

BULLETIN

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

January 2017

Calendar

1/8	Sunday 1 p.m.	LWVMA Charter School Study Consensus Meeting, Sanborn House, 15 High St., Winchester. Details on page 3.
1/9	Monday 7 p.m.	LWVA Board Meeting at Angela Olszewski's home, 1 Watermill Place, Apt. 428. Directions on page 6. If it snows, we'll meet Tuesday, January 10.
1/16	Monday 7:30 p.m.	Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Observance, Town Hall. Doors open at 6:45 with light refreshments. Details on page 5.
2/6	Monday 7 p.m.	LWVA Board Meeting at Kim Haase's home, 88 Park Ave., Apt. 401. Directions will be in February Bulletin.



Co-host Joan Robbio, guest speaker Marc Breslow, Action VP Patti Muldoon, and Co-president Carolyn Parsons at the LWVA Holiday Party December 7. See story on page 7.

Photo by Phyllis Maddox

We extend a warm welcome to our newest members:

Amy Pearsall, 78 Beverly Road

Diana Eastman, 55 Trowbridge Street

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

As the weather becomes colder and snow starts to fly, our civic season shifts from national and state to local.

The warrant for annual Town Meeting is open, accepting items that will be debated and voted upon this spring. Notices have gone out to candidates seeking re-election and the rules and calendar are posted for those seeking to run for office.

Town departments and committees are submitting proposed budgets for the next fiscal year.

Soon, the Redevelopment Board, Finance Committee, and Board of Selectmen will begin hearings for articles under their respective purviews.

The LWVA will begin planning for Candidates Night Tuesday, March 21 (save the date!).

Now is a great time to become more involved in local government. Consider running for Town Meeting, attending a warrant article hearing, or volunteering to help with the League's voter service activities. Whether you are new to the LWVA or a veteran member, your participation is welcomed and appreciated.

Wishing you all a happy, healthy new year!

Angela Olszewski

Election Dates to Remember:

The deadline for current Town Meeting members who are running for re-election to notify the Town Clerk of their intention is **Monday, February 6**.

The deadline for obtaining nomination papers to run for Town office (including Town Meeting) is **Thursday, February 9**.

The deadline for submitting completed nomination papers for Town office is **Thursday, February 16**.

See <http://arlingtonma.gov/home/showdocument?id=32942> for a full election calendar.



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
Phyllis Maddox, Webmistress	781-646-4362
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.

Consensus Time for LWVMA Charter Study

By Patty Shepard, League of Women Voters of Winchester



Come to Winchester's Sanborn House, 15 High Street, Winchester, on Sunday, January 8, 2017 from 1 to 4 p.m. for the League of Women Voters Charter School Study Consensus Meeting. Snow date: 1/22/17. It's YOUR chance to help shape League policy on this important subject. The Winchester League is pleased to be partnering with the Arlington League again this year.

During the program planning process to select LWVMA priorities for the 2015 - 2017 biennium, local Leagues suggested a study on charter schools because of the continuing public debate about charter school funding, numbers, location, authorization, outcomes and accountability. Recognizing that LWVMA did not have positions that specifically focused on charter schools, members proposed and the Board agreed that a study was necessary to allow LWVMA to participate in the development of policy and legislation regarding charter schools. The purpose of this study is to determine where we have agreement, so that the state board can draft a League position related to charter schools. Once we have such a position, we will be able to support, oppose and suggest changes to legislation, take stands on charter school issues and contribute to the conversation.

Please review the League materials at the website below where you can access all the information you will need to be ready for the consensus meeting.


<https://lwmva.org/member-resources/charter-school-study/>

The "Fundamentals" section provides a general overview of charter schools. The "Funding Massachusetts Charter Schools" section explains the current funding process and is crucial for understanding the issues. There is also a glossary and list of additional reading. The Guide also includes the Consensus Questions as well as Pro and Con Arguments. All of these documents will give you background for tackling the consensus questions.

Join us for what promises to be a stimulating discussion. Please read the background material in the Charter School Study Guide and plan to bring your own copy of the consensus questions to the meeting in January.

