



Bulletin - January 2013

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January 2013

President: Ann Cobleigh

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League of Women Voters of Andover/North Andover Newsletter

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President's Letter

Dear Members,

First, let us welcome new member Jo Anne McConaughy who first attended our Members event at the Addison in November. We are very pleased she has joined our local League.

I wish to thank our guest columnist, Candy Dann, for the article in this issue of The Bulletin about the terrific recycling program within the Andover public schools. Thank you so much, Candy.

In December, I was invited to join an informal coffee at the home of Selectwoman Mary Lyman. US Representative John Tierney was following through on an effort to visit every town in his constituency and hear "what's on people's minds." Others attending included League members, Annie Gilbert, Joanne Marden, and Sue Tucker. The issue that I tossed into the mix was how upset people have become with the bi-partisan gridlock. Regretfully, Rep. Tierney was not too hopeful on this point as these politicians hold firm to strong belief systems and compromise is not always the goal. Still, there was some engaging discussion and it was interesting to hear from an insider. Rep. Tierney also discussed the School Committee's recent experience with the teacher contracts in the context of decreased funding to Andover schools from the state. He pointed out the original intent of public funding was to provide help for communities based on need, thus Andover would be expected to receive limited support compared with Lawrence, for example. Rep. Tierney also report that the I-93 interchange project is in a waiting status for the state.

As we enter the new year, we still have some big tasks on our To Do list. Our number one priority is to increase our annual operating revenue, a vital step to maintain League activities now and in times down the road. The Board is endeavoring to set goals and objectives for LWV A/NA to identify and meet the future needs of citizens and communities which is why I strongly urge everyone to complete and return the **Member Survey**. A copy appears later in the Bulletin along with instructions for returning it.

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LWVMA - The state League is looking for two things by February 1st. 1) Nominations for its officers and board of directors and 2) input on program planning for next year. If you have any input, please contact me at anncobleigh@gmail.com at your earliest convenience. (Please do not provide your feedback directly to LWVMA individually.)

I wish to take this last opportunity to remind all members about our upcoming **January 23rd Dinner & Business meeting** being held at the Andover Historical Society. There will be time for socializing and food before our guest speakers and business meeting. I urge you to attend; your input is highly valued and we are seeking ideas and problems in search of solutions! Look for the agenda below.

Your last chance to renew your League membership for 2012-13 rapidly approaches. Our administrative cut-off for renewals is January 31. To remain a member **and** continue receiving the Bulletin and notices from LWVMA and LWVUS you must renew your membership before the 31st!

Regarding the membership year 2012-2013, our administrative cut-off for renewing is January 31 to remain a member **and** continue receiving the Bulletin from LWVMA and LWVUS.

The attendance at the Running For Office Workshop was light this year so we'll be looking for opportunities to promote the video given that there is so much online access. It will be interesting to see how far we can take it.

Sincerely,

Ann Cobleigh, President
anncobleigh@gmail.com

Winter 2013 Calendar

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

January

- 23 Wed Member Dinner & Business Meeting, 6:00 PM, Andover Historical Society (see details below)
- 25 Fri Submission Deadline for February Bulletin. Email ideas or content to: rrsundberg23@gmail.com

February

- 5 Tue Last day submit nomination papers 5:00 pm Andover Town Clerk
- 7 Thu Monthly Board Meeting, 7-9:00 PM Memorial Hall Library, Andover.
All members welcome.
- 11 Mon Andover Special Town Meeting
- 22 Fri Submission Deadline for February Bulletin. Email ideas or content to: rrsundberg23@gmail.com

March

- 14 Thu Monthly Board Meeting, 7-9:00 PM Memorial Hall Library, Andover.
- 26 Tue Local Elections Andover & North Andover



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Winter Dinner & Business Meeting

Be sure to reply to your EVITE for the local League's Winter Dinner. Members will meet at 6:00 PM on Wednesday, January 23 at the Andover Historical Society. Following is the agenda for the evening:

- 6:00-6:45 Mingle with others and enjoy a delicious dinner (\$15 donation requested at the door)
- 6:45-7:15 Presentation by Mary and Jim Todd
- 7:15-9:00 Business meeting

The Todds will speak about their experiences aiding political refugees from Iraq who helped the US government and have been relocated with their families to the Merrimack Valley.

