



Bulletin

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

President: Stefani Traina
Membership: Paulette Zuena
Editor: Cynde Egan

League of Women Voters of Andover/North Andover

President's Letter

By Stefani Traina

Tuesday, December 8 will bring Massachusetts one step closer to deciding who our next U.S. Senator will be. There will be two polling places in Andover and one in North Andover. If you've not had a chance to view the League of Women Voters Candidates' Forum, click on www.lwvma.org. It is also airing on local cable channels. The League plans to sponsor a pre-election forum at Fanueil Hall on January 13.

Many thanks to Environmental Action Committee members, Amy Janovsky and Carolyn Dann, for their efforts to persuade the Andover Board of Selectmen to adopt a resolution to support the updated bottle bill. The BOS voted to sign in support of the legislation which would add a nickel deposit to various beverage containers that are currently without one. It is hoped that the bill will be voted out of committee when the legislature returns from its winter recess.

This year's holiday dinner will feature Barbara Brown, from the Lawrence History Center, formerly the Immigrant City Archives. We hope you'll join us for Barbara's informative historical talk about three Merrimack Valley women with a connection to Andover. Many thanks to Joan Duff for planning the evening.

Many thanks go to Denise Boucher and Maureen Sundberg, who coordinated the 15th annual Community Read-Along this year. The event was greeted warmly at each school. If you would like to be added to our reader list, contact Maureen at rrsundberg@comcast.net.

Thank you to Diana Walsh for moderating Andover's Mid-Year Review, which will be re-broadcast on local cable and available online, as well. Sandy Gleed has helped produce a cable program featuring Town Clerks, Randy Hanson and Joyce Bradshaw, interviewing Rep. Barbara L'Italien about the importance of the upcoming Census 2010. The show will air after the holidays. League member Marty Larson introduced the program. Thank you to all who worked on this important public service outreach effort.

Continued on page 3.

LWV Annual Holiday Dinner

Wednesday, December 9, 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.
Unitarian Universalist Church, 6 Locke Street

We hope to see you at our annual Holiday Potluck Dinner!

Our holiday spread includes a main dish of Chicken Piccata and Pasta/Vegetable Alfredo with a garden salad, complete with appetizers, beverages and desserts. Attendees have a choice of paying \$10.00 for the complete dinner or of making a contribution to our dinner in the following categories: Appetizers, beverages and desserts. If you would like to bring something to share, please let Joan Duff know at 978.685.3212 or jandjduff@verizon.net.

Dinner will be followed by a presentation by Barbara Brown, a noted local historian, on the topic of Women in Our Area's History. She will specifically spotlight Black Lucy, a freed slave who lived in Ballardvale; Adelaide Bullen, an archaeologist, who excavated Black Lucy's Garden and who was a resident at Phillips Academy; and Eartha Dengler, founder of the Immigrant City Archives (now Lawrence History Center).

Additionally, in light of the severe shortages at our local food banks, we are offering our members an opportunity to bring a canned good contribution to this dinner, which will be delivered to Lazarus House. Suggested contributions include: Canned Meat & Tuna Fish, Canned Vegetables (Corn, Peas, Green Beans, Mixed) Pasta, Canned Soup, Macaroni and Cheese, Canned Ravioli & Spaghetti, Canned Spaghetti Sauce, Peanut Butter, Canned Fruit.

Hope to see you on the 9th!

Please RSVP to Joan Duff about your plans to attend as soon as possible.

2010 Budget Update

By Sandy Gleed, VP North Andover

North Andover's FY 2011 preliminary budget season will officially open in late December when the Revenue and Fixed Costs Committee issues its annual report on anticipated revenues and fixed costs projections for next year. Knowing that current revenues, collected or projected by this year's budget, are already below target, North Andover boards are focusing on ways to reduce spending now to put us in good standing to face even greater budget challenges for FY2011.

Town Manager Mark Rees and School Committee Vice-Chair Chris Allen attended the Suburban Coalition's recent forum on contract negotiations during tough fiscal times. Speaker Mary Aicardi from the Edward Collins Center for Public Management spoke about how honest recognition of the challenges municipalities face right now can both preserve and improve relationships with unions.

Some of the negotiating and cost-reducing strategies Ms. Aicardi and attendees offered included balancing cost of living raises with furlough days; exchanging increases for changes in health insurance plan design; shared services between town departments and/or regionalization of services; outsourcing school lunch programs and custodial services; moving from weekly to bi-weekly paychecks; in-house special education programs; and regionally-shared special education transportation arrangements.

