

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CONCORD-CARLISLE

BULLETIN

LWVCC Website: www.lwvcc.org

January 2018

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

Vol 22 2017-18 #2

CALENDAR

JANUARY

- 8 Mon LWVCC Observer Corps mtg, Diane Proctor (57 Sudbury Rd.) 7:30-9:00pm
- 10 Wed **LWVCC Book Group, Trustees Room, Concord Main Library 10:00-11:30am**
- 11 Thurs **LWVCC Mapping the Road to Town Meeting: *How it Works and How to Work It***
Harvey Wheeler Community Center, West Concord 7:30-9:00pm
- 16 Tues LWVCC Concord Town Government Committee Mtg, Concord Library 3-5:00pm
- 18 Thurs LWVCC Voter Service Committee, Fowler Library, West Concord 2-3:30pm
- 19 Fri LWVCC Education Committee, 1404 Main St. (Julie Rohwein) 9:30-11:00am
- 21 Sun **LWVCC Guest Speaker Ambassador Wendy Sherman 7:00pm**
***“America’s Role in the World,”* Concord Academy, Academy Chapel**
- 24 Wed **LWVCC Book Group, Trustees Room, Concord Main Library 7:00-8:30pm**
- 29 Mon **Concord Town Caucus, Town House 7:30pm**

FEBRUARY

- 2 Fri **LWVCC First Fridays: CCTV Future, Fowler Library, W. Concord 9:15-11:00am**
- 7 Wed LWVCC Board Meeting, Fowler Library, West Concord 9:00 coffee, 9:30 Mtg
LWNVV National Program Planning, Fowler Library 12:00-2:30
- 9 Fri LWVCC Education Committee Meeting, 1404 Main St. (Julie Rohwein) 9:30-11:00am
- 10 Sat **LWVCC Breakfast: Colonial Inn 9:00-11:00am**
Tufts Professor Mira Bernstein speaking on “Gerrymandering”
- 12 Mon LWVCC Observer Corps Mtg, 57 Sudbury Rd. (Diane Proctor) 7:30-9:00pm
- 20 Tues LWVCC Concord Town Government Committee Mtg, Concord Library 3:00-5:00pm

MARCH

- 2 Fri **LWVCC First Fridays, Fowler Library, West Concord 9:15-11:00am**
- 7 Wed LWVCC Board Meeting, Fowler Library 9:00 coffee, 9:30 mtg
LWVCC Local Program Planning, Fowler Library 12:00-2:30pm
- 9 Fri LWVCC Education Meeting, 1404 Main St. (Julie Rohwein) 9:30-11:0am
- 12 Tues LWVCC Concord Town Government Committee, Concord Main Library 3:00-5:00pm
- 27 Tues **Concord Town Election Polls open 7am-8pm**

Members are invited to attend monthly Board meetings.

Please contact Diane 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.

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear League Members:

What does it mean to be non-partisan? The League of Women Voters has devoted itself, for generations, to the central notion that partisanship diminishes one's ability to think independently and clearly. The League also cares about, indeed devotes itself to, open democratic processes and the right to freedom of speech for all candidates.

But in the last sentence, a keyword resides: "candidate." The League commits itself to the central tenant that debates should allow all voices to be heard; nonetheless, once a candidate is in office, carefully honed positions allow for, indeed insist upon, prudent and alert responses.

Why does this distinction matter? It matters because it is often confusing when we see something happening that requires a response, but that response may seem "partisan." For example, when Congress fails to initiate and pass effective gun legislation—after persistent massacres—it is hard to remain silent! The US House of Representatives passed HR-38 on December 6th: **Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act of 2017**

The **Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act** would allow any person with a concealed carry permit from one state to carry their weapon *in any other state*. It would also allow anybody with a concealed carry permit to do so on any federal land, such as national parks or national monuments.

This act, if passed by the US Senate, would allow anyone—from say Oklahoma or Texas (just a small sample)—to walk down the streets of Concord or walk into our schools with a concealed weapon. At the 1990 National League Convention, the League took "the rare step of adopting the gun control position by concurrence." Its position "urged passage of federal legislation to control the proliferation of handguns and semi-automatic assault weapons in the United States." Subsequent Conventions expanded, in 1994 and 1998, and further expanded and refined our position. The League's position on HR-38 is clear—Vote NO!

Why this example? The Environmental Protection Agency, the State Department, the Center for Disease Control, the Census to determine our voting future, and the right for women to have abortions are each under assault. Health Care for all citizens stands in peril. We cannot be silent. This is not an attack on a specific President. It is a statement about the fundamental values of the League: a clean earth, a peaceful and informed approach to international proliferation of nuclear weapons, an honest evaluation of who suffers in this country from gun violence [see the Dickey Amendment], an honest counting of our urban populations, and the right of women to control their own bodies are fundamental values of our League.

Do not be intimidated about speaking out. Do not let voices that cry "nonpartisanship" stifle your actions. Women and men, united in informed voice, make a difference.

