

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CONCORD-CARLISLE

BULLETIN

LWVCC Website: www.lwvcc.org

September 2012

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

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CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

12	Wed	LWVCC Autumn Membership Get-togethers: Concord Greene Club House Harvey Wheeler Community Center, West Concord	9:00-11:00 am 7:00-9:00 pm
19	Wed	LWVCC ESC meeting, 100 Newbury Ct. #208	8:30-9:30 am
19	Wed	LWVCC Book Group, Trustees Room, Concord Public Library	10-11:30 am
19	Wed	CTC (Citizens Transportation Committee) meeting Hearing Room, Town House	7:00-9:00 pm
25	Tues	LWVCC at Crosby's; National Voter Registration Day 221 Sudbury Rd, Concord	9:00 am-7:00 pm
30	Sun	LWVCC U.S. Congressional Candidates' Forum, CCHS Auditorium 500 Walden St. Concord	2-3:30 pm

OCTOBER

3	Wed	LWVCC Board Meeting, 384 Hayward Mills Rd.	9 coffee, 9:30 mtg
17	Wed	Last Day to Register to Vote in Nov 6 General Election	
17	Wed	LWVCC State Legislative Candidates' Night Willard School Auditorium, 185 Powder Mill Rd., Concord	7:30-9:30 pm
24	Wed	LWVCC ESC meeting, 100 Newbury Ct., #208	8:30-9:30 am

NOVEMBER

6	Tues	Presidential and State Election	7:00 am – 8:00 pm
7	Wed	LWVCC Board Meeting, 342 Sudbury Rd.	9 coffee, 9:30 mtg
21	Wed	LWVCC ESC meeting, 100 Newbury Ct., #208	8:30-9:30 am

DECEMBER

1	Sat	Concord Town Meeting Coordination Meeting, Town House	8:00 am
5	Wed	LWVCC Board Meeting & Holiday Pot Luck Lunch 1360 Monument St	9 coffee, 9:30 mtg 12:00-1:30 pm lunch

JANUARY

2	Wed	Concord Town Warrant closes	
9	Wed	LWVCC Board Meeting, 63 Coppermine Rd.	9 coffee, 9:30 mtg
TBA		LWVCC Membership Get together, topic TBA	

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.

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CO-PRESIDENTS' LETTER

Cindy Nock and Paula Vandever, Co-Presidents

September 2012

Dear League members,

Read this timely and insightful Bulletin for specifics of what is happening in our League. Our renowned Monday Member News (MMN) helps us stay informed of opportunities and events. And visit the three web sites: www.LWVCC.org; www.LWVMA.org; and www.LWV.org to stay updated on League positions. It is amazing what a group of dedicated people is able to accomplish!

Our Membership Committee organized the Autumn Member Get-Together on September 12th. The morning was held at the Concord Greene Clubhouse and the evening at the Harvey Wheeler Community Center. Do you know what a Yellow Rose Event is? Ask one of us about it. Members and guests learned about League activities and enjoyed friends.

As we are in the middle of a national, state and local election year, our Voter Service Directors have been very active. The 3rd Middlesex Pre-Primary Candidates' Night was a tremendous success drawing an unprecedented late summer crowd. We have voter registration events and other candidates' forums forthcoming to enlighten us about the candidates seeking to represent us.

Our local program this year adopted a study on Sustainability and the continuation of two initiatives: the Town Government Initiative (TGI) group and the Campaign Finance Reform (CFR) group. These groups have been active through the summer and, with exciting and ambitious plans for the year, they are inviting the involvement of more League members.

Carlisle members have been meeting to explore holding specific League events in Carlisle to attract and engage more Carlisle members. Plans include a two night event to show the video of our highly successful Money in Politics panel that was moderated by Tom Ashbrook last May. It will be followed by a discussion group using the "Democracy in the Balance" discussion kit developed by our CFR group last year. Also planned are drop-in LWVCC Meet and Greet events at Fern's in Carlisle.

At the state level, we have three LWVCC members working on advocacy and education. We have been focusing on the environment, health care and protecting the right to vote.

At the LWVUS National Convention last June, the LWVCC held a standing room only caucus and succeeded in passing a resolution to recommend that the LWVUS expand their position on CFR to include the possibility of a Constitutional Amendment to address the consequences of the *Citizens United v FEC* decision of the U.S. Supreme Court. As of this date, the LWVUS has not found a proposed amendment that they feel fits with LWV positions. However, the LWVUS has proposed to disseminate the "Democracy in the Balance" kit. This program will help to educate local League members and their public across the country about the history and dangers of money in politics. We are proud that the great work of our committee is recognized by our national League and hope to increase awareness of this critical issue nation-wide.

