



BULLETIN

League of Women Voters
Arlington, Massachusetts

www.lwva.com

January 2013

Calendar

1/7	Monday 7 p.m.	LWVA Board Meeting at Angela Olszewski's home, 1 Watermill Place. All members welcome. Our agenda will include State Program Planning. Directions on page 6.
1/10	Thursday 7:30 p.m.	Special Meeting with Alan Manoian, Arlington's Economic Development Officer, at Meredith Zona's home, 1 Andrews Way. All members cordially invited. Details on page 3.
1/21	Monday 6 p.m.	25th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Birthday Observance, Town Hall. Details on page 5.
2/4	Monday 7 p.m.	LWVA Board Meeting at Carolyn Parsons' home, 23 Brewster Rd. All members welcome.

LWVA Helps with Drake Village Election

Several LWVA members served as poll workers at the Drake Village Tenants Association election on December 12. Pat Lieberon coordinated the event and provided instructions and materials. She couldn't be there in person, but Carolyn Parsons, Kim Haase, and Phyllis Maddox checked in voters, supervised the ballot box, and then counted the ballots.

This service is always a pleasant experience for League members and is much appreciated by the Drake Village residents.

Note: Often at this time we print a Town Election calendar, but as of this writing, the Town Clerk's Office has not yet published one. This may explain why the *Advocate* has for the past couple of weeks said that the election is on the nonexistent date Tuesday, April 6. We suspect that it is Saturday, April 6.

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

Dear League Members,

Our seasonal holiday gathering was just a delight. Our speaker, Library Director Ryan Livergood, has had an interesting background including a stint in the Peace Corps in Bulgaria. (I had to ask where Bulgaria is on the globe as I just could not picture the location of the country.) I thank Joan and James Robbio for being such delightful hosts and for providing such a welcoming setting. All of us snuggled into the living room, ate too much, and chatted about this and that.

As the League is a co-sponsor, I urge you to attend the Martin Luther King, Jr., Birthday Observance event. Bring your family and friends to meet other members of the community that you might not otherwise have the opportunity to meet. All of the past recipients of the MLK recognition award are being highlighted for this twenty-fifth anniversary event.

Please read the notice on page 3, which is an invitation to the talk being given by Alan Manoian, Arlington's Economic Development Officer. Until now, my sidewalk experience has mostly been about keeping myself upright as I navigate to my next destination. I hope reading the notice will encourage you to come to the talk.

At its January meeting, the board will be participating in the State Program Planning process by deciding what studies and/or action priorities the State League should pursue. If you would like to participate in this process, please come to the board meeting or fill out the relevant pages included in this Bulletin and return to me at 23 Brewster Rd., 02476, or email me at CarolynMParsons@msn.com with your suggestions.

Isn't it wonderful that the national election is over! I was beginning to resent my telephone ringing and was put off by all of the advertising.

Happy New Year!

Carolyn Parsons

LWVA LEADERSHIP 2012-2013

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 Lieberman, Local Action VP	781-646-1987
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
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.

LWVA Special Meeting

Thursday, January 10, 2013

**Meredith Zona's Home
1 Andrews Way**

7:30 PM

We are pleased to have **Arlington's Economic Development Officer, Alan S. Manoian**, offer an interesting visual presentation showing how the contextual arrangement of architectural building types and their relationship to sidewalks and streets can deliver a high quality **Public Realm** as well as a compelling and memorable **Heritage Tourism** and **Social Destination Place** experience at Arlington Center, Arlington Heights and East Arlington. You may never look at Arlington's sidewalk experience the same way again after this engaging visual presentation!

RSVP by January 7 to Meredith Zona at 781-648-2753
(mzona@fstinc.com)

If anyone needs a ride or would like to carpool,
call Carolyn Parsons at 781-646-9309.

Friends, Neighbors, Spouses, etc., are Welcome!

Directions to Meredith's House:

From the west end of Arlington, turn onto Overlook Rd., at the Summer St. traffic light across from the skating rink. Keep to the left at the fork and travel about 1/2 mile to Ridge St. Turn right onto Ridge St., then first left onto Cherokee Rd., first right onto Old Colony Rd., and first right onto Andrews Way. *Andrews Way is a short street that looks like a driveway. 1 Andrews Way is the tan-colored house directly ahead on the left. You may want to park on Old Colony Rd. Come in through the garage if you prefer not to climb the stairs to the front door.*

From Arlington Center, travel on Mystic St. towards Winchester and take a slight left on Old Mystic St. (about 3/4 mile north of Summer St.), then 2nd left onto Hutchinson Rd, 2nd left onto Morningside Dr., 1st right onto Windmill Lane, first left onto Old Colony Rd., and 1st left onto Andrews Way; see directions in italics above.




