



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
OF ANDOVER/NORTH ANDOVER**

# Bulletin

[www.lwv-andovers.org](http://www.lwv-andovers.org)

**October 2011**

Bulletin Editor: Ann Cobleigh  
Steering Committee: Ann Cobleigh, Maureen Sundberg, Stefani Traina

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## From Your Steering Committee

By Ann Cobleigh, Maureen Sundberg, Stefani Traina

Pumpkins sprout on Andover doorsteps, corn stalks entwine North Andover mailboxes, and red and yellow leaves dot the landscape. It must be autumn in New England. And in spite of the past many rain showers, we've been fortunate to have a few clear, sunny days to enjoy the changing season

As you settle into your autumn routine, we want to thank those of you who have renewed your League memberships. We appreciate your support. If you haven't yet had a chance to renew, we hope you'll do so soon as we have some great programs coming up.

Given the many rainy days that have encouraged indoor work, your local League has planned a flurry of autumn activity. We hope to see you at some or all of a wide variety of events scheduled during October and November.

Tonight **Wednesday, October 26** will find many of us at Edgewood, North Andover to hear Jean Sideris speak on "*Extreme Weather, Global Warming and Your Health.*"

As Outreach Coordinator for Union of Concerned Scientists, Jean comes prepared to answer your questions about the interplay of our environment and human health.

We hope you'll choose to join us at 7:30 p.m. for this informative presentation.

We are grateful for the time and work Amy Janovsky has put into coordinating this event.

Andover residents will have an opportunity on **November 2nd** at a League-sponsored forum to find out more about the current proposal by the Andover Youth Foundation (AYF) for a youth center. The evening will include a presentation by AYF and offer plenty of time for you to ask questions of town officials and others about the current youth center proposal. The following town officials have accepted the invitation to attend: *Paul Salafia*, Board of Selectmen; *Dennis Forgue*, School Committee; *Buzz Stapczynski*, Town Manager; *Jon Stumpf*, Finance Committee. The presentation will start at 7:00 p.m. in the 3rd floor meeting room at Andover Memorial Hall Library. If you are unable to attend, but have questions you'd like answered, you may email them to [league@lwv-andovers.org](mailto:league@lwv-andovers.org). This event will be aired live and taped for rebroadcast, but we hope you'll find time to attend.

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The **week before Thanksgiving** features Andover's popular community event: The Community Read-Along. We are very proud that this tradition of bringing community members in to share their love of reading has remained a priority for Andover's schools. There is still time to volunteer for the fun.

Finally, we hope you'll mark **November 30** as a red-letter date on your calendar!

The local League is bringing back the popular Chocolate event - open to members, their guests and potential new members. This year we are having Chocolate at the Addison. Attendees will have a wonderful opportunity to visit and explore Phillips Academy's Addison Gallery of Art while enjoying conversation with League friends and maybe sampling your choice of chocolate desserts. This will truly be an event for all of your senses.

Enjoy the crisp fall days and the sun when it manages to make an appearance! And we hope to see you at one or more of our autumn events.

## Community Conversation Series: *Best Use of Franciscan Center Property*

by Ann Cobleigh

Wed, Oct 19, 2011 7:00-8:10 p.m.

Side note: Planning Director, Paul Materazzo was unable to attend due to his wife giving birth at a Boston hospital.

The task force, appointed by the Andover Board of Selectman, is comprised of the following town residents:

Arthur Friedman, Co-chair, 18-yr resident, River Rd neighbor.

Charles Kendrick, Jr., Co-chair, 25-yr resident, on a board of directors of a retirement community, worked 30 years for the Urban Land Institute in DC.

Jo-Ann M. Deso

Madelaine St. Amand, 34-yr resident, River Rd neighbor, concerned over appropriate use of land for our residents and older citizens.

Mary Garrity Cormier, 20-yr resident, corporate marketing director and recent MS degree in gerontology, has knowledge and concern for the needs and requirements of seniors.

James R. Lightburn, Jr., 10-yr resident, River Rd neighbor

Peter J. Morris, 20-yr resident, VP of AVIS, past board member of Andover Soccer

Jay Doherty, life-long resident, Member of Andover Planning Board

Arthur Friedman facilitated the meeting. The task force is chartered with submitting, to the Board of Selectmen, a recommendation for the use of the Franciscan Center property that is in the best interest of the community. The committee does not have authority to make changes and is independent of any buyer.

