

# THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CONCORD-CARLISLE

# BULLETIN

October 2008

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

Volume 13 08-09 #1

## CALENDAR

### OCTOBER

1	Wed	LWVCC Board Meeting, 127 Commerford Rd. (Becky Shannon)	9 coffee, 9:30 Mtg
15	Wed	LWVCC ESC Meeting	1:30 PM
18	Sat	<b>LWVMass Fall Conference, Worcester Crowne Plaza</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>
19	Sun	<b>LWVCC Candidates Forum, Concord Town House</b>	<b>1:00 PM</b>
22	Wed	LWVMass League Phonathon, Barrett & Co., Walden St.	

### NOVEMBER

4	Tues	National & State Elections	Polls open 7 AM – 8 PM
5	Wed	LWVCC Board Meeting, 342 Sudbury Rd (Anne Hayden)	9 coffee, 9:30 mtg
12	Wed	<b>Public Forum: Responding to Climate Change, Alcott School</b>	<b>7:30 PM</b>
19	Wed	<b>LWVCC Book Group, Trustees Room, Concord Library</b>	<b>10-11:30 AM</b>
19	Wed	LWVCC ESC	1:30 PM

### DECEMBER

3	Wed	<b>LWVCC Board Meeting &amp; Member Holiday Potluck</b> <b>1360 Monument St. (Nancy Beeuwkes)</b>	9 coffee, 9:30 mtg <b>12:00 potluck lunch</b>
5	Fri	Concord Coordination Meeting, Town House	8:00 AM
17	Wed	LWVCC ESC	1:30 PM
28	Wed	<b>LWVCC Book Group, Trustees Room, Concord Free Public Library</b>	<b>10-11:30 AM</b>

### JANUARY

7	Wed	LWVCC Board Meeting, 41 Canterbury Court, Carlisle (Cindy Nock)	9 coffee, 9:30 Mtg
14	Wed	<b>LWVCC Member Breakfast, Colonial Inn</b>	
21	Wed	LWVCC ESC	1:30 PM
26	Mon	Concord Town Caucus, Alcott School	7:30 PM

### FEBRUARY

4	Wed	LWVCC Board Meeting & State Program Planning, 89 Crescent St. (Erin Pastuszenski)	
11	Wed	LWVCC ESC	1:30 PM
11	Wed	<b>LWVCC Open Meeting on Town Finances, TBA</b>	

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

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

ESC co-chair	Nancy Beeuwkes	(978) 371-7293	<a href="mailto:nbeeuwkes@aol.com">nbeeuwkes@aol.com</a>
ESC co-chair	Shawna Reid	(978) 371-3914	<a href="mailto:shawnareid@gmail.com">shawnareid@gmail.com</a>
Membership	Barbara Lewis	(978) 287-0049	<a href="mailto:blglewis@comcast.net">blglewis@comcast.net</a>
Bulletin Editor	Anne Hayden	(978) 369-8526	<a href="mailto:anne.hayden@comcast.net">anne.hayden@comcast.net</a>
Webmaster	Erin Pastuszenski	(978) 369-3842	<a href="http://www.lwvcc.com">http://www.lwvcc.com</a>

# EXECUTIVE STEERING COMMITTEE

Nancy Beeuwkes & Shawna Reid, ESC Co-Chairs

---

Dear League Friends,

It feels like Fall today. As I watch the horses galloping around the field next door I am reminded of the wonderful energy that takes hold of us during this season.

The Board has approved a very interesting and ambitious calendar. Some highlights:

On October 19<sup>th</sup>, Erin Pastuszenski has organized a Candidates Forum at the Town House. The Massachusetts House candidates will be responding to questions.

