

# BULLETIN

League of Women Voters  
Arlington, Massachusetts

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

## February 2014

### LWVA Calendar

2/10	Monday 7 p.m.	LWVA Board Meeting at Angela Olszewski's home, 1 Watermill Place, Apt. 428. All members welcome. See page 6 for directions.
2/25	Tuesday 7 p.m.	Information Session on Arlington's Zoning, Selectmen's Hearing Room, Town Hall, 730 Mass. Ave. See page 3 for details.
3/10	Monday 7 p.m.	LWVA Board Meeting at Ann FitzGerald's home, 162 Summer St., Unit 1. All members welcome. Directions in the March Bulletin.
	Thursday 3/20	Candidates' Night for the annual Town Election, at Town Hall, co-sponsored with Vision 2020. Contact Elizabeth Thompson to volunteer.
	Wednesday 3/26	LWVMA Annual Day on the Hill.
3/30	Sunday 11:30 to 2 p.m.	Save the date for our annual Legislators' Brunch. Details in the March Bulletin.

See the last page of this Bulletin for the Town Election calendar.

**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

To paraphrase: after the fall, cometh the pain. I have had a spectacular fall down my front steps and have broken the ulna and radius in my right arm. The large, heavy cast is exceedingly annoying. I am so looking forward to warmer weather without the threat of black ice.

I do so hope that a few League members attended the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. birthday celebration. My husband and I have attended for many years and it just didn't feel right sitting at home with my arm propped up. In my mind, the MLK event ushers in the new year, providing an opportunity for residents to greet old friends and make new acquaintances.

Being a part of the community and learning a little about what is happening in Arlington is important to me. Have you thought about becoming a Town Meeting member? I have often been sure as to how I am going to vote on a particular warrant article and then have been persuaded to change my vote, sometimes multiple times. Town Meeting can be exciting, annoying like my cast, and extremely interesting.

The league will be publishing a Voters' Guide, co-sponsoring Candidates' Night, and providing rides to the polls on Election Day April 5. Please consider participating in these activities.

*Carolyn Parsons*

### 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	781-646-0752
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
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.



## LWVA Dues for the 2014-2015 Fiscal Year

*By Ann FitzGerald, Membership Chair*

Our dues as members of the League of Women Voters of Arlington provide vital support for the activities of the League at the local, state, and national levels. Basic dues for the coming fiscal year are \$60; for a family the dues are \$73. The Board regrets this increase, the first in many years, which was voted at the June 2013 Annual Meeting. However, we must meet our obligations to the State and National Leagues, which have been increasing over the past several years.

The fiscal year begins April 1, and we ask that members pay dues at that time.

The Arlington League strives to enhance the quality of life in Arlington through voter registration, education, and advocacy. Please join us for our Annual Meeting in late May or early June and at the LWVA Town Day booth in September. Bring a friend too.

If you do not wish to renew, please let me know so that we can remove you from our Membership list. You can reach me at 781-646-9711 or email [AnnFitz@rcn.com](mailto:AnnFitz@rcn.com).

### Information Session on Arlington's Zoning


Tuesday, February 25, 7:00pm, Selectmen's Hearing Room, Town Hall

Presented by **Carol Kowalski**, Director of Planning & Community Development and **Mike Byrne**, Director of Inspectional Services and Zoning Enforcement Officer for Arlington.

This session will describe aspects of Arlington's zoning to help Town Meeting Members, Arlington boards, and the public to understand the past and future of land use and development in Arlington.

For more information, contact Carol Kowalski, [ckowalski@town.arlington.ma.us](mailto:ckowalski@town.arlington.ma.us).

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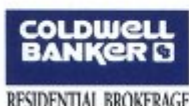
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## Senate Overwhelmingly Passes Election Reform!

*From the LWVMA*

With passage of an election reform bill by a 37-1 margin Thursday, the Senate has taken a giant step to make Massachusetts one of the leading states in the nation in encouraging its citizens to register and to vote. At a time when many states are actively cutting back access to the polls, the Massachusetts legislature deserves high praise for taking the opposite stance.

The final version of the Senate bill includes Election Day registration, early voting with some required weekend hours, pre-registration for 16-year-olds, online voter registration and an online portal where citizens can check their voting status, and post-election audits of random precincts. It ties classification of a voter as inactive to voting history rather than to returning the town or city census form.

Proposals to require voters to show a photo ID or other forms of identification before casting a ballot were defeated in the Senate.

Among the many amendments which passed in the Senate were provisions to:

- Eliminate the check-out table in the polling place, a move supported by the clerks' associations
- Require that the link to the online portal to check registration status be posted on city and town websites
- Require that the legislature provide funding to cover the costs of early voting on weekends
- Take a step toward permanent voter registration by enabling the Secretary of State's office to update voting lists based on change of address information from the Registry of Motor Vehicles and the U.S. Postal Service
- Allow a voter registered "in a political designation that is not a political party" to be considered unenrolled for the purpose of voting in a primary and eligible to receive a ballot of a political party of the voter's choosing

The Senators passed a provision to allow 17-year-olds in Lowell to vote in municipal elections, a move inspired by teen civic activists in that city which has also been considered as a home rule petition. Voters in Lowell will have to approve allowing 17-year-olds to vote in municipal elections.

The Senate bill builds on the election reform bill passed by the House last November. It now goes to conference committee to reconcile the differences, then to the House for passage of the reconciled version before it is sent to the Governor for his signature.

The effort to pass this bill was driven by the Election Modernization Coalition, made up of 45 advocacy groups and led by Common Cause Massachusetts, MassVOTE, League of Women Voters of Massachusetts, ACLU Massachusetts, MASSPIRG, the Massachusetts Voter Table, MIRA Coalition and Progressive Massachusetts.

## Directions to Angela Olszewski's Home

1 Watermill Place, Apt. 428 (Phone: 781-648-8649)

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 the former Nicola Pizza, bear right onto Lowell Street and 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 the UPS Store 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.



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**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

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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 Phonathon
- 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

## Town Election Calendar

2/7	Friday 5 p.m.	Deadline for Town Meeting Members who are candidates for re-election to give written notice to the Town Clerk (second floor of Town Hall, 730 Massachusetts Ave.).
2/12	Wednesday 5 p.m.	Deadline for obtaining blank nomination papers from the Town Clerk's Office.
2/14	Friday 5 p.m.	Deadline for submitting all nomination papers to the Town Clerk's Office for certification of signatures.
2/28	Friday 5 p.m.	Deadline for filing certified nomination papers with the Town Clerk.
3/14	Friday 8 p.m.	Last day to register to vote in the Town Election.
4/5	Saturday 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.	Town Election.
	Monday 4/28	Town Meeting begins.

**February 2014**

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

