

BULLETIN

League of Women Voters
Arlington, Massachusetts

www.lwva.com

September 2015

Calendar

9/12	Saturday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.	Arlington's Annual Town Day celebration. Volunteers are needed for the LWVA booth — see below for details.
10/6	Tuesday 7 p.m.	LWVA Board Meeting at Meredith Zona's home, 1 Andrews Way. Directions on page 2.
10/16	Friday 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.	Save the date! Wine Reception and Benefit for the Arlington Historical Society and the Jason Russell House. Details in the October Bulletin.

Come and Help Out! LEAGUE TOWN DAY BOOTH SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2015

The end of summer means it's time to get ready for Arlington's Town Day. LWV Arlington will have a booth at this event that will be packed with information about voter registration, precinct maps, proposed legislation, 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.

Election law reform is well under way — online voter registration is already in effect, and pre-registration of 16- and 17-year-olds will be coming next year. So we'll have a lot to explain!

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

It's hard to believe that fall is right around the corner. I hope everyone had a wonderful summer. Town Day, on September 12, is the unofficial start of the new League season. Once again, we will be registering voters and providing other helpful voter service information. If you are able, please sign up for a time to work at our booth.

This fall also marks an important date in suffrage movement history: Elizabeth Cady Stanton, born on November 12, 1815, would be celebrating her 200th birthday this year. It is rewarding to know that the League carries on her legacy by encouraging people to vote and taking positions on important issues. I am offering a challenge to LWVA members: to honor Elizabeth Cady Stanton, introduce another woman to the League this season. Bring a friend or neighbor to a meeting or encourage someone to join our group!

Angela Olszewski

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. The entrance through the garage is a little easier for those not used to climbing many stairs to get 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 2nd left onto Hutchinson Rd, 2nd left onto Morningside Dr., 1st right onto Windmill Lane, first left onto Old Colony Rd., and 1st left onto Andrews Way; see directions in italics above.

LWVA LEADERSHIP 2015–2016

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	781-646-8192
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
Abigail Fair, Publicity	781-643-0666
Katharine Fennelly, Voters' Guide	781-648-1794
Kim Haase, Bulletin Editor	781-643-3429
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Phyllis Maddox, Webmistress	781-646-4362
Colleen Kirby, At Large	781-648-2447

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 Takes Position on Mugar Development

Editor's Note: Elizabeth Thompson made a statement on behalf of the LWVA at the August 12 Board of Selectmen meeting in Town Hall on the subject of the proposed development of the Mugar property. This is the slightly reworked version that she mailed to the BoS the next day.

Date: August 13, 2015

To: The Members of Board of Selectmen of the Town of Arlington

From: Elizabeth Thompson, for the League of Women Voters of Arlington

Re: LWVA Statement about the Oaktree Proposal to Develop the Mugar Property

When the Alewife Station was being planned in the late 1970s, I served on the League's committee to review the entire draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the construction of the Redline Extension to Alewife Station. We wrote the League's comments, which were among other comments from citizen groups which we submitted to the Board of Selectmen and the relevant town departments. The EIS is the document that the US Environmental Protection Agency (the EPA) requires for all construction projects built with Federal funds. The final EISs for the Alewife Station project (including more paving projects in the mid-1980s) were issued in 1977 and in 1982 for public review at Robbins Library and continue to be archived in the Library and the office of Planning and Community Development.


A major part of the EIS focused on potential flooding in the Alewife area because of the huge footprint of the 2,000 car garage structure and paved approaches to it, plus added paving and development around the station, which is sited on what was, and still is, wetland in a large floodplain left from the Ice Age.

