

# BULLETIN

League of Women Voters  
Arlington, Massachusetts

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

## January 2012

### Calendar

1/9	Monday 7 p.m.	LWVA Board meeting at Anne Linn's home, 7 Linden St. All members welcome. See page 2 for directions.
1/16	Monday 6:45 p.m.	Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Observance at Town Hall. See page 3 for details. <b>Please note changes from previous years: dessert and coffee instead of dinner, and a later start.</b>
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.
2/14	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 unusual date: Tuesday, not Saturday!
4/23	Monday 8 p.m.	Town Meeting begins.

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](mailto:c.haase@comcast.net)  
Margaret Reiners: Bulletin Mailing [mlreiners@gmail.com](mailto:mlreiners@gmail.com)

# Co-President's Message

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had happy and healthy holidays.

If you have been considering a run for public office in Arlington, now is the time to make plans. The Town Clerk has published the 2012 election calendar and you will find important dates in this bulletin. Serving as a Town Meeting member can be a great way to learn about the Town budget, zoning bylaws, policies, and proposed projects. You can also choose to be an engaged citizen by attending warrant article hearings or watching those broadcast on our local cable station. Residents are welcome to sit in the balcony at Town Meeting.

The LWVA is planning a busy program season, which will feature a conversation about public art in February, our annual Legislators' Brunch (currently planned for March 4), and Candidates' Night. Attending and/or volunteering at these events is a good opportunity to get involved with the League and learn more about issues that affect our community. All are welcome, so feel free to invite friends and neighbors. Please read the monthly bulletins and check the website for more information.

I hope to see you at a League program soon!

*Angela Olszewski*

**Directions to Anne Linn's home:**

7 Linden Street is just off Park Avenue in Arlington Heights. If you are coming from Massachusetts Avenue, it is a left turn, just after Florence Avenue and before Oakland Avenue. If you are coming from Route 2, of course, it is a right turn just after Oakland Avenue.

It is the first house on Linden Street, on the right.



**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
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.



**Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.  
24th Annual  
Birthday Observance**

**Monday, January 16, 2011**

**Guest Speaker:  
Hajji Shearer**

**Director of the Fatherhood Initiative at the Children's Trust Fund**

**Music by: Arlington High School Orchestra**

Pieces of Dreams by Pasquale Tassone

**Doors open at 6:45 p.m.** in Town Hall.

Please bring **cookies or bar-type dessert** to serve five.

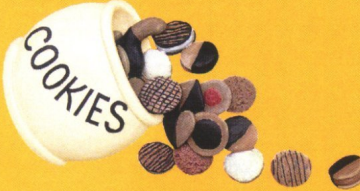
**Program begins at 7:30 p.m.**

Robbins Memorial Town Hall  
730 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington, MA 02476  
Call 781-643-4345 for information

*A free-will offering will benefit the Martin Luther King Memorial  
in Washington, DC, the African American  
Society Scholarships, and the Arlington Public Schools*

*We will be collecting non-perishable items for the Arlington Food Pantry*

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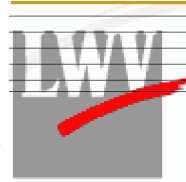
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*Initial Free Consultation for League Members*

## LWVUS National Consensus Study: Role of the Federal Government in Public Education



On Sunday, November 13, the Winchester League hosted a local meeting for the National Consensus Study on the Role of the Federal Government in Public Education. Six Arlington League members attended and participated in the discussion, which represented a number of knowledgeable and varied perspectives. In the photo below, starting from the left, you can see Anne Linn, Kim Haase, Janice Bakey, and Kathy Fennelly; Carolyn Parsons and Victoria Ford also came. (Photo by Jean Herbert, Winchester League)



The scope of the study was broad and included the following areas under the role of the federal government in public education (pre-K through grade 12):

- The history, funding and equity issues which are addressed under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act
- The common core standards/assessments which are required for many federal grant programs but are national, not federal

The discussion focused upon how the new standards called Common Core State Standards will be used by the federal government. On the following pages are the consensus questions, with the Arlington League's answers in **bold**.

*Continued on next page*

## LWVUS Education Consensus Study (continued)

### Consensus Questions

#### General Questions

1. The current role of the federal government in public education is

Much too small    Too small    About right    Too large    Much too large

#### Arlington Response: Too small

2. What should be the role of the federal government in public education? (Rank)
- To ensure that all students preK-12 receive a quality education.
  - To develop accountability measures that will study the progress of all students so that they achieve adequate yearly progress.
  - To mandate Common Core Standards for all students K-12.
  - To monitor state efforts for funding.
  - To measure teacher effectiveness through test data.

#### Arlington Response: a:1, b:2, c:3, d:4, e:5

**Arlington Comments on Question 2:** Objection to the use of the term "test" data. The test data could indeed be substandard but when considered with other parameters could document improvement especially with English as a second language population.

