

BULLETIN

League of Women Voters
Arlington, Massachusetts

www.lwva.com

February 2012

Calendar

2/6	Monday 7 p.m.	LWVA Board meeting at Angela Olszewski's home, 1 Watermill Place, Unit 428. All members welcome. See page 9 for directions.
2/7	Tuesday 7 p.m.	Presentation and conversation on public art in Arlington, Robbins Library Community Room, 700 Massachusetts Ave. See last page for details.
2/15	Wednesday 8 p.m.	Deadline for registering to vote in March 6 Presidential Primary.
2/26	Sunday 12:30 p.m.	National Program Planning joint meeting with Winchester and Lexington Leagues, Yangtze River Restaurant, Lexington Center. See page 5 for details.
3/4	Sunday 11:30 a.m.	Annual Legislators' Brunch at Kathy Fennelly's home, 97 Gray Street. See page 3 for details.
3/6	Tuesday 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.	Presidential Primary. If you can give rides to the polls, please contact Phyllis Maddox at phyllismaddox@comcast.net .
	Wednesday 4/25	LWVMA Day on the Hill.
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."

For a detailed election calendar, see page 10.

Carolyn Parsons and Angela Olszewski: Co-Presidents
CarolynMParsons@msn.com, amolshzewski@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 has begun; some would argue that it never ends. The Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Observance was well attended and certainly thought-provoking. The Arlington League is a sponsor of this event. I enjoy seeing friends but also notice many individuals whom I do not recognize. The event is a wonderful way to welcome newcomers to the Town.

At the Annual Meeting of the Arlington Land Trust, a presentation was made of a vision for the Mugar property, abutting Rte. 2 in East Arlington, that included a number of public access points and walking paths. This vision is quite controversial as the land is privately owned and has an assessment of over two million dollars which the owner has paid taxes on for many years. The land has a number of wet areas, and lots of debris has been dumped there over the years. Currently, there is no legal access to the property from Arlington side streets nor is there a curb cut along Rte. 2. The vision of what the Mugar property could be is in sharp contrast to its present state.

The League will be offering Rides to the Polls both for the presidential primary election on March 6 and for the local election on April 10. If you are able to volunteer as a driver for an hour or two between 9 AM and 3 PM, please email Phyllis Maddox at phyllismaddox@comcast.net.

Candidates' Night has been scheduled for Thursday, March 29. If you are willing to be a timer or to help set up before the event, please email me at carolynmparsons@msn.com.

Thank you so very much.

Carolyn Parsons

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 Lieberon, 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
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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' BRUNCH

SUNDAY, MARCH 4, 2012

It's Time for LWVA's Annual Get-together with
State Senator Ken Donnelly
and State Representatives Will Brownsberger, Sean Garballey, and Jay
Kaufman

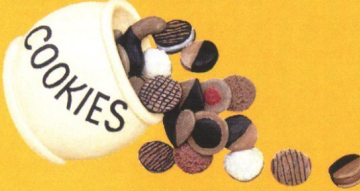
This will be our last brunch with Jay Kaufman, whose district will no longer include Arlington as of January 2013. And Will Brownsberger has moved on to a State Senate position that does not cover Arlington, but he is still concerned with our town. So come and express your gratitude to our outgoing and current legislators, and enjoy a great brunch!

When & Where -
Sunday, March 4, 2012, 11:30 AM - 2:00 PM
Kathy & Paul Fennelly's House - 97 Gray St., Arlington

Please contact Meredith Zona, mzona@fstinc.com or tel. 781-648-2753,
if you can come and bring your favorite brunch food.

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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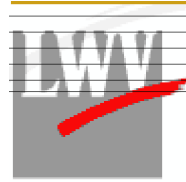
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www.LeoneLaw.com - John@LeoneLaw.com
Initial Free Consultation for League Members

Local Leagues To Cooperate in National Program Planning



By Gloria Legvold (LWV Winchester) and Carolyn Parsons

The Arlington League is joining with the Winchester and Lexington Leagues to discuss LWVUS Program Planning on **Sunday, February 26, at 12:30 p.m.** The function room in the lower level of the Yangtze River Restaurant, located in Depot Square off Massachusetts Avenue in Lexington Center, has been reserved. There is free parking in the lot behind the Depot on Sundays. We will be using the buffet and/or dim sum at \$13.95 per person. Arlington League member Patti Muldoon has graciously agreed to be the moderator.

As a League member, you can prepare for participation in Program Planning by looking at Impact on Issues, 2010-2012, which is available on the LWVUS website at <http://lww.org/content/impact-issues>. For more information on the program planning process, visit <http://www.lww.org/programplanning>. A summary of the League's positions follows this article.

