

BULLETIN

League of Women Voters
Arlington, Massachusetts

www.lwva.com

October 2012

Calendar

10/2	Tuesday 5 to 7 p.m.	Special event to honor longtime League member Jane Howard, Selectmen's Hearing Room, Town Hall, 730 Massachusetts Ave.
	Monday 10/8	LWVMA annual Phonathon begins. Give before Oct. 8 to avoid a phone call; if you give over \$100 before this date, LWVA will receive 15% of your gift. See page 8 for details.
10/10	Wednesday 8 p.m.	Special Town Meeting.
10/16	Tuesday 7 p.m.	LWVA Board Meeting at Elizabeth Thompson's home, 74 Yerxa Rd. All members welcome. See page 3 for directions.
10/17	Wednesday 8 p.m.	Deadline to register to vote in the November election. The Town Clerk's Office will be open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on this day.
10/18	Thursday 7:30 to 9 p.m.	Conversation on the Cuban Missile Crisis with Thomas Putnam, Director of the JFK Library, at Arlington High School. See page 7 for details.
10/26	Friday 4 p.m.	Reception for Woman Suffrage Exhibit on second floor of Town Hall. The exhibit is currently open; see page 7 for details.
11/6	Tuesday 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.	General Election. If you can give rides to the polls, please contact Phyllis Maddox — details on last page.

Note: Because of the Special Town Meeting on October 10, the League Meeting with Alan Manoian, Arlington's new Economic Development Coordinator, is being rescheduled.

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,

As I write this message, my thoughts are all jumbled because I am leaving in just a few hours for a week's vacation in London. A number of items still need to be thrown into the suitcase and I need to get presentable. This time has been set aside to concentrate on League business so that I can call your attention to what has happened and what will happen that might be of interest to a League member.

Setting up the League booth with Phyllis Maddox and my husband, George, at Town Day was not a happy experience. The rain began in earnest as we arrived on Mass. Ave.; a large, black pickup truck was parked in our spot; the people in the adjacent booth space had asked for two contiguous spaces but were, in fact, separated by many spaces and a traffic island. We moved and got more wet. The sun came out as Phyllis and I left to go home and change. The day turned out to be quite lovely, if a bit windy, and many citizens registered to vote or updated their voting status.

Consider attending one of the Thursday night conversations to be held at Arlington High School. The LWV of Arlington is co-sponsor of the Arlington Community Education Conversations with David Whitford on Public Affairs. On October 18, JFK Library Director Tom Putnam will recount how the Cuban Missile Crisis unfolded.

There is to be a Special Town Meeting on October 10 to discuss the use of gas-powered leaf blowers. The discussion should be quite lively. From reading in the Advocate, there are other articles on the agenda. I am hoping that all articles will be decided at this one session.

Jane Howard has been an Arlington League member since 1975. She has recently stepped down as co-chair of the Vision 2020 standing committee. An event to honor her many contributions to the Arlington community will be held on Oct. 2, in the Selectmen's Hearing Room in the Town Hall. It is with great pleasure that I have been on the committee that is planning this event. League member Janice Bakey will say a few words to mark the occasion.

I thank all of you who have renewed your dues. If you have not sent in a check, please use the membership renewal form on page 9 and return it with your dues to membership chair, Ann FitzGerald. These dues payments are used to support the activities of the League at the national and state levels.

I need to stop typing now and throw in a wash.

Carolyn Parsons

LWVA TOWN DAY BOOTH

By Meredith Zona

Arlington celebrated Town Day on September 15, 2012, and LWV Arlington participated with a booth on Mass. Ave. Carolyn Parsons and Phyllis Maddox organized materials and brought these along with the booth canopy, table, chairs and signs in the early morning to set everything up.

Anne Linn, Ann FitzGerald, Meredith Zona, Elizabeth Thompson, Pat Lieberson, Kim Haase, and Patti Muldoon worked at the booth throughout the day. Kim and Patti were also responsible for packing up the booth at the end of the day.

We registered 24 voters, provided forms for change of address/party/name, identified precinct numbers and polling locations for many interested citizens, and handed out League membership material, literature on the Town's Stormwater Awareness Series, and educational material associated with the Asian Longhorn Beetle, a pest that has killed thousands of trees in Massachusetts.

While the day had a soggy start, it turned out sunny and beautiful, affording the Arlington League the opportunity to connect with a great turnout of Arlington citizens.

See page 5 for a photo.

Directions to Elizabeth Thompson's home, 74 Yerxa Road:

Note: Walkway is uneven. Use safety handrails.

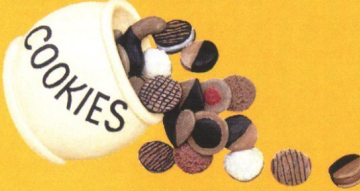
From intersection of Summer St. and Brattle St.:
Go uphill, immediately bearing left onto Hemlock St. Continue uphill on Hemlock to Yerxa Rd. Turn right onto Yerxa Rd. and go to end of block to 74 Yerxa Rd., which is the last house on the left (a ranch house) and park near that corner. Yerxa Rd. forms a T-shaped intersection with Ridge St. in Arlington.

From intersection of Mystic St. (Route 3) with Ridge St.:
Turn left onto Ridge St. Continue uphill (stay to right side of the little rotary) all the way to Yerxa Rd. and park. 74 Yerxa Rd. will be on the corner on the right side of the street as you walk onto Yerxa Rd.