*Continued on next page*



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**LWVUS Education Consensus Study (continued)**

3. A quality public education is important to perpetuate a strong and viable democracy.

Strongly agree    Agree    No consensus    Disagree    Strongly disagree

**Arlington Response: Strongly agree****Common Core Standards Questions**

4. Currently the governors and state education officers have developed Common Core Standards that are national but not federal. Should the standards be mandated of the states in order to obtain federal funding? (Choose one)

- a. Special grant programs such as Race to the Top
- b. All programs under Elementary and Secondary Education Act where the needs qualify for funding
- c. All programs receiving federal funding from any source
- d. All of the above
- e. None of the above

**Arlington Response: a. Special grant programs such as Race to the Top**

**Arlington Comments on Question 4: Answers b and c are likely to be subject to legal challenges.**

5. Should there be a **national assessment aligned** with the common core standards?

Yes | No

**Arlington Response: Yes**

- a. If Yes, Should implementation be voluntary or federally mandated? (choose one)
  1. Voluntary
  2. Mandated
  3. Mandated, if fully funded

**Arlington Response: 3. Mandated, if fully funded**

- b. If No, what other accountability measures might you suggest? (choose one)
  1. Continue to allow the states to develop their own assessments.
  2. Suggest that the local education districts use their own assessments or adopt one that is a nationally norm-referenced assessment such as the *Stanford Achievement Test* or *Iowa Test of Basic Skills*.
  3. Suggest that districts use a portfolio type of assessment where student projects and activities would be scored holistically.

**Arlington Response: not applicable**

6. National standards should lead to: (choose one)

- a. A nationally mandated curriculum to be aligned to the national standards and assessments.
- b. A national curriculum that is only suggested but not mandated.

*Continued on next page*

**LWVUS Education Consensus Study (continued)**

- c. A suggested structure for states and local education agencies to develop their own curriculum.
- d. No national curriculum.

**Arlington Response: c. A suggested structure for states and local education agencies to develop their own curriculum.**

7. What role should the national assessment consortia play in student evaluation? (Rank order)

- a. Provide an assessment system that is aligned to the Common Core Standards.
- b. Provide comparison data showing progress toward reaching Common Core Standards.
- c. Provide criteria for determining readiness for college and careers.
- d. Provide information to students, parents, teachers and school districts about student achievement.
- e. Provide diagnostic information on each child.

**Arlington Response: a:1, b:2, c:3, d:4, e:5**

8. Data from the national assessments are often difficult for parents, teachers and others to understand. If we have a national assessment, what information is most important to be reported to parents, teachers, students and the community? (choose one)

- a. Data should be "norm referenced" (where students are ranked) for district comparison only.
- b. Data should be "criterion referenced" and clearly informative so that teachers, parents, and students know how individual students have mastered criteria established at a national level.
- c. Data should be used to determine "cut" scores knowing if students have mastered requirements for special grade levels.

**Arlington Response: b. Data should be "criterion referenced"...**

9. Information from nationally required assessment data should be used to (Choose one):

- a. Sanction schools not measuring up to the specific levels
- b. Reward schools that achieve high scores
- c. Rank teachers based on student test score data
- d. Reward teachers who have exemplary scores
- e. Inform districts how their population compares to others similar to theirs

**Arlington Response: e. Inform districts how their population compares to others similar to theirs**

**Arlington Comments on Question 9: A minority would have preferred answer b if the wording were "Reward schools that show progress." A minority voiced the opinion that they would have liked an option that "Incentives be given to excellent teachers so that they might teach in poor areas."**

*Continued on next page*



**LWVUS Education Consensus Study (continued)****Funding and Equity**

10. In the past most of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) funding has been non-competitive based on need. All/Any Schools that prove they fall under the federal guidelines for funding receive those funds. However, competitive grants are now being proposed to states/districts who meet certain federal requirements, such as Race to the Top. Which would be appropriate: (choose one)

- a. Non-competitive funding for all applicants meeting requirements
- b. A combination of non-competitive and competitive grants
- c. Competitive grants only
- d. No federal funding

**Arlington Response: b. A combination of non-competitive and competitive grants**

11. If the federal government's role is the concern of the "common good" then: (choose one)

- a. Mandates only should be sanctioned.
- b. Mandates and funding should both be provided.
- c. Funding should be provided through grants only.
- d. A combination of funded mandates and grants should apply.
- e. No mandates should be required and limited grants for innovation available.

**Arlington Response: d. A combination of funded mandates and grants should apply.**

12. Equity in public education means equitable access to: (Rank order)

- a. High quality teaching/learning
- b. Adequate and current learning materials
- c. Clean and well maintained physical facilities
- d. Food and health care
- e. Safe and secure neighborhoods
- f. Secure housing

**Arlington Response: No consensus was reached. Evenly divided between social services being a priority and teaching/materials/facilities being a priority.**

13. Currently Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) funding is considered "categorical" rather than for general use. This means that it can only be used with special populations for special purposes. ESEA should remain targeted toward poverty and special needs.

