

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CONCORD-CARLISLE

Founded 1930

LWW[®] BULLETIN

NEW LWWCC Website: <https://my.lww.org/massachusetts/concord-carlisle>

Fall 2018

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

Vol 23 2018-19 #2

INDEX

President's Letter.....	2
Committee Reports.....	3
Observer Corps.....	6
Special Report: Minuteman	
Tech High School.....	8
Town Government Committee /	
First Fridays – Town Manager	
Search.....	9
Town Government Committee /	
First Fridays – What's New on	
the Affordable Housing	
Front?.....	10
State Program and Action.....	11
Fall Gathering.....	12
Town Meeting – Looking Back	
and Forward.....	13
An Evening with	
Cass Sunstein.....	14
Concord Library Expansion	
Plans.....	15
Public Works Tour.....	16
League Member Awards.....	16
Finding Videos on Minuteman	
Media.....	17
Even More News.....	18

CALENDAR

NOVEMBER

27	Tue.	Book Group, 10-11:30 am
29	Thu.	Book Group, 7-8:30 pm

DECEMBER

1	Sat.	Concord Warrant Preview Mtg., 8:30-11 am
5	Wed.	Board Mtg., 9-noon; Holiday Lunch 12-2 pm
10	Mon.	Concord Warrant Articles due
10	Mon.	Observer Corps, 7:30-9 pm
14	Fri.	Education Committee, 9:30-11:30 am
20	Thu.	Agenda Setting Committee, 10-noon

JANUARY

2	Wed.	Board Mtg., 9:30 am - 12 pm
3	Thu.	Concord Warrant closes, 4 pm
4	Fri.	First Friday, 9:30-11 am, Education
11	Fri.	Education Committee, 9:30-11:30 am
14	Mon.	Observer Corps, 7:30-9 pm
15	Tue.	Town Government Committee, 2-4 pm
17	Thu.	Agenda Setting Committee, 10-noon
26	Sat.	Winter Member Brunch
28	Mon.	Concord Town Caucus, 7:30 pm

Members are welcome at monthly Board meetings.

Please contact the President if you would like to attend.

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.

President	Diane Proctor	(978) 369-6232
Membership	Anne Hayden	(978) 369-8526
Bulletin Editor	Karlen Reed	(978) 369-3494
Webmaster	Cynthia Rainey	(978) 318-9242

President@lwwcc.org
Membership@lwwcc.org
BULLETIN@lwwcc.org
wm@lwwcc.org

PRESIDENT'S LETTER



It is tempting to retreat, to hide, to lament the state of our world. We have, according to the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change), a mere 10 years before our earth becomes irreparably and dangerously over-heated; our Supreme Court, unless the Justices heed Elena Kagan's recent warnings about the loss of the high court's credibility, will be an impoverished reflection of our divided polity, rather than a judiciously deliberative body; and women, whose memories are sharp and whose pain is true, find themselves questioned and repudiated.

Nevertheless, this is not a time to despair. Many issues are pressing, and our country needs clear-headed voices to challenge wrongs when we see them and to speak out, even when we fear we may not be heard!

Traditionally, the League of Women Voters faces adversity in varied, productive ways. Most obviously, yet

Register to Vote, Advocate, Educate, and Act

most urgently, we register citizens and urge them to vote. Every issue around fairness at the ballot boxes becomes ours—from voter suppression to voter fraud. To assure fairness, we join town clerks in observing voting venues and re-counting ballots; we file suits to protect voters' rights; and we argue for a census that does not discriminate and voting districts that allow each ballot to meaningfully count.

And while voting is fundamental, so is the synergistic work of education and advocacy. The League, in this volatile political climate, continues with its practiced regimen of learning, debating, and arriving at consensus. To educate—ourselves and others—we must be informed. To be informed we attend meetings, read newspapers, magazines, and documents, and test our knowledge against others' sensibilities. We never rely on rumors, headlines, or boisterous belligerencies. Instead, we study issues thoroughly, think carefully, and compare our emerging perceptions

with each other and gradually achieve consensus. Hence, we gather to share books, hear perspectives on town initiatives, learn about immigration and affordable housing challenges, and absorb insights from our active Observer Corps.

We also bring speakers to inform us—as Cass Sunstein did on the last evening of September and as Barbara Berenson did the first week of November. We hold informative First Fridays that provide an important opportunity to both learn from and exchange ideas with our local government officials.

Finally, we advocate—we act. After contemplation, we share our emerging consensus. We work with the Concord Middle Schools to support their civics education of our children,

and we undertake a challenging Civics Bee for students & adults in the spring. We write a column each month for the Concord Journal and send articles to the *Carlisle Mosquito*. And, when necessary, we march—as did the Suffragists 100 years ago and as many did for women's rights in January 2016 and for Climate Change in 2015.

None of these efforts can be successful, however, without everyone's engagement and support. That means volunteering to work with committees, attending public events, and expressing your concerns. We cannot be successful without your engagement!

