



Bulletin

December 2005

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P.O. Box 514
Andover, Massachusetts 01810
www.LWV-Andovers.org

President: Peggy Kruse
Membership: Joan Duff
Editor: Jennessa Durrani

League of Women Voters of Andover/North Andover

President's Letter

By Peggy Kruse

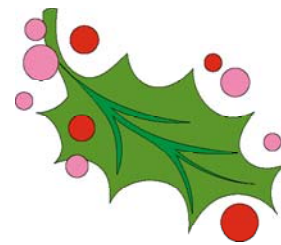
Several LWV A/NA members attended the LWV MA Fall Conference where we heard about voting irregularities, nonpartisan redistricting initiatives, and methods for increasing voter participation. The most thought-provoking suggestion, to my mind, came from Dr. Paul Watanabe, UMass Boston. He suggested that the single most enfranchising act we could take would be to extend the right to vote to non-citizens, at least in local elections. He reports that 70% of Asians Americans in the US are non-citizens. His suggestion raises the question: what does it mean to be a citizen?

Read-Along was a busy time, bringing over a hundred Andoverites from all walks of life into the Andover elementary schools to read a favorite children's book. We had poets and reporters, police and clergy, town officials elected and appointed, all converging on the schools to read to and interact with the students. Many thanks to Stefani Goldshein, her crew of school organizers, and each and every one of the readers. For the non-Andoverites, if you'd like to see this event happen in your town, Stefani would be happy to share her organizational tips. This is a fun event that brings together the community!

The League-sponsored discussion of the No Child Left Behind Act attracted a diverse group of people, including a high school student, residents of Lawrence, and members of Merrimack Valley People for Peace. Superintendent Bach told us that NCLB is up for renewal in 2007 and that President Bush has not included any money in his budget for NCLB next year, leading one to wonder what the future holds for this far-reaching piece of legislation. Many thanks to the superintendents of Andover and North Andover, Drs. Claudia Bach and Harry Harutunian, for leading a stimulating exploration of this complex topic. Thanks also to Stefani Goldshein for a terrific job organizing the discussion.

Our annual Holiday dinner is coming up on Weds, Dec. 7 at 6:30 p.m. We socialize first, so come meet and mingle! After dinner, we will review the national LWV's programs and priorities. The review at the Holiday dinner is our chance to help shape the direction of the national LWV and promises to be a stimulating discussion. Please call Amy Janovsky, 978-475-8655, to sign up for a potluck dish or beverage. Hope to see you there!

And last but not least, a warm welcome to Zain Khan Durrani, Jennessa's (our Bulletin editor's) new baby boy, born on Nov. 15. Jennessa and her husband, Sajid, are fittingly besotted and trying to slip in a few well-deserved naps.



Holiday Potluck Dinner

Wed, December 7, 6:30-9:00 p.m.
Andover Historical Society, 97 Main St, Andover

Join us as we mingle over appetizers, enjoy dinner, and then review and discuss the LWV US Public Policy positions (see page 8).

We need appetizers, main dishes, salads, vegetables, bread, beverages, and desserts. Call Amy Janovsky at 978-475-8655 to confirm your attendance and what you will bring.

A Primer on Chapter 40R Smart Growth Zoning District: North Andover's Osgood Landing

by Susan Dennett

North Andover is reviewing a 40R proposal by Ozzy Properties, which owns the former Lucent property. The motivation for the town is to bring back the vitality and taxes that the property provided a few years ago. This site appears to be eligible for this type of development if certain conditions are met, including passage of a Smart Growth 40R Overlay Zone at a Town Meeting, possibly in January or February.

The purpose of the Chapter 40R legislation is to “encourage smart growth and increased housing production in Massachusetts. Smart growth is a principle of land development that

- Emphasizes mixing land uses,
- Increases the availability of affordable housing by creating a range of housing opportunities in neighborhoods,
- Takes advantage of compact design,
- Fosters distinctive and attractive communities,
- Preserves open space, farmland, natural beauty and critical environmental areas,
- Strengthens existing communities,
- Provides a variety of transportation choices,
- Makes development decisions predictable, fair and cost effective and
- Encourages community and stakeholder collaboration in development decisions.”

Chapter 40R also benefits the local community by increasing affordable housing so that a community has more control over 40B developments. North Andover has received several 40B proposals in recent years, and in most cases has been able to negotiate with developers to achieve an appropriate fit for the town. However, North Andover's affordable housing is still only 5.9% of the overall housing stock, or 321 units shy of the 10% required in order to be able to disapprove other 40B proposals.

