

BULLETIN

League of Women Voters
Arlington, Massachusetts

www.lwva.com

March 2012

Calendar

3/4	Sunday 11:30 a.m.	Annual Legislators' Brunch at Kathy Fennelly's home, 97 Gray Street. See page 3 for details.
3/6	Tuesday 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.	Presidential Primary. If you can give rides to the polls, please contact Phyllis Maddox; see page 5 for more information.
3/12	Monday 7 p.m.	LWVA Board Meeting at Ann FitzGerald's home, 162 Summer Street, Unit 1. All members welcome. See page 6 for directions.
3/29	Thursday 7:30 p.m.	Candidates' Night for the Town Election. Town Meeting candidates available from 7:30 to 8 p.m.; the candidates' forum starts at 8. Volunteers are needed! Please contact Carolyn Parsons to offer help. See last page for details.
	Sunday 4/1	The League's fiscal year begins again. To pay your annual dues, please send the form on page 9 to Ann FitzGerald. Thank you!
4/10	Tuesday 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.	Town Election. Note the unusual date: Tuesday, not Saturday!
4/10	Tuesday 4 to 10 p.m.	Volunteers needed for Alliance of Cambridge Tenants election on this day and the previous weekend. See page 5 for details.
	Wednesday 4/25	LWVMA Day on the Hill.
5/5	Saturday 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.	LWVMA Council at Lasell College, Newton. The theme will be "Challenges to Democracy: Protecting Voter Rights and the Influence of Money." See page 7 for more information.

For a detailed election calendar, see page 8.

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

Our winter weather feels like early spring, which means it's a great time to get out to League events and be civically active in Arlington.

March is a busy month for us. On March 4th, we will sponsor our annual Legislators Brunch. This is a great opportunity to hear from all four of Arlington's state legislators before they leave us for other offices or districts. Remember that we welcome all to our events, so please invite friends and neighbors.

On March 6th, we will provide rides to the polls for the primary. Please contact Phyllis Maddox if you are interested in helping out.

Candidates Night will be held on March 29th at Town Hall and broadcast live on cable by ACMI. This is one of the most significant voter service events sponsored by the LWVA. Each year, we join with Vision 2020 to present this forum so that town residents may hear from local candidates. Please join us at Town Hall and volunteer to help with the event if you are able.

In addition to our events, there are numerous openings on town committees, boards, and commissions. To learn about these, visit arlingtonma.gov, click on Town Governance and select Boards & Commissions. Here you will find a link to committee openings. Encourage others you know to check out the vacancies, also. It is a nice way to contribute civically and meet people in town.

I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events!

Angela Olszewski

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
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Anne Linn, Secretary	781-643-0356
Ann FitzGerald, Membership Director	781-646-9711
Betsy Rulon, Publicity	781-648-0169
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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.



LEGISLATORS' BRUNCH

SUNDAY, MARCH 4, 2012

It's Time for LWVA's Annual Get-together with
State Senator Ken Donnelly
and State Representatives Will Brownsberger, Sean Garballey, and Jay
Kaufman

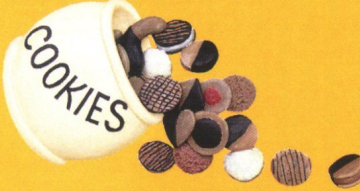
This will be our last brunch with Jay Kaufman, whose district will no longer include Arlington as of January 2013. And Will Brownsberger has moved on to a State Senate position that does not cover Arlington, but he is still concerned with our town. So come and express your gratitude to our outgoing and current legislators, and enjoy a great brunch!

When & Where –
Sunday, March 4, 2012, 11:30 AM - 2:00 PM
Kathy & Paul Fennelly's House - 97 Gray St., Arlington

Please contact Meredith Zona, mzona@fstinc.com or tel. 781-648-2753,
if you can come and bring your favorite brunch food.

Directions: 97 Gray St. is at the intersection of Gray St. and Churchill Ave., which is the 4th right after you turn onto Gray St. from Pleasant St. (Route 60). If you're traveling on Gray St. from Arlington Heights, Churchill Ave. is the 4th left after the lights at Highland Ave. The house is a large gray home on the right side if you're traveling up from Pleasant Street. There is plenty of street parking.

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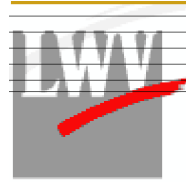
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Initial Free Consultation for League Members

Volunteers Needed for Cambridge Tenants Election April 10



By Patricia Lieberson

The Alliance of Cambridge Tenants is an organization of residents who live in public housing or receive housing vouchers through the Cambridge Housing Authority. The Arlington League supervised their first election three years ago. It turned out to be a much bigger endeavor than any of us had imagined. There were over seven thousand individuals eligible to vote in a very complicated process.

But amazingly, the election went very well, so LWVA has agreed to help again for their second election to be held on April 10. The ACT by-laws require that an outside impartial organization supervise their elections. The LWVA may well be the only such organization with the experience to do so.

