andover Townwide PTO

by Diane Hender

September 17 – In attendance at this first meeting of the new school year: Superintendent Bach, School Committee liaison Art Barber, and representatives from all eleven PTOs and PACs. Also, Lisa Campbell, Facilities Coordinator for the Town.

Last year's moderator, Kristin Wise, presented the slate of officers for the coming year: Christy Pappas, moderator, and Mary Jo Gustus, secretary. Their election was unanimous.

In her welcoming remarks, Dr. Bach mentioned some of the problems encountered with busing during the first days of school, including overcrowding on some routes. Over the summer a new contract was awarded to low bidder, Trombly. Because Trombly and Parent (which will retain athletics transportation) had shared the contract in previous years, the former had to acquire new buses and additional drivers. Apparently some drivers in the past had made special stops not on the schedule in order to accommodate individual children and, when this wasn't done, rides were missed. The new transportation coordinator, Mim McLaughlin, has worked with parents and Trombly to iron out misunderstandings and adjust routes.

Dr. Bach also reported that West Elementary School and Wood Hill Middle School did not make *Adequate Yearly Progress* in terms of the MCAS results of certain subgroups. This predetermined incremental progress is a particular challenge for districts where scores already are high. *No Child Left Behind* mandates that students in subgroups not performing adequately in mathematics and/or

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English language arts be identified for special attention. In Andover, the concern is for any student (regardless of building or subgroup status) not evidencing adequate progress; remedial plans are developed for students in the targeted subgroups and for those identified internally as needing additional assistance. State funding for remedial instruction is available only for high school students in danger of not meeting the MCAS requirement for graduation.

Dr. Bach commented on the well-publicized issue of lead in some of water fixtures, and praised Plant & Facilities Manager Joe Piantedosi for his prompt and proactive plan to rectify the problem. Building systems are being flushed daily, and suspect brass fixtures are being replaced. One line at Doherty was contaminated, and water fountains temporarily have been replaced with bottle coolers. The drinking water in all buildings is safe for human consumption.

Dr. Bach is reluctant to comply with District Attorney Blodgett's directive for the handling of student incidents that could be considered criminal. She, Principal Peter Anderson, and school committee members believe that it is in students' best interests if school administrators are able to use their own discretion in handling in-house situations.

WMS PAC president, Bill Pennington, expressed concern that town sports associations find it difficult to utilize high school facilities, but that HS teams regularly use other town fields. Dr. Bach explained the "pecking order" for scheduling all school facilities: school events are given priority and can bump previously scheduled outside organizations.

Carol Lowenstein (Sanborn) reported that Duane Lowenstein is the new town coordinator for Destination Imagination and that an informational meeting will be held at the high school during the second week of October. Registration forms for potential participants will be distributed in every building. DI is an international program

designed to develop creativity, teamwork, and problem-solving skills in children. Going back to the similar Odyssey of the Mind, DI has a well-established and successful history in Andover.

Representatives from the various schools reported on new programs and events planned for the year. ELF, a new hands-on science program for elementary students, is being introduced at High Plain thanks to a \$3,000 grant from the PTO and active classroom participation by parents. The “future begins here,” with a focus on citizenship and community, is the theme at Sanborn this year. Among other activities, a mock election is planned for late October. Andover High has 1,756 students, with 27 students out-placed. The building is reported to be at 110% of capacity. Thirteen FTEs were hired over the summer to satisfy the DOE time-on-learning requirement, and over 90 percent of students have more than seven credits scheduled for the year. Teachers are sharing classrooms, which makes it difficult for students to locate them when in need of extra help. Halls are very crowded, and there are not enough chairs in the cafeteria to allow all students to sit during their lunches. The advisory program introduced two years ago has been dropped, and guidance counselors hope to meet with their students in small groups of 6-8. Doherty experienced first week problems with overcrowded buses and too few lunches available for the third and last group. Doherty parents also are concerned about the absence of a formal health curriculum at their school, and are trying to develop an after-school series to cover the issues addressed by health educators at the other two middle schools.

