

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CONCORD-CARLISLE

BULLETIN

LWVCC Website: www.lwvcc.org

September 2016

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

Vol 21 2016-17 #1

CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

- 20 Tues Minuteman Vocational School Election, Harvey Wheeler 12 noon-8:00pm
- 20 Tues LWVCC Town Government Initiative, Trustees Room, Concord Library 2:30-4:30pm
- 21 Wed **LWVCC Autumn Membership Coffee, Concord Greene Club House 9:00-11:30**
- 28 Wed **LWVCC Book Group, Trustees Room, Concord Main Library 10:00-11:30am**

OCTOBER

- 5 Wed LWVCC Board Meeting, 57 Sudbury Rd, (Diane Proctor) 9 coffee, 9:30 mtg
- 7 Fri LWVCC Education Committee, 1404 Main St. (Julie Rohwein) 9:30-11:00am
- 13 Thurs **LWVCC Book Group, Trustees Room, Concord Main Library 7:00-8:30pm**
- 15 Sat Membership Dues Renewal Deadline
- 18 Tues LWVCC Town Government Initiative, Trustees Room, Concord Library 2:30-4:30pm
- 19 Wed Last day to register to vote in November 8 general election
- 21 Fri **LWVCC Congressional District Candidate Forum, Lowell HS (tentative)**
- 24 Mon **LWVCC 14th Middlesex District House Candidate Forum, Acton**
- 24 Mon Early voting begins

NOVEMBER

- 2 Wed LWVCC Board Meeting, 41 Canterbury Ct., Carlisle (Cindy Nock) 9 coffee, 9:30 mtg
- 4 Fri Last day of early voting
- 8 Tues National Presidential Election Day Polls open 7:00am-8:00pm
- 11 Fri LWVCC Education Committee, 1404 Main St. (Julie Rohwein) 9:30-11:00am
- 15 Tues LWVCC Town Government Initiative, Trustees Room, Concord Library 2:30-4:30pm
- 16 Wed **LWVCC Book Group, Trustees Room, Concord Main Library 10:00-11:30am**
- 28 Mon **LWVCC Book Group, Lower Level Meeting Room, Concord Library 7:00-8:30pm**

DECEMBER

- 3 Sat Concord Annual Town Meeting Preview Meeting, Town House 8:00am
 - 3 Sat Concord Annual Town Warrant Opens
 - 7 Wed LWVCC Board Meeting, 1360 Monument St. (Nancy Beeuwkes) 9 coffee, 9:30 mtg.
- Potluck Lunch & Program 11:30am-1:30pm**

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

Cynthia Rainey, President

September 2016

Dear League Members,

Vote November 8th! I feel privileged to be a member of an organization that has at its core such a fundamental mission. The core value as stated by LWVUS is “build citizen participation in the democratic process.” That building requires *every* member of our league to get out there and promote participation through voting. The deadline for voter registration is **October 19th**. All municipalities in the State of Massachusetts will have early voting for the first time this year. For more information regarding early voting in Concord and Carlisle please stay tuned to your town clerk’s page on your town’s website **and** the LWVCC will also have updates on times and locations. Check our **Voter Service** article in the Bulletin for details on candidate forums, events and volunteer opportunities related to the November 8th election.

We have another exciting opportunity with the new **LWVMA Charter Schools Study** that kicks off this month. The state league voted at the 2015 convention to pursue a study of Charter Schools in Massachusetts. Please see the article in this issue of the Bulletin with details on the study and participate, and check our website for more information.

I am so thrilled to see that our **LWVCC Book Group** is starting up again this fall. Please join in! The first book is a great read--*Dark Money; The Hidden History of the Billionaires Behind the Rise of the Radical Right*, authored by *New Yorker* staff writer, Jane Mayer. Meeting times and locations are in the Bulletin calendar.

Two of our committees cover many aspects of government and education and always welcome new participants. The **Town Government Committee**, which covers all things in Concord town government, and our **Education Committee** which is a group with wide ranging interests and expertise on so many aspects of education (local, state and national). Check the calendar on the front page of the Bulletin with dates and locations for those committee meetings.

These highlights just skim the surface. The Bulletin, Monday Member News and our website www.lwvcc.org give you so much more information.

