

Bulletin - March 2013

www.lwv-andovers.org

March 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,

During March the LWV of A/NA will hold **Candidate events in both Andover and North Andover prior to local elections** with North Andover's coming up quickly on the 6th. As it happens, elections in both towns are on March 26th. Given the smaller number of contested races and candidates, the Voters Service planners intend to implement changes to the format for the sake of freshness and testing different methods. We think this will be interesting for both the audience and the candidates. The goal will still include covering pertinent topics for voters to sufficiently learn about the candidates.

If you haven't already seen our recently reformatted League website, I invite you to do so by going to www.lwv-andovers.org. I believe you will be pleased to see its improved overall appearance; it is neater and better organized, more user-friendly, and is easier to find things. With thanks to Stefani Traina, a new item has been added for the convenience of current, new, and prospective members. Under the Members section from the home page, can now be found the **on-line Member Handbook**. The Board wishes to reassure all members, that this version of the Handbook deliberately does not include the "Membership Roster" within this online version of the Handbook for obvious privacy reasons. We anticipate quicker updated access for all while significantly saving the League's financial resources.

LWVMA - State League Convention 2013

In addition to timely educational opportunities, the convention planners typically procure inspiring and interesting speakers. As soon as we hear who is in the line-up, we will inform our membership, but in the meantime, everyone should know that registration for convention is now open. For more details and to register, visit the state website: <http://lwvma.org/2013-convention/>

Our **guest columnist this month is Elaine Clements, Executive Director of the Andover Historical Society**. Her article below provides an enlightening explanation of the mission behind their new program series "Speak Easy Andover." The League is working on organizing a Speak Easy as a member event or possibly our Annual Meeting. More details will follow.

The League has a team registered for the annual **Andover Fund for Education Spelling Bee** fundraiser. The event takes place on Friday, March 22 at the Wood Hill middle school. We invite our members to consider a donation to support your team and the AFE.

Finally, at the risk of losing potential League volunteers, here's a plug for the **Town of Andover Talent Bank and North Andover volunteers**. Much of the business of town government is conducted by appointed volunteers who contribute generously of their time and effort. The Town of Andover currently has approximately 31 appointed commissions, councils, and committees. Click [here](http://www.townofnorthandover.com/Pages/NAndoverMA_WebDocs/forms) for more information on Andover vacancies and how to apply and North Andover at http://www.townofnorthandover.com/Pages/NAndoverMA_WebDocs/forms.

[Visit our website](#)

Sincerely,

Ann Cobleigh, President
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Winter 2013 Calendar

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

March

- 6 Wed North Andover Candidates' Night, 7:00 p.m. NA Town Hall
- 13 Wed LWVMA Day on The Hill, State House, Boston, starting 10:00 a.m., Gardner Auditorium
- 14 Thu Monthly Board Meeting, 7-9:00 PM Memorial Hall Library
- 16 Sat Andover Candidates' Afternoon, 1:00 p.m., Safety Center
- 26 Tue Local Elections Andover & North Andover

[Visit my website](#)

April

- 3 Wed Andover Budget Forum, Memorial Hall Library, 7:00 p.m.
- 4 Thu Monthly Board Meeting, 7-9:00 PM Memorial Hall Library
- TBA Andover Town Meeting Preview

May

- 6, 7, 8 Mon-Wed Andover Town Meeting, 7:00 p.m. Field House
- 17-18 Fri-Sat LWVMA State Convention, Peabody, MA
- 22 Wed LWVANA Annual Meeting

Voters Service - Andover

Andover Candidates' Afternoon
Saturday, March 16, 1:00 p.m.
Andover Public Safety Center
32 North Main Street

The Candidates' Afternoon will give voters a chance to hear from and ask questions of some of the candidates who are running for local office. Not all candidates will participate in this year's event. Our moderator will be Heather McNeil, a resident of North Andover. Andover High School students will assist at the event, as well. The event will air live and be rebroadcast over local cable channels, as well as posted online.

You may email your questions to voterserviceAndover@lwv-andovers.org.

