

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CONCORD-CARLISLE

BULLETIN

November 2009 LWVCC Website: www.lwvcc.com P.O. Box 34 Concord, Massachusetts 01742-0034 Volume 14 09-10 #2

CALENDAR

NOVEMBER

- 4 Wed LWVCC Board Meeting (Betsy Sluder) 9 coffee, 9:30 mtg
6 Fri **LWVCC Program – LIFE IN THE BALANCE: FOOD FOR THOUGHT** 7:00 PM
Alcott School, Concord
18 Wed ESC meeting (Erin Pastuszenski) 8:00-9:00 AM
18 Wed LWVCC Board Meeting (Erin Pastuszenski) 9 coffee, 9:30 mtg
20 Fri **LWVCC Program - LIFE IN THE BALANCE: FOOD FOR THOUGHT** 7:00 PM
Trinitarian Congregational Church, Walden St. Concord

DECEMBER

- 2 Wed LWVCC Board Meeting & Holiday Pot Luck Lunch 9 coffee, 9:30 mtg
(Nancy Beeuwkes) 12:00-2:00 PM lunch
5 Sat Concord Town Mtg Coordination Meeting, Town House 8:30 AM
8 Tues Special Primary for US Senate Seat Polls open 7 AM – 8 PM
16 Wed ESC meeting (Paula Vandever) 8:00-9:00 AM

JANUARY

- 6 Wed LWVCC Board Meeting (Cindy Nock) 9 coffee, 9:30 mtg
8 Fri **LWVCC Program – LIFE IN THE BALANCE: POWERING THE FUTURE** 7:00 PM
Location TBA, Concord
13 Wed **LWVMA US Senate Candidates Forum, Faneuil Hall, Boston** evening
13 Wed **LWVCC Members Breakfast, Colonial Inn, Concord** 9:00-11:00 AM
19 Tues Special Election for US Senate Seat Polls open 7 AM – 8 PM
20 Wed ESC Meeting 8:00-9:00 AM
22 Fri **LWVCC Program – “LIFE IN THE BALANCE: POWERING THE FUTURE”** 7:00 PM
Location TBA, Concord
27 Wed **LWVCC Book Group, Trustees Room, Concord Library** 10:00-11:30 AM

FEBRUARY

- 3 Wed LWVCC Board Meeting (Becky Shannon) 9 coffee, 9:30 mtg

MARCH

- 3 Wed LWVCC Board Meeting (Erica Morrison) 9 coffee, 9:30 mtg

Members are invited to attend monthly Board meetings.

Please contact Becky or Paula 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.

Co-Presidents	Becky Shannon	(978) 371-1806	Co-Presidents@lwvcc.com
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EXECUTIVE STEERING COMMITTEE

Becky Shannon and Paula Vandever, Co-Presidents

November 2009

Dear League Friends,

While the season cycled into autumn and the leaves turned their glorious color, it continued to be an eventful time for the LWVCC. On September 30th **the LWVMA Board met in Concord** and many LWVCC members attended. We were reminded of the grave financial crisis that the state League is experiencing and witnessed the expertise with which the state board is addressing the situation. They now have a board member dedicated to raising funds to keep the League viable and active.

To help with the state League's fundraising efforts, our League again signed up for the **LWVMA phonathon** and nine members were able to participate. Since it is the 90th birthday of the League this year, the goal of raising \$90,000 was facilitated by requests that individuals donate \$90. The LWVCC raised about \$5,000 from our phonathon efforts, 15% of which will be sent back to our League. We thank Barrett and Company Real Estate for allowing us to use their phones.

We also co-sponsored the **350 Rally at the Old North Bridge** where, on October 24th, League members attended as both participants and volunteers to help with logistics.

And we have held our first two forums of this year's "**Life in the Balance**" series on sustainability with a focus on reducing climate change. The first forum, "**Let's Talk Trash**," explored the possibility of trying to move toward zero waste. Our second forum, "**Food For Thought**," began a two-part series exploring the consequences of current corporate farm practices and filled the Alcott auditorium for a screening of *Food, Inc.* on November 6th. On November 20th, the second installment of "Food for Thought" will explore "**Moving Toward a Sustainable Food System**" at Trinitarian Congregational Church. You can attend this forum even if you missed the first "Food For Thought" program.

