



Bulletin

January 2010

Published Monthly (December-May)
(Vol. 16 No. 1)

P.O. Box 514
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www.LWV-Andovers.org

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League of Women Voters of Andover/North Andover

President's Letter

By Stefani Traina

I wish everyone could have attended our holiday dinner on December 9. As I write, this I'm still thinking about what Barbara Brown, (Executive Director of the Lawrence History Center), told us about the importance of collecting and preserving historical documents so that the real story, not myths and untruths, prevail. Her talk was informative and inspiring. We'll be planning a League field trip to the Lawrence History Center soon.

Our League will celebrate its 90th anniversary in 2011. It would be an important service to go through our archives at the Andover Historical Society (organized by Barbara Brown a few years ago) to compile a comprehensive history of our League. We could also conduct oral history interviews with some of our members. The League has played an important role in our communities, and this provides an opportunity to review its accomplishments and the wonderful women and men who have made things happen over the years. Please let me know if you would like to be part of this effort. All are welcome. Many hands make light work. I'll be happy to help us get organized.

Many thanks to Joan Duff for organizing the holiday dinner, and to everyone who helped out. It was a memorable evening. I'm happy to report that Lazarus House was so grateful for the extra buffet food that I delivered the next day. Many thanks to Liz Elowe for delivering the canned goods, as well.

Thanks go to Molly Bicking for organizing the precincting volunteers for the primary election on December 8, and to the following volunteers who gave their time: Peggy Kruse, Susie Novick, Annette Grams, Becci Backman, Joan Duff, Maureen Sundberg, Susan Stott, Chris Young, Diana Walsh, Amy Janovsky, Ann Cobleigh, and Gail Mann. The special election for the U.S. Senate seat is January 19.

The Running for Office Workshop is Wednesday, January 13, 6:30 p.m. at North Andover Town Hall. It's an opportunity to learn about the nuts and bolts of running a campaign and the reporting requirements. The League collaborates with the town clerks on this effort to inform potential candidates about the process. You

do not have to be a declared candidate to attend.

We will gather on Saturday, February 6 to discuss our League's recommendations to LWVUS about issues to study, and what advocacy priorities to pursue for the 2010-2012 biennium. I hope you'll give some thought to this and will send along your thoughts if you aren't able to attend in person.

Budget season is underway in both towns. The League encourages you to check both websites www.townofnorthandover.com and www.andoverma.gov for meeting dates and deadlines.

LWVUS Program Planning Meeting Saturday, Feb 6, 10 a.m. MHL Activity Room

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.

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

North Andover's governing boards are working hard to implement best practices while improving upon transparency in their deliberations. There remains room for improvement; Town Council Tom Urbelis recently made a very timely presentation to the Board of Selectmen on the importance of respecting and adhering to the latest revisions to the Public Meeting Laws.

As I watched Counselor Urbelis' presentation, followed shortly thereafter by a contentious discussion of the newly implemented Town Common use policy, it struck me how beneficial it might have been if included in that presentation was a discussion of our town voters' responsibility, as the sole legislative body in our town, to participate in public meetings, to hold board members accountable to conducting the town's business according to open meeting laws, and to require that Boards hold public hearings on matters of great financial and/or cultural impact to North Andover's residents. Of course such a discussion would have covered the need to then attend those hearings as well.

Knowing the Public Meeting Laws takes experience from attending meetings or taking a bit of time to review the laws online. A great summary can be found at:

http://www.mass.gov/Cago/docs/Government/oml_guidelines_final.pdf

Attending public meetings in person is always preferable, because it gives you access to handouts and the opportunity to pose questions during the public comments session if you so desire. However, most elected and appointed public board meetings are broadcast live as well as taped on our cable stations. You can find the broadcast schedule at the NACAM website at <http://www.northandovercam.org/>

Public Hearings are public meetings, usually devoted to a single topic, where Board members receive comments from citizens about the impact of pending policy, financial, or cultural decisions. The hearings give citizens an expanded right to ask questions; speak about their concerns; offer or inquire about alternative actions; and voice their support or opposition on the issue.

Citizens have the civic responsibility of being close-enough attuned to the business of their local government to know when issues important to them or directly affecting them will be discussed. Unfortunately, citizens frequently make their concerns known only after a particular policy or decision has been made.

As members of the League of Women Voters, I know we all appreciate and recognize good government when we see it.

Here's my 2010 New Years wish list for North Andover:

I'd like to see our Town do a better job of identifying issues that deserve a scheduled public hearing

I'd like to see the hearings well-publicized ahead of time, and held on dates and at times that accommodate citizens of all ages.

I'd like to see citizens take advantage of said improvements by becoming more aware of their role in attending these hearings or at least watching them via cable broadcast. Cable broadcasts will become even more accessible when they are posted online in the New Year.

This is good government!

"Together Andover & North Andover Counts"

A Message from Town Clerks Randy Hanson & Joyce Bradshaw

The 2010 Census Questionnaire: Coming in March and It's Quick, Easy and Confidential

Your League is working with the Andover and North Andover Town Clerks to help provide the Towns with a complete Federal Census Count.

