



BULLETIN

League of Women Voters
Arlington, Massachusetts
www.lwva.com

November/December 2017

Calendar

11/4	Saturday 1 p.m.	Climate Change forum at Falmouth Public Library. See below for details.
11/7	Tuesday 7 p.m.	LWVA Board meeting at Anne Linn's home, 7 Linden St. Directions on page 2.
11/14	Tuesday 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.	Single-payer health care lobby day, State House, Boston. Watch lwvma.org for more information.
12/13	Wednesday 6 p.m.	LWVA Holiday Party at Joan and Jim Robbio's home. See page 3 for details. Friends and family welcome!
1/9	Tuesday 7 p.m.	LWVA Board meeting at Carolyn Parsons' home, 23 Brewster Rd. Details in the January Bulletin.

LWVMA Climate and Energy Solutions Series Concludes

Saturday, November 4, 1 p.m.
Falmouth Public Library, 300 Main Street

"Extreme Events and Climate Change, Boston Area and Cape Cod: What We Know and What We Can Do"

Speakers: Dr. Ellen Douglas (UMass Boston School for the Environment), Stephanie Madsen (Sustainability Coordinator, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution), and Dr. Robert Max Holmes (Deputy Director and Senior Scientist, Woods Hole Research Center)

*What have we observed from our changing climate?
What changes are in our future, especially for Cape Cod?
What plans are in the works to adapt to these changes?*

Co-hosted by the League of Women Voters (LWV) of Falmouth and LWV of Massachusetts

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

The fall season is my favorite time of year. My family has recently gone on the annual apple picking excursion. From a large field strewn with vines and pumpkins of all sizes, a few large pumpkins were picked for decorating steps and porches. My granddaughter, Kathryn, is becoming quite discerning. "It won't do" was her response to a number of pumpkins that I thought were perfectly fine.

The League will welcome Ken Pruitt as our speaker for the holiday gathering in December. (See page 3.) Ken has recently been hired as Energy and Project Manager for the Town of Arlington. What initiatives has/will the Town undertake to reduce our energy footprint? Lighting, heating systems, weatherization, bike sharing, etc. are all being addressed. What is being planned for our community in the next few years? Angela Olszewski reminds me often that the League has the best speakers and potluck dinners. Please come.

A number of League members have been gathering signatures for an initiative petition. The proposed law would create a citizens commission to consider and recommend potential amendments to the United States Constitution to establish that corporations do not have the same Constitutional rights as human beings and that campaign contributions and expenditures may be regulated. The League thanks Janice Bakey, Kim Haase, Kathy Fennelly, Ann FitzGerald, and Nancy Gray for gathering signatures. Petitions are available for you to sign at the home of Kathy Fennelly, 97 Gray St., and the home of Ann FitzGerald, 162 Summer St.

Carolyn Parsons

Directions to Anne Linn's home:

7 Linden Street is just off Park Avenue in Arlington Heights. If you are coming from Massachusetts Avenue, it is a left turn, just after Florence Avenue and before Oakland Avenue. If you are coming from Route 2, of course, it is a right turn just after Oakland Avenue.

It is the first house on Linden Street, on the right.

LWVA LEADERSHIP 2017–2018

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
Katharine Fennelly, Voters' Guide	781-648-1794
Kim Haase, Bulletin Editor	781-643-3429
Amy Pearsall, Publicity	646-483-8709
Margaret Reiners, Bulletin Mailing	781-646-9611
Janice Bakey, Email Coordinator	781-643-4345
Diana Eastman, Webmistress	774-266-3422
Colleen Kirby, Board Member at Large	781-648-2447
Nancy Gray, Board Member at Large	781-646-4590

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!

Wednesday, December 13, 2017

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.

Main course will start at 6:30.

Our featured guest speaker this year will be Ken Pruitt.

