

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CONCORD-CARLISLE

# BULLETIN

LWVCC Website: [www.lwvcc.org](http://www.lwvcc.org)

February 2017

P.O. Box 34 Concord, Massachusetts 01742-0034

Vol 21 2016-17 #3

## CALENDAR

### FEBRUARY

- 16 **Thur** LWVCC Town Warrant Review—petitioner articles, Fowler Library 9:30-11:30 am
- 17 **Fri** LWVCC Education Committee Meeting, 1404 Main St. (Julie Rohwein) 9:30-11:00am
- 22 **Wed** LWVCC Book Group, Trustees Room, Concord Main Library 10:00-11:30am
- 22 **Wed** LWVCC Book Group, Trustees Room, Concord Main Library 7:00-8:30pm

### MARCH

- 1 **Wed** LWVCC Board Meeting, Fowler Library, West Concord 9 coffee, 9:30 mtg
- 3 **Fri** LWVCC First Friday Town Talk, Fowler Library, West Concord 9:15-11:00am
- 8 **Wed** Voter registration deadline for Concord local election & Town Meeting
- 10 **Fri** LWVCC Education Committee Meeting, 1404 Main St. (Julie Rohwein) 9:30-11:00am
- 14 **Tues** LWVCC Town Government Initiative, Trustees Room, Concord Library 2:00-4:00 pm
- 19 **Sun** LWVCC Concord Candidates Forum, Town House 2:00-4:00pm
- 28 **Tues** Concord Town Election polls open noon-8pm

### APRIL

- 5 **Wed** LWVCC Board Meeting, TBD 9 coffee, 9:30 mtg
- 7 **Fri** LWVCC First Friday Town Talk, Fowler Library, West Concord 9:15-11:00am
- 11 **Fri** LWVCC Education Committee Meeting, 1404 Main St. (Julie Rohwein) 9:30-11:00am
- 18 **Tues** LWVCC Town Government Initiative, Trustees Room, Concord Library 2:00-4:00pm
- 24-27 **Mon-Thurs** Concord Town Meeting, CCHS Auditorium 7:00-10:00pm
- 28-29 **Fri-Sat** LWVMA State Convention, Framingham
- TBD Carlisle Candidates Forum

### MAY

- 3 **Wed** LWVCC Board Meeting, 342 Sudbury Rd. (Anne Hayden) 9 coffee, 9:30 mtg
- 5 **Fri** LWVCC First Friday Town Talk, Fowler Library, West Concord 9:30-11:00am
- 8 **Mon** Carlisle Town Meeting, Carlisle Town Hall
- 12 **Fri** LWVCC Education Committee meeting, 1404 Main St. (Julie Rohwein) 9:30am
- 16 **Tues** Carlisle Town Election Polls open 7am – 8pm
- 18/25 **Wed** LWVCC Annual Meeting

*Members are invited to attend monthly Board meetings.  
Please contact Cynthia if you would like to attend any of them.*

The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan political organization of men and women formed in 1920 and dedicated to the principles of self-government established by the Constitution of the United States. The League works to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government.

President	Cynthia Rainey	(978) 318-9242	<a href="mailto:President@lwvcc.org">President@lwvcc.org</a>
Membership	Anne Hayden	(978) 369-8526	<a href="mailto:Membership@lwvcc.org">Membership@lwvcc.org</a>
Bulletin Editor	Anne Hayden	(978) 369-8526	<a href="mailto:BULLETIN@lwvcc.org">BULLETIN@lwvcc.org</a>
Webmaster	Peggy Wargelin	(978) 369-1107	<a href="mailto:wm@lwvcc.org">wm@lwvcc.org</a>

# PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Cynthia Rainey, President

---

February 2017

Dear League Members,

Welcome to all our new members!

We had two very exciting events in January. Our membership breakfast featuring Carol Rose, the Executive Director of the ACLU. Thank you to all the hard working LWVCC volunteers who made this event a great success. LWVCC participated in the Women's March in Boston, which was a spectacular success with participation exceeding all expectations.

There are so **many** opportunities to get involved.

- Book Club. Two excellent titles, Reign of Error, by Diane Ravitch and Hidden Figures by Margot Lee Shetterly.
- Education Committee. Upcoming meeting dates in the front of the Bulletin and in MMN
- Town Government Committee. Next meeting will be published in Monday Member News (MMN)
- Review and preparation for Concord and Carlisle town meetings. Details on Concord Town meeting information and review by LWVCC and by the towns will be detailed in MMN published every Monday.
- First Fridays for Concord Town Government which typically meet at the Fowler library the first Friday of the Month starting at 9:30
- Candidates Forum for the Concord Town election, March 19<sup>th</sup>.
- LWVMA State convention, April 28-29 Framingham Sheraton. Two exciting speakers, **Brian McGrory, Editor of *The Boston Globe***, will discuss the media's role in the face of criticism and fake news at Friday night's banquet, and **Wylecia Wiggs Harris, Executive Director, LWVUS**, will discuss the League's "Impact, Engagement, Sustainability" at Saturday's breakfast. All League members are welcome. There are more speakers and sessions, for full details on the convention please check the LWVMA website at <https://lwwma.org/>.

