

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CONCORD-CARLISLE

BULLETIN

LWVCC Website: www.lwvcc.org

September 2014

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

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CALENDAR

Be sure to read about our new monthly program: First Friday Conversations! Starred below!

SEPTEMBER

- 16 Tues CCTV Field Production Class for LWVCC Volunteers 5:30-7:30pm
- 19 Fri Money in Politics event, MIT 6:00-9:00pm
- 21 Sun People's Climate March, New York City
- 23 Tues National Voter Registration Day
- 24 **Wed LWVCC Autumn Membership Coffee, Concord Greene 9:00-11:30am**

OCTOBER

- 1 Wed LWVCC Board Meeting, 320 Lowell Rd. (Paula Vandever) 9 coffee, 9:30 mtg
- *3 Fri LWVCC First Friday Conversations, Fowler Library, West Concord 9:15-11:00am**
- 5 Sun LWVCC Legislative Candidates Forum, Willard School 2:00-4:00pm
- 15 **Wed LWVCC Book Group, Fowler Library, West Concord 10:00-11:30am**
- 15 Wed Last day to register to vote in the November 4 general election
- 19 **Sun LWVCC State Treasurer & Auditor Candidates Forum, Willard 2:00-3:30pm**

NOVEMBER

- 4 Tues Massachusetts Election Day Polls open 7:00am-8:00pm
- 5 Wed LWVCC Board Meeting, 89 Crescent Rd. (Erin Pastuszewski) 9 coffee, 9:30 mtg
- *7 Fri LWVCC First Friday Conversations, Fowler Library, West Concord 9:15-11:00am**

DECEMBER

- 3 Wed LWVCC Board Meeting, 1360 Monument St. (Nancy Beeuwkes) 9 coffee, 9:30 mtg.
Potluck Lunch & Program 11:30am-1:30pm
- *5 Fri LWVCC First Friday Conversations, Fowler Library, West Concord 9:15-11:00am**
- 8 Mon Concord Town Warrant opens

JANUARY

- 5 Mon Concord Town Warrant closes
- 7 Wed LWVCC Board Meeting, 1404 Main St. (Julie Rohwein) 9:00 coffee, 9:30 mtg
- *9 Fri LWVCC First Friday Conversations, Fowler Library, West Concord 9:15-11:00am**

*Members are invited to attend monthly Board meetings.
Please contact Dee 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.

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dee Ortner, President

September 2014

Dear League Members,

After this always-remember-the-summer-of -2014 with its (mostly) cool evenings, lush and fragrant flower gardens and an overabundance of fruits and veggies, we're back! Not that the League took much of a break, but the Board didn't meet in July and some of us chilled - at least for a bit.

However, no more...

Just this morning (September 3rd) at our Board meeting there was so much time-sensitive information to report on that the usual October Bulletin is coming out in September! As a prelude to what you'll read on the following pages and to provide some context, I want to relay a few drum-rolls and shout-outs to our expanding list of Committees.

- **Voter Service Committee** - is managing 10 voter registration drives at back to school events in Concord and Carlisle PLUS a US Congress/State Legislative candidate forum, PLUS a State Treasurer/Auditor candidate forum, PLUS a special national voter registration initiative AND several training programs all by October 19th.
- **Education Committee** - This newly formed group already has an impressive number of members (12) and is scheduled to meet monthly starting in October. Before then, you can learn more about its initiatives at our Fall Get-together on September 24th.
- **Town Government Initiative Committee (Concord)** - A new monthly speaker series called *First Friday Conversations* will focus on providing information and raising awareness of our Town's departments and issues that affect our lives and life in Concord. This series will start on October 3rd.
- **Observer Corps** - Yes, it's back, and just in time! With the interconnectedness of all things Concord, Carlisle and Concord-Carlisle, we needed to have a team who could help us make collective sense of the issues facing our towns and communities. Eight members, and counting, have volunteered to attend and report on various Town Boards and Committee meetings.

This is what we do for ourselves, our League members and our community. In order to make democracy work, you need to participate. We invite you to attend our events and forums, to volunteer your skills and to learn with us.

Yours in League,
Dee Ortner, President

MEMBER NEWS

Paula Vandever, Membership Chair

LWVCC ANNUAL

AUTUMN MEMBER GATHERING

The LWVCC Annual Autumn Member Gathering is scheduled for September 24th from 9:00 AM to 11:30 AM at the Clubhouse of Concord Greene in West Concord. You are invited to attend this event where LWVCC members and their guests will have the opportunity to gather and meet each other.

