

BULLETIN

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

September 2019

Calendar

Thursday 9/5	7 p.m.	LWVA Board meeting at Carolyn Parsons' home, 23 Brewster Rd. All members welcome. Directions on p. 2.
Saturday 9/14	9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.	Town Day in Arlington Center. We welcome volunteers to staff our booth — see below for details.
Friday 9/20		Boston Youth Climate Strike. The LWVMA is a co-sponsor. See page 10 for details.
Thursday 10/17	10 a.m to noon	LWVMA's Day on the Hill. Save the date!

**COME AND HELP OUT!
LEAGUE TOWN DAY BOOTH
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2019**

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 Carolyn Parsons at 781-646-9309, or send an email to Carolyn at carolynmparsons@msn.com. We look forward to seeing you on Town Day!

Carolyn Parsons and Angela Olszewski: Co-Presidents
CarolynMParsons@msn.com, amolshzewski@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 hope you had a wonderful summer! It seems like just a few weeks have passed since annual meeting, but here we are, planning for Town Day. With the coming of fall, we can look forward to crisp air, brightly colored leaves, and another year of great League activities.

Voter registration, speaker programs, rides to the polls, and Candidates Night will all be on our planning agenda. During this season, we will also mark the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage.

We look forward to providing information and fostering engaging conversation on a variety of topics. Please read our periodic emails and monthly bulletins and visit the LWVA website to keep current. Offer suggestions, participate as a volunteer, or simply come to an event!

Angela Olszewski

*Directions to Carolyn Parsons' home,
23 Brewster Road, Arlmont:*

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 2019–2020

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
Susan Born, Candidates Night	617-448-4179
Kim Haase, Bulletin Editor/Ads	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/ Bulletin Ads	781-646-4590
Wendy Forgie, Voters Service Cmte/ Webmistress	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.

Arlington League Hears from Food Link Leader at Annual Meeting

By Anne Linn

At the LWVA's Annual Meeting June 13, the guest speaker for our program for the evening was DeAnne Dupont, the Director and co-founder of Food Link (<https://www.foodlinkma.org/>), an organization based in Arlington that collects high-quality fresh and prepared foods that would otherwise be wasted from local grocery and prepared food stores, and delivers them to over 30 social service agencies serving people in need in 14 greater Boston communities.

Ms. Dupont amazed the group with the growth of her enterprise in 7 years and all that they do to serve Arlington and the communities in the greater Boston area. They now have 4 staff employees and are renovating a building to house their operation. 125 volunteers collect 15,000 pounds of food a day, 7 days a week, 363 days a year. This food provides over 400,000 meals annually, with half of the food staying in Arlington. They estimate that they help over 5000 people in 14 communities. Their slogan is: "Rescue Food. Nourish Our Community." How fortunate Arlington is to have Food Link and its many workers in our community.

Later, the group heard from members who'd attended the State Convention. At the business meeting, members voted to include six new positions on the Arlington Housing Authority in our local program. Many thanks to Meredith and Joe Zona for hosting the meeting.

DeAnne Dupont of Food Link speaks at the LWVA Annual Meeting.

Photo by Anne Linn



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Bill McKibben Addresses Urgency of Climate Change at LWVMA Convention

By Colleen Kirby



Bill McKibben, environmentalist, founder of 350.org, author of “The End of Nature” and the newly released book “Falter: Has the Human Game Begun to Play Itself Out?”, gave the keynote speech to the annual convention of the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts on June 7.

He spoke about bringing a young poet, Kathy Jetnil-Kijiner, from the Marshall Islands, currently at one meter above sea-level, to meet another young poet, Aka Niviana, from Greenland, whose one-mile-thick ice sheets are in the process of melting. They hiked onto the ice to recite a poem they composed together about the devastation their homelands are experiencing from the changing climate. While in Greenland they actually beheld a massive ice shelf fall, causing forty-foot waves in the ocean, while on the other side of the planet, Kathy’s people are abandoning their homes in the Marshall Islands.

We are all experiencing the consequences of climate change close to our homes, from the Paradise fire to the greatest floods yet recorded in the Mississippi River. These events are occurring from an increase of 1.8 degrees F and we are still on track to see a total increase of 6-7 degrees F. Last year we had the highest increase in greenhouse gas emissions so far, of 3 ½ parts per million (ppm), to bring us to 414.87 ppm, way beyond the 350 ppm that we can safely have in the atmosphere.

And yet, McKibben talked of hope, as there is better knowledge of what we can be doing. Solar panel and wind costs have decreased by 90%, and if we go all out, improving the technology and working towards a Green New Deal, we can start to reverse the amount of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. For many years McKibben asked himself, “Why aren’t we doing it?” He had thought for a long time that we were engaged in an argument to change minds, even though there was scientific consensus.