We are concerned about the **referendum questions on the November 4th ballot**, especially **Question #1** which seeks to eliminate the State income tax starting in 2009. Leagues throughout the State will educate the public on the reasons for the LWV opposition to this dangerous effort. With so much interest in the presidential race many citizens have not focused on this threat to funding for the State's role in public safety, healthcare, education etc., and the huge financial burden which would consequentially be shifted to the cities and towns of the Commonwealth. A similar question received 43% of the vote a few years ago. Considering the country's current financial crisis, the public might not be in a mood to carefully consider the consequences of this binding referendum. Please read the explanation of the state League's position in this *Bulletin* and call Barbara Lewis if you can give a couple of hours on Nov 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> to handout flyers opposing Question 1.

Cindy Nock is working with the high school on a student review for cable TV of all 3 ballot questions giving the pros and cons for each. Watch for it on your community news station.

The League's big Fall Forum will be at 7:30 PM on Wednesday November 12<sup>th</sup> at Alcott School. The subject is climate change and the need for green initiatives. Please save the date and invite your friends.

It was wonderful seeing so many of you at our September Member's Coffee organized by Barbara Lewis and hosted by Barbara Anthony. Massachusetts League President Diane Jeffery enjoyed meeting and talking with us. We also had a very enjoyable LWV Book Group meeting and potluck lunch September 24<sup>th</sup> organized by Anne Hayden.

Please save December 3<sup>rd</sup> for our annual Holiday Party and lunchtime potluck.

On October 22<sup>nd</sup> you will be asked to donate to the State League. Please give generously. The LWVM is very helpful to our League, is outstanding in lobbying the legislature for League causes, and always works hard to inform voters throughout our State of their rights and responsibilities.

Finally I would like to urge you all to go on our own League's website ([lwwcc.com](http://lwwcc.com)). You will be so impressed with the content and easy links to other informative sites. Erin Pastuszenski, our communications chair, has put a huge amount of time and great talent into the website. Kudos to Erin also for the wonderful coverage she has gotten this League in the *Concord Journal* and *Carlisle Mosquito*.

Sincerely,  
Nancy Beeuwkes & Shawna Reid  
Co-Chairs

P.S. Don't miss Paula Vandever's excellent article on our adventures at LWVUS National Convention last June.

## MEMBERSHIP

As you know, now is the time to renew your membership in the League. Many thanks to all the members who have responded to the emails that contained an attached membership form. For some this was the easiest way to renew. A few asked that I mail them their form which I was happy to do, and those that do not use emailing received a form in the mail. If you have not sent in your form and dues, please do so soon. It is great to not have to continue to work at this for very long.

A membership form is included in this Bulletin because we are asking all members to think of a friend or neighbor who might be interesting in joining the League. Or you might be approached because of your known affiliation with the League, especially at this exciting time when so many are focused on the importance of keeping democracy strong. Having a membership form to give to someone on the spot or shortly after can be a great invitation to be a part of this important organization. If there is someone you would like us to invite to join, just get in touch with me and I will send them a letter and form.

If we increase our membership (which is always a good goal) by 10% this year, LWV of Massachusetts will not charge us the per member payment for the new members because of the MRI, or Membership Recruitment Initiative, that they are conducting this year.

We do have new members to welcome so far this year,

- Winifred Ferguson of Garfield Road,
- Jan McGinn of Lexington road, who is our new Off Board Advisor on Concord School affairs,

- Kathy Mayer of River Road in Carlisle who received a gift membership from Cindy Nock (this is also a great way to bring in new members)
- Lori Pazaris of Old Marlboro Road, our Director on Green Initiatives,
- And Katharine White of Newbury Court.

A warm welcome to all these new members.

A Membership Committee has been formed this fall consisting of Anne Hayden, Cindy Nock, Janet Rothrock and myself. It is working on ways to increase membership and better serve our members, both new and long standing. If you would like to get a bit more involved in a way that is not too large a commitment, please contact me if you would like to find out more about this group.

If you have any questions about your membership, please call me or send an email and I will help in any way I can.

*Barbara Lewis, Membership Chair*  
978-287-0049, [blglewis@comcast.net](mailto:blglewis@comcast.net)

## NORMA SHAPIRO RECEIVES ACLU AWARD

In June, LWVCC long time member Norma Shapiro received the Richard Baldwin Award for her lifetime of advocacy for a wide range of civil rights and civil liberties issues such as reproductive freedom, same-sex marriage rights, equal opportunity through her work on behalf of public schools, and her opposition to the death penalty. Congratulations to Norma for this much-deserved award. LWVCC is proud of all that you have accomplished.

