



Bulletin

April 2010

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League of Women Voters of Andover/North Andover

President's Letter

By Stefani Traina

Welcome to April, by far the busiest month for the League. April's activities include the Andover Budget Forum, Town Meeting Preview, Member Warrant Unit, Arbor Day festivities, Day on the Hill and Town Meeting. North Andover's Town Meeting begins May 11, so there are budget meetings and preparations underway there, as well.

Andover's third annual Budget Forum, co-sponsored with the Service Club of Andover, is being coordinated by new League member, Bonnie Zahorik. Bonnie has brought a valuable perspective to the planning of the forum and we are once again encouraging citizens to both attend and to submit email questions ahead of time to presidentLWVANA@lww-andovers.org. Please send us your questions.

Andover's Town Meeting Preview preparations are underway, thanks to committee members Becci Backman, Amy Janovsky, Diana Walsh, Maureen Sundberg and Bonnie Zahorik. We hope you'll join us (or tune in) on Thursday, April 15 at 7:00 p.m., School Committee Room, and then join us at the Member Warrant Unit on Friday, April 16, 10:00 a.m. Activity Room, MHL to decide which Warrant articles we want to take positions on before Town Meeting.

LWVMA's Day on the Hill is Wednesday, April 28. Diana Walsh is coordinating our trip to the State House this year. We hope you'll join us for this opportunity to hear from our state League legislation specialists and to highlight LWVMA's advocacy priorities as we meet with our legislators over lunch. Details appear in this Bulletin.

Many thanks to those who worked on our Andover Candidates' Forum: Becci Backman, Maureen Sundberg and our moderator from the LWV of Greater Haverhill, Eva Valentine. The forum aired live and was rebroadcast on local cable and available online, thanks to Wess Murphy and his staff.

North Andover's Candidates' Forum, taped at the North Andover cable studio, was organized and professional, thanks to Sandy Gleed and Kathy Stevens and Brian Fraser at NACAM. Many thanks to Heather McNeil and all of the League members who attended.

Andover's local election on March 23 saw very low voter turnout (7%). Many thanks to the following *Continued on page 4*



Weathering the Fiscal Storm: Andover's FY-2011 Budget

**A Public Forum Co-sponsored by
League of Women Voters of Andover/North Andover
And
Service Club of Andover**

Wednesday, April 7, 2010

7:30 PM – 9:30 PM

Memorial Hall Library

**Panelists include representatives
from the:
Finance Committee
Board of Selectmen
School Committee
and
Town Manager Buzz Stapczynski
School Superintendent Dr. Claudia Bach**

Can't attend? E-mail questions by April 2 to:
presidentLWVANA@lww-andovers.org
(this program will be broadcast live and taped for re-broadcast)

North Andover Vice President Report

By Sandy Glead, VP North Andover

March was a busy month for North Andover politics. The League of Women Voters hosted a live-broadcast candidate forum at the NACAM studio and implemented some format changes that promise to make our forums must-see events in the years ahead.

Eloquent candidates, better video and sound quality, as well as content-rich questions prompted some great public feedback. League President Stefani Traina did a wonderful job moderating the event – we'll need a North Andover LWV member to fill that role next year. Moderator training is provided by the LWV – contact me if you're interested. It's a nice way to become involved and serve our town with only one night of commitment!

Thanks to the efforts of Heather McNeil, LWV member and Stand for Children Andover/North Andover chapter leader, I accompanied Heather and School Committee members Laurie Burzloff and Chris Nobile to the fourth annual Stand for Children rally at the State House. We briefly visited both towns' legislative delegation offices and we were especially grateful for the significant time Representative Barbara L'Italien spent meeting with us. We discussed local concerns about cuts in local aid/Chapter 70 funding and the special education circuit-breaker reimbursement funding for schools.

Three days later the four of us met with Representative David Torrisi in North Andover, and had a great discussion focusing on the same topics. The common factor in these discussions is that falling revenues, and expenses rising faster than revenues can keep up with, are creating enormous challenges at both the State level and the local level...in every city and town across the Commonwealth...in every state across the country. The million dollar question [no pun intended] is: how do we preserve government services that citizens depend on under these economic circumstances?