In addition to regular items of business, the League members will discuss and vote on a proposal for changes to annual dues as directed by the June 2012 Annual Meeting. There will also be an opportunity to discuss program planning and short and long term goals for the local League.

One Good Turn ...

By Candy Dann

First there was recycling and some composting in the cafeteria. Now there is more composting, and it is spreading to more schools! The award-winning cafeteria recycling and composting program at Andover High School (AHS) is getting even better! Last year, AHS won MassRecycle's top award for school recycling programs for its cafeteria initiatives. The program started during the 2011-12 academic year as a student project to bring recycling and food waste composting into the cafeteria to reduce waste. The program included new sorting stations, each with a place to drain liquids, recycle bottles and cans and leave fruits, vegetables and brown paper bags to be composted. The compostable materials were put into compost bins onsite at the school. They were managed and turned by the Environmental Club members and other volunteers. By April, six bins of rich compost were ready to transfer to the Sustainable Garden to enhance the soil there.

This year's changes at AHS include compostable trays and the ability to compost all types of food including meats and dairy from the cafeteria as well as from the kitchen. How can they do this? By trucking the food waste offsite to a facility in Hamilton called Brick Ends Farm where they use windrow processing, have large scale turning equipment, mix with leaves and other materials, and sieve the result to produce lush, nutrient-rich, highly-prized compost. Local gardeners refer to it as "black gold". Other smart, waste-minimizing moves by Andover's Food Services include the use of self-serve cutlery and condiments, compostable trays, and at AHS, they have started using paper "boats" (the red-and-white checked kind) for serving pizza and sandwiches and using biodegradable serving cups for smoothies made from polylactic acid (PLA), a corn-based plastic.

The success at AHS is contagious. Students from the AHS Environmental Club led an all-school assembly in November at Wood Hill Middle School (WHMS) to

introduce them to a similar program, which started in December. Wood Hill now has the same biodegradable paper trays, composts all its food waste, empties liquids and recycles all the bottles from lunch. The kitchen already recycled its cardboard and some of its food waste and is moving towards recycling all of its metal cans and composting all leftovers. Next month we should be able to report on the weight of the stuff "not trashed". What if they don't need the dumpster anymore?

There are plans to expand to High Plain Elementary School and beyond. Let us know if your school is ready! You need support from the Principal, a willing member of the school team like a teacher or aide, some supportive parents to help with the launching and sustaining, and a few willing students to serve as leaders.

The schools are excited because they see the benefits in terms of environmental awareness, integration with health classes, and the potential for long-term cost savings and new approaches to teaching. The key ingredients for the successes to date have been the leadership from Superintendent Dr McGrath, AHS and WHMS Principals, Dr. Lord and Mr. Bucco, custodial crew leaders Al Cataldo and Danny Dowd, a few interested parents like Lisa Scott and Kiruthiga Thirumalai, and key teachers such as Ms Cutler and Ms Shenker at AHS and the "We can do that!" Health teacher, Ms Consiglio at WHMS. Ms Consiglio is integrating the composting and sorting activities with food and exercise lessons in her health classes. English, engineering, math, and science teachers all have expressed interest in incorporating composting into their classes.

Gail Koutroubas, Andover Food Services Director, is committed to minimizing all kinds of waste and is excited to participate in this effort by purchasing the biodegradable trays and cups. She says "It is always a challenge to balance the goals of serving healthy meals, getting students to eat healthy meals, and minimizing waste and leftovers, but we're committed to doing this because it is the right thing to do and because Andover parents have asked to end the use of Styrofoam trays."

Sandy Gerraughty, DPW Business Manager, provided crucial early support for the program at AHS and hopes for its expansion to all schools eventually. She says "There are cost impacts in the short term to compost the food waste offsite but it makes for a sustainable program and the goal is to get results, make the program as efficient as possible, and find savings in longer term from reducing the weight of the remaining waste and potentially reducing the frequency of trash collection."

There is still more to do and you can help! Talk to your school, volunteer to facilitate introducing the new program, encourage reusable containers everywhere, and compost at home. For more information, contact Candy Dann, the MassDEP Regional Zero Waste Coordinator for our area at CDann@bedfordma.gov.

