

Save the Date!

LWVCC ANNUAL MEETING

Date: May 23, 2018
Time: 7 to 9:30pm
Place: Kerem Shalom, 659 Elm Street, Concord
Speaker: Honorable Cory Atkins, State Representative
14th Middlesex District
Topic: “Stories from My Years as Your Representative”



*Nut free desserts provided by your Board starting at 7 o'clock. Rep. Atkins will begin to speak at 7:30pm. The business meeting will commence at 8:15-ish. **All League members** are encouraged to attend our Annual Meeting.*

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Diane Proctor, LWVCC President

May 2018

Dear League Members,

The work our League undertakes each year culminates at different periods.

When Town Meeting convenes, the diligent work of our Town Government Committees, Education Committee, and Observer Corps comes to fruition—informing our recommendations on Warrant articles and public debate. When voting occurs, after organizing candidate forums and registering citizens, our Voter Service Committee takes an appropriate bow for their ardent commitment to democracy. As myriad volunteers guide visitors through gorgeous homes, not only helping to raise invaluable funds but also extending the League's reach, our collective commitment becomes stunningly visible. And when book groups gather and members open either their Bulletins or MMN, a private sense of being part of something bigger than oneself flourishes. Each of these activities reflects our engagement in our vital, volunteer organization.

Our Annual Meeting, on May 23rd, is an opportunity for all of us to gather and celebrate our year's work. It is also an opportunity to remind us that our work has seldom been more important. On local, state, and national levels, we both offer and engage in forums engaged in international crises, our future climate, and governance concerns. Myriad issues emerge each day, as we open our newspapers and learn about behavior and events that complicate and often compromise our world views. The only limit to our good work is our collective imagination and energy.

As we stride forward over the coming year, let us embrace E.M. Forester's aphorism, in his novel *Howard's End*, "Only connect..." for it is in our collective, collective endeavors that we can make a difference.

My best to each of you,

Diane Proctor
LWVCC President

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<i>2017-2018 Reports</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	4
<i>Plans for 2018-2019</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	16
<i>2018-2019 LWVCC Board of Directors</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	20
<i>2018-2019 New Initiatives</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	21
<i>LWVCC Program</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	22

ORDER OF BUSINESS

7:00 Social

7:30 Welcome

**7:35 Introduction of Speaker
Honorable Cory Atkins, State Representative
14th Middlesex District**

8:15 Business Meeting

- Credentials Report Anne Hayden, Membership Chair
- Treasurer's Report Robert Hilsinger, Treasurer
- Budget Report Ardis Bordman, Co-Chair
 Budget Committee
- President's Remarks Diane Proctor, President
 - Affirmation of 2018-2019 Program
- Thank Yous Diane Proctor, President
- Nominating Report Deena Whitfield, Chair
 Nominating Committee
- Election of Officers and Board Members
 - Introduction of 2018-2019 Board
 - Direction to the New Board
- New Business Diane Proctor, President
- Adjournment

LWV Mission Statement

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

2017-2018 REPORTS

MEMBERSHIP

Anne Hayden, Chair

Congratulations! We are the largest league in New England!

It has been another successful membership year for our league. We have 229 members – a net increase of 7 members over last year; 32 members did not renew and 39 new members joined. Many new members participated in at least one of our activities, which enabled us to increase both our programs and the level of our involvement at the local and state level.

Here is a recap of our Membership activities this year:

- In November we published our *Annual Membership Directory*.
- In January we sponsored a program with Ambassador Wendy Sherman on “America’s Role in the World.”
- In February we held the *Annual Winter Breakfast* where Mira Bernstein spoke on Gerrymandering.
- On May 23 we will host our LWVCC Annual Meeting with speaker Cory Akins, LWVCC member and our Representative in the Massachusetts State House.
- We continue to support the LWVCC Book Group (see article below).

Thank you to all of the members of this year’s Membership Committee: Ingrid Detweiler (Membership Directory), Irmi Doane (National Roster), Robert Hilsinger (Treasurer), Isabel Bailey, Michele Scavongelli, Karlen Reed and Diane Proctor.

LWVCC BOOK GROUP

Anne Hayden, Edie Lipinski, Janet Miller & Diane Proctor

This year, the LWVCC Book Group met to discuss four books on important topics:

- *STRANGERS IN THEIR OWN LAND: Anger and Mourning on the American Right* by Arlie Russell Hochschild
- *MERCHANTS OF DOUBT: How A Handful of Scientists Obscured the Truth on Issues from Tobacco Smoke to Global Warming* by Naomi Oreskes & Erik M. Conway
- *THE TROUBLE WITH REALITY: A Ruminant on Moral Panic in our Time* by Brooke Gladstone.
- *OUR KIDS: The American Dream in Crisis* by Robert D. Putnam.

