

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CONCORD-CARLISLE

BULLETIN

January 2013

LWVCC Website: www.lwvcc.org
P.O. Box 34 Concord, Massachusetts 01742-0034

Volume 17 2012-13 #3

CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

6	Wed	LWVCC Board Meeting, 63 Coppermine Rd.	9 coffee, 9:30 mtg
8	Fri	LWVCC Yellow Rose Event - Movie: <i>Not For Ourselves Alone</i>	7:00-9:00 pm
20	Wed	LWVCC ESC meeting, 100 Newbury Ct., #208	8:30-9:30 am
25	Mon	Carlisle Town Caucus, Carlisle Town Hall	7:00 PM
27	Wed	Voter Registration Deadline for Concord Town Election	

MARCH

3	Sun	LWVCC Concord Candidates Forum, Location TBA	2:00-4:00 pm
		Snow date: March 10	
6	Wed	LWVCC Board Meeting, 398 Lowell Rd., Carlisle	9 coffee, 9:30 mtg
13	Wed	LWVMA Day On The Hill: Democracy Is Not a Spectator Sport Gardner Auditorium, State House, Boston	9:30 program
TBA		LWVCC Yellow Rose Event – Movie: <i>Iron Jawed Angels</i>	TBA
19	Tues	Concord Town Election	7:00 am-8:00 pm
20	Wed	LWVCC ESC meeting, 100 Newbury Ct., #208	8:30-9:30 am

APRIL

3	Wed	LWVCC Board Meeting, 64 Strawberry Hill Rd.	9 coffee, 9:30 mtg
6	Sat	LWVCC House Tour: “What’s New!”	10:00 am – 3:00 pm
17	Wed	Last day to register to vote for Carlisle Town Election	
21	Sun	LWVCC Carlisle Candidates Forum, Carlisle Town Hall	TBA
22	Mon	Concord Town Meeting (first night), CCHS Auditorium	7:00 pm
29	Mon	Carlisle Town Meeting, Corey Building	7:00 pm

MAY

1	Wed	LWVCC Board Meeting, 574 Harrington Ave.	9 coffee, 9:30 mtg
7	Tues	Carlisle Town Election, Carlisle Town Hall	7:00 am – 8:00 pm
15	Wed	LWVCC Annual Meeting, Concord Art Association	TBA

*Members are invited to attend monthly Board meetings.
Please contact Cindy or Paula 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.

Co-Presidents	Cindy Nock	(978) 254-1598	Co-Presidents@lwvcc.org
	Paula Vandever	(978) 254-1598	Co-Presidents@lwvcc.org
Membership	Dee Ortner	(978) 254-1598	Membership@lwvcc.org
Bulletin Editor	Anne Hayden	(978) 254-1598	BULLETIN@lwvcc.org
Webmaster	Julie Rohwein	(978) 254-1598	wm@lwvcc.org

CO-PRESIDENTS' LETTER

Cindy Nock and Paula Vandever, Co-Presidents

January 2013

Dear League Members,

We hope you enjoyed the holidays and are now welcoming a propitious new year – 2013! There was a terrific turn-out of LWVCC members and friends at the Holiday Luncheon at the home of Nancy and Reinier Beeuwkes where we were pleased to hear from Chris Whelan, Concord's Town Manager and Tim Goddard, Carlisle's Town Administrator. We send a special thank you to Nancy and Reinier for hosting this traditional event.

Our "Running for Office in Concord Workshop" and "Getting Elected in Carlisle Workshop" were great successes and are now available as video on demand on the CCTV website and information is also on our website: www.lwvcc.org. If you or someone you know is thinking of running for office in Concord or Carlisle, watch these workshops, attend the caucus in your town and participate in the League's Candidate Forums in February and March. The League reminds you that democracy is not a spectator sport and there are many opportunities to be involved in governing our communities.

Thank you to all who have given your support to the League through the Massachusetts League's phonathon and the non-member fund drive. You have been very generous and it is greatly appreciated. If you haven't renewed your membership, please do so. And the exciting news is that we will hold our League House Tour April 6th. As our major fundraising event it will focus on new technologies in homes.

This month, our Winter Membership Event was held on a Saturday in the main dining room of the Colonial Inn, on January 19th from 10:00 AM to Noon. Craig Altemose, Executive Director of Better Future Project, State Representative Cory Atkins and State Senator Mike Barrett were our speakers on "Climate Change – Reality, State Politics and Call to Action." See the article in this Bulletin for more information. Nearly ninety members and friends attended.

The last book read by our League Book Group was *The Lives of America's Suffragists* by Jean Baker which is relevant to our "Yellow Rose Event." We now have two student interns from CCHS to work with us on this event that we plan to hold in March. For those of you wanting to participate in planning the event, we will be having a movie night of the Ken Burn's documentary called "Not For Ourselves Alone" in February. See more about this event in this Bulletin.

On March 13th we will be carpooling in to the State House. Join us if you can, for the informative LWVMA Day on the Hill titled "Democracy Is Not a Spectator Sport." During the program we will hear about important state legislation. Then in May we will send delegates to the LWVMA Convention in Peabody. If you are interested in getting involved in any of these events please contact us.

Sincerely,
Cindy Nock and Paula Vandever, Co-Presidents

LWVCC MEMBER NEWS
WINTER MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM

Welcome to our new calendar year and the second half of the League year! We started with our annual winter get-together which was held on Saturday, the 19th. Yep, you read correctly – a SATURDAY – and we held it in the lovely, main dining room at The Colonial Inn. We moved up(stairs)! Who knows what's next, but first – a few words about the event.

From 10am to High Noon the Colonial Inn was flooded with more than 80 attendees for our meeting, about 30 of whom were guests or Leaguers from other chapters, such as Newton, Needham and Wellesley. We enjoyed pastries and bagels and fresh fruit salad and bottomless pots of coffee and a global selection of teas. Seating was a little tight as we filled the room to capacity!