Margaret Potter
Director

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Initial Free Consultation for League Members



25th Anniversary

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Observance

Monday, January 21, 2013

Guest Speaker
Rev. Dr. Gloria White-Hammond

Music: "The King of Love is Dead"
by Paul White

**This year's event will highlight all past recipients of the
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Recognition Award.**

Doors open at 6:45 p.m. in town hall.
Please bring cookies or a bar-type dessert to serve five.
Program begins at 7:30 p.m.

Robbins Memorial Town Hall
730 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington, MA 02476

*A free-will offering will benefit public and nonprofit programs
that further the goals of Dr. King.
We will be collecting non-perishable goods for the Arlington Food Pantry.*

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 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. The name list is alphabetical by last name. Press A to get to the middle of the alphabet, then press Z repeatedly to arrow down to my last name, Olszewski. When my last name is highlighted, press the CALL button.



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

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Your Connection to Arlington Television**

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Holiday Party Welcomes New Library Director

By Kim Haase

Ryan Livergood, Arlington's new Library Director, spoke and answered questions at the LWVA's annual holiday party, graciously hosted by Joan and Jim Robbio. After a convivial potluck dinner, Elizabeth Thompson introduced our guest with a brief history of the LWVA's involvement in the library renovation project in the 1980s and 1990s and of our positions in support of the library (see <http://home.comcast.net/~lwva/LocalProgram.pdf>).

Mr. Livergood thanked the League for its support of libraries both in Arlington and throughout the state. His choice of a library career came from his love both of books and of technology, and he is working on combining these in his work at Robbins Library. He appreciates the strong community support of the library from the Trustees, the Friends of Robbins Library, and the Town Manager as well as the League and the general public. Robbins Library sets a new circulation record every year, and its circulation is 10th in the state, though Arlington is nowhere near 10th in population.

Mr. Livergood believes that libraries empower people to better their lives, providing children with literacy skills and the community with free and open access to information as well as a gathering place. He hopes to marry traditional expectations of the library with those of new generations, many of whom are always wired and are creators more than consumers of TV and other media, multitaskers, and seekers of specific knowledge.

(Continued on next page)



Peggy Reiners,
Kathy Fennelly, and
Library Director
Ryan Livergood at
the Holiday Party.

*Photo by Phyllis
Maddox*

Holiday Party (continued)

In answers to questions, Mr. Livergood spoke about additional changes taking place in the library's services. Reference works are moving online more, and e-book use has quadrupled in the past year. However, e-books are currently much more expensive to license than hardcopy books are to purchase, and many publishers won't offer e-books to libraries, so the transition is less rapid than it might be. Books, however, will remain popular, just as radio did after television came on the scene.

The library is most used by children and families, with a drop-off in usage when kids reach middle school. It also has programs for older adults as well as book clubs and writing groups.

New technologies may result in cost savings. The eventual replacement of barcodes by RFID will improve both efficiency (since multiple books can be scanned at once) and security. Budget pressures, however, are still severe. Kathy Fennelly, a Library Trustee, noted that the Trustees, who cannot raise money, are in the process of starting a foundation that can, similar to those in Lexington and Brookline. In addition to the Friends' support for materials and programs, the Foundation might be able to help with keeping the library open on Sundays, which used to be funded by grants; annual support for private funding of Sunday hours has been dropping now that it no longer seems to be a temporary stopgap.

State Program Planning

Each local League has an opportunity to weigh in on which areas of Program and Action you would like to see the State League focus on for the next biennium. The recommendations from local Leagues are reviewed by the LWVMA board and used to craft program recommendations to be presented to the delegates for their approval at Convention 2013. Local Leagues have an opportunity to review those recommendations and submit their recommendations for changes to the LWVMA board-recommended program.

You can find the entire Program Planning Guide at the following URL:

<http://library.constantcontact.com/download/get/file/1102238939046-121/LWVMA+State+Program+Planning+Guide+2013-2015+final1.pdf>

At the end of the guide is an appendix with an abbreviated list of state and national program positions. It's 15 pages long, so if you'd prefer a shorter version of the State League's positions, visit <http://www.lwvma.org/programbrief.shtml>.

