

*LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF
CONCORD-CARLISLE*

Invites you to attend our

LWVCC ANNUAL MEETING

Wednesday, May 26, 2010
Hawthorne Room at Milldam Square
100 Keyes Road, Concord

7:00 PM Reception
Cool drinks, dessert and conversation

7:30 PM Program

*“Reflections of a Town Moderator”
Ned Perry
Former Concord Town Moderator*

8:15 PM Business Meeting
Conduct the annual business of our organization

If you need a ride to attend the Annual Meeting
Call (978) 371-7293

CO-PRESIDENTS' LETTER

Becky Shannon and Paula Vandever, Executive Steering Committee Co-Chairs

The Rhythm and Rhyme of our 2009-2010 Year

For health care in summer, we jumped in full force—
Advocate, lobby, a rally to boot,
And Town Hall meetings--now that's a real hoot.
Single payer? Public option? Health care for all,
Brought letters to editors and many a call.
Endless letters and e-mails to Tsongas and Kerry,
'Till health care, at last, finally did carry.
Forfeiting much we hoped it would do,
We wonder if health care is finally through?

Life in the Balance was next on our list,
Climate, food, energy were not to be missed.
With a panel of speakers we said Let's Talk Trash,
For reducing the volume saves everyone cash.
And Food for Thought brought out people galore
Who all want local food farms in Concord ere' more.
Powering the Future let us know what to do
To make sure we conserve and save CO2.

Then Democracy hung by a gossamer thread
After the SCOTUS decision we all did so dread.
We went to North Bridge to carry our banners
For the 350 rally must make the world saner.
While our Candidates Forum presented to us
The impressive volunteers for our towns, what a plus!

Janet's documentaries were all the rage,
For Anne's fine non-fiction we turned many a page.
Louise says it's spring, and guess what is back—
Casino slot gambling for those at the track.
To Day on the Hill we next all will go
To relay our positions to Atkins/Fargo.

There's ever more work for our LWVCC.
With new, continuing topics for us to pursue,
So for 2010-2011, we need only YOU
To swing into action and study some more,
Making a difference is right at our core.

Becky and Paula

ORDER OF BUSINESS

7:00 Social and Program

8:15 Call To Order

Business Meeting

- Credentials Report
- Membership Report
 - LWVCC 80th & Concord 375th Birthdays
- Treasurer's Report
- Budget Committee Report
- Audit
- Program
 - Local Program Report
 - Adoption of Program
- Co-Presidents' Report
- Nominating Committee Report
- Election of Officers and Directors
- Introduction of New Board
- Direction to the Board
- Any New Business
- Adjournment

LIFE IN THE BALANCE: Let's Talk Trash

The trouble with trash

Our kick-off program for the *Life in the Balance Sustainability Series* was **Let's Talk Trash** on October 14th. This program provided an overview of the present reality and potential promise of trash and addressed how individual, state and national practices and policies impact our ability to reclaim resources, restore the environment and reduce the financial burden of waste in our world.

The program featured a keynote presentation by Lynne Pledger, recognized as a national leader in the area of Zero Waste, followed by a panel discussion with Mass DEP and private sector experts in waste reduction. Representative Cory Atkins also participated in the panel to share legislative action and plans related to this issue.

The Mass Department of Environmental Protection reports that in 2006¹ the combined waste from Massachusetts residents, businesses and institutions amounted to approximately 13.9 million tons, equivalent to 12 pounds per day for each of the 6.35 million people residing in Massachusetts².

The League began working on the issue of solid waste management at the local and national level in 1971, concluding in 1973 that "solid waste should be regarded as a resource." Recognizing that the problem of trash cannot be solved through recycling and composting alone, the League embraced a

"reduce, reuse, recycle" hierarchy in the 1990s. Reducing trash at the beginning of the cycle is essential to effective treatment of this growing problem. For more information on the League's position on solid waste management and reduction, go to:

http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Waste_Management&CONTENTID=8563&TEMPLATE=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm

The LWVMA, singly and as part of a broad coalition, has actively supported and provided written testimony on two important pieces of pending legislation as a means of advocating for responsible waste reduction measures: *The Updated Bottle Bill* (H. 3515/S.1480) and the **electronic waste bill** (H. 4374), *An Act to Require Producer Responsibility for Collection, Reuse and Recycling of Discarded Electronic Products*.

¹ The most recent year in which complete data are available

² MassDEP website: How Much Solid Waste Does Massachusetts Produce?

LIFE IN THE BALANCE:

Food for Thought

Part 1: *Food, Inc.*

LWVCC, along with its co-sponsors ConcordCAN, Carlisle Climate Action and C-C Adult and Community Education, continued the Life in the Balance series on November 6, 2009, with a screening of *Food, Inc.* The 240-seat Alcott School auditorium was packed, demonstrating high public interest in learning about the industrial food system. Afterwards, Charlotte Vallaeyes (Farm & Food Policy Analyst, Cornucopia Institute) offered remarks and facilitated an audience discussion about food production and distribution; food nutrition, safety and regulation; and food system sustainability.

Part 2: Food for Thought

Two weeks later on November 20, our League co-sponsored Food for Thought, Part 2, an action-oriented speaker forum held at the Trinitarian Congregational Church with an audience of over 100. The forum focused on moving toward a sustainable food system, with featured speaker Brian Donahue, Ph.D., Assoc. Professor of American Environmental Studies, Brandeis University, and panelists Willow Blish, Slow Food Boston; Jim Catterton, Concord Agriculture Committee; Jen Hashley, Tufts University, New Entry Sustainable Farming Project and Owner, Pete & Jen's Backyard Birds; and Charlotte Vallaeyes. For more information about the program and speakers, please visit <http://lwwcc.com/lifeinthebalance.html> on LWVCC's website.

After the formal presentations ended, action tables welcomed attendees to continue the conversation in four areas:

Personal/Household, Schools, State/National and Local/Regional. Lively sessions ensued, with each table designating coordinators and identifying priorities for action. Many League members were involved in planning or helping with the Food for Thought programs, including Becky Shannon, Lauren Bakewell, Paula Vandever, Debbie Barr, Anita Barker, Barbara Lewis, Cindy Nock, Erin Pastuszanski, and Launa Zimmaro. Thanks to all!

From the November 20th action table discussions grew three new active community groups in which many League members are involved. The Nutrition Coalition (with a volunteer list of over 100 now) is devoted to improving school lunches and fostering school-farm connections (LWVCC contact: Becky Shannon). A Local Food Group, formed to support farmers and farming and encourage establishment of a community market, has met regularly, including with the Concord Agricultural Committee (LWVCC contact: Lauren Bakewell). A Personal Action Group has frequent meetings at Harvey Wheeler on vegetable gardening and other topics, with many other educational offerings in the works (LWVCC contact: Debbie Barr).

Learn more or get involved at a new Food for Thought website: <http://concordfood.ning.com>. If you wish to receive Concord/Carlisle Food for Thought Google Group emails, please email ccfoodforthought+subscribe@googlegroups.com. Food for Thought is a great way to get involved with climate change issues at the local level.

LIFE IN THE BALANCE: Powering the Future

Part 1: *The Great Squeeze: Surviving the Human Project*

Over 125 people attended the first night of the Powering the Future forum on Friday, January 22, 2010 and watched the movie *The Great Squeeze: Surviving the Human Project*. As a result of many people inquiring how they could see the movie again, special permission was obtained from the Producer/Director to show the movie for two weeks only on CCTV channel 8. In addition, two copies of the movie were purchased and given to the Concord and Carlisle Public Libraries. They are available for check out or the movie can be purchased at TheGreatSqueeze.com website.