Let us all be alert, responsive, and responsible. We can make a difference.

My very best,

Diane Proctor
LWVCC President

MEMBER'S PAGE

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Have you renewed your dues yet? If not, please renew soon! On January 31st, all members who have not renewed will be dropped from the membership rosters for all three league organizations: local (Concord-Carlisle), state (Massachusetts) and national (U.S.).

You can renew your membership by going to our website, www.lwvcc.org, print out the membership form and send it in with a check for either \$55 (single membership) or \$80 (household membership). Or you can join through PayPal on our website. You can also contact the membership committee at membership@lwvcc.org and we will send you the membership form to fill out and return.

You can also renew at the LWVCC table at one of our January programs listed on the Bulletin Calendar.

Anne Hayden, Membership Chair

LWV NATIONAL PROGRAM PLANNING February 7, 2018 12:00-2:30pm Fowler Branch Library

All LWVCC members are invited to participate. The LWVUS Board strongly recommends a continuation of **The Campaign for Making Democracy Work** which includes:

Voting Rights
Improving Elections
Campaign Finance/Money in Politics
Redistricting.

The National Board believes that these issues are at the heart of the League's mission and therefore are suggesting that we not add any new studies to the 2018-2020 agenda. However, if a League wants to promote a proposal to other Leagues for their consideration they can do so.

We have received one such proposal from the League of Palos Verdes Peninsula/ San Pedro, CA. Their proposal is for a study of ways to control Artificial Intelligence.

The Deerfield, IL, League is asking Leagues to add a few sentences on their program planning response to make the LWVUS position on abolishing the Electoral College an action focus for the 2018-2020 biennium.

These proposals will be discussed and voted on at this meeting.

Nancy Cronin
National Program & Action Chair

LOCAL PROGRAM PLANNING

March 7, 2018 12:30-2:30pm

Fowler Branch Library, West Concord

March 14 in the evening

Place and time TBD

Local Program Planning is one of the most important activities that local leagues do each year. The discussions result in recommendations for action that are presented and voted on at our May Annual Meeting.

Out of last year's Local Program Planning meeting came recommendations to focus on civic engagement, affordable housing and immigration. As a result, this year:

- we are co-sponsoring a three-part series on *Mapping the Road to Town Meeting* with the Concord Select Board and Concord Library;
- we have established an Affordable Housing Subcommittee that is researching this issue (see the article in this bulletin); and
- we have created an Immigration Committee that is holding open meetings to learn about many of the issues in this area with a goal of recommending future action that LWVCC and individual league members can take in the future. (See article in this bulletin.)

Please start to think about areas and issues in which you would like our local league to become more involved next year. Please don't hesitate to contact me to learn more about these important meetings.

Diane Proctor, LWVCC President

Wendy Sherman to join us on January 21st

Ambassador Wendy Sherman will be speaking at the Concord Academy Chapel, at 7 PM on January 21st, at the invitation of our League on: "America's Role in the World." The event is open to everyone.

About Ms. Sherman:

When speaking at the 92nd Street YMCA (in NYC) this fall—on a panel with Admiral James Stavridis (The Dean of Fletcher School at Tufts), Mike McFaul (a professor at Stanford who served as the Ambassador to Russia from 2012-14), and Jeremy Bosh (the chief of staff at the U.S. Department of Defense and the Central Intelligence Agency between 2009-2013)—Wendy Sherman responded to Chuck Todd's (the Moderator) question about the most effective action we can take to assure the future of democracy by saying, **"We have to get back to something as simple as civic education in this country. Every member of every family should be advocating that, beginning in elementary school"**; every school child should be taught how a thriving democracy functions. No more appropriate perspective matches our League's commitment this year to Civic Education.

As she received the distinction of "National Security Diplomat of the Year," in November 2017 from *Foreign Policy*, it was noted that "throughout her long career in the U.S. government, Ambassador Sherman played a decisive role in a long list of diplomatic breakthroughs—most recently, and notably, the Iran nuclear deal." While Ambassador Sherman's role on the world stage has been significant, she began her academic life as a social worker, and she wryly comments, "my caseload has simply changed over time."

Her engagement in politics began when she worked as the director of EMILY'S LIST, which provides money to pro-choice, female, Democratic political candidates. She also worked as director of Maryland's office of child welfare and as the President and CEO of the Fannie Mae Foundation. After working on Senator Barbara Murkowski's successful campaign, she directed Campaign '88 for the Democratic National Committee.

From 1993 to 1996, Ambassador Sherman served under United States Secretary of State Warren Christopher as Assistant Secretary of State for Legislative Affairs, where she directed the legislative efforts of the State Department with the U.S. Congress. Among other issues, she led the efforts to obtain the funding for Russia, and the newly independent states after the break-up of the Soviet Union and helped lead the support for the Dayton Accords.