Erin Pastuszewski is working on the **U.S. Senate Candidates' Forums**, sponsored by the LWVMA, the first of which was held in Amherst on November 8th. Democratic and Republican primary candidates for the U.S. Senate seat previously held by Edward Kennedy participated.

With a look to the future, we hope you will be able to attend our **Holiday Potluck Luncheon** on December 2nd at the home of Nancy Beeuwkes. League members are invited to come early and attend the Board meeting from 9:00 a.m. to noon. After the potluck lunch Jan Aceti, Energy Efficiency Coordinator in Concord, and John Luther, Building Inspector and Energy Task Force member in Carlisle, will speak about energy efficiency and answer questions. And, finally, please join us at our **Winter Membership Breakfast** on January 14th at the Colonial Inn in Concord. It will be a good time to reconnect with old and new friends.

We look forward to seeing many new and experienced members at one or more of these activities as we continue to work to make a difference in our world and our community.

Sincerely,
Becky Shannon and Paula Vandever, Co-Presidents

LWVCC MEMBER NEWS

Thank you to all those members who have sent in their membership renewals. We still have quite a few members who have not done this. Sometimes it is hard to remember whether you have sent in dues or not, and one way to know is if you receive an email or mailing from me asking you to renew. These are targeted communications that do not go to those who have already taken care of this. Of course, you can always call or email me to discuss your status.

So please send in your renewals if you have not done so already. There was a form in the last Bulletin, you can visit our website, www.lwvcc.org and download a form, or call or email me (978-287-0049 or Membership@lwvcc.com)

Barbara Lewis, Membership Chair

LWVCC BOOK GROUP

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, January 27, 2010 in the Trustees Room in the Concord Public Library from 10:00-11:30 AM. We will discuss *Out of Eden: An Odyssey of Ecological Invasion* by Alan Burdick. This book looks at the ecology of worldwide invasions of flora and fauna, particularly important as our habitat becomes global.

The League's book group meets four times a year to discuss current nonfiction books on a variety of pertinent and thought-provoking topics. If you would like more information please call or email Anne Hayden at (978) 369-8526 or Book_Group@lwvcc.com.

Anne Hayden, Book Group Chair

HOLIDAY POTLUCK WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2009 12 NOON – 2:00 P.M.

Mark your calendars for our Holiday Potluck Luncheon on December 2nd at the home of Nancy Beeuwkes in Concord. League members are invited to attend the Board meeting from 9:00 a.m. to noon.

Following the Board meeting, we will enjoy a festive potluck luncheon and listen to speakers Jan Aceti, Energy Efficiency Coordinator in Concord, and John Luther, Building Inspector and Energy Task Force member in Carlisle. They will address energy efficiency in our communities and a question and answer period will follow. If you will be able to attend, please RSVP to Paula Vandever (Co-Presidents@lwvcc.com or 978 369-9268).

Paula Vandever, Co-President

WINTER MEMBERSHIP BREAKFAST

**Wednesday, January 14, 2010
9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
Colonial Inn, Concord**

Put the upcoming date of Wednesday, January 14 on your new 2010 calendars right now so that you don't miss this popular annual gathering of Concord Carlisle League members. It is a wonderful way to spend a cold morning in the warm company of fellow Leaguers at the Colonial Inn, discussing past successes and future endeavors. We are sure to have an interesting topic to explore as well.

Barbara Lewis, Membership Chair

Life in the Balance Forum Series Strikes a Chord

Carrying out the agenda set by League members at the May 2009 Annual Meeting, LWVCC, in collaboration with ConcordCAN (Concord Climate Action Network), Carlisle Climate Action and Concord-Carlisle Adult and Community Education, is sponsoring “**Life in the Balance: A Public Forum Series**” this year, offering programming on several topics related to climate change—trash, food and energy. Information on the series is available at <http://lwvcc.com/lifeinthebalance.html>.

