

**LWV of Andover/North Andover
Annual Meeting, June 19, 2014, Atria Marland Place, Andover
Year in Review**

Our League has been led by a trio of people this year: Heather McNeil, Maureen Sundberg, and Stefani Traina, along with several others who have taken on and completed many projects. Once again, we managed to complete a very full docket of events and services for the year.

With limited volunteer time, we all worked to keep the League web site updated, and we published the LWV Weekly News and a quarterly Bulletin, as well, thanks to Maureen Sundberg.

Our membership has remained stable at 93 members, and we've gained several new members this year. We are fortunate to have loyal and generous members who support our work.

Maureen and Stefani have participated in the Membership and Leadership Development coaching program. The monthly phone meetings provided a lot of information and good ideas.

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

Summer

Diana Walsh updated our member handbook over the summer, which was much appreciated.

Becky Cairns, Legislative Assistant to Rep. Niki Tsongas, led an informal discussion of activities in Washington.

Support for No Slots Tewksbury.

September

The League hosted a table at Andover Day on September 7, and many volunteers helped out: Maria Bartlett, Ann Cobleigh, Nuala Boness, Suanne Dillman, Alex Driscoll, Maureen Sundberg, and Diana Walsh. Members conducted a survey about Town Meeting. Andover High students, Emily Granoff and Johnathan Cohen, with help from Morrissey Bronder, did a craft with younger folks.

A League group formed to discuss and review our Town Meeting positions, and suggestions for changes to our positions were eventually presented to the membership at a breakfast meeting on January 18. Town moderators, Sheila Doherty and Mark DiSalvo addressed the attendees, as well. Many thanks to Joan Duff and Lolli Sumberg for leading the event, and to the many people who attended the discussions and offered input.

S.326 bill to eliminate sub-precincts in Andover

A letter of support was drafted and given to Town Clerk, Larry Murphy so that he could submit it on 9/18 at the Statehouse hearing.

October

Running for Office Workshop – League members Heather McNeil and Kathy Stevens and North Andover Town Clerk, Joyce Bradshaw

Hot Topics at Panera on October 16 – agriculture study group formed. There was also great interest in forming a group to tackle the LWVUS Agriculture Update, but as the date for receiving material from LWVUS slipped into January, and the scale and scope became too time-consuming.

Updated Bottle Bill petition signature gathering was conducted by many League members.

Ann Cobleigh, Joan Duff, Maureen Sundberg, and Heather McNeil participated in the LWVMA Phonathon this year on October 20. Our local League's share was \$355. Thanks to Keller- Williams Realty for offering space.

November 18-22

The Community Read-Along was held in Andover elementary schools, thanks to help from League event chairs, Maureen Sundberg and Denise Boucher, with continued support from school administrators and the individual coordinators at the schools.

December 18

Bonnie Zahorik moderated a cable studio program to educate the public about the proposed STEAM Studio charter school effort led by Andover School Committee member, David Birnbach and others. Participants in the program

included School Committee members Annie Gilbert, and Dennis Forgue, and STEAM Studio proponents, David Birnbach and Ron Lasser.

January 18

A breakfast meeting was held at Atria Marland Place to discuss recommended changes to our Town Meeting position. Town moderators Sheila Doherty and Mark DiSalvo each gave a talk that included their suggestions for improving Town Meeting, as well.

February 12

The League held the Chocolate at the Addison Gallery membership event again with more than 30 people enjoying chocolate and the gallery talk by Rebecca Hayes. Many thanks to Liz Elowe, Jackie Kovacs, and Nuala Boness for organizing a wonderful evening.

March

March 1 - Farm to Plate: How Do We Sustain Local Farms? The League and Memorial Hall Library co-sponsored a lively panel discussion of local farmers and the issues they face. Many thanks to Ann Knowles and Cindy Blandini for their help organizing this event attended by over 50 people.

Andover's Candidates' Night was held on March 10. Many thanks to Nancy Mulvey and Annette Grams for organizing the event. Heather McNeil served as the moderator, and there were student helpers, as well.

Molly Bicking coordinated the precincting schedule again this year. Thank you to all of you who volunteered at the League's table.

North Andover's Candidates' Night was March 3, and Becci Backman served as the moderator. Heather McNeil and Kathy Stevens and others organized the event.

April

On Apr 16th the third Annual Youth in Town Government Day took place. Their home base was Memorial Hall, and the space was more effective than the more cramped quarters at Town Offices. 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 11, the LWV Lexicolleagues (Peggy Kruse, Joan Duff, Maureen Sundberg, Stefani Traina) participated in the Andover Fund for Education Spelling Bee.

On April 23rd, Bonnie Zahorik organized and moderated Andover's Budget Forum and Town Meeting Preview. It was well-received. Many thanks to Mary Beth Nason for helping to organize the evening and to Emily Granoff for co-moderating.

May

Maureen Sundberg represented the League in the Cole Community Service Award screening process.

One of our longtime members, Nancy Gump received a Citizens Who Care award from the Andover Rotary Club.

Heather McNeil and others screened questions at the North Andover Town Meeting this year.

June

The League's Willard and Joyce Robinson Book Award this year will be *Mayflower* by Nathaniel Philbrick. North Andover's Book Award title is the same.