My thanks and respect,
Diane Proctor, President.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

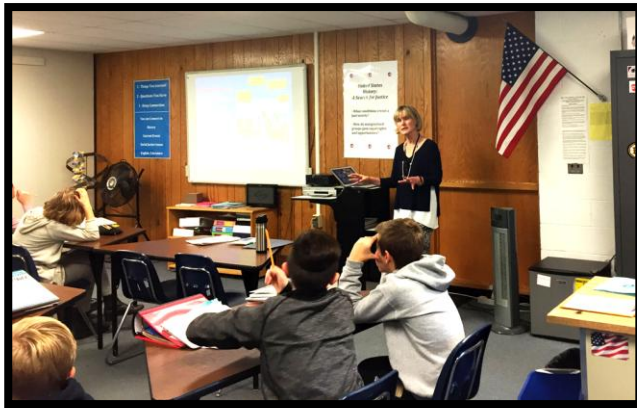
Our LWVCC membership has reached 252 members, making it the largest chapter in Massachusetts and one of the largest local chapters in New England! Congratulations and thank you! On July 1 our new membership year began and it is not too late to renew your membership. You can renew by going to our website, print out the membership form and send it in with a check for either \$55 (single membership) or \$80 (household membership). Or you can join through PayPal on our website. You can also renew at the LWVCC table at one of our programs listed on the Bulletin

Calendar. Please be sure to include any updates to your contact information on your membership form. We will be printing our annual Membership Directory this month and want to make sure every member's information is accurate. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at Membership@LWVCC.org. Anne Hayden, Membership Chair.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Education Committee meets monthly on Friday mornings, usually the second Friday of the month. Check MMN for dates. This year we have enjoyed a robust

collaboration with teachers at both CCHS and CMS by sharing our knowledge about the voting process. Judy Zaunbrecher has been the point person from the League for both schools. The high school Activism Club took on the task of getting students registered to vote. At the middle school, Edie Lipinski and Susan Frey joined Judy, over a two-day period, to present a lesson on the history and importance of voting to all eighth grade students.



Civics education is a major theme in the eighth grade curriculum, and we were thrilled to work with the middle school's social science department. In the spring we plan to cohost a Civics Bee with Sudbury, Weston, and Wayland by sending three teams to the event, consisting of high school, middle school, and town members. Stay tuned for more information.

The Education Committee also follows the work of the School Committee. This year, Regional School District' Superintendent Dr. Laurie Hunter and Director of Finance & Operations Jared Stanton are preparing a budget that has been created from the ground up and are keeping the Finance Committee and Select Board informed on the budget's progress. Other goals outlined by Dr. Hunter include fostering a school culture of inclusion and respect for diversity as teachers and staff will participate in

professional development sessions on cultural competency. In addition, the middle schools and high school are following a program called Challenge Success to address student wellness. See the link here: <http://www.concordcarlisle.org/challenge-success/>. For more information please contact Edie at education@lwc.org. *Edie Lipinski, Education Committee Chair*

IMMIGRATION COMMITTEE

Aviva Chomsky, who has written the book "They Take Our Jobs and 20 Other Myths about Immigration," will be the speaker at our January Breakfast. On October 11 some members of our committee listened to a speaker at the Council on Aging who reviewed the extensive history of our country's immigration policies from the 18th century to the present.

On October 18 the Immigration Committee met with two Concord women who in 2014 started a nonprofit organization called Dignity in Asylum (DIAS). They pointed out the difference between asylum seekers and refugees. Refugees have applied to come to the U.S., usually have sponsors, and may gain entry with some documentation, but asylum seekers have come without documentation or sponsors, do not have the right to legal representation, and may end up homeless while they wait for asylum. They are at risk of immediate detainment and placement in a local jail.

DIAS was founded to offer free housing and community support to asylum seekers, as well as English classes and personal comforting support. DIAS has helped 30 people over the last three years. At the moment they are housing 12 guests and have 15 volunteers helping them. DIAS rents apartments to house them, but has difficulty finding landlords who will do this. When the person or family move in, they sign a

contract that they will leave when they find work. Often the recipients are journalists or change-makers in their country.

The next Immigration Committee meeting will be on November 15 where we will hear from an organization called English at Large, a group of volunteers who teach English to immigrants. For more information please contact Nancy at immigration@lwgcc.org. *Nancy Cronin, Immigration Committee Chair*

EVENTS COMMITTEE

****Save the dates**** Upcoming annual LWGCC event details will be included on the post cards sent to each member household via snail-mail, but meanwhile here are the dates for two events you will not want to miss: **Wednesday, December 5**...12 noon – 2 pm...Holiday Luncheon hosted by Nancy Beeuwkes...featured speaker will be Concord Town Manager Chris Whelan. **Saturday, January 26, 2019**...8 am – 11:30 am...Winter Breakfast Meeting at the Colonial Inn...featured speaker will be Aviva Chomsky. *Stephan Bader, Events Committee Chair*

VOTER SERVICE REPORT

The Voter Service Committee focused on getting out the vote by registering and educating voters for the September 4 state primary and November 6 state general elections. As always, all of our efforts and educational materials are non-partisan—the League does not support or endorse any candidate or party.

LWGCC conducted voter registration drives in Concord and collaborated with Google, Mass Audubon, and The Jericho Road project to register and educate voters at Google in Cambridge, Drumlin Farms, and Lowell. Overall, over 40 voters registered to

vote or updated their voter registration during these tabling events.