John Roberts (SEPAC) announced a new pre-vocational/vocational program developed with the Service Club of Andover for high school students in the life skills curriculum. This will be in addition to the Service Club’s mentoring program for juniors that they have sponsored for several years.

All representatives expressed concern about funding for the FY06 school year, and beyond, and they are looking for ways to restore programs and reduce or eliminate fees. Dr. Bach remarked that she no longer is receiving calls of complaint about busing and other fees and believes that the community is resigned to them. Art Barber commented that he still is receiving these calls. He reported that the budget cycle is beginning and that the school committee has the first draft of the FY06 CIP; that, after a summer hiatus, contract negotiations with the AEA will resume, and that district goals and the superintendent’s goals are being developed. Enrollments have been a major concern, and have been addressed in some buildings with additional hires.

Mary Jo Gustus reviewed revised PTO food guidelines, as well as the requirements for raffle permits, two very important topics for PTOs/PACs needing to raise significant funds to support their schools.

Election Reminder Service

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League of Women Voters of Massachusetts Fall Conference



Saturday, October 30

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Our Choices, Our Future

Vote 2004

Keynote speaker

Dolores Mitchell

Vice President, Political Planning
National Women's Political Caucus
Founder, Massachusetts Women's
Political Caucus

Luncheon speaker

Martha Coakley

District Attorney
Middlesex County
Massachusetts

Registration – 9:00 a.m.

Keynote – 9:30 a.m.

Panel Discussion *Our Choices, Our Future* – 10:15 a.m.

Panelists

Health Care

Judith Kurland

former Regional Director for the
Department of Health and Human Services

Security

Harvey Sapolsky

Director, Security Studies Program
MIT

Education

Paul Reville

Executive Director, Rennie Center for
Education Research & Policy, MassINC

The Economy

John Walgreen

Director, Public Policy Program
Wheaton College

Lunch – 12 noon

Workshops – 1:30-3:30 p.m.

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Justice in Massachusetts?
Campaign Finance Reform – What is the Way
Solving the Healthcare Crisis?

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League of Women Voters Andover/North Andover Calendar

OCTOBER

- Fri 1 Watch the Presidential Debate – 9:30 AM, Diana Walsh, 23 Greybirch Rd, Andover
Sat 2 Know Your Town Fair 10 AM - 1 PM, Andover Town House, Main ST
Sun 3 LWVMA Phonothon – 6:00 - 9:00 PM, Coldwell Banker/Hunneman, 305 N. Main St., Andover
Tues 5 LWV Day at the United Nations, NYC: Status of the Environment Around the World
Wed 6 Board Meeting – 9:15 AM, Water Treatment Plant, Andover (Haggetts Pond, Lowell St/Rt 133) – tour at 10:45
Wed 6 Centers Study – 2 PM, TBA (contact Lolli Sumberg 978-475-7455)
Wed 13 Last day to register to vote in the Presidential election
Wed 13 Watch the Presidential Debate – 9:30 PM, Diana Walsh, 23 Greybirch Rd, Andover
Thur 14 Lunch and Conversation – 11:30 AM Panera's (Rte 133 & 125)
Mon 18 Sustainability/Natural Resources – 7:30 PM, The Savings Bank, 64 Main St, Andover
Wed 20 November Bulletin Deadline (email frishma@comcast.net)
Thur 21 **New Date!** State Senate and Representative Candidates Debate – 7:00 PM, Andover Library
Wed 27 Affordable Housing – 7:30 PM, Barbara Somers, 18 Royal Crest #12, N.Andover
Sat 30 LWVM Fall Conference (see page 7)

NOVEMBER

- Tue 2 Election Day
Wed 3 Board Meeting – 7:15 PM, Diane Hender, 6 Millstone Cl, Andover

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