*Ardis Bordman*

**VISIT LWVCC ONLINE  
IN BETWEEN BULLETINS**

The Concord-Carlisle League's *Bulletin* is an important resource for members, but it can only provide a snapshot taken at the time of publication. How can you check for updates in between issues of the *Bulletin*? Visit [www.lwvcc.com](http://www.lwvcc.com) anytime, day or night, to search for changes or additions to the Calendar or other late-breaking news. Most events on the Calendar include a link to Yahoo! Maps, so you can easily track down a location or driving directions. Explore all the pages of our website, and please let us know if you have suggestions for making our website a more useful tool for members and the public. To send a message to our webmaster, Erin Pastuszewski, either click on the "webmaster" link at the bottom of each page of the website or email [Communications@lwvcc.com](mailto:Communications@lwvcc.com).

*Erin Pastuszewski*  
*LWVCC Communications Director*

**LWVUS OFFERS  
DISCUSSION LISTS AND MORE**

As a member of the LWV of Concord-Carlisle, you are also a member of the LWV of Massachusetts and the LWVUS. League members can sign up to receive an electronic newsletter and to participate in LWVUS email discussion lists. You can also sign up to receive the LWVUS's magazine, the *National Voter*, electronically.

To subscribe to the LWVUS electronic newsletter, "LeaguE-Voice," go to the LWVUS website ([www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)). During election season, you will see an Election 2008 page, rather than the usual LWVUS homepage. Click on the LWV logo in the upper left corner or the word

"Home" in the lower right corner to get to the homepage. To subscribe to "LeaguE-Voice," type your email address in the box under the "Stay Informed" heading on the homepage. Non-League members may subscribe to "LeaguE-Voice", too.

League members may also sign up for email discussion lists. Log in or register at <https://member.lwv.org/Login.asp>. Issue-related and role-related email discussion lists cover topics ranging from health care and natural resources to membership and voter service. Just check the boxes beside the lists you wish to join and click "Submit" before signing out. You will receive a confirmation message by email to which you must reply to complete the process.

If you want to start receiving the *National Voter* electronically, rather than as hard copy in the mail, log in or register as described in the preceding paragraph. Once logged in, click on "Update Profile." A page will open with your personal contact information, which you may update. At the bottom of the page, you may check a box to receive the *National Voter* electronically. Checkboxes are also available to opt out of all LWVUS emails or postal mail.

If you have trouble with any of the sign-up processes described above, please feel free to contact Erin Pastuszewski at [Communications@lwvcc.com](mailto:Communications@lwvcc.com).

*Erin Pastuszewski,*  
*LWVCC Communications Director*

## CANDIDATES FORUM OCTOBER 19, 2008

The League of Women of Voters of Concord-Carlisle (LWVCC) will host a Candidates Forum on Sunday, October 19, 2008, at 1:00 p.m. in the Town House, 22 Monument Square, Concord. The candidates for State Representative for the 14<sup>th</sup> Middlesex District – Rep. Cory Atkins (D-Concord) and Richard P. McClure of Chelmsford – will speak and answer questions from the League and audience members. Nancy Carapezza (LWV of Wayland and past LWV of Massachusetts President) will moderate. The *Concord Journal* and the *Carlisle Mosquito* are joining the League in co-sponsoring this voter education event; LWVCC member Becky Shannon will videotape the forum for later airing on local cable Channel 8.

Please plan to attend the October 19<sup>th</sup> forum and bring others who want to learn about the candidates and their positions. Also, please remind everyone that they must be registered to vote by Wednesday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, if they wish to cast a ballot on November 4<sup>th</sup>. For information on voter registration, click on "Voter Information" at [www.lwvcc.com](http://www.lwvcc.com) or contact the Town Clerk. For statewide voting information from the Massachusetts League, visit [www.votinginfo.info](http://www.votinginfo.info). Finally, please vote on November 4<sup>th</sup> and encourage everyone to participate in this historic election!

