

# THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CONCORD-CARLISLE

# BULLETIN

March 2008 LWVCC Website: [www.lwvcc.com](http://www.lwvcc.com) P.O. Box 34 Concord, Massachusetts 01742-0034 Volume 12 07-08 #4

## CALENDAR

### MARCH

5	Wed	LWVCC Board Mtg & Local Program Planning, 229 Musketaquid Rd.	9:30 Bd Meeting
9	Sun	LWVCC Concord Candidates Forum, Concord Town House	3:00 PM
17	Mon	Carlisle Forum on Green Energy Legislation, First Religious Society	7:30 PM
19	Wed	<b>LWVMass Day on the Hill</b>	
26	Wed	<b>LWVCC Book Group, Trustees Room, Concord Free Public Library</b>	<b>10-11:30 AM</b>

### APRIL

1	Tues	Concord Town Elections	Polls open 7 AM – 8 PM
2	Wed	LWVCC Board Meeting, 89 Crescent Rd. (Erin Pastuszynski)	9 coffee, 9:30 meeting
9	Wed	<b>Corrections Commissioner, Trinitarian Church</b>	
12	Sat	<b>LWVCC Rail Trail Walk (rain date April 13)</b>	<b>9:15 &amp; 11:00 AM</b>
13	Sun	<b>LWVM Essay Contest Awards Event, Faneuil Hall, Boston</b>	<b>2-4:00 PM</b>
16	Wed	LWVCC ESC (Ardis Bordman)	1:30 PM
28-30		Concord Town Meeting	

### MAY

4	Sun	<b>Carlisle Candidates Forum, Carlisle Town Hall</b>	<b>3:00-5:00 PM</b>
5	Mon	Carlisle Town Meeting	
5-6		Concord Town Meeting	
7	Wed	LWVCC Board Meeting (Nancy James)	9 coffee, 9:30 meeting
13	Tues	Carlisle Town Elections	
14	Wed	LWVCC ESC (Shawna Reid)	1:30 PM
17	Sat	LWVM Council	
21	Wed	<b>LWVCC Annual Meeting, Hawthorne Room, Milldam Square</b>	<b>7 reception, 7:30 program 8:15 business meeting</b>
28	Wed	<b>LWVCC Book Group, Trustees Room, Concord Free Public Library</b>	<b>10-11:30 AM</b>

### JUNE

4	Wed	LWVCC Board Meeting	
13-17		<b>LWVUS National Convention, Portland Oregon</b>	

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

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

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# EXECUTIVE STEERING COMMITTEE

Nancy Beeuwkes & Shawna Reid, ESC Co-Chairs

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Dear League Friends,

I saw my first robin on Tuesday. I was so excited that I called my three-year-old grandson, Oliver, to let him know the first robin of spring arrived on his birthday. At the time I was still glowing with happiness over the news that Marian Thornton, our League's long time inspirational environmentalist, was soon to be made Concord's Honored Citizen of the year. Many thanks to all of you who wrote in support of her nomination.

Some other events to look forward to with pleasure are first, the League's "Day on the Hill" March 19<sup>th</sup>, a Wednesday. Please join us at 8AM to car pool to the Statehouse where we will breakfast with legislators and League members from across the state, followed by a speech by the Speaker of the House, and reports from LWVM specialists. We will finish up with a lunch with Susan Fargo and Cory Atkins where we can share our legislative concerns.

On April 9<sup>th</sup> the State's new Corrections Commissioner will share his vision in an event co-sponsored by the League at the Trinitarian Church.

There has been much controversy in Concord in regards to the proposed Rail Trail. In an effort to help voters visualize what the trail might look like, the League is

sponsoring short walks for the public along the rail bed on Saturday April 12<sup>th</sup> at 9:15 and 11AM. (See article and map to follow). This should be fun and very informative.

Please check out our wonderful new website [www.lwvcc.com](http://www.lwvcc.com) which includes information about all League events. We owe Erin Pastuszewski a huge debt of thanks for growing the website and making it so "user friendly". On the site you will see information about the student essay contest (do you have a student friend who likes to write?) also information about nominating a worthy individual or group for the River Stewardship Award.

Join your Board on April 2<sup>nd</sup> for a discussion of what articles we will support at Town Meetings in both Concord and Carlisle.

The nominating committee has just begun to form a slate for next year. If you would like to join the Board, let a Board member know of your interest. You could not find anywhere, a more amiable or intelligent group of women.

Nancy Beeuwkes  
For the Executive Steering Committee

P.S. Concordians don't forget to vote on April 1<sup>st</sup>.

## LWVM ACTION ALERT

Urge your representative to oppose "The Governor's Casino Proposal" – HR4307  
Vote to be held soon – Call or email now!

