

BULLETIN

League of Women Voters
Arlington, Massachusetts

www.lwva.com

April 2016

Calendar

	Friday April 1	LWVA fiscal year begins. Please use the form on page 9 to mail your dues to our treasurer, Ann FitzGerald.
4/2	Saturday 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.	Town Election. If you can give rides to the polls, contact Phyllis Maddox. See last page for details.
4/3	Sunday 11:30 a.m.	Legislators' Brunch at Kathy Fennelly's home, 97 Gray Street. See page 3 for details.
4/11	Monday 7 p.m.	LWVA Board Meeting at Kim Haase's home, 88 Park Ave., Apt. 401. All members welcome. Directions on page 2.
4/25	Monday 8 p.m.	Town Meeting begins.
4/30	Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.	LWVMA Council, Clark University, Worcester. All League members are invited. See page 7 for details.
5/3	Tuesday 7 p.m.	LWVA Board Meeting at Nancy Gray's home, 30 Mill St., Apt. 304. All members welcome. Directions on page 6.

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

The local political season is in full swing. Please come to the Legislators' Brunch — details on page 3. Having our State Senator and both of our State Representatives in attendance provides an opportunity for a bit of socializing and a bit of lobbying. The event is always festive and engaging. Bring a friend or a family member. All are welcome.

At the end of the Candidates Night forum Margaret Coppe, our simply terrific moderator from the LWV of Lexington, complimented the LWVA on how smoothly run the forum appears to the public despite unexpected hiccups along the way. These words made me laugh. Having to change the "scheduled" date because of various religious holidays has a rippling effect. The candidates for Town-wide offices had already been formally invited; volunteers for various tasks were no longer available; the permit for the sign in front of Town Hall needed to be amended, etc. Additionally, the Voters Guide, which should have appeared in the Advocate on the Thursday before the forum at the latest, was somehow lost in the ether. I thank Elizabeth Thompson, Voters Service Chair, and Kathy Fennelly, Voters Guide Editor, for responding to these hiccups and to Kim Haase for gobbling up all the printed errors and spitting them all away.

Organized by Phyllis Maddox, the League will be providing rides to the polls for the local election on Saturday April 2. Don't forget to vote!

Carolyn Parsons

Directions to Kim Haase's home:

88 Park Ave. is the Locke School Condominium building at the corner of Park Ave. and Paul Revere Rd., one block up the hill from Mass. Ave. You should be able to park on the opposite side of Paul Revere, or on Park Ave. or Davis Rd. The lot behind the building is for residents only.

The building entrance is on Paul Revere Road; push the button for Apt. 401 to be buzzed in.

LWVA LEADERSHIP 2015–2016

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	781-646-0752
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
Abigail Fair, Publicity	781-643-0666
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.



**PLEASE COME TO
LWV ARLINGTON'S ANNUAL
LEGISLATORS' BRUNCH**

BRING A SPOUSE, FRIEND OR NEIGHBOR!


**Sunday, April 3, 2016, 11:30 AM – 2:00 PM
@ Kathy and Paul Fennelly's Home
97 Gray St., Arlington**

Here's your chance to meet and hear what's happening with our current State legislators – Senator Ken Donnelly and Representatives Sean Garballey and Dave Rogers.

**Please contact Meredith Zona,
meredith.zona@stantec.com or tel. 781-648-2753,
if you can come and bring your favorite brunch food.
Meredith will also arrange for a ride to and from the
brunch if you need that.**

Directions: 97 Gray St. is at the intersection of Gray St. and Churchill Ave., which is the 4th right after you turn onto Gray St. from Pleasant St. (Route 60). If you're traveling on Gray St. from Arlington Heights, Churchill Ave. is the 4th left after the lights at Highland Ave. The house is a large gray home on the right side if you're traveling up from Pleasant Street. There is plenty of street parking.

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Initial Free Consultation for League Members

Criminal Justice Reform Update

By Colleen Kirby



The State Senate passed the felony larceny redefinition bill (originally S.844, but S.2176 in its final form) on March 10, with a few amendments. There was an article about this bill in the Globe: <http://www.bostonglobe.com/metro/2016/03/09/why-stealing-iphone-felony/qgTlkhQ8AnMS7OO7xtsWmI/story.html>.

The following amendments passed:

- A "credit card" is also defined as use of the code or number of a credit or debit card for online transactions or from a cash account (Keenan amendment)
- \$250 becomes \$1500 dollars and \$500 becomes \$3000 in various places (Brownsberger and Donnelly)
- \$100 becomes \$250 in various places (Chang-Diaz)
- Misdemeanor crimes can get up to 1 year jail time. For thefts of \$250-\$500, the fine can be up to \$500; for thefts of \$500-\$1000, the fine can be up to \$1000; and for thefts of \$1000-\$1500, fine can be up to \$2500. And no warrant is needed for an arrest for larceny over \$250. (Tarr)

So this is a win finally for one of the Criminal Justice Reform bills! It has been referred to the House and passed.