We thank all of you LWVCC members for the dedication and support you provide.

Sincerely,
Cindy Nock and Paula Vandever

LWVCC MEMBER NEWS

Our annual autumn get-togethers on September 12th provided our members and guests an opportunity to catch up on summer events and the recent political conventions. Concord Greene's clubhouse was the location for our morning coffee where our members learned about how the League puts ideas (and League positions) into practice. Discussion focused on educating voters through forums, outreach and volunteer work, improving the election process through campaign finance reform, and advocating on environmental issues, health care, sustainability and more... Oh, and did I mention that *our* work has seen its impact - and influence - at the state and national levels of League. An evening session with lip-smacking desserts took place at the Harvey Wheeler Community Center where we shared more stories and talked more about how all of us can fulfill the LWV mission of *Making Democracy Work*.

Materials, handouts or sign-up sheets for the September 19th Book Group, Know Your Town, April 2013 House Tour, Democracy in the Balance Discussion Groups, Voter Service volunteers, etc., etc. were prominently displayed. *A resounding shout-out to Erica Morrison and Nancy Beeuwkes who organized and orchestrated all the food, flowers and beverages for both sessions!*

This year we started our membership renewal and sign-up at the Annual Meeting in late May. What? Yes. But don't worry, there's still time. Did you know our *fiscal year* is July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013?

After a summer break, we resumed our renewal drive at the September Board meeting on September 5th and continued with receiving payments during the September 12th get-togethers. Thank you to all who gave us their checks (and saved us postage). If you have not as yet paid, you can mail a check to LWVCC, P.O. Box 34, Concord, MA 01742 or go online to our website (<http://www.lwvcc.org>) and click on "join us."

Please note that the dues you pay are used to support the LWVUS (national) and LWVMA (state) almost exclusively (99% of individual and 88% of household memberships). Our local

League depends on the contributions of our members and friends to support our local programs and initiatives. Please be as generous as you can. A contribution of any amount is sincerely appreciated, however it is not tax deductible.

The Membership Committee would like to hear from you regarding suggestions and locations for upcoming member events as well as your ideas and suggestions for helping our League grow stronger. You can reach us at membership@lwvcc.org. We look forward to seeing you soon!

*Dee Ortner, Membership Chair
Committee: Barbara Lewis, Irmi Doane,
Mary Chapman & Nancy Beeuwkes*

League on display at Concord Bookstore



Some crafty Leaguers created a display of recommended reading in the Concord Bookstore window for the week of September 10.

Nice job and great visibility for the League of Women Voters!

Thank you to Joan Turner, Deb Barr
Barbara Lewis and David Trask

VOTER SERVICE

Barbara Lewis (Carlisle) and Erin Pastuszanski (Concord)

Presidential election years are prime times for encouraging active and informed participation in government, a key part of the League of Women Voters' mission. To get involved, contact Erin or Barbara at VoterService@lwvcc.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Back-to-School Night Voter Registration Drive – We are continuing our annual tradition of staffing voter registration and information tables at all of the back-to-school nights at the Carlisle and Concord public schools. Dates are September 12, 19, 20 and 27, and October 3 and 4, and we are looking for more volunteers to help.

National Voter Registration Day (September 25) – LWVCC is participating in this nationwide, nonpartisan effort to register thousands of voters on one single day. Crosby's Market will host a LWV voter registration table outside the store on Sudbury Road in Concord from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Tuesday, September 25. Let Erin know if you can help out.

For League members interested in the possibility of participating in NVRD activities on UMASS Lowell Campus or in Lowell neighborhoods, please contact Barbara Lewis.

Fall Candidate Forums – We are planning two forums for candidates this fall. If you can volunteer before or at these events, please do! Also, we hope you can attend both forums.

US Congressional Candidates' Forum – Sunday, September 30, 2:00 p.m., Concord-Carlisle High School Auditorium. The 3rd Congressional District candidates, Jon Golnik (R-Carlisle) and Congresswoman Niki Tsongas (D-Lowell), have been invited to this forum, which is co-sponsored by LWVCC,

LWV-Acton Area and LWV of Westford. Six other Leagues in the district are also supporting the forum. Voters can submit questions by emailing Questions@lwvcc.org by September 21.