This year's candidates for local office are:

Moderator (1 year term) one seat (Sheila M. Doherty*)

Selectman (3 year term) two seats are open (Paul J. Salafia*, Alex J. Vispoli*, Larry Bruce)

School Committee (3 year term) two seats are open (Paula Colby-Clements*, Barbara A. L'Italien)

Andover Housing Authority (5 year term) one seat is open (Janice Burkholder*)

Punchard Free School Trustee (3 year term) one seat is open (Randall L. Hanson)

* is a Candidate for re-election to the office.

Questions about the event? Contact [Stefani](#).

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Voters Service - North Andover

Upcoming Events:

Monday, March 4th, 8:00 AM at the Town Hall:

A Joint Meeting of the Board of Selectmen, School Committee, Finance Committee and our State Legislative Delegation

(please see the agenda below, at this time this meeting is not being televised or taped, so I would urge people to attend if possible)

I.Call to Order

II.Budget Related

A.General Government Aid

B.Chapter 70

C.Special Education Circuit Breaker

D.Chapter 90

III.Legislation

A.Exemption from Portions of Prevailing Wage Act

B.Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB)

C.Retirement Reform

D.Economic Development

E.House 49 Vital Records Surcharge

IV.Other

A.Rte. 495 Signage

B.Rte 114 Pedestrian Improvements

V.Adjournment

Suburban Coalition Meeting running on NACAM from now through the end of April on Comcast 22 and Verizon 24 - View this important event to hear from state lawmakers and representatives from independent organizations reviewing the governor's budget, the FY14 outlook, and how it all may affect our communities.

Saturdays 9:30pm

Mondays 3:30pm

Thursday 6:30am

Tuesdays 2:00am

Wednesday, March 6th, 7:00 PM at the Town Hall:

North Andover Candidates Forum

The single candidate for one open seat on the Board of Selectmen is the incumbent, Rosemary Connolly Smedile. The two candidates for one open School Committee seat are Mark B. Mezzina and Zora Warren. Incumbent, Mary Beth Soucy is running unopposed for the one open seat on the North Andover Housing Authority.

You can engage in the election process by attending this event which is free and open to the public. The candidates for Board of Selectmen and School Committee will be in attendance. Attendees can submit questions on cards at the onset of the event. You can also e-mail questions in advance of the Candidates' Night, or even during the event, if you are watching live at home. Questions must apply to all candidates for a particular board and be of general interest.

The event will be broadcast live on NACAM's Access station as well as replayed several times prior to the election. Visit www.northandovercam.org for programming information.

For further information on this event or to submit questions, contact Heather McNeil or Kathy Stevens, members of our local League, at lwvforum@lwv-andovers.org.

Kathleen.O'Connorlives@masenate.gov

Bruce.Tarr@masenate.gov

Diana.DiZoglio@mahouse.gov

james.lyons@mahouse.gov

It is budget season...**make sure our legislators know what is important to you and to North Andover.** Contact them with any questions or ideas you may have!

Day On the Hill

March 13, 2013; 10 a.m. - 12 noon

"**Democracy Is Not a Spectator Sport**" is the theme of the League's annual Day on the Hill lobbying day at the State House on **Wednesday, March 13**. The focus will be on how to be an effective advocate on League-supported issues with your State Senators and Representatives. The Day on the Hill program runs from **10 a.m. to noon in the Gardner Auditorium at the State House**. After the program, many League members meet with their [legislators](#), by pre-arrangement, to discuss League-supported legislation.



Please plan to come, perhaps with a group of other interested members from your League. The more people who visit their legislators, the more influence the League has. There's strength in numbers.

Rep. Thomas Conroy will use an upcoming piece of legislation to illustrate the process of drafting legislation, getting sponsors, and the role advocacy plays, including how the state and local Leagues can be effective in presenting their positions on legislation. A second speaker from an advocacy organization will discuss the issue from that point of view.

The state League's legislative specialists will talk briefly about key bills expected in this session of the legislature. 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.

The League of Women Voters, the Andover Historical Society and Civic Life

By Elaine Clements, Executive Director

Andover has a long and active tradition of civic service. Andover women have been particularly active in our most well known civic organizations. To name just a few: the November Club founded in 1889; Andover Village Improvement Society, 1894; Andover Historical Society, 1911; Andover Equal Suffrage League, 1912; League of Women Voters, 1920; Shawsheen Village Women's Club, 1921; and Andona, 1952. Andover is also home to garden clubs, music groups, theatrical societies, parent support groups, sports clubs and boosters, education advocates, business groups, the Andover Historical Society, and so much more.

