

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CONCORD-CARLISLE

BULLETIN

LWVCC Website: www.lwvcc.org
November 2017 P.O. Box 34 Concord, Massachusetts 01742-0034 Vol 22 2017-18 #1

CALENDAR

DECEMBER

- 1 Fri LWVCC First Fridays, CMLP, Fowler Library, West Concord 9:15-11:00am
- 2 Sat Concord Annual Town Meeting Preview Meeting, Town House 8:00am
- 2 Sat Concord Annual Town Warrant Opens
- 6 Wed LWVCC Board Meeting, 1360 Monument St. (Nancy Beeuwkes) 9 coffee, 9:30 mtg.
Potluck Lunch & Program 12:00noon-2:00pm
- 8 Fri LWVCC Education Committee mtg, 1404 Main St. (Julie Rohwein) 9:30-11:00am
- 19 Tues LWVCC Concord Town Government Committee, Concord Library 3:00-5:00pm

JANUARY

- 3 Wed LWVCC Board Meeting, Fowler Library, West Concord 9:00 coffee, 9:30pm
- 5 Fri LWVCC First Fridays, Fowler Library, West Concord 9:15-11:00am
Umbrella Center for the Arts Development Plans
- 10 Wed LWVCC Book Group, Trustees Room, Concord Main Library 10:00-11:30am
- 11 Thurs LWVCC Mapping the Road to Town Meeting: *How it Works and How to Work It*
Harvey Wheeler Community Center, West Concord 7:30-9:00pm
- 12 Fri LWVCC Education Committee, Fowler Library, West Concord 9:30-11:00am
- 21 Sun LWVCC Program, Guest Speaker Ambassador Wendy Sherman
- 24 Wed LWVCC Book Group, Trustees Room, Concord Main Library 7:00-8:30pm

FEBRUARY

- 2 Fri LWVCC First Fridays, Fowler Library, West Concord 9:15-11:00am
- 7 Wed LWVCC Board Meeting, Fowler Library, West Concord 9:00 coffee, 9:30 Mtg
- 9 Fri LWVCC Education Committee Meeting, Fowler Library, West Concord 9:30-11:00am
- 13 Tues LWVCC Concord Town Government Committee Mtg, Concord Library 3:00-5:00pm

MARCH

- 2 Fri LWVCC First Fridays, Fowler Library, West Concord 9:15-11:00am
- 7 Wed LWVCC Board Meeting, Fowler Library 9:00 coffee, 9:30 mtg
- 9 Fri LWVCC Education Meeting, Fowler Library, West Concord 9:30-11:00am
- 12 Tues LWVCC Concord Town Government Committee, Concord Main Library 3:00-5:00pm

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

President	Diane Proctor	(978) 369-6232	President@lwvcc.org
Membership	Anne Hayden	(978) 369-8526	Membership@lwvcc.org
Bulletin Editor	Anne Hayden	(978) 369-8526	BULLETIN@lwvcc.org
Webmaster	Cynthia Rainey	(978) 318-9242	wm@lwvcc.org

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear League Members:

To borrow the language of Star Wars, our League ship this fall is cruising at “hyper-speed.” Sensing the urgencies around us—local, state, and national—we have tried to focus our attention on one or two aspects in each area, while honoring the central principles of judicious study and thoughtful consensus building. The balance is, as it always has been, delicate. Nonetheless, we are committed to embracing as many opportunities as our collective energy can support.

On a local level, concerns about attendance at Town Meeting prompted a yearlong program on Town governance, commencing with an evening in September featuring Town Moderators from Concord and Carlisle, as each addressed the challenges a direct democracy presents to its citizens. This initiative led to collaboration between the Concord Free Public Library, the Concord Select Board, and the LWVCC. As fresh issues have emerged—from sustainable tax bases to parking meters in Concord’s center—we have maintained vigilant eyes and ears through our rejuvenated Observer Corps. Building on Anita Barker’s efforts to recover what Louise Haldeman, Nancy Beeuwkes and others recall was the heart of our local League, over 20 members—thanks to Janet Rothrock’s work—are observing Town Committee meetings and gathering regularly to report on their observations. In addition, the league’s Education Committee, Town Government Committees, Communication Committee, and Voter Service Committee continue with their vigorous, important work.