State Senate and Representative Candidates' Night – Wednesday, October 17, 7:30 p.m., Willard School, Concord. LWVCC has invited the 3rd Middlesex District State Senate candidates, Michael Barrett (D-Lexington) and Sandi Martinez (R-Chelmsford), and the 14th Middlesex District State Representative candidates, Representative Cory Atkins (D-Concord) and Michael Benn (R-Concord), to address League and audience questions at this forum. Questions will be accepted in advance at Questions@lwvcc.org.

Election Day (November 6) – LWVCC will post its "VOTE Tuesday" signs before the election, and we'd like to offer rides to the polls this year, too. If you can be on call as a volunteer driver for part of the day on November 6, let Erin or Barbara know. If you'd like to help place signs around Concord on November 1, please contact Erin.

Running for Office Workshops – Once the national and state elections are over in November, we'll look ahead to the local election season. LWVCC is planning another Running for Office workshop in Concord and perhaps a similar program in Carlisle. Planning for these programs will begin in October. Let Barbara or Erin know if you want to get involved.

Know Your Town in Carlisle – This publication will be reviewed and updated and put on the League website. The plan is to have this task completed by January, in preparation for the spring elections and appointments.

2012 SUMMER OUTREACH TO VOTERS

The League began the summer of 2012 with a focus on registering voters. At the Concord-Carlisle **High School Senior BBQ** (June 5), Ginny Lamere and Erin Pastuszenski helped 40 students complete voter registration forms. The League booths at **Carlisle's Old Home Day** (June 30) and **Concord's Picnic in the Park** (July 4) offered voter registration and League information, thanks to volunteers Lauren Bakewell, Anita Barker, Dottie Bernard, Betsy Comstock, Nancy Cronin, Judy Hill, Jane Innamorati, Ginny Lamere, Barbara Lewis, Susan Nash, Dee Ortner, Erin Pastuszenski and Julie Rohwein. Voter registration forums completed at Picnic in the Park totaled 22.

PRE-PRIMARY CANDIDATES' NIGHT ON AUGUST 15

This year's state primary elections, held on Thursday, September 6, featured an unusually large number of candidates for State Senate in our 3rd Middlesex district, a seat from which Senator Susan Fargo is retiring. Last spring, our League had begun planning a forum to help voters evaluate their choices in the race.

LWVCC hosted its pre-primary Candidates' Night on Wednesday, August 15, at the Harvey Wheeler Community Center. All seven primary candidates accepted our invitation. The participating candidates were Republicans Gregory Howes and Sandi Martinez and Democrats Michael Barrett, Alexander Buck, Mara Dolan, Joe Kearns Goodwin and Joseph Mullin.

The large field of candidates drew an overflow crowd estimated at more than 225 for an auditorium that holds only 120.

Reluctantly, we had to turn away many attendees due to fire regulations. The event was taped by LWVCC, however, and was run frequently on CCTV and other cable stations in the senatorial district, as well as receiving extensive press coverage.

The moderator, Nancy Carapezza of the Wayland League of Women Voters, asked a wide range of questions. Some had been developed by LWVCC, others were submitted by email, and others were written by audience members. Topics included voter ID, the Bottle Bill, funding the Massachusetts health care law, education funding, the Local Option Local Income Tax, Hanscom airfield expansion, the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail, help for the homeless, and the November ballot questions. Other areas addressed by the candidates included public financing of campaigns, welfare card reform, serious environmental challenges, increasing the gas tax, and key women's issues. Following the forum, refreshments were served, and citizens had an opportunity to talk with the candidates.

The Candidates' Night was sponsored by LWVCC and supported by the LWVs of Lexington, Sudbury, Bedford, Chelmsford, Waltham and Weston. Many League volunteers assisted with the forum, including several from Bedford, Lexington and Sudbury. We wish to thank again all of our LWVCC volunteers, including Barbara Anthony, Anita Barker, Debbie Barr, Nancy Beeuwkes, Di Clymer, Nancy Cronin, Irmi Doane, Louise Haldeman, Anne Hayden, Judy Hill, Ginny Lamere, Judy LaRocca, Barbara Lewis, Lydia Lodynsky, Erica Morrison, Cindy and John Nock, Dee Ortner, Erin Pastuszenski, Evin Phillips, Julie Rohwein, Janet Rothrock, Paula Vandever, Deena Whitfield and Launa Zimmaro.