The committee's goal for the meeting was to obtain information, ideas, comments,

etc. from the community. Arthur gave a brief explanation that an overlay district would add to the allowable uses of an area. A list of current uses was displayed. To guide the evening's discussion, the following questions were posed:

1. What should be the overlay boundaries?
2. What land use should be encouraged?
3. What are key traffic and circulation issues?
4. What other kind of infrastructure?
5. What are the needs for green space and where should it be located?

The public was invited to address the committee with comments, questions and ideas. The following comments were made:

Fred Snell, representing AVIS. Fred presented some pertinent slides of key areas on the property. The St. Francis Trail connects the Deer Jump and Spalding trails and is part of the regional Penacook Trail. The natural beauty of the trail and surrounding area is significant with a lot of forested area including many mature hemlock trees.

In 1994, the Franciscan Order gave a license to AVIS for use of the trail. The agreement can be terminated by either party with 30 days written notice. AVIS feels the current agreement is casual and doesn't really protect the trail and they suggest it would be prudent to take the opportunity to rectify the situation.

Fran Fink, representing the Conservation Commission. Noting their desire to preserve open space, the Con Comm pointed out the presence of wetlands, ravines and tributaries to be considered. The committee members prepared a list of suggestions as follows:

- Encourage re-using the currently developed portions of the land.
- Locate parking areas under buildings to minimize run-off of surface water.
- Incorporate energy-efficiency into the design process.
- Consult with abutter, Melmark School, regarding the parking easement for parking lot.
- Preserve the meadow which is an attractive and unique habitat.
- Include consideration of the cemetery.
- Consider including a commercial component to provide supporting services to residents and neighbors, provide a shuttle bus to save gasoline.
- Provide public access to system with a couple of parking spots at the trailhead.
- Encourage adherence to DEP Guidelines as related to prevention of any additional flooding.

Steve Fink, representing Sustainable Andover - The group favors use of the land and further, in support of the successful high school internship program, they would welcome an opportunity to have a couple of more interns included in any projects.

Peter Troy, representing the Melmark School, abutter - First, the school and Franciscan Order have worked cooperatively on past issues (water/sewer arrangements). Second, the school's mission (serving children with autism) was dovetailing with a proposed plan in conjunction with Wingate Nursing Home. This deal is no longer on the table. The Melmark School is open to new ideas. Finally,

the uniqueness and beauty of the open land cry out for preservation.

Alan French, Chair of Bay Circuit Alliance, a regional organization whose members include 57 towns offers its assistance in the form of their contacts at the town, state, and federal levels and encourage creative ideas and incentives. Their particular concern is that without the St. Francis Trail, there would be a break in the Bay Circuit Trail.

Susan Stott, Executive Director of Andover Community Trust, AVIS Trustee, Edgewood Condominium Trustee - Noting a North Andover by-law requirement when The Edgewood Condominiums for 55+ was being developed, Susan noted one item as an example, 50% of the project to be open space and with 75% committed open space there could be certain density incentives.

Ann Knowles, Andover High School teacher representing its Sustainable Gardens program - Expressed concern that agriculture in town has disappeared and envisions a community farm/resource that would benefit students, Andover's seniors and general residents.

Tim Carter, resident and River Rd neighbor. Worried that development "would be another abomination like Avalon Bay which would be the antithesis of an appropriate use." Tim noted safety concerns. Based on prior conversations with police officers, he understands that if an emergency occurred during a shift change, it could take up to 10 minutes for officers to arrive. Second, he is concerned about the impact to the already intense amount of through traffic. Additionally, his property and the surrounding power line property are consistently used for illegal dumping and development at the Franciscan Center would exacerbate the problem.

Attorney Robert Geismeyer, counsel for the Franciscan Order, travelled from NY to attend this meeting and to clarify the positions and goals of the Franciscan Order as related to this property. Philosophically, the Franciscan Order is associated with natural beauty and the animals and their mission is to fund development of schools for disabled children in third-world countries. The sale of any of their properties would raise money for this purpose. As long-time property owners in Andover, the Franciscan brothers still feel a part of the community desire an appropriate use of the land in the best interest of the community.

They are not in a hurry to sell the property and have turned down other offers which would have brought a variety of types of development educational, elderly housing, hospital/wellness, or residential-estate properties. If a particular use of the property can be determined, they may be willing to assist in marketing. Over the past 1 ½ years, negotiations with Wingate took place. The parties could not come together and he reports there would be no future sale to Wingate.

The residence of the contemplative nuns and the meadow next to it will never be sold.

The eventual disposition of the cemetery will be considered seriously by the Franciscan brothers in a purely religious manner. All the sculptures would need to be preserved. Recently, permission was granted to a Catholic high school for use of an on-site soccer field and the brothers are open to other uses. The property currently is being managed by one of the brothers several days a week.