With the release of Exxon scientists’ reports showing that they knew about the effects of greenhouse gases on the climate decades ago, it was clear that the real fight was about money and power. Naomi Oreskes, author of “Merchants of Doubt,” who also attended the event, wrote a critical history of this political coverup. Exxon had even built their oil drilling rigs in anticipation of sea level rise while they were sowing seeds of doubt in the public to halt any political action to stop the warming. So McKibben realized that both sides have known the truth for over 30 years, and one side was lying about it.

President George H. W. Bush was ready to “fight the greenhouse effect with the White House effect,” according to McKibben, and yet here we are, 30 wasted years later, after a long campaign of disinformation slowed down any action. He said that we aren’t fighting ignorance, but are up against big money and power. For that, we need a movement, similar to what we have seen in the past from the suffragettes, the union movement, Gandhi, and Martin Luther King. Ten years ago, he and some students started 350.org, which has resulted in over 5200 rallies and demonstrations, in over 180 countries, all over the globe.

(Continued on page 7)



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for its contribution to
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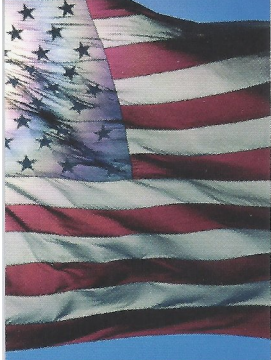
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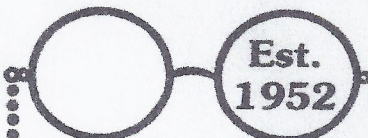


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McKibben on Climate (Continued)

Unfortunately, McKibben realized, “We don’t have 50 years to change hearts and minds and grow this movement.” So now, he says, we must “couple education with confrontation.” He pointed to the Keystone pipeline fight that started eight years ago, which was halted after four years of confrontation, but then permitted to continue by the current President. Last week, however, the company delayed building the pipeline for one more year. McKibben also spoke about the movement to divest from fossil fuel companies, which is gaining in momentum. He also spoke about the group “Extinction Rebellion,” which shut down London and helped pass the first “Climate Emergency” resolution. McKibben is also feeling hope from the energy behind the Green New Deal and the Sunrise Movement, here in the United States.

And finally, he encouraged us to listen to 16-year old Greta Thunberg, inspiration for the climate school strikes, who is calling for the adults to support the activism of the students. To this end, Bill McKibben encourages us all to walk out of work or school and into our communities and streets, calling for a general Climate Strike on September 20, 2019.

McKibben said, “We can’t negotiate between human beings and physics.” Building a movement isn’t easy, but we must do it.

State Convention Report

By Nancy Gray

I attended the LWV of Massachusetts 2019 Convention on June 7 and 8 in Westford with Colleen Kirby and Patricia Muldoon. The premier excitement was about the 100th anniversary, in 2020, of the ratification of the 19th amendment giving women the vote. The Women’s Suffrage Celebration Coalition of Massachusetts, which includes the LWVMA, has information about events they have organized at <https://suffrage100ma.org>; the first event was on June 25 at Faneuil Hall in Boston. Many Leagues are well into their planning to celebrate the anniversary. The second premier excitement for me was that the new Civics Bill, passed recently in Massachusetts, that inspired two Leagues to hold “Civic Bees,” and had much excitement engaging students. They brought stand-up posters which were lively, fun and inspiring to look at.

The delegates voted to support a well-crafted Climate Emergency resolution; by the show of hands, and by the cheers, it looked unanimous. There was anger and frustration all weekend about how slowly work was going on about climate.

I knew no one but I was soon comfortable talking and learning. I was charmed by a talk on how we could make ballots more fun. Actually, no, probably not, but it was a catchy idea to keep us listening. A sizeable group of delegates were vocal about gun control and well organized for a march, and women were wearing orange, the color for the parade and movement.

Over 6000 bills are filed annually in the Massachusetts House and Senate. It is not intuitive how to track bills on the state website, so State Senator Rebecca Rausch of Needham has posted instructions on her website. Here is the link:

https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/363892_583fd4a2d39c4835bcf8e0862815964d.pdf