This year we will have a unique program with two panels: one with Carlisle and Concord Town officials and the second with Concord and Carlisle School officials. During each panel discussion, the officials will address the current state of our towns and our schools through an exciting question and answer format. Hear the most current updates as well as the personal reflections of each panelist about the issues and directions being considered for the coming year. Refreshments will be served. Please contact Paula Vandever, Membership Director, at membership@lwgcc.org to make reservations, ask questions, request a ride or offer a ride.

RENEWAL TIME

Now is the time to renew your membership. Our League year runs from July 1st to June 30th. If you have not yet renewed, please send a check to LWVCC, P.O. Box 34, Concord, MA 01742 or go online to our website www.lwgcc.org and click "Join Us." You may pay your dues with PayPal or with a credit card by clicking "PayPal

Guest" on the same page, filling in your information and clicking "Continue." Please be as generous as you are able as it is our members and friends who make our work possible. Any amount above the dues is greatly appreciated since most of the dues are used to support the LWVUS and the LWVMA.

WE HOPE YOU GET INVOLVED

The Membership Committee is looking forward to a fabulous year with many new programs as well as our well-known events such as candidates' forums. You may join the fun by participating in one or more of the important programs at the local, state or national level. Or, you may simply keep informed by reading the information in the Bulletins, the websites, and the Monday Member News. However involved you are able to be, your membership is critical in making us a strong influence in our towns and schools, our state and our nation. The LWV studies carefully, then advocates for what we decide will "Make our Democracy Work." Let us know your concerns and ideas.

Membership Committee: Nancy Beeuwkes, Mary Chapman, Irmi Doane, Robert Hilsinger, Barbara Lewis and Paula Vandever, Chair.

VOTER SERVICE

Erin Pastuszenski, Voter Service Director

Fall 2014 – Voter Registration

There are lots of opportunities this fall to help voters register in time to vote on November 4. The last day to register is October 15th. The League is staffing voter registration tables at Back-to-School Nights in Concord and Parents' Nights in Carlisle. If you'd like to help, contact VoterService@lwvcc.org or click on the SignUpGenius link in Monday Member News to sign up online.

The Voter Service Committee conducted two voter registration training sessions for volunteers (September 4 and 12), covering the registration form, absentee voting and best sources of information for voters. We plan to hold similar sessions at least annually.

LWVCC hopes to partner with an area high school on National Voter Registration Day, Tuesday, September 23. Read about this nationwide effort to register voters at <http://www.nationalvoterregistrationday.org>. Contact VoterService@lwvcc.org, if you'd like to help out on September 23.

Fall 2014 – Candidates' Forums

With the assistance of several other local Leagues, the League of Women Voters of Concord-Carlisle is the hosting sponsor of two major candidates' forums this fall:

Legislative Candidates' Forum

Sunday, October 5, 2014, 2:00-4:00pm
Willard School, 185 Powder Mill Rd., Concord
U.S. Congress (MA 3rd Dist.)
MA State Senator (3rd Middlesex Dist.)
MA State Representative (14th Middlesex Dist.)

State Treasurer and Auditor Candidates' Forum

Sunday, October 19, 2014, 2:00-3:30pm
Willard School, 185 Powder Mill Rd., Concord

The public may submit questions for the candidates at questions@lwvcc.org.

We need your help!

**Many volunteers are needed for successful candidates' forums. Please contact VoterService@lwvcc.org if you can help on October 5 or 19, or if you have suggestions for LWV questions for the candidates.

**Join our video crew! Learn the ropes (camera operation, sound, lighting) with CCTV at a Field Production class just for LWVCC volunteers, on Tuesday, September 16, 5:30-7:30pm, at the studio at CCHS. League members and family members can sign up for this opportunity to learn new skills. Contact VoterService@lwvcc.org any time before class begins to see if there is space available.

Fall 2014 – November 4 Election

The League encourages all registered voters to cast their ballots on November 4th.