The meeting was taped for broadcast on local cable TV. Please refer to

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[www.andovertv.org](http://www.andovertv.org) for the program schedule.

## 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. Students are also eager to hear stories from their reader's own lives.

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

Read-Along Committee Members:

Denise Boucher

Liz Elowe

Maureen Sundberg

## National League - LWVUS Activities

### LWV President Elizabeth McNamara & NPR radio on "A War On Voting?"

Voter Registration Law Changes

*Editor's Note: By clicking on the link, you will be taken to the NPR website and can listen to the 45-minute radio show in its entirety by clicking on the words "[Listen to This Show](#)".*

. . . Today, early in this 21st century, states are taking steps that will impact the number of qualified voters in the 2012 Presidential Election. Requiring voter ID, limits on third party voter registration drives, eliminating election day registration and curtailing early voting are all measures that have been proposed or passed in a disturbing number of states this year. Coupled with dramatic budget cuts which are closing driver's license offices, democracy is growing increasingly unsafe for the nation.

On Monday, October 17th, LWV US President Elizabeth McNamara was one of four guests on the National Public Radio call-in show, "On Point," featuring the topic, "A War on Voting." A number of callers pointed out the disproportionate impact these laws will have on underserved communities. An election official in rural Tennessee noted that she would be required to turn away voters with whom she is personally acquainted, if they lacked the requisite government issued ID.

Cash-strapped agencies can make seemingly innocuous decisions that impact the right of some Americans to vote. For instance, the U.S. Postal Service is proposing to close offices all across the country, including the reservation in South Dakota where Wounded Knee is located. That post office is a lifeline to the community, including vital voter services such as voter registration and requesting and

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returning absentee ballots. . . click [here](#) to read Ms. McNamara's full article.

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#### Sidebar

*"Democracy means get out the vote. But a new wave of state legislation across the country is making it harder to vote. Tightening up in many ways. Making voter registration more difficult. Reducing early voting days. Demanding voter ID. Proof of citizenship.*

*Backers say it's all to clean up American voting. Critics say that's a ruse. That voter fraud problems in this country are miniscule. That it's really a Republican drive to push away voters they don't want at the polls. A "war on voting." This hour On Point: the wave of new restrictions on American voting."*

-Tom Ashbrook  
Host of NPR show "On Point"

Tom's show included guests of varying viewpoints:

**Ari Berman**, a contributing writer for The Nation and author of "Herding Donkeys: The Fight to Rebuild the Democratic Party and Reshape American Politics." His article, for the September 15th issue of Rolling Stone, was "The GOP War on Voting."

**Jason Torchinsky**, Partner at the private law firm Holtzman Vogel; Former Counsel to the Civil Rights Division at the U.S. Department of Justice; Deputy general counsel to the 2004 Bush-Cheney campaign and Inaugural Committee.

**Elisabeth MacNamara**, National president of the League of Women Voters.

**Jamin Raskin**, Democratic State Senator from Maryland, he's author of "Overruling Democracy: The Supreme Court versus the American People."

## State League - LWVMA Activities:

This link directs you to the update page on the LWVMA's website. The main article reports on Massachusetts advocacy issues most notably the Casino Bill.

[LWVMA September 2011 Update](#)

## League Member Activities: Local Member Attends LWVMA Board Meeting

Report: LWVMA Board Meeting, Sep 2011  
By Ann Cobleigh

LWV Office, 133 Portland St, Boston

September 27, 2011, 12:00 noon-2:30+

Attending: Eva Valentine(Greater Haverhill), Carole Pelchat(Greater Haverhill), Anne Borg(Newton), Karen Price(Needham), Pam Holland(Westford), Joan Boyer(Falmouth), Terry Yoffie(Newton), Nancy Brumback(Sudbury), Sandy O.(Needham)

LWV President, Eva, chaired the meeting.

Casino Bill - State Senate was discussing that day. There was a Globe article how casinos are not working in Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Florida and Mississippi.

Administrative Items - Voted and approved.

Development/Phonathon Report - Anne Borg and Karen Price presented a thorough and detailed action plan for conducting this year's Phonathon. Karen described 2 types of donors, current members and past donor members. Historically, the donor list is approx 5,000 of which we have email addresses for 4,000. The local league packets will be available for distribution at the Presidents' Breakfast, Nov 1. The packet will include printed letters with tear-off pledge sheet, window envelopes, return envelopes. Local leagues to pay the postage and then submit to LWVMA for reimbursement. As additional incentive, the 10% back to the local leagues has been increased this year to 15%.