On a state level, the League Leader Luncheon and Day on the Hill reminded members of the important legislation our State League monitors and influences. From health care in general to women’s health in particular, from affordable housing to protection of our environment, myriad bills are under consideration and require the League’s attention. The State League urges us to lobby for priority legislation - on automatic voter registration, carbon pricing and energy, the Safe Communities Act, and criminal justice reform. Reminding us again that “Democracy is not a spectator sport,” the LWVMA encourages us to connect with our legislators regularly via phone calls, letters, or email. I suspect some might even tweet—but that is a talent I have yet to cultivate.

On a national level, our focus has been on immigration. A nascent group, led by Nancy Cronin, Anne Hayden and Stephan Bader, has begun to research this important issue, with an eye to Concord’s “Welcoming Community” commitment at Concord Town Meeting last spring. As well, a revitalized and lively Book Group meets regularly to share reactions to works concerning topics as varied as American voting attitudes and national health care.

Many issues - from gun policies to civil discourse - hover in the background, often screaming for our attention, yet frustratingly we cannot address everything simultaneously. Therefore, we work to shine as bright a spotlight as we can on the select issues we focus on in a given year. We remain committed to the conviction that democracy dies in darkness.

There are, as you can discern, innumerable ways each of us can become an engaged member of the League, and I thank each of you for your ongoing commitment to our efforts...may the Force be with us.

My very best,

Diane Proctor
LWVCC President

MEMBER'S PAGE

LWVCC IS THE LARGEST LEAGUE IN NEW ENGLAND!

Last year, the Concord-Carlisle League had an unexpected spike in membership – over 60 new members joined! We are now the largest league in New England! In fact – this reflects a phenomenon that was experienced by leagues all across the country. This will enable LWVUS to be even more effective as it advocates at the national level for the issues and legislation that the League of Women Voters strongly supports.

Locally, this membership increase enables us to expand our activities and programs. This year, our Observer Corps has doubled in size from ten to over 20 members, we have a new collaboration with the Concord library that is focusing on increasing the public's understanding of how the town meeting process works in Concord, and we have a new Immigration Committee that is exploring ways to educate members as well as the public about this complicated issue.

Membership Renewal

Fall is membership renewal time. I hope all of our members will continue to support the League by renewing their membership. Individual membership is \$55 and household membership \$80. You can renew through PayPal on our website: www.lwvcc.org or by sending a check and renewal form to LWVCC Treasurer, PO Box 34, Concord MA 01742. For a renewal form or more information contact membership@lwvcc.org.

Membership Directory

The 2017-2018 Membership Directory will be published in November and sent to all members in early December. A Directory Addendum will be published in February that will list all members who joined after the directory went to print.

HOLIDAY POTLUCK LUNCHEON

Wednesday, December 6th

12:00noon to 2:00pm

October Farm, 1360 Monument St.

All members are invited to our annual Holiday Potluck Luncheon on December 6, 2017. It is a wonderful chance for members to socialize with old friends and meet new ones, enjoy a delicious meal, and listen to an interesting program on important happenings in Concord and Carlisle.

This year, our program will be on our local school systems and the speakers will be Concord Public School and Concord-Carlisle Regional School Superintendent Laurie Hunter and Carlisle Public School Superintendent James O'Shea.

Nancy Beeuwkes, LWVCC Event Chair

LWVCC HOUSE TOUR FUNDRAISER SATURDAY, APRIL 7, 2018

Have you heard the news? We will be holding a House Tour on Saturday, April 7, 2018. It has been five years since the last one. Preparations are already underway and seven extraordinary homes have been selected.

We need as many League members as possible to help with this important event, so mark your calendars now. If you would like to be on the planning and organizing team, contact Nancy Beeuwkes at 978-371-7293 or email housetour@lwvcc.org.

JANUARY SPEAKER

A Conversation with **AMBASSADOR WENDY SHERMAN**

Sunday evening, January 21, 2018

Location: TBD

Ambassador Sherman is a 2017 Senior Fellow, Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, Harvard University Kennedy School

Her resume includes

- Chief U.S. Negotiator for the Iran nuclear negotiations final agreement in 2015
- U.S. Deputy Secretary of State, 2014-2015
- Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs 2011-2014
- Counselor, U.S. State Department 1999-2001
- North Korea Policy Coordinator (Clinton Administration)
- Began her career as a social worker, director of Emily's List, Director of Maryland's Office of Child Welfare, and President and CEO of the Fannie Mae Foundation.

