



BULLETIN

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

October 2017

Calendar

10/4	Wednesday 7 p.m.	Climate Change forum at Winchester Town Hall. See page 5 for details.
10/19	Thursday 7 p.m.	Climate Change forum at Cary Memorial Library, Lexington. See page 5 for details.
10/24	Tuesday 9:30 a.m.	LWVMA Day on the Hill. See last page for details. Several Arlington League members will be attending. If you'd like to join us, call Colleen Kirby at 781-648-2447.
11/4	Saturday 1 p.m.	Climate Change forum at Falmouth Public Library. See page 5 for details.
11/7	Tuesday 7 p.m.	LWVA Board meeting at Anne Linn's home, 7 Linden St. Directions on page 2.

We extend a warm welcome to our newest member:

Pamela Samuels-Fortes, 125 Pleasant St., #205, 02476

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

I want to issue a fall challenge to action. Many of our great programs and projects have come about because a League member was interested in an issue or knew of a great speaker on a relevant topic. If you think of something, say something! Last fall, we hosted an excellent event with the Middlesex County Sheriff. Speakers at our holiday party and annual meetings always attract new and potential members (of course, the food at our potlucks is also legendary). Policy positions and changes have resulted from studies, meeting observations, and voter service activities.


All are welcome at our board meetings, and contact information for all LWVA leadership can be found in this bulletin. So if you have an idea and would like to volunteer, we would like to hear from you!

Angela Olszewski

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.

Town Day: League Members Greet Voters

By Kim Haase

On a gray but comfortable Saturday, September 16, LWVA members welcomed voters to our Arlington Town Day booth. The level of interest in the League was high, as usual.

It was not a banner year for voter registrations, since it's not an election year in town. We also wonder if more voters are registering online these days. We provided information about the LWVA, the State League's Climate Change Series, and the drive to enact Automatic Voter Registration (AVR) in Massachusetts.

Many thanks to our booth staff, Kathy Fennelly, Ann FitzGerald, Wendy Forgie, Nancy Gray, Kim Haase, Phyllis Maddox, Joan Martin, Carolyn Parsons, Kim Siebert, Meredith Zona. Phyllis and Carolyn managed the setup, and Kim Haase and Patti Muldoon were joined by George Parsons and Bill Thompson for the takedown. Our new tent is great!



Joan Martin and Phyllis Maddox at the LWVA booth on Town Day 2017.
Photo by Meredith Zona



Kim Siebert and Ann FitzGerald offer information to voters at the booth.
Photo by Phyllis Maddox

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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.

LWVMA Climate and Energy Solutions Series Continues

Wednesday, October 4, 7 p.m. (6:30 refreshments)

Winchester Town Hall Auditorium, 71 Mt. Vernon Street, Winchester, MA

“The Health Benefits of Renewable Energy Choices: A Role for Carbon Pricing”

Speaker: Dr. Jonathan Buonocore, Program Leader, Climate, Energy, and Health at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, The Center for Health and the Global Environment

What are the sources and health impacts of air pollution?

What is carbon pricing and how would it positively affect our health in Massachusetts?

Co-sponsored by: League of Women Voters of Winchester, League of Women Voters of Massachusetts, Wright-Locke Farm Conservancy, and Winchester Farmers' Market Community Hub

Thursday, October 19, 7 p.m.

Cary Memorial Library, 1874 Massachusetts Ave., Lexington

“Greening the Grid: Preparing for Our Clean Energy Future”

Speakers: Dr. Ariel Horowitz (Synapse) and Megan Herzog (Staff Attorney, Conservation Law Foundation).

What is the electric grid and who runs it?

Why is the grid important as we transition to clean energy?

How can the grid be modernized to support the transition?

Presented by the League of Women Voters of Lexington and the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts. Co-sponsored by Conservation Law Foundation, MA

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

Ballot Question Study Gets Started

From the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts

The ballot question study committee has started meeting to delve into the laws, history, impact, and other procedural issues involved in statewide ballot questions. The study was approved at the 2017 Convention.

The approved scope of the study is to review the Massachusetts laws and regulations that govern the ballot question process, consider the consequences of current law based on past ballot questions, and propose concrete next steps that LWVMA could take to enact change, if the study results in recommended change.

Members of the study committee are Karen Price, committee chair, LWVMA board and LWV Needham; Donna Hooper, committee vice-chair, LWVMA board and LWV Lexington; Karen Callanan, LWVMA; Carlyn Carey, LWV Cape Cod Area; Shelley Drowns, LWV Waltham; Patricia Groves, LWVMA; Carol Patey, LWV Needham; Jim Pillsbury, LWV Framingham unit; and Florence Seldin, LWV Cape Cod Area.

The Committee plans to have consensus questions and study materials available to local Leagues in late 2018, with the goal of presenting a new position to Convention 2019.

Note: The LWVMA has a guide to the current 2018 ballot questions at <https://lwvma.org/guide-to-2018-ballot-initiatives/>, categorizing them by the League's positions on them.