A time of reflection on the movie was guided by the Rev. Tony Buquor of Concord. Comments from the audience included:

- Global Warming and humanitarian issues are tightly woven together.
- We need to get together and solve these problems.
- Great film - everyone should see it. Politicians should see it.
- Upsetting, overwhelming, alarming that society won't wake up to what is happening.
- Why won't the weathermen comment on how global warming is affecting the weather?
- We need to reach the masses.
- Water is a key issue! People are apathetic.
- Food is an issue - we cannot rely on wheat and soy - we need backyard gardens.
- Population growth has to stop - it is unsustainable.

- This film was very thought provoking. I think, for one thing, it presents how enormously complex and interdependent the Biosphere is and that the sustainability of Life on Planet Earth is a huge challenge! But the film was mostly, I think, hopeful that if we (humanity) will, there are things we can do differently.
- The most surprising thing: We really already are aware of all of these things, but mobilizing concerted action in the face of a relatively slow moving enemy (unlike Pearl Harbor) is a tremendous challenge.
- How can we make the shift?

Part 2: Our Community and Tomorrow's Energy

On Friday, February 5, 2010 the second part of Powering the Future forum was held with a panel discussion followed up with discussion groups. The panel included Will Brownsberger, State House Representative and vice-chair of the Massachusetts House Committee on Global Warming and Climate Change; Dr. Warren Leon, co-author of *The Consumer's Guide to Effective Environmental Choice* and past director of the Massachusetts Renewable Energy Trust; Gretchen Brewer, consultant with 30 years experience in recycling and past Regional Planner at MassDEP; and Christopher J. Ryan, AICP, professional urban planner, principal of a planning consulting firm, called RELOCALIZATIONS, and Planning Director for Town of Dedham.

Breakout Groups and Brainstorming Ideas:

LWVCC Forum Leaders: Cindy Nock,
Becky Shannon, Launa Zimmaro

Waste Action Group Notes: – (50% of GHG emissions due to providing Food and Goods and Materials (source: EPA))

- Use Reusable shopping bags (Don't use paper or plastic from stores) Create a permanent swap location.
- Initiate a school Waste Action Group; skits, composting, local food, gardening, recycling, reducing waste.
- Leave product packaging at store where purchased to pressure stores/manufacturers to reduce packaging.
- Purchase food and other items in bulk to reduce packaging. Choose solar panels, hybrid cars, etc.
- Promote composting by businesses and home owners.
- Get back to basics – cook your food with whole food ingredients rather than processed/package food.
- Work for passage of current e-waste bill and framework EPR legislation and extended bottle bill.
- Work with neighboring communities to create shared composting, reuse, recycling facilities.

Transportation Action Group Notes: - (19% of GHG emissions due to transportation needs (source: EPA))

- Establish National Hi speed rail, rehabilitate commuter rail, zip cars, bike lanes and make rental bikes available.
- Encourage free parking to encourage commuter rail use or at least free parking for ride share passengers.
- Create a neighborhood ride share program to get commuters to the train.

- Go back to local transportation via trolley/bus within Concord and connecting to contiguous towns.
- Concentrate residential areas near public transportation. Reduce suburban sprawl.
- Use buses or commuter rail for passengers; trains for transporting goods rather than trucks.

Home Energy Efficiency Action Group

Notes: - (31% of GHG emissions due to building energy use (source: EPA))

- Make it easy for homeowners to know how to weatherize your home. Web Videos? CCTV?
- Encourage Town to offer financing/rebates for homeowners who weatherize, install renewable energy or efficiencies.
- Pass Energy Stretch Code at Town Meeting in communities.
- Make tools accessible (e.g. energy audit, kill-a-watt, smart meter, TED The Energy Detective.)
- Make energy audits opt-out instead of opt-in. Ensure follow through after audit – how??

Renewable Energy Action Group Notes:

- Facilitate bulk purchasing of solar panels and installations by Town.
- Encourage Town to assist with financing of renewable energy commercial and residential installations.
- Have Town initiate a Climate Action Plan and survey locations for renewable energy installations.
- Highlight businesses and residents who have installed renewable energy
- Couple energy conservation with renewable energy (encourage both together).

DEMOCRACY IN THE BALANCE

In February 2010, Mary Wilson, President of LWVUS, addressed members of the US House of Representatives regarding the US Supreme Court ruling in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*. She stated that the SCOTUS ruling “has given the green light for corporations, including foreign corporations, to intervene directly in elections - from the local school board or zoning commission to Congress and the President of the United States - taking the power away from voters. And it has set the stage for corruption to skyrocket out of control - now that the Court has allowed unlimited corporate and union expenditures, the power of well-paid lobbyists linked with those interests will greatly increase. Right now the stakes are very high.”

Mary Wilson went on to say that this decision “upends basic campaign finance law. It changes the foundation on which decades of congressional enactments on money in elections are built. Such a fundamental change, with perhaps more coming as the Court considers other cases, requires a strong and considered response from Congress and the Executive.”

Following this strong statement, the LWVCC co-sponsored *Democracy in the Balance* at the Trinitarian Congregational Church in March. Speakers Jeff Clements and John Bonifaz from FreeSpeechforPeople.org presented a lively discussion to an audience of over 120 on the consequences of this ruling.

In our Life in the Balance forums this past fall and winter - Let’s Talk Trash; Food for Thought; and Powering the Future - we highlighted current unsustainable practices in the production of waste, food, and energy, and the incentive that greater corporate profits can have in continuing and escalating these practices.

The SCOTUS decision has made it even more difficult to redress the unsustainable practices that the LWVCC has explored in the Life in the Balance Series. Given this greater power to influence public policy, many corporations will continue with unsustainable practices and work to prevent legislation to curb them. The Supreme Court of the United States has sanctified the personhood of corporations to the point that it leaves in question just who are the “we” of we the people of the United States.

We ask that all LWVCC members contact their legislators about the need for campaign finance reform and participate in all LWVUS, LWVMA, and LWVCC Action Alerts pertaining to campaign finance legislation. We hope that some legislation will pass before the summer recess to help protect the November elections. We are also looking forward to a lively conversation at the June National LWV convention in Atlanta on this issue, and the potential for an endorsement by the LWVUS for a Constitutional amendment approach to correcting this Supreme Court ruling.

MEMBERSHIP

Barbara Lewis, Membership Chair

It was an exciting and dynamic year for the League with a great deal of focus on public education and engagement, and our membership remained strong and active despite the financial pressures and time constraints felt by many in these busy times and the current economy.

However, this did not appear to be the case as of our January 31 deadline. At that time our membership total had gone from 160 at the time of our 2009 Annual Meeting to 132. Some of that decrease can be attributed to people being busy and committing their time and resources elsewhere, plus several memberships scaled back from household to individual. A significant number were new members last year that we had not done enough to successfully engage, which is an important goal for 2010-2011.

But most importantly was a trend this year of more members not renewing until after the deadline had passed. This is something we hope to work hard to improve for the coming year. Despite monthly information to members encouraging them to renew, there is more that can be done to make this a more successful effort, and we welcome any and all input regarding this issue.

Now for the good news: Our membership currently stands at 167! This due to a surge

of renewals in February and early March when the directory was sent to the printers, as well as a wonderful level of interest from those who attended our many public forums.

Welcome to each and every one of the 21 new members who joined between February 2009 and the present. We especially wish to welcome our newest members, Jeff Clements and Nancy Heselton, who were given the gift of a family membership in gratitude for his participation in our Democracy in the Balance event and for his continued work for the cause of democracy in this country; and Patricia Wolcott Berger, a National Member who has returned to Concord after a number of years living in Lincoln.