A hearing on this bill before the Joint Committee on Economic Development and Emerging Technologies is currently scheduled for March 18, 2008.  
Contact your legislators NOW about your opposition to this bill.

## MEMBERSHIP

Membership numbers are down a bit from last year. This year we have 119 local members, 16 fewer than last year. We have nine National members and five Honorary members who have been with the League 50 years or more. Our 9 new members are noted in the directory by an asterisk after their name.

Some changes to your new 2008 Directories:

Ruth Armknecht joined the League in 1970. Please add Claiborne Dawes, 29 Munroe Place, (978) 369-5899. Mary DeAlderete lives in Carlisle, not Concord. Correction may already be made in your directory. Also, Janet Vaillant, 39 Belknap Street, (978) 369-6968 should also have been added as a member into the directory, but if not please make this addition.

On Page 2, my email address is incorrect. It should read [blglewis@comcast.net](mailto:blglewis@comcast.net).

And lastly, the inside front cover should have the LWVCC contact information. Please write in, LWVCC, P.O. Box 34, Concord, MA 01742. [www.lwvcc.com](http://www.lwvcc.com).

*Barbara Lewis, Membership Chair*

## LWVCC BOOK GROUP

### MARCH 26: OVERTHROW

### MAY 28: BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

The LWVCC Book Group will be meeting two more times this spring. On Wednesday, March 26 we will be talking about *Overthrow* by **Stephen Kinzer** and on Wednesday, May 28 we will discuss *Benjamin Franklin, An American Life* by **Walter Isaacson**. Both of these meetings will be in the Trustees Room at the Concord Free Public Library from 10:00 – 11:30 AM.

All League members and their friends are invited to attend either one or both of these meetings. Our discussions are spirited, thoughtful, humorous and enlightening. And even if you can't come to our meetings, we hope that you may be able to find time to read some of the books that we are enjoying! Happy reading to all!

*Anne Hayden, Book Group Chair*

## GUIDED WALK ON BRUCE FREEMAN RAIL TRAIL

**Saturday, April 12, 2008**

**Rain date: Sunday, April 13, 2008**

**Part 1: 9:15 AM at Sanborn School**

**Part 2: 11:00 AM at Winthrop Street**

There are four rail trail articles on the warrant for this April's Concord Town Meeting. The League will host a guided trail walk for two portions of the Concord segment of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail rail bed on Saturday, April 12. The walk will consist of two parts. Feel free to join us for either part or both. Meet at the Sanborn School parking lot at 9:15 AM for the first part of the walk. We will walk the rail bed south from Sanborn to the White Pond area. After concluding that walk, we will drive from Sanborn School to the parking lot at the end of Winthrop Street in West Concord. We will leave the Winthrop Street parking lot at 11:00 AM and walk south through West Concord to the Assabet River.

Come learn about the trail, the areas of most discussion, what the "spur" is, how the trail crosses the MBTA tracks, etc. You can find a map of the rail bed and a description of our walk at the LWVCC website [www.lwvcc.com](http://www.lwvcc.com). Wear waterproof boots in case the trail is damp and/or muddy. For more information contact Shawna Reid, 978-371-9714.

## MARION THORNTON –

### CONCORD'S 2008 HONORED CITIZEN

Congratulations to longtime and active League member Marion Thornton for being chosen as Concord's Honored Citizen for 2008. On Sunday, March 16 at 1:30 PM Marion will be duly installed during a delightful ceremony at the Town House. All Concord residents and friends are invited to attend and join in the celebration. The League and the Town has benefited in numerous ways from Marion's enthusiasm, energy and caring for the environment. Hooray for Marion!

## **HAVE YOU SEEN LWVCC'S WEBSITE LATELY?**

If you have not visited the Concord-Carlisle League's website lately (or ever), you are missing out on a great way to stay connected with the League anytime! For the latest League news affecting Concord and Carlisle, go to [www.LWVCC.com](http://www.LWVCC.com). **LWVCC.com** is our revamped, streamlined, information-packed online resource for members and the entire community. Bookmark our website, or add it to your favorites list. Visit regularly for updates, breaking news and new events.

We have streamlined **LWVCC.com** to make it easy to use. From the home page, you can go directly to the League Calendar or to the latest BULLETIN. The site also includes sections on Voter Information, Projects & Activities and Issues & Action, with links to relevant sections of the state and national League websites. Because it is revised frequently, you can use **LWVCC.com** as a tool to get between-BULLETIN updates. **LWVCC.com** gives you the latest events and details so you can take advantage of all that the League has to offer.