Stay tuned to MMN. There is so much more coming this spring for all our league members. If you are interested in getting involved or have questions please contact me at [president@lwwcc.org](mailto:president@lwwcc.org).

As always yours in the League  
Cynthia Rainey  
President

# MEMBERSHIP

Anne Hayden, Membership Chair

---

## **OUR MEMBERSHIP IS GROWING!**

Exciting news – our membership has now reached 215 with 35 new members joining this year, over 20 of them in the past three months!

This is happening to leagues all over the country. People are concerned about what is happening to their country and are joining existing organizations like the League of Women Voters or creating their own grassroots groups to advocate for the rights and programs that they do not want to have removed from their national, state or local government.

The LWVCC board is already talking about the many ways that we can advocate for these important rights. Throughout this bulletin you will find a number of programs and activities that are already in place that will enable our members to become more informed and involved in our government. We also are planning several meetings that will bring together members to discuss ideas for program and advocacy that will focus on basic human rights, voter rights and civil rights.

## **JANUARY BREAKFAST PROGRAM**

Our annual January breakfast was a resounding success! 125 enthusiastic attendees! We filled the Colonial Inn's dining room to capacity and overflowed into an adjoining room. The opportunity to meet and greet both old and new friends, enjoy a delicious hot and cold buffet, and listen to an informative speech by Carol Rose, Executive Director of the Mass ACLU, was energizing for all. State Senator Mike Barrett and Representative Cory Atkins also provided timely remarks both before and during the program.

The program was videotaped and is now available on demand on CCTV.

Many thanks to the members of the Breakfast Committee for all of their hard work to make

this successful event happen: Nancy Beeuwkes, co-chair, Anne Hayden, co-chair, Irmi Doane, Kathleen Elcox, Ashley Galvin, Robert Hilsinger, Dee Ortner, Jim Pazaris, Diane Proctor, Cynthia Rainey and Sharon Teabo.

## **LWVCC NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

The Nominating Committee will be meeting soon – and it is looking for League members who would like to step up to a leadership position on or off-Board. Our Board of Directors are a dynamic group of interesting and interested people who are working towards important goals.

If you know of someone you would like to nominate or if you yourself are interested, you will find that you will not only help set direction for the LWVCC but also:

- develop your leadership skills,
- learn to use your skills to make things happen for the League and for your community,
- share your League successes with other Leagues.

The LWVCC Nominating Committee is looking for members to serve on the 2017-18 LWVCC Board who have varied experience with the LWV, from retired longtime members to those who have recently joined. We are considering creating several “At-Large Positions” so new members could join the Board and be mentored by an experienced Board member. We are also looking for someone with communications skills to lead that aspect of our League work. If this sounds like an opportunity you or someone you know might want to pursue, please contact Deena Whitfield, chair of the LWVCC Nominating Committee at [nominating@lwvcc.org](mailto:nominating@lwvcc.org).

*Deena Whitfield,  
LWVCC Nominating Committee Chair*

### **WHAT CAN I/WE DO NOW?**

Over the past three months, numerous members and their friends have contacted the League to ask what we and they can do to counteract the new policies and directions that our country may adopt in the coming months with respect to voting rights, women's rights, immigration policy, and much more.

The League of Women Voters is very concerned about what has already occurred along with future government actions that could further erode the important rights that are guaranteed in our US Constitution.

Over the course of the next several months, we will be holding several open meetings with members to brainstorm actions that both individuals and the LWVCC can take to educate ourselves and the community about what these rights are and how we can work together to ensure that they are neither eroded nor reversed under the new administration.

When the Bulletin went to press, the dates and locations for these meetings had not been determined. Once these are finalized, they will be announced in MMN. If you would like to participate on the committee that will be organizing these meetings, please contact Anne Hayden at [membership@lwvcc.org](mailto:membership@lwvcc.org).

*Terri Ackerman, Anne Hayden  
Diane Proctor, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President*

### **NEW MEMBER GET-TOGETHER**

We are planning a wine and cheese get-together for our new members so that they can learn more about the League and meet some of our active members. This get-together will also be open to any members who would like to attend and learn more about LWVCC activities this year. Once we have determined the date and place, we will put the invitation for the meeting in MMN.

*Anne Hayden, Membership Chair &  
Judy Zaunbrecher, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President*

### **FEBRUARY BOOK GROUP MEETING**

**Trustees Room, Concord Public Library**

**Wednesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 10-11:30am**

**Wednesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 7-8:30pm**

Once again, the LWVCC Book Group will be discussing a work that deals with one of our current national issues. This month's book is REIGN OF ERROR: The Hoax of the Privatization Movement and the Danger to America's Public Schools by Diane Ravitch. The author is a national voice on educational issues and has strong and heart-felt opinions about the current situation of public school education in the United States. Ms. Ravitch does not support privatization of schools or high stakes testing for either students or teachers.