The State Program Planning Recommendation Form appears on the next two pages. If you would like to provide input, please fill out any relevant parts and bring them to the Board meeting on January 7, or send them to Carolyn Parsons, as suggested in her letter on page two.



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MASSACHUSETTS
133 Portland Street, Boston, MA 02114 • Tel: 617-523-2999 • Fax: 617-248-0881
Email: lwwma@lwwma.org • Website: lwwma.org

STATE PROGRAM PLANNING RECOMMENDATION FORM
2013 - 2015

League of Women Voters of _____ Date: _____
Name & Portfolio of Person submitting the Form _____
Phone # _____ E-mail address _____

The LWVMA regularly seeks feedback from local Leagues to help guide biennial Program and Action activities at the State level. These activities are based on current positions established over time through study at the National and State level. These positions are presented in the following documents, which are available online:

- LWVMA program book Where We Stand (or Appendix to State Program Planning Guide): http://www.lwwma.org/Where%20We%20Stand.01.09.pdf
• LWVUS program book Impact on Issues 2010-2012: http://www.lwv.org/files/ImpactonIssues_2010-2012.pdf

Individual studies (an area of concern where there is no guidance in either national or state positions) or restudies/updates (either to change or eliminate a current position) require the establishment of committees to carry them out, and the successful completion of a study, which routinely is completed over a minimum of two years, depends on the commitment of local members in advance of Convention to do the work.

In addition, each study or restudy/update voted at Convention requires the establishment of a budget item to cover the support of these committees by LWVMA staff and Board as appropriate.

Members of the Program and Action Committee, following review of current LWVMA positions and recent LWVUS position changes, have suggested possible areas of new studies, restudies/updates and action issues. These suggestions are based on their experience in considering support for specific bills and their awareness of issues developing in the state.

These suggestions are not intended to limit choices but provided to stimulate discussion, as well as provide direction from specialists who are actively engaged in advocacy at the state level. If these suggestions are of interest to your local League, please indicate this on the form, and/or note other studies, restudies/updates and action items your League feel should be considered.

NEW STUDY:

List your League's recommendations for any new studies, provide a brief description of the scope and intent of each study, and indicate your membership's willingness to participate in the study. It is important to review LWVUS positions to determine whether a recommended study conforms to LWVUS positions.

RESTUDY OF A LWVMA POSITION:

List your League’s recommendations for updating current positions, describe why your League thinks restudying the position(s) is necessary, and indicate your membership’s willingness to participate in the restudy.

ACTION ISSUES:

Action Issues are areas of concern for which there is a current state or national position on which members request intervention at the state level, particularly relative to legislative advocacy. Much of this action will be driven by Specialists on the Program and Action Committee. Issues currently being worked on include voting rights, election procedures, transparency in government, health care costs and access, quality and equality in education, safe and adequate drinking water, pollution, fiscal responsibility, and civil rights.

Activities include review of legislation, testifying to House and Senate committees, providing information to League members, working with aligned organizations, contacting media outlets, holding rallies, presenting informational forums, and developing Action Alerts.

List your League’s recommendations and rationale for action issues. Please be specific (e.g. increase gun-law restrictions, limit or increase the number of charter schools, initiate election auditing procedures).

We are also interested in your recommendations for improving the Program Planning Packet or process.

Attach additional pages if more space is needed for any of the above.

FORMS DUE FEBRUARY 1, 2013

MAIL, FAX, OR EMAIL TO LWVMA OFFICE.

League of Women Voters of Massachusetts
133 Portland Street, Boston, MA 02114
617-523-2999 • Fax: 617-248-0881 • lwvma@lwvma.org

We welcome new members and renewals. 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..... \$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 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 _____ 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

Rides to the Polls: Update

Coordinated by Phyllis Maddox, several LWVA members and non-member helpers drove 29 people to the polls on November 6. League drivers were Ann FitzGerald, Carolyn Parsons, Patti Muldoon, Kathy Fennelly, Nancy Solomon, and Janice Bakey, while non-League drivers were Elena Jakubiak, Karishma Manzur, Betsy Schwartz, Theresa Stremalu, Kyra Dunn, and Pam Wolfson.

Many thanks to all drivers!

It was a busy day — for a while Phyllis had a phone in each hand!

It appears that we can anticipate offering rides not only for the Town Election but for a special U.S. Senate election in a few months. Please stay tuned.

January 2013

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