Our membership events continue to be an important part of our yearly calendar. We had 32 attend the Autumn Coffee and 50 members and guests participate in the Winter Breakfast at the Colonial Inn where Jeff Clements addressed the gathering. If you know of anyone who might be interested in becoming a member of the League of Women Voters, or if you have any questions regarding your membership or suggestions, please contact me at 978-287-0049, or Membership@lwvcc.com.

MEMBERSHIP BULLETIN

Anne Hayden, Bulletin Editor

The *Membership Bulletin* continues to be one of the major ways that information is transmitted to our membership. The *Bulletin's* goal is to provide both Concord and Carlisle members with a variety of materials and information about important issues at the local, state and national levels. This year four issues were produced.

Over the past several years the LWVCC website has become an excellent source of League and governmental information for both our members and the general public. As

Bulletin editor, I look forward to coordinating even more with Erin Pastuszanski, our LWVCC Webmaster, so that you will continue to have access to League information in a timely and comprehensive manner.

Many thanks to all who supplied articles for the *Bulletin* this year. Please do not hesitate to contact me with your suggestions, ideas or thoughts regarding this publication. Together we can make it even better!

ENVIRONMENTAL MOVIE NIGHT

Janet Rothrock, Movie Coordinator

Another result of the Life in the Balance (LITB) programs was the establishment of a monthly Environmental Movie Night. In the fall a small group of people met regularly to preview movies that could be used as part of the trash, food and power LITB programs. However, the movies were so well received that the movie nights have continued on into the spring. Janet Rothrock coordinates the movies and Nancy and Reinier Beeuwkes host the showings at their house.

Here is a list of the movies that have been shown to date:
Inconvenient Truth (general)
The American Southwest: Are We Running Dry (water)

Fast Food Nation (food)
The Real Dirt on Farmer John (food)
Supersize Me (food)
Energy Crossroads: A Burning Need to Change Course (energy)
Running Dry (water) The Power of Community (food)
What's Growing in Concord? (food)
Flow (water)
Fresh (food)
The True Cost of Food (food)
The Big Energy Gamble (energy)

Movie Night will continue next year though it may broaden its focus depending on what is happening in Concord and around the world.

CARLISLE

Launa Zimmaro, Carlisle Liaison

It's been an active year for Carlisle LWVCC members. In addition to supporting LWVCC Life in the Balance and Democracy in the Balance programs and LWVMA legislative objectives through community outreach, press releases and articles, we've also had a 'local' focus dedicated to informing citizens regarding town government, elections and issues.

We held candidates' forums in April 2009 and May 2010 and a public information forum in March on the Carlisle School Building Project and proposed renovations of CCHS with presentations from School Building Committee members and school personnel. In November 2009, we successfully petitioned the Carlisle Board of Selectmen to adopt a resolution in support of the Updated Bottle Bill, legislation

supported by LWVMA. We have actively supported local initiatives such as adoption of the stretch code to ensure higher home energy efficiency standards and performance and a school garden/compost/local food to school project through letters to the editor and collaboration with other town organizations.

A representative team from our 14 member contingent met with our new Town Administrator shortly after his appointment to discuss ways to more effectively engage residents in town government. Our members regularly provide help with town meetings and election tasks and promote the work of the League and voter registration in a variety of public venues. We look forward to a growing membership and involvement in the coming year.

PUBLICITY & LWVCC WEBSITE

Erin Pastuszenski, Communications Director

Our League was very active and visible in the Concord and Carlisle communities this year. In 2009-2010, we spread the word about the Life in the Balance and Democracy in the Balance programs we co-sponsored, as well as a special election for U.S. Senate, membership events, book discussions, a Carlisle schools forum, local candidates' forums, voter education, and voting recommendations on Town Meeting articles. We also publicized our stands on health reform, the e-waste and bottle bills, climate change legislation and open government through letters to the editor. League members and programs were seen and heard regularly in the local and regional press, on local cable television, in online events calendars and on local websites, including our own LWVCC website.

LWVCC's website is the public face of our League, and we have worked to improve and expand it and update content frequently. The homepage highlights upcoming events and elections, and provides direct links to our Calendar, Bulletins and other online resources. The Calendar is filled with the latest information on League events and also includes notices on voting, elections, and public hearings and meetings. We have webpages on general areas of our work, like Voter Information and Issues and Action, and on special projects, like Life in the

Balance and the River Stewardship Awards. We also post LWVCC Annual Meeting Workbooks, Local Program, By-Laws and other resources on our website, so League information is easily accessible from any computer. In addition, at our website, anyone interested in joining the League can find membership information and forms, and a supporter may donate online or opt to download a contribution form.

Over the summer, we will implement two important changes in the LWVCC website. First, we will convert from **lwvcc.com** to **lwvcc.org**, a more appropriate domain name for a nonprofit organization. Second, we will add an online dues payment feature to make it easier for new members to join and for current members to renew. Also in the works is a link to a LWVCC photo-sharing website. As always, you can send suggestions or comments to the webmaster by using the link at the bottom of any webpage.

Please keep visiting our website regularly (currently at www.lwvcc.com) and refer others to it. Thank you to everyone who has provided content or given feedback for the website or for the League's other external communications this year.

BOOK GROUP

Anne Hayden, Chair

The LWVCC Book Group has now finished up its fifth year, and it is proving to be one of our successful new ventures. Over fifty people are on the list of participants and an average of fifteen people attend each meeting. We meet bimonthly in the Trustees Room at the Concord Free Public Library on either the second or the fourth Wednesday of the month. All are welcome to participate, and attendance is kept so that I can send out email reminders of our upcoming meetings to everyone on the list.

This year we read Thomas Friedman's *The World is Flat* and *Hot, Flat and Crowded* at

our October meeting, Alan Burdick's *Out of Eden: An Odyssey of Ecological Invasion* in January, Greg Mortenson's two books, *Three Cups of Tea* and *Stones Into Schools* in March, and on May 26 we will end with Elise Lemire's *Black Walden: Slavery and Its Aftermath in Concord, Massachusetts*.

If you would like more information about the book group and/or would like to be added to our email list, please email me (Book_Group@lhwcc.com). We are looking forward to another interesting and thought-provoking year in 2010-2011.

2010 WINTER FUNDRAISER

Barbara Anthony, Chair

In February we mailed an appeal letter to our Concord friends who are not members of the LWVCC. Once again their response has been heart-warming. Their support is important to us and helps finance our many activities.

This year our thanks go to Sybille Barlow, Walter and Susan Birge, George Dallas,

Elaine DiCicco, Sally Garth, Lloyd and June Grace, Eric Green and Carmin Reiss, Arthur Milliken, Helen (Lal) Minton, Gordon and Pam Pettengill, Barbara Pike, Gordon and Joy Shaw, Leli Sudler, Barbara Wheeler, Joseph and Verona Wheeler, and Herbert and Angela Wilkins.

VOTER SERVICE

U.S. Senate Special Election

After the death of U.S. Senator Edward M. Kennedy last fall, Massachusetts scheduled a special election to fill the resulting vacancy. LWV of Massachusetts held a pre-primary candidate forum at UMass-Amherst on November 8, 2009, and LWVCC members Judy LaRocca and Erin Pastuszewski attended. All Democratic and Republican candidates, except Mass. Attorney General Martha Coakley, appeared at the forum. The primary was held on December 8, and LWVMA was not able to schedule a forum with Attorney General Coakley and State Senator Scott Brown before the special general election on January 19, 2010.

In response to a request from LWVMA, LWVCC's Board of Directors approved a donation last October to support the state League's efforts to hold candidate forums. LWVCC wants the League tradition of nonpartisan candidate forums for statewide races to continue.

