

Bulletin

www.lwv-andovers.org

December 2012

President: Ann Cobleigh

Vol. 18 No. 4
Published Monthly September - May

League of Women Voters of Andover/North Andover Newsletter

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President's Letter

Dear Members,

First, the Board extends apologies for the lateness of this issue of the Bulletin. The January issue will be published as scheduled at the beginning of the month. Please send any submissions according to the regular schedule.

The past few weeks, in addition to our voters service member activities, the Board completed two fundraising efforts. First, a small group volunteered a Sunday afternoon participating in the LWVMA Phonathon which raises funds for the state League but gives a percentage to LWV A/NA. Thank you to Keller Williams Realty for the use of their office and to Maureen Sundberg for refreshments. Second, an appeal letter was mailed to our town officials and elected and appointed board members who see and appreciate the League's work year after year whom we hope will consider supporting our organization with a donation.

Election Day was exciting and, all things considered, ran fairly smoothly in Andover. Thank you Molly Bicking for the usual fine job organizing our precincting volunteer schedule and for the follow-up survey for member feedback. Also, the flexibility of our members is appreciated as it was necessary to respond to the changing needs of the flow of voters, particularly in the morning. There were times it was necessary to relocate the table, or stand in front of the table and lines, etc. in order to be more effective moving the crowds through. Interesting to note, I discovered at a recent regional League Leaders' meeting, that not all Leagues have as collaborative a relationship with their Town Clerk offices as we enjoy in Andover.

As we come upon the new year and are asked for input for LWVMA Program Planning, I ask our members to also look ahead for LWV A/NA's business planning purposes. Increasing our annual operating revenue is vital to maintaining League activities now and in times down the road. LWV of Andover/North Andover's well-established programs provide valuable service to our communities, yet the League at all levels, not unlike other multi-generational organizations, faces the challenge of keeping up with issues, communication, and current voter needs as they change. Defining a forward-looking plan to deal with this is a powerful and efficient tool, particularly for groups with limited time and personnel resources.



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We are excited about the **January 23rd Dinner & Business meeting**. This event is being held at one of Andover's treasures, the Andover Historical Society. The agenda will include a guest speaker team, Mrs Mary and the Rev. Jim Todd who will speak about their personal experiences aiding political refugees from Iraq who, having helped the American government, in turn receiving assistance relocating to the US and ultimately settling with their families in the Merrimack Valley. Mary and Jim are also members of the Merrimack Valley People for Peace. You must have seen their peace flags in front of Old Town Hall and Shawsheen Square on the weekends. The business meeting portion will address: regular business, follow-up on financial issues raised at June's Annual Meeting, determination of how much to raise dues as directed by 2012 Annual Meeting, discussion and input for LWVMA program, as well as discussion of short and long-term goals for LWV A/NA beyond the context of annual program. Member input will be highly valued and we are seeking ideas and problems in search of solutions!

On a lighter note! This year's Chocolate At the Addison was a resounding success! Much appreciation goes to our organizers and volunteers: Stefani Traina, Maureen Sundberg, Molly Foley, Nuala Boness, and Jackie Kovacs. It should also be mentioned how helpful and encouraging the staff from the Addison Gallery have been in making this event possible and so enjoyable. We are especially grateful to Susannah Abbott, Director of Development at the Addison, for her help and encouragement. And we also welcome her as a new League member! How personally wonderful it was to meet League members new to me, to see members catching up with each other, and to welcome distinguished guests and new members. Additionally, I'm sure I speak for everyone who attended in saying that the gallery talk with Susan Faxon was outstanding and how fortunate Andover is to have this terrific resource in our own backyard. Please encourage your family and friends to patronize the Gallery throughout the year as the exhibits change. Did you know the exhibits are free?

It seems we've just gotten past the national election season but just around the corner are the Town Elections in March. The local candidates have started pulling papers and gathering signatures. More information will be available after the new year.

Sincerely,
Ann Cobleigh, President
anncobleigh@gmail.com

P.S. We would love to increase entries in the **Resources of Interest** section of the Bulletin (see way below). This is a place for you to share interesting websites, articles, books, videos, blogs, etc. (Please be sure you have checked it out thoroughly yourself, of course.) As new items are received, they will be permanently stored on the our website, www.lwv-andovers.org

Winter 2012-13 Calendar

For the most up to date calendar information visit [our website](#).