Serving as Secretary of State Madeline Albright's counselor, she was appointed by President Bill Clinton and confirmed by the U.S. Senate with the rank of Ambassador. In this role, she advised Secretary Albright on issues of foreign policy—with a particular expertise in North Korea. Her formal title was: Special Advisor to the President and Secretary of State and North Korea Policy Coordinator.

Following that work, from 2011-2015, she was the fourth-ranking official in the State Department, during which period she led the team that negotiated with Iran and other partners to craft, on July 14, 2015, the "nuclear deal." Confirmed by the group known as P5+1 [the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, plus Germany], Ambassador Sherman worked closely with political leaders on all sides of the discussion, a position that allows her a unique insight into modern world affairs.

She has been a Vice Chair of Albright Stonebridge Group, Madeline Albright's international strategic consulting firm, since the group's formation in 2009 and is a Senior Fellow at Harvard Kennedy School's Belfer Center. We could not be more fortunate than to welcome her to Concord.

A Conversation with our School Superintendents

At our Annual Holiday Pot Luck Luncheon, held at Nancy and Reiner Beeuwkes' beautiful and welcoming home, we enjoyed hearing from the Superintendents of Schools of Concord (K-12) and Carlisle (Pre-K-8): Dr. Laurie Hunter and James O'Shea. Their conversations ranged from personal backgrounds to curricular and budgetary challenges and opportunities. A lively set of questions from our membership added richly to the discussion.

Jim, a social studies teacher and Principal before coming to Carlisle, focused his initial comments on educating future citizens: "citizens have the power, and they need the knowledge and skills to understand issues and think critically. Our work right now is vital, and we have three objectives to achieve these aims":

- Continue a rich, rigorous, relevant curriculum, while teaching our students how to engage in lively discourse and help our schools in facilitating these dialogues;
- Equity and excellence in all endeavors;
- Professional development to support faculty growth.

He also emphasized the importance of language development—from foreign languages to coding. About coding he noted, "We have not caught-up. We need to create an environment that is safe, healthy, and inclusive to all. Our societies are changing and we need to be assured that all are treated and embraced equally." Commenting that our children need our social and emotional support, he spoke reassuringly about the importance of addressing the whole child.

Laurie presented an equally thoughtful and ambitious set of goals for Concord students. She began by acknowledging, "We cannot take away all of the stress, but we can focus on helping" our students through the cultivation of mindfulness. Focusing on planning, in her first

year, Laurie emphasized strong habits of communicating and listening. She is creating a comprehensive committee—that includes a spot for a League of Women Voter member—to aid her in this planning. She noted that a balance between programs that challenge high performing students and those who need greater support must be paramount.

When questioned about looming budgetary challenges, Laurie emphasized her focus on children—she does not want to cut programs that enrich children's education. Her analysis of budgetary complexities yielded several central issues for the Concord schools:

- Establishing parity for the Concord Public School teachers, through work with the Teachers' Association;
- Absorbing an unexpected \$550,000 in special education needs from families new to Massachusetts and Concord;
- Absorbing a 2% shift in the enrollment numbers between Concord and Carlisle...an imbalance that may continue;
- Offsetting the previous spending of stabilization funds, which have left a cash flow challenge.

Laurie acknowledges that her present budget numbers exceed the Town's Finance Committee guidelines. She and the School Committees continue to work at lessening that difference. Jim O'Shea added that "frugality and balance" are also his guiding principles.

Both Superintendents embrace the LWVCC's emphasis on Civic Education, and future efforts to work closely on this interest are exciting to us all.

*Diane Proctor, member
LWVCC Education Committee*

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The committee has met four times during the fall. Consideration of the school budget process continues this year. Members are following the budgets as they develop in public meetings, including the new Subcommittee on budget.

Our October meeting focused on the report on the Concord Middle School facilities, and Heather Bout of the Concord School Committee joined us for this lively discussion.

The committee has been considering new areas of focus. There are two working groups forming which will carry on into next year.

1) Civics and Education

Within the memory of many league members, civics education was a regular part of school curriculums. Commonly, there would be a series of classes, activities and experiences intended to provide young citizens with a broad knowledge of government function at all levels, from local to federal, and to point the way towards a lifetime of participation in democracy.

In recent years, a lack of civic engagement and civics education at many levels of our society, including primary and secondary school, has become apparent. How to encourage the civic engagement of young people?

This working group will focus on the needs of school-age children. Areas of interest could include:

- Researching ways to improve civics curriculum for students at all grade levels
- Running a Civics Bee for the Concord-Carlisle community

2) Navigating Difference

Bullying. Hateful graffiti. Intolerance. Mean behavior. Cultural conflict. Old problems, certainly, but made more intense by the fast-paced, technologically mediated way of life that marks our present time. In the past several years, our community has had incidents

This working group aims to better understand problems arising from the inability to handle difference: the range of problems; how those problems are affecting children, particularly in their educational environments; what solutions have been proposed; what are being tried and with what results. We are just beginning to look at resources in our community and beyond to learn about these issues.

