

# THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CONCORD-CARLISLE

# BULLETIN

January 2009

LWVCC Website: [www.lwvcc.com](http://www.lwvcc.com)  
P.O. Box 34 Concord, Massachusetts 01742-0034

Volume 13 08-09 #2

## CALENDAR

### JANUARY

14	Wed	LWVCC Member Breakfast, Colonial Inn	9:00-11:00 AM
21	Wed	LWVCC ESC, 290 Rutland St. Carlisle (Lauren Bakewell)	1:30 PM
25	Sun	5 <sup>th</sup> Annual Homelessness Forum, Trinity Church, 81 Elm St, Concord	7 PM
26	Mon	Concord Town Caucus, Alcott School	7:30 PM
28	Wed	LWVCC Book Group, Trustees Room, Concord Library	10:00-11:30 AM

### FEBRUARY

4	Wed	LWVCC Board Mtg & State Program Planning, 89 Crescent Rd.(Erin Pastuszenski)	9 -1 PM
11	Wed	LWVCC ESC, 320 Lowell Rd. (Paula Vandever)	1:30 PM
11	Wed	LWVCC Open Forum:“Our Town, Our Schools, Our Money”	7:30 PM

### MARCH

4	Wed	LWVMA Day On The Hill, State House, State House, Beacon Hill	10:00 AM
11	Wed	LWVCC Board Meeting, 229 Musketquad Rd (Erica Morrison)	9 coffee, 9:30 mtg
18	Wed	LWVCC Local Program Planning, 127 Commerford Rd. (Becky Shannon)	9 – 12 noon
		LWVCC ESC meeting, (Becky Shannon)	12 noon
22	Sun	LWVCC Concord Candidates Forum, TBA	
31	Tues	Concord Town Elections	Polls open 7 AM – 8 PM

### APRIL

1	Wed	LWVCC Board Meeting, 320 Lowell Rd. (Paula Vandever)	9 coffee, 9:30 mtg
14	Tues	LWVCC Warrant Review, 1376 Old Marlboro Rd. (Lori Pazaris)	9 coffee, 9 :30 – 12 noon
		LWVCC ESC (Lori Pazaris)	12 noon
15	Wed	LWVCC House Tour	9:00 AM-1:30 PM
27-29		Concord Town Meeting , CCHS	

### MAY

4-5		Concord Town Meeting, CCHS	
6	Wed	LWVCC Board Meeting, 384 Hayward Mill Rd (Louise Haldeman)	9 coffee, 9:30 mtg
20	Wed	LWVCC ESC, 418 Monument St. (Ardis Bordman)	1:30 PM
20	Wed	LWVCC Annual Meeting	
29-30		LWVMA Convention – Newton Marriott	

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

The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan grassroots 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.

ESC Chair	Nancy Beeuwkes	(978) 371-7293	<a href="mailto:nbeeuwkes@aol.com">nbeeuwkes@aol.com</a>
Membership	Barbara Lewis	(978) 287-0049	<a href="mailto:blglewis@comcast.net">blglewis@comcast.net</a>
Bulletin Editor	Anne Hayden	(978) 369-8526	<a href="mailto:anne.hayden@comcast.net">anne.hayden@comcast.net</a>
Webmaster	Erin Pastuszenski	(978) 369-3842	<a href="http://www.lwvcc.com">http://www.lwvcc.com</a>

# EXECUTIVE STEERING COMMITTEE

Nancy Beeuwkes ESC Chair

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Dear League friends,

We on the Board are really looking forward to seeing many of you at our annual Member's Breakfast, at the Colonial Inn. We had such a merry time at the League Holiday Potluck Party in December that we want to continue to make time to socialize and learn more about our Town and State together.

At the December Holiday luncheon we had an informative talk by teacher Johanna Glazer on the large number of courses dealing with citizenship and government that are offered at the high school. We were charmed by remarks from another invited guest, Chiuba Obele, a junior at the high school. The LWVCC had given him a small scholarship to attend the National Student Leadership Conference in Washington DC. In addition, Concord's Town Clerk Anita Tekle presented some fascinating statistics on Concord's voter registration and turnout by age group in recent presidential elections. Carlisle's Town Clerk hopes to provide her town's data for a later meeting.

