



Bulletin

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September 2012

President: Ann Cobleigh

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President's Letter

Dear Members,

Welcome to the 2012-2013 season!

First, it is important to thank all the volunteers who generously contributed their time, skill, and funds last year to maintaining the local mission and vitality of the Andover/North Andover League of Women Voters, especially after such a difficult prior year. It was evident the League displayed fortitude and adherence to its principles and it is my belief the League was respected for it. You will find it interesting that during the coordinating of both this fall's candidate events we did not hear a single comment regarding the League's non-partisanship or have issues with candidate-participation! Everyone was appreciative and cordial. Our services in the community are needed and appreciated. To top it off, we received an unsolicited offer of a testimonial from a local businessman including his professional advertising skills to assist us with some form of video spot to aid in our fundraising/public awareness efforts because he believes so deeply in the work we do. Friends, we're back! And I'm excited about focusing on our tried and true goals as well as looking for the new ones that keep the League timely, relevant and growing.

The Board has been working all summer and, with the assistance of some terrific volunteers, has held the League's first Candidate event last week and we are well into planning the mid-October Candidate Night. Also, Maureen Sundberg and I took advantage of a P.R. opportunity to meet with Secretary of the Commonwealth, William Galvin during his visit to Andover in August. Presently, we are reviewing options about what to present regarding the three Ballot Questions given our time and resources. We will keep you informed.

Great Stuff Coming Up...

Andover Day We'll be sharing our booth with the Town Clerk's office which should be a nice alignment of both organizations' functions. The Youth in Town Government students are being invited to brainstorm and participate. We hope they can bring some energy and visibility to our booth; details are yet to be finalized so please come by to see what happens! It's always a

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terrific to catch up with some old League friends, talk with new residents, and start strengthening relationships with other town groups. Hope to see you there!

Educational Forum, Oct 1, Understanding the Language of Political Debate

Candidates' Night for General Election, Wed, Oct 17

The always enjoyable Community Read-Along in Mid-Nov

Annual Membership Event "Chocolate at The Addison" late Nov

Please remember to vote on September 6th. Hopefully, a Thursday Election Day instead of the usual Tuesday will not deter voters for the Primary Election.

On another note, LWVMA has invited our League to take part in the Membership Leadership Development Training program. It is a year-long training, coaching and mentoring program designed to help leagues increase and maintain membership and is free of charge to the leagues. The program was developed at the national level to address the overall problem of overall declining memberships. Leagues who have implemented the program have seen on average, an 8% increase in membership. Maureen Sundberg, Membership Chair, and I will start the program in late September. Kudos Maureen for the commitment to this!

Beginning with this Bulletin issue, the Calendar section will appear near the top so members will have quick and easy access to the schedule. We hope you find this useful.

As is our standard practice, and in accordance with our By-Laws, the League's Non-Partisan Policy is printed in its entirety in this issue of the Bulletin. Please take a moment to review it.

Finally, thank you all for your continued membership and participation in the League of Women Voters. As many of you know, the League finished last year with an operating loss of a little more than \$900, so the Board asks that when you renew your membership, would you please consider doing so at the next membership level above your usual level or a small additional donation. It would be greatly appreciated. If you haven't yet renewed, please take a minute to do so now. [Click here](#) for more information.

If you, or someone you know, would like to become more involved in any aspect of the League please contact a member of the Board. I look forward to seeing as many of our members as possible during this year!

I'm looking forward to finding the ways we can be of service to community and to our members. The Board and I wish to encourage as much participation as possible so I'll leave you with this. I'm up for it, if you are!

Sincerely,

Ann Cobleigh
President

Fall 2012 Calendar

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

September

- 6 **Thu** State Primary Election
- 12 **Wed** Monthly Board meeting; all are welcome
9:00am at Andover's Memorial Hall Library, main floor
- 15 **Sat** Know Your Town Fair
9:00am-5:00pm
- 30 **Sun** Candidate Forum for 3rd Congressional District
2:00-3:00pm, Concord-Carlisle High School,
500 Walden Street, Concord

October

- 1 **Mon** Educational Forum: Become an Expert Watcher of
Presidential
Debates; 7:00-8:30pm, Andover Safety Center
- 3 **Wed** First Presidential Debate
9:00-10:30pm
- 10 **Wed** Monthly Board meeting; all are welcome
9:00am at Andover's Memorial Hall Library, main floor
- 11 **Thur** Vice Presidential Debate
9:00-10:30pm
- 16 **Tue** Second Presidential Debate
9:00- 10:30pm
- 17 **Wed** Candidate's Night for State Senators and Representatives
7:00pm, Andover Memorial Hall Library
- 17 **Wed** Last day to register to vote in the Nov. 6 Election
- 22 **Mon** Third Presidential Debate
9:00-10:30pm
- TBD Phonathon