When the Ice Age glaciers receded 12,000 to 15,000 years ago, they created the hills of modern Arlington with underground streams throughout. That groundwater flows downhill into storm drains throughout the town, and around Spy Pond. All that water then flows from the Pond to East Arlington and the rest of the town into the Mystic River watershed. In 1982, the Mass. Dept. of Environmental Engineering, the Technical Services Branch of the Dept. of Water Pollution Control documented all these sources and the direction and volume of the water flows, including identifying all storm drains that feed Spy Pond, and the surrounding neighborhoods and roads. **That 1982 MA DEQ report noted that the water volume in these pathways for water increases whenever there are heavy rains.** The Mugar site abuts the East Arlington area that includes flood-prone residential streets and parks, commuting routes, the Hardy Elementary School District, and the Sunnyside Ave. neighborhood.

The plans for the Mugar site that the Oaktree Development engineers presented to the Selectmen at the Special Meeting in Town Hall on Aug. 12 appear to be environmentally sensitive techniques of engineers. However, even if Oaktree's designs were able to handle big storms now, that wouldn't cure the history of flooding which will continue to challenge Arlington due to climate change.

(Continued on page 5)

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League Position on Mugar Development (Continued)

Based on the past experiences of state engineers who paved the Alewife Station area with roads, bikes, pedestrians, and buses, Oaktree's added paving in the Mugar area would increase existing flooding from heavy rain events, decrease the absorptive capabilities of the underlying terrain, and also disrupt the abutting drainage patterns for East Arlington and the rest of the town. The Town of Arlington DPW would be left holding the bag for the flooding problems and costs of these added drainage and flooding problems.

The Oaktree developers currently rely on past data for what might be future 100-year or 50-year storms. However, the US EPA data show that the number of big rain events in the lower 48 states is steadily increasing in volume and frequency because of climate change, and trying to fix the flooding problems will remain a moving financial and civil engineering target for the town long after Oaktree and Mugar have left.

<http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/science/indicators/weather-climate/heavy-precip.html>

The Arlington League supports:

- 1) the acquisition and retention of land and water for conservation and recreation, and
- 2) the preservation, maintenance and beautification of existing open space and parks.

We strongly urge the Board of Selectmen and the Town's other elected and appointed officials to guard and plan for the Town's best interests for now and for future generations, and to adopt strategies to protect control of the property currently known as the "Mugar site" for the Town of Arlington.

Respectfully,

League of Women Voters of Arlington
Carolyn Parsons and Angela Olszewski, Co-Presidents
Elizabeth Thompson, Chair, Voter Service

A Little Reminder About Dues

A few members have not yet paid their dues for the 2015-2016 fiscal year. If you are one of them, please fill out the form on page 13 and send it with your check to Ann FitzGerald, 162 Summer St., Unit 1, 02474. If you're not sure, just ask Ann (781-646-9711). Thank you!

State League to Sponsor Charter School Study

From the State League

Members of Leagues around the state, gathered in West Springfield for the 2015 LWVMA Convention, elected Anne Borg of the Newton League and Jean Cherdack of the Northampton Area League as co-presidents of the state League for the next two years. Anne has been co-president and Jean has been a director for the past two years.

The Convention of the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts also approved a two-year state study of charter schools with the aim of developing a position on this subject to be presented to the 2017 Convention.

As action items for the coming two years, the Convention approved a strong voter registration, information and education program centered on the 2016 election; development of an action plan on civic education and engagement; and extension of a committee to review and report on election-related technology.

Other officers elected are Marlene O'Brien of Wellesley, first vice president; Dee Ortner of Concord-Carlisle, second vice president; Shelley Drowns of Waltham, secretary; and Andrea Kozinetz of Newton, treasurer. Karen Price of Needham, elected as third vice president, later decided not to serve on the board.

Additional information on the Convention is available at <https://lwvma.org/lwvma-elects-borg-and-cherdack-as-co-presidents-for-2015-2017/>.



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LWVMA 2015 Convention Report

Editor's Note: Colleen Kirby and Patti Muldoon attended the May 2015 Convention in Springfield on behalf of the Arlington League. What follows is a condensed version of a report from Colleen on the workshops and keynote she attended.

Smart Growth Workshop

According to <http://ma-smartgrowth.org/>, "The Massachusetts Smart Growth Alliance (MSGa) promotes healthy and diverse communities, protects critical environmental resources and working landscapes, advocates for housing and transportation choices, and supports equitable community development and urban reinvestment."