*Erin Pastuszewski*  
*Candidates Forum Organizer*

## TIPS FOR DEBATE WATCHERS

This has been a banner year for debates and candidate forums. LWVUS offers the following tips to help you get the most out of watching a debate:

1. **Think Ahead** – Before the debate, ask yourself which issues are most important to you, and jot down what you'd like to learn from each of the candidates.
2. **Are They Answering the Question?** Pay attention to how the candidates answer the questions. Are they specific? Sincere? Knowledgeable?
3. **Keep Track of Topics** – Are the candidates being asked about your priority issues? Are the questions fair and pertinent?
4. **Talk it out!** – Afterwards, talk about the debate with your friends & family. Did the debate sway your decision? Did you learn something new about the candidates' positions?
5. **VOTE on November 4th.** It is your best opportunity to make your voice heard and help shape the issues that affect all of us! Visit [VOTE411.org](http://VOTE411.org) to prepare yourself.

For more information on debate-watching, including ideas and materials for hosting a debate-watching party, visit [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org) today and click on "Visit Debates 101." (You can also reach this page by clicking on "Projects" and then "Voter Information.") On the Debates 101 page, you can download a party-hosting kit and related tools. Hosting a debate-watching event is a fun way to educate and inform voters. Give it a try, and share your story with the *Bulletin!*

*Erin Pastuszewski*  
*Communications Director*

**YOU CAN RECEIVE TOWN OF  
CONCORD NEWS BY EMAIL**

Did you know that the Town of Concord's website ([www.concordma.gov](http://www.concordma.gov)) contains a wealth of information on our local government? On the website, you can subscribe to a variety of email notification lists including News and Notices, Town Manager Reports, and Board of Selectmen Minutes. To subscribe, go to [www.concordma.gov/Subscriber](http://www.concordma.gov/Subscriber), or from the homepage at [www.concordma.gov](http://www.concordma.gov), click on the "Subscribe to News" tab. The instructions are easy to follow. Sign up and you will soon be a better informed citizen.

*Erin Pastuszynski  
LWVCC Communications Director*

**RESCUING AMERICA'S HEALTH  
CARE**

**A talk by Dr. Arnold Relman**

Sunday, October 19, 2008  
2:30 to 4:30 p.m.  
The Goodnow Library  
21 Concord Road, Sudbury

Dr. Relman is the former Editor-in-Chief of the New England Journal of Medicine and Professor Emeritus of Medicine and of Social Medicine at Harvard Medical School. He will discuss reforms needed to improve the U.S. health care system.

For more information contact Paula Vandever, (978) 369-9268.

**VOTER SERVICE ACTION**

Our League staffed voter registration tables at eleven Concord and Carlisle back to school nights. We provided registration forms and absentee ballot request forms. Some voters were not aware that if they had moved within the Town it was necessary to submit a registration form to the Town Clerk to avoid delays on election day.

The forms requested varied from school to school. For example, at the Alcott School, we gave out ten mail-in registration forms, two absentee ballot forms, and one request for an absentee ballot by a family member. At CCHS, we gave out more forms for an absentee ballot request by a family member, presumably for students now attending colleges.

League members who volunteered for this service were Barbara Anthony, Mary Chapman, Nancy Cronin, Becky Shannon, Paula Vandever, Betsy Sluder, Erin Pastuszynski, Cindy Nock, Pam Callahan, Sue Cannon, Erica Morrison, Janet Rothrock, Mary Beth Clemm, Louise Haldeman, Susan Livingston, Linda Fantasia, and Barbara Lewis.

*Ardis Bordman  
LWVCC Secretary*

**2008 FUNDRAISING APPEAL**

Additional contributions for our annual appeal have arrived. The new total is \$1,150 from 22 donors. New donors are Nancy Nelson, Mario and Corina Favorito, Joe and Verona Wheeler, Sylvia Klinck, and Donald and Margery Stevenson. It is gratifying to get support from our neighbors.

