LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF ARLINGTON

BULLETIN

lwva.com

November/December 2026

Calendar

Monday November 9 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.
Thursday November 12 7 p.m.	Fundraiser to support YourArlington, our local news website, at Donut Villa. Details on page 5.
Thursday December 10 6 p.m.	Holiday potluck party at the home of Pamela Meister, 19 Village Lane, with speaker Claire Ricker. See page 3 for details. We will especially welcome our new members from the past year!

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 fall season is here. Apples and pumpkins have been gathered. I will be cooking with cranberries in a few weeks. I really like homemade cranberry sauce.

To promote political awareness at Arlington High School, Elliot Lane, a senior, invited the LWVA to attend the Civics Workshop Day on Oct. 8th and to register students to vote. One observation was that most students really do not wish to speak to women of a certain age. Elliot in fact ran out of registration forms by walking up to his fellow students and urging them to take a form. A bit of peer pressure is very effective. Several teachers stopped by the table to take a copy of a one-page cheat sheet put together by Elisabeth Carr-Jones that explained what a yes or no vote would mean when voting on the nine ballot questions. Another teacher gathered all the information so that her students would have the opportunity to register to vote during two of her classes. Kim Haase, Judie Jackson, Colleen Kirby, Joan Martin and Carolyn Parsons helped to register a new generation of voters. (See page 7 for a photo.)

Claire Ricker, Director of Planning and Community Development for the Town of Arlington, will be the featured speaker at the LWVA's holiday party. One of Ms. Ricker's tasks is to provide the opportunity for more affordable housing while balancing the need for parking spaces and the desire for open space, height restrictions, etc. I don't know if I am ever completely satisfied.

Please come to the gathering and participate in the discussion.

Carolyn Parsons

LWVA LEADERSHIP 2026–2027

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
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.

You're Invited to LWVA's Annual Holiday Party!

Thursday, December 10, 2026

6:00 - 9:00 PM

Pamela & Stephen Meister's Home – 19 Village Lane, Arlington

Mark your calendars now for the Arlington League's Annual Holiday Potluck Party!

Appetizers and drinks will be served at 6:00 PM.

Main course will start at 6:30 PM.

Our featured guest speaker this year will be **Claire Ricker, Arlington Director of Planning and Community Development**. In this position that she has held since September 2022, Claire oversees the planning, zoning, housing, economic development, and historic preservation functions of the town. Prior to this, Claire did planning work for the Cities of Lowell, Holyoke and Cambridge, and was Director of Real Estate for a non-profit organization in Lowell – Coalition for a Better Acre.

Claire's background includes urban design, community planning, affordable housing development, real estate development, capital planning and project management, and disposition of public property. She has successfully led and implemented multiple projects and initiatives that have improved the quality of life, sustainability, and affordability of the town, such as the Arlington Heights Action Plan, the Solarize Mass Plus Program, and the Housing Production Plan. Claire is also an American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) certified planner and a licensed electrical journeyman with expertise in solar energy and renewable energy.

Source: Claire V. Ricker, AICP | LinkedIn

LWVA members, friends and family are most welcome to come and hear Claire speak about her planning priorities for Arlington, and to provide comments and ask questions.

Please contact Meredith Zona (email: meredith.zona@stantec.com or telephone: 781-540-4473) if you are able to attend, and to tell her what type of food you'll bring. Meredith can also arrange for a ride to and from the event if you need that.

Directions: Village Lane is a small loop street in East Arlington, on the Belmont side of Route 2 off Lake Street. From the Heights, take Park Avenue across Route 2. Turn left onto the access road (it becomes Lake Street), cross Pleasant Street, and turn left onto Village Lane. From the Center, take Pleasant Street toward Belmont, cross Route 2 and turn left onto Lake Street. Village Lane is on your left. From East Arlington, take Lake Street into Belmont. Village Lane will be on your right shortly after the on-ramp to Route 2. There is limited parking on Village Lane. You can also park on Cross Street or Albert Avenue on the Belmont side of Lake Street.

arlington children's center
17 irving street * arlington, ma * 02476
781 646 9307 www.arlingtonchildrenscenter.org

MEMBER AMERICAN GEM SOCIETY

Swanson
Jewelers Inc.

