



BULLETIN

League of Women Voters
Arlington, Massachusetts

www.lwva.com

March 2016

Calendar

3/1	Tuesday 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.	Presidential Primary. If you can give rides to the polls, please contact Phyllis Maddox. See last page for details.
3/1	Tuesday 7 p.m.	LWVA Board Meeting at Ann FitzGerald's home, 162 Summer Street, Unit 1. All members welcome. Directions on page 2.
3/11	Friday 8 p.m.	Last day to register for the Town Election.
3/22	Tuesday 8 p.m.	Candidates' Night for the 4/2 Town Election, co-sponsored with Vision 2020, in Town Hall, 730 Mass. Ave. Meet Town Meeting candidates starting at 7:30; the forum begins at 8:00. See page 3 for details on volunteering.
	Friday April 1	LWVA fiscal year begins. Please use the form on page 9 to mail your dues during March to our treasurer, Ann FitzGerald.
4/2	Saturday 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.	Town Election. If you can give rides to the polls, contact Phyllis Maddox. See last page for details.
4/3	Sunday 11:30 a.m.	Legislators' Brunch at Kathy Fennelly's home, 97 Gray Street. See page 8 for details.

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

Elections are coming! First the presidential primary, then our local election. We are planning for rides to the polls, the Voters Guide, Candidates Night and more:

- V** Getting people to recognize that they have a **VESTED interest** in the outcome of an election by offering a range of voter service activities.
- O** Encouraging a fair and **OPEN process**. The League provides voter education and sometimes monitors elections. We register people to vote.
- T** Providing the opportunity for candidates and residents to **TALK about important issues** at Candidates Night.
- E** Promoting the **local ELECTION** and **ENCOURAGING people to run**.

Volunteer to help! Information can be found in this bulletin.

Angela Olszewski

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.



LWVA LEADERSHIP 2015–2016

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
Abigail Fair, Publicity	781-643-0666
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.



Local Candidates' Night
Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., March 22, 2016
Town Hall Auditorium, Arlington, MA

Co-sponsored by
Arlington's Vision 2020
and the
League of Women Voters of Arlington, MA

I would like to thank all League members who have already volunteered to help the LWV at Town Hall on March 22.

Starting about 7:30 p.m., the candidates for major town offices will attend to say hello to members of the public before the televised event begins. League members will post precinct number signs in the corridors for candidates for Town Meeting and existing Members to chat with their constituents.


We will be happy to have League members to help that night for the following activities:

- Post Precinct Number signs (please arrive before 7:15 p.m. so they will be in place before the Town Meeting Member candidates arrive)
- Greet candidates and members of public on night of event
- Help set up before and/or pack up after the event

If you would like to lend a hand, please phone or email me and let me know what you would like to do. See you at Candidates' Night.

Elizabeth Thompson
Voter Service Chair
LWV Arlington
elizw.thompson@gmail.com
781-646-5942

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Day on the Hill 2016

By Colleen Kirby



On February 9 a group of LWVA members (Patti Muldoon, Carolyn Parsons, Anne Linn, Colleen Kirby) attended Day on the Hill: “Why This? Why Now? What Finally Moves Legislation” along with a group of Arlington High School students. Patti Muldoon arranged for the students of Greg Fant’s government class and a member of the AHS Republican Club to come to the State House for a tour of the State House, to attend the Day on the Hill event, and to enjoy a pizza party afterwards sponsored by Rep. Sean Garballey. At the pizza party, the students met with Rep. Dave Rogers and Sen. Ken Donnelly and were able to ask questions about what they learned.

The Day on the Hill panel included Democratic Sen. Will Brownsberger, who told us about how the incarceration rate in Massachusetts has increased fivefold since the 1970s. He said that we need to educate our legislators in one-to-one meetings about our concerns for this issue to win their hearts and minds, much as the gay marriage movement did. He said that “we need to lift people up, not lock them up.” And that we need to look at the length of sentences for all individuals, including those who commit serious offenses. It was also pointed out that the Massachusetts incarceration rate for Hispanic individuals is one of the highest in the country.

Republican Rep. Shawn Dooley spoke about the recently enacted online voting registration and ability to vote early. He also spoke about how he gets 600 to 700 emails a day and has only one aide, so it is not possible to answer them all. Also, sending in an email from a larger campaign, where you just sign your name, indicates that your commitment to the campaign is not as deep as if you make an effort to call or visit in person.

Rep. Dooley indicated a concern that because many city and town clerks are still using paper and our technology is behind, we could not eliminate fraud if we went to same-day registration. Pamela Wilmot, the speaker after Rep. Dooley, said that 15 states already have same-day registration and that no fraud has been found even in the states that do registrations on paper, including New Hampshire, Maine, and Wisconsin. Pam did agree that we need a faster, more secure process, that Town Clerks support, for voter registration.

Pam Wilmot, of Common Cause Massachusetts, spoke about how having a broad coalition of groups working in tandem for change on a policy issue is important, and that is why the ten-year push for public record law reform is finally bearing fruit. Currently there is a decent law in Conference Committee being worked on that will hopefully come out as strong as the Senate version that passed. She also said that the key to passing legislation is to have a large number of quiet conversations with legislators educating them about the need for a particular change. She also said that the legislative process is slow, on purpose, and that is a good thing, because it allows the people to have some input into the process.