LET’S TALK TRASH

The Life in the Balance series began on October 14, 2009, with “**Let’s Talk Trash,**” held at the Concord Academy Chapel before a larger-than-expected crowd of nearly 100 people. LWVCC’s Launa Zimmaro took the lead on organizing the forum, creating a great line-up of speakers with expertise in addressing our growing trash problems: Lynne Pledger (Clean Water Action), Brooke Nash (Mass. DEP), Ann Dorfman (Recycling & Resource Management Consulting), Amy Perlmutter (Perlmutter Associates) and State Rep. Cory Atkins. Launa and LWVCC co-president Becky Shannon introduced the speakers and coordinated the Q&A. Our guests spoke about zero waste and extended producer responsibility (EPR), trends in reuse and recycling, and pending legislation. Launa compiled materials provided by the speakers into an action guide that you can download from the LWVCC website (www.lwvcc.com).

“Let’s Talk Trash” was taped for replay on CCTV Channel 8 (see www.concordtv.org for dates and times). LWVCC member Ginny Lamere wrote a comprehensive article on the forum for the *Carlisle Mosquito* (see www.carlislemosquito.org, archives for Oct. 23), and a *Concord Journal* reporter also attended to cover the story. The forum was well-received by the

audience, and many shared their contact information to receive updates in the future.

Many LWVCC volunteers assisted with planning, publicizing, and presenting “Let’s Talk Trash.” Their names are included at the end of this article, and we are grateful for all of the time and energy they contributed.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Food, Inc. Screening

The Life in the Balance series continued with “**Food for Thought, Part 1**” on November 6, including a screening of the documentary *Food, Inc.* in the Alcott School auditorium. The 240-seat hall was packed to capacity, demonstrating the relevance of the movie’s theme. The audience stayed after the film to hear remarks by Charlotte Vallaeys (Farm & Food Policy Analyst, Cornucopia Institute) and to share questions about food production and distribution; food nutrition, safety and regulation; and the overall sustainability of our current food system. Again, many audience members asked to be kept informed of related programs and action. A large group of LWVCC members, including Becky Shannon and Lauren Bakewell who worked closely with our ConcordCAN and CCACE partners, helped organize this program and carry out the plan on November 6. They are listed below. Again, thanks to all!

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Action Forum on November 20

Coming up next the “**Food for Thought, Part 2,**” an action forum on Friday, November 20, 7pm at the Trinitarian Congregational Church on Walden Street in Concord. We encourage all LWVCC members and friends to attend.

The “Food for Thought” forum will focus on moving toward a sustainable food system, with featured speaker Brian Donahue, Ph.D., Assoc. Professor of American Environmental Studies, Brandeis University, and panelists Willow Blish, Slow Food Boston; Jim Catterton, Concord Agriculture Committee; Jen Hashley, Tufts University, New Entry Sustainable Farming Project and Owner, Pete & Jen's Backyard Birds; and Charlotte Vallaeys, Farm & Food Policy Analyst, Cornucopia Institute. For more information on these speakers, please see their biographical sketches on the LWVCC website (www.lwvcc.com).

After the speakers present, attendees will break into groups to develop proposals for taking action on a variety of food issues. We envision that this action forum will lead to ongoing education and advocacy efforts in our towns, our region and on the state and national levels. Don't miss “**Food for Thought**” on November 20 at Tri-Con Church.

POWERING THE FUTURE

January 8 and 22

Stay tuned for details on how you can welcome the New Year with another pair of Life in the Balance forums, “**Powering the Future,**” on January 8 (film and more) and January 22 (speakers and more). Cindy Nock is heading up the League's part of the planning team for the January programs, and you can contact her at Vice-President@lwvcc.com if you'd like to get involved.