Voter Registration

LWVCC makes voter registration information available to residents through its website and at its information tables at local events. Ardis Bordman coordinated a voter registration effort last fall, hoping to capitalize on interest in the U.S. Senate special election. LWVCC volunteers staffed voter registration tables at back to school nights in Concord and Carlisle. We are grateful to all members who assisted with voter registration this year. Participating were Janet Beyer, Janet Rothrock, Erin Pastuszewski, Sue Cannon, Barbara Lewis, Becky Shannon, Judy LaRocca, Nancy Cronin, Susan Sekuler, Erica Morrison,

Louise Haldeman, Nancy Beeuwkes, Mary Chapman, Launa Zimmaro, Marge Daggett, Anita Barker, Evin Phillips, and Ardis Bordman.

Town of Concord

As usual, LWVCC was involved with educating the public leading up to the March Town Election and the April Town Meeting. We canceled a February "Our Town, Our Schools, Our Money" forum due to weather concerns, but our website offered general information on Town Meeting and provided a gateway to the comprehensive Town Meeting resources on the Town of Concord's website (www.concordma.gov).

For the March 23 Town Election, LWVCC hosted a Candidates Forum on March 7 at the Concord Town House, with LWV of Wayland's Nancy Carapezza moderating and all candidates on the ballot appearing. The election featured a contested race to fill the office of Moderator, from which Ned Perry is retiring this spring. The forum aired live and CCTV rebroadcast it up to the election. The LWVCC team working on the forum included Ardis Bordman, Louise Haldeman, Paula Vandever, Erica Morrison, Nancy and Reinier Beeuwkes, Cindy Nock, Becky Shannon and Erin Pastuszewski.

The *Concord Journal* again partnered with LWVCC to produce a three-page Voters' Guide for the Town Election. The guide, which appeared on March 18, 2010, included segments on LWV mission and membership and on the LWVUS's 90th birthday (as well as LWVCC's 80th birthday). Erin Pastuszewski worked with the *Concord Journal* on this project.

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

Betsy Sluder, Chair

This has been an exciting year for the natural environment in Concord. Last spring, our town passed a wetlands by-law to protect the resource areas for our community's drinking water supply and furnish areas where storm run-off water could be absorbed which will minimize potential drainage onto property.

Concord was the only town in the Middlesex area that up until 2009 had no local law to protect its wetlands. Concord had to rely on the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to enforce wetland protection. That caused delays.

The Concord-Carlisle LWV supported the adoption of a local wetland law for Concord. Carlisle already had a law on its books.

The proposed law did pass at the 2009 Town Meeting. In September of 2009 the Concord wetlands law became effective after it was approved by the State's Attorney General. The Natural Resources Commission

currently has an ongoing case before it which deals with wetland issues. It is anticipated that the new Wetlands Bylaw will provide additional enforcement capabilities for the NRC.

Concord has experienced heavy rains in the Spring of 2010. That has resulted in extensive flooding throughout the town. Roads were under water and many homes had flooded basements. The floods proved the basic value of the wetlands by-law provisions, in showing how high flood levels could go. It is hoped that this will discourage building in flood-prone areas.

As chairman of the League's Environmental portfolio, I have been following these events with great interest. I attend the bi-monthly meetings of the Natural Resources Commission as the League observer. I note the frequent violations of the wetland law standards that come before the NRC.

HEALTH CARE

Paula Vandever

Health Care Reform Bill Becomes Law

We won the battle! What was our part this year? The LWVUS sent out Action Alerts to the membership, giving us sample letters and press releases, so that we could all speak according to our LWVUS Health Care Position. It was the consistent effort that Leaguers, and citizens across the country, made which allowed our members of Congress to take the often difficult stands, ultimately enabling this historic Health Care Reform Bill to become law. We have something to be proud of. Remember those events of the year.

Summer of 2009 LWVCC members:

- Attend Town Hall Meetings in Chelmsford and Hudson.
- Write letters to the editor of the Concord Journal and the Carlisle Mosquito encouraging citizens to contact their legislators.
- Write e-mails to President Obama urging a strong public option.
- Participate in conference calls with both Senator Kerry and Congresswoman Tsongas.
- Attend the Woman's Forum with Congresswoman Tsongas.
- Join the rally in Boston to support the public option in health care reform.

Leaders in the House begin weaving together what three committees -- Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means, and Education and Labor -- had passed on health care, preparing the bill for a post-Labor Day vote. In the Senate, the Finance Committee and the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee work on their bills.

Action Alerts continue from the LWVUS and we respond with regular e-mails and phone calls to Congresswoman Tsongas and Senator Kerry urging action, thanking them or expressing concern as:

- September, Senate Finance Committee votes against public option.
- October, Senate Finance Committee passes its version of health care reform.
- November, House passes H.R. 3962.
- December, Urging Senator Joseph Lieberman (I-CT) to reconsider his opposition, LWVUS creates a 60-second radio ad and a Facebook Page, "Do the Right Thing, Joe!"
- December, League again urges Senate to include a public option in the legislation.
- January, both House and Senate pass health care reform.
- January, League urges House to accept the Senate bill.
- March, House passes Senate bill. House, then Senate, and then House reconcile.
- March 23, President Obama signs the Health Care Reform Bill into law!

It was the tireless work of all of us who lobbied, advocated, marched and made our voices heard that overcame the strong, sometimes violent, opposition. The efforts of the people like you won the battle against highly financed interests, levels of ignorance from some and downright lies from others. Thank you all for what you contributed to make it happen.

CASINO GAMBLING

Louise Haldeman, LWVMA Casino Gambling Specialist

The idea of introducing Class 3 gambling, slot machines and table games, to Massachusetts has been around for some time. The LWV of Massachusetts has followed the issue closely since the early 1980s when a proposal to license gambling casinos was introduced. The proponents argue for jobs and lots of revenues. Opponents question the number of jobs, doubt the claims for revenue, and cite the increased social costs. The subject resembles a volcano which appears dormant but rumbles occasionally reminding us that it is far from dead.

In 2008 the volcano erupted when the Governor filed a bill which would have licensed three casinos. After much tumultuous discussion the bill was defeated, thanks in no small part to the determined opposition of the League and many other civic, social, and religious organizations who recognized that there would be negative economic and social consequences.

The volcano continued to rumble however and at the beginning of the current legislative session a number of bills were filed which dealt with expanded (Class 3) gambling in Massachusetts. The League tracked all of them and offered testimony in opposition at a hearing on Oct. 29, 2009.

On April Fool's Day in 2010 the volcano erupted again when a new bill authored by Speaker Robert DeLeo, which subsumed all the others, was filed. The bill, known as HB 4591, was 172 pages long. Two hundred and fifteen amendments were proposed, most of which were not adopted. Debate occurred in the House but there was no public hearing.

That bill is now in the hands of the Senate which has not shown itself to be well disposed to the House version. A long-standing point of contention will be the issue of slots at race tracks as opposed to casinos. The Senate has said that it will hold a public hearing, something which did not happen in the House. We can expect changes and amendments and the bill may go back to the House for a joint conference committee. If the bill comes out of conference by June 30 it will go to the Governor, but whether work can be completed by the end of the current legislative session is a question best left to professional book makers.

This is not yet a "done deal." There remain many issues which have not been addressed.

There has been no truly independent analysis of the costs and benefits of gambling. How sound are the projections of revenue and will they be sufficient to offset the well documented social costs which accompany gambling?

