

BULLETIN

League of Women Voters
Arlington, Massachusetts

www.lwva.com

April 2013

Calendar

	Monday April 1	LWVA Fiscal Year begins. Please renew your membership using the form on page 11. Thank you!
4/6	Saturday 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.	Town Election. The League needs volunteers to drive voters to the polls. See last page for details.
4/6	Saturday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.	LWV House Tour in Concord. See page 10 for details.
4/8	Monday 7 p.m.	LWVA Board Meeting at Patti Muldoon's home, 67 Smith St. All members welcome. Directions on page 10.
4/9	Tuesday 7:30 to 9 p.m.	"Lincoln's Tragic Pragmatism," book talk by Prof. John Burt of Arlington, AHS Media Center. Details on page 8.
4/10	Wednesday 8 p.m.	Last day to register to vote in the U.S. Senate Primary.
	Monday 4/22	Town Meeting begins.
4/30	Tuesday 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.	Primary for special U.S. Senate election. The League needs volunteers to drive voters to the polls. See last page for details.
	Friday/Saturday 5/17-18	LWVMA Convention, Boston Peabody Marriott, Peabody, MA.
6/5	Wednesday 8 p.m.	Last day to register to vote in the U.S. Senate Special Election.
6/25	Tuesday 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.	Special U.S. Senate election.

Carolyn Parsons and Angela Olszewski: Co-Presidents
CarolynMParsons@msn.com, amolszewski@gmail.com
Ann FitzGerald: Membership **AnnFitz@rcn.com**

Kim Haase: Bulletin Editor **c.haase@comcast.net**
Margaret Reiners: Bulletin Mailing **mlreiners@gmail.com**

Co-President's Message

League members and friends,

Remember: every vote counts.

Each year, the League publishes the Voters Guide, co-sponsors Candidates Night with Vision 2020, and offers rides to the polls for our local election. These activities have almost become a rite of spring. We start planning in early winter: Town Hall is reserved, a moderator is contacted, and volunteer tasks are assigned. When we look back after the election, we talk about how many people attended Candidates Night, whether we need to publish more Voters Guides next year, and how many people called for rides on election day.

This year, attendance at Candidates Night was relatively low. With nasty weather and no hotly contested races, we had fewer people in the auditorium than in some other years. But, there is a special story to tell. During setup for the event, a man came into Town Hall. "I saw a sign outside. There must be an important election in which I need to vote." The LWVA volunteers explained about the upcoming election and Candidates Night. They invited him to come back for the start of the event. I don't know if he actually returned or if he watched on television. I hope he will vote on April 6th and the League can be proud that if he does, it will mostly likely be because we hosted Candidates Night.

We may forget that while we are busy organizing and executing, most Arlington residents are going about their busy lives. Some don't read the Advocate and are not involved with town affairs. They may not even notice that the election is coming up. By hosting Candidates Night and distributing our Voters Guide, we are reaching some of those residents. When we look back on our events and activities, we need to remember, every vote counts. Thank you to all who belong to the League, promote what it stands for, and at this time of year, help with voter service.

Angela Olszewski

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.

Legislators Share Priorities at League Brunch

By Kim Haase

On March 10, the League and many guests welcomed four state legislators to Kathy and Paul Fennelly's home for the annual Legislators' Brunch. State Senators Kenneth Donnelly and Will Brownsberger and State Representatives Sean Garballey and David Rogers all attended. Sen. Brownsberger no longer represents Arlington, but was happy to attend. Rep. Rogers, who lives three blocks from the Arlington line in Cambridge, is the new representative for Precincts 2, 4, 8, 10, and 12.

The legislators began by describing their committee assignments in the new legislature and what they hoped to achieve, then went on to answer questions from those present.

Sen. Donnelly is Chair of the Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight, Vice Chair of the Joint Committee on Elder Affairs, and a member of the Joint Committee on Election Laws, the Joint Committee on Mental Health and Substance Abuse, and the Senate Committee on Bonding, Capital Expenditures, and State Assets. Major issues for Sen. Donnelly are transportation funding and education funding. He is also concerned about the changes that make it harder for families to get into emergency shelters, and in parity in funding for mental health care.

Sen. Brownsberger is Chair of the Joint Committee on Public Service, Vice Chair of the Joint Committee on Election Laws, and a member of the Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources, and Agriculture, the Joint Committee on the Judiciary, and the Joint Committee on Municipalities and Regional Government. He is very concerned about climate change, not only mitigating its effects by supporting non-polluting technology but also planning for sea-level rise and other likely changes that as a state we have no control over.