LWGCC sponsored candidates' forums with the Acton Area, Chelmsford, Greater Lowell, and Westford Leagues for the 14th Middlesex State House District primary and general election races and two forums for the 3rd Congressional District primary election race. Over 1,000 people attended these forums, plus many more watched the videos posted on YouTube. LWVMA Scharfman Educational Grants were received to cover the full costs of these forums. LWGCC promoted the LWVMA online voters guide available at <https://InformedVoterMA.org> to help educate and encourage voters to set up voting plans for both the state primary and general elections. Please contact Judy Zaunbrecher at VoterService@lwgcc.org if you would like to volunteer for the Voter Service Committee. *Judy Zaunbrecher, Voter Service Chair*

CARLISLE TOWN GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

A group of Carlisle LWGCC members met for coffee and conversation at Ferns. We



discussed ways for the League to expand its presence in Carlisle beyond the local candidate forums and came up with a plan, involving the Carlisle Master Planning process, writing a column in the Carlisle Mosquito, and updating signage on the Carlisle rotary in Town Center. *Cindy Nock, Carlisle Town Government Committee.*

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

The Communications Committee is pleased to report that the new website is live at: <https://my.lwv.org/massachusetts/concord-carlisle>. We hope that the website will be a valuable tool for our members and the public. A website is always a work in progress, and we urge all League members to visit the website and tell us of any errors. Most importantly, add any additional information that you would like to find there. Comments can be sent to Nancy at Communications@LWVCC.org. *Nancy Brown, Communications Chair*

LWVCC BOOK GROUP

In November, the LWVCC Book Group will focus on two books about the Korean War and North Korea: The Korean War: A History by Bruce Cumings and The Orphan Master's Son by Adam Johnson. Those

meetings will be Tuesday, November 27, 10-11:30 am in the Trustees Room in the Concord Main Library and Thursday, November 29, 7-8:30 pm in the Lower Meeting Room at the Concord Main Library. In January the Book Group will turn to immigration myths and the refugee crisis with two books: They take Our Jobs! And 20 other myths about immigration by Aviva Chomsky, and Go, Went, Gone by Jenny Erpenbeck and Susan Bernofsky. These meetings will be Monday, January 28, 10-11:30 am, and Thursday, January 31, 7-8:30 pm, both in the Trustees Room at the Concord Main Library.

Please realize that it is not necessary to read both books for these meetings! Our discussions are always lively and informative, and the Steering Committee felt that offering both nonfiction and fiction books for these two topics will enable attendees to fully explore these important topics. An added treat: Aviva Chomsky has agreed to be our January 26 Breakfast speaker. LWVCC Book Group meetings are open to all. *Anne Hayden, Janet Miller, Diane Proctor and Mary Sterling, Book Group Steering Committee*

THE LWVCC OBSERVER CORPS

Welcome to the LWVCC Observer Corps page – This Bulletin contains short summaries about seven of the Concord and Carlisle Town Committees watched by our Observer Corps, plus one Special Observer Report. Please let the committee Observer or me know if you have any questions about a particular committee. We need Observers for the Historic Districts Commission and the Zoning Board of Appeals, as well as additional substitute Observers. *Janet Rothrock, Observer Corps Chair,*



jrothrock@hyraxes.com

Concord-Carlisle Regional School Committee

The Concord-Carlisle Regional School Committee (Joint Committee) is a seven-person elected board with members from Concord and Carlisle: Robert Grom (Chair), Mary Storrs (Vice Chair), Johanna Boynton, Heather Bout, Court Booth, Wally Johnston, and Christine Lear. The responsibilities of the Joint Committee are to appoint and evaluate the Superintendent, Dr. Laurie Hunter, to review and approve the high school budget, and to establish educational goals and policies. The Regional School Committee meets on the fourth Tuesday of the month, and as needed, at the Regional District Office, 120 Meriam Road, Concord. Website: <http://www.concordps.org/school-committee/>. *Edie Lipinski, Observer.*

Concord Public School Committee

The Concord Public School Committee is a five-person elected Concord board: Johanna Boynton (Chair), Wally Johnston (Vice Chair), Robert Grom, Heather Bout, and Court Booth. This committee has the same responsibilities as the Joint Committee, but focuses on the K-8 grade levels. This committee meets twice a month on the second and fourth Tuesday, and as needed, at the Regional District Office, 120 Meriam Road, Concord. Website: <http://www.concordps.org/school-committee/>. *Edie Lipinski, Observer.*

Carlisle Public School Committee

The Carlisle School Committee has five elected members – David Model (Chairperson), Josh Kablotsky (Vice Chairperson), Mary Storrs, Melynda Gambino, and Christine Lear – who serve for three-year terms. Their charge is to hire and supervise the Superintendent and several school officers, develop and monitor the Carlisle school budget, and review all school policies. This committee meets the second Wednesday of each month in the Community Room in the Robbins Building at Carlisle Public School. Website: <https://www.carlisle.k12.ma.us/Page/1416>.

CCHS Campus Oversight Subcommittee

The CCHS Campus Oversight Subcommittee is charged to make recommendations to the Joint Committee on functional and educational projects, their timeline and funding for the CCHS campus. Its members, Mary Storrs (Chair), Johanna Boynton, and Robert Grom, meet as needed at the Regional District Office, 120 Meriam Road, Concord. Website: <http://www.concordps.org/school-committee/cchs-campus-oversight-subcommittee/>. *Betsy Sloan, Observer.*

CCRSB Budget Subcommittee

The Concord Carlisle Regional District School Budget Subcommittee is charged with reviewing the School budget process, providing financial oversight of reports, audits and warrants, and making recommendations to the Joint Committee on major budget changes. Its members, Heather Bout (Chair), Wally Johnston, Christine Lear, meet at the Regional District Office, 120 Meriam Road, Concord. Website: <http://www.concordps.org/school-committee/budget-subcommittee/>. *Peggy Wargelin, Observer.*

CCRSB Policy Subcommittee

The Concord Carlisle Regional School District Policy Subcommittee is charged with reviewing proposed changes to the CCHS and Concord Public School policy handbooks. Its members, Mary Storrs and Court Booth, meet as needed at the Regional District Office, 120 Meriam Road, Concord. Website: <http://www.concordps.org/school-committee/policy-subcommittee/>.