Details and venue information will appear on LWVCC's website and in MMN.

VOTER SERVICE

The Voter Service Committee started off the year by conducting 12 voter registration tables at community events, many of them focused on reaching out to families with children. The primary purpose is to ensure our citizens are registered to vote in Concord and to provide information to voters on how to check on their registration and polling places. These tables provide great visibility for the LWVCC and recruit new members.

We received and submitted 7 voter registration forms and handed out several cards with information on how to register on-line. Two new members were recruited.

Our voter registration drives are successful because of enthusiastic League volunteers. Fifteen members volunteered including seven new members. Thank you!

Our next major event will be conducting voter education for the local elections held in the Spring. These efforts include candidate forums and voter guides published in the local media. A voter service meeting will be held in early December to organize our Voter Service work for 2018.

Support Automatic Voter Registration in Massachusetts

During the 2017-18 legislative session in Massachusetts, the LWVMA is advocating for the passage of legislation (S373/H2091) to bring Automatic Voter Registration (AVR) to our state. AVR is the next step in modernizing our voting system and implementing voter rights. AVR has already been adopted in nine states and the District of Columbia.

AVR shifts voter registration from an opt-in system to an opt-out one. When eligible citizens interact with the Registry of Motor Vehicles or other state agencies already charged with offering voter registration, they are automatically registered to vote unless they say no. It's estimated that 15% of eligible citizens in Massachusetts are not registered to vote.

AVR should make voter rolls more accurate and cost effective. The procedures will ensure only those eligible will be registered. You can learn more about AVR at the LWVMA website (<https://lwmma.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/AVR-Talking-Points.pdf>).

You can help support this important election reform by contacting your Senator and Representative.

Judy Zaunbrecher, Voter Service Chair

A Special Collaboration on Civic Engagement

The League of Women Voters of Concord-Carlisle, the Concord Free Public Library, and the Concord Town Government are combining resources to offer three seminars to help citizens understand and participate effectively in local Town Government.

The first seminar occurred on November 9th, entitled--“From Issue to Warrant Article: Make it Happen.” It featured dynamic presentations by selectman Mike Lawson, Anita Tekle (Concord’s former Town Clerk), and Kaari Mai Tari (Concord’s present Town Clerk), at the Fowler Library in West Concord. It was a brilliant and detailed primer on creating successful warrant articles.

On January 11th, the second seminar will take place--“How it Works and how to Work it: advocacy, public hearings, and you!” This meeting will focus on getting the most out of public hearings--whether you are a petitioner or an engaged citizen. This aspect of our Town government is invaluable and a unique feature of Concord’s approach to legislating. This event will take place at Harvey Wheeler Community Center at 7:30 PM.

Finally, on April 3rd, the third seminar will focus on the “Warrant Review: be prepared for the 2018 Town Meeting.” Here, citizens may learn how a consensus calendar is formed, the distinction between an article and a motion, operating versus capital budget expenditures, and understanding the impact of exclusionary debt and zoning laws on your tax bill on the character of our town. (This event will be held at the Town House, again at 7:30 PM.)

These gatherings follow an LWVCC vibrant, informing evening with Town Moderators held in September, featuring Carmin Reiss, (Concord’s Town Moderator), Wayne Davis, (Carlisle’s Town Moderator), and two former Concord Moderators Eric Van Loon and Ned Perry. [This session was taped and is available on CCTV.] In her remarks to the folks gathered at this meeting, Carmin commented:

“*Consider the qualifications for a Member of a Representative Town Meeting listed by Robert Tilden in his article on New England Town Government in 1958:*

- He must know town and understand government.
- He must dedicate time and effort to study the issues before RTM.
- He must conduct investigations as necessary.
- He must read reports and research done on RTM issues.
- He must attend all hearings on issues.
- He must provide thoughtful judgment.
- He must weigh issues and arguments in terms of the common good.

While the Tilden article refers to Representative Town Meetings, the same qualities are essential for citizens attending our Open Town Meeting. So then, if citizens at Open Town Meeting are educated on their government and their town, if they dedicate time and energy to study the issues, attend (or watch) the hearings, and employ thoughtful judgment with the common good in mind, we can expect very wise decisions by Town Meeting.