*Barbara Anthony  
Annual Appeal Chair*

**LWVCC BOOK GROUP**  
**Wednesday, November 19, 2008**  
**10:00-11:30 AM**

**Trustees Room, Concord Library**  
***The Nine* by Jeffrey Toobin**

All league members and their friends are invited to attend the November meeting of the LWVCC Book Group. We will be discussing *The Nine*, by Jeffrey Toobin. This book surveys the Supreme Court from the Reagan administration onward. In Toobin's estimation, Sandra Day O'Connor played a pivotal role with her moderate swing-voter status. He places the Court not in a cloistered corner but right in the middle of American life and politics.

**January book:**  
***The Peabody Sisters***  
**by Megan Marshall**

We are hoping that Ms. Marshall will be able to join us in January to discuss her book on Elizabeth, Mary and Sophia Peabody. They played pivotal roles in the American Romanticism period of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and were familiar figures in Concord in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century.

*Anne Hayden, Book Group Leader*

**SUSAN B. ANTHONY TO VISIT!**

On Thursday evening, October 16<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m., Susan B. Anthony will visit the Nashua Public Library. Sally Matson will bring this suffragette hero to life in her performance of "Susan B. Anthony – the invincible!" If you are interested in joining other League members for this fun and fascinating evening out, perhaps have dinner beforehand, call or email Barbara Lewis, 978-298-0049 or [blglewis@comcast.net](mailto:blglewis@comcast.net).

*Barbara Lewis, Membership Chair*

**LWVM FALL CONFERENCE**  
***FINDING THE COMMON WEALTH***  
**CROWNE PLAZA, WORCESTER**

Sat, October 19, 2009 9 AM-3 PM

Featured speakers:

Lt. Governor Tim Murray

Luncheon keynote speaker

Senator Harriette Chandler

Morning Keynote Speaker

Workshops on Ballot Q #1, Healthcare,

Lobbying, Moderator and Discussion

Leader training, Membership Initiative

Cost: \$40

Register: online or (617) 523-2999

**2009 LWVCC HOUSE TOUR**  
**Save the date - April 15, 2009**

The LWVCC House Tour, a fundraiser which we hold every two years, is such a tremendous event for our League. It is great fun, well done, and fascinating to see how individuals in our towns create personal spaces with great purpose. This special day is an important showcase for the League and provides vital funds for us to carry on our work. Our House Tour leaders, Di Clymer and Holly Cratsley, are wonderful contributors with this effort and every member should try to save this date if possible and participate to make the House Tour a great success.

*Barbara Lreis*

# PUBLIC FORUM: RESPONDING TO CLIMATE CHANGE

---

On Wed November 12 at 7:30 pm at the Alcott School Auditorium, the League of Women Voters, in conjunction with the Concord Climate Action Network, Carlisle Climate Action and the Concord Land Conservation Trust, will present an informative panel discussion,

### ***Responding to Climate Change.***

Distinguished speakers include retiring State Senator Pamela P. Resor; Arnold Arboretum Botanist and Harvard Graduate School of Design Lecturer Peter Del Tredici, Ph.D.; Chair of the Concord Comprehensive Sustainable Energy Committee, Brian Crouse; and P.E., LEED AP, Co-founder of EnergySavvy, Inc. and owner of AGP Energy Solutions, Andy Proulx. This is an exciting opportunity for League members and friends to learn what the climate change 'buzz' is all about!

Massachusetts has recently passed leading edge energy and climate legislation. Senator Pam Resor has stood at the helm of the state Environment and Global Warming committees. Attendees will hear about this and other environmental legislation and the promise it holds for our economic future.

We will also learn about actions our towns can take. Brian Crouse will discuss environmental sustainable planning in Concord.

