

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CONCORD-CARLISLE

BULLETIN

November 2010

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

Volume 15 2010-11 #2

CALENDAR

NOVEMBER

2	Tues	General Election	polls open 7 am – 8 pm
3	Wed	LWVCC Board Meeting (Becky Shannon)	9 coffee, 9:30 mtg
5	Fri	LIFE IN THE BALANCE: TROUBLED WATERS – Protecting Our Taps	7:00 pm
17	Wed	LWVCC ESC meeting (Lauren Bakewell)	8-9:00 am
17	Wed	LWVCC Book Group, Trustees Room, Concord Public Library	10-11:30 am

DECEMBER

1	Wed	LWVCC Board Meeting & Holiday Pot Luck Lunch (Nancy Beeuwkes)	9 coffee, 9:30 mtg 12:00-2:00 pm lunch
4	Sat	Concord Town Meeting Coordination Meeting, Town House	8:00 am
15	Wed	LWVCC ESC meeting (Cindy Nock)	8-9:00 am

JANUARY

3	Mon	Concord Town Warrant closes	
5	Wed	LWVCC Board Meeting (Betsy Sluder)	9 coffee, 9:30 mtg
12	Wed	LWVCC Membership Breakfast, Mass Health Care Reform	9:00-11:00 am
19	Wed	LWVCC ESC meeting (Erin Pastuszenski)	8-9:00 am
26	Wed	LWVCC Book Group, Trustees Room, Concord Public Library	10-11:30 am
31	Mon	Concord Town Caucus, Concord Town House	7:30 pm

FEBRUARY

2	Wed	LWVCC Board Meeting (Barbara Lewis)	9 coffee, 9:30 mtg
16	Wed	LWVCC ESC meeting (Barbara Lewis)	8-9:00 am
16	Wed	LWVCC Public Forum: “Our Town, Our Schools, Our Money”	

MARCH

2	Wed	LWVCC Board Meeting (Erica Morrison)	9 coffee, 9:30 mtg
20	Sun	LWVCC Concord Candidates Forum	
23	Wed	LWVCC ESC meeting (Paula Vandever)	8-9:00 am

APRIL

6	Wed	LWVCC Board Meeting (Erin Pastuszenski)	9 coffee, 9:30 mtg
29	Tues	Concord Town Elections	polls open 7 am - 8 pm

*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 political organization of men and women formed in 1920 and dedicated to the principles of self government established by the Constitution of the United States. The League works to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government.

Co-Presidents	Becky Shannon	(978) 371-1806	Co-Presidents@lwvcc.org
	Paula Vandever	(978) 369-9268	Co-Presidents@lwvcc.org
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EXECUTIVE STEERING COMMITTEE

Becky Shannon and Paula Vandever, Co-Presidents

November 2010

Dear League Members,

Thank you! Thank you! to all new and renewing members for your membership and contributions. You continue to make our League viable and relevant and you fuel our energy. We are such a busy League. Proof - To say that October was a busy month for the LWVCC would be an understatement! Two candidate forums before the election and two *Life in the Balance* forums on Water! We couldn't have done it without the interest and the good collaboration of so many League members volunteering to help. If you have not renewed your membership yet, please do so soon. We need YOU!

Our two Candidate Forums attracted large audiences and received excellent front page coverage in the Concord Journal two weeks running. The LWVCC brought the positions of all the candidates in the 5th Congressional District race for U.S. House and those who ran for State Senator and State Representative to audiences in attendance as well as those watching CCTV. Thank you to all who participated in these events. It is a significant reminder that the LWVCC is a strong and professional organization, providing needed Voter Service to our community. For the 5th Congressional race, the Leagues of Acton-Area, Harvard, Sudbury and Westford sent volunteers to help and they also publicized both events in their own newsletters and town papers.

The Water Forum: Troubled Waters, part of the *Life in the Balance* series, was also well run by many LWVCC volunteers. We thank our LWVCC vice-president Cindy Nock for heading the team effort and LWVCC member, Dee Ortner, for opening the forum. Read more about this interesting and timely event and audience reactions inside this month's Bulletin.