In other news, the discovery of improper cash handling by an employee disposing of excess Department of Public Works equipment has highlighted the need for North Andover to implement improved internal accounting and documentation procedures. The Board of Selectmen already has in place an Auditing Committee that will research and recommend actions to improve procedures. The Auditing Committee is chaired by Selectman Richard Nardella; School Committee Vice-Chair Chris Allen is on the committee as well. The Selectmen just appointed former Selectman Robert Ercolini as the new general community representative to the committee. Finance Committee members recommended to the Town Manager that the Committee also expand its review of cash management to include all departments. The Fincom also recommended a review of new federal privacy laws that will apply to municipalities [effective spring 2010] handling sensitive personal identification data such as social security numbers, birth dates and bank account numbers.

There are volunteer positions open on various other North Andover town committees, a listing of which can be found at www.townofnorthandover.com. League of Women Voters members may, in particular, be interested in joining the Government Review Committee. Approximately twenty years ago when our Town Charter was last formally reviewed, League members were important members of that committee. Inquiries to join this committee should be directed to the Town Manager at 120 Main Street, North Andover, MA 01845.

And finally, as a member of our chapter's 2010 Census subcommittee, I'd like to give you a sneak peek at information we'll be rolling out to promote Census awareness in the coming months. League member Marty Larson and Town Clerks Joyce Bradshaw and Randy Hanson were joined by State Representative Barbara L'Italien (D) recently to tape a cable program that will be broadcast starting in January that explains the logistics and benefits of the 2010 Census. The League recognizes the importance of using cable content to deliver important voter education information, so we're looking at expanding our efforts in this area. If you'd like to join us on this new adventure or if you'd like to suggest topics for future programming, please contact me at sjgleed@yahoo.com.

Here's wishing you a peaceful and joyous holiday season!



IT'S IN OUR HANDS

North Andover Counts Together!



IT'S IN OUR HANDS
Together Andover Counts

U.S. Senate Seat Election Schedule

State Primary: Tuesday, December 8

Last day to register to vote in the Special Election: December 30.

Special Election: Tuesday, January 19, 2020

Legislative Action

By Diane Walsh

Two advocacy items from the national League concern Clean Air and Global Warming, and Health Care Reform. Below are two documents that summarize the issues and where LWV stands.

Support Clean Energy and Fight Global Warming: Sign the Menendez Letter on Coal Plants

Senator Robert Menendez (D-NJ) has asked senators to join him in a letter urging Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) to ensure that the Senate clean energy and climate bill does not repeal the sections of the Clean Air Act that require coal-fired power plants to meet modern standards for global warming pollution. Old, "clunker" coal plants are the nation's largest source of global warming pollution; it will be significantly more difficult to stop global warming, transition to clean energy, and create more clean energy jobs if we do not hold these plants to modern pollution standards. We strongly urge senators to sign the Menendez letter.

Old, clunker coal plants must be required to meet smokestack-specific standards. For the same reasons we require cars, air conditioners, and light bulbs to meet technology standards, we must also set standards for coal plants, the nation's single largest source of global warming pollution. If we are to transition smoothly to a clean energy economy and solve global warming, coal plants – old and new alike – must not be permitted to keep running on inefficient, decades-old technology.

The pollution cap will not be enough by itself to significantly cut pollution from coal plants in the next decade. The cap alone is not sufficient because, consistent with the House-passed bill and legislation under development in the Senate, (1) the emissions ceiling likely will decline relatively slowly for the first decade of the program; (2) companies likely will receive free pollution allowances to cover most of their emissions; and (3) companies will be able to avoid reducing pollution at their plants by purchasing offsets generated by projects in the United States and abroad. Indeed, EPA's analysis of the House-passed energy bill (which repeals New Source Review and New Source Performance Standards for carbon dioxide from existing coal plants) projects that only 6.9 percent of existing coal generation capacity will be retired by 2025, with most of the retired capacity occurring at "marginal units with low capacity" that are "part of larger plants that are expected to continue generating."

Singling out existing stationary sources from complying with emissions and efficiency standards will give them a massive, unfair leg-up, tipping the market against clean sources like wind and solar. The U.S. Department of Energy projects that electricity demand will be relatively flat over the next 20 years (an annual average growth rate of less than 1 percent), even before considering the multitude of efficiency gains that would be achieved by the House-passed energy bill and other policies. If electricity demand is flat and old coal plants don't begin to retire, there will be a much smaller market for renewables. Indeed, EPA's analysis of the House-passed energy bill projects that coal will continue to provide nearly half of the nation's electricity through at least 2025.