CONCORD TOWN GOVERNMENT INITIATIVE

Know Your Town: Local Leagues used to publish (print only) “Know Your Town” books that contained basic information about local government, schools, and organizations in town. With the advent of the internet, Leagues are now using a variety of formats to make this information available online. During the summer we continued to develop the concept of creating a “Know Your Town Government” page on our League website which would serve as a bridge that directs citizens to the Concord Town website for information about our local government and schools.

This fall a sub-committee is writing short descriptions of Town departments, boards, and committees with the purpose of guiding people to the information they seek. The intent is to increase their knowledge of not only how local government works, but also how various town committees work together on related projects.

Observers: In the past, local Leagues developed strong Observer Corps whose members regularly attended meetings of governmental boards and committees and wrote quarterly reports that were sent to all League members and local officials.

It is a different era now, but citizen attendance at committee and board meetings remains a valuable way to ensure transparency in government. League observers are aware of open meeting laws, executive session requirements, the need for timely distribution of minutes, and much more. There is no question that observers increase the awareness and openness of government.

Over the summer, Concord Town Clerk Anita Tekle organized two training sessions about the open meeting law which was attended by many board and committee members and Town employees as well as several Town Government Initiative Committee members.

The League currently has seven observers who regularly attend meetings and we hope to increase that number this year. As ideal as it may be, it may not be possible for observers to attend *every* single meeting, but we think it is possible for observers to attend *some* meetings and remain on

top of a committee’s work by reading the minutes of the meetings.

We are sure that in the long list of boards and committees, there is one perfect for your interests and time available. For example, “morning” people can attend the Historical Commission or the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Committee and night owls the Planning Board. Many committee meetings start at 7 or 7:30 pm. School committee meetings start at 6 pm, end at 8 pm. Or observe the Conservation Restriction Stewardship Committee at 2:30 pm. There are committees you can observe once or twice a month, even four times a month. The Community Preservation Committee meets seasonally.

Knowing early on what issues are developing and/or could have a serious impact on the town is important; getting the information out is part of what the League does best.

In the coming months it is critical that LWVCC has as many observers at meetings as possible. Right now the Finance Committee is starting to work on its guidelines (sub-committee meets October 4), many committees are developing preliminary budgets, and a variety of potential warrant articles are being discussed. (The warrant closes on Wednesday, January 2, 2013.)

Go to www.concordma.gov, the Town website, to the list on the left and click calendar. You will find a listing by day, time, etc. of every board and committee meeting. For many committees you can also find meeting agendas, just waiting to be accessed! We urge you to take action and support the League in valuing open information and transparency in government. We welcome you to join us--contact Ardis or Susan at TownInitiative@lhwcc.org.

*Ardis Bordman and Susan Sekuler, Co-Chairs
Concord Town Government Initiative Committee*

FINANCE COMMITTEE

SEPTEMBER 2012

The Concord Finance Committee has met monthly through the summer, gearing up for a busy fall of coordination meetings and guideline setting sessions. In May, the committee elected new officers: Lynn Salinger, chair, John Hutchins, vice chair and chair of the guidelines subcommittee, Mark Garvey, clerk, and Wendy Rovelli, guidelines clerk.

The role of the finance committee and reviewing last year's performance were important topics over the summer, with discussion touching on:

- The committee often discusses smaller budget items much longer than the larger budget amounts
- What strategies can change this?
- Few citizens come to meetings and hearings
- Can the committee scrutinize budgets more fully, and will school committee budget materials more closely resemble town budget books so review is easier?
- A subcommittee will be formed to explore background economic, demographic and real estate data to delineate the town's economic situation compared with previous years.
- The committee will encourage members of the selectmen and school committee to be part of the preliminary budget presentations in the fall, so that elected officials are part of the early budget formulations rather than relying on staff.

An important topic of the June meeting was the suspension by the MSBA of all grant payments for the new high school project, and school committee members and staff assured the committee that they were working hard to satisfy the MSBA that the project was within the project scope previously approved. Meetings with the MSBA are ongoing to resolve this.

The committee also reviewed and discussed a report entitled "Recent Expenditure, Tax, and Household Income Patterns," containing material on Concord expenditures and tax levy, the rate of increase in Concord's median single family real estate tax, the rate of increase in household income, and median single family real estate taxes for the period 2000-2010.