[*Editor's Note:* The consensus questions appear in the LWVA November/December 2016 Bulletin at <http://lwva.com/bulletins/NovDec16.pdf>, and also on the Charter School Study website.]

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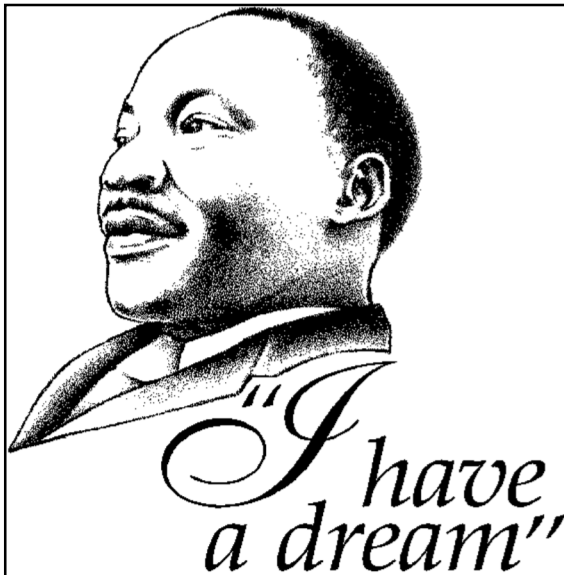
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Initial Free Consultation for League Members

29th Anniversary Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Observance

Monday, January 16, 2017



**Guest Speaker:
Tina Martin
WGBH News**

**Music:
Leslee Christopher, soprano
Paul White, piano**

Doors open at 6:45 p.m. with light refreshments
Program begins at 7:30 p.m.

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

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

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. (Digumm'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.

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
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League Focuses on Climate Change at Holiday Party

By Kim Haase

Marc Breslow, an Arlington environmental activist, spoke about local and state efforts to combat climate change at the LWVA's annual holiday party on December 7. Joan and Jim Robbio were our gracious and much appreciated hosts.

Marc founded Sustainable Arlington (SA), a Vision 2020 environment committee, many years ago, after working on Arlington's recycling program before that. SA is a chapter of the Massachusetts Climate Action Network. Marc is now active in Climate XChange, an organization that works on providing policymakers with information about market-based solutions to climate change. (See <http://www.sustainablearlington.org/>, <http://www.massclimateaction.org/>, and <http://climate-xchange.org/> for more information.) He worked for the Patrick administration on climate policy.

Marc began by observing that with the incoming administration and Congress, we can hope for defensive action at best at the federal level. Citizens of Massachusetts, California, and other states need to focus on the state and local levels to influence other states and, ultimately, federal officeholders. Governor Charlie Baker is committed to enforcing current state law mandates, notably a 2008 law requiring us to reduce our carbon emissions. He noted that many years ago the LWVA, including Elizabeth Thompson, pioneered on local environmental issues.

With SA's encouragement, the Town passed its own climate plan some years ago and has been working on making Town facilities, such as vehicles and street lights, energy efficient. Many schools now have solar panels. SA also promotes household energy audits and solarization. Currently SA and Mothers Out Front are advocating community choice aggregation (CCA), to enable citizens and the Town to purchase climate-friendly energy at a negotiated price through an energy broker. Arlington Town Meeting passed CCA last spring and is now on track to provide this solution.

With Climate XChange, Marc is now focusing on implementing carbon pricing in Massachusetts through a bill filed by State Sen. Michael Barrett of Lexington. The proposed law uses a fee and rebate mechanism, not a tax, that would increase the price of fossil fuels so as to discourage their use. The law would be revenue-neutral: all proceeds from the fee would be rebated to taxpayers. Wholesalers and utilities would pay the fee, which consumers would pay in the form of higher fuel prices. Every resident would receive an equal rebate, so those who consumed less fuel would come out ahead. The fee would be phased in over a number of years, starting at \$10 per ton of carbon and ending at \$40/ton after 7 years. A \$10/ton fee would result in about a 9 cents per gallon price increase. Carbon pricing is probably the most effective way to reduce emissions; one successful example is British Columbia in Canada. The LWVMA supports the bill; you may remember a forum in Arlington in December 2015 with Launa Zimmaro of LWVMA as a speaker.