Co-Presidents Paula Vandever and Cindy Nock opened the program with news and reminders of upcoming events (please read their report) and then turned the meeting over to local leader Launa Zimmaro who also serves as the LWVMA Program Specialist for Environmental Issues.

Our theme for this program was "Climate Change – Reality, State Politics and Call to Action." Launa's introductory remarks zeroed-in on the enormity of this crisis and set the stage for our first speaker, Craig Altemose, Executive Director, Better Future Project (www.betterfutureproject.org). Craig was followed by State Representative Cory Atkins and State Senator Mike Barrett who highlighted current and proposed legislative action and shared their specific sentiments on how to effect change. Details of these talks, prepared by Nancy Cronin, can be read in this *BULLETIN* or online at www.lwvcc.org.

A very special *thank you* goes out to Irmi Doane for tracking all reservation replies, to Irmi and Mary Chapman who cheerfully collected money from attendees, to Lauren Bakewell who helped with sign-in information and name tag labels, to Barbara Lewis for guiding folks to the dining room and buffet, and to Nancy Beeuwkes for contacting our politicians. Without this team people might still be standing in the lobby reading their iPads!

Finally, as you know, our membership numbers are reported to the State League (LWVMA) and national (LWV) at the end of January. We have *almost* achieved 100% renewal of memberships and we have attracted several new members. Our 2013 Directory will be out in February with your contact information. If you have questions, comments or suggestions, please contact me directly or leave a message at membership@lwvcc.org or 978-254-1598.

We thank you for your continued support as members and as donors of time, money, enthusiasm and commitment to the League of Women Voters of Concord-Carlisle. We are moving on!

Dee Ortner, Membership Chair
Committee: Nancy Beeuwkes, Mary Chapman,
Irmi Doane & Barbara Lewis

VOTER SERVICE

Barbara Lewis (Carlisle) and Erin Pastuszenski (Concord)

Contact Erin or Barbara anytime, by phone or at VoterService@lwvcc.org, if you'd like to get involved with the League's work on voting and elections.

Running for Office

Looking ahead to Concord's Town Election in March, LWVCC presented a Running for Office workshop at the Town House on November 29th, which is now available on demand at <http://concordtv.org>.

The session was well-attended, and the audience included a number of people who were interested in running for office now or in the future. The video (running through January on Mondays at 6pm, Wednesdays at 10pm and Fridays at 10am) allowed our program to reach many others, too. According to attendees, the workshop was "inspiring," "encouraging" and "even better than last year."

The program was made possible by our panelists (Anita Tekle, Eric Van Loon, Elise Woodward, Phil Benincasa and Linda Escobedo), and our dedicated League volunteers (Anita Barker, Nancy Cronin, Erica Morrison, Cindy Nock, Dee Ortner, Erin Pastuszenski and Susan Sekuler). Thanks to all.

Carlisle's Town Election falls in May. The LWVCC's "Getting Elected in Carlisle" program was held at the Town Hall on January 15th. Selectman Peter Scavongelli, Moderator Wayne Davis, Planning Board member Marc Lamere, and Town Clerk Charlene Hinton offered important information on town government and running for office. They also shared their own personal experiences and thoughts on being a candidate in Carlisle, getting elected, and what it has meant to them to serve the town. The program was recorded for viewing on CCTV.

LWVCC organized these programs to encourage residents to find out how to participate in local government, and we think we've made a difference. We are looking forward to seeing how many candidates run in this spring's elections. Our website always has information on elections and voting and a page about running for local office (<http://lwvcc.org/runningforoffice.html>). You can download a copy of LWVCC's "Getting Elected in Concord" booklet there, too.

Local Election Dates and Deadlines

Concord:

Town Caucus – January 28, 7:30pm
Voter Registration Deadline – February 27
Town Election – March 19

Carlisle:

Town Caucus – February 25, 7:00 pm
Voter Registration Deadline – April 17
Town Meeting – April 29
Town Election – May 7

A Note on Town Caucus

Concord's Town Caucus will be held on Monday, January 28, at 7:30 p.m., at the Town House, 22 Monument Square, Concord (snow date: Jan. 29). The voters attending the Caucus may nominate two candidates for each office on the Town Election ballot. The meeting is nonpartisan, and candidates do not run with party affiliations.

Candidates who are not nominated at the Caucus may have their names placed on the ballot by collecting at least 50 valid signatures of Concord voters on nomination papers available at the Town Clerk's office and by filing those papers with the Town Clerk 35 days before the election. For more information contact VoterService@lwvcc.org or call LWVCC at 978-254-1598.

Voter Service Policies Working Group

A hardworking group of League members, including Barbara Anthony, Nancy Beeuwkes, Louise Haldeman, Barbara Lewis, Erin Pastuszenski and Julie Rohwein, are reviewing and updating LWVCC's policies for candidate forums. If you would like to learn more about this project, please contact Erin at VoterService@lwvcc.org.

**CONCORD CANDIDATES FORUM
SUNDAY, MARCH 3, 2013**

2:00-4:00 p.m.

Please join us for the LWVCC's Concord Candidates' Forum on Sunday, March 3, 2013, 2:00-4:00 p.m., location TBA. (Snow date is March 10.) Our forum will be moderated by Nancy Carapezza of the Wayland League. The candidates will answer questions from the League of Women Voters and audience members.

Attend the forum to learn more about the candidates running for Town Moderator, Board of Selectmen (two seats), School Committee (two seats) and Housing Authority (one seat), so you can cast an informed vote at the Concord Town Election on Tuesday, March 19.

The League plans to record the March 3rd forum for rebroadcast on our local public-access cable TV station (CCTV Channel 8) and for online viewing on demand at <http://concordtv.org>. We also plan to collaborate with the *Concord Journal* on a voter guide to be published before Election Day.

Spring Voter Registration

Last year, we tried registering graduating CCHS seniors at the Senior BBQ in May, and had great results. If you would like to work on student voter registration, either following the roadmap from last year or forging your own new approach, please get in touch with Erin or Barbara soon. Call us directly, leave a message at 978-254-1598, or email VoterService@lwvcc.org. Thanks!