Morning and evening meetings were held for each book and lively, thoughtful, and wide-ranging discussions occurred at each meeting. We are planning an author’s talk in June with Nancy Shohet West who helps people write and publish their memoirs. Details will be in MMN.

CONCORD TOWN GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

Ardis Bordman, Chair

The protection of citizens' right to know is a basic tenet of the League. The goals of this committee are to educate League members and the public about Concord Town Government and our Schools and to encourage more active participation. The League advocates for action based on local, state, and national League positions. With a focus on civic engagement, this year we:

- Presented a four-part collaborative program, called “*Mapping the Road to Town Meeting*” with Concord and Carlisle Town Moderators, the Select Board and the Concord Library Committee to increase public knowledge and participation in government, especially the Town Meeting process.
- Continued our First Friday speaker series: Concord’s Long-Range Plan, the Extension to the Concord Main Library, the Concord Municipal Light Plant, a CCTV Panel Discussion, Warrant Article Petitioners, Planning Board Articles, and the New Umbrella Arts Center. (See next article.)
- Monitored the town website for timely posting of information, agendas and meeting minutes.
- Pressed for televising more town regulatory boards and committee meetings held at Keyes Road.
- Supported and monitored the town process of the town's long-range plan.
- Followed the work of the Community Preservation Committee.
- Met with town officials to stress the need for timely, accessible information to citizens about projects and committee meetings, including the ongoing difficulty of hearing speakers and seeing presentations at meetings.
- Wrote letters to the Select Board, School Committees, and Moderator expressing concerns or offering suggestions.
- Reviewed warrant articles in preparation for town meeting and to determine League action. Attended related hearings and committee meetings.
- Started a Housing subcommittee to increase understanding of the roles of the various groups associated with developing low and moderate-income housing in Concord.

FIRST FRIDAY TOWN TALKS

Ardis Bordman, Chair, Diane Proctor & Karlen Reed

The 2017-2018 First Friday Town Talks began and ended with a discussion about Concord's Long-Range Plan, followed by programs about the extension to the Concord Main Library, Light Board, CCTV, Warrant Articles, and the Umbrella Arts Center sandwiched in between.

The October 2017 meeting was **"Concord's Long-Range Plan – The Beginning"** with Elise Woodward and Gary Kleiman, Co-Chairs of Concord's Long-Range Plan Committee, who outlined the framework for the new plan, the consultant team, the guidelines, and the plan's systems analysis approach.

The November topic was **"The Extension to the Concord Main Library"** and the speakers were Sherry Litwack, President of the Library Corporation, and Jeff Adams, Trustee of the Library Corporation. They explained the Library's expansion plans which would connect the main library building to 151 Main Street.

In December, the First Friday program was **"The Concord Municipal Light Plant,"** featuring CMLP Director David Wood and his staff, who spoke about the Light Board's new Strategic Plan, Article 51, and the proposed rate increases resulting from the passage of Article 51 in 2017.

The February First Friday meeting featured a **CCTV Panel Discussion**, with Select Board Chair Jane Hotchkiss, Assistant Town Manager Kate Hodges, and CCTV Board Member Court Booth, who answered questions on the status of CCTV's local programming (PEG) services and the Town's proposed takeover of CCTV as a Town Department.

Our March First Friday program featured **Warrant Article Petitioners** and Planning Board representatives who presented brief summaries of their Town Meeting articles and answered many questions from the League audience in preparation for Town Meeting.

In April, the First Friday topic was **"The New Umbrella Arts Center,"** with Executive Director Jerry Wedge, who reported on the \$20 million renovation plan designed to enhance artistic thinking, communication, collaboration and creativity.

The May First Friday topic will be **"Concord's Long-Range Plan – The Results"** again with Elise Woodward and Gary Kleiman, about the results of many public discussions, input surveys, and community outreach efforts about how Concordians view their town's future. The Committee hopes to present a final plan in June of 2018.

Dunkin Donuts on Thoreau Street has again graciously provided us with coffee and donut holes for these monthly meetings. We greatly appreciate their support of these informative and lively meetings.

MAPPING THE ROAD TO TOWN MEETING

Diane Proctor, Chair

Over the course of the year we held a four-part series—entitled “*Mapping the Road to Town Meeting*”—to both train citizens in the complexities of creating a petition for the Town Warrant and to encourage more robust citizen participation in the Town Meeting and the Hearings that precede it. Sponsored collaboratively by the LWVCC, the Concord Free Public Library, and The Concord Town Government, each program was broadly advertised, filmed by CCTV, and robustly attended.

