



**BULLETIN**  
*lwva.com*

**April 2026**

**Calendar**

April 13	Monday 7:30 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. (Note later than usual time.)
April 26	Sunday 11:30 a.m to 2 p.m.	LWVA annual Legislators' Brunch, to be held this year at the home of Meredith Zona, 1 Andrews Way. Details on page 3.
April 27	Monday 8 p.m.	Annual Town Meeting begins.

**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

The local political season is in full swing. Candidates' Night, co-sponsored by the LWVA and Envision Arlington, was well attended, judging by the noise level in the Town Hall Auditorium. When asked for a quote from a reporter for Your Arlington, we had to step outside into the corridor to hear each other.

I thank everyone who volunteered to help from setup to take down. The forum runs smoothly, but that is because there is a lot of preparation beforehand, beginning with a minute-by-minute script with embedded questions that have been reviewed for clarity and appropriateness. Tent cards were printed with the names of candidates for town-wide offices; postcards were mailed to candidates for Town Meeting; precinct signs were placed around Town Hall so that Town Meeting Member candidates were able to greet residents from their precincts. League members welcomed the public to the forum, which began at 8 p.m. Having a moderator from the LWV of Lexington and a facilitator from the LWV of Arlington assures impartiality. The timekeepers kept track of response times to keep the evening running smoothly. Finally, banners, tables and chairs were stored away.

Please come and bring a friend to the Legislators' Brunch on Sunday, April 26. (See details on page 3.) This is an opportunity to praise, question, and lobby our representatives on their positions and priorities for the past and current legislative sessions. Our legislators are always most willing to share their views and welcome differing opinions.

With the help of Kim Haase, the Arlington Vote signs have been delivered to LWVA members. If you or a friend would like a sign for the next election, which I think is in September, please let me know at [carolynmparsons@msn.com](mailto:carolynmparsons@msn.com). The LWVA has several new signs ready for front lawn display.

*Carolyn Parsons*

### LWVA LEADERSHIP 2025–2026

Carolyn Parsons, Co-President	781-646-9309
Angela Olszewski, Co-President	781-648-8649
Meredith Zona, Organization VP	781-648-2753
Colleen Kirby, Action VP	339-222-3887
Joan Martin, Treasurer	617-966-4521
Marina Popova, Secretary	339-707-0740
Ann FitzGerald, Membership Director	781-646-9711
Elisabeth Carr-Jones, Voter Service	781-648-9026
Jo Anne Preston, Voter Service	781-643-5431
Laura Ahner, Candidates Night	360-907-2056
Kim Haase, Bulletin Editor/Ads	781-643-3429
Margaret Reiners, Bulletin Mailing	781-646-9611
Pamela Meister, Email Coordinator	781-646-8024
Elisabeth Carr-Jones, Webmistress	781-648-9026

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!****Sunday, April 26, 2026, 11:30 AM – 2:00 PM****@ Meredith and Joe Zona's Home, 1 Andrews Way, Arlington**

With all the changes happening in our country and the world today, we hope that you will make an extra effort to come to our annual brunch, where you will have an opportunity to meet and talk with our current State Legislators one-on-one – Senator Cindy Friedman and Representatives Sean Garballey and Dave Rogers. Here is your chance to express your concerns, ask questions, and hear about recent and proposed state legislation and how our State Legislators are navigating the changing government landscape.

**Please contact Meredith Zona via email at [meredith.zona@stantec.com](mailto:meredith.zona@stantec.com), or tel. 781-540-4473, 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 to Meredith & Joe Zona's House:***

From the west end of Arlington, turn onto Overlook Rd. at the Summer St. traffic light across from the skating rink. Keep to the left at the fork and travel about 1/2 mile to Ridge St. Turn right onto Ridge St., then 1st left onto Cherokee Rd., 1st right onto Old Colony Rd., and 1st right onto Andrews Way. *Andrews Way is a short street that looks like a driveway. 1 Andrews Way is the tan-colored house 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 a 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, 1st left onto Old Colony Rd., and 1st left onto Andrews Way; see directions in italics above.

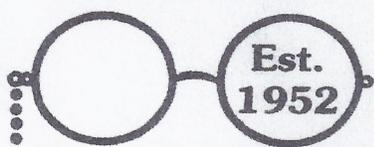


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## Thanks to Our Legislators for Protecting Immigrants

*Editor's Note: Our Action VP Colleen Kirby sent the following email to Arlington's State Representatives, Sean Garballey and Dave Rogers.*



Dear Reps. Garballey and Rogers,

The League of Women Voters of Arlington thanks you for signing on to and passing the PROTECT Act, H.5305, An Act promoting the rule of law, oversight, trust, and equal constitutional treatment.

