

BULLETIN

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

November/December 2019

Calendar

11/7	Thursday 7 p.m.	LWVA Board meeting at Meredith Zona's home, 1 Andrews Way. All members welcome. Directions on page 10.
11/12	Tuesday 7 p.m.	Community Discussion with Middlesex County Sheriff Peter Koutoujian at the Angier Elementary School, 1697 Beacon Street, Waban, hosted by the LWV of Newton. The LWVA is a co-sponsor. See page 5 for details.
11/19	Tuesday 7 p.m.	Robbins Library's Democracy After Dark presentation on public-space technologies, in the Community Room. See last page for details.
12/12	Thursday 6 p.m.	LWVA Holiday Party at Joan and Jim Robbio's home, 4 Bradley Rd. Details on page 3. Friends and family welcome!
1/20	Monday 7:30 p.m.	Save the date for the annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Birthday Observance in Town Hall. Details will appear in the January Bulletin.

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

Fall is upon us. The leaves have turned to their traditional autumn hues of gold, orange, and red. There is a chill in the air. Thoughts are turning toward Thanksgiving and for many of us, a winter holiday season. Since this Bulletin covers the months of November and December, I will take time to reflect upon both of these.

I am thankful that I live in a democracy. I am thankful that I can vote and that my vote counts. I am grateful that I live in Arlington and am able to participate in Town Meeting and on volunteer committees where I have a say in how our town government works. I appreciate that our Constitution provides me with the right to free speech. I am happy that I belong to the League and that, through our activities and action programs, I can help advance values that are important to me. Our voices are heard. The work we do makes a difference.

Now, from thankful to giving. I thank you for your support of the LWVA. If you haven't recently volunteered to help with an activity or attended an event, I ask you to consider giving your time to do so. Reconnect at our annual holiday gathering. This year, we welcome Arlington's Library Director as our speaker and will share delicious dishes at our potluck. If you make a gift list, consider giving the gift of League membership. It's a unique idea for the hard-to-buy-for person on your list and could be the perfect gift for that friend who keeps considering joining, but just hasn't done it. Please remember that although our official title is the League of Women Voters, we invite and welcome all people to join.

Happy holidays!

Angela Olszewski

LWVA LEADERSHIP 2019–2020

Carolyn Parsons, Co-President	781-646-9309
Angela Olszewski, Co-President	781-648-8649
Meredith Zona, Organization VP	781-648-2753
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Ann FitzGerald, Membership Director	781-646-9711
Katharine Fennelly, Voters' Guide	781-648-1794
Susan Born, Candidates Night	617-448-4179
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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.



Come to LWVA's Holiday Party!

Thursday, December 12, 2019

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 Andrea
Nicolay.**

Andrea Nicolay is the Town of Arlington's Director of Libraries. Please
come to learn about the latest happenings and future plans for this
vibrant town resource.

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 8**, 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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Newton League Hosts Discussion with Sheriff

On **Tuesday, November 12** at 7:00 p.m., the League of Women Voters of Newton (LWVN) will host a community discussion led by Middlesex Sheriff Peter J. Koutoujian. Sheriff Koutoujian will talk about the work of the Middlesex Sheriff's Office, partnerships with local law enforcement, and efforts to address the needs of justice-involved individuals with substance use and mental health disorders. He'll also discuss innovative programs for incarcerated military veterans and young adult offenders. This topic meeting will take place at Angier Elementary School in Newton, at 1697 Beacon Street, Waban, MA.



Middlesex Sheriff Peter J. Koutoujian

Peter J. Koutoujian has been Middlesex Sheriff since he was sworn in by former Governor Deval Patrick on January 21, 2011. In February of 2019, Koutoujian was elected Vice President of Major County Sheriffs of America, representing sheriffs from the most populous counties in the country. Koutoujian currently serves as President of the Massachusetts Sheriffs' Association, and is a founding member of Law Enforcement Leaders to Reduce Crime & Incarceration, a group committed to reducing rates of incarceration. He has also been recognized as a "Champion of Justice Reform" by the Coalition for Public Safety, a national bipartisan collective advancing criminal justice reform.

Prior to serving as sheriff, Koutoujian served as a state legislator holding several leadership positions, including Chairman of the Joint Committee on Financial Services and Chairman of the Joint Committee on Public Health. Additionally, he chaired the Commonwealth's OxyContin and Other Drug Abuse Commission created in 2004. A staunch public safety advocate, Koutoujian has also led efforts around victims' rights and suicide prevention.

A lawyer by trade, Koutoujian served as a Middlesex County prosecutor before being elected to the Massachusetts Legislature. Koutoujian is a graduate of Bridgewater State University, the New England School of Law, and Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government.

RSVPs to info@lwwnewton.org are appreciated!