The Ozzy Property proposal, now called Osgood Landing, would (with Town Meeting passage of an overlay zone and extensive review and permits by federal, state and local officials) provide a mix of uses that would complement the existing office and manufacturing building. These uses might include retail, restaurants, banks, dry cleaners, medical offices, office

supplies and day care. The proposal also includes additional recreational space, a commuter rail station and high-density residential use, all within a five-minute walk to main structures. High-density housing is key to getting approval as a 40R and also to getting a train station. The current proposal calls for 650 units of one or two bedroom condos or apartments sited to the right of the Lucent building. As with a 40B, twenty-five percent of the units would be set aside as affordable, and all of the rental units would be classified as affordable. With the addition of these approximately 325 affordable units, North Andover would reach the 10% goal of affordable housing. Retail and commercial uses would surround the main building like a horseshoe, with indoor and outdoor recreation facilities at the back of the property, and the commuter rail station at the rear of the housing.

Other benefits come with a 40R overlay smart growth zoning district. Depending on how many housing units are created a community would receive certain financial incentives. With the Ozzy proposal, that would mean \$600,000 for North Andover. Additionally, a one-time density bonus of \$3,000 for each unit of housing would be awarded to the town by the state upon the issuance of a building permit. This would amount to \$1,950,000.

Many questions remain for town officials and their consultants before this is brought to Town Meeting. One is certainly what impact such a development would have on town services and schools. Currently one consultant suggests that the housing would add 78 school children. The Massachusetts Senate has passed a bill that would compensate municipalities for excess school costs associated with 40Rs. The House is debating the issue. Meanwhile a state-funded study is being prepared to determine the feasibility of a commuter rail station along the tracks at the back of the property.

The “conceptual plan” for Osgood Landing on the following page was provided by John Smolak, representing Ozzy Properties, and is reprinted with permission.

Conceptual Master Plan - Osgood Landing



Warehouse & Office

Retail

Manufacturing & Office

Retail

Residential

Recreational

Train Station

1800 Osgood Street
North Andover, Massachusetts
**CONCEPTUAL
MASTER PLAN**
August 2005

H
A
Huntress Associates, Inc.
Landscape Architecture & Land Planning
17 Tockburgh Street
Andover, Massachusetts 01810
978 470 8882 FAX 978 470 8898

Home@Last Kickoff

by Joan Duff

Wed, January 11, 7:30 p.m., Memorial Hall Library

The LWV A/NA Affordable Housing Study Group is co-sponsoring the Home@Last public awareness campaign on affordable housing. Home@Last was initiated by Citizen's Housing and Planning Association (CHAPA) and the North Shore Housing Trust, Inc. and was created specifically for Essex County. This community outreach campaign portrays the faces and places of affordable housing, educating citizens on what affordable housing is, why affordable housing is a benefit to our communities, and encouraging the production of more affordable housing.

The program consists of presentations from the North Shore Housing Trust and other panelists, including developers, advocates for housing, business and non-profit leaders, as well as a video featuring the affordable housing efforts of six Essex county communities, including Andover. Posters and flyers have been created for this project, including "Welcome to" signs – as seen at most communities' town lines – which read: "If you don't already live in this town, you probably can't afford to," and "If you work in this town, wouldn't it be nice to live here, too?"

Some facts provided by Home@Last:

- In 1998, nearly all Essex County communities were deemed affordable. Today, only two, Groveland and West Newbury, remain affordable to existing residents.
- The median price of a home in the region is \$420,000.
- An estimated 157,000 households out of 270,000 in Essex County moved into their homes after 1995. Many of them would be unable to purchase at today's prices.
- Median single family home sale price in the region ranged from \$230,000 in Lawrence to \$636,500 in Boxford in 2004, with most Essex County communities having a median house price of at least \$400,000 and several communities with medians of more than \$500,000.
- A person earning \$35,000/year – a typical salary for a starting teacher with a bachelor's degree – can only afford to buy a home for about \$160,000.
- A family earning about \$52,000 could buy a home priced at about \$230,000.
- Haverhill, Lawrence, Lynn and Methuen are the only Essex County communities with median home sales prices in the \$200,000s. There are no communities with median sales in the \$100,000s.

- Nearly 19,000 Essex County renters and more than 34,000 homeowners are considered "cost burdened," paying more than 30% of their income for housing.

Other sponsors include the North Andover Housing Partnership Committee, Andover Housing Partnership Committee, Andover Community Trust and Habitat for Humanity of Greater Lawrence. For further information contact Joan Duff, 978-685-3212.