To pique your interest, the LWV of Arlington has been approached by the LWV of Washington, D.C., to concur at Convention 2012 with the following:

Sentencing Policy

- (1) The LWVUS believes alternatives to imprisonment should be explored and utilized, taking into consideration the circumstances and nature of the crime.
- (2) The LWVUS opposes mandatory minimum sentences for drug offenses.

If you are planning to come, please call or email Carolyn Parsons (781-646-9309, CarolynMParsons@msn.com) by February 21 so we can get a rough head count.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC POLICY POSITIONS

League of Women Voters of the United States

REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT

Promote an open governmental system that is representative, accountable and responsive.

Voting Rights

Citizen's Right to Vote. Protect the right of all citizens to vote; encourage all citizens to vote.

DC Self-Government and Full Voting Representation. Secure for the citizens of the District of Columbia the rights of self-government and full voting representation in both houses of Congress.

Election Process

Apportionment. Support apportionment of congressional districts and elected legislative bodies at all levels of government based substantially on population.

Campaign Finance. Improve methods of financing political campaigns in order to ensure the public's right to know, combat corruption and undue influence, enable candidates to compete more equitably for public office and promote citizen participation in the political process.

(Continued on next page)

LWVUS Public Policy Positions (Cont.)

Selection of the President. Promote the election of the President and Vice-President by direct popular vote. Support uniform national voting qualifications and procedures for presidential elections. Support efforts to provide voters with sufficient information about candidates.

Citizen Rights

Citizen's Right to Know/Citizen Participation. Protect the citizen's right to know and facilitate citizen participation in government decision making.

Individual Liberties. Oppose major threats to basic constitutional rights.

Public Policy on Reproductive Choices. Protect the constitutional right of privacy of the individual to make reproductive choices.

Congress and the Presidency

Congress. Support responsive legislative processes characterized by accountability, representativeness, decision making capability and effective performance.

The Presidency. Promote a dynamic balance of power between the executive and legislative branches within the framework set by the Constitution.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Promote peace in an interdependent world by working cooperatively with other nations and strengthening international organizations.

(Continued on next page)



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LWVUS Public Policy Positions (Cont.)**United Nations**

Support a strong, effective United Nations to promote international peace and security and to address the social, economic and humanitarian needs of all people.

Trade

Support U.S. trade policies that reduce trade barriers, expand international trade and advance the achievement of humanitarian, environmental and social goals.

U.S. Relations with Developing Countries

Promote U.S. policies that meet long-term social and economic needs of developing countries.

Arms Control

Reduce the risk of war through support of arms control measures.

Military Policy and Defense Spending

Work to limit reliance on military force. Examine defense spending in the context of total national needs.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Promote an environment beneficial to life through the protection and wise management of natural resources in the public interest.

Natural Resources

Promote the management of natural resources as interrelated parts of life-supporting ecosystems.

Resource Management

Promote resource conservation, stewardship and long-range planning, with the responsibility for managing natural resources shared by all levels of government.

Environmental Protection and Pollution Control

Preserve the physical, chemical and biological integrity of the ecosystem, with maximum protection of public health and the environment.

Air Quality. Promote measures to reduce pollution from mobile and stationary sources.

Energy. Support environmentally sound policies that reduce energy growth rates, emphasize energy conservation and encourage the use of renewable resources.

Land Use. Promote policies that manage land as a finite resource and that incorporate principles of stewardship.

Water Resources. Support measures to reduce pollution in order to protect surface water, groundwater and drinking water.

Waste Management. Promote policies to reduce the generation and promote the reuse and recycling of solid and hazardous wastes.

Nuclear Issues. Promote the maximum protection of public health and safety and the environment.

(Continued on next page)

LWVUS Public Policy Positions (Cont.)**Public Participation**

Promote public understanding and participation in decision making as essential elements of responsible and responsive management of our natural resources.

Agriculture Policy

Promote adequate supplies of food and fiber at reasonable prices to consumers and support economically viable farms, environmentally sound farm practices and increased reliance on the free market.

SOCIAL POLICY

Secure equal rights and equal opportunity for all. Promote social and economic justice and the health and safety of all Americans.

Equality of Opportunity

Equal Rights. Support ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment and efforts to bring laws into compliance with the goals of the ERA.

Education, Employment and Housing. Support equal access to education, employment and housing.

Fiscal Policy

Tax Policy. Support adequate and flexible funding of federal government programs through an equitable tax system that is progressive overall and that relies primarily on a broad-based income tax.

Federal Deficit. Promote responsible deficit policies.

Funding of Entitlements. Support a federal role in providing mandatory, universal, old-age, survivors, disability and health insurance.