A comparison of per pupil expenditures of area towns revealed that we are near the top of elementary school expenditures and at the top of high school expenditures. Concord's median real estate tax bill in the year 2000 was 4.7% of household income, and grew in 2010 to 6.8% of household income.

In July, the committee heard a presentation by the SPED director, Jessica Murphy, in response to concerns that Concord's SPED expenditures were higher than area towns. Ms. Murphy noted the increase, nationwide, in developmental disabilities, due to neonatal advances and reviewed the success of efforts in early intervention to identify and address individual needs. SPED expenditures will continue to be largely unpredictable year to year.

The finance director, Tony Logalbo, gave his annual orientation session to new committee members on August 9, covering the role of the committee, town fiscal and organization structures, tax levy and Proposition 2 ½, budget issues, debt and capital planning issues. This meeting is often attended by seasoned committee members and other town officials and is open to the public – any LWV members who are interested in a comprehensive overview of Concord's finances should attend and learn.

The Joint Coordination Meeting of finance committee, selectmen and school committee members takes place on September 20, 2012, and preliminary presentations of town and school budget needs will follow in October.

Dinny McIntyre,

Concord Finance Committee Observer

LWVCC SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE: MORE MEMBERS NEEDED

At Annual Meeting in May 2011 a Sustainability Task Force was established and tasked to “define or propose adoption of a definition of sustainability that could be applied as an assessment tool to evaluate public or private initiatives.”

The next year at the 2012 Annual Meeting a working definition of Sustainability was adopted and a Sustainability Study Committee was formed with a goal of bringing the membership to consensus in 2012/13 for adoption of a position on Sustainability in 2013.

Working Definition of Sustainability (adopted at 2012 Annual Meeting)

Sustainability is defined as meeting current needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.

Sustainable communities recognize their interdependence with the larger community (local, neighbor, regional, or global) and seek to meet current economic, environmental, and social equity demands through means that do not compromise the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. In sustainable communities:

- Levels of pollution, consumption are in keeping with regional carrying capacity.
- Social involvement, sense of ownership and equity are in keeping with maintaining a civil society.
- Members share an ethic of responsibility to one another and to future generations.
- Full social and environmental costs of production, provision, and disposal of goods and services are acknowledged.
- Systems of governance and leadership encourage democratic deliberation and civic engagement.
- Systems of urban planning enhance neighborhood livability and preserve ecological integrity.

Measuring Sustainability: Indicators

When evaluating whether an action or process is sustainable, answers to questions in different areas such as the environment, economy and equity need to be considered. Answers to those questions should be linked to indicators which can be

quantified and measured against a standard of sustainability established for the community.

The Sustainability Committee is looking for additional members this year as it works towards its goal of adoption a LWVCC Sustainability position for our local League program. If you are interested please contact a member of the Sustainability Committee personally: Deb Barr, Cindy Nock, or Dan Proctor or email Co-Presidents@lwvcc.org or leave a phone message at (978) 254-1598.

Cindy Nock, LWVCC Sustainability Committee

LWVCC BOOK GROUP

The first meeting of the year will be on Wednesday, September 19, 2012 from 10:00-11:30 am in the Trustees Room of the Concord Public Library. We will discuss *The Making of the President 1960* by Theodore H White.

It is a presidential election year and what better book to read than Theodore White’s classic book about the 1960 election campaign of John Kennedy and Richard Nixon. Many of us remember this election and reading, or rereading, this book will bring back loads of memories as well as the realization that campaigns have greatly changed since then. This promises to be an illuminating and fascinating discussion.

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

*Anne Hayden & Ginny Lamere
LWVCC Book Group co-chairs*

YELLOW ROSE EVENT

The LWVCC has a copy of the HBO movie *Iron Jawed Angels* starring Hilary Swank and depicting the movement to pass the 19th Amendment giving women the right to vote. The majority of people today don't know the compelling story of the fight for women's suffrage since it has never been taught in high schools in a way which describes the bravery of young women activists like Alice Paul, Lucy Burns and Inez Milholland. These women risked their lives to gain the right for women to vote in the United States of America.

Do you know the significance of the yellow rose in the Women's Suffrage movement? If you have seen the movie *Iron Jawed Angels* or studied the Women's Suffrage movement, you may remember that men (of course there were only men) in the Tennessee legislature who supported Women's suffrage wore yellow roses in their jacket lapels. Those who didn't support suffrage wore red roses.

