

NEWSLETTER

May 15, 2018

LWVW Calendar (May- June)





Wednesday, May 16, 6 - 9 pm, Annual Meeting (and 80th Birthday) of the LWVW at Helen Stewart's home at 166 Winding River Road, Wellesley, MA 02482. This meeting is open to the

Wellesley League membership and their guests. Reception/potluck starts at 6 and the meeting begins promptly at 7:30. You should have already received an evite for this event - check your email if you have not seen it and please RSVP as soon as possible. If you are coming, please let Irene Flint know what food you are bringing. And don't forget to bring your Annual Meeting workbook with you!

Sunday, May 20 (raindate June 3), Wellesley's Wonderful Weekend Parade. If you are interested in marching with the LWVW, please RSVP to Anne Rippy Turtle. The Wellesley Celebrations Committee organizes the parade, and this year its theme is the 100th year anniversary of the end of World War I. The Wellesley League's theme will be "Making Democracy Work for 80 Years."

Tuesday, June 5, 7-10 pm, Special Town Meeting at the Wellesley Middle School (also June 6 if needed). The Wellesley LWVW will not be running any Town Meeting preparation sessions for this event but the School Committee will be leading tours of Hunnewell and holding its own prep sessions. Currently, town officials do not expect to bring forward the Hardy-Upham article and this STM will focus on appropriating feasibility funds for the Hunnewell renovation.

June LWVW Board Meeting, time and location TBD. All members welcome to attend. Check the website for updated information.

LWVW Member Needed!

Town Meeting recently approved the formation of a Moderator-appointed committee to study the pros and cons of electronic voting at Town Meeting. Because of the obvious link to the League's core mission, the LWVW has



requested that one of our members sit on this committee. If anyone from the League is interested in serving, please contact Anne Rippy Turtle

Ballot Question Study Committee

The MA League has started the process of reviewing the Ballot Question Process for Massachusetts as adopted at the 2017 LWVMA Convention:

"The scope of the study is to review the Massachusetts laws and regulations that govern statewide citizen-initiated ballot questions (initiative and referendum process);



consider the consequences of current laws and regulations; and propose concrete next steps that LWVMA could take to enact change, if the study results in recommended change.

Those concrete steps could include drafts of legislation and/or Constitutional amendments needed to implement any recommended changes. By proposing concrete steps, the League will be ready to take action based on the study's positions.

Examples of areas of study will include but are not limited to the goals of the initiative and referendum process; funding; signature requirements; the length, subject matter and complexity of ballot questions; and the regulations around accepting and rejecting signatures. Research will include but not be limited to procedures in other states, past Massachusetts ballot questions, funds expended, and procedures for changing current laws and regulations."

Next steps include the formation of study committees within local Leagues. Karen Price, the Needham LWV President and Co-Chair of the LWVMA, is Co-Chair of this MA Study Committee. If anyone in the Wellesley League is interested in chairing/co-chairing a local study committee, please contact Anne Rippy Turtle.

Book Award Presentations by the LWVW

Each year, the Wellesley League presents four book awards to male and female underclassmen and male and female seniors at Wellesley High School's awards ceremonies. This year, the League chose Every Vote Matters: The Power of Your Voice, from Student Elections to the Supreme Court by Thomas Jacobs, J.D. and Natalie Jacobs. Many thanks to Ellen Hallett, who will be presenting the senior awards on May 22, and Marguerite Chatelier, who will be presenting the underclass awards on June 7.



Voter Services Update



Erry Johnson and Ellen Hallett of the Wellesley LWV will be providing assistance to the Greater Haverill LWV on June 6, 2018 by registering new voters after a naturalization ceremony. This will be the first time Wellesley has participated in this capacity and Voter Services is happy to be able to help neighboring Leagues!

News from State and Other Local Leagues

- For members who are not aware of the scope of the League's advocacy, the following "cheat sheet" describes the 2018 advocacy and legislative agenda of the LWVMA
- Check out the new LVWMA flyer on Automatic Voter Registration
- The LWVMA is holding a free webinar on "The Clean Energy Roadmap: Pathways to a Clean Energy Future on May 24 from 4-5 pm. Registration is required.

2017-2018 Board of Directors

Anne Rippy Turtle - President

Ann-Mara Lanza - Vice-president, Program Planning & Development

Erica (Erry) Johnson - Vice-president, Voter Services

Ellen Hallett - Secretary

Jenny Zannetos - Treasurer, Membership

Irene Flint - Director, Program & Calendar

Catherine Johnson - Director, Observer

Ann Rappaport - Director, Newsletter & Website

Joellen Toussaint - Director, Historic Memory