December

21 Wed Submission Deadline for January Bulletin. Email ideas or content to: rrsundberg23@gmail.com

January

- 9 Wed Monthly Board Meeting, 9-11:00 AM Memorial Hall Library, Andover. All members welcome.
- 10 Thu "Running For Office" Workshop, 7:00 PM, Memorial Hall Library, Andover. Moderator: League member Stefani Traina
- 23 Wed Member Dinner & Business Meeting, 7:00 PM, Andover Historical Society
- 25 Fri Submission Deadline for February Bulletin. Email ideas or content to: rrsundberg23@gmail.com

February

- 13 Wed Monthly Board Meeting, 9-11:00 AM Memorial Hall Library, Andover. All members welcome.
- 22 Fri Submission Deadline for February Bulletin. Email ideas or content to: rrsundberg23@gmail.com

Voter Services Andover and North Andover

by Stefani Traina

A big thank you goes to Molly Bicking, who coordinated the League's volunteer schedule at the Field House and Senior Center on election day. Many people gave their time to ensure a

smoother voting experience for Andover voters: Peggy Kruse, Cynthia Barakatt, Mary Beth Nason, Susie Novick, Joan Duff, Heather Moody Holman, Florence Feldman-Wood, Becci Backman, Gail Mann, Susan Stott, Ann Cobleigh, Liz Elowe, Ellen Sebasky, Maureen Sundberg, Annette Grams, Amy Janovsky, Chris Young, Diana Walsh, Sue Rice and Lynn Eikenberry. Andover High students volunteered at the polls, as well. It was nice to see our young citizens doing their part. The League received excellent feedback from voters for all of our efforts.

In North Andover, League member Heather McNeil used her extensive email list to send out reminders and information prior to the election. The League appreciates her efforts to keep citizens informed and engaged.



AHS students help man
League precincting
table.

Read-Along Thank You

by Maureen Sundberg

Thank you to all of the League members, town officials, and community members from every corner who joined the Community Read-Along this year as readers in one of Andover's classrooms. The School Coordinators did another amazing job of recruiting readers and welcoming them into the schools. The League is very appreciative of the schools' continued support of this engaging community event. And, we are also happy at the continued enthusiasm of all of our readers who generously take time out of their busy days to share their love of reading with Andover's children.



"Running For Office" Workshop

When: Thursday, January 10, 7:00 p.m.

Where: Memorial Hall Library, top floor conference room, Main St, Andover

Do you know someone who is thinking about running for office? Spread the word! The North Andover and Andover town clerks are once again partnering with the League to present the annual "*Running for Office*" Workshop.

We are privileged to have expert speakers and current elected officials to share important information and experiences including how to file paperwork and other requirements as well as the nuts and bolts of what is allowable when conducting a political campaign.

Featured Speakers:

- Joyce Bradshaw, North Andover Town Clerk
- Larry Murphy, Andover Town Clerk
- Jason Tait, Director of Communication & Public Education from the Office of Campaign & Political Finance
- Dan Kowalski, Selectman, Andover
- Richard Vaillancourt, Selectman, North Andover

The workshop will be taped for rebroadcast on local cable stations. Email [Stefani](#) if you have any questions.

Andover Annual Mid-Year Review

The annual Mid-Year Review was held on Tuesday November 13 at 7:00 p.m. at Memorial Hall Library, Andover. The League moderated the evening's three very interesting presentations on the topics of the Town Yard, the Economic Development Council, and 2012 Citizens Survey Results. The presentations were followed by an audience question and answer session. Attendance was light and it was hoped that the evening's bad weather was a contributing factor. The event was also taped and is available on our website www.lwv-andovers.org or www.andovertv.org. Viewing the video would certainly be a concise way to get up to speed on any of these topics.



Selectman Paul Salafia making opening remarks at Andover's ninth annual Mid-Year Review.

From LWVMA

What Would You Like at Convention 2013?

The LWVMA 2013 convention will be held May 17-18 at the Boston Marriott Peabody Hotel in Peabody. The convention planning committee emailed a survey on Nov. 27. Please take just five minutes to complete the survey by Jan. 4 (the sooner the better). Multiple responses from the same League are welcome; we want as many opinions as possible.

To access the survey click [here](#).