As always yours in the League,

Cynthia Rainey
President

P.S. The photo on page 9 is our current LWVCC Board of Directors. Thank you to all of them for all of the time and efforts that they give to League activities.

MEMBERS' PAGE

Anne Hayden, Membership Chair

Membership renewal

It is that time of year again, when we ask our members to continue to support the League by renewing their membership. Our Membership Renewal Drive will last two months, and will culminate with the publishing of the 2016-2017 Membership Directory. All members will receive the Directory in the mail. In order to have your contact information in the Directory, you must renew your dues by October 15th.

Membership Directory

The 2016-2017 Membership Directory will be published in November and sent to all of our members. Only members who have paid their 2016-2017 dues will be included in the Directory. A Directory Addendum will be published in January that will list all members who joined or renewed too late to be included in the Directory. That page can be inserted into your Directory.

League Opportunities

There are many ways that members can be actively involved in the League. Here is a quick overview, and more detailed information can be found in the articles on these committees and programs throughout the Bulletin.

- **Join a committee.** The Education Committee and Town Government Initiative are always looking for new members. Both committees follow local government actions and meetings, plan programs or actions that encourage open government or advocate for League positions.
- **Volunteer for a Voter Service Activity.** Voter Service is one of the most important tasks that the League carries out. LWVCC takes this responsibility very seriously and is very active in voter registration and voter education activities as well as sponsoring Candidate Forums for local and state primary and general elections.

- **Join the Observer Corps.** Observer Corps Members attend Concord and Carlisle committees and report back regularly to the LWVCC board and membership in the Bulletin.
- **Book Group.** This group meets four or five times a year to discuss nonfiction books about current events or concerns.
- **Participate in a Study Committee.** The League has an extensive group of positions (called the League Program) which have been determined through careful and thoughtful study and consensus. This year LWVMA will undertake a study on Charter Schools. Background materials and consensus questions have been prepared, and if a local league wishes to participate, a committee will be formed that will review the documentation and conduct several consensus meetings where the background materials will be discussed and a consensus is arrived at for each question. LWVMA will then collect the consensus decisions from all local Leagues, determine the areas where there has been general agreement. The final consensus will be presented at the LWVMA Convention in June 2017 for a vote. If accepted, it will become a part of the Massachusetts League's Program.

Membership Committee

This year, the membership committee will focus on expanding our membership by finding new ways to reach out to new members as well as offering new programs (such as the Book Group) that will interest all members. We are always looking for new committee members!

Anne Hayden, Chair, Irmi Doane, National Membership List, Ingrid Detweiler, Directory, and Ashley Galvin, Membership Tables.

LWVCC BOOK GROUP

The LWVCC Book Group is starting up after a lull of several years. Its meetings are open to all League members and their friends, and advance notice to attend is not required. The first book to be discussed is DARK MONEY: The Hidden History of the Billionaires Behind the Rise of the Radical Right by Jane Mayer because this book has generated a great deal of interest since its publication in January. Two meetings have been scheduled: Wednesday morning, September 28th from 10:00-11:30am and Thursday evening, October 13th from 7:00-8:30pm. Both meetings will be in the Trustees Room at the Concord Free Public Library.

The second book is SISTERS IN LAW: How Sandra Day O'Connor and Ruth Bader Ginsburg Went to the Supreme Court and Changed the World by Linda Hirschman. These meetings will be on Wednesday morning, November 16th from 10:00-11:30am and Monday evening, November 28th from 7:00-8:30pm at the Concord Free Public Library.

The third and fourth books will be REIGN OF ERROR: The Hoax of the Privatization Movement and the Danger to America's Public Schools by Diane Ravitch and RISE OF THE ROCKET GIRLS: The Women Who Propelled Us, From Missiles to the Moon to Mars by Nathalia Holt. Meeting dates, times and locations will be publicized in MMN, the bulletin and on the League website.

The LWVCC Book Group is a successful program that provides League members with the opportunity to get together and discuss current or historical issues from a jumping-off point of a thought-provoking nonfiction book. We hope you will come and share your ideas and learn from the experiences of the other participants. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at anne.hayden@comcast.net.

Anne Hayden, LWVCC Book Group Chair

OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH PROCESS

This summer the Concord Public School and Concord-Carlisle Regional School Committees asked the LWVCC to select the Citizen-at-Large (CAL) who will represent the Concord and Carlisle communities on the Superintendent Screening Committee.

