



# Bulletin

February 2010

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P.O. Box 514  
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[www.LWV-Andovers.org](http://www.LWV-Andovers.org)

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## League of Women Voters of Andover/North Andover

### President's Letter

By Stefani Traina

Welcome to February. We hope you'll join us for the program planning session on February 6. We'll discuss the issues we would like LWVUS to focus on for the next biennium. The vote on their program will take place at the LWVUS Convention in June.

February marks the beginning of budget season in both towns. Andover has a new vehicle for communication about the budget, the Andover Budget Blog, which you may access at <http://www.andoverbudgetblog.blogspot.com/>. See [http://www.townofnorthandover.com/Pages/NAndoverMA\\_Accounting/FY11%20Financials/](http://www.townofnorthandover.com/Pages/NAndoverMA_Accounting/FY11%20Financials/) for North Andover information.

March will bring local elections and candidates' forums. Andover's forum has been moved to Saturday, March 13 at 10:00 a.m. North Andover's date is still being confirmed. The Running for Office Workshop was well-organized, thanks to Joyce Bradshaw, Randy Hanson, Kathy Stevens and Sandy Gleed. It was taped for re-broadcast on local cable.

The January 19 special election was an exceptionally busy day for the clerks in both of our communities. Many thanks to the League members who worked at the Andover precincting table: Cynthia Barakatt, Joan Duff, Susie Novick, Chris Young, Becci Backman, Mary Beth Nason, Susan Stott, Ellen Sebasky, Liz Elowe, Amy Janovsky, Heather Holman, Ann Cobleigh and Diana Walsh. Sadly, this was Andover Town Clerk Randy Hanson's last election, as Randy will be retiring soon. The League appreciates her many years of collaboration with the League and her dedicated service to the town. She will be greatly missed.

Amy Janovsky and Joan Duff have agreed to serve on this year's nominating committee, and they would welcome others to join them. I hope many of you will give serious thought to ways you can become involved in the League. There are projects for every time commitment. The League has come to be a valuable resource and partner in both of our towns, but all of our work is done by volunteers. I've found that the League offers tangible ways to develop leadership and management skills. Joan and Amy will be reaching out to current and potential board members.

The state League is looking for a legislative specialist to follow legislation that relates to children and families. The time commitment is flexible. If you are interested, contact VP Program/Action Carole Pelchat at [cpelchat@comcast.net](mailto:cpelchat@comcast.net).

Finally, some of you may have seen that our 2009 Cole scholarship winner, Alexandra Hsu, was featured in the *Andover Townsman* in an article about her summer work as a volunteer paleontologist in North Dakota.

### LWVUS Program Planning Meeting: Saturday, Feb 6th at 10 am in the Activity Room of MHL

Becci Backman, VP for Program and Action

The League remains a grassroots organization because every two years local Leagues make recommendations to LWVUS concerning program issues. It gives members and Leagues the opportunity to consider the viability of issues and balance the pros and cons of our various positions. Our report gives the LWVUS a more realistic picture of the opinions of all Leagues, so it's important that we participate whether we have anything new to recommend or not.

I hope you'll make it a point to attend - your voice makes a difference. To prepare for the meeting, I urge you to review *Impact on Issues, 2008-2010*, which is available on the LWVUS website at [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org).

Members can also join the LWVUS Convention Preparation discussion list, where members will be discussing and/or promoting issues and the Program Planning process. Subscriptions can be made on the LWVUS web site at <https://member.lwv.org/member.asp>.



## North Andover Vice President Report

By Sandy Gleed, VP North Andover

One of the League of Women Voters' prime functions is to educate citizens on how their government works. Understanding how government "works" requires an understanding of both the representation and voting processes of democracy, as well as understanding pending issues that impact the life of our citizens.

In the past, our local League has done an excellent job of educating our citizens through scheduled meetings, monthly lunch gatherings, the excellent *Bulletin*, periodic public forums, letters to the local newspapers, and various member outreach mailings.

