

# THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CONCORD-CARLISLE

# BULLETIN

LWVCC Website: [www.lwvcc.org](http://www.lwvcc.org); LWVCC telephone #: (978) 254-1598

November 2011

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

Volume 16 2011-12 #2

## CALENDAR

### DECEMBER

1	Thurs	LWVCC Program: Running for Office in Concord, Town House	7:30 pm
3	Sat	Concord Town Meeting Coordination Meeting, Town House	8:00 am
7	Wed	LWVCC Board Meeting & Holiday Pot Luck Lunch 1360 Monument St. (Nancy Beeuwkes)	9 coffee, 9:30 mtg 12:00-1:30 pm lunch
13	Tues	LWVMA State Phonathon	
14	Wed	LWVCC ESC meeting, 100 Newbury Ct., #208 (Anita Barker)	8:30-9:30 am

### JANUARY

3	Tues	Concord Town Warrant closes	
4	Wed	LWVCC Board Meeting, 100 Newbury Ct. #208 (Anita Barker)	9 coffee, 9:30 mtg
9	Mon	Concord Town Caucus, Town House	7:30 pm
11	Wed	LWVCC Membership Breakfast, Colonial Inn, "FOOD – Community Action"	9:00-11:00 am
18	Wed	LWVCC ESC meeting, 100 Newbury Ct. #208 (Anita Barker)	8:30-9:30 am
25	Wed	LWVCC Book Group, Concord Library, Trustees Room	10:00-11:30 am

### FEBRUARY

1	Wed	LWVCC Board Meeting, 41 Canterbury Ct. Carlisle (Cindy Nock)	9 coffee, 9:30 mtg
15	Wed	Last day to register to vote in March 6 Presidential Primary election	
22	Wed	LWVCC ESC meeting, 100 Newbury Ct. #208 (Anita Barker)	8:30-9:30 am
29	Wed	LWVCC Board Meeting, if needed	9 coffee, 9:30 mtg

### MARCH

6	Tues	Presidential Primary Election	polls open 7 am – 8 pm
7	Wed	LWVCC Board Meeting, 282 East Riding Ln Carlisle (Barbara Lewis)	9 coffee, 9:30 mtg
14	Wed	LWVCC Open Meeting, topic TBA	
21	Wed	LWVCC ESC mtg, 100 Newbury Ct. #208 (Anita Barker)	8:30-9:30 am
28	Wed	LWVCC Book Group, Concord Library, Trustees Room	10:00-11:30 am

### APRIL

4	Wed	LWVCC Board Meeting, 384 Hayward Mills Rd, (Louise Haldeman)	9 coffee, 9:30 mtg
18	Wed	LWVCC ESC meeting, 100 Newbury Ct. #208 (Anita Barker)	8:30-9:30 am

*Members are invited to attend monthly Board meetings.*

*Please contact Cindy 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	Cindy Nock	(978) 369-3996	<a href="mailto:Co-Presidents@lwvcc.org">Co-Presidents@lwvcc.org</a>
	Paula Vandever	(978) 369-9268	<a href="mailto:Co-Presidents@lwvcc.org">Co-Presidents@lwvcc.org</a>
Membership	Dee Ortnier	(617) 379-2749	<a href="mailto:Membership@lwvcc.org">Membership@lwvcc.org</a>
Bulletin Editor	Anne Hayden	(978) 369-8526	<a href="mailto:BULLETIN@lwvcc.org">BULLETIN@lwvcc.org</a>
Webmaster	Julie Rohwein	(978) 371-2267	<a href="mailto:wm@lwvcc.org">wm@lwvcc.org</a>

# EXECUTIVE STEERING COMMITTEE

Cindy Nock and Paula Vandever, Co-Presidents

---

November 2011

Dear League Friends,

The first great news is that the building project for CCHS passed overwhelmingly in both Concord and Carlisle Special Town Meetings and at the Special Town Elections. The LWVCC Board had voted unanimously to recommend a “Yes” vote at each Town Meeting. Our towns will soon have a new high school.

Now, as the autumn leaves fall, we ready ourselves for a busy and festive time of year. Be sure to mark your calendars for the **Holiday Potluck Lunch** to be held at the home of Nancy Beeuwkes on December 7<sup>th</sup> from Noon to 2:00 p.m. Ginger Quarles, Director of Concord’s Council on Aging and Deb Siriani, Director of Carlisle’s Council on Aging will speak about the aging “Baby Boomers” and the activities at each of the COA centers. This luncheon is always a wonderful time to meet friends and catch-up over delicious food and drink. Bring a friend with you when you come.

