

# *BULLETIN*

League of Women Voters  
Arlington, Massachusetts

*www.lwva.com*

**May 2010**

## Calendar

5/6	Thursday 7 pm	LWVA Board Meeting at Carolyn Parsons' home, 23 Brewster Rd. All members welcome. Directions on page 2.
5/22	Saturday 10:30 am	LWVMA Council 2010 at Lasell College, Newton, MA. Details on page 6.
6/6	Sunday 4:30 to 7:30 pm	LWVA Annual Meeting at Carma Forgie's home, 11 Stony Brook Rd. All members invited. More information on last page.

## **GAMBLING BILL MOVES FORWARD - URGENT ACTION NEEDED**

*By Patricia Muldoon*

On April 14, 2010, the Massachusetts House of Representatives voted 120-37 in favor of establishing two casinos in the state and adding 750 slot machines to four racetracks. All three of Arlington's Representatives voted against the bill. To learn how other Representatives voted, go to [http://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/specials/04\\_14\\_10\\_gambling\\_roll\\_call\\_vote/](http://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/specials/04_14_10_gambling_roll_call_vote/). The Massachusetts League has long opposed gambling in Massachusetts.

There was an excellent op-ed article in the *Boston Globe* by Scott Harshbarger and Michael Dukakis; their math was right on target. You can read the article at [http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/editorial\\_opinion/oped/articles/2010/04/10/whats\\_the\\_big\\_hurry/](http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/editorial_opinion/oped/articles/2010/04/10/whats_the_big_hurry/). The unintended consequences of passing this legislation are considerable and mostly they are being ignored.

The battle is being rejoined in the Senate, with their bill still being written. Senator Ken Donnelly has told us he has concerns about the social consequences of gambling. However, he has not made up his mind about how he will vote on this issue. Please call his office or write him to encourage him to oppose casino gambling at 617-722-1432. Ask your friends and associates to contact their senators, too. Thank you.

**Carolyn Parsons and Angela Olszewski:** Co-Presidents  
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## Co-President's Message

League Members and Friends,

Please save the date of Sunday, June 6, for Annual Meeting. Carma Forgie will be moving to the Chicago area within the year and has offered her home as a venue for the evening. Having the meeting at Carma's home will provide an opportunity for you to wish her well.

It was a pleasure to have Nicole Laskowski, *Advocate* editor, as a speaker at the First Friday Lunch. The gathering quickly became a gossip session. Such fun! Nothing can be repeated in print.

The League thanks the committee that researched the pros and cons of a number of articles in the warrant for Town Meeting. Please refer to the article on page 5 for details and for the League positions.

The spring rains have wreaked havoc on my gardens, displacing mulch and soil and exposing roots. Crawling around with a trowel, bucket and debris bag has reminded my back of the aging process. Happy spring!

Carolyn Parsons  
Co-president

Directions to Carolyn Parsons' home, 23 Brewster Road, Arlmont:

At St. Camillus, the large Catholic church adjacent to the access road for Route 2, go under the overpass, stop at the stop sign, cross the access road on the other side, and proceed straight ahead onto Sagamore Rd., which curves to your right. Go the end of Sagamore, turn left. The house, on your right, has natural cedar shingles and black shutters.

### LWVA LEADERSHIP 2009–2010

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
Patricia Lieberon, Local Action VP	781-646-1987
Kathleen Colwell, Treasurer	781-646-4522
Anne Linn, Secretary	781-643-0356
Ann FitzGerald, Membership Director	781-646-9711
Deborah Sirotkin Butler, Publicity	781-646-8204
Carma Forgie, Speaker Series	781-643-7622
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.

## *Advocate* Editor Speaks at April First Friday Lunch

By Pat Lieberson and Phyllis Maddox



*Arlington Advocate* editor Nicole Laskowski brings a variety of experience to that position. She grew up in Michigan and graduated from Purdue University with majors in English and education. She then taught high school English in Tuba City, Arizona, where her students were primarily from the Navaho and Hopi Indian Reservations. While pursuing a master's degree in literary non-fiction in Oregon, she interned at a small community newspaper. She then worked as a reporter at a community newspaper in northern Michigan, where she also served as special features editor. She became *Advocate* editor two and a half years ago.

There was a general conversation about government and politics in Arlington. Laskowski was interested in hearing from League members whether or how the political climate had changed over the years. She was impressed by the volunteerism and citizen involvement in local government in Arlington.

Laskowski also discussed the candidates' forum the *Advocate* conducted this year before the Town election. This was the *Advocate's* first open forum where the candidates could interact and question each other. She felt that it had been reasonably successful, but that there should have been stricter time limits imposed to allow more topics to be covered. She thought this type of forum complemented the more formal LWVA candidates' night debate.

Attendees at the April lunch included Nancy Sweeney, Anne Linn, Carma Forgie (host), Pat Lieberson, and Carolyn Parsons, shown with guest speaker Nicole Laskowski, *Arlington Advocate* editor.