The convention planning committee is just getting started, and we would welcome additional members. Email Karen Price if you want to join.

Save the Date - Day on the Hill - March 13, 2013

The League's annual lobbying day at the State House is set for Wednesday March 13, 2013. Please encourage as many of your members to participate as possible. There's power in numbers!

We will announce the theme and speakers closer to the event date. The program will also include presentations from the state League's legislative specialists on key pending legislation.

Local Leagues are encouraged to contact their state Senators and Representatives to set up a meeting to discuss League-supported legislation after the morning's program. Details on the bills, including specific talking points, will be distributed to local Leagues before Day on the Hill, so you will have the information you need to make the case with your legislators.

Email Alert from LWVUS to State & Local League Presidents

FYI: In November, LWVUS sent out the below action alert to our grassroots lobby corps and supporters across the country. If you haven't yet made a call, you still have a short time to respond before the end of the year.



WARNING - FINANCIAL CRISIS AHEAD! With a January 1 deadline fast approaching, ten steep and unsustainable spending and tax cuts will harm the economy, the time has come for our leaders to come together and move our country forward with a new direction for federal fiscal policy.

Congress has an historic opportunity to support a new direction for federal fiscal policy.

[Join Congress to fix the "Fiscal Cliff."](#)

The League of Women Voters supports a federal fiscal policy that recognizes the importance of a fair tax system, that provides for social needs, and that will carefully manage the deficit and the economy.

It is time to recognize we need change and to take things in a new direction. [Join us in telling](#)

[Congress to support a new direction for federal fiscal policy.](#)

More than 20 million people are in need of full-time work, and unemployment continues to hover around 8 percent. But budget "hawks" are pushing for huge spending cuts that will harm the economy. At the same time, the top two percent of taxpayers are not paying their fair share. Millions of seniors, children, people with disabilities, and others are depending on social programs to get by. Our fiscal policy must support people in need, while carefully balancing the deficit with the needs of the economy.

America is facing a financial crisis. [Tell Congress to provide a long-term solution by increasing revenue, protecting the social safety net, reducing defense spending, and carefully managing the deficit.](#)

Thank you for taking action and supporting a responsible fiscal policy.

**League of Women Voters
1730 M Street, NW
Washington, DC 20036**

Resources of Interest

Occasionally we come across articles and information that might be of interest to our members. Topics range from running for office to environmental issues and everything in between. We hope this will become a regular way to share interesting information. **If you have an item to share, please submit it to bulletineditor@lww-andovers.org.**

NEW!

Andover Fix-It Shop - Repairs lamps, vacuum cleaners, small appliances, furniture, bikes, etc.

Dates and hours are: December 3 & 17 and January 7 & 28, 1-3 pm.

Cost: \$4 plus parts for Seniors (ID required); \$10 plus parts for non-seniors/non-residents;

\$2 diagnostic fee

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Trying to figure out the veracity of candidates' claims? Try these fact checking websites:

FactCheck.org (U of PA)

PolitiFact.com (Tampa Bay Times)

Washington Post's Fact Checker

Another tool for voter information is: <http://votesmart.org>

New York Times editorial about Citizens United from March 25 can be read here.

About the League of Women Voters

The League of Women Voters is a 92-year-old national nonpartisan political organization that encourages the informed and active participation of individuals in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. The League neither supports nor opposes candidates for office, elected officials or political parties at any level of government.

The Andover/North Andover League focuses on topics directly impacting the citizens of our communities.

League membership is open to all citizens, both women and men.

Membership Form

Sign up [online](#) or complete and mail the form below. When you sign up online you will have the option of paying by credit card or PayPal. The League's membership year is July-June.

New Renewal

\$55 Basic Member

- _____ \$60 Contributing Member
- _____ \$75 Sustaining Member
- _____ \$100+ Patron
- _____ \$35 Senior Citizen (65 yrs. old and over)
- _____ \$35 Student (under 24 yrs. old)
- _____ \$75 Household Dues (2+ persons in same household)

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

_____ Enclosed is a separate check containing my tax-deductible contribution of \$_____ payable to the Education Fund, which supports the LWV's educational activities.

Please make checks payable to:
"LWV OF ANDOVER/NORTH ANDOVER"

Mail form and check to:
LWV of Andover/North Andover
P.O. Box 514, Andover MA 01810

Member Information

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____