If we are to meet these demanding expectations, as citizen legislators and thoughtful League members, then we need to understand the process in its entirety. Each of these events is being recorded by CCTV and will be available for all to see.

I am indebted to a superb working committee:

Chair: Diane Proctor, LWVCC President
Stephan Bader, Board, LWVCC
Ingrid Detweiler, Board, LWVCC, Observer for the Library Committee
Ruth Lauer, Board LWVCC
Mary Clarke, Member of LWVCC
Michael Lawson, Select Board Member
Mav Pardee, Member of Library Committee
Kelly Cronin, Director of the Concord Free Public Library

Diane Proctor, Chair

CONCORD TOWN GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

The report of the Concord Town Government Committee (TGC), which was accepted at our 2017 Annual Meeting, has guided the activities of the Committee this fall. (See report on insert page.)

First Friday programs

We continue our monthly First Friday speaker series, starting in **October** with a progress report from the Comprehensive Long-Range Plan Committee. The development of this plan is a priority for the TGC to follow as it will direct the future of Concord.

November's program was an overview of the Concord Free Public Library's plans for how the Concord center main campus will connect the new property at 151 Main Street to the main library building. The Library Corporation is refining their proposed plan and are focusing on raising the funds to finance the project. (See article elsewhere in the Bulletin.)

December's First Friday program will feature speakers from the Concord Municipal Light Plant (CMLP) who will inform us about their long-range plan and the rate surcharge to customers which was approved by the CMLP board in August. The **January** program will be an update of the development plans for the Umbrella Center for the Arts. Each of these presentations, followed by a lively question and answer period, will enable us to be informed citizens. No developments or changes are ever without a widening circle of effects.

Housing

Another goal for this year involves educating ourselves about housing in Concord, especially the availability of low and moderate housing. 2017 Town Meeting approved town funds (one million dollars) for the Junction Village assisted living development, a project of the Concord Housing Development Corporation (CHDC). This project will ask for additional town funds from the Community Preservation Committee.

The Comprehensive Long-Range Plan committee is also soliciting comments and concerns about all aspects of Concord. Enabling a diversity of housing for our residents is not simple nor is it a solution to meeting all the disparate needs of the town.

A league housing sub-committee is being organizing that will work to clarify and understand the roles and interrelationships of the local housing organizations (Concord Housing Development Corporation, Concord Housing Authority, and the Concord Housing Foundation). We are in the information gathering stage: "What do we know and what don't we know?" We welcome members to join us to learn more about housing or to work on any aspect of housing.

Community Preservation Act

Another item on our program is to become more knowledgeable about the Community Preservation Act legislation and how it has been employed in Concord. This will be next on our information agenda as that process moves forward. Please let me know if you want to be involved in following the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) this year.

Civic Engagement

At our 2017 LWVCC Annual Meeting, the membership voted to focus on civic engagement. In response, the LWVCC board approved a year-long series of programs that highlight our town meeting process and how citizens can participate. We are collaborating on this program with the Concord Library and Select Board. Two meetings in this series have already been held and were received with great enthusiasm and support from the community. (See article elsewhere in the Bulletin.)

The Town Government Committee meets on the 3rd Tuesday of the month, 3-5 pm, in the Trustees room of the Concord main library. Our next meetings are set for Nov. 28 (instead of Nov. 21) and Dec. 19, 3-5 pm. Please let me know if you would like to receive our agenda and join us to hear updates on town government happenings! (abordman@comcast.net.)

Ardis Bordman, Chair

IMMIGRATION COMMITTEE

Because immigration is a national issue, local Leagues, such as Concord-Carlisle, must turn to the League of Women Voters of the United States for direction in our advocacy work.

In 2008, the LWVUS adopted a position on Immigration which has guided the lobbying efforts of the League for the past nine years. It is based on the belief that "...immigration policies should promote reunification of immediate families; meet the economic, business and employment needs of the United States; and be responsive to those facing political persecution or humanitarian crises. Provision should also be made for qualified persons to enter the United States on student visas. All persons should receive fair treatment under the law."

This position includes many reforms to the existing system and proposes the following criteria for legal admission of immigrants:

- "Family reunification of spouses or minor children with authorized immigrants or citizens;
- Flight from persecution or response to humanitarian crises in home countries;
- Economic, business and employment needs in the United States;
- Education and training needs of the United States;
- Educational program opportunities; and
- Lack of a history of serious criminal activity."