Great progress is ongoing on the **LWVCC website**: [www.lwvcc.org](http://www.lwvcc.org). Please visit there to see the new pages. It is also a good place to start if you need information about either state or national issues where you can be directed with a click of your mouse.

The **LWVUS Education Study** was completed and LWVCC reached consensus on most of the questions. Check the website and article in this Bulletin for the results. We are now preparing for the **LWVUS Privatization Study** which has already attracted some interested members. Contact Paula (978-254-1598) if you are interested in joining the committee.

The LWVCC is sponsoring a workshop, **Running for Office in Concord**, on December 1<sup>st</sup> at the Concord Town House, 7:30 p.m. This event will provide an opportunity to hear speakers share their experiences about running for office and to learn the “rules of the road.” While we especially encourage more women to run and win office in Massachusetts, we also honor the amazing contributions of many of the men holding office. Attendees will find useful information from the panel of speakers.

The **Local Sustainability Study Committee** has met and is working on researching definitions of sustainability and criteria for measuring it. It is turning out to be a very interesting topic already with healthy debate within the committee. Please contact Cindy (978-254-1598) if you are interested in joining this effort.

Another very active group within the league is the **Follow The Money Committee** that is working on issues related to money in politics. They will be updating us on their plans for the “travel kit” they are assembling for our League and others to use to learn more about the problems of big money influences in politics and to begin to focus on what best to do about it.

Finally, it is the time of year for the **LWVMA Phonathon**. We hope that you can participate with a contribution and/or kind word for the callers who will be contacting you soon!

There are many ways to participate in the League and we hope you can find some way to get involved. Call us if you need a ride to the Holiday Potluck at 978-254-1598.

Sincerely,

Cindy Nock and Paula Vandever, Co-Presidents

## LWVCC MEMBER NEWS

### Membership Renewal

The July 2011 through June 2012 member renewal drive is almost complete. Thank you for all who have responded. We're hoping to conclude the drive by the end of the calendar year, so please send in your checks or try out PayPal, if you haven't responded as yet.

Also, we have several new members who will be attending the December pot-luck luncheon and/or the January Breakfast. Please help us in welcoming them to the LWVCC.

### January Breakfast

To pave the way for the second half of our membership year, we'll be gathering at The Colonial Inn on Wednesday, January 11<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am. This year you can expect a cozy gathering, with much conversation and a few surprises – including an updated menu that addresses our healthier lifestyles. The price remains at \$10 per person and we hope that you'll invite and bring a neighbor or friend. This breakfast is a grand way to introduce others to our work and to the wonderful people who make the LWVCC tick!

This year our topic is "FOOD – Community Action." We will have Alden Cadwell, new chef of the Concord school system, and other regional speakers for a panel discussion that examines our local community for cradle-to-grave (i.e. from supplier to disposal) ideas on how Concord and Carlisle can become more sustainable. More details will appear in the Monday Member News (MMN) as the date gets closer. We hope you can attend! Please bring a neighbor or friend!

You can contact a member of the committee at [membership@lwvcc.org](mailto:membership@lwvcc.org). We look forward to seeing you soon!

*Dee Ortner, Membership chair  
Committee: Nancy Beeuwkes, Mary  
Chapman, Irmi Doane, Barbara Lewis &  
Cindy Collen (new member)*

### Need a Ride To the January Breakfast?

Please call Dee Ortner  
(617) 379-2749  
or contact a member of the  
membership committee at  
[membership@LWVCC.org](mailto:membership@LWVCC.org).

### ANNUAL HOLIDAY POTLUCK WED, DEC 7<sup>st</sup> 12 NOON – 2:00 P.M. 1360 MONUMENT ST., CONCORD

Join LWVCC members and invited guests at the Annual Holiday Pot Luck on December 7th 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 Cindy Nock or Paula Vandever at (978) 254-1598.

Our guest speakers will be the Council on Aging Directors for our two towns: Ginger Quarles (Concord) and Deb Siriani (Carlisle). They will speak about the aging "Baby Boomers" and the activities at each of the COA centers. This will be a wonderful opportunity for all of us to learn about these important programs that are available to all residents of Concord and Carlisle.