Minuteman Career and Technical High School Committee

This regional school committee oversees the Minuteman High School, also known as the Minuteman Technical Institute, or Minuteman, in Lexington. Member communities are Acton, Arlington, Belmont, Bolton, Concord, Dover, Lancaster, Lexington, Needham and Stow. The primary project is to complete the new 628-student technical high school scheduled for completion in fall 2019. Concord's representative is Carrie Flood.

On October 1, the Minuteman Regional High School in Minuteman regional Vocational Technical was recognized as an Exemplary Achievement Gap Closing Schools National Blue Ribbon School for 2018 by the U. S. Secretary of Education. Minuteman was one of only three Massachusetts high schools to win this award. Minuteman representatives were invited to attend a recognition ceremony in Washington, DC and receive a National Blue Ribbon School plaque and flag as symbols of Minuteman's achievements. Websites: <https://www.minuteman.org> and <https://www.minutemanti.org/>. *Jim Pazaris, Observer.*



SPECIAL OBSERVER CORPS REPORT: MINUTEMAN TECH SCHOOL

Observer Corps Report – Minuteman Regional Vocational Technical School District Committee (Minuteman) Meeting, September 25, 2018, 7:00 p.m., Minuteman High School
758 Marret Road, Lexington, MA. Observer: Jim Pazaris.

Present: All Board members except Stow and Dover representatives. The new Minuteman Vocational High School (also called the Minuteman Technical Institute) is still on budget and on time. 170 workers on site. Estimated 40% complete. Teaching staff turnover remains very low, which helps with year to year transitions. Student diversity is going down, with a steady drop off in female students. About 20% fewer students in freshman class compared to last year. Total students in all grades is 517.

Recruiting: Hired an Assistant Director of Admissions. Need more outreach. Seeing some students levels increase at Nashoba and Assabet Vocational Schools. Minuteman needs a better web page and to use social media as Nashoba and Assabet do. Membership: significant interest from Watertown to join. To make joining feasible, the capital assessment would be moved from 20% to 100% over 4 years. Weston, Wayland, Sudbury, and Carlisle have shown no overt interest in joining Minuteman.

Bill 4503 - An Act authorizing the Minuteman regional vocational technical school district to lease certain land and buildings. The bill has been signed by the Governor. Lexington is

considering sharing additional athletic facilities with Minuteman. Time is pressing on this issue. Lexington votes on this in March, where there is also a new town manager. There was discussion, but no conclusion if they should reach out to the other communities about sharing resources. Minuteman will get priority for the fields but would receive income from “renting” the fields to others. Once the new building is completed, the old structure will be razed in about 1 year, and more athletic fields will be done.

Outreach: These ideas are unfortunately time consuming in a time when everyone’s regular schedules are very full. They will do Middle School visits and set up a table at lunchtime. Minuteman encourages student participation in more community events for increased visibility. Other visible activities? Advertising – Assabet, e.g., has a wall in the Solomon Pond Mall. Parent liaisons? Note: no minutes have been available since July on their site – I will see if they are available elsewhere, but not obvious as to where to access them.

TOWN GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE / FIRST FRIDAYS

October 5 – Concord Town Manager Search Selection Process

On October 5, the League of Women Voters of Concord-Carlisle began its First Friday series with a focus on the Concord Town Manager Selection Process. Panelists were **Tom McKean**, Concord Select Board Chair; **Arthur Fulman**, former Concord Select Board member; **Nancy Tavernier**, Clerk, Acton Town Manager Search Committee; and **Carl Valente**, retired Lexington Town Manager. League President Diane Proctor moderated the panel.



Each panelist gave a 15 minute presentation followed by questions from the audience. Tom provided an overview of the Concord Town Manager selection process. The 9-member selection committee will begin the process of hiring a search consultant, creating the job announcement, and setting the time line to complete the hiring process before Chris Whelan retires in June. Tom suggested that a good town manager candidate will be expected to be familiar with the Long Range Plan. [League member Deena Whitfield was among those appointed to the search committee.]

Art offered his historical knowledge from working with the past four Concord Town Managers, noting that the Town has changed dramatically in the past 40 years. He noted that the Select Board has four basic roles: ceremonial, educational, adjudicatory, and policy development. The role of the town manager,



Art said, is to execute policy. “Chris is a firecracker,” commented Art, and he hoped the next town manager would be a good listener and advocate, like people, and be well-organized. “The next town manager doesn’t have to know everything but does need to be skilled in hiring good staff,” added Art.

Nancy recounted her experience on Acton’s recent town manager search committee, which followed a slightly different path than Concord’s. She stressed repeatedly the need to guarantee prospective candidates confidentiality in the application process. “A confidential application process encouraged good candidates to apply,” she said, and it generated an overwhelming response to their job offering. A useful, but time-consuming, technique in the selection process was getting the applicants to write responses to essay questions about Acton. The candidates’ writing would “jump out and show who has the abilities,” Nancy added. The best question? “What would you like to tell us that we have not asked about?”

