



# BULLETIN

## League of Women Voters Arlington, Massachusetts

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

### April 2012

#### Calendar

4/2	Monday 7 p.m.	LWVA Board Meeting at Carolyn Parsons' home, 23 Brewster Road. All members welcome. See page 2 for directions.
	Sunday 4/1	The League's fiscal year begins again. To pay your annual dues, please send the form on page 11 to Ann FitzGerald. Thank you!
4/10	Tuesday 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.	Town Election. Note that polls open at 8 a.m., an unusual time for a Tuesday election. If you can give rides to the polls, please contact Phyllis Maddox. See last page for details.
4/10	Tuesday 4:30 to 10 p.m.	Volunteers needed for Alliance of Cambridge Tenants election. See page 7 for details.
4/23	Monday 8 p.m.	Town Meeting begins.
	Wednesday 4/25	LWVMA Day on the Hill. Guest speakers on the topic "Democracy in Danger; Money, Media and Manipulation" will include our own State Rep. Kay Kaufman. See page 8 for details.
5/5	Saturday 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.	LWVMA Council at Lasell College, Newton. The theme will be "Challenges to Democracy: Protecting Voter Rights and the Influence of Money." See page 9 for details.
5/17	Thursday 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.	Public forum, "Pushing Back on Money Politics," in Concord. Free and open to the public. Details will appear in the May Bulletin.

Note: See page 10 for Town Election polling locations.

## Co-President's Message

The local political season is in full swing. Candidates' Night is scheduled for Thursday, March 29. The Voters Guide has been compiled and distributed around town, and it is available on our website at <http://home.comcast.net/~lwva/LWVGuide12.pdf>. Since the guide is rather large, it is appearing in the *Advocate* in two parts, on March 29 and April 5. To conform to the results of the latest population census, all 12 Town Meeting Member positions from all but a few precincts are up for election. Checking the spelling of names, including everyone, and keeping a cohesive whole is not an easy task. All candidates for town-wide offices were prompt in their responses! The League thanks Kathy Fennelly, Peggy Reiners, Angela Olszewski, and Nancy Sweeney for being instrumental in getting the guide fit for print.

Organized by Phyllis Maddox, the League will be providing rides to the polls for the local election on Tuesday, April 10. Don't forget to vote!

Pat Lieberson and her committee are reviewing and researching a number of articles in the Town Warrant that the League might take a position on. Usually, an article/guest column appears in the *Advocate* that contains comments, pro or con, on a number of warrant articles before Town Meeting begins.

Pat Lieberson and Janice Bakey are organizing the supervision of the election for the Alliance of Cambridge Tenants. This is a huge undertaking and requires the involvement of many people. I thank you both!

*Carolyn Parsons*

### **Directions to Carolyn Parsons' home, 23 Brewster Road, Arlmont:**

At St. Camillus, the large Catholic church adjacent to the access road for Route 2, go under the overpass, stop at the stop sign, cross the access road on the other side, and proceed straight ahead onto Sagamore Rd., which curves to your right. Go the end of Sagamore, turn left. The house, on your right, has natural cedar shingles and black shutters.

### **LWVA LEADERSHIP 2011–2012**

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 Lieberson, 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
Betsy Rulon, Publicity	781-648-0169
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

## Legislators' Brunch Looks to Past, Present, Future



This year's Legislators' Brunch, held March 4 at Kathy Fennelly's home, hosted a full complement of Arlington legislators — one of whom no longer represents Arlington, and another of whom will no longer represent Arlington a year from now.

Will Brownsberger won a special election to become a State Senator representing Belmont, Watertown, and parts of Cambridge and Boston. Since his Arlington precincts (2 and 4) will have no representation until after the fall election, he is continuing his involvement with the Town and helping with constituent services where he can.

Because of redistricting, Jay Kaufman, too, will no longer represent Arlington next year. Both he and Sen. Brownsberger spoke of the excellent teamwork among Arlington's four legislators in the past, and their expectation that they will all continue to work together well in the future.

Sen. Brownsberger, Rep. Kaufman, Sen. Ken Donnelly, and Rep. Sean Garballey all spoke about issues they were focusing on, and then answered questions from League members and guests.

Sen. Donnelly began by paying tribute to his fellow legislators, noting that Sen. Brownsberger is now Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Public Service, while Rep. Kaufman is House Chair of the Joint Committee on Revenue, and Rep. Garballey is Vice Chair of the Joint Committee on Election Laws.

Rep. Kaufman said that he was somewhat hopeful about the possibility of revenue reform, because a special commission is likely to recommend changes in tax expenditures, the special exceptions to taxes that cost the state \$26 billion in revenue. Many exceptions are desirable (the sales tax exemptions for food and clothing, for example), but others are not. Reducing these by just 10% would resolve the current budget shortfall.

*(Continued on page 5)*



Our guests at the Legislators' Brunch: Senator (formerly Representative) Will Brownsberger, Senator Kenneth Donnelly, Representative Jay Kaufman, and Representative Sean Garballey.