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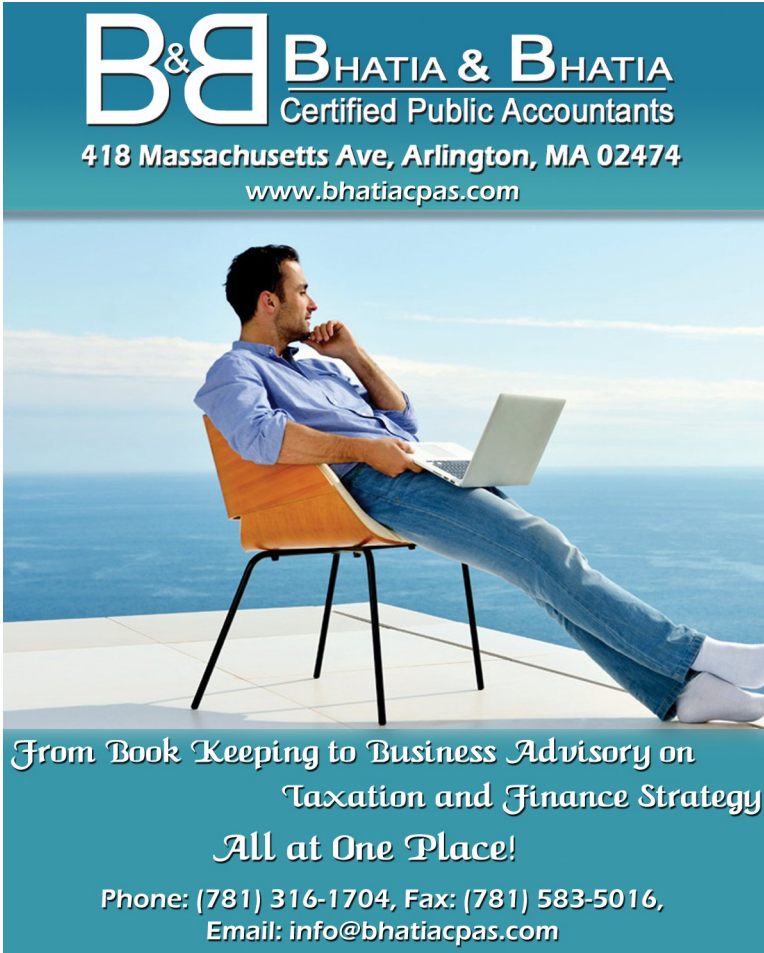
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State Convention Report (Continued)

Other League projects included greeting new citizens; training citizens how to run for office; training town meeting members how to present their issues so they would be more effective; a musical with campaign songs from George Washington's time; getting power lines underground; and getting citizens to get it in their heads that primaries are not just nice exercises but important and why. Needham involved high school and middle school students in a "GoGreen Needham Exposition" with table displays.

There were also projects to register voters, young, adults and new citizens; holding debates; teaching citizens to use websites for info about health care, women's health, education, housing, and tenant rights; work on immigration and safety for immigrant families; and lobbying and working to make funding for charter schools and issues of a foundation budget more transparent.

Delegates voted down the idea of changing the League name by removing the word Women. The question was put forward by the LWV of Cape Ann.

How the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts Follows Legislation

By Nancy Gray

The LWV of Massachusetts follows/studies bills before the Massachusetts House and Senate. On the LWVMA website at <https://lwwma.org/advocacy/league-supported-legislation/>, you can see a list of 19 specialists and the legislation they study. Colleen Kirby of the LWV of Arlington is one of the Legislative Specialists; she reports on Criminal Justice and Courts. Thank you, Colleen. The work of specialists is one reason to be proud of belonging to the League. Sponsoring Candidates' Night is another.

State League Urges Climate Action

From the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts

We are pleased to announce LWVMA is an official sponsor of the Boston Youth Climate Strike, set for Friday, September 20th! The Strike is being organized and led by youth, and youth leaders are asking for our help. Please register to participate in the Youth Climate Strike on September 20th, share information about the Climate Strike and the event registration link widely within your networks, and stay tuned for more specific details as they develop! The event registration link is <https://www.facebook.com/events/349500849297711/>.

The Strike is a global effort powered by youth of all ages from around the world, with hundreds of students striking on Fridays since March to bring meaningful attention and political action on the climate emergency confronting us. These youth are asking for our help as adults. LWVMA is doing its part to support their effort as part of the larger plan of action described below.

At the June LWVMA Convention, League members unanimously supported a Climate Emergency Resolution. To begin acting on the resolution, the LWVMA Environmental Action and Advocacy Committee developed a plan of action, approved by the LWVMA Board on July 26, 2019.

The plan, available at <https://lwvma.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Climate-Emergency-Plan.pdf>, sets two immediate goals of developing a detailed mobilization plan, including proposed actions at both the state and local levels, and developing a communications plan.

To meet the goals, the committee is offering seven specific actions for state and local Leagues to work on, including supporting the Global Climate Strike on Sept. 20, asking local governments to adopt climate emergency language, including climate emergency questions at candidate forums, and developing ways to raise awareness of the climate emergency issue within our membership and throughout our communities.

As part of the climate emergency action plan, the committee drafted Sustainable Practices Guidelines, available at <https://lwvma.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Policy-Sustainable-Practices-for-Leagues-V2.pdf>, for the League at both the state and local levels to consider in their planning and operations. The guidelines encourage implementation of zero waste and low-waste practices at League events.

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.

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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

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TOWN BOARD MEETINGS*

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

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Writing articles
Other

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In Memoriam: Ruth Anna Putnam

Ruth Anna Putnam, an active member of the LWVA from 1975 until just a few years ago, died on May 4. She was a Professor of Philosophy at Wellesley College. Her husband, Professor Hilary Putnam of Harvard University, died in 2016. She is survived by four children and four grandchildren.

For more information, see <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/bostonglobe/obituary.aspx?n=ruth-anna-putnam&pid=192811507&fhid=8784>.

September 2019

**League of Women Voters of Arlington
Post Office Box 461
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