As people become busier and spare time vanishes, the League continues to find convenient ways to encourage a greater public awareness of how government works and how citizens can participate in the process. Email has become such an important communication tool, eclipsing the telephone and mail as the most effective way to contact a great number of people in a cost and time efficient manner. Cable broadcasts appear to be eclipsing attendance at public meetings. I am a huge proponent of attending public meetings...because if you attend you receive the handouts and have an opportunity to speak if you feel moved to...but so many people can't juggle meeting schedules with family needs. Or many people (myself included) just can't be two places at one time. Cable broadcasts of local town government board meetings give us all an eye into the workings of government that newspaper coverage or word of mouth discussions just can't cover deeply enough or accurately enough. With the ability to watch archived broadcasts online – now available in Andover and shortly to be available in North Andover – you can watch what's going on any time, any day of the week.

Knowing how educationally powerful live broadcast, taped and re-run broadcast, and archived internet video can be in our hurried world, our League is now taking great strides to produce original cable programming to supplement the regular broadcasts of Town government public meetings. Check your cable listings for our program on the 2010 Census featuring Representative Barbara L'Italien, League member Marty Larson, and Town Clerks Randy Hanson and Joyce Bradshaw. They discuss the importance and financial impact of promptly completing and returning the federal census that arrives in our mailboxes in March. If you are thinking of running for elected office, be sure to watch the Running for Elected Office Workshop featuring our Town Clerks and Jason Tait from the Massachusetts Office of Campaign Finance. The election finance laws changed as of January 1, 2010 – this program keeps you up to date and reassures prospective candidates that the Town Clerks provide a wealth of experience and knowledge to assist candidates.

Other original programming in the pipeline include a general program on the history of the League of Women Voters in our communities; preparing for Annual Town Meeting; and discussions of issues such as budget challenges, long-range planning, and fa-

miliarizing citizens with the functions and inter-relatedness of various municipal departments.

We can use help if you would like to learn about the production, content, or camera work – either in front of or behind the cameras. For more information, contact me at [sjgleed@yahoo.com](mailto:sjgleed@yahoo.com).

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## FACT working hard on establishing roots

By Chris Young

The small core group that makes up Friends of Andover Community Trees is planning for the future, both of the group and Andover's trees.

We have split into three committees to: update a tree inventory and master plan for tree care; create a tree by-law; and prepare for an Arbor Day celebration that includes a public event in the Library and activities in as many schools as possible.

Amy Janovsky is doing the heavy lifting on the tree inventory, talking to the state Department of Conservation and Recreation, the Town Manager, Plant & Facilities Director, Joe Piantedosi, arborist Randy Pickersgill and town GIS personnel. Despite Amy's heroic efforts to access the National Grid money appropriated for just such things, the money is locked up, waiting for state approval. Frustrating.

The by-law committee is wading through sample by-laws, talking with key people on town committees, weighing best practices against what is possible. We hope to have a by-law ready by 2011 spring Town Meeting and have the important town committees behind it.

We plan a festive and informative Arbor Day, which would coincide with any local Earth Day events.

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IT'S IN OUR HANDS

## Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce Annual Mayors and Town Managers Breakfast

By Sandy Gleed, VP North Andover

Stefani and I recently attended the Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce's breakfast meeting in Andover. The MVCOC event hosted a sold-out crowd of over 300 people and featured guest speaker Lieutenant Governor Tim Murray along with speeches from several Merrimack Valley mayors and town managers.

Some of the more important points touched on by the speakers are summarized below:

Tim Murray mentioned that now is a "time of harsh choices and deep sacrifices". He said that the state's FY11 budget will show modest increases, however the issue of deferred maintenance of state infrastructure is a huge problem that cannot be put off. He pressed for a return to a "pay as you go" approach to budgeting and said, on a more positive note, that the state has now implemented debt affordability analysis procedures that ought to better guide state planning.

Andover Town Manager Buzz Stapczynski was the first speaker to advocate for a Municipal Relief Package that includes the right for local government to design its own health plan, a right currently enjoyed by state government but denied to local government. His sentiments were echoed by practically every speaker that followed him.