Running For Office Workshop

by Diana Walsh and Kathy Stevens, Voter Service

Wed, January 11, 7 p.m., North Andover Town Hall

Our annual workshop on "How to Run for Local Elective Office" will be held this year at the North Andover Town Offices, 120 Main Street. A representative from the MA Office of Campaign and Finance will discuss campaign financing and reporting. Joyce Bradshaw and Randy Hanson, Town Clerks from North Andover and Andover, respectively, will describe the election process including requirements for filing nominating papers and important deadlines. Local elected officials will be available to describe their experiences with the election process.

While we will be informing potential candidates about this event through the usual channels, word of mouth works well too. If you or someone you know is wondering what the process is and how current officials got started, this is a great opportunity with no strings attached! To officially become a candidate, nomination papers must be submitted by February 7, 5 p.m.

Historic Preservation Discussion

by Diane Hender

Wed, January 18, 7 p.m., Memorial Hall Library

LWV members Martha Briggs, Karen Herman, and Lynn Smiledge will discuss historic preservation including a new collaboration between Andover's Preservation Commission, the Historical Society, the Town, and Memorial Hall Library. Partially funded by an Essex National Heritage Commission grant, the purpose of the project is to update Andover's historic building survey. The current survey was done as part of the bicentennial, and some eligible structures were missed, many have since become eligible, and additional information has come to light regarding existing listings. Ultimately, the listing will be available online to serve as a resource for planners, developers, homeowners, proponents of affordable housing, historians, architects, and preservationists.

H.4319 - The Comprehensive Mercury Management Bill

by Lynn Wolbarst and Ellie Goldberg
LWVM Natural Resource Specialists

Mercury is a known toxic chemical that is a component of many everyday products. There are currently safer alternatives available for most of these uses. In Massachusetts, mercury containing products can still be thrown in the trash to be incinerated, releasing it into the atmosphere and water where it enters the food chain. H-4319 would limit mercury's use in new products and insure safe disposal of mercury containing products currently in circulation. Mercury legislation similar to H-4319 has already passed in Connecticut, Rhode Island and Maine. Sponsors: Sen. Susan Tucker/ Rep. Douglas Peterson

What products contain mercury?

Mercury-added thermostats, instruments, measuring devices, auto switches and relays account for about 67% of the mercury in products. Nearly all of these uses have feasible safer alternatives already on the market. The Mercury Products Bill is part of a comprehensive approach toward reducing mercury emissions by restricting the sale of mercury in certain products where non-mercury safer alternatives are available and by requiring manufacturers to take back any remaining mercury products.

What effects does mercury have on human health?

Mercury is a toxic chemical. Emissions to the air and water from trash incinerators and other sources concentrate in the tissues of freshwater and ocean fish, making them unsafe for children and women of childbearing age to eat. Almost all tuna fish, caught anywhere in the world, has elevated levels of mercury. Fetuses and young children are at the most at risk from mercury related damage because their nervous systems are still developing. Mercury has been linked to learning disabilities in children. Exposure to mercury through eating contaminated fish or other routes can permanently damage the brain and nervous system and cause changes in behavior. It can affect a child's ability to run, see, play, draw and pay attention. Roughly 630,000 children born annually in the U.S. are at risk

of impaired motor function, learning capacity, memory and vision due to high levels of mercury in their bloodstreams, according to a 2004 EPA analysis. This is double the previous number of children estimated to be affected.

Adults can also be harmed by mercury exposure. Those who consume a lot of fish or are particularly sensitive to mercury may experience problems like memory loss, tingling of the hands or feet, reduced muscle control, and other similar neurological effects. Mercury exposure may also be linked to heart disease, infertility, lung damage and other health problems.

What will the Mercury Products Bill (H.4319) do?

- Ban the sale of mercury containing products such as thermostats, switches, relays and measuring devices when safer alternatives are available. It would also ban the sale of motor vehicles with certain mercury parts, mercury in schools, mercury containing novelty items and elemental mercury.
- Require manufacturers of mercury products to set up and pay for collection programs to make sure that remaining mercury products are not thrown away with the trash at the end of their useful lives
- Prohibit the disposal of mercury products into landfills or incinerators
- Require that manufacturers provide information about the mercury content of products sold to hospitals

What action can you take?

- Call the Natural Resource specialists for mercury information sheets or to arrange for local educational meetings on this issue.
- Contact your legislators regarding this bill.

