

BULLETIN

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

January 2019

Calendar

1/6	Sunday 1 p.m.	LWVMA Ballot Question Study Consensus Meeting, Sanborn House, 15, High St., Winchester. Snow date 1/13. Save your red Information for Voters booklets and bring them to this meeting, along with pages 7-10 of the November/December Bulletin. Details on page 3.
1/8	Tuesday 7 p.m.	LWVA Board Meeting at Phyllis Maddox's home, 55 Hillside Ave. All members welcome. Directions on page 2.
1/21	Monday 7:30 p.m.	Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Birthday Observance, Town Hall, 730 Mass. Ave. Doors open at 6:45; program begins at 7:30. Details on page 5.

Election Day Report

By Phyllis Maddox

We had 10 requests for rides to the polls on Election Day, November 6.

Thanks go to Kathy Fennelly, Carolyn Parsons, Ann Fitzgerald, and Janice Bakey for offering to drive. In addition, 12 more people from Arlington who are not members of the League called to offer to drive. I called on them first to do the actual driving. When I contacted them to thank them, I mentioned the Legislators Brunch. They seemed interested in coming.

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

When I joined the League I knew my neighbors, how to get back and forth to work, and a few of the businesses on Mass. Ave. League membership introduced me to neighborhoods that I would not normally visit and to people with differing views and knowledge. (I had no idea that Arlington had a Town Manager and an elected Town Meeting.)

Please consider attending the ballot question consensus meeting. Details are on page 3. Mary Cummings will be our facilitator. This will be an opportunity for you to meet your fellow league members and participate in a lively discussion.

The Martin Luther King birthday observance celebration is an opportunity to meet members of the wider Arlington community. Each year I see familiar faces and extend a hand in greeting those sitting nearby. The speakers are always provocative. The entertainment is always lively. Please come and take part in showing that Arlington welcomes all.

Carolyn Parsons

Directions to Phyllis Maddox's home, 55 Hillside Avenue:

55 Hillside Ave. is between Appleton St. and Florence Ave.

Follow Mass. Ave. to Park Ave. in Arlington Heights. Take Park toward Rt. 2 for 2 blocks to Appleton. Turn right on Appleton for one block to Hillside, then turn left on Hillside. 55 is the 3rd house on the right with a front porch and a large yew bush in the front yard.

If you are coming down Park Avenue from the south, take a left on Florence, then the first right on Hillside. 55 is about 8 houses down on your left.



LWVA LEADERSHIP 2018–2019

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
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Janice Bakey, Email Coordinator	781-643-4345
Colleen Kirby, Board Member at Large	781-648-2447
Nancy Gray, Board Member at Large	781-646-4590
Susan Born, Voters Service Cmte	617-448-4179
Wendy Forgie, Voters Service Cmte	617-669-2052
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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.



Please mark your calendars and join us for our

CONSENSUS MEETING

for the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts Study
of the Ballot Question Process in Massachusetts

at the Sanborn House
15 High Street, Winchester
(next to Ambrose Elementary School)

on Sunday, January 6, 2019
from 1 - 3 p.m.
Snow date: 1/13/19

It's YOUR chance to help shape League policy on this important subject.
We are pleased to be partnering with the Winchester League again this year.
Light refreshments will be served.

Background and Scope: This study incorporates the intersection of the League's areas of mission: voting and advocacy. The Massachusetts LWV has not previously studied the initiative and referendum process in Massachusetts and has no positions on this aspect of voting and elections. The scope of the study is to review the Massachusetts laws and regulations that govern statewide citizen-initiated ballot questions (comprising the initiative and referendum process); consider the consequences of current laws and regulations; and propose concrete next steps that the Massachusetts LWV could take to enact change, if the study results in recommended change.

Preparation: Materials to familiarize yourself with the issues and the questions before the meeting are at <https://lwvma.org/the-lwvma-study-on-the-massachusetts-ballot-question-process/>, under "LWVMA Study Documents." A Study Guide is posted explaining the current situation Massachusetts and other states for each specific question, along with explanation of two points of view on every question. Lastly, if you still have it, bring your family's copy of the Massachusetts Information for Voters for the 2018 Ballot Questions, which was snail mailed to all households in MA by the Secretary of the Commonwealth before the election. It has a red cover.

Plans for the Consensus Process: Bring pages 7-10 of the November/December Bulletin if you can. If not, we will provide copies of a short list of the 15 questions. We will present a power point, prepared by the Massachusetts LWV Study Committee, which summarizes their 36-page Study Report. Then we will separate from members of the Winchester League to conduct 2 unique consensus processes. Mary Cummings has kindly volunteered to be our facilitator.

Please be sure to join us, whether you have time to cover all the materials beforehand or not. We always learn a lot from each other at these stimulating discussions!