Thank you to all of the LWVCC Life in the Balance volunteers who helped in ways large and small, including Barbara Anthony, Cory Atkins, Lauren Bakewell, Anita Barker, Debbie Barr, Karen Barton, Nancy Beecher, Nancy Beeuwkes, Ardis Bordman, Mary Chapman, Nancy Cronin, Louise Haldeman, Anne Hayden, Judy Hill, Ginny Lamere, Judy LaRocca, Peggy Lawrence, Susan Lehotsky, Barbara Lewis, Dinny McIntyre, Erica Morrison, Cindy Nock, Dee Ortner (past member), Erin Pastuszenski, Jim Pazaris, Lori Gill Pazaris, Evin Phillips, Dan Proctor, Ellen Quackenbush, Anne Rarich, Shawna Reid, Janet Rothrock, Susan Sekuler, Becky Shannon, Betsy Sluder, Marian Thornton, Janet Vaillant, Paula Vandever, Andy Weinstein, and Launa Zimmaro. (If your name was omitted, please contact Erin at Communications@lwvcc.com, as we'd like to correct the error.)

Erin Pastuszenski, Communications

VOTER SERVICE ACTION

Our League staffed voter registration tables at nine Concord and Carlisle Back to School nights with the cooperation of our Town Clerks and schools. We also had a voter registration table at Newbury Court to catch newcomers to Town. We provided registration forms, absentee ballot request forms, and request forms for an absentee ballot by a family member. Some voters are not aware that if they have moved within the Town it is necessary to submit a registration form to the Town Clerk to avoid delays on election day. Although we did not register anyone one night at Alcott School, a gentleman came over, said he was registered, but wanted to tell us how much he appreciates the good articles and information the League puts out.

At the back to school nights last year, we had more voter registration interest as it was a presidential election year. This year the special election to fill the Senate seat, formerly held by Senator Kennedy, increased interest in voter registration.

League members who volunteered for this service were Anita Barker, Janet Beyer, Ardis Bordman, Sue Cannon, Mary Chapman, Nancy Cronin, Marge Daggett, Louise Haldeman, Judy LaRocca, Barbara Lewis, Erica Morrison, Erin Pastuszewski, Evin Phillips, Janet Rothrock, Susan Sekuler, Becky Shannon, and Launa Zimmaro.

Ardis Bordman

350 RALLY IN CONCORD: INTERNATIONAL DAY OF CLIMATE ACTION OCTOBER 24, 2009

On what began as a rainy day, about 450 people gathered on the side of the hill at the Old North Bridge just at the location where the Minutemen gathered some centuries earlier. It was to take part in the International Day of Climate Action. All over the globe, rallies were held to bring attention to the United Nations conference on global warming which will take place in Copenhagen, Denmark in December 2009. Presenters spoke about reducing and capping the carbon dioxide particles in the atmosphere to 350 parts per million (ppm)—the number that leading scientists believe to be the upper limit in order to hold back the devastating effects of climate change.

The LWVCC co-sponsored the rally and many of our members both attended and volunteered to help with logistics. ConcordCAN (Concord Climate Action Network) received hundreds of signatures on petitions that will be sent to Senator Kerry urging him to push the U.S. position towards reducing CO₂ emissions at Copenhagen to 350 ppm. For more information visit the website: www.350.org. A slide presentation of the rally at the Old North Bridge can be seen at:

<http://www.flickr.com/search/show/?q=concord&w=25654955%40N03&ss=2>

Paula Vandever, Co-President

HOMELESSNESS: AN INTERSECTION BETWEEN MEDICINE AND POLICY

On October 25th, the League of Women Voters of Sudbury sponsored a talk on treating the homeless. Dr. Jessie Gaeta, co-founder of the Home & Healthy for Good project, which provides permanent housing to the homeless in Massachusetts, presented an overview, statistics, and the current status of the homeless in Massachusetts.

Studies break homelessness into three classes: the transitional, the episodic and the chronically homeless. About 80% of the homeless are transitional. They are not normally homeless and their homelessness lasts typically 2 to 3 weeks. Before they become homeless, persons have often spent 3 to 6 months with family or friends.