For more information, contact Lynn Wolbarst, Lwolbarst@forsyte.com or Ellie Goldberg, erg_hk@juno.com.

Patriot Act Forum

by Michael Frishman

The October 26 LWV A/NA Forum, "*The Patriot Act: Balancing Public Safety and Civil Liberties*," brought more than 100 people to the Rogers Center at Merrimack College.

The information packed evening provided a comprehensive overview of the Patriot Act and the difficult civil rights and personal privacy issues that continue to stall the ongoing attempts by Congress to renew it. The 1,500 page Act, which largely had been waiting in the wings for some time, was passed by Congress in the days immediately following the 9/11/01 attacks on the World Trade Center and Washington, but with a December 2005 expiration date for many of its provisions.

The panel of speakers were:

- Kimberly West, Assistant U.S. Attorney for Massachusetts, Anti-Terrorism Unit
- Carol Rose, Executive Director, Massachusetts American Civil Liberties Union
- Brian Pattullo, Andover Chief of Police
- Bruce Larkin, Professor of Politics, UC Santa Cruz
- Thomas Powers, Assistant Special Agent in Charge, FBI Boston Division
- Kimberly Lynn, Chair, Intellectual Freedom Committee, Massachusetts Library Association

West described the Act as primarily a comprehensive and extensive modernization and update of existing law. She described it as needed to deal with 1) prevention and investigation of an increasing array of "non-conventional" crimes, and 2) old law that impeded investigative access to new technology such as cellphones and the internet that were not on the horizon at the time earlier law was enacted. She further described the Act as enabling legislation that helps government investigators navigate increasingly complex levels of privacy in public arenas. A simple example is: who owns and/or can access credit card information, the cardholder, vendor, card company, bank?

Rose cited as major concerns that should be addressed in the renewal process (and that as of this writing continue to hold up renewal because the Senate version includes far more improved accountability than the House) the need for more openness in the procedures, much more reporting and accountability, and renewed sunset provisions for those sections that put a heavy burden on civil liberties and perhaps remain necessary, but also need regular review. She stressed that the House draft would significantly broaden secrecy and lack of oversight. She also expressed concern about significantly reduced criminal

enforcement because of the major increases in expenditures on "national security" without any increases in Federal public safety monies. She wondered about the time and money the FBI has invested in gathering a file of thousands of pages about the ACLU (she requested it with a Freedom of Information Act request).

Pattullo said that the Patriot Act has had little impact on local enforcement and procedures. He did say that there has been more exchange of information, but noted that most of the Federal actions do not include local public safety personnel. He did state several times without further comment "greater freedom means diminished security," that it's a balancing act of "privacy and safety."

Larkin discussed the background of the Patriot Act as an update of the 1978 Security Act based on the 30 years of experience in security protection and investigation. He recommends reading of the 9/11 Commission report as an excellent introduction to government security operations and procedures.

Powers said that based on his 27 years with the FBI working on antiterrorism he knows the need for constant surveillance to be real. He said that the Patriot Act matches in the national security arena the powers the government already has in criminal action – specifically noting that this included requests to libraries for circulation information. He believes that the Act's internal controls are adequate.

Lynn spoke about the central role of libraries as places of learning and for the pursuit of information. The fear that confidentiality can be breached presents a major deterrent to those pursuits and thereby potentially endangers the public good. Libraries are and should remain "safe places where we can grow and learn without fear."

Moderator Madhu Sridhar, President of LWVM, had to end an active Q&A when our time was up – but lively discussion with the presenters continued on the stage for some considerable additional time.

LWV US Opposes USA PATRIOT ACT Reauthorization

The LWV US strongly opposes the conference report on H.R. 3199, the reauthorization of the USA PATRIOT Act, which was tentatively agreed to by House and Senate conferees on Nov. 16. The LWV US says that the conference report does not sufficiently protect civil liberties and fails to restore the checks and balances that were taken away by the USA PATRIOT Act. Check the LWV US website, www.lwv.org, for updates and action.

Townwide PTO

Observer: Diane Hender

Meeting of November 18, 2005

Andover Public Schools Budget ~ FY07 and Beyond

Input toward the content and progression of the planned rebuilding of school curricula and services was collected by school department personnel in five separate sessions held over the past month or so. Administrators, staff, and parents were asked for their priorities, and a summary of this data, both by level and overall, will be distributed shortly. Superintendent Claudia Bach observed that while class size was a concern across the board, both high school staff and parents identified student support services, including increased guidance personnel, rehiring of a social worker, and reinstatement of the freshman transition program, as the greatest need. For the middle schools, an increase in the number of counselors (currently one per building) and equity of integrated arts programming among the three schools were the top priorities. In addition to maintaining or reducing average class size, the elementary school groups targeted the restoration of the full physical education program. Also identified was a need for more administrative support in the buildings, and the high school group saw a need for additional course options down the road.