Information on candidates running for the six statewide offices (Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State, Treasurer and Auditor) is available at www.lwvma.org in the Massachusetts LWV's Voters' Guide. Other races on the ballot are Senator in Congress, Representative in Congress, Governor's Council, State Senator, State Representative, District Attorney and Register of Probate. As LWV candidate forum videos from around the state become available for online viewing, LWVCC will add the links to its Voter Information web page for all races on the Concord and Carlisle ballots. Visit www.lwvcc.org, and click on Voter Information.

Join the “Vote Tuesday” sign team!
Would you like to make sure that
LWVCC “Vote Tuesday” signs
always remind voters
to head to the polls?
Contact VoterService@lwvcc.org.

Voter Service Committee

If you’d like to learn more about our Voter Service activities and be in on the planning, join the Voter Service Committee. The latest meeting was held by phone on August 26th, and we’ll soon schedule a meeting for late October. If you would like a copy of the August meeting minutes, contact VoterService@lwvcc.org. At the October meeting, we’ll talk about voter service for town elections and town meetings, including our annual effort to encourage people to run for office and volunteer in local government. Hope to see you at the next meeting! Watch Monday Member News for date, time and location.

Summer 2014 Recap

CCHS Senior BBQ, June 12, 2014 – Judy LaRocca and Erin Pastuszynski registered 47 new voters at this annual high school event during Senior Week. The new voters resided in Concord (31), Carlisle (12), Boston (3) and Lincoln (1).



At the June 12th Senior BBQ at Emerson Field in Concord, graduating CCHS senior John Grace hands his voter registration form to Judy LaRocca, member of the League of Women Voters of Concord-Carlisle. LWV registered 47 new, young voters at the BBQ.

Students lined up to register and receive “I Registered to Vote Today” stickers. The *Concord Journal* printed a photo, which is also posted on LWVMA’s Facebook page and reprinted in this Bulletin.

Carlisle Old Home Day, June 28, 2014 – Cindy Nock coordinated the LWVCC’s booth at this annual town fair, and volunteers registered 12 voters.

Concord Picnic in the Park, July 4, 2014 – We were ready to go, with Dee Orner and Deena Whitfield taking the lead, but the booths were cancelled due to weather. We’ll do it next year!

Primary Election, September 9, 2014 – Leading up to the early September primaries, we submitted letters to the editor encouraging voting and directing voters to the LWV of Massachusetts’ online pre-primary voters’ guide. We also reserved locations for our “Vote Tuesday” signs, which were displayed starting a week before Election Day.

Erin Pastuszynski, Voter Service Director
VoterService@lwvcc.org, 617-921-8064

FIRST FRIDAY CONVERSATIONS

This year the League is sponsoring a series of monthly talks related to Town Government that are open to the public. Our goal is to provide information about and update citizens about the responsibilities, scope and function of the various boards and committees, other important topics in Concord and to allow for and encourage questions from the community.

The series will be held the 'First Friday' of each month, except in January and April when it will be the second Friday, in the meeting room of the Fowler Library. Each month we will focus on a particular Board or Committee of the town, its workings, a general overview, and current projects or challenges. The Town Manager, Chris Whalen, supports this program and will encourage his staff to participate as speakers at these meetings.

Each *First Friday Conversation's* format will be a talk followed by a question and answer period. Refreshments will be provided. Eventually we hope to have the sessions filmed by CCTV.

The October and November talks are outlined below. We hope to present in December a talk by the Community Preservation Committee.

Marge Daggett, First Fridays Coordinator

FIRST FRIDAYS START OCTOBER 3

The initial meeting of our *First Friday Conversations* will be on **Friday, October 3, 2014**, in the meeting room of the **Fowler Library at 9:15 AM**. The program, "**What's UP and What's Next**," will focus on the Planning Board. The speaker will be **Elizabeth Hughes**, Town Planner for the Town of Concord. She will go over the basics of the Planning Board's operation, e. g. charge, appointing authority, relation to Town Meeting, and guiding rules and laws as well as give an overview of some of the current major projects awaiting planning approval.

Our second program, on **November 7**, will focus on the various **Affordable Housing** agencies and committees. This program has not been fully

planned as yet, but we expect to hear from representatives of the Concord Housing Authority, the Concord Housing Development Corporation, and the Concord Housing Foundation/Trust. Further details will be printed in the *Concord Journal* and emailed in the LWVCC's Monday Morning News.

Each talk will be followed by a question and answer period. Refreshments will be provided.

