

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CONCORD-CARLISLE

# BULLETIN

November 2007

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

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## CALENDAR

### NOVEMBER

5	Mon	Concord Special Town Meeting on Willard School	
7	Wed	LWVCC Board Meeting, 41 Canterbury Court, Carlisle (Cindy Nock)	9 coffee, 9:30 meeting
14	Wed	Concord Town Elections	Polls open 7 AM – 8 PM
15	Thurs	LWVCC Observer Corps Meeting, Harvey Wheeler Building	9:30 AM
16	Fri	<b>LWVCC Book Group, 342 Sudbury Rd (Anne Hayden)</b>	<b>10-11:30 AM</b>
28	Wed	LWVCC ESC Meeting, (Lauren Bakewell)	1:30 PM
28	Wed	<b>LWV Regional Affordable Housing Meeting (Chelmsford)</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>

### DECEMBER

1	Sat	Concord Town Coordination Meeting, Town House	8:00 AM
3	Mon	Concord Town Warrant Opens	
5	Wed	LWVCC Board Meeting & Member Holiday Potluck, 1360 Monument St. (Nancy Beeuwkes)	9:00 coffee, 9:30 meeting <b>12:00 potluck lunch</b>

### JANUARY

2	Wed	LWVCC Board Meeting, 63 Copper Mine Rd, (Betsy Sluder)	9 coffee, 9:30 meeting
16	Wed	LWVCC ESC Meeting (Nancy Beeuwkes)	1:30 PM
17	Thurs	LWVCC Observer Corps, Harvey Wheeler Building	9:30 AM
23	Wed	<b>LWVCC Member Breakfast, Colonial Inn</b>	<b>9:00-11:00 AM</b>
28	Mon	Concord Town Caucus	7:00 PM
30	Wed	<b>LWVCC Book Group, Trustees Room, Concord Main Library</b>	<b>10-11:30 AM</b>

### FEBRUARY

1	Fri	<b>LWVUS Immigration Consensus Deadline</b>	
6	Wed	LWVCC Board Meeting & National Program Planning 282 East Riding Drive, Carlisle (Barbara Lewis)	9 coffee, 9:30 meeting
13	Wed	<b>LWVCC Fiscal Policy Consensus Meeting</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>
21	Thurs	LWVCC Observers Corps Meeting, Harvey Wheeler Building	9:30 AM
27	Wed	LWVCC ESC (Barbara Lewis)	1:30 PM

### MARCH

5	Wed	LWVCC Board Meeting & Local Program Planning 229 Musketaquid Rd. (Erica Morrison)	9:30 Bd Meeting
19	Wed	<b>LWVMass Day on the Hill</b>	
25	Tues	Concord Town Elections	Polls Open 7AM – 8 PM

### APRIL

2	Wed	LWVCC Board Meeting, 89 Crescent Rd. (Erin Pastuszynski)	9 coffee, 9:30 meeting
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*Members are invited to attend monthly Board and Observer Corps meetings.  
Please contact Nancy Beeuwkes if you would like to attend any of them.*

# EXECUTIVE STEERING COMMITTEE

Nancy Beeuwkes & Shawna Reid, ESC Co-Chairs

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Dear League Friends,

Your league is in high gear now with three Studies needing Consensus, a Holiday party December 5th, and a member's breakfast January 23rd. We hope you will join us for as many of these events as possible.

The first Consensus meeting will take place on the evening of November 28th, a Wednesday. We plan to carpool from Crosby's market at 6PM to the police station in Chelmsford (2 Olde North Road) where we will be joined by league members from nearby towns. State League experts on **Affordable Housing** will present information for about an hour after which we will be asked to come to Consensus. Meetings like this are being held all over Massachusetts to gather local input into what will become the State League's position on this important social issue. The resulting position will inform the state and local lobbying efforts on affordable housing issues.

The second Consensus meeting will be held in Concord on February 13th, again in the evening. This Consensus is on **Fiscal Policy/Municipal Finance**. Many League members from Concord and Carlisle collected and charted town information over the summer for this Study. Watch for our postcard for meeting details. Information on fiscal policy will be given at the **Member's Breakfast**, the morning of **January 23rd** at the Colonial Inn.

We have invited members of the Acton area league to join us for this social and informational meeting. You are welcome to bring a friend.

The third Study is on **Immigration** and is being conducted by the National League, which voted it a priority in 2006. This Consensus will take place on-line for individual members. A study kit is now available as a PDF file at [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org) <<http://www.lwv.org>>. Directions to follow in the next Bulletin.