The **first** in the series was held in late September at the Trinity Episcopal Church parish hall. There, four eminent and lively speakers—all experienced Town Moderators—explained to the League the history and habits of the Town Moderator as he/she leads a Town Meeting. Speaking were Carmin Reiss and Wayne Davis (the present Town Moderators in Concord and Carlisle respectively), while Eric Van Loon and Ned Perry participated as former Concord Moderators. They treated us to an engaging sense of the past, present, and future of Town Meetings.

The **second** session followed about a month later, at Fowler Library. It was a presentation by Mike Lawson (Concord Select Board member), Anita Tekle (former Concord Town Clerk), and Kaari Mai Tari (present Concord Town Clerk). They taught us the complexities of drafting a petition, emphasizing the technical requirements and legal expectations involved in the process.

The **third** session was led by Michael Lawson and was held at the Harvey Wheeler Community Center. The focus Mike brought to his talk was: “Okay, now you have drafted a petition; how do you work it through the political process in preparation for Public Hearings?” Again, we all learned a great deal about the complexity of this process.

Carmin Reiss led the **fourth** and final session. She told the audience at Harvey Wheeler how Town Meeting runs...who presents Warrant Articles, what is a consensus calendar, who can amend an article, and what are the other charmingly arcane protocols involved in a New England Town Meeting.

A very fine committee made this series possible. They helped to produce fliers, bookmarks, and publicity and focused the topics of our work. My thanks to all of you for your support and involvement in this important series: Stephan Bader, Mary Clarke, Ruth Lauer, Ingrid Detweiler, Anita Tekle, Kerry Cronin, Concord Library Director, Michael Lawson, Select Board member, and Kaari Mai Tari, Concord’s Town Clerk.

CARLISLE TOWN GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

Cindy Nock, Chair & Barbara Lewis

The goal for this committee is to inform League members and the public about town government operations in Carlisle and to increase public engagement with and participation in town government through education and advocacy. Another general goal is to increase Carlisle membership in the LWVCC through visibility in local events.

This year we did all of the usual League activities including running a LWVCC booth at Old Home Day, placing signs in the Town center and on members' property at highly visible locations in town to remind citizens about elections and town meeting, observing some governmental meetings, attending the Town Caucus, and holding a Local Candidate Forum.

Local Candidate Forum

The Carlisle Candidate Forum was held on Sunday, April 30. Nine candidates participated and four candidates were unavailable for the Forum. With two contested races, the Forum drew a large audience with standing room only in the Clark Room at Carlisle Town Hall.

Barbara Lewis organized the Forum, Launa Zimmaro gave opening and closing remarks for the League, and Anne Rarich serving as moderator. The Forum was recorded by CCTV and also by a CCHS senior for backup using a camera borrowed from the Carlisle Public School. Margot Woodruff provided refreshments.

Candidating Events in Carlisle

With the 3rd Congressional District seat being vacated by Niki Tsongas, several groups in Carlisle (LWVCC, Carlisle Rising to Action, Carlisle Democratic and Republican town committees) joined together to offer an event where citizens could meet and hear from the thirteen (13) candidates running for this office. The group decided to offer four "candidating" evenings at the Carlisle Public School Community Room.

Every candidate was scheduled for one of these evenings. Candidates gave brief remarks and then the audience broke into small groups (equal to the number of candidates participating) and the candidates sat with each group for 15 minutes and answered questions and then moved to the next group. When finished, the candidates had one more opportunity to make brief closing remarks to the entire audience. The first event was canceled due to power loss caused by a snow storm and the other events accommodated the candidates from the first event.

This series drew 30-50 participants each time and the Candidating format was very well received by candidates and participants.

The bulk of the work preparing for these Candidating meetings was done by members of the Carlisle Rising to Action group which includes people who are either new to town or newly engaged in politics. It was a pleasure getting to know them.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Julie Rohwein, Chair

Major changes have occurred in our three school systems recently – Dr. Laurie Hunter was appointed Superintendent of Schools for CPS and CCRSD this year and Dr. James O’Shea was appointed Superintendent of Schools in Carlisle last year. They were the keynote speakers at the December Holiday luncheon.

This year, the school committees added a subcommittee on the budget process, and the High School Campus Advisory Committee began its work. In addition, the CMS Facilities Planning Committee presented its report to the CPS School Committee and discussions have begun on the near and long term needs of the middle school.

Monitoring Changes:

- Getting to know the new Superintendent of CPS/CCRSD, Dr. Laurie Hunter
- Discussing the work of the new High School Campus Advisory Committee
- Discussing the work of the new Budget Subcommittee
- Discussed the work of the CMS Facilities Planning Committee.