The Boston Globe ran an op-ed piece recently that asserted that voters are worried, frustrated and angry and are turning away from politics; voters are giving up. When I read that piece I

Join Us for Lunch!

It's a great way to meet League Members and to keep up with events

We meet at 11:30 on the 14th of every month
[or the Friday before if the 14th falls on a weekend]

Everyone is Welcome.

Next Date:

Wednesday, April 14th
Panera Bread, corner of Rtes
114 & 133., North Andover.



agreed with the authors' conclusion because I see it in the lack of candidates for public office; I see it in the total absence of parents attending School Committee meetings; I see it when I can count on one hand the number of attendees to Board of Selectmen meetings; I see it week after week when I am the only public attendee at Finance Committee meetings. I've seen it for years in the lack of informed voters attending Annual Town Meeting.

What is wrong with this picture? If you are concerned, if you are a disenfranchised voter, this is exactly the right time to become engaged – to walk away solidifies the status quo or supports the very things you are most worried about. Become engaged, address your issues, talk to your elected and appointed leaders and you can become a part of the solution, not a part of the problem.

Please, become engaged. Participate in LWV events. Forward this newsletter to your friends. Let them know that there are many organizations and opportunities to become informed and involved. The involvement spectrum ranges from regular, active commitment, to watching a video, to maybe spending ten minutes a month reading an article.

Let's commit to investing time in our future.

Nominating

The Nominating Committee is initiating its process of identifying and recruiting candidates for our 2010-2011 Board of Directors. Anyone who has a love for the League, an appreciation for its programs, and an interest in working with a dedicated board is the right candidate for our many open positions. Positions range from lesser to greater time commitments, but **all positions are important** and one is right for you! A list of the open board positions and a description of the duties is available on the LWV of Andover/North Andover website at: <http://www.lwv-andovers.org/members.html> under the header of LWV ANA Board Positions.

If you have an interest, please contact Amy Janovsky (978.475.8655, amy-janovsky@comcast.net) or Joan Duff (978.685.3212, jandjduff@verizon.net) to talk about the positions, to nominate yourself or another member.

Andover Town Meeting Preview

Thursday, April 15 at 7:00 p.m.
School Committee Room
Whittier Court

Member Warrant Forum

Friday, April 16 at 10:00 a.m.
Activity Room
Memorial Hall Library

House Finally Passes Comprehensive Health Care Reform "Monumental, Historic and Transforming" Says League

The following statement was issued on March 21, 2010 by Mary G. Wilson, President of the League of Women Voters of the United States:

"Today's votes by the U.S. House of Representatives mark an historic milestone in American political history. The path that began with Social Security and continued with Medicare is reaching fruition with this health care legislation. Comprehensive health care reform will begin to undo decades of neglect and inaction that has left millions of Americans uninsured and at risk.

"This legislation is a monumental step in the fight for social justice.

"Too many citizens lack adequate health insurance coverage and rising costs threaten everyone. Passage of comprehensive health care legislation greatly expands coverage to include millions more Americans; protects the coverage that currently delivers care to most; reduces costs over the long term; and accomplishes these goals at a reasonable cost.

"It would be difficult to overstate the importance of today's actions, and we commend our elected representatives for standing up for Americans and having the courage to do what needs to be done to confront the health care crisis in our country. The League congratulates the House leadership on a closely-fought victory.

"We can expect transformational reform from these bills. Access to health care will be extended to all Americans. Mechanisms to control rising costs will be put in place. And the marketplace will be expanded and safeguards put in place to protect consumers.

"Truly, this legislation is monumental, historic and transforming.

"Today we took the critical step in dealing with the current health care crisis. Tomorrow, many Americans will wake up to a new week and a new future that looks a great deal more promising."

