



BULLETIN

League of Women Voters
Arlington, Massachusetts

www.lwva.com

May 2013

Calendar

5/7	Tuesday 7 p.m.	LWVA Board Meeting at Kim Haase's home, 88 Park Avenue, Apt. 401. All members welcome. Directions on page 2.
	Friday/Saturday 5/17-18	LWVMA Convention, Boston Peabody Marriott, Peabody, MA. See page 7 for details.
6/5	Wednesday 8 p.m.	Last day to register to vote in the U.S. Senate Special Election.
6/6	Thursday 6 p.m.	LWVA Annual Meeting at Meredith Zona's home, 1 Andrews Way. All members welcome. See page 3 for more information.
6/25	Tuesday 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.	Special U.S. Senate election. We'll need drivers to give rides to the polls; see last page 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

Arlington is a very active community. Opportunities exist to support the Friends of Robbins Library, to become involved with the Arlington Land Trust, to participate in Arlington's representative Town Meeting, just to name a few. The League has positions in support of our libraries, local land acquisition to augment our vital open space, and the Town Manager form of government. A number of League members are Town Meeting Members. Congratulations to Deborah Sirotkin Butler on being newly elected to Town Meeting. I urge you to become involved!

The League board has made recommendations in support of or in opposition to a number of warrant articles. I thank Ann FitzGerald for compiling the list of warrant articles for the board to consider. One of these articles proposes that Town Meeting consider electronic voting to promote transparency and accountability. Each member's recorded vote would be available to the public on the Town's website for a minimum of three years. The League supports this article, and after the first session so does Town Meeting.

A different type of electronic voting, where a ballot is not associated with a particular voter, is the subject of a talk to be given by Sheila Parks at our Annual Meeting. Would it be possible for the software to be tweaked so that every tenth vote would be counted a certain way regardless of how the ballot was cast? If so, would anyone notice? Please come to Annual Meeting on Thursday, June 6, and enjoy the food and the conversation.

Carolyn Parsons

Directions to Kim Haase's home, 88 Park Ave., Apt. 401:

88 Park Ave. is the Locke School Condominium building at the corner of Park Ave. and Paul Revere Rd., one block up the hill from Mass. Ave. The building entrance is on Paul Revere Road; push the button for Apt. 401 and I will buzz you in.

You should be able to park on the opposite side of Paul Revere, or on Park Ave. or Davis Rd. The lot behind the building is for residents only.

LWVA LEADERSHIP 2012–2013

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
Elizabeth Thompson, Voter Service	781-646-5942
Ann FitzGerald, Membership Director	781-646-9711
Betsy Rulon, Publicity	781-648-0169
Katharine Fennelly, Voters' Guide	781-648-1794
Kim Haase, Bulletin Editor	781-643-3429
Margaret Reiners, Bulletin Mailing	781-646-9611
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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.

IT'S TIME FOR LWV ARLINGTON'S ANNUAL MEETING!

Thursday, June 6, at the home of Meredith Zona
1 Andrews Way

Appetizers at 6:00 PM, Dinner at 6:30 PM

Followed by a special program and a brief business meeting

The guest speaker for our program is Dr. Sheila Parks, author of *While We Still Have Time: The Perils of Electronic Voting Machines and Democracy's Solution: Publicly Observed, Secure Hand-Counted Paper Ballots (HCPB) Elections.*

Come to the League's Annual Meeting to hear Dr. Parks discuss the timely and controversial topic of electronic voting.

RSVP by June 2 to Meredith Zona at 781-648-2753 or 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.

Friends, Neighbors, Spouses, etc., are Welcome!

Directions to Meredith's House:

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 onto Ridge St., then first left onto Cherokee Rd., first right onto Old Colony Rd., and first right onto Andrews Way. *Andrews Way is a short street that looks like a driveway. 1 Andrews Way is the tan-colored house 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 a 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.

Note: The Annual Meeting Workbook will be sent to all members by email or regular mail by May 23.



Margaret Potter
Director



Arlington Heights Nursery School
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The League of Women Voters of Arlington

Warrant Article Recommendations

Carolyn Parsons and Angela Olszewski
Co-Presidents, League of Women Voters of Arlington

The League of Women Voters of Arlington supports the approval of the following warrant articles to be considered at the 2013 Annual Town Meeting: 7, 8, 12, 13, 23, 40, 42, 43, 44, 45. We oppose article 21. We support article 3 in the Special Town Meeting.

The League supports articles 7 and 8, which enhance the town's planning process and which, after the licensing from the Department of Public Health, will provide access to health care for Arlington citizens.

The League supports article 12, electronic voting for Town Meeting, and article 42, which would appropriate funds for lease of equipment for electronic voting. The League, a strong proponent of representative Town Meeting, believes electronic voting will provide accountability and transparency. The public will be able to access the individual votes of each Town Meeting Member for a minimum of three years.

The League supports article 13, which will amend the bylaws on animal control regulations based on an updated and comprehensive state law enacted in 2012.

The League supports article 23, which will create a Public Art Fund to commission, purchase, and maintain works of art in Arlington.

The League supports article 40, which will provide an appropriation to the Water Bodies Fund for maintenance, treatment, and oversight.

The League supports article 43, which will provide a stipend of \$750 for ten seniors who are able to work in Town departments.

The League supports articles 44, 45 and article 3 of the Special Town Meeting, which promote our valuable historic resources.

The League opposes article 21, as this is an individual petition to waive the civil service age requirement for employment as an Arlington Police officer. Granting such petitions defeats the purpose of the civil service program and is inherently unfair to other applicants for these positions.

