

BULLETIN

League of Women Voters
Arlington, Massachusetts

www.lwva.com

May 2011

Calendar

Wednesday 5/18 8 am to 8 pm	Deadline for registering to vote in the June 7 Special Town Election. The Town Clerk's office at 730 Massachusetts Ave. will be open until 8 pm on this day.
Friday-Saturday 5/20-21	LWVMA Annual Convention, "Women Making a Difference," at The Publick House, Sturbridge, MA. See below for details.
Thursday 5/26 6 pm	LWVA Annual Meeting at Meredith Zona's home, with special guest Doreen Stevens, who will speak about Vittoria Dallin's contributions to Arlington. See page 3 for details. You will receive the Annual Meeting Workbook two weeks before the meeting.
Tuesday 6/7	Special Town Election for override.

League of Women Voters of Massachusetts

ANNUAL CONVENTION MAY 20, 21 WOMEN MAKING A DIFFERENCE

The Publick House, Sturbridge, MA

Featured Speaker - Mayor Lisa A. Wong, Mayor of Fitchburg since Jan. 2008 and the first Asian female mayor in the state's history

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: May 14

For more information, visit <http://www.lwvma.org>

If you are interested in attending, please contact Carolyn Parsons or Angela Olszewski (email addresses below, telephone numbers on page 2). The LWVA can subsidize up to three attendees.

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

Dear League Members and Friends,

Spring is a wonderful time to celebrate public and civic service in Arlington. We have held our local election, and Town Meeting has begun. The League co-sponsored Candidates' Night with Vision 2020, and a dedicated team of League members researched warrant articles for the League to support or oppose at Town Meeting. At our most recent Friday lunch program, we hosted Sally Naish, chair of the Arlington Tree Committee, which is a volunteer group dedicated to keeping our community healthy and green through the planting of trees.

Continuing in this spirit, we will host Doreen Stevens, museum director of the Arlington Historical Society, at our annual meeting. She will speak to us about Vittoria Dallin. Both Vittoria and her husband, renowned sculptor Cyrus E. Dallin, were generous volunteers in Arlington. Doreen's presentation will focus on the Pageant of 1913, which was organized by Vittoria, and will also highlight her other civic contributions.

Details about the annual meeting, which will be held on the evening of May 26th, can be found in this bulletin.

I look forward to seeing you on May 26th!

Angela Olszewski

LWVA LEADERSHIP 2010–2011

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 Lieberman, 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
Clarice Gordon, Publicity	781-648-0004
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.

Come One, Come All!

LWVA Annual Meeting & Party

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Meredith Zona's Home

1 Andrews Way

6 to 6:30 p.m. – Appetizers and drinks

6:30 to 7 p.m. – Potluck Dinner

7 p.m. – Business Meeting Followed by

Presentation on Vittoria Dallin and the Arlington Pageant of 1913

We are pleased to have Doreen Stevens, Museum Director for the Arlington Historical Society, make a presentation on Vittoria Dallin, wife of world-renowned Arlington sculptor Cyrus Dallin, and creator of the Arlington Pageant of 1913, Arlington's largest civic event in the early twentieth century.

RSVP by May 22 to Meredith Zona at 781-648-2753 (mzona@fstinc.com)

Beverages will be provided. Please let Meredith know if you can bring a dish to share.

If anyone needs a ride or would like to carpool,
call Carolyn Parsons at 781-646-9309

Directions to Meredith's House:

Andrews Way is a new street and is not on Mapquest, so please use the directions below. If you use Mapquest, type in "42 Old Colony Rd.", which brings you to Andrews Way. (Google Maps puts you a block away.)