This workshop focused on what makes for a good neighborhood. The desire to have an enjoyable 24/7 community means that you want to have mixed use (residential/commercial mix), walkability, safe neighborhoods, green spaces, clean air, clean water, and healthy food. Trends are towards smaller households and multiple generations living in one house.

There are many ways to focus on creating more community and improving the quality of life in any neighborhood. Think of ways to make places more walkable, use of mass transit, walking trails, bike trails, places to hang out, bench areas in front of cafes, taking over a couple of parking spaces for temporary outdoor seating, playgrounds, murals, banner art, public art, farmers markets, Friends of Parks organizations, meeting spaces, coworking spaces, allowing neighborhood use of school gyms, community gardens.

Campaign Finance Reform Workshop

Passions were high about this issue as LWVUS hasn't been clear on taking positions on an amendment to overturn Citizen's United or the PassMass Amendment even though campaign finance reform in general is a priority. (*Editor's Note: The LWVUS has a study under way, partly instigated by LWVMA. See <https://lwvma.org/lwvma-campaign-finance-project-and-toolkit/> and page 9.*)

The Federal Election Commission isn't enforcing the law. The IRS isn't monitoring 501(c)4s, so it is harder for the Office of Campaign & Political Finance (OCPF) in Massachusetts to do enforcement.

What can we do?

- LWVMA has produced a presentation and a primer that is being used by others. Democracy in the Balance presentations are being given to communities and local leagues and other community groups: https://lwvma.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/GUIDELINES-Democracy-in-the-Balance-PRESENTATION_8_13_14.pdf More people are needed to give these presentations to as many groups as possible to teach people about the issue.
- Research OCPF to track the spending: who is giving to which candidates, which issues seem to be relevant, and how are they voting? More people are needed to do this research.
- We partnered with Maplight to create the Voter's Edge Project to make it easier to find out who is running for office and the local ballot questions: <http://votersedge.org/>
- We can work on the We the People Act (Rep. Cory Atkins and Sen. James Eldridge) as individuals since we haven't gotten direction from LWVUS, or connect with the Amendment to the Massachusetts constitution to nullify Citizens' United: <http://passmassamendment.wikispaces.com/About+the+Ballot+Initiative>

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May Convention Report (Continued)

Putting a Price on Carbon Pollution

The League is supporting both Sen. Michael Barrett's bill (the carbon tax bill) and Sen. Marc Pacheco's cap and trade bill (which we don't have full details about yet). Carbon pricing is supported by Democrats and Republicans.

The best way to decrease greenhouse gas emissions, save money, increase investment in and availability of renewables is to levy a carbon tax. 78% of emissions come from fossil fuels. Individual actions people are taking are just not enough; we need a more efficient, systemic approach to this issue. We need to "transition to alternatives".

The bill suggests a \$10/ton fee which increases over time to \$40/ton, and it is revenue neutral such that any money collected by the fee is returned to individuals in the form of a check to offset the increase in fuel prices. It includes protections for drivers whose commute is greater than average, and for companies dependent on fuel such as taxis and trucking businesses. We know the solution, now we need to develop the political will. We know that when gas prices go up, mass transit use increases, people buy more fuel efficient and hybrid cars. Many politicians, business leaders, international and national organizations are in favor of this approach.

Keynote Speaker: Women's Fund of Western Mass-Elizabeth Barajas-Román

The Women's Fund, <http://www.womensfund.net/>, has been going strong for 17 years, but they now have a dynamic new leader, Elizabeth Barajas-Román, who spoke to the League about their program to develop women leaders in the four western counties of Massachusetts. Their philosophy is to invest in women and girls through supporting other non-profits via educational access, economic empowerment, and freedom from violence programs. They prefer programs with measurable impacts and look for projects that lead to crafting legislation. They get funding from the Pew Charitable Trusts.