School Budget Materials:

- Analysis of FY2019 process and materials in support of Warrant Review for Concord Town Meeting 2018
- Ongoing discussions about improving budget process, including meeting with members of the community and members of the school committees.

Exploring New Areas of Focus:

- Preliminary discussions on civics education and civil engagement for children
- Preliminary discussions on civil discourse, the challenges of diversity, bullying and related topics, looking towards a new area of focus next year.

Events:

- Visioning Session for LWVCC members as part of Dr. Hunter’s strategic planning process, led by Diane Proctor.

NATIONAL PROGRAM

Nancy Cronin, Chair

The National League is focusing on its education and advocacy program called “Making Democracy Work,” which includes the following: **Voting Rights, Improving Elections, Campaign Finance/Money in Politics, and Gerrymandering/Redistricting**, all of which are critical areas in this midterm election year. In addition, the National League continues to respond to many of the other issues also on its plate.

For example, the League is fighting to remove the citizenship question from the federal census; it is continuing to work for gun control legislation; and it has been working against repeal of Obamacare. Using ‘Action Alerts,’ the National League encourages local League members to work with them on these and other issues. To get involved, go to www.lwv.org and click on “Take Action.”

Immigration

This year, our league formed an Immigration Committee to educate ourselves and explore what actions we might take on this important issue. Under the aegis of LWVUS, the League has a comprehensive position on immigration based on its 2005 study. Based on this strong national position, we supported the 2017 Concord Special Town Meeting ‘Welcoming Community’ article prohibiting the Concord police from detaining non-criminal undocumented immigrants.

The Immigration Committee began by meeting with LWVCC member Vivian Tseng who has a background in corporate law and volunteers with two organizations, PAIR (Political Asylum/Immigration Representation) which provides pro bono services to asylum seekers and KIND (Kids in Need of Defense) which provides services to unaccompanied minors.

Next, we met with Karen Price, the Massachusetts League’s legislative immigration specialist, who described a bill in the legislature called the Sanctuary Cities Act, filed by Senator Jamie Eldridge which would prohibit local and state law enforcement officers from arresting non-criminal undocumented immigrants. This bill did not pass but has been refiled this year with some changes. She also described a recent Massachusetts Supreme Court decision that states that local police do not have authority to detain a person solely on a request from a federal immigration officer.

Then LWVCC member Laurie Van Loon described her experience visiting an undocumented immigrant detention center and reported on the very difficult process of attempting to achieve asylum in this country. Our last speaker was Gerry Rovner, a retired immigration attorney who described the legal process for obtaining citizenship and how difficult this is to achieve. The Immigration Committee wishes to share the information it is receiving, so it is including reports of its work in every LWVCC Bulletin.

OBSERVER CORPS

Janet Rothrock, Chair & Diane Proctor, Clerk

This year the Observer Corps built on the firm foundation provided by Anita Barker in 2016-2017. Several new observers joined in the adventure, and we are now able to cover twenty committees and boards in Concord and Carlisle. In addition, we have three substitutes.

Observers met monthly to discuss the issues facing Concord and Carlisle, with an eye to what the most weighty issues might be at Town Meeting and to the consideration of important speakers for the First Friday programs the League holds each month. While a few observer reports were publicly presented this year in the Bulletin, next year we hope to increase the number and frequency of reports available to League members and the public.

We remain deeply grateful for the time commitment each observer makes, for his/her efforts are invaluable to the League. New observers are always welcome!

Carlisle:

Carlisle Board of Selectmen	----	----	----	---	Cindy Nock
Carlisle Public School Committee	----	----	----	---	Carol Murphree

Concord:

Concord Free Public Library	----	-----	-----	--	Ingrid Detweiler
Concord Housing Development Corporation (CHDC)					Stephan Bader
Concord Municipal Light Plant (CMLP)	----	----	----		Karlen Reed
Community Preservation Committee	----	----	----	---	Mary Sterling
Concord Public School Committee	----	----	----	---	Edie Lipinski
Concord Public Works Commission	----	----	----	---	Karlen Reed
Finance Committee	----	----	----	----	Maureen Kemeza
Historic Districts Commission	----	----	----	--	Val Tratnyek
Long Range Planning Committee	----	----	----	--	Lori & Jim Pazaris
Natural Resources Commission			----	----	Clare Gordon
Planning Board	----	----	----	----	David Quimby
Recreation Commission		----	----	----	Kitsy Rothermel
Select Board	----	----	----	----	Diane Proctor & Louise Haldeman
West Concord Advisory Committee	----	----	----	----	Susan Frey
Zoning Board of Appeals	----	----	----	----	Anita Barker