Health Care

Promote a health care system for the United States that provides access to a basic level of quality care for all U.S. residents and controls health care costs.

Immigration

Promote reunification of immediate families; meet the economic, business and employment needs of the United States; be responsive to those facing political persecution or humanitarian crises; and provide for student visas. Ensure fair treatment under the law for all persons. In transition to a reformed system, support provisions for unauthorized immigrants already in the country to earn legal status.

Meeting Basic Human Needs

Support programs and policies to prevent or reduce poverty and to promote self-sufficiency for individuals and families.

Income Assistance. Support income assistance programs, based on need, that provide decent, adequate standards for food, clothing and shelter.

Support Services. Provide essential support services.

Housing Supply. Support policies to provide a decent home and a suitable living environment for every American family.

(Continued on next page)

LWVUS Public Policy Positions (Cont.)**Child Care**

Support programs and policies to expand the supply of affordable, quality child care for all who need it.

Early Intervention for Children at Risk

Support policies and programs that promote the well-being, development and safety of all children.

Violence Prevention

Support violence prevention programs in communities.

Gun Control

Protect the health and safety of citizens through limiting the accessibility and regulating the ownership of handguns and semi-automatic weapons. Support regulation of firearms for consumer safety.

Urban Policy

Promote the economic health of cities and improve the quality of urban life.

Death Penalty

The LWVUS supports abolition of the death penalty.

Whatever the issue, the League believes that efficient and economical government requires competent personnel, the clear assignment of responsibilities, adequate financing, coordination among levels of government, effective enforcement and well defined channels for citizen input and review.

Directions to Angela Olszewski's home:

Watermill Place is a condo building located next to the Old Schwamb Mill on Lowell Street in Arlington Heights.

From Arlington Center:

Follow Mass. Ave into the Heights. At Nicola's Pizza, bear right onto Lowell Street. Pass a few houses. Watermill Place will be on your right. Continue to the end of the building to the large Watermill Place sign. Turn right into the parking lot and drive past the green awning. There will be marked visitor spaces in front of you. If none are available you can park on Lowell Street, on the side where the building is.

From Park Avenue:

Follow Park Avenue down the hill to Mass. Ave. Continue straight and cross over Mass. Ave. (Brigham's Ice Cream and UPS Store are on two of the corners). Go over a bridge (Gold's Gym on the right). Take the first (sharp) right onto Lowell Street (Peter Pan Superette on the corner). Go over another bridge. There are about six houses very close together on the left. Watermill Place is on the left after the houses. Take a left into the driveway and drive past the green awning (entrance) to marked visitor spaces. If no spaces are available, you can park on Lowell Street, on the side where the building is.

Enter the building at the green awning and press 428 to ring my phone and get buzzed into the building. My condo is on the fourth floor.

Winter/Spring Election Calendar

2/14	Tuesday 5 p.m.	Deadline for Town Meeting members who are candidates for re-election to give written notice thereof to Town Clerk.
2/15	Wednesday 8 p.m.	Deadline for registering to vote in Presidential Primary.
2/16	Thursday 5 p.m.	Deadline for obtaining blank nomination papers for Town offices (including Town Meeting) from the Town Clerk's office in Town Hall.
2/21	Tuesday 5 p.m.	Deadline for submitting nomination papers to the Town Clerk's office for certification of signatures.
3/6	Tuesday 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.	Presidential Primary. Also, 5 p.m. is the deadline for filing certified nomination papers with the Town Clerk.
3/21	Wednesday 8 p.m.	Deadline for registering to vote in Town Election
4/10	Tuesday 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.	Town Election. Note the unusual date: Tuesday, not Saturday!
4/23	Monday 8 p.m.	Town Meeting begins.

We welcome new members at all times.
Contact Ann Fitzgerald, annfitz@rcn.com, if you have any questions.

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 Tuesdays)
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

ARLINGTON PUBLIC ART: A PRESENTATION AND CONVERSATION

**February 7, 2012 at 7 PM
Robbins Library Community Room**

Public Art tells stories, recalls histories, enhances landscapes, builds community, attracts tourism, and strengthens local economies. Come talk about what Public Art can do for Arlington, hear proposals being considered, and share your ideas.

Arlington Public Art is a group that facilitates the awareness and creation of public art in Arlington.

The Public Art Committee is made up of individual citizens and representatives of the Arlington Center for the Arts, the Arlington Cultural Council, the Arlington Planning Department, the Arlington Vision 20/20 committee, the Arlington Tourism and Economic Development Committee, Sustainable Arlington and the Arlington Public Schools K-12 Visual Arts Department.

For more information, visit www.acarts.org/public_art.php
and find us on Facebook at
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Arlington-Public-Art>

February 2012

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