League volunteers are needed to supervise the polls, count the ballots and record absentee ballots:

- We will need **12** League members to supervise the six polling places from **4 p.m. until 7 p.m. on April 10.**
- We will need **6** members to count the votes at a location near Central Square from **7 p.m. until approximately 10 p.m., also on April 10.**
- And we will need **6** members to record the names of those who have voted by absentee ballot in the six lists of eligible voters before April 10. This can be done on **April 6, 7 or 8.**

Please consider volunteering for any or all of these tasks. To volunteer, please call or email Pat Lieberson, 781-646-1987, plieberson@comcast.net, or Janice Bakey, 781-643-4345, jbjb15@gmail.com.

We are reaching out to members of neighboring Leagues for help, since this is a large task, and April 10 is also the date of our own Town election. But the more Arlington volunteers we can assemble, the better.

Drivers Needed for Two Elections!

For both the March 6 Presidential primary and the April 10 Town election, the LWVA will provide rides to the polls from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

If you can work a shift as a driver, please email Phyllis Maddox at phyllismaddox@comcast.net or call 781-354-0907 the week of the election.

Directions to Ann FitzGerald's home:

162 Summer Street is on the south side of Summer Street, a few houses to the east of the intersection with Oak Hill Drive. Unit 1 is the first-floor unit.

Summer Street is very busy, so you should park on the south side of the street. If you are coming from the center, you can turn into Oak Hill Drive, turn around, and park on the south side.



ANGELA
OLSZEWSKI
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A Presentation and Conversation About Public Art in Arlington

By Angela Olszewski

On February 7th, the LWVA hosted a program about public art in the community room at Robbins Library. Don Benjamin, of the town's planning department, showed a PowerPoint presentation that offered examples of public art around the country and opportunities for additional public art in Arlington. Currently, the town's sign bylaw restricts public art because of its definition of a sign, which includes the phrase, "or is designed to attract the eye." Arlington Public Art has authored a town meeting warrant article that would remove this language from the bylaw, therefore making it easier to bring public art projects to fruition. The group also proposes a thorough public process for vetting future projects.

The presentation was thought-provoking. Our group engaged in a conversation about public art and its implications for Arlington. We also discussed the warrant article and proposed public process.

Arlington Public Art (APA) is a collaboration of the Arlington Center for the Arts (ACA) and Vision 2020. In addition to these well-established organizations, its membership includes representatives of the K-12 visual arts program of Arlington Public Schools, the Arlington Tourism and Economic Development Committee (ATED), the Arlington Cultural Council, the town's Community Development and Planning department, as well as resident art professionals.

If you missed the event on February 7th, you may be interested in attending APA's next presentation, which will be held on March 22nd at 7 PM at Arlington Community Media on Park Avenue. More information can be found at http://www.acarts.org/public_art.php.

LWVMA Council Meeting May 5: A Preview

The theme of the state League Council meeting, held every other year, will be "Challenges to Democracy: Protecting Voter Rights and the Influence of Money," certainly a timely topic this election year.

Council will be held Saturday, May 5 from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Winslow Academic Center, Lasell College, Newton. Council will feature morning workshops, lunch and a keynote speaker, and an afternoon plenary session.

Preliminary workshop topics are "How to communicate League priorities with your legislators," "Roundtable discussion: Membership and leadership ideas that worked," "Multi-League candidate forums (Congressional races)", and "League best practices." Comments from members are welcome; please email Karen Price using the form reachable from <http://www.lwvma.org/team.shtml>.

Winter/Spring Election Calendar

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.
3/8	Thursday 5 p.m.	Deadline for filing withdrawals of and/or objections to all nomination papers.
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 the unusual date: Tuesday, not Saturday!
4/23	Monday 8 p.m.	Town Meeting begins.

Polling Locations

Because the Thompson School is being rebuilt, polling locations in Arlington (especially the East) have changed, as shown in the following table.

Precincts	Location
Precincts 1, 3	Fox Library, 175 Mass. Ave.
Precincts 2, 4, 6	Hardy School, 52 Lake St.
Precincts 5, 11	Bishop School, 25 Columbia Rd.
Precincts 7, 9	Chestnut Manor, 54 Medford St.
Precincts 8, 10	Town Hall, 730 Mass. Ave.
Precincts 12, 14	Brackett School, 66 Eastern Ave.
Precincts 13, 15, 17	Stratton School, 180 Mountain Ave.
Precincts 16, 18	Dallin School, 185 Florence Ave.
Precincts 19, 21	Peirce School, Park Ave. Ext.
Precinct 20	Park Ave. Congregational Church, 50 Paul Revere Rd.

**April 1 is the time to pay your annual dues!
Thank you in advance 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 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

Please Bring Your Friends and Neighbors to

Candidates' Night

Co-sponsored by the LWVA and Vision 2020

Thursday, March 29

Town Hall Auditorium
730 Massachusetts Avenue

Meet with Town Meeting candidates and Town-wide candidates
from 7:30 to 8:00 p.m.

Forum for candidates for Town-wide offices at 8:00 p.m.

*Volunteers are needed for set-up and clean-up as well as timing. If you
can help, please contact Carolyn Parsons, 781-646-9309.*

March 2012

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

