

BULLETIN

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

September 2018

Calendar

9/4	Tuesday 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.	Primary Election. If you can give rides to the polls, please let Phyllis Maddox know. Details on last page.
9/15	Saturday 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.	Town Day in Arlington Center. We welcome volunteers to staff our booth! See below for details.
9/18	Tuesday 7 p.m.	LWVA Board meeting at Meredith Zona's home, 1 Andrews Way. All members welcome. Directions on page 8.
10/2	Tuesday 7 to 9 p.m.	Forum on the state ballot questions (see page 9 for LWVMA positions) organized by the Arlington Democratic Town Committee, Robbins Library Community Room, 700 Mass. Ave.

**COME AND HELP OUT!
LEAGUE TOWN DAY BOOTH
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2018**

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.

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 Nancy Gray at 781-646-4590, or send an email to Nancy at nanhaydon@gmail.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

A recent Arlington Reads Together book was Wonder, by RJ Palacio. Several copies were on display at Robbins Library. I checked one out, read it, and then watched the movie. The story was inspiring and moving. I highly recommend it. One of the parts of the book that I carry with me is the idea of a precept, commonly defined as a guiding principle or rule that is used to control, influence or regulate conduct. Mr. Browne, a character in the book who was a school teacher, introduced precepts to his students.

One of Mr. Browne's precepts was: "Your deeds are your monuments." -- Inscription on an Egyptian tomb

I think of this one when I think about the League's work. We are working to make a difference. We are doing things we think are right and will have a lasting impact. I recently spoke with a couple of friends who are looking to get involved on a committee or in an effort in Arlington. I suggested the League. You don't have to join the board, I told them, but you can pick an activity, like rides to the polls, Candidates Night, or voter registration, where you can make a difference.

As we start our program year this fall, I want to thank everyone who helps with the League's work.

Angela Olszewski

We extend a warm welcome to our newest member:

**Jennifer Susse, 45 Teel St.,
02474**

LWVA LEADERSHIP 2018–2019

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, Treasurer	617-966-4521
Anne Linn, Secretary	781-643-0356
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, Voters Service Committee	781-646-9611
Janice Bakey, Email Coordinator	781-643-4345
Colleen Kirby, Board Member at Large	781-648-2447
Nancy Gray, Board Member at Large	781-646-4590
Susan Born, Voters Service Cmte	617-448-4179
Wendy Forgie, Voters Service Cmte	617-669-2052
Mel Goldsipe, Voters Service Cmte	781-325-2778
Paulette Schwartz, Voters Service Cmte	781-646-1722

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.

State League provides Voter's Guide for September 4 Primary

Check out LWVMA's new Online Voters' Guide to the September 4 primary election at <https://www.InformedVoterMA.org>, and pass the link on to your friends and network. After the primary, the guide will be updated for the Nov. 6 general election.

Our guide is designed to eliminate the hassle of scrolling through dozens of candidates who won't appear on your ballot. You can explore your personalized ballot simply by typing in your street address. Our guide features information about all candidates on the ballot in Massachusetts, as well as candidates' responses to questions posed by LWVMA.

Major Wins in the Legislature!

From the State League

The formal part of the legislative session ended July 31 with some major wins in LWVMA-supported bills:

- Automatic voter registration
- Criminal justice reform
- Civics education
- Gun control
- Women's issues

Take a look at the complete report on the legislation we were following on our website (<https://lwvma.org/lwvma-scores-legislative-wins-with-automatic-voter-registration-womens-issues-criminal-justice-reform-gun-control/>).

In total, our Legislative Action Committee of 19 legislative specialists followed more than 75 bills during this current legislative session, submitting written testimony on all the bills and testifying in person at hearings on many of them.

Thank you for all your emails, phone calls and face-to-face contact with your own Senators and Representatives. Hearing from constituents influences legislators. All of you citizen lobbyists made the difference!

When you attend state legislator candidate forums or run into your legislators this fall, ask them about the prospects for those bills which did not pass, particularly those which were in play until the end of the session.

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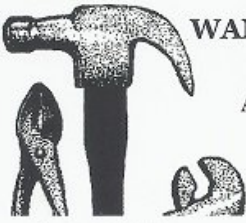


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LWVA Members Learn about Arts Center at Annual Meeting

By Kim Haase

The LWVA's Annual Meeting June 14 featured Linda Shoemaker, Executive Director of the Arlington Center for the Arts (ACA). After members enjoyed a delicious potluck along with the warm hospitality of Meredith and Joe Zona, Linda presented a slide show and described the exciting times the ACA is going through. She also introduced Pam Shanley, ACA Operations Manager.

After many years of residence in the Gibbs School, the ACA has to move because the Gibbs is being converted to house Arlington's sixth-grade students. The ACA is renovating the top two floors of the Central School building at 20 Academy Street, best known as the home of the Senior Center. Not many of us, perhaps, even knew about the 8,000 square feet of space under the roof of the 1904 building. These floors used to house a number of state and town offices (a few will be staying).

The renovations will create a large gallery and performance space along with classrooms, studios, and a large co-working space. Space for the ACA is being reduced from 12,000 square feet, but the new performance space, which will seat about 50, will be more intimate than the theater space in the Gibbs School. It will be rentable for performances, meetings, events, and parties. See <https://www.acarts.org/future-fund> for links to photos of the ongoing renovations. The hope is that the new space will open in October. In the meantime, the ACA has continued to host classes, workshops, and arts camps in other town locations.

While it has been moving from its old location, the ACA has also been expanding into the community. One popular event is the three-year-old Porchfest, where musicians play all over town on a June Saturday. Other events include the Blue Jean Ball fundraiser, a mural project at the Food Pantry, and Arlington Open Studios, which this October 13 will once again be held in both Town Hall and the Central School building. There are also many opportunities for collaboration with other groups.