Dr. Bach, Evan Katz and the Administrative Council (principals and Special Education, Physical Education, and Health Education coordinators) have begun meeting to develop two budget options for presentation to the School Committee: level services and rebuilding. Dr. Bach said that they don't want to raise false expectations with the latter budget and that they now plan to stretch the rebuilding over five years. For FY07, they anticipate a "modest" increase of \$3-5 million. Dr. Bach also noted that the School Committee has directed them to deliver level services at a lower cost. They believe some savings can be realized without any reduction in quality, and their analyses will consider shifts in emphasis and different methods of delivering programs and services. This will not be a matter of simply "bringing back" whatever was in place before the cuts.

Additional input for the development of the department budget will come from the School Council presentations at the next three School Committee meetings.

Energy Costs

Plant & Facilities Director Joe Piantedosi is heading the Town's energy task force. At a recent meeting of the Board of Selectmen, he projected a \$579,000 deficit in energy costs for FY06, \$261,000 of which would be in the school budget and primarily

attributable to increased heating and electrical costs. The non-school deficit is due to the dramatic rise in automobile fuel and to a budgeting inaccuracy within a couple of departments. P&D has been working to lock in lower rates for electricity, natural gas, #2 fuel, and vehicle fuel, as well as to reduce consumption. In recent years, the Town has benefited from \$170,000 in energy conservation rebates from Massachusetts Electric.

Conservation measures for the school buildings (about 80% of town-owned property) under consideration include maintaining temperatures at 68 in occupied areas with no compromise of air quality, turning off lights at night, consolidation of night activities into just a few buildings, rescheduling DCS programs from the coldest part of the winter to later in the winter, and having blinds closed at the end of each teaching day. Piantedosi noted that conservation measures are not limited to the schools; lights in municipal lots will be turned off at 11:00 (except the one behind the Town House which will remain on until 1:00 because nearby businesses are open until then), and there are efforts to schedule meetings either during daylight hours or have several committees meet on the same night rather than on successive nights.

Fundraising Efforts

The consensus among the PTO/PAC representatives is that it is taking more activities to raise the same or less money. This was attributed to diminished enthusiasm and energy among parents, especially those in the lowest grades, as well as the plethora of requests that everyone receives. Funds are raised through pledge drives, food product sales, restaurant nights, book fairs, wrapping paper sales, clothing sales, raffles, silent auctions, phonathons, and special events such as Sanborn's Spooky Fun Fair. There also is competition within the same constituency, parents and others supporting youth.

Andover Youth Foundation

AYF board member Sheila Stone presented their new "piggy" banks. The banks, which represent the proposed youth center, are being made available to businesses and families to fill with loose change. Anyone interested should contact Sheila at 978-475-1121.

School Committee Report

Art Barber provided an update on the foundation proposed to supplement school department funding. The paperwork for 501(c)(3) status is underway, and Tina Girdwood has agreed to serve as executive director.

National Program Planning

by Stefani Traina Goldshein, VP Program/Action

National program planning provides the local Leagues the opportunity to have input about issues on which the national League should focus. At the December 7 Holiday Potluck Dinner, our League will have an opportunity to recommend one new national issue to study or an existing national position to update.

Two years ago, there was no consensus among the numerous local Leagues around the country about what issue to study, so no new program was adopted at the 2004 National LWV Convention. In an attempt to ward off a similar outcome, the LWV US has launched an email listserv discussion where Leagues across the country can share information with one another before the March 1st deadline. I have been following the email discussion and will provide a brief summary at the Holiday Dinner of the issues that are being considered by other Leagues for study or updating. Voter Service chair, Diana Walsh, has agreed to lead the discussion at the Holiday Dinner. Please bring this Bulletin, as it contains a summary of the current LWVUS positions. It would be helpful if you read through the positions and make notes on any that interest you before the Holiday Dinner. If you cannot attend, please email me at steftraina@comcast.net with any comments. If you wish to be part of the listserv discussion, let me know and I will connect you with the email group. You can find the complete document *Impact on Issues 2004-2006: A Guide to Public Policy Positions* on the national website www.lwv.org.

Below is a brief outline of the current national LWV positions.