Get Out the Vote with LWV VOTE Signs

If you'd like to be part of the group of LWVCC volunteers who post "VOTE Tuesday" signs before the local elections, please email VoterService@lwvcc.org. We also post reminder signs for Town Meetings.

LWVCC BOOK GROUP:

***Abundance: The Future is Better Than You Think*
By Peter Diamandis & Steven Kotler**

The Concord-Carlisle League's book group next meeting will be on Wednesday, January 30, 2013 from 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. at the Concord Public Library (in Concord center) in the downstairs meeting room.

The book we will be discussing is *Abundance: The Future is Better Than You Think* by Peter Diamandis and Steven Kotler. The authors' premise is that scientific and technological innovations and creativity can/will solve many of the problems currently facing the world and enable the vast majority of the world's population to live with and enjoy many of the advancements of the last three decades. As stated on the book cover: "We will soon have the ability to meet and exceed the basic needs of every man, woman, and child on the planet. Abundance for all is within our grasp."

The book description further states: "Breaking down human needs by category – water, food, energy, health care, education, freedom – Diamandis and Kotler introduce us to dozens of innovators and industry captains making tremendous strides in each area." This book is sure to provoke a spirited discussion with its fascinating and unique view of how to solve many of the world's most pressing problems.

The LWVCC book group is free and open to all who would like to attend. We look forward to seeing many of you at one of our meetings this year.

*Anne Hayden & Ginny Lamere
LWVCC Book Group Co-Chairs*

LWVCC CLIMATE CHANGE MEETING

All of us attending the LWVCC annual winter meeting on Saturday, January 19, came away with a strong sense that immediate action on climate change is imperative if we are not to destroy our way of life and ultimately life on the planet. To illustrate the global impact of climate change the keynote speaker, Craig Altemose, Executive Director of the Better Future Project, used the example of the heat wave in Russia in 2010. Eleven thousand people died in Moscow from smoke inhalation due to forest fires caused by the unrelenting heat, and 55,000 Russians died in all. Russia lost one quarter of its wheat harvest which is largely exported to the Middle East. This led to food price increases in those countries and partially helped to precipitate the unrest there that turned into the Arab Spring.

The World Bank now says current models indicate that we are heading toward a 4 degrees Celsius rise, 2 degrees higher than earlier projections. Although 2 degrees was earlier considered probable, the prospects of limiting average atmospheric global warming to within 2 degrees C. is now considered unlikely. We are currently seeing increasing examples of extreme weather with global temperature still below the 2 degree rise. A study in Germany has looked at what would happen if temperatures warmed 5 degrees C. At this point they estimated the earth's carrying capacity would be less than one billion people at a time when population is projected to increase to 9 billion.

The speaker believes that we must mobilize on the level that we did in World War II, taking action at the federal and state levels and individually as well. Some of his recommendations for state action included (1) ban fracking which allows the leakage of large amounts of methane which is 20 times more damaging than carbon dioxide, (2) phase out coal fired power plants, (3) enact a carbon tax, and (4) address methane leaks from existing natural gas pipelines. He also spoke of the tremendous amount of carbon dioxide emitted from agribusinesses, particularly raising cattle, pigs, chickens and also crops. As individuals, in addition to driving gas-efficient cars, there were suggestions for "meatless Tuesdays" – eating less meat and growing and buying locally.

Our State Representative Cory Atkins, and newly elected State Senator Mike Barrett, then spoke about their suggestions for state action. Representative Atkins said that climate change is not currently on the national or state agenda, and we must begin to think about how to reach others who are not currently concerned. She said that there are some bills in this legislative session banning fracking, dealing with natural gas leaks, and freezing the development of coal powered plants. She has filed a bill to insure that fire departments can safely shut off natural gas in the event of a leak.

Senator Barrett stated that he embraces the message of urgency on climate change, however he is "cautiously optimistic" about action to address this issue. During his campaign he asked his interns to go door to door and ask what issues concerned the residents of his district. He was surprised by the sense of urgency that was expressed on climate change. Mike has four proposals going forward. (1) The goal of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, a cooperative effort among 9 New England and Mid Atlantic states (including Massachusetts), to reduce CO2 emissions has succeeded at reducing emissions from the power sector more than expected, so the goal should be increased (2) The Governor needs to set aggressive goals as a result of the Global Warming Solution Act (3) The gasoline tax should be raised to fund public transportation. (4) Senator Barrett and Tom Conroy, the State Representative for Sudbury, Lincoln and Wayland, have submitted the first state carbon tax bill which Barrett defines as a "gas tax writ large", a definition which might make it better understandable to the public.

During the question and answer period Craig Altemose said he has been trying to find a sponsor for a bill to ban new fossil fuel power plants in Massachusetts, and both Cory Atkins and Mike Barrett responded by saying they would sponsor such a bill. Reinier Beeuwkes stated that nuclear fusion as an alternate power source could become an option within 12 years if the federal government would continue funding it. League members and guests left the meeting with a strong sense of the need for all levels of government to take meaningful action now.

Nancy Cronin, LWVCC National Issues Chair



Senator Mike Barrett



Representative Cory Atkins



Craig Altemose



Paula Vandever and Cindy Nock
LWVCC Co-Presidents



Thank you to League member Kathleen Elcox for these lovely photos!

CONCORD FINANCE COMMITTEE

JANUARY 2013

Virginia McIntyre, LWVCC Finance Committee Observer

Concord's Finance Committee is responsible for establishing fiscal guidelines for the Town Manager, the Concord Public School Committee and the Concord Carlisle Regional School Committee in preparing their budgets. The guideline is typically set in November, under Town bylaw.