Ken Pruitt is the Town of Arlington's Energy & Project Manager, a new position the town created to administer Green Communities grants and projects that are instrumental in helping the town reach energy reduction and sustainability goals. Come hear about the Green Communities program and what's ahead for Arlington in its quest to reduce energy use and promote renewable energy alternatives.

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, December 10**, 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 meredith.zona@stantec.com. Looking forward to seeing you there!


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Initial Free Consultation for League Members

To advertise in the Bulletin, email or call Kim Haase, c.haase@comcast.net, 781-643-3429.

Day on the Hill: Moving the Needle on League Priorities October 24, 2017



By Colleen Kirby

Day on the Hill this year featured presentations on four key priorities for this session and requests for action by lobbying your legislators:

- Automatic Voter Registration, S373/H2091: This bill is in the Joint Committee on Election Laws, so legislators can help getting this bill out of Committee for a vote. <https://lwwma.org/voting-and-election-information/automatic-voter-registration-a-legislative-priority/>
- Carbon Pricing bills, S1821/H1726, S.1876/H.2700, S.1846/H.2706, S.1849/H.3395, S.1875/H.1725: All of these bills are currently in the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy. Ask your Senators and Representatives to contact that committee's chairs and the leadership and push to have these bills brought to the floor for a vote. <https://campaignforcleanenergyfuture.org/resources/>
- Safe Communities Act, S1305/H3269: If your legislator is on the Joint Committee for Public Safety and Homeland Security, encourage him/her to vote the bill out of committee. Sen. William Brownsberger is the only local legislator on that committee. <https://lwwma.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/S.1305-H.3269-Safe-Communities-written-testimony-final-draft.pdf>
- Comprehensive Criminal Justice Reform, H3935, S2185 H.3935, also called the Council of State Government bill, is in the House Ways and Means Committee. Urge your representatives to contact the Committee chair and leadership to bring this bill to reduce recidivism to a vote. Representatives are also urged to support a comprehensive omnibus bill with the above provisions, including the addition of Parole Board Reform, after the Senate votes on S.2185. S.2185, also called the omnibus bill, will be voted on by the Senate on October 26. Senators are urged to vote yes and support H.3935 to reduce recidivism by bringing this bill to the Senate floor for a vote. <https://lwwma.org/addressing-income-inequality/>, <https://lwwma.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/H.74.Reduce-Recidivism.testimony.final.pdf>

Keynote Addresses

Keynote Speaker Sen. Cynthia Creem is a Newton League member, and she spoke from the heart about fighting for criminal justice reform since 1999. She says we need to be Smart on Crime and is glad that her bill to Eliminate Mandatory Minimums for Low-Level Drug Offenders is part of the omnibus bill to be voted on Thursday. She says we need to pass these bills to decrease our high recidivism rate that is over 40%. We need to get rid of mandatory minimums since that law is catching up many substance abusers, it is unfair especially to minorities and the poor, and it keeps people from getting the services they need to rehabilitate. She wants to see the age of juveniles raised to 19 and the age of children from 7 up to 12, as younger than that, is not in the best interests of the child. She says Life without Parole for juveniles is not okay, and

(Continued on page 7; photo on page 6)



Colleen Kirby dropping off LWVMA legislative sheets to Rep. Sean Garballey's new aides Ryan Justice and Derek Keenan. Rep. Garballey is supporting all the League priority bills for Carbon Pricing, Safe Communities, Automatic Voter Registration ,and Comprehensive Criminal Justice Reform.