Mayor Thatcher Kezer of Amesbury spoke of two cost-saving measures that his town recently implemented: First, they regionalized their Health Department. Second, they saved thousands of dollars by designating an SUV vehicle as a "non-transport ambulance", capable of accompanying transport ambulances, which eliminated the costly practice of sending fully-manned fire engines on medical calls.

Methuen Mayor William Manzi lamented that "...the explosion of fixed costs... is destroying municipal government". He added that "we're moving in the wrong direction". He's proud of his community's mixed-use zoning changes, but it's not enough to solve the challenges municipalities face.

North Andover Town Manager Mark Rees offered a note of optimism in sharing the news that North Andover has been successful in attracting new, cutting edge businesses, despite the downturn in the economy. He reiterated the critical need to secure the right to design municipal health plans and he urged the state to eliminate the prevailing wage restrictions. Mr. Rees also referred to the importance of municipal building assets and commented that it typically takes "years to move a project from conception to construction." North Andover's new police station is expected to open less than a year from now.

Other speakers included Newburyport Mayor Donna Holaday, Lawrence Mayor William Lantigua, Haverhill Mayor James Fiorentini, and Lowell Mayor James Milinazzo.

The Eagle-Tribune's summary of the MMCOC event can be found at [http://www.eagletribune.com/punews/local\\_story\\_016011612.html](http://www.eagletribune.com/punews/local_story_016011612.html)

### Suburban Coalition General Meeting

Thursday, February 4, 7:30-  
9:00PM

Newton Marriott

### Initial Analysis of FY11 Budget

Noah Berger, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Budget and Policy Center will speak on the FY11 budget. The Governor's budget was released at the end of January. Join us for an early look at the overall budget and what it means for local aid.

In addition to Mr. Berger, also invited are a representative from the Governor's office and members of various House and Senate committees. This list includes the Ways and Means Committee, the Revenue Committee and the Committee on Municipalities and Regional Government, along with other legislators that represent Suburban Coalition member communities.

Mass Budget and Policy Center is a well-respected, independent organization that provides analysis on state tax, budget and economic policy. Noah Berger has been Executive Director of the organization since 2002.



## Xtreme Green - A way to do as little as possible in 5 minutes

By Norm Viehmann

I hated the time I spent writing checks to pay the bills each month. Retirement brings on the joy of doing absolutely nothing. But many of us get very busy. Idle time becomes very precious. So I went for automatic bill payment wherever possible.

Even though our utility payments are automatic, we still get a copy of the bill every month. This month the gas and electric and health insurance bills arrived with flyers encouraging us to "go paperless". I couldn't resist the thought of the pleasure of deleting those e-mailed bills. So I signed up for PAPERLESS BILLING for three accounts today. The paperless option is available without automatic payment.

The gas company spelled out the effect of my action - definitely a record for the very least we could possibly do to help the environment.

For every 38,500 paperless bills Bay State Gas provides, the environment saves:

- 1 ton of paper
- 16,450 gallons of water
- 1,941 pounds of solid waste
- 60 pounds of air emissions
- 5,058 pounds of greenhouse gases.

For 3 bills we save:

- 0.16 lbs. paper/month
- 1.28 gal. water/mo.
- 0.15 lbs. solid waste/mo.
- .005 lbs. emission/mo.
- .39 lbs. greenhouse gases

In addition to sparing the environment we avoided the effort of stuffing them into our junk mail recycle bag.

Barbara and I hope that you will not only do this very little bit but will encourage others as well.



Acclaim Images.com

## LEGISLATIVE ACTION

By Diana Walsh

The Supreme Court has just ruled on the Citizens United vs. FEC case. In a stunning blow to our democratic process the Court voted 5-4 in favor of the FEC, giving corporations the same First Amendment rights as individual citizens and overturning almost a century of law. This allows unlimited spending by corporations and unions in elections. The published reaction from our national League is printed below. When the League decides on what legislative measures can be taken to place limits on this spending and protect our democracy, action alerts will be sent to you.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
January 21, 2010

Contact: Kelly Ceballos  
202-263-1331

### CITIZENS UNITED DECISION SETS OFF REVOLUTION IN CAMPAIGN FINANCE

Supreme Court Erred, Decision Undermines Basic Pillar of American Democracy

Washington, DC –The following is a statement by Mary G. Wilson, national president of the League of Women Voters on the Supreme Court's decision in Citizens United v. FEC. The League filed an [amicus brief](#) in this case:

"The Supreme Court has made a tragic mistake. Their decision announced today in Citizens United v. FEC is constitutionally irresponsible and will surely bring about an anti-democratic revolution in how we finance elections in this country. Today, basic pillars of American democracy have been undermined – that elections should not be corrupted by vast corporate wealth and that the voters should be at the center of our democratic system.