If you are interested in either of these working groups, please contact Julie Rohwein at Julie.rohwein@gmail.com.

Our next committee meeting will be Friday, January 19 at 9:30 am. The full committee meets monthly, at 9:30am. Working groups meet on a schedule decided by those involved. Our meetings are open to any LWVCC members who wish to attend. For more information, please contact Julie Rohwein at julie.rohwein@gmail.com.

Please join us!

Julie Rohwein, Education Committee Chair

LWVUS CONVENTION IN JUNE LOCATION: CHICAGO

All League members are invited to consider attending the 2018 National League convention. New members will find it a great introduction to the wide scope of the League. It's a wonderful learning experience both from the presentations and from sharing information with other Leagues.

The biennial LWV convention will take place Thursday, June 28th – Sunday, July 1, 2018 in Chicago at Hilton Chicago.

Information about the convention is available on the League Management site at www.lwv.org. Registration is opening in February. For more information please contact Nancy Cronin at www.nrcronin@verizon.net.

Nancy Cronin

National Program & Action Chair

VOTER SERVICE REPORT

The Voter Service Committee is gearing up for the Concord Town elections on March 27, 7 am to 8 pm. Six elected officials for Town government will be chosen in this election—two Select Board members, one Town Moderator, two School Committee members, and one Concord Housing Authority member. Town Caucus will be held on Monday, January 29, 2018, 7:30 pm, at the Town House.

Last year, no local Concord races were contested and the voter turnout was very low. The Voter Service Committee wants to help turn this around by encouraging citizens to run for elective office and to participate in the election. Educating voters and citizens is a key element to achieving greater participation in local elections.

The League's education work this year includes developing and distributing the following:

- LWVCC's "How to Run for Office in Concord" brochure.
- "Town Election Q&A" summarizing key election information.
- A candidate guide and forum informing voters on the candidates' qualifications and positions on key issues.

March 18 is the tentative date for the Concord candidate forum. The brochures, candidates' guide, and Town Election Q&A will be distributed around Town in public areas, through printed media, at tabling events, and online.

The Voter Service Committee meeting will be held on January 18 (Thursday) from 2 to 3:30 pm at Fowler Library. The meeting will focus on organizing the voter guide and candidate forum for the Concord town election. Voter Service is a great way to be involved in the LWVCC and learn about Concord. Please contact Judy Zaunbrecher at VoterService@lwwcc.org if you would like to volunteer.

Judy Zaunbrecher, Voter Service Chair

LWVMA MODERATOR TRAINING

Moderator training will be conducted on February 15, 2018 (Thursday), at 7 pm. The training session will be held at Acton TV, 16 Craig Road, Acton, MA. JoAnn Berry and Stefani Traina will lead this training. Both new and experienced moderators are encouraged to attend. An electronic sign up will be set up soon and publicized through League Leader Update (LLU) an electronic newsletter that the Massachusetts league puts out each month.

The February 15 session will be videotaped so the training can be rolled out across the state. Voter Service will be looking for local trainers and mentors to assist in this roll out.

You can register for this training at the LWVCC website <https://lwwma.org/moderator-training-at-actontv-on-february-15>.

Judy Zaunbrecher, Voter Service Chair

LWVCC BOOK GROUP *THE TROUBLE WITH REALITY: A Rumination on Moral Panic in Our Time* By Brooke Gladstone

The LWVCC Book Group will hold two meetings in January to discuss this month's book: *THE TROUBLE WITH REALITY: A Rumination on Moral Panic in Our Time* by Brooke Gladstone. Gladstone is an award-winning journalist who hosts the NPR weekly program *On The Media* where she analyzes the media and how it shapes our perceptions of the world. In this book, she shows us that reality was never what we thought it was – there is always a bubble, people are always subjective and prey to stereotypes.

However, Gladstone does offer hope. In *THE TROUBLE WITH REALITY* she shows exactly why so many of us didn't envision the events of 2016-17, and how we can recover both our belief in reality – and our sanity.

The meetings will be on Wednesday, January 10th from 10:00-11:30am and on Wednesday, January 24th from 7:00-8:30pm in the Trustees Room at the Concord Center Library. LWVCC Book Group meetings are open to all.

Come join us!

Anne Hayden, Edie Lipinski, Janet Miller, Diane Proctor, Book Group Steering Committee

LWVCC IMMIGRATION COMMITTEE IS UNDERWAY

The LWVCC Immigration Committee is meeting to learn from speakers about action being taken in our area on immigration reform, legislation, refugee assistance, and Sanctuary Cities. All League members are welcome to come to these meetings.

Our first speaker was Vivian Tseng, a Concord-Carlisle League member. With a background in corporate law, after the 2016 election Vivian decided to learn about immigration rights and has chosen to work with two organizations, PAIR (Political Asylum/Immigration Representation) and KINDS (Kids in Need of Defense) providing pro bono services on detention, asylum and undocumented immigrant cases.