This year, in preparation for the setting of the guideline, the Finance Committee met several times with both the Town Manager and Superintendent of Schools, having asked both to outline the impact of restricting budget increases to 2%. In addition, the Finance Committee reviewed recent expenditure, tax, and household income patterns, noting that the median property tax as a percentage of median household income had grown from 4.7% in 2000 to 6.8% in 2010, the most recent year for which figures were available. With the recent approval of construction of the three elementary schools and the high school, the Finance Committee has been alert to the need to constrain increases in the operating budgets.

Acknowledging the challenging economic situation with stagnant real estate values and household incomes, together with the cumulative impact of town budget increases, the Finance Committee proposed a guideline for FY 2014 adding \$2,460,000 in incremental funds to the Town and Schools budgets over last year's final budget, representing a projected tax increase of 4.00% to existing taxpayers, and a 5.29% increase in overall budget, the difference accounted for by new growth.

The guideline assumes that \$735,000 and \$230,000 will be allocated from the Elementary School and High School Debt Stabilization Funds, new growth will amount to \$850,000, and that \$414,886 will be applied from last year's unused levy limit, leaving a projected \$2,461,510 in unused levy capacity for FY'14.

Over the last several years, the Town has tried to keep well within the Prop. 2 1/2 levy limits, understanding that the levy limit, with new growth and past voted debt exclusions, is actually well over 2 1/2% without the need for an override vote.

In its November 30, 2012 guideline letter, which appears on the town's website and is very interesting reading, the Finance Committee outlines the factors leading it to recommend increases beyond the 2% signaled in its summer letters to the budgeting authorities. Enrollment increases, stresses created by earlier flat budgets, an enrollment ratio shift from Carlisle to Concord, and the volatility of special education costs are among the reasons cited for the 5.29% increase in total budget plan.

Moving forward, the Finance Committee signaled that it hoped to be able to resume a discipline of limiting operating budget increases to the 2.5% to 3% range, mindful that excluded debt for the new high school would add an additional 4% by itself to each citizen's tax bill.

The Town and School budgets are expected to fall within the guideline. The Finance Committee will meet in January and February with the Town Manager and School Administration to review any new developments, and will conduct public hearings on February 25 and 27 and March 18 on the town, school and enterprise budgets.

These hearings are important and not as well attended as might be expected. FinCom meetings rarely have more than one or two visitors and are not televised, and the hearings in February and March are good opportunities for the committee to hear citizens' views.

LWVUS PRIVATIZATION POSITION

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that when governmental entities consider the transfer of governmental services, assets and/or functions to the private sector, the community impact and goals of such transfers must be identified and considered. Further, the LWV believes that transparency, accountability, and preservation of the common good must be ensured.

The League believes that some government provided services could be delivered more efficiently by private entities; however, privatization is not appropriate in all circumstances. Privatization is not appropriate when the provision of services by the government is necessary to preserve the common good, to protect national or local security or to meet the needs of the most vulnerable members of society. While the League recognizes that the definition of core government services will vary by level of government and community values, services fundamental to the governance of a democratic society should not be privatized in their entirety. These services include the electoral process, justice system, military, public safety, public health, education, transportation, environmental protection and programs that protect and provide basic human needs.

The decision to privatize a public service should be made after an informed, transparent planning process and thorough analysis of the implications of privatizing service delivery. While specific criteria will vary by service and local conditions, the League believes the following considerations apply to most decisions to transfer public services, assets and functions to the private sector:

- On-going and timely communication with stakeholders and the public;
- Statement of the circumstances as they exist and what is to be gained;
- Definition of the quality, level and cost of service expected;
- Assessment of the private market; whether there are providers to assure competitive pricing and delivery; (in some cases there may not be multiple providers if a service is so specialized. i.e. high tech, airports.)
- Cost-benefit analyses evaluating short and long term costs of privatization, including the ongoing costs of contract administration and oversight;
- An understanding of the impact on customers, the broader community, environment and public employees;
- An open, competitive bidding process with clearly defined criteria to be used in selecting a contractor;
- A provision and process to ensure the services or assets will be returned to the government if a contractor fails to perform;
- A data-driven selection of private entities whose goals, purposes, and means are not incompatible with the public well-being;
- The careful negotiation and drafting of the controlling privatization contract; and
- Adequate oversight and periodic performance monitoring of the privatized services by the government entity to ensure that the private entity is complying with all relevant laws and regulations, contract terms and conditions, and ethical standards, including public disclosure and comment.

The League believes that the enactment of state laws and issuance of regulations to control the process and delivery of privatization within a state's jurisdiction is often appropriate and desirable. Best practices for government regulation of the privatization process should include the following requirements:

- An open process that allows for citizen input and oversight in a timely manner;
- A reasonable feasibility study and project evaluation appropriate to project size and scope;
- The establishment of carefully crafted criteria for selection of the private-entity (beyond the lowest cost bid);
- Additional consideration for local bidders in order to support the local economy;
- The retention of liability and responsibility with the government entity;
- Allowance for and promotion of opportunities for innovation and collaboration; and,
- Provision for employment benefits and training plans on behalf of employees displaced as a result of privatization.

OPEN MEETING LAW REQUIREMENTS

At the invitation of the LWVCC Town Government Initiative Committee, Concord Town Clerk Anita Tekle held a workshop on the MA Open Meeting Law, Public Records statute, and Conflict of Interest in Government Law at a January 24, 2013 meeting. The wide ranging question and answer discussion touched on a variety of recent concerns about local and regional school committee issues and the interpretation of the Open Meeting statutes which come under the jurisdiction of State Attorney General Martha Coakley's office.

All municipal, local and regional school committees and their subcommittees ("regardless of whether their role is decision-making or advisory") are required to post meeting notices and agendas at the Concord Town House at least 48 hours before they meet. The meeting notices are also available on the town website under Calendar which is maintained by the town clerk's office. Approved minutes of municipal and school meetings are on file at the Concord town clerk's office. While the statute does not require the Concord Carlisle Regional School Committee to submit minutes of their meetings to the town clerk, Tekle obtains those minutes from the school department's website.