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League of Women Voters
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Forum on Effective Citizen Lobbying

By Colleen Kirby

On September 18th at the First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church in Arlington, the church's Mass Incarceration Working Group hosted a workshop on "How to be an Effective Citizen Lobbyist." Colleen Kirby from the League of Women Voters of Arlington spoke, as did newly elected Senator Cindy Friedman.

Colleen spoke about the steps to making change happen and then how to involve legislation if that is needed. 80 people attended the presentation, which underlined the following steps.

Step 1: Get involved.

Step 2: Join with others, whether it be at the local, statewide or national level. It's good to have the support of others, so you can have support for the long haul, much as our local Arlington League has been together now for almost 70 years.

Step 3: Learn about your issue; do your homework; define your end result. Find out what is already being done on the issue you are passionate about. What does the government know about your issue? Is this an issue that requires legislation? Is this an issue that you can work together with an agency to solve? Is this an issue that other groups are working on already? Do you have enough people involved, or do you need to spread the information you've learned? And specific to the League, is this an issue the League is already working on and have we taken a position on it? See <https://lwvma.org/advocacy/league-positions/>.

Step 4: Develop relationships with all interested parties, especially those who have the power to make a change. These include Sen. Cindy Friedman and Representatives Dave Rogers and Sean Garballey, if your issue is one that can be solved legislatively at the State level.

Step 5: Form coalitions and educate others. Can you join with other groups or local leagues in other communities and coordinate actions? Do you want to hold a forum or workshop to educate yourselves and other community members about the issue? Do you want to write a letter to the editor or put a program on Arlington's cable station, ACMI?

Step 6: Be prepared to take advantage of changes in the political situation. For any issue, you never know when things may be favorable, so it is good to be prepared and take advantage of that opportunity.

Step 7: Show public support so decision-makers can act. Either through phone calls, letters, letters to the editor, protests, or visits to legislative offices, you can help make your issue a political issue and give support to those making decisions so they see a lot of people care about your issue.

If everything goes well, you will have success, but in many cases, you will have to keep trying to move things forward. And if your issue is one that needs legislation, you need to understand that your legislators cannot solve this on their own. Every activist is needed to move complex issues forward. Each of you has the ability to make things happen.

(Continued on next page)

Citizen Lobbying Forum (Continued)

If you determine that the issue you are passionate about needs to focus on legislative lobbying, it is important to understand the process so you can focus on where to make an impact. Here's a quick and simplified version of the legislative process:

In Massachusetts, the legislative session is two years long. The current session started in January. So late fall of 2016 was the time for advocates to propose legislation or find cosponsors for legislation they are supporting. Usually about 5000 new bills are filed in a short window in January at the beginning of each session. Once a bill is filed and gets a number, other legislators can sign on as cosponsors, indicating support for a bill.

With so many bills it is impossible for each legislator to be an expert on every bill, and only a small number of bills ever make it out of committee. So the most important thing an advocate can do is to be a resource for your legislator: find out what they think about your issue, educate and persuade. (Not someone else's legislator...yours!) Each bill is assigned to a committee and gets a public hearing, usually in the Spring or Summer, and this is where supporting individuals or organizations can give written or oral testimony. You can follow your bill and hearing schedules on the malegislature.gov website. Besides testimony at hearings, you can meet with your legislators, either at a meeting you schedule, or at their office hours in your district. Or you could work on setting up a briefing or program at the State House to provide information to legislators so they can become an advocate for your issue. But as there are 160 Representatives and 40 Senators, you need to have a lot of legislators willing to advocate for a bill — which is why joining an organization and forming coalitions is essential, especially for major legislation (like Criminal Justice reform, the issue I am advocating for this year).

Bills will be reported out of committee this fall or next spring...and very few will come out for a vote. This is why it is important to have legislators advocating for the bill. If a bill comes out, it will be reviewed by other committees, usually Ways and Means of the House or Senate. If it makes it through the committee review period, eventually it will go to the House or Senate for a vote. This is where amendments can be added. If the bill has changed and passed both chambers, it is sent to a conference committee to come out with a compromise version. If the bill isn't reported out by July 2018, the bill dies, and the process starts again for the next two-year session. If it passes, the Governor has 10 days to approve, amend, take no action, or veto.

Notes: *On the next two pages is a handout of advocacy tips. This handout was prepared by Colleen Kirby, criminal justice legislative specialist for the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts and member of the Mass Incarceration Working Group of the First Parish Unitarian Universalist of Arlington, and Lori Kenschaft, Coordinator of First Parish Arlington's Mass Incarceration Working Group. September 18, 2017.*

For a more complete summary of the forum, see Rose Udics' article for YourArlington, <https://www.yourarlington.com/arlington-archives/residents/ideas-fun/lectures/13585-lobby-082117.html>.