In Massachusetts only 26% of our legislature is female. Women don't have the confidence to run, it's not that they don't have the skills. Therefore the Fund runs a Leadership Training Institute, a 10-month program, for women from 18-65 to build their confidence to run for office: the LIPPI Leadership Institute for Political and Public Impact (<http://www.womensfund.net/advocacy/initiatives.htm>). Several attendees at the conference were graduates, and they have several graduates in office or running for office.

At the May State Convention: Patti Muldoon, LWVA Action VP; Marilyn Peterson, outgoing LWVMA Co-President (Acton); Anne Borg, LWVMA Co-President (Newton); Colleen Kirby, LWVA Board.

Photo by Ann Chang



National League Sponsors Two Studies

From the State League

At the 2014 LWVUS Convention, delegates approved a three-part national League program for 2014-2016 that is called “Key Structures of Democracy.” Two parts will involve *member study and agreement using the consensus process*:

- **Constitutional Amendment Process Study:** a study of the process of amending the U.S. Constitution;
- **Money in Politics (MIP) Review and Update:** a review of money in politics issues and update of the LWV’s campaign finance position as to whether the League believes that financing a political campaign is protected by the First Amendment.

The third part of the 2014-2016 Program set up a **Redistricting Task Force** that is assessing what might be needed and to then develop materials for Leagues to use in redistricting efforts across the country. Information on the task force can be found at <http://forum.lwv.org/category/member-resources/our-work/redistricting-task-force>.

Constitutional Amendment Study

- Summer 2015: Consensus questions, study guide and educational materials posted on LWVUS website.
- Late Summer 2015-December 1, 2015: Leagues hold consensus meetings.
- December 1, 2015: Consensus reports (electronic) from Leagues due to LWVUS.
- Late January 2016: LWVUS Board meeting – consensus reports and resulting position(s), if any, approved.

Constitutional Amendment Study background from LWVUS: “This study is not about particular amendments that various people may be supporting or opposing or are just aware of discussion around. It is about the constitutional convention *process* for amending the Constitution, as well as the considerations for evaluating amendments.”

More information about the Constitutional Amendment Study, including the consensus questions, and suggested readings, can be found at <http://forum.lwv.org/category/member-resources/our-work/constitutional-amendment-study>. In addition to the reading list on the LWVUS website, the committee has also recommended the following book: *Miracle at Philadelphia*, by Catherine Drinker Bowen, about the first and only constitutional convention. LWVMA has a few copies of this book available.

Money in Politics Review and Update

- Summer 2015: Education materials posted periodically at LWVUS website. Leagues are encouraged to use these materials for member and community meetings.
- October 2015: Study guide and consensus questions posted on LWVUS website.

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National Studies (Continued)

- October 2015-February 1, 2016: Leagues hold consensus meetings.
- February 1, 2016: Consensus reports (electronic) from Leagues due to LWVUS.
- April 2016: LWVUS Board meeting – consensus reports and resulting position(s), if any, approved.

More information about the Money in Politics Review can be found at <http://forum.lwv.org/category/member-resources/our-work/money-politics-review>. Please check back often; new materials are being added on a regular basis.

LWVUS has set up a *Money in Politics Google Group*, and you can link to and join this group from <https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/lwv-money-in-politics>.

Local League Participation in the Studies

We urge all local Leagues to participate in both studies. The Massachusetts League's advocacy was instrumental in the LWVUS board's decision to recommend that the League take on, in a meaningful way, the issue of money in politics.

For information and assistance on participating in these studies, contact the LWVMA Campaign Finance Committee at lwvus.studies@lwvma.org.

LWVMA Supports Criminal Justice Reform Bills

By Colleen Kirby

Editor's Note: Colleen Kirby is now Legislative Specialist on Criminal Justice for the State League.

Last December I visited Arlington's representatives at office hours to let them know about various bills and legislative actions I'd like to see them support in the 2015/16 legislative session. Then I asked them what they were excited about working on for the 2015/16 session. All three of them, Sen. Ken Donnelly, Rep. Sean Garballey, and Rep. Dave Rogers, told me about the criminal justice reform bills that they were working on. This is when I first found out that of the 23,000 individuals we keep behind bars in Massachusetts at the state and county level, 5,000 of them are being held before they even have a trial. This was a new concept to me. I had always thought that in our justice system one is "innocent until proven guilty." Perhaps I am a bit naïve, but rather, I think I am like most average people, unaware of the injustices our society promulgates in the name of public safety.