The LWVCC Board agreed to accept this request and has created a two-step process that will involve both League members and the greater community in this important task. As the same time, we hope that the League's involvement in the superintendent search will encourage Concord and Carlisle residents to want to become more informed and involved in our two school systems.

This bulletin includes a flier with the announcement of the Citizen-at-Large position and the two-step process that will culminate in filling this position. There are two ways that League members can participate:

1. Serving on the League Selection Committee which will conduct the search and select the CAL and alternate or
2. Serving as the Citizen-at-Large or alternate.

League members can apply for only one of these positions – not both.

Please read the enclosed Citizen-at-Large flier and think about whether you or someone you know would be good in either of these two positions. If you would like more information, or if you would like further information about applying for either position, please contact Diane Proctor at dpdproctor@gmail.com by October 17, 2016.

Diane Proctor, LWVCC Vice-President

VOTER SERVICE

Judy Zaunbrecher, Voter Service Chair

The Voter Service Committee has geared up for the 2016 election season. Our activities have included registering voters in Concord and Carlisle, partnering with Lowell Votes, and educating voters about the fall elections.

The LWVCC has registered 40 voters since early June, with 23 of these registrations occurring in the past week! This was done at eight LWVCC voter registration tables set up at Concord and Carlisle events since May. Events have included community events such as Carlisle's Old Home Day and Concord's July 4th Picnic and Back to School Nights at Concord Public Schools. At least four more voter registration events will be held before October 19, the last day to register for the November 8 general election. Many of the voter registrations are for people who have moved and need to update their voter registration. At these events, the League has also provided information to citizens on how to register on-line, check on voter registration status, absentee ballot request forms, and registration forms to fill out later.

A key element of the Voter Service program is educating voters about elections, candidates and issues. LWV candidate guides for the Democratic primary candidates for Middlesex Sheriff and 3rd District Governor's Council were printed in the Concord Journal. LWVCC co-sponsored with LWV of Newton a candidate forum for these two races. The forum was taped by NewTV, Newton's public access TV, and shown on this channel. It was also made available on CCTV for limited viewing before the primary election on September 8. Signs reminding citizens to vote on September 8 were placed in Concord and Carlisle.

The League is actively promoting the special election on September 20 being held by the Minuteman Regional School District. Signs have been placed around town. An informational interview sponsored by LWVCC is being aired the 5 days leading up to the election.

Leading up to the November 8 general election, the League will be hosting two candidate forums, placing reminder signs around town and educating voters on early voting procedures. Voter Service is looking for volunteers to help with all of these activities.

The **14th Middlesex District House Candidate Forum** will be held on October 24 in the Acton. This forum is being co-sponsored with the LWV Acton. Volunteers are needed to formulate and sort questions, prepare and release press releases, and help on the day of the forum.

The **3rd Congressional Candidate Forum** will be held the week of October 17, likely October 21, at Lowell High School. This forum is being co-sponsored with Lowell Votes and will include participation of high school students. Volunteers are needed to help with this forum.

The League has also promoted Vote411 through an article in the Concord Journal, Monday Morning News (MMN), our website, and signs. The Voter Information web page on the LWVCC website has been updated.

LWVCC is collaborating with Lowell Votes, a non-partisan voter registration and education organization, to support the voter registration and education in Lowell. League members have participated in 2 voter registration events. We have also provided Lowell Votes with information on candidates and how to conduct voter registration drives.

All of these results are due to a great group of volunteers. A big thank you to Stephan Bader, Anita Barker, Jeff Clements, Nancy Cronin, Irmis Doane, Louise Haldeman, Anne Hayden, Nancy Heselton, Judy Hill, Robert Hilsinger, Barbara Lewis, Caroline McCloy, Cindy Nock, David Quimby, Lori Pazaris, Diane Proctor, Kitsy Rothermel, Sue St. Croix, Peggy Wargelin, and Deena Whitfield for making this all happen.

OBSERVER CORPS

We now have eight Observers watching Concord/Carlisle committees. They are a very loyal group, but we need to grow! I will make announcements at our various upcoming meetings such as our Opening Coffee on Sept. 21st and hope to find more volunteers – and meanwhile, anyone with an interest in Concord’s government and affairs and with a free evening once a month, please join us.