Citizens Legislative Seminar

By Amy Janovsky

After hearing about it for several years, I recently had the opportunity to participate in the State Citizen's Legislative Seminar. The program has been streamlined, so that it now takes place in a two-day session rather than over six weeks. The program started with Sen. Richard Moore giving a history of the legislature and the formal legislative process, followed by a discussion of the informal legislative process by Senator Steven Baddour, of Methuen. Senate Clerk William Welch gave a detailed account of the Senate rules and procedures, and then we moved on to a discussion of the state of the economy and the budget with Ways and Means Committee Chairman Steven Panagiotakos. The first day ended with discussion of outside influences on the Legislature and its future.

Homework consisted of reviewing background information and draft language for a Distracted Driving Bill, which we discussed in a simulated hearing the next morning. We adjourned our committee hearing and moved on to the Senate Chamber for a simulated Senate Session with Senate President Therese Murray presiding. After a lively debate, our group of 48 participants voted on the legislation--only to end in a tie! We took a terrific State House Tour, and then had a panel of experts advise us on how to observe the Senate, and find information about scheduled hearings. Attorney General Martha Coakley spoke about the role of the Attorney General's office, and mentioned that her office has just been given oversight of the Open Meeting Law. Rick Musiol, who has worked with Sen. President Therese Murray for ten years, wrapped up the session with advice on how citizens can participate effectively in the legislative process. To attend the seminar, one must be nominated by a member of the Massachusetts Senate, so if you're interested, be sure to let your Senator know! Anne Ziaja, who heads the program, hopes to offer a second session later this year. I recommend it highly.

Many thanks to Senator Sue Tucker for my nomination.



Join Us!
Local Program Planning
 Tuesday, April 6 at 7:00 p.m.
 Stefani Traina's
 6 Roulston Circle, Andover
 978-470-3140
steftraina@verizon.net for more info

Help set the League's agenda for next year.
 Ideas for projects are welcome.
 Regular board meeting to follow

<p>Andover Town Meeting Wednesday, April 28, 7:00 p.m. Thursday, April 29, 7:00 p.m. Collins Field House, Andover High School Monday, May 3, Tuesday, May 4 7:00 p.m. (if needed) Collins Center Auditorium, Andover High School</p>
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Legislative Action

By Diana Walsh

Please read the LWVMA Action Alert below. I have also included the League's position on this issue. More information including background research can be found on the website www.lwvma.org.

Gender Neutral Bills in Joint Committee on Financial Services

Contact the Committee Members in Your District Today

The Joint Committee on Financial Services is considering five bills that relate to gender-neutral policies in insurance products and premiums. The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts supports Gender Equity in Insurance Policies in Massachusetts. With the momentum of the big win with the annuity bill in 2008, it is important to move on to the next piece of this 30-year project.

Please read the list of bills below and ask your members to contact your state Senator or Representative to support H3447 and to oppose H1059, H1060, H889, and S509.

Please Support:

H3447- An Act Providing for Equitable Coverage in Disability Policies - passage of the this bill will require that disability policies sold to MA residents must be gender-neutral in all terms and conditions of the contract, including premiums and benefits. below for More information. [www.lwvma.org/PositionPapers/2009/An Act Relative to Equitable Coverage in Disability Policies](http://www.lwvma.org/PositionPapers/2009/AnActRelativeToEquitableCoverageInDisabilityPolicies) or www.lwvma.org/Disability%20policies.pdf

Please Oppose:

H1059 and H1060, if passed, would repeal the League-sponsored gender-neutral annuity bill passed last session.

H889 and S509 would allow Savings Bank Life Insurance (SBLI) to sell gender-based products after 100 years of selling gender-neutral products. These bills passed in the last session, but then were vetoed by the Governor.

Thank you for contacting your state Legislator with a quick phone call and email on behalf of your district and the League of Women Voters. Below is a list of state Senators and Representatives for you to share with your members.