Well, I started digging into the policies in Massachusetts and what is happening nationally on this issue. And that's when I found out about Michelle Alexander and her book *The New Jim Crow*, which concludes, based on many years of research, that we have created a new underclass of individuals in our nation, primarily poor, uneducated, persons of color, who are swept up by the criminal justice system and end up marked as "criminals." Well, it turns out that once you are deemed a "criminal," even after you have served your sentence, it can be difficult to own a drivers' license, get a job, get housing, be a volunteer, obtain a job license, or qualify for student loans, which in turn makes it very difficult to live a decent life and provide for your family after you have served your sentence.

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Criminal Justice (Continued)

National trends show a dramatic increase in the number of people we put in prisons and jails since the 1970s. And although Massachusetts has one of the lowest incarceration rates in the country it is still excessively high relative to the world. In fact, Massachusetts incarcerates 8 times as many African Americans (5% of our population) and 6 times as many Hispanics (7% of our population) than white individuals, which shows there is a gross disparity here as well. Massachusetts incarcerates individuals in state facilities and in county jails. The majority of prisoners held awaiting trial are housed in the county jails, although there is a special pretrial unit at the Framingham prison for women awaiting trial.

In a recent study of the pretrial population at the Billerica jail, Sheriff Koutoujian found the population has increased by 30% and the length of stay has also increased by 24% over the past 6 years. And this is while crime rates have been decreasing.

The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts has supported numerous criminal justice reform bills over the past 40 years. And many of the positions we developed in the 1970s and 1980s are just as relevant today. There are several bills the League is supporting that addresses these issues in the 2015/2016 session.

Carolyn Lee (CL) is focusing on 4 of these bills and Colleen Kirby (CK) is focusing on 4 more. And we are both benefiting from the assistance of Legislative Director Carole Pelchat (CP).

1. S.1812-H.3039, An Act relative to motor vehicle license suspension. (CL) This bill repeals the mandatory license suspension and mandates expunging the suspension from the driving records for those previously convicted of drug offenses not related to operation of a motor vehicle. Without a drivers' license it is difficult to go to work, school or live a decent life, and this bill will rectify that situation. <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/189/Senate/S1812>, <https://lwvma.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/H.3039-S.1812-license-suspension.pdf>
2. S.844, An Act updating the definition of felony larceny. (CL) Currently you can be charged with a felony, which could send you to prison for up to 5 years, if you commit a crime that causes damage of \$250, and this bill updates that limit to \$1300. It has been a long time since that trigger amount has been updated, and it does not seem appropriate that stealing one GPS could trigger a felony on a person's record. <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/189/Senate/S844>, <https://lwvma.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/S.844-felony-larceny.pdf>
3. S.71-H.1313, An Act promoting restorative justice practices. (CK) Many communities have developed police partnerships to implement community based restorative justice programs that can be used as an alternative to incarceration and are proven to increase victim satisfaction and decrease repeat offenses. This bill would set up an office to help more communities implement these programs. <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/189/House/H1313>, <https://lwvma.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/S.71-restorative-justice.pdf>
4. S.786-H.1620, An Act to eliminate mandatory minimum sentences related to drug offenses. (CL, CP) It appears that individuals in Massachusetts serving mandatory minimum drug sentences are disproportionately persons of color, and these sentences appear to be more stringent than those for violent offenses. Mandatory minimum sentences can result in suspension of driver's license, denial of public housing and student loans, make it excessively difficult to compete in the job market, and make it more difficult for prison officials to engage these inmates in productive activity. This bill addresses these issues by removing mandatory minimums for non-violent drug crimes and gives the judge discretion to confer sentences, thereby allowing for incarcerated individuals to participate in rehabilitative programs and giving them incentives to do so. <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/189/Senate/S786>, <https://lwvma.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/H.1620-S.786.pdf>
5. S.802-H.1584, An Act reforming pretrial process. (CK) Massachusetts holds 5000 individuals awaiting trial everyday, which prevents them from going to work or school, attending job training, going to mental health or substance abuse programs, or taking care of their families, so we support this bill, which would create formation of a Pretrial Services Division. This new Division would develop a risk