LWVUS Public Policy Positions

REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT

Promote an open governmental system that is representative, accountable and responsive.

Citizen's Right to Vote

Protect the right of all citizens to vote; encourage all citizens to vote.

DC Self-Government and Full Voting Representation

Secure for the citizens of the District of Columbia the rights of self-government and full voting representation in both houses of Congress.

Apportionment

Support apportionment of congressional districts and elected legislative bodies at all levels of government based substantially on population.

Campaign Finance

Improve methods of financing political campaigns in order to ensure the public's right to know, combat corruption and undue influence, enable candidates to compete more equitably for public office and promote citizen participation in the political process.

Selection of the President

Promote the election of the President and Vice-President by direct popular vote and work to abolish the Electoral College. Support uniform national voting qualifications and procedures for presidential elections. Support efforts to provide voters with sufficient information about candidates.

Citizen's Right to Know/Citizen Participation

Protect the citizen's right to know and facilitate citizen participation in government decision making.

Individual Liberties

Oppose major threats to basic constitutional rights.

Public Policy on Reproductive Choices

Protect the constitutional right of privacy of the individual to make reproductive choices.

Congress and the Presidency

Congress Support responsive legislative processes characterized by accountability, representativeness, decision-making capability and effective performance.

The Presidency Promote a dynamic balance of power between the executive and legislative branches within the framework set by the Constitution.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Promote peace in an interdependent world by working cooperatively with other nations and strengthening international organizations.

United Nations

Support a strong, effective United Nations to promote international peace and security and to address the social, economic and humanitarian needs of all people.

Trade

Support U.S. trade policies that reduce trade barriers and expand international trade and that advance the achievement of humanitarian, environmental, and social goals.

U.S. Relations with Developing Countries

Promote U.S. policies that meet long-term social and economic needs of developing countries.

Arms Control

Reduce the risk of war through support of arms control.

Military Policy and Defense Spending

Work to limit reliance on military force. Examine defense spending in the context of total national needs.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Promote an environment beneficial to life through the protection and wise management of natural resources in the public interest.

Natural Resources

Promote the management of natural resources as interrelated parts of life-supporting ecosystems.

Resource Management

Promote resource conservation, stewardship and long-range planning, with the responsibility for managing natural resources shared by all levels of government.

Environmental Protection and Pollution Control

Preserve the physical, chemical and biological integrity of the ecosystem, with maximum protection of public health and the environment.

Air Quality

Promote measures to reduce pollution from mobile and stationary sources. Energy. Support environmentally sound policies that reduce energy growth rates, emphasize energy conservation and encourage the use of renewable resources.

Land Use

Promote policies that manage land as a finite resource and that incorporate principles of stewardship.

Water Resources

Support measures to reduce pollution in order to protect surface water, groundwater and drinking water.

Waste Management

Promote policies to reduce the generation and promote the reuse and recycling of solid and hazardous wastes. Nuclear Issues. Promote the maximum protection of public health and safety and the environment.

Public Participation

Promote public understanding and participation in decision making as essential elements of responsible and responsive management of our natural resources.

Agricultural Policy

Promote adequate supplies of food and fiber at reasonable prices to consumers and support economically viable farms, environmentally sound farm practices and increased reliance on the free market.

SOCIAL POLICY

Secure equal rights and equal opportunity for all. Promote social and economic justice and the health and safety of all Americans.

Equal Rights

Support ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment and efforts to bring laws into compliance with the goals of the ERA.

Education, Employment, Housing

Support equal access to education, employment and housing.

Tax Policy

Support adequate and flexible funding of federal government programs through an equitable tax system that is progressive overall and that relies primarily on a broad-based income tax.

Federal Deficit

Promote responsible deficit policies.

Funding of Entitlements

Support a federal role in providing mandatory, universal, old-age, survivors, disability and health insurance.

Health Care

Promote a health care system for the United States that provides access to a basic level of quality care for all U.S. residents and controls health care costs.

Meeting Basic Human Needs

Support programs and policies to prevent or reduce poverty and to promote self-sufficiency for individuals and families.

Income Assistance

Support income assistance programs, based on need, that provide decent, adequate standards for food, clothing and shelter.

Support Services

Provide for essential support services.

Housing Supply

Support policies to provide a decent home and a suitable living environment for every American family.

Child Care

Support programs and policies to expand the supply of affordable, quality child care for all who need it.

Early Intervention for Children at Risk

Support policies and programs that promote the well-being, development and safety of all children.

Violence Prevention

Support violence prevention programs in communities.