Marge Daggett, First Fridays Coordinator

OBSERVER REPORT

After a hiatus of several years, the LWVCC has rejuvenated the **OBSERVER CORPS**. This group monitors citizen boards of Concord and Carlisle with the objective of keeping our members up-to-date on the activities of their town boards and also, possibly, suggesting improvements in their record keeping, attendance and parliamentary procedures. Our current observers are as follows:

Irmi Doane – Concord Zoning Board of Appeals
Marge Daggett – Minuteman Regional High School
Susan Frey – Concord Natural Resources Commission
Evin Phillips – Concord Board of Selectmen
Cindy Nock – Carlisle School Committee
Ingrid Detweiler – Concord Free Public Library (with assistance from Diane Proctor)
Diane Proctor – Concord & Concord-Carlisle Regional School Committees
Anita Barker – Concord Planning Board (with assistance from Paula Vandever)

We need additional observers! Please let us know of your availability and interests and join the Observer Corps. Most town boards meet once or twice a month, and their schedules and agendas are reported on the Concord and Carlisle Town websites. Contact Anita Barker, Chair (BARKER58@gmail.com or 978-254-5692). Thank you!

Anita Barker, Observer Corps Chair

CONCORD TOWN GOVERNMENT INITIATIVE COMMITTEE

This year the LWVCC Concord Town Government Initiative Committee (TGIC)'s emphasis will be on learning more about our town government operations and how to increase public participation, especially by encouraging citizens to serve on local boards and committees. We want to focus on the requirements of the Open Meeting law, the Public Records Request laws, and the Conflict of Interest laws. (www.mass.gov/ago/openmeeting or contact the Division of Open Government at 617-963-2540 for information.) As we increase our Observer Corps, we hope to become more active in this area.

With the town long range plan due for revisions, we plan to become more familiar with that process, recognizing that town growth, changing demographics, the need for low and moderate housing, and increased traffic may well affect the character of Concord as we know it. The effects on the town and school budgets are inevitable. We are considering a forum on planning as needs change, and consider Concord as a town in transition from a "small" town to a town with more complex needs, issues, and population.

One of those issues likely to be on the town warrant in 2015 is the Nagog Pond water supply improvement plan. Such large Town expenditures are inevitable if we hope to maintain quality of services AND meet state/national requirements. Later in the year, we will monitor the formation of the town meeting warrant followed by discussion and evaluation of the articles.

The committee will also be working on compiling information about our boards and committees and general town operations. This will be posted on the League website. It will include basic information about each board or committee, e.g., appointment procedure, charge, and whether it has legal requirements-such as the planning board.

The Concord TGIC welcomes you to join us as we work on our various areas of interest. You can drop in as you can or delve into a particular interest. If any of above areas appeal to you, please contact me.

In 2013 Town Clerk Anita Tekle conducted a workshop for League members about the process and requirements of these important Massachusetts laws. Because it is important that League members are aware of and understand what these laws require government to provide to citizens, we have re-printed below the Bulletin article of this workshop.

Ardis Bordman, Chair

Concord Town Government Initiative

OPEN MEETING LAW REQUIREMENTS

All municipal, local and regional school committees and their subcommittees ("regardless of whether their role is decision-making or advisory") are required to post meeting notices and agendas at the Concord Town House at least 48 hours before they meet. The meeting notices are also available on the town website under Calendar which is maintained by the town clerk's office. Approved minutes of municipal and school meetings are on file at the Concord town clerk's office. While the statute does not require the Concord Carlisle Regional School Committee to submit minutes of their meetings to the town clerk, Tekle obtains those minutes from the school department's website.

Several questions arose about what constitutes a meeting and the availability of minutes of a meeting to the public. According to the Open Meeting Law, a meeting is "a deliberation by a public body with respect to any matter within the body's jurisdiction." A deliberation is "a communication between or among members of a public body." To be considered a deliberation, a quorum of the public body must be involved and the discussion must be related to public business within their jurisdiction.

As an example, email exchanges among a quorum of a committee discussing matters within their purview may constitute a deliberation, especially if it results in moving toward a decision to be made by that body. Tekle advises board and committee members to refrain from using email related to matters they will discuss at a public meeting. The Town Clerk said department staff meetings and

informal groups formed to assist staff do not fall under provisions of the Open Meeting Law.