Morning and evening book group meetings have been scheduled on Wednesday, February 22, 2017 in the Trustees Room at the Concord Public Library in Concord Center. The morning meeting is from 10-11:30am and the evening meeting is from 7:00-8:30pm.

As always, Book Group meetings are open to the public. All are welcome to attend and participate.

*Anne Hayden, LWVCC Book Group Chair*

### **LWVCC BOOK GROUP SPRING BOOK**

The book selection for the spring Book Group meeting will be HIDDEN FIGURES: The American Dream and the Untold Story of the Black Women Mathematicians Who Helped Win the Space Race by Margot Lee Shetterly. This book has received a great deal of attention and was made into a movie that is now in theaters. The movie has received several Academy Award nominations.

Book Group participants can read the book and/or see the movie. A carpool opportunity will be organized to see *Hidden Figures* in the movie theater. If you are interested, contact [BookGroup@lwvcc.org](mailto:BookGroup@lwvcc.org).

Once the dates for the spring book group meeting have been determined, they will be publicized in MMN.

## ASSESSING OUR SECURITY IN AN AGE OF MAYHEM

A robust contingent of LWVCC members attended, on February 6<sup>th</sup>, a talk by Juliette Kayyem, entitled: “*Assessing Our Security in an Age of Mayhem*.” Currently serving as the Robert and Renee Belfer Lecturer in International Security at Harvard’s Kennedy School, she also served (among myriad additional roles) as Obama’s Assistant Secretary for Intergovernmental Affairs at the Department of Homeland Security—or, as she would say, “in the belly of the beast.”

Ms. Kayyem’s central advice to the gathering at Bentley University was to “maintain our thoughtfulness” and to remember that we are not facing an “existential threat,” but we need to be mindful of the choices we make and measure their consequences. In her book *Security Mom: An Unclassified Guide to Protecting Our Homeland and Your Home*, Kayyem admits that she struggles with “how to tell this story without terrifying or numbing my audience.”

Some of the highlights of her talk:

\* We live with choices that have consequences: there are 870,000 Americans on domestic and international flights at this moment; Google maps can track our whereabouts easily; we put our credit cards on-line; Amazon Prime knows what we buy and when it will arrive at our door. These are the choices a free world makes. Our personal information is no longer private.

\* Homeland Security covers, as a small sample, H1N1 virus spread, thus pandemic concerns; catastrophic storms; oil spills; climate change; even snow days, as well as issues of terrorism.

\* “While I focus on terrorism events, it is what happens the day after that most concerns me,” she stated. “Our successful response to the Marathon Bombing was not an accident. We had practiced, we pivoted, we were prepared—the infrastructure was in place and responsive. The loss of any life is tragic, and while 3 people died, 382 did not die in the hospitals and under the city’s care. We immediately worried about the runners who had not completed the marathon

and connected them, as they crossed the new line (on Commonwealth Avenue), with their families. It was the interdisciplinary coordination that worked and kept us safe.”

\* Trump’s transactional, binary, and heedless foreign policy views (identifying good countries versus bad ones), will hurt our relationships around the world. He has turned *Make America Great Again* into *Make ISIS Great Again* as he sets all Muslims against the United States. China is benefitting from our actions toward Mexico, Australia—for example. The consequences of this doctrine have complicated results: Iran should not be laughing at us, suggesting that President Trump is an unsophisticated novice.

\* Hillary Clinton lost the election because she lost the white woman vote (the Security moms), who place safety and security above all other issues.

\* Trump’s Executive Order banning citizens from 7 countries—not including Saudi Arabia, Egypt, UAE, Turkey, Pakistan, or Afghanistan—was issued without helping the young agents at airports and borders to know how to behave. President Obama and Bush faced these same concerns, but their responses were different.

\* 60% of the unlawful residents came here legally—on short-term visitor or student visas. What we face are enforcement issues. Gisele Bündchen (Brady) came here on a student visa. People are not jumping over fences.

Acknowledging that our “world was transformed after 9/11,” Ms. Kayyem underscored that “we live with the vulnerability, but we cannot eliminate it.” An essential optimist nonetheless, she stated, “We live in a globalized world.” We need to decide how we will, as individuals behave. She urged us to “stick to our lane,” by which she meant that we each, as citizens, have areas of expertise or focus. ObamaCare, for example, she acknowledged, is not her area of expertise. Therefore, focus on what you know, Ms. Kayyem urged, and work on it diligently...good advice for all.

*Diane Proctor, LWVCC 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President*

# VOTER SERVICE

Judy Zaunbrecher, Voter Service Chair

---

Since the very busy fall election season, most of the Voter Service focus has been on preparing for the March 28 Concord Local Election and the April 24 Concord Town Meeting.

