

# BULLETIN

League of Women Voters  
Arlington, Massachusetts

[www.lwva.com](http://www.lwva.com)

## April 2010

### Calendar

Thursday 4/1	LWVA Fiscal Year begins — please use the form on page 13 to send your annual dues to our Treasurer.
Friday 4/2 noon to 1 pm	April First Friday Lunch with Nicole Laskowski, <i>Arlington Advocate</i> Editor, at Carma Forgie's home, 11 Stony Brook Road. All are welcome. See page 3 for details.
Saturday 4/10 8 am to 8 pm	Town Election. If you can give rides to the polls, please call Claire Maytum at 781-643-9241. See last page for details.
Thursday 4/15 7 pm	LWVA Board Meeting at Meredith Zona's home, 1 Andrews Way. All members welcome. Directions below.
Monday 4/26 8 pm	Town Meeting begins.
Wednesday 4/28	LWVMA Annual Day on the Hill. Details on pages 11 and 12.
Saturday 5/22	LWVMA Council 2010 at Lasell College, Newton, MA. Save the date!

1 Andrews Way is a new street and is not on Mapquest or Google Maps, so please use the directions below.

From the west end of Arlington, turn onto Overlook Rd., at the lights on Summer St. across from the skating rink. Keep to the left at the fork and travel about 1/2 mile to Ridge St. Turn right on Ridge St., then first left on Cherokee Rd., first right on Old Colony Rd., and first right on Andrews Way. *Andrews Way is a short street that looks like a driveway. 1 Andrews Way is directly ahead on the left. You may want to park on Old Colony Rd. The entrance through the garage is a little easier for those not used to climbing many stairs to get to the front door.*

From Arlington Center, travel on Mystic St. towards Winchester and take slight left on Old Mystic St. (about 3/4 mile north of Summer St.), then 2nd left onto Hutchinson Rd, 2nd left onto Morningside Dr., 1st right onto Windmill Lane, first left onto Old Colony Rd., and 1st left onto Andrews Way; see directions in italics above.

**Carolyn Parsons and Angela Olszewski:** Co-Presidents  
[CarolynMParsons@msn.com](mailto:CarolynMParsons@msn.com), [amolshzewski@gmail.com](mailto:amolshzewski@gmail.com)  
**Ann FitzGerald:** Membership [AnnFitz@rcn.com](mailto:AnnFitz@rcn.com)

**Kim Haase:** Bulletin Editor [c.haase@comcast.net](mailto:c.haase@comcast.net)  
**Margaret Reiners:** Bulletin Mailing [mlreiners@gmail.com](mailto:mlreiners@gmail.com)

## Co-President's Message

League Members and Friends,

Spring is a very busy season for public service and civic engagement in Arlington. The League, through its events and voter service programs, has been striving to educate members and residents about public policy issues at the state and local levels.

On March 7<sup>th</sup>, we hosted our annual Legislators Brunch. All three of our state representatives and our state senator were able to attend. We gathered on a lovely early spring morning to hear about the areas on which our legislators are currently working and learn their thoughts on issues that directly affect Arlington. The event was both interesting and educational. Topics discussed ranged from higher education funding and the environment to the town's ability to control its employee and retiree health insurance costs.

We have been actively encouraging residents to run for town meeting. While it's too late for people to get their names on the printed ballots, anyone can decide to run as a write-in candidate until April 10<sup>th</sup>, the day of the election. We have been collaborating with other groups to publicize the open seats and provide helpful tips on how to run as a write-in candidate.

The League was pleased to once again host Candidates Night with Vision 2020. More about the program, which was held on March 25<sup>th</sup>, can be found in this bulletin. If you weren't able to attend, please remember to check the ACMI website for the cable rebroadcast schedule. The event was well attended and informative to voters.

Please remember to vote on April 10<sup>th</sup> and please remind your friends and neighbors.