Carl gave his perspective, as a former town manager for Lexington, Weston, and Needham. “It’s important for the town manager to have good collaborative skills,” he said, and he noted that several neighboring towns, including Lexington, Weston, Bedford, Sudbury, Wayland, Acton, Burlington and Boxborough, have recently replaced their town managers. Carl explained that Concord’s “strong town manager” approach is different from a “town administrator,” but encouraged the audience not to get too hung up on titles alone. “It depends on the town,” he said, adding that a strong town manager is one who has the authority to reorganize town departments and act like a general contractor for the Select Board’s policy goals. Carl urged the listeners to look for integrity and membership in the state or national manager organizations (MMA and ICMA) because they enforce a code of ethics among their members. “The biggest challenge,” Carl stated, “is to find out how well the candidate understands the community.” How true for Concord. This program may be viewed on Minuteman Media Network’s YouTube channel at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OOU0_9YbIDM. *Karlen Reed*

November 2 – What’s New on the Affordable Housing Front?

The topic of November’s well attended First Friday, organized by members of the Town Government Committee, was Affordable Housing. The League’s goal was to de-mystify the subject and to help attendees understand what Affordable Housing is, who is eligible, what all the acronyms mean, what Concord groups are working on it, and what Housing

recommendations were included in the new Long Range Plan. Stephan Bader, Charles Phillips and Barbara Morse joined Chris Kluchman, Housing Choice Program Director for the Commonwealth, who provided an analysis of Affordable Housing and population trends throughout the State, as well as, specifically, in Concord. LWV President Diane Proctor moderated.





Massachusetts has one of the highest sales and rental prices in the country. Adequate affordable housing is difficult to achieve, with far more demand than supply. Ms. Kluchman made the case that providing affordable housing is not only a moral issue but also an economic one. With less affordable housing, it is difficult to persuade people to move to Massachusetts—and so businesses often leave the area. A person earning \$100,000 in Ohio – who is offered a job in Massachusetts and who quickly discovers that he/she cannot duplicate

their living standard – understandably chooses to stay in Ohio.

Clearly, more affordable housing is needed in the greater Boston area, including Concord where it is noticeably lagging behind demand. To achieve this goal, more and varied types of housing units are needed, i.e. not only single-family houses but also two and three and four family structures. To quote Ms. Kluchman, “A developer applies for and receives funding and/or State or Federal housing subsidies to help him achieve his development plan, but the Town sets the table through its zoning.” Zoning, therefore, is key and, as noted by Concord’s Planning Board Chair, Gary Kleiman, Concord’s Board will be investigating zoning options during the coming year.

For those unable to attend, a video of this meeting is available at the Minuteman Media YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUk6r-j8hFwin1lwht-RViA/videos>.

How Concord raises funds for Affordable Housing is another facet of this issue. Todd Benjamin, Chair, Concord Affordable Housing Funding Committee, recently presented to the Select Board the results of his committee’s year-long study of funding options with the expectation of an Article or Articles being placed on the 2019 Town Meeting Warrant. The Committee’s goal is to raise consistent funding from multiple revenue sources. See: <http://www.concordma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/16698/October-29-2018-Supporting-Materials>. *Dorrie Kehoe.*

STATE PROGRAM AND ACTION

Our state league, the League of Women Voters for Massachusetts (LWVMA), is conducting a Study of the Massachusetts ballot question process – the way an issue goes from idea to our ballot. **The Concord-Carlisle League will hold its consensus meetings in**



January, dates and locations to be announced. At these meetings, we will review the LWVMA Study materials and reach a consensus opinion on the 15 consensus questions. Our Board's report of that consensus opinion to LWVMA is due February 16, 2019. The LWVMA will present a recommendation, based on all League reports, to the LWVMA 2019 Convention for a League vote.

League members are often asked, "What does the League actually do?" The answer can involve voting: voter education, registration, and advocacy of voter rights. The answer should also include speaking out about **issues** that involve government in how it assists people and communities in areas such as education, healthcare, the environment, fair elections, and many more. The public is often confused by our adherence to a non-partisan position with regard to candidates for political office and our dedication to speaking out on issues of importance to the health and safety of our communities. What gives the League confidence to speak out on issues is its long tradition of Study.

A League Study is usually proposed by either the national, or state, or local League, recognizing a need for in-depth study of an issue before speaking out or taking action for or against an issue. Studies usually take one to two years to complete and when drafted, are sent out with questions to local, state, and national members for consensus. The lengthy Study period is due to the time needed to collect and discuss written historical, factual, and opinion materials on the subject. The League does not undertake a study with the intent to prove an already decided point, but we try to see all the pros and cons. This is an important part of legislative lobbying. One often hears from members of Congress that they particularly like to hear from LWV members because they are so well informed.

In January, Concord-Carlisle League members will review the State study on ballot questions; including their history, appropriateness, and effectiveness. Learn how to propose and support a ballot question should the League or another interest group wish to do so. Consider spending an evening with League friends to review and comment on this study. The LWVMA study materials are posted on the LWVMA Study Page: <https://lwmvma.org/the-lwmvma-study-on-the-massachusetts-ballot-question-process>. *Nancy Beeuwkes, State Program & Action Chair*

FALL GATHERING

Our Fall Gathering on September 12, at the Concord Greene, was a lively event, with over 65 members in attendance. The focus of the gathering was "Criminal Justice Reform—what's new; what's needed?" We were treated to thoughtful, appealing talks by Judge John C. Cratsley, Di Clymer, and Colleen Kirby (of the LWVMA). Judge Cratsley helped us to put recent changes in judicial protocol into perspective; Di graciously provided insight into the important Restorative Justice Program she has helped to spearhead; and Colleen helped



us to see how hard the work to bring about Legislative change really is.