Coming up soon are two important February meetings. The first is on February 4<sup>th</sup> at 11 AM, following the Board meeting. We will discuss what matters we would like the State League to

study and address with the State Legislature. All members are encouraged to attend and make suggestions or just listen to what could be a very interesting discussion. This will be a brown bag lunch meeting, so BYOLunch and join us for an interesting and enjoyable meeting.

On February 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM at the Town House we will present an open Concord Town budget forum featuring the Town Manager and Town Finance Director along with the Superintendent of Schools and the Deputy Superintendent for Finance and Operations. This should be a very informative meeting and an excellent preparation for Town Meeting. Please let me know if there is a particular issue you would like to see covered at this meeting and I will pass your suggestion on to the presenters. The Board is hoping to have a similar meeting in Carlisle and is looking for Carlisle members to help organize such a meeting.

The members of your Board are always pleased when League members attend Board meetings. Please join us sometime.

Sincerely,  
Nancy

## LWVCC SPRING HOUSE TOUR

Wed, April 15, 2009

9:00 AM- 1:30 PM

Program will include:

9:00 AM	Continental Breakfast
9:30 AM	Talk by Holly Cratsley
10:30-1:30	Self-guided House Tour

Details to follow next month!

**LWVCC ANNUAL WINTER  
MEMBERSHIP BREAKFAST  
COLONIAL INN**

**JANUARY 14<sup>TH</sup> 9:00 – 11:00 AM**

Come enjoy the opportunity to mix and mingle, catch up after the holidays, find out what is ahead for the League, and get updated on events and issues on Beacon Hill. Our guests of honor will be State Senator Susan Fargo and State Representative Cory Atkins, who will fill us in on what to look for in the coming months.

We especially wish to offer a warm invitation to our new members and those who are national members who would like to take this opportunity to meet board members and members of the LWVCC. We look forward to meeting you.

Cost for this event will be \$10, to be paid at the door, for a Continental Breakfast. Those wishing to add a warm plated breakfast of eggs and bacon and potato cake, please add \$5 to cover the cost of this meal. (Note: this is a correction from the \$2 charge listed on the postcard.)

Please RSVP by January 6 to Barbara Lewis ([blglewis@comcast.net](mailto:blglewis@comcast.net) or 978-287-0049).

*Barbara Lewis, LWVCC Membership Chair*

**CALL FOR JUDGES FOR THE  
LWVMA 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL ONLINE  
STUDENT ESSAY CONTEST**

League members are invited to become judges for the LWVMA Student Online Essay contest. This entails no meetings, no mailings, and can be done on your own schedule. All communications with the judges are done via email.

If you would like to find out more and/or wish to participate in this enjoyable activity, email the State League office at [judges@lwvma.org](mailto:judges@lwvma.org) or call (617) 523-2999.

**MEMBERSHIP UPDATE**

We are still waiting for several members to renew, but overall, this year has gone quite well. Many replied to the emailed requests and thus saved the League some time and money. We shall send out renewal requests again by email next year. Feedback from you about using this method is welcomed. I already know for some it was very helpful and convenient. Firm numbers on our 2009 membership following the January 31 deadline will be in our next bulletin. The 2009 Directory will be out in February.

We welcome new members Elissa Brown, Janet Veves, Jane Innamorati, Kathleen Elcox, Linda Sweeney, Sue Bumpus, Louise Axon, Jun U. Smith and Laura Zimmaro. Many thanks to those members who worked to bring in new Leaguers. It will be wonderful to see new faces.

*Barbara Lewis, Membership Chair*

**JANUARY LWVCC BOOK GROUP  
INFIDEL BY AYAAN HIRSI ALI**

The next meeting of the LWVCC Book Group will meet on Wednesday, January 28, 2009, in the Trustees Room of the Concord Free Public Library from 10:00 – 11:30 AM. The book we will discuss is *Infidel* by Ayaan Hirsi Ali.

Ms. Ali is a Somali-born Muslim, currently residing in the USA, who speaks forcefully against violence against women particularly in the Muslim world. She fled Somalia and sought asylum in the Netherlands, gaining citizenship and becoming a member of parliament. She received death threats after working on a documentary on domestic violence. The director of that film, Theo van Gogh, was assassinated.

This is a powerful and moving book and our discussion promises to be both dynamic and enlightening.

All League members and their friends are invited to attend this meeting.