Joint Committee on Financial Services Contact List - Senators:

Senator Stephen Buoniconti, Chair - (Springfield, Hampden, Chicopee, Agawam) Phone: 617.722.1660; Email: Stephen.Buoniconti@state.ma.us

Senator Susan Tucker - (Andover - North Andover) Phone: 617.722.1612; Email: Susan.Tucker@state.ma.us

Senator Mark Montigny - (Marion-Mattapoisett-Rochester) Phone: 617.722.1440 ;Email: Mark.Montigny@state.ma.us

Brian Joyce - (Milton, Sharon-Stoughton)

LWVMA POSITION:

An Act Relative to Equitable Coverage in Disability Policies - HD 1383 Elizabeth Dunn, LWVMA Equal Rights/Reproductive Rights Specialist The League of Women Voters urges you to support "An Act Relative to Equitable Coverage in Disability Policies" - HD 1383. Lead Sponsors: Rep. Ruth Balsler and Rep. Alice Wolf

Background: When women have a non-job-related disability, they, like men, are dependent on disability insurance for income replacement. Currently, disability insurance is classified by sex, with women paying more than men for the same benefits and sometimes with other terms and conditions attached, such as pregnancy.

All job-related accidents and illnesses are covered by Workers Compensation Insurance, which all employers are required to purchase, that is gender neutral, thereby fulfilling the promise of the state's Equal Rights Amendment that state laws will treat men and women equally.

Talking Points:

- Social Security disability benefits are gender neutral.
- Workers Compensation Insurance benefits are gender neutral.
- This bill will have no negative impact on the state budget. In fact, passage of this bill would help reduce the number of women who need state aid when they have a non-job-related disability.

President's Letter continued from page 1

League members who gave their time at the League precincting table: Maureen Sundberg, Susie Novick, Annette Grams, Ann Cobleigh, Joan Duff, Susan Stott, Becci Backman, Chris Young, Peggy Kruse, Liz Elowe, Ellen Sebasky, Mary Beth Nason and Cynthia Barakatt. Thank you to Molly Bicking for organizing the shifts and to all of you who put out your VOTE signs. We're likely to see much higher turnout at this fall's primary election on September 14 and state election on November 2.

Finally, the work of the League tends to be carried out by a dedicated group of individuals who value becoming informed and helping to inform others about the important issues of the day. And we understand that it can take a while to learn how the League works. Joining a League working group is a great way to meet other League members and helps share the workload and include other perspectives. If you have an idea for a League project, let us know. We're always looking for ways to engage our citizens in government, and for ways to involve new members. We're also filling board positions for next year, and Joan Duff joanduff@verizon.net and Amy Janovsky amyjanovsky@comcast.net would be happy to find a slot for you. Many are time-limited and all are valuable as we keep this grassroots organization moving forward.

Now more than ever we need an organization like the League to provide nonpartisan, reliable voter service and citizen education opportunities. We also need League members to engage and advocate for the issues that we've studied and agreed upon at the local, state and national level. Please be sure to complete the LWVMA survey that you received, as it will provide valuable information to shape the future activities of the state League, which will turn 90 on May 27!

The Andover Budget Forum will be Wednesday, April 7 at 7:30

by Bonnie Zahorik

This year, the League and the Service Club of Andover are once again sponsoring a budget forum to allow Andover residents to engage directly with town leaders to better understand the budget before attending Town Meeting. We are pleased that this is becoming an annual event. This year's forum is titled: Weathering the Fiscal Storm: Andover's FY-2011 Budget. The forum will be held at Memorial Library for 2 hours (7:30-9:30) to allow ample time for questions. Stefani Traina will moderate the forum.

I'm excited to be coordinating this event as a new LWV member this year. After attending Andover's Town Meetings last year, including the August and October special Town Meetings, I was determined to learn more about the town and school budget. I learned of The League on my way out of a School Committee meeting and was particularly drawn to the league's mission of educating voters. In our open Town Meeting form of government, I view information and understanding as key to a good outcome. In planning this event, it's been good to see how supportive town leaders are of The League and events like this budget forum.

In the proposed agenda, we've asked speakers to cover the topics outlined below. The Q&A that follows the presentations will include audience questions as well as questions emailed in advance.