Are you concerned about the status of women in today's political discourse? Do you want to do something about it? Our local League has an idea for a Yellow Rose Event in which we would follow our very successful educational forum format used the past three years with a movie night showing the two hour movie *Iron Jawed Angels* followed by a discussion night in which we pose the question of the relevance of women's suffrage in modern day United States.

A Yellow Rose Event would highlight the importance of women voting, women running for office and women influencing the politic process.

Did you know that both Martin Luther King, Jr. and Ghandi were influenced by the nonviolent protests of the women's suffrage movement? There is a strong and powerful women's history in our country which is virtually unknown.

We have access to curriculum materials that could be used for discussion purposes and shared with high schools and colleges in our area. We could interact with our local high schools and colleges by holding a Yellow Rose Event in their school or area and inviting them to attend the movie and participate in a discussion.

If you are interested in helping with a Yellow Rose Event please contact Cindy Nock or Paula Vandever or email Co-Presidents@lwvcc.org or leave a phone message at 978-254-1598.



Strategizing and campaigning for women's suffrage.

POSSIBLE LEAGUE STUDY OR ACTION FOCUSED ON ANIMAL RELATED ISSUES

As a new member of the LWVCC and someone deeply interested in policies and positions as related to animals, I researched the League's positions on this at the National, State and Local levels. It was interesting to note the absence of "animals" in the position language. Fortunately, the LWVCC has a position on Animal Control that is rather comprehensive (http://lhwcc.org/files/2011-2012_local_program.pdf).

Upon calling the LWVUS in their Washington, DC office, my first contact was just as surprised as I was at the lack of animal related positions. The second time I called I spoke to the Manager of Grassroots Advocacy; she confirmed there were no animal specific national positions, and informed me that we would need to go through the process of introducing that language/topic as a new area of study.

Later that afternoon she called back to inform me that her first response was incorrect, and that we could address animal related topics under "sustainability, agriculture or natural resources." She understood why it may be advantageous to move forward on these issues, and also invited me to complete an application to be involved with these topics at the national level.

We both noted that some local positions did address "livestock" under "Agriculture," but still limited their interests to items related to the environment such as "run-off and contaminants from feed and animals." Other animal related positions fell under the categories of "Natural Resources" and "Sustainability."

I also looked up the LWVMA report "Where We Stand" and again, I did not find any positions specifically related to animals. (I could not locate the date of publication, but from its content I assume it was at least 2008.)

So what might we conclude from this? There is plenty of opportunity here, in many different areas: industrial farming, use of hormones and antibiotics, animal cruelty, pet responsibility, exotic animal legislation, ecology and balance between wildlife and environment, humanely

raised and slaughtered animal campaigns, experimentation on animals, humane education, etc. Concord and Carlisle have a limited number of farms that raise beef, pork and poultry, and Massachusetts has an even higher number. But what is available through our own local stores, as well as our supply sources, spans far beyond the Commonwealth and needs to be considered.

Our work can be as challenging as humane animal production and slaughter, or as simple as educating our communities on Responsible Pet Ownership. If any League members are interested in learning more or in participating in an animal related study/committee, please contact Lydia Lodynsky with a message to league@lhwcc.org or 978-254-1598.

Lydia Lodynsky

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICERS IN CONCORD

On August 3, 2012, Governor Deval Patrick signed Animal Control Bill S.2192 into law.

(<http://www.mspca.org/programs/animal-protection-legislation/government-affairs/current-legislation/animal-control/animal-control-bill-2011.html>).

The Bill stipulates that all Massachusetts cities and towns must have a trained Animal Control Officer (ACO) on board. Last week I met with Town Manager Chris Whelan to discuss Concord's plans in response to the bill's passage. Mr. Whelan has embraced the new law, stating that he has supported having an ACO since he began his term as Town Manager almost twenty years ago. Now there is no argument as to whether or not we should hire someone; it's just a matter of time.

At this time, many of the details still need to be worked out; the topic has been placed on the agenda for the next Board of Selectmen meeting, which I plan on attending.

Lydia Lodynsky

WAIT TILL NEXT YEAR

This phrase immortalized by Red Sox fans also applies to state legislation. We concluded the last two-year session at the end of July with several bits of unfinished business. Although work is still being done informally and lobbying continues, the Legislature will not get down to real work until after the November elections and bills will not be filed until January, the formal start of the next session.