Regional:

Concord-Carlisle Regional School Committee	---	---			Edie Lipinski
CCHS Campus Use Subcommittee	----	----	----	----	Cynthia Rainey
CCHS Finance Subcommittee	----	----	----	----	Peggy Wargelin
Minuteman Career and Technical HS	--	----	----	----	Jim Pazaris

Substitutes:

Lori Gill Pazaris, Susan Frey and Dorrie Kehoe

VOTER SERVICE

Judy Zaunbrecher, Chair

Voter Service conducted seven voter registration drives and two voter education activities for Concord Town Election. Additionally, students at Concord-Carlisle Regional High School were trained to register voters so they could conduct a successful voter registration drive at CCHS.

Many League volunteers made the summer and fall registration drives at the Fourth of July Picnic and Back-to-School Nights successful. In particular, the volunteers recommended and implemented new ways to improve the LWVCC presence at these events. Thank you!!

All six candidates on the Concord Town Election ballot responded to the LWVCC Voters' Guide which was published in the Concord Journal and on the LWVCC website and Facebook page. The "get to know your candidates" initiative included an innovative candidating event at which voters participated in group discussion with the candidates. Citizens and candidates engaged in direct conversation on issues and opportunities in Concord during this candidating event.

Voter Service is successful because so many members volunteer their time and ideas to this important work. Thank you for your support.

LWVCC ANNUAL APPEAL

Ingrid Detweiler, Deena Whitfield, Karlen Reed & Ardis Bordman

The League of Women Voters of Concord-Carlisle encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of local, state, and national issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. During the past year, League volunteers registered voters, provided forums for public discussion of local issues and advocated for better communication and openness in local government.

We are most grateful to the following people who supported our work by responding to our Annual Appeal with contributions totaling \$1,916.00.

Sybylle Barlow

Sarah Birss

Sarah Bull

George Dallas

Mario Favorito

Radha Jalan

Thomas McKean

Edward Perry

Wendy Rovelli

Anna Cullen-Voyatzakis

Sally Williams

Karen Belinky

Barbara Boardman

Anne Buttrick

Elaine DiCicco

Arthur Fulman

Mary Kemp

Susan Nessen

Timothy Rose

Patricia Satterthwaite

Joseph Wheeler

Walter Birge

Richard Briggs

John Conley

James DiGiovanni

Ilene Gipson

Sherry Litwack

Joellen O'Neil

Naomi Rosenfeld

Donald Stevenson

Herbert Wilkins

2018 HOUSE TOUR

Nancy Beeuwkes, Dee Ortner & Barbara Lewis, Co-Chairs

The 2018 House Tour on April 7th was a wonderful success even though it followed several weeks of record breaking snowy, windy and freezing weather. Despite the weather, the tour still brought in over \$22,000 in gross income. Thank you to all who supported this major fundraiser.

Those who went on the tour were very enthusiastic about what they saw and learned, and their interactions with home owners. Owners reported they enjoyed the questions they were asked and the opportunity to explain why and how they made improvements to their living spaces.

The efforts of more than 100 members to plan, staff and advertise the tour was huge. In the Fall of 2016 Holly Cratsley, architect extraordinaire, began recruiting home owners while Di Clymer, amazing fundraiser and chair of our previous four house tours (2004, 2006, 2009, and 2013), recruited donations from many generous businesses. These sponsors generated 67% of the revenue earned by the tour. Please thank the following sponsors when you see them as their support for our major fundraiser enables our league to spend many more volunteer hours on important local voter services and advocacy.

Lead Sponsor:

- Barrett/Sotheby's International Realty

Sponsors:

- Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage
- Concord Printing LLC
- DSK/ Dewing Schmidt Kearns Architects & Planners
- JR Gallery
- J.W. Adams Construction, Inc.
- MGP Inc. Antique Clock & Watch Repair
- Nashtuc Architects
- Timberwolf Construction
- The Four Walls WallCoverings and Design
- William Raveis Real Estate
- WTI Window Treatment Installation.

More thanks to our very organized Treasurer Robert Hilsinger who managed your mail and PayPal payments. We sold 180 tickets (52% via PayPal), 25% of ticket sales on the day of tour (the sun finally came out), amounting to total ticket sales of \$6,600. Dee Ortner organized the ticket distribution and Day of Tour sales and kept Nancy calm.

Nancy Brown's communication committee did a very competent job of organizing publicity all around town with fliers everywhere, signs of all types and sizes, and notices in many newspapers. Nancy wrote catchy notes for our Monday Member News (MMN) every week. The League's website was invaluable; extra thanks to Webmaster Cynthia Rainey and to Karlen Reed and Stephan Bader who showed enormous energy in distributing fliers and signs.