(Continued on next page)

Warrant Article Recommendations (Continued)

When board members of the League of Women Voters of Arlington decide which articles of the warrant we support or oppose, we utilize principles that the League at the United States, Massachusetts or town level have already endorsed after careful study. These principles are **Representative Government**, **Natural Resources** and **Social Policy**. At the local level the League has positions on conservation and recreation, education, human resources, the library system, town government, town planning, and cable television and related media.

We gather information to establish the intent and probable outcome of an article and determine whether it promotes better governance and public policy as expressed in existing League principles. Most articles fall outside the scope of our existing principles, so we do not comment on them.

We hope you will appreciate that these recommendations do not come from a quick vote of a small group, but come out of a careful process of investigation, discussion and consensus. In turn, we expect you to look into these issues for yourselves and to vote in the best interest of the Town.



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

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State Convention to Take Place In Peabody May 17-18

From the State League

The theme of the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts Convention 2013 is **The Future of Our Democracy: What's Next?** The convention is on Friday and Saturday, May 17-18, at the Boston Marriott Peabody Hotel at 8A Centennial Drive in Peabody. All League members are welcome to attend, whether a delegate or not. Options for attending one or two days are available.

Registration and pre-convention materials ("Last Call") were distributed via email Friday, April 5, to all members, and can be accessed from the LWVMA web site at <http://lwvma.org/member-resources/convention-council/>. The deadline for registration is **May 6**.

All Are Welcome at the Friday Night Banquet

An option to attend the banquet only (\$55) is available on the registration site. The banquet includes dinner and the guest speaker, beginning at 7 pm, or come at 6 pm to participate in the Silent Auction and cash bar. This is a great option for non-members, friends, spouses, and members who cannot attend the daytime events. Click on the registration link above and choose "Friday banquet only" for one person and "Additional banquet only" if you want to bring a guest to the banquet.

Keynote Speakers

Friday evening banquet: **Meira Levinson**, Harvard Associate Professor of Education
Saturday lunch: **Margery Eagan**, Columnist, Commentator and Talk Show Host

Dr. Meira Levinson writes about civic education, multiculturalism, and youth empowerment. Her latest book, *No Citizen Left Behind*, argues that the United States suffers from a civic empowerment gap as shameful and anti-democratic as the academic achievement gap targeted by No Child Left Behind.

Margery Eagan is a longtime columnist with the *Boston Herald*, a talk radio host, and a frequent guest on CNN, ABC, Fox News, and WGBH's Friday "Beat the Press" program on *Greater Boston*. Her radio show, which she co-hosts with Jim Braude, recently moved to WGBH Radio.

Agenda and Workshops

The overall agenda and workshop topics are posted on the registration page and on the Convention 2013 section of lwvma.org. Workshop topics include ideas for increasing League activities and visibility, effective lobbying and advocating for League-supported positions, creating a Facebook page, League moderator training, and election reform efforts.

National League Stands Against Keystone XL Pipeline

By Jessica Jones, LWV-US

The League has long fought battles to protect clean air and water, prevent harmful pollutants that contribute to climate change, and inform the public of what they can do to get involved in the ongoing battle to protect public health and the environment. A major threat to our safety is currently being considered by the U.S. State Department: the Keystone XL (KXL) Pipeline.

The proposed KXL Pipeline stretches 1,700 miles from Alberta, Canada to the Gulf Coast. It will carry the dirtiest oil on the planet through the U.S. to be refined and then shipped overseas to other countries. The KXL pipeline will threaten the safety of our drinking water, promote a bad energy policy and increase the greenhouse gases in our atmosphere that contribute to climate change. This pipeline is a risky venture that is not in our national interest.

The recent Environmental Impact Statement from the U.S. State Department does not adequately evaluate the long term effects that the pipeline has on our climate, public health and energy security. The State Department is accepting public comments on this document and a strong showing from our grassroots supporters to emphasize that building the pipeline is too dangerous to the water we drink, the air we breathe and the way of life for a large portion of our country can help turn the tide on possible approval of the pipeline.

If approved, the KXL Pipeline would generate three times the global warming pollution as conventional oil production. The U.S. should be a leader on fighting the effects of climate change, not facilitating the creation of additional pollution to harm the planet.

What's more, the proposed pathway for the KXL pipeline would go through the Yellowstone River and the Ogallala Aquifer. Both of these water sources are essential to providing drinking water to humans and for irrigating agriculture. A spill along the proposed route would put public health in danger.

The U.S. needs to focus on creating sustainable and clean sources of energy. Approving the KXL Pipeline will produce more dirty oil that will increase the threat of climate change and increase the world's dependence on oil. If the U.S. is serious about creating a clean energy economy, it needs to lead the world towards the creation of clean energy production.

The League's fiscal year began April 1, so it is time to renew your membership if you haven't yet done so. 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 Thursdays) _____
Conservation Commission (1st & 3rd Thurs.) _____
Housing Authority _____

SKILLS LEAGUE COULD DRAW ON

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

BEST TIME TO CALL YOU:

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

*Some of these can be seen on cable TV

Rides to the Polls (Again!)

It never seems to stop! Since we have no Bulletin in June, now is the time to let you know that the LWVA will be offering rides for the

U.S. Senate General Election, June 25

from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. If you can help as a driver at any time during those days, please let Phyllis Maddox know by calling 781-646-4362 or emailing PhyllisMaddox@comcast.net.

Phyllis Maddox

MAY 2013

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

