

BULLETIN

League of Women Voters
Arlington, Massachusetts

www.lwva.com

September 2013

Calendar

9/21	Saturday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.	Arlington's Town Day celebration in Arlington Center. Volunteers needed for the LWVA booth — see below for details.
9/25	Wednesday 8 p.m.	Last day to register to vote in the special state primary for the 5th Congressional District.
9/30	Monday 7 p.m.	LWVA Board Meeting at Elizabeth Thompson's home, 74 Yerxa Rd. Directions on page 2.
10/15	Tuesday 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.	Special state primary for the 5th Congressional District.
12/10	Tuesday 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.	Special general election for the 5th Congressional District.

**HELP WANTED!
LEAGUE TOWN DAY BOOTH
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2013**

With summer winding down, it's time to prepare for Arlington's Town Day. LWV Arlington will have a booth at this event that will be loaded with information about voter registration, precinct maps, the upcoming Congressional election, proposed legislation of interest to the League, League membership, policies, and activities, and other voter service literature. We are looking for volunteers to work in 1- or 2-hour increments from 9 AM to 4 PM.

This is a great, fast-paced event, with two to three people at the booth at all times, so both seasoned and new League members are welcome to participate. If you can help out, please call Meredith Zona at 781-648-2753, or send an email to Meredith at mzona@fstinc.com. We look forward to seeing you on Town Day!

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 dislike the heat and humidity, but today was just glorious. My husband and I made a fruit cobbler to be shared with family members. The oven was turned on for about an hour! As the hot weather begins to recede, I am putting my co-president's hat back on my head and am thinking about upcoming events.

The League has reserved a booth at Town Day where citizens will have the opportunity to register to vote and where information will be available as to how to run for Town Meeting. Many residents new to Arlington and New England have no idea how the local government operates. Hopefully, petitions will be available for signatures that will advocate for an enhanced Bottle Bill. (As a new League member more than three decades ago, one of my first activities was to go door to door distributing literature in favor of passage of "The Bottle Bill".) The proposed expanded bill will include non-carbonated beverages. The LWVMA has pledged to collect 10,000 of the 100,000 signatures needed by mid-November to ensure it is placed on the November 2014 ballot. Please visit the booth to sign one of the petitions and consider volunteering for a time slot between 9 am – 4 pm. (Refer to the article on page 1.)

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 7 and return it with your dues to our Membership Director, Ann FitzGerald. These dues payments are used to support the activities of the League at the national and state levels.

Carolyn Parsons

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 2013–2014

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
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.

League Members: Please Help Fund Robbins Library Sunday Hours

By Kathy Fennelly

The strength of Arlington lies in the generosity of its citizens. We are proud of the way the Robbins Library contributes to that community with books, research materials, movies, children's programs, music CDs, audio books and Internet access. Its two (free) rooms are in constant use for programs and ideas. Please consider helping us make the Library even more accessible by restoring some of the lost hours.


The cost of keeping the Library open from 2-5 pm for one Sunday is \$1,250.00. This covers the ten staff people needed and utilities. The staff includes librarians both in Reference and in the Children's Room, circulation assistants, pages and a custodian.

Opening on Sundays, from October through May, has proven to be VERY popular. If you choose to donate to this project, you will be listed at the library as a member of the LWV and sponsor of our Sundays. And any amount you can donate is welcome.

As a member of the League of Women Voters of Arlington, you are part of a community that enriches and strengthens our Library. We know that by joining our contributions together, we, as an organization, can make a difference, and open the doors of the Library Sunday afternoons.

To donate, please send a check to "Friends of Robbins Library" and mail it to Director's Office, Robbins Library, 700 Mass. Ave., Arlington, MA 02476. You can also donate online at <http://www.robbinslibrary.org/giving/donor-program>; there is a Comment space to write in League of Women Voters of Arlington.

Kathy Fennelly is a longtime member of the LWV of Arlington and Chair of the Robbins Library Board of Trustees.



Margaret Potter
Director

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LWVMA Takes Leading Role in Updated Bottle Bill Ballot Question

The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts is asking voters to expand the deposit on single-serve beverage containers to non-carbonated beverages.

The League joined MassPIRG and the Sierra Club on Wednesday, August 7 in filing a request with the Massachusetts Attorney General to put the updated bottle deposit question on the ballot in November 2014 and will be working to collect the signatures needed to get the issue on the ballot.

To volunteer for the signature drive, go to <http://lwvma.org/updated-bottle-bill-volunteer-form/>.

The current five-cent deposit on carbonated beverages was enacted in 1982. Supporters of the ballot initiative argue that the deposit should be expanded to include such non-carbonated beverages as water, tea and sports drinks. They have been encouraging the legislature to make that change for over 14 years, but the legislation has failed to pass.

“This ballot initiative will give the citizens of Massachusetts the chance to update the bottle deposit law, and past polls have shown widespread support for an expanded deposit program,” said Anne Borg, co-president, League of Women Voters of Massachusetts. “Deposits encourage consumers to return bottles so they can be recycled instead of discarding them, reducing litter. Look around any playground and you see discarded water bottles, but few discarded soda cans. Expanding deposits will also reduce the costs to cities and towns to collect and dispose of trash that includes containers that should be recycled.”

“It makes no sense to have a deposit on a bottle of sparkling water but not a bottle of still water. Consumers can be easily confused about which bottles to take back for redemption and which to put in their recycling bins,” she said.

Supporters of the expanded bottle deposit initiative, including the League, will be collecting signatures this fall to put the question on the ballot. As with the original bottle bill initiative that led to the 1982 law, members of the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts will work to make the updated bottle bill a reality!

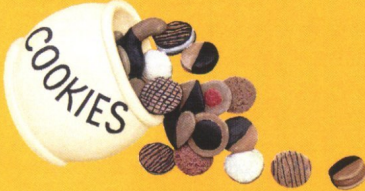
Note: The League of Women Voters of Arlington plans to have petitions available at our Town Day booth on September 21.

Welcome New Member

We extend a warm welcome to our newest LWVA member:

Abigail Fair
70 Hillside Ave.
Arlington, MA 02476
781-643-0666

LAKOTA BAKERY



781 646-0121

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for its contribution to
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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..... \$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 Phonothon _____
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

In Memoriam: Nancy Sweeney

By Carolyn Parsons

Longtime League member Nancy Sweeney has died after a long battle with oral cancer. Nancy, along with her husband John, also a League member, took part in a number of League activities: reviewing the warrant for Annual Town Meeting, counting ballots for the election of officers at various Housing Authority locations, and helping with various tasks associated with Candidates Night.

Nancy served as a Jason Russell House Tour Guide and as Chair of the Tour Guide Committee for several years. Nancy was a member of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Observance Committee, a member of the Human Rights Commission, and a member of the Superintendent's Advisory Committee especially interested in hiring minority educators.

Because of an interest in local public policy, Nancy was a Town Meeting Member (TMM) for many years. Not that I was keeping track, but Nancy did not leave the Town Hall early as many other TMMs do. She took the process of governing Arlington seriously and was always interested in the thoughts of her fellow TMMs.

On a personal note, when an event had a need for a contribution of food, she was always willing to cook something delicious. She cared deeply about the Arlington community and worked to ensure that Arlington was warm and welcoming to all. Nancy will be missed.

September 2013

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