Minutes must be taken at all board, committee and subcommittee meetings. The minutes must be available within 10 days of a meeting even if they are in draft form. If the committee fails to provide the minutes within 10 days of a written request, a citizen can file a complaint with the state Attorney General's office. The request for minutes need not be made in writing; however, for the 10-day compliance to be appealed, a written request is required.

Responding to specific questions about the Concord-Carlisle Regional School Committee, Tekle said her office is not the official records keeper for the Concord-Carlisle Regional School Committee. Compliance with the Open Meeting Law for regional school committees is under the jurisdiction of the state Attorney General's office.

Tekle said the Massachusetts Public Records Law applies to records created by MA boards and agencies while the federal Freedom of Information Act applies to federal records. MA citizens who make written requests for public documents should do so using the Massachusetts statute. There are some exemptions to the public records law. The public entity has 10 days to respond to a request for a public document. The custodian of the public documents is allowed to charge a reasonable fee to recover the cost of complying with the public records request. The Town of Concord charges 20 cents per page for a copy of documents and 50 cents a page to have a new document printed.

The state Ethics Commission rules on conflict of interest involving municipal employees. The statute is intended to prevent conflicts between private interests and public duties, foster integrity in public service, and promote confidence in government by restricting what municipal employees can do on the job, after hours and after leaving government service. Employees and board and committee members are required to complete an online ethics training test every two years. Tekle said in cases

where the public perception is such that there might be an appearance of conflict of interest, a person can file a disclosure form. She said municipal staff cannot accept any gift worth more than \$50, and a gift of any amount may not be accepted if it is in exchange for a favor (quid-pro-quo).

Ingrid Detweiler, TGIC

CARLISLE TOWN GOVERNMENT INITIATIVE COMMITTEE

The formation of a Carlisle Government Initiative committee was authorized at Annual Meeting in June 2014. Currently there are fourteen Carlisle members of the LWVCC. The committee will be meeting on a regular basis starting in September. The tasks the committee hopes to complete this year include:

1. Observe Carlisle town government
2. Update the Know Your Town info for Carlisle
3. Hold a public League meeting on an issue in Carlisle

It is highly probably that the committee may want to hold public meetings on several of the issues that will come forward during the process of performing tasks 1 and 2.

One of these issues would be Affordable Housing. A town initiated affordable housing project-on the town owned Banta Davis land that would have protected the town from unfriendly 40Bs-failed at 2014 Town Meeting. Currently there is a 40B Housing project before the Zoning Board of Appeals.

The second issue is a possible bylaw in Carlisle to deal with noisy farm animals, specifically roosters. For more information on these topics read the local Carlisle newspaper at www.carlislemosquito.org.

Cindy Nock, Chair

Carlisle Town Government Initiative

CONCORD TOWN GOVERNANCE STUDY COMMITTEE FINAL REPORT

In the spring of 2013 the Concord Selectmen appointed a Town Governance Study Committee (TGSC) to review the Concord Town Charter and its form of government and evaluate how our town governance is functioning and whether any changes would be beneficial. The committee has met regularly for the last 15 months and LWVCC members have been observing it.

The Committee has submitted their final report to the Board of Selectmen, and copies including the appendices describing the extensive research done by the committee are available for review at the Reference Desk of the Main Library and at the Fowler Branch. Copies with appendices are available for purchase at the Town Clerk's office for \$5.00. You can also download the report, along with the appendices, at the Town website www.concordma.gov. Click on 'Boards and Committees' followed by 'Governance Study Committee.'

The Committee has affirmed the basic Selectmen/Town Manager form of government while identifying a number of areas where the town can strengthen existing systems and processes that contribute to open, ethical, and effective government; foster an atmosphere of trust; and promote more effective citizen participation. Here are just a few of the Committee's recommendations:

- (1) review the charter 'once in a generation,'
- (2) in cooperation with the School Committee establish a Technology Committee to recommend ways to use information technology to improve citizen involvement in government,
- (3) increase efforts to engage with residents in two-way communication,
- (4) the Selectmen and the Regional School Committee consider the appointment of an audit committee for oversight of the annual audit process,
- (5) provide annual training sessions for all members of town boards and committees on the State Ethics Laws, Public Records Laws, and Open Meeting Law.

The Committee has done a comprehensive job of reviewing the concerns of Concord citizens which they have learned about through public hearings, written responses, and public comments at their meetings. Their report deserves your attention. The League will be following the Board of Selectmen's responses to this report.