In 2012, there was widespread consensus for reform. Both Democrats and Republicans supported reform that would have

1. Recognized the mutual benefit of letting undocumented stay (if they pay taxes, etc.) and giving them permanent legal status.
2. Eased the path for future immigrants, including enforcement (border security, overstaying visas), so the problem would not re-occur.

Reform legislation passed the US Senate but did not come to a vote in the US House because of the rise of the Tea Party, racism, and bias against non-English speakers.

Under President Obama's program of "enhanced enforcement," ICE (U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement) required immigrants to "check-in." Convicted criminals were deported, including juvenile delinquents, but ICE left alone the vast majority of undocumented immigrants who did not have criminal records.

However, the Trump administration removed the distinction between criminal and non-criminal

immigrants, and all undocumented became subject to deportation.

A majority of Americans want immigration reform, especially for DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals), undocumented minors brought here by their parents. Unfortunately, President Trump has ended protections for DACA individuals as of March 2018.

Chris Carson, the National League president, has spoken out in favor of the DREAM Act that would protect the 800,000 young people who were brought to the U.S. as children. The Dream Act states that for DACA individuals to achieve Conditional Resident Status they must

- have proof they entered the U.S. before age 16 and have lived in the country continuously for five years,
- have graduated from a U.S. high school or obtained a GED in the U.S.
- demonstrate good moral character
- pass criminal background checks and reviews.

After obtaining Conditional Status, to gain Permanent Residency they must

- for at least 2 years either have attended an institution of higher learning or served in the U.S. military, and if discharged, have received an honorable discharge;
- pass another series of background checks;
- continue to demonstrate good moral character.

The LWVCC Immigration Committee plans to hold further meetings to learn about other issues including Sanctuary Cities, proposed legislation making Massachusetts a 'Sanctuary State', refugee settlement assistance, and ways that we as League members can take action. All league members are invited to attend. For more information please contact Nancy Cronin at immigration@lwvcc.org.

*Nancy Cronin,
Immigration Committee member*

*Janet Rothrock
River Steward Award Committee*

2018 RIVER STEWARD AWARD
The League of Women Voters and the
Wild and Scenic River Stewardship Council are
soliciting nominations for the
16th Annual River Steward Award

Do you know someone who is an outstanding advocate for the Sudbury, Assabet and Concord Rivers? Is there an inspiring project or creative program that protects the beauty and health of our rivers or is dedicated to building an environmental legacy for future generations?

The League of Women Voters in partnership with the Wild and Scenic River Stewardship Council annually presents the River Stewardship Award to individuals, organizations, youth, teachers, businesses, government employees and others whose work will inspire children, families, town and school leaders to protect and preserve the Sudbury, Assabet and Concord Wild and Scenic Rivers today, and for future generations.

Nominees may live or work in any of the SuAsCo watershed towns: Acton, Ashland, Bedford, Berlin, Billerica, Bolton, Boxborough, Boylston, Carlisle, Chelmsford, Clinton, Concord, Framingham, Grafton, Harvard, Holliston, Hopkinton, Hudson, Lincoln, Littleton, Lowell, Marlborough, Maynard, Natick, Northborough, Sherborn, Shrewsbury, Southborough, Stow, Sudbury, Tewksbury, Upton, Wayland, Westborough, Westford, and Weston.

Award winners are invited to a reception and awards ceremony held in June as part of Riverfest.

Past Concord winners include: Tom Sisson, Cherrie Corey, Pam Rockwell, Peter Alden, Gordon Shaw, Susan Beede, Susan Erikson and her Thoreau School 5th grade class, Nat Marden, Dr. Bryan Windmiller, Sally Farrow, Elizabeth Sluder, the Thoreau School Riverwalk Committee, The Rowan family, Bob LeMaire, C. C. King, Marian Thornton, Emma Schumacher, Elena Colman, Katie Lebling and the Millbrook Task Force. Contact Janet Rothrock 978-371-0350 if you have ideas for nominees.

LWVCC OBSERVER CORPS
CONCORD LIGHT BOARD REPORT

Meeting -- Date, Time, Location: Concord Light Board (Board), Dec. 13, 2017, 7:30 a.m., Concord Municipal Light Plant (CMLP), 1175 Elm Street, Concord.

Attachments: Agenda, 2018 Energy Budget Reporter: Karlen Reed

Date of Report: Dec. 13, 2017

Present: Board members Peggy Briggs (chair pro-tem), Wendy Rovelli, and Dan Gainsboro. Member Gordon Brockway participated by phone.

Absent: Lynn Salinger (Chair).

Also present: CMLP Director David Wood, staff, Chris Whalen, Alice Kaufman, Mike Lawson, 5+ members of CSEC, LWVCC, and the public.

The meeting started on time, name cards visible, voices are audible.

Minutes for Nov. 2017 meeting were approved as revised (4-0).

Topics Discussed:

Director's update: Director Wood stated that CMLP has replaced 200 of the 600 LED street lights, on target for the June 18 installation deadline.