(Continued on page 7)

Linda Shoemaker addresses Annual Meeting attendees about the work of the ACA.

Photo by Phyllis Maddox





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

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LWVA Annual Meeting (continued)

Funds for the building renovation have been raised by a capital campaign with a goal of \$1 million. 600 community donors have raised almost \$900,000 in two years, including one large grant (\$187,000) from the state.

Linda encouraged League members to spread the word about the new space and programming plans.

The LWVA's annual business meeting presented the 2018-2019 leadership in both on and off Board positions. Some positions remain vacant; please let the co-Presidents know if you're interested.

The League also thanked two longtime Board members who are stepping down: Kathy Colwell, our Treasurer since 2004, and Elizabeth Thompson, our Voters Service chair since 2012.

Board Positions

Co-Presidents: Carolyn Parsons and Angela Olszewski
 Vice President for Organization: Meredith Zona
 Vice President for Action: Patricia Muldoon
 Vice President for Local Action: vacant
 Secretary: Anne Linn
 Treasurer: Joan Martin
 Membership Director: Ann FitzGerald
 Publicity: vacant
 Bulletin Editor/Bulletin Ad Coordinator: Kim Haase
 Members At Large: Colleen Kirby, Nancy Gray
 Webmistress: vacant
 Rides to Polls: Phyllis Maddox

Off-Board Positions

Voters Guide: Katharine Fennelly
 Bulletin Mailing: Margaret Reiners
 E-mail Coordinator: Janice Bakey
 Voters Service Committee: Susan Born, Wendy Forgie, Mel Goldsipe, Peggy Reiners, Paulette Schwartz



ACA Director Linda Shoemaker with League member Kathy Fennelly.

Photo by Phyllis Maddox

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. Come in through the garage if you prefer not to climb the stairs 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 second left onto Hutchinson Rd, second left onto Morning-side Dr., first right onto Windmill Lane, first left onto Old Colony Rd., and first left onto Andrews Way; see directions in italics above.

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League of Women Voters of Massachusetts Positions on Ballot Questions



Question 1: To pass a law relative to patient safety.

LWVMA takes no stand on this ballot question.

This proposed law would limit how many patients could be assigned to each registered nurse in Massachusetts hospitals and certain other health care facilities. The maximum number of patients per registered nurse would vary by type of unit and level of care, spelled out in detail in the question. The proposed law would require a covered facility to comply with the patient assignment limits without reducing its level of nursing, service, maintenance, clerical, professional, and other staff.

The League's stated goal for health care is: "An affordable health care system that provides equal access to quality health care for all." One side on this ballot question argues this measure provides for quality health care; the other side argues this measure would damage the health care system financially and make care unaffordable. LWVMA's position could be interpreted to support both sides, and so LWVMA is not taking a stand on this question.

Question 2: To establish a citizens commission concerning a Constitutional amendment to secure government of the people.

LWVMA supports this question and urges a YES vote.

This proposed law would create a citizens commission to consider and recommend potential amendments to the United States Constitution to establish that corporations do not have the same Constitutional rights as human beings and that campaign contributions and expenditures may be regulated. Any resident of Massachusetts who is a United States citizen would be able to apply for appointment to the 15-member commission, and members would serve without compensation. The commission's first report would be due December 31, 2019.

The national League position states that the League could support a Constitutional amendment if it meets certain criteria. Therefore, studying the impact of a Constitutional amendment, as this ballot question recommends, would be consistent with supporting an amendment only after careful consideration. Supporting this question does not commit the League to supporting any recommended amendment.

Question 3: To retain the law prohibiting discrimination on the basis of gender identity.

LWVMA supports this question and urges a YES vote.

This ballot question asks if voters approve of the current law, passed in 2016, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of gender identity in places of public accommodation. This current law protects the rights of transgender individuals. A yes vote is to keep the current law in place. A no vote is to repeal the law. The exact wording of the question is: "Do you approve of a law summarized below, which was approved by the House of Representatives by a vote of 117-36 on July 7, 2016, and approved by the Senate by a voice vote on July 7, 2016?"

The League supports equal rights for all. Our goal is to secure equal rights and equal opportunity for all and to promote social and economic justice, and the health and safety of all Americans. LWVMA has joined the "Freedom for All Massachusetts" Coalition (<https://www.freedommassachusetts.org/>) in support of a yes vote for this question.

Detailed information on each of the ballot questions is available on the Secretary of State's website: <http://www.sec.state.ma.us/e/e/>

LWVA Co-Sponsors Candidates' Forum July 24

On July 24, the League of Women Voters of Arlington was a co-sponsor of a forum for the District 3 Governor's Council candidates and for the Middlesex County District Attorney candidates. All candidates are Democrats, so the primary election will determine the winner.

James Milan of Arlington Community Media, Inc. (ACMi) moderated the Governor's Council forum between incumbent Marilyn Petitto Devaney and challenger Nicholas Carter. Patti Muldoon of the LWVA moderated the DA forum between incumbent Marian Ryan and challenger Donna Patalano. The forum is available on ACMi; see <http://acmi.tv/programschedule/> for cable broadcast times.

Other co-sponsors of the forum were the LWVs of Lexington and Winchester, ACMi, the American Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts, and the Mass Incarceration Working Group of First Parish Unitarian Universalist of Arlington, where the forum was held.



The LWVA's Patti Muldoon, right, surveys the large crowd just before the start of the July 24 candidate forum at First Parish Arlington. See <http://lwva.com> for more photos of the event.

Photo by Anne Linn

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

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

Drivers Needed for Primary Election!

For the Primary Election on September 4, the LWVA will provide rides to the polls from 9 a.m. 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 2018

League of Women Voters of Arlington
Post Office Box 461
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