The 2010 Census questionnaires will be delivered or mailed to all United States households via U.S. mail in March 2010.

This Census is different from our local census which is sent every year by the Towns of Massachusetts to verify resident voting addresses.

With only 10 questions, the 2010 Census questionnaire is one of the shortest questionnaires in history and takes just 10 minutes to complete!

The 2010 Census is a Constitutionally-required questionnaire that will count every person residing in the United States as of April 1st.

A 100% accurate count is important: Census results are used to determine our representation in the U.S. House of Representatives and to draw our state legislative districts. Census results are also used to award local and state government grants for public safety, education, transportation, health services, and to assist the elderly, the disabled, veterans, and low-income families.

Your privacy is protected: By law, the Census Bureau cannot share an individual's census questionnaire responses with anyone, including other federal agencies and law enforcement entities.

There will be more information about the Federal Census 2010 coming as we get closer to the census mailing. Please remember to return both the Town Census and the Federal Census this year.

If you want more information go to the Federal Website at www.2010.census.gov.

United States
**Census
2010**



IT'S IN OUR HANDS

North Andover School Committee Report

By Heather McNeil

Now is an interesting time to begin attending School Committee meetings as well as Finance Committee and Board of Selectmen meetings; the budget discussions that lead up to a vote at Town Meeting have begun. Now is the time to voice your thoughts on the budget as a parent and education advocate.

Thus, on the financial front, the school committee is still waiting for stimulus money from the state for this fiscal year. \$122,000 of this money was promised to the town stabilization fund per town meeting. And more of that will now be used to make up for recent reductions in state aid; the School Department has been asked to reduce this year's budget by \$244,000 to cover those costs and will do so with the stimulus money and other budget cuts. The special education budget already has a budget shortfall of about \$82,000 due to some operational costs and in large part due to a

reduction in the special education circuit breaker. The town was advised to prepare for a 60% reimbursement compared with the 75% we had been getting, but in actuality it ended up as a 40% reimbursement. At the recent School Committee/FinCom meeting, one of the latest budget projections for FY11 puts our town over \$1,000,000 short. So, times are tight for this FY10 and also for upcoming FY11.

The School Committee has agreed upon a set of budget directives that will guide Superintendent Hottel in his creation of the school budget which is due out in January. These directives, as put forth by the School Committee, are listed in Table 1.

The Kittredge modulars project is still on hold as other builders are looked at. The project is now slated to be completed by September of 2010. Many parents spoke at a recent meeting to urge committee members to cap the enrollment, particularly in the 4th grade at Kittredge, due to there being 29-30 students in some classes.

Table 1. North Andover School Committee Directives

- Retain all FY '10 permanent teaching positions, at a minimum.
- Class size guidelines should remain the same, for staffing purposes:
 - Grades K-2 class size: 18-22
 - Grades 3-5 class size: 23-25
 - Secondary level class size will vary at both the upper and lower ends.
 - No class will exceed 29 students.
- Budget for continued services and support to schools to improve their NCLB and AYP performance.
- Budget for standards based programs, new curriculum initiatives, and curriculum renewal.
- Budget for tools, technology, and training to improve the collection and reporting of a variety of data across the school system.
- Budget for the return of library services and some library staff to the elementary schools.
- Budget for the potential increase in the costs of energy and transportation.
- Budget for critical technology items and infrastructure to support the core teaching and learning mission.
- Budget for deferred, critical maintenance needs of the schools.
- Continue to budget for cost savings in special education while meeting legal mandates.

Small changes - Huge Effects

by Norm Viehmann, Energy Policy Monitor

It is important that families who are already committed to controlling their greenhouse gas emissions act on opportunities to make additional reductions. Timely investment in new appliances, heating/AC and water systems and fuel-efficient cars produce significant reductions in emissions that also yield significant cost savings. In between making these timely investments, it is important that we act on opportunities to make small reductions in energy consumption.

There are always ways to do just a little bit more. Equally, if not more important, we who are already committed should continually enlist more friends, acquaintances, relatives and neighbors into reducing their emissions. Small changes are a great way to get families started. A new opportunity has just arrived.

A standard incandescent bulb over its life will use almost five times the energy of a Light Emitting Diode (LED) bulb, a German study concluded. Light Emitting Diodes are among the most energy-efficient light sources available on the market. LED lamps are already today more than five times more efficient than incandescent lamps and future technical achievements offer additional potential for the coming years. At present, artificial lighting accounts for around 19% of global electricity consumption – that corresponds to 2.4% of worldwide primary energy consumption. 70% of the energy used for artificial lighting is consumed by lamps for which there are more energy-efficient alternatives. **Simply replacing conventional light sources with LEDs would theoretically halve global electricity consumption for lighting. The potential savings are therefore enormous.**

An OSRAM study monitored the life cycle of an LED and an LED lamp. Its outcome made it clear – LED lamps need less than 2% of their energy consumption for their manufacture – over 98% are used for their task: illuminating the world.