The speakers also reviewed seven key provisions of the recently enacted Criminal Justice Bill, which focuses on reforms to 1) juvenile justice, 2) bail policies, 3) more use of diversion programs, 4) expungement, 5) solitary confinement and compassionate release, 6) elimination of mandatory minimums for certain low-level drug offenses, and 7) fentanyl and carfentanil trafficking. It was a privilege to have this distinguished panel begin our League year. If you could not attend, you can still get a flavor of the program and discussion, without the calories from the fresh fruit and the tasty home-made treats, on Minuteman Media at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7ITdWABdiaw&list=PL1TTzrWEKOOOnuylM2xgOGh8vr4DsB67hR&index=2>. *Stephan Bader*

TOWN MEETING – LOOKING BACK AND FORWARD

Fall once again is the harbinger of the opening acts of Town Meeting, with its financial guideline letters, applications for Community Preservation Act funds, engineering and design studies, hearing schedules, and warrant review preparations. This year we added the Special Town Meeting on October 1, which helped us shake off the analytical cobwebs and, in a short time frame, review and vote on thirteen warrant articles (ten of which passed, two were withdrawn, and one was denied).



Looking to April's Town Meeting, we can see the script starting to form. The Community Preservation Committee received 14 applications totaling over \$2.5 million for Community Preservation Act funding, yet only \$1.5 million is available. These applications cover Emerson Field improvements, White Pond, the Gerow land, Bruce Freeman Rail Trail, Regional Housing, Junction Village, Harrington Park, Warners Pond, Emerson land acquisition, Heywood Meadow Stone Wall, Old Calf Pasture, Main Library and Heywood-Benjamin House, and 110 Walden Street. Reviewing these applications will take time, concentration, and reflection.

Also, the Regional School District's engineering firm is examining the costs and construction times for capital improvement projects on the high school campus, with a 75/25 cost split between Concord and Carlisle. Projects included are student and community parking, driveway paving, lighting, sidewalks, irrigation well and lines, and stadium restrooms. Future projects may include a track, field house, ice rink, and outdoor learning spaces. The Superintendent and Regional School Committee members play leading roles in shaping these capital improvements into warrant articles.

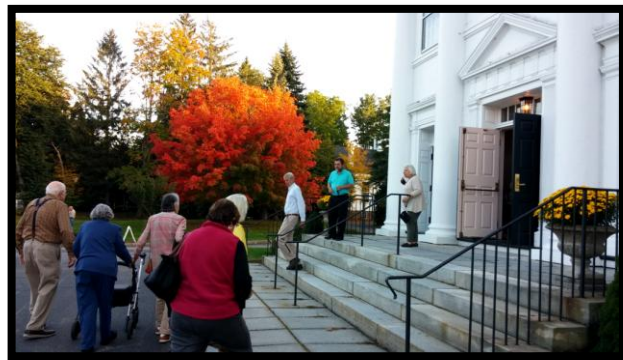
The Planning Board is planning for the Town's future. Nine draft bylaw changes are currently brewing, including a proposed expansion of the West Concord Formula Business Bylaw to

include the West Concord Industrial District. Other proposed bylaw changes address groundwater, nonconforming items, marijuana, fairs and bazaars, handicapped parking, Flood Plain Conservancy District Boundary, West Concord business district boundary extension, and West Concord Industrial District table of uses.

Set behind this scene, our Town Manager for the past quarter of a century is making his final appearance at the April Town Meeting, and his successor has not yet been picked. The hum of affordable housing in the background mixes with the anticipated, yet always surprising, plot twists offered through citizen proposals. Also, the Finance Committee, our fiscal watchdog, has found renewed vigor as it designs the financial parameters for the other players in this production. So, will Town Meeting, which starts April 8, 2019, be a rendition of a Shakespearean tragedy, or will the actors in this governance drama give us a well-organized, rational, enlightened yet fiscally sustainable production? Draft warrant articles are due December 10 and the warrant closes on January 3, 2019. Public hearings start February 11, 2019. *Karlen Reed, Editor*

AN EVENING WITH **CASS SUNSTEIN**

Professor Cass Sunstein spoke to a crowd of over 150 at the Trinitarian Congregational Church on September 30. His talk began: “Liberal democracy has enjoyed much better days. Vladimir Putin has entrenched authoritarian rule and is firmly in charge of a resurgent Russia. In global influence, China may have surpassed the United States, and Chinese president Xi Jinping is now empowered to remain in office indefinitely. In light of recent turns toward authoritarianism in Turkey, Poland, Hungary, and the Philippines, there is widespread talk of a ‘democratic recession.’ In the United States, President Donald Trump may not be sufficiently committed to constitutional principles of democratic government.”



Cass focused the audience’s attention on the lives of ordinary people during the rise of Nazism. He noted, “They help explain how people cannot only participate in dreadful things but also stand by quietly and live fairly ordinary days in the midst of them. They offer lessons for people who now live with genuine horrors.” In focusing on three very different men, who chronicled their experiences in 1930’s Germany—Milton Mayer’s who wrote *They Thought They Were Free*; Sebastian Haffner’s devastating, unfinished 1939 memoir, *Defying Hitler*; and Konrad Jarausch’s *Broken Lives*—Cass reminded us how easy it is to be lulled into complacency and excuses when living through challenging times.