Companies will be perversely encouraged to keep operating – and even expand the operation of – their oldest and dirtiest coal plants, if they are exempted from modern pollution standards. Under the House-passed energy bill, new plants would in a few years have to meet fairly stringent global warming limits. But old plants would not have to

meet any smokestack-specific standards, even if they are expanded in ways that drive up pollution. This loophole invites the industry to ramp up their use of old, dirty coal plants instead of retrofitting them to reduce pollution or retiring the oldest dinosaurs to make way for renewable energy.

Moving to clean energy means leaving old, inefficient, and dirty technology behind. Just as emissions standards for automobiles help ensure that the dirtiest clunkers on the highway are replaced with newer models, so would effective global warming pollution standards help ensure that clunker coal plants, many of them 40 to 50 years old, don't keep operating indefinitely. Coal plants impose major costs on the environment and public health. The National Academy of Sciences has found that these ancient coal plants cost the U.S. economy tens of billions of dollars a year in public health damages. And in the meantime, countries like China speed ahead in the global renewable energy race.

Standards for clunker coal plants will require investment in America's aging energy infrastructure that will create clean energy jobs. By requiring that outdated coal plants install modern technology to reduce global warming pollution, we will unleash innovation and put America's workforce back in business.

We cannot stop the worst effects of global warming unless we start cutting pollution from coal plants now. A recent report on "The Future of Coal" by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology makes clear that there is "no credible pathway toward GHG stabilization targets without emissions reductions from existing coal plants." Steady reductions in pollution from coal plants are necessary to achieve the deep cuts in pollution the science already shows is necessary by 2030 and later.

Support Clean Energy and Fight Global Warming by Signing the Menendez Letter.

League board meeting dates and times

Wednesday, December 2, 7:15 p.m. (change from a.m.), 6 Roulston Cir. Andover

Wednesday, January 6, 7:15 p.m., 6 Snowberry Rd., Andover

Wednesday, February 3, 9:15 a.m., 23 Greybirch Rd., Andover (note a.m. time)

President' Letter. Continued from page 1

The state League Phonathon has been quite successful, thanks to the efforts of many League members. Our League's callers were Diana Walsh, Joan Duff, Amy Janovsky, Gail Mann, and Heather Holman. Our League will receive 15% of what they raised.

Finally, the League could not function without the support and dedication of many people. Thank you for being League members and thank you for attending our events and being involved in our communities. A great deal of important work is accomplished by volunteers. I wish you a happy, healthy holiday season.

Committee Update

By Amy Janovsky

This month, the Environmental Action Committee worked to support passage of the Bottle Bill update currently before the Massachusetts legislature. As Lynn Wolbarst's column mentioned last month, the updated bill would add a five-cent deposit to additional categories of products like water bottles that were not widely available in 1982 when the original Bottle Bill was enacted. Andover's Board of Selectmen voted to sign a resolution supporting the bill on Monday, November 16th. The bill did not make it out of committee for consideration before the full legislature before the winter recess, but Rep. Finegold told the Selectmen that there has been a collaborative process on the bill this year and predicted that it would move forward in the early spring.

LWV LEADS THE WAY TO SUSTAINABILITY IN ANDOVER

compiled by Amy Janovsky

SUSTAINABILITY AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2001-2005

- Continued Margaret Pustell's work on Andover Community Paths
- Internationally Renowned LWV Member Maureen Hart Trained Andover's Senior Staff in Sustainability Principles and Developing Goals & Indicators
- Developed "Healthy Lawns And Landscapes" Brochure for Andover Health Department in Collaboration with Wellesley
- Instigated Development of Andover's Pesticide Use Reduction Policy
- Conducted Public Forums on Impacts Of Pesticides and Organic Lawn Care
- Conducted Forums on Protecting and Conserving Drinking Water
- Sponsored a lecture by Peter Alden on Invasive Plants
- Analyzed Pay-As-You-Throw as an option for Andover

For those who burn OIL for heating it is now possible to reduce your carbon emissions to the level of those who heat with gas: Bay State Biofuels of North Andover is now delivering fuel oil that contains 20% vegetable oil. In the future they expect it will be increased to 50%. See their web site by clicking on http://www.baystatebiofuels.com/Baystate_Biofuels/home.html.