Several questions arose about what constitutes a meeting and the availability of minutes of a meeting to the public. According to the Open Meeting Law, a meeting is "a deliberation by a public body with respect to any matter within the body's jurisdiction." A deliberation is "a communication between or among members of a public body." To be considered a deliberation, a quorum of the public body must be involved and the discussion must be related to public business within their jurisdiction.

As an example, email exchanges among a quorum of a committee discussing matters within their purview may constitute a deliberation, especially if it results in moving toward a decision to be made by that body. Tekle advises board and committee members to refrain from using email related to matters they will discuss at a public meeting. The Town Clerk said department staff meetings and informal groups formed to assist staff do not fall under provisions of the Open Meeting Law.

Minutes must be taken at all board, committee, and subcommittee meetings. The minutes must be

available within 10 days of a meeting even if they are in draft form. If the committee fails to provide the minutes within 10 days of a written request, a citizen can file a complaint with the state Attorney General's office. The request for minutes need not be made in writing; however, for the 10-day compliance to be appealed, a written request is required.

Responding to specific questions about the Concord-Carlisle Regional School Committee, Tekle said her office is not the official records keeper for the Concord-Carlisle Regional School Committee. Compliance with the Open Meeting Law for regional school committees is under the jurisdiction of the state Attorney General's office.

Tekle said the Massachusetts Public Records Law applies to records created by MA boards and agencies while the federal Freedom of Information Act applies to federal records. MA citizens who make written requests for public documents should do so using the Massachusetts statute. There are some exemptions to the public records law. The public entity has 10 days to respond to a request for a public document. The custodian of the public documents is allowed to charge a reasonable fee to recover the cost of complying with the public records request. The Town of Concord charges 20 cents per page for a copy of documents and 50 cents a page for something printed.

The state Ethics Commission rules on conflict of interest involving municipal employees. The statute is intended to prevent conflicts between private interests and public duties, foster integrity in public service, and promote confidence in government by restricting what municipal employees can do on the job, after hours and after leaving government service. Employees and board and committee members are required to complete an online ethics training test every two years. Tekle said in cases where the public perception is such that there might be an appearance of conflict of interest, a person can file a disclosure form. She said municipal staff cannot accept any gift worth more than \$50, and a gift of any amount may not be accepted if it is in exchange for a favor (quid-pro-quo).

*Ingrid Detweiler, member
LWVCC Town Government Initiative Committee*

CONCORD DECISIONS

Who makes them? When should they be made? How will the outcomes affect us?

Last year, the League of Women Voters of the United States concluded a study of privatization, in which the Concord-Carlisle League participated. This study included a detailed examination of the many ways in which government services have been privatized.

The study clearly showed that some ways are more successful than others. For example, privately run prisons, which depend on a steady flow of inmates to ensure profitability, are hardly advisable. For some communities however, outsourcing specialized services to a private contractor may be financially advisable when weighed against the capital and personnel costs which would need to be assumed if the community provided the service directly. The full consensus position is printed elsewhere in this Bulletin.

Traditionally, the Town of Concord has supplied most of its own services for municipal and school uses. As an example, the Public Works department hires additional contractors as needed to help with public works projects but the oversight remains within the department. Likewise, the School Transportation Department may occasionally hire an extra bus from another company when the multiplicity of evening “away” games makes it necessary, but the bulk of the school transportation services are performed by school employees in buses owned and maintained by the Town.

As most Concord and Carlisle citizens are aware, the Regional School Committee (CCRSC) and the Concord Public School Committee are considering out-sourcing the transportation department, a service traditionally done by the School itself.

In similar fashion there is consideration within the Town of Concord as to whether to retain control of the former landfill or sell a portion of it to a conservation group. It should be emphasized that a decision to outsource school services is the prerogative of the school committee and the decision as to what to do with the landfill is the prerogative of the Selectmen and Town Manager.

However, one of the principal points made by the LWVUS consensus is that decisions to transfer governmental services, assets and/or functions

should be made after a public, informed, transparent planning process and thorough analysis of the implications of decisions. On-going and timely communications with stakeholders and the public are essential, as are cost-benefit analyses evaluating short and long term costs and an understanding of the impact on customers, the broader community, environment and public employees.

While there has been and is continuing to be considerable discussion about the use of the landfill, questions have arisen in the Town of Concord as to whether the decision-making process used by the Schools has been as open and transparent as the townspeople customarily expect.

In addition to the outsourcing controversy, the *Concord Journal* recently reported that a citizens group plans to raise private funds to pay for additional athletic facilities at CCHS, as some facilities are to be eliminated during construction and the budget for the new building does not include replacement of these facilities. This is a most generous offer and nothing prevents the School Committee from accepting such donations, but there are serious questions about whether commitments for further changes to the CCHS property should be made by the CCRSC now before a final decision is made about our school buses.

While the CCRSC has recently voted to dismantle the current bus depot, it is still possible that the buses could be located elsewhere on the high school property. Even if the schools ultimately decide to outsource their busing service entirely, there must be a place for buses to be parked. The “second best” recommendation from the Citizens Transportation Committee (CTC) was to use the Concord landfill if the high school property is not available.

Again this question merits further discussion as to the uses of the landfill and the long term interests of the Town of Concord. The former landfill is used by the Concord Public works department for equipment storage and composting. It is slated to become the site for a solar array. It also has room to store the buses if that is desired. For all these

reasons it will be important for Concord citizens to exercise due diligence when making decisions about its future.

In addition to the usual budget and planning matters normally on the warrant, the Concord Town Meeting Warrant will contain several petition articles some of which will be connected to the school bus issue. Up to now, the LWVCC has taken no position on any of these questions nor on any of the Town Meeting articles, but as always it urges that citizens and particularly League members inform themselves as completely as possible. Hearings on the Concord Town Warrant

articles will begin in February and are listed below.

Additional information regarding school buses can be gained from the CTC report, available online at the Town of Concord website under Citizens Transportation Committee, look under Boards and Committees, and the TAC Report available at the School Committee website.