All four races on the March 28 ballot currently have only one candidate each, although February 21 is the last day a name can be put onto the ballot. Even though all of these races appear to be uncontested, a candidates' forum will be held on Sunday, March 19, from 2 to 4 pm at the Concord Town Hall. The format of this forum is still being determined, but will focus on educating the community on the candidates, the role and duties of the elected office they are seeking, and what these candidates see as the opportunities and challenges for Concord over the next 3 to 5 years.

Additional Voter Service activities this spring will include a voter registration drive before March 8, promoting participation in the March 28 town election and April 24 Town Meeting through signs and letters to the editor, and working with the Library Committee to educate citizens on Town Meeting. Working with the Library Committee is a new collaboration for both organizations and provides an additional avenue for the LWVCC to educate and promote participation in local government. (See following article.)

As always, Voter Service activities are successful because of the support from League members. Please contact me if you would like to volunteer for the candidates' forum or register voters. I appreciate all the support from LWVCC members for a successful fall election program.

## **JOINT PROGRAMS WITH LIBRARY COMMITTEE**

At the invitation of the Concord Library Committee, three LWVCC Board members - Ardis Bordman, Ingrid Detweiler, and Judy Zaunbrecher - met on January 19, 2016 with Beverly Gauthier, chair, Matt Boger, Tara

Edelman, Sandy Shen and Kerry Cronin, Library Director. The discussion centered around ways the LWVCC and the Library Committee might collaborate to help educate citizens on Town Meeting articles and publicize the Town Meeting, including public hearings of regulatory boards and associated activities. This initiative could include voter service for local elections. The League would prefer to leverage and/or integrate existing League programs or events and not start any new programs with the desire to being more impactful.

Here are some ideas:

1. Work with the Library to prominently display signs reminding citizens of local election dates and polling places, dates and agendas of hearings on the warrant, and dates/times for the annual Town Meeting.
2. Create a display that explains the Town Meeting process and how to read a warrant. As an example, we could explain why some articles are grouped as "consent articles." The purpose would be to make the Town Meeting less of a mystery to people and, perhaps, make people more confident in attending and voting. League representatives said they would investigate whether any other MA Leagues have material explaining how town meeting works or perhaps a taped program that can be viewed.
3. Promote the LWVCC Candidates' Forum through the Library and provide a copy of the tape for people to review at the Library.
4. Arrange through CCTV and the Town Moderator to tape a short (10 minute) interview on Town Meeting. The Library and the LWVCC could solicit questions from citizens for use in this interview. This could be aired on CCTV and at the Library.
5. Ask the Library to promote the LWVMA High School Student Video contest. While this is not part of Town Meeting, it could be a way to

engage students who come to the library. The LWVMA website has the information on the contest, including posters to use for promoting the contest.

If these suggestions seem reasonable to the Library Committee, we will assess how this works start work with the Library to implement some of these ideas. Hopefully, in future years we will expand the program and tap into each group's competencies and resources. The Library may have technology capabilities that could really help the League get more people involved in our programs. For instance, how could we work with the Library to get more people to the League's First Friday programs held at Fowler Library?

The League representatives suggested the library could also develop ideas for displays and provide content such as warrants from years past.

**TOWN MEETING WARRANT REVIEW  
PETITION ARTICLES**

**Thursday, February 16, 9:30 to 11:30 am  
Fowler Library Meeting Room**

You are invited to a session to learn more about the citizen petition articles on the upcoming Town Meeting warrant. The sponsors will present their articles, the background on them, and answer your questions. The articles discussed will include Black Birch II articles (#42 and #43), Resolution--Reducing the Influence of Money in Politics (#20) and Request for Home Rule Legislation Allowing Concord to Adopt Fees to Finance Affordable Housing (#49). Please review these articles beforehand and be prepared with your questions.

If the Library is closed due to snow, the review of these articles will be rescheduled.

***CALLING ALL MASSACHUSETTS HIGH SCHOOL  
STUDENTS***

**LWVMA Student Video Contest  
"Making Democracy Work in My Community"  
Contest Open Until March 31, 2017  
Enter Now!**

Is there someone in our community who is fighting injustice, organizing action, fostering dialogue, encouraging civic participation or educating about important issues? Create a two-minute video showing us how someone is Making Democracy Work where you live!

We want to see how people in our city or town are taking action, using their voices, and actively participating in the democratic process!

For more information go to: <http://review.wizehive.com/contests/making-democracy-work-in-my-community>.

# CONCORD TOWN GOVERNMENT INITIATIVE

Ardis Bordman, Chair

---

One of the basic principles of the LWVUS is the belief that democratic government depends upon informed and active participation in government and requires that governmental bodies protect the citizen's right to know by giving adequate notice of proposed actions, holding open meetings and making public records accessible. This belief is the purpose of our local town government initiative.