Please RSVP by January 4, 2019 to Carolyn Parsons, carolynmparsons@msn.com.

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JOIN US!

The 31st Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Observance

Monday, January 21, 2019

An evening of inspiration, celebration,
and community!

Featuring
Oneeka Williams, MD
Trailblazing surgeon and
children's book author

Special performance by
**Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
Community Chorale**
Paul White, Director



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

Doors open at 6:45 pm
Program at 7:30 pm

- > Light refreshments will be served before the program.
- > Please bring 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.

Hosted by the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Observance Committee



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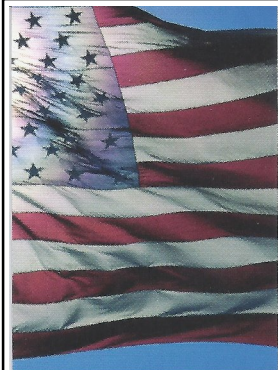
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Planning Director Speaks at Holiday Party

By Kim Haase

League members, family members, and friends enjoyed a delicious holiday potluck November 29 at the home of our gracious hosts, Joan and Jim Robbio. We then heard from our guest speaker, Jennifer Raitt, Arlington's Director of Planning and Community Development.

Jenny Raitt came to Arlington in 2016 with a 20-year background in planning, housing, and community development, and she loves her job. Her department implements policies and decisions of the Arlington Redevelopment Board and other Town bodies, and it manages three Town properties: the Central School (27 Maple St.), 23 Maple St, and the Jefferson Cutter House and Whittemore Park. Jenny described the major activities of her Department, proving herself both thoroughly informed and enthusiastic about her work serving the Town and the public.

The Planning and Community Development Department's staff of 14 also implements federal funding programs in areas like weatherization. They work with social services departments on accessibility and curb cuts, parks, and playgrounds. They also work with the Conservation Commission on environmental planning, including climate adaptation and flood protection (particularly in the Mill Brook area). In the area of economic development, they work on encouraging new businesses, stabilizing existing businesses, and reducing storefront vacancies. They also focus on transportation planning, including the recent Bus Rapid Transit test, which they hope to continue if the results prove to warrant it.

In all, the department works with 20 different boards, commissions, study groups, and other organizations, including both Town and independent nonprofit organizations. Jenny especially enjoys community engagement, working with all the people and groups who are interested in and involved with Town projects. She enjoys the challenge of managing change and helping people see its positive aspects by keeping the public informed and addressing underlying concerns.

Currently, the department is developing an Arlington Heights action plan, involving mixed-use zoning and other challenges (parking, for example) and opportunities. (Some Heights residents were astonished to learn that the parking lot to the left of the Sunrise building is actually public parking, guaranteed in return for a variance on the building height limit.) They're also working on an updated sign bylaw and zoning for multifamily housing.

Recently, they added 135 properties to the Town's historical inventory of about 1000. Most of the new ones were near the High School, which the Historical Commission has voted to place on the inventory so that the Commission can review the expected demolition of the school. This could delay the rebuilding of the school.

The department is working on the revitalization of Whittemore Park, which will require the replacement of about 9 non-native trees that are in poor condition. Implementation of the redesign will require funding from the Community Preservation Act and elsewhere. Accessibility improvements include removal of the brick walkways and better lighting.

Jenny then answered questions from attendees. Topics included affordable housing, parking, Lime bikes, the plan for rebuilding the Department of Public Works, and the Town's rat problem.

Photo on next page



LWVA Organization
VP Meredith Zona,
Planning Director
Jennifer Raitt, and
host Joan Robbio at
the Holiday Party.

Photo by Anne Linn

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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

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

Solving Arlington's Rat Problem

By Nancy Gray

I went to a meeting at the Community Room at the Arlington Police Department on November 13, about the problem of rats in Arlington and surrounding towns. The point made was that "Raptors are the solution," instead of the various poisons used to control rats. There are gray bait boxes around the perimeter of buildings and around dumpsters, and landscape and pet control services put out poison. The rats and other small mammals eat the poisons, they don't die right away, and the hawks and other raptors swoop down and eat them. The poison kills the raptors, but they are what we need for control. The people who told us about problems and solution were the new animal control officer, Diane Welch; Laura Kiesel, a writer and activist; and Gary C. Menin, Sr., Director of the Mass. Chapter of Raptors Are the Solution. The poison is often an anticoagulant, and the death of any of these creatures is horrible, since they have internal bleeding and bleed to death.

The solutions were dry ice down the rat holes – I think I would have a devil of a time finding a rat hole, but there are better folks than me. Go to www.raptorsarethesolution.org for information and to ask questions.

The delightful part of the meeting was that the control officer brought her falcon, who was curious and generally well behaved for the long meeting. When it got fussed and flapped around a bit, my, was it a big bird. One solution is to have a cat.

January 2019

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

