

BULLETIN

League of Women Voters
Arlington, Massachusetts

www.lwva.com

November/December 2014

Calendar

11/4	Tuesday 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.	General election. If you can give rides to the polls, please contact Phyllis Maddox (781-646-4362, PhyllisMaddox@rcn.com).
11/10	Monday 7 p.m.	LWVA Board Meeting at Kim Haase's home, 88 Park Ave., Apt. 401. Directions on page 2.
12/4	Thursday 6 p.m.	Holiday Party and potluck at Joan Robbio's home, 4 Bradley Rd. Come and bring a friend! See page 3 for details.
1/12	Monday 7 p.m.	LWVA Board Meeting at Phyllis Maddox's home, 55 Hillside Ave. Directions will be in the January Bulletin.
1/19	Monday 6:45 p.m.	Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Birthday Observance at Town Hall. Refreshments at 6:45, program at 7:30. See last page for details. Save the date!

We extend a warm welcome to our newest members:

Megan Burns, 169 Mount Vernon St.
Molly Flueckiger, 55 Fairmont St. #2

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

Engage. Participate. Inform.

These are three verbs that describe the LWVA's civic role in our community.

Engage: We inspire conversation and discussion about issues by holding forums, conducting studies, and publishing our positions. We seek new members to become involved in the League and volunteer in its efforts.

Participate: We drive voters to the polls and register people to vote so that they can participate in the democratic process.

Inform: We invite speakers to our holiday party, annual meeting, and other events so that we may learn more about our town and topics that are important to our League. We invite the public to attend.

As I write this, the November election is just over a week away. Thank you to all the League members who volunteered to help with voter service activities this fall. I hope you have a happy, healthy holiday season and that you can join us at our annual holiday party on December 4th.

Angela Olszewski

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. 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.

The building entrance is on Paul Revere Road; push the button for Apt. 401 to be buzzed in.

LWVA LEADERSHIP 2014–2015

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
Abigail Fair, Publicity	781-643-0666
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.

You're Invited to LWVA's Holiday Party!

**Thursday, December 4, 2014
6:00 - 9:00 PM
Joan Robbio's Home**

Mark your calendars now for the Arlington League's annual holiday potluck party!

Appetizers and drinks will be served at 6:00, and the main course will start at 6:30.

**This year our featured guest speaker will be
Arlington's Town Counsel Douglas Heim.**


Friends and family members are welcome.

Directions to Joan Robbio's house, 4 Bradley Road:

Leaving Arlington Center via Mystic Street (Route 3), take a left onto Ridge St. Bear right at the island rotary. Take the third right after the rotary onto Winchester Rd., then the fourth right onto Bradley Rd. Joan's home is the third house on the right.

Please let Meredith Zona know by Sunday, November 30, if you can attend and what dish you would like to bring. If you need a ride, please tell Meredith and we'll make arrangements. Call her at 781-648-2753 or e-mail mzona@fstinc.com. Hope to see you there!

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Initial Free Consultation for League Members

LWVA Voter Registration Project at Arlington High School

By Elizabeth Thompson, Chair, Voters Service



On October 6, Anne Linn and I sat at a table in the rear corner of the cafeteria at Arlington High School with the LWVA banner taped on the wall behind us and a sign on the table saying "Register to Vote." In the next two hours we registered 10 high school students who are 18 years old, or will be, by Nov. 4, and thus can now vote for the first time on Election Day. We also registered a teacher who had recently moved to Arlington, and an adult cafeteria worker. Our voter registration activity was the inspiration of an AHS senior, Julia Harris, whose teacher, Ms. Kerry Dunne, had suggested that she contact the LWVA about registering eligible students at AHS. Ms. Harris said it was often difficult for eligible seniors to find the time to register at Town Hall. We had already obtained authorization from the Town Clerk to run the registration event, and picked up the forms from the Clerk's office in advance.

The school officials let us know that because of the need for the public schools to stay politically neutral, we would need to keep the event clear of any advocacy handouts connected to the Nov. 4th election. We agreed to what is an understandable and reasonable position, and all went smoothly and with the school administration's encouragement of the registration event. I was pleased to see the school's support for a very visible lesson in civics. We said that we expected that we could run another registration event in the spring prior to the local election so that the graduating seniors would be able to register to vote in that election for the first time.

The school was ready for us as we checked in and got checked in on the visitor logbook. The school had broadcast information that day about the event and location, so they were all set to go. They kindly had set up the table and chairs for us, and we brought the registration forms from the Clerk's office. and we stayed there for each of the four thirty-minute lunchtime slots in the school schedule. Julia Harris came by and introduced herself, and Rebecca Straubing, an intern at the *Arlington Advocate* and an AHS senior, also came to the table to take photos and talk about the event. She said that Eileen Kennedy, the Editor of the *Advocate*, had assigned her to report on the story, which appeared in the Oct. 9, 2014, edition of the *Arlington Advocate*.

The chief expressions on all of the students' faces were smiles and excitement. The students came over, usually with one or more pals, to pick up the registration form. They took the forms back to their lunch tables and usually were surrounded by friends. As often happens with teenagers, the registration event became a social activity, and in a way an informal rite of passage to adulthood in front of their peers. They were almost electric with excitement. Anne and I had fun and encourage LWVA members to participate in future registration events at the High School.

On the next page is a photo of the event, with Anne Linn, and Elizabeth Thompson, and a new voter.



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

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The League welcomes new members at all times. 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..... \$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 _____ 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

The **27th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Observance** will be held on the holiday in his name, Monday, January 19, 2015 at the Town Hall Auditorium, 730 Mass. Ave.

Doors will open at 6:45pm for light refreshments.
Program will begin at 7:30pm.

Musical Presentation by the People's Baptist Church Ensemble.
Featured speaker is Afarr Weaver, poet, playwright and scholar.

A free will offering is taken to benefit local programs that further the goals of justice, peace and equality.

Last year's monies from sponsors, friends and the free will collection were donated to the MVP-NAACP Freedom Fund (\$150),
and to the Arlington Public Schools for:
African American Scholarship \$500
Students attending the Model Congress in PA \$500
A retreat for discussion of racism \$400
Artist in resident Winfred Rembert \$500
Professional development towards cultural competency \$1,500

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