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League of Women Voters
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Criminal Justice Reform Legislation for 2019-2020

By Colleen Kirby

Juvenile Justice Bills:

Better Outcomes for Young Adults <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/S825/> / <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/H3420/> Rep. O'Day, Rep. Khan and Sen. Boncore;

Reduce Recidivism among Emerging Adults <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/S940/> / <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/H1486/> Rep. O'Day, Rep. Khan and Sen. Friedman;

Juvenile Expungement <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/S900/> / <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/H1386/> Rep. Decker, Rep. Khan and Sen Creem;

Clarifying Consent Laws for Adolescents <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/S1014/> / <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/H1493/> Rep. Vega, Rep. Lewis and Sen. Rausch

These four bills will improve outcomes for juveniles and young adults involved in the criminal justice system by focusing on rehabilitation tailored to what works for this age group. It expands on programming we already know works, such as the Department of Youth Services, PACT unit in Middlesex County, Roca and UTEC. They recognize young people as a distinct population where second chances are more likely to work. These bills help diminish consequences on communities of color or impoverished communities.

- In 2013, Massachusetts raised the age of juvenile jurisdiction through age 17 and saw a decrease in juvenile crime. S825/H3420 would gradually raise the age of juvenile jurisdiction to include ages 18-20 and provide appropriate services. There would be no change for serious offenses as is currently the case for youth age 14 and up.
- Young adults under age 25 or 26 aka “emerging adults” have distinct developmental needs and the highest recidivism rates if incarcerated. S940/H1486 provides for programs targeting this age group within the juvenile justice system including individualized case plans, family engagement, access to education, abolishing the use of solitary and restraints, community-based pre-release, access to physical, mental and dental health, prohibitions against discrimination of LGBTQ individuals, and prohibition of incarceration solely due to lack of placement by another state agency.
- Many young people who interact with the juvenile justice system are often children of color or children without means. A large number have experienced mental illness, learning disabilities or school failure. S900/H1386 allows for expungement beyond “one court appearance” as is current law for those up to age 21. It will enable expungement for misdemeanors after 3 years and felonies after 5 years as long as there are no new charges in that time. It will limit offenses ineligible, to the same offenses ineligible for sealing. It will minimize triggering mandatory minimum sentences.
- Massachusetts is one of four states that don't protect teens engaging in consensual sexual activity with peers from being criminally charged with statutory rape. S1014/H1493 provides a very limited exception, without changing statutes protecting anyone from forcible or non-consensual sexual assault by youth or consensual activity with a significantly older person.

(Continued on page 9)



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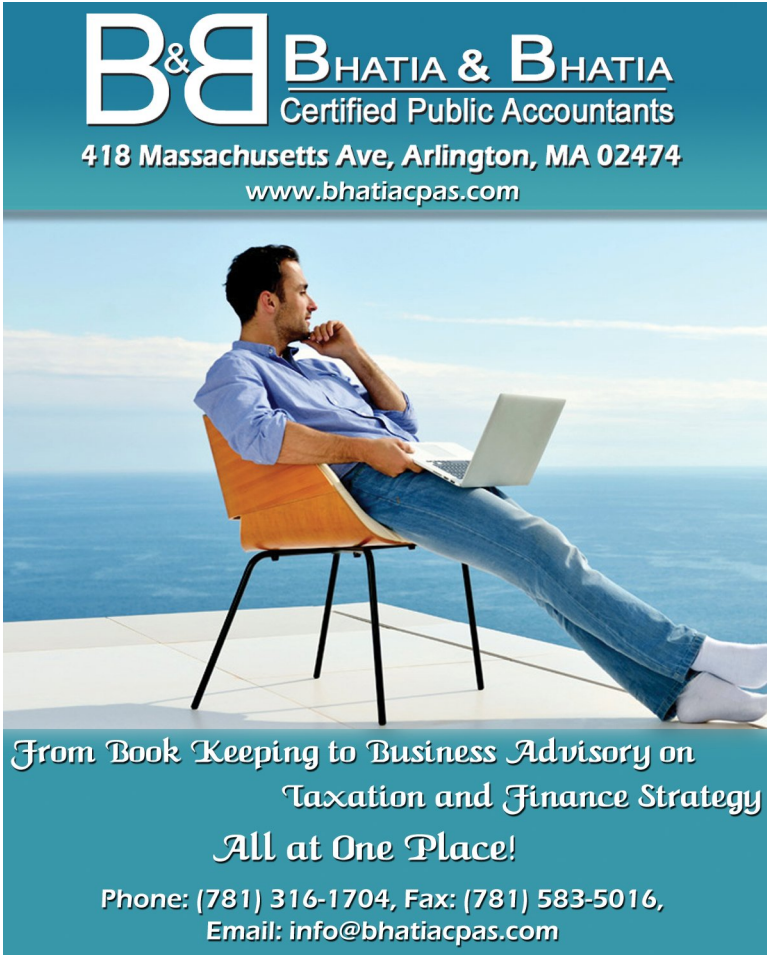
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Criminal Justice Bills (Continued)

