

**LWV of Andover/North Andover Annual Meeting,  
June 26, 2018, Memorial Hall Library  
2015-2018 Years in Review  
North Andover Edition**

**Voter Service**

Candidates Nights were held in North Andover on 3/2/15, 3/2/17 & 3/22/2018. Stefani Traina served as our moderator. In 2016, we assisted on the evening of the Candidates Night, but we were unable to coordinate the event. North Andover Community Access and Media (NACAM) planned their own event. In 2017, we held the event at a new venue for us, the Stevens Estate, whereas we usually had the event at the Town Hall. Having it at the Stevens Estate allowed us to showcase that town property. The 2018 Candidates Night only featured the moderator candidates as power outages and snow storms and competing schedules and events made getting candidates for all of the offices in the same place at the same time with NACAM and our volunteers very difficult. We have also been creating and sharing Powerpoints with voting information for Town Elections and links to candidates websites so people can get information on line prior to voting.

2018 Housing Authority and Moderator Candidates

**VOTE**

1 Housing Authority seat open for 5 year term  
Mary Beth Soucy-Larkin - Incumbent

1 Town Moderator seat open. Vote for one of the following candidates for 3 year term  
Mark DiSalvo – Incumbent  
<https://www.facebook.com/Mark-DiSalvo-for-Moderator-312336905476740/>  
Gerald Brecher  
[www.brecherformoderator.com](http://www.brecherformoderator.com)

 



**Get Out the Vote**

North Andover had VOTE signs printed up in 2017. We do use these for Town Meeting and Town Elections and can use them for state and national elections as well. They are placed on lawns and at other strategic locations in town. We have also used Facebook to encourage people to vote through regularly scheduled posts of voting information leading up to elections in North Andover along with our usual Constant Contact emails. We've printed up

Newcomer's Guide to Town Meeting brochures. We hand these out at League events in North Andover.

### **North Andover Town Meeting**

We also assist our Town Moderator at Town Meeting and Special Town Meetings by taking questions from outside the room. We field questions sent in via email and texts prior to and during Town Meeting, check to ensure that the people asking the questions are registered voters, and that they are not present. Then, if the question has not been asked, we will ask the question on behalf of the resident. We also assist people in make amendments to articles on the computer so that the proposed amendments can be displayed and voted on in real time. A Powerpoint was also created about how Town Meeting works and that has been shared with residents prior to Town Meetings.

### **League of Women Voters Book Award**

The League of Women Voters Book Award continues to be given to a junior at North Andover High School each year. The recipient must be in the top half of his or her class and be active in voter education, environmental activism, human rights, or other areas for which the League advocates.

### **Attempts to Re-energize the League and Increase Membership**

In North Andover we have had some interest in the League but we find that the interest is primarily focused on political activism and candidacies. We struggle with the question of how much political activity crosses over the neutrality boundary required by the League in terms of working on Candidates Nights or at Town Meeting. Those of us who work on the candidates events, for example, do not endorse candidates, attend meet and greets with candidates, donate money towards campaigns, or host yard signs for specific candidates. Those interested and those currently in the North Andover side of our LWV chapter do not seem willing to take on the administrative side of our local chapter, but prefer to work on specific events.

To address this ongoing issue, we held a meeting at Panera on 1/14/17 to talk about ways to get things going again. Nothing materialized, unfortunately. North Andover and Andover members were present. In 2017, we also had a LWV table at Town Meeting at which brochures and information about the League and how to join were handed out. We had also met as a group in North Andover at the Steven Memorial Library to think of ways to keep our local League going. We advertise at events and through Facebook and email. The results of

our efforts have been to stay focused on a few key events and actions - Candidates Nights, getting people to vote, helping at Town Meeting, and awarding the Book Award.