There is no question that jobs are important and there will certainly be jobs in construction while casinos are being built, but we need to ask how many "new" jobs will actually be created, how many of these will be permanent, and how many will be filled by persons whose present jobs have been put out of business by the casinos?

Casinos count on getting a major share of their profits from persons who have trouble controlling their gambling. The Legislature rejected amendments which attempted to address this in some part. Would the Senate consider adding additional controls?

What will be the effect of this legislation on Native American tribes? As sovereign nations they can do whatever is also legal in the state but there is no requirement that they share revenue.

If this legislation passes either in its present form or with alterations, the number of gambling establishments in the New England area will have grown and there may be more. What is the breaking point?

How many more gamblers have to be recruited to allow the market to be viable?

Even if some form of legislation authorizing casinos ultimately passes, there will still be many issues before the citizens. Too many people are silent on the issue feeling that it will not affect them. It will. Even those of us who live in areas which are not in direct proximity to the casinos will feel the effects.

LEAGUE PROGRAM AND ACTION

Louise Haldeman, LWVMA Program & Action Committee

LWVMA Program and Action- the what and the why

The Program and Action Committee of the LWVMA is the lobbying arm of the League. During the course of the legislative session, various specialists track proposed legislation which connects with League Program. There are bills which the League supports as well as ones which it opposes. Often specialists work with a bill to support certain changes. This process starts with a recommendation by the specialist that a given bill is one in which the League has an interest and which coincides with a League position. After thoroughly researching the bill a report is presented to the P and A committee which may recommend to the LWVMA Board that the bill be supported or opposed.

Once a given bill is approved for action it will be tracked, and testimony will be given at hearings, etc. Often a call to action will be sent to the membership when it appears that the legislature is ready to act. Of course many bills never reach the stage of a major hearing and some vanish into the cavern of the "study order" but they do tend to

resurface as time goes by, perhaps in another legislative session.

The LWVMA's list of positions, called "program" in League language, can be found on the website. These positions are the result of study and consensus over many years. Also on the website is the packet for the recent Day on the Hill at which various specialists presented background material as well as the testimony which has been given by the League at various times.

In the past year the League has worked very hard for environmental legislation, particularly the e-waste bill, safer alternatives, and the expanded bottle bill. It has also lobbied effectively for a number of bills affecting health care in Massachusetts. Human services and voting rights continue to be a priority and of course the fight over legalizing casino gambling continues. There is always a need for more specialists. There are program areas which are not being covered. Anyone interested should contact Carole Pelchat, VP for Program and Action.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Nancy P. James

Introduction: national and state League chapters have made a significant commitment to domestic violence prevention. Our newsletters will now contain a report each month on the activities within Concord and surrounding towns about this issue. Included in these reports will be **Rachel's Box Project, Domestic Violence Services Network** (including DVVAP and the **Network for Women's Lives**)

Rachel's Box Project serves victims of domestic violence, as well as child and elder abuse, in over **50 locations around the western suburbs**. Wooden boxes located throughout area community (libraries, schools, faith communities, etc.) contain general information on domestic violence and related issues as well as information to help victims keep safe (safety planning, support resources, and hotlines). Please notify Nancy James 978-369-2771 if you notice boxes in disarray or needing materials.

Concord, MA website features an article "**Violence in Privileged Communities**" which is a must-read for everyone. To find it, Google "Domestic Violence Concord, MA" and you will be directed to the Concord website (www.concordnet.org) page. Page down for the link to the article.

Domestic Violence Services Network is the collaborative effort of the former **Network for Women's Lives** and **DVVAP** publishing valuable information on websites under both www.dvvap.org and www.networkforwomenslives.org offer education and training programs as well as tips on domestic violence prevention and safety. Services include: **Advocate Training** for direct service to domestic violence survivors via phone and at Concord District Court. DVVAP@Concordnet.org or 978-318-3421.

Public School Domestic Violence Education Program: collaborating with area schools and parent/community groups to educate students about teen dating violence issues, healthy relationships, and issues of bullying with non-violent solutions to problems

Support Groups for Women with Controlling Partners: These programs help women achieve safety and self-care, understand the more insidious and coercive behaviors of an abuser, and examine how the control affects their lives. The sessions are led by trained social workers who have been working in the field of domestic violence. For more information, call (978) 287-4089.

Clergy Symposium: Practical guidance and discussion is provided to clergy who counsel affected members of their faith communities in dealing with domestic violence issues. The Symposium Committee determines agenda, speakers, publicity, and local arrangements and facilitates the symposium. The May 5, 2010 program is co-sponsored by the **Sudbury-Wayland-Lincoln Domestic Violence Roundtable**.

DV Hotline Tear-off Notes: An easy-to-conceal tear-off sheet placed in private areas like restroom stalls, contain state hotline numbers and information about healthy and unhealthy relationships.

"The Safety Net:" is a quarterly newsletter both mailed and found in Rachel's Boxes.

The Board of the Concord-Carlisle League of Women Voters offers continued support of the mission and carries a newsletter page in every issue on local domestic violence prevention activities.

**League of Women Voters Concord-Carlisle
Treasurer's Report May 2010
Cont. page 2**

EXPENSES	FY09-10 Budget	FY09-10 Actual	09 - 10 Explanatory Notes	FY10-11 Proposed	10 - 11 Explanatory Notes
Administration					
Annual Meeting	\$100	\$100.00		\$100	
Officers Descretionary fund	\$400	\$151.00	CCTV, Room fee for LWVMA	\$200	
Insurance (liability)	\$350	\$333.00		\$350	
Assessments					
State	\$3,100	\$2,952.00		\$3,000	
National	\$3,800	\$3,907.00		\$3,900	
Membership					
Membership Mtgs	\$300	\$324.00	Fall Coffee, Holiday, Jan Breakfast	\$300	Fall Coffee, Holiday, Jan Breakfast
Membership mailings	\$100	\$84.00		\$100	
Membership Directory Printin	\$275	\$253.00		\$275	
Membership postage	\$50	\$57.30		\$50	
Membership Honorary Gifts	\$150	\$0.00		\$150	Expect 2-3 in 10/11
Conventions and Conferences					
National Convention (even yr)	\$3,000	\$0.00	In Atlanta, expenses not in yet	\$0	N/A
State Convention (odd yr)	\$0	\$0.00	N/A	\$800	
State Fall Conference	\$400	\$0.00	No expenses for this year	\$400	
State Spring Council (even yr)	\$300	\$0.00	Not in yet	\$0	N/A
Fundraiser Annual Appeal Let	\$200	\$77.00	Printing and Postage	\$100	
Fundraiser House Tour	\$0	\$0.00		\$0	
Website	\$210	\$276.00	LEW and LWVCC.org domain	\$210	LEW only
Postage					
Permit	\$180	\$185.00		\$185	
Bulk Mailings	\$300	\$131.00		\$300	
1st Class	\$50	\$49.00	For Misc. stamps	\$50	
Box 34	\$86	\$86.00	Annual Fee	\$86	

League of Women Voters Concord-Carlisle
Treasurer's Report May 2010
 Cont. page 3