Current Observers:

Ingrid Detweiler – Concord Free Public Library
Irmi Doane – Concord Zoning Board of Appeals
Clare Gordon – Concord Natural Resources Commission
Robert Hilsinger – Minuteman Regional High School
Louise Haldeman – Concord Select Board
Cindy Nock – Carlisle Board of Selectmen and other Boards and Commissions of Carlisle as they arise
Diane Proctor - Concord Public Schools & Concord-Carlisle Regional School Committee
Anita Barker – Concord Planning Board

Important topics under discussion are the future of Minuteman Regional HS; the development and expansion of the Concord Public Library; the new Superintendent of Concord/Carlisle High School; the expansion and development of Brookside Square; the expansion of the Concord Museum.

Anita Barker, Observer Corps Chair

**CANDIDATES FORUM
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
14TH MIDDLESEX DISTRICT
Monday, October 24, 2016 7:00pm
Acton Public Safety Building
371 Main Street, Acton**

The candidates are: incumbent Representative Cory Atkins (D), Helen Brady (R) and Danny Factor (Green).

LWVCC is co-sponsoring this forum with the Acton Area League. Volunteers are needed to solicit and develop questions, publicity and assist at the forum. If you would like to assist with this forum, contact Judy Zaunbrecher at Voterservice@lwvcc.org.

**CANDIDATE FORUM
US REPRESENTATIVE
3RD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
Targeting week of October 17-24
Lowell**

The candidates are: incumbent Niki Tsongas (D) and Ann Wofford (R).

LWVCC hopes to co-sponsor this forum with Lowell Votes and hold it at Lowell High School. Volunteers are needed. For more information, and to find out if the forum will be held, contact Judy Zaunbrecher at voterservice@lwvcc.org.

EDUCATION

EDUCATION INITIATIVE

The Education Committee is now entering its third year. With the long-term health and well-being of students and our community foremost in mind, we chose **Understanding How Our Schools Work** to describe the focus of the LWVCC's Education Committee.

Last year much of our focus was on the search for a new superintendent for Concord Public Schools and Concord-Carlisle Regional High School, leading to a public forum at the end of April, titled **Choosing a New Superintendent of Schools: A Community Conversation**. Our league has now been asked by the CPS and CCRSD school committees to nominate an at-large citizen member for the screening committee for the superintendent search.

For the coming year, we will be following several topics. At the end of last year, we added some new members who are interested in issues around special education, in particular as regards the Integrated Preschool in Concord. There is a study on Charter Schools from LWVMA this year that will be of great interest to the committee. And the search process for a new superintendent will be ongoing throughout most of the year.

We are will also be considering topics to be proposed to the First Friday series run by the Town Government Initiative.

Our first committee meeting of the year will be Friday October 7 at 9:30 am. We meet monthly, usually on the second Friday of the month at 9:30. Our meetings are open to any LWVCC members who wish to attend. For more information, please contact Julie Rohwein at julie.rohwein@gmail.com.

We invite other LWV members to join us!
Julie Rohwein, Education Committee Chair

LWVMA CHARTER SCHOOL STUDY

The 2015 LWVMA Convention voted to conduct a study of charter schools in Massachusetts. The background report for the study will be released on October 1. It will contain *extensive* background information, a bibliography, and the consensus questions.

The report was prepared by a committee of League members from across the state who have worked extremely hard to bring forth a report that is balanced, represents both pro and con arguments, and will supply ample background information for the consensus questions. This has not been an easy task and the committee has worked hard to ensure that the report is as clear as possible.

Charter schools are in the news right now and are often seen more as a political matter than an educational one. The LWVMA study is only looking at Massachusetts since the method of approving charter schools differs from state to state. In Massachusetts, all charter school operations must be approved by the state which directly oversees all aspects of their operations.

As with all League studies, this study is being undertaken to learn much more about charters and not to prove a predetermined position. This is one of the most complex issues that I have worked on in the League. What are seen by some as strengths are seen as flaws by others.

The LWVCC Board will be creating a study committee this fall that will review and then present the material at consensus meetings this winter. The LWVMA is expecting the return of the consensus reports in February with the hope that the League will achieve a position that can be considered at the 2017 LWVMA Convention.