At the same time, there was recognition that provision must be made for unauthorized immigrants already in the United States. "In achieving overall policy goals, the League supports a system for unauthorized immigrants already in the country to earn legal status, including citizenship, by paying taxes, learning English, studying civics and meeting other relevant criteria. While policy reforms, including a path to legal status, remain unachieved, *the League does not support deporting unauthorized immigrants who have no history of criminal activity.*" (emphasis added)

In response to the action of President Trump in January of 2017 to halt immigration from certain predominantly Muslim countries, LWVUS issued the following statement:

"The League of Women Voters is opposed to deportation of non-criminal undocumented immigrants. The League supports cities, towns, counties and states that make a decision not to cooperate with federal deportation and enforcement actions that include non-criminal undocumented immigrants...The LWV is opposed to discrimination, including discrimination in immigration, based on religion. The Trump Administration's orders appear to be targeted at Muslims and immigrants from majority-Muslim nations."

It should be noted that the petition titled "Concord A Welcoming Community" adopted by voters at the April 25 Special Town Meeting is consistent with the LWVUS statement noted above. It is designed to require Concord employees not to ask about the immigration status of persons who may be stopped or detained.

The League's voice has also been heard in relation to DACA, stating in part: "The League of Women Voters is opposed to deportation of non-criminal undocumented immigrants and we urge congress to pass a clean DREAM Act to protect, not turn away, the 800,000 young people who were brought to the United States as children."

Our new Immigration Committee has begun studying immigration and is exploring how the Concord-Carlisle League can undertake education and advocacy in this area. If this is an area of interest to you, please contact nrcronin@verizon.net.

FIRST FRIDAY PROGRAMS

OCTOBER MEETING: COMPREHENSIVE LONG-RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE

On Friday, October 6, 2017, the League of Women Voters of Concord-Carlisle held its opening First Friday meeting at Fowler Library in West Concord. The presentation was given by the CLRPC co-chairs, Elise Woodward and Gary Kleiman.

Ms. Woodward presented a thoughtful perspective on the history of the committee, including the previous Long-Range Plan, and the progress of the present committee. Explaining how they had selected Civic Moxie as their consultant team, their use of the APA (American Planning Association) guidelines, and the latest SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, & Threats) analysis, she then outlined their timeline, a process that will conclude in June 2018.

Mr. Kleiman used an imaginative metaphor to explain the committee's "holistic approach" to planning. Using the example of small neighborhood parks, he explained how pocket parks could be used for children's play, community connection, power storage, and preservation of open space.

The thirty citizens who attended the event were full of questions for the committee. Asking about focus groups, "authentic" participation of citizens (one of the committee's stated goals), attention to open spaces, concerns for maintaining an affordable town, and the principles of sustainability, the presenters urged people to go to their website and participate in their October 20-21 public meetings, where they will present the results of the committee's survey.

Diane Proctor, First Friday Committee

NOVEMBER MEETING: VISION FOR CONCORD LIBRARY RENOVATION/EXPANSION

At the November 3rd First Friday meeting, Concord Free Public Library Corporation President Sherry Litwack and trustee Jeff Adams shared plans for the renovation and expansion of the main library. A lively question and answer period followed the presentation.

The vision for the library includes more social and meeting areas as well as creating space for children, teens, and young adults to explore and use library resources. In addition, security will be improved in Special Collections and space reconfigured within the existing building for better public access to books and materials.

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

A recently discovered plan by Munroe envisioned three connected buildings for the library. In fact, the \$8.5 million plan that has been developed will connect the single-family house at 151 Main St.—acquired in spring 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 space for elementary-age children 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. There will be a garden area at

the rear of the building, off the children's room. The present children's room will be converted to a teen area and a large, 170-seat program/meeting room.

The historic rooms and main rotunda area of the original building will not be touched. Three handicapped parking spaces will be added on the Main Street side of the building.

Prior to embarking on this plan, the Library Corporation initiated several studies and focus group discussions to learn what Concord residents wanted to see in the main library. They learned more space is needed to accommodate pre-school and elementary-age programs as well as family rest rooms near the children's area. A larger space will be provided for middle school students to gather and do homework as well as study space for high school students. Books on the second level balcony not open to the public will be moved to the periodical room.