About 10% are categorized as episodic and go in and out of homelessness. The chronic homeless are also about 10% of the total. Here in Massachusetts there are about 8,000 chronically homeless. Some go to shelters for the night, some do not. Many avoid shelters because of closed in and poorly ventilated areas, lack of privacy, thievery, abuse, gangs, and generally dangerous unhealthy conditions. Dr. Gaeta provided photos of other areas where the homeless do live in groups or alone, such as under bridges or in hidden wooded areas where she is able to seek them out and treat their health problems.

The typical chronically homeless person has three conditions: some degree of mental illness, some form of substance abuse, and medical problems. These chronically homeless are physiologically 20 years older than their actual age. The average age of death for a homeless person is 47. A homeless male has a 4 to 5 times greater probability of death than the average male, while the homeless female has a 10 times greater probability of death than the average female.

In one study, it was discovered that homeless people averaged a visit to the emergency room about every 4 days. 129 homeless in Boston accounted for 18,384 emergency room visits and 871 hospital visits and still one fourth died. In Massachusetts the hospitals are very good at enrolling the homeless in Medicaid to cover the medical costs, so this is a quantifiable figure. It shows that the costs of treating the homeless are greater than that of many transplant patients.

A grant from the Massachusetts State Legislature in 2007 explored the effectiveness of giving free housing to the homeless. The program, Home and Healthy for Good, reduced the total state expenditures by \$781 per person per month saving a total of \$9,372 per person annually by placing chronically homeless persons in housing. Dr. Gaeta explained that these costs savings are important figures to all legislators but to her it is simply a moral issue and providing homes would help to solve homelessness. Dr. Gaeta believes that homelessness can be eliminated.

Paula Vandever, Co-President

**LWVMA SPONSORS CANDIDATE
FORUMS FOR U.S. SENATE
SPECIAL ELECTION**

The race is on to fill the seat vacated by Senator Edward M. Kennedy's passing and filled on an interim basis by Senator Paul G. Kirk, Jr. The Democratic contenders are U.S. Representative Michael Capuano, Mass. Attorney General Martha Coakley, Alan Khazei, and Stephen Pagliuca. Facing off on the Republican side are State Senator Scott Brown and Jack E. Robinson.

With the primary election approaching on December 8 and a special general election set for January 19, 2010, the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts is doing its part to educate voters across the state about the candidates. LWVCC is doing its part, too, by responding to the state League's request for support from local Leagues with a Board-approved donation in October, helping to ensure that the League tradition of nonpartisan candidate forums for statewide races continues.

LWVMA sponsored a pre-primary candidate forum at UMass-Amherst on Sunday, November 8, and LWVCC members Judy LaRocca and Erin Pastuszenski attended. Western Massachusetts radio personality Bob Paquette (WFCR/WNNZ) moderated. Republican candidates Brown and Robinson joined Democratic candidates Capuano, Khazei and Pagliuca (but not Coakley) on the Bowker Auditorium stage and answered sets of questions on the economy, the environment, war and peace, and health care. (Note that Rep. Capuano departed without comment during the war and peace segment and

did not participate in the health care discussion.)

The format allowed for two rounds of rebuttal and further comment in each subject area, encouraging give-and-take among the candidates and ensuring a lively and engaging program. The LWVMA's pre-primary forum was well-organized and well-run, making the LWVCC attendees proud to be League members.

You will be able to watch the video of the November 8 forum at www.lwvma.org, and LWVCC will ask CCTV to show it on local cable TV. Please check the CCTV program schedule at www.concordtv.org for dates and times.

On Wednesday, January 13, LWVMA will hold a second candidate forum for those candidates on the ballot in the January 19 special election. The forum will be held at historic Faneuil Hall in Boston in the evening, and you are invited to attend and bring your friends and family. In preparation for January 13, LWVMA will continue to gather questions for the candidates at www.lwvma.org. LWVCC members may volunteer to assist at the Faneuil Hall forum or simply inquire about carpooling (or train) arrangements by contacting Erin Pastuszenski at Communications@lwvcc.com. This is a historic election and a great opportunity for local League members to get involved. Please remember to vote in the US Senate primary election on December 8 and the final election on January 19.