Also, please pay special attention to the calendar section in this Bulletin and mark your own calendar so you will not miss any of the coming events this winter. We begin with our Annual Holiday Pot Luck on December 1st at the home of Nancy Beeuwkes. Our guests will be Pamela Hathaway from Kids Eat Smart, and Kathy Balles from Carlisle Grows Green. They will speak about the improvements in the Concord school lunch program and the Carlisle gardening and composting program. Both programs are a result of our *Life in the Balance* series last year.

And don't forget to sign up to attend our popular Membership Breakfast event on January 12th to be held at the Colonial Inn in Concord. David Morales, Commissioner of the Commonwealth's Division of Health Care Finance and Policy will be our speaker. He will present the status of health care reform in Massachusetts and how we will be impacted by the new national health care law.

For those interested in knowing more about town government, our League is in the process of organizing the committee for the Town Government Initiative that was approved at annual meeting last May. The initiative will look at Concord and Carlisle town government operations and is expected to culminate in a product of hardcopy and/or electronic form linked to important sites. The committee expects to begin its work with a bus tour of important locations in our towns this spring. Contact one of us if you are interested in participating in this important endeavor.

Sincerely,

Becky Shannon and Paula Vandever, Co-Presidents

*ANNUAL LWVCC WINTER MEMBERSHIP
BREAKFAST*

*Colonial Inn, Concord Center
Wed, January 12, 2011 9-11 am*

Our speaker will be Commissioner David Morales of the Commonwealth's Division of Health Care Finance and Policy. Join other League members and guests as we gather for this popular annual event. Enjoy a warm breakfast, meet new members, and find out from League leaders about work being done and upcoming plans. This is a good opportunity to find out how to get involved.

After breakfast, Commissioner Morales will provide information on the status of the Massachusetts health care legislation passed in 2006, Chapter 58: *An Act Providing Access to Affordable, Quality, Accountable Health Care*. This legislation was the model for the national health care law, the *Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act* (PPACA) signed by President Obama on March 23, 2010.

Currently, according to Commissioner Morales, Chapter 58 has ensured that over 97% of Massachusetts residents now have health insurance coverage and more Massachusetts employers offer health insurance coverage than other states in the nation. But the challenge that remains is the continued increase in insurance premiums. Without intervention over one third of family income will go to health insurance by 2016. The goal of the Commonwealth at this time is to control costs. What are the options? How is Chapter 58 working and how will it be affected by PPACA? Come to this breakfast to learn about the Massachusetts law and be prepared to ask the difficult questions about health care reform in the Commonwealth and in the nation.

The cost per person for the breakfast will be \$10.00. Details will follow in December.

Barbara Lewis, Membership Chair

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

This is the time to renew your membership with the League. If you have not sent in your dues for 2011, please do so now.

If you know of people in our communities who might be interested in joining the League, invite them to attend the Membership Breakfast in January, or get in touch with me and I will send them information about the League and invite them to join. We have a strong presence in Concord and Carlisle that attracts concerned and active people who want to contribute to our efforts by joining or donating or collaborating with the League. What better time to offer others a chance to become a part of this great organization.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at Membership@lwwcc.org or (978) 287-0049.

Barbara Lewis, Membership Chair

LWVCC BOOK GROUP

November meeting:

Wednesday, Nov. 17, 10:00-11:30 am
Trustees Room, Concord Public Library
Book: *Middle Passages: African American Journeys to Africa, 1787 to 2005* by James Campbell.

January meeting:

Wednesday, Jan 26, 10:00-11:30 am
Trustees Room, Concord Public Library
Book: *Slavery by Another Name: The Re-Enslavement of Black Americans from the Civil War to World War II* by Douglas A. Blackmon. This book was a Pulitzer Prize winner for nonfiction.

League members and their friends are invited to participate in one or both of these Book Group meetings. These books promise to be interesting and thought-provoking. Questions? Contact Anne Hayden by email (Book_Group@lwwcc.org) or by phone (978-369-8526).

Anne Hayden, Book Group Chair

FALL CANDIDATES FORUMS

LWV FALL CANDIDATES FORUMS VALUABLE RESOURCE FOR VOTERS

This fall's election season kept Leagues busy statewide with organizing and hosting nonpartisan candidate forums. From July through October, the LWV of Massachusetts and local Leagues throughout the Commonwealth held over 25 forums on candidates and ballot issues, many of which were broadcast on cable TV and covered in detail by the press. LWV-trained moderators maintained forums' focus on issues and facts and helped carry out the League's policy of nonpartisanship, assuring fairness to candidates and useful information for voters.