As dictated in William Munroe's public/private partnership, the Corporation has responsibility to raise funds to maintain the library buildings—including the Fowler Library in West Concord—and grounds and support the library's Special Collections. To accomplish the renovation/expansion, the Corporation has undertaken a capital campaign for \$10 million dollars which includes \$1.5 million as an endowment to help pay for future maintenance of the new space.

During the question and answer period, the trustees said they have not yet determined the increased cost to the town for the new facilities. Concord residents pay for library operations—staff, utilities, books and materials—through the library budget approved each year at town meeting. Plans need to be finalized before the budget impact will be known.

The property at 151 Main Street was purchased for \$1,698,000. Corporation trustees conferred with Town Manager Chris Whelan, library director Kerry Cronin, and other town officials to be sure the acquisition would be appropriate and beneficial for future library services.

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, First Friday Committee

DECEMBER 1st MEETING:

CMLP'S 2018-2025 STRATEGIC PLAN

On Friday, December 1, 2017, the League will sponsor a First Friday discussion from 9:15-11:00am at the Fowler Library, 1322 Main Street, West Concord, on the Concord Municipal Light Plant (CMLP)'s new Strategic Plan for 2018-2025.

<http://www.concordnet.org/DocumentCenter/View/11239>.

David Wood, CMLP Director, will provide a 20-30 minute presentation on the Strategic Plan, and take questions afterwards. This plan involves an electricity rate increase that is designed to cover the purchase of "green energy" sources of power for the Town, as well as the Light Plant's pathways to reduce greenhouse gases, increase electricity demand, and improve the Light Plant's financial stability.

The Strategic Plan addresses fuel switching and electric vehicles, rate design, purchase power agreements and renewable energy, energy storage and smart thermostats, and energy efficiency. Please join us for coffee and light refreshments as we listen to an interesting and enlightening discussion.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Have you ever mentioned that you are a member of the League and got the response, “Oh, doesn’t the League register voters?” We *do* register voters, but we do a great deal more. The challenge for the Communications Committee is to publicize the great work of the League of Women Voters Concord-Carlisle. We want our members and the community to know what we do and to have the opportunity to attend League events and perhaps join the League.

One of the first achievements of the Communications Committee this year was to develop a pamphlet to publicize the League. It included a summary of recent local League events and information about the State and National League. And, of course, a membership application.

The Communications Committee has sought to increase the number of people who get email notification of upcoming League events. For example, for our September program featuring town moderators, we reached out not only to town officials, but also to social studies teachers at the Concord-Carlisle high school. We also ran an ad in Action Unlimited. We work hard to get coverage in The Concord Journal and in the Carlisle Mosquito. League members received postcards and attractive posters were on display in Concord and Carlisle.

President Diane Proctor has obtained a commitment from The Concord Journal for a monthly League column, which will afford a marvelous opportunity to make the community more aware of the League and our activities. The first column appeared in the November 2nd paper and provided information about the educational seminars on the Town warrant process which the League will be hosting with the Concord Free Public Library and Town Government.

The next big undertaking for the Communications Committee is to make the

League’s website a vibrant source of League information. Our League will be adopting a new web platform developed by the California League. The platform will provide our website with a feed for State and National League news. It is important that League members along with the general public understand that the League has an extremely active presence at both the state and national level.

If you have experience with websites and/or would like to help with this important project, contact communications@lwvcc.org.

Nancy Brown, Communications Chair

LWVCC BOOK GROUP

The third book that the LWVCC Book Group will read is *THE TROUBLE WITH REALITY: A Ruminaton on Moral Panic in Our Time* by Brooke Gladstone. Two meetings will be available:

- Wednesday, January 10th from 10:00-11:30am in the Trustees Room at the Concord Main Library, and
- Wednesday, January 24th from 7:00-8:30pm in the Trustees Room at the Concord Main Library.

The March book will be *OUR KIDS: The American Dream in Crisis* by Robert D. Putnam and the May book will be *AN AMERICAN SICKNESS: How Healthcare Became Big Business and How You Can Take It Back* by Elisabeth Rosenthal. Dates for these meetings will be announced in MMN and the January Bulletin.

LWVCC Book Group meetings are open to all league members and their friends. Each book has both a morning and evening session so that it is easy for members to attend one of the sessions. Happy reading!

Anne Hayden, Edie Lipinski, Janet Miller & Diane Proctor, Book Group Steering Committee