Although many bills which the LWVMA supported failed to pass, it does not mean that they are over and done with. The returnable bottle bill so strongly supported by the League and a large percentage of the populace will be back in one form or another as will the E-waste bill. The LWVMA will continue to work for these as well as for improvements in health care, campaign financing and many other matters.

One issue that has assumed more prominence recently is the necessity of protecting the vote and maintaining the integrity of the balloting process. In the last few years many states have passed Voter ID laws which have the laudable purpose of protecting the integrity of the voting process but which in reality appear to be preventing many long time eligible voters from being able to vote because the laws require forms of ID which can be difficult or expensive to obtain.

Legislation similar to that mentioned above has been filed in Massachusetts. While it has had little legislative support in our state, the issue is becoming more important in the national debate. Making sure that every individual who is registered to vote has the opportunity to do so and can be assured that his or her vote will be counted accurately should be a matter of extreme importance to us all.

While we often look at the spectacular and frustrating failures such as the returnable bottle

bill, we should not forget that a great deal of worthwhile (and occasionally not so worthwhile) legislation does pass and over time the League has seen many successes. League members are encouraged to regularly check the LWVMA website to see what's going on.

Louise Haldeman

CASINOS – THE LUCK OF THE DRAW?

Over the vigorous objections of the League and many other civic organizations, to say nothing of private citizens, the state adopted legislation to allow casinos and slot parlors in Massachusetts. The passage of this bill was an example of how the efforts of supporters and opponents can affect legislation.

Because of the anti-casino lobbying efforts, the state has adopted a very tight bill which limits the total number of casinos to three and gives affected communities final say on whether a casino can open in their town. This of course has not ended the process.

Right now, lively arguments are going on in Springfield as two casino corporations compete for a license; the Mashpee Wampanoag and the Aquinnah people are at odds with the state and each other; and Suffolk Downs is another story. The gambling commission seems to be taking its duties very seriously but it too has had some problems with staff.

Right now casinos seem more a matter for the courts than the legislature but it is not impossible that there will be additional legislation filed in the not too distant future.

Louise Haldeman, LWVMA Gambling Specialist

Report of the LWVCC Delegation to LWV 50th National Convention

What a trip! The LWVUS National Convention was held in Washington DC June 8-12, 2012. We arrived with a large delegation, a planned workshop and high hopes to pass a resolution on the convention floor to address the influence in our elections of the Supreme Court decision in the Citizens United case. The eight Convention attendees were Nancy Beeuwkes, Clarice Gordon, Barbara Lewis, Cindy Nock, Julie Rohwein, Becky Shannon, Paula Vandever and Launa Zimmaro. The result was a resoundingly affirmative vote on the convention floor for the following:

RESOLUTION:

We, the representatives of local and state Leagues assembled at the 2012 LWVUS Convention, call upon the LWVUS Board to advocate strongly for all appropriate, duly-considered measures which may include, but are not limited to, a constitutional amendment and which: are consistent with our current positions on campaign finance reform and individual liberties; allow Congress and the States to set reasonable regulations on campaign contributions and expenditures; and ensure that elections are determined by the voters. – Passed June 11, 2012

This resolution passed after four days of extremely intense activity on the part of our delegation and other Leaguers from Massachusetts and eventually other states as well. We presented a workshop and caucus on the Saturday morning of June 9 that had standing room only and sold all of our copies of the *Democracy in the Balance: Money, Speech and Power Discussion Kit*. This kit was developed by our LWVCC Campaign Finance Reform group with the Amherst and Sudbury Leagues since the LWV 2010 National Convention in Atlanta when we recognized the importance of the impact the Citizens United decision would have on our Democratic process.

At the workshop many Leagues took away the information on how to access the Discussion Kit through our website at lwwcc.org under

Democracy In The Balance. Everyone was very impressed with how professional and organized the workshop was and the LWVMA was very proud of the work we had done to bring this to convention. After the workshop we appeared before the LWVUS Resolutions Committee to lobby them to support our resolution calling upon League Leadership to

"advocate strongly for all measures + including but not limited to a constitutional amendment + which affirms that free speech rights belong to persons, allows Congress and States to limit campaign contributions, and ensures that elections are determined by the votes of natural persons."

There was intense push back from the Resolutions Committee about the inclusion of words such as "natural persons," whether or not the amendment process was the best direction for the League to go, and whether we had League positions to back up the actions that might take place if the resolution passed.