AGENDA:

Budget Basics – Finance Committee Chair: Joanne Marden

- Sources and Uses
- Budget components: operating budget, CIP, Enterprise Fund, revolving funds
- Financial Management (key principles, reserve accounts, bond ratings)

Town Budget Overview – Board of Selectmen Chair: Alex Vispoli (with Town Manager R. Stapczynski)

- Key changes in anticipated revenues for FY11
- Key drivers of expenses for FY11
- Cost reduction efforts
- Important CIP items

Schools Budget Overview – School Committee Chair: Dennis Forgue (with Superintendent Dr. Bach)

- Key changes in anticipated revenues for FY11
- Key drivers of expenses for FY11
- Cost reduction efforts
- Important CIP items

So, if you find yourself at Town Meeting with questions you wish you had been able to ask in advance, please join us at the budget forum and encourage your friends and neighbors to attend as well! If they cannot attend in person, it will air live on cable and also be taped for rebroadcast and made available online. To allow presenters to be prepared to thoroughly answer your questions (and we know you have great questions), please email them in advance to presidentLWVANA@lww-andovers.org.

LWVUS Program Planning Recommendation from our League

The League of Women Voters of Santa Cruz County, CA approached our League to join them in proposing a study that would broaden our fiscal policy position to reflect more recent developments in the financial world. At our League's program planning discussion, we had been inclined to recommend updating of the fiscal policy position, (which would be less expensive). After reviewing the request, however we concluded that a new study was important because of the many changes that have occurred since this issue was last addressed by LWVUS. Here is what was submitted by Becci Backman, VP Program/Action to LWVUS from our League.

Proposal: Study the role of the federal government in regulating financial institutions with a focus on: causes of the recent financial crisis, existing regulation of financial institutions, and measures to protect against future financial crises and ensure greater economic stability.

Scope: Study the causes of the recent economic crisis including predatory lending, sub prime mortgages, ratings of risky investment instruments, excessive leveraging, repeal of Glass-Steagall Act separating investment banking from commercial banking, and compensation practices providing incentives for short-term gain at the expense of long-term stability. Look at existing financial regulations including the role of the Federal Reserve Board, the Security and Exchange Commission, the FDIC and equivalent National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund, as well as relevant bankruptcy and anti-trust laws. Consider measures to protect the economy from future financial crisis including restoring protective separation of investment banking from commercial banking, regulating recently invented investment instruments such as hedge funds, securitized mortgages, and credit default swaps. Most of the work of the study committee can be conducted like the immigration study—with online discussion and reporting. Cost estimate: \$45,000 to \$50,000.

N. Andover School Committee Observer Report

By Heather McNeil

The North Andover School Committee, working with the Finance Committee, Board of Selectmen, Town Manager and school department heads and principals, are working together to close an \$861,589 budget gap between the School Department's recommended budget and the Town Manager's recommended budget. The School Department recently devised a list of reductions that *may* take place in order to close that gap (see chart below or see <http://www.northandoverpublicschools.com/documents/budget/fy11budget/impact-3-23-10.pdf> for more detailed information). If more money for the schools is available, the items on the list would be restored in the order shown in the table below.

There are many factors in the coming months that will determine the amount available to the schools for the 2010-2011 school year, some of which include:

- changes in local and state revenues including possible new sales taxes applied to soda and candy or a reduction in the sales tax as put forth on a ballot question this coming fall,

- the passage of a Municipal Relief Bill in some form (see the MMA website <http://www.municipalcareers.net/municipal-government/4424-municipal-relief-bill-sent-to-ways-and-means>),
- decisions made at the state level regarding local aid, Chapter 70 funding, and special education circuit breaker funding,
- recommendations by the Finance Committee, and possible Race to the Top funds being awarded to Massachusetts (watch the news this coming Monday, March 29th for an announcement as to which states will be awarded these grants).

Be a part of these decisions by attending local School Committee, Finance Committee, or Board of Selectmen meetings and participating in public comment and by contacting our state officials to ask them to support our local schools. You will find a list of our officials' contact information on the Andover/North Andover LWV website. Stay engaged and take action!