Justice Stevens had it right when he said, in his dissent, 'The Court's ruling threatens to undermine the integrity of elected institutions across the Nation. The path it has taken to reach its outcome will, I fear, do damage to this institution.'

In creating a new constitutional right for corporations to spend unlimited amounts of their shareholder's money to determine the outcome in candidate elections, the Court has unleashed into our elections tremendous sums of money from for-profit corporations that cannot possibly be matched in quantity by contributions from ordinary citizens. The only possible outcome of this is that big money and special interests will have an even tighter grip on our democracy.

Congress and the President enacted campaign finance laws over a series of decades for a reason – to protect our democracy from the perverse influence of big money in our elections. In making this decision, the Court has ignored the best interests of the American public and our representative form of government."

### Casino Gambling

Casino Gambling is returning as an issue in Massachusetts. The LWVMA's position is summarized below. Additional information can be found at [www.lwvma.org/casinogamblingresources.shtml](http://www.lwvma.org/casinogamblingresources.shtml).

Testimony to the Joint Committee on Economic Development and Emerging Technologies in Opposition to S. 174 and H. 4068

By Louise Haldeman, League of Women Voters of Massachusetts Casino Gambling Specialist

October 29, 2009

For the second time in less than two years, the Massachusetts Legislature is considering changes to its gambling laws that would allow Class 3 gambling in the state. The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts strongly opposes any such measure.

In the early 1980s, when there were proposals to build casinos in the western part of Massachusetts and in Hull, the League undertook an extensive study of the subject to see if casinos would indeed be a benefit to the Massachusetts economy. What we learned, as we considered the pros and cons, convinced us that they would not. Since that time, both before and after Governor Patrick's proposal of 2008, we have continued to review the arguments and examined many independent studies and articles written by specialists in economics, sociology, law, taxation, and psychology, as well as concerned citizens.

It is clear that, even in times of economic prosperity, gambling is merely a minor asset to the wealth of a given state. The social costs associated with those persons who become addicted to gambling, as well as the infrastructure costs to nearby communities, far outweigh any financial benefits. Permitting the introduction of Class 3 gambling, with all of its well-documented attendant problems, at a time when the Commonwealth and its citizens are struggling with the effects of the recession, will only perpetuate our economic woes.

Although the supporters of casinos have tried to characterize them as "recession proof," the experience of neighboring states proves that not to be the case. Casinos are laying off employees, thus adding to an already existing unemployment problem. All are experiencing a decline in profit. Some are facing bankruptcy. Even when casinos do well, no state has solved its fiscal problems by the introduction of casinos. Pennsylvania, Connecticut, and New Jersey - states closely resembling our own - have much higher taxes than Massachusetts. Their casinos have not helped.

Gambling is a business that drains the economy; it does not bolster it. Independent research has shown that for every \$1 earned in revenue from gambling, \$3 is spent in the costs associated with it. Casinos in particular require a vast infrastructure to support them. There are demands on roads, water, waste disposal, public safety, and housing for the work force. Study after study has demonstrated that the amount of

revenue generated by casinos has not proved equal to the expenses incurred by nearby communities.

The number of jobs created through gambling is vastly overstated, other than those in construction, which are themselves transient. Few truly new jobs are created. Casinos are self contained, offering many services on the premises. The restaurants, gas stations, and small shops which would ordinarily flourish in the shadow of larger industries simply cannot compete successfully with those at the casino itself. As existing small businesses are forced to close, the owners and former employees may well take jobs at the casino instead, which means the casinos are more an agency for job transfer than a creator of jobs.

