

BULLETIN

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

September 2016

Calendar

9/8	Thursday 7 a.m to 8 p.m.	State Primary Election (yes, Thursday!). If you can help with rides to the polls, please contact Phyllis Maddox. Details on last page.
9/12	Monday 7 p.m.	LWVA Board Meeting at Carolyn Parsons' home, 23 Brewster Rd. Directions on page 2.
9/17	Saturday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.	Arlington's Town Day. We'd love your help with the LWVA booth. See below for details.
9/20	Tuesday noon to 8 p.m.	Special Election on funding the rebuilding of the Minuteman School. If you can help with rides to the polls, please contact Phyllis Maddox. Details on last page.
10/4	Tuesday 7 p.m.	LWVA Board Meeting at Patti Muldoon's home, 67 Smith St. Directions on page 5.

Come and Help Out! LEAGUE TOWN DAY BOOTH SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2016

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, voting locations, 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 has been in effect for a while, and this fall we'll have early voting along with preregistration of 16- and 17-year-olds. So there will be a lot of recent voter-related changes 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 we are reaching the unofficial end of summer. Fall is the time when the League's schedule begins to fill up, again. We are currently gearing up for rides to the polls, voter registration, and Town Day. Please take some time to review the calendar and volunteer.

I would like to highlight Town Day as one of our more fun and social activities. Spending time at our Town Day booth is a great way to speak with Arlington residents about registering for upcoming elections and LWVA events. It is an opportunity to increase awareness about the League. Whether you are a seasoned member or a newbie, you can participate. We pair people together and provide lots of literature. Consider helping at our Town Day booth!

Angela Olszewski

Directions to Carolyn Parsons' home, 23 Brewster Road, Arlmont (9/12 meeting):

At St. Camillus, the large Catholic church adjacent to the access road for Route 2, go under the overpass, stop at the stop sign, cross the access road on the other side, and proceed straight ahead onto Sagamore Rd., which curves to your right. Go the end of Sagamore, turn left. The house, on your right, has natural cedar shingles and black shutters.

LWVA LEADERSHIP 2016–2017

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
Colleen Kirby, Board Member 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.

Annual Meeting Attendees Learn about CPA Progress and Projects

By Kim Haase



Organization Vice President Meredith Zona graciously hosted the LWVA Annual Meeting on June 16. After a delicious potluck supper, we heard from our guest speaker Clarissa Rowe, then elected our leadership for the coming year in a brief business meeting.

Clarissa Rowe, a landscape architect by profession, is the chair of the Community Preservation Committee (CPC), after advocating for many years for Arlington to adopt the Community Preservation Act (CPA). Voters approved the CPA in 2014. A 1.5% surcharge on property tax bills since August 2015 provides funding, in addition to funding from the state. The CPC has nine volunteer members, five appointed by town bodies and four from the the general public (appointed by the Board of Selectmen and the Town Manager). See <http://arlingtonma.gov/town-governance/all-boards-and-committees/community-preservation-committee> for more information about the CPC.

Each project must fall into one of three categories: open space and recreational land, historic preservation, and affordable housing. At least 10% of the funding must be directed to each area.

The CPC members were appointed in November, and in March they approved five projects for FY2017 from among those that applied. Clarissa spoke at length, with visual aids, about the five planned projects.

Kimball-Farmer House (Affordable Housing): CPA funds contributed to the renovation of this house on Massachusetts Avenue in the Heights by the Housing Corporation of Arlington. It provides three units of affordable housing, one of them accessible to the disabled. [Update: the project completion was announced August 24. Two the units are expected to be occupied by Sept. 1 and the third soon after.]

Drake Village (Affordable Housing): CPA funds contribute to the replacement of the leaking windows in the Hauser building by the Arlington Housing Authority.

Whittemore-Robbins Carriage House (Historic Preservation): CPA funds contribute to the renovation of this building by the Town (the applicants were the Arlington Department of Health and Human Services and the Arlington Historical Commission). Currently the building is used for storage by the Whittemore-Robbins house, but other uses may be found for it later.

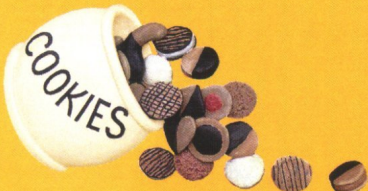
Spy Pond Edge Protection and Erosion Control (Open Space): CPA funds contribute to a feasibility study on shoreline preservation to maintain the pond's water quality (the applicant was the Arlington Conservation Commission).