In recent years, the League has written letters to both the School Committees and Concord Select Board about matters of concern to us. The Select Board adopted *Guidelines for Proper Conduct of Public Meetings* in February 2015. You can access this document through the town website at <http://ma-concord.civicplus.com/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Item/1280?fileID=2627>. Included in these guidelines are:

- posting of agendas at least 48 hours in advance and that all agenda packet materials shall be posted on line before the meeting;
- that meeting rooms be large enough to accommodate all who wish to attend;
- that all meetings shall be recorded for later playback -- videotape preferred; and
- that minutes shall be issued in a timely manner.

Recently, several LWV board members met with Select Board Chair Mike Lawson and Clerk Jane Hotchkiss to talk about how our League can support these guidelines. At that meeting the League identified where we hope improvements can be achieved such as timely posting of meeting minutes and videotaping meetings of regulatory boards at Keyes Road (which has no installed cameras).

The Select Board recognizes this need and is working to find solutions that could use newer

technology. This important initiative is especially important as boards and committees form their recommendations for town meeting warrant articles during their meetings. When warrant articles are complex, there may be unintended consequences that citizens need to understand before they vote at Town Meeting. In addition, we discussed the process for public hearings and how to increase attendance, especially at hearings related to Town Meeting.

The preparations for Annual Town Meeting in April are well underway. The Warrant has been mailed to all households and is also available on line <http://ma-concord.civicplus.com/DocumentCenter/View/7628>. The hearings start on February 27 and continue through March 20.

Before these hearings, boards/committees that will be making recommendations to citizens are actively discussing every article that is included in their purview. This is the ideal time to be involved and many league members are monitoring public meetings to be informed.

Every year, our League board carefully reviews each article and eventually may make recommendations about particular articles at town meeting. If you would like to attend our warrant reviews, please contact us via our website [www.lwvcc.org](http://www.lwvcc.org).

Elsewhere in this bulletin, you will see articles about our other activities: First Friday meeting reports, partnering with the library to increase public information about town government, and the 3P town committee report (Public Private Partnerships).



**CONCORD TOWN MEETING SCHEDULE**

Town Meeting – begins Monday, April 24, 2017  
CCHS Auditorium – 7:00pm

Public Hearings – 7:00pm

All Meetings in the Town House Hearing Room

<b>FINANCE COMMITTEE</b> Town Budget & Articles including Capital	<b>Monday, February 27</b> <i>Snow Date March 2</i>
<b>FINANCE COMMITTEE</b> School Budgets & Articles Community Preservation Committee Articles	<b>Tuesday, February 28</b> <i>Snow Date March 2</i>
<b>SELECT BOARD</b>	<b>Monday, March 6</b> <i>Snow Date March 8</i>
<b>PLANNING BOARD</b>	<b>Tuesday, March 7</b> <i>Snow Date March 9</i>
<b>FINANCE COMMITTEE</b> Enterprise Fund Budgets & Articles	<b>Monday, March 20</b> <i>Snow Date March 21</i>

**CARLISLE TOWN MEETING SCHEDULE**

Carlisle Town Meeting – May 8, 2017

Coordination Meetings & Public Hearings

<b>Coordination Meeting #3/Preliminary FY17 Budget Requests</b> All Boards, Department/Interested Parties	<b>January 24</b>
<b>Coordination Meeting #4/Review Warrant/Budget/CPC/LTCRC projects</b> Town Counsel, Town Clerk	<b>February 28</b>
<b>Coordination Meeting #5/Finalize ATM warrant/budget</b>	<b>March 28</b>
<b>ATM Warrant mailed to Residents</b>	<b>April 14</b>
<b>Finance Committee Hearing</b>	<b>April 24</b>

# REPORT ON THE CONCORD PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP STUDY COMMITTEE

Ingrid Detweiler, LWVCC Representative on P3 Committee

---

The final report of the Public Private Partnership Study Committee (P3 Study Committee) was submitted to the Select Board on December 28, 2016. Formed in the spring of 2016, the committee was charged with exploring the issues surrounding public private partnerships in the Town of Concord, especially regarding citizen involvement in decision making. The report is available on the town website under Public Private Partnership Study Committee.

Part of the charge given to the P3 Study Committee by the Select Board reads: *“When a private entity is making decisions for itself, the public has no right of access to information and no right to observe its decision-making process. But when private parties are making decisions concerning the construction of a new public facility or the use and management of public property, there is a disconnect between the public’s rights and the rights of private parties to make decisions. The result can be less openness and reduced public participation and therefore a loss of public trust in the decisions that have been made.”*

The Select Board discussed the final report at their January 23, 2017 meeting with five of the nine-member study committee present in the audience. Town Manager Chris Whelan also submitted a memo on the report to the Select Board shortly before the meeting convened. The Board agreed that providing opportunity for public dialogue at the beginning of a project is essential to a more open process.