Gun Control

Protect the health and safety of citizens through limiting the accessibility and regulating the ownership of handguns and semi-automatic weapons. Support regulation of firearms for consumer safety.

Urban Policy

Promote the economic health of cities and improve the quality of urban life.

Whatever the issue, the League believes that efficient and economical government requires competent personnel, the clear assignment of responsibilities, adequate financing, coordination among levels of government, effective enforcement and well defined channels for citizen input and review.

In Memorium Skip (Frank) Eccles

1925-2005

LWV member, teacher, School Committee member, community volunteer, engineer. With generosity and a gentle sense of humor, Skip was an effective advocate for all of us. Thank you and we will miss you, Skip.

Community Read-Along 2005

by Stefani Traina Goldshein

As the 11th annual Community Read-Along week drew to a close, I was once again reminded of how grateful I am to be part of something that makes so many people feel so good. Many readers and principals commented that the Read-Along is a very special event they look forward to each year. While the League's role is that of facilitator, the real credit goes to the coordinators at each school who organize all of the details that make each Read-Along unique and successful. I would like to thank Susie Novick, Sherrie Kimball, Maura Reardon, Sarah Morissette, Paula Karl, Ronna Markell, Anne Casey, Carol Donovan, Grace Maraghy, Andrea Zaines, Renita Johnson, Holly Rogers, Rhonda Wiener, and Sue Cobb for working so hard to make the Read-Along a memorable event. Many League members also participated in the Read-Along this year. Thank you for taking time out of your busy lives to share your love of reading with the elementary schoolchildren of Andover. As always, if you know anyone who might like to be on our reader list, please contact me at steftraina@comcast.net.

Handbook Updates

New Address: Joyce Ringleb, 48 Ellis Farm Road, Sanborn-ton, NH 03269; cell: 978-204-0771; home: 603-581-2702.

Corrected Phone Number: Madhu Sridhar, 978-470-1291.

Proposal for Appliance and Bulky Waste Curbside Collection

by C. Joyce Ringleb
Sustainability & Natural Resources

At a recent Select Board meeting, the Andover Recycling Committee proposed bulky waste curbside pickup -- for a fee. The Town's trash collectors do not currently collect appliances, couches, gas grills, mattresses, etc. The Recycling Committee believes that since residents have to pay private recyclers now to haul appliances, residents would be pleased to have curbside service available and would accept a fee for this service.

Other towns have contracted with private recyclers (WMI, BFI or others) to provide bulky waste curbside pickup. Residents contact the recycling firms directly and pay with credit cards, use electronic funds transfer information from a check, or leave a check made out to the recycling firm taped to the appliance on the curb.

Timing: The Recycling Committee would like to implement this system as quickly as possible to help both residents and the Town. Based on the experience with publicizing the new waste bans, most residents got the word quickly. Those that didn't read about the bans in the paper learned about the new policy when their hauler left items behind. The Recycling Committee and the Dept. of Public Works would place ads and press releases in the Townsman and on the Recycling website to announce and explain the new service.

LOCAL LEAGUES ARE FORMING IN:

Amesbury
Brockton
Cambridge
Dartmouth
Groton
Uxbridge

Know any potential members in these towns?
Share the names. Contact the LWVM office at 617-523-2999
or lwwma@lwwma.org.

Have You Paid Your Membership Dues?

Please check the mailing label on this Bulletin to see if you have paid your membership dues for this year. If you have not paid your 2005-2006 dues, please do so now. If you could benefit from financial assistance to pay your dues, please see the section below "LWV MA Membership Fund: Offering a Helping Hand." The national and state LWVs charge PMP for any members remaining on our roster in January, so we will remove non-paid members from our roster at that time.

Checks may be sent to the post office box with the form below. Please call Joan Duff, membership chair, with any questions at 978-685-3212.

LWV MA Membership Fund: Offering a Helping Hand

The LWV of Massachusetts has a Membership Fund to assist prospective or long-time members who cannot afford full dues and, more importantly, to ensure that we do not lose any members for this reason. The fund gives local Leagues partial credit of their state PMP assessment for approved requests. In return, local Leagues are expected to reduce the amount of dues collected from these members. The LWV of Andover/North Andover has budgeted money for membership assistance in support of this program.

If you could benefit from financial assistance, please contact LWV A/NA President Peggy Kruse at 978-474-0176 or arg14502@comcast.net. All information regarding applications will be held in the strictest confidence. Membership Fund credits are for one year only, but recipients may apply for consideration the next year.