EXPENSES cont.	FY09-10 Budget	FY09-10 Actual	09 - 10 Explanatory Notes	FY10-11 Proposed	10 - 11 Explanatory Notes
Printing/Copying					
Annual Mtg Workbook	\$450			\$500	
Member Bulletin	\$500	\$979.00	Oct., Nov., Jan. and March	\$1,000	
Observer Report	\$150	\$0.00		\$0	Remove this next year
LWVCC Materials	\$100	\$0.00		\$100	
Postcards/Misc	\$100	\$49.00		\$100	
Local Signs	\$100	\$0.00		\$200	Replacements needed in Concord
Book Group	\$100	\$0.00		\$100	
Riverfest					
Riverfest Award	\$180	\$0.00		\$180	
Riverfest Printing	\$35	\$28.00		\$35	
Forums and Action	\$3,000			\$3,000	
Education/Communication		\$1,460.00	LITB Forums		
Voters Service		\$500.00	To LVWMA for Senate Forum		
Advocacy/Issues		\$0.00			
Celebrations	\$0	\$0.00		\$1,000	375th Concord and 80th LWV
Publications State/National	\$100	\$12.00	Impact on Issues	\$200	
Memorial Funds	\$300	\$0.00		\$300	
Donation to LWVMA	\$1,000	\$1,000.00		\$1,000	
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>\$19,466</u>	<u>\$12,993</u>		<u>\$18,271</u>	
 REVENUE over EXPENSES	 <u><u>-\$7,966</u></u>	 <u><u>-\$1,968</u></u>		 <u><u>-\$8,071</u></u>	

PROPOSED LOCAL PROGRAM

MAINTAIN ALL CURRENT LOCAL POSITIONS

STUDIES: None proposed

RECOMMENDED INITIATIVES

1. Town Government in Concord and Carlisle

This proposed initiative would focus on educating League members and the public about town government operations in Concord and Carlisle and increasing public engagement with and participation in town government through education and advocacy. The initiative may include League fact-finding or investigation as a step in preparation for education or advocacy. Any advocacy undertaken as part of this initiative would be approved by the Board of Directors and would rely on existing local, state and national League positions. A committee of League members would be appointed to devise a plan to carry out this initiative, which may include in its scope (a) issues such as communications, transparency, efficiency, staffing, fairness and citizen participation, (b) local topics such as housing, and (c) outreach through a variety of vehicles such as informational forums, educational publications (including online publications), video broadcasts and letters to the editor.

2. Life in the Balance

This proposed initiative is a continuation of the successful citizen education series our League co-sponsored in 2009-2010, which focused on issues related to environmental sustainability. For 2010-2011, the League would continue its involvement with co-sponsoring groups, including ConcordCAN (Concord Climate Action Network) and Carlisle Climate Action, through Board-appointed representation on a Life in the Balance Steering Committee, for the purpose of (1) holding educational forums on topics such as water resource issues and integrated approaches to achieving sustainability and (2) supporting ongoing networking among participants in Life in the Balance events. This initiative may include League-organized advocacy that is based on existing local, state and national League positions, as approved by the Board of Directors. A committee of League members would be appointed to oversee and carry out this initiative.

LWV CONCORD-CARLISLE LOCAL PROGRAM 2009-2010

Summary of Positions

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Town Government | 11. Housing |
| 2. Education | 12. Growth |
| 3. Public Health/Condom Availability | 13. Land Acquisition and Management |
| 4. Recreation | 14. Land Use |
| 5. Animal Control | 15. Agricultural Land Use |
| 6. Crime Prevention | 16. Environmental Health |
| 7. Tourism | 17. Wetlands |
| 8. Hanscom Field | 18. SuAsCo River Basin |
| 9. Long Range Planning | |
| 10. Town Facilities | |

Detailed Positions

1. Town Government, Concord

The League of Women Voters of Concord-Carlisle supports a local government which is based on the fullest possible participation of informed citizens in its policy and decision making processes. The League finds that Town Government as now practiced in Concord is both democratic and effective. To make it more responsive, open, and fair, we would support the following improvements:

1. 1. 1 Increased communications between:
 - a) committees and their appointing authorities, including periodic review and supervision, as well as more explicit definition of committee's charges
 - b) committees and the public
 - c) committee chairmen and members, including once yearly training/orientation sessions, and detailed and written orientation information for new members. (Modified 2001)
1. 1. 2 Increased citizen participation through:
 - a) more publicity of hearings
 - b) early notices of committee meetings and hearings with agendas
 - c) use of all available media to inform public on town affairs
 - d) distribution of town information package to newcomers
 - e) wider distribution of green cards.
- 1.1.3 Committee procedures made more effective by:
 - a) specific term lengths for committee members
 - b) use of sub and ad hoc committees for specific studies and to relieve overburdened committees
 - c) informative minutes, publicly available
 - d) termination process for unneeded committees
- 1.1.4 Adequate clerical and financial support with information given to committees by the Town Manager on services available.
- 1.1.5 Fair and responsible appointment process strengthened by:
 - a) expanding use of green cards, with regular updating and review by citizens and the Town Manager's office.
 - b) posting vacancies with at least two weeks between posting and appointment
 - c) flexible, informal interviews with prospective appointees
 - d) prompt appointments
 - e) reasonable use of recommendations from committee members

- f) geographical distribution of committee members for those committees whose functions warrant it.
 - g) use of the following criteria in appointing committee members: availability for attendance at committee meetings; eagerness to serve; expertise; work and/or volunteer experience; ability to work with others; stamina (not in order of priority).
- 1.2 League members were firm in opposition to:
- a) use of green cards as an exclusive source of appointees
 - b) use of a search committee to nominate appointees
 - c) election of more town committees (adopted March 1977, reaffirmed 1999)
- 1.3 The League supports the continuation of the Town Meeting as the primary deliberative and legislative body of the Town (adopted Feb. 96, reaffirmed 1999)
- 1.4 The League supports open Town Meeting as currently practiced with voting on Town Meeting issues taking place within the sessions of the town meeting. (Adopted Feb. 96, reaffirmed 1999)
- 1.5 The League believes that it is the obligation of the Town to provide all citizens seeking to attend Town Meeting, the opportunity to participate. If it should become impossible, on a regular and frequently recurring basis, to accommodate all of the persons wishing to attend Town Meeting, then the League would support a representative form of town meeting as an alternative to the present open Town Meeting. (Adopted Feb. 96, reaffirmed 1999)
- 1.6 The League opposes any change in Town Meeting Voting that would separate the vote from the deliberative process. (Adopted Feb. 96, reaffirmed 1999)
- 1.7 The League opposes any voting method that would constrain participants from having full access to information about the questions on which they are voting. (Adopted Feb. 96 reaffirmed 1999)
- 1.8 To further ensure that the residents of Concord are informed participants, the League urges that the Town take greater measures to:
- a) Increase the understanding of citizens about their local government.
 - b) Offer a fuller explanation of committee and board duties along with the Green Cards. Advertise committee vacancies promptly and widely.
 - c) Give wider distribution to the Town Report. (Adopted Feb. 1996, reaffirmed 1999)

Town Government, Carlisle

That the town of Carlisle should continue its present form of government, strengthening its effectiveness by improved communication and cooperation among boards and by the use of administrative and technical support when needed.