CMLP has modified its lien process to give delinquent rate payers more notice about unpaid bills that result in liens on homes. The number of lien assessments has dropped from 300-400 to 39-40 because of the new process, handled by CMLP's three customer service representatives.

Line workers returned from volunteer duty in St. Thomas, with mixed results under the regional mutual aid program. The new billing software proposal just arrived and is being renewed. 3Q 2017 financials have been filed with ISO and will be sent to the Board. CMLP will not have any unusual Warrant articles for 2018 Town Meeting.

2018 rate change process: Wood explained the upcoming 2018 rate change process.

- First, the proposed rates will be posted in the Concord Journal paper at least a week before the Board meeting.
- Then, the Board will conduct a hearing to solicit feedback.
- At the next Board meeting, the Board will vote on the rates and the CMLP will then file the rates with the DPU.
- The new rates will be implemented no sooner than 30 days after the vote because the CMLP must test the new rates in the computerized database.

In 2018, CMLP will present a whole packet of new rates, including increased fixed charges, in tariff form, with red-lines showing changes plus clean versions (current CMLP rates/tariffs are available at: <http://concordma.gov/528/Rates>).

Strategic planning: The Board discussed the impact of media coverage and LWVCC forum on the Strategic Plan. Several Board members are preparing opinion letters for the *Concord Journal* in response. Wood said the CMLP and Board will have another public forum on the Strategic Plan and rate increase where the Board will give a presentation and then answer audience questions. This forum will be held in January on a Tuesday or Thursday (Jan. 9 or 11) evening, perhaps at the Harvey Wheeler Center, since the Town's hearing room is under construction. CMLP will give the Board a revised Strategic Plan after the forum for approval.

Commercial net metering rate hearing: The Board opened a rate hearing for further discussion on Brian Foulds' proposed changes to the commercial net metering rates (example used: solar panels at Walden Pond). Foulds explained that this change would benefit all

commercial customers who have solar panels and participate in the CMLP's net metering rate program (currently 11, but that number may grow if the rate is changed). The Board appears inclined to approve the rate change, but needs more information on CMLP revenue impact. A vote is possible at the Jan. 10 meeting.

Energy Conservation Programs: CMLP staffer Jan Aceti guided the Board members through the CMLP budgeted items for energy conservation measures (called "CARES," roughly .52% of the total bill). The 2018 CARES budget is about double 2017 (\$621K, up from \$375K), which several Board members viewed as an inconsequential increase for such a useful program (attached).

2016 Audit: Board member Rovelli (former Finance Committee member) noted it was a fairly clean audit. She discussed the audit suggestions for double signatures and better capital asset tracking.

Public comments: Comments on rate hike impact, increasing solar panel usage, need for solar storage to handle increase solar production, residential rate assistance, rate of return cap, and messaging the rate hike.

Additional information:

The meeting was recorded and adjourned at 9:25 a.m. Next meetings are Jan. 10 and Feb. 14, 7:30 a.m.

CMLP website:

<http://www.concordma.gov/464/Municipal-Light-Plant>.

Light Board web page:

<http://www.concordma.gov/1106/Municipal-Light-Board>.

**FEBRUARY FIRST FRIDAY:
PROPOSED CCTV CHANGES**

Please join us on **Friday, February 2, 2018** for a League of Women Voters-sponsored First Friday discussion, from **9:15-11:00 am**, at the Fowler Library, 1322 Main Street, Concord. Our speakers will be Kate Hodges, Concord Assistant Town Manager; Jane Hotchkiss, Chair, Concord Select Board; and a representative from CCTV (invited). These panelists will look at the process of transferring CCTV, Inc.--a privately-held community television non-profit corporation--to the Town of Concord.

CCTV currently provides cable TV programming, called "PEG" or "Public, Education, and Government" programming, which is paid for by Comcast's cable TV subscribers in Concord and Carlisle.

The existing contract between CCTV and the Town of Concord expires September 30, 2018, and these panelists will focus on the "how," "who," "when," "where," and "why" of the transfer.

Please join us for coffee, light refreshments, and an opportunity to learn about any possible changes to this community video service for the Towns of Concord and Carlisle and the Concord-Carlisle High School.

Karlen Reed, First Friday Subcommittee

HOUSE TOUR

Saturday, April 7, 2018

It is House Tour time again! This will be the fifth tour that we have held, and these tours have been our major fundraiser for twenty years. The money that we raise from them provides the major financial support for the many programs, activities and services that we offer annually in Concord and Carlisle.

This year, six wonderful Concord families have agreed to open their distinctive homes to us for our tour. But successful house tours need a lot of enthusiastic volunteers offering their time and efforts to make it happen. Please consider signing up to help with this important and enjoyable event.

Tasks that need volunteers include

- Publicity
- Organizing packets for participants
- Captains for each house
- Docents working in each house.

To learn more about what the House Tour is doing and to offer to volunteer, call Nancy Beeuwkes, 978-371-7283, or email housetour@lwvcc.org. There will also be a sign-up opportunity at the February Breakfast meeting at the Colonial Inn.