Angela Olszewski  
Co-president

### LWVA LEADERSHIP 2009–2010

Carolyn Parsons, Co-President	781-646-9309
Angela Olszewski, Co-President	781-648-8649
Meredith Zona, Organization VP	781-648-2753
Patricia Muldoon, Action VP	781-648-1019
Patricia Lieberman, Local Action VP	781-646-1987
Kathleen Colwell, Treasurer	781-646-4522
Anne Linn, Secretary	781-643-0356
Ann FitzGerald, Membership Director	781-646-9711
Deborah Sirotkin Butler, Publicity	781-646-8204
Carma Forgie, Speaker Series	781-643-7622
Katharine Fennelly, Voters' Guide	781-648-1794
Kim Haase, Bulletin Editor	781-643-3429
Margaret Reiners, Bulletin Mailing	781-646-9611
Janice Bakey, Email Coordinator	781-643-4345
Phyllis Maddox, Webmistress	781-646-4362

The BULLETIN is published monthly except during the summer and December by the League of Women Voters of Arlington, PO Box 461, Arlington, MA 02476.

## *Advocate* Editor to Speak at April First Friday Lunch

By Carma Forgie



The First Friday Lunch in April (on the 5<sup>th</sup>) will feature the editor of the *Arlington Advocate*, Nicole Laskowski.

As usual, the Lunch will start at about twelve o'clock with the presentation by Ms. Laskowski, with questions to follow. The League will provide drinks. Please bring your own brown-bag lunch. All are invited.

We have had requests for a field trip to the incinerator and the recycling depot in the spring. Ruth Yannetti of the Public Works Department is organizing such a trip. There are also some high school students and some from the Recycling Committee who want to go. Unless it would be a very large group, it will be one trip for all interested. Ms. Yannetti said it most likely would be in the middle of the week, but didn't know if it would be in the morning or afternoon. If you are interested, please let me know by email at [carma9forgie@ix.netcom.com](mailto:carma9forgie@ix.netcom.com).

Stephen Gilligan, Town Treasurer, spoke at the March First Friday lunch (see article on page 5).

First Row: Patti Muldoon, Carma Forgie, Ann Fitzgerald.

Second Row: Peggy Reiners, Grace Dingee, Carolyn Parson, Mr. Gilligan, Pat Lieberson.

Photo by Phyllis Maddox





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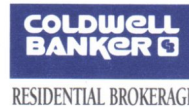


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## **Town Treasurer Stephen Gilligan Speaks at March First Friday Lunch**

*by Pat Lieberson*

Treasurer Stephen Gilligan began the March First Friday Lunch discussion with the announcement that Arlington had just received 1.3 million dollars from State Street Bank. This is the entire amount that Arlington's investments with State Street had supposedly lost. Over two years ago Gilligan discovered that State Street had been investing in proprietary funds (bank owned) that Arlington had not authorized. His subsequent complaint to the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office led to the investigation that resulted in Arlington and a number of other government entities receiving their money back. \$400,000 of the money will go to Arlington's stabilization fund and the rest to the Town's trust funds.

Gilligan said Arlington pursues a conservative investment strategy with a well balanced portfolio of 60% equities and 40% fixed income and cash. Over the last 20 years this has yielded an average return of 7% per year. Investment policy is set by the Treasurer in consultation with the Town's three trust fund commissions; for the cemetery, the library, and the Board of Trust Funds. The latter board manages the funds for a variety of smaller trusts that have been created through gifts and bequests to the town through the years. The Town has a new investment advisor, Boston Advisors, which also serves as the investment manager, replacing State Street. Fidelity is now the investment custodian. There is a new state law which allows trusts to spend some of the principal, not just the interest. The Treasurer makes recommendations on what percentage to spend each year, but the trustees are not required to follow his recommendations.

Money in the general fund is deposited in two bank accounts at Citizens Bank and the Massachusetts Municipal Depository Trust (MMDT), and moved back and forth depending on interest rates. The Treasurer is responsible for insuring cash flow sufficient to pay Town bills when due. He tracks cash flow on a weekly basis.