*Paula Vandever, Co-President*

## **LWVCC BOOK GROUP**

The next meeting of the LWVCC Book Group will be on Wednesday, January 25, 2012 in the Trustees Room of the Concord Public Library from 10:00 am – 11:30 am. The book that we will discuss is *The Gun and the Olive Branch: The Roots of Violence in the Middle East* by David Hirst. This book's third edition was issued in 2003 and has been updated to include events that occurred at the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

This book is described as a “classic, myth-breaking general history of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Hirst, former Middle East correspondent of the Guardian, traces the origins of the conflict back to the 1880s to show how Arab violence, although often cruel and fanatical, is a response to the challenge of repeated aggression. [The book] is an absorbing, potentially controversial, history of the Middle Eastern conflict that is indispensable to anyone with an interest in world politics and by partisans of both sides.”

The LWVCC Book Group meets five times a year to discuss nonfiction books that focus on national and international issues and historical perspectives. All League members and Concord and Carlisle residents are invited to participate. All are welcome to attend and participate in the discussion.

*Anne Hayden & Ginny Lamere  
LWVCC Book Group Co-Chairs*

## **LWVCC BOOK GROUP WEBPAGE**

The LWVCC Book Group now has our own page on the Concord-Carlisle League's website. Our goal is to make this page into an interesting and useful resource for all League members and not just those who are able to attend our bimonthly meetings.

Right now, the page will include information on our next meeting and the book to be

discussed along with a list of all of the books which we have read. In the future we may add short reviews of some (or all) of these books as well as additional books on similar topics that have been suggested by some of our members.

Please let us know what you would like us to include on this page. Happy reading!

*Anne Hayden & Ginny Lamere  
LWVCC Book Group Co-Chairs*

## **VOTER REGISTRATION THANKS!**

This fall, our League offered voter registration and information at each of the 11 Concord and Carlisle public school back-to-school nights. We collected over 40 completed registration forms (38 for Concord, three for Carlisle and one for Dorchester) and distributed mail-in forms and absentee ballot applications.

The registration drive was timely due to the special town meetings and elections this fall and the Presidential primary and local elections next March. Not only was LWVCC's voter registration drive a valuable public service, we made the League more visible in our community.

Our successful registration effort was possible because so many League members volunteered their time. Many thanks to our dedicated volunteers: Dottie Bernard, Ardis Bordman, Maribeth Clemm, Di Clymer, Irmis Doane, Louise Haldeman, Ginny Lamere, Barbara Lewis, Dee Ortner, Erin Pastuszynski, Janet Rothrock and Meryl Schwartz. Nice job!

*Barbara Lewis, Voter Service Carlisle  
Erin Pastuszynski, Voter Service Concord*

## **LWVCC EDUCATION CONSENSUS REPORT**

The LWVCC held two consensus meetings on the Role of the Federal Government in Public Education on Wednesday, October 26, 2011. The morning meeting was held in Concord and the evening meeting in Carlisle. Twenty-four members attended.

The LWVCC Education Study Committee members – Marge Daggett, Julie Rohwein, Cindy Nock, Louise Haldeman, and Nancy Cronin – made presentations on the two main topics covered by the consensus questions: namely, Common Core Standards and Funding and Equity. Anne Hayden and Erin Pastuszynski served as recorders. The committee members and recorders met the next day to pull together the results and finalize our consensus which was presented to the Board for approval at their November meeting.

The Board approved our local consensus and forwarded it to the National League who will compile the results from all participating Leagues in the country and arrive at the League's national position. The deadline for Leagues to report their results is November 30, so it will be some time before the position is developed. As soon as we receive news of this information, we'll let you know.

The main LWVUS position on education was developed in 1969 and reads "The federal government shares with other levels of government the responsibility to provide equality of opportunity for education for all persons in the United States." In recent years the federal government has become more deeply involved in setting standards and in funding public education through the No Child Left Behind Act (2001) and the Race to the Top (2009). So it is time for the LWV to develop positions on issues raised by these acts.

Many thanks to those who participated in this project! We all learned a lot and enjoyed sharing our views in reaching consensus.