Furthermore, with the increase in the incidence of embezzlement and similar crimes by persons whose gambling habits get out of hand, other businesses and industries become extremely reluctant to open new facilities in the vicinity of casinos. Serious unemployment problems continue to exist in the states which have casinos.

Massachusetts has an excellent record when it comes to the passage of laws and regulations that are designed to protect the health of its citizens. We promote good environmental standards and measures designed to improve the public health and the welfare of our children. For the state now to promote gambling, knowing that many citizens will be adversely and tragically affected, is contrary to the standards of public welfare we have set for ourselves.

Massachusetts needs industries and businesses that will expand the wellbeing and wealth of its citizens. It needs jobs that provide decent wages and that people can be proud of having. It does not need an industry that will only weaken its long-term development.

For all these reasons, the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts opposes the implementation of Class 3 gambling in the state, in particular the passage of S. 174 and H. 4068, and urges the members of the Joint Committee on Economic Development and Emerging Technologies to also oppose these bills.



## Comments on Form Based Zoning Charrette, Jan. 21, 2010, Old Town Hall, Andover

By Alix Driscoll

### Andover wants lots of open space

From Andover's point of view, the protection of open space was the major goal articulated in regards to the creation of proposed Form Based Zoning (FBZ), at the charrette meeting, on Jan. 21, at the Old Town Hall. Every one who identified themselves as Andover residents loudly advocated for extensive open space in the zoning area, the 700 acres encompassing the RT. 93 new interchange. One resident decried that the vision presented that evening was missing a grand "Emerald Necklace" vision.

People also advocated for an extensive trail system of generous proportions connecting the towns, the developed areas and scenic spots.

### Protection of the Andover west-side parcel

Another resident asked that open space zoning be devised to permanently protect the northern half of the 96-acre west-side Andover site, (called District 3). This is the area with the majority of the endangered and rare species, extensive wetlands and the flood plain of the meandering Shawsheen River. Mary Madden, from VHB, the consultant hired by officials of Andover, Tewksbury and Wilmington to formulate a new zoning code for the entire 700-acre tri-town area unlocked by the interchange, said this would violate the rights of private landowners and dismissed this consideration. This Andover land is currently zoned Industrial and could support a 750,000 square foot industrial building; that's like six North Andover Stop & Shops on RT.114. Although a power point presentation showed a possible building on the south half of the west-side Andover parcel, on the 54 acres, owned by Judith Wien, there was no permanent protection for extensive open space to the north. South Street is currently the only access to the Andover parcel on the west side of Rt. 93, an area "orphaned" by the construction of the highway years ago.

### Some Tewksbury people oppose FBZ process

A vocal group of people from Tewksbury challenged why this zoning writing process is occurring at all since some Tewksbury citizens agree and the Planning Board recently affirmed again, that there will be no connection with South Street in that town. This street is narrow and winding with small setbacks of homes from the street. This group dominated any discussion of the merits or demerits of FBZ for half the session. The Federal Highway policy makers said several years ago that there will be no connection to Tewksbury if there is no connection to local roads. At this time, that connection or lack of it is focused squarely on a connection to South Street and not doing so could truncate any economic bene-

fits of a new interchange to Tewksbury going forward.

### Nine parcels with different uses

The 700-acre parcel was divided by color into 9 parcels with each having a different "character." The west-side Andover parcel (District 3) was designated biotech R & D. The northern part includes the Sanborn Reservation of AVIS.

As proposed by VHB team, the east side parcel District 2 / Employment Research owned by Pfizer, Proctor and Gamble and others, would likely have infill or more buildings tucked into their campus.

The large parcel of land to the south (District 4) in Andover and Tewksbury, owned by RJ Kelly, also now Industrially zoned, would have densely packed office buildings and some amenities in a mixed use centers district. VHB also proposed some residential units in this parcel.

As proposed, the land on the west in Tewksbury, District 6, is also slated to become a mixed use retail center with a "lifestyle" building, (a multiplex theatre), but not a mall.