League members who are interested in the charter school, please contact Cynthia Rainey at President@lwgcc.org to find out more about the LWVCC charter school study.

Louise Haldeman
LWVMA Charter School Study Committee

CONCORD TOWN GOVERNMENT INITIATIVE

Ardis Bordman, Chair

Our goals are to educate League members and the public about the operations of Concord town government and to encourage more active participation in town government, especially through service on town boards and committees. For several years, the League has held, on the First Friday of the month, a series of speakers from town departments, held at the Fowler Library. They have been very informative as the information is more detailed and the format provides for good conversational exchange. We are not holding First Fridays this fall because the League is involved in so many other activities, and will start First Fridays again in the new year.

Meanwhile, we observe committee meetings as much as possible, monitor the Town website for timely posting of agendas and minutes, and write letters to express interest and concerns. We have made efforts to have more televising of boards and committee meetings. During the last year, most of the Finance Committee meetings have been televised. To access past meetings of the Select Board, Finance Committee, and School Committees, go to the town website, click on CCTV, and follow the tabs for the "on demand" films past meetings.

Current Town projects and issues include:

Concord Web site

Concord is in the process of revising the town website. There are changes, of course, so please try it out. The staff is eager to hear from you if you have comments or observations--contact the town manager's office.

Special Town Meeting in December

A special town meeting has been scheduled for December 8, at 7 p.m. The purpose is a warrant article related to further development of Forest Ridge. The warrant opened on Sept. 12, and closed on Sept. 22.

Public Private Partnership Committee

(Please refer to in depth article in this bulletin.) The Public Private Partnership Committee (3P Committee) continues its work to develop

guidelines for how partnerships could be set up in the future. There are myriads of possible types of partnerships, both with charitable and business organizations, and the quandary of transparency when public money is involved. A public hearing was held in September. Please check the town website for their agendas and minutes.

Community Preservation Committee

The Community Preservation Committee has started the process for applicants to seek funding for their projects this year, to be approved by town meeting next April. Again, you can stay informed by checking the town website for agendas and minutes.

Annual Town Meeting Planning Has Started

It is September, and the planning process for the April Town Meeting is already underway. A joint meeting of the Finance Committee, Select Board, School Committee was held on Sept. 22. Letters to the Town Manager and School Committees were sent in August asking for their financial needs for next year. Stay informed by checking the town website Finance Committee for minutes and CCTV for televised meetings. Town and school budgets are in close to final form by Nov. 1. Now is the time to be involved and informed.

Tony Logalbo, our Finance Director, has retired. A public appreciation and farewell was held Sept. 15, with many thanks for his 36 years of superb work for the town. The new Finance Director is Kerry LaFleur, who started in early September.

Our committee meets once a month, usually at either the main library or Fowler library, on a Tuesday afternoon. We welcome you to join us--check the League bulletin for details. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at abordman@comcast.net.

Highlights of the 2016 LWV National Convention

The League of Women Voters US National Convention was held June 17th through 19th in Washington, D.C. Seven hundred delegates from 47 Leagues attended. Cynthia Rainey, Nancy Beeuwkes, Launa Zimmaro, and Nancy Cronin were the delegates from LWVCC. Three plenary sessions were held, and delegates were kept busy every other available time with workshops on a diversity of topics. The banquet speaker at was Ari Berman, author of the book Give Us the Ballot, who spoke about the history of the Voting Rights Act from 1965 to the present and the continuing struggle to safeguard the right to vote.

The national program for 2016- 2018, **Making Democracy Work**, was adopted. This program includes voting rights, voter protection and service, and election reform. Crucial elements in the program are issues before the current Congress including money in politics, ending SuperPacs, public financing, and reforming the Federal Election Commission. The convention voted to accept the positions on the constitutional amendment process and money in politics which resulted from these two 2015 national studies. In addition, there were votes in favor of concurrence on redistricting reform as presented by the LWV Redistricting Task Force,

and concurrence with the Colorado League's position on behavioral health.

Following a thoughtful discussion, the delegates voted to amend the LWV By-Law on League voting members to read "persons at least age 16 years of age who join the League of Women Voters" in place of "citizens 18 years of age who join the LWV." The LWVCC has amended our By-Laws to be consistent with the new by-law.