Independent experts verified the study. You can download the Executive Summary at:

http://www.osramos.com/osram_os/EN/About_Us/We_shape_the_future_of_light/Our_obligation/LED_life-cycle_assessmentOSRAM_LED_LCA_Summary_November_2009.pdf.

Running for Office Workshop

Wednesday, January 13
6:30 p.m.
North Andover Town Hall
120 Main St.
Free and open to the public

Environmental Action Committee

By Amy Janovsky

Several LWV members attended the Mass Climate Action Network's annual conference in November. Afterward, EAC discussed various program ideas that were presented. Many communities are starting to use approaches similar to the Low Carbon Diet to motivate households to reduce their carbon footprint while also saving money and strengthening community bonds. Candy Dann and Lynn Eikenberry offered to present this option to the school environmental coordinators, and to explore whether they might like to participate. EAC may conduct a trial run of the program within the committee; it could then expand to the general LWV membership and the school liaisons and then out to neighborhoods, churches etc. The group will continue to explore this option, possibly with consideration of a slightly different program being used in England that is more focused on adaptation to climate change. One highlight of the MCAN conference was a presentation by Bill McKibben in which he projected photographs from around the world of people joining in the "350" International Day of Climate action. If you wish to view the presentation, go to "350.org" and take a look. The site is also full of information on the climate talks in Copenhagen.

EAC also partnered with Greg Sebaskey, chair of the Andover Green Advisory Board, and Carolyn Dann, representing Mass Recycle and DEP to encourage the Board of Selectmen to sign a resolution supporting the revisions to the Bottle Bill. The effort was successful; EAC will follow up to ensure that a copy of the resolution has been sent to our legislators and Mass Recycle.

Special State Election Reminder

Tuesday, January 19, 2010

Andover Precincts 1, 7, 8 vote at Senior Center, Whittier Ct.

Andover Precincts 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9 vote at AHS Collins Field House

North Andover Precincts all vote at NAHS, 430 Chickering Rd.

Interested in shaping the future of development at the new I-93 interchange?

Don't miss your chance!!! Participate in the **SECOND** community workshop. Expect an interactive meeting, where you will see conceptual illustrations depicting a "Vision Plan" for the study area adjacent to the new interchange, and will have a chance to review and critique the objectives for this significant effort that will shape future development in all three towns.

The three Towns have begun developing a Form-Based Zoning Code for the Interstate 93 Tri-Town Interchange Development Area. The Form-Based Code is a critical step in maximizing the economic potential of the land that surrounds the interchange. We will be seeking community input on the development of the Form-Based Code and will discuss the "Vision Plan" for future development and the regulatory framework for the planning area.

Charrette 2: Vision Plan Development Thursday, January 21st, 6:30pm-9pm

Where? Town of Andover
Old Town Hall
20 Main Street

*** SNOW DATE: Thursday, February 4th (Same location) ***

AGENDA

- ✂ 6:30-7:00 Arrive / Sign -In / Open House
- 7:00-7:45pm Presentation and Overview of the Vision Plan
- 7:45-9:00pm Discussion and feedback
- 9:00pm Next Steps & Adjourn

For additional information about the project and schedule, please visit: <http://www.vhb.com/tri-townfbc>
<http://andoverma.gov/planning/i93/>

The League Thanks You

Thank you to the school coordinators whose diligence and hard work made the 15th annual Community Read-Along a great success: Ann Michaels, Geraldine Fegen, Ronna Markell, Lesa Botti, Lary Barbanti, Maribeth Neitsen, Sue Hoffman, Rebekah Miner, and Mona Igram.

Thank You to Our Sponsors

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: Thursday, January 14th.



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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

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Schedule of Events

January

February

Date	Time	Place	Event
Wednesday, Dec 30, 2009			Last day to register to vote for Special Election.
Wednesday, Jan 6, 2010	7:15pm	6 Snowberry Road, Andover, MA 01810	Board Meeting. All members welcome.
Wednesday, Jan 13, 2010	6:30pm	North Andover Town Hall	Running for Office Workshop.
Thursday, Jan 14, 2010	11:30am-1pm	Panera Bread, Rt. 133 & Rt 114 N. Andover, MA 01845	Lunch & Conversation.
Tuesday, Jan 19, 2010	7:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.	Andover precincts 1 & 7& 8 vote at Andover Senior Center; precincts 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 6 & 9 vote at Andover High School Field House. North Andover: all precincts vote at North Andover High School.	Special Election, U.S. Senate.
Friday, Jan 22, 2010			February Bulletin Deadline.
Wednesday, Feb 3, 2010	9:15am	23 Greybitch Rd., Andover, MA 01810	Board Meeting. All members welcome.
Saturday, Feb 6, 2010	TBA	Memorial Hall Library 2 Main St., Andover, MA 01810	National Program Planning.
Friday, Feb 12, 2010	11:30am-1pm	Panera Bread, Rt. 133 & Rt 114 N. Andover, MA 01845	Lunch & Conversation.

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Published Monthly