*Louise Haldeman, Member
Citizens Transportation Committee (CTC)*

CONCORD PUBLIC HEARINGS

Mon, Feb 25 7 pm Finance Committee

Town budget and articles including capital

Snow date Feb 26

Wed, Feb 27 7 pm Finance Committee

School budget & articles; Community Preservation Committee articles

Snow date Feb 28

Mon, March 4 7 pm Board of Selectmen

Snow date March 5

Wed, March 6 7 pm Planning Board

Snow date March 7

Mon, March 18 7 pm Finance Committee

Enterprise Fund budgets and articles

Snow date March 19

CONCORD TOWN ELECTION

Tuesday, March 19, 2013

Moderator (1 seat)

Eric Van Loon

Board of Selectmen (2 seats)

Alice Kaufman

Carmin Reiss

School Committee (2 seats)

Lisa Bergen

Johanna Boynton

Cynthia Rainey

Kathi Snook

Housing Authority

Dennon Rodrigue

STATUS OF LWVMA ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

I'm happy to report that new bills regarding E-Waste, the Updated Bottle Bill and Safer Alternatives have all been filed again for the new legislative session. While the new bills are being reviewed, there is a timely issue related to waste that emerged in November and is unfolding now. While not a piece of legislation, the issue concerns us all and will be the topic of an LWVMA Action Alert in the near future.

MassDEP unveils plan to lift the incinerator moratorium

The MassDEP is planning to lift a 22-year old moratorium on new incineration facilities as its solution for dealing with solid waste.

It's true that landfill capacity is dwindling and the state needs to find a way to better manage the tons of garbage headed to the dump, but burning garbage is going backwards, a step in the wrong direction. The MassDEP has an available solution, one that could be put in place immediately – enforcement of existing waste ban regulations, established by the agency in the 1990s.

Waste audits consistently show that 90% of what's in the trash could be reused, recycled or composted. Putting any of this material into landfills or incinerators wastes scarce landfill space and strains incinerator capacity. It also adds to greenhouse gas emissions contributing to global warming and fouls our air, soil and water with toxic pollutants like dioxin and mercury.

Burning recyclable and reusable material is a terrible waste of resources and energy. Recycling saves 3-5 times more energy than incineration because of energy saved by using recycled feedstock for manufacturing instead of harvesting virgin resources.

The message to the MassDEP is simple: instead of building new incinerators, the MassDEP should reduce solid waste by strengthening and enforcing existing waste bans so valuable resources don't go up in smoke.

Comments on this issue will be accepted by the MassDEP until 5:00 PM, February 15th. If you

agree that the MassDEP should maintain the ban on incineration, including variations on traditional incineration such as gasification and pyrolysis, and that the MassDEP should reduce waste by strengthening and enforcing existing waste bans, send your comments to: John Fischer at dep.swm@state.ma.us or by mail to: John Fischer, MassDEP, One Winter Street, Boston, MA 02128.

You can also call or email Governor Patrick as the person with final authority on this decision, and ask him not to tarnish his environmental legacy by allowing the ban on new incineration facilities to be lifted: call 617.725.4005 or email comments to: <http://www.mass.gov/governor/contact-us.html#email>. Please don't delay.

Launa Zimmaro

LWVMA Environmental Resources Specialist

CONCORD TOWN MEETING
April 22, 23, 24, 25, 29, 30, 2013

CARLISLE TOWN MEETING
Monday, April 29, 2013

INFLUENTIAL WOMEN IN AMERICAN HISTORY

Answers to game on page 19

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| <i>a. Elizabeth Cady Stanton</i> | <i>b. Alice Paul</i> |
| <i>c. Sojourner Truth</i> | <i>d. Mary Lyon</i> |
| <i>e. Annie Wittenmyer</i> | <i>f. Angelina Grimke</i> |
| <i>g. Emma Hart Willard</i> | <i>h. Hannah Solomon</i> |

**LWVMA DAY ON THE HILL
“DEMOCRACY IS NOT A
SPECTATOR SPORT”
Wednesday, March 13, 2012
Gardner Auditorium
Massachusetts State House**

What’s Happening on the Hill? What do we want to happen? How do we bring it about?
Featured speaker: Rep. Tom Conroy
Carbon Tax Legislation

This year the LWVMA’s annual Day on the Hill will have a joint focus, a discussion of one of the most important issues before us and the art of effective lobbying. In addition, our program specialists will give us progress reports on the legislation which they are following on behalf of the League.

The League is a grassroots organization. It has no money to spend on influencing legislators but it does have well informed members who have important information to convey. How do we as ordinary albeit well-informed citizens make our point?

It has been pointed out that most legislators are highly receptive to reasoned arguments and would like to hear more of them - so come and learn how to do it well! Final plans are still being developed and more information will be coming from the LWVMA soon but **SAVE THE DATE!**

**2013 LWVCC HOUSE TOUR
“What’s New!”
Saturday, April 6, 2013
10:00 am – 3:00 pm**

Planning and preparations are ramping up for our LWVCC Fundraising House Tour entitled “What’s New!” which will be held on Saturday, April 6, 2013 from 10:00 am – 3:00 pm. While this title may imply a primary focus on the most innovative technologies available to today’s well informed home builder eager to incorporate the very latest developments in sustainable construction and utilities, these homes will stand out just as much for the beautiful and creative designs of living spaces that thrill the senses as well.

All League members are urged to put this very important date on their calendars and participate in helping to make it a great success, just as past house

tours have been. We will be building teams to staff the homes the day of the tour, and looking for help with other committees such as publicity, ticket sales and more. Tell your friends and encourage them to make a day of it. This is going to be the most exciting tour yet.

For more information, contact Barbara Lewis at HouseTour@lhwcc.org.

**NUCLEAR METALS INC SUPERFUND SITE
A PROGRESS REPORT**

For 25 years, or possibly longer, there have been investigations of contaminants at the Nuclear Metals, later called Starmet, manufacturing site, first by the company itself, then by the Town and finally by the Army.