*Nancy Cronin, Education Study Chair*

## **LWVUS PRIVATIZATION STUDY Scope of the Privatization Study:**

The purpose of this study is to identify those parameters and policy issues to be considered in connection with proposals to transfer federal, state or local government services, assets and/or functions to the private sector. It will review the stated goals and the community impact of such transfers, and identify strategies to ensure transparency, accountability, and preservation of the common good.

### **Timeline:**

November 2011 to May 2012. Leagues are encouraged to participate in the study on Privatization of Government services, assets and functions, and the impact on local communities by scheduling meetings to educate members and communities about the issue and come to consensus.

### **Organization:**

The LWVUS Committee, whose eight members are from across the U.S., will provide a history and background of privatization, a glossary of terms, legal issues to be considered when privatizing at different levels of government, current state regulations on privatizing and case studies on successful and unsuccessful privatizing efforts. Finally, the committee will provide suggested policies and parameters to be considered when privatizing.

If you are interested in joining the LWVCC Committee to begin studying this issue, please contact Paula Vandever at [Co-Presidents@lwvcc.org](mailto:Co-Presidents@lwvcc.org).

*Paula Vandever, LWVCC Co-President*

**RUNNING FOR OFFICE WORKSHOP  
DECEMBER 1, 2011**

Have you considered running for elected office in Concord? Would you like to work on a local candidate's campaign? Who do you know who might want to run someday? Our League is sponsoring the **Running for Office in Concord Workshop** on Thursday, December 1, 2011, 7:30 p.m., at the Town House, 22 Monument Square. Please come and learn the nuts and bolts of getting elected from a panel of local officials who will share their experiences and answer your questions.

Concord Town Clerk Anita Tekle, Town Moderator Eric Van Loon, Selectman Carmin Reiss, School Committee member Peter Fischelis and Housing Authority Commissioner K.C. Winslow are our panelists. Topics to be discussed include the election cycle, campaign finance laws and running a campaign.

The spring local election in Concord is set for March 6, 2012. The Town Caucus, where candidates will be nominated, is on January 9. The March ballot will include elections for Town Moderator, Selectman (2 seats), School Committee (2 seats) and Housing Authority. Now is an ideal time to explore the opportunity to serve as a local elected official. Please help spread the word!

Don't forget that "Getting Elected in Concord," a free LWVCC publication, is available now at the Town Clerk's office and online at [www.lwvcc.org](http://www.lwvcc.org). Copies will be distributed at the workshop. For more information contact [VoterService@lwvcc.org](mailto:VoterService@lwvcc.org) or call 978-254-1598.

*Erin Pastuszewski, Voter Service (Concord)  
Nancy Cronin, "Getting Elected in Concord"*

**LOCAL PROGRAM:  
CAMPAIGN FINANCE UPDATE**

We're working on candidate questions, workshops and testing questions on focus groups as this issue of the Bulletin goes to press. If you can, please join us at our next Follow-the-Money (FT\$) planning session to learn how our program is proceeding (and gaining momentum) in Concord-Carlisle and with other Leagues in the state. We'll also be addressing our ideas for LWV National Convention. We have a full agenda and League members from Sudbury, Newton and Amherst will be attending.

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 11am-1:30pm. The location is Becky Shannon's home at 127 Commerford Road, Concord. Please call Becky at 978-371-1806 if you can attend. Bring a brown-bag lunch; refreshments will be provided.

In the next issue of the LWVCC BULLETIN, the campaign finance team will have a pull-out insert that provides a full update of our progress-to-date and a list of upcoming events. Stay tuned!

*Becky Shannon & Dee Ortner  
FT\$ - Campaign Finance Team members*

**ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION  
UPDATE: GOOD NEWS AND NOT  
GOOD NEWS TO REPORT**

**The Safer Alternatives Bill (SAB):** *HB1136;*  
*SB 397*

The Safer Alternatives bill will be moving out of the [Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture \(JEN\)](#) soon. However, the future of the bill is threatened by funding issues. If the bill is passed without funding it will be subject to annual budget fights. Funding is critical to the effective implementation of this bill targeted for research of viable, safer chemicals and financial support to help businesses make a transition to identified safer chemicals.

One of the most vocal legislative advocates of the bill, former Senator Steven Tolman, left the legislature to become head of the MA AFL-CIO. Senator Susan Clark will assume lead advocacy role in the Senate. While Senator Clark doesn't have Senator Tolman's breadth of experience with the bill, it is extremely important that the bill have a Senator actively promoting its progress.