The League of Women Voters was established in 1920, as an outgrowth of the Andover Equal Suffrage League following ratification of the 19th Amendment. Since 1994 when the two groups merged, the League of Women Voters Andover/North Andover has been a steward of local political life, educating voters about how to vote and about the issues on the ballot. The League has been a champion of the town and its citizens researching and educating the public on issues such as the child labor laws, environment, zoning, and education.

While the League of Women Voters stewards the political life of the two towns, other community groups steward different parts of civic life. AVIS and Andover Trails are advocates for and stewards of open spaces. Andona and Andover Fund for Education foster the high quality of education for which the town is known. The Andover Historical Society, choral societies, theatrical groups, garden clubs, artist societies, and music groups steward Andover's artistic and cultural life.

"Extensive research demonstrates that students who are highly engaged in the arts, humanities, and sciences do better in school and are more involved in their communities. The arts are especially effective in reaching young people at risk of failure by giving them tools to explore and interpret their experiences in ways no other subjects can."

- Massachusetts Cultural Council

The Andover Historical Society collects, preserves, and shares the unique stories of the town. The stories we share are held in the historical objects, documents, photographs, and other treasures we steward, and we share those treasures through exhibitions, publication, programs, and more.

To the Historical Society's traditional mission areas of preserving the past and educating for the future, we've added "connecting to our community." The Society uses stories, artifacts, and other treasures to connect people to each other and the town to foster community engagement. Why have we added this third mission area? We hear a lot today about the lack of civic engagement in our sped up, transient, social media world. We don't have to look very far back to find a town that was less transient, where people knew each other, where they would interact with their neighbors. One of the things that drew people together was a common knowledge about their town or their neighborhood.

The Historical Society plays a unique role today by bringing people together to listen to and share stories about their town, and build a common bond of knowledge through local history stories.

The Historical Society's Andover Neighborhood Programs are one example of how sharing local history stories brings people together. Andover has many neighborhoods. We know about Shawsheen Village, Ballardvale, and downtown. But there are also neighborhoods between Elm Street and High Street, around Harold Parker State Forest, Fosters Pond, and the farms of West Andover. Since 2007, the Historical Society has invited residents to special programs about Andover's neighborhoods. At the Neighborhood Program about Elm Street and Highland Road, neighbors discovered why so many old apple trees dot their backyards. At a West Andover Neighborhood Program, neighbors heard the descendents of Andover's Armenian community talk about growing up on farms along Chandler Road.

We're sharing these and other stories through a new twice-monthly program at the Historical Society. Speak Easy Andover is a free one-hour tour of our mission and vision for the Society's future. It's a fun and engaging way to introduce - and in some cases re-introduce - this over 100 year organization to people. Since August 2012, over 120 people have come to Speak Easy programs to hear stories about Andover, about the connections the Historical Society has fostered, and the impact the Society has had on people's lives. Won't you join us? Give us a call or drop us an email and let us know you'd like to attend a Speak Easy Andover program. We'll be at the front door to welcome you.

[Andover Historical Society](#)

LWVUS Agriculture Update Study

LWVUS has announced some information on the "Agriculture Update" study. The scope is:

The Agriculture Update will focus narrowly on: 1) current technology issues in agriculture including genetically modified organisms (GMOs), herbicides, pesticides, agriculture water pollution, aquifer depletion, antibiotics in livestock, and accurate food labeling; and 2) current agriculture finance issues including consolidation in agriculture industries, crop subsidies and the federal agricultural

regulatory process.

The timeline can be found at this link.

<http://www.lwv.org/content/about-agriculture-update-and-committee>

The timeline gives Sep 2013-Apr 2014 as the period during which state and local Leagues may form study committees, examine study materials, hold public meetings, hold consensus meetings, etc.

Please keep this in mind as you plan your calendars and activities for next year. Also, consider joining together regionally for study committees, public meetings, etc. This is a great opportunity to participate in the discussion of this important national issue!