*Anne Hayden, LWVCC Book Group Chair*

**OUR TOWN, OUR SCHOOLS,  
OUR MONEY:  
Facing Concord's Financial Challenges  
Wednesday, February 11<sup>th</sup> – 7:30 PM  
Concord Town House**

This popular LWVCC forum returns to Concord on February 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM in the hearing room of the Town House. Both Town and Schools proposed budgets will be reviewed and explained by:

Chris Whelan, Town Manager  
Tony Logalbo, Town Finance Director  
Dianna Rigby, Superintendent of Schools  
John Flaherty, Deputy Superintendent of Schools

The discussion at this meeting is always lively and interesting. It is a great meeting to bring a friend. Refreshments will be served. A great prep for Town Meeting!

**STATE PROGRAM PLANNING MTG  
Wednesday, February 4, 11:00-1:00**

League program consists of those governmental issues that League members choose for study and action. It includes adopted positions on which action is taken, and issues for study that will lead to a position and action on it.

Every two years League members review the current program and recommend changes, deletions, proposed new studies and priorities for action.

All LWVCC members are encouraged to attend the program planning meeting at Erin Pastuszeski's home, from 11:00 to 1:00. Bring a brown bag lunch and your ideas for the state program. LWVCC will submit its responses to LWVMA, and based on this information the State League board will make recommendations for the upcoming state program at the State convention (May 29-30, 2009).

*Nancy Cronin, State Program*

**DAY ON THE HILL  
MARCH 4, 2009**

"Aiming for the Transparency: Restoring the Public's Trust" will be the theme for this year's Day on the Hill which will take place in Gardner Auditorium from 10:00 AM until 12:30 PM. Light refreshments will be served in Nurse's Hall at 9 AM.

As always, League specialists will report on the LWVM priorities for the coming session and afterwards we will plan to meet with our legislators.

Look for more information about the speakers on the League website as the date gets closer.

*Louise Haldeman*

**TOGETHER, WE CAN END  
HOMELESSNESS IN MASSACHUSETTS  
Sunday, January 25, 2009  
7:00-8:45 PM**

**Trinity Church, 81 Elm St, Concord  
Keynote speaker: State Rep Byron Rushing  
Asst. Majority Whip and co-chair, MA  
Commission to End Homelessness**

Rep Byron Rushing, an engaging and charismatic speaker, will describe the visions, goals, conclusions and recommendations of the Massachusetts Commission to End Homelessness. These goals include ending the widespread use of shelters and motels and increasing affordable housing opportunities. He also will tell us about initial steps in the implementation of the Commission's recommendations – and shed light on what concerned people can do to end homelessness.

The forum is free and open to all  
The LWVCC has been a co-sponsor of this  
forum for the past five years.

**THE LEAGUE ON AIR:  
ELECTION 2008 ON LOCAL CABLE**

Thanks to the cooperation of our local cable television station, CCTV, and the work of many League members, League of Women Voters programming was front and center as the November 4 elections approached. The program schedule on Channel 8 was crowded with a variety of educational programs and public service announcements from the local, state and national Leagues. We are grateful to CCTV Executive Director Charles Paige for his assistance in reaching voters during the fall election season.

Our own Candidates' Forum, held on October 19<sup>th</sup> and filmed by League Vice President Becky Shannon, was aired repeatedly in the weeks before the election, giving voters a close-up look at Rep. Cory Atkins (D) and her opponent Mr. Richard McClure (I). LWVCC also secured from the LWV of Sudbury a video of the debate they sponsored between Sen. Susan Fargo (D) and her opponent Ms. Sandra Martinez (R), which we asked CCTV to air. CCTV also aired a Fargo-Martinez debate sponsored by the LWV of Chelmsford, which the station obtained from a non-League source.

LWVCC, working with students from Concord-Carlisle High School, produced a program in which students presented the pros and cons of the three state ballot questions relating to taxation, marijuana and dog racing. League board member Cindy Nock organized the program, and Becky Shannon filmed it. CCTV aired the show repeatedly on both Channel 8 and Channel 9, assisting LWVCC in educating the public on these important proposals.

LWVCC also asked CCTV to broadcast public service announcements created by LWVUS and LWV of Massachusetts, and again, our local cable access station helped us in reaching the voters to encourage participation in the historic 2008 election. We hope to use the PSAs leading up to future elections.

Our League is grateful for the assistance of DigiNovations, 676 Elm Street, Concord, in converting the LWVUS beta tape of the

Freedom of Expression public service announcement into the required DVD format. DigiNovations was willing to take on this task and turn it around in a matter of a few hours, helping us to submit the PSA for airing during the two weeks before the November 4 election. We thank particularly DigiNovations owner Michael Kolowich and Director of Operations Shawn Whitaker.