Passage of the bill, in process for almost a decade, is still deemed preferable to no bill. The focus of advocacy groups will now be on passage through the House and Senate.

**E-Waste Bill**

More good news: an E-Waste Bill modeled on a *redraft* of a bill submitted by Senator Pacheco (not listed on Insta Trac; no number assigned) is slated to move out of the [Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture \(JEN\)](#) on Wednesday November 16, 2011.

The Pacheco Bill redraft contained several key provisions that made it the strongest of the E-Waste bills submitted this session including, but not limited to, target collection and convenience standards and certification requirements designed to ensure safe collection and disposal. Input from advocacy

groups has been factored into the bill that is to be reported out. The bill will be reviewed after it is out to determine further action.

**The Updated Bottle Bill (UBB):** *HB 890;*  
*SB1650*

Grass-roots pressure to pass this sensible bill continues and broad, public support holds strong. In addition to recent poll results (Mass Inc. Jan. 2011) indicating that 77% of MA residents support passage of the bill, supporters gathered at the State House on October 27<sup>th</sup> to deliver 15,000 signatures in support of the bill.

State Representative and lead sponsor of the bill, Rep Alice Wolf and MassPirg Director Janet Domenitz, met recently with Governor Patrick to enlist his active support of passage.

The Boston Globe continues to cover progress (and lack thereof) of this bill with columns such as that by Globe reporter Yvonne Abraham on November 12, 2011 (<http://tinyurl.com/7yfkccct>). Media coverage of the bill is very important.

An **immediate action** that all LWV members can take is to respond to Ms. Abraham's piece by **submitting a letter to the editor today** to keep the Globe's attention on the bill's progress: [letter@globe.com](mailto:letter@globe.com). In the first sentence of your letter, refer to Abraham's article (e.g. "Yvonne Abraham's 11/13/11 column on the pending Updated Bottle Bill is a great reminder that the Legislature needs to vote for passage of UBB, etc."). Keep your letter under 200 words. For talking points, go to: <http://www.masspirg.org/issues/reduce-reuse-recycle/update-the-bottle-bill>

The Updated Bottle Bill has been before the MA Legislature for the past 14 years. Passage of the bill is no longer the primary issue. With so much public and legislative support over, this matter is one of good governance.

*Launa Zimmaro*  
*LWVM Environmental Specialist*

## **CAN WE AFFORD NOT TO HAVE IMPROVED MEDICARE FOR ALL?**

The LWV of Sudbury held their annual health care forum on Sunday, November 6<sup>th</sup> where approximately seventy-five people, including at least four from Concord attended.

The new language for the system of “single-payer” health care is “Improved Medicare for all.” Most people are satisfied with Medicare and it is a form of single-payer health care working well in the U.S. The idea is to extend this type of program, improved, to the whole country, or at least to Massachusetts.

State Senator Jamie Eldridge spoke first. Economics professor, University of Massachusetts Amherst, Gerald Friedman was unable to attend but his slides were presented by Director of Mass-Care, Ben Day, who also gave his own presentation. The speakers were followed by an insightful and informative Q & A period.

Senator Eldridge began his talk with the notion that, “While health care reform should be federal, starting in Massachusetts is our current approach.” Citizens throughout the county are still forgoing treatment and health care debt is still the leading cause of bankruptcy in the U.S. Both of these problems occur even for those covered by insurance.

The new federal health care law and the Massachusetts health care law need improvement, particularly in addressing the skyrocketing costs. These costs are inhibiting economic creativity; it’s more difficult to be entrepreneurial. At the rate of increase in health care costs we are experiencing, by 2052 health care spending would consume the entire GDP.

The panelists all expressed the belief that health care is a right, like education, and not a product for purchase. They shared statistics indicating that although the U.S. spends almost twice that of the next highest country,

Norway, we fall behind in quality and outcomes when compared to the other industrialized countries. We incur wasteful administrative costs, including money spent to deny care and increase profit. And providers must use precious time and money on the myriad different record systems, time that could be used in direct care.

While health care costs are rising throughout all of the industrialized countries, the other countries have a much lower costs per person, typically half to three-quarters that of the U.S, and almost all have better quality health care and outcomes.

“Improved Medicare for all” does not “solve” the long term issue of rising medical costs that all countries are facing, but it does lower the costs dramatically and provide tools for addressing the systemic issues. As Ben Day said when asked about the rising health care costs that all countries are experiencing: “I would much prefer to have the problems that these other countries have.”