“Power concedes nothing without a demand. It never did and it never will.” – Frederick Douglass

“If you’re not hopeful and optimistic, then you just give up. You have to take the long hard look and just believe that if you’re consistent, you will succeed.” – Rep. John Lewis

Making Government Work For You

A. Six basic tips

1. **Phone calls speak louder than emails or letters.** While a pile of postcards may look impressive, a ringing phone has to be dealt with right now, and a phone that rings all day is impossible to ignore. That said, an email is easy to send and better than nothing. Mass media – such as tweets, Facebook posts, online petitions, and mass emails – may be totally ignored.
2. **If you’re phone-phobic, write a short script that makes your point in a sentence or two.** Include your name, where you live, and the fact that you’re a constituent. Most calls end up recorded as a checkmark in a tally of how many people are saying what, so don’t fret over the wording. All you need to do is make your point clearly and politely.
3. **In-person meetings are best.** Share your personal story about why you care about an issue. You don’t have to be an expert in order to talk about your values and your concerns. If you want to, bring someone who knows more than you do about the issue or has been directly impacted by it. But just getting to know your legislator, and letting them know that you care about an issue, is enough.
4. **Tell your legislator what action or outcome you want.** Be specific. Ask for a response, so they know they need to get back to you.
5. **Call your own representatives, not someone else’s.** With a few exceptions, legislators generally listen to the people in their district and ignore everyone else. If you want to influence a legislator who isn’t yours, consider these options: (1) Call your legislator of the same type (House or Senate, state or federal) and ask them to speak with their colleague. (2) Do you have any friends, family members, or acquaintances in the district of the legislator you want to influence? If so, call them, explain the issue, and ask them to call their legislator to talk about it.
6. **Be polite.** Respectful language, in writing and speech, will help establish and maintain your credibility. Also, don’t bug your legislators about things they don’t have any control over. Remember they are people too, with lots of claims on their time and attention.

B. Some ways to get to know your State Representative and Senator

1. If you don’t know who your State Representative and Senator are, look them up at <https://malegislature.gov/Search/FindMyLegislator>.
2. Put their phone numbers in your cellphone.
3. Sign up for their email lists, if they have them, so you know what they’re thinking and doing.
4. Read their website and/or other articles about them online. What is their background? What do they care about?
5. Attend events where they are speaking. You might ask a question or talk with them before or after they talk. Even if not, you’ll get an in-person sense of who they are.
6. Go to their office hours in your community. Look for the dates on their website or email list, or in your local newspaper.
7. Set up a meeting with them or their aide at the State House. Ask about their opinions and perspectives, in addition to telling them about yours.

(Continued on next page)

Making Government Work For You (Continued)

8. Introduce them to people directly affected by an issue. You can make hidden constituencies more visible.
9. Call them to discuss an issue you care about.
10. Invite them speak at an event your group is hosting.
11. Invite them to come to an event with speakers you'd like them to hear.

C. How your legislators can support a bill

1. Each bill needs a legislative sponsor – someone who files the bill and takes responsibility for shepherding it through the House or the Senate. Since sponsorship takes time and political capital, legislators need to be selective about how many and which bills they sponsor.
2. Legislators can cosponsor as many bills as they want. Cosponsorship basically means that the legislator is going on record as supporting a bill. The more cosponsors a bill has, the more credibility it has. You can find out whether your legislator is cosponsoring a bill at <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/Search> – use a keyword or the bill number.
3. Legislators can indicate stronger support for a bill by telling the relevant committee chair that they want it to move this session and/or by telling the Speaker of the House or Senate President that they want a vote this session.
4. Legislators can testify at a committee hearing or speak to the press.
5. And of course they can vote for a bill – but only if it comes to a vote, which most bills don't.

D. Other ways you or your organization can support an issue

1. Write letters to the editor in your local paper or statewide papers.
2. Meet with the editor of your local newspaper to inform them about the issue.
3. Show up at committee hearings at the State House. See the calendar at <https://malegislature.gov/Events/Hearings>.
4. Testify at a committee hearing, either as an individual or representing an organization.
5. Hold informational events, with a film, speaker, or panel. Invite your legislators.
6. Get informed and become a resource for your legislator.
7. Be in it for the long haul.

E. A few useful references

Want some more suggestions about how to talk and write so legislators will listen? Read Miriam Stein's short book, *Make Your Voice Matter with Lawmakers: No Experience Necessary*. Or download "The Citizen Lobbyist – Making Your Voice Heard: How to Influence Government Decisions," by the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts: lwvma.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Citizen-Lobbyist-LWVMA.FINAL_.pdf

Want to understand the process by which laws are made in Massachusetts? Download the UU Mass Action guide: www.uumassaction.org/uuma/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/How-Laws-Are-Made-in-MA-Final.pdf

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

Top Legislators to Keynote "Day on the Hill"

Two of the highest ranking women in the state legislature -- Rep. Patricia Haddad, Speaker Pro Tempore, and Sen. Cynthia Creem, Assistant Senate Majority Leader -- will discuss the outlook for LWVMA's priority legislation in a keynote presentation at Day on the Hill, our annual lobby day. LWVMA's legislative specialists will also discuss pending bills on automatic voter registration, carbon pricing, immigration and criminal justice reform.

Day on the Hill will be on **Tuesday, Oct. 24**, in the Great Hall at the State House. Registration begins at 9:30 a.m. and the program runs from 10 a.m. to noon. Look for registration information on <https://lwmma.org/> soon.

October 2017

League of Women Voters of Arlington
Post Office Box 461
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