Nancy Cronin, LWVCC Observer

LWVCC EDUCATION COMMITTEE

At the Annual Meeting in May of 2014, LWVCC added a new Education Initiative to the local program. The purpose of the new committee is understanding the operations of public schools (Pre-K through 12th grade) in Carlisle and Concord and Minuteman Regional Vocational School in order to inform our members and the public.

The committee has had two meetings over the summer and has selected four focal areas for our work in the next year: 1) School Budget Process; 2) The Learning and Working Environment in Our Schools; 3) School Committee Policies and Procedures; 4) Technology in Our Schools. Each topic has a small working group drawn from the larger committee who will bring their research back to the whole group. As information is gathered, the committee may decide to do in-League or public forums, discussions or other outreach and advocacy. It is also our goal to serve as a resource for the Board when confronted with issues arising from education and schools in our two towns.

Accurate information is crucial, so we are pleased that in addition to Marge Daggett, who has been observing the School Committee at Minuteman, Cindy Nock has volunteered to observe the Carlisle School Committee and Diane Proctor the Concord School Committee and the regional committee for CCRSD.

The committee is actively recruiting additional members. If you are interested in joining us, please email Julie.rohwein@gmail.com. Our next meeting is Friday October 12 at 9:30am.

*Julie Rohwein, Chair,
LWVCC Education Committee*

LIBRARY TRUSTEES PLAN NEXT STEPS FOR MAIN ST. HOUSE

In 1873 William Munroe donated land in the center of Concord and funds, for the purpose of a library. These assets were received by The Concord Free Public Library Corporation (“CFPLC”), a charitable corporation created by the Massachusetts Legislature in 1873 for the purpose of forming and maintaining a public library in Concord. In today's terminology the CFPLC is referred to as a 501(c)(3) charitable Corporation. In the same period, Concord Town meeting voted to transfer the library to the Corporation once the Main Library building was completed, establishing a permanent public/private partnership.

The Corporation, which owns the Main Library and Fowler Branch buildings, is overseen by a nine member Board of Trustees that is responsible for maintaining the buildings, grounds, special collections, art and other Library property owned by the Corporation. The Corporation also owns the William Munroe Special Collections. In addition to its maintenance obligations, the Corporation contributes about \$125,000 annually toward the purchase of library materials. The money needed to pay for all these expenditures is raised privately by the Corporation. The Town of Concord is responsible for library operations including staff salaries, utilities, and the purchase of books and materials.

In the spring of 2013 the property at 151 Main Street, which is adjacent to the main library building, came on the market. According to Sherry Litwack, president of the CFPLC, the library trustees had to work quickly to determine whether purchasing the property would benefit the town in terms of long range planning. “It was very challenging for us because there was an offer to purchase by the end of the first day the house was on the market,” Litwack says. “You don’t very often get an opportunity to purchase property adjacent to the Town Library so we knew we had an important decision to make.”

The trustees met with Town Manager Chris Whelan, library director Kerry Cronin,

representatives of the building department and other town officials to be sure the acquisition would be appropriate and beneficial in support of future library services. “There wasn’t time to plan specifically what we would do with the building before we made the purchase, so we identified several uses that could be explored and ultimately decided to make an offer.” The property was purchased by the Corporation for \$1,698,000.

The library trustees decided to create a task force that included the library director and representatives from the staff, Library Committee, Friends of the CFPL, and the Library Corporation. Town residents were asked to complete a survey that asked for suggestions about how the public would like the house to be used. Some suggestions centered on the need for more meeting space, enhanced services for children and teens, and expanded technology. Several non-profit groups toured the house and the trustees solicited their ideas. By year’s end, the group had identified possibilities for the house, but with the encouragement of the library director, who urged the trustees to increase their vision of what might happen, the trustees decided to take more time for planning. The next step will be to hire consultants for a plans and feasibility study.

“We know people are and will be using the library differently,” Litwack says. “Some people use services remotely. People will come to the library for different reasons in the future. We want to answer the question: What does the library of the future look like?”

“We will take this process step by step,” Litwack says. “This phase of planning will take about a year, so we decided to rent the house for the next year. The trustees purchased the house for a purpose—to enhance library services for the citizens of Concord—we want to spend more time focusing on thinking for the future.”