Strongly agree    Agree    No consensus    Disagree    Strongly disagree

**Arlington Response: Strongly agree**

*Continued on next page*

### **LWVUS Education Consensus Study (continued)**

14. The federal government has a role in supporting early childhood education, birth to 5, for all children?

Strongly agree    Agree    No consensus    Disagree    Strongly disagree

#### **Arlington Response: Strongly agree**

15. Federal support for early childhood education programs (e.g. Head Start, Title I, Special Education, Early Start) should include funding for parent education and support regarding child development, child health and nutrition, and access to other supportive services, such as mental health as needed.

Strongly agree    Agree    No consensus    Disagree    Strongly disagree

#### **Arlington Response: Strongly agree**

b. This funding should be extended to:

All children    Only those with special needs    Special needs first

#### **Arlington Response: All children**

## **National League Announces Revamped lwv.org Website**

The national League is proud to unveil our new website design. We are modernizing the way we inform and interact with the public. We want to grow our community and expand our resources, so as we enter an election year, we hope this new site will better showcase the work done by Leagues - local, state and national.

Over the last year and a half, LWVUS has listened to your feedback as we developed the new design. As a result, the new site has improved search functionality, is more simply organized, and does not require you to log in to access most of the content. The new website also provides Leagues with tools and templates to help you do your work.

To help you get started and oriented to the new members area, we have created a welcome video. In it, you will find some of the important "must do"/"must have" information, such as national studies, where to register for national convention and how to access your League's member roster.

In the coming weeks, you'll start to see the great stories of impact that you are having in your community as we showcase local League stories and mentions in the media in the local League section. We'll also give you opportunities for your work to get national attention.

In the near future, we will be making a website template available to any interested League (including the League Easy Web team), so that local, state and national Leagues can have similar looking or branded sites.

**Editor's Note:** Did you know that Massachusetts has the second-largest number of local leagues in the US? You can find this fact in [one click](#) from the new site!

## LWVA Holiday Party

*By Kim Haase*

Michael Rademacher, Director of the Department of Public Works for the Town of Arlington, was the very affable and informative guest speaker at the League's Holiday Party on December 6 at the home of Joan and Jim Robbio.

Mike spoke about the many activities of the DPW before answering questions. These activities include:

**Trash collection, recycling, and yard waste:** The Town disposes of about 20,000 tons of material per year. They are in the process of working on a new contract for next June, teaming with Lexington to get the best possible terms. Vendors are eager for recycling materials, Mike reported, and make competitive bids to obtain them.

**Street lights:** These are gradually being replaced with LED lights, which will save the Town about \$100,000 in energy costs. Mike credited Adam Chapdelaine, Deputy Town Manager (and our guest at last year's Holiday Party), for pursuing this initiative.

**Motor vehicle maintenance:** The DPW maintains its own trucks and many other Town vehicles (though not police and fire vehicles).

**Park and tree maintenance:** Trees have been a huge problem after Hurricane Irene and then the October snowstorm. The DPW piled all the debris in the Reservoir parking lot and finally disposed of all of it around the beginning of December. There is still a large backlog of work to be done on Town trees; with a small tree department, the DPW may contract out some work to catch up faster. In response to a question on fallen trees, Mike reported that the DPW was trying to replace these with smaller trees that would not fall on power lines.

**Public roads:** The DPW maintains about 100 miles of public roads and does snow removal and water/sewer work for about 25 miles of private roads. It also maintains about 100 miles of water mains and about 125 miles of sewer mains. The State has been able to increase funding for road work last year and for the next two years, with aid from the federal Recovery Act.

**Water and sewer:** These are aging systems that require much ongoing work, partly because of ground movements that damage pipe and partly because some pipes are 100 years old. There were about 25 water main breaks last year. They are trying to replace about a mile of water main per year, at a cost of \$1 million per year. Sewer breaks are a more serious problem, not only because sewage leaks out, but because water leaks in and adds to MWRA costs. More efficient water use leads to reduced usage, so rates have to go up to preserve needed revenue for maintenance, steadily rising MWRA costs, and environmental requirements. The DPW has been putting in more accurate meters that can be read automatically. The Town needs to reduce its usage, but some Town buildings are still not metered, so it is hard to pinpoint leaks and monitor usage. Overflows in low-lying areas such as the Mystic Valley Parkway area are a high priority.

*Continued on next page*

**Holiday Party (continued)**

Mike also answered questions on various topics, including the following:

**Snow budget:** The DPW routinely exceeds the snow budget, and other departments are asked to cover the costs later from any surpluses. This is preferable to depriving other departments' budgets of needed funds ahead of time, since those cut programs could not be restored from a surplus in the snow budget.

**Staffing:** The DPW staff maintains most of the parks during the non-snow seasons (some smaller parks are handled by landscape contractors). The staff is 60, plus 30 school custodians who are paid by the schools but managed by the DPW.

**Electronics recycling:** The Town now takes most electrical goods at no charge, including computers, printers, and VCRs.

Our hostess Joan Robbio, with DPW Director Mike Rademacher and Organization VP Meredith Zona.

*Photo by Phyllis Maddox*



**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
- 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

## **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](http://www.acarts.org/public_art.php)  
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**January 2012**

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