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 Lieberson, 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
Janice Bakey, Email Coordinator	781-643-4345
Phyllis Maddox, Webmistress	781-646-4362

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Initial Free Consultation for League Members



Patti Muldoon and Kim Haase at the League's Town Day booth on September 15.

Photo by Phyllis Maddox



Four Presidential Debates Scheduled for October

For details, see the following URL:

<http://www.2012presidentialelectionnews.com/2012-debate-schedule/2012-presidential-debate-schedule/>




Margaret Potter
Director

Arlington Heights Nursery School
10 Acton Street, Arlington, MA 02476
(t) 781-646-8499 (f) 339-707-6013 www.ahnschool.org




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

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October 18 Conversation on the Cuban Missile Crisis Co-Sponsored by LWVA

Join *Fortune* magazine editor-at-large and Arlington resident David Whitford as he engages influential thinkers, writers and leaders in discussions about topics that shape our world. Pre-registration is encouraged; walk-ins are welcome as space allows. Each event is \$5.00. The first Conversation is October 18:

Thursday, October 18, 7:30 to 9 pm

13 Days in October:

The Cuban Missile Crisis 50 Years Later

Thomas Putnam, Director, JFK Library

As the nation and the world mark the 50th anniversary of the Cuban Missile Crisis, JFK Library Director (and Arlington resident) Tom Putnam will recount how the crisis unfolded. Unique archival video and excerpts from secretly recorded tapes will bring these events back to life. Relive the drama of those famous thirteen days, learn how close the world came to a nuclear exchange, and discuss how lessons gleaned from this history might apply to our times.

Tom Putnam joined the John F. Kennedy Library and Museum in 1999 as Director of Education and was appointed Director in 2007. He is a graduate of the Woodrow Wilson School at Princeton University and was a Fulbright Scholar in Senegal, West Africa.

Two Conversations will follow in November.

Woman Suffrage Exhibit at Town Hall

By Oakes Plimpton

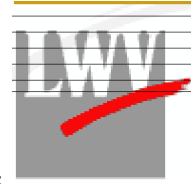
Did you know the men of Arlington cast their votes on the Woman Suffrage amendment to the Constitution back in November, 1915, YES 857, NO 1410. The Amendment was defeated in Massachusetts by 132,000 votes. Mr. C. S. Parker, editor and owner of the *Advocate* approved, having earlier editorialized against passage, warning of the swelling of undesirable voters in the electorate.

The *Advocate* changed its tune when the first vote was held after passage (Nov. 1920): “We have only words of praise for the way Arlington women for the first time exercised this important duty of citizenship.” Interestingly the presidential vote totals for 1920 were 5,303 cast for the Republican ticket of Harding and Coolidge, 1,390 for Democrats Cox and Roosevelt.

Town Hall Gallery has an exhibit of Woman Suffrage cartoon posters by artist Blanche Ames (grandmother of Arlington resident Oakes Plimpton) along with a few anti-suffrage cartoons and posters of the *Advocate* articles and editorials. A September 1915 *Advocate* in twin articles describes an “Anti-Suffragist Rose Tea” (Ida Robbins in attendance) and “Equal Suffrage Open Air meetings” (Margaret Foley, speaker). The gallery is on the second floor of Town Hall open business hours, tours from 1 to 2 p.m. on Wednesdays, Farmers' Market day, with a reception Friday October 26th at 4 p.m.

LWVMA Fall Appeal Begins

From the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts



Donations from our members and friends enable the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts (LWVMA) to continue its efforts promoting democracy through voter education, protection of voting rights, issue advocacy and citizen outreach.

Our members have been generous partners in making democracy work. We are proud that, unlike so many other political organizations, we tackle the issues through our volunteer network of local Leagues and members across the state. For the 2012 election, the League will be, as always, the premier grassroots organization in the state committed to non-partisan voter education and voter registration.

We are once again reaching out to our loyal supporters. For donations of \$100 or more received prior to October 8, your local League will receive 15% of your donation. If you donate any amount prior to October 8, you will not be called during the Phonathon, scheduled to begin in mid-October.

What have we accomplished in Massachusetts over the past year?

- 1,168 first-time voters registered through the High School Voter Registration Project
- Oral and/or written testimony on legislative initiatives at the State House
- Joined in rallies, coalitions, and campaigns for the updated bottle bill
- LWVUS Membership and Leadership Development Program brought to six Leagues in Massachusetts
- Successful statewide events such as Day on the Hill and State Council
- Action Alerts to inform members and urge them to contact legislators
- Two informational events for League leaders, in Needham and Amherst
- Increased communication among local Leagues through emails and web sharing site
- Concord-Carlisle LWV forum on the impact of money on politics

LWVMA's plans for the coming year include:

- Citizen education programs for Fall 2012 elections
- Providing funds for local Leagues through the Citizen Education Grant Program
- A new, improved lwvma.org website
- Expansion of Membership and Leadership Development Program to three more Leagues
- Two League leader events-fall and spring
- Coming together at the May 2013 LWVMA convention
- Continued opposition to attempts at voter suppression
- More ideas from our members yet to come!

The League is counting on you and appreciates your generous support.

We welcome new members and renewals. 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 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

Rides to the Polls

We provided rides to the polls for 3 voters for the primary on September 6th. Thanks to Carolyn Parsons, Patti Muldoon and Ann FitzGerald for volunteering to drive.

We will be offering rides again for the November 6th election from 9 to 3. If you can drive any time during that day, please call or email Phyllis Maddox at 781-646-4362, PhyllisMaddox@comcast.net.

— *Phyllis Maddox*

October 2012

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