Both the Select Board and Town Manager expressed concern about creating a P3 Standing

Committee, one of the key recommendations of the study committee. There was also some misunderstanding about the review process for new and existing P3 projects. The Select Board asked the study committee to clarify these concerns and submit an addendum to the final report.

At a meeting in early February, the P3 Study Committee reviewed their charge again and after some discussion, reiterated their belief that it is important to have a standing committee to ensure an open P3 process and opportunities for dialogue. The Study Committee also clarified the process for new and existing P3 relationships and the responsibilities of the Select Board and Town Manager relating to P3s. The committee felt it is important to have a project agreement that spells out a timeline, financing, scope of the project and the expectations of each of the partners—public and private.

Over the years, Concord has had many successful public-private partnerships and the expectation is that these partnerships will continue. The P3 Study Committee worked hard to create a process that guarantees openness and public dialogue leading to public trust in the decisions made. The Select Board will have the final say in how the report is implemented.

P3 Committee: Jean Goldsberry, Chair, Carol Aronson, Ingrid Detweiler, Miguel Echavarri, Abraham Fisher, Phil Gibson, Robert Grom, Dorrie Kehoe, Peter Mahler.

# FIRST FRIDAY TOWN TALK

Marge Daggett, Chair

---

## **“THE RE-CREATING IN RECREATION” January 6, 2017**

This program featured the Recreation Department team: Ryan Kane, the new Recreation Director, John Straggas, Beede Center Director, and Anna Wood, Assistant Director of Recreation. Mr. Kane received an MBA from Southern New Hampshire University and had worked in Marlboro and South Windsor, CT.

Funding for the recreational facilities and programs comes from the General Fund and the Beede Center Enterprise Fund, which supplies operating funds and capital; it is often able to reimburse the Town for services. Major capital projects are paid for from the General Fund.

The Beede Center, run by Mr. Straggas, has 2 fitness rooms staffed by 9 personal trainers. There are 4 pools: a lap pool, a therapy pool, a kiddie pool, and a diving hub. The Center has been losing family memberships. To counteract this, a new membership plan with shorter terms has been devised as well as day passes. The expenses consist of: Personal Services - 51%; Facilities and Maintenance - 20%; Depreciation - 16%; and Supplies - 4%. The revenues exceeded expenses in 2014 but from 2015 - 2017 expenses have exceeded revenues. The shortfall caused the layoff of two people in 2016; the administrative staff was reduced from 33% to 24% now.

The Assistant Director, Anna Wood, runs the recreation programs such as: early education, education for the lifespan, fitness classes, and vacation camps. She coordinates athletic activities such as: pickleball, learn to ski, field management, youth and adult basketball, tennis, and dance. Since 2013, revenues have exceeded expenses.

The Recreation Commission is the Advisory Board that oversees the entire department and sets the long-range plan. Its major responsibility is the overall management of all the

programming and responding with help to various community projects.

## **"METCO IN CONCORD" February 3, 2017**

Aaron Joncas, METCO Director for both CPS and CCRSD, spoke on the state of METCO in Concord today. METCO was founded in 1966 to improve educational opportunities for students of color in Boston and Springfield and to increase racial diversity in the suburbs with funding from the state legislature. Currently, more than 30 towns participate. The Concord program was started in 1967.

Brookline and Newton are the most popular choices for METCO students given their proximity to Boston. The demand for METCO in the suburbs overall has declined owing to the increased number of charter and private schools which offer attractive alternatives. Concord now takes fewer students at the high school level since the high school is full. METCO students start in either kindergarten or 9<sup>th</sup> grade, and all have adjusted well. This year, Concord schools have 137 students in K-12 grades [see Note 1].

State funding for METCO is about \$800,000 [see Note 2], and transportation costs are included in the grant. The first bus stop is 7 am and the buses leave Boston at 7:30 am. In the afternoon, METCO buses normally leave at 2:15, but two days a week there is another bus at 3 pm, which allows time for a student to see a teacher. In addition, there is a late bus. These options also allow students to participate in extracurricular activities.

All incoming elementary students are placed at Alcott school where there are 4 classes per grade. After applications are filled out, incoming students have an interview in the Boston office. Then over the summer there is a four-week readiness program in Concord with field trips and orientation. A principal and teachers go into Boston to talk with the families.

Most of Concord's students are African-American but more Hispanic and Asian students are now applying. The hardest adjustment for the students is the feeling of having a foot in two worlds. Upon graduation, almost 100% go to college -- some to majority white schools and some to traditional black colleges. Many have been awarded Posse Scholarships. The METCO program does not follow-up on college completion by the students.

The program has seen little difference academically between those who enter at kindergarten and those at 9<sup>th</sup> grade. There is arts enrichment for kindergartners on two afternoons a week and on Thursdays the opportunity for individual instruction. Over the past two years all METCO students except one have reached the benchmarks.

Alcott School has a Family Friends program along with a Diversity committee. There are 3 K-2 METCO tutors who work directly in classes and are available for all students. Two of the tutors were students in Concord's METCO program and Mr. Joncas is hoping they will become teachers.