Art work for the program cover was done by Priscilla Sturges; flier and sign design by Peggy Wargelin (who showed enormous patience with our many changes). Programs were designed and assembled by Ruth Lauer, assisted by her daughter Alison, and the wonderful descriptions of the homes were written by Kate Stout.

One of the most difficult jobs was ably accomplished by Barbara Lewis who recruited and assigned 77 guides to help in the seven homes. In addition to League volunteers, five local organizations and companies provided guides for the tour: Barretts/ Sothebys, Coldwell Banker, Concord Garden Club, Nashawtuc Architects, and Raveis Real Estate. Anne Hayden and Cynthia Nock assisted Barbara on the day of the tour.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Nancy Brown, Chair

Brochure - The Committee printed a brochure on the Concord-Carlisle League, which has been widely circulated at events and in mailings. Special thanks to Janet Beyer.

Website - A subcommittee has been revising the Website as we introduce a new platform. The goal is to be informative with information that is current and can be accessed easily. Cynthia Rainey and Karlen Reed have been working diligently to make this a success, and we hope to “go live” soon after the Annual Meeting.

Publicity - The wide variety of programs that our League offers has meant that Communications is in full gear much of the time. We have reached members through Monday Member News (MMN), emails and postcards. We have explored a variety of means to reach a broader community, including newspaper articles in both the Concord Journal (highlighted by our President’s column) and Carlisle Mosquito, thanks to Barbara Lewis, advertisements in Action Unlimited, fliers, signs and postcards. Electronic editions of the local papers and other community papers have proven an easy place to advertise and we have been reaching out to the schools for publicity where appropriate.

BULLETIN

Anne Hayden, Bulletin Editor

This year we published four issues of our LWVCC Bulletin (November, January, March and June) along with the Annual Meeting Workbook.

With the advent of our Monday Member News (MMN), which is emailed to members every Monday and includes short write-ups for upcoming league events and programs, the Bulletin has been able to move towards a format that includes longer articles on our programs and League advocacy issues. In addition, as our Observer Corps has expanded, we have been able to include reports for some committee meetings including the Light Plant, Public Works and School Committees.

RIVER STEWARD AWARD

Janet Rothrock, Chair, River Steward Award Nominations Committee

In 1968, the United States Congress established a National Wild and Scenic Rivers system to protect outstanding rivers from the harmful effects of new federal projects such as dams, hydroelectric facilities, bank stabilization, and bridges. To be considered “Wild and Scenic,” a river must have at least one “outstandingly remarkable” natural, cultural or recreational value. Sections stretching 29 miles along the Sudbury, Assabet, and Concord Rivers were proposed for designation as Wild and Scenic Rivers. In 1999, Congress amended the Wild and Scenic River Act to include sections of the Sudbury, Assabet, and Concord Rivers because of their outstanding resources in the areas of ecology, recreation, scenery, history, and literature.

Since 2003, the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts and the Wild and Scenic River Stewardship Council have presented the River Stewardship Awards to honor outstanding advocates for the Sudbury, Assabet, and Concord Rivers. Winners are individuals or groups that live or work in any of the 36 watershed towns whose projects and programs promote, preserve and protect the beauty and health of our rivers and build an environmental legacy for future generations. Their work inspires us to care for and defend our wild and scenic rivers.

Nine nominees will receive the River Steward Award this year at the start of the Riverfest Celebration.

WATER SUPPLY CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Janet Rothrock, LWVMA Representative

Since spring 2016, Janet Rothrock has served on the Water Supply Citizens Advisory Committee (WSCAC), a group which advises the Massachusetts Water Resource Authority (MWRA).

WSCAC represents an unusual approach for engaging citizen participation in water resource policy decisions. WSCAC advises the MWRA and the Department of Conservation and Recreation on water conservation and watershed protection strategies. Originally formed in 1977 to review a proposed diversion of the Connecticut River for water supply to the metropolitan Boston area, the MWRA subsequently implemented leak repair and demand management programs, avoiding the need for river diversion.

WSCAC meets monthly to understand what the MWRA is doing, why they are doing it, and reach out to other organizations that may be interested in or impacted by the MWRA’s activities.

PLANS FOR 2018-2019

What's in a calendar?

Each August, the Board of the LWVCC gathers to map out the upcoming year's events. This ritual is time-tested and assures us all that we are moving steadily forward.

However, once the routine events have been plotted: Board meetings & locations, First Friday dates, ASC (Agenda Setting Committee) meetings, traditional events (Holiday Party, January Breakfast, Annual Meeting), Town Government and Education Committee meetings, Candidate Forums, and Observer Corps plenary gatherings, there is still wonderful room for creativity—even spontaneity.