The road block to health care reform is not the lack of understanding, it is political. As a British woman in the audience expressed, “In England, it is just more fair.”

*Paula Vandever*

*LWVCC Co-President & Health Care Specialist*



## **WHAT'S HAPPENING ON THE HILL?**

As the Legislature gets ready to adjourn for the holidays, several significant bills have reached the governor's desk and are expected to be approved. The one about which there has been the most noise is of course the one that will authorize three casinos and one slot parlor at a race track.

This bill has gone through many iterations and attention has been focused on some parts such as the amount of time which must pass before a former member of the Legislature can go to work for a casino (down from five years to one year) and happy hour for all bars and restaurants. The latter is eliminated, one can only be happy at the casino.

Other less observed but possibly more serious in their consequences parts include the fact that operators are not required to verify the immigration status of their employees and that while any town in which a casino is proposed may have a town wide vote, in cities only the ward or precinct involved may vote unless the city council decides otherwise. Communities adjacent to a proposed casino may present "evidence" but are not included in the vote.

Originally, five percent of the revenues were to go to preserving the horse racing industry, this promoted as being good for agriculture and perhaps animal welfare (?). Now they will only get 2 percent which means more to local services which is nice but more of what is unknown.

As of this writing, two large gambling companies are preparing to buy land and the neighboring states are getting very nervous. This issue is far from over; the argument simply shifts to other arenas.

Other bills which have reached the governor's desk and are expected to be signed are one which guarantees the rights of transgendered persons, a bill on human trafficking, pension

reform, and a bill eliminating parole for persons convicted three time for violent offenses.

Although the Legislature has officially adjourned for the year, committee work and informal sessions often occur during this time and work goes on. It is to be hoped that with the casino bill concluded more energy will be put into the other matters before it.

In January the House may finally get to the E Waste Bill, the Safer Alternatives Bill, which shows some promise, and the Expanded Bottle Bill. They and other bills in which the League is interested are in committee. There is still opposition to the expanded bottle bill as some of its opponents persist in calling it a tax rather than referring to it correctly as a refundable deposit.

Action on some bills, particularly those related to health care, may be affected by the budget which will be released in January. The Program and Action committee of the LWVM is taking a look at some interesting legislation which would affect education and voting rights.

The LWVM website provides the testimony which has been given by the League on various bills.

*Louise Haldeman  
LWVMA Casino Gambling Specialist*

## **MINUTEMAN PLANS TAKING SHAPE**

A long desired and much needed plan for renovation of Minuteman Career and Technical High School, also known as Minuteman Voc Tech, is taking shape.

### **Background**

From about 2001 to 2004 as the school was recovering from the effects of accepting Choice students, who only paid \$5,000 each, the School Committee focused its attention on enrollment and related financing issues. A new Superintendent in 2004 brought up other issues that needed attention though the School Committee continued to press the need for increased enrollment and a capital plan for renovation.

When Edward Bouquillon became Superintendent in 2007, the School Committee set as his primary long-term goal the formulation of a plan for a major renovation -- needed not only for the physical plant but for revised programs and to create a more attractive school. Since then, discussions with the towns and with the Mass. School Building Authority (MSBA) have been laying the preliminary foundations. In spring 2010, the Town Meetings of the member towns passed a \$750,000 feasibility study.

For the past year and a half, both Selectmen and Town Managers of the member towns have met to discuss and devise possible changes to the Regional Agreement's formula for assessing a capital project and the requirements for passing such a capital plan. Currently according to the Regional Agreement, assessments for capital projects are based on student enrollment per town with a town sending less than five students being assessed as having five. In addition, any capital plan must be passed by the Town Meetings of all 16 member towns.

### **Current Situation**

This past summer the Lexington Building Inspector and Asst. Fire Chief condemned, as a fire hazard, the wood framing in the Trades Hall, which is a large, boxy area where small rooms had been set up to be used by the students for practicing carpentry, electrical wiring, HVAC, and plumbing. The room-like structures have been

there for probably thirty years. The structures had to be torn down before the school could open. Over the summer the school removed all the structures and rebuilt at least some of the rooms with specially treated fire retardant "lumber." The Lexington Building Inspector passed on the reconstruction and issued an occupancy permit so that the school could open. The cost was approximately \$475,000 and must be borne by the member towns; the MSBA cannot provide funding since it was not an emergency according to their guidelines.