Resolutions were passed in support of the League positions on gun control, statehood for the District of Columbia, ratification of the United Nations Paris climate agreement, and full implementation of the EPA Clean Power Plan.

Chris Carson of California was elected the 19th president of LWVUS. She has been a member of her local League for over 30 years and a board member of the California LWV where she was responsible for education and advocacy on redistricting, campaign finance, and elections and voting rights issues. She currently serves on the LWVUS Campaign Finance Task Force and has been a member of the League Immigration Study Committee.

Nancy Cronin, National Action Chair



**LWVCC MEMBER SERVING ON STATE
WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

This past spring Janet Rothrock was invited to represent the League of Women Voters on the Water Supply Citizens Advisory Committee (WSCAC). This committee advises the Massachusetts Water Resource Authority (MWRA).

WSCAC represents an unusual approach for engaging citizen participation in water resource policy decisions. WSCAC advises the MWRA and the Department of Conservation and Recreation on water conservation and watershed protection strategies.

Originally formed in 1977 to review a proposed diversion of the Connecticut River to supply water to the metropolitan Boston area, the MWRA subsequently implemented leak repair and demand management programs, avoiding the need for river diversion.

In June, Janet attended her first WSCAC meeting, joining the other WSCAC members for a tour of the Quabbin Reservoir's Shaft 12, the intake point for water destined for use in the metropolitan Boston area.

In July, WSCAC toured the Chelsea Headworks where wastewater is treated, Nut Island Pump Station where it is pumped out to Deer Island, and the Fore River Railroad which moves bags of pelletized solid waste to retail points to be sold as fertilizer.

Janet Rothrock, LWVCC member

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Anita Barker, Observer Corps Chair

**CONCORD PUBLIC PRIVATE
PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT**

The Public Private Partnership (P3) Committee was created by the Concord Select Board in early 2016. The committee is charged with exploring the issues surrounding public private partnerships in the Town of Concord. The first meeting was held May 4, 2016. The committee meets every two weeks and agendas and minutes are posted on the Concord town website.

Concerns have been raised about the interests of private donors and advocates not always aligning with what is in the best interest of the public and Concord taxpayers. Other concerns are: the lack of a review process open to the public, transparency in decision making, public access to information, and public involvement in decision making. The problem centers around reconciling a private entity's right to make decisions without the public input when public property is involved. The resulting lack of openness and lack of public participation can lead to a loss of public trust in the decisions made.

Committee members:

- Two representatives from nonprofits--Jean Goldsberry from Minuteman Arc serves as chair and Peter Mahler from the Rotary Club of Concord.
- Five citizens at-large: Carol Aronson, Miguel Echavari, Abe Fisher, Dorrie Kehoe and Tom Rarich.
- LWVCC representative - Ingrid Detweiler
- Concord and Concord-Carlisle School Committees representative - Bob Grom representative.

A representative from CC@Play has not been able to attend meetings. Tom McKean is the Select Board liaison.

Committee members researched several ongoing public private partnerships such as the Beede Center, Concord Children's Center, Doug White Fields, the Concord Housing Development Corporation, the Library Corporation, and Emerson Umbrella. Discussion centered on identifying commonalities of organization, process, and issues of concern.

The P3 Committee has developed this definition of a Public-Private Partnership:

A public-private partnership is a relationship between a public body and a private body, in which the resulting product is a governmental asset or a public benefit (not always physical). This relationship involves monetary or physical assets of the town. A service contract, grant, and/or gift do not necessarily create a public-private partnership. A P3 may receive grants and/or gifts.

The P3 Committee held a public forum on September 8th to share their findings to date and to hear comment from the public. The next step is to process the information received at the public forum and begin to develop recommendations.

*Ingrid Detweiler
LWVCC Representative to P3 Committee*

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND PUBLIC SAFETY

At the September 21, 2016 LWVCC fall coffee, the Police Chiefs from Concord and Carlisle gave a presentation on emergency preparedness and public safety in our two towns and in the region and the country in general. Here is a recap of their talk prepared by Marge Daggett, LWCVCC Secretary.

At the Fall Coffee on September 21st the Police Chief of Concord, Joseph O'Connor, and John Fisher, Police Chief of Carlisle, were introduced by LWVCC President Cynthia Rainey and addressed this topic and touched on many others.