In order to stay alert and responsive to all that is taking place—locally, at the state level, and nationally—and create opportunities for collective discourse, we need to remain flexible. This premise served us well this year, as we planned—in collaboration with the Concord Town Government and the Concord Free Public Library—a four-part series on “*Mapping the Road to Town Meeting.*” As well, when Wendy Sherman could not join us for the January Breakfast, we moved our breakfast to February so the event with Ambassador Sherman could be held on a Sunday evening in January. Equally important was our ability to use First Fridays to fullest advantage by inviting important speakers, often identified mid-year by our spirited Observer Corps, to address critical local issues. The audiences were large and the attendees fully engaged.

It is exactly this sort of imagination that allows our League to remain vibrant. It does mean, of course, that our minds and calendars must remain equally agile. As we look forward to the coming year, I trust that fresh ideas will emerge that invite unique programs, like our work on immigration, to flourish.

Here's to 2018-2019,

Diane Proctor
LWVCC President

LWVMA STUDY OF THE BALLOT QUESTION PROCESS

**Local Leagues and member-at-large consensus meetings
December 1, 2018 - January 31, 2019**

**Final consensus questions, study guide, and related materials will be
available in the fall.**

VOTER SERVICE COMMITTEE

Voter Service will have a very heavy focus on registering and educating voters leading into the fall State Primaries and Statewide Election held respectively on September 4th and November 6th. Fifteen races will be on the ballot. Many of these races will be contested in both the primary and general election. The 3rd US Congressional District race and the 14th Middlesex State House race already have a well-populated field. Four ballot questions will likely be on the November 6 State Election ballot.

LWVCC Voter Service plans include conducting candidate forums for the key local races of high local interest plus at least one additional state-wide or county-wide office. We will also promote the LWMMA Online Ballot Ready Voters' Guide that will be published for both the primary and general election. We will look for opportunities to collaborate with other local Leagues on ballot question forums.

In the spring, Voter Service will provide both a Voters' Guide and get to know your candidates event for Concord Town Election. We will continue to conduct the summer and fall voter registration drives.

This upcoming year will provide ample opportunities to volunteer. I look forward working with League members to get out the vote in Concord and Carlisle.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

With an election looming, in addition to all our other activities, the demands on Communication can only increase. We are hoping to become more efficient at targeting the right communication tools and supplementing the written word with pictures where appropriate. An effort should be made to evaluate which communications are truly effective and which fall on deaf ears (or closed eyes). The survey taken at the House Tour may provide a bit of information.

We will continue to work on the website, evaluating and revising the initial effort and establishing a plan to keep the website current and engaging. The hope is to add a section on town government information for Concord and Carlisle once purely League sections are complete. A separate activity will be to address the League's Facebook page and make it welcoming and current. Cynthia Rainey has played a key role in administering the website and Facebook page as well as publishing the MMN, but it will take the involvement of other Communication Committee members and a well thought out plan to ensure that the website and Facebook page stay up to date.

CONCORD TOWN GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

The committee will continue to focus on educating League members and the public about town government operations and promoting increased participation of citizens. This includes the Open Meeting Law, Public Records Request process, budget process of the Town, efficiency, staffing, transparency, accountability, and access to public information, current and online. All League advocacy is based on local, state, and national positions.

In addition, the Committee will:

- Continue First Friday speaker series.
- Continue to monitor local government meetings, timely posting of agendas with attachments, and meeting minutes.
- Lobby for videotaping of Keyes Road board and committee meetings.
- Continue review of the Concord Town Government Study Committee chart of priorities (2014). Advocate for a budget bylaw recommended by the committee.
- Continue to monitor and evaluate town and school budgets.
- Monitor the implementation of the new Long-Range Plan (to be approved by the town) focusing on areas related to League positions.
- Increase activity of League Housing subcommittee. Consider a public forum about housing needs with focus on the long-range plan recommendations.
- Review the Community Preservation Act legislation and the Community Preservation Committee process.
- Monitor water resources, treatment plant, and developments at Nagog Pond.
- Review knowledge of parliamentary procedures.

CARLISLE TOWN GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

The Carlisle group would like to do something new in Carlisle to raise visibility and attract new members. Ideas percolating include:

- A Wine and Cheese get-together to get to know the LWV.
- Local Action to propose allowing 17 year-olds to vote in Carlisle local elections. (A similar article was proposed and passed this year at Concord Town Meeting.)
- Focus on Reducing Waste in Carlisle.

