

BULLETIN

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

March 2017

Calendar

3/4	Saturday 1 p.m.	Arlington Reads Together event at Town Hall, 730 Mass Ave. Details on page 5.
3/10	Friday 8 p.m.	Deadline to register to vote in the Town Election.
3/10	Friday 7 to 9 p.m.	Books in Bloom, Robbins Library. Details on page 6.
3/13	Monday 7 p.m.	LWVA Board Meeting at Phyllis Maddox's home, 55 Hillside Ave. Directions on page 2.
3/21	Tuesday 8 p.m.	Candidates' Night for the Town Election, Town Hall. See page 3 for information on volunteering to help.
3/25	Saturday 12:45 to 5 p.m.	Forum on Criminal Justice Reform at First Parish UU Church, 630 Mass. Ave. See page 8 for more information.
4/1	Saturday 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.	Annual Town Election.
	Saturday 4/1	LWVA Fiscal Year begins. We invite members to pay annual dues by April 1 using the form on page 9.
4/12	Wednesday 7:30 p.m.	Introduction to Town Meeting for new Town Meeting members, Robbins Library Community Room, 700 Mass. Ave. Details on page 5.
4/24	Monday 8 p.m.	Annual Town Meeting begins.
4/30	Sunday 11:30 to 2 p.m.	Save the date for our annual Legislators' Brunch! Details will appear in the April Bulletin.

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

Like us on Facebook!

Many thanks go to Diana Eastman, new LWVA member, for starting the League's social media presence. You can now watch our Facebook page for upcoming events, comments, and updates. Copy and paste the following link:

<https://www.facebook.com/League-of-Women-Voters-of-Arlington-1930973093792988/>

Or search for "League of Women Voters of Arlington" and like our page!

We are looking forward to a busy spring. Join the League for Candidates Night, Introduction to Town Meeting, and Legislators Brunch. Come as an attendee or volunteer to help. Bring a neighbor, friend, or family member. Consider driving for rides to the polls for the local election. Check this bulletin and upcoming ones for more details and contact information.

I look forward to seeing you at an event soon!

Angela Olszewski

Directions to Phyllis Maddox's home:

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 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
Diana Eastman, Webmistress	774-266-3422
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.



Local Candidates' Night
Tuesday, March 21, 2017
7:30 PM
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 LWVA at Town Hall on March 21.

Starting about 7:30 PM, 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 you and other League members help that night for the following activities:


- Post precinct number signs (please arrive before 7:15 PM 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 email me and let me know what you would like to do. See you at Candidates' Night!

Elizabeth Thompson
Voter Service Chair

elizw.thompson@gmail.com
781-646-5942

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Arlington, MA 02476

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Initial Free Consultation for League Members

2017 Arlington Reads Together
presents

**Transgender activist
Nicole Maines of
“Becoming Nicole: The Transformation of an
American Family”**

Saturday, March 4, 2017
at 1:00 p.m.
Arlington Town Hall
730 Mass Ave, Arlington MA
Free and open to the public

Program Sponsors:

Library Board of Trustees, Vision 2020 Diversity Task Group,
Friends of Robbins Library, Friends of Fox Branch Library

Learn more about Arlington Reads Together 2017:

<https://robbinslibrary.wordpress.com/arlington-reads-together-2017/>

Learn more about the book:

<https://robbinslibrary.wordpress.com/2016/11/17/becoming-nicole-is-the-2017-arlington-reads-together-pick/>

Registration suggested:

arlingtonreadstogether.eventbrite.com

For more information:

mdeedy@minlib.net or 781-316-3202

Introduction to Town Meeting

On April 12, 2017 at 7:30 p.m., the Town Moderator will conduct an introduction to Town Meeting and limited warrant review in the community room of Robbins Library. If you are a new Town Meeting Member or a grizzled veteran of Town Hall and Town Meeting, please join the Moderator for an introduction to Town Meeting practices and procedures, the Warrant, recommended votes, substitute motions, debate and voting. This event is co-sponsored by the Governance Task Group of Vision 2020 and the League of Women Voters of Arlington.

Books in Bloom March 10 at Robbins Library

Join the Friends of Robbins Library and the Arlington Garden Club for an evening of stunning floral displays, hors d'oeuvres, and beverages in the elegant Robbins Library Reading Room & Rotunda March 10th from 7 to 9 p.m. Music provided by the Morningside Music Studio Jazz Combo.

For information and to order tickets, visit <https://www.robbinslibrary.org/event/friends-of-robbins-library-and-arlington-garden-club-present-books-in-bloom/>.



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

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True Value

Criminal Justice Reform Legislative Update

By Colleen Kirby

The League of Women Voters supports comprehensive criminal justice reform that decreases the numbers of people in custody or under state control. We would like to see individuals get the support they need when they commit offenses, such as treatment for addictions, assistance for mental health issues, and training for behavioral issues to reduce re-offending. We want to make sure that impoverished individuals aren't adversely impacted, solely because of their poverty, or that collateral consequences don't derail the ability of those no longer in custody to remain out of custody. We encourage giving people second chances, and making sure that when they are under state control they are treated humanely. We would also like to see those in custody given incentives to rehabilitate so they can reenter society better than when they left. We also want to limit the burden of incarceration on children, families and communities. With this in mind we are supporting the following bills.

