

Bulletin - June/July 2013

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Steering Committee:

Ann Cobleigh, Maureen Sundberg, Stefani Traina

League of Women Voters of Andover/North Andover Newsletter

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Steering Committee Letter

Dear Members,

It's been a terrific year of activities and accomplishments, and as always the LWV of Andover/North Andover membership has provided fascinating discussions, questions, and ideas throughout.

Given the ever-increasing speed of communication, the Steering Committee has decided to publish a weekly or bi-weekly ANA League News that will include timely news and reminders about upcoming events. This new format will allow us to provide more information about the status of bills in the state house and legislature. We will still publish a full Bulletin quarterly. We look forward to your feedback as we try this approach.

Thank you to all of you who have renewed your membership for the 2013-14 year, which began July 1. Your membership dollars are vital to the local League as we work to maintain and grow our membership. If you haven't had a chance to renew yet, please take a minute to do that [here](#) or by printing the form at the end of the *Bulletin*. Email [Stefani](#) if you have questions about your membership status.

This issue of the Bulletin reports on LWVMA State Convention. You'll also find a recap of our Annual Meeting, at which we completed the League business agenda and were entertained and informed with a "Speak Easy" presentation from the Andover Historical Society. Special thanks to Elaine Clements, Jane Cairns, Jim Batchelder, and Don Robb for sharing their stories with us. As promised, the President's Year In Review can be viewed on our website by clicking [here](#). The FY2013 Financial report, FY2014 Budget, and the 2013-14 Program are posted there as well.

As you look at the [local program](#) for next year, you'll find there are many opportunities to get involved in one or many projects. With your continued participation and support we hope to increase the League's visibility. As you look through the list of planned events, we hope you'll feel inspired to join a group. The work is always more fun with more help.

A final thanks to all our members for a jam-packed 2012-2013 League year. We look forward to your continued enthusiasm and participation. Enjoy your summer!

Ann Cobleigh
Maureen Sundberg
Stefani Traina



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Summer 2013 Calendar

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

Jul 1 Mon Start of the League's fiscal year; remember to [renew](#) your membership!

Jul 17 Wed Lobby Day at the State House

League of Women Voters of Massachusetts News

Lobby Day July 17 on Election Reform

LWVMA will join with our coalition partners in a Lobby Day at the State House **Wednesday, July 17**, to ask legislators to support laws modernizing the way Massachusetts handles voter registration and elections, in particular the omnibus election reform bill, [S.327](#). League members and friends are urged to come and let the legislature know the time to update our election laws is now.

Among the key provisions of this bill are early voting, an online site for voters to check their registration status and polling place, online voter registration, and random audits of polling places after elections.

To participate in this Lobby Day, come to Nurses Hall at the State House at 10:30 a.m. July 17. There will be presentations from supportive legislators and a briefing on the major points to make in urging support for these changes. Then, around noon, you can meet with your own legislators and key members of the Joint Committee on Election Laws.

Election reform legislation almost passed last year; we need to make sure it succeeds this year.

Annual Meeting Recap

The local League held its Annual Meeting at the Andover Historical Society on May 22. Members joined for dinner followed by the business meeting and a Speak Easy presentation by representatives of the Historical Society.

President Ann Cobleigh took a moment to thank the many members who helped on projects throughout the year, with a special thanks to Heather McNeil, Molly Foley, Maureen Sundberg, and Stefani Traina who took on multiple roles. Molly is leaving the Board this year, but will be staying involved with local events. Thanks, Molly!

The League managed to complete a very full docket of events and services for the year, and there was a greater sense of stability for the League in both communities as compared with the prior year. The League's year revved up in August with a Pre-Primary Candidates' Forum for the open State Senate seat for 2nd Essex & Middlesex District and Register of Deeds and continued with debate watching and forums until the November 6th election. View a complete list of the League's many events by [clicking here](#).

Annual Meeting passed the FY2014 budget and voted on a comprehensive [list](#) of projects which will require a number of volunteers to carry out. Many thanks to those of you who signed up to help out next year. We will be contacting you soon so that we can start planning the year ahead. The League carries out its work because of your loyal support.

This year's Annual Meeting concluded with a very enjoyable and inspiring Speak Easy program by the Andover Historical Society. Elaine Clements, Jane Cairns, Jim Batchelder, and Don Robb described the Society's mission and vision while treating League members to some of the many wonderful stories collected, preserved, and treasured by the Historical Society.

League Awards to Students

Again in 2013, the League of Andover/North Andover presented two **Book Awards** to juniors at our public high schools. Emily Granoff, a frequent helper at Andover voter service events, was awarded this year's Joyce and Willard Robinson Book Award. Ann Cobleigh attended the awards ceremony and presented Emily with her book. Diane Huster attended the North Andover High ceremony and presented Victoria Sullivan with the Book Award.

Mary Beth Nason coordinated the **Virginia Cole Scholarship** award again this year. The 2013 award was given to Marina Renton who will be attending Brown University in the fall. In addition to helping with a number of voter service events, Marina was one of the students who dressed as a suffragette and distributed League materials at Andover Day last September. She also introduced the TimeSlips program to Marland Place. The storytelling program helps dementia patients connect with caregivers by creating new stories.

League Members Receive Recognition

Four League members were recently recognized as **Citizens Who Care** by the Rotary Club of Andover. Since 1997, Andover's Rotary Club has honored individuals who are dedicated to making Andover a better place to live, work, and play. The League adds its congratulations to Ellen Marcus, Nancy Mulvey, Mary Beth Nason, and Susie Novick. Congratulations on the well-deserved honor.

And Tina Girdwood received the Virginia Cole Community Service Award for 2013. Her involvement with establishing Andover's recycling program, service on the School Committee, and work with Andover Coalition for Education made her an exceptional candidate for recognition.

2013 GWSA Report Card

The Global Warming Solutions Act (GWSA) was signed by Governor Patrick in August of 2008. It created a framework for reducing heat-trapping emissions to levels that scientists believe give us a chance of avoiding the worst effects of global warming. It requires reductions from all sectors of the economy to reach a target of a 25% reduction of Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHGs) by 2020 and an 80% reduction by 2050.

The 2013 Report Card tells you how well Massachusetts is doing:

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/air-water-climate-change/climate-change/massachusetts-global-warming-solutions-act/global-warming-solutions-act-dashboard.html#about>

Thank You

Many thanks to Molly Bicking and all of the volunteers she organized to staff the League's precincting table at the Field House on June 25th: Ann Cobleigh, Ellen Sebasky, Liz Elowe, Florence Feldman-Wood, Susan Stott, Becci Backman, Maureen Sundberg, Amy Janovsky, Diana Walsh, Peggy Kruse, Mary Beth Nason and Chas Bicking.

In Memoriam

We were very sad to learn about the passing of former League member Margaret Pustell. Margaret headed up the League's Community Paths group for many years. She will be remembered for her tireless efforts on behalf of pedestrians and bicyclists in our community. Her passion for protecting the environment, and her quiet and persistent advocacy made her a great and memorable role model.

Renew Your Membership!

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

_____ \$60 Basic Member

_____ \$65 Contributing Member

_____ \$75 Sustaining Member

_____ \$100+ Patron

_____ \$40 Senior Citizen (65 yrs. old and over)

_____ \$40 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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About the League of Women Voters

The League of Women Voters is a 93-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.