Arlington enjoys an AAA bond rating, which enables the Town to borrow money at a lower rate. This is due to the Town's strict adherence to the five year budgeting plan, which maintained sufficient amounts of reserve funds, free cash and stabilization funds.

There are currently 6.8 million dollars in the four stabilization funds deposited with MMDT. These are the override, building, long term, and tip fee (trash disposal) funds. Gilligan is concerned that the lawsuit the Town is now facing could hurt the credit rating because the rating agencies consider such suits a liability. Both the Treasurer and the Selectmen must sign in order for the Town to borrow money.

The Treasurer is also the parking clerk, by order of the Selectmen. This is why citizens must go to the Treasurer's rather than to the Town Clerk's office to pay or appeal parking tickets. Gilligan thinks it would be a good idea for the Town to join the State's GIC health insurance plan for employees and retirees because it could save 5 million dollars per year. He opposes joining PRIT, the state pension plan, because it has lost 40 million dollars. Arlington's own pension plan has done much better than that.

**LWVMA Announces Annual Phonathon Campaign Revenue Sharing Checks**

Following our successful annual phonathon campaign, LWVMA is pleased to share the proceeds with local Leagues, as has been our custom. This year's shares equal 15% of the total each League raised from its own members and from members of other local Leagues, plus \$1 for every contribution made by credit card.

Total shares to local Leagues is more than \$8,000. For many Leagues, this represents a significant revenue boost that can allow more program options and less stress on raising funds through other means. The average share for local Leagues who participated in calling or writing is \$582. The average share for local Leagues who did not is \$62.50.

Thanks to all who participated in any way to the success of this key fundraiser.

As we look forward to the 2010 Annual Campaign (it is an ongoing process!) any ideas for improving the process at the local level are much appreciated. Please email LWVMA Development Chair, Jo-Ann Berry, with any thoughts or questions at [jberry@lwvma.org](mailto:jberry@lwvma.org).

*Editor's Note: The League of Women Voters of Arlington, which participated in the Phonathon, received a check for \$302.25.*



**Arlington Community Media Inc.**

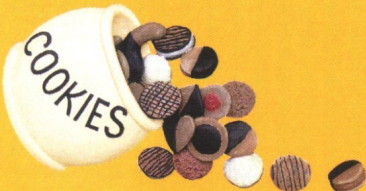
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Rep. Sean Garballey, Rep. Jay Kaufman, Sen. Ken Donnelly, and Rep. Will Brownsberger discuss legislative issues at the Brunch on March 7.

*Photo by Phyllis Maddox*

## **LEGISLATORS' BRUNCH**

*By Meredith Zona*

On Sunday, March 7, 2010, Kathy and Paul Fennelly hosted LWVA's annual Legislator's Brunch in their lovely home. A great crowd of League members and guests attended, and posed numerous intriguing questions to Arlington's four state legislators – Senator Ken Donnelly and Representatives Jay Kaufman, Sean Garballey and Will Brownsberger. Each legislator also had time to discuss current assignments and the challenges of meeting even basic human needs during the present recession.

On a cheery note, the day was warm and sunny, and the brunch food was fantastic, as always. Many thanks to Kathy and Paul Fennelly for their generosity and hard work in putting together a wonderful brunch!

## March 2010 Candidates' Night Recap and Thanks

*By Carolyn Parsons*

The League had another successful Candidates' Night on March 25, 2010. Town Hall was full with over 200 in attendance. Numerous Town Meeting Member candidates attended and were available for questions. The candidate for Town Moderator and the candidate for the Housing Authority both attended. Although each race was uncontested, both felt that it was important for Arlington citizens to be able to put a face with a name and to hear their views. John Leone, the candidate running for Town Moderator, took a portion of his time to highlight the number of vacant seats for Town Meeting Members for which there are no candidates. A flyer was made available explaining how to conduct a write-in campaign for Town Meeting. All three candidates running for one seat on the Board of Selectmen attended; all four candidates running for two seats on the School Committee attended. I would like to thank the candidates for running for public office, for caring about our town and giving their time to participate in this public forum.