Parole Reforms:

Parole Board <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/S1390> / <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/H3457>

Rep. Vargas, Sen. Creem;

Presumptive Parole <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/H1541> Rep. Dave Rogers;

Reducing Mass Incarceration/Parole Review for All

<https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/S826> / <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/H3358> Rep. Livingstone, Sen. Boncore

Since the 1970s, both incarceration rates and length of sentences in Massachusetts have increased, but paroling rates have not. An effective Parole Board helps people reenter society by focusing on public safety and making sure people get the supports they need to be successful. By extending parole review to all, individuals who have been wrongfully convicted or people who have undergone transformation will have a chance to address concerns about public safety if they were to be released. And for everyone there would be a chance to set rehabilitative goals.

- By increasing the number of persons serving on the parole board, hearings can be held prior to an individual's parole eligibility date, so more people would be released to parole rather than directly into the community. S1390/H3457 also ensures that several parole board members will have training in psychiatry, psychology, social work, treatment of substance use disorder, or be a licensed health care professional in order to assess an individual's needs. This bill also establishes evidence-based guidelines and the use of a risk-assessment tool, takes good behavior and program participation into account, takes disabilities into account, improves transparency, and reduces time between parole reviews.
- Use of a risk assessment tool based on the Massachusetts parole eligible population is designed to depoliticize parole board decisions. H1541 will make sure the risk assessment tool is validated and updated to reduce discriminatory decision making, and it will include good behavior, participation in work, education and treatment programs. It will allow the Department of Health to intervene for disabled individuals who need extra supports.
- Parole review for all after serving 25 years would enable rehabilitative goal setting and make the Department of Corrections a safer facility for all. S826/H3358 would limit what is akin to the death penalty. Massachusetts has the sixth highest percentage of life without parole sentences in the country, over 1000 individuals, and nearly one third of the prison population is serving a sentence of more than 20 years. This population has been increasing over the past 40 years despite violent crime and murder decreasing.

Treatment, Not Imprisonment: <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/S937> / <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/H1343> Rep. Balser and Sen. Friedman

To stop substance addiction, it is better to keep people in treatment rather than putting them in custody.

- The opioid death rate is 120 times higher for people recently released from custody compared to the rest of the population. This bill allows judges to order a person to get treatment, but not to be sent to jail just for having a relapse as long as they are engaged in treatment.
- Few jails provide treatment, and it is not the ideal place for rehabilitation. Recovery is more likely for an individual who can be honest about missteps with their treatment provider, if they are no longer in danger of being incarcerated.

(Continued on next page)

Criminal Justice Bills (Continued)

Strengthen Inmate Visitation: <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/S1379/> / <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/H2047/> Rep. Decker and Sen. Chang-Diaz

Visitation should be encouraged and facilitated, not unduly restricted.

- Visits with family and community members have been shown to reduce recidivism and lead to better outcomes. This bill eliminates overly broad restrictions on visitation.
- Includes training of jail and prison staff on the importance of visits and how to promote safety and positive interactions with families and visitors.
- Addresses gender bias and sexism.
- 7 percent of all US children have had a parent in jail or prison at some point, more likely for children of color. Visitation is important for family bonds, and it helps with successful reentry.

Directions to Meredith Zona's home, 1 Andrews Way:

From the west end of Arlington, turn onto Overlook Rd., at the lights on Summer St. 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 second left onto Hutchinson Rd, second left onto Morning-side Dr., first right onto Windmill Lane, first left onto Old Colony Rd., and first left onto Andrews Way; see directions in italics above.

We welcome 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.

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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

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**DEMOCRACY AFTER DARK PRESENTS
BETA BLOCKS:
EXPLORING NEW APPROACHES FOR
COMMUNITY-LED INNOVATION IN PUBLIC SPACES**

Eric Gordon, professor of civic media and the director of the Engagement Lab at Emerson College, will present on Beta Blocks, an experiment in putting communities at the center of decision-making about public realm technologies, including sensors, drones, scooters and more. The Beta Blocks project establishes “exploration zones” in Boston’s neighborhoods where technologies are temporarily installed so that people can explore their public value, see the data they are collecting, and imagine how they might enhance residents' quality of life. The process involves youth and adults, advances data literacy, and enhances local influence.

**Tuesday, November 19
7:00 p.m.
Robbins Library
Community Room**

Thanks to the Arlington Department of Planning and Community
Development for co-sponsoring this program

November/December 2019

**League of Women Voters of Arlington
Post Office Box 461
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