DAVID R. SWANSON
CERTIFIED GEMOLOGIST
APPRAISER
DAVID@SWANSONJEWELERS.COM

717 MASSACHUSETTS AVE.
ARLINGTON, MASS. 02476
PHONE (781) 643-4209

ACMi
Arlington Community Media Inc.

Your Stories.
Your Station.
Your Support.

ACMI.TV / DONATE
Donate today to keep independent journalism alive in Arlington!

Celebrate 20 Years of YourArlington!

Join YourArlington's board, staff, and host committee
at our annual fall event with special guests

Jim Braude and Margery Eagan
cohosts of WGBH's Boston Public Radio

When: Thursday November 12th, 7 to 9:30 pm

Where: Donut Villa (both rooms!), 319 Broadway, Arlington

What: Hors d'oeuvres, cash bar, time to mingle, and an interview with our special guests

Jim Braude and Margery Eagan are the co-hosts of Boston Public Radio. They have worked together for 18 years, first doing a TV show together at NECN, then a radio show at WTKK. The duo came to WGBH in 2013.

In 2006, veteran journalist and Arlington resident Bob Sprague started YourArlington as an experiment in community journalism dedicated to reporting news about our town and sharing the opinions of our residents. Bob ran the site on his own--and on a shoestring--until 2022, when YourArlington became a nonprofit organization. Since then, we have built a board, hired an editor, increased our stable of freelance writers, added a student journalism program, launched a new website, started hosting the town's legal notices, and significantly grown our readership.

20 years in, YourArlington is one of the longest-running local news sites in New England and has published more than 23,000 articles.

To purchase tickets, go to https://yourarlington.com/celebrate-20-years-of-yourarlington/.

Note: Our LWVA Co-Presidents sent a letter to the editor of YourArlington in support of Yes votes on Ballot Questions 4 and 9. You can find it at https://yourarlington.com/2026/10/opinion-state-election-101326/.

League of Women Voters, Campaign Legal Center Secure Permanent Victory Restoring Voter Registration at Naturalization Ceremonies

From the National League

On October 15, the District Court of Maryland entered an order to permanently block a US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) rule that prevented nonpartisan civic engagement groups from registering new US citizens to vote at administrative naturalization ceremonies.

The rule — which was issued without factual basis abruptly in August 2025 — has been permanently blocked following a lawsuit filed by Campaign Legal Center on behalf of the League of Women Voters (LWV) and a number of state and local Leagues.

"Participation in our democracy is one of the most meaningful aspects of American citizenship," said Celina Stewart, CEO of the League of Women Voters. "Today's ruling reaffirms the right of every American to help shape our democracy and ensures that the League can continue the nonpartisan voter education work we've done for generations as we welcome newly naturalized citizens into our ranks. This victory protects a longstanding tradition of civic engagement and will strengthen our democracy for decades to come."

"Today's order protects the longstanding practice of nonpartisan civic engagement groups welcoming new Americans into our democracy," said Anna Baldwin, director of voting rights litigation at Campaign Legal Center. "USCIS's rule was a direct attack on the constitutionally guaranteed right for these groups to participate in our political process, including the League's First Amendment right to provide voter registration services. We will continue working alongside the League of Women Voters to ensure League members can continue to register voters at administrative naturalization ceremonies across the country."

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan, grassroots, membership-based civic engagement group that has long exercised its constitutionally protected right to educate and assist new Americans in registering to vote at administrative naturalization ceremonies. Over the past few decades, the League has registered hundreds of thousands of new US citizens to vote after naturalization ceremonies nationwide. No organization has done more voter registration at naturalization ceremonies than the League of Women Voters. Indeed, in 2024, the League registered more than 15% of all new American citizens to vote at naturalization ceremonies.

With this court victory, the League can continue its important work with new citizens at administrative naturalization ceremonies.

Colleen Kirby and Carolyn Parsons welcome students and teachers at the LWVA's registration table at Arlington High School on October 8. (Photo by Kim Haase)



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

November/December 2026

League of Women Voters of Arlington
P. O. Box 461
Arlington, MA 02476