All middle school METCO students are in the Sanborn building. Two teachers in the middle school team work part-time along with the METCO tutor. There is a six-week orientation period. One of the highlights is a potluck supper where each student brings in a favorite dish so that students can see and talk about their different cultures.

At CCHS a half-time teacher focuses on teaching achievement strategies. METCO students are also matched with an upper-class mentor; this group meets monthly.

One of Mr. Joncas' major responsibilities is to maintain communication with both students and parents. He offers many student-centered programs including anti-bias programs at CCHS and interactive programs with parents. There is great diversity within the METCO parent group so community building is worked on there, too. The program makes sure the METCO students have access to the information that is circulated

through the Boston public schools, e.g. information about summer internships and jobs.

In the future, Mr. Joncas would like to see more participation by middle school METCO students in outside activities and more involvement of Boston parents in Concord. Additional professional learning on how to reach all students would be of great benefit.

While all students have access to computers in Concord, web access is a problem for many METCO students when they are at home in Boston.

[Note 1.] The Concord School Budget Book for FY18 shows 51 students at CCHS, 33 in middle school, and 53 in elementary.

[Note 2.] The Concord School Budget Book for FY18 shows the METCO grant to the Concord Public Schools as \$344,719 and as \$376,464 to CCRSD. Funding has been level for the past two years.

### **MARCH FIRST FRIDAY PROGRAM March 3, 2017**

The First Friday Town Talk for March will take place on March 3, 2017 with Jessica Murphy, Concord's Director of Special Education as our first guest speaker and resource. The second speaker will be Becky Robichaud, Co-President of the Special Education Parents Advisory Council (SEPAC).

Ms. Murphy's topic will be: "Inclusion and Integration in the Special Ed Program." Ms. Robichaud will give the background of SEPAC in Concord and discuss its role in relation to the schools and to children's education.

Come, listen, and ask questions. Please join us in the Downstairs Meeting Room of the Fowler Library on Friday, March 3, 2017. All are welcome. Come for coffee and donuts at 9:15 AM with the talk to begin at 9:30 AM promptly.

### **THE RIVER STEWARDSHIP AWARD**

The River Stewardship award is made annually by the League of Women Voters and the Wild and Scenic River Stewardship Council. Winners are outstanding advocates for the Sudbury, Assabet and Concord Rivers who have taken on inspiring projects or creative programs that protect the beauty and health of our rivers or are dedicated to building an environmental legacy for future generations. Please start thinking about individuals or projects that would be deserving of this award.

*Janet Rothrock,*

*LWVCC River Stewardship Committee member*

### **MWRA WATER SYSTEM REDUNDANCY**

The Massachusetts Water Resource Authority (MWRA) is proposing to build 14 miles of tunnels through bedrock 300 feet below the surface to channel water from eastern Weston to towns north and south of Boston. Currently, there are pipes that direct the water but they are old and some of their valves are in poor condition. In 2010, a leak in Weston that spewed 250 million gallons per day was caused by a 3/4" opening in a seam of a pipe. Today, if a similar leak shut down the entire MWRA water system the its economic impact would be \$310,000,000,000 (yes, billion) a day.

There is concern that the aging system of pipes and valves and pumps will fail again. Building redundancy into the system by constructing tunnels to carry water will allow the current piping to be taken off-line for repairs. Once repaired, the MWRA water system would have redundancy in its entire water distribution system. Currently, the system has redundancy only from the Quabbin Reservoir to the eastern side of Weston.

The proposal calls for two branches, both starting in eastern Weston; one headed northeast for 4.5 miles and one headed southeast for 9.5 miles. The estimated cost for all 14 miles is \$1,430,000,000 to be funded from water bills.

For comparison, this water project is 55% of the original estimated cost for the Big Dig which

was \$2,600,000,000. While Big Dig costs inflated, the MWRA has quite a bit of experience constructing water supply tunnels and has not had major cost overruns. The Metro West tunnel, built in 2003, was completed under budget. See <http://www.mwra.com/04water/html/mwwst.html>.

While Concord and Carlisle residents are not directly affected, MWRA water serves the greater Boston Metro area from Lexington eastward. In the future, water resources may look very different from how they looked in the past. Regional planning of water resources is being contemplated and it behooves us to know about area water resources.

*Janet Rothrock, LWVMA Representative*

*Water Supply Citizens Advisory Committee*

### **CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM**

The League has a long history of commitment and action to reform our nation's campaign finance system to ensure the public's right to know, combat corruption and undue influence, enable candidates to compete more equitably for public office, and allow maximum citizen participation in the political process.

Following the Citizens United decision in 2010, the Concord-Carlisle League, working with the Amherst League and supported by LWVMA, began developing a public education campaign known as *Democracy in the Balance*. This effort became a call to action at 2010 and 2012 national conventions. National teams have been working to refine the materials as a resource for local Leagues across the country since 2011.