We hope you will all attend the annual **Holiday Pot Luck Social December 5th**, at my house #1360 Monument (exactly 2 1/2 miles beyond the Colonial Inn) watch for our signs. You are also invited to attend the Board meeting 9-12 before the party. Bring a friend if you like. A cozy fire, great food, good friends, stimulating conversation, an interesting talk, altogether a nice way to start the holiday season!

Please join us at one or all of the above events,

Your Co-Chairs,  
Nancy Beeuwkes & Shawna Reid

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 citizen in government.

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## MEMBERSHIP

Thanks to the many members who sent in their membership renewals so promptly. It has been a strong year for renewals.

Membership renewals are continuing to come in, but time is beginning to get short. If you have not sent in your form and dues for the 2007 – 2008 year yet, you received a renewal request via email or letter at the end of October. Your membership in the League has not yet expired, and will not do so for another couple of months, but we need you to renew very soon so that the information can be processed. If you are in doubt, contact me (978-287-0049, [blglewis@comcast.net](mailto:blglewis@comcast.net)) and I will check for you.

Welcome to our recent new members, Eleanora Smith of Newbury Court, Mary DeAlderete at 106 Concord Street in Carlisle, Susan Livingston, 39 Wilson Road, and Katrina Henschman at 1 Greenfield Lane. We look forward to getting to know you. All our board meetings are open to all, and are a great way to find out what we are working on and how to become involved.

Mark your calendars now for the annual Membership Breakfast at the Colonial Inn on January 23. We will have the chance to gather and enjoy some time together. We also hope to hear a presentation of the progress being made on the Fiscal Policy Study, so this will be a great time to find out what our efforts earlier this fall have led to and begin thinking about the decisions that will need to be made when we work on consensus later.

*Barbara Lewis, Membership Chair*

## PHOSPHATE PROBLEMS IN CONCORD'S RIVERS

The rivers of Concord and Carlisle need your help. They all have phosphate problems. Included in this issue of the League Bulletin is a list provided by the Organization of the Assabet River (OAR) of dishwasher detergents and the percentages of phosphate that are found in them. I hope with the holiday season coming on that many of you will be able to buy those brands with "0" percentage of phosphates.

*Betsy Sluder, Environment Issues*

## LWVCC HOLIDAY LUNCH Wednesday, December 5, 2007 9:30 Board Meeting 12:00 Potluck lunch 1:00 Speakers

### 1360 Monument St. (Beeuwkes House)

Once again back by popular demand, Nancy Beeuwkes will be hosting our annual **Holiday Potluck Lunch** at her home on Wednesday, December 5. The Board will meet for its monthly meeting at 9:30 AM and then at 12:00 we will have a potluck lunch. At 1:00 there will be two speakers who will talk about Concord and Carlisle's affordable housing programs.

All League members are invited and encouraged to attend this most enjoyable and informative meeting. It is a wonderful kick-off to the holiday season.

## LWVCC BOOK GROUP November Mtg: Friday, Nov. 16, 2007 10-11:30 AM program 11:45-12:30 PM lunch

The November meeting for the LWVCC Book Group will be held on Friday, November 16, 2007 from 10-11:30 AM at 342 Sudbury Rd, Concord, (Anne Hayden's house). The book is *Skating on the Edge: A Memoir and Journey through a Metamorphosis of the CIA* by Carlos Luria. Luria is a 29 year veteran of the CIA, who spent time both in the field in Germany and at CIA headquarters in Washington D.C. Luria will give his presentation on the CIA – "how the Spy Machine got into the trouble it's in and what it will take to fix it." After the presentation there will be lunch for all and additional opportunity for further discussions with Mr. Luria.

Our January meeting will be on Wed, January 30, 2008 from 10-11:30 AM at the Trustees Room in the Concord Library. The book will be *American Bloomsbury* by Susan Cheever.

The League Book Group is open to all. League members and friends are encouraged to come. For more info, or to RSVP for the November program, please contact Anne Hayden, [anne.hayden@comcast.net](mailto:anne.hayden@comcast.net) or (978) 369-8526.

*Anne Hayden, Book Group Chair*

**LWVCC APPOINTS NEW  
COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR**

Effective communications are essential for every League. Encouraging active and informed participation in government, educating and engaging the public on policy issues, influencing public opinion in favor of League positions, and drawing new supporters and members to the League all require clear, well-delivered messages.