From the west end of Arlington, turn onto Overlook Rd., at the Summer St. traffic light across from the skating rink. Keep to the left at the fork and travel about 1/2 mile to Ridge St. Turn right on Ridge St., then first left on Cherokee Rd., first right on Old Colony Rd., and first right on Andrews Way. *Andrews Way is a short street that looks like a driveway. 1 Andrews Way is directly ahead on the left. You may want to park on Old Colony Rd. Come in through the garage if you prefer not to climb the stairs to the front door.*

From Arlington Center, travel on Mystic St. towards Winchester and take slight left on Old Mystic St. (about 3/4 mile north of Summer St.), then 2nd left onto Hutchinson Rd, 2nd left onto Morningside Dr., 1st right onto Windmill Lane, first left onto Old Colony Rd., and 1st left onto Andrews Way; see directions in italics above.



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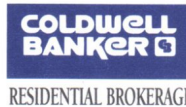
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LWVA Warrant Article Recommendations For 2011 Annual Town Meeting



By Patricia Lieberson

Before each annual Town Meeting LWVA decides which warrant articles to support or oppose. A committee researches the articles to determine their intent and possible consequences for Town governance. They also determine whether there is a relevant League position or principle. They then choose approximately fifteen to twenty that they feel are most important to the League and for the Town to recommend to the LWVA board. The board makes the final decision. This year's committee was Ann FitzGerald, Pat Lieberson, Phyllis Maddox, Nancy Sweeney and John Sweeney.

The League of Women Voters of Arlington **supports** the following Warrant Articles to be considered at the Annual Town Meeting beginning April 25.

The League supports **Articles 11, 19, 33, 34, and 66**, which are concerned with protecting and enhancing the quality of our natural resources. **Article 11** would strengthen Arlington's wetlands protection by-law, which was inadvertently weakened at last year's Town Meeting when the new FEMA flood plain map was adopted. **Article 19** increases fines for unleashed dogs. **Article 33** allows wireless antenna leases for certain approved parks and open spaces, with the revenue raised to be used for maintenance and improvement of parks, playgrounds and open space. **Article 34**, the Pay-As-You-Throw trash collection program, would lead to an increase in recycling and reduction in the town's trash disposal costs. The funds provided for in **Article 66** would contribute to the Water Bodies Fund for maintenance, treatment and oversight.

The League supports **Articles 21, 22, 39, 44 and 45**, which would lead to more effective and efficient town governance. **Article 21** would allow the Annual Town Meeting warrant to remain open longer. **Article 22** would allow a voice vote instead of a standing vote under certain circumstances at Town Meeting. **Article 39** would authorize the Selectmen to sell the Crosby School. There is a desirable qualified buyer available. The proceeds could be used to help fulfill the town's promise to voters to rebuild all of the elementary schools. **Articles 44 and 45** would consolidate the town and school human resources departments.

The League also supports the **intent of Article 24** to make public documents readily available to members of the public. However, fees should be set to reflect only the actual cost to the town. Having a maximum fee of \$50, as the article is written, may not be monetarily adequate to process some requests. A system should be created to supply the documents in a timely manner that doesn't unduly hamper town employees in the performance of their other duties.

The League supports **Articles 41 and 42**. They would replace brick curb cuts, sidewalks, crossings, and the entrance to the senior center to enhance citizen safety and accessibility.

(Continued on next page)

LWVA Warrant Article Recommendations (Continued)

The League **opposes** the following articles:

The League opposes **Articles 13 and 14**, which would reduce affordable housing requirements in urban renewal areas and eliminate them in assisted living facilities.

The League opposes **Article 25**, which would prohibit “municipal employees”, which includes part-time elected or volunteer board and committee members, from accepting anything of value from anyone with whom they have official dealings. Arlington relies heavily on the services of the many volunteers who are members of the nearly fifty 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 **Article 30**, which would remove original labor service appointments from the provisions of civil service. This article defeats one of the main purposes of the civil service program, which is to remove political influence from government hiring practices.



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**April 1 is the time to pay your annual 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..... \$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 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

Drivers Needed!

The Special Town Election to decide on a tax override is

Tuesday, June 7

The League will need drivers to take voters who otherwise are unable to get to the polls.

If you can give an hour or two on Election Day to help with this community service, please give Patti Muldoon a call at (339) 223-3300.

This service is very much appreciated by voters who find that they need it.

Thank you!

May 2011

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