BULLETIN

Next year, Karlen Reed will be the new editor for the LWVCC Bulletin. Karlen brings to this position not only the writing skills necessary to compile this valuable resource, but the computer skills and knowledge needed to work with our website manager so that the information and reports that are published in our bulletin will also be available on our website.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

This committee will continue its focus on informing League members and the public about the operation of public schools' pre-K through high school activities in Concord and Carlisle, including the Minuteman Regional Vocational School. The committee will build on the work done in 2014-2018, aided by our LWVCC observers of the school committees.

Areas of focus for the committee and its working groups for next year are:

- civics education and civic engagement
- fiscal management and budget processes
- civil discourse and navigating diversity
- encouraging open communication and community participation.

Education and/or advocacy can be accomplished through a variety of vehicles such as informational forums, benchmarking, educational publications (including online information or publications), videotaping meetings and presentations, and letters to the editor and/or School or Town Boards and Committees.

Next year, the Committee is planning at least one public information event, and we are also considering topics and speakers that might be suitable for a First Friday event (as organized by the Town Government Committee.)

IMMIGRATION COMMITTEE

This year several LWVCC members expressed interest in learning more about immigration and formed an Immigration Committee to research this critical issue. Based on the League's strong national position developed from a 2005 National League study, we supported the 2017 Concord Special Town Meeting 'Welcoming Community' article, prohibiting the Concord police from detaining non-criminal undocumented immigrants.

Throughout the year, we have heard from the following: the Massachusetts League legislative immigration specialist, a Concord League member who volunteers with refugee assistance groups, a Concord League member who has volunteered at an undocumented immigrant detention center, and an immigration lawyer who is a member of the Needham task force on immigration.

In the next few months we will be developing a set of questions on immigration issues that we will ask of candidates running for Congressional and legislative seats. In addition, we plan to contact members of immigration task forces locally and in neighboring towns to explore how we can work together. We also plan to work with other Leagues to register new citizens at naturalization ceremonies.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Deena Whitfield, Chair, Janet Beyer, Anne Hayden, Karlen Reed, Julie Rohwein

LWVCC Proposed Slate 2018-2019

Officers

President	Diane Proctor
First Vice President	Judy Zaunbrecher
Second Vice President	Julie Rohwein
Third Vice President	Nancy Brown
Clerk/Secretary	Ruth Lauer
Treasurer	Robert Hilsinger

Directors

Communications	Nancy Brown
Bulletin	Karlen Reed
Events	Stephan Bader
Membership	Anne Hayden
Observer Corps	Janet Rothrock
Parliamentarian	Ingrid Detweiler
Voter Service	Judy Zaunbrecher

Program & Action

Local Program & Action	Julie Rohwein
Carlisle Town Government Committee	Cindy Nock
Concord Town Government Committee	Ardis Bordman
Education Committee	Edie Lipinski
State Program & Action	Nancy Beeuwkes
National Program & Action	Nancy Cronin

At Large

Susan Frey
Dorrie Kehoe
Maureen Kemeza

Off Board

Environmental (local, state and national)	Launa Zimmaro
Nominating	Deena Whitfield
Webmaster/Social Media	Cynthia Rainey

PROPOSED NEW INITIATIVES 2018-2019

MAINTAIN ALL LOCAL POSITIONS with no changes.

NO NEW STUDIES

RECOMMENDED NEW INITIATIVES:

1. Civics/Citizenship Education Emphasis

The League of Women Voters believes that democratic government depends upon informed and active participation at all levels of government. The League further believes that governmental bodies must protect the citizen's right to know by giving adequate notice of proposed actions, holding open meetings and making public records accessible.

Statement of Position on Citizen's Right to Know/Citizen Participation, as announced by National Board, June 1984.

The LWVCC Board recommends continuing the education advocacy started last year using the National League position on the Citizen's Right to Know/Citizen Participation of June 1984. We expect to continue cooperative efforts such as:

- Collaborate with three School Committees: Concord Public School, CC Regional High School and Carlisle K-8 School Committee in an exploration of citizen education
- Collaborate with Concord and Carlisle libraries
- Develop reading lists of related age-appropriate books (library, bookstore)
- Contact Leagues who have carried out actions such as Civics Bees
- Emphasize election year responsibility to vote (Voter Service arm)
- Distribute information about liberties guaranteed by the Constitution
- Education about the Bill of Rights and Amendments to the Constitution.

Note: This is a National Convention Year and our LWVCC attendees will almost certainly gather a wide range of information on similar advocacy efforts that other leagues are undertaking in this area all over the country.

2. Annual Program with a National/International Focus

The success of our January program with Ambassador Wendy Sherman, who spoke on "America's Role in the World," indicates there is a real interest in developing an annual event with a focus on international issues.