

**LWV of Andover/North Andover Annual Meeting,  
June 24, 2015, Unitarian Universalist Church, Andover  
Year in Review**

With no formal leadership in place this year, our League still managed to keep a presence in both communities with the help of many individuals who took responsibility for particular events.

Maureen Sundberg and Stefani Traina helped coordinate projects, worked to keep the League web site updated, and published the LWV News on an almost weekly basis. Maureen continued to participate in the Membership and Leadership Development coaching program. Stefani continued in her role as Treasurer and maintained membership records. Our membership dropped from 93 to 78 members, but, in addition to some people not renewing their memberships, we gained a few new members this year. The local League received a number of donations again this year. We are fortunate to have loyal and generous members who support our work.

Here is a chronological summary of the year's accomplishments:

**Summer**

We were pleased that long-time AHS volunteer Emily Granoff obtained an internship with LWVMA last summer, and she has returned to intern at the state offices again this summer.

**September**

Heather Holman generously sponsored our League table at Andover Day on September 6, and many volunteers helped out: Suanne Dillman, Peggy Kruse, Florence Feldman-Wood, Jo Anne McConaughy, and Maureen Sundberg. The League's newly created brochure *Town Meeting and You* was distributed to visitors to the League table. We also distributed information about the ballot questions.

**October**

October 16 – The League held the first discussion in our new series LWV@theLibrary. Discussed at the 2014 Annual Meeting, the series aimed to promote thoughtful discussion of important civic and community issues and concerns. Tina Girdwood hosted the first event that focused attention on the area around Dundee Park, the train station, and the Shawsheen River. Over the course of the year the Andover Tomorrow group developed a plan and warrant article for an historic overlay district that was presented and accepted at the 2015 Town Meeting. The LWV and Memorial Hall Library also partnered on two evenings devoted to issues related to the Andover Historic Mill District in April.

### **November**

November 20 – The second LWV @ the Library discussion considered the broad topic of Civility. Jo Anne McConaughy moderated the discussion.

November 17-21 – The Community Read-Along was held in Andover elementary schools. Maureen Sundberg organized the event in the six public schools, Pike, and St. Augustine. We appreciate the continued support from school administrators and the individual coordinators at the schools.

There was no League table at the polls on Election Day. The League heard from Larry Murphy, Andover Town Clerk, that the League's advocacy role (LWVMA's efforts on the Updated Bottle Bill) made it ineligible to help with precincting under the League banner.

### **December**

A small group met to discuss and the membership was polled to determine if we wished to continue volunteering at the polls as individuals. The membership voted to discontinue precincting. Molly Bicking, Nancy Mulvey, and Sue Tucker subsequently met with Larry Murphy to clarify the League's dual roles of education and advocacy and to discuss areas suitable for continued collaboration. The League will continue to offer running for office workshops and coordinate candidate forums. Thanks to all who participated in the discussion and provided precincting support in past years.

December 11 – The third LWV@theLibrary focused on the viability of Community Gardens in Andover. Ann Knowles and Sophia Allen, AHS senior and sustainability intern, presented results of a survey conducted early in the year and presented next steps.

## **January**

January 15 – LWV@theLibrary continued the discussion of Civility with a look at the Civil Conversations Project. The discussion was facilitated by Dr. Suetta Tenney and Mark Seifried, Interim Pastor at West Parish Church.

Heather McNeil convened North Andover members to discuss a way forward for the League's activities in North Andover. The group decided to continue organizing the local candidates' event and to find someone to help screen emailed questions at North Andover's Town Meeting, and to continue the LWV book award at North Andover High School.

## **February**

Nancy Mulvey, Maureen Sundberg, and Stefani Traina developed an online Voter's Guide for candidates running for local office.

February 11 The League held its annual membership event at the Addison Gallery. Over 30 people enjoyed the red and white themed event in honor of Valentine's Day. Rebecca Hayes provided an insightful gallery talk about the newest exhibit. Special thanks to Liz Elowe, Jackie Kovacs, and Nuala Boness for organizing another wonderful evening. The event was a welcome respite from weeks of snow and more snow.

February 19 – Our fourth LWV@theLibrary discussion was led Kevin Porter, Vice-Chairman of the Andover Conservation Commission. The evening's discussion, Forest Management: Nature of Nurture? examined a newly developed plan for managing Andover's forested land.

## **March**

March 2 – North Andover held a Candidates' Forum, another well-run event organized by Heather McNeil and Kathy Stevens and NACAM.

March 16 – The League partnered with the Bancroft PTO to present a forum for the six candidates running for seats on Andover’s School Committee. Thank you to Heather McNeil, North Andover member, for moderating; to Shannon Scully and Jeannie Sullivan, Bancroft PTO, for suggesting the partnership; and to Emily Granoff for taking time out of her semester break from Hamilton College to help with the event. We look forward to collaborating with Shannon and Jeannie on future events.

March 19 – Creating the Andover Historic Mill District was the topic of the fifth LWV @ the Library and presented a panel discussion of the proposal that would come before voters at Town Meeting. The panel included Tina Girdwood, Andover Coalition for Education; Don Robb, Council on Aging; and resident, Charlie Kendrick.

## **April**

April 16 – Stefani Traina organized a Town Meeting Informational Forum that focused on key articles to be presented at Town Meeting.

The third Annual Youth in Town Government Day took place. Students were paired with town officials and participated in a day of activities to help them learn about their town government. The day concluded with a meeting with Town Moderator, Sheila Doherty. Molly Foley coordinated all the details and did an outstanding job again this year. Many thanks to Andover Youth Services for their help, as well.

On April 18, the League held a Member Warrant Article Discussion. Thanks to Peggy Keck for hosting the group at her lovely home. The group came to consensus to support the electronic voting warrant article and the Andover Historic Mill District articles, as well. A letter to the editor was written.

April 28 – LWVMA Day on the Hill took place. Jo Anne McConaughy represented the local League.

## **May**

Longtime League member Karen Herman received the Virginia Cole Community Service Award at Andover’s Town Meeting on May 5<sup>th</sup>.

Emailed questions were screened by North Andover League members at the North Andover Town Meeting this year.

## **June**

The League's Joyce & Willard Robinson Book Award this year was *Republic, Lost: How Money Corrupts Congress – and a Plan to Stop It* by Lawrence Lessig. North Andover's Book Award title is the same. Thanks to Ann Cobleigh for representing the League at Andover's Award Ceremony and to Diane Huster for representing the League at North Andover's event.