Local leagues are to contact office admin, Natalie, with name of coordinator and estimated number of calls the local league can make. Completed materials are due back to LWVMA office by Dec 1.

Endowment Development - Eva Valentine suggested the State League needs to be set up for receiving stocks and other assets as donations. She is working hard to establish the importance of both short and long-term fundraising. (It takes approx. \$140,000 to cover 1 year of LWVMA operating expenses.)

School Drop-Out Prevention - targeted toward under-performing schools. Unfunded mandates are not desirable. The League position supports the bill RESB185. Click for the [League's letter of testimony](#). A report was referenced "Making the Connection." Eva posed the question, "Do we know the impact of MCAS on dropout rates?"

Training for Women in Elected Office - A new program designed to promote preparation for more women to hold elected office. Terry Yoffie is spearheading this initiative to pull together certain groups and educational institutions to collaborate on educating women ages 25-60 in areas such as leadership, public speaking, coalition-building, communication and process skills, etc. One organization mentioned by name was the non-partisan Mass Women Take Action Coalition. The League's Scharfman Trust will be providing funding. Terri has received some enthusiastic interest from some women so far.

Governance Committee - The group is clarifying and developing detailed procedures to be incorporated into the bylaws addressing the use of electric media for conducting meetings, special meetings, emergency meetings, quorums and voting taking into consideration requirements for prior notice. Specifically affected would be Art. V, sections 6-7.

Membership Training - Pam Holland and League coaches hold monthly coaching calls on membership training. These can be helpful for local membership chairs. Pam can be contacted for further information.

*Voter Service* - A member of the Brookline League wants to hold a US Senate debate. Discussion ensued whether this would conflict with the state league level. It was pointed out that candidates don't typically want to do LWV forums when they have other opportunities yielding more media and TV coverage. If Brookline did pursue it, the degree of State League involvement would need to be determined as they would be using the LWV brand.

*State League Office Lease* - Eva announced the reworking of the lease has come to a final resolution with the much-needed assistance of an experienced real estate attorney. Details were not announced, but the League has moved to a smaller space adjacent to the prior location, requiring no change of address or redoing of printed materials.

At 2:30 p.m. the Andover/North Andover LWV member needed to leave prior to the close of the meeting.

## **Fall 2011 Calendar**

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

### **Oct**

- 21 Fri *Bulletin* Article Submission deadline for Nov issue  
submissions may be emailed to: Ann@Realtor.com
- 26 Wed Members Forum, "*Extreme Weather, Global Warming and Your Health*"  
with guest speaker Jean Sideris  
7:30 pm, Edgewood, 575 Osgood St, North Andover
- 28 Fri LWV Region 4 Breakfast, 8:30-10:30 am, Friendly's Restaurant,  
Peabody, MA
- 29 Sat LWVMA Presidents' Breakfast, 9:00 am, Needham Historical Society,  
1147 Central St, Needham, MA

### **Nov**

- 2 Wed Board Meeting, 1:00 pm, Open to all  
23 Oak Street, Andover
- 2 Wed Public Information Forum on the Andover Youth Center, 7:00 pm  
Memorial Hall Auditorium
- 9 Wed Andover Mid-Year Review FY2012, 7:00 pm, Memorial Hall Library
- 14-18 *Community Read-Along Week*
- 18 Fri *Bulletin* Article Submission deadline for Dec issue  
submissions may be emailed to: Ann@Realtor.com
- 30 Membership Event: "*Chocolate at The Addison*"  
Addison Art Gallery at Phillips Academy

### **Dec**

- 16 Fri *Bulletin* Article Submission deadline for Jan issue  
submissions may be emailed to: Ann@Realtor.com

### **Jan**

- tba Winter Members' Dinner  
Location TBA



## Available Board Positions

*If you'd like to have a greater impact on democracy in our communities, consider joining the League Board of Directors. The following positions are accepting applications/nominations for the current fiscal year:*

<b>Position</b>	<b>Primary Responsibilities</b>
Clerk	Keep board and annual meeting minutes
Legislative Action Chair	Distribute Action Alerts, write monthly column for the <i>Bulletin</i>
Bulletin Editor distribute	Solicit and/or write articles, use Constant Contact to via email.
Cable TV - Andover	Coordinate local cable coverage of events
Andover School Committee Observer	Observe school committee meetings and write a summary for the League Bulletin

## About the League of Women Voters

The League of Women Voters is a 91-year old national nonpartisan 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)

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\_\_\_\_\_ 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:  
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