1. **“An Act to reduce the criminalization of poverty” Sen. Brownsberger, Rep. Tyler (SD 1389, HD2929)** This bill addresses fines, fees and court costs that impinge on an individual's ability to meet their or their families' needs. It addresses expunging records of individuals for some offenses committed if they were falsely accused. It also defines a felony to be a serious crime so that we can have better outcomes for individuals committing minor offenses. This bill will do away with what are essentially "debtor's prison" sentences in Massachusetts. New support by League in 2017.
2. **“An Act relative to larceny” Sen. Jehlen, Rep. Chynah Tyler (SD1619, HD639)** This bill redefines felony to be a serious crime by increasing the monetary limits involved. Continued support from 2015/16.
3. **“An Act relative to the expungement of records of persons falsely accused and juveniles” Sen. Eldridge, Rep. Chynah Tyler (SD477, HD3162)** Continued support from 2015/16.
4. **“An Act relative to medical placement of terminal and incapacitated inmates” Sen. Pat Jehlen (SD1718)** This bill addresses removing terminally ill or incapacitated inmates from custody so they can get the treatment they need at lower cost to the state. These individuals will be at low risk for re-offending due to their illness. New support from League in 2017.
5. **“An Act reforming pretrial process” Sen. Donnelly, Rep. Rogers (SD884, HD3075)** This bill should cut down on people held pretrial and enable more services. Continued support from 2015/16.
6. **“An Act promoting restorative justice practices” Rep. Garballey, Sen. Eldridge (HD1957, SD1797)** Enables use of community based restorative justice programs across the state. Continued support from 2015/16.
7. **“An Act providing community-based sentencing alternatives for primary caretakers of dependent children who have been convicted of non-violent crimes” Sen. Brownsberger/Rep. Holmes (SD622, HD3613)** Enables taking primary caretaker status into account when sentencing for non-violent crimes. New bill in 2017 currently undergoing review by the Legislative Action Committee.
8. **“An Act reducing recidivism, curbing unnecessary spending, and ensuring appropriate use of segregation” Sen. Eldridge/Rep. Holmes (SD1652, HD3460)** Restricts the use of solitary confinement and provides for oversight and data collection. Continued support from 2015/16.

(Continued on next page)

Criminal Justice Reform Legislative Update (Continued)

9. **“An Act to eliminate mandatory minimum sentences related to drug offenses” Sen. Creem, Rep. Carvalho (SD500, HD1794)** Continued support from 2015/16.

10. Parole bills

a. **“An Act to expand sentencing options” Sen. Brownsberger (SD1014)** To increase participation in programming and enable parole to occur at appropriate time. Continued support from 2015/16.

b. **“An Act related to parole” Sen. Brownsberger, Rep. Dave Rogers (SD1672, HD3151)** Expands parole board to 9 and qualifications to include at least 3 with expertise with psychiatry, psychology, social work, or the treatment of substance use disorder; use of evidence based guidelines for release. New support by League in 2017.

LWVA Co-Sponsors Forum on Criminal Justice Reform

The Politics of Justice

Comprehensive Criminal Justice Reform in Massachusetts

Saturday, March 25

First Parish Unitarian Universalist of Arlington
630 Massachusetts Avenue in Arlington Center

Speakers include:

- Sen. Will Brownsberger on the Council of State Governments omnibus bill
- Cassandra Bensahih of Jobs Not Jails on the Justice Reinvestment Act
- Sen. Ken Donnelly on mental health issues and pretrial reform
- Middlesex District Attorney Marian Ryan on restorative justice
- Idris Abdullah of Teens Leading the Way on juvenile justice
- Rahsaan Hall of the ACLU-MA's Racial Justice Program on the racial implications of this session's proposed legislation

Networking & registration begin 12:45 p.m.

Panel & discussions with panelists 1:15-4:30 p.m.

Action opportunities 4:30-5:00 p.m.

Bill Gardiner and Rep. Dave Rogers will offer a 30-minute workshop on interacting effectively with legislators.

RSVPs to end-mass-incarceration@firstparish.info are appreciated but not required.

This free event is organized by the Mass Incarceration Working Group of the First Parish Unitarian Universalist of Arlington.

Other cosponsors are: ACLU-MA, ACMI, Arlington Human Rights Commission, Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race and Justice, Citizens for Juvenile Justice, Coalition for Effective Public Safety, Criminal Justice Policy Coalition, EMIT, EPOCA, First Unitarian Society of Newton Criminal Justice Advocacy Team, Greater Boston Interfaith Organization, Jobs Not Jails, Leagues of Women Voters of Massachusetts, Arlington, and Winchester, MA Anti-Shackling Coalition, NASW-MA Criminal Justice Committee, Prisoners' Legal Services, Progressive Democrats of Massachusetts, Restorative Justice RSVP, Teens Leading the Way, Wicked Sober, Women's League of Peace and Freedom Boston Branch, and First Parish Arlington's Racial Justice Coordinating Committee

Our fiscal year begins April 1, so now is the time to pay dues!

Thank you so much 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
- _____ 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

Drivers Needed for Town Election!

For the Town Election on **April 1**,
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 call Phyllis Maddox at 781-646-4362
or email her at
phyllismaddox@rcn.com

MARCH 2017

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