- 1.9.1 Support the use of administrative and technical assistance to foster the effective use of volunteers' time and expertise.
- 1.9.2 Support an annual meeting, chaired by the Selectmen at which all town committees present their accomplishments and goals.
- 1.9.3 Support issue-oriented meetings as needed, among pertinent boards. The ultimate responsibility for these meetings lies with the Selectmen.
- 1.9.4 Support timely distribution of pertinent information by committees to townspeople. (Adopted 1980, amended 1983, reaffirmed 1999)

2. Education

Concord and Carlisle in pursuit of quality education in the public schools:

- 2.1 Support a school organization that encourages the following: stability—requiring few major changes and little redistricting in order to preserve a sense of school community; low pupil-teacher ratios with the lowest in the primary grades; respect for parental preference among a range of teaching styles; broad uniform program aims; sound fiscal management. (Reaffirmed 1999)

- 2.2 Support for a system of guidance and social work that allows for department flexibility and staff mobility and interaction, particularly with the elementary schools. (Adopted July 1980, reaffirmed 1999)
- 2.3 Support for a system of guidance and social work which has as its primary role maintenance of the climate of learning of the student body as a whole and the consideration of the needs of the individual student; and which communicates openly with parents and provides information through channels such as workshops, written material, PTG meetings, etc. (Reaffirmed 1999)
- 2.4 Support additional, vocational education in the school system. An ideal system would include a) adequate up to date facilities; b) flexibility in time, choice, program, and amount of concentration on vocational or academic courses by each student; c) coordination with instruction in the Concord and Carlisle systems; d) full use of facilities for the whole community after regular school hours, evenings and summers; e) expansion of an improved work-study program; f) career awareness beginning in the elementary grades. (Reaffirmed 1999).
- 2.5 Support at Concord-Carlisle High School a curriculum development process utilizing inputs by departments, cooperation between departments, citizen input, and administrative and school committee review. Curriculum to afford flexible scheduling of student and teacher time to create opportunities for course options. Curriculum to emphasize interdepartmentally a sampling of many areas; development of analytic skills, written and oral communication skills; preparation for citizenship; and requirements for graduation in courses in many disciplines. (Adopted 1971, amended '78,'79,'83,'85 and Reaffirmed 1999)
- 2.6 Support a program of staff development and teacher evaluation to be reviewed regularly by the School Committees (adopted 1971, modified and reaffirmed, 1999)
- 2.7 Support the availability of co-curricular and extra-curricular activities for students of Concord-Carlisle High School and at the Concord and Carlisle Middle Schools. (Adopted 1971, reaffirmed 1999, amended 2001)
- 2.8 Support a budget that includes adequate funding. (Adopted 1971 modified and reaffirmed 1999)
- 2.9 Support efforts by the schools and the parents associations to improve communications with the community. (Adopted 1971 reaffirmed 1999)

3. Public Health: Condom Availability

The Concord-Carlisle League of Women Voters recognizes that AIDS (Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome) has become a major health problem in this country, particularly for young adults and is now the leading cause of death for men between the ages of 18 and 40 and the fourth leading cause of death for women in the same age category. The League also recognizes that sexual intercourse is the most frequent mode of transmission for HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus), although there are other ways in which the disease may be transmitted.

Because of the potential threat to the young people of our community, the League urges the citizens of Concord and Carlisle, in conjunction with their Boards of Selectmen, The Regional School Committee, The Boards of Health, and other public and private agencies to embark upon a program of making condoms available to young people under conditions that include counseling and education as to inherent risks. This program should be undertaken in the knowledge that while properly used, condoms reduce the risk of AIDS, hepatitis B, other venereal diseases, and unplanned pregnancies, they do not remove all risk. The League believes that recognition of such risk falls on the individual. Every individual engaging in sexual intercourse must assess the risks involved and assume responsibility for his/her actions. (Approved by Board January 1995 reaffirmed 1999, language updated 2002)

4. Recreation, Concord

- 4.1 Support a comprehensive public recreation program in Concord.
- 4.2 Support a master plan for recreation in Concord.

- 4.3 Support the acquisition of land to meet the active recreational needs of the Town.
- 4.4 Support the development and maintenance of public swimming facilities, and the improvement of natural bodies of water. (Modified 2007)
- 4.5 Support the improvement and extension of Concord's present bike/foot path system including the preparation of a long-range construction plan.
- 4.6 Support the additional facilities for bicyclists, including a bike/foot path map, marked paths and street crossings, and safe racks well-placed around Town.
- 4.7 Support recreational activities on conservation lands that do not alter the integrity of the land for conservation purposes.
- 4.8 Support the increased distribution of information on conservation lands to townspeople.
- 4.9 Support making information on conservation land available upon request to visitors to Concord. (Reaffirmed 1999, amended 2000)

Bike Footpaths Carlisle

- 4.10 Support the development of bike/foot ways in Carlisle and the promotion of bicycle and pedestrian safety.
- 4.11 Support a pilot project for the development of bike/foot ways (1982, reaffirmed 1999)
- 4.12 Support a master plan for bike/foot ways for all existing town roads.
- 4.13 Support the Planning Board regulations requiring developers to build bike/foot paths in all new developments. (Adopted 1973, amended, 1980, 1982, reaffirmed 1999)

5. Animal Control, Concord

- 5.1 Support a dog control by-law that: is consistent and easy to understand; defines "under control by owner"; prohibits dogs from school property during classroom hours except with express permission of the principal; included a limited leash law for the business areas of Concord, school property outside of classroom hours, and town playgrounds; includes a "pooper scooper" provision for the business areas of Concord, playgrounds, and school property
- 5.2 Support enforcement of Concord's animal control by-law that: is based on a complaint responsive system; includes limited patrolling by dog officer in problem areas such as playgrounds, business districts, and school property plus areas that have a high number of complaints; encourages dog licensing by charging higher fines for unlicensed dogs; encourages citizen participation by expedient and appropriate response to legitimate dog-related complaints.
- 5.3 Support license fees to be set at a level to encourage neutering. (Amended 2000.)
- 5.4 Support an innovative approach to dog licensing that: encourages licensing by mailing reminders to owners of all dogs reported on the Town census; follows up on known unlicensed dogs; has mail-in license forms; has a flexible licensing schedule—perhaps every three years when dog is due for rabies shot; encourages prompt licensing by charging late fees.
- 5.5 Support educational activities such as: information packets prepared by the town and widely distributed to town citizens explaining law and responsibilities of dog owner; community programs on animal care, possibly through the schools. (Adopted May 1985, reaffirmed 1999)
- 5.6 Support the immunization of cats against rabies (in accordance with state law) and strongly urge the immunization of all domestic animals against rabies and other contagious and potentially life-threatening diseases.

6. Crime Prevention

- 6.1 Support efforts to heighten public awareness about crime prevention, including educating citizens to report suspicious incidents to the police, and establishing neighborhood groups both to prevent crime and as a method of developing a stronger sense of community.
- 6.2 Support efforts to prevent juvenile crime by identifying youth needs and concerns, and coordinating the development and implementation of services for youth. (Modified 2008)

- 6.3 Support police Department crime prevention efforts, particularly educational programs in the schools and in the community at large, including an active “Operation identification” program.
- 6.4 Support increased use by the Concord district court of restitution and alternative sentencing, including the community service work program in Concord.
- 6.5 Support effective methods of identifying and publicizing the costs of vandalism to Town property.
- 6.6 Support effective methods of supervising heavily used Town conservation land. (Adopted December 1980, reaffirmed 1999)

7. Tourism Concord

In order to provide a pleasant experience in Concord for visitors to the revolutionary and literary sites and to maintain and improve the quality of life for residents in Concord, the League

- 7.1 Supports visitors' services with adequate public parking and toilet facilities located in the vicinity of the Milldam and at the West Concord shopping district. (Revised 2001)
- 7.2 Supports improved directional signs. Mini- informational maps of the vandal-proof roadside type are especially needed.
- 7.3 Supports public or private groups publishing maps or tapes which will direct visitors taking walking or biking tours of the Town. (Reaffirmed 1999)

8. Hanscom Field

- 8.1 Oppose extension of Hanscom field into a major airport
- 8.2 Support maintenance of general aviation activity at Hanscom Field at no higher than the 1973 level.
- 8.3 Support the participation of Concord and other Towns in the solution to problems associated with Hanscom Field

9. Long Range Planning

- 9.1 Support of local and regional long-range planning. Cooperation in the development of comprehensive planning criteria for the towns. (Reaffirmed 1999)