*Ingrid Detweiler,
LWVCC Observer for Library Committee*

Democracy is ~~NOT~~ ^{NOW} for sale

LWVMA is pleased to announce that updated *Democracy in the Balance* materials are now available on the LWVMA website for member use! In addition to a PowerPoint presentation, easy to follow, printable script and guidelines for use, the materials include a narrated version of the presentation available as a YouTube link. For additional information about the materials, contact the LWVMA Money in Politics team at: moneyinpolitics@lwmva.org. These materials and more can be found on the LWVMA.org website here: http://lwmva.org/topics/money_and_politics/

In other news directly related to our work at the state level on money in politics, the LWVUS 2014-2016 Program adopted at Convention focuses on the core League issue of campaign finance and money in politics. The 2014-2016 Program will cover the following areas, considered key structures of our democracy:

- 1) the process of amending the U.S. Constitution, including constitutional conventions,
- 2) a review and update of the League position on campaign finance in light of forty years of change since the Watergate reforms, in order to enhance member understanding of the new schemes and structures used to influence elections and erode protections against corruption in our political process, and to review possible responses to counter them in the current environment of rapid change, and
- 3) a review of the redistricting process for the U.S. Congress, through the existing redistricting task force, for the purpose of developing action steps. The LWVUS Program can be found on the LWV.org website here: <http://forum.lwv.org/sites/default/files/9-c2014wp-program.pdf>.

Launa Zimmaro,
LWVMA Campaign Finance Committee

LWVCC BOOK GROUP

The first meeting of this year's LWVCC Book Group will be on **Wednesday, October 15, 2014 from 10:00-11:30am at the Fowler Library on Main Street in West Concord**. This is a change in our usual location, but since we anticipate a larger number of attendees at our meetings this year we have decided to see if this location will better meet our needs.

Our October book is *The Oath: The Obama White House and The Supreme Court* by Jeffrey Toobin. The book jacket states that, "From the moment Chief Justice Roberts botched Barack Obama's oath of office, the relationship between the Court and the White House has been a fraught one. Grappling with issues as diverse as campaign finance, abortion, and the right to bear arms, the Roberts court has put itself squarely at the center of American political life. Jeffrey Toobin brilliantly portrays key personalities and cases and shows how the President was fatally slow to realize the importance of the judicial branch to his agenda. Combining incisive legal analysis with riveting insider details, *The Oath* is an essential guide to understanding the Supreme Court of our interesting times."

As always, I expect our book selection will trigger a thought provoking and illuminating discussion. The decisions that the Roberts Court will make during the next few years will have a profound impact on our country. It is critically important that all of us have a better understanding of our Constitution and how the current Supreme Court is interpreting it – the Court's decisions have a great impact on how our government runs and how our society evolves.

Anne Hayden, LWVCC Book Group Chair

This month's information is excerpted from the DVSN (Domestic Violence Service Network) web site, which is part of the Concord Police Department's services. While similar tips have been offered in our bulletin in past years, they are worth repeating. Here is also listed items that a victim should have when leaving a violent situation.
Nancy James, September, 2014

Things to Consider:

- Plan escape routes and a safe place to go.
- Keep purse, car keys, and a phone close at hand (a free 9-1-1 cellular phone is available by calling DVSN at 1.888.991.4639).
- Tell children or neighbors to call the police if they hear an argument; use a code word to alert them that you're in trouble.
- Avoid arguments in rooms with potential weapons, such as the kitchen or garage, or in rooms without access to an outside door.
- Know your legal rights. Consider obtaining a restraining order.
- If you're planning to leave, open a bank account. Have statements sent to a trusted friend or relative.
- Gather important documents and belongings for you and the children. Keep these items in a safe place so that if you need to flee suddenly, you can get to them.

Checklist of Items to Bring with You:

- *identification*
- *birth certificates*
- *social security cards*
- *medical records*
- *children's school records*
- *address book*
- *money, bankbooks (but **no** checks, ATM cards or credit cards - these are too easily traced*
- *keys*
- *driver's license and registration, passport, green card, work permits, welfare identification*
- *marriage license, divorce papers*
- *lease/rental agreement or deed*
- *mortgage and car payment books*
- *insurance policies*
- *medications*
- *clothes, pictures, jewelry, items of sentimental value*
- *children's favorite toys/blankets*
- *documentation of past abuse - photos, police reports, medical records*
- *legal documents - restraining orders, papers that show jointly owned assets*