Our guest Moderator, Margaret Coppe, member of the League of Women Voters of Lexington, was instrumental in the success of the evening. Her respectful demeanor with the candidates and audience set a cordial tone for the evening. She kept the forum running smoothly in a tight schedule. I thank her for her participation.

The Moderator presented questions that had been submitted anonymously on cards by audience members. The League thanks League members Joan Martin and Howard Winkler and Arlington Vision 2020 representative Alan Jones, who reviewed all the questions according to League procedure. Many audience members took the time to write questions, representing a range of concerns and issues. Thanks also to League member Elizabeth Thompson who made last minute edits to the script and gave the introductory and closing remarks. Many thanks to the timers, League members Jane Culbert, Gwen Hooper, Phyllis Maddox, and Sue Fish, who juggled the stopwatches and time cards for 1½ hours straight in a tightly run program, to ensure equal time for the candidates.

I am very appreciative of the volunteers from Arlington Community Media, Inc., for the amount of work and effort they contributed to broadcast this event. They made it possible for those unable to attend to view the forum and make an informed decision when voting.

Thanks to Patsy Kraemer, Event Coordinator, and Jane Howard, Arlington Vision 2020, for their roles in organizing this event.

Thanks to Kathy Fennelly for producing and to Peggy Reiners for editing the Voters Guide. Nancy Sweeney communicated with the candidates to help ensure prompt replies to the League questionnaire and delivered copies of the Voters Guide around Arlington.

Many League members made the night run smoothly. Kim Haase helped with the setup of Town Hall; Anne Linn helped with the cleanup. Kathy Fennelly and Lenore Winkler served as greeters and staffed the League table, handing out the Voters Guides and fielding questions. Ann FitzGerald answered questions about joining the League. All membership brochures were taken. Meredith Zona recruited the moderator, and both she and Angela Olszewski encouraged audience members to submit questions. Candidates Night was successful because of the generosity and commitment of many League members. A number of people congratulated me on a well-run, informative event. I am pleased that all is done but the filing.



## LWVMA Urges Passage of Electronic Waste Bill

*By Lynn Wolbarst and Launa Zimmaro  
League of Women Voters of Massachusetts  
Natural Resources Committee*

The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts strongly supports the electronic waste bill, H. 4374, An Act to Require Producer Responsibility for Collection, Reuse and Recycling of Discarded Electronic Products and urges Speaker of the House Robert A. DeLeo to move this bill out of Ways and Means with a favorable report, so that it may be voted on during this legislative session.

Discarded electronics constitute a major health and environmental hazard as well as a significant expense for municipalities, draining much needed revenue from essential town services.

Passage of H. 4374 appropriately shifts responsibility for the collection and safe disposal of discarded electronics from local governments to producers and would result in the following positive outcomes:

- Reduction of environmental pollution from lead, mercury, cadmium and other highly toxic substances inherent in e-waste
- Relief to cities and towns of the responsibility for the cost of collection and disposal of discarded e-waste, freeing funds for support of essential public services
- Encouragement of responsible product design to control waste of resources and energy
- Increase in safe recycling of electronics through registered processors

Twenty states currently have e-waste laws that are saving money for local municipalities and reducing the health and environmental impact of these products. This bill is supported by the Patrick Administration, the Massachusetts DEP, the Massachusetts Municipal Association, and numerous organizations throughout the state. Since 2001, 180 towns and cities in Massachusetts have signed e-waste resolutions calling for the passage of e-waste, producer responsibility legislation.

Passage of H. 4374 this year will add a much needed boost to local municipalities across the Commonwealth as they struggle to make ends meet during this difficult economic period.

We urge you to do all you can to support passage of H. 4374.

## **Women's History Month - LWVMA and Oxfam in DC**

### **Climate Change - A Chance to Make a Difference**

*By Zaxaro Bennett, President, LWVMA*

How did you celebrate International Women's Day on March 8, 2010?

I had the good fortune of celebrating with over one hundred women in Washington, D.C. as a guest of Oxfam America. In 1910, a group of women from all over the world met to discuss human rights and work for equality for all women. Ninety-nine years later, Oxfam America gathered women with the same goals to plan and lobby for change all over the planet.