Climate change presents unique challenges for plants and people. Renowned botanist Peter Del Tredici will provide valuable insight on our gardens and Andy Proulx on our home and local energy use. Peter, who teaches courses at Harvard, has taught *Sustainable Landscapes*. Andy, a member of Concord's Green Team and Climate Action Network, Concord CAN, is well know for working with residents and businesses to reduce energy costs and promote local agriculture.

This evening event is one that you will want to attend. Everyone is invited so bring your family, friends and neighbors. For further information, check our LWVCC website: <http://lwvcc.com> or email Lori at [Green\\_Initiatives@lwvcc.com](mailto:Green_Initiatives@lwvcc.com).

*Lori Pazaris, Director  
LWVCC Green Initiatives*



## **THE LOW CARBON INITIATIVE**

The Low Carbon Initiative, a nationwide initiative focused on reducing the level of carbon dioxide gas emitted and non-renewable energy sources used by households, is part of a widespread grassroots effort to respond to climate change.

In order to understand how we can benefit from Massachusetts's Energy and Climate legislation and save energy costs, **League members are encouraged** to calculate their carbon footprint. You may access the on-line calculator at the [Empowerment Institute's website](http://www.empowermentinstitute.net/lcd/lcd_files/LCDcalcNet.html): [http://www.empowermentinstitute.net/lcd/lcd\\_files/LCDcalcNet.html](http://www.empowermentinstitute.net/lcd/lcd_files/LCDcalcNet.html). For further information check the LWVCC website: <http://lwvcc.com/greeninitiatives.html> or contact us at [Green\\_Initiatives@lwvcc.com](mailto:Green_Initiatives@lwvcc.com). We will, also, provide information on manually calculating your footprint.

Once you collect the data you need for the calculation (utility bills - heating and electricity, yearly car and airplane miles, and quantity of trash disposed of each week), the actual on-line calculation takes 30- 40 minutes. The calculator does not save your information so before closing the site, use your mouse to copy the page, paste into a word application and save it to your hard drive. We invite you to email your data to [Green\\_Initiatives@lwvcc.com](mailto:Green_Initiatives@lwvcc.com) for incorporation into town-wide databases.

*Lori Pazaris, Director  
Lwvcc Green Initiatives*

## **OBSERVER CORPS**

The League's Observer Corps has long played an important part in providing accurate and detailed information about the workings and deliberations of the many Boards and Committee in the Town of Concord. Unfortunately the number of observers has dwindled and the observer corps was not as active in the past year as it had been in the past. We would like to revive it and it is our hope that it could now be published on our website although the option of a smaller mailing, perhaps via subscription could certainly be continued. Our website is of course available to any one who wishes to log on either at home or at the library.

However, none of this can happen without the most vital part of the process, observers themselves. A few of our stalwart observers will continue but others have regretfully said that due to a variety of reasons, they can no longer continue. We need new volunteers. Observers customarily attend the meetings of a given committee and report on the progress of that committee in a balanced manner. The service is particularly useful as often many committees are discussing different aspects of the same problem and it is through the observer report that the larger picture emerges.

If you are at all interested in giving this a try, please call the Observer Corps Editor, Louise Haldeman 978 369 8562 or email [louise4292@earthlink.net](mailto:louise4292@earthlink.net) with LWVCC in the subject line. All the observers past and present will tell you that it is enjoyable and informative and the town needs us.

*Louise Haldeman, Observer Corp Chair*

# **48<sup>th</sup> National Convention of the LWVUS: Reaching New Heights Together June 13-17, 2008 in Portland, OR.**

---

Having just seen the U.S. Democratic National Convention and Republican National Convention on television, we know the excitement and celebration that takes place at national conventions. Add the procedures and actions of our Town Meetings and the informational forums of our local League and you've got a good idea of what it's like being at a LWVUS National Convention.

There were caucuses put on by local and state Leagues to inform and promote specific issues; workshops to train members in certain areas; and the plenary sessions where all the delegates, about 700 in number, joined together to conduct the business of the Convention. This year, the LWVCC headed to the Convention with a mission of increasing activity in healthcare reform. So let us take you to the 48<sup>th</sup> Convention with a ring-side seat among the delegates.