### **Plans Toward Renovation**

Over the past two years there has been work by several committees besides the work of the School Committee addressing the problems in the path of the renovation. Obviously, a major concern of all the towns is the final cost and the part to be played by the MSBA. Minuteman's Regional Agreement makes no provision for capital contributions from non-member towns nor does there seem to be any provision in the state laws governing regional schools. For most regional schools that is not a factor but for Minuteman it is since, for the past four years, an average 37% of the students (including post-graduates PGs) come from non-member towns -- 41% this year.

Starting January 2010, a Regional Agreement Task Force was formed composed of seven members representing member towns, including Selectmen Norman Cohen of Lexington and Thornton Ash of Carlisle, and six advisory members, including two School Committee members, the Superintendent and the Director of Business Operations. The charge of the task force was to examine the Regional Agreement and its impact on member and non-member enrollments, associated capital and operating requirements, and review options for representation under Mass. General Law.

After meeting monthly, the task force's report in November 2010 recommended changes in apportioning capital costs, operating assessments, and costs for post-graduates(PGs). It made no recommendation about changing the one vote per member-town voting structure of the school committee or about changing the procedure for withdrawal of a town from membership. The task

force also drafted suggested warrant articles to effect these changes in the regional agreement. During the spring and summer of 2011, the MSBA conducted its own analysis of 9<sup>th</sup> grade enrollment trends and analyzed data related to the original proposed school size of 950-1050 students as well as the district's historical enrollment data from member and non-member towns. As a result of the analysis a design enrollment of 800 students was recommended. The MSBA also issued a preliminary reimbursement rate of 40%.

### **October 18, 2011 Meeting**

Another group, the Town Managers' Working Group, met during the past year to address the financial issues involved. Carl Valente, Town Manager of Lexington, presented the report to the school committee.

Several models for financing the capital costs had been proposed, but at a meeting of the group on October 3 ten of the twelve town managers in attendance favored a model E that they found reduced inequitable extremes and paralleled the ability of towns to pay using Chapter 70 formulas. They did not think they could present model B to their selectmen and towns. These findings were contingent on the School Committee resolving the non-member towns' capital contributions or resizing the school to serve mainly the member towns. Mr. Valente emphasized how important all the managers present felt this project to be.

The Town Managers will meet with Selectmen and FinComs in their communities to discuss the issues and give feedback to the Superintendent and the School Committee Chair. Resolving the issue of contributions from the non-member towns may need to be resolved by the Legislature or possibly by the Department of Education.

The Superintendent reported that the Design Enrollment Certification had been received from the MSBA and needed to be signed. This is the first step in the series outlined by the MSBA.

There was much discussion about the size of the student body and how it affects the programs to be

offered. Some wanted to set a number now while others felt it more prudent to wait on the building committee as there are so many pending issues. The School Committee finally voted unanimously to accept and sign the Design Enrollment Certification. A Building Committee has been established and is currently comprised of eleven people; some from the member towns and some from other towns.

### **November 1, 2011 Meeting**

The committee discussed the proposed revisions to the Regional Agreement especially as it would spell out Model E and also touched on possible bonding options. Discussion with a bond lawyer is needed and will take place later. It was suggested that the amendment be delayed until 2013.

Discussion then focused on the creation of a stabilization fund and the possibility of placing such an article on the Town Warrants in 2012.

Assessment figures were given out for FY12 along with the tuition rates for non-member towns. The per pupil assessment for Carlisle is \$22,693, Concord \$22,092, and Lexington \$18,666 (Special Education (SPED) included but no transportation). Non-member tuition is \$18,375 with \$23,375 for a SPED student, no transportation. Contracts with Medford and Watertown specify \$15,500 for regular students and \$20,500 for a SPED student.