*Photo by Phyllis Maddox*

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*Initial Free Consultation for League Members*

## Legislators' Brunch (Continued)

Rep. Garballey, the House chair of the MBTA caucus, reported that he has been focusing his efforts against the T's proposals of significant service cuts and fare increases. He is also a co-chair of the caucus on public higher education, which has suffered severe cuts over the past decade.

The legislators then answered questions on the following topics, among others:

**Tax Revenues:** According to Rep. Kaufman, revenue has fluctuated, because the recovery has been uneven. Sen. Donnelly noted that revenues were lower than expected in 2012 by about \$100 million so far. The structural deficit remains, federal cuts are likely (in Medicaid, for example), and tax increases are unlikely in the current climate.

**Bottle Bill Expansion:** Sen. Donnelly said that because the House Speaker does not support this proposal, it is unlikely to pass, though it is very popular; as Rep. Kaufman noted, the public is ahead of the leadership on this issue. Rep. Kaufman recommended that citizens talk to their representatives and make their views known. [Note: See page 10 for a State League Action Alert on this issue.]

**Three Strikes Bill:** Patti Muldoon observed that we spend more money on prisons than on higher education, and asked about prospects for reducing rather than increasing the prison population. Sen. Brownsberger replied that he had some hopes for a comprehensive Senate crime bill that combined some habitual offender language with a reduction of mandatory minimum sentences. This could replace a narrower House bill that might lead to more rather than fewer long sentences. He noted that with mandatory minimums, an offender's sentence is determined not by the judge and jury, but by the prosecutor's decision on what crime to charge the offender with.

**Election Laws:** Rep. Garballey said that a bill that included audits, pre-registration for high-school students, and other provisions would be coming up soon. Rep. Kaufman noted that there is a movement for a vote in the House to ask our congressional representatives to support a constitutional amendment to counteract the Supreme Court's Citizens United decision, which allowed unlimited political spending by corporations and unions; the real fix, he commented, would be public financing of campaigns. Rep. Garballey expressed concern that the effects of Citizens United might begin to be felt even at the local level.

**Belmont Uplands:** Sen. Brownsberger said that the State was unlikely to take action, and that it would be up to localities, led by Belmont, to try to purchase the land to keep it as open space.

Next year, Rep. Garballey will represent all of Arlington except for precincts 2, 4, 8, 10, and 12, which will have a new representative. Sen. Donnelly remains Arlington's Senator. Even our departing legislators, however, said they would love to come to next year's brunch if asked, that they had enjoyed their involvement with Arlington, and that they looked forward to continuing to work with their fellow legislators and with the League.

## Welcome New Member

We extend a warm welcome to our newest LWVA member:

Marian Smith  
26 Bonad Rd.  
Arlington, MA 02476  
781-648-1498



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## In Memoriam: Helen Jusius

Helen Jusius, a longtime member of the League of Women Voters of Arlington (and an honorary member since 1998), died in Maine on January 19, 2012 at the age of 84. A public accountant by profession, Mrs. Jusius lived in Arlington since the early 1950s, first on Jason Street, then at the Kentwood condominium and at Sunrise Assisted Living before moving to Maine in 2011. Her husband Edvardus died in 2008; she leaves a daughter, two grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Elizabeth Thompson recalls, "Every year she reviewed and verified the League treasurer's report to ensure that the League's records were accurate. I was President of the LWV Arlington in the early 1980s and got to know her then. She was a lovely, gracious lady and always told me that she was happy to perform that service for the League."

## Volunteers Needed for Cambridge Tenants Election April 10

*By Patricia Lieberson*

The Alliance of Cambridge Tenants is an organization of residents who live in public housing or receive housing vouchers through the Cambridge Housing Authority. The Arlington League supervised their first election three years ago. It turned out to be a much bigger endeavor than any of us had imagined. There were over seven thousand individuals eligible to vote in a very complicated process.

But amazingly, the election went very well, so LWVA has agreed to help again for their second election to be held on April 10. The ACT by-laws require that an outside impartial organization supervise their elections. The LWVA may well be the only such organization with the experience to do so.

League volunteers are needed to supervise the polls, count the ballots and record absentee ballots:

- We will need **12** League members to supervise the six polling places from **4:30 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. on April 10.**
- We will need **6** members to count the votes at a location near Central Square from **7 p.m. until approximately 10 p.m., also on April 10.**

(We have enough people to record the absentee ballots the weekend before.)

Please consider volunteering for any or all of these tasks. To volunteer, please call or email Pat Lieberson, 781-646-1987, plieberson@comcast.net, or Janice Bakey, 781-643-4345, jbjb15@gmail.com.

We are reaching out to members of neighboring Leagues for help, since this is a large task, and April 10 is also the date of our own Town election. But the more Arlington volunteers we can assemble, the better.