Photo by Phyllis Maddox





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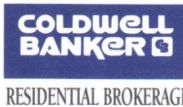
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*Initial Free Consultation for League Members*

## Local Action: 2010 Town Meeting Warrant

*By Pat Lieberson*

Each year LWVA reviews the Town Meeting Warrant to determine which articles we will support or oppose. A committee chooses which articles we might want to consider. Since the warrant language is often vague, we do further research to find out the specific intent of the article and how it would be implemented. We then recommend to the LWVA Board which articles to support or oppose. The Board makes the final decision. Most articles fall outside the scope of League positions, so we don't take a stand on them. We also want to limit the number we choose so as to have greater impact, so we ignore many that are routine or of minor importance. This year's committee was Ann Fitzgerald, Carma Forgie, Pat Lieberson, Phyllis Maddox, John Sweeney, and Nancy Sweeney. LWVA is making the following recommendations for the 2010 Town Meeting warrant.

The League supports **Articles 9, 14, 20, 69 and 71**, which are concerned with protecting and enhancing the quality of our environment. **9** would allow ground mounted solar panels, **14** would adopt the Massachusetts Stretch Energy Code to allow Arlington to try to qualify for the "Green Community" designation and lead to greater energy efficiency, **20** the "Pay-as-You Throw" trash collection program which would lead to an increase in recycling and reduction in trash the Town would have to pay to dispose of at the incinerator, **69** would contribute to the Water Bodies Fund for maintenance, treatment and oversight, **71** would replace trees on Summer Street destroyed during the road construction project.

The League supports **Articles 21 and 67**. **21** would allow the Police to create reduced speed limit "senior safety zones" near facilities serving senior citizens. **67** would fund a new full-time social worker position for the Council on Aging.

The League supports **Articles 19, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34 and 39**, which deal with effective governance. **19** would allow alternative uses at the site of the planned medical office building of the Symmes redevelopment project. **29 through 32** would transfer control of the Crosby and Parmenter School land and buildings from the School Committee to the Board of Selectmen. It would then authorize the Selectmen to dispose of these properties or designate them for another municipal use. **33** would allow the Town and School Committee to consolidate certain administrative functions with a majority vote of Town Meeting and the School Committee. If **33** is approved, **34** would specify which administrative functions are to be consolidated. **39** would require that Town Meeting members be informed in writing in advance of the vote if adoption of a local-option article means there is a time period before which the legislation could be changed or revoked or if it could not be revoked.

The League **opposes** the following articles.

The League opposes **Article 23**. This article is a petition from an individual to waive the civil service age requirements for employment as an Arlington firefighter. Granting these petitions defeats the purpose of the civil service program and is inherently unfair to other applicants for these positions.

The League opposes **Article 35**. This article would prohibit "municipal employees", which includes part-time elected or volunteer board and commission members, from acting as an agent or attorney for another person before Town boards and commissions. Arlington relies heavily on the services of the many volunteers who are members of the nearly 50 boards, committees and commissions that contribute to the governance of the Town. One of the League's primary goals is to promote citizen participation in governance, which this article would effectively hinder.

The League opposes **Articles 36 and 40 through 44**. **36** would allow dogs off leash in some Arlington parks in the early morning. The Town needs to develop a comprehensive policy, including a realistic plan for implementation and enforcement, before dogs are allowed off leash in any parks at any time. **40 through 44** all deal with lights and sound disturbance of neighbors to playing fields and recreation facilities in the late evening. These articles only apply to certain facilities or conditions. As with dogs, the Town needs to develop a comprehensive policy with a realistic plan for enforcement that deals with similar situations that cause neighborhood disturbance at any of its recreation facilities.

## State League Call to Council 2010



League members are cordially invited to attend the LWVMA Council 2010: 90 Years of Making a Difference. Please join us and our sponsor, the Lasell College Center for Community-Based Learning, on Saturday, May 22 at Lasell College, 1844 Commonwealth Ave. in Newton.

Doors will open at 10:30 am for Registration, and the program and plenary will start at 11:00 am.

We will break for lunch and then hear from a talented Margaret Fuller historical impersonator before afternoon workshops and local League recognitions.

You are invited to end the day at 5:00 pm by gathering for a festive 90th Birthday Celebration and Cocktail Reception sponsored by Roche Bros. Supermarkets.

The registration fee for this event is \$45.00. To register, visit <http://lwmva.org/registration.shtml>.

Council and Convention meet on alternate years. Council is smaller than Convention, with two voting delegates from each local League plus the LWVMA Board and a delegate representing members-at-large. Council is also one day shorter than Convention, with the focus on interim business, including adopting a budget. While only delegates have voting privileges, observers will find Council full of interesting activities. Local Leagues are encouraged to send as many observers as possible to Council.

Visit [www.lwmva.org](http://www.lwmva.org) for a more detailed outline of the day.



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**Annual LWVA dues are due in April.  
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..... \$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: Kathy Colwell, 60 Claremont Ave., Arlington, MA 02476

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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 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 come to the*

## **LWVA Annual Meeting and Party**

**Sunday, June 6  
Carma Forgie's home  
11 Stony Brook Road**

4:30 to 5 p.m. — Welcome and drinks

5 to 6 p.m. — Business meeting

6 to 7:30 p.m. — Dinner  
Please bring a dish to share

More details will be provided in the Annual Meeting Workbook,  
which will be mailed to all members in mid-May.

**MAY 2010**

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