Our state legislators are all on board as supporters, but the bill now needs a House sponsor. Marc would like Rep. Sean Garballey to lead on this. According to Colleen Kirby, he is interested (see page 8), so we should encourage him. Some legislators would like the bill to be revenue positive, to support public transit and renewables, though Sen. Barrett believes revenue neutrality will bring more support. Writing to Gov. Baker would be helpful, since he wants to meet our emissions goals without carbon pricing.

In response to a question about methane, which is 30-40 times worse than carbon as a pollutant, Marc replied that methane is included in the Barrett bill, although calculating its use is more difficult, particularly since 2-3% of it is lost to leaks. A better term for the bill's aim would be greenhouse gas pricing, since other greenhouse gases, such as refrigerants, are being added to the bill to give manufacturers an incentive to reduce leakage.

Other states are working on this, notably California. The Trudeau administration in Canada is requiring all provinces to implement carbon pricing by 2018. Massachusetts is also part of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (<https://www.rggi.org/>) to reduce emissions.

Legislative Session Preview

By Colleen Kirby

I visited Sen. Donnelly's office and Reps. Rogers' and Garballey's offices to see what they are excited about legislatively next session.

I met with Kira Arnott, Rep. Dave Rogers' new aide, at Kickstand Café office hours. She says there is interest in the omnibus criminal justice reform bill coming out of the Council of State Government (CSG) process in January, and that Rep. Rogers will be re-filing other criminal justice reform bills that likely won't be covered in the omnibus bill. A few highlights: He may be filing retiring Rep. Sannicandro's Pretrial and bail reform bill, a bill with DA Ryan on solicitation of a felony, a bill on having grand juries, increasing the felony larceny threshold above \$1500 (maybe to \$2500), and he is prioritizing making sure individuals undergoing evictions have a right to counsel. He is also filing a pregnant workers fairness bill, and a couple of bicycle bills: clarifying distance from a bike lane and no parking in bike lanes.

Rep. Sean Garballey hopes that restorative justice language will be part of the bill coming out of the CSG process in January. The language should enable restorative justice to be an option for police departments across the Commonwealth. This may be pre-arraignment only, but hopefully there will also be an option for judges to use restorative justice post-arraignment. He may also be filing a medical release bill with Sen. Pat Jehlen, a college savings plan for all newborns, a ban on fracking, getting to 100% renewables by 2050, and a carbon pricing bill with Marc Breslow. He is very happy his hearing aid bill for children passed and is working on getting coverage of nutrition for children born with a rare protein disorder. He is also working on a coverage of disfigurement bill for workers and a bill to increase the age of support for youth aging out of foster care.

I spoke with Dave Swanson, Sen. Ken Donnelly's legislative aide, and he talked about interest in supporting the CSG omnibus bill, as well as a bill by Sen. Jason Lewis to establish a Center for Excellence in Community Policing and Behavioral Health to improve police training for incidents involving people who are in a mental health or substance use crisis. Sen. Donnelly plans to re-file the pretrial and bail reform bill they introduced last session, a bill for better sharing of labor and workforce data, and several mental health access and timely treatment bills. He is also working on a bill with Clean Water Action for disclosure of toxic chemicals used in children's products.

It sounds as if the House and Senate have come to agreement on the rules before the session starts in January, unlike last session, and as if bills will be coming out of committees earlier (by February of 2018).

Any errors are totally my own misunderstanding, so don't hold any of our hard-working legislators to this preliminary list of legislation.

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 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

Report: Rides to the Polls

By Phyllis Maddox

Thank you to our members, Kathy Fennelly, Nancy Gray, Carolyn Parsons, and Ann FitzGerald, for volunteering to drive to the polls on November 8. The phone was busy all day.

11 people requested rides and 5 non-members offered to provide rides. In addition, there were 2 calls from people in Cambridge and Lynn asking for rides. I suggested they call the local political parties.

January 2017

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