The massacre in Pittsburgh in late October, that made evident the consequences of hate speech, objectification, and division poignantly clear, brought Professor Sunstein's talk into vivid relief. May we heed his words and remain an organization that is not quiescent in difficult times. The League's videotaped program is available on Minuteman Media at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QHvMCKGFSOI&list=PL1TTzrWEKOOOnuyIM2xgOGh8vr4DsB67hR>. *Diane Proctor*

CONCORD LIBRARY EXPANSION PLANS

Concord Free Public Library Corporation President Sherry Litwack shared updated plans for the renovation and expansion of the main library at an October 18 public forum. The library of the future will have more social and meeting areas as well as space for children, teens, and young adults to explore and use library resources. Gathering and learning spaces are being created to meet the demand of an average of 900 visitors per day at both the main and Fowler branch. In addition, steps will be taken to improve security for the library's Special Collections as well as reconfiguring some space, within the existing building, to better enable public access to books and materials. The central rotunda area, as well as the historic reading rooms, will not be touched.

The \$8.5 million plan will connect the single-family house at 151 Main St. — acquired by the Corporation in spring of 2013—to the main library building. A glass-enclosed walkway will join the two buildings and provide informal social space for library patrons. A new children's library will be built at the back of the single-family house, while the main part of the house will be renovated to house library staff and small meeting rooms. A story garden will be accessed from the children's area. Space in the present children's room will be converted to a teen area and a large, 170-seat program/meeting room. Four handicapped parking spaces will be added on the Main Street side of the building.

As dictated in William Munroe's public private partnership, the Corporation has financial responsibility to raise funds to maintain the library buildings and grounds—including the Fowler Library in W. Concord—and support the library's Special Collections. To accomplish the renovation/expansion, the Corporation has undertaken a capital campaign to raise \$10 million dollars which includes \$1.5 million as an endowment to help pay for future maintenance of the new space. Under Munroe's partnership, Concord residents pay for library operations—staff, utilities, books and materials—through the library budget which is approved each year at town meeting.

There have been other library renovations. In 2010 the Corporation raised \$3.5 million for the renovation of Fowler Library with an additional \$375,000 contributed in Community Preservation funds. The main library renovations, which occurred approximately 15 years ago, also cost \$8.5 million. *Ingrid Detweiler.*

TOWN GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE / PUBLIC WORKS TOUR



Baldinger of Highways and Grounds.

After giving an overview of the Cambridge Turnpike Road reconfiguration and the Nagog Pond Watershed, Rich and Anna led the tour while Jeff, our van driver, skillfully maneuvered through Concord traffic to the project sites. First stop was a quick look at the Keyes Road and Walden Street parking lot repaving projects and



League members the Cemetery's program to replace crumbling cemetery walls, drainage systems and roads near Authors' Ridge. A brief drive-through of Cambridge Turnpike showed the dramatic need to elevate and reconfigure the roadway, sidewalk, and parking near the swamp and marsh areas. The final stop was Nagog Pond, where Alan and Melissa showed League members the existing water treatment plant, ozone system, dam and the proposed filtration pipe location. All in all, this was a fine tour of some of Concord's critical roads, historic cemetery, and water infrastructure. *Karlen Reed.*

Ten League members toured critical infrastructure sites in Concord on October 30 with Department of Public Works Director Rich Reine, Water Superintendant Alan Cathcart, Town Engineer Chris Olbrot, Highway and Grounds Superintendant Dan Rowley, Projects Coordinator Anna Trout, Environmental Coordinator Melissa Simoncini, and Jeff Koranda and Keith



the bioretention systems. Next, Chris gave a short talk on the Alcott Road site on the Town's road and water main replacement program, where aging pipes are replaced and the road and nearby surfaces are regraded, binded, and paved.

Sleepy Hollow Cemetery was next on the agenda, where Dan and Keith showed the

LEAGUE MEMBER AWARDS

Unsung Heroine Awards --The Carlisle Mosquito reported that League member Launa Zimmario has received an Unsung Heroine on June 20, 2018. "The Massachusetts Commission

on the Status of Women held its annual Unsung Heroines Awards Ceremony at the State House honoring women who make outstanding contributions to their organizations and communities. Zimmario was nominated by Representative Cory Atkins for her advocacy work on climate change, noting that ‘Launa does critical work advocating for energy and environmental policy as a member of the League of Women Voters Legislative Action Committee; she is a fierce advocate for the planet. I am so grateful for Launa’s hard work and advocacy.’” Carlisle Mosquito, June 27, 2018: <https://www.carlislemosquito.org/index.php/search/?id=33559>. Other Concord-Carlisle League members who have received this award include Di Clymer (2015), Nancy Beeuwkes (2014), Marian Thornton (2012), Ruth Lauer (2011), and Christy Barbee (2008). For more information, see: <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/massachusetts-commission-on-the-status-of-women>.

FINDING VIDEOS ON MINUTEMAN MEDIA

Here is how you can find Concord’s new Minuteman Media Network (MMN) website so you can watch the League’s PEG (public, education and government) programs and other shows that are being broadcast on Channels 8 (Public), 9 (Government), and 99 (Education), and available on-line when you want. These programs used to be aired and stored on the former CCTV website.