### **School data**

School Committee Members:

Carlisle - Donald Rober, appointed October 2011

Concord - Carrie Flood, announced Nov 7, 2011

Students as of October 1, 2010

Carlisle – 5 Concord - 22

(These numbers may include PGs)

Total enrollment as of October 1, 2010

Grades 9-12 was 616; 754 including PGs

Member towns - 445 (59%)

Non-member - 309 (41%)

Website: [www.Minuteman.org](http://www.Minuteman.org)

*Marjorie Daggett*

*LWVCC Town Government Initiative Committee*

# November 2011 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]**)

Following are excerpts from detailed information on the **Domestic Violence Services Network** web site. [dvvap@concordma.gov](mailto:dvvap@concordma.gov) or call 978-318-3421

## What is a 209A Restraining Order?

An Abuse Prevention Order, called a "209A Order", or a "protective order", "or restraining order", is a civil court order intended to provide protection from physical or sexual harm caused by force or threat of harm from a family or household member. You can obtain an order against:

- a spouse or former spouse
- a present or former household member
- a relative by blood or a present or former relative by marriage
- the parent of your minor child
- a person with whom you have or had a substantial dating relationship.

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

In addition to the crime of violating a 209A Order, an abuser can be charged with a number of other crimes committed at or near the time of the violation, some of which may include:

- Assault (G.L. c. 265, Section 13A), which is an attempt or offer to do bodily injury by force or violence or attempt to batter.
- Assault and Battery (GL c. 265, Section 13A), which is a harmful or unpermitted touching of another, no matter how slight, without a legal right to do so.
- Assault and Battery by Means of a Dangerous Weapon (GL c. 265, Section 15), which is a battery with a dangerous weapon, such as a baseball bat, a shod foot, a knife or other object either inherently dangerous or used in a way that may cause serious injury or death to another.
- Threats (GL c. 27, section 4), which are verbal or written threats to do harm which a victim reasonably believes the abuser can commit.
- Trespassing (GL c. 266, section 120), which is entering or remaining in a house or on land in violation of a 209A Order.
- Malicious Destruction Of Personal Property (GL c. 266, section 127), which is the destruction of or injury to personal property, a house or building in a manner that is willful and malicious.
- Stalking (GL c. 265, section, 43 (a)), which is the willful, malicious and repeated following or harassing of an individual and the making of threats with the intent to place that person in imminent fear of death or serious bodily injury. The penalties are greater for a conviction of a stalking crime committed in violation of a 209A Order

# Running for Office in Concord



**A Workshop Offering a Roadmap and  
Tips for Candidates and Campaigners**

**Thursday, December 1, 2011**

**7:30-9:30 p.m.**

**Town House Hearing Room  
22 Monument Square, Concord, MA**

## **Featured Panelists:**

- Anita Tekle, Town Clerk
- Eric Van Loon, Town Moderator
- Carmin Reiss, Board of Selectmen
- Peter Fischelis, School Committee
- K.C. Winslow, Housing Authority

It's time to learn the rules of the road.

The 2012 local election season is just around the corner!

**→ Town Caucus: January 9 → Town Election: March 6**

We'll survey the election cycle, deciding to run, finance laws, campaigning, and what comes after Election Day.

**→→** *Free and open to the public.*

Sponsored by:

**The League of Women Voters of Concord-Carlisle**

[www.lwvcc.org](http://www.lwvcc.org)   [league@lwvcc.org](mailto:league@lwvcc.org)   978-254-1598



## A PROPER FUNCTIONING SEPTIC SYSTEM CAN HELP MAINTAIN A HEALTHY LOCAL ENVIRONMENT

It is vitally important for those homes that are dependent on septic systems for liquid sewage disposal to be sure these septic systems function at their maximum efficiency. If they are not cleaned out on a set schedule, they are capable of overflowing and will transport the ingredients of their tanks into our lawns and eventually ponds and lakes.

Here is how you can care for your septic system:

1. Find out where the location of your system is on your land. Be sure to keep heavy equipment away from the drainage field and connecting pipes.
2. Don't plant any trees or shrubs near the drainage system. The roots can destroy your drainage field.
3. Clean your septic tanks every three to five years. Ask your septic cleaning company what the condition of your septic system is each time they clean it. It is important that the tank not accumulate a large amount of sludge in a very short amount of time. This depends in part on how many people are in your house, how many bathrooms you have in your house, and whether your kitchen drain contains an automatic garbage disposal.
4. Don't use your drainage system as a garbage pail. Do not put materials such as paper towels, disposable diapers, sanitary napkins, coffee grounds, drain cleaners, plastics, and grease down the drain. These items do not decompose easily. Never put down toxic substances such as paint solvents, degreasers, pesticides, left over medications and photographic chemicals. These substances can kill bacteria which are essential for the natural functioning of the tank.