*Nancy Beeuwkes, Barbara Lewis, Dee Ortnor
LWVCC House Tour Co-Chairs*

Concord's Affordable Housing Dilemma

The Dilemma

How do we ensure an adequate, diverse supply of housing in Concord, given the competing concerns about affordable living units, retirement incomes, open space, property values, property taxes, excellent schools and public services?

The LWVCC Position on Housing

Housing has been a major concern in Concord for a very long time. The housing position of the League for Concord is as follows:

11. Housing, Concord

11.1 Support housing at all income levels in Concord. In particular, there should be a supply of low and moderate-income housing in Concord to ensure inclusion of the elderly, those on fixed incomes, young people, families, disabled/handicapped persons, teachers, and town employees.

11.2. Support the following criteria to support implementation: (a) sound planning should be the basis of such development; (b) private and public efforts to provide such housing should be encouraged, especially if they provide economic mix within neighborhoods; (c) low rise, low density, multi-family dwellings would fulfill the Town's need and would be most in keeping with the desire to preserve the "open land" character of Concord. (Revised and reaffirmed 1999, modified 2007)

Below is a brief report on our research into Concord's Housing Dilemma.

Affordable Housing Applicants Must Meet HUD Income Limits

As usual, asking a simple question leads to more questions, some easy to answer and some not. As the Regional Housing Services Office ("RHSO") notes, "all affordable housing programs have eligibility restrictions based on household income." These eligibility restrictions are set by the area median income ("AMI") as determined by the federal Housing and Urban Development ("HUD"), and the size of the household. HUD publishes the income limits for affordable housing, typically 80% of the AMI, yearly. According to the Regional Housing Services Office, here are the 2017 income limits for affordable housing eligibility in Concord, which is part of the Boston-Cambridge-Quincy HUD metropolitan area:

2017 Income Limits - Boston Cambridge-Quincy MSA

	1 Person	2 Person	3 Person	4 Person	5 Person	6 Person
Very Low Income 50%	\$36,200	\$41,400	\$46,550	\$51,700	\$55,850	\$60,000
Low Income 80%	\$54,750	\$62,550	\$70,350	\$78,150	\$84,450	\$90,700
Area Median Income 100%	\$72,400	\$82,800	\$93,100	\$103,400	\$111,700	\$120,000

Concord Currently Meets Its Chapter 40B Affordable Housing Requirements

Requirements: Concord has 6,852 housing units (includes houses, condos, and rentals), of which 804 are classified as “affordable,” according to the RHSO, and carry deed restrictions to remain affordable. Under Chapter 40B, state law permits the Town wider latitude over housing projects if the Town has at least 10% of its housing stock qualified as affordable housing. Concord, currently, has 11.73% affordable units based on the 2010 Census and includes the Junction Village affordable units (also called “Christopher Heights” and “Grantham”). The Town’s GIS service notes that the amount of Concord’s eligible land area currently devoted to affordable housing is 0.7%. Whether Concord will remain under the 40B cap after the 2020 Census remains to be seen.

“We were able to buy a house in Concord when we were young, but my child can’t. Why?”

To respond to this League member’s comment, we looked into how salaries have changed since 1960. According to the National Association of Colleges and Employers, the average salary of a college graduate in 1960 was \$6,084, an amount which is \$48,539 in today’s dollars; by contrast, the average salary of a college graduate in 2017 was \$51,022. That sounds like a nice increase, but we also looked into how much annual income one needs to afford a mortgage (keep in mind the average single family home in Concord has a FY17 assessed value of \$987,567). Not surprisingly, the answer to this question depends on the purchase price, loan amount, additional debt load, and interest rate. Our research provided three scenarios (all assume 3.875% interest rate, 20% down, and existing debts of \$500/month) and shows that a household needs more than three college-graduate-level incomes to afford an average home in Concord:

Monthly Payments	Purchase /Loan Amt. \$550K / \$440K	Purchase/Loan Amt. \$850K / \$680K	Purchase/Loan Amt. \$1.2M / \$960K
Principal & Interest	\$ 2,069	\$ 3,198	\$ 4,514
Real estate taxes	\$ 500	\$ 700	\$ 1,000
Home owners insurance	\$ 100	\$ 125	\$ 150
Total	\$ 2,669	\$ 4,023	\$ 5,664
Annual income	\$ 89,000	\$126,000	\$172,000

What About Affordable Rentals In Concord? Rental units, such as the Concord Mews on Nathan Pratt Drive, in Concord are not cheap. According to the Concord Mews website, 1-bedroom and 2-bedroom apartments are \$1,411 and \$1,562/month, and applicants are subject to the HUD’s maximum income guidelines, as well as minimum income floors. Other Concord affordable rental units, currently listed on the RHSO website, are Everett Gardens, Peter Bulkeley Terrace, and Warner Woods.

