



BULLETIN
lwva.com

March 2021

LWV and Town Election Calendar

3/2	Tuesday 7 p.m.	LWVA Board Meeting via Zoom teleconference. The meeting URL will be sent to attendees; email one of the Co-Presidents if you would like to attend.
3/7	Sunday 2 to 3:30 p.m.	Legislators' Brunch, via Zoom teleconference. All members will receive the meeting URL; family and friends welcome. See page 3 for details.
3/19	Friday 8 p.m.	Last day to register to vote in the Town Election.
3/31	Wednesday 7:30 p.m.	Virtual Candidates Night for the Town Election. We need some volunteers! See page 5 for details.
	Thursday April 1	LWVA fiscal year begins. Please pay your dues in March! Thank you so much. See page 9 for the renewal form.
4/10	Saturday 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.	Annual Town Election.
4/26	Monday 8 p.m.	Town Meeting begins.

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 I write this message, it is decidedly cold outside. The trees are sparkling, and I am inside wrapped in a blanket on the couch. I have often written that I hope for warmer temperatures to welcome our state legislators to our Legislators' Brunch, Sunday, March 7 from 2 – 3:30. This year there will be no brunch at the gathering, which will have to be over Zoom. This is a great opportunity to learn about the priorities of our legislators and to do a bit of lobbying. Please mark your calendar and bring, in the virtual sense, something to share. An invitation to all League members will be coming a few days before the event.

Envision Arlington and the League are once again co-sponsoring Candidates' Night, which will be held on March 31 beginning at 7:30 PM. For the two seats open on the School Committee, there are two incumbent candidates. However, there are multiple candidates for each of the remaining town-wide offices. If the candidates accept the League's invitation to participate in Candidates' Night, we should have a lively evening. This will also be a virtual event and will be hosted by ACMi.

I look forward to "seeing" you at upcoming events.

Carolyn Parsons



LWVA LEADERSHIP 2020–2021

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	339-223-3300
Joan Martin, Treasurer	617-966-4521
Anne Linn, Secretary	781-643-0356
Ann FitzGerald, Membership Director	781-646-9711
Katharine Fennelly, Voters' Guide	781-648-1794
Kim Haase, Bulletin Editor/Ads	781-643-3429
Margaret Reiners, Bulletin Mailing	781-646-9611
Janice Bakey, Email Coordinator	781-643-4345
Phyllis Maddox, Co-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.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR:

**LWV ARLINGTON'S LEGISLATORS'
BRUNCH/NO BRUNCH!**

**AND INVITE A FRIEND OR NEIGHBOR
TO JOIN VIA ZOOM**

Sunday, March 7, 2021 @ 2:00 – 3:30 PM

Yes – after a year's hiatus, the Legislators' Brunch is back, but sadly, this year the brunch aspect will be absent due to the pandemic. Still, it promises to be a great opportunity to "meet" our State Legislators – Senator Cindy Friedman and Representatives Sean Garballey and Dave Rogers – and learn about the latest state-level impacts regarding the pandemic, and what's ahead with recent state and federal leadership changes. Of course, there will also be time for questions and answers.

Friends and family members are welcome to participate via Zoom.

Please watch for an email from League member Janice Bakey soon that will include a Zoom link and password, and instructions about installing and using Zoom on your computer if you don't have it already – there is no cost to download it.

Looking forward to "seeing" you on Sunday, March 7 on Zoom!

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Voters' Guide and Candidates' Night – Volunteer Opportunities

By Carolyn Parsons and Angela Olszewski

The LWVA will be publishing a voters' guide to the candidates for town-wide offices in the upcoming town election to be held on Saturday, April 10. The guide consists of a photograph, brief biography, and an answer to a League question that will be published in local media for each candidate who responds. One or two people are needed to review the guide before it is published.

Candidates' Night, to be held on March 31 at 7:30 PM, will be a virtual event this year and will be hosted by Arlington Community Media Inc. Sue Fish, a League member, has graciously offered to generate the script. The script needs another pair of eyes for review. Is this task something that you would be willing to do?

All questions for the candidates will be pre-screened. Envision Arlington will be collecting questions from the public. Questions will then be screened for appropriateness for the office. Would you have some time to do this task?

We are still determining the method we will use to time the candidates' statements and responses to questions. We might need timers. Please let me know if you would be willing to be a timer.

If interested in volunteering, please contact Carolyn Parsons at carolynmparsons@msn.com, and thank you so very much.

Town Election Will Follow Traditional Rules

In case you have not seen this notice from the town —

The legislature has not authorized the same vote-by-mail rules communities used in 2020. Arlington (and many neighboring towns) will be holding a largely traditional election where voters go to the polls on April 10, 2021. Polling locations will adhere to COVID-19 safety protocols.

Absentee ballots will be mailed to anyone who requests them, but the Secretary of State has informed communities with elections held after March 31st that taking precautions relative to COVID-19 no longer makes voters eligible to vote absentee. This can change if new legislation is passed and the issue is being discussed at the State House. We will send a notification if new legislation is passed, however, as of this writing the traditional reasons of disability, religious conflict, or absence from town on Election Day apply. For those interested in the steps to vote by absentee ballot, please visit <https://www.arlingtonma.gov/Home/Components/News/News/10875/6196>.