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION COMMITTEE ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2005-2009

- Sponsored presentation by Dr. John Warner, pioneer in Green Chemistry
- Hosted several speakers on Climate Change (2005)
- Members toured Andover's Water Treatment Plant and helped form the Fish Brook Initiative to explore threats to drinking water
- Led town-wide effort to encourage residents to sign up for "green energy" via the MTC's Solar Challenge program
- Organized an informational "Change a Light" campaign promoting use of compact fluorescent light bulbs, culminating in a contest between Andover and North Andover
- Joined steering committee supporting Community Preservation Act
- Helped to strategize submittal of information leading to Andover's "Leading by Example" Award
- Co-sponsored Forum on LEED Development and energy conservation, creating linkage with the Green Roundtable, NGRID, Energy STAR, MTC
- Collaborated with Andover Recycling Committee on waste reduction initiatives
- Sponsored development of Environmental Coordinators at each school
- Developed the conceptual framework for the Andover Green Advisory Board and sponsored forum to consider other towns' experience
- Promoted an Anti-Idling Campaign, in collaboration with the School Environmental Coordinators
- Collaborated with Interfaith Power and Light in promoting environmental awareness, energy conservation and green energy
- Established a Tree Subcommittee, leading to an Arbor Day celebration and founding of FACT: The Friends of Andover Community Trees
- Co-sponsored "The Invasion of the Long-horned Beetle", a talk by Peter Alsop, in collaboration with MHL and Phillips Academy

FACT Members Learn About Tree Stewardship

By Chris Young

Four members of Friends of Andover Community Trees (FACT) attended a two-day tree steward training course offered by Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, (DCR) Urban and Community Forestry Program.

Amy Janovsky, Marie Montgomery, Chris Young and Marty Klein were among 16 tree professionals and volunteers who spent a recent weekend at Harvard Forest, in Petersham, learning about the care of community trees and potential problems. Fisher Museum at Harvard Forest is an inspiring (for tree lovers) and inviting gathering place and we had comfortable sleeping accommodations.

The training included pruning and planting trees; recognizing invasive insects such as the Asian Longhorn Beetle, responsible for the loss of 25,000 trees in Worcester; working with utility arborists; and exploring the many tree programs offered by the state.

The FACT members also benefited from meeting and interacting with volunteers from other cities and towns, many of whom have created tree by-laws to protect mature trees. We learned, for instance, that Newburyport has an ordinance that requires citizens and developers to pay for and replace healthy town trees that are removed. FACT is working on a tree ordinance for Andover which may include similar protections

We were introduced to a brand new state program designed to protect private or town wood lots from development, called The Working Forest Initiative. Landowners with 10 acres or more and towns with 25 acres or more are guided to develop a working management plan to keep the land wooded. The land could be used for recreation or become part of a pilot program intended to pay tree lot owners for carbon sequestration, over a 15-year period.

Amy made contact with Brian Breveleri, the Tree Warden/Director of Urban Forest in Worcester whose DVD showed the devastating effect the Asian Longhorn Beetle had on Worcester's maple trees.

She plans to show the disc to Andover Board of Selectmen to give them a heads up on the ALB problem as well as addressing the need for an updated tree survey and a plan to handle a variety of tree emergencies such as insect infestation and ice storms.

FACT is a collaboration of the League of Women Voters of Andover, Andover's three garden clubs and town government to bring attention and care to Andover's street trees.

Your League Needs You!

Board Opportunities Available

The League depends on volunteers to do all of its work. We are committed to delivering high quality programs and services to our communities. But we always need more people to help share the workload. Please consider the following opportunities. They are each a great way to learn more about how the League works.

Secretary:

The position of League secretary entails attending board meetings, taking notes and distributing minutes by email. It's a great way to stay in touch with what's going on without making a big time commitment.

Voter Service/Andover:

Voter Service needs a chair/committee to help organize the Andover Candidate forum in March. You must be nonpartisan to hold this position. Training, support and guidance provided.

Nominating:

The Nominating Committee has not been formed yet. The time commitment is small, and we could use some of our seasoned members to help recruit board members for next year.

Membership Outreach:

This position would entail organizing membership events and recruiting and welcoming new members to the ❖❖❖

League. Could be shared by a couple of people.

Contact steftraina@verizon.net to volunteer. Thank you!



The League welcomes new members, Bonnie Zahorik, Marie Montgomery and Peter Cotch.

Bonnie will be a League observer for the Andover School Committee as her time permits.

In Memoriam

Robert Pustell passed away October 7. His service and dedication to improving Andover will be remembered for many years to come.

North Andover School Committee Meetings Report

By Heather McNeil

The North Andover School Committee has been putting its finishing touches on revising the district's policy manual. The public is welcome to review drafts of the various sections on-line at <http://www.northandoverpublicschools.com/index.php/policies.html> and provide input to School Committee members.

