

Bulletin - May 2013

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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,

As we wind down another season, I am most left with the impression of just how vitally the League relies on its members and volunteers who so generously give of their time and expertise. Indeed, they deserve a great deal of thanks and appreciation. With their dedication, the League conducted a number of events accomplishing essentially all of the Program planned from last year's Annual Meeting. Please read the "Thank You's" article below for this month's volunteers. I must also take this opportunity to thank fellow Board members, Stefani Traina, Maureen Sundberg, Molly Foley, and Heather McNeil who all have gone above and beyond throughout the year ensuring the quality and timeliness of the myriad tasks.

Looking toward next fall, there again will be a variety of opportunities to support the League's work. The Board truly hopes we can maintain our usual services to the community, however, as all our Board members' time becomes more limited, it has become increasingly difficult to keep up the challenging pace. This is my plea to everyone to sign up for some task or project or two.

Congratulations to our very own Tina Girdwood on being chosen for the well-deserved *Virginia Cole Community Service Award* at this year's Town Meeting. Tina's years of dedicated service have made Andover a better community.

Last week, Andover residents saw the completion of the "largest annual Town Meeting in the nation." On behalf of our local League, I spoke in support of Articles 53 & 54, submitted by the Conservation Commission, both related to the Town's acquisition of the Reichhold property. The Board elected to take a position on these two articles because this land acquisition supports several local League positions.

Town Meeting was a lively and interesting experience this year, and we have received feedback from several members already. So that we may gather helpful information, the Board invites input from those of you who attended. Please contact any Board member or send an email to league@lwv-andovers.org.

Upcoming

LWV A/NA Annual Business Meeting and Presentation
Wed, May 22, 6:00-9:00 pm at Andover Historical Society



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The evening will start with a social time followed by dinner, presentation of the Virginia Cole Scholarship, then after a brief business meeting everyone will be treated to an abbreviated "Speak Easy" presentation courtesy of the Andover Historical Society. RSVP's have been rolling in, and there is still time to get yours in.

The Society closes at 9:00 pm so in the interest of time, we ask attendees to review the pre-meeting materials which you can link to in the related article below. We are asking for a contribution of \$15 to offset costs. Look for the Evite in your Inbox to RSVP, or send an email to league@lww-andovers.org. Please reply no later than Friday, May 17th.

State League Convention

Fri, May 17 & Sat, May 18 (Refer to the state website for details:
<http://lwwma.org/2013-convention/>)

There are at least three of our members attending and we look forward to sharing a few highlights from Convention at Annual Meeting.

Please be sure to [renew your membership now](#). It saves our small group of volunteers so much time. Thank you!

Respectfully,

Ann Cobleigh, President
anncobleigh@gmail.com

Spring 2013 Calendar

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

May

- 17-18 F-S LWVMA State Convention, Beverly, MA
- 21 Tue North Andover Town Meeting, 7:00 PM, NAHS
- 22 Wed LWVANA Annual Meeting, 6:00 PM Andover Historical Society

June

- 25 Tue U.S. Senate Election, polls open 7:00AM-8:00PM

Annual Meeting May 22, 6:00pm

Join us at the Andover Historical Society for this year's Annual Meeting. We'll have dinner and a brief business meeting, followed by a Speak Easy program. It's not too late to RSVP [here](#). We're asking for a \$15 donation to cover food and drinks.

The Annual Meeting packet is available online [here](#).

A plea from your Treasurer

Your membership expires June 30. Now is the time to renew. Bring a check to Annual Meeting or renew [online](#). Contact [Stefani](#) if you have any questions.

Students Shadow Town Officials

by Molly Foley

We would like to thank all of the town officials and Andover High School staff who made the second annual Youth in Town Government program a success. And a special thanks to the Youth Services team for again providing a lively start to the day with energy filled exercises to get everyone relaxed and feeling good.

This year's program featured a longer shadowing period for the students, which allowed them to find out more about their departments and in one case to shadow more than one department. Some students gave presentations after lunch explaining what they learned. Sarah Knoll and Bob Douglas gave an excellent explanation of why the Reichhold Parcel acquisition would benefit the town.

The day concluded with an explanation of Town Meeting by Larry Murphy. His presentation included a discussion on how a citizen can get an article on the warrant.

Youth in Town Government has become a great way for students and town leaders to share their views about what is important in our town and how citizens can effect change in local government.

Voters Service - North Andover

by Heather McNeil

2013 North Andover Town Meeting Preview

Haven't been to many meetings over the last year? Not sure how the town's FY14 budget is looking? Wondering if any of the zoning articles affect your neighborhood? Or have you been paying attention and want a quick review to prepare yourself to vote?

Watch the 2013 North Andover Town Meeting Preview. A collaborative effort put forth by the Town of North Andover and the Andover/North Andover League of Women Voters along with NACAM to make getting informed and engaged easier. Watch this one program and find out about the town meeting process, on what articles we will be voting, the FY14 budget, and our town's capital improvement plan's proposed next steps. You can catch it on NACAM's Access stations (Comcast 22 and Verizon 24) on Tuesdays at 4 PM, Wednesdays at 5:30 PM and Saturdays at 1 AM or on Gov-Cam (Comcast 8 and Verizon 26) on Saturdays at 8 PM, Sundays at 11 AM, Mondays at 8 AM, Thursdays at 9 PM, and Fridays at 6 PM. You can also watch it anytime by clicking on the link on our League's website, www.lwv-andovers.org, or on our town's website, www.townofnorthandover.com.

You can pick up your Town Meeting Warrant and Finance Committee Report at the Town Hall, Stevens Memorial Library, or the Senior Center. Or view it on the town's website where you can also find links for more information and child care registration forms on the Moderator's page. Then, we will see you at Town Meeting which begins on Tuesday, May 21st at 7:00 PM at the North Andover High School Auditorium! Tuesday, April 9th at 6:45 PM at the Town Hall. North Andover's Town Meeting begins the evening of Tuesday, May 21st.

LWV Book Award

We are **still** looking for a League member to present the League of Women

Voters Book Award to a deserving North Andover graduating Senior. The Awards Ceremony will be on June 4th at 10:30 AM. It would require little planning on your part. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Heather McNeil at 978-686-6717. It would be greatly appreciated and is a great way to keep the League and civic involvement in the minds of our younger citizens.

Thank You

The League could not do any of its work without dedicated volunteers. Many thanks to those who staffed our precincting table at the April 30 primary election: Cynthia Barakatt, Stefani Traina, Susan Stott, Amy Janovsky, Peggy Kruse, Becci Backman, Ellen Sebasky, Liz Elowe, Annette Grams, Diana Walsh, Heather Moody Holman, and Chas Bicking. And many thanks to Molly Bicking for coordinating it all.

Thanks also go to Bonnie Zahorik for organizing and moderating the Andover Budget Forum and to Diana Walsh for serving as the moderator for Andover's Town Meeting Preview. We'd like to also thank Mary Beth Nason for coordinating this year's Cole Scholarship award.

In Memoriam

We were very sad to learn about the passing of former League member Vicky Johnston. Our thoughts are with Vicky's family during this difficult time. A donation in her memory will be made to LWVMA at the upcoming Convention.

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.**

Find information about League studies completed across the country at <https://sites.google.com/a/leagueofwomenvoters.org/clearinghouse/>

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 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.

Membership Form

It's time to renew your League membership! Renew or 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 1 through June 30.

_____ 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"

Mail form and check to:
LWV of Andover/North Andover
P.O. Box 514, Andover MA 01810

Member Information

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____