The LWVCC Board recently appointed Erin Pastuszewski to fill the role of Communications Director, supplementing the work of our Bulletin Editor, Anne Hayden, and our Membership Chair, Barbara Lewis. While Barbara and Anne focus on communications with members, Erin will take responsibility for press relations and Web site maintenance. Erin's focus will be on how the League presents itself to the public in Concord, Carlisle and beyond. Shawna Reid will continue as our Liaison with CCTV, our local cable station. The Board expresses its appreciation of the past work of League member Li-Jen Lin, who served ably as our webmaster for several years.

League members with flyers, press releases or other materials publicizing upcoming League events should send a copy of them to Erin, preferably electronically. You may direct Web site suggestions to her, as well. Please contact Erin at [ErinSP@aol.com](mailto:ErinSP@aol.com) or 978-369-3842.

*Erin Pastuszewski  
Communications Director*

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR  
CONCORD'S  
"KNOW YOUR TOWN" BOOK**

After 20 years LWVCC is revising our KNOW YOUR TOWN handbook to reflect the way our town works in the 21st century. The booklet, which includes our town's history and statistics, how town government works, how to run for election/committees and other invaluable information, will be made available to residents. If you have a few hours to work on this much needed project contact Susan Sekuler @ 978-369-8025 or email: [Susan5@verizon.net](mailto:Susan5@verizon.net).

**MEMBER BREAKFAST  
Wednesday, January 23, 2008  
9-11:00 AM Breakfast & Program  
Colonial Inn, Concord Center  
Program: Fiscal Policy Presentation**

Our annual Member Breakfast will include a presentation from members of LWVMass Fiscal Policy Committee. We are in the midst of a state League study on Fiscal Policy/Municipal Finance. This is your opportunity to find out more about our state's municipal finance policies while at the same time enjoying a delicious breakfast and socializing with League friends. We have also invited members of Acton's League to join us.

If you have any questions, contact Barbara Lewis, (978) 287-0049 or [blglewis@comcast.net](mailto:blglewis@comcast.net)  
*Barbara Lewis, Member Chair*

**NEWS FROM LWVUS:  
IMMIGRATION STUDY MATERIALS  
ONLINE**

We have now reached the member agreement phase of the LWVUS Immigration Study, the time when Leagues prepare to take consensus. Grassroots agreement on positions is one of the League's greatest strengths. Preparing for and taking consensus is hard work, but worthwhile. The resulting position will allow the organization to affect national policy for years to come, just as we have been doing in other areas for 87 years – it's part of the organizations history.

Please visit the LWVUS website [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org) for information. You will find a preview of the consensus questions, as well as a varied collection of background information on topics covered in the consensus questions. The reading materials are the result of an extensive two-year study conducted by the National League. So, now's the time to be a part of League history – read the information, form your personal opinion and help your League come to a decision on the consensus questions!

# PHOSPHATES AND OUR RIVERS

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## Non-phosphate rinse aids

Much of the groundwater in the Assabet watershed contains a lot of dissolved iron and manganese. If your water comes from a municipal or private well, consider using a non-phosphate rinse aid when you use a non-phosphate automatic dishwashing detergent. The rinse aid can help prevent filming of dissolved minerals on your dishes and utensils. White vinegar is also a good rinse aid.

## Phosphate content in popular cleaners

Even if you can't find non-phosphate automatic dishwasher detergents, you can still reduce your "phosphorus impact" on the river.

- Choose a detergent that is lower in phosphate per dishwasher load. The phosphate content of detergents varies significantly among brands (8.7% by weight is the most allowed under Massachusetts law). In the table below we've included phosphate content per tablespoon to let you calculate the phosphate you're using per load of dishes. Try it out. Measure the number of tablespoons that you use per load of dishes and multiply by the grams of phosphate per tablespoon to get total phosphate per dishwasher load.
- Use less! Manufacturer's directions say to fill both detergent cups of your dishwasher. However, unless you have very hard water and very dirty dishes, you may find that considerably less detergent gets your dishes clean.

Again - try it out in your own dishwasher!

- "But do they work?" A recent Consumer Reports study found that enzymes in detergents make the biggest difference in a detergent's cleaning ability: **"Green products can get dishes clean.** Most dishwasher detergents contain phosphates, which enhance cleaning ability. Phosphates also have a [well deserved] reputation for being environmentally harmful because they promote the growth of algae. But four enzyme-containing, phosphate-free detergents--Ecover tablets and powder; Trader Joe's powder; and Method Dish Cubes tablets--were very good to excellent in overall quality." (Read more of the [Consumer Reports article](#).)