Editor's Note: We recommend that you keep an eye on news reports in case the Legislature acts in time for our election.



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

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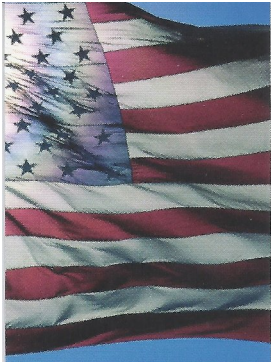
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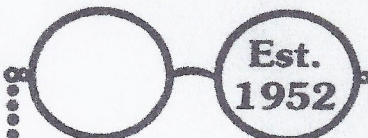


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A Message from the LWVMA Environmental Action and Advocacy Committee

By *Launa Zimmaro*

Are you interested in working with other League members in the state on environmental issues and action? The LWVMA Environmental Action and Advocacy Committee (EAAC) is seeking new members as we look to the future. Although we are expecting significant new state legislation to pass this session, and the Biden administration has made combatting climate disruption a major focus at the national level, there is much work to be done, and LWVMA members can make a difference. Public education and outreach are key to advancing policies, and no one does education and outreach better than the League!



The goals of the LWVMA Environmental Action and Advocacy (EAA) Committee are to inform members across the state on critical environmental issues and policies impacting Massachusetts, and to support and promote sustainable energy and environmental policy, legislation and local action.

Through monthly videoconferences and shared information and resources, we will bring our committee membership together to develop a coherent, unified, state-wide action plan focused on advancing energy and environmental policies through education, outreach, and advocacy.

The EAAC held a re-organizing meeting on Monday, Feb 22. After that, we will meet the 3rd Monday of each month at 4 pm. All meetings are on Zoom.

If you'd like to join us, please send an email to lzimmero@lwmva.org with your name, local League, email address, and a little bit about your interests and experience. We are grateful for your support and welcome any questions you may have.

For further information about the EAA committee, visit <https://lwmva.org/environment-action-committee-seeks-members/>.



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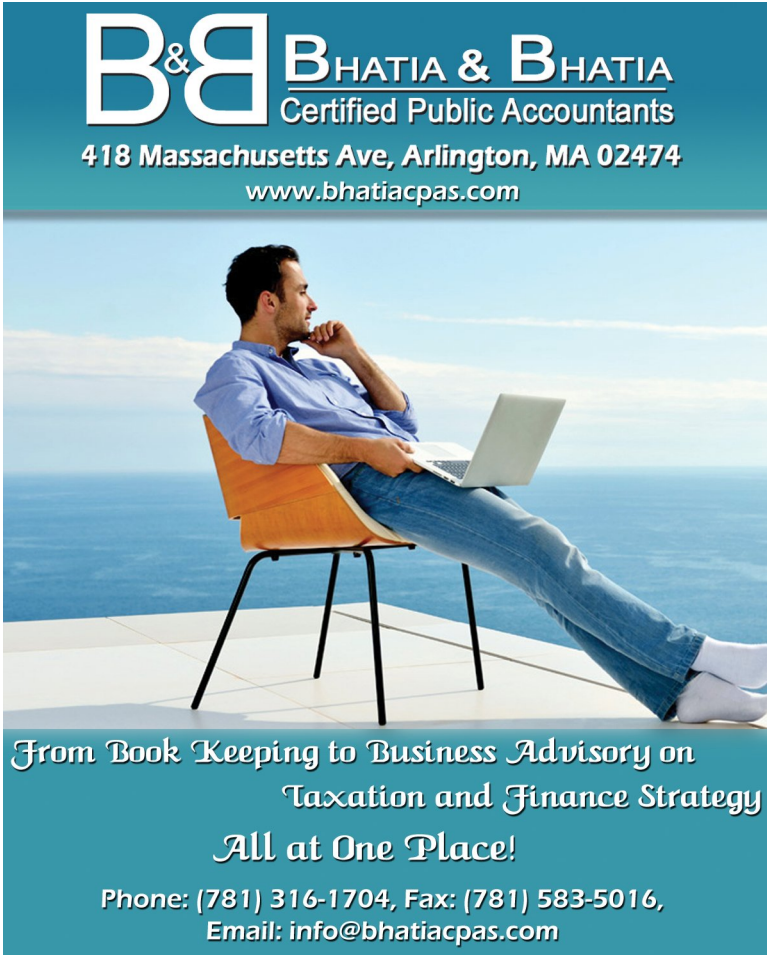
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Our fiscal year begins April 1, so now is the time to renew!
Thank you!

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

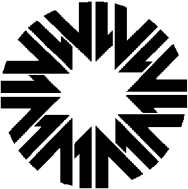
- Computer database
- Graphic design
- Desktop publishing
- Web site maintenance
- Membership development
- Moderating meetings
- Fundraising
- Writing articles
- Other

BEST TIME TO CALL YOU:

(for phone tree reminders) Call before _____ o'clock

*Some of these can be seen on cable TV

March 2021



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