Robbins Farm Park (Open Space): CPA funds contribute to upgrading fields and making the park accessible to the disabled (the applicant was the Arlington Park and Recreation Commission).

Clarissa concluded by saying that the CPC hopes to receive equally excellent applications for the 2018 fiscal year.

(Photo on page 5)

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Initial Free Consultation for League Members

Four Questions to Appear on November Ballot

On November 8, Massachusetts voters will approve or reject four ballot initiatives:

- Question 1, An Act Relative to Expanded Gaming, would allow an additional slot parlor in the state.
- Question 2, An Act to Allow Fair Access to Public Charter Schools, would allow up to 12 new or expanded charter schools in the state each year.
- Question 3, An Act to Prevent Cruelty to Farm Animals, would prohibit the confinement of pigs, calves, and chickens in a way that prevents them from moving freely, or to sell products of animals so confined.
- Question 4, The Regulation and Taxation of Marijuana Act, would permit the possession, use, distribution, and cultivation of marijuana subject to regulation and taxation.

The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts has taken a position only on Question 1: The League has a position in opposition to legalized casino gambling and urges a NO vote on this question. See <https://lwmvma.org/lwmvma-positions-on-ballot-questions-2/> for more information.

For details on the contents of these initiatives, see <http://www.mass.gov/ago/government-resources/initiatives-and-other-ballot-questions/current-petitions-filed.html>.

Clarissa Rowe, Chair of the Community Preservation Committee, describes one of the first five CPA projects at the LWVA Annual Meeting June 16. Co-President Angela Olszewski provides support. Story on page 3.

Photo by Phyllis Maddox

Directions to Patti Muldoon's home, 67 Smith St. (10/4 meeting):

Take Mass. Ave. to Arlington Heights, then

Left up hill on Dundee
(across from Trader Joe's)
Right on Arnold
Left up hill on Williams
Right on Smith St.

If you're coming down Park Avenue, you can take Wolaston to Wilbur to Williams to Smith.

67 Smith St. is the brick house on the corner.



LWVA Remembers William J. Maytum ("Bill") for Decades of Notary Services to Arlington Voters for Absentee Ballots

By Elizabeth Thompson

Bill Maytum, a long-time member of the Arlington League until he passed away on July 19, 2016, provided notary services to homebound disabled and ill voters in Arlington specifically for notarizing their absentee ballots (provided by the Clerk's office). I remember giving him these voters' names and addresses, and he would go to their houses anywhere in town to perform this service in the evenings and weekends, and then collect the sealed ballots to give to a League board member to take them the Clerk's office before each election deadline. The people he helped in this way took their duty as voters very seriously and were always so happy to have this help from him and the League. It was a pleasure for me to help with this over many years. Bill and his wife, Claire, were always cheerful and ready to chat for a few minutes about the political doings in the town (they were long-time members of the both the LWVA and Town Meeting).

Before I wrote this, I spoke with Bill and Claire's daughter, Betsy Maytum Matson. She was pleased to hear about this voter service role that her dad quietly performed for so many years. The League of Women Voters of Arlington wishes to express the League's gratitude for Bill's faithful and unstinting service to the voters of the Town of Arlington.



**Salutes the
League of Women Voters
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Who Is Our Sheriff and What Does He Do?

By Colleen Kirby, LWVMA Criminal Justice and Courts Legislative Specialist

This article uses some information from <http://www.bostonmagazine.com/news/blog/2016/07/19/massachusetts-sheriffs-election-2016/> (article by Jean Trounstone).

More than half of incarcerated individuals in Massachusetts are under the jurisdiction of our sheriffs at a cost of more than \$500 million per year (\$35,000-\$60,000 per person). Sheriffs are in office for six years, and this year all 14 are up for election, including Middlesex County Sheriff Peter Koutoujian. His challenger is Barry Kelleher, and the primary is September 8th. There is no Republican candidate.

The Sheriff is in charge of the Middlesex County House of Correction (HOC), which holds individuals who have been convicted and sentenced to less than 2 ½ years (473 men in 2015). The sheriff is also in charge of the Middlesex County jail, which holds pre-trial detainees (597 men in 2015). Pre-trial detainees are persons accused of a crime who are awaiting trial (this includes both individuals who can't pay bail and those ordered by the court to be held until trial). Some sheriffs also house state prisoners, but not in Middlesex County. HOCs and jails are often in the same building, as is the case in Middlesex.