Dishwashing Detergents (for automatic dishwashers)	Type	Phosphate content by Percentage	Grams Phosphate per Tablespoon
Bi-O-Kleen	Powder	0	0
Citrus Magic	Gel	0	0
Ecover		0	0
Seventh Generation		0	0
Shaklee	Powder	0	0
Sun & Earth	Tablet	0	0
Trader Joe's Automatic Dishwashing Detergent		0	0
Palmolive Gel	Gel	1.6%	0.32
Electra-Sol Gel	Gel	3.7%	0.7
Wal-Mart Automatic Dishwashing Detergent	Gel	4.0%	0.8
Pure Power Gel	Gel	4.0%	0.8
Sunlight Liquid	Liquid	4.3%	0.83
Electra-Sol Powder	Powder	4.5%	0.72
Cascade Liquid	Liquid	5.0%	1.0
Sunlight Powder	Powder	4.5%	1.4
Cascade Complete	Liquid	5.0%	1.0
Pure Power Powder	Powder	5.3%	0.6
Hannaford Dishwasher Detergent	Powder	5.3%	0.6
Shaws Automatic	Powder	6.0%	0.8
Wal-Mart Automatic Dishwashing Detergent Powder	Powder	6.3%	0.8
Cascade PureRinse	Powder	6.4%	1.0
Cascade Action Pac	Tablet	8.0%	1.1
Electra-Sol Tablets	Tablet	8.7%	1.74 per tablet
Electra-Sol GelPac	GelPac	8.7%	2.2 per gelpac

# Chapter 58, the New Massachusetts Health Care Law: How Will it Work?"

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Two speakers presented their points of view on Chapter 58 and the current health care situation in Massachusetts at the LWV forum held in Sudbury, October 28. Jackie Wolf, PhD, sociologist, and Co-Chair of Mass-Care is a member of the LWV Health Care Committee. Delores L. Mitchell, Executive Director of the Group Insurance Commission is a member of the Connector Authority, the governing board for Chapter 58.

## **Jackie Wolf's Presentation**

Jackie stated at the beginning that she is a proponent for a single payer system.

She quoted the LWVUS Health Care Position, saying that the League supports publicly financed privately delivered health care plans commonly known as "single payer". She listed the two very large models of such a system currently in use in the US: the VA system, and Medicare.

In providing a framework for discussion of health care reform, Jackie referred to the National Institute of Medicine which considers the following characteristics necessary for health care: Quality of medical care; Access; Affordability; and Continuity of care.

Jackie stated that there are pluses and minuses with the current state of Chapter 58. On the positive side: dental and eye care are included in the plan and all people will be covered. On the negative side: it is still involving private insurance companies with their marketing and advertising costs; only assessing employers \$295 per employee if they don't provide insurance; requiring low income people to pay deductibles; the premiums are rising with little or no control of costs; and the Connector employees are being paid out of the cost of coverage.

## **Delores L. Mitchell's Presentation**

Delores said that she was a realist and that if a single payer system were politically feasible, she would vote for it. She said that people have been trying to reform health care since FDR and that currently the concept of "shared responsibility" has made its way in Massachusetts partly because Massachusetts has a low percentage of uninsured, 7%, and a pool of cash for treating the uninsured.

When the Connector Board first met on June 7, 2007, the members had some major decisions: how to use the Federal Poverty Levels; what constitutes affordability (what percentage of a family income); what to do about pharmaceutical coverage; and what defines credible coverage.

She noted that the Connector Board is a very mixed group of members with each trying to reach agreement in a very short time frame – a difficult task. But every one wanted it to work and they were willing to compromise. There are a lot of things that need to be fixed but at least it has begun.

Delores feels the areas that need work include: age banding; non-accounting for out of pocket expenses; medications and coverage; the cost is too low to employers who don't pay for insurance; and escalating costs which is "scary."

An important part of the law is the mandate of the Cost and Quality Council. The Cost and Quality Council has responsibility to reduce errors and to improve health care for minorities. They are working on reducing hospital infections, must do something about end of life care and must insure that doctors and institutions receive and then pay attention to "advance directives."

*Paula Vandever*

# Affordable Housing Consensus Meeting

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The LWVM consensus meeting for all Leagues in this region will be held on November 28 from 7 to 9 p.m. at the lecture room in the Chelmsford Police Station. League members are encouraged to attend, since will be the only opportunity for local Leagues to participate in consensus on this issue. The experience of other regions confirms that consensus can be reached in the allotted time frame. The consensus questions were included in the September LWVCC Bulletin.

For information about carpooling, please contact Nancy Beuwkes at (978) 371-7293.