Around 2000 it was declared a superfund site and cleanup has continued. The principal problems have concerned contaminants in the soil and ground water. Many tons of earth and buried barrels of contaminated waste have been removed. Many of the buildings themselves have now become contaminated and must be torn down.

As of December 2012 an addendum to the Site Management Plan was approved by the EPA which will cover tree removal, building removal, site preparation, a weighing scale for trucks and a number of other items. Residents were informed in a recent Town of Concord News and Notices posting that the noise of chain saws, trucks and heavy equipment would become noticeably louder in the next few weeks. Since it is still very much winter, this noise is not expected to be unduly annoying and those within earshot can console themselves with the knowledge that it is in a good cause. What the local deer herd will think has yet to be determined.

The document supporting the work as well as a great deal of other information can be found on the Nuclear Metals website, easily found by a quick search of the Internet.

Louise Haldeman

EXPANDING OUR HISTORIC CONSCIOUSNESS

The definition of consciousness is

- 1. awareness of surroundings: the state of being awake and aware of what is going on around you*
- 2. somebody's mind: somebody's mind and thoughts*
- 3. shared feelings and beliefs: the set of opinions, feelings, and beliefs of a group*

Synonyms: awareness, realization, notice, perception, mindfulness, cognizance

Historic consciousness is the awareness in the present of the past. Our historic consciousness is formed by discovering artifacts as evidence of past activity. It is formed by following the lessons of our teachers and professors who tell the stories of wars, the stories of important people and important events. It is formed by listening to the voices and writings of the biographers and the chroniclers and the newscasters.

If one thinks about consciousness as awareness, and then if one thinks about what we Americans are taught in US History in our schooling, realizing that the population of human beings is about half male and half female, it becomes obvious that there is an entire historical consciousness that is lacking in our American society. There is a missing shared awareness of the feelings and beliefs and stories of about half of the population of our society. The women were there but their stories are largely hidden. If history is important so that past mistakes are not repeated and half of history is not remembered, how can our present and our conscience possibly be the best that it can be? Our present and our governing conscience is built on half of a foundation, half –one might even say one side, of a story.

Who are the women in our history? Where are the stories? What are the lessons? What might the impact be if that historic consciousness was not missing? We don't know because we have never tried to balance our historic consciousness in that way and in an expansive way through generations of public education. It is only right and fair that women have their set of opinions, feelings and beliefs shared in our historic consciousness.

Our organization, the League of Women Voters Concord-Carlisle, has received a LWVMA grant from the Scharfman Education Fund to develop a promotion kit for use in planning a Yellow Rose Event (YRE). A Yellow Rose Event would raise awareness about the history of women in the United States and in the League of Women Voters and encourage participation of young women in democracy and in government. The hope is that inclusion of the historic consciousness of women's history will have an impact and will make a difference in the conduct of our democracy. If you have an interest in helping develop the Yellow Rose Event promotion kit, please visit our website LWVCC.org and sign up to help with the Yellow Rose Event.

*Cindy Nock, LWVCC Co-President
Coordinator, Yellow Rose Project*

YELLOW ROSE EVENT UPDATE

Two enthusiastic students from CCHS have volunteered to intern with the League and help plan and hold a Yellow Rose Event Movie Night and Forum in March. We have also applied for (and received) a \$250 grant from the LWVMA Scharfman Education Fund to offset costs of producing a YRE public relations and resource kit for other Leagues to use to hold their own Yellow Rose Event.

We will be meeting in February to learn more about the history of women in our country by viewing the Ken Burns documentary "Not For Ourselves Alone" about Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony. If you have expressed interest in helping with the Yellow Rose Event project please watch for an appeal in the Monday Member News and join us in viewing the documentary.



A Yellow Rose Event - Coming Soon in February!

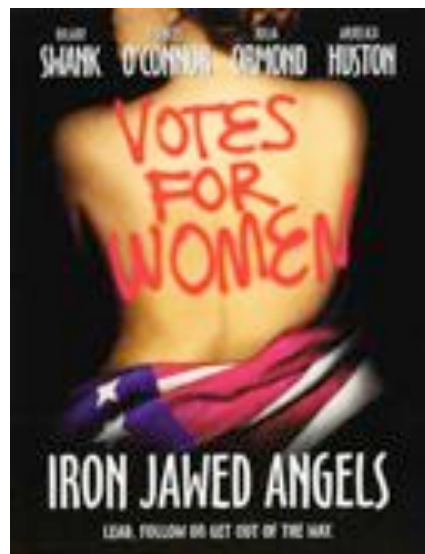
NOT FOR OURSELVES ALONE

The Story of Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony

A FILM BY KEN BURNS AND PAUL BARNES
A General Motors Mark of Excellence Presentation

Join us for a Yellow Rose Event viewing of this documentary about the lives of two women pioneers of the women's movement in our country. President Obama mentioned the name of Elizabeth Cady Stanton in his 2nd Inaugural Address. Come learn with us about these amazing women. Planned for February 8 from 7:00-9:00 pm at the home of Nancy and Reinier Beeuwkes, watch for a sign up in the Monday Member News or visit our website for more information. www.lwvcc.org

A Yellow Rose Event - Coming Soon in March!



Join us in viewing this fresh and contemporary look at a pivotal event in American history. Iron Jawed Angels tells the true story of how defiant and brave young activists Alice Paul and Lucy Burns took the women's suffrage movement by storm, putting their lives at risk to help American women win the right to vote.

CASINOS IN MASSACHUSETTS

The Cards are on the Table What happens Next?
Louise Haldeman, LWVMA Casino Specialist



Tuesday, January 15, was the deadline for the submission of proposals to build casinos in Massachusetts. At the end of the day, eleven companies had submitted proposals and several others had asked for a waiver of the deadline, a matter which was taken up by the Massachusetts Gaming Commission at its next meeting. At that meeting, on January 17, the Commission declined to extend the deadline further so the number of proposals remains at eleven.

