



BULLETIN

League of Women Voters
Arlington, Massachusetts
www.lwva.com

February 2017

Calendar

| | | |
|------|------------------------------|--|
| 2/6 | Monday 5 p.m. | Deadline for Town Meeting Members who are candidates for re-election to give written notice thereof to the Town Clerk. |
| 2/6 | Monday 7 p.m. | LWVA Board Meeting at Kim Haase's home, 88 Park Ave, Apt. 401 Directions on page 2. |
| 2/9 | Thursday 5 p.m. | Deadline for obtaining blank nomination papers for the Town Election from the Town Clerk's office. |
| 2/13 | Monday 5 p.m. | Deadline for submitting completed nomination papers for the Town Election to the Registrars of Voters for certification of signatures. |
| 2/27 | Monday 5 p.m. | Deadline for submitting certified nomination papers for the Town Election to the Town Clerk. |
| 3/10 | Friday 8 p.m. | Deadline to register to vote in the Town Election. |
| 3/13 | Monday 7 p.m. | LWVA Board Meeting at Phyllis Maddox's home, 55 Hillside Ave. Directions will appear in the March Bulletin. |
| 3/21 | Tuesday 8 p.m. | Candidates' Night for the Town Election, Town Hall. See page 3 for information on volunteering to help. |
| 3/25 | Saturday afternoon | Forum on Criminal Justice Reform at First Parish UU Church. Details will be in the March Bulletin. |
| 4/1 | Saturday 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. | Annual Town 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

The local social/political season has begun. The MLK Birthday Observance celebration was certainly a success. The Town Hall was full, if not very warm. I needed to keep bundled up; my husband, George, wrapped my scarf around himself. My observation is that I always see many familiar faces and then many faces that I have never seen before. I wonder what the new faces think of Pearl Morrison, Mistress of Ceremonies, not following the order of the program printed in the handout booklet. Such a lovely time!

Candidates Night has been scheduled for Tuesday, March 21. If you are willing to be a timer, greeter, help with set up or clean up, please contact Elizabeth Thompson. (See page 3 for details.) Steve Gilligan, the Town Treasurer for many years, is not running for re-election. Having a new candidate for the office should provide some interest in attending Candidates Night.

Please mark your calendar for Saturday, March 25, to attend a legislative forum entitled The Politics of Justice: Comprehensive Criminal Justice Reform in Massachusetts. Details will appear in the March Bulletin.

A friend of mine has just attended the Women's March on Washington. She called to tell her husband that there was essentially no march for her. There were so many in attendance that she essentially could not move. Interesting!

Please welcome Diana Eastman (diana.eastman@gmail.com) as the League's webmistress. Phyllis Maddox, the League's webmistress for the entire time that we have had a website, is stepping down. Hurrah to both of you!

Carolyn Parsons

Directions to Kim Haase's home, 88 Park Ave., Apt. 401:

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 2016–2017

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| 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 |
| Diana Eastman, Webmistress | 774-266-3422 |
| Colleen Kirby, Board Member at Large | 781-648-2447 |

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.

Calling All Hands for March 21, 2017 Local Candidates' Night

By Elizabeth Thompson




Now that the holidays have wound down, and you are settling down all cozy in your comfy slippers to enjoy a quiet winter's eve, you might think for a few minutes about how you would like to help the League of Women Voters of Arlington with the 2017 local Candidates' Night on Tuesday, March 21 beginning at 8 PM in Arlington's Town Hall Auditorium.

Please contact Elizabeth Thompson, Voters Service Chair (elizw.thompson@gmail.com), if you would like to add your name to help with any of the following tasks:

- Create Voter's Guide for Advocate (email Kathy Fennelly, Kathy@fennellys.com)
- Write a Press Release
- Help the League to mail the printed postcard invitations to all candidates for Town Meeting members
- Mail LWV's official Invitation Letters to candidates for Town Offices (email Kathy Fennelly)
- Timers for Candidate Presentations (we need 2 pairs of timers)
- Create and/or review questions to ask candidates
- Greet candidates and members of public on night of event
- Help set up before and/or pack up after the event

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Initial Free Consultation for League Members

Why Is Criminal Justice Reform a Legislative Focus in 2017/18?

By Colleen Kirby

In the 1970s and 1980s the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts developed strong positions on our courts and corrections systems (1972-74, 1983-85). However, since then our rate of incarceration has more than tripled. And this burden falls disproportionately on young minority men, the impoverished, the mentally disabled, or those with drug and alcohol addictions. This increase was not due to more criminality in the public but was due to policy changes. It is our responsibility to undo these policy failures and now is the time.

In the 2015/16 legislative session, the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts supported legislation so that driver's licenses are not automatically suspended for any drug offense not related to driving. Fixing this law enables returning citizens to become productive members of society. We need to continue to assist our most vulnerable individuals in their steps to lead productive lives once their appropriate debt to society has been paid.

In the 2017/18 session, the League will continue to support bills to eliminate mandatory minimums, to increase the felony larceny level from \$250 to a more reasonable level (like \$2500 as in Texas), for pretrial and bail reform, for restorative justice, for presumptive parole, to restrict segregation or solitary confinement, and to expunge the records of persons falsely accused and juveniles. We are also considering supporting legislation addressing the overuse of fines and fees, so we don't have "debtor's prisons", and medical release of the seriously ill or elderly. We will also likely support the recommendations of the Council of State Governments study of the criminal justice system in Massachusetts for legislative changes in January of 2017.