League of Women Voters®

Massachusetts

# DAY ON THE HILL 2012

***Democracy in Danger: Money, Media and Manipulation***



**Wednesday April 25, 2012**  
State House, Boston

9:30 a.m. Registration *Gardner Auditorium*  
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Program *Gardner Auditorium*

## **Featured Speakers:**

**Pam Wilmot**, Executive Director of Common Cause

**Robert Kuttner**, Journalist, Author and Editor

**Jay Kaufman**, MA State Representative  
and

News from League Program Specialists

**We look forward to seeing you there!**

*This event is free and open to the public*



League of Women Voters®

Massachusetts

## Council 2012

### *Challenges to Democracy: Protecting Voter Rights and the Influence of Money*

Saturday, May 5, 2012; 10:00 am-3:30 pm  
Winslow Academic Center, Lasell College  
1844 Commonwealth Avenue, Newton, MA

**Cost per person: \$45**

9:30-10:00: Early Registration for Presidents and Field Service Representatives  
10:00-10:30: Presidents and Field Service Representatives Meet and Greet  
10:00: General Registration

#### **PROGRAM**

1. Welcome and introductions (10:30-10:45)
2. Workshop Session 1 (10:45-11:30) (Choose one)
  - A. Communicating with state legislators on League issues
  - B. Roundtable discussion: membership and leadership ideas that worked
3. Workshop Session 2 (11:45-12:30) (Choose one)
  - A. Multi-League candidate forums
  - B. League best practices
4. Lunch and **keynote speaker Massachusetts Treasurer, Steven Grossman** (12:45-2:00)
5. Plenary: budget and program, honors, Local League gifts (2:00-3:30)

To register, send in the form at <http://www.lwvma.org/Council%20Registration%20Form%202012.pdf> by April 20.

## Polling Locations

Because the Thompson School is being rebuilt, polling locations in Arlington (especially the East) have changed, as shown in the following table.

Precincts	Location
Precincts 1, 3	Fox Library, 175 Mass. Ave.
Precincts 2, 4, 6	Hardy School, 52 Lake St.
Precincts 5, 11	Bishop School, 25 Columbia Rd.
Precincts 7, 9	Chestnut Manor, 54 Medford St.
Precincts 8, 10	Town Hall, 730 Mass. Ave.
Precincts 12, 14	Brackett School, 66 Eastern Ave.
Precincts 13, 15, 17	Stratton School, 180 Mountain Ave.
Precincts 16, 18	Dallin School, 185 Florence Ave.
Precincts 19, 21	Peirce School, Park Ave. Ext.
Precinct 20	Park Ave. Congregational Church, 50 Paul Revere Rd.

## Action Alert: Updated Bottle Bill

*By Lynn Wolbarst, LWVMA Natural Resources Specialist*

Please take a moment to rescue the Updated Bottle Bill and help it become law this year. This bill would put a nickel deposit on bottled water, juices, teas, and energy drinks and work exactly like the deposit we already have on beer and carbonated beverages.

The Updated Bottle Bill is currently stuck in the Telecom, Utilities & Energy Committee.

The Speaker of the Massachusetts House, Robert DeLeo, has the power to move this bill out of Committee, but he needs to hear your voice loudly and clearly in favor of it.

Please take a minute to let Speaker DeLeo know that you support this legislation. Go to <https://secure3.convio.net/engage/site/Advocacy?cmd=display&page=UserAction&id=5007> to send him a message.

Passage of the Updated bottle bill would:

1. Recycle one billion more bottles annually in Massachusetts - enough to fill Fenway Park to the Monster seats.
2. Create 500 new jobs at redemption centers that are in the business of recycling the returned bottles / cans. Keep 500 more recycling jobs in danger of being lost.
3. Reduce litter in cities and towns and save tax dollars spent to pick up litter

Look who's in favor of the bill:

77% of MA consumers, according to a 2011 MassInc poll

207 cities and towns that have signed the pledge to update the Bottle Bill

363+ MA businesses since Valentine's Day 2012 that have signed a Bottle Bill support letter

Thank you!

**April 1 is the time to pay your annual dues!**  
**Thank you 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

<input type="checkbox"/> Basic Membership Dues.....	\$50
<input type="checkbox"/> 2nd member in household .....	\$23
<input type="checkbox"/> Student (full-time) .....	\$20
<input type="checkbox"/> 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: Ann FitzGerald, 162 Summer St., Unit 1, Arlington, MA 02474

\*\*\*\*\*

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 Phonothon
- 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

**OBSERVE AT**

**TOWN BOARD MEETINGS\***

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

\*Some of these can be seen on cable TV

**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

**SKILLS LEAGUE COULD DRAW ON**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Computer database      | <input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Graphic design         | <input type="checkbox"/> Writing articles |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Desktop publishing     | <input type="checkbox"/> Other            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Web site maintenance   |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Membership development |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Moderating meetings    |   |

**BEST TIME TO CALL YOU:**

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

## Drivers Needed for Town Election!

For the April 10 Town election, the LWVA will provide rides to the polls from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

If you can work a shift as a driver, please email Phyllis Maddox at [phyllismaddox@comcast.net](mailto:phyllismaddox@comcast.net) or call 781-354-0907 the week of the election.

## The League Thanks Primary Election Drivers

On Tuesday, March 6, League members drove 12 voters to the polls.

Many thanks to Anne Fitzgerald, Janice Bakey, Patti Muldoon, Elizabeth Thompson, Kathy Fennelly and Nancy Solomon for volunteering to drive.

**April 2012**

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