The VHB team presented attractive concept designs for "streetscapes," with walking areas and residential units above retail and restaurants. Yet, several members of the audience spoke about the need to protect the integrity of Andover's downtown from a satellite village in the southern part of town. There was not enough time for extensive discussion of the merits of Form Based Zoning, which allows more density with concentrated building, going up and not out, and keeping parts of the land not built upon.

### Coming up

There will be comment period on this charrette on Form Based Zoning until Feb. 11.

A draft for public comment will be available in early May and the proposed zoning bylaws for the 700 acres (possibly as overlay/s) will go to the three Town Meetings in October.

VHB and Andover Planning Director Paul Materazzo is accepting comments on Form Based Zoning until Feb. 11, 2010.

[pmaterazzo@andoverma.gov](mailto:pmaterazzo@andoverma.gov)

See the whole charrette presentation [http://www.vhb.com/tri%2Dtownfbc/pdf/Charrette\\_Two\\_January\\_21.pdf](http://www.vhb.com/tri%2Dtownfbc/pdf/Charrette_Two_January_21.pdf)

And download and fill out the short comment sheet on last slide.



## Membership Report

By Paulette Zuena

Please join me in welcoming our newest member Annie Gilbert of 12 Gray Road in Andover and thank you to all of the members who have renewed their memberships. We are currently in the process of updating our membership records so to those of you who have not renewed as yet please let me know as soon as possible. Also please note that if someone new joins the League now, their membership will be extended through June 2011. That's an additional 5 months of membership for no extra cost!

## 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](mailto:amy-janovsky@comcast.net)) or Joan Duff (978.685.3212, [jandjuff@verizon.net](mailto:jandjuff@verizon.net)) to talk about the positions, to nominate yourself or another member.

## League of Women Voters of Phonathon Update

A BIG thank you is due to the ten local Leagues that participated in some way to call, email, or write members in their own and other local Leagues. Their efforts yielded 71% of the total funds raised. Newton earns top honors with over \$10,000

contributed and raised - not just from their own members, but from those they contacted during the calling period. Newton's Phonathon share is \$1,500. The average share for local Leagues who participated in calling or writing is \$582. The average share for local Leagues who did not is \$62.50.

Every contribution is appreciated and LWVMA is pleased to be able to support local Leagues through revenue sharing at a higher level than we have done in the past. We were able to do this by significantly cutting overhead costs. Thank you to all the local League members who volunteered their time for this campaign. We will be analyzing the 2009 annual campaign and appreciative of any thoughts you may have on how to improve it for 2010. And now, a word from our sponsors....

### Founders' Circle: \$10,000+

League of Women Voters of Newton

### Activists' Circle: \$5,000 - \$9,999

League of Women Voters of Concord-Carlisle

### Leaders' Circle: \$2,500 - \$4,999

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### Voters' Circle: \$1,000 - \$2,499

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League of Women Voters of Hamilton/Wenham  
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League of Women Voters of Winchester



## LWV Andover/North Andover Membership

\_\_\_\_\_ \$55 Basic Member    \_\_\_\_\_ \$60 Contributing Member    \_\_\_\_\_ \$75 Sustaining    \_\_\_\_\_ \$75 Household Dues  
(2+ persons in same household)  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$100+ Patron    \_\_\_\_\_ \$35 Senior Citizen (65 and over)    \_\_\_\_\_ \$35 Student (under 24 yrs. old)

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

\_\_\_\_\_ Enclosed is a separate check containing my tax-deductible contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_ payable to the Education Fund

Send checks payable to: **LWV OF ANDOVER/NORTH ANDOVER**, Membership, P.O. Box 514, Andover MA 01810

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank You!** Paulette Zuena, Membership,

## Running for Office Workshop 1/13/10

By Stefani Traina

As part of the League's efforts to encourage people to run for office, the annual running for office workshop was held in North Andover, thanks to Town Clerks, Joyce Bradshaw, Randy Hanson and League members Kathy Stevens and Sandy Gleed. It was taped for rebroadcast in both communities, as well. The panel of speakers included both Town Clerks, Jason Tait from the Office of Campaign & Political Finance (OCPF), and North Andover School Committee member, Chris Nobile.