Rank	Reductions to Meet Town Manager's Adjusted Budget [Ranked in Restoration Order]
1	Middle School Textbooks, Supplies, Materials, and Equipment Expenses (10%)
2	Elementary Textbooks, Supplies, Materials, and Equipment Expenses (10%)
3	Systemwide Curriculum and Professional Development Expenses
4	Middle School Textbooks, Supplies, Materials, and Equipment Expenses (10%)
5	NAHS Special Education Inclusion Teacher (1.0)
6	Additional HS Textbooks, Supplies, Materials, and Equipment Expenses
7	Paraprofessional Reductions - Tier 1 (4.0)
8	Elementary Special Education Inclusion Teacher (0.5)
9	Elementary Special Education Inclusion Teacher (1.5)
10	Paraprofessional Reductions - Tier 2 (3.0)
11	High School Textbooks, Supplies, Materials, and Equipment Expenses (10%)
12	Elementary Teacher (1.0)
13	High School Textbooks, Supplies, Materials, and Equipment Expenses (10%)
14	Elementary Textbooks, Supplies, Materials, and Equipment Expenses (10%)
15	Paraprofessional Reductions - Tier 3 (2.8)
16	Systemwide Curriculum and Professional Development Expenses
17	NAHS Special Education Inclusion Teacher (0.5)
18	Social Worker (1.0)
19	Paraprofessional Hours Reductions (32.5 to 30)

Andover School Committee Update

by Bonnie Zahorik

With decisions regarding the Bancroft school and the selection of the new Superintendent, the School Committee has been busy since January. With key decisions made in those areas, their attention has turned to the budget as Town Meeting approaches. As of now, there is a gap of \$2.9 million between the Town Manager's recommended budget for the schools and the Superintendent's preliminary budget. (That gap was \$2.6 million initially, but the anticipated additional 4% cut to local aid increased the gap.)

How does the Town determine the recommended budget for the schools? Basically, the Town Manager adds up all available forms of revenue (e.g. anticipated property tax, state aid, meals, hotel and other excise taxes, permits, etc.) and subtracts out town-wide fixed costs (e.g. town and school retirement plan costs, health insurance costs, etc.) The resulting pool of available funds is then allocated to town departments and the schools. This year's allocation is 65% to the schools and 35% to town departments.

What does the Superintendent's budget include? The budget proposed by the Superintendent for the schools is a "level services" budget with the exception of one new special education program at AHS to accommodate a group of students (at a cost of \$100K) who would otherwise need to be sent to out of district programs at a far greater cost. Why, then, is there such a large gap between the preliminary town proposed and schools proposed numbers? The two most significant drivers of increased expenses are ongoing contractual obligations and a reduction in state reimbursement for mandated Special Education costs. Regarding salaries, the school budget does not include new cost of living increases, but the full impact of last year's contracted increase is now being felt by the budget. In addition, the contract requires certain increases for longevity and advancement (called "step" and "track" increases). Even after the contract expires in August, the schools will be obligated to operate under the current contract until a new contract is signed. On the Special Education front, the cost of Special Education mandates continue to increase, while state funding has dramatically decreased. In particular, the state has reduced what is called the SPED "circuit breaker" by 50% which translates to \$1.3 million less for our schools. On the positive side, the federal government may make additional funding available this year, but as was the case last year, Andover's allocation of the funding may be limited by state formulas or restricted to certain areas/types of programs. (Last year, Andover Schools did not receive any general federal stimulus (AARA) money, but did receive funding from a portion of the AARA program called "IDEA" which focused on SPED program funding.)

Upcoming Process: The School Committee is holding workshops currently to review expenses and deliberate possible reductions with high school, middle school, and elementary principals. If the School Committee must close the gap without additional money

allocated from the Town, dramatic reductions will be required, so some very high impact changes are under evaluation. These include increased class sizes, elimination of foreign language at the middle school and return to a traditional 5x7 schedule at AHS (versus the current block schedule). The School Committee expects to vote on a budget number on Monday or Tuesday, but they do not expect to be able to close the gap alone given the significant reductions in state aid. At last Thursday's Tri-Board meeting, the Selectmen, School Committee members, and Finance Committee members agreed to form a Tri-Board Subcommittee to work together and attempt to reconcile budget gaps before Andover's Town Meeting on April 28th. This agreement was received positively by those residents in attendance.