Chief O'Connor spoke to his background; growing up in Winchester, working on the Cape, serving for 24 years in the MBTA Transit Police and ultimately rising to Superintendent before coming to Concord. He thought that his background gave him a fairly broad perspective on policing. In his department there are 35 police officers (the same number of positions since the Clinton administration), 8 dispatchers for both police and fire calls, school crossing guards, and a social worker who is shared with other communities.

He does not consider the department to be "militarized" as they have taken no equipment from the Federal government, though the department belongs to a consortium addressing issues such as 'active shooter.' The department must be ready for such incidents as they could occur at any time, but their main focus is on their own behavior, trying especially to be problem solvers even though all officers carry firearms and tasers.

Chief O'Connor has presented a seminar about marijuana at CCHS. He shared his concerns about that substance and the inability of the police to determine the degree of intoxication in possible offenders. In general, there is much variation in police training and philosophy around the country.

Chief O'Connor answered a few specific questions: 1) the tornado elicited use of the emergency system that MEMA had set up, 2) Code Red sets up a link to MEMA so users can be notified of warnings, 3) the tampering with

the water storage tanks is being investigated and is probably due to some "misguided" youth, 4) the different types and number of equipment sent after a 911 call depends on the type of call.

Chief Fisher said the emergency preparedness and planning in Carlisle tried to be responsive to the resources they had available and the regional cooperation they had in the area with other police leaders and resources. What really helps in an emergency is the previous preparation, for example doing practice runs in the schools, talks with students and teachers about keeping them safe.

The police keep up-to-date on "statistically significant events" and keep looking for "chinks in their armor" to improve their training and sharpen their oversight. On the whole they try to be socially conscious and continually improve.

Various audience questions were asked:

- 'Black Lives Matter' banners and signs vs. white lives matter -- Both chiefs agreed this is a First Amendment situation where the police must always respect the rights of opinions but still must deal with issues when prejudice is present.
- Bike riders not obeying traffic signals -- Police answered there must be continued education and caution from drivers in these bucolic favorite towns of bikers.
- What are police doing about terrorism -- Both chiefs stated they do not give out response tactics publicly but noted they are trained and have regional SWAT teams and assets to call on.
- Privacy concerns about storage and retention of dash-cam and camcorder records -- the police do not have legislation to set responsible limits and noted that recording and its storage and retrieval does not come for free.
- Would an opioid addict carrying opioids

who turned himself in be arrested -- no. They try to get the person treatment and counseling.

- Do police investigate the sources of opioids -- Yes, they try but their first priority is the victim. They investigate through partners in other agencies.
- The question of police morale and how to maintain it -- morale is generally good but the police force has to be appreciated. Both felt they had supportive communities. O'Connor noted the good respect between the union and the town administration.
- How did each become police officers --

Fisher attended the Coast Guard Academy and spent 6-1/2 years in the force, then taught, but finally headed to the police as he liked to help and to work with people. O'Connor got to the police through sports and enjoying competition and a good program in Winchester for teens. That led him to police work.

- Increasing traffic problems -- Both chiefs meet with other communities and are increasing enforcement by moving police around. He commented that a new traffic app to access faster routes is directing travelers through both towns.

The LWVSudbury invites LWVCC members to attend their important community program.

MENTAL HEALTH: IT TAKES A COMMUNITY

Sunday, November 13, 2016 2:00-4:30pm
Goodnow Library, 21 Concord Rd. Sudbury

A Discussion With

**NATIONAL ALLIANCE ON MENTAL ILLNESS (NAMI)
ADVOCATES:**

JAIL DIVERSION

**William James INTERFACE Referral Services:
Youth Mental Health**

Wicked Sober: Addiction Recovery Program

Sudbury Police Department: Seniors Mental Health

Employment Options: Sources for Recovery

LWVMA Positions on Ballot Questions

There will be four questions on the statewide ballot Nov. 8. LWVMA is taking a stand on only one of them, opposing the additional slot parlor. The League does not have positions on the issues in the other three ballot questions, on charter school expansion, farm animal containment practices and legalization of marijuana.

Our decisions on these questions are based on policy positions taken after study of issues at the state and national levels and consensus by League members.