The PROTECT Act:

- Bans new 287(g) agreements
- Prohibits informal collaboration with ICE
- Ensures safety in the courts

LWVMA has supported measures in this critically urgent immigrants' rights legislation since 2017. The League of Women Voters of Arlington appreciates that you are working to make Massachusetts safer for all of our residents. I'm sure there is more that can be done and we urge you to continue in standing up to federal policies that are counter to Massachusetts values.

Thank you for all you are doing,

Colleen Kirby  
Action VP  
LWVA



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journalism alive in Arlington!

## What Democracy Means in Everyday Life Series: The Link Between Democracy and Access to Healthcare

*From the State League*

LWVMA is pleased to announce the latest program in its Democracy in Everyday Life Series: "The Link Between Democracy and Access to Healthcare."

The focus of this conversation is the intersection of our democracy and our access to healthcare in Massachusetts. The conversation addresses how the Commonwealth is/should be "Improving access to health care by removing geographic, linguistic and cultural barriers," a LWVMA position. Our experienced panel looks at health innovation, justice, equity, affordability, comprehensive, and quality care.

The program was broadcast on NewTV on Thursday, March 5th. You can view the episode at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lmmR-MjSKTg>.

This program is the fifth in a series on what democracy means to people's everyday lives. Previous programs covered "Voter Engagement," "Intersectionality of Democracy and Immigration," "Civic Engagement & Technology," and "Indirect Taxation without Representation: A Conversation About Tariffs." For more information, see <https://lwvma.org/what-democracy-means-in-everyday-life-series-2/>.

### Panelists

Dr. Elizabeth Barnett is Professor of Pediatrics at Boston University Chobanian and Avedisian School of Medicine and Chief of the Section of Pediatric Infectious Diseases at Boston Medical Center. She is the former director of the Refugee Health Assessment Program at Boston Medical Center. Her clinical and research interests include immigrant and refugee medicine, travel medicine and parasitic infections, vaccines and vaccine safety, and general pediatric infectious diseases. She is an Associate Editor of the American Academy of Pediatrics Report of the Committee on Infectious Diseases (Red Book), a Medical Editor of Health Information for International Travel (Yellow Book), and, with Patricia Walker, the editor of the textbook Immigrant Medicine.

Suzanne Curry is currently the Director of Policy Initiatives at Health Care For All (HCFA). Since joining HCFA in 2006, Suzanne has taken on many roles, ranging from administrative support to policy and coalition management. As the Director of Policy Initiatives, she is a key member of the policy team and fosters connections among different areas of the organization's work. Suzanne works on various policy issues including children's health, mental health, delivery system reform and public and private health insurance coverage and access issues. Prior to working at HCFA, Suzanne was a union organizer and an administrative coordinator at health care institutions. Suzanne has a B.A. in Sociology and Political Science from Boston University.

Dr. Paul Hattis is a physician-attorney, has joined the Lown Institute as a Senior Fellow, after retiring recently from his role as Senior Associate Director of the MPH Program at Tufts University Medical School and a member of the faculty in the Department of Public Health and Community Medicine. With a strong interest in state health care policy, Dr. Hattis currently co-hosts, with colleague John McDonough of the Harvard School of Public Health, "Health or Consequences," a podcast focused on Massachusetts public health and health care policy issues under the sponsorship of Commonwealth Magazine. Dr. Hattis also currently is an active opinion writer for Commonwealth, writing on a variety of state health care and higher ed policy topics.

## Membership Dues Information

*By Ann FitzGerald*

LWVA members no longer receive written reminders of dues renewals on April 1. The League of Women Voters of the US (<https://www.lwv.org/>) should now send out a reminder to you. Dues are divided between the national, state, and local leagues.

You should have received a notice to register at the LWVUS portal. if you didn't receive it, you can go to the portal and register yourself. Go to <https://www.lwv.org/> and click Member Log In. Your name was sent to LWVUS for renewal purposes and is listed on the membership roster. The site is secure and has a verification process.

The LWVUS portal requests dues of \$75, but you can contribute any amount over \$20.

If you prefer to renew by check, you will be a member of the LWVA only, not the state or national League. Make out a check for \$60 to "League of Women Voters of Arlington" and send it to me:

Ann FitzGerald  
162 Summer St Apt 1  
Arlington, MA 02474

Call me at 781-646-9711 or email [annfitz@rcn.com](mailto:annfitz@rcn.com) if you have questions.

**April 2026**

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