The latest version of the work has just been released (2/3/2017) and can be accessed here (<http://forum.lwv.org/blog/money-politics-action-kit-now-available>) for use by all local Leagues! This Action Kit provides tools for League members to take action in your community or state related to reforming money in government. LWV Concord-Carlisle and LWVMA can take pride in the large role we played in advancing this work.

*Launa Zimmaro*

# LWVMA 2017-2018

## ENERGY LEGISLATION PRIORITIES

Launa Zimmaro, Director, LWVMA & MA Environment Specialist

---

A critical [victory in the courts](#)<sup>1</sup> and [significant energy legislation](#)<sup>2</sup> last session have helped push the shift to a clean, renewable energy future for Massachusetts by establishing first-in-the-state procurement goals for offshore wind power and hydroelectricity, along with mandates for energy storage and energy distribution companies<sup>3</sup> to enter into long-term contracts for wind energy.

On the carbon pricing front, Senator Michael Barrett is sponsoring SD.1021, “*An Act combating climate change.*” Like last session’s bill (S.1747), his current bill would establish a fee-and-rebate system of carbon pollution fees charged to fossil fuel importers.

The revenues from those fees would go into a dedicated fund, from which equal rebates for each state resident would be distributed. Employers would get rebates based on their number of employees. 100% of the revenue collected would be used for rebates to minimize any increased costs in living and doing business, with low- and moderate-income households coming out ahead on average.

Representative Jennifer Benson (D-37th Middlesex) is sponsoring HD.1504, “*An Act to promote green infrastructure, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and create jobs.*”

Like Senator Barrett’s bill, the Benson bill would establish a carbon-fee-and-rebate system. Rebates would also be focused on low- and moderate-income households to assure that a high percentage of them come out ahead or even.

In addition, the Benson bill would use 20% of the revenues to fund green infrastructure directly, including transportation improvements, renewable energy, energy efficiency, and protection against the expected impacts of climate change.

This session is poised to be another big energy legislation year in Massachusetts, with several strong bills submitted to fill in gaps in last session’s bill, and the addition of a revenue positive carbon pricing bill from Representative Benson.

The anti-climate change agenda evident at the national level adds impetus and greater determination to act at the state level. While passage of the omnibus energy bill is progress in the right direction, much more remains to be done. The rate of climate change has accelerated; our efforts must ramp up accordingly.

---

<sup>1</sup> In Landmark Decision, Massachusetts’ Highest Court Upholds Climate Law Mandate: <http://www.clf.org/newsroom/clf-victory-in-sjc/>; accessed February 12, 2017.

<sup>2</sup> Massachusetts Legislature passes renewable energy compromise bill: [http://www.masslive.com/politics/index.ssf/2016/08/massachusetts\\_legislature\\_vote\\_1.html](http://www.masslive.com/politics/index.ssf/2016/08/massachusetts_legislature_vote_1.html); accessed February 12, 2017.

<sup>3</sup> In Massachusetts, Eversource, National Grid, Unitil.

# DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PREVENTION

Nancy P. James

---

Recognizing Bullying (a short course)

Excerpted from [www.violencepreventionworks.org](http://www.violencepreventionworks.org)

Dan Olweus, creator of the *Olweus Bullying Prevention Program*, defines bullying in his book, BULLYING AT SCHOOL: What We Know and What We Can Do:

**“A person is bullied when he or she is exposed, repeatedly and over time, to negative actions on the part of one or more other persons, and he or she has difficulty defending himself or herself.”**

## TYPES OF BULLYING

Bullying can take on many forms. As part of the *Olweus Bullying Questionnaire*, students are asked if they have been bullied in any of these nine ways:

1. Verbal bullying including derogatory comments and bad names.
2. Bullying through social exclusion or isolation.
3. Physical bullying such as hitting, kicking, shoving, and spitting.
4. Bullying through lies and false rumors.
5. Having money or other things taken or damaged by students who bully.
6. Being threatened or being forced to do things by students who bully.
7. Racial bullying.
8. Sexual bullying.
9. Cyber bullying (via cell phone or Internet).

## BULLYING IS NOT TEASING

It might be hard to tell the difference between playful teasing and bullying. Teasing usually involves two or more friends who act together in a way that seems fun to all the people involved. Often they tease each other equally, but it never involves physical or emotional abuse.

## WHY STUDENTS BULLY

Information about bullying suggests that there are three interrelated reasons why students bully.

1. Students who bully have strong needs for power and (negative) dominance.
2. Students who bully find satisfaction in causing injury and suffering to other students.
3. Students who bully are often rewarded in some way for their behavior with material or psychological rewards.

**League of Women Voters of Concord Carlisle  
P.O. Box 34  
Concord, MA 01742-0034**

**Presrt STD  
Non-profit  
Organization  
US Postage Paid  
Concord MA 01742  
Permit #41**

**TO:**