Anyone considering a run for local office may pick up a packet of information at either Town Clerk's office. Included in the packet are nomination papers, which should be returned with a minimum of 50 certifiable signatures. The clerks strongly recommended that potential candidates obtain extra signatures just in case. Potential candidates are allowed to submit their nomination papers as they are completed if they wish. The clerks can certify the signatures and let them know how many more are needed. Filing deadlines are Tuesday, February 2 by 5:00 p.m. in Andover and Friday, February 5 by 4:30 p.m. in North Andover.

The clerks emphasized the importance of filing campaign finance reports on time, as the local newspapers keep track of these deadlines.

With regard to running for office, Chris Nobile made the observation that the time commitment is usually more than you had expected, and the rewards were often different than you could have imagined. He acknowledged that there is a 'gut piece' to deciding to run and the process of campaigning can help a candidate to articulate that. He opined that running for office represents a way to have a great impact on your community. He emphasized the importance of identifying your network of people; he indicated that once you start expressing yourself, people will start to gravitate to you. He acknowledged that support may come in ways that you don't anticipate. He advised potential candidates to speak with those who are already in office, because they are a wealth of in-

formation. He also advised potential candidates to pick the path they are comfortable with. He chose to do a lot of door to door campaigning and found it to be quite effective. He explained that the short campaign window gives candidates a chance to develop quickly. He said that 'running was one of the great experiences of my life.' He mentioned the importance of developing an elevator speech and of putting together a brochure that people can read. He also cautioned that those who win shouldn't worry about knowing it all, that there is time to learn on the job once you are elected.

Jason Tait from the OCPF explained the structure of his office and went through the extensive handout. Their website is [www.mass.gov/ocpf](http://www.mass.gov/ocpf). New rules have gone into effect since January 1. Anyone thinking about running for office should spend some time becoming familiar with the resources that are available. The town clerks are excellent resources, as well. Go to [www.andoverma.gov](http://www.andoverma.gov) or [www.townofnorthandover.com](http://www.townofnorthandover.com) for more information.

### 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 Rtes 114 & 133.  
North Andover.

Everyone is  
Welcome.

Next Date:  
Friday,  
Feb 12th.



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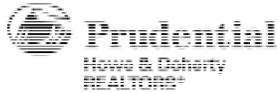
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# Schedule of Events

	Date	Time	Place	Event
February	Wed, Feb 3, 2010	9:15am	<a href="#">23 Greybirch Rd., Andover, MA 01810</a>	Board Meeting. All members welcome.
	Sat, Feb 6, 2010	10:00 am-noon	Memorial Hall Library <a href="#">2 Main St., Andover, MA 01810</a>	National Program Planning. This is our opportunity as a grassroots organization to inform the LWVUS about what we consider to be critical issues.
	Fri, Feb 12, 2010	11:30am-1pm	Panera Bread, Rt. 133 & Rt 114 N. Andover, MA 01845	Lunch & Conversation. An informal gathering of League members. Everyone welcome.
	Sun, Feb 14, 2010			LWVUS Turns 90!
March	Fri, Feb 26, 2010			March Bulletin Deadline.
	Wed, Mar 3, 2010			Last day to register to vote in Town Election.
	Wed, Mar 3, 2010	7:15pm	<a href="#">86 High Plain Rd., Andover, MA 01810</a>	Board Meeting. All members welcome.
	Fri, Mar 12, 2010	11:30am-1pm	Panera Bread, Rt. 133 & Rt 114 N. Andover, MA 01845	Lunch & Conversation. An informal gathering of League members. Everyone welcome.
	Sat, Mar 13, 2010	10am	Andover Memorial Hall Library	Andover Candidates' Forum.
	Tues, Mar 23, 2010			Andover Town Election.
	Thur, Mar 25, 2010	7:30pm	Andover School Committee Room	Andover Budget Forum.
	Fri, Mar 26, 2010			April Bulletin Deadline.
Tue, Mar 30, 2010			North Andover Town Election.	

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