Refer others in the Concord and Carlisle communities to **LWVCC.com**. Using the website, anyone can find the date, time and location of an upcoming League program or learn about a League project. The website also includes a membership form for those who want to join the League, give the gift of membership, or renew a membership. Community members who wish to offer financial support can find a donation form at the "Support Us" link in the sidebar. **LWVCC.com** is our primary outreach to the community, so please encourage your friends and contacts to visit us there.

Our Communications Director, Erin Pastuszewski, is the webmaster for **LWVCC.com**, and she is always looking for feedback and suggestions. You can contact her at [ErinSP@aol.com](mailto:ErinSP@aol.com).

*Erin Pastuszewski  
Communications Director*

## **HEALTH CARE REFORM ACTIVITIES**

Health Care Reform for the US (HCR4US) is a network of individual LWV members and acts in alignment with the LWVUS position on Health Care for purposes of education and advocacy. There are currently about 300 members from individual Leagues in 46 states.

A Steering Committee meets once a month via telephone conference call. This group sets policy, determines priorities, and acts as the organizing body for all the actions through HCR4US. League members who want to be educated or help with advocacy but don't want to be as involved as the Steering Committee members, receive periodic e-mails related to the group activities and health care. These e-mails provide information, request assistance for special projects, propose ways to further advance the cause of health care reform, and in general keep supporters up-to-date with what HCR4US is doing. There is a website that gives further information on the activities of the group: [www.HCR4US.org](http://www.HCR4US.org).

The Steering Committee works closely with LWVUS board and since the 2006 LWVUS Convention has been able to establish Health Care as one of the National League's top eight priorities. Currently the group is preparing for the 2008 LWVUS Convention. The main goal is to encourage League members to become more aware of the National League Health Care Position and to encourage advocacy to support this position. The complete position is printed on the website as well as found in the National League publication *Impact on Issues*. There will be a caucus and informational meetings held at the 2008 LWVUS Convention. We would welcome your participation for the cause of health care reform. For more information contact Paula Vandever at [VandeverP@aol.com](mailto:VandeverP@aol.com).  
*Paula Vandever, Health Care Policy*

### **REMEMBERING ELIZABETH LOWELL**

Elizabeth Lowell died in December 2007 at the age of 96. She was in the first graduating class of Bennington College in 1936. She was a leading member of the Concord/Carlisle League and a member of the Town of Concord Conservation Commission, the first Conservation Commission to be formed in Massachusetts. She was instrumental in its first purchase, Warners Pond!

As if this wasn't enough, she also played an important role in starting the Historic Commission. She and a friend, Augie Butman (another League member), mapped the Mill Brook Valley between Lexington Road and Hawthorne Lane on foot. She was then able to persuade the owner and farmer, Lawrence Kenny, to sell his farm to the Town for permanent preservation.

She then joined the founding members of the Concord Land Conservation Trust...and was soon immersed in CLCT's formidable Estabrook Project. Land belonging to the Emerson Family and the Buttrick Family became protected open land dedicated to research for Harvard University's Museum of Comparative Zoology. The project was secured by Ford Foundation money, private funds and a twenty-year restriction. Twenty years later the Town and University campaigned successfully to make this protection permanent.

Her tenacious efforts to initiate these projects and carry them through Town Meeting and other hurdles have set a high standard of citizen participation in Town Affairs.

*Excerpted from a remembrance by Marian Thornton for the CLCT newsletter*

### **ANNUAL RIVERFEST AWARDS**

The League of Women Voters and the Wild and Scenic River Stewardship Council are pleased to announce the sixth Annual River Stewardship Award program.. The Sudbury, Assabet and Concord Rivers were federally designated in 1999 as "Wild and Scenic Rivers" because of their "outstanding remarkable resources".

Nominations are being sought for individuals and government, school/youth/community groups, nonprofit institutions, business, and volunteer organizations that have demonstrated concern for the beauty and viability of the rivers as part of the "Wild and Scenic" designation.

Nomination forms are available through the LWVCC, and at the Town House and Public Library or on-line at <http://www.lwvcc.com>. Nominations are due by March 31, 2008 and may be submitted by the nominee or by a colleague. A prestigious Selection Committee will choose finalists in April. The award ceremony celebration will take place Friday, June 6 as part of the festivities planned for Riverfest 2008.

The committee is especially interested in actions that demonstrate innovative thinking, creative solutions, extra effort, and brave positions that led to the health and preservation of the watershed. Stewardship projects could involve educational efforts such as water quality, recycling or clean up projects, innovative strategies, tools or technologies and advocacy, for example, in opposing wasteful and polluting horticultural practices or damaging development practices.

*Betsy Sluder  
LWVCC River Steward Awards Chair*