A longer version of this article, with links, can be found at https://lwvma.org/addressing-income-inequality/#Why_is_Criminal_Justice_reform_a_legislative_focus_in_201718. I have put together a reading list of materials about the Criminal Justice system, which is available at <https://lwvma.org/criminal-justice-reform-reading-list/>.



League members from Arlington and Winchester at the Charter School Study Consensus Meeting at Sanborn House in Winchester Jan. 8. Visible Arlingtonians are Pat Lieber-son in front and Kim Haase, Carolyn Parsons, Colleen Kirby, and the top of Mary Cummings's head in the next row.

Photo by Susan Woodward of the LWV of Winchester



LWVA members at the Charter School Study Consensus Meeting at Sanborn House in Winchester Jan. 8. Standing: Colleen Kirby, Joan Martin, Ann FitzGerald, Mary Cummings, Carolyn Parsons. Seated: Kim Haase, Pat Liebersen. Photo by Susan Woodward of the LWV of Winchester.



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

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True Value

In Memoriam: Carma Forgie

Editor's Note: We learned recently that Carma Forgie, a mainstay of both the LWVA and the LWVMA for many years, has died. Several years ago she and her husband Jim moved to Chicago to be near family. She became active in both the Chicago League and her retirement community. Several LWVA members provided the following affectionate memories of Carma, who has been and will be much missed.

Kathy Fennelly:

I went to my first LWVA meeting in Carma's house in 1979. It was the first of many, many meetings I attended there as a member. At the time I was blown away at the level of discussion (I think the topic was the libraries or education) and I couldn't wait to be a part of that group! I was convinced it would make me smarter -- and it did.

But I was also blown away by Carma's hospitality. She and Jim had the best living room for large meetings, with many conventional and unconventional seating areas. And, she had the largest collection of plates and wine glasses I've ever seen. Jim worked tirelessly behind the scenes, loading and unloading the dishwasher and allowing Carma to make sure her guests had everything they needed.

I thought when I joined the League that the member deliberations would open new worlds -- and they did, but knowing Carma did that and taught me another level of graciousness and warmth that is so important in life.

Meredith Zona:

Carma Forgie was very generous in opening her beautiful home for all types of League meetings. There were many night meetings in her living room that looked out onto the twinkling lights of Boston. League Annual Meetings were a given at her home, which featured a built-in buffet area in her dining room that was tailor-made for hosting large groups. When Carma's husband became wheelchair-bound and needed more of her attention, Carma gamely opened up her home even more for Board meetings, and started the First Friday lunch series at her home -- a series of brown-bag lunches featuring a town official who spoke to members about job duties.

Phyllis Maddox:

Carma Forgie was a great asset to the Arlington League as well as the state League. She was very knowledgeable about issues and who was doing what about town. She had a lot of energy and imagination and the commitment to carry through with her plans. She came up with the idea of First Friday lectures and hosted the events at her house the first couple of years.

She was very generous and hosted a lot of meetings. Her house was filled with interesting and imaginative items, and was always lovely. Her stationery store in Arlington, The Idea, was a great place to wander through. She selected such amusing and interesting things. I'll never forget a mug I saw there that said "Drink your coffee. There are people sleeping in India." Still regret not buying it.

Elizabeth Thompson:

I remember that Carma was a frequent hostess of our Annual Meeting gatherings. Her husband, Jim (an engineer by profession), happily cleaned up the kitchen each time. She also ran a book/stationery store in Arlington center for several years, and when the LWVA used to publish our booklet "Know Your Town" Carma always made sure she had that booklet available for sale under the LWVA's name. It was about \$2 in the early 80's.

Carolyn Parsons:

Upon entering Carma and Jim's home, an arresting painting of a skeleton with a cigarette dangling between clenched teeth greeted you. When I asked Carma why she had such a painting in her entry, she responded that this was her way of emphasizing that no smoking would be tolerated in her home. Who knew!

(Continued on next page)

Carma Forgie (Continued)

When Carma and Jim were packing up for the move to Chicago, Carma was frazzled but determined. One thousand bottles of wine were being donated to the Channel 2 Auction. One thousand books were being donated to Robbins Library for the Town Day sale. One thousand records/albums were being copied to an updated medium and then donated. My brain got hung up on the thousand bottles of wine.

Pat Lieberson:

Carma was a fierce advocate for gun control. She was a prime mover in the State League's early adoption of a strong gun control position and lobbied the legislature relentlessly on its behalf. She joined the Hyde Park League in Chicago and continued her efforts there. She was also still working on campaign finance reform. And I received several emails from her expressing concerns about voting machines that didn't have a paper record that could be examined.

Ann FitzGerald:

Carma was always welcoming. When I joined in 2008, I was vastly impressed by her hospitality. Also the painting of the skeleton in profile with the cigarette in its mouth impressed me, as lung cancer is a leading cause of cancer in women.



The 2004 Day on the Hill group: Students from an Arlington High School US History class and their teacher, with League co-Presidents Patti Muldoon and Clare Gordon flanking State Rep. Jay Kaufman (who then represented part of Arlington). On the right are Carma Forgie and Marian King.

Photo by Phyllis Maddox

The April 2008 First Friday lunch at Carma Forgie's home. Front: Erna Greene, John Sweeney, Nancy Sweeney, Ann FitzGerald. Rear: Patti Muldoon, Town Manager Brian Sullivan, Peggy Reiners, and Carma Forgie.

Photo by Phyllis Maddox



**We welcome new members at all times.
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
- 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



**Images from the Women's March in Boston
Saturday, January 21**

Photos by Colleen Kirby



February 2017

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

