

**April 2024** 

#### Calendar

	Monday April 1	The LWVA's fiscal year begins. Please renew! You can now renew online as well as by check; see below for instructions.
April 6	Saturday 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.	Town Election.
April 16	Tuesday 7 p.m.	LWVA Board Meeting via Zoom teleconference. The meeting URL will be sent to attendees; email one of the Co-Presidents if you would like to attend.
April 24	Wednesday 8 p.m.	Town Meeting begins.
April 28	Sunday 11:30 a.m.	Legislators' Brunch at Kathy Fennelly's home, 97 Gray St. See page 3 for details.

# **Renew Your League Membership Online!**

You can now use the League of Women Voters of Arlington website to renew your membership or join the League. Follow these steps:

- 1. Go to www.lwva.com and click Join the Arlington League.
- 2. On the Join page, click the Join or Renew using PayPal, debit or credit card button
- On the Membership page, fill in the form and click the Submit and Proceed to PayPal for Payment button.
- 4. On the Payment page, click the option you want (Basic Membership, etc.).
- 5. Choose Donate with PayPal (if you have an account) or Donate with your Debit or Credit Card.
- 6. On the PayPal site, fill in the form and click **Donate Now**.

You can still renew by printing the form on page 7 and mailing it to the LWVA with your check.

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

Our local election is just two weeks away as I write this. We will be co-hosting Candidates' Night along with Envision Arlington at Town Hall on Wednesday. We look forward to providing this service to voters each year.

The ballot on April 6<sup>th</sup> will also feature a question: Should the town have its elected Town Clerk become an appointed Town Clerk? The LWVA has had a longstanding position in favor of appointing the Town Clerk.

Our voter service activities continue into April with our much-anticipated and truly fun and tasty Legislators' Brunch. This is an event not to be missed! Our state senator and two state representatives have agreed to dine and meet with us on Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup>. We enjoy the casual and candid conversation we have with them each year about their work and issues important to us. We also put on a great potluck! Many thanks to Kathy and Paul Fennelly for offering to host us, again.

May April bring us fewer spring showers, warm temperatures, and a solid turnout for our local election. Please remember to vote!

Angela Olszewski



#### LWVA LEADERSHIP 2023–2024

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	339-223-3300
Joan Martin, Treasurer	617-966-4521
Anne Linn, Secretary	781-643-0356
Ann FitzGerald, Membership Director	781-646-9711
Elisabeth Carr-Jones, Voter Service	781-648-9026
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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.

#### MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR:

### LWV ARLINGTON'S ANNUAL LEGISLATORS' BRUNCH

### AND BRING A SPOUSE, FRIEND OR NEIGHBOR!

This is your opportunity to meet and talk with our current State Legislators – Senator Cindy Friedman and Representatives Sean Garballey and Dave Rogers.

Please contact Meredith Zona, Meredith.Zona@stantec.com, or telephone 781-648-2753, if you can come and bring your favorite brunch food. Meredith will also arrange for a ride to and from the brunch if you need that.

Directions: 97 Gray St. is at the intersection of Gray St. and Churchill Ave., which is the 4<sup>th</sup> right after you turn onto Gray St. from Pleasant St. (Route 60). If you're traveling on Gray St. from Arlington Heights, Churchill Ave. is the 4<sup>th</sup> left after the lights at Highland Ave. The house is a large gray home on the right side if you're traveling up from Pleasant Street. There is plenty of onstreet parking.







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# Thanks to All Who Helped with Candidates' Night

The League of Women Voters of Arlington's March 27 Candidates' Night drew an audience of around 120 to Town Hall for the 8 p.m. event, in spite of an uncompetitive election for the major Town offices. Many Town Meeting candidates also met with voters from 7:30 to 8.



As always, the LWVA and Envision Arlington co-sponsored the event, which was broadcast live by Arlington Community Media Inc. (ACMi).

Anyone who missed the live event will be able to watch it at https://acmi.tv, and it will be shown on cable several times before the election. You can find it on Comcast Channel 22, RCN Channels 15 and 614, and Verizon Channel 26.

Patti Muldoon, LWVA Action VP, introduced and closed the event and thanked our moderator, Margaret Coppe of the Lexington League.