## Affordable Housing – What does it Mean?

Affordable Housing generally means housing that is priced so that an eligible household does not pay more than approximately 30% of their income on housing. Eligibility for most Affordable Housing in Massachusetts is based on income limits determined by the federal Housing and Urban Development (HUD) agency. The income limits in Concord and Carlisle are set annually at 80% of the current median income for the Boston Metropolitan Statistical Area (BMSA) for specific household sizes.

Affordable Housing can be either home ownership or rental. The maximum selling price for an affordable home or condo and the maximum rent for an affordable apartment are shown here for the different household sizes.

<u>Household</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Max. House Price</u>	<u>Max. Rent</u>
1	\$46,300	\$149,000	\$1,004
2	52,950	178,000	1,208
3	59,550	206,700	1387
4	66,150	230,600	1528

Examples of recent purchasers of affordable homes in Concord include Concord teachers, Town employees, social workers, a park ranger, and a nurse. In Concord Affordable Housing is allocated to applicants by lottery with preference given to a veteran's household, a minority household, current and former Concord residents, their parents, children or grandchildren, and Town employees, and other persons employed in Concord. To put Affordable Housing in context, the median house price in Concord as of January 1, 2006 was \$718,550.

Affordable Housing is generally not directly subsidized by the state or federal government. Many of the properties available for homeownership in Concord have been built by the Concord Housing Trust, a non-profit (501)(c)(3) corporation. Several rental properties have been built under Massachusetts Chapter 40B.

Rental housing for low income persons whose incomes are below 50% of the BMSA median is subsidized by the state and federal government and in Concord is administered by the Concord Housing Authority.



## *Rachel's Box Project – 2<sup>nd</sup> Decade Celebration*

**“Rachel's Box” Project, an active part of the Concord area domestic violence prevention efforts and project of the Network for Women's Lives, held a second-decade rededication, recommitment, and anniversary at the Trinitarian Congregational church on September 18.**

Nancy James, Rachel's Box Project founder, thanked the gathering for their courageous and enduring efforts to host and support Rachel's Boxes. She acknowledged both the Network for Women's Lives and the **Concord-Carlisle League of Women Voters** for early and ongoing support. James introduced three speakers, each of whom have been supportive of the project from the very beginning: Concord's Chief of Police, Leonard Wetherbee, who was acknowledged to have had one of the earliest understandings of the complex issues of domestic violence; Senator Pamela Resor, who gave her entire pay raise in the mid-1990's to help fund the Rachel's Box Project, and the Reverend Doctor John Lombard, whose church has hosted the first and every subsequent Rachel's' Box rededication. Mary Jane Nichols spoke from the Network for Women's Lives, thanking Network members and the community for its ongoing volunteer efforts to both fill the boxes, and expand from an original 20 boxes to 50 now throughout the western suburban area.

Chief Wetherbee reminded those gathered of the enormous impact those quiet sentinels make in the community, expressing his pleasure at being a part of a community which cares about the issue of domestic violence.

Senator Resor added remarks about the impact of domestic violence on our society and her supportive efforts of domestic violence prevention legislation on Beacon Hill. "Rachel's boxes are an idea that served a real need. We will never know how many victims of domestic violence have found useful information and the encouragement needed to get out of a dangerous situation through the materials in Rachel's Box. These boxes are readily available throughout the Concord area and kept up to date by volunteers. My appreciation and commendation to all those who have made this project work for the past ten years," said Resor.

Dr. Lombard reminded those gathered of the staggering national statistics of domestic violence, elder and child abuse. Concluding with a solemn moment of reflection and prayer for strength in efforts going forward, Dr. Lombard said: "May the silent witness and mission of Rachael's Box continue to save lives and offer hope to those bruised in body and broken in spirit. May the various boxes in many places serve as messengers of a compassionate community committed to its members' wholeness and health as well as freedom from fear and intimidation for all."

Many of Concord's public buildings host a Rachel's Box, every one a dynamic unit containing material appropriate to its institutional setting. Churches, public libraries, our Town House, and a number of retailers each have specific materials, depending upon the institutional or constituent focus. All of Concord's schools, from elementary to Concord-Carlisle High School host a Rachel's Box, located in nurses' offices or the guidance office. The project is sponsored by the Network for Women's Lives with early assistance and ongoing encouragement from the Concord-Carlisle League of Women Voters. These specially designed wooden boxes provide victim assistance resource and informational material, support and volunteer information, and a place to insert local violence prevention program flyers.

**By: Nancy P. James 978-369-2771**