The Massachusetts Gaming Law allows for three casinos in three areas: the Southeast, the Central-West portion of the state, and the East. Although the sections do not appear equal when viewed from the point of square mileage, they are roughly equal in population. The law also allows for one slot parlor somewhere in the state. Who wants the single slot parlor is not yet clear and may depend on the applicant's success elsewhere.

Each region will present an interesting spectacle for onlookers and serious questions for residents. The Central-West has several applicants. The Mohegan Sun, Hard Rock Gambling, and MGM International are among the companies seeking to build in Springfield and/or in nearby Palmer. In the East we can look forward to a possibly mythic battle along the shores of the Mystic River, as Mr. Steve

Wynn, owner of Las Vegas based Wynn Resorts who has a lease on the old chemical plant in Everett, battles with Mayor Menino who supports a facility at Suffolk Downs.

The Southeast section is complicated as the Mashpee Wampanoag wait for a decision as to whether they can take land into trust as a reservation. If so, they would be able to take the casino license which is reserved for a Native American Tribe. If not, a commercial developer will receive the license. That would leave the Mashpee able to open on land they currently own and thus would not be bound by State law since they would be operating as a Sovereign Nation. But there are serious obstacles they still have to overcome.

It will be the task of the Gaming Commission to start the process of evaluating the applications. The review process will include a background check on the persons involved (criminal activity is frowned upon), and the scope of the proposal itself. It is not clear how much ongoing bankruptcy in other casinos owned by some of the applicants will actually matter.

The Massachusetts Gaming Commission has so far conducted itself in an exemplary manner and it can be expected to be thorough. Therefore, it may be several weeks before licenses are awarded. How much good or harm will come to the state once casinos are allowed is unknown although there are plenty of prognosticators both pro and con. We also don't know how many of the proposals will be acceptable to the citizens of each region. But one thing we can be glad of, all the applications were accompanied by a non-refundable fee of \$400,000.

January 2013 - Domestic Violence Facts

These excerpted statistics are from the Safe Horizon web site www.safehorizon.org

The Victims

- One in 4 women will experience domestic violence during her lifetime.
- Women are more likely to be killed by an intimate partner than men
- Women ages 20 to 24 are at greatest risk of becoming victims of domestic violence.
- Every year, 1 in 3 women who is a victim of homicide is murdered by her current or former partner.

The Families

- Every year, more than 3 million children witness domestic violence in their homes.
- Children who live in homes where there is domestic violence also suffer abuse or neglect at high rates (30% to 60%).
- A 2005 Michigan study found that children exposed to domestic violence at home are more likely to have health problems, including becoming sick more often, having frequent headaches or stomachaches, and being more tired and lethargic.
- A 2003 study found that children are more likely to intervene when they witness severe violence against a parent – which can place a child at great risk for injury or even death.

The Circumstances

- Domestic violence is most likely to occur between 6 pm and 6 am.
- More than 60% of domestic violence incidents happen at home.

The Consequences

- According to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, domestic violence is the third leading cause of homelessness among families.
- In New York City, 25% of homeless heads of household became homeless due to domestic violence.
- Survivors of domestic violence face high rates of depression, sleep disturbances, anxiety, flashbacks, and other emotional distress.
- Domestic violence contributes to poor health for many survivors. For example, chronic conditions like heart disease or gastrointestinal disorders can become more serious due to domestic violence.
- Among women brought to emergency rooms due to domestic violence, most were socially isolated and had fewer social and financial resources than other women not injured because of domestic violence.
- Without help, girls who witness domestic violence are more vulnerable to abuse as teens and adults.
- Without help, boys who witness domestic violence are far more likely to become abusers of their partners and/or children as adults, thus continuing the cycle of violence in the next generation.
- Domestic violence costs more than \$37 billion a year in law enforcement involvement, legal work, medical and mental health treatment, and lost productivity at companies.

#1 FACT:

Most domestic violence incidents are never reported

Nancy P. James 978-369-2771

Some Influential Women in American History

Can you match the photographs with the descriptions?

Answers are on another page in the Bulletin.



1821- Emma Hart Willard opened the Troy Female Seminary “for women of means” becoming "the first school in the country to provide girls the same educational opportunities given to boys."

1836- Sarah and Angelina Grimke were the first women to attend the Convention of the American Anti-Slavery Society and the first women to speak before the US Legislature.

1837- Mary Lyon established Mount Holyoke Female Seminary with a vision of intellectual challenge and moral purpose and strove to make it “affordable for students of modest means.”

1839- The Married Women's Property Act passes in Mississippi, first of a series of Acts issued in states which altered the law allowing married women to own and control their own property.

1844- Female textile workers in Lowell, Massachusetts demand a 10-hour workday.

1848- The first women's rights convention is held. Participants at the Seneca Falls, New York event sign a "Declaration of Sentiments and Resolutions" that outlines the main issues and goals for the emerging women's movement. Thereafter, women's rights meetings are held on a regular basis.

1850- Congress passed the Fugitive Slave Law, prohibiting assistance to fugitives. "I feel now that the time is come when even a woman or a child who can speak a word for freedom and humanity is bound to speak... I hope every woman who can write will not be silent." ---Harriet Beecher Stowe went on to write her novel Uncle Tom's Cabin.

1851- Sojourner Truth delivered her best-known extemporaneous speech on gender inequalities, “Ain't I a Woman?” in which she knocked down many of the arguments of the day against woman’s suffrage, and brought women and blacks together in the fight for civil rights.

1869- National Woman’s Suffrage Association (NWSA) formed by Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton.

1876- Annie Wittenmyer & Francis Willard form Women’s Christian Temperance Union (WCTU)

1893- Hannah Solomon forms the National Committee of Jewish Women (NCJW)

1917- Alice Paul and Lucy Burns form the National Women’s Party (NWP) and picket the White House.

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

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TO:

LWVCC Concord Candidates

Forum

Sunday, March 3, 2013

2:00 – 4:00 pm

Location TBA