1. To find the MMN web page:

- Go to the Town's Home page: <http://www.concordma.gov/>.
- Hover your cursor over "Government" and look to the left side.
- Under "Communications" is the label "Minuteman Media Network (MMN)."
- Click on "Minuteman Media Network" and you get to the MMN web page: <http://www.concordma.gov/2258/Minuteman-Media-Network-MMN>.

You are on the MMN web page. This has tabs for the Public, Education, and Government channels, the MMN YouTube channel link, a contact (email) link, plus a calendar that shows the filming schedule and an archive link. A schedule showing the broadcast dates and times will eventually be displayed on this web page.

2. To watch a PEG channel live:

Click "Public" (channel 8) or "Education (channel 99) or "Government" (channel 9).

3. To watch a recorded PEG video:

- The MMN web page has, on the left side, "MMN YouTube Channel."
 - Click on "MMN YouTube Channel" and you get to the Town's on-line videos: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUk6r-j8hFwin1lwht-RViA/featured> .
- MMN has set up over 23 playlists (groups) of videos. *Karlen Reed.*

EVEN MORE NEWS:

Member Note: Domestic Violence Prevention has been a longstanding national and state League of Women Voters commitment. For many years our League newsletters have contained reports for identification, education, information, and local activities about domestic violence prevention, dating violence, bullying, and related issues. Included are *Rachel's' Box Project*, *Domestic Violence Services Network* and *DVVAP*. ***Domestic violence remains this country's #1 public health issue!*** Nancy P. James

Note: On October 20, several League members participated in the LWVMA League Leaders lunch in Harvard, MA. Diane Proctor, Judy Zaunbrecher, Launa Zimmaro, Karlen Reed and Susan Frey joined over 60 league members from across the state to hear excellent speakers describe the state League's activities, 100 Reasons Why I Joined the League, the benefits of diversity in chapter membership, the upcoming state League Study on Ballot Question Process, and preparations for the National League's 100th anniversary in 2020. For more information, see: <https://lwwma.org/2018-league-leaders-lunch/>.

Note: League members attended Concord's Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Workshop on September 20 and 21, as part of a stakeholder program to identify extreme weather hazards, list existing vulnerabilities and strengths, and recommend prioritized actions to reduce risk and build resilience in Concord. Over a two-day period, League members Lori Gill-Pazaris, Karlen Reed, and others discussed possible environmental, infrastructure, and societal initiatives for the Town. At the end, the attendees voted on the suggestions. The top four initiatives were: 1) promote low impact development and green infrastructure, 2) develop an integrated resource management plan, 3) prioritize an action plan for police/fire/public works facilities located in a flood plain, and 4) find ways to improve cell phone service throughout town. For more information on Concord's efforts to improve community sustainability, see: <http://www.concordma.gov/2108/Sustainability>.



Note: West Chester, Pennsylvania citizens are actively pursuing a plastic bag ban and contemplating a ban on the sale of small single use water bottles. They invited Concord League member Janet Rothrock to speak after a screening of *Divide in Concord*, a documentary film covering the 2012 campaign to ban the sale of single serve water bottles in Concord, MA. Audience questions ranged from how Concord has adjusted to its bylaw to how the installation of public drinking water fountains and bottle fillers has been funded.



Note: Several League members, led by Anita Tekle and Dorrie Kehoe, assisted the Concord Town Clerk's office in recording, sorting, and processing over 3000 early voters' ballots, plus overseas and absentee ballots, on Election Day, November 6. Kaari Mai Tari, Concord's Town Clerk,

reported that over 10,000 Concordians voted, representing a 74.36% turnout. Carlisle's Town Clerk, Mary de Alderete, reported that nearly 3000 Carlisle residents voted, representing a 76.61% turnout. League member Cindy Nock serves as the Carlisle Election Warden.

Note: The IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) report mentioned in the President's Letter is available at: <http://www.ipcc.ch/report/sr15/>. This is a special report on the impacts of global warming, released October 8, 2018. As noted in the IPCC press release, "It will be a key scientific input into the Katowice Climate Change Conference in Poland in December, when governments review the Paris Agreement to tackle climate change." The press release is available at: http://www.ipcc.ch/pdf/session48/pr_181008_P48_spm_en.pdf.

Note: The Town of Concord is advertising for board and committee volunteers. If interested, please fill out a green card: <http://www.concordma.gov/739/Vacancies---Member-Positions>.

Note: The Town of Carlisle is advertising for board and committee volunteers. If interested, please contact the Town Clerk at (978) 369-6155 or on the Carlisle website: <http://www.carlislema.gov/Jobs.aspx>.

Note: If you want to see what's happening in Concord and Carlisle, check out the Event Juggler website: <https://www.eventjuggler.com/>.

Note: The 2019 Winter Bulletin is expected to be released in late January; all submissions are due to the Editor by January 11. Thank you, as always, to the writers, reviewers, and photographers for your contributions. Have a good holiday season. *Karlen Reed, Bulletin Editor*



**League of Women Voters of Concord Carlisle
P.O. Box 34
Concord, MA 01742-0034**

**Presort STD
Non-profit
Organization
US Postage Paid
Concord MA 01742
Permit #41**

TO:



Nagog Pond

SAVE: DECEMBER 5th LWVCC HOLIDAY POTLUCK 12-2