10. Town Facilities

- 10.1 Support for the re-use of surplus buildings: (a) consistent with the character of the neighborhood; (b) consistent with the current zoning; and (c) consistent with the preservation of architectural features.
- 10.2 Support for the reuse of surplus buildings which: (a) use private funding whenever possible; (b) satisfy a need within the community; (c) are sound economic investments for the community; and (d) which are planned to be self-supporting when possible.
- 10.3 Support for rehabilitation of Stow Street surplus buildings for: (a) elderly housing; (b) low income and family housing; (c) recreation; and (d) education.
- 10.4 Oppose extensive retail or commercial development on Stow Street. (Reaffirmed May 1999)

11. Housing, Concord

- 11.1 Support housing at all income levels in Concord. In particular, there should be a supply of low and moderate income housing in Concord to ensure inclusion of the elderly, those on fixed incomes, young people, families, disabled/handicapped persons, teachers, and town employees.
- 11.2 Support the following criteria to support implementation: (a) sound planning should be the basis of such development; (b) private and public efforts to provide such housing should be encouraged, especially if they provide economic mix within neighborhoods; (c) low rise, low density, multi-family dwellings would fulfill the Town’s need and would be most in keeping

with the desire to preserve the “open land” character of Concord. (Revised and reaffirmed 1999, modified 2007)

Housing, Carlisle

- 11.3 Support mixed income housing (low, moderate, and fair market) in Carlisle with priority to housing needs for the elderly. We recommend that consideration be given to rehabilitation and/or conversion of existing buildings and new construction of housing units that will be in keeping with the rural character of Carlisle. We further recommend the use of rent subsidies and tax abatements where applicable. (Adopted 1978, reaffirmed 1999)

12. Growth

- 12.1 Support development of a land use plan in Concord that 1) has land capacity as a key component, 2) defines specific principles and policies, and 3) utilizes appropriate data maps.
- 12.2 Support positive action towards the achievement of Concord town planning goals in the conversion of any municipal buildings.
- 12.3 Support the regular updating of the Concord accessory apartment conversion bylaw as a means to provide housing alternatives within existing housing stock. (Modified and affirmed 1999, modified 2007)

13. Land Acquisition and Management, Concord

- 13.1 Support Town acquisition of land for
- a. affordable housing, including subsidized housing
 - b. municipal use
 - c. stewardship of our historic and literary past
 - d. recreation-active and passive (conservation)
- Decisions about purchases should be made by weighing acquisitions against an overall plan with attention to balance, location, and possibilities for multiple use. (Modified 2007)
- 13.2 Support land taking by eminent domain only as a last resort and when it satisfies the public need and the public good; this could also be useful in clearing title to a property when ownership is unclear. (Modified 2007)
- 13.3 Support the concept of land banking
- 13.4 Support a land transfer tax. (Note: This position was adopted prior to Concord’s and Carlisle’s approvals of the Community Preservation Act real estate property tax surcharges.) (Modified 2008)
- 13.5 Support the principle of acquiring land with the intention of later leasing or selling parts of it if the intent to do so was made clear at the time of purchase or if the land was found to be surplus to Town needs.
- (Criteria to be considered for Town land acquisition include the ability to be developed, location, linkage, potential uses, preservation, access, public safety and health. Each parcel of land is unique, therefore it is difficult to establish priorities in criteria for purchase, but the ability to be developed may be the most important.) (Adopted 1987, reaffirmed 1999, modified 2007)

14. Land Use

- 14.1 Support the protection of wetlands and lands in the flood plain through strong enforcement of legislation regulating wetlands, flood plains, and conservation lands; through such methods as percolation tests and Town acquisition of such Concord lands.
- 14.2 Support acquiring open land in densely populated areas of Concord. Support visibility of land as an important criterion of Town Acquisition.
- 14.3 Support a mix of housing to meet the needs of a variety of age and income levels.

- 14.4 Support strategic land management to achieve: preservation of open space, a diversity of housing types, and land for municipal uses

15. Agricultural Land Use

- 15.1 Support preservation of farmland in Concord by the following methods: The Farmland Assessment Act, conservation restrictions, purchase of development rights, land trusts, and tax reform.
- 15.2 Support Concord acquisition of farmland where other methods of preservation could not be used and the alternative would be the likely loss of the land to development.
- 15.3 Support the agricultural use of MCI-Concord agricultural land, and public education on the problems and potentials of farming in Concord (Reaffirmed 1999)

16. Environmental Health

Solid Waste Disposal

- 16.1 Support a solid waste disposal method that is safe and protects the health of the community and the environment; any method must be economically feasible and well managed.
- 16.2 Support improved methods of operation at existing landfill sites.
- 16.3 Support regionalization of solid waste disposal facilities
- 16.4 Support recycling education programs in the schools

Sanitary Sewage Facilities

- 16.5 Support improvements needed to maintain present systems at their peak performance.
- 16.6 Support first priority for tie-ins for those areas contiguous to the existing collection line, which are in dire need of service. (Reaffirmed 1999)

17. Wetlands

- 17.1 Support preservation and/or acquisition of wetlands and related uplands in the Sudbury, Assabet, and Concord River Basin as well as other actions by appropriate federal state and local agencies.
- 17.2 Support the preservation and/or acquisition of the wetlands and related uplands in the Shawsheen River basin in Concord (Elm Brook). (Reaffirmed 1999)
- 17.3 Support strengthening Concord flood plain and wetland bylaws. (adopted March 1981, reaffirmed 1999, moved from 12.4 2007)

18. SUASCO River Basin

The SuAsCo River Basin Group represents nine Leagues in the Sudbury, Assabet and Concord River Basin. The SuAsCo River Basin Group allows the Leagues to approach water resource problems on a regional basis.

- 18.1 Support (a) comprehensive long range planning and coordinated action for use of water and related land resources in the SuAsCo Basin (b) measures to protect and maintain water supply, flood control, fish and wildlife, state and local agencies to accomplish the above; (c) adequate funding for federal, state and local agencies to accomplish the above; (d) federal, state, and local action to achieve flood plain zoning, stream encroachment planning, conservation easements, and the improvements of river flows.
- 18.2 Oppose high power transmission lines running overhead through areas zoned for residence. (Reaffirmed 1999)

LWVCC Program as Reaffirmed at 2009 Annual Meeting

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Mary Chapman, Pam Howell, Janet Rothrock, Susan Sekuler, Launa Zimmaro

The Nomination Committee is pleased to present to the Annual Meeting the slate of candidates for the Board of Directors of the League of Women Voters of Concord-Carlisle for 2010-2011.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Becky Shannon	Co-President
Paula Vandever	Co-President
Cindy Nock	Vice President
Ardis Bordman	Recording Secretary
Lauren Bakewell	Treasurer
Erin Pastuszewski	Communications

DIRECTORS WITH PORTFOLIO:

Nancy Beeuwkes	Membership Events
Nancy Cronin	State Action
Louise Haldeman	Observer Corps/Liaison to State Board
Anne Hayden	Bulletin
Barbara Lewis	Membership Vice-Chair
Susan Livingston	Membership Chair
Erica Morrison	Hospitality
Launa Zimmaro	Carlisle Affairs
Betsy Sluder	Environment

DIRECTORS AT-LARGE:

Barbara Anthony
Evin Phillips
Susan Sekuler

OFF BOARD ADVISORS:

Di Clymer	Fundraising
Sue Curtin	Education Specialist
Nancy James	Domestic Violence/Rachel's Box
Fran Neville	Auditor
Sarah Rolley	Carlisle Voters Service
Judith Sprott	Wastewater Planning
Marian Thornton	Open Space/Concord Land Conservation Trust