(Continued on next page)

Day on the Hill (continued)

I spoke for three minutes as one of the eleven LWVMA legislative specialists. I focused on the Restorative Justice bill filed by Rep. Sean Garballey, and I was pleased that one of the AHS students asked Sen. Donnelly about this bill at our Q/A at the pizza party. I think that stuck in their minds because I told Fred Ryan’s story about a youth in Arlington who was kept out of the criminal justice system thanks to the restorative justice alternative we have in town. I also mentioned Sen. Donnelly’s Pretrial and Bail reform bill and Sen. Will Brownsberger’s bill for Parole Eligibility, which are three of the eight criminal justice reform bills the League is supporting this session.

See next page for photos.



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

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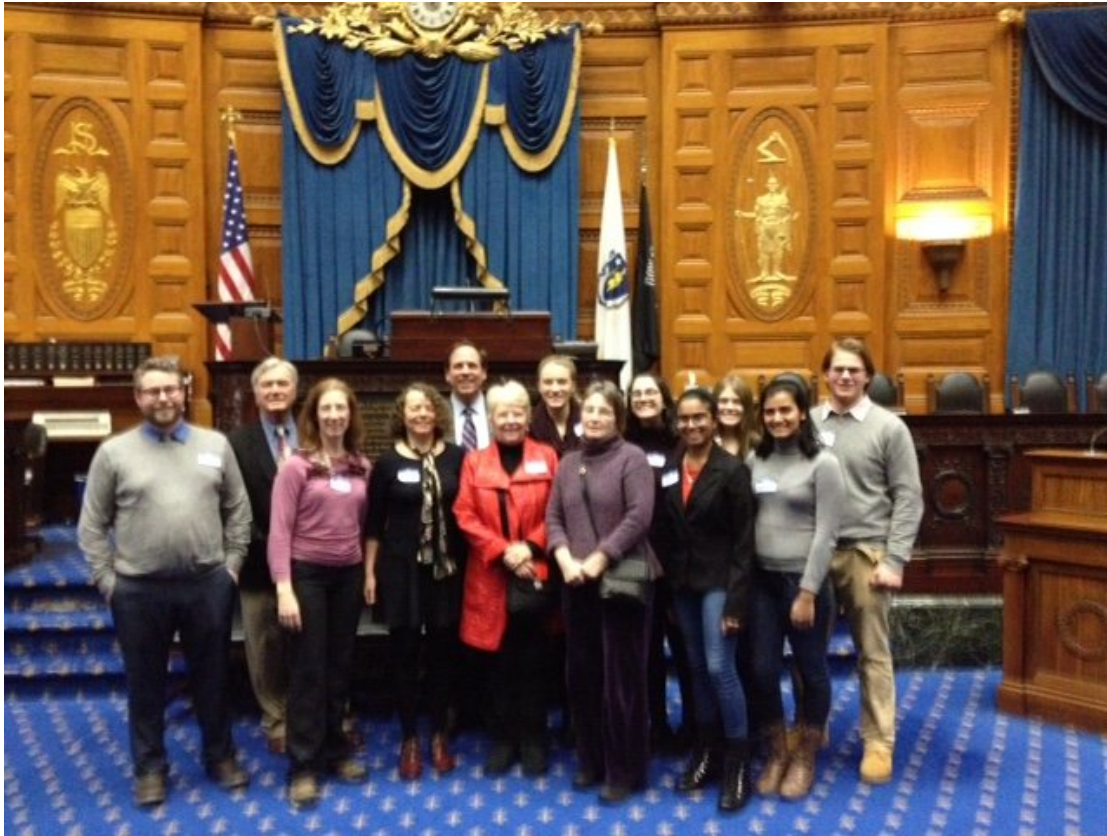
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Day on the Hill, State House

Front row: AHS teacher Greg Fant, LWVA members Patti Muldoon, Colleen Kirby, Anne Linn, and Carolyn Parsons, and Arlington High School students in the House chamber. Back row: Sen. Ken Donnelly, Rep. Dave Rogers, and AHS students.

Photo by Colleen Kirby

Day on the Hill, State House

State Sen. Will Brownsberger (who formerly represented Arlington as a state representative) speaks in Gardner Auditorium on justice issues as part of the panel “Why This? Why Now?”

Photo by Colleen Kirby





MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR:

**LWV ARLINGTON'S ANNUAL
LEGISLATORS' BRUNCH**

BRING A SPOUSE, FRIEND OR NEIGHBOR!

Sunday, April 3, 2016, 11:30 AM – 2:00 PM
@ Kathy and Paul Fennelly's Home
97 Gray St., Arlington

Here's your chance to meet and hear what's happening with our current State legislators – Senator Ken Donnelly and Representatives Sean Garballey and Dave Rogers.

Please contact Meredith Zona,
mzona@fstinc.com or tel. 781-648-2753,
if you can come and bring your favorite brunch food.
Meredith will also arrange for a ride to and from the
brunch if you need that.

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.

**Our fiscal year begins April 1, so now is the time to send in your dues!
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 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 Thursdays)
- 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