November

- 6 **Tues** Presidential Election
- 7 **Wed** Monthly Board meeting; all are welcome
- 12-16 **M-F** Community Read-Along, Andover Elementary Schools
- 28 **Chocolate at the Addison (tent.)**
- TBD **Town of Andover Mid-Year Review**

North Andover Community Program

by Heather McNeil

Tune into the League of Women Voters program which I recently hosted!
You can watch a single one-hour program to:

#1. review some key decisions made at Town Meeting with Mark DiSalvo,
Andrew Maylor and Kevin Hutchinson,

#2. hear their visions for our community, and

#3. focus in on key issues that will be discussed throughout the coming
months and at our next Town Meeting in 2013 so while you are watching
meetings, talking to neighbors, or reading the news you know what issues

are affecting us.

View the discussion by using this link or tuning into your local NACAM stations.

<mms://98.118.32.13:8083/TRMSVOD/6692-1LWVshow81312.wmv>

Massachusetts Voting

In August, the Secretary of the Commonwealth's Election Division posted voter registration forms online. Now, instead of residents picking up a registration form, they can fill in the form online, print it out, and mail it in.

Thanks to everyone who made a call or sent an email in support of updating voter registration procedures.

[You can download the forms here.](#)

Become an Expert Watcher of Presidential Debates

Great Educational Opportunity!!

The League of Women Voters of Andover/North Andover is pleased to offer a program entitled: "Presidential Debates, Memorable Moments and Political Lessons," to be held on Monday, October 1, 2012 from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm. The program will be at the Andover Safety Center, North Main St.

The League is pleased to have back as guest speaker Professor Harry Wessel. Dr. Wessel is Chairperson of the Political Science Department at Merrimack College. A former journalist and specialist in the role of mass media in politics, he teaches courses that specifically address this new "political institution." Dr. Wessel will show excerpts from past debate performances, assess what worked and why, and analyze the increasingly important political role these events play in our democracy.

The presidential debates between President Obama and Governor Romney are fast approaching, with the first debate scheduled for Wednesday evening, Oct. 3, 2012 from 9:00 - 10:30 pm. This debate will focus on domestic policy, and the following three debates, to be held on Oct. 11th, Oct. 16th, and Oct. 22nd, will address the candidates' positions on foreign as well as domestic policy.

So be prepared to watch these debates as an expert! Come hear Professor Wessel expound on what we should expect in these debates, take us down memory lane as we revisit past debates, and consider how such debates influence Presidential elections -- and whether this should be the case.

Andover Day and "Know Your Town Fair"

September 15, 2012 from 9 AM to 5 PM.

Suffragettes encouraging voter registration? A game to test your knowledge of Town Meeting? Information about upcoming elections? The League's table could boast all of these this year. We hope you'll join the fun. If you can volunteer a little time, email Maureen at rrsundberg23@gmail.com.

As part of Andover Day, "Know Your Town Fair" is a venue that offers the local non-profit organizations opportunities to network, promote upcoming events, and give citizens a chance to learn more about the community resources, which is the "Know Your Town Fair" mission. Andover Days will give broad exposure to these groups with the anticipated 5,000 visitors to downtown Andover for the street festival and concerts. Historically, the League has been involved with coordinating "Know Your Town Fair," but this is the second year that the Andover Business Community Assoc (ABCA) has taken full responsibility.

The registration fee still includes a tent, an eight foot table, and two folding chairs that will be set up early morning and removed at the end of day by a rental company. All space is available on a first-come first-served basis. Once we know where our specific assigned location will be, we let everyone know.

RAIN DATE: September 29th

2012 Ballot Questions

Voters will be asked to approve three Questions on the November ballot.

Question 1 - Availability of Motor Vehicle Repair Information

Law proposed by initiative petition:

**Note: Question 1 will appear on the ballot, however, legislation was passed to address this issue, rendering Question 1 moot.*

This proposed law would prohibit any motor vehicle manufacturer, starting with model year 2015, from selling or leasing, either directly or through a dealer, a new motor vehicle without allowing the owner to have access to the same diagnostic and repair information made available to the manufacturer's dealers and in-state authorized repair facilities. [Click for a complete summary.](#)

Question 2 - Prescribing Medication to End Life

Law proposed by initiative petition:

This proposed law would allow a physician licensed in Massachusetts to prescribe medication, at a terminally ill patient's request, to end that patient's life. To qualify, a patient would have to be an adult resident who (1) is medically determined to be mentally capable of making and communicating health care decisions; (2) has been diagnosed by attending and consulting physicians as having an incurable, irreversible disease that will, within reasonable medical judgment, cause death within six months; and (3) voluntarily expresses a wish to die and has made

an informed decision. The proposed law states that the patient would ingest the medicine in order to cause death in a humane and dignified manner. [Click for a complete summary.](#)

Question 3: Medical Use of Marijuana

Law proposed by initiative petition:

This proposed law would eliminate state criminal and civil penalties for the medical use of marijuana by qualifying patients. To qualify, a patient must have been diagnosed with a debilitating medical condition, such as cancer, glaucoma, HIV-positive status or AIDS, hepatitis C, Crohn's disease, Parkinson's disease, ALS, or multiple sclerosis. The patient would also have to obtain a written certification, from a physician with whom the patient has a bona fide physician-patient relationship, that the patient has a specific debilitating medical condition and would likely obtain a net benefit from medical use of marijuana. [Click for a complete summary.](#)

LWV A/NA Non-Partisan Guidelines

Approved at June 2, 2004 Board Meeting

Our local guidelines, re-adopted without changes at September 7, 2011 Board Meeting, are printed below.

Local, State and National Guidelines

The following restrictions and permissions apply to activities on the local, state and national level.

The President and/or Steering Committee and the Voter Services chair MAY NOT:

- Circulate nominating petitions.
- Endorse a candidate.
- Display a candidate's yard sign.
- Attend or host a political function held for the purpose of introducing or fundraising for a candidate.
- Make a campaign contribution to a candidate (either above or below the reporting level)
- Run for a local charter commission.
- Run for elective office, whether partisan or nonpartisan.
- Serve in any position in a political party.

The President and/or Steering Committee MAY NOT:

- Accept an appointment to a local commission, board or committee if such service would be in conflict with the League's program. This restriction does not apply to the Voter Services chair.

The President and/or Steering Committee and Voter Services chair MAY:

- Sign nominating petitions, whether partisan or nonpartisan.
- Attend informational campaign functions to which all candidates have been invited.
- Accept an appointment to a local commission, board or committee

if such service would not be in conflict with the League's program.

All other League Members:

Apart from the restriction given below about displaying LWV yard signs, no restrictions are placed on the political or civic involvement of all other League members, as long as they are not representing the League during this involvement. Any questions should be brought to the League board.

The following restriction applies to all LWV ANA members and non-members: Any political yard sign, including candidate's signs, ballot question signs, or warrant article signs, may not be simultaneously displayed with a League get-out-the-vote sign.

Political Activity of Spouses and Relatives:

The political activities of a spouse or relative of a League board member are considered separate and distinct from the activities of the board member. However, the President and/or Steering Committee and Voter Service chair must keep in mind that their impartiality may be called into question if their spouse engages in high-profile political activity, such as running for elective office.

Watch for "Member Survey"

Every so often, every group benefits from the tool of self-evaluation and our Board of Directors agrees. We wish to discover areas for improvement; how to continue, and even raise, the level of rewarding, and enjoyable experiences while impacting our communities and governments. We would love to hear your ideas such as suitable initiatives for the League, improve our public image, what would help members that they are not receiving now, etc. Some time in October, you will see the Member Survey in your email from the free internet service, Survey Monkey.

Join the Community Read-Along

Again this year, the League is helping to organize Andover's Community Read-Along. During the week of November 14th, readers are invited to share their favorite books with a classroom of elementary school students or the school provides book selections. Students are also eager to hear stories from their reader's own lives. This is a very rewarding activity for every reader. Once you do it, you'll be hooked!

If you've never participated as a reader or haven't been contacted recently, send an email to [Maureen](#). We'll make sure you get added to this year's list of readers!

Read-Along Committee Contact:
Maureen Sundberg

Great Candidate Forum Success in Concord-Carlisle

LWVCC's pre-primary candidate forum August 15th drew a turnout of an estimated 250+ and turned away more people than we were

allowed to seat in the maximum capacity room of 120. While the logistics of dealing with an overflow crowd were difficult, they viewed the large crowd as a sign of the interest in the race and the desire of the electorate to learn about the candidates and the issues. The event may be viewed online at <http://www.concordtv.org/video-on-demand>.

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. **If you have an item to share, please submit it to bulletineditor@lwv-andovers.org.**

Trying to figure out the veracity of candidates' claims? Try these fact checking websites:

FactCheck.org (U of PA)

PolitiFact.com (Tampa Bay Times)

Washington Post's Fact Checker

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:
"LWV OF ANDOVER/NORTH ANDOVER"

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Member Information

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

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