LWVUS Voting Rights Act

US Supreme Court to decide the Future of the Voting Rights Act

On Wednesday February 27th the US Supreme Court heard arguments in

Shelby County V Holder. The case focused on the constitutionality of Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act (VRA) - the VRA's main enforcement mechanism. We are proud to have signed on to an amicus brief to signify our support for Section 5 and to ask the Supreme Court to uphold the lower court's ruling. We are joined in this effort by the League of Women Voters of South Carolina, which has signed on to a state brief that addresses how Section 5 helped implement and clear a Voter ID law in South Carolina.

Members of the League attended a rally held at the Supreme Court in support of the VRA. LWV President Elisabeth MacNamara and LWV SC President, Barbara Zia [addressed the rally](#) shortly after the hearing on the steps of the US Supreme Court. [Photographs](#) of the rally can be viewed on the LWV Facebook page.

For additional information about the hearing see the [LWV statement](#), [pledge to support the VRA](#) and this [Huffington Post Article written by Elisabeth MacNamara](#).

Violence Against Women Act

Last month's "One Billion Rising" article about the scheduled flashmob, has begun to raise some awareness about S.47 Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013, Sponsor: [Sen Leahy](#), [Patrick J. \[VT\]](#) (introduced 1/22/2013). This is a more wide-spread world problem than many people realize so we have included additional information this month.

Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 - Amends the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (VAWA) to add or expand definitions of several terms used in such Act.

Modifies or expands grant conditions under such Act, including requirements relating to: (1) nondisclosure of personally identifying information or other client information, (2) information sharing between grantees and subgrantees, (3) civil rights and nondiscrimination, (4) audits, and (5) nonprofit organizations.

Requires the Office on Violence Against Women of the Department of Justice (DOJ) to establish a biennial conferral process with state and tribal coalitions, technical assistance providers, and other key stakeholders on the administration of grants and related matters. Requires the Attorney General to authorize in writing expenditures for DOJ conferences that exceed \$20,000.

<http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/z?d113:s.47>:

Another informative article, "[3 Reasons the Violence Against Women Act Has Been](#)

Bipartisan for 18 Years, and Why Congress Should Fast Track It," can be found via this link:

<https://ui.constantcontact.com/rnavmap/emcf/email/edit?flow=edit&camefrom=view&agent.uid=1112396296585>

LWV of Concord-Carlisle House Tour - New Concepts in Energy Efficiency, Accessibility and Design!

Greetings! The Concord-Carlisle League invites you and your friends to participate in our 2013 House Tour. Our last house tour in 2009 was a great success, and we hope you can be part of the event this year. Tickets are now on sale at our website (www.lwvcc.org).

Saturday, April 6, 2013, 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

The League of Women Voters of Concord-Carlisle invites you to spend a day touring seven unique Concord homes that highlight new concepts in energy efficiency, accessibility and design. Pick up your map/guide between 10 and 12 at the Alcott School, 93 Laurel Street, Concord, and then chart your own course among the houses. Enjoy displays on technologies for sustainable and comfortable living. Get inspiration to improve and beautify your own home.

Tickets are \$30 in advance, \$35 on April 6. Purchase tickets online at www.lwvcc.org. Tickets may also be reserved by mail. Send check, name for pickup, phone and email to: LWVCC House Tour, P.O. Box 34, Concord, MA. All proceeds benefit the League of Women Voters.

For information, visit www.lwvcc.org and our [House Tour web page](#), email HouseTour@lwvcc.org, or call 978-254-1598.

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@lwv-andovers.org.**

Trying to describe the branches of government or the constitution to kids? Looking for great activities about the rights and responsibilities of citizenship? Look no further:

<http://www.icivics.org/>

Check the validity of those political claims:

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.

LWV Clearinghouse: Studies at your Fingertips

The League now has a database of past and present studies completed by Leagues at all levels. Studies are listed by category down the left-hand side of the page.

<https://sites.google.com/a/leagueofwomenvoters.org/clearinghouse/>

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

_____ \$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:
"LWV OF ANDOVER/NORTH ANDOVER"

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Member Information

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