Rep. Garballey is a member of the Joint Committee on Health Care Financing, the Joint Committee on Municipalities and Regional Government, and both the Joint and House Committees on Ways and Means. As a member of the Ways and Means Committee, he was proud to be able to host a hearing in Arlington on Health and Human Services issues. He is working on providing better mental health services for children, getting more funding for higher education, and passing an anti-fracking bill that would also prevent dumping of fracking chemicals.

Rep. Rogers is a member of the Joint Committee on Health Care Financing, the Joint Committee on Housing, and the Joint Committee on Municipalities and Regional Government. He is concerned with coordinating the Affordable Care Act changes coming in 2014 with the benefits in the Massachusetts health care law, which are in some cases more generous.

All of the legislators are concerned with transportation issues, particularly funding of the MBTA to improve service and therefore ridership. Sen. Donnelly pointed out that the Route 128 belt is the economic powerhouse of the state, and that gridlock in this area impedes growth

(Continued on page 5)



Margaret Potter
Director



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Initial Free Consultation for League Members

Legislators' Brunch (Continued)

statewide. Making it easier for young workers to live in the city and get to jobs in the high-tech area is crucial. Rep. Garballey is co-chair of the 120-member MBTA legislative caucus, which is working to find a statewide solution to transportation issues.

All four legislators were to some degree in support of the Governor's revenue plan, agreeing that in the improving state economy it is time to raise revenues to fund infrastructure and education as well as other priorities. They agreed with the progressive intent of reducing the sales tax and reducing deductions and exemptions so as to increase taxes on high incomes, although they pointed out that reducing some of these deductions and exemptions would adversely affect lower-income taxpayers. However, they pointed out that many legislators, including the leadership, are unenthusiastic about any tax increases and need pressure from their constituents.

Sen. Donnelly, in response to questions, pointed out the need for more funding for low-income and affordable housing, both to build such housing and to provide vouchers for people to move from shelters into housing. He (and the others) also strongly supported more state support for higher education, which has become increasingly unaffordable; it now takes an average of seven years for a student to get a community college degree because of the need to work for the tuition.

League members pointed out problems with lost funding for home care for the elderly and disabled, leading to lengthening waiting lists, as well as lost funding for mental health services.

Rep. Garballey said that he supports funding increases for both elder services and Mass Health, while Sen. Donnelly noted the shortsightedness of home care cuts, because these force people into much more expensive nursing homes. Sen. Brownsberger noted that the pattern is to fund the most visible services while starving other areas, leading to catastrophes such as the recent public health oversight scandals.



Rep. Dave Rogers, Sen. Ken Donnelly, Rep. Sean Garballey, and Sen. Will Brownsberger at the Legislators' Brunch.

Photo by Phyllis Maddox



Candidates Night: Kirsi Allison-Ampe (incumbent), Michael Buckley, and Judson Pierce (incumbent), candidates for three-year seats on the School Committee, and Paul Schlichtman (appointee), candidate for a one-year seat.

Photo by Phyllis Maddox



**Salutes the
League of Women Voters
for its contribution to
our community**

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March 2013 Candidates' Night Recap and Thanks

By Carolyn Parsons

The League had another successful Candidates' Night. Town Hall was about half full. I suspect that this was so because a number of candidates running for office were unopposed. Except for the uncontested candidates running for different terms on the Arlington Housing Authority, all the remaining candidates for town-wide offices 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. It was disappointing that the candidates for Housing Authority did not attend as I believe that it is important for residents of the Town to have the opportunity to listen to and ask questions of the candidates.

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 and improvised a bit when necessary. This is not an easy task. The clock and the timers must be watched; questions must be asked in a coherent manner; the order in which the candidates speak must be adhered to. At the end the audience gave her a round of applause!

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, Bruce Fitzsimmons, who reviewed all the questions. Many audience members took the time to write questions, representing a range of concerns and issues. The script is a "puzzle", says Sue Fish, script editor. The amount of time for opening and closing remarks, posing the questions, getting on and off the stage must all be taken into account so that the forum ends within a few seconds of 9:30. (This year the forum ended a few minutes early as questions were answered quickly.) Sue gathered up the candidates' names and their order on the ballot and numerous suggestions to make a cohesive whole. Thanks also to League member Patti Muldoon who gave the introductory and closing remarks. Patti has a very good stage presence. Patti, along with Kathy Colwell, has made a short public announcement about the upcoming Town Election to be aired on Arlington Cable. Many thanks to the timers, League members Jane Culbert, Sue Fish, Gwentyth Hooper, and Meredith Zona, who juggled the stopwatches and time cards.