Our League was proud to sponsor two candidate forums this fall. Our 5th Congressional District forum on October 16th was the only one that brought all four of the candidates running for that U.S. House seat together on the same stage. Sponsors of other debates limited their invitations to the major party candidates, Jon Golnik (R) and incumbent Niki Tsongas (D), leaving the Independents, Dale Brown and Bob Clark, out of the discussion. LWVCC welcomed them all and gave the voters a chance to hear their views. Risa Nyman (LWV of Brookline, past LWVMA President and Executive Director, and past LWVUS board member) moderated the forum at the Alcott School, and volunteers from Leagues in Acton Area, Harvard and Westford joined our members to make the event run smoothly. Hats off to all who helped!

Just a few days later, on October 20th, LWVCC hosted another forum for the State Senate and Representative candidates, again at the Alcott School. Sen. Susan Fargo (D) and challenger Sandi Martinez (R) faced off first, followed by Rep. Cory Atkins (D) and her opponent, K.C. Winslow (I), with Nancy Carapezza (LWV of Wayland and past LWVMA President) moderating. The exchanges were lively and substantive, and the League and audience questions covered a wide range of topics. As always, League volunteers worked hard on this event, and the efforts paid off.

The media enthusiastically covered both of the LWVCC's pre-election programs. Articles and photos on our forums garnered front-page, above-the-fold coverage in *The Concord Journal* for two consecutive weeks. A *Lowell Sun* reporter and local bloggers also published stories. We filmed the forums for cable TV, and you can still view them online as Video on Demand at www.concordtv.org.

Among the LWVCC members volunteering their time and talents for our candidate forums this fall were Barbara Anthony, Lauren Bakewell, Anita Barker, Nancy Beeuwkes, Ardis Bordman, Nancy Cronin, Louise Haldeman, Anne Hayden, Judy LaRocca, Barbara Lewis, Cindy Nock, Erin Pastuszewski, Janet Rothrock, Becky Shannon, Paula Vandever and Launa Zimmaro. Thanks to all.

Erin Pastuszewski
Communications Director

LIFE IN THE BALANCE: TROUBLED WATERS

Last year the Life in the Balance (LITB) team organized five events: a panel discussion about solid waste issues called **Let's Talk Trash**, a public screening of the movie **FOOD INC.**, a panel discussion about agricultural and nutritional issues called **Food For Thought**, a public screening of the movie **THE GREAT SQUEEZE**, and a panel discussion about energy issues called **Powering The Future**.

This year LITB brought you two forums on water issues. On October 22 a public screening of the movie **TAPPED** was held at the Alcott School auditorium in Concord and was attended by 70 people. The movie highlighted the issues around fresh drinking water by examining the story of bottled water in which water is privatized and becomes a commodity that is pumped out of aquifers or even out of municipal water systems, shipped great distances and sold at immense profit. The amount of waste and pollution that is generated in making plastic drinking water bottles and in transporting the water bottles is enormous and entirely unnecessary in our local communities where safe drinking water is available right at our taps. The movie raised such questions as where does our water come from, who owns the rights to water, and how do we know our drinking water is safe? The movie is available at the Concord and Carlisle public libraries or can be found on the internet at www.tappedthemovie.com.

On Friday November 5 a second water event was held in the form of a panel discussion about local water issues called "**Troubled Waters**" and was attended by 68 people. The panelists were **Ruth Caplan**, who appeared in **TAPPED** and is National Campaign Coordinator for the Alliance for

Democracy's Defending Water for Life Campaign and past chair of the national Sierra Club's Water Privatization Task Force, **Alan Cathcart**, Water & Sewer Superintendent for the Town of Concord, and **Valerie Lane**, President, ValiantLane LLC, an environmental and management consulting firm.

Ruth spoke eloquently about water as a human rights issue and the connections between water and waste, energy, food, transportation and political conflict. Alan spoke to us about our local watersheds, water cycle and public drinking water system. He talked about the importance of a well managed water supply. Valerie spoke to the safety of our local water systems and the threats to it especially in the form of emerging contaminants found in pharmaceuticals. The first part of the program with speaker was taped for CCTV and will be available on demand at www.concordtv.org and will be shown on our local cable television channel.