We arrived on Friday afternoon and with the guidance of Nancy, our liaison to the National Board, we began our journey. First we registered, settled in, attended the Opening Reception, differing caucuses and finally Paula attended a 10:00 p.m. meeting with other healthcare advocates.

Saturday morning the Wares Market opened at 8:00 a.m. We began the day after an early morning breakfast. Then it was time to choose which caucus to attend. Three of us went off to one or two of the morning caucuses on healthcare reform. The first, "Massachusetts Healthcare Reform:

Miracle or Mirage" was attended by a standing room crowd, with delegates spilling out into the hallway. The second healthcare caucus was a discussion about strategy for getting the vote we wanted and was also standing room only. Barbara went to a caucus on Creation of a Department of Peace which was fascinating and generated great enthusiasm.

Next we had an on-your-own lunch break under the bright blue skies in a stunning "Urban Meadow" created from thousands of pots of meadow flowers in the Portland outdoor square, just two blocks from the hotel. Returning to the opening plenary session, we heard the Honorable Barbara Roberts, the first woman Governor of Oregon, 1991-1995 speak on "Women as Political Leaders—Our History and Experiences." (Go to the LWVUS website to hear the fascinating speeches live.)

Mary G. Wilson gave her "LWVUS President's Address: State of the League." She began, "Two years ago you elected a Board of Directors that was committed to an open, sustainable, accountable, visible and viable League ... As we say out west, we're on the right trail and we know the lay of the land before us and so I do believe we've made progress on those goals ... working hand in hand with the state and local Leagues." The business portion of the convention continued including approving motions to adopt a PMP rate of \$28.00 for FY 2008-2009 and \$29.20 for FY 2009-2010. At the dinner break,

we attended a delicious feast sponsored by the Massachusetts delegation. Then other caucuses followed, including: “Getting Serious About Climate Change,” “National Popular Vote for President,” “Protect our Great Lakes,” “Bylaws and Chocolates,” “Calling Out to All Youth,” and “a Health Care Video of Frontline’s Sick Around the World.”

The rest of the days continued in the same vein and could have blurred together except for the interesting and passionate motions and speakers. The Honorable John Kitzhaber, Governor of Oregon, 1994-2002, (also holding other elected positions as well as working as an MD) wowed us with memories of his mother as a member of the LWV. His speech: “The Unfinished Business of the Baby Boom Generation: Health Care for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century” brought the delegates to a standing ovation. During the Convention Banquet, speaker Justice Rebecca Koruglis, Colorado Supreme Court addressed the delegates and attendees.

On Monday we had 14 people lined up at pro microphones to speak before the motion to adopt the LWVUS Board recommended item, to adopt a healthcare program to educate members and communities in order to be better prepared to do healthcare advocacy as needed. There was only one con speaker. Mary Wilson called the question and it passed by a large margin.

Other motions that were adopted were:

1. A motion to amend the LWVUS Principles by adding, “The LWVUS believes that all powers of the U.S. government should be exercised within the constitutional framework of a balance among the three

branches of government: legislative, executive, and judicial.”

2. A motion to adopt “a Multi-Level Education and Advocacy Campaign to promote solutions to global climate change” as an amendment to the proposed program.
3. A motion to move adoption of the non-recommended study item entitled: “The advisability of using the National Popular Vote compact among the states as a method for electing the President.”

Near the end of the Convention, Shawna spoke to present the LWVMA’s Guidance to the Board suggesting that they establish an Audit Committee to assure that the LWVUS internal controls are in place and consistent with industry best practices and assure the future financial stability of the LWVUS.

The Atlanta League gave a humorous presentation about Atlanta as an invitation to the 2010 LWVUS Convention and soon thereafter the Convention was adjourned.

We made time to see the Japanese Garden and the Rose Garden, both world-famously beautiful, after the close of the Convention. Consider attending the next Convention. It is a demanding but fulfilling and often fun experience and we thank you for sending us.

Nancy Beeuwkes  
Barbara Lewis  
Shawna Reid  
Paula Vandever