Nancy Solomon sent out postcards inviting all candidates running for Town Meeting to come to Candidates Night and meet their fellow candidates and people from their precincts. Putting together the Voters Guide so that voters are able to match the candidate's face with a name, to learn a little about each candidate's qualifications, and to read the response to a question of current interest is an exacting task. Kathy Fennelly formatted the guide; Peggy Reiners reviewed the guide for accuracy. In this age of computers, documents can be edited and re-edited and finally sent to the printer, all to be ready for distribution within a short period of time. Years ago, responses were cut and pasted, copied, and brought to the printer. It took days to get the finished product.

I am very appreciative of the cablecast crew 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 Mary Harrison, Arlington Vision 2020, for her many roles in organizing this event. Reserving Town Hall, ensuring that the sign announcing Candidates' Night in front of Town Hall is put up, and helping me with all the details in setting up Town Hall on the day of Candidates Night is greatly appreciated. It would be quite difficult for the League to run Candidates Night without the co-sponsorship of Arlington Vision 2020. To be frank, renting Town Hall for an evening is expensive.

(Continued on next page)

Candidates Night Recap (Continued)

Many League members made the night run smoothly. Betsy Rulon and Kim Haase helped with the clean up. Angela Olszewski, Anne Linn, Janice Bakey, and Ann FitzGerald served as greeters and staffed the League table, handing out the Voters Guides, fielding questions, and encouraging audience members to submit questions.

Elizabeth Thompson organized all these people to do these tasks. Due to illness, she was unable to attend the event, but I thank her very much for her attention to all the details. Candidates Night was successful because of the generosity and commitment of many League members. Thank you.

See page 6 for a photo.

Arlington Community Education Presents:

Lincoln's Tragic Pragmatism: Lincoln, Douglas & Moral Conflict in Democracy

Tuesday, April 9, 7:30-9 p.m.

Arlington High School Media Center, 869 Massachusetts Ave.

\$10, payable at door or by registering at
<http://www.arlingtoncommunityed.org/>

Professor John Burt discusses his new book.

"...Burt's conclusions about the limits of liberal politics, about democracy itself being the barrier to ending a pervasive evil, have deep resonances for nations today."

— John Stauffer, author of *The Black Hearts of Men*

In 1858, challenger Abraham Lincoln debated incumbent Stephen Douglas seven times in the race for a U.S. Senate seat from Illinois. More was at stake than slavery in those debates. In *Lincoln's Tragic Pragmatism*, literary critic John Burt contends that the very legitimacy of democratic governance was on the line. In a United States stubbornly divided even now over ethical issues, the overarching question posed by the Lincoln-Douglas debates has not lost its urgency: Can a liberal political system be used to mediate moral disputes? And if it cannot, is violence inevitable? Join us for an evening with Professor Burt as he discusses what historian Daniel Walker Howe calls "...the most profound exploration of the enduring significance of Lincoln's rhetoric since Harry Jaffa's classic [*Crisis of the House Divided*] of 1959. A magnificent achievement."

John Burt is a professor of English at Brandeis University. He has published several books of literary criticism and collections of poetry.

The talk will be moderated by Charles Skidmore, former AHS principal. It is co-sponsored by the *Arlington Advocate* and Robbins Library.

LWV-US JOINED 200 ORGANIZATIONS ASKING CENSUS BUREAU TO DEVELOP SOLUTIONS TO "PRISON GERRYMANDERING"

By Patti Muldoon

The 2010 Census counted more than 2 million people in the wrong place. Next time let's get it right.

On March 27th a hearing was held on Massachusetts Resolution S 309/H 3185, sponsored by Senator Chang-Diaz and Representative Forry. This resolution calls on the Census Bureau to tabulate incarcerated people at their home addresses. Census Bureau officials consider state and local redistricting to be the second most important use of census data, and actively solicit feedback from states on their experiences using Census data for reapportionment. The Massachusetts Legislature's opinion on this matter will carry great weight with the Census Bureau.

The League of Women Voters-USA along with more than 200 civil rights, voting rights and criminal justice organizations has already sent a letter calling on the U.S. Census Bureau to research alternative ways to count incarcerated people in the decennial Census. The letter expresses a national concern that the Bureau's method of counting incarcerated people at prison locations, rather than in their home communities, leads to an unequal distribution of political power in state and local governments known as "prison gerrymandering." The letter explains that even though incarcerated people can't vote locally and aren't considered residents of prisons for other purposes, the Census Bureau's method "concentrates a population that is disproportionately male, urban, and African-American or Latino in approximately 1,500 federal and state prisons that are far from their home communities." The 210 organizations wrote, "We are concerned that the Census Bureau's tabulation procedures distort the redistricting process, giving extra political influence to people who live near prisons while diluting the votes of residents in every other legislative district."

Although the 2020 Census is seven years away, the Census Bureau is already deep in the planning process. The letter calls on the Bureau to pave the way for a national end to prison gerrymandering in 2020 by prioritizing research on how to count incarcerated people at home in the next census.

The letter charges that "...Failing to count incarcerated people at home for redistricting purposes undermines the constitutional guarantee of 'one person, one vote', with critical implications for the health of our democracy." For that reason, the organizations note, four states and more than 200 counties and municipalities have made their own adjustments to Census Bureau data in order to avoid prison gerrymandering. But while state and local governments are increasingly devising their own solutions, many face unique constraints and only the Census Bureau can implement a comprehensive and standardized national solution.

The letter credits the Census Bureau with recognizing that prison gerrymandering causes significant problems for state and local redistricting. Specifically, the Bureau began to address the problem by releasing 2010 Census data on prison populations ahead of schedule in order to allow state and local governments to adjust their redistricting data to avoid prison gerrymandering. "The Bureau has made great progress towards enabling state and local governments to find creative solutions to prison gerrymandering," said Peter Wagner, Executive Director of the Prison Policy Initiative, "and now the Bureau must use the current planning period to ensure that the 2010 Census is the last one to tabulate two million incarcerated people outside their home communities."

The full text of the letter, including a list of signers, is available at <http://www.prisonersofthecensus.org/letters/feb2013.html>.

LWV House Tour in Concord

Saturday, April 6, 2013, 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

The League of Women Voters of Concord-Carlisle invites you to spend a day touring seven unique Concord homes that highlight new concepts in energy efficiency, accessibility and design. Pick up your map/guide between 10 and 12 at the Alcott School, 93 Laurel Street, Concord, and then chart your own course among the houses. Enjoy displays on technologies for sustainable and comfortable living. Get inspiration to improve and beautify your own home.

Tickets are \$30 in advance, \$35 on April 6. Purchase tickets online at www.lwvcc.org. Tickets may also be reserved by mail. Send check, name for pickup, phone and email to: LWVCC House Tour, P.O. Box 34, Concord, MA. All proceeds benefit the League of Women Voters.

For information, visit www.lwvcc.org and <http://lwvcc.org/housetour2013.html>, email House-Tour@lwvcc.org, or call 978-254-1598.

Directions to Patti Muldoon's home, 67 Smith Street:

Take Mass. Ave. to Arlington Heights, then

Left up hill on Dundee (across from Trader Joe's)

Right on Arnold

Left up hill on Williams

Right on Smith St.

If you're coming down Park Avenue, you can take Wollaston to Wilbur to Williams to Smith.

67 Smith St. is the brick house on the corner.



LWVA LEADERSHIP 2012-2013

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
Elizabeth Thompson, Voter Service	781-646-5942
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

The League's fiscal year begins April 1, so it is time to renew your membership. 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

_____ 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: 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 _____

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 Thursdays)
_____ Conservation Commission (1st & 3rd Thurs.)
_____ Housing Authority

SKILLS LEAGUE COULD DRAW ON

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

BEST TIME TO CALL YOU:

(for phone tree reminders) Call before _____ o'clock

*Some of these can be seen on cable TV

Rides to the Polls

We will be offering rides to the polls for two elections this month:

Town Election, April 6
U.S. Senate Primary, April 30

For both elections, we'll be offering rides from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
If you can help as a driver at any time during those days,
please let Phyllis Maddox know by calling 781-646-4362 or
emailing PhyllisMaddox@comcast.net.

— *Phyllis Maddox*

April 2013

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

