



BULLETIN

League of Women Voters
Arlington, Massachusetts

www.lwva.com

April 2014

LWVA Calendar

Tuesday April 1	LWVA Fiscal Year begins. Please renew your membership using the form on page 7. Thank you!
4/5 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.
4/14 Monday 7 p.m.	LWVA Board Meeting at Carolyn Parsons' home, 23 Brewster Rd. All members welcome. Directions on page 3.
4/17 Thursday 7: 30 p.m.	Introduction to Town Meeting for Town Meeting Members, conducted by the Town Moderator. See page 5 for details.
Monday 4/28	Town Meeting begins.

LWVMA Council in May to Focus on Civility

The 2014 LWVMA Council *Civility in Politics: Challenge to Good Government* will be held Saturday, May 10, 2014 at Framingham State University. In this era of blogs, Facebook, Twitter, and talk radio, the lack of civil discourse is making its way into town and city politics. You may have seen the impact in your own town.

Council is an opportunity for League members to come together to share League experiences, explore the theme topic, learn what's happening around the state, and attend workshops to help you and your League be more effective. All members of LWVMA are welcome to attend Council, including local League members and Members-at-Large.

More information will appear in the May Bulletin.

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

Last year, I wrote the April co-president's message and told the story of the man who learned of the election when he saw the sign for Candidates' Night outside Town Hall. As I thought about writing the message this year, I wondered whether the event would again bring something worth noting.

This year, I have two stories to tell. The first is about a high school student who came into the auditorium excited that she is now eighteen and able to vote. She's interested in government and politics and thought Candidates' Night would be a great learning opportunity. We filled her in on the event and of course, gave her some League information. We even confirmed that we have a student rate.

The second is that, yet again, this year, our sign attracted a resident who did not know about the election. She is new to town and relatively young. Coming from California, she is not familiar with the town government model and spring elections. She doesn't read the Advocate and didn't know about the Arlington List. She said that she wouldn't have known that there is an upcoming election if she hadn't seen our sign.

I took away a few things from these experiences that I hope we can look at as challenges to our League:

- Improve communication, not just about our events, but about elections in general
- Look beyond the Advocate: explore new ways to inform residents, including social media
- Engage younger residents who have just reached or will soon be reaching voting age

Periodically, the board has a strategy session to discuss ideas and projects such as these. We're always eager to do things that will help increase communication, publicize League events, and boost membership. However, it's difficult to stay focused as we work on the logistics for events such as Candidates' Night, the Legislators' Brunch, and Annual Meeting. Here's where you, LWVA members and friends, come in. We need your help. Join us in these challenges and help to keep Arlington residents informed and the League continuing to provide excellent service. Contact a board member and let us know that you would like to volunteer!

Thank you to Vision 2020, our co-sponsor for Candidates Night, ACMi for broadcasting the event, and to all the volunteers who made the evening possible.

Angela Olszewski

March 2014 Candidates' Night Recap and Thanks

By Elizabeth Thompson, Voter Service Chair

The League had another successful Candidates' Night on March 20, 2014. Voters and supporters turned out in force as the Treasurer's seat, as well as seats on the Board of Selectmen and the School Committee, were contested. Except for the uncontested candidates running for re-election for the positions of Town Clerk, Arlington Housing Authority, and Board of Assessors, 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 for 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 warm and friendly style 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! Margaret has been our Moderator several times, and we are fortunate that her home base of the Lexington League is next door to Arlington.

The Moderator presented questions that had been submitted anonymously on cards by audience members in advance. The League thanks League member Meredith Zona and Arlington Vision 2020 representative Bruce Fitzsimmons, who reviewed all the questions. I want to thank Meredith, especially, for accepting this role at the last minute.

Many audience members took the time to write questions, representing a range of concerns and issues. The script is a "puzzle that must be assembled," Sue Fish, the LWVA script editor, once said. The amount of time for opening and closing remarks, posing the questions, and getting on and off the stage must all be taken into account so that the forum ends within a few seconds of 9:30 PM. Sue does this work within about 2 weeks, coordinating input from Kathy Fennelly and myself with timely information from Stephanie Lucarelli, the Town Clerk, who provides us with an advance copy of a sample ballot showing all the certified candidates' names. Carolyn Parsons, Margaret Coppe, and I all review the script. Kathy Fennelly also works with Sue Fish to verify which candidates plan not only to run for office but also to attend the Candidates' Night. Sue also volunteered to help with the pre-setup activities that evening.

(Continued on page 5)

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 2013–2014

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
Joan Martin, Local Action VP	781-646-8192
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
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

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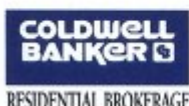
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Candidates' Night Recap and Thanks (Continued)

A hearty thank you also goes to Patti Muldoon, who gave the introductory and closing remarks. Her nicely paced remarks had a helpful calming effect on the audience when it was still settling down for the evening. We had some fun learning the workings of the 2 stop watches for the timers, League members Jane Culbert, Abigail Fair (a new member), Gwenyth Hooper, and Janice Bakey. I sat behind the two pairs of timers as they juggled the stopwatches and time cards, a well-synchronized team, the timing cards lifted within a half second of each other!

Thank you, member Nancy Solomon, who helped me with the mailing the postcards to invite all candidates running for Town Meeting to come to Candidates' Night and meet their fellow candidates and people from their precincts. Thank you, Kathy Fennelly, for putting together the Voters Guide so that voters are able to match each 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; this is an exacting task. Kathy formatted the guide, and Peggy Reiners reviewed it for accuracy. Another great team on a very time-consuming activity.

We also would like to thank the volunteers and staff at Arlington Cable Media, Inc. (ACMi) for their contributions to this event. They made it possible for those unable to attend to view the forum and make an informed decision when voting. ACMi performs a true community service with these broadcasts.

Thanks also go 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 of setting up Town Hall on the day of Candidates' Night are all greatly appreciated. It would be quite difficult for the League to run Candidates' Night without the co-sponsorship of Arlington Vision 2020. Mary and the Vision 2020 members are valuable forces behind the scenes.

A huge, greatly appreciative round of applause goes to Vicky Ford, Phyllis Maddox, Kathy Colwell, Angela Olszewski, Anne Linn, Janice Bakey, Meredith Zona, Ann FitzGerald, and Carolyn Parsons. At one time or another during the beginning and at the end, they all flowed here and there in Town Hall to serve as greeters, post precinct number signs, staff the League table, hand out the Voters Guides, field questions, and help audience members to submit questions in the right labeled boxes.

Candidates' Night was successful because of the generosity and commitment of these many League members. THANK YOU! Various people over the years tell us Candidates' Night is a valuable service to the voters and to our town. You make it happen and can take pride in your many roles.

Introduction to Town Meeting

The Town Moderator will conduct an introduction to Town Meeting and limited warrant review on April 17th, at 7:30 p.m. in the Hearing Room in Town Hall (2nd floor, above the front door).

Whether you are a new Town Meeting Member or a grizzled veteran of Town Hall and Town Meeting, please join the Moderator for an introduction to Town Meeting practices and procedures, the Warrant, recommended votes, substitute motions, debate and voting. The Moderator will also review the new electronic voting procedures and handheld electronic voting devices.

Vision 2020 Sponsors Conversations About Diversity

As our community becomes more diverse in many ways, the Vision 2020 Diversity Task Group is sponsoring a series of discussions focusing on *We Are Arlington*. What are the opportunities and stresses that diversity creates? Everyone is invited to attend any or all of the dialogues. We want to hear your thoughts!

This month's conversation, *We Are Many Faiths and Spiritualities*, will take place on **Monday, April 7**, at 7:00 pm at the Jefferson Cutter House Gallery in Arlington Center. Enter from the parking lot behind the building.

For more information, feel free to contact Claire Carswell, cgcarswell@comcast.net, 617-680-0409 or Bonie Williamson, bagchiwilliamson@yahoo.com, 781-777-1749.

If you can let them know that you'll be attending, they would appreciate it.



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**Our Fiscal Year begins April 1, so it's time to renew!
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..... \$60
_____ 2nd member in household \$23
_____ Student (full-time) \$20
_____ Contribution to help the LWV in Arlington, add \$ _____
TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

If \$60 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
- 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

Rides to the Polls

We will be offering rides to the polls for the Town Election on Saturday, April 5.

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 2014

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