Money Matters:

Where Goeth Our Membership Dues?

by Cynde Egan, Treasurer

As you hear the final plea for this year's membership dues, do you wonder "Where do my membership dues go?" The answer may surprise you.

We all know that the League is a grassroots organization. Our members determine the priorities, policies, and strategies on local issues, on statewide issues, and on national issues. While the League has influence at all levels of government, everything depends upon the locals.

The same is true for League finances. The League of Women Voters is primarily financed by members' dues and contributions. When we join, we join at the local, state, and national levels, but pay only the local level. Consequently, the dues we pay to the Andover/North Andover League are shared annually with the Massachusetts State and the US National Leagues through a system called Per Member Payment (PMP).

Currently we pay more than \$46 of your annual dues to PMP. If you join at the Basic (\$55) level of membership, we send 85% of your dues to the state and national Leagues. The remaining \$9 [or more if you join at a higher level] helps support local League activities -- our monthly newsletter, public forums, candidates' debates, voter education programs, etc. [Our portion of membership dues covers only about one quarter of our operating budget, but this is a subject for another newsletter!]

So now when you renew your membership, please know your support is what enables the LWV, one of the most respected and trusted public service organizations in the nation, to investigate, educate, and advocate at all levels of government.

Thank you!

LWV Andover/North Andover 2004-2005 MEMBERSHIP

_____ \$55 Basic _____ \$60 Contributing _____ \$75 Sustaining _____ \$100 (and over) Patron
_____ \$75 Household (2 persons in same household) _____ \$35 Senior Citizen (65 and over) _____ \$35 Student (under 24)

_____ 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! Joan Duff, Membership, 978.685.3212



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Observer Corps

We are looking for observers for both of the Andover and North Andover Boards of Selectmen, Finance Committees, and School Committees. Becoming an observer is a great way to witness democracy in action. By informing fellow League members about the meetings through your reports, you are providing an invaluable service by helping others become better informed citizens. Please consider becoming an observer. You don't have to commit to an entire year. Contact Jennessa Durrani (978-470-3290) or jennessa@celebratestudio.com for further information.

Cocktails & Conversation

Responding to feedback from members who would like to join the monthly Lunch & Conversations, but find the midday time incompatible with their schedules, we are planning an early evening "Cocktails & Conversation" at Glory Restaurant, 19 Essex St, Andover, on Tuesday, January 17 at 6 p.m.

Join us to meet other LWV members and discuss the hot issues.

This holiday season

Give the gift of League membership!



The gift of League membership to your friends and family is a wonderful way to bring them joy and introduce them to a lifelong commitment to strengthening democracy.

For more information, please contact Joan Duff, 978-685-3212 or the LWVM office, 617-523-2999 or lwvma@lwvma.org.

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Calendar of Events

		Time	Type of Meeting	Description	Address
December	5	7 p.m.	Special Town Meeting	North Andover Voters	North Andover High School, 430 Osgood St.
	6	7:30 p.m.	Affordable Housing	Monthly Study Group	191 Summer St., Andover, MA
	7	9:15 a.m.	Board Meeting	December Board Meeting	Heather Moody Holman's Home 95 Sunset Rock Road
	7	6:30 p.m.	Holiday Dinner	Holiday Potluck Dinner National Program Review	Andover Historical Society 97 Main Street, Andover
	14	11:30 a.m.	Lunch & Conversation	Monthly Lunch Gathering	Panera Bread Rt. 133 and Rt. 114, N. Andover
	16	All Day	Deadline	January Bulletin	Jennessa Durrani: jennessa@celebratestudio.com
January	4	7:15 p.m.	Board Meeting	January Board Meeting	Stefani Goldshein's Home 6 Roulston Circle, Andover
	11	7 p.m.	Running For Office Workshop	Info session for prospective local candidates	N. Andover Town Hall, 120 Main St. N. Andover
	11	7:30 p.m.	Home@Last	Affordable Housing Forum	Top floor, Memorial Hall Library, Elm Sq., Andover
	13	11:30 a.m.	Lunch & Conversation	Monthly Lunch Gathering	Panera Bread Rt. 133 and Rt. 114, N. Andover
	17	6 p.m.	Cocktails & Conversation	Informal gathering for mem- bers and guests	Glory Restaurant, 19 Essex St., Andover
	18	7 p.m.	Historic Preservation	Informal discussion	Top floor, Memorial Hall Library, Elm Sq., Andover
	20	All Day	Deadline	February Bulletin	Jennessa Durrani: jennessa@celebratestudio.com



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