Save the Date! **LWVMA COUNCIL 2010** **90 Years of Making a Difference**



Saturday, May 22, 2010
Lasell College, Newton, MA

Agenda

- 10:30am Registration - \$45.00 for lunch, workshops and reception
- 11:00am Keynote Speaker and Plenary
- 12:30pm Luncheon and Margaret Fuller Performer
- 2:30pm Workshops
- 5:00pm Reception and LWVMA Birthday Celebration



FACT: Friends of Andover Community Trees

FACT is all about trees.

We want Andover's trees to receive the care and attention they need, so that they may continue to provide the many benefits we all enjoy.

FACT's mission: "To provide for the education and involvement of Andover residents and town officials in maintaining and improving Andover's urban forest."

To learn more, contact Chris Young, Chair at andovertrees@verizon.net

Programs sponsored by the
Friends of Memorial Hall Library.



Memorial Hall Library

2 North Main St., Andover

978-623-8401, ext. 31 or 32

www.mhl.org

Follow us on Facebook & Twitter!

Questions? www.mhl.org/ask

TAKE TIME FOR TREES ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION 2010



PRESENTED BY
MEMORIAL HALL LIBRARY AND
FACT: FRIENDS OF ANDOVER
COMMUNITY TREES

Take Time for Trees

Arbor Day is a time to plant, learn about, and celebrate trees. It began as a tree-planting holiday in Nebraska in 1872, and spread nationwide soon after. In Massachusetts, we observe Arbor Day on the last Friday in April. We invite you to join us as we take time for trees in April, for both Earth Day (April 22) and Arbor Day (April 30).

Test Your Tree Knowledge

April 17-30

Memorial Hall Library, Lower Level and First Floor

How much do you know about our local trees? Visit the library for an open-book tree quiz for adults/teens (first floor) and children (lower level). Correctly completed quizzes will be entered into a prize drawing for either *The Sibley Guide to Trees* or a *Trees of North America* jigsaw puzzle. Prizes donated by FACT.

Help Mother Nature's Forest

April 1-30

Memorial Hall Library, Lower Level

Add a leaf to Mother Nature's forest, and share your ideas for helping trees and the environment. Original painting by Darlyne Michaud.

For Kids: Plant a Forest!

April 21, 2:30-3:30pm

Memorial Hall Library

Grades K-5 (limit 25)

To register, call the Children's Room at 978-623-8401 x39.



Celebrate Earth Day and Arbor Day, too! A viewing of a tree-related movie will be followed by planting acorns. Helped by the Junior Friends, each participant will have a potential oak tree to take home. We will discuss how the forest in the story grew and how to care for the acorn.

Who's Using That Tree?

Saturday, April 17, 9:30am

Memorial Hall Library

For adults and families



Trees play an important role in our woodland ecosystems, and many organisms have special relationships with them. Learn about local native trees and their importance to animals including birds, mammals, insects and more. Presented by Scott Santino, Naturalist, Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary.

Healthy Trees Enhance Your Home

Saturday, April 17, 11am

Memorial Hall Library

Learn how to select, plant, prune, and care for trees that will thrive on your property. Trees add beauty, shade, and wildlife habitat; they can also help you save money on heating and cooling your home. Presented by Patrick Smith, National Grid Arborist.

Shred, Recycle, and Save a Tree!

Free Community Shredding Event

Saturday, April 24, 9 am — noon

Memorial Hall Library parking lot



Clean out your office, and securely shred ALL (yes, all) of those old personal or confidential documents and bills! Documents will be shredded on-site. For every 1,000 pounds of paper shredded, we save seven mature trees! Shredding truck provided by ProShred® Springfield.

For Teens!