Following the speakers, 50 attendees gathered in five breakout local action groups and discussed issues and actions around Bottled water, Concord water, Carlisle water, Watershed protection, and Household/personal actions. A summary of the group discussions and a copy of the resource sheet handed out at the forum are available at the LITB website.

The **Life in the Balance** forum series is a collaborative effort between LWVCC, ConcordCAN, Carlisle Climate Action, and the Alliance for Democracy. Information and resources about LITB can be found at www.lwvcc.org/lifeinthebalance.html.

Cindy Nock, Vice-President

**ANNUAL HOLIDAY POTLUCK
WED, DEC 1st 12 NOON – 2:00 P.M.**

Join LWVCC members and invited guests at the Annual Holiday Pot Luck on December 1st at the home of Nancy Beeuwkes, 2 ½ miles out Monument Street. Follow LWV signs. After the morning Board meeting, we will enjoy a sumptuous pot luck luncheon where members have the opportunity to socialize and network. Please bring a dish to share. If you wish to join the Board meeting, please contact Becky Shannon, 978-371-1806, or Paula Vandever, 978-369-9268.

Our guest speakers will be Pamela Hathaway from Kids Eat Smart, and Kathy Balles from Carlisle Grows Green. They will speak about improvements in the Concord school lunch program and the Carlisle school system to reduce waste and garbage. Both programs were initiated as a result of our *Food for Thought* forum from the *Life in the Balance Series* last year. Our LITB programs encourage community activity in sustainable green practices.

Paula Vandever, Co-President

LWVMA TOWN HALL MEETINGS

The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts (LWVMA) wants to hear from you! This past election season underscored for all of us how much our communities need the League. We are working to serve our members and our communities better and your feedback is essential. LWVMA wants to know what you think are the key areas the League should work on, what you like and want continued, and what you feel needs improving.

LWVMA will be holding a series of “town hall” meetings across Massachusetts to hear directly from members about the issues that concern them. Two formats will be used, an online option and a face to face option. If you have any questions, please call the state office at 617-523-2999.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE FORUM

A new LWVCC group is working on a spring speaker forum addressing the impact of *Citizens United v. FEC* and responses to that decision, including legislative proposals. If you think campaign finance reform is a critical issue for our democracy, please get involved. Contact Becky or Paula for more information.

LWVMA ANNUAL CAMPAIGN

This year the LWVMA is conducting its Annual Fundraising Campaign online. While response has been good so far, many members may not realize that they will not be getting an appeal letter in the mail or a phone call from a fellow League member. The state League needs our support! You can contribute by using the state League’s website, www.lwvma.org, or call the office at 617-523-2999.

**LWVUS PRIVATIZATION
STUDY COMMITTEE**

In accordance with direction from Convention 2010, the LWVUS will undertake a study of “Privatization: the policy agenda to transfer government functions, services and assets to the private sector.”

This study will focus on the impact of privatizing government services on local communities. Committee members will be responsible for developing study materials and consensus questions and reviewing/ tabulating responses submitted by participating Leagues. Based on the submitted responses, the Committee will recommend position language to the Board. If you are interested in being a member of the Study Committee, please complete [the online application form](#) and submit it along with your resume no later than December 16, 2010. For more info, contact communications@lwvcc.org.

November 2010 Domestic Violence Prevention activities

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 [DVSN]**
(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.

Resources for victim assistance

Emerson Hospital	978.287.3690
Rape Crisis Center	1.800.542.5212
Domestic Violence Victim Assistance Program (DVVAP)	1.888.399.6111
Network for Women's Lives Referral Service	978.287.4089
Support Group for Women with Controlling Partners	978.369.0259 or 978.369.2208
Concord District Court's - District Attorney Victim Witness Advocate	978.369.0225
Department of Transitional Assistance	617.629.1400
Food Source Hotline	1.800.645.8333
The Massachusetts Coalition Against Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence - (Jane Doe)	www.janedoe.org
Domestic Violence Shelter (SafeLink)	1.877.785.2020

Answers to Common Legal Questions and Resources for Victims of Domestic Violence

Our Town www.concord.net web site carries valuable information on frequently asked questions about domestic violence. Go to the site for answers to:

What is domestic violence?

What is a 209A Restraining Order?

What are some of the criminal charges that an abuser can be charged with?

What is a certified batterers' intervention program?

By: Nancy P. James

11/12/2010

978-369-2771