



Alix Driscoll with Iha Kaul, 2010 recipient of the Virginia Cole Scholarship.



Sen. Susan Tucker presented with a gift from the League of Women Voters for her years of service to the community.

COURTESY PHOTOS

# LWV of Andover/North Andover holds annual meeting

The League of Women Voters of Andover/North Andover recently held its annual meeting at Marland Place in Andover. More than 60 members of the non-partisan civic group met to celebrate another year of service to the Andovers.

The League recognized outgoing president Stefani Traina for "four years of outstanding leadership and service," according to the League. Traina will continue working with the local League, while expanding her involvement with the League of Women Voters at the state level.

The membership elected Kerri Ford as the League's new president along with a slate of officers who together will provide League leadership for 2010-2011. Ford lives in Andover with her husband, Tim, and their two children. Professionally, she is a private equity investor with Baker Capital, a New York-based private equity firm and holds an MBA from The Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania. In addition to her work with the League, Ford is a member of the Bancroft School Improvement Council, Friends of Memorial Hall Library, and the Andover Historical Society.

During the evening, the League



Kerri Ford, newly elected LWV president.

presented the 2010 Virginia Cole Scholarship to Iha Kaul, an Andover High School senior. Longtime League member Alix Driscoll presented Kaul with the \$500 scholarship, describing the student's involvement as a PALS tutor and mentor over the past four years. PALS is a partnership between AHS, Phillips Academy, and the Lawrence Public Schools that provides educational enrichment for talented seventh and eighth grade students from the Lawrence school system.

Featured guest, state Sen. Sue Tucker spoke about following her passion for politics at a time

when few women entered that arena. "The League of Women Voters had much to do with why I got into this business," she said. She noted that skills gained as president of the League prepared her for legislative work. She served as a state representative from 1982 to 1992 prior to her 2001 election to the state Senate.

As she approaches the end of her 18 years in the Massachusetts legislature, Tucker touched on the highlights of her career, including her efforts to rein in auto insurance fraud and the joys of mentoring young women on her staff. She also expressed concern about upcoming legislation on gambling and the general lack of civil discourse in politics. Now, she says, "It will be interesting to see how my life unfolds."

The League of Women Voters is a national non-partisan organization that encourages the active and informed participation of citizens in their government. The Andover/North Andover League has over 125 members with diverse interests, but with a shared passion for citizen involvement, advocacy, and local action. Members find that the League provides opportunities to refresh professional skills, find

colleagues with similar interests, study something new, and help to keep our democracy vibrant. Membership in the League is open to men and women of all ages. For more information or to join, go to LWV-Andovers.org.

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