The first candidate on stage was Gordon Jamieson, candidate for re-election to the Board of Assessors. He was followed by Eric Helmuth and John Hurd, candidates for re-election to the Select Board, and then by Jane Morgan and Jeffrey Thielman, candidates for re-election to the School Committee. Each gave an opening and closing statement and answered several questions submitted in advance by the public.

The League thanks all the volunteers who helped with the event: the script editor Sue Fish; the question screeners Pamela Meister, Marina Popova, and Michael Brownstein; the tent card producer and webmistress Elisabeth Carr-Jones; the timers Laura Ahner, Marina Popova, Jennifer Susse, and Meredith Zona; and the greeters Ann FitzGerald and Angela Olszewski. Carolyn Parsons and Kim Haase helped set up Town Hall before the event, and a number of volunteers helped with last-minute preparations and with take-down.

# **Arlington Town Clerk: Appointed or Elected?**

The League of Women Voters of Arlington supports converting the Town Clerk from an elected to an appointed position, where the Town Manager hires the Town Clerk with the approval of the Select Board. Last year, Town Meeting voted 186 to 31 to put this question on the 2024 ballot. Now the decision is in the hands of Arlington's voters.

At the request of the current Town Clerk, a study was commissioned to assess the organizational structure of the Town Clerk Department in order to inform the elected vs. appointed decision. We encourage you to read the study and support this change to strengthen the structure of Arlington's government.

https://www.lwva.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/2022.09.22-Arlington-Town-Clerk-Study.pdf



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### John D. Leone - Suzanne M. Leone

637 Massachusetts Avenue, Arlington, MA 02476 781-648-2345 john@leonelaw.com, www.leonelaw.com Initial consultation is free for LWVA members



# Our fiscal year starts April 1, so please renew if you haven't already, online (see page 1 for instructions) or by using this form. Thank you!

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ARLINGTON  Membership Application/Renewal Form									
**Fiscal Year runs from April 1 to March 31**									
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Telephone	r Email		<b>F</b>		<del></del>				
Telephone Please indicate if you do NOT want your c	ontact in	ıformati	on sent	to A	rlington League members				
Basic Membership Dues		\$60							
2nd member in household									
Student (full-time)		\$20							
Contribution to help the LWV in Arlington	n. add	\$							
Contribution to help the LWV in Arlington TOTAL ENCL	OSED	\$	-						
If \$60 is a hardship, please pay what you can an MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: League of WMAIL TO: Ann FitzGerald, 162 Summer St., U************************************	omen V	oters of	Arlingto	on	• •				
Please check areas of interest and activity even if you	ı can't be	actively	involved	d THI	IS year.				
Action: phone callsletters Bulletin: mailing soliciting ads Membership Nominating Committee Publicity Voter Service: Rides to the polls Candidates Night Voters' Guide Host a meeting in my home  OBSERVE AT TOWN BOARD MEETINGS* Select Board (Mondays) Redevelopment Board (Mondays) School Committee (2nd & 4th Thursdays) Conservation Commission Housing Authority	AND CO _Congr _Congr _Discri _Educa _Envire _Healtl _Justic _Housi _Taxat _Trans _Votin _Basic _Wome _Housi _Other  SKILLS _Writin	ommularess/Pressimination ation onment/on the Care e/Courts ing/Zoninion/Budg portation g Rights Human en's Issuing/Zonin	NITY IN idency/E idency/E n/Equal I Climate ( /Prisons ng/Comn gets/Defi n/Urban I Needs es/Gendeng/Comn	NFOF Election Emploided Change munity cits Policy er Iss munity	on Process oyment/Civil Rights ge y Development				
*Some of these can be seen on cable TV	Deskt Webs Mode	op publi ite mana rating m	shing gement	nent					
Please add my name, street address, phone number, a email address to the LWVA mailing list: Yes									
(Note: This information will not be sent to anyone ou the LWVA)	ıtside								

From the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts:

Please save the date for the 2024 LWVMA Council!

Saturday, June 22 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. On Zoom



We hope you can join us. Registration information and a full agenda will be circulated to all members soon.

Questions? Please call or email us (857) 452-1715 or lwvma@lwvma.org.