Bids came in for the Kittredge Modularity project which would add two classrooms to the Kittredge Elementary School. However, according to the district's website, the bids were all in excess of the funds available to pay for the project. Thus, School Building Committee members voted to reject all bids and a subcommittee was formed to review all options and decide on how to proceed.

All schools in the district are currently running on a trimester schedule, and this year a new elementary report card format is being used. It includes a rubric to evaluate student performance on such curriculum standards as reading fluency and comprehension and math geometry and data analysis skills. Students are also evaluated on certain work habits and character skills as set forth by the RAISE initiative (Respect, Achievement, Inclusion, Service, and Empathy). You can see the new format at <http://www.northandoverpublicschools.com/documents/curriculum/elementary/napsElemReportCard.pdf>.

The School Committee is also finalizing its FY11 budget directives which it presents to Superintendent Hottel who in the new year will be presenting his budget to the town and School Committee. Such directives include maintaining low class sizes as much as possible, supporting initiatives to improve all student achievement, supporting the technology and infrastructure needs of the school system, and returning media specialists/librarians to the elementary libraries.

January is a great time to start attending School Committee meetings to take part in the budget process. The budget is constantly changing with contract negotiations, health care costs, changes in local aid from the state, changing town, state, and federal budget projections, possible 9C cuts from the governor if times get really tough, and the needs of our students and the needs to maintain our school buildings and curriculum materials. Also, look for the Massachusetts House of Representatives to debate the recent Education Reform Bill passed by the Senate. This bill may also qualify our state for federal grant money called Race to the Top funds. You can view the bill at <http://www.mass.gov/legis/bills/senate/186/st02pdf/st02205.pdf> and the status of the amendments at http://www.mass.gov/legis/senate/s2205_amendments.htm.

Be sure to stay informed and engaged and take part in the budget process by attending or watching School Committee meetings. The next meetings are scheduled for Thursday, December 3rd and Thursday, December 17th at 7 PM and are usually at the North Andover Town Hall on Main Street.

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### Stand for Children Needs Your Input Join Us for a Focus Group Discussion

"As a grassroots organization, we need to hear from members and supporters like you about your priorities for public education. That's why we are hosting focus groups in 17 communities to hear what you want to work on. We will celebrate our accomplishments for children this year and discuss strategic opportunities to make a difference for kids in the coming year, including the Race to the Top initiative. Your input will help shape our 2010 advocacy agenda."

**Our North Andover/Andover Focus Group will be Wednesday, December 2nd from 6:45-8:30 PM in the Activities Room at the Atria at Marland Place, 15 Stevens Street in Andover (please park in the rear parking lots).**

The event will include light refreshments, a member meet and greet, and discussion. If you know anyone else who may be interested, please bring them along.

RSVP at [www.stand.org/ma/focusgroups](http://www.stand.org/ma/focusgroups) or to Heather McNeil at 978.686.6717 or to [h\\_mcneil@hotmail.com](mailto:h_mcneil@hotmail.com).

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## 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] at Panera Bread, corner of Routes 114 & 133 in North Andover.

Everyone is Welcome.

Next Date: Monday, December 14th.



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## MARK B. JOHNSON

Attorney at Law

JOHNSON & BORENSTEIN, LLC

Attorneys at Law

12 Chestnut Street

Andover, MA 01810

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# Schedule of Events

December

| Date                   | Time                | Place                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Event                                                                            |
|------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Wednesday, December 2  | 7:15pm              | 6 Roulston Circle<br>Andover, MA 01810                                                                                                                                                                             | Board Meeting. All members welcome.                                              |
| Tuesday, December 8    | 7:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m. | <b>Andover polling:</b> precincts 1, 7, 8 vote at Andover Sr Center; precincts 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9 vote at Andover High School Field House.<br><b>North Andover:</b> all precincts vote at North Andover High School. | Special Primary, U.S. Senate.                                                    |
| Wednesday, December 9  | 6:00 pm             | Unitarian Church<br>6 Locke St<br>Andover, MA 01810                                                                                                                                                                | Holiday Dinner. Dinner followed by a presentation by Barbara Brown               |
| Friday, December 11    |                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | January Bulletin Deadline.                                                       |
| Monday, December 14    | 11:30am-1pm         | Panera Bread<br>Rt. 133 & Rt 114<br>N. Andover, MA 01845                                                                                                                                                           | Lunch & Conversation. An informal gathering of League members. Everyone welcome. |
| Wednesday, December 30 |                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Last day to register to vote for state election.                                 |
| Wednesday, January 6   | 7:15pm              | 6 Snowberry Road<br>Andover, MA 01810                                                                                                                                                                              | Board Meeting.<br>All members welcome.                                           |

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