Memorial Hall Library Teen Room (grades 6-12)

Decoupage Switch Plates—Thursday, April 15 from 3-4pm

Create Your Own Terrarium—Thursday, April 22 at 3pm until supplies run out!





2010 LWVMA ANNUAL DAY ON THE HILL

Getting Around in Massachusetts



A PANEL DISCUSSION ON TRANSPORTATION

Wednesday, April 28, 2010
Massachusetts State House, Boston

Agenda - Gardner Auditorium

- 9:00am Registration- Gardner Auditorium
- 9:30am Panel Presentation - Q&A follows
- 11:00am LWVMA Legislative Updates
- 12:00pm Adjourn to Lobby State Legislators

The Panel will:

- Explore a re-organization of the Mass. Dept. of Transportation.
- Examine the financing, the environmental impact and the balance of public and private modalities in all areas of transportation in the state.
- Educate League members in advance of the LWVMA Re-study of our 1973 Transportation position.

League Specialists will:

- Report on key legislation and LWVMA action priorities for the current legislative session.
- Answer all your program related questions.

Parking in the Boston Common Garage or take the T via Green Line Park Street Station

For more information visit www.lwvma.org, call (617) 523-2999, or email lwvma@lwvma.org.

This is always an interesting and educational event. Please let me know if you will attend.

Diana Walsh, Legislative Action

Margo1m@comcast.net or 978 689 3740

Member News

LWV Virginia Cole Scholarship

By Becci Backman, Andover VP for Program & Action

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. If you would like to read applications and help make the decision, please contact me: raback@ix.netcom.com.

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:

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P.O. Box 514
Andover, MA 01810

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Deadline: April 30

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(2+ persons in same household)
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_____ In addition to my membership, I'd like to make a contribution of \$_____.

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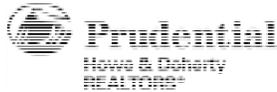
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Schedule of Events

Date	Time	Place	Event
Tuesday, April 6	7:00 p.m.	6 Roulston Circle Andover,	Board Meeting & Local Program Planning. All members welcome.
Wednesday, April 7	7:30 pm	Memorial Hall Library 3 Main Street, Andover,	Andover Budget Forum. Free and open to the public. Will be televised live and taped for rebroadcast.
Wednesday, April 14	11:30am-1pm	Panera Bread Rt. 133 & 114; N. Andover	Lunch & Conversation. An informal gathering of League members. Everyone welcome.
Thursday, April 15	7:00 pm	Andover School Committee Room Whittier Court Andover, MA	Andover Town Meeting Preview. An overview of the budget, and the pros and cons of selected Warrant articles will be presented by League members.
Friday, April 16	10:00-noon	Activity Room, Andover Memorial Hall Library	Member Warrant Unit Meeting. Discuss articles and decide whether to take a position at Town Meeting.
Saturday, April 17	11am	Andover Memorial Hall Library	Healthy Trees Enhance Your Home.
Friday, April 23			May Bulletin Deadline.
Wednesday, April 28	9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.	State House, Boston	League Day on the Hill.
Wednesday, April 28	7 pm	AHS Collins Field House	Andover Town Meeting.
Thursday, April 29	7pm	AHS Collins Field House	Andover Town Meeting.
Monday, May 3	7pm	Collins Center	Andover Town Meeting.
Tuesday, May 4	7pm	Collins Center	Andover Town Meeting.
Wednesday, May 5	9:15am	23 Oak Street, Andover, MA	Board Meeting. All members welcome.
Tuesday, May 11	7:00 pm	N. Andover HS, 430 Osgood Street, N. Andover,	North Andover Town Meeting.
Friday, May 14	11:30am-1pm	Panera Bread Rt. 133 & 114; N. Andover	Lunch & Conversation. An informal gathering of League members. Everyone welcome.
Wednesday, May 19	6pm	Marland Place 15 Stevens Street, Andover	Annual Meeting.
Saturday, May 22	11:00 am-7:00 pm	Lasell College Newton, MA	LWVMA Council: 90 Years of Making a Difference. Business Meeting and Workshops

April

May

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