Erin Pastuszenski, Communications

CASINO GAMBLING AGAIN THREATENS MASSACHUSETTS

On October 29th the legislative Committee for Economic Development and Emerging Technologies chaired by Sen. Karen Spilka and Rep Brian Dempsey held a hearing on the 17 bills before the legislature which would permit legalizing gambling in the state.

This is the second time in a little over two years that the subject has been raised and once again the LWVMA has presented testimony in opposition to S. 174 and H. 4068, bills which are quite similar to those introduced by the Governor in the past and which would permit casinos with Class 3 gambling.

Proponents of gambling cite jobs and revenues as the reason for allowing it.

It is true that some new jobs would result, particularly in construction. However, the experience of other states indicates that both job growth and revenue are greatly overstated. Even in times of economic prosperity, gambling is merely a minor asset to the wealth of a given state. The social costs associated with those persons who become addicted to gambling, as well as the infrastructure costs to nearby communities, far outweigh any financial benefits.

Casinos are not recession proof. The casinos in nearby states are laying off employees and facing severe economic issues. None of the states which have legalized casino gambling have lowered their taxes by doing so and most have much higher taxes than does Massachusetts.

This will continue to be a major issue for the legislature as it copes with the

continuing effects of the recession. We all should have great sympathy for the many citizens of the state who are seeking employment but there are many other industries which could offer good employment and also add to the overall wealth of the state.

The LWVMA has joined forces with United to Stop Slots in Massachusetts (USS-Mass), a coalition of a number of civic groups that is continuing the fight. If Class 3 gambling is established it will be almost impossible to get rid of and Massachusetts will be the loser.

*Louise Haldeman,
LWVMA Casino Gambling Specialist*

SPECIAL STATE ELECTIONS

The State Primary to select candidates to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Senator Kennedy will be held on **Tuesday, December 8, 2009**, with ballots for Democratic, Republican and Libertarian parties. Polls will open from 7:00 am to 8:00 pm. Registration forms must be received in the Town Clerk's office (by mail, in person or postmarked by) **Wednesday, November 18, 2009**.

The State Election will be held on **Tuesday, January 19, 2010**. Polls will open from 7:00 am to 8:00 pm. Voter registration forms must be received by mail or in person no later than **8:00 pm on Wednesday, December 30th, 2009**, or be postmarked by December 30th.

A request for an absentee ballot must be in writing and received by noon on Monday, December 7th for the Primary, and 5:00 pm on Friday, January 15th for the State Election. For further information, please contact the Town Clerk's office.

Introduction: national and state **League of Women Voters** chapters have made a significant commitment to domestic violence prevention with reports in every **Concord-Carlisle League** newsletter. Included:

- **Rachel's' Box Project**
- **Domestic Violence Services Network [DVSNI]** (including DVVAP)
- **Network for Women's Lives [NWL]**
- other timely area projects

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

Domestic Violence Services Network through **DVVAP** trains community volunteers to become advocates who "offer empowering knowledge and gentle compassion.

Many people think that domestic violence is when a husband hits his wife. While this is often true, domestic violence means much more than physical harm.

In the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the law states that **domestic violence** occurs if any:

household member

dating partner

married or formerly married partner

parent of a child in common, or

relative by blood or marriage:

- ❖ attempts to cause physical harm
- ❖ causes physical harm
- ❖ places another in fear of physical harm, or
- ❖ causes another to engage involuntarily in sexual relations by force, threat, or duress

DVVAP's Definition

DVVAP's definition of domestic violence includes the legal definition stated above and also includes other forms of abuse. At DVVAP -

domestic violence is defined as a pattern of coercive control that one individual intermittently exerts over another by means of spiritual, emotional, sexual, physical, or economic abuse.

To become and advocate, email DVVAP@Concordma.gov or go to web site www.dvvap.org.

Network for Women's Lives now a part of the ***Domestic Violence Services Network***, continues its primary mission to provide education and outreach. Ongoing programs include:

For more information on programs and services, please visit www.networkforwomenslives.org.

By: Nancy P. James

11/11/2009

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