So, Who Is Working On The Dilemma? In addition to the League and the Concord planning department, there are at least five groups dedicated to exploring Concord’s affordable housing shortage: the Concord Housing Authority, the Concord Housing Development Corporation, the Concord Housing Foundation, the Regional Housing Services Office, and the Affordable Housing Fund Committee. Each group has its own area of expertise – running the affordable housing units, purchasing additional housing, raising funds for additional housing, listing affordable homes, and exploring new funding sources. The AHFC, in particular, is preparing a report to 2018 Town Meeting on new sources, the details of which are still being hashed out.

Concord Town Government Committee, Housing Subcommittee – Ardis Bordman, Karlen Reed, Stephan Bader, Marge Daggett, Louise Haldeman Dorrie Kehoe, and Evin Phillips.

FOR ADDITIONAL AFFORDABLE HOUSING INFORMATION, SEE:

- Concord Planning Department / Affordable Housing website, <http://concordma.gov/629/Affordable-Housing-Information/>, accessed 12/7/17;
- Concord Housing Authority website, <http://www.concordha.org/>, accessed 12/7/17;
- Concord Housing Development Corporation website, <http://www.concordnet.org/1071/Concord-Housing-Development-Corporation>, accessed 12/7/17;
- Regional Housing Services Office website, <https://www.rhsohousing.org/>, accessed 12/14/17;
- Affordable Housing Funding Committee, <http://concordma.gov/>, accessed 12/7/17;
- Town of Concord GIS News, 10/2/17, <http://concordma.gov/documentcenter/view/11146>, accessed 12/7/17; 2017
- Concord Finance Committee Report, p. 7, <http://www.concordma.gov/1796/2017-Finance-Committee-Report>, accessed 12/22/17;
- Massachusetts Department of Housing and Economic Development, M.G.L.
- Ch. 40B Planning, website, <http://www.mass.gov/hed/community/40b-plan/>, accessed 12/7/17;
- NACE Center, <http://www.naceweb.org/job-market/compensation/salary-trends-through-salary-survey-a-historical-perspective-on-starting-salaries-for-new-college-graduates/>;
- Rick Garber, Asst. VP, Cambridge Savings Bank, Arlington,
- MA, personal communication 11/27/17; Mass Access Housing Registry, <https://www.massaccesshousingregistry.org/development/concord-mews-0/>, accessed 12/14/17;
- Concord Mews, <http://www.liveatthemews.com/concord-mews/>, accessed 12/14/17.

TOWN OF CONCORD PUBLIC HEARING DATES

EVENT	DATE	LOCATION
Finance Committee Town Budget & Articles including Capital	*Monday, February 26, 2018	HWCC
Finance Committee School Budget & Articles Community Preservation Articles	**Tuesday, February 27, 2018	HWCC
Select Board	***Monday, March 5, 2018	HWCC
Planning Board	****Tuesday, March 6, 2018	HWCC
Finance Committee Enterprise Fund Budgets & Articles	*****Monday, March 12, 2018	HWCC

SNOW DATES

- *Snow date for this date will be Wednesday, February 28, 2018
- **Snow date for this date will be Thursday, March 1, 2018
- ***Snow date for this date will be Tuesday, March 6, 2018
- ****Snow date for this date will be Thursday, March 8, 2018
- *****Snow date for this date will be Tuesday, March 13, 2018

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE REPORT

a retrospective on the inspiration for our work in Concord.

Back in the mid-1980's, a table of Concord women gathered in Framingham to honor Representative Barbara Gray, founder of WIN Haven, the first women's shelter in Massachusetts.

A search of the internet no longer finds WIN Haven, but the legacy of Barbara Gray lives on. At that dinner on that night we remarked how far we had come for domestic violence support issues and decided that we needed to work closer to home, in Concord. And so, the Concord Network for Women's Lives, later shortened to the Network for Women's Lives was born. And the next year we were founded.

But this article is a tribute to the foresight of the woman who inspired us.

Barbara Gray, who died in March of 2014, was a giant in Framingham politics and a trailblazer on Beacon Hill. She was a northside mother who turned the Framingham town-wide PTO into a political machine. She was one of the founders of the town's **League of Women Voters**.

Barbara was a champion of the poor and vulnerable, part of the network of local leaders that welcomed South Middlesex Opportunities Council [SMOC]. In her famous barn in Nobscot, a group of activists founded Wayside Youth and Family Support Network in the '70s, and **WIN Haven shelter for battered women a decade later**.

She was one of the first women elected to the Massachusetts House of Representatives, winning as a Republican in 1972. She served until 1996. She loved it when commentators like Howie Carr, Jerry Williams or the MWDN's Tom Moroney poked fun at her for advocating mandatory seatbelts or margarine instead of butter. She loved a great fight, never backed down and never stopped smiling.

Those are the kind of leaders Framingham – and every community – needs. And so, we pause to remember Barbara Gray, with our enduring gratitude.

Nancy P. James 1/6/2018

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