It was recommended by the Resolutions Committee that we seek the support/comments of the LWVUS Campaign Reform Task Force which was set up in the spring of 2012 to serve as a resource to the LWVUS Board and provide information and input on campaign finance issues, including short and long-term strategies for reform. In the short term, the Task Force will be researching and providing information to members on the proposed constitutional amendments that have been introduced in the U.S. Congress.

We met with the Task Force and after more intense discussion we were successful in arriving at the wording of a compromise Resolution that they could support. We then lobbied and caucused with other Leagues from across the country to gain support for the resolution.

There was an effort by some Leaguers to defeat our resolution via proposing amendments to our resolution, counter resolutions and study proposals

instead of our resolution, but in the end our compromise resolution prevailed.

We came prepared, we listened, we fought hard and we were successful in meeting our goal of keeping this most important issue of the undue influence of money in politics at the forefront of League attention.

The LWVUS has expressed interest in building on our Discussion Kit materials and developing a kit to be used nationally to educate voters on the topic of Money in Politics.

Questions, comments about the Democracy in the Balance: Money, Speech and Power Discussion Kit? Email FTM@lhwcc.org Let us know if you are finding it helpful.

As to other Convention news, videos of some of the key speakers of the convention are on the lww.org website under "Members." Convention highlights include addresses by Attorney General Eric Holder and Eleanor Holmes Norton and action on a variety of issues including adoption of our 2012-2014 budget, several new concurrence positions and the retention of all existing positions including updates on Education and Privatization.

Going to National convention is expensive. Registration was \$320 per delegate and hotel fees added up to \$5500. The cost of the workshop/caucus was \$2700. Delegates paid their own airfare and other costs such as food. Almost \$2000 was raised from Leagues across the country via a direct marketing email asking for financial support to cover the costs of the Workshop/caucus for which the delegates are very grateful.

The LWVCC delegation is especially appreciative of the support for the trip to convention by the LWVCC budget and a very generous donation from an anonymous donor.

Cindy Nock, LWVCC Co-President

HOW TO PREPARE A PETITION ARTICLE FOR CONCORD TOWN MEETING WARRANT

The League has always encouraged the informed and active participation of citizens in all levels of our government, including submission of petition articles for the Town warrant. The deadline for submitting a petition article for the Concord 2013 Annual Town Meeting Warrant next spring is Wednesday, January 2, 2013. The Warrant opens on December 3, 2012. For procedural information, go to the Town website, click on Important Documents, Town Meeting, and Information for petitioners.

As described on the Concord Town website, "A petition Article should be carefully considered to ensure that the action it proposes is legal and proper to be brought before the Town and if so, that the language of the Article is phrased properly to accomplish its intended purpose. It is suggested that a petition Article be discussed with the appropriate town officials at least two weeks before the closing of the Warrant to resolve any misunderstandings on the part of the petitioners." A minimum of 10 signatures must be gathered before submitting the article. There are forms online for both the annual town meeting and for special town meetings.

More information about the process is available in the Moderator's instructions online and from the Town Manager's office at 978-318-3000. In addition, Town Moderator Eric Van Loon is available to assist with the drafting of an article.

*Ardis Bordman, Co-Chair
Town Government Initiative Committee*

DEMOCRACY IN THE BALANCE

The highly successful May 17th LWVCC forum “Pushing Back on Money Politics,” moderated by Tom Ashbrook, is now available on DVD for us to present to the public.

We are currently planning a showing in Carlisle, date in October to be determined, which will be followed up by another evening of discussion on the topic of money in our elections and the influence it has on our democracy.

Watch for the announcement of dates and locations in your Monday Member News.

SPRING EVENT! LWVCC HOUSE TOUR

APRIL 6, 2013

***“New Homes, New
Technologies”***

This is our major fundraiser.

***It promises to be a terrific
program again this year.***

***Look for details in future
League bulletins.***

***Mark the date on your 2013
calendar!***

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PREVENTION

*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])

DVSN suggests some **Safety Tips**, which can be found on the town's web site www.concordma.gov

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*
- *medications & medical records*
- *children's school records*
- *keys*
- *money, bankbooks (but no checks, ATM cards or credit cards - these are too easily traced)*
- *documentation of past abuse - photos, police reports, medical records*
- *legal documents - restraining orders, papers that show jointly owned assets*
- *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*
- *address book*
- *clothes, pictures, jewelry, items of sentimental value*
- *children's favorite toys/blankets*

More information can be found on the Domestic Violence Services Network web site dvvap@concordma.gov or call 978-318-3421.