"Running For Office" Workshop

If you missed this great workshop or know someone who is interested in running for local office, the video from the January 10 event is available for viewing. [Click here](#).

2012 Andover Citizens Survey

Mid-Year Review Follow-Up

Presented by Dr. Francis Talty, Dr. Joshua Dyck & Dr. Jenifer Whitten-Woodring, Center for Public Opinion, University of Massachusetts Lowell

In general, it can be said that Andover rates fairly high in minds of the respondents. To see the data, please [click here](#) to be taken to the slide presentation.

"Member Survey"

from the Board of Directors

It's finally here! It's not as high-tech as originally planned but it's time to get some feedback! Hardcopies will be available during the Winter Dinner/Business Meeting. For your convenience, a copy of the questions has been included here. You may mail to the League's P.O. Box 514 in Andover, turn in at the dinner on January 23rd, or copy and paste the questions with your responses in a word doc or email to any board member or info@lwv-andovers.org. Your time and feedback are greatly appreciated.

Member Survey

The idea behind this survey is about identifying new ways for the League to interact and serve communities in the new technology and information era. In order to maximize our relevancy, the League is in a position to leverage its reputation and branding that has so carefully been cultivated over the decades. With this in mind, please respond as specifically as you can. We encourage new and creative ideas and to think of the lifestyles and needs of today's families young singles.

1. Would you like to receive "breaking news" emails for important developments at the:

- A) Local level, for example the moment when the Teacher's Union and School Committee agreed on contract terms?
- B) State level?
- C) National level?

2. What services or benefits do you most appreciate about your membership in the League?

3. What additional services or benefits would you like to receive as a League member that are not currently available?

4. What would make you more likely to participate in League events?

- A) Social event vs educational event or both
- B) Weekday vs weekend or both
- C) Daytime vs nighttime or both
- D) Other. Please specify.

5. Are you willing to assist with fundraising for specific initiatives? Which ones?

6. How do you think the Andover/North Andover communities view our local League? In other words, what is our local "image"? Is this what we want? Do we have the power to change it?

7. The League engages in the following work. Please rate in order of importance, with 1 being most important:

- Candidate Forums
- Informational Forums - political
- Informational Forums - environmental
- Informational Forums - town topics (such as the Town Yard or Youth Center)
- Moderator Services
- Other _____

8. What would you see as our membership goals? How do you think the League can expand interest in the organization to younger singles and families?

9. Could a Politics & Related Book Club be a good ongoing educational and social experience for residents and students and still positively reflect on the League?

10. How much time should the local league devote to each of its two main missions: Voter Education/Service vs. Advocacy?

- a) 0% vs. 100%
- b) 25% vs. 75%
- c) 50% vs. 50%
- d) 75% vs. 25%
- e) 100% vs. 0%

10. Do you read *The Bulletin*

- a) always
- b) sometimes
- c) rarely
- d) never

11. What do you enjoy most about *The Bulletin*?

12. What are your suggestions for guest articles in *The Bulletin*?

13. Would you prefer meetings that are more fun than business? or some of both?

14. Please share your ideas about how you'd like to see the work of the League get done?

15. How long have you been a League member?

a) less than 1 year

b) between 1 and 5 years

c) between 5 and 10 years

d) between 10 and 20 years

e) more than 20 years

f) can't remember ever not being a League member!

_____ yrs

16. Have you ever served on the League's board or a League committee? Would you like to?

yes

no

17. What inducements might influence you to take on a League office of role?

18. Should the League find new activities and/or objectives? Suggestions what those would be?

yes

no

19. Should the League utilize new methods and/or forms of communication?

yes

no

20. How can the League fully utilize technology?

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 that cannot be quickly found in the usual places. **If you have an item to share, please submit it to bulletineditor@lwg-andovers.org.**

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For all the ins and outs of Andover's Town Meeting and warrant articles:

<http://andoverma.gov/townmeeting/#overview>

FactCheck.org (U of PA)

PolitiFact.com (Tampa Bay Times)

[Washington Post's Fact Checker](http://WashingtonPost.com/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:
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Member Information

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