Photo by Colleen Kirby



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League of Women Voters
for its contribution to
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Day on the Hill (continued)

the Supreme Court agrees. She says diversion programs work, such as UTEC (<https://www.utec-lowell.org/>). We need to protect the parent-child relationship so parents shouldn't be allowed to testify against their child, same as they can't testify against their spouse. She strongly supports the Romeo and Juliet rule for minors engaging in consensual sex. She is concerned that Massachusetts allows solitary segregation for up to 10 years and there is no data collected, so this bill would make it possible for people to prove they can live in the general population. She expressed dismay that 9 of 11 District Attorneys (not DA Marian Ryan) are fighting this reform because they want to maintain control without even hearing the evidence, which is the role of the judge. She said, "Judges should be the ones who decide sentences, not District Attorneys." She said we need bail reform and the use of risk assessment tools. She also spoke about the need for diversion and restorative justice, the need to take the children of primary caretakers into account when they are sentenced, and whether or not someone can afford the fines and fees levied. She asked why a person is jailed for a partial payment of child support when they can't earn more money to pay. She added that we need to reduce access to CORI records based on "resisting arrest" so people can keep their work licenses and housing.

Sen. Creem also spoke about the need for Automatic Voter Registration, as we have 680,000 eligible residents in Massachusetts who are not registered. She said that many other states are doing this and their registration numbers have gone way up, by turning the program into opt-out rather than opt-in. She thinks our current procedure is "suppression." There is no change to eligibility of who gets to vote.

The other keynote speaker, Speaker Pro Tempore of the House Rep. Patricia Haddad, focused on Automatic Voter Registration, saying that only 25-30% of some communities turn out for local and state elections. And she said that this bill should help register more young people. She said it is not good that some town election polls are only open from 12-8 p.m., which is not good for people who work. She said, "Decisions are made by the people who show up." She also spoke about her support for carbon pricing and that she used to be known as the Queen of Coal, because of the two coal-fired plants in her district, but now she is the Witch of Wind and supports efforts to increase wind production. She also said Criminal Justice Reform is important to bring people back into society in a way that is better for our communities and to break the cycle of poverty, substance abuse, mental illness, and crime.

See <https://lwvma.org/strong-showing-at-day-on-the-hill/> for another writeup and associated materials.

League Member Report: The Citizen's Police Academy

By Nancy Gray

On the night of Saturday, October 21, I rode in an Arlington Police squad car with Officer Bobby Smith, a young man, just married last year, and a life-long Arlington resident. We were on patrol from 8 to midnight – we rode around checking neighborhoods, walked around saying hello to small shopkeepers, and stopped at the many little restaurants in East Arlington and on Broadway. It was a quiet night in Arlington.

This is part of the Citizen's Police Academy, which is an 8-week course, 6 to 9 p.m. each Thursday, on the second floor of the Arlington Police Station. The three hours go by quickly, with questions from a lawyer, a retired professor, a man who is thinking of getting into law enforcement, a foreigner learning about us. I enjoyed talking to them at the break. About 30 residents take the course at a time.

We learned the history of the department, explanation of ranks and general structure, and talks about crime scenes. Two experienced detectives played off each other teasing, and I was surprised how their experiences match detectives on TV. Dispatcher Danielle Smith publishes the Crime Bulletin each day so all officers know what is going on, and she keeps statistics and does analysis. Inspector Gina Bassett is a liaison between the police, the prosecutors and the courts. I was delighted to see two such impressive women. We have a graduation ceremony on November 16.

There is a new machine that sees fingerprints on just about anything. We also saw the activity in the dispatch room.

The heartwarming and reassuring parts of it were the talks by all levels: officers, lieutenants, captains, detectives, inspectors – each showing respect for us and for one another. We went to the shooting range in the basement and walked along the corridor by the jails. The beds are slabs, the cells are open on one end – the blankets are made of fabric that pulls apart so jailed persons cannot hang themselves.

Best of all, the police department earned full state re-accreditation and received its award on October 12.

Our fiscal year began April 1. Please pay your dues if you haven't yet!
Thank you so much 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
- 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

**Save the Date:
30th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
Birthday Observance**

Monday, January 15

Town Hall Auditorium

Doors open at 6:45, program begins at 7:30

Free and welcome to the public

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Debora Jackson, Yale University

A canned good for the Arlington Food Pantry would be appreciated, and a free will collection will be taken to support programs that further the work of Dr. King.

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2017

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