*Erin Pastuszynski,  
LWVCC Communications Director*

**LWVCC FORUM FEATURES  
STATE REP CANDIDATES**

On October 19, 2008, the League of Women Voters of Concord-Carlisle hosted a lively Candidates Forum at the Concord Town House featuring the State Representative candidates for the 14<sup>th</sup> Middlesex District, Rep. Cory Atkins and Mr. Richard McClure. (We also invited the State Senate candidates, but only one accepted our invitation, so we could not include that race in our forum.) The League forum was co-sponsored by the *Concord Journal* and the *Carlisle Mosquito*, both of which provided advance publicity. Our local cable TV station, CCTV Channel 8, aired this voter education program up to the time of the election, and the *Concord Journal* provided newspaper coverage.

Nancy Carapezza, former LWVMA president and a member of the LWV of Wayland, very ably and graciously moderated our Candidates Forum. In addition, the event would not have been possible without the help of the following League members: Becky Shannon, who filmed the program for cable TV; Louise Haldeman, timekeeper; Erica Morrison, refreshments; Ardis Bordman and Nancy Beeuwkes, question sorters; Cindy Nock, usher; and Nancy Beeuwkes, who opened the program.

We look forward to the next LWVCC candidates forum for the local election next spring. Please contact any Board member if you are interested in working on that program.

*Erin Pastuszynski  
Candidates Forum Organizer*

## *January 2009 Domestic Violence Prevention activities – January 2009*

*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**, the **Concord-Carlisle Domestic Violence Roundtable (Roundtable)**, **Domestic Violence Services Network (including DVVAP and Network for Women's Lives (Network))**, and a men's group **Men Against Domestic Abuse and Control**, which meets in Carlisle. New areas including **National Organization for Women (NOW)***

***Domestic Violence Services Network*** is celebrating its **10<sup>th</sup> anniversary** this year with an event at the National Heritage Museum in Lexington on **March 28, 2009**. Law enforcement collaborators will be honored. Gerry Leone is the keynote speaker and recipient of DVSN's first award. Police chiefs who have worked cooperatively with DVSN will also be recognized and honored.

DVSN will be holding its **Advocate Training** from **March 2 through March 21, 2009**. Volunteer training is a 36-hour, 3-week program held at both the Concord and Bedford Police Departments: Monday & Wednesdays 6:30-9:30 PM and Saturdays 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM. Advocates provide direct service to domestic violence survivors via phone and at Concord District Court.

Valuable information can be learned at [DVVAP@Concordnet.org](mailto:DVVAP@Concordnet.org) or call 978-318-3421.

***Rachel's Box Project*** serves victims of domestic violence, as well as child and elder abuse, in **50 locations around the western suburbs**. Please notify Nancy James 978-369-2771 if you notice boxes in disarray or needing materials.

***Network for Women's Lives*** now a part of the ***Domestic Violence Services Network***, continues its primary mission to provide education and outreach. Performances of "**A Memory, A Monologue, A Rant and A Prayer**" (a collection of monologues from around the world) at Harvey Wheeler Community Center are scheduled for March 6, 7, and 8. Information at [www.networkforwomenslives.org](http://www.networkforwomenslives.org) or call Carolyn Waters Obin at 508-832-0997.

In January the **Network** is starting a new pilot program of **6 week Women Empowerment Groups**.

On May 6, 2009 a **Clergy Symposium** is scheduled (watch for details in upcoming issues).

***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.

For all of the above programs, go to [www.networkforwomenslives.org](http://www.networkforwomenslives.org)

### ***Other Related Programs***

**DVSN** is a sponsor of the fifth annual **Homelessness Forum** on Sunday, January 25 at 7:00 PM at the Trinity Episcopal Church, 81 Elm St. in Concord.

**DVSN** is also sponsoring **The Road to Women's Empowerment Building Capability, Building the Self** - A five week interactive workshop Wednesdays, 6:00-7:30 PM January 21, 28, February 4, 11, 18, 2009. Workshops will be held in Acton MA. Contact Kati Oakes 978-318-3421 [koakes@gmail.com](mailto:koakes@gmail.com)

By: Nancy P. James  
1/2/2009  
978-369-2771