This year the focus for the celebration and lobbying event centered on climate change. Women bear the largest burden and suffer the greatest impact from the effects of climate change. To combat this, our own Senator John Kerry has written and sponsored a climate change bill, The International Climate Change Investment Act (S. 2835), and is working on a tri-partisan bill with Senators Lieberman and Graham to tackle the issue of climate change from various points including, national security, greenhouse gas emissions, and green job creation, just to name a few.

Accompanied by a representative from Oxfam America, and the Interfaith Power and Light Coalition, I had the distinct pleasure and honor of meeting with Massachusetts Representative James McGovern of the Third District, a representative from Senator Kerry's Foreign Relations committee and his policy aide on Women's Development Issues, as well as a member of Senator Scott Brown's new office. While Representative McGovern supports climate change legislation, and Senator Kerry is leading the charge, it was an exceptional opportunity to speak with Senator Brown's office. During the meeting, we explained the issue of climate change and asked Senator Brown to become the first Republican Senator to sponsor the International Climate Change Investment Act (S. 2835). Our reception was warm, positive and hopeful for participation. I will be following up with our Junior Senator soon to continue to lobby for his participation and support.

The League on both a state and national level considers this issue to be one of utmost importance to all citizens throughout the world. If you or members of your local leagues would like any further information on the above legislation or climate change in general, please feel free to contact me at [zbennett@lwvma.org](mailto:zbennett@lwvma.org).

## Arlington League Members to Attend Day on the Hill

*By Patti Muldoon*

We invite all League members to attend our annual Day on the Hill program on Wednesday morning, April 28, 2010, at the Massachusetts State House. We had a wonderful turnout at the Arlington League's legislators' brunch, when many of us enjoyed the opportunity to talk with our Representatives. However, Day on the Hill is the premier time to lobby and educate our legislators about our key priorities and other areas important to you. Please come! **If you are interested in attending, please call Patti Muldoon at 781-648-1019.**

The Transportation Re-study Committee is putting together a panel of experts to educate League members in advance of the Transportation Re-study. Central to the discussion is the re-organization of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation. Among the issues to be presented are financing, balancing public and private modalities, and environmental impact.

Following the panel discussion, LWVMA Specialists will update us on pressing legislation in their areas that the League is supporting.

Please note that we will not be gathering in Nurses Hall; the State League is not providing breakfast, as it has done in years past.

Due to budget constraints, the LWVMA Board of Directors made the decision to charge fees to cover the costs of all LWVMA sponsored events. Thanks to a very generous donation from one of our State members, we are able to waive the planned \$10 registration fee for Day on the Hill this year. Costs include State House user fees and printing of lobbying packets for legislators. Contact Executive Director Shawna Reid with any concerns about this at [sreid@lwwma.org](mailto:sreid@lwwma.org).

### Speaker DeLeo to File Legislation for Casinos and Slots in MA

*By Louise Haldeman, Casino Gambling Specialist*

The Speaker of the House, Robert A. DeLeo, intends to file legislation which would allow for slot machines at race tracks and the building of two "destination casinos" in Massachusetts. The hope is to create jobs and increase revenues to the state.

In the next few months there will be many changes to the legislation and many claims and counter claims. It is significant that there has been no independent study of the costs and benefits of Class 3 gambling by a group which does not receive money from the vast gambling industry. At the very least the citizens deserve to know the economic facts.

League members should contact their State Senator and Representatives and demand an independent cost/benefit analysis of Class 3 gambling before we go any further with this legislation.

The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts has long opposed the introduction of casino gambling into the state. As we have followed the progress of the industry in other states, we have seen nothing that would induce us to change our position.

For reference materials go to the LWVMA website at [www.lwwma.org](http://www.lwwma.org)



## **2010 LWVMA ANNUAL DAY ON THE HILL**

### **Getting Around in Massachusetts A PANEL DISCUSSION ON TRANSPORTATION**

#### **Agenda - Gardner Auditorium**

- 9:00 am Registration - Gardner Auditorium
- 9:30 am Panel Presentation - Q&A follows
- 11:00 am LWVMA Legislative Updates
- 12:00 pm Adjourn to Lobby State Legislators

**Wednesday, April 28, 2010  
Massachusetts State House, Boston**

#### **The Panel will:**

- Explore a re-organization of the Mass. Dept. of Transportation.
- Examine the financing, the environmental impact and the balance of public and private modalities in all areas of transportation in the state.
- Educate League members in advance of the LWVMA Re-study of our 1973 Transportation position.

#### **League Specialists will:**

- Report on key legislation and LWVMA action priorities for the current legislative session.
- Answer all your program related questions.

Parking in the Boston Common Garage or take the T via Green or Red Line to Park Street Station.

**April 1 is the time to pay your annual dues!  
Thank you in advance for your support.**

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ARLINGTON  
Membership Application/Renewal Form**

*\*\*Fiscal Year runs from April 1 to March 31\*\**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Precinct \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Please indicate if you do NOT want your contact information sent to Arlington League members

\_\_\_\_\_ Basic Membership Dues..... \$50  
\_\_\_\_\_ 2nd member in household ..... \$23  
\_\_\_\_\_ Student (full-time) ..... \$20  
\_\_\_\_\_ Contribution to help the LWV in Arlington, add \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*If \$50 is a hardship, please pay what you can and let us know that this is your dues payment.*

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: League of Women Voters of Arlington  
MAIL TO: Kathy Colwell, 60 Claremont Ave., Arlington, MA 02476

\*\*\*\*\*

Please check areas of interest and activity even if you can't be actively involved THIS year.

**SPECIAL LEAGUE ACTIVITIES**

- Join the Board. Position: \_\_\_\_\_
- Action: phone calls \_\_\_\_\_ letters \_\_\_\_\_
- Bulletin: mailing \_\_\_\_\_ soliciting ads \_\_\_\_\_
- Membership
- Nominating Committee
- Publicity Writer
- Voter Service: Rides to the polls \_\_\_\_\_
- Candidates Night
- Voters' Guide
- Attend State League's Phonathon
- Be a discussion leader at local meetings
- Fundraising activities
- Offer meeting refreshments
- Post fliers and deliver brochures
- Host a meeting in my home
- Monitor elections for nonprofit organizations

**FOLLOW ISSUES, KEEP LEAGUE  
AND COMMUNITY INFORMED**

- Congress/Presidency/Election Process
- Discrimination/Equal Employment/Civil Rights
- Education/Child Care
- Environment/Recycling
- Health Care
- Justice/Courts/Prisons
- Land Use
- Taxation/Budgets/Deficits
- Transportation/Urban Policy
- Voting Rights
- Warrant Articles Review
- Welfare Policies/Basic Human Needs
- Women's Issues
- Zoning/Community Development/Land Use

**OBSERVE AT  
TOWN BOARD MEETINGS\***

- Selectmen (Mondays)
- Redevelopment Board (Mondays)
- School Committee (2nd & 4th Tuesdays)
- Conservation Commission (1st & 3rd Thurs.)
- Housing Authority

**SKILLS LEAGUE COULD DRAW ON**

- Computer database
- Graphic design
- Desktop publishing
- Web site maintenance
- Membership development
- Moderating meetings
- Fundraising
- Writing articles
- Other

**BEST TIME TO CALL YOU:**

(for phone tree reminders) Call before \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock

\*Some of these can be seen on cable TV

# Drivers Needed!

The Town Election is

**Saturday, April 10**

The League will need drivers to take voters who otherwise are unable to get to the polls.

**If you can give an hour or two on Election Day to help with this community service, please give Claire Maytum a call at (781) 643-9241.**

This service is very much appreciated by voters who find that they need it.

*Thank you!*

**April 2010**

League of Women Voters of Arlington  
Post Office Box 461  
Arlington, MA 02476