Here are the questions, in the order they will appear on the ballot, and the League's stand on each.

Question 1: Expanded Gaming Initiative:

This proposed law would allow the state Gaming Commission to issue one additional category 2 license, which would permit operation of a gaming establishment with no table games and not more than 1,250 slot machines. *The League has a position in opposition to legalized casino gambling and urges a NO vote on this question.*

Question 2: Increase Access to Public Charter Schools

This proposed law would allow the state to approve up to 12 new charter schools or enrollment expansions in existing charter schools each year. Approvals under this law could expand statewide charter school enrollment by up to 1% of the total statewide public school enrollment each year. New charters and enrollment expansions would be exempt from existing limits on the number of charter schools, the number of students enrolled in them, and the amount of local school districts' spending allocated to them. *The League does not have a position on charter schools and therefore does not take a stand on this question.*

Question 3: Farm Animal Containment

This proposed law would prohibit any farm from confining any breeding pig, calf raised for veal, or egg-laying hen in a way that prevents the animal from lying down, standing up, fully extending its limbs, or turning around freely. The proposed law would prohibit the sale in Massachusetts of whole eggs or uncooked veal or pork if the hen, pig, or calf was confined in a manner prohibited by the proposed law. *The LWVUS agriculture position does not apply to this question. LWVMA does not take a stand on this question.*

Question 4: Marijuana Legalization

The proposed law would permit the possession, use, distribution, and cultivation of marijuana in limited amounts by persons age 21 and older and would remove criminal penalties for such activities. It would provide for the regulation of commerce in marijuana, marijuana accessories, and marijuana products and for the taxation of proceeds from sales of these items. *The League does not have a position on legalization of marijuana and therefore does not take a stand on this question.*

8/4/2016

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PREVENTION

Nancy P. James

*Introduction: national and state League chapters have made a significant commitment to domestic violence prevention. Our League newsletters contain a report each month on the activities within Concord and surrounding towns about the issue. Included are **Rachel's' Box Project, Domestic Violence Services Network, and DVVAP.***

Restraining Orders & Harassment Orders

Applying for a **Restraining Order** [R.O.] is often a very difficult decision, often fraught with indecision, feelings of embarrassment, failure, betrayal and tears. Sometimes it is your only choice to protect yourself and or others in your care. Restraining Orders are a protection for you, the plaintiff, against the defendant and his/her potential actions.

The defendant is often assumed to be a male intimate partner, but that is not always the case. While the 209A law requires there be a relationship between the parties involved, it can be one that ranges from intimate partners, those in a dating relationship, household members, and those related by marriage or blood. One of the most emotionally difficult decisions is one for parents against their child. These are usually because of issues of mental health, drugs and/or drinking.

In a recent Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court ruling, those living in a group home, nursing home or similar communal living situation are *NOT* eligible to apply for a Restraining Order, but may be eligible for a **Harassment Order** [H.O.]. Harassment Orders like Restraining Orders are a civil court order which has criminal consequences if violated. Originally designed to protect rape victims where the R.O. relationship does not pertain, it has become a "neighbor versus neighbor" tool as well. While most court officials agree these two very different situations should be covered by separate laws, for now it remains the only alternative. Being granted an H.O. takes at least three separate incidents of harassment. Harassment is defined by the law as *Repeated conduct that is not wanted and is known to all parties as offensive.*

Whether you need a Restraining Order or Harassment Order, visit the District Court in which you live with as much information on the defendant as possible. The more information you have the easier it will be for the defendant to be served. Information can include: Legal name and any known aliases, Social Security Number, residential address or where they might be if returning to the home is not possible. If you have children in common or legal guardianship of children that are the defendants it is important to also fill out the children's papers to be added to your request. All matters of custody and child support go through the Probate Court. If you have a document from the Probate Court which contributes to your R.O. request, be sure to include it.

You may experience doubt, fear, embarrassment, and even cry. Being safe, having time to think and plan, is important; and if you chose to go to court, it is probably best to go through with the application. If things change for the better in your relationship with the subject of your R.O./H.O., the order can be modified or dropped.

By: Susan A. Clark, Executive Director of Intimate Partner Violence Project, Inc. a 501(c)3 non-profit for victim assistance; P.O. Box 232, Malden MA 02148.

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