I contacted all the committee chairs to let them know the LWVMA wanted to see the criminal justice reform bills we support to be passed out of committee by March 16th so they can be acted on. The Drivers License Suspension bill, formerly S.1812/H.3039, was passed by both houses just last week and sent to the Governor. The Restorative Justice bill of Rep. Eldridge, which is the same as that of Rep. Garballey, did make it out of one committee and is waiting in the Senate Ways and Means Committee. The reporting dates for H.1584 (pretrial process), H.1475 (recidivism reduction) and H.1270 (expungement of records) were extended to May 2, so they still have a chance. Sen. Brownsberger's parole bill (S. 729) and the mandatory minimums bill (S.786/H.1620) went to study, which means they will not make it out of committee this session.

Editor's Note: See the September issue of the Bulletin for details on these bills (<http://lwva.com/bulletins/Sep15.pdf>).

Directions to Nancy Gray's home (May 3 meeting):

30 Mill St. Apt 304 is in the Brigham Square Apartments, to the left if you are coming from Mass. Ave., or to the right if you are coming from Summer Street.

The best parking is in the lot near the high school, down Millbrook Drive. The building entrance is on the right off the circular drive.

We cordially welcome our newest LWVA member:

Kimberley Siebert
17 Burch Street
339-970-1333



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

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LWVMA Council April 30 At Clark University in Worcester

From the State League

The 2016 LWVMA Council “*Massachusetts Voter Engagement (MOVE) 2016: Join the Movement!*” will be held Saturday, April 30, 2016 at Clark University in Worcester. Council is an all-day, all-member event that features a panel discussion, buffet lunch, and timely workshops.

This year’s Council will focus on voter engagement during the 2016 election cycle and will feature:

- A kickoff of LWVMA’s voter engagement campaign, **MOVE 2016** (Massachusetts Voter Engagement 2016)
- A panel discussion, “The Massachusetts Electorate: Who’s Not Participating and What Will It Take to Reach Them?”
 - **Kei Kawashima-Ginsberg**, Director, CIRCLE (The Center for Information & Research on Civic Learning and Engagement), Tufts University, a research center that focuses on young people in the United States, especially those who are marginalized or disadvantaged in political life.
 - **Eva Millona**, Executive Director, MIRA (Massachusetts Immigration and Refugee Advocacy Coalition), the state’s largest organization representing the foreign born, and co-chair of the National Partnership for New Americans, the lead national organization focusing on immigrant integration. Millona is also the co-chair of the Governor’s Advisory Council for Refugees and Immigrants and serves on the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.
 - **Nathaniel Stinnett**, Founder and CEO, Environmental Voter Project, a non-partisan nonprofit using data analytics and behavioral science to identify and mobilize non-voting environmentalists.
- And **workshops** on the state charter school study and environmental activism.

State Council is a valuable opportunity for members from across the state to meet, connect, and learn! All members are welcome to attend and fully participate.

The fee is \$35 per person (early bird rate through April 8) and \$45 per person after April 8. Some financial aid is available. Call the LWVMA office, 617.523.2999, for further details. Registration deadline is April 25.

Go to <https://lwvma.org/lwvma-council-april-30-at-clark-university-in-worcester/> to register, to view a flyer with a detailed schedule, and to view panelists’ biographies.

LWVMA Supports Automatic Voter Registration

From the State League

The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts is supporting a bill, H.3937, to bring automatic voter registration to Massachusetts.

Automatic voter registration is a new election reform that automatically registers eligible citizens to vote unless they choose not to be registered. Under this bill, people would be registered when they get a driver's license or identification card issued by the Registry of Motor Vehicles. The bill also provides for some social services agencies which now offer voter registration to switch to automatic voter registration. City and town election officials would also use their annual census to identify and register eligible voters.

When the RMV and other agencies send the voter information to registrars of voters, those registrars would then notify citizens that they have been registered to vote and offer the options of taking their name off the voter rolls and of choosing a political party affiliation.

Automatic voter registration laws passed last year in Oregon and California with the support of the Leagues of Women Voters in those states. Similar laws are pending in 16 other states and the District of Columbia.

This election reform has the potential to register thousands of new voters; research has indicated about 25% of eligible citizens are not registered to vote.

LWVMA also testified in support of Election Day registration at a Joint Committee on Election Laws hearing Jan. 19.

Election Day registration has been shown to increase voter turnout and eliminate the need for provisional ballots. Voters could register at the polls after showing identification and proof of residency.

The League testified in opposition to several bills that would require voters to show a photo ID at the polls, arguing there is no evidence that in-person voter impersonation, the only issue such laws address, is a problem, and Massachusetts has better uses for the money such a system would cost.

The League also opposed bills allowing overseas voters to return voted ballots by email, fax or a secure website. The League does not object to sending blank ballots to overseas voters by those means, but argued that returning the voted ballots by any means other than mail does not have the guarantees of security and privacy that voting requires. The Department of Defense recommends that military personnel overseas return their ballots by mail only.

Editor's Update: According to <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/189/House/H3937>, the automatic voter registration bill was reported favorably out of committee March 16 and sent to the House Ways and Means Committee. The bill is sponsored by Rep. Jay Kaufman of Lexington.

**Our fiscal year begins April 1, so now is the time to send in your 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

____ 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

Drivers Needed for Town Election!

For the Town Election on **April 2**, 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 call Phyllis Maddox at 781-646-4362 or email her at phyllismaddox@rcn.com.

April 2016

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