Sheriffs are elected officials and are not subject to direct oversight by any state agency, so it is up to the voters to hold them accountable.

The Middlesex County HOC/jail was built for 1,501 detainees and recently housed 1,112 for a 74% occupancy rate.

We do not know how many people are held in segregation. Education is available for pre-high school and high-school equivalency. There are vocational programs for culinary arts, computer literacy, custodial training, construction safety, and food safety. There are treatment programs for addiction, anger management, parenting, and victim impact.

What are their policies concerning education and job training opportunities, prisoner medical care, fines and fees charged to prisoners, pre-release programs, where and how women prisoners are held, willingness to track data, substance abuse or mental health programs, solitary confinement (also called segregation), employee hiring and training, visitation policies, pregnant or post-partum prisoners, public information sharing?

The Ad Hoc Coalition to Stop New Jails has provided information about each sheriff's race, including Middlesex (see <http://www.cjpc.org/Middlesex.htm>).

To get information about the candidates before the primary on Thursday, September 8th:

Barry Kelleher Campaign Information:

Website: <http://www.kelleherforsheriff.com/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/kelleherforsheriff/>

Twitter: @kelleherforsheriff

Peter Koutoujian Campaign Information:

Website: <http://sheriffkoutoujian.com/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/peterkoutoujian>

Twitter: @PeterKoutoujian

LWVA Will Register High School Students This Fall

*By Elizabeth Thompson
Voter Service*

Nancy Gray, Anne Linn, and I are going to help register high school students who will be of voting age in time for the November presidential election. We are all set to hold yet another voter registration event at Arlington High School as soon as the administration gives us the date. AHS Principal Michael Janger is very pleased that the LWVA is doing this again for eligible students and adult school employees.

Many thanks to the AHS administration, students, and eligible adult employees for participating in this important civic duty.

Criminal Justice Reform Makes a Little Progress

*By Colleen Kirby
LWVMA Criminal Justice and Courts Legislative Specialist*

The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts supported eight bills concerning Criminal Justice Reform this past session of the 189th General Court. Seven of the bills ended up in limbo, either in a study order or in the House Ways and Means Committee or in the Rules Committee. So many different ways to get stalled.

There was one win, Chapter 64 of the Acts of 2016 (<https://malegislature.gov/Laws/SessionLaws/Acts/2016/Chapter64>), which makes suspension of a drivers license no longer mandatory for drug offenses that don't involve driving. This bill was passed unanimously by the House and the Senate and signed by the Governor on March 30, 2016. There are many Massachusetts residents eager to get their licenses back.

Although the bill to redefine larceny, so that we do not have the lowest bar set in the nation, did pass the Senate, it became stuck in the House Ways and Means quagmire, so the House did not get a chance to vote on this essential bill. All other bills did not get to the floor of the Senate or the House for a vote, although it was clear that many of them did get heard, tweaked, amended, and changed, so there is hope that they may get through the next session.

What did not get passed but should have, in a nutshell:

- Most importantly, Massachusetts did not change mandatory minimum statutes.
- We also did not increase the felony larceny threshold from what is currently the worst in the nation.
- We did not institute an Office of Restorative Justice to assist in expanding community restorative justice efforts, nor did we expand the option for judges to recommend individual into a restorative justice process.
- We did not alter regulations concerning the use of segregation or solitary.
- We did not set up a mechanism to expunge the records of the falsely accused or of youth or of underage prostitutes or the victims of human trafficking.
- We also did not statutorily alter the pre-trial process nor did we increase incentives for incarcerated individuals to take part in programs so their release is more likely to be successful when they leave custody and they are less likely to return.

**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.

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

**OBSERVE AT
TOWN BOARD MEETINGS***

_____ Selectmen (Mondays)
_____ Redevelopment Board (Mondays)
_____ School Committee (2nd & 4th Thursdays)
_____ Conservation Commission (1st & 3rd Thurs.)
_____ Housing Authority

**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

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

Drivers Needed for Two Elections!

For the State Primary on Thursday, September 8,
the LWVA will provide rides to the polls
from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

For the Special Election on Minuteman funding,
the LWVA will provide rides
from noon to 3 p.m.

If you can work a shift as a driver, please call Phyllis
Maddox at 781-646-4362 or email her at
phyllismaddox@rcn.com.

September 2016

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