(Continued on next page)

Criminal Justice (Continued)

assessment tool, collect and analyze data, provide training in its appropriate use, and provide programs to pretrial detainees through the Office of Community Corrections to cut down on holding individuals pretrial in jail. It would also do away with the two-tier bail system so that no one languishes in jail solely due to inability to pay. <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/189/Senate/S802>, <https://lwvma.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/pretrial-process1.pdf>

6. S.1255-H.1475, An Act to reduce recidivism, curb unnecessary spending, and ensure appropriate use of segregation. (CK) In Massachusetts it is legal to hold mentally ill, pregnant, juvenile, deaf, and blind prisoners in protective custody in segregated confinement. This can mean isolation in a 60-to-80-square-inch cell for up to 23 hours a day. Massachusetts also allows individuals to be segregated for disciplinary issues for up to 10 years. This bill cuts down on the use of segregation, provides for oversight by mental health professionals, and provides for reentry training for those who have been held. It also provides a mechanism so an individual can earn their way out of segregation through positive behavior. <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/189/Senate/S1255>
7. S.729, An Act relative to parole eligibility. (CK) This bill increases incentives for incarcerated individuals to make it more likely that they will participate in programs that are likely to reduce recidivism, such as work programs, training programs, or life skills programs, by increasing time off for good behavior and by decreasing the time at which an individual becomes eligible for parole. <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/189/Senate/S729>
8. H.1270, An Act relative to the expungement of records of persons falsely accused and juveniles. (CL) This bill provides for erasing records of youths and of individuals who have been cleared of all charges due to false accusations, so that after a sentence has been completed, it does not impede a person's future life. <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/189/House/H1270>

Recently there has been a spate of high-profile cases showing lack of trust between law enforcement and minority communities. You have likely heard about the cases in Ferguson, Cleveland, Texas, and New York, which are just a few of many cases showing questionable interactions between authorities and individuals, many of which have led to the Black Lives Matter protests and a call for reform of the criminal justice system.

If you would like to learn more about these issues or form an Arlington task force to promote a focus on these issues at the state level, please contact Colleen Kirby at kirby.cho@gmail.com. I could really use a small support team to keep up the momentum.

Action Items:

- Contact our legislators and let them know you support their efforts on Criminal Justice Reform issues and want them to support comprehensive reform.
- Get in touch with Colleen Kirby at kirby.cho@gmail.com or 781-648-2447 and help the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts work on getting the word out about this issue to our local leagues.
- Attend the hearings in the fall (most bills are in the Joint Judiciary Committee).

I want to thank the League of Women Voters of Arlington for co-sponsoring the February Unequal Justice forum (<http://vod.acmi.tv/2015/03/unequal-justice-the-consequences-of-race-and-class-in-our-criminal-justice-system/>) held in Arlington at Town Hall. This helped inspire me to volunteer to become a legislative specialist for the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts in April.

**Our fiscal year began on April 1.
Thank you for your support.**

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ARLINGTON
Membership Application/Renewal Form**

Fiscal Year runs from April 1 to March 31

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Address _____ Zip _____ Occupation _____
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_____ 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 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

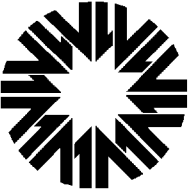
- Computer database
- Graphic design
- Desktop publishing
- Web site maintenance
- Membership development
- Moderating meetings
- Fundraising
- Writing articles
- Other

BEST TIME TO CALL YOU:

(for phone tree